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September 2014

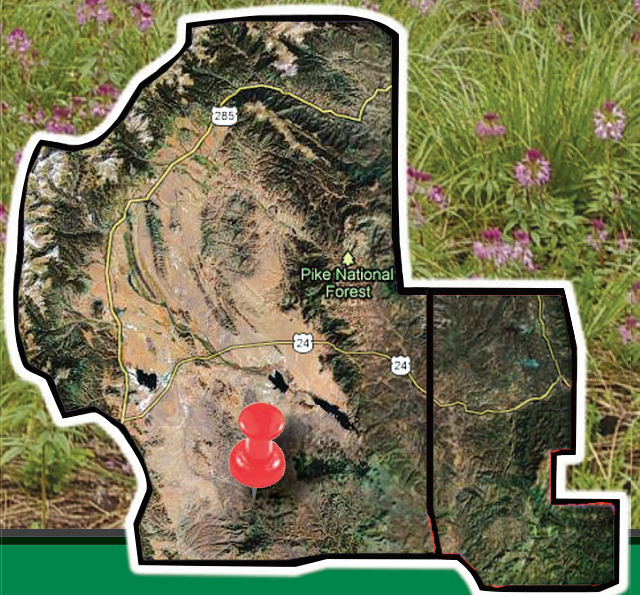
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Vol. 6, No. 9

Welcome to Ute Country

By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer's best of weather
And autumn's best of cheer.

Helen Hunt Jackson



PEEK INSIDE...



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Saddle Club begins excavation in Divide



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Tractors, tractors and more tractors



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CC Hospitality House & Travel Park



Jeff and I dedicate this issue to our family. We had a wonderful trip to Wisconsin and saw as many of our relatives as we could. It seems there is never quite enough time. One theme to this trip was "it's the earliest we've ever been late". Each visit was an opportunity to create a precious memory we will hold dear until we can see you again. We love you ALL. I take this opportunity to remind you trains, planes, and automobile highways ALL run in both directions. More importantly, we don't have many mosquitos and we have MUCH more intriguing views.

This month's cover is of a field of flowers blanketing the outskirts of this old building off Hwy 9 from Guffey to Hartsel. The wildflowers were plentiful this year offering color combinations not often seen. It is as though Mother Earth has shared an explosion of her creative side, waiting for our gasps of appreciation. We can only imagine how incredible the autumn colors will be in a few weeks.

We hope you enjoy the blend of interesting articles offered this month. There were many difficult choices to make. As always, feel free to contact us via email utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com or phone 719-686-7393. Make sure we have the chance to help you get your word out!

Mr. Spaz was decided to share the story Jo sent along with the photo of Old Lab, as he has quite of few of his own routines, and certainly has his ways of creating special time with each family member. Do you have a picture of one of your favorite routines shared with your pet? Please send Mr. Spaz your Critter Corner pics at utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com

Thank you,
—Kathy & Jeff Hansen

A special thanks to all listed here for their professional work and time to make this possible. If you have any questions please contact the publishers.

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Missing Waldo? Hike Mueller State Park!

by Abbie Walls

Hikers in the Pike's Peak Region are invited to try out the trails at Mueller State Park near Divide, Colorado. Hit the trails and enjoy some of Colorado's finest in scenery and wild-life viewing!

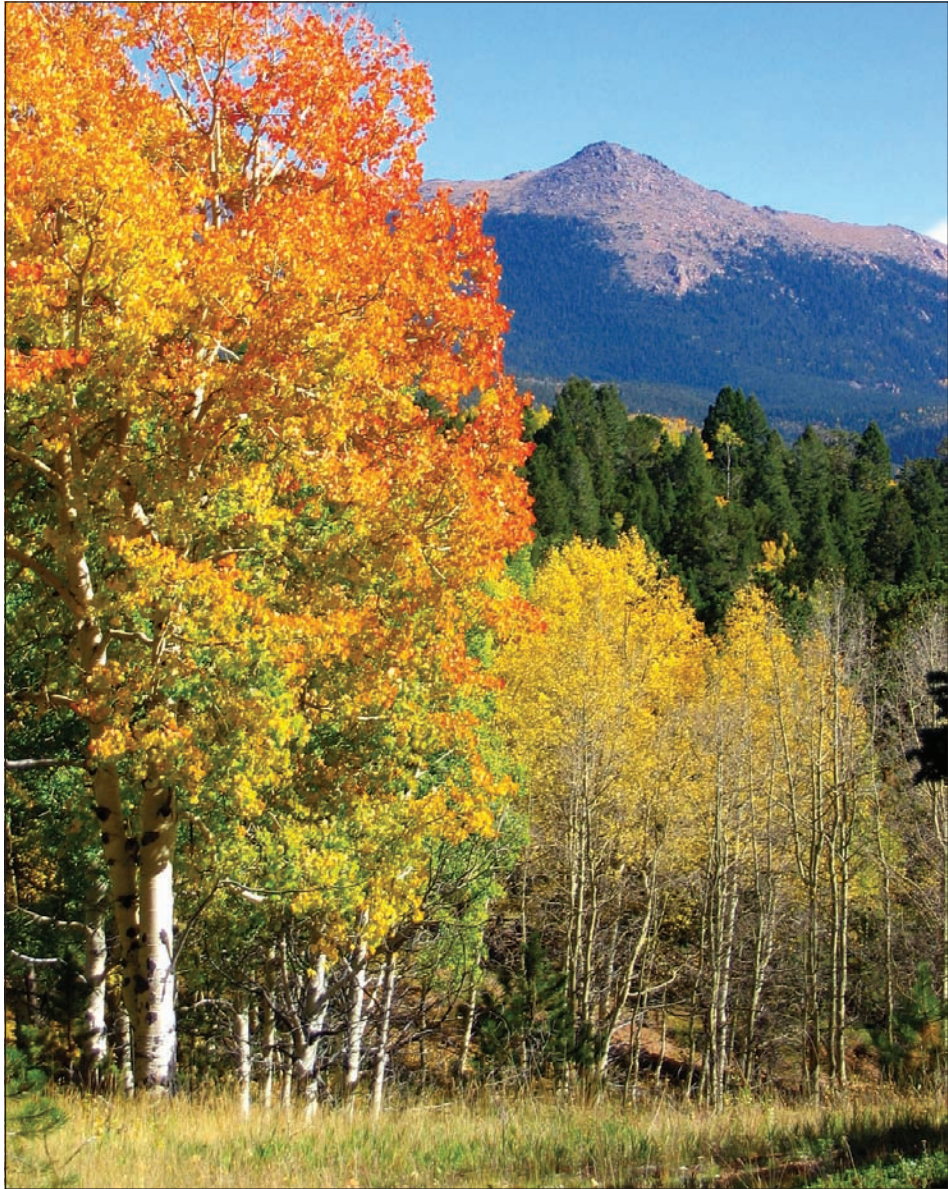
Waldo Canyon, a popular hiking area in the Pike's Peak region, has been closed since the fire in summer of 2012. For those outdoor enthusiasts who love to hike, we invite you to come to Mueller State Park, just a short drive from Waldo Canyon, and enjoy the more than 50 miles of trails nestled in the western foothills of Pike's Peak.

Mueller State Park is located just 3.5 miles south of Divide on Highway 67, just 15 minutes from Woodland Park or 45 minutes from Colorado Springs. The park boasts of over 5,000 acres of mixed coniferous forest, great stands of aspen, beautiful mountain meadows, and interesting geologic features. At home in this paradise, wildlife abounds. Mule deer and elk are commonly seen, as well as signs of black bear and mountain lion. Wild turkey and red-tailed hawks frequent the park and over 115 species of birds have been recorded here. The wetlands and ponds have given a great show of wildflowers this summer and are home to trout.

Mueller's 55 miles of hiking trails range from easy to difficult. Visitors can enjoy a short family stroll or plan for a full day in the backcountry. Some of the trails, 19 miles, are also available for mountain biking, or 27 miles available for horseback riding. Please be prepared with water, sunscreen, rain gear and a map! Detailed trail maps are available at the park. The average elevation in the park is 9,600 feet.

"We are looking forward to fall to see the aspens turn gold and to listen to the elk bugling!" says Penny Edyvean, Seasonal Naturalist. Interpretive programs and guided hikes are ongoing and are listed on the park website. For more details please contact the Visitor Center at 719-687-2366.

Vehicles entering the park must have a \$7 daily or \$70 annual State Parks pass. For more information about Colorado's state parks, see cpw.state.co.us



September holds many beautiful views in Mueller State Park



Thymekeeper: Usnea spp aka Old Man's Beard

by Mari Marques

Usnea is a lichen that I've taken quite a liking to. Although prolific in Teller & Park County it is a slow growing, long lived lichen. Grayish green to yellow green in color, it grows on trees throughout the World. It even grows on trees that have long since expired. The whole lichen may be harvested at any time of the year. It ranges in size from small tufts to long hanging strands resembling hair hence the common name "Old Man's Beard". It may be gray green in the smaller tufts and somewhat yellow green in the longer strands that grow in the old growth forests.

It generally prefers conifers such as Pine, Spruce, Juniper and Firs although I have seen it growing on Aspen and also grows on deciduous hardwoods. It grows in nearly every forest and orchard and you will find it if you are looking for it.

Occasionally, the wind or a squirrel will dislodge it from the tree and you will find tufts of it on the ground. Once you have made a ground find, just look up. Chances are you are standing next to a tree that will provide you with more than enough of this wonderful medicine. While usnea is prolific in some areas, it is endangered in its main habitat, old growth forests, due to logging and development. Being very sensitive to pollution and climate change, it should only be harvested for personal use and always away from the road or polluted areas.

Although I will confess, if you've ever seen anyone picking the green stuff off of freshly cut logs at the lumberyard, that was me and I find this to be an acceptable practice since they will be subjected to the bark stripper apparatus at any moment. I leap into action and fill my pockets going back for seconds. To most people this may seem bizarre behavior. From an herbalist's point of view, the very act of stripping valuable medicine from a tree with no intention of using it is bizarre indeed.

As a lichen, this plant is actually composed of two plants intertwined. The inner part of the plant (the cortex) is a thin white thread that stretches when wet. The outer part (the sheath) is what gives the herb its color and grows around the thin white cortex and provides photosynthesis for the symbiotic organism. The distinctive method of identifying usnea is to wet it and see if it stretches like a rubber band.

Although plants are extremely complex in their chemical makeup and will probably never be fully understood by man, they are



The usnea that grows in our area is pictured above. photo by Mari Marques

potently synergistic in their chemical actions. Usnea's main chemical constituent; usnic acid is highly antibacterial making it a significant herb in treating resistant bacteria, specifically gram positive resistant bacteria. I find it very useful in the case of re-occurring strep throat, although it is used for many different bacterial infections. It is traditionally used throughout the world for skin infections, abscesses, upper respiratory and lung infections, vaginal infections, and fungal infections. An older method of treating large gaping wounds of the body is to soak the lichen in garlic juice or a strong garlic decoction and pack the wound. This method provides antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, antiseptic, astringent, analgesic, and wound healing actions directly inside the wound. It can also be used for abscesses in veterinary practice.

The stretchy white inner cortex is water soluble, contains minerals, and is a strong immune stimulant. The outer sheath is where most of the plants other actions come from i.e. antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal and is soluble in alcohol or oil.

In scientific research it has been shown to stop the development of experimental TB in guinea

pigs. A water extract of usnea prevented the form of induced gastric ulcer in rats and was found to be a strong antioxidant. Inhibiting cancer cell formation and proliferation in breast and pancreatic cell lines and induced colorectal cancer in rats. Per the book "Herbal Antibiotics" by Stephen Harrod Buhner, usnea is synergistic with the pharmaceutical antibiotic clarithromycin, increasing its effectiveness.

Interesting fact: There are over 30 different species of usnea that grow in India. Of ancient use in Europe, it only recently became known in the United States. Indigenous cultures in the Americas used usnea primarily for wound dressing.

To make a tincture of usnea, rinse well and simply cut it up into small pieces or grind it to powder. You will have a lot of white strings if you choose to grind it. Cover with half water and half 100 proof grain alcohol. Shake every day if possible for approximately four weeks. Strain through a coffee filter and store in a dark bottle in a cool place.

Mari Marques is a Certified Herbalist and owner of The Thymekeeper. For questions or more information contact: Mari at mugsys-pad@aol.com or 719-439-7303.

Fire!

by Linda Bjorklund

The first fossil record of fire appeared about 470 million years ago. Evidence of cooked food dates back 1.9 million years. It would have been interesting to see how the science of using fire progressed from its discovery (probably in a cave somewhere) to using the phenomenon to cook food, stay warm, keep animals away and perform other useful purposes.

In the history of the development of mountain communities in Colorado, fire has played a huge role, mostly in its misuse which has resulted in destruction. Almost every community has reported at least one major fire. The causes of destructive fires were various. Some were due to accidents with cooking, heating or lighting. Others were caused by cinders spewed from passing trains. Some were deliberately caused by individuals. The stories tell not only how fires were started, but how the methods for extinguishing them developed.

One of the earliest of town fires was the Fairplay fire in 1873. The town was experiencing an ambitious growth cycle. Places of business were being built at record speed. One of the most successful was the Fairplay House, located on Front Street. It had been a dry summer and evidence of an early winter came with a few snow squalls. On September 26, the proprietors began to feel a chill, so they started a fire in the wood-burning stove in the hotel lobby. Heat proceeded up the stovepipe and into a second story room, where the muslin covered ceiling ignited. In their haste to get their establishments open for business, the town merchants had ignored any provision for firefighting.

The fire quickly spread, destroying most of the buildings along Front Street. There was barely time for some of the merchants to remove fixtures before the conflagration destroyed them. One of the quickest to react was C.G. Hathaway, the local banker. He was able to remove from the bank the paper and other necessities of the banking business, and opened up for business in another location the morning following the destructive fire. The town quickly set about recovering, now encouraged to make sure there were firefighting capabilities.

The neighboring town of Alma established the Alma Hook and Ladder Company in 1880. The volunteer fire department purchased a Bilsby steam engine in 1882, which was publicly demonstrated by an agent of the manufacturer. The new equipment was able to transport water from the river to the St. Nicholas Hotel through a hose that miraculously did not self-destruct from the water pressure. Although the steam engine provided the energy to propel water through the hose, the engine had to be hauled to the location of the fire either by hand or with horses.

In that same year a fire started at the Fairplay Court House, in the wood box in the county judge's office. Volunteers quickly put out the fire using the "bucket brigade" method.

In the late 1800s a number of reports emerged involving hotel fires. In 1882, "The charred remains of two victims of the Leadville fire of last Friday morning have been taken out of the ashes of the Windsor Hotel and the Palace of Fashion..."

"The hotel at Jefferson took fire on Monday, but was saved from destruction by the quick work of a few neighbors armed with buckets."

Under Como News Items in an 1888 Fairplay Flume: "Last Saturday the Wolford house was found to be on fire. Quick work by the citizens, aided by the town fire apparatus, extinguished the flames... The fire started from a lamp which a roomer had carelessly left burning in a dark room of the house."

And in 1897, "A fire at Guffey destroyed several buildings last Sunday evening. Several people were injured. One man had his ankle fractured and a lady had a leg broken in two places. They jumped from the second story of the hotel."

One of the casualties of the 1873 fire in Fairplay was the South Park Brewery. The owner, Leonhard Summer, had originally built a log brewery. After it was destroyed, Summer was quick to purchase insurance, as he rebuilt



Firemen in front of Fairplay Bank

the brewery. He leased the rebuilt brewery out to Eckert & Gebhart in 1892. Two days of intensive brewing had built up buildings in the apparently started from the chimney, which then started the roof afire. Summer used the insurance money to again rebuild, this time using stone from a local quarry.

In 1893 the chief of the fire department at Leadville was seen taking wagon loads of goods from his store that had lately been closed by legal action from creditors. The stock that remained in the building had been saturated



St. Nicholas Hotel in Alma

with coal oil and set on fire during the night. After the fire was extinguished, an investigation revealed that telegraph wires had been cut, hydrants were battered so a hose could not be attached, and the telephone had been mutilated beyond repair. A few people who had been sleeping in the building escaped, but the fire chief was incarcerated in the local jail, pending a trial.

An 1898 house fire in Fairplay served to point out some of the frustrations of volunteer firefighters. The flames were first noticed on the roof of the house, leading to the conclusion that sparks from the chimney were the cause.

Volunteers quickly ran the hose cart to the location of the fire, but found that the hose lacked one joint of being long enough. More hose was found, but there were no fittings of the right size to hook them together. One enterprising volunteer mounted his horse and raced back to the house where he found fittings that would work. The fire was extinguished, thanks to a lack of the wind that usually gusts erratically in the area.

Another town fire hit the mountains in 1899. It started in a small shack in an alley on South Third Street in Victor. The town fire department responded immediately, but the high winds that prevailed on that day caused the flames to rapidly spread down the street. The firefighters worked for hours to try to contain the fire, but soon ran out of water. There was nothing that could be done but let the fire burn itself out.

Then it was Alma's turn. In 1905 on a Wednesday evening in October, flames were discovered at the town hall. The fire spread quickly and news of the fire caused 25 or 30 volunteers to travel the six miles from Fairplay to offer their assistance. The steam engine so proudly purchased in 1882 was not in operating condition, so a bucket brigade was formed.

One of the strategies called for using dynamite from the nearby mines to blow up buildings in the path of the fire and create a firebreak. A few inches of snow on the ground also helped keep sparks from spreading the fire. A number of buildings were lost but the fire was contained before it reached the St. Nicholas Hotel.

A man named Johnson later asserted that he had been in the building and was pulling a cork from a beer bottle, when he accidentally knocked over a lighted lamp. He was overcome by smoke before he could do anything to stop the flames.

Three years later forest fires were threatening the Elk Creek area and 50 firefighters were in the process of beating out the flames. They were located in a narrow strip of timber with mountains on either side. Suddenly four lions, half a dozen bears and other assorted wild beasts came running with the fire close at their heels. The animals were terrified from the smoke and lack of water and weren't about to let a few firefighters stop them from escaping. The men used their tools to push the animals down a gulch and away from themselves.

A number of incidents were recorded in which fires were started by sparks from passing trains. Timbered areas were set afire, as well as lumber in a tie pile and even the C & S Depot in

Fairplay was burned to the ground in 1912. Not nearly as significant, a short article in December of that year reported that, "Fire in an outhouse in the rear of the Flume office Thursday night did about \$10 damage. The fire boys did valiant service and soon extinguished what might have become serious."

Possibly the most bizarre incident of a fire starting was reported in the Fairplay Flume in 1916, although it took place in West Avon, Connecticut. A young lad had apparently been naughty to the point that his mother decided that he needed a spanking. During the process of her application of the punishment, she discovered to her amazement and horror that smoke was curling up from the seat of his pants. The young man probably thereafter stowed any illicit matches in his breast pocket, rather than chance a repeat of the pants warming incident.

Mountain communities still are protected mainly by volunteer firefighters whose budgets for equipment are limited. They are, nonetheless, heroes. Support them!

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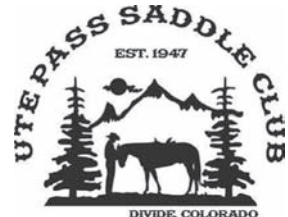
Saddle Club begins excavation in Divide

by David Martinek

The much anticipated beginning of construction at the Saddle Club's property in Divide started with initial excavation during the first week of August following the placement of safety cones in late July along Highway 67 from U.S. 24 to the water tower.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) requires the club to create a deceleration lane at the entrance so as not to impede normal traffic along the highway. The current speed limit in that area of Highway 67 just south of Divide is 55 miles per hour, but sources say that the limit will be lowered to 45 miles per hour which decreases the required length of the lane. Across the road, a similar acceleration lane is also planned coming out of the Weaverville Road exit.

"We have 60 days to complete a deceleration lane along Highway 67," said Tay Jeffords, president of the Ute Pass Saddle Club (now the official name, see below). "Once that is completed, our main focus for the rest of the fall and winter will be to finish the main driveway into the property, complete the overall grading and create a pad for the main arena."



The new Ute Pass Saddle Club logo.

Construction at the entrance, located on the west side of the Highway 67, will also require the extension of electric power into the property, as well as a 10 inch water line to be installed under the highway connecting to Divide's central water system.

The club had met all state compliance issues, as well as local planning and zoning issues necessary to begin construction of a new facility, as early of January 2014. However, requests for bids from contractors had to be resubmitted during the winter months because the first round of RFPs received few responses in 2013. The last hurdle was gaining permission from CDOT to alter Highway 67 to accommodate the facility entryway.

Now that the public can see construction beginning, there will be renewed interest in the



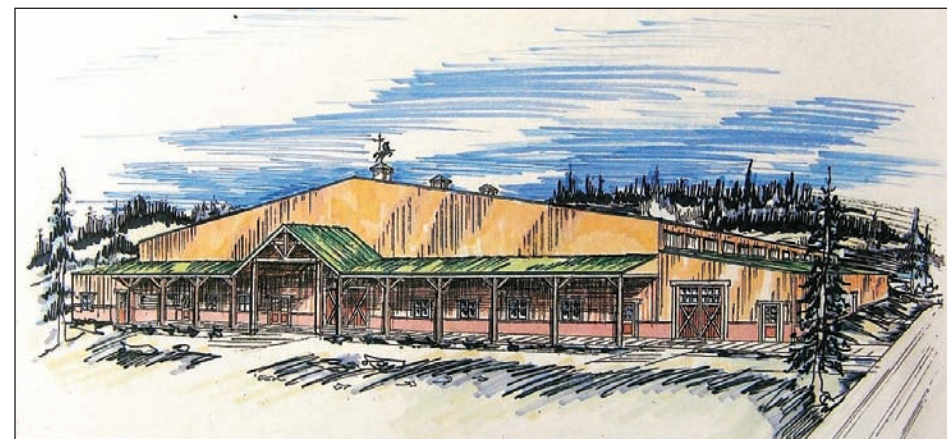
According to president Tay Jeffords, the club's main focus during the fall and winter will be to complete the overall grading and create a pad for the main arena. Photo by David Martinek

Saddle Club's ultimate plans, which eventually include a large, multipurpose indoor arena in the second phase. The first phase of construction will involve preparing an outdoor arena and dry camping and parking areas.

Regarding the Saddle Club's name change, according to club's May 2014 newsletter, nearly 60 members gathered on May 3rd to consider a ballot with "fourteen individual name submissions on it and 4 different logo ideas." The membership chose the "Ute Pass Saddle Club" as their new name (see also the new logo).

To view more information about the Ute Pass Saddle Club, their website is rich in information (www.utepasssaddleclub.org). Their mailing address is P.O. Box 9005, Woodland Park, Colorado, 80866, and their telephone number for general messages is (719) 687-9975. The Ute Pass Saddle Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a board of four officers and seven directors, along with volunteers. The club currently has over 100 members.

Peek Inside cover caption: Initial excavation along Highway 67 south of Divide began the first week in August. photo by David Martinek



The Ute Pass Saddle Club's proposed multipurpose indoor arena.

Habitat needs families seeking to become home-owners

Creating opportunities for home ownership is the core of what Habitat does.

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Increasing home ownership brings many benefits, not only to the new homeowners, but also to the neighborhood and the community at large. Some of these include better educational outcomes, increased property values, and neighborhood and community stability.

Habitat for Humanity uses a screening and application process to select deserving Partner Families. To be eligible to purchase a Habitat house, families must meet the following requirements and complete a three-phase selection process. We calculate mortgages based on 30 – 60% of area median incomes and household size.



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- You must not be able to get a conventional home loan.
- You must have lived or worked in Teller County for the past 12 months.
- You must be able and willing to work on your own home for 300-400 hours. This is called "Sweat Equity".
- You must be willing to work with Habitat and help spread the good news about Habitat for Humanity.

If you think you might be our next family, we invite you to fill out the application and bring it by our offices at 700 Valley View Drive, Woodland Park, Colorado!

Big "Thanks" to Big O Tire

by Robert Cimino

It isn't every day that someone goes above and beyond to help someone in need. I wish to thank Robert and his crew at Big O Tire in Woodland Park. When help was needed, Robert and his crew were there to help me with the mechanical aspect as well as the tires. "Thank you!" to Big O Tires - Big O is the place to go!



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Youth Earth Science Scholars Group serves as rangers at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

by Steven Wade Veatch
photos by Steven Veatch

Two Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Earth Science Scholars worked at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument during the summer. The Earth Science Scholar program is for teenagers who are part of the Pebble Pup rock and mineral study program. The Pebble Pups serve local youth in grades K-12. Blake Reher started in June. Jenna Salvat started in August. Both teenagers worked as interpretive rangers in the paleontology demonstration lab (fossil learning lab) where they took park visitors on a deep and meaningful journey of science and discovery. During school this fall Blake and Jenna will continue their work on Saturdays at the new visitor center.

Blake Reher is an active junior member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS). He is also the program assistant for the CSMS Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars. Blake's Earth science poems and science articles can be found in newspapers and magazines. Blake presented a paper at the University of Denver last year. Blake has earned his black belt in Kempo Karate, and is active in Boy Scouts, but his real passion is paleontology and geology. Blake is 15 years old.

Jenna Salvat is a coauthor on a paper presented at the University of Denver and at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. She is planning a career in the geosciences. Jenna is a member of the CSMS and is active in research and field investigations. She is in 8th grade.

Blake and Jenna work at the monument under the National Park Service's "Volunteer-In-Parks" program where they are trained in various capacities to help the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in its mission to interpret local fossil resources to the public. Both of the teen park rangers, using the resources of the fossil learning lab, provided memorable experiences with Florissant's fossils to visitors of all ages.

Florissant is known for the diversity of its late Eocene plant and insect fossils preserved in the shales of an ancient lake and the petrified redwood stumps preserved by volcanic mudflows. Together these fossils provide a window to a period of climate change during the late Eocene and to an ecosystem that thrived at Florissant 34 million years ago.

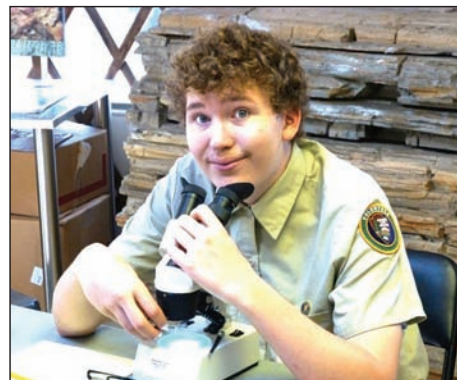
For more information about the Earth Science Scholar program for teens and the Pebble Pup program for younger students visit their website at: <http://pebblepups.blogspot.com/>
This youth program has a unit in El Paso County (Colorado Springs) and one in Teller County (Florissant).



Jenna Salvat trained at the fossil learning lab at the Florissant Fossil Beds.



View of the fossil learning lab at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.



Blake Reher takes a short break from examining plant and insect fossils contained in Eocene lake shales.

Adopt Me Connor

By Lisa Moore of TCRAS



Hi there. My name is Connor and I am a very special guy! You could call me a "perpetual puppy" as I have a disorder called Cerebellar hypoplasia (non-human); I was born without my cerebellum being mature. I am quite endearing, you will fall in love if you just sit and watch me for a little bit. This disorder does not affect my lifespan, just my maturity level. I need a home that is filled with patience, structure and a good routine for me to follow and I will thrive. I will do very well in a home with another dog to help me along my way and to show me the ropes! My favorite time of day is when I get to play with my doggie friends, we have a great time! Come visit me, even if to just get to know me and my sweetness just a little bit better. Call TCRAS, the no-kill shelter in Divide, at 719-686-7707 for more information or check out our website to see all the available animals! www.tcrascolorado.com

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Fish friendly

by The Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Whether you like catching them or are just excited to get a glimpse of one cruising the shore, fish are a fun part of enjoying our waterways. With miles of gold water fishing streams — those that consistently support robust fish populations and provide excellent angling for large trout — the Upper South Platte Watershed is a great place to spot or reel in these finned friends.

Fish are not only sought after for sport and enjoyment, they are also a key part of a healthy ecosystem. If the fish are thriving, the rest of the plants and animals in an area are likely doing well, too. Fish need specific conditions to grow strong and reproduce. Changing land use, human impacts, and natural disturbances all affect how inviting fish habitat is and how resilient the fish population will be to the next change.

The quality of water is a major factor that contributes to how suitable a particular stretch of river is to supporting fish. Trout prefer cool streams; it can be lethal if the water climbs over 75 degrees Fahrenheit. The right mix of changing water temperature through the seasons is key for their life cycle. Cooler temperatures are needed for spawning, and as streams warm into the 50s and 60s, trout start feasting.

Water temperatures are also connected to the amount of oxygen available to fish. In general, cooler streams have more readily available oxygen than warmer streams, which is why high mountain fisheries are so popular with anglers. Turbulence also helps add oxygen into the system. Strategically placed rocks and logs can be a boon to fish in part because they churn up the water and work more oxygen in. When too many nutrients, like phosphorous and nitrogen (the stuff you used to fertilize plants), get introduced into streams, algae can quickly grow. Once this algae starts to decompose, it uses up oxygen and can choke out fish.

In addition to having plenty of oxygen to breathe, having the right kind of bugs in the water is important for fish habitat. While they may eat some smaller fish or insects that live on the land, for the most part, trout feed on benthic macroinvertebrates, or bottom dwelling bugs. High quality water and the presence of organic material for the bugs to eat help support a large enough population of benthic macroinvertebrates for fish to survive on.

Fish also need shelter. Having an overhanging tree canopy, undercut banks stabilized by

roots, in-stream boulders, and other places for fish to rest or hide are important to protect fish from predators, as well as other threats like intense sunlight. A combination of fast-moving water and more leisurely flows brings bugs to the fish to eat and then allows them to rest and take shelter.

It's not only what is in the water, but also what surrounds the stream that makes waterways livable for trout. The condition of the watershed that feeds into the stream and the vegetation on the streambanks contribute to the health of fish populations. In addition to providing food for bugs to eat, the surrounding tree canopy and vegetation provides shading, temperature control, and helps stabilize the banks to slow the rate of sediment and other pollutants entering the stream.

Especially in our area, where easily erodible decomposed granite constitutes much of the soil, sediment and erosion can become a big problem for fish. When too much sediment enters a stream or river, the increased turbidity impacts the water quality and fish's ability to find food. Sediment will warm the water and block sunlight from reaching plants at the bottom of streams that are important for producing oxygen. The sediment also smothers bugs and reduces visibility in the water, thus reducing the ability of fish to spot their prey. If enough sediment is present, it can also clog gills, suffocate fish, and smother fish eggs.

Disturbances like catastrophic wildfires, roads and trails that are not well maintained, or changes in land use that leave barren slopes can cause an influx of sediment and long-term problems with this pollutant. Living in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) increases



CUSP volunteers are helping to improve fish habitat by revegetating the streambank. An in-stream structure helps stabilize the bank in the foreground.

the risk that we will experience wildfires that expedite the movement of sediment toward local rivers and fish habitats. River restoration can improve impacted fish habitat and prevent streams from being further degraded so we all have the opportunity to continue seeing fish in our favorite channels.

It turns out the conditions fish like are generally good for the hydrological system and the rest of ecological system, so river restoration done with fish in mind is good for the rest of the stream and the other critters that rely on the waterway.

Structures put in on the hillside that help slow erosion and prevent sediment from entering streams are often installed in conjunction with revegetation efforts. Upslope vegetation, the willows, and other plants along the streambank bolster the land's ability to hang on to the soil with stabilizing root structures, and slow water down so it can better infiltrate into the soil and pick up less pollutants as it travels downhill toward a stream or river. The right mix of vegetation can additionally help keep

the water and the fish cool.

Working in the stream itself can also improve fish habitat. In-stream structures carefully constructed using natural materials such as logs, boulders, and root wads from fallen trees will improve the condition of the river in an aesthetically pleasing way. When properly installed, these structures will increase turbulence to introduce more oxygen into the water, provide shelter for fish to rest and hide, and help stabilize the banks to reduce erosion.

Thinking about our streams and the fish populations they house is an important part of watershed management. Everything that happens in the watershed — including wildfires, development, industrial operations, and work to improve the condition of the forest — will all funnel down to have an impact on the state of streams and the health of the fish populations we so enjoy. So next time you are out on the water, take a moment to think about what is going into that water and how we can all help improve habitat for fish by taking care of our watersheds.

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Bowhunting for elk

by Jeff Tacey

Fall is right around the corner and that means for the hunter; the elk rut and bugling bulls. Archery elk season spans from August 30th to September 28th this year. If you didn't get a draw tag or don't plan on going rifle hunting, now is your time. There are a lot less archery hunters than rifle and the elk are mating now, so they'll be more vocal and visible.

Most of the Pikes Peak area is an over the counter bow tag for either sex-elk archery or antlerless elk archery. Check the B list on page 29 of the 2014 Colorado Big Game booklet on how to buy more than one elk tag. Also check page 30 and 31 of the booklet for draw areas and over the counter areas, units 59, 511 and 581 have very good early season hunting for elk.

The key is to get away from the roads and crowds, also make sure you stay on public land, such as the Pike National Forest, various Bureau of Land Management (BLM) tracts or Dome Rock State Wildlife area (SWA) unless you have access to private land.

Here are a few places to try: County Road 5 north of Divide, this is part of the old Hayman burn area. There will be elk in here with all the vegetation. Check out Gold Camp Road by Victor, a lot of dark timber in this area to keep the elk cool. Shelf Road south of Cripple Creek has a lot of rocky areas that are hard to



access and will hold rutting elk. My favorite spot would be the trail going up the backside of Pikes Peak by Crags Campground, no roads, dark timber, above treeline meadows, and steep terrain make this elk heaven.

Enjoy September by looking for the elk!

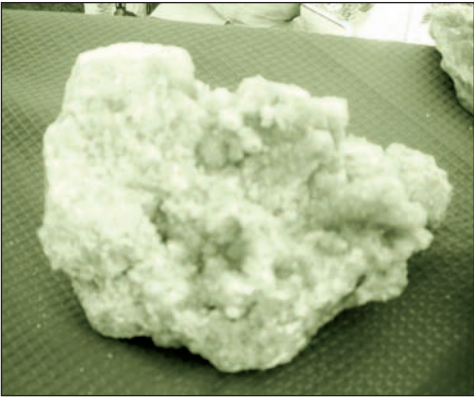
Rock and Mineral Show

by Maurice Wells

The 15th Annual Lake George Rock and Mineral Show was held on August 15, 16 & 17. Among the 30 vendors was Jack McGee, a mineral collector and life-long resident of Cripple Creek. McGee's display was of Pseudomorph Crystals, a generic name for crystals that have undergone a change during their existence. As McGee explained, the finished crystal, a calcined quartz was laumantite and before that fluorite.

Millions of years ago the volcanic activity of the Cripple Creek area, with the heat and pressure of such activity, caused these substances to undergo molecular changes and transition from one to another. McGee believes the only other area where these particular forms of Pseudomorph Crystals exist is in the African Congo.

For those who missed this year's program, the show is held on the third weekend of August so mark your 2015 calendar.



A Pseudomorph crystal cluster.
photo by Maurice Wells

The 2014 Divide-Wide Yard Sale and the 19th Annual Great Divide Kite Flight

by David Martinek

photo by David Martinek

The wind blew, pretty strong at times, which is an important requisite for kite flying, but the morning was sunny and cool for the yard sale enthusiasts perusing the treasures laid out on the Summit Elementary School Parking lot.

Saturday, August 23, marked the day for annual events in Divide, both sponsored by the Divide Chamber of Commerce. The 4th Annual Divide-Wide Yard Sale, co-sponsored by the Summit Elementary School and PTSO, set up on the school parking lot where 18 vendors offered crafts and a variety of items, from shoes and tools to clothes and 8-track tapes. The school parking lots appears to be the perfect venue for a yard sale where shoppers can find unique items against the backdrop of Pikes Peak and the historic Clark Ranch to the south.

Also happening that morning was the 16th annual Great Divide Kite Flight, co-sponsored by Edward Jones Investments and the Teller County Sheriff's Department. About 65 elementary school-age kids, along with their parents or grandparents, assemble on the hill at the trailhead of the Hayden Divide Loop Trail to enjoy flying kites over the windy hillside overlooking Raspberry Mountain and the valley in between. At times the winds were almost too strong, but mostly they were just right and few had any trouble lifting their kites, donated by Edward Jones Investments, into the air.

Assisting the chamber with the Kite Flight, Girl Scout Troup No. 3649 from Divide helped the youngsters navigate their kites, as well as promoted their project about the qualities of fresh air. There were balloons to pop and questions to answer about air quality or pollution. The right



Miss Bianco Bryant, daughter of David and Stacey Bryant of Divide, was the winner of the Walmart Gift card.

answer earned the participant a free lollipop.

There were even some adult kite enthusiasts who couldn't resist the inviting winds and a chance to fly their own favorite sail. At one point, a dog was a kite flyer.

To cap off the morning, a drawing was held where hopeful youngsters signed up for a chance to win a gift card, generously donated by Walmart, to buy a new BMX bicycle. The lucky winner was Miss Bianco Bryant, daughter of David and Stacey Bryant of Divide.

"We always look forward each year to our annual community yard sale and kite flight," said chamber president, Lisa Lee. "We hope to continue these events each year for as long as we can. A special thanks goes out to our co-sponsors, the Summit Elementary School and PTSO, Edward Jones Investments and the Teller County Sheriff's Department, and especially to Girl Scout Troup No. 3649 and Sheriff's Deputy Josh T. Miller, who spent the morning assisting the chamber volunteers at the kite flight and providing a great sense of security for the children.

The legacy of James John Hagerman - Part 8

by David Martinek

Returning on the train from the emergency meeting of investors in Burlington, Iowa in April 1886, James J. Hagerman must have felt the promise of accomplishment heavy in the air. The beginning of an actual Colorado Midland railroad appeared to be in sight.

Despite the obstacles he faced to raise the necessary capital to build the Eastern Division, and despite the disappointment and anger he felt after having to forego building the Western Division line first, due to the prohibitive transport rates of the Denver and Rio Grande (the D & R G) and Union Pacific, things were falling into place. A meeting on the following Sunday at his home in Colorado Springs would solidify the financing. On that morning, \$3,000,000 was confirmed by the investors, while William Lidderdale, governor of the Bank of England, took an option of the remaining \$5 Million in bonds. The Colorado Midland was going to be a railroad!

During the trip to Burlington, Hagerman had also been able to negotiate favorable shipping rates with the C B & Q (Chicago, Burlington & Quincy) for rails from Chicago to Leadville. But the disharmony with the D & R G and the Union Pacific would linger a little while longer, though resolution was forthcoming, and Hagerman was learning precisely how to work around them or play their game a little better.

The Colorado Midland confirmed.

Hagerman wrote J. B. Wheeler on April 28 that the D & R G was damned and determined to build their own line to Aspen. Later in May he wrote J. R. Busk, "I felt so sure you would think it best to go on with the Eastern Division. We put a lot of men at work on a narrow canon [canyon] our line passes through between here and Leadville [probably Eleven-Mile Canyon] as we feared the D & R G would try to play some of their old tricks on us."

By the first of June Hagerman was writing an old business acquaintance, O. W. Potter (from his days at the Milwaukee Iron Company) at the North Chicago Rolling Mills Company saying they (the "Midland") expected to lay about 50 miles of track in 1886 and have the rest of the grade ready to finish the next year. He asked for rates on angles and rails (mostly 60 pound). "We have the money, earning no interest, and we would like to have it earn some," wrote Hagerman.

It was also in early June that engineer Thomas Wigglesworth was surveying the "Hill Top" route through Trout Creek Pass, a more southerly route through South Park than the original plan. According to Hagerman's letters, the route provided easier grades than Weston Pass and would afford more economical operation, although it would cost \$150,000 more to build.

By mid-June Hagerman reported that his chief contractor, who had a thousand men working on the line west of Leadville, along what would be called Hagerman Pass, was eager to get the contract for the Eastern Division also. He remarked that while boring Hagerman Tunnel the crew discovered a large vein of silver about 500 feet in and some of the sub-contractors tried to stake a claim to it. But the Midland's agent in the area, George W. Cook, took possession of the strike even though the claimers threatened to shoot him. "...but they tried it on the wrong man," Hagerman wrote. Cook later served as a U.S. Congressman from Colorado from 1907 to 1909. The tunnel, to be named Hagerman Tunnel, was expected to be completed by December 1, 1886. It would be delayed.

Once the news was confirmed that the Colorado Midland would be built, Hagerman entertained many important visitors, including the manager of the Colorado Coal and Iron Company in Pueblo who wanted to produce rails for the Midland. David Moffat, who was associated with the D & R G and an influential stockholder in the Denver, Texas and Gulf (the "D T & G"), was also a visitor. Moffat wanted to be friends (Hagerman and Moffat were the same age). The D T & G saw the completion of the Midland to be in their interest.

The general manager of the Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe (the "Santa Fe") came calling, as well, "on matters relating to our mutual interest." A Denver agent for the Union Pacific indicated that the U. P. general

manager, Mr. S. R. Calloway, also wanted a conference. In a letter to Calloway on June 22 Hagerman suggested that the U. P. extend their Kansas-Pacific line from near Limon, Colorado to Colorado Springs, providing an eastern connection for the Midland (which they eventually did much later). He spryly mentioned that the Rock Island railroad might do the same. Hagerman also suggested that the Union Pacific might consider dividing the share of Leadville's business so that the Midland would get a third.

Putting the pieces together.

The intrigue with the D & R G and other colorful antics continued throughout the summer of 1886 with Hagerman attempting to discourage investors from funding their Aspen extension while also directing that tracks be laid on a Sunday along a right-of-way crossing over alleged placer claims in Leadville, hoping the court would sustain their occupation (it did).

There were also reports that an armed group of men working for the Colorado Coal and Iron Company had caused a conflict in the coal fields around Jerome Park. "They went there with a big force of bullies, armed with guns, and drove our men off, and now hold posses-



This Rose and Hopkins photo shows the 'nice, level piece of ground' Hagerman purchased for the Colorado Midland's railway yards in Old Colorado City. Denver Public Library.

sion," wrote Hagerman on July 8. "Of course, this cannot affect our rights in any way."

Efforts were also made to secure right-of-way through Manitou Springs, although the surveyed line was controlled by a corporation (the Colorado Springs Company) of which the president of the D & R G (Jackson) was a major stockholder. The D & R G had extended their narrow gauge line from Colorado Springs to Manitou, but no farther. However, "the officers and other stockholders of the company have no particular interest in the D & R G now, so they made us a fair price..." wrote Hagerman. Apparently, this action was hidden from the D & R G leadership for a time.

Important property for the Midland's railroad yards, as well as depot access, was also secured in the summer of 1886. "At Old Town [Old Colorado City], that is, about half way between Colorado Springs and Manitou, we have been given about 40 acres [later he said 50 acres] of land on which our shops, roundhouses and yards for storage of cars, etc., will be located. This is a nice, level piece of ground, very conveniently located, and outside of the corporation [i.e., outside the city limits of Colorado Springs or Colorado City], which will save taxes," Hagerman wrote a friend. Depot grounds in Colorado Springs were also acquired from the same company who sold the Midland their right-of-way through Manitou Springs - the Colorado Springs Company.

By July 21, Hagerman wrote Samuel S. Sands in New York that "contracts have been let to good men for about 60 miles of Eastern Division...men are now coming on ground to work, and in a short time it will be covered by a large force. As yet, we have met with no obstructions in the Ute Pass from the D & R G, but we expect to fight them on one spot..."

While all these actions were proceeding, another important part of the overall Midland plan occupied Hagerman's mind. Extending the Colorado Midland lines to Salt Lake City had been a dream of the Midland founders since the beginning. Such a link would allow the Midland to become a through line to the Pacific instead of just a regional interconnect. In 1886, while Hagerman worked diligently to guide the Midland's early construction efforts in Colorado, he continued that dream by ordering engineer Wigglesworth to review the countryside west of Elk Creek (New Castle) through the White



River area "to the state line and beyond..." The potential road would require passage through the 4.5 million-acre Ute Indian reservation [Uintah and Ouray] in northeastern Utah, which would require not only tribal approval but also Congressional permission. In addition, Mormon leaders had approached Hagerman eager to have an outlet for their large surplus of grains, vegetables and fruits. "The conviction is growing with me that the Midland must be extended to Salt Lake," Hagerman wrote.

Unfortunately, once the Midland began operating and revenues did not meet expectations, the "Utah Midland," as it was called, would be shelved forever.

Settlement with Denver & Rio Grande.

On September 16, 1886, Hagerman wrote a financier that he had settled with the D & R G for "our crossings here [in Colorado Springs] and in Leadville, and for the right-of-way over land owned by the D & R G in the Ute Pass, about 2 1/2 miles." The deal included a trade agreement which cancelled a number of lawsuits without costing the Midland anything. The remaining obstacles yet to be resolved involved a few lots in Leadville and the right-of-way through the Arkansas River valley. "Mr. Jackson [i.e., William S. Jackson, president of the Denver & Rio Grande] treated me very handsomely, and seemed disposed to do what was fair, as he no doubt realizes that his company has no money to fool away, and that he cannot punish us without punishing himself. He realizes, as do I, that it is vastly better to get along with as little warfare as possible because, after our road is finished, the time will come when we must get together like reasonable men and agree on how much of business each shall have."

Hagerman critical of Midland leadership.

Throughout the year in 1886, little was noted about the private state of Hagerman's health; but in truth, he was a very sick man still. "The work has been very hard for me," he wrote to a friend, "but I have stood it well." It might be that Hagerman's opinion of his advisors, and the officers and board members of the Midland, was colored by his health issues for he was very critical of most of them - an opinion that would change over time and which would soften in later years before his death. But during the fall of 1886, he pulled no punches.

"I tell you confidentially," wrote Hagerman to an old friend, "my advisors are not worth a continental. Metcalf shirks every big question and wants to spend about half his time in Manitou Park [a resort north of Woodland Park, founded by Dr. William Bell, also founder of Manitou Springs]. Howbert, treasurer, is timid as a baby and lays down on me for everything. Our other two directors, Humphrey and Edwards, merely say 'yes' to all I say. Wheeler is not good at all. He flits from one question to another and considers none. Wigglesworth is a jewel in the rough. He is cranky about some things and must be handled with gloves; but he is industrious, very efficient, thoroughly in earnest and dreadfully anxious to have the cost of his work come within his estimates. [Wigglesworth would be fired later and Hagerman's opinion of him would change.] Rogers [the Midland's attorney] is a good man. His suits etc. have so far been well-managed and he has not been beaten anywhere. He works very hard. [Homer D.] Fisher is a hard worker, but erratic, quick-tempered, easy to take offense, and always on the lookout for his dignity. All the old men connected with the company over-estimate the value of their services and seem to think more of the salary they are to get than anything else. When we get a good general manager, we will reorganize many things..."

In October, Hagerman wrote to Wheeler to announce his hiring of D. B. Robinson as the new Midland general manager. Robinson had been the GM of the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad. He ends his letter by saying, "Work on the railroad is going very rapidly."

In fact, during 1887 work on the Midland would increase exponentially, indeed, with implementation of regular train service as soon as possible after track activation, and completion of the line all the way to Glenwood Springs - and no small amount of additional troubles.

(to be continued next month)
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Sacred ancestral lands of the Tabeguache

by Celinda Reynolds Kaelin

"An Indian will never ask to what nation or tribe or body of people another Indian belongs but to 'what land do you belong and how are you land named?'" - John Wesley Powell

Colorado, Utah, and northern New Mexico were the ancestral lands of the Nuche (Ute) Nation prior to European contact. Their nation was loosely organized into about 10 different bands. Tava (Pikes Peak) was home to the Tabeguache (People of Tava) Band. They remained in the area until the early 1880s when they were forcibly removed to their current reservation in Northeastern Utah.

Until the 1868 Treaty they still had legal claim to the Pikes Peak region. This Treaty, however, pushed the boundaries of their land west to the Continental Divide. Now that their band's Agency was officially located near the red waters of the Uncompahgre River, they took the name of the land and became the People of Red Water Sitting, Akapaagaru (Uncompahgre). In 1873 this treaty was amended, taking a large chunk of the San Juans after gold was found there. However, Article II stipulated that "The United States shall permit the Ute Indians to hunt upon said [ceded] lands so long as the game lasts..."

Irving Howbert reports that 300 Utes under Ouray and Colorow spent the winter of 1866-67 encamped near Balanced Rock in Garden of the Gods. Even after the treaty of 1868, homesteaders and pioneers of the Pikes Peak region left many accounts of their frequent migrations to the region well into the 1880s. Chase Mellon, brother-in-law of General Palmer, told of another visit by Colorow's band:

"Five hundred Utes with their squaws and papooses paid Glen Eyrie a visit that same year (mid-1870s). We understood that they were on their way to fight the Cheyennes, hereditary enemies... Chief Washington [Tanoa], an old chief of the tribe, was with the party and we feared no harm because he was then a friend of the Great White Father, whom he had visited in Washington and from whom he had received a silver medal, as large as a small plate, which he proudly wore suspended around his neck..."

Attie Thompson, whose father, David Long, settled on the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in 1872, writes of these colorful first people:

"The Indians were all through the country and some big camps were located near our place. Those camps were very interesting to all of us because they were so different from the white man's camp. They were very colorful because every tepee had a figure of a warrior or horse painted on one or both sides of it with the bright red, green, yellow paint that only the Indians know how to make. They usually chose a level place near a little stream where they pitched their tepees and then after the ponies were relieved of their packs, they were turned loose to graze on the mountain grass which was very plentiful... Chief Colorow was in our house many times. He was very friendly toward the white man. He could speak some English, and Pa enjoyed talking to him."

Ouray, as Chief of the Tabeguache, was frequently in the Pikes Peak region. In the winter of 1874-75 he camped near Florissant with his band of 600. Unfortunately, their large pony herd proved to be too much temptation, and several horses were stolen. One of the horses belonged to a Ute named Wanzits, or Antelope, who reclaimed his horse. The January 30, 1875, Colorado Springs Gazette reported on the incident:

"...Charles A Jockmus [was dispatched] to Florissant, with orders to bring to Denver the Ute Indian, Tabweah, who is charged with the murder of Marksbury. On arriving at the Ute camp, Ouray willingly complied with Major Thompson's [Indian Agent] order, and at once surrendered Tabweah... John Ward came up as interpreter, as also did 'Antelope,' who claims that the killing of Marksbury by Tabweah was done in self-defense. Ouray states that when Marksbury entered the Ute camp in search of the pony said to have been stolen, he claimed that he had an order from Major Thompson, and one from Ouray as well, for the delivery of the pony, which was not true; that after Marksbury rode away with the pony, he was followed by Tabweah and another Indian, who tried to induce Marksbury to surrender the animal; that he refused, and made frequent threatening demonstrations with his rifle, the result of which was that Tabweah fired upon him in self-defense, and killed him."



Loya Arrum
photo by Celinda Reynolds Kaelin

This incident is interesting in that it occurred in January. Several authors have maintained that the Tabeguache wintered on Colorado's west slope. However, there are numerous anecdotes in early journals and reports that show not a seasonal, but a regular use of Ute Pass. Examples are this Marksbury story and another in the Colorado Springs Gazette clearly state that Ouray's band was in the area in January 1875 and February 1874. Major J.W. Powell's report to the Bureau of American Ethnology paints a more accurate picture of Ute peregrinations.

The Utes are nomadic. A tribe will move around a grand circuit which has been previously determined in council, often taking for its completion [sic] several months or even a year. This constant moving is necessary to successful hunting and every season has its peculiar nuts, seed, fruits, or roots, and the places where such articles of food are found in abundance largely determine the course of their wanderings. (BAE Ms. No 830)

Powell goes on to note that the territories of the different bands were jealously guarded, as a reliable food source meant life for the people. "...tribes are very tenacious in clinging to their rights over such [favorite hunting grounds], and very jealous of the encroachments of other tribes [bands]... usually such disputes require the holding of many councils, and sometimes they are not settled until the whole nation meets in grand council." (BAE Ms. No 830)

The Ute guides used by Dominguez and Escalante in 1776 explained that geographic features, such as mountains, rivers and streams were used to define the territory of each band. Any hegemony could have serious repercussions.



Clifford Duncan
photo by Celinda Reynolds Kaelin

sions. For instance, if one band pre-empted another's hunting of elk at a particular site, it might mean no food -- and possibly death --when the rightful band arrived at their now-barren hunting grounds.

Ute Pass provided the easiest access into the Tabeguache mountain hunting grounds. In order to prevent hostile incursions by the Comanche, Cheyenne, and Arapahoe from the eastern plains, the Tabeguache maintained a series of stone forts along the front range. There are nine of these forts in Colorado Springs alone. They were each staffed with two Tabeguache scouts, who used smoke signals or shiny mica flakes to signal the main band of warriors when enemies approached. It was the Tabeguache band of warriors who kept the front range from falling into the hands of these hostile Plains Indians.

Historian David Lavender writes that the Utes were compelled by geography to use "...stone forts to fight off raiding Arapaho and Cheyennes (a defensive wrinkle almost unprecedented among American Indians)..." Ethnographer Ann Smith writes that these forts were made of stone, about two or three feet deep, and covered with brush. The warriors would then use this cover to shoot at their enemies. These forts were used to good effect when the U.S. Cavalry invaded sovereign Ute territory on Milk River in 1879. Dawes and Skiff, reporters for the Denver Tribune,

wrote that the Ute "Indians had entrenched [sic] themselves in a series of pits, so that when the troops halted at the first volley, they stood between two fires at a range of only 650 yards from either bluff."

In addition to the compelling need to fight for their lands for the survival of their people, the Tabeguache also had a deep, spiritual connection to their ancestral lands. Tabeguache Elder, Clifford Duncan, explained that before the reservation days, "...when strangers met, they asked one another, 'What land do you belong to?' They felt they belonged to the land where they lived. At each encampment, the Medicine Man or Woman would first build a Four Directions Symbol (Native Cross), surrounded by a circle. This was at the center of all the tips, and in its center was the Heart Stone. Then, as the people harvested the buffalo, the berries, the eagle, the very best parts of the harvest were offered to Mother Earth at the center of the Medicine Wheel. They gave back to Mother Earth. This was like an umbilical cord connecting them to their Mother."

Duncan further explained the Medicine Wheel, saying, "There is a Sacred Hoop, a Medicine Wheel, of all things. Earth gives her flesh to grasses, grasses give themselves to four-leggeds, four-leggeds give themselves to two-leggeds, and two-leggeds must then give to Mother Earth, or the Sacred Hoop is broken."

He explained that his people moved camp every three to four weeks, and built a Medicine Wheel at center of each new camp. This, for the Ute, literally constituted an umbilical cord with Mother Earth, ensuring that they belonged to the earth where they regularly encamped.

In addition to this "umbilical cord," Ute cosmology also provides insights for an even deeper connection to ancestral lands. Ute people understood Great Spirit, the Creator, to be an energy that was everywhere present and within everything. The word that I use for this is Unitheism. Most ethnographers and anthropologists have misunderstood this concept, and instead labeled the Ute as animists, zootheists, or pagans. In Ute cosmology, it is also understood that the soul is eternal, and at an individual's passing it becomes a part of Great Spirit, Sunawiv. Therefore, the spirit of the departed is very much a part of ancestral landscape. Duncan manifested this belief whenever returning to the Pikes Peak region, when he bathed all of his sacred items (Pipe, eagle feather, etc) in the red soil "the dust of my ancestors bones." Northern Ute elder, Loya Arrum, also explained the need to return to her ancestral lands in the Pikes Peak region periodically to "nurture the Spirits of her ancestors through ceremony." For this reason, the Pikes Peak Historical Society has sponsored a homecoming for the Northern Ute each year for 15 years and has established a special endowment fund for this purpose.

The power of this spiritual connection was graphically illustrated



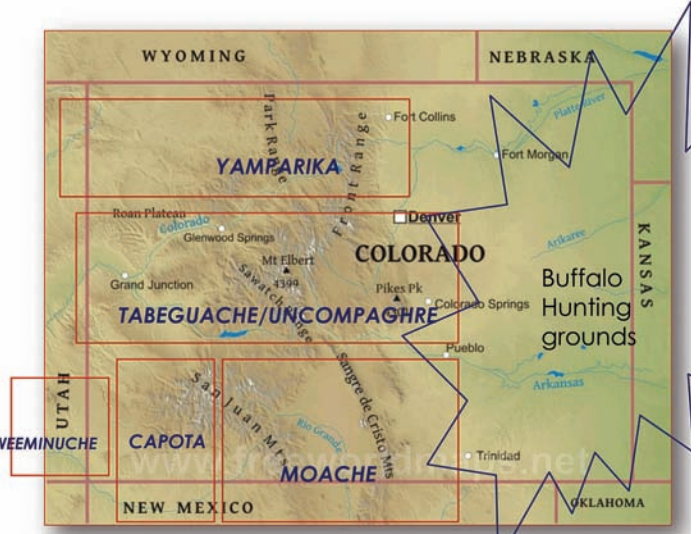
Tabeguache Ute Chief Colorow with other Northern Ute warriors. Top row, from left: Nicaagat (Captain Jack), Tanoa (Washington, wearing his silver peace medal), Catz, Piah (Black Tailed Deer), Canalla (Johnson), Unknown. Front row, from left: Tabweah, Wanzits (Antelope), and Chief Colorow. photo credit Colorado Historical Society.



Tabeguache Forts: Colorado Springs Area

on their first return trip. The entire group of about 30 Northern Utes made a pilgrimage to one of their culturally scarred Prayer Trees. As the caravan of six cars and the tribal van approached the tree, electricity filled the air, engulfing everyone, so that all were covered in goose bumps and the hair on our arms stood up. After Arrum parked the van with all the children on the road opposite the tree, she reached in the back for her eagle feather fan. As soon as she held the fan, facing the tree, she began a deep keening and blood flew from her nose straight toward the tree. She explained all of this phenomena later as "the ancestors were so glad to see their grandchildren ... the keening and blood represented the deep angst of being separated and reunited with a loved ones, overjoyed, as they felt they would never see them again."

In 1911-12, Colorado Springs sought to lure tourists to the area by holding "Shan Kiva" and returning the Utes for the celebration. Unfortunately, they invited only the Utes still living in Colorado -- the Southern Utes. General Palmer's railroad was used



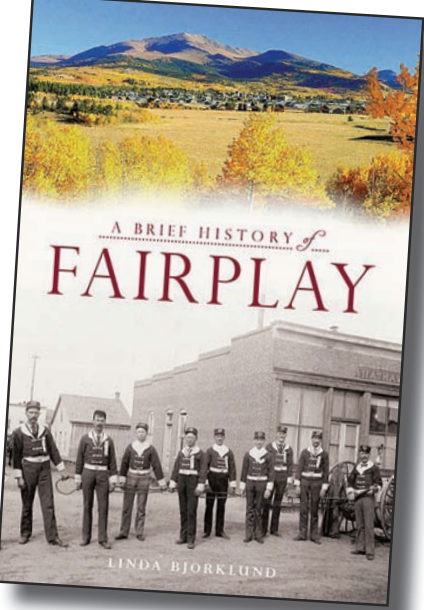
Territory of Ute Bands

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MIKE & MAGGIE DUNTON

Prepare yourself for the unexpected

Are you ready for this? September is National Preparedness Month. Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Preparedness Month seeks to educate Americans on preparing for natural disasters and other types of emergencies. But you'll also need to prepare for unexpected events in many other areas of your life, particularly those events related to the financial security of you and your family.

Here are some of the most important of these events, along with possible preparations for them:

Unanticipated early retirement

If you encounter a "downsizing" or other occurrence that results in the loss of a job, or even the end of a career, before you expected it, would you be able to avoid major disruptions to your lifestyle? To help prepare for such a loss of income, make sure to fully fund your IRA each year. The maximum contribution is \$5,500 per year plus an additional \$1,000 for those ages 50 and older.

Disability

Even a short-term disability can seriously harm your finances and a long-term disability could prove devastating. Your employer might offer some form of disability insurance, but it may not be sufficient. So you may need to explore private coverage.

Personal liability

If someone were ever injured on your property or due to some action of yours, you could face legal actions demanding hundreds of thousands of dollars. To help protect yourself, consider adding umbrella liability insurance.

Changing family situation

Changes in your family life (marriage, divorce, remarriage, children, and step-children) can drastically affect your estate plans and the type of legacy you want to leave. To prevent

unpleasant surprises for your family, make sure you periodically review beneficiary designations on your investment accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k), and work with your tax and legal advisors to update your estate-planning documents (will, living trust, etc.) as needed.

Outliving your money

Once you reach retirement, your greatest concern may be that you'll outlive your money. To help prevent this from happening, create a sustainable withdrawal strategy; determine how much you can take out each year from your investment and retirement accounts, and stick to this amount.

Need for long-term care

You can't predict whether you will ever need to enter a nursing home or require the assistance of a home health care worker, but one thing is for sure, these services are extremely expensive. Consider this: The national average for a private room in a nursing home is nearly \$84,000 per year, according to a recent survey by Genworth, a financial security company. To help prepare for these costs, you may want to consult with a professional financial advisor, who can suggest appropriate solutions.

Untimely death

Your absence could jeopardize your family's financial security, particularly if you passed away while your children were still at home. To help ensure that your family could remain in the home and that your children could go to college, if they choose, make sure you have adequate life insurance.

Your passage through life will be filled with twists and turns, and you can't always see what lies ahead. But you can ease your journey by preparing yourself for the unexpected.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by Tracy E Barber IV, AAMS, your Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

CC Hospitality House & Travel Park: New owners add new nuances

by Kathy Hansen

Whether you drive your car, truck, or RV Camper into Cripple Creek, one thing is for sure, when you're looking for a comfortable place to stay, the Cripple Creek Hospitality House & Travel Park will exceed your expectations. Just ask the many visitors who return periodically to this gorgeous hotel and travel park.

Tucked away at the end of B Street, this beautiful building beckons you inward. As you enter, you are warmly greeted by either Mary, or Kim, or sometimes Rick. It is difficult to maintain eye contact as the quality crafting of the hand hewn open staircase draws you in and makes you feel at home. Your concerns and worries seem to melt away as you take in this historic wonder.

It was built in 1901 as the Teller County Hospital, and continued to serve as such until 1960 when the county abandoned it. Wayne and Dorothy Mackin purchased the building in 1964 and began transforming the building into a hotel, which opened to the public in 1965. Shortly after, the pull-thru RV hookups emerged. By 1992 it was Stephen and Bonnie Mackin who decided to add a 2,400 square foot addition to include a recreation room, complete with pool table, piano, and card games.

Fast forward to December 2009; it is Michael Duffy's obligation to plan the family's annual RV get-away over Labor Day, a family tradition dating back to the 1940s. Michael realized they hadn't been to Cripple Creek and found the Cripple Creek Hospitality House as a viable option. Their first visit on Labor Day weekend of 2010 became a game-changer for everyone involved. The comfortable environment melted their concerns as the magnificence of the mountains launched their dream to someday become owners of such an endeavor.

February of 2014 was when Kay Duffy, Gail Diley, Michael Duffy, and Rick Leonard's dream came to fruition as new owners of Cripple Creek Hospitality House & Travel Park. They chose to keep the room designations above the door-

ways as a reminder of what this building was intended to do: help people heal and recover. This is the first clue to their compassion.

They agreed upon a few changes, like keeping it open all year round, replacing several smaller beds for king-size comfort, and tastefully adding original antiques, along with a few reproductions. The two separate sun porches are available as meeting spaces, as well as the game room, just let them know what you are looking for when planning that special meeting place and they will make appropriate accommodations.

Customers are able to preview RV sites and book rooms online. Wifi is provided.

Their experience as being guests at RV Travel Parks became invaluable. They offer basic retail services for ice, RV supplies, and propane delivery. The sites vary from tent camping to full utility hook-ups (water/sewer/electric) and anything in between. They have secured access to public showers and restrooms, as well as laundry facilities. Complimentary propane gas grills are available in multiple picnic areas. Outdoor entertainment includes horseshoe pits, a children's playground, and volleyball area. All the things you need for a comfortable stay, but more important is superior service.

Michael and Rick are happy to leverage their RV experience when needed, giving a hand when leveling an RV, stabilizing or un-hitching utility trailers, and even fixing leaky pipes! They truly understand the need to resolve these issues for a pleasurable stay.

"As our guests travel from one destination to another, our over-reaching goal is to ensure their stay with us is comfortable, safe, and includes those common/minimum expectations, but most importantly is measured by service second to none," said Michael.

It seemed to be quite the courtesy for them to go to the store when a guest has forgotten that one ingredient to finish the recipe, but they have gone beyond that. Michael recalls a night they were assisting a young couple



A section of the original water main that served the building from 1900-1989. It was made of cedar wood and wire.



This beautiful building welcomes you (above), as the hand hewn stairway draws you in (middle). Rooms are comfortably furnished with gorgeous antiques (bottom).



with two small children in a snow storm. The staff stood out in front of the property with flashlights directing the husband pulling the travel trailer, then helping the wife navigate with the children. Rick and Michael could see the RV was in need of serious repairs, including iced-over slide-outs and broken pipes; this was going to take a while to be safely habitable. They happily provided a room at no charge for two nights. The safety and comfort of this family was assured.

Next time you are ready to venture into Cripple Creek, consider staying at the Cripple Creek Hospitality House & RV Travel Park. The setting is spectacular, the architecture is incredible, and the service is superior to all.

To make reservations call 719-689-2513 or cchospitality-house.com

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THE GOOD LIFE YOUTH EXPO

North Teller Build a Generation, with support from Gold Belt Communities Build a Generation extends a huge THANKS for making the first Good Life Youth Expo a great success!

VOLUNTEERS & Workers:

- Jacque Davis & Brenda Mayfield, Teller County Public Health
- Heidi Howard, Woodland Park School District RE-2
- Pam & Richard Bourland-Olachia
- Brian Gallant
- Paul Loyd
- Susan Janicki
- Youth Volunteers: Garrick, Rika, Joel & Sam
- Bridget Upshaw, UCCS intern with North Teller Build a Generation
- Cindy Keating, Ryan Baade, Judy Bundy & Matt Hruska, Woodland Park Parks & Recreation
- Cindy Morse, City of Woodland Park
- Lisa Noble, Gold Belt Communities Build a Generation (GBC BAG)
- Rachel Gray, Cripple Creek-Victor School District RE-1 & GBC BAG
- Sherry Arias, Teen Center Staff

And a BIG thanks to those who worked the North Teller Build a Generation booth in the Stage 5 Start Village, and the Bike Rodeo & Helmet Safety venue for the Race:

- Jacque Davis & Brenda Mayfield, Teller County Public Health
- Angela Komar, CASA
- Brian & Mary, Signs for Life Bus
- Bridget Upshaw & youth volunteer Joel
- Woodland Park Park & Rec staff – for a great partnership with this effort!

DONATIONS:

- Big D Motorsports
- True Life Medicine
- USA Pro Challenge Stage 5 Start Local Organizing Committee
- Wildwood Casino

EXPO VENDORS / PARTICIPANTS:

- Erin Blattner, Nutrition Intern for True Life Medicine
- Oscar Chaplin – USA Weightlifting Olympian
- Adam Maczik – USA Fencing Olympic hopeful
- JD Malone, USA Sitting Volleyball
- John Parker, Stunt Masters Action Sports
- Maile Gray & Barb Bailey, Drive Smart Colorado
- Trevor McConnell & team, Fort Carson Outdoor Recreation
- Nuwanee Kirihennedige & team, Flying Carrot Bus (UCCS & Pikes Peak Community Foundation)
- Lori & John McLeod, Jolly Bears Frozen Treats

Critter Corner



Old Lab
by Jo

I moved to my current residence in a rural area 3 summers ago. When I first moved to Florissant, an older lab came walking by causing my dogs to bark and run to him. At first I was angry that someone let the dog run loose. After a while I noticed that the dog went up the road every morning and returned about 1/2 hr. later. IF I am home in the morning my dogs announce that he is out there. His tags are well worn; I was unable to read them. I started to notice things about him; he always walks on the side of the road, a slow and steady pace. I considered following him to see where he goes as I never see him when I walk my dogs. The way he moves it's like he has taken this same walk for years, perhaps with his person, and he is continuing the journey. I wish I knew his story but in my mind it is a partnership and a love story. It will be a sad day when I no longer see him.



Gatsby and Sindy -
Ila Hanson, Oak Creek, WI



PETE gets a lift from OLY -
Tom & Caren Phillips, Florissant



Lilac -
Stefanie Skidmore, Guffay

Have a cute critter? Send us your favorite critter photos and we'll feature them here in the Critter Corner! Indoor or outdoor pets or wild critters are what we're looking for. We will not accept any photos depicting cruelty or harming animals in any way. Email your critters to utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com. Be sure to include the critter's name as well as your name.

The Spirit and the Guardian

by Danielle Dellinger

Author's Note: Hello, lovely readers! How are you? You're looking wonderful today. That shirt really brings out your eyes. Just wanted to check in to see how everyone's doing. I also wanted to thank you all for being awesome. If this is your first time flipping through the paper, I hope you find it to be a good read! Anyway, enjoy your day!

The forest spirit walked slowly among the trees in a remote part of the Pike National Forest. A few miles to the south was Woodland Park. It could barely hear the din of the traffic from the Highways 67 and 24, even with its excellent hearing abilities. The sun burned down hot and bright through the trees. The spirit tilted its head to avoid knocking its antlers into low hanging branches. The air seemed to be buzzing with a strange energy. The spirit knew that this forest had seen many things happen to it, especially after humans settled in Woodland Park.

In 1887 when Woodland Park was founded, it was originally called Manitou Park, at least until 1891 when it was incorporated as Woodland Park. The town sported five saw-mills, producing large quantities of railroad ties and lumber to be used by Colorado Springs and other cities. The heavy harvesting of timber decimated the surrounding forest in just a few short years. It had been extremely painful for the forest spirit to watch; it couldn't do anything to stop the destruction. Interacting with humans was prohibited--and still was. There had seemed to be no end in sight, so the spirit was surprised when it all ceased in 1892. Roughly a year earlier the Forest Reserve Act had been approved by Congress. The area was set aside and originally called the Pikes Peak Timberland Reserve. Also set aside were the Plum Creek Timberland Reserve and the South Platte Forest Reserve. The three reserves were combined in 1905, and officially renamed as the Pike National Forest in 1907. The area was eventually reforested, and by 1965 it was relatively healthy. Today, the sprawling expanse of forest is 1.2 million acres, spreading 90 miles from north to south from Denver to Colorado Springs, and covers parts of Teller and Park Counties.

The forest spirit would gallop through the forest whenever it could, dodging the low hanging branches with ease. The spirit stopped walking as it felt a bird land on one of its antlers. It could tell by the bird's song that it was a bluebird. It smiled gently as it closed its eyes and listened. The song lasted a minute then the bird flew away. The spirit would always believe that nature should never be taken for granted.

It started walking again, the air tingling around it. The forest spirit guessed that it was near a guardian it hadn't encountered before. It began to climb up a hill that faced into the afternoon sun and was lit in a deep golden light. The spirit looked around slowly as it walked, looking for anything out of place. Naturally, after everything that had happened to the spirit, it was on alert for any type of threat.

As it neared the middle point of the hill, it saw small white flashes, like lightning bugs.

Except they weren't bugs. They were something supernatural, and made the forest spirit's fur stand on end.

When the spirit unfocused on the flashes, and actually looked slightly to the side, there were two large boulders with a large creature standing in front of them. The creature had a body like the forest spirit, but the upper torso was that of a wolf, including the head, and the lower torso was of a white horse. The wolf part had a fairly gray coat of fur. The head looked like a male wolf, but the eyes were definitely like a woman, though, one was blue and the other gold. The hands were furry and like a human's, the fingers long and slender.

Despite never talking, the forest spirit was speechless. It had never met a creature so fascinating. The being seemed to smile at the spirit, folding its hands

down in front of it.

"Welcome," the being spoke, but the lips didn't move and the voice seemed to resonate inside the forest spirit's mind. The voice was neither distinctly male nor female. "You're the forest spirit, correct?"

The forest spirit raised its eyebrows, followed by a slight forward tilt of the head.

The being appeared to smile more. "I've heard many things about you. You and Mother Nature have had a rocky relationship, yes?"

The spirit snorted softly and looked to the side, folding its arms across its chest.

"Ah. She said you might still hold a grudge."

The forest spirit smirked.

"You don't hold a grudge?"

The spirit shook its head.

"Good, good. You're better than that, anyway."

The forest spirit smirked.

"I'm Skylar. Do you just go by forest spirit?"

The spirit nodded, extending its hand out to take Skylar's. Skylar smiled as they grasped hands. When they released the forest spirit gestured around them, wanting to know why Skylar was suddenly there.

Skylar seemed to smirk. "I'm the guardian of the spirit world. This is a portal to that world. Every type of spirit is on the other side but human spirits. They're actually on a parallel plane to this world. Mother Nature had me place another portal here because this forest has a dark past, where numerous lives of all different creatures have been lost. She wants this forest to be more sacred, to not only us, but to the humans. Though, after the Waldo Canyon fire, I'm sure they do see it that way."

The spirit nodded, understanding everything.

"But, I do need your help. There seems to be an escaped spirit masquerading as a mountain lion. It's a shadow spirit, and mountain lions are the perfect host because of how elusive they can be, and usually are. All a shadow spirit wants is to kill and create more shadow spirits. So, because I can't actually leave my post, I need you to find this spirit and bring it back. I know you only deal with plant growth, but maybe you can make an exception?" Skylar asked.

The forest spirit was looking at Skylar with disbelief and skepticism. It was sure this was another stupid test from Mother Nature.

"It is and it isn't," Skylar replied, literally reading the spirit's mind.

The spirit raised a hand, waving it dismissively as it turned away.

"Please. You're the only one powerful enough to do this," Skylar begged, stepping forward.

The forest spirit shook its head, starting down the hill.

"Spirit!" Skylar called. "I promise this won't end badly, at least not emotionally. Please! Just think about it."

The forest spirit disappeared into the trees, leaving Skylar alone with the portal. Skylar's tail twitched and the guardian went still, leaving a temporary shell behind as it mentally travelled to another portal's location.

Darkness settled over the forest, and the spirit walked continuously, troubled by this shadow spirit thing.

It didn't know how to handle the situation, let alone how to think about it. Besides, it didn't have the power to literally capture a spirit. Plus, could a shadow spirit really pose a threat to the living? The spirit just didn't understand what was happening. But then again, there rarely was anything that made sense in the supernatural world. Things just were, no explanation needed. Though, the fact that something had escaped that shouldn't have been concerning.

Feeling drained, the forest spirit found a nice mossy patch of ground and laid down, leaning the middle of its large, lower torso against the tree trunk, along with a shoulder. Shutting its eyes, it let its mind wind down to rest. The spirit slept for a good chunk of the night, but at around three in the morning, something odd roused the spirit. Opening its eyes, it peered around to see what was amiss. It looked up in time to see something dark and formless darting from one branch to another. The spirit frowned and got to its feet, rising high up into the air as it drew itself up to its full, towering height. It got a bad feeling from the formless thing.

The spirit turned and began galloping through the forest, back to the hill where Skylar's body still stood. It screeched to a halt, dancing from hoof to hoof as it waited. Only a couple minutes passed before Skylar's mind returned to the body.

"You're back? Have you changed your mind?"

The spirit pictured what it had seen in its mind for Skylar to see.

"Oh dear . . . It no longer needs to have a mountain lion as its host. So, now will you help?"

The spirit quickly nodded.

That was all Skylar needed. Striding forward, it grasped the forest spirit's hands firmly with its own. Skylar's eyes closed, concentrating hard on passing the correct power to the spirit. After a couple minutes Skylar stepped back, releasing the forest spirit's hands. "Open your eyes, then picture what you see," instructed Skylar.

Opening its eyes, the forest spirit took a startled step backwards. It quickly pictured what it saw for Skylar to see. The world was fuzzy and in bluish, grayish tones. The edges of an object that was focused on would become blurry and extend outwards. The spirit was really spooked, shifting in place and then dancing around. It really was trying to adjust to this new way of seeing things.

"It's okay, you'll get used to it. Trust me. But that's what it looks like in the spirit world. If you were in that world, all you would see would be dark silhouettes of various species," Skylar explained.

The forest spirit regained control, taking deep breaths. It looked to Skylar and offered a weak smile. Skylar appeared to smile back.

"Now, once you find this shadow spirit, you'll need to physically grab it and bring it back to me. I'll be able to send it home through the portal. Got it?"

The forest spirit nodded then started down the hill, its nerves on edge. It still didn't know how this was going to work, but at this point it didn't care. The spirit made its way back to the spot it had been sleeping and stopped there, looking around with its new vision power. So far nothing was out of the ordinary. Still, the forest spirit waited a few minutes before walking in the direction the shadow spirit had been heading. For a long while nothing happened.

But then, the forest spirit's body began to tingle with a harsh energy. Looking up into the trees, it spotted the shadow spirit. It looked like it had something in its mouth, and appeared to be chewing on it. As the spirit watched, something fell from the body to the ground. The spirit's skin crawled just from looking at the thing. The shadow spirit had really managed to kill a living creature in order to make another shadow spirit. That was an issue for the forest spirit. Unnecessary death didn't sit well with the spirit.

Acting quickly, the spirit reached out and grabbed the new shadow spirit tightly. Then it started thumping on the tree trunk to get the attention of the original shadow spirit. It did get the shadow spirit's attention, but unfortunately it quickly hopped away through the branches. The forest spirit gave chase, still holding tightly to the squirming shadow spirit it did have. The chase took them all over the forest, and the spirit proved that despite how large it was, it could be just as agile as the shadow spirit. Soon the trees were getting farther apart, so the shadow spirit had to work extra hard to make big leaps.

It wasn't long before it didn't jump far enough, and it just fell straight to the ground without a sound. The forest spirit launched forward and slammed a hoof down on part of shadow spirit's body, pinning it to the ground. It thrashed and writhed about, struggling to get free but to no avail. The forest spirit reached down and grabbed up the shadow spirit in its free hand, gripping it as hard as it could.

When the spirit got back to Skylar, the sun was already halfway up over the horizon. The sky was a light pink, and the air smelled of dew. Skylar's hands clasped tightly in front of its chest in appreciation when it saw that the forest spirit had both shadow spirits.

"Thank you a bunch. I literally couldn't have done this without you," Skylar said, taking the shadow spirits from the forest spirit.

Skylar turned to face the portal. Before any of this, the space between the two boulders had been empty, and nothing

had appeared to be different. But now, there were those same flashes like lightning bugs that the forest spirit had seen before its first meeting with Skylar. The flashes were slow at first, but as the shadow spirits were taken closer, they picked up in frequency. The forest spirit could hear soft snapping noises with each flash. The shadow spirits squirmed violently in Skylar's hands.

"Well, you shouldn't have escaped and then ran," Skylar reprimanded, biting each one to subdue them before pitching them as hard as possible into the portal, which buzzed at the contact with the spirits' forms.

Skylar turned back to the forest spirit, relieved to have things back under control.

"I really can't thank you enough for what you did. Is there a way for me to repay you? There must be something."

The forest spirit shook its head. "Please. Please think of something."

The spirit smiled sheepishly and shrugged. Skylar sighed sadly.

The forest spirit just stood there for a few minutes, unsure what to do now. But then it perked up, relaying an image to Skylar. It was of the deceased mother doe that had started the feud between Mother Nature and the forest spirit.

Skylar was quiet a moment as it tried to figure out what the spirit wanted. "Ah," Skylar finally said with a nod. "Yes, I can show you her. Just don't tell Mother Nature. I'm technically not supposed to do that type of thing. Not for anyone."

The forest spirit looked at the ground, suddenly feeling ashamed for having asked for such a thing.

Skylar stepped forward, touching the spirit's arm. "No, don't worry. I'll gladly do it. I'm happy to. I know it's a wound for you that's still healing."

Skylar led the forest spirit to the portal, standing by its side. The guardian grasped the spirit's hand, lacing their fingers, then extended its free hand into the portal, palm out and fingers splayed. "Shut your eyes."

The forest spirit did what it was told to. In the spirit's mind the scenery was a bluish, grayish meadow, and in the foreground was the mother doe, looking as healthy as ever. The scene lasted a minute, then slowly faded.

Skylar was glad to see how peaceful the forest spirit looked. The spirit's eyes opened, and it looked to Skylar and smiled.

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Guffey Star Trek

by Flip Boettcher

photos by Flip Boettcher

Recently, there was a gathering of about 40, which included several Inter Galactic Species, Human, Bajoran, and Klingon, at the Guffey home of Star Trek fan, Steve Doman.

Doman has spent the last 12 years rebuilding and remodeling the interior of his home to make it look like the starship Enterprise. It is complete with a mock up food replicator in his kitchen, intercoms on the walls, and the bridge of the Enterprise all with sound effects from the series built in. New this year is a red anti-

fiction television series created by Gene Roddenberry in the 1960's. The series featured the interstellar adventures of the United Federation of Planets' starship Enterprise with Captain Kirk and his crew. The series has had many spin-offs and movies made from it.

The series has gained a cult like following over the years with fans calling themselves "Trekkies". Doman is a true Trekkie, known world-wide over the internet for his Enterprise mock-up and as a member of House VamPyr.



Klingons hold the Enterprise crew on the bridge.

matter holder and a Klingon room which is a work in progress Doman said. Once you walk through his door it is like you have entered another universe, another time.

The Inter Galactic visitors are members of House VamPyr in Denver. They were dressed in full Star Trek costume as Klingons, one Bajoran and Federation Humans. The costumes were complete with stun guns and bat'leths. (A bat'leth is a Klingon long sword with a curved blade and spiked protrusions on either end and with handholds along the blade's back, according to Wikipedia.)

If this all sounds like Greek to you, Star Trek was and still is a very popular science

fiction television series created by Gene Roddenberry in the 1960's. The series featured the interstellar adventures of the United Federation of Planets' starship Enterprise with Captain Kirk and his crew. The series has had many spin-offs and movies made from it.

The series has gained a cult like following over the years with fans calling themselves "Trekkies". Doman is a true Trekkie, known world-wide over the internet for his Enterprise mock-up and as a member of House VamPyr.

It is said that after defeating an enemy in battle this family "has a ritual of drinking the blood of the vanquished in order to gain their life energy." Whether this is true or not, most species give the VamPyrs a wide berth, said the website.

Epelal VamPyr (John Miller in real life), the leader of the club said the VamPyrs were vampires and Doman added that they not only suck your blood, they eat your heart as well.

According to club member Debra Rudy, the title Epelal designates the Lord of the Klingon House and there is only one Epelal in a House. There is even a Klingon language and dictionary said Miller and he is fluent in it. The club has about 80 members, up from 55 members last year.

House VamPyr is totally supported by



Look who is at the Trekkie gathering, Humans! Guffey resident Karl Schulz in front on the left and Rita Mick in the front on the right giving the Vulcan (another species) "live long and prosper" hand sign.

donations. They then make donations and do volunteer work like helping at Ronald MacDonald House stated Rudy in a later email. Since they are vampires, the club sponsors the vampire bats at the Denver zoo said Rudy. The club also goes to many conventions throughout the year like StarFest, GalaxyFest, and the Mile-Hi Convention she added.

For more information visit the club's website: www.housevampyr.com and/or Google "Guffey Star Trek" and "Klingon House VamPyr."



Debra Rudy with friend, a 26th Century Klingon.

Bears on the move

Bruins looking for food as fall arrives

by Joe Lewandowski

While humans are basking in the heat of late-summer, bears know that fall is approaching and they are starting to prepare for their long winter nap. That means bears are now constantly on the move looking for food, and many are finding their way into towns and residential areas.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds people throughout Colorado to take precautions to prevent conflicts with bears, and say that food attractants made available by people are the cause of most of the conflicts.

"Overall, natural food sources that bears rely on look good," said J. Wenum, area wildlife manager, in the Gunnison area. "But bears are also entering the stage of hyperphagia when they need to eat up to 20,000 calories a day to get ready for hibernation. People need to be especially cautious with their garbage and food attractants."

Giving bears easy access to food allows them to become comfortable in an area. If they find food they can become aggressive and will act to defend it. A bear protecting its food source can be very dangerous.

"Don't ever let bears get comfortable in your neighborhood or around your house," Wenum said. People who keep chickens need to take precautions to protect their livestock, said Renzo DelPiccolo, area wildlife manager in Montrose.

"The best thing they can do is put up an electric fence," said DelPiccolo. "Electric fences are an excellent deterrent and work very well."

Other small livestock such as goats, sheep and miniature horses also should be kept inside an electric fence or full enclosure. At night those animals should be brought into a secure building.

Following are tips from Colorado Parks and Wildlife on simple precautions people can take to avoid conflicts with bears:

- Keep garbage in a well-secured location; and only put out garbage on the morning of pickup.
- Use a bear-resistant trash can.
- Clean garbage cans regularly to keep them odor free.
- If you don't have secure storage, put items that might become smelly into the freezer until trash day.
- If you use a dumpster, make sure that it can't be opened by a bear.
- Don't leave pet food outside.



- Bird feeders should be brought in at this time of year.
- Secure compost piles. Bears are attracted to the scent of rotting food, and they'll eat anything.
- Allow grills to run for a couple of minutes after cooking to burn off grease and to eliminate odors. Clean the grill after each use.
- Clean-up thoroughly after picnics in the yard or on the deck. Don't allow food odors to linger.
- If you have fruit trees, pick fruit before it gets too ripe. Don't allow fruit to rot on the ground. Electric fences provide good protections for small orchards.
- Keep garage doors closed.
- Keep the bottom floor windows of your house closed when you're not at home, and at night.
- Keep doors locked, especially if your home has door handles that bears can push down easily.
- If you see a bear in your neighborhood make it feel unwelcome by making noise or throwing things at it. But stay at a safe distance and never approach the animal.
- Do not keep food in your vehicle; lock vehicle doors.
- Talk to your neighbors and kids about being bear aware.

For more information, go to the Living with Wildlife section on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website: cpw.state.co.us.



THE CRIPPLE CREEK District Museum

Histories at the Museum

Famous folks of Cripple Creek

by Trevor Phipps

Being the "happening" spot in the West, Cripple Creek, CO and the surrounding towns were visited and inhabited by many famous people of the early 1900s. The Cripple Creek Mining District made such a large impression in a short amount of time people from everywhere in the world came to the area to either strike it rich or visit. Some grew up in the area and then became famous later, but there were a large amount of famous people that visited Cripple Creek whether just to check it out or to work or perform in the area.

The famous "bad guy" Bob Ford after shooting outlaw Jesse James in the back of the head for a bounty, tried to make his way to Cripple Creek. While he was in Colorado City, the town was tipped off and the sheriff met Ford at the city limits and asked him very nicely to turn the other way. The famous Wyatt Earp and the Wild Bunch also were said to have made their way through the "2 Mile High City." Famous writer and radio personality Lowell Thomas grew up and made his career start in Victor, CO. Boxer Jack Dempsey started boxing in the many opera houses of the area under the name Kid Blackie. Famous Colorado Governor Ralph Carr graduated from Cripple Creek High School and worked as a lawyer in the town before his stint in Denver. Charles A. Lory the well-known President of Colorado State University worked as the principal of Cripple Creek High School early in his career. The famous "booze hater" Carrie Nation tried her "saloon smashin'" thing in the town but word has it she was kept out of the bars and forced to preach on the street until saloon owner Johnny Nolan bought her a train ticket out of town: perhaps saving her from the pro-alcohol miners. Another famous person was run out of town for having unpopular views.

During the 1900 election, Vice Presidential nominee "Teddy" Roosevelt came to the area to discuss how silver coin production could help boost the economy. Seeing as how the Cripple Creek District made its wealth mining gold, Mr. Roosevelt's opinion was not a popular one. After taking the trip on the Short Line from Colorado Springs, CO to the district "Teddy" described that the trip was so beautiful that it "bankrupts the human language." After his scenic adventure Mr. Roosevelt arrived in Victor, CO to give his first speech. He barely finished his speech when he was rushed by the angry mob. They were prepared and had the Vice-Presidential nominee surrounded by bodyguards. The bodyguards were just able to fight off the mob and get "Teddy" back on the train. He then traveled on to Cripple Creek, where he was treated better. Local Attorney J. Maurice Finn offered to put him up and build a large mansion just for Mr. Roosevelt. Unfortunately, after touring an underground mine and giving another unpopular speech Mr. Roosevelt ran out of time and only made it onto the front porch of his custom built mansion called "The Towers".

One famous woman came to the Cripple Creek District as a young lady with her father and step mother. Susan Anderson's father became a successful businessman and sent the young lady to medical school at the University of Michigan. After a while, Susan's bitter step-mom persuaded her dad to cut her off financially. She borrowed money from classmates, still graduated, then returned to the Cripple Creek area and lived with her grandparents. There she opened up her own practice. Being the only female doctor in town it was said that Doc Susie was not real popular and

mostly treated prostitutes. She then left Cripple Creek and traveled around rural areas of the West and treated many Colorado pioneers. The television show "Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman" was loosely based on the life and work of Dr. Susan Anderson. When the famous doctor passed away she was buried at Mt. Pisgah Cemetery.

Many famous entertainers of the time made their way into the exciting gold camp district. One famous actress and performer, Texas Guinan, grew up in the small mining town of Anaconda. As a young girl, Texas Guinan moved to the small mining town with her mother. She started as an organ player during Sunday School in the district and moved on to be a famous performer and actress.

Another famous performer to make his way through the infamous gold district was Groucho Marx. When he was a young man he formed a stage group with two other performers: one a singer and the other one a tap dancer. Their first show of the tour in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the tap dancer flung a shoe into the crowd injuring an audience member causing the venue to charge the trio a fee and cut into the group's profits. They traveled from Michigan to Denver performed a semi-successful show in the "Mile High City" and then headed south to find more places to perform. When the group was unable to book anything in Colorado Springs or Old Colorado City they ended up getting booked at a theater in Victor, CO. They performed in Victor to a rather disappointing small audience and Groucho Marx awoke the next day to an upsetting surprise; he realized that the other two members of his traveling trio were gone. He later found out that the \$8 he had stashed away during the failing tour was missing from his jacket pocket.

With nothing left to his name he realized he was stuck in the mountains, but was able to find a job in the mining district delivering ice and other goods for a local grocery store. After a few months of driving an ice wagon between Victor and Cripple Creek, and almost wrecking it, Groucho Marx decided that high altitude living was not for him. He decided to make a phone call home and talk his mother into sending him enough money to buy a train ticket home to New York. Once he got home he formed a group with his brother and afterward they became famous as the "Marx Brothers." Once fame had struck this performer he returned to Cripple Creek, although a little bitter towards the area, signed a photo of himself and his original performing trio and dedicated it to the city. This authentic signed photo now resides at the local Cripple Creek District Museum.

There are some stories of people visiting the area that cannot be confirmed. Astrology writer Linda Goodman did reside in the area years after the gold boom and supposedly started the rumor that Nicola Tesla had once stayed in her home. There is one account that Tesla's famous experiment in which he stuck light bulbs into the ground during a thunder storm, lighting them up, was conducted at Mt. Pisgah. Neither of these stories have solid evidence backing them up. Many historians claim that the famous "wizard" never stepped into the mining town. Writer Mark Twain spent some time in Colorado during the gold rush days working in mines. He wrote accounts of his hard working days mining at a mine near St. Elmo, CO. Although there is no known account perhaps Tom and Huck's creator also made his way into the booming Cripple Creek District.

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Geology and history of the Cripple Creek Mining District

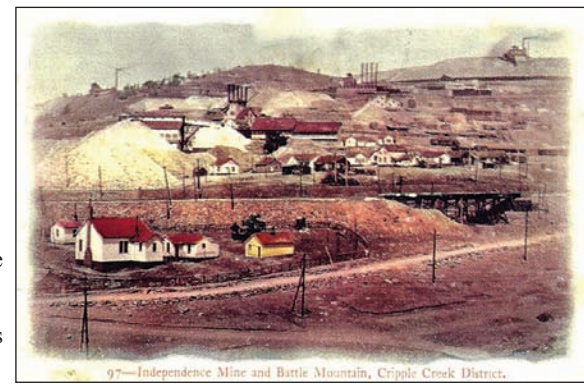
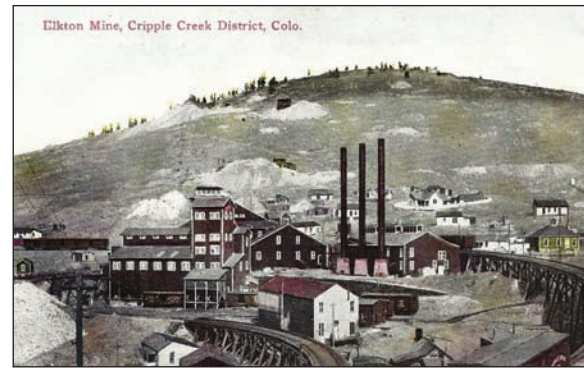
The Cripple Creek Mining District is one of the most interesting geologic regions in the country. In this class we are prepared for lively discussions as we discover the district's remarkable modern and historic mining operations. You will learn about the geology and rich mining history of the area and spend a part of the day exploring current mining operations of the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company. Be sure to bring your camera and be prepared to take many pictures of the current mining operations up close and in person. Since part of this program is conducted at the active mine in Cripple Creek, participants must dress appropriately for mountain weather that can change suddenly. Course fee includes transportation to and from the mining operations.

Course location

Cripple Creek Park and Recreation and the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mine, Cripple Creek, CO. Course starts at Park and Recreation: 128 Bennett Ave. (Main Street) Course date is Saturday, October 4, 2014.

Registration is through the Cripple Creek Park and Recreation office at (719) 689-3514. Cost for course: \$25 for adults, \$9 for high school and middle school students; includes all handouts, materials, snacks for the morning and afternoon.

Colorado School of Mines "graduate-level re-licensure credit" is available for this class and field trip. The cost is \$35, and is to be paid with a check made payable to the Colorado School of Mines.



Linda and Bernie Nagy at the CIPA EVVY Awards

Park County Artist and Author Linda Nagy Receives Top Book Awards

On Saturday evening August 23, 2014 the Colorado Independent Publishers Association held its 20th Annual CIPA EVVY awards banquet and ceremony. From 278 books submitted, awards were presented in several categories based on strict rules and judging criteria. President Patricia Ross and past president Mike Daniels of Conifer hosted the event.

Linda waited anxiously as Merit, Third, and Second Place prizes were given for book illustrations. Then Master of Ceremonies Mike Daniels announced, "First place for illustrations Linda Nagy, *If You Tell Me, I Can Fly* by Sharon Thayer, published by Carousel Publishing". Linda gave a brief statement in which she thanked Sharon for the opportunity to illustrate her book. "It was quite a challenge because I had to create watercolor illustrations on everything from ladybug larvae, caterpillars to eagles, all in natural settings," Linda remarked. As the evening progressed, Sharon Thayer's book *If You Tell Me, I Can Fly* received additional awards for First Place in the Motivational category, Second Place in Children's non-fiction, and a Merit Award for Interior Layout and Design.

When awards were announced for Academic Reference, Linda again scored with a First Place win for the book she wrote, *Rocky Mountain*

Wildflowers Field Guide. As she accepted the award, she gave credit to her husband, Bernie Nagy, for his professional photographs which made the book complete and for the excellent printing of Four Colour Publishing.

Before the evening was over, Linda received two more awards for *Rocky Mountain Wildflowers Field Guide*. The book garnered a First Place award in the "Nature category" and a Merit Award for "Interior Layout and Design", which Linda credited mostly to her husband Bernie's help. Linda was overwhelmed by receiving four prestigious awards from Colorado Independent Publishers Association that includes authors, editors, illustrators, publishers, printers, and other providers to the book industry. Linda and Bernie Nagy previously received several First Place awards for their coffee table books *Colorado's South Park: High Country Paradise* in 2010 and for *South Park Colorado: Nature's Paradise* in 2012. They have been members of CIPA since 2008 and credit much of their success to the help and mentoring from fellow members of the CIPA.

The award winning *Rocky Mountain Wildflowers Field Guide* is available through www.highcountryartworks.com for \$11.95 with free shipping or at several Park County gift store locations.



Spiritual Redirection

by Barbara Royal, Interfaith Certified Spiritual Director

Spiritual Redirection is for those of you who are willing to step outside the traditional box of your formal belief system to grow your soul -- your divine spiritual nature. Spiritual Redirection may come in story form, lesson form or in any gentle way the Spirit nudges me to communicate with you. In these writings, I will use the many names for God. Because we all have different beliefs, please feel free to use the term by which you know the Divine. Please use your discernment to determine what is true or not for you. Now, let us begin.

This is my story.

For the past year, I have been experiencing severely irritating facial nerve pains. I self-diagnosed this as paresthesia, which was recently confirmed by a medical doctor. In writing my story, one of the definitions I found for paresthesia is a skin sensation, such as burning, prickling, itching, or tingling, with no apparent physical cause. The "no apparent physical cause" is of interest as you will soon find out.

Coincidentally -- or synchronistically -- at about the same time last year, a person's activity behind the scenes in my life was having an irritating effect on me. I discovered this after the fact. What does all this have to do with Spiritual Redirection? LOTS! Read on as the pieces of my story unfold.

Two days before I began writing my story, a wise practitioner friend told me, "Love yourself in the same way you love your pets." Of course I love my pets unconditionally, but I began to realize I did not love myself in the same way, and didn't know how. By the way, this wise friend had told me repeatedly what I was experiencing was not physical. Hmm, interesting how this aligns with the definition I found of paresthesia. For help in discovering and healing the underlying emotional, mental, spiritual causes of the irritating facial nerve pains, I referred to my trusted resource, "Messages from the Body", by Michael J. Lincoln, Ph.D. There was a lot of information to consider, but what resonated with me were these words:

"... They (meaning me) are running away from themselves, their family, life -- everything. It arises from having too much expected of them as a child. They received very little love, and what there was was very conditional and heavily interspersed with guilt induction, shaming and intense accusatoriness, along with a severe 'Don't be you!' injunction."

This gave me an idea of what I had to do: stop running from myself, heal my shadows, and 'be me.' I have the tools to do this; I just needed some clarity -- a few more pieces of the puzzle to help me get on with the healing. That night while studying the teachings of an Ascended Master, I read ...

"If you would ask me to help you to see with the eyes of the master when looking at an individual, especially perhaps at someone who seems to have an irritating effect upon you, it would soften your opinion and widen the vista of your sight ..." (At that point, I asked the teaching master for help). He continued, "Every unascended being on earth is in some period and process of polishing, development and unfoldment ... Search ... for the potential fire and light that is the God nature of every living soul. Train yourself to overlook the seeming defects ..." (Great, I thought, how am I going to accomplish this?)

The next morning as I was walking my dog and cats (yes my cats love to walk with me), more words came from another Master. "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Instantly, all the infor-

mation I was receiving came together.

Even though I was going through the motions of healing causes, I had not reached the point of loving myself and my God nature as well as my seeming defects. The messages from the masters, including my friend who is a master in her own right, were for me to recognize the fire and light of God in myself first -- then my eyes would be open to seeing the same in another's soul.

I had been avoiding facing myself and healing my shadows. But the universe in its infinite wisdom placed me into a relationship with someone who so irritated me, I was forced to face myself, AND the irritating facial nerve pains represented the manifestation of my avoidance. Several months ago, I had recognized this person was my mirror and a reflection to me of my shadow side -- my seeming defects. I had already worked on some of the issues raised. But the key -- the love of self -- was missing from my approach.

Once I realized this, I fell into love for myself and felt an immediate shift, AND I realized this irritating human being and the irritating facial nerve pain were gifts from the universe to make me move forward on my spiritual journey. I had received a Spiritual Redirection.

I can now wish this person well as I leave the situation in gratitude for the gift they were in my life.

With this shift, I am now at peace and can proclaim ...

I AM loving _____ for _____ God nature and seeming defects as I love myself for my God nature and seeming defects.

May my story be helpful to those seeking their true nature and love for self.

May my story be helpful to those seeking their true nature and love for self.

It is said we teach what we need to learn. As you can see from my story, learning and growing is never ending. As the learning continues, I invite you to move with me from the challenges of life into the Kingdom of Spirit. I have prepared a series of interactive, experiential workshops for you to learn tools to claim your birthright as a child of God and harvest the fruits of the Kingdom of health, wealth, love, peace and joy. The first workshop is scheduled for September 20 at Peoples National Bank, 651 Scott Avenue, Woodland Park, CO 80863 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Your early bird investment is \$36.00 and increases to \$42.00 after September 10. You may contact me with questions or to make your reservation at my phone and email below. I look forward to your joining me on this journey into the Kingdom.

Barbara Royal is an Interfaith Certified Spiritual Director and Certified Angel Therapy Practitioner®. She is the owner of Barbara Royal's Spiritual Life Coaching and founder of the Miracles of Wellness method, which gives clients tools to claim blessings from heaven. She may be contacted at 719-687-6823 or miraclesofwellness@gmail.com for a free initial consultation and/or session appointments, which are available by phone or in person. Barbara freely gives lessons and decrees on her Facebook page, Barbara Royal's Spiritual Life Coaching.

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Beth Wood to perform in Guffey

Lord have mercy... Wood is a down-home, old-fashioned girl with a wicked streak” — Indie-music.com

Beth Wood is a modern-day troubadour and believer in the power of song. Her exceptional musicianship, crafty songwriting, and commanding stage presence have been winning over American audiences for 16 years. Beth’s music is soulful, organic, intelligent, barefoot, high-energy communication of joy.

Beth began her musical journey in Lubbock, a high plains Texas town with a uniquely rich musical heritage that includes Buddy Holly, Natalie and Lloyd Maines, Mac Davis, and Joe Ely to name a few. When she wasn’t dodging tornados and dust storms, Beth was studying classical piano, violin, harp, and voice and contemplating the greatness of her Dad’s record collection. With big dreams of becoming a musician, Beth left west Texas to study voice and piano at Brevard College in North Carolina. A detour from her classical studies led her to Austin, where she picked up a degree in literature and a guitar. Beth began writing her own songs and quickly discovered a feeling of musical freedom that she has been hooked on ever since. Sixteen years, thousands of shows, nine albums, three cars, and numerous awards later, Beth has never looked back.

Beth has been featured on OPBs Artbeat and on Troubadour, TX, a nationally syndicated documentary-style singer-songwriter reality television series airing in almost 40 million households and 140 U.S. markets. Beth has also been a three-time featured artist on *Cayamo: A Journey Through*

Beth Wood. photo by Rodney Bursiel

Song, a week-long Caribbean songwriters cruise along with Lyle Lovett, Shawn Colvin, John Prine, Patty Griffin, Emmylou Harris, Richard Thompson and many more.

Beth Wood will be performing at The Bull Moose in Guffey on Saturday, September 27th for a special Dinner/Show. Make reservations early for limited, preferred seating at the Bull Moose –719-689-4199 or Juniper Blue Music-719-479-2224.

Divide Planning Committee meeting notice

The Divide Planning Committee (DPC) will conduct a Community Meeting at the Little Chapel of the Hills in Divide on County Road 5 on Thursday, September 11, 2014 beginning at 7 p.m. Topics will include what the Divide Planning Committee has done in 2014, and to elect members. If you reside or work in the Divide Region of Teller County you are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to attend, please visit www.DividePlanning.org to learn more or to sign up for email notifications.

The Divide Planning Committee is the voice of the Divide Regional Plan acting as a Review Agency for the Teller County Planning Commission, Teller County Planning Department, and the Teller County Board of County Commissioners.

See the DividePlanning.org website for information on this committee.

Pike Tournament at Eleven Mile State Park

by Matt Robins

Eleven Mile Marina and Eleven Mile State Park hosts the 15th Annual Sportsman’s Warehouse Team Pike Tournament, Sept. 6, at Eleven Mile Reservoir.

Enter the tournament as a team of two anglers, one of which must be at least 18 years old, for an entry fee of just \$125.00 per team. Cash prizes available for first place team and biggest fish. Amount of prizes based on tournament participation. A host of other prizes will also be available.

At the conclusion of the tournament, live entertainment will be provided for free. The weigh-in festivities will be followed by a northern pike fish fry and crawfish boil.

All events are open to the general public. We invite you to participate in the contest or attend the fish fry and watch the exciting weigh-in festivities. Come see huge northern pike, learn how to clean, fillet and cook this delicious fish.

Boaters are reminded that all trailered boats and any boat with a motor must be inspected for zebra and quagga mussels and other aquatic nuisance species before they are allowed to go out on the water. Boats must also be inspected before leaving the boat ramp area. Boats that are clean, drained and dry receive a seal after the inspection is complete, which they can use to enter the reservoir next time and decrease their wait time for future boating.

A valid daily or annual Colorado State Park pass is required for all vehicles entering the park. A valid Colorado fishing license is also required for all participants.

For more information on the tournament and entry forms, please visit www.11milemarina.com or call 719-748-0317. For details about the park go to <http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/ElevenMileElevenMile>.

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Quick notes on bauxite

by Steven Marquez

Facts on file

Color: yellow, brown, red

Luster: non-metallic, earthy

Streak: white usually white but iron stain can discolor the streak

Hardness: 1-3 (soft)

Cleavage: none

Specific gravity: 2.0 to 2.6

Fracture: Uneven

Crystal system: amorphous

Transparency: opaque

Diagnostic properties: often exhibits a spherical or pisolitic structure within a matrix

Chemical composition: variable (rich in aluminum oxides and aluminum hydroxides)

Primary uses: main ore of aluminum, also used as an abrasive

Bauxite Haiku

a poem by the scientist Steven Marquez

Metal trapped in stone

Aluminum hydroxide

Awaiting its fate

About the author

Steven Marquez is an Earth Science Scholar with the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society. He is a volunteer in the mineral section of the Cripple Creek District Museum. Steven enjoys studying minerals and field work. He is in 8th grade.

Author Steven Marquez is panning gold. He is active in the study of rocks and minerals in the Pikes Peak region. photo by Steven Veatch.

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Park County Fair

by Flip Boettcher

Guffey did very well at this summer's Park County Fair held in July in Fairplay. The Open Cattle Show was full of furry animals according to Karyn Miller of the Colored Rain Ranch located east of Guffey, just inside Teller County.

The Colored Rain Ranch raises Scottish Highland cattle and they had a great show. Their highland cattle won Grand Champion Bull and Reserve Champion Showman with Colored Rain Thunder. Colored Rain Penny won Grand Champion Female and Grand Champion Showman. Colored Rain Crystal won Reserve Grand Champion Female in their classes. All of them qualified to go on to the state fair August 23 and 24 in Pueblo.

Scottish Highland Cattle are known for

their hardiness, easy handling, docile personalities, exceptional mothering and calving ease, grazing ability, and outstanding beef quality. Unlike other breeds, Highlands are slow maturing making the meat tender, flavorful and succulent, much lower in fat and cholesterol, and higher in protein and iron than other beef breeds, said Miller.

This year all three members of the 18 Toes Dog club from Guffey qualified to go on to the state fair. Sebastian Smits with his black and white border collie, Bodie, qualified as the Grand Champion Senior this year, his first year in the dog club. To qualify for Grand Champion, the top scores are taken for five events: record book, showmanship, agility, rally, and obedience.

In a follow up phone conversation with Smits he said that since it was his first year he didn't know what to expect. He thought that he had not done well and was really surprised when he was announced as the Grand Champion. Since he didn't know a thing, Amy Mason, club leader, was a big help in that this has been a confidence building experience for him.

Smits said that he was really excited to be going on to state fair and he is practicing a lot



The 18 Toes Dog Club behind the Guffey Vet Clinic and the ribbons they have won this year. Left to right are Ryan Mason with Didge, Emily Mason with Eli, and Sebastian Smits with Bodie. photo by Amy Mason

and trying to socialize Bodie more.

Ryan Mason and his dog, Didge, a border collie/blue heeler mix in their third year of training and competition, did an alright job at the county fair and plans on doing much better at the state fair, he said in a follow-up phone call. Ryan is looking forward to the state fair and is doing more training with Didge to get ready.

Emily Mason and her German shepherd, Eli, in their second year of training and competition were not at the county fair but qualified for state fair through other competitions this year.

In a follow up email, Emily Mason, president of the 18-Toes 4-H dog club, said that everyone worked very hard this year with their dogs and it paid off with ribbons of all different colors won at competitions during the year.

Emily also wanted to thank her mother, Amy, the club's fearless leader. Emily also wanted to thank the Southern Park County Fire Protection District for letting the club use the department bay for inside classes. Emily was confident that the club would do well at the upcoming state fair.

Rural broadband deployment

A win for Park County, a win for Guffey



Here is the solar powered tower that serves Guffey and surrounding area.

Since last Fall, Park County Commissioners, Sled by Commissioner Mark Brazell have been investigating how best to serve the needs of residents in the County who lack access to basic communications services such as the Internet.

Deployment of broadband to unserved and underserved areas of the State has been a priority of Governor Hickenlooper and the Colorado Legislature which passed legislation recently that supports broadband deployment, especially in rural areas. The legislation created a fund that will be administered by a Board which Commissioner Brazell has been appointed. The Board will be responsible for developing guidelines to distribute monies to further broadband deployment in Colorado.

Broadband is defined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and is expressed as speeds to connect to the Internet that are at least four megabits (megs) download and one meg upload. The Park County Local Technology Planning Team (LTPT) which is made up of representatives from the telecommunications industry, concerned citizens, Park County staff and headed by Commissioner Brazell, identified the Town of Guffey as one of the most underserved areas of the county.

Located in the southern end of the county, the community of Guffey has a general store/saloon, two restaurants, a public charter, volunteer fire department, post office, community center, and public library. In spite of its small size, Guffey is a center of activity for nearby ranches, subdivisions and small cottage industries. The nearest urban area is Canon City located 33 miles southeast of town on Highway 9. One basic problem: the lack of adequate Internet connectivity!

With a \$10,000 grant from the El Pomar Foundation and contributions from the community, including a \$5,000 matching grant from the Big Bear Ranch, a \$25,000 Conservation Trust Fund Grant from Park County, and cooperation and support from the local provider, South Park Telephone managed by Dave Shipley, the community recently realized the benefit of high speed Internet.

This is truly a win for the residents of Guffey and Park County, and a win for the State of Colorado and its efforts to facilitate deployment of broadband to unserved and underserved areas of the State. The Governor has been invited to attend a celebration of the success of this grass roots effort. Congratulations to all the stakeholders that made it happen!



Cast of 2014 Florissant Public Library's Youth Summer Drama Club.

Cowgirl Cookie expanded to two nights

by Kathy Hansen

Last year the Florissant Public Library's Youth Summer Drama Club packed the house like sardines for a single show of the play "Cowgirl Cookie and the Case of the Missing Chocolate Chips." Just how does one do better than that?

This year, they gave two stellar performances of "Cowgirl Cookie and the Mysterious Disappearance of Grandma Sugar" a play also written and directed by Alexi Alfieri.

Both performances were held at the Florissant Grange. The Friday, August 22 performance was well attended as the show only, and the proceeds benefit the Florissant Public Library. The sold out Saturday, August 23 dinner theatre was to benefit The Florissant Grange. Ticket holders chose between roasted pork or chicken, with green beans, roasted potatoes, and dinner rolls. It was easy to see the Florissant Grange staff is experienced at serving a delicious meal. The dessert was served at intermission and was actually a clue to solving this year's mystery; key lime pie.

A great time was had by all. Alexi introduced the play and the incredible cast, as her face glowed with pride. She shared her surprise at how much talent each individual brought to the Youth Summer Drama Club. She made it sound easy to hold the attention of 20 youth, organize them, and teach them to act. Yet, it was no surprise that a group this gifted would share a lot of laughs. Besides, the play was full of puns, as the colorful cast of character names kept tongues twisted and bellies bellowing with giggles.

While some of the cast and characters remained the same as last year, like Cowgirl Cookie and her cohort, Snickerdoodle, and who could forget the memorable pair of Peanut and Butter, there were a few changes. The Granny Gallery was here again this year and beamed up their efforts to educate the crowd about all the services offered by the library, the rules at the library, and what fines are, throwing their props behind themselves as the audience roared. The Mustache Gang Villains traded a



Snickerdoodle and Cowgirl Cookie contemplate the crime.

character and a few cast changes, but hadn't changed they were still up to no good, or should I say, up to knowing what tastes good!

Something very new evolved this year; the Video Club. How creative of Polly Roberts, Library Manager, to incorporate the state-wide reading program theme of "Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math", along with several youth who

were either too young for Youth Drama Club or simply more comfortable behind the scenes, a recognition of the staff's lack of experience in video or film, and the willingness of mentors Ranganath and Yamuna Weiner to offer their expertise! Seems to me, Polly knew how to transform the conditions into a winning experience for everyone involved; the kids learned new skills while having a great time, and the video may just look a tad more professional than the camera on the tripod offered last year.

While we don't know what's in store for next year, we trust the talented team at Florissant's Library (Polly Roberts, Alexi Alfieri, and Dean Jacques, supported by Friends of the Florissant

Library and the Rampart Library District Board) will come up with something truly enjoyable for everyone involved.

Publisher's note to Seth: We were delighted to hear you are doing so well! We believe you would have found this year's show to be a real knee-slapper. Happy healing to you and perhaps next time you visit your Grandmother we'll have a chance to catch up. Keep on laughing!

Divide Fire's Pancake Breakfast

The Sunday of Labor Day weekend gathered a non-stop crowd at the Divide Fire Station for their Annual Pancake Breakfast. The food was delicious! They served bacon, sausage, pancakes, scrambled eggs, tortillas and fixings for a breakfast burrito, biscuits and gravy, along with beverages. Shipping Plus' Lisa Lee provided special coffee service to those waiting in line. T-shirts were sold, and young volunteers help to bus tables. Smokey Bear was there to remind the children to be fire aware. "Thank You" to all of the fire fighters and staff for keeping us safe all year round!



The fire station was packed as usual for the breakfast (top). Lisa Lee offers coffee to those waiting in line (above). Smokey Bear even made an appearance (right).

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Whitewater rafting Colorado Browns Canyon to become National Monument

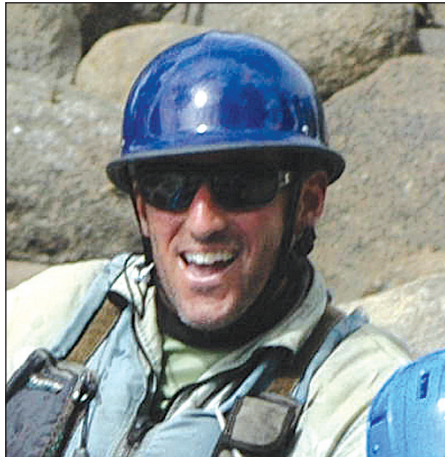
by Mike Hanbery

The Adventure Company Owner, Mark Hammer, supports Sen. Mark Udall's proposal to make Browns Canyon a National Monument.

Mark Hammer, owner of Colorado whitewater rafting company, The Adventure Company, and 26 year veteran rafting guide declared his support for the Browns Canyon and Wilderness Act of 2013, written by U.S. Senator Mark Udall (D-CO) to establish a 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument and a 10,400 acre area of wilderness around the Arkansas River south of Buena Vista as a national monument.

"Colorado and the Arkansas River valley depend on tourism and recreation for economic health," said Hammer. "Browns Canyon is one of the most popular stretches of river in the country for whitewater rafting. This Colorado resource is also known for its rugged beauty, gold medal fishing, abundant wildlife, and world class outdoor recreation."

Hammer sees current gold mining claims as a threat to the region's habitat and recreation opportunities. Browns Canyon between Buena Vista and Salida is a favorite destination for outdoor enthusiasts, hunters, anglers, and boaters. This rugged environment provides critical habitat for eagles, elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer, mountain lion and black bear. Browns Canyon



Mark Hammer, owner of The Adventure Company

was recently designated Gold Medal status by the state of Colorado making it the longest stretch of Gold Medal waters in the state.

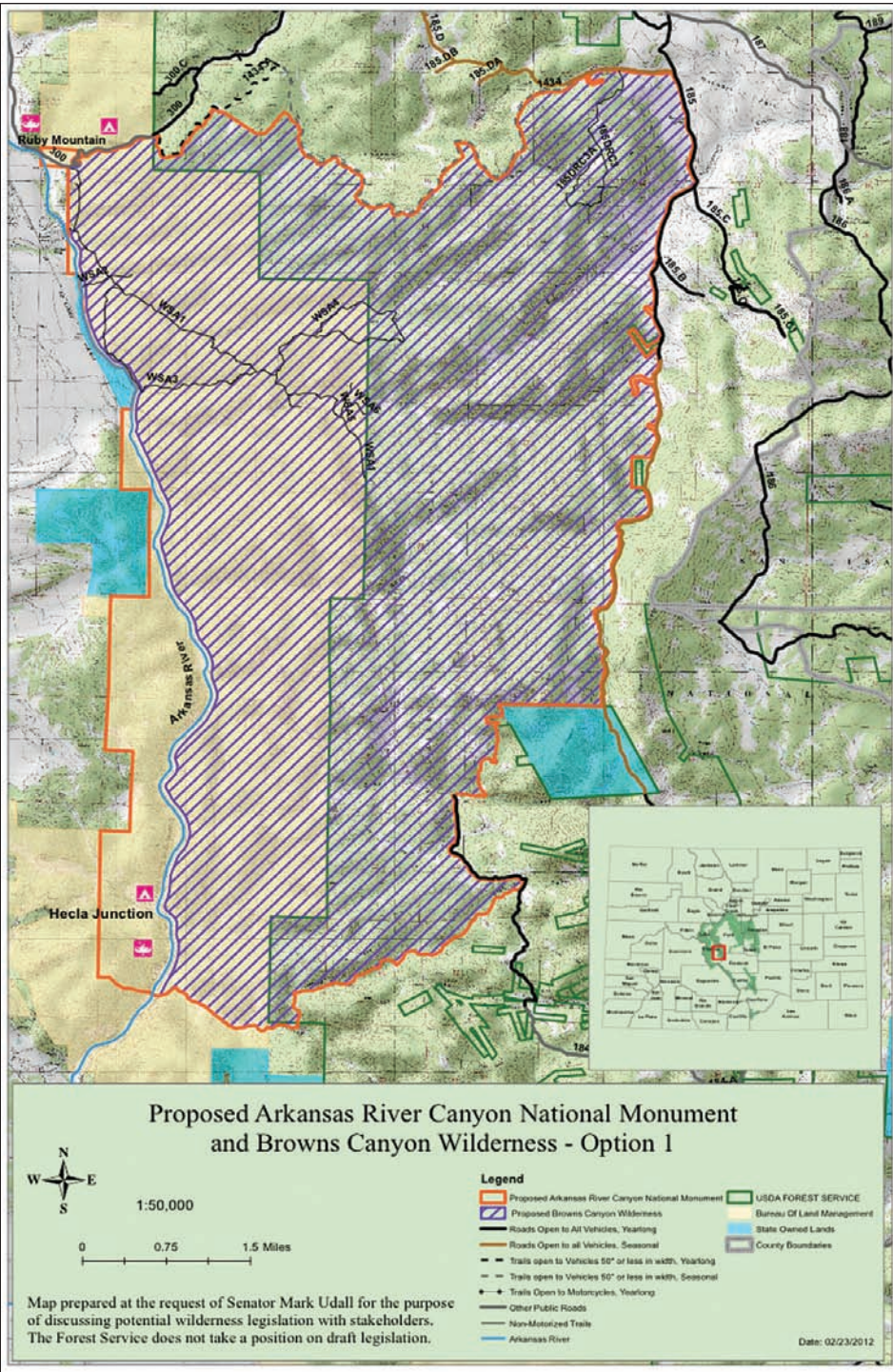
The US Bureau of Land Management currently manages Browns Canyon as a wilderness study area. This designation temporarily prevents mining and some development in the area. Udall's legislation provides permanent protection for the region, its habitat and for tourism and recreation including whitewater rafting in one of Colorado's most popular river rafting spots. Upwards of 100,000 people raft through Browns Canyon each summer, accounting for almost 40 percent of Colorado's entire river rafting activity.

Udall's bill is derived from the input of rafting outfitters, local business leaders, fishing guides, and ranchers. Hammer said he and other business owners support the bill because it will provide increased wildlife preservation, sustainability of the local outdoor recreation economy and the ability for future generations to enjoy pristine scenery and clean water.

"As a company that annually contributes a percentage of our rafting income to the Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas (LTUA)," said Hammer, "The Adventure Company believes that river conservation is of the utmost importance in protecting this special area for the future."

About The Adventure Company

Founded in Breckenridge, Colorado in 1987, whitewater rafting outfitter The Adventure Company provides half-day to 5-day river rafting trips from 6 convenient locations and a wide range of outdoor adventures in Breckenridge and Buena Vista, for family vacations, business and organizational team-building exercises and adult trips. The company provides shuttle service from Denver and provides a complete experience for its customers. The company is the only whitewater rafting company in Colorado to require four years of professional experience for its river rafting guides. For more information, please contact Erin Melrose, erin@theadventurecompany.com, 800-497-RAFT.



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Gold Medal on the Arkansas: Can I still fish here?

by Abbie Walls

Earlier this year the upper Arkansas River was designated Colorado's newest addition to the statewide list of Gold Medal Trout Waters. For many years prior to the designation anglers have enjoyed excellent fishing. But since the official designation anglers are asking "does this change how I fish here?"

No fishing regulations were changed when the river was designated Gold Medal. Designating waters as Gold Medal does not automatically place them under restrictive regulations, but anglers do need to be aware of previous regulations on some upper sections of the river.

The Gold Medal reach is 102 miles long and stretches from the confluence with the Lake Fork of the Arkansas River, near Leadville, downstream to Parkdale at the Highway 50 bridge crossing above the Royal Gorge.

"Regulations are often used as a tool to help maintain quality in a fishery but they are not automatically applied if they are not necessary, as is the case of the Arkansas River," said Greg Policky, aquatic biologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife in Salida.

The upper Arkansas River was designated Gold Medal status because of improved water quality, flow management and fish abundance. In 2012, an angler survey ranked the Arkansas River as the favorite fishing destination for residents of Colorado; and even though thousands of anglers are casting into the water each year the fish population remains healthy.

"Our current regulations are sufficient to maintain the quality of the fishery," said Doug Kreiger, senior aquatic biologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. "In fact, a recent angler survey shows that more than 95 percent of trout caught on the river are released voluntarily."

Standard statewide regulations regarding bag and possession limits apply to most of the river. However, there are some special regulations for the very upper reaches in the Hayden Meadows area and for a seven-mile reach below Salida. Those special regulations were in place prior to the Gold Medal designation and have not changed since the designation.

"The upper Arkansas River fishery is the



best it has been in years and we want anglers to get out there and enjoy it," Policky said. "Being designated Gold Medal is something we should and can all celebrate."

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Did the designation of the Arkansas River as Gold Medal Water change the fishing regulations?

No. The Gold Medal program is meant to recognize the "best of the best" that Colorado has to offer in terms of quality fishing, but it does NOT carry with it any requirement for enacting restrictive harvest regulations.

- Is the entire reach of Gold Medal on the Arkansas River catch and release only?

No.

- Does this mean I can't use bait now?

No. There are a few special regulation stretches on the Arkansas that have been in effect for some time and those have not changed. The majority of the river is regulated under standard statewide fishing regulations, which allows fishing using bait. Please refer to the CPW Fishing Regulation Brochure (<http://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/RulesRegs/Brochure/fishing.pdf>) or cpw.state.co.us for specifics.

~OUT AND ABOUT~

Check out these activities going on right here in this area. If you know of an activity we should include, please call us at 719-686-7393 or email us at utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com.

CANON CITY LIBRARY

CANON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY (Babies on our knees) Introduction to early literacy birth to 24 months on Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

LEGO Group: Second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Story and Craft time: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

Writers Among Us: Share your writing and learn techniques from other writers. Second Monday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon.

Write On: Meets every Tuesday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Open Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 719-269-9020 or email ccpl@canoncity.org or <http://ccpl.lib.co.us>

CRIPPLE CREEK

9 & 23 All are welcome to come help plan and participate in the upcoming 2014 Gold Camp Christmas Planning Committee. Meet Tuesdays September 9 and 23 at 9 a.m. in the conference room of the Aspen Mine Center, Cripple Creek. We will discuss the expansion of the tea for November 8, parades, and the need for volunteers to help the coordinator with decorating and children's activities. Please attend or call coordinator, Kathi Pilcher at 659-3599.

26 Aspen Mine Center's Teller County Food Distribution from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please bring photo ID and proof of Teller County residency.

BUTTE OPERA HOUSE – THIN AIR THEATRE

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) Three madcap men in tight weaves their wicked way through all 37 of Shakespeare's comedies, histories, and tragedies in a wild ride that will leave you breathless with laughter. Through an irreverent, fast-paced romp, these pranksters introduce you to Shakespeare via a cooking show, a football game, and even a rap song! Prior knowledge of the Bard? Unnecessary! The show runs Sept. 5-27 Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$18 per person.

Halloween Show & Olio

Sherlock Holmes and the Cripple Creek Ripper Holmes and Watson travel to Colorado and become embroiled in one of their most baffling and terrifying adventures. After a string of murders take place at the Palace Hotel, the great detective must solve the case before he too becomes a victim of the Cripple Creek Ripper! This show will be followed by an all-new Halloween Olio. The show runs Oct. 3-Nov. 1. Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$18 per person. To make reservations visit ThinAirTheatre.com or call 719-689-3247.

DIVIDE

8 & 22 Divide Little Chapel on the Hill – Food Pantry Distribution 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. For more info 719-322-7610 or email littlechapelfoodpantry@outlook.com.

FAIRPLAY

4 Fairplay Fairbarn at 6 p.m. Bernie Nagy, South Park author and photographer presents a slideshow of historic South Park, then and now. Sponsored by the Fairplay Library- donations are welcome.

FLORISSANT

FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS 12 Farewell Saturn, Hello Uranus from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The seasons are changing, and so is the sky! Saturn and Mars are low in the West, and this may be our last chance to see Saturn before it disappears into the sunset for the rest of the year. Fortunately, another planet is rising in the East to take its place: Uranus! Fall constellations, and the famous Andromeda Galaxy, are making their first appearances as well. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Ranger guided elk hikes

Take part in a Rocky Mountain tradition: listening for the bugling of the bull Elk (Wapiti) on an autumn evening. Join a ranger at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument to learn about listen to the wild Wapiti. September: Saturday 20, Sunday 21 (5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.); Friday 26, Saturday 27, Sunday 28 (5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.) and in October: Friday October 3, Sunday October 5 (4:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.). These programs will include a brief presentation about these magnificent animals, followed by an off trail hike of up to two miles during which we will look and listen for the elk in the wild. Normal entrance fees to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument will apply (\$3 per adult, 16 and

older). Annual passes to the Fossil Beds are available for \$15 (good for the cardholder and 3 other adults). Large numbers of people tend to make the elk wary and elusive, so the number of participants will be limited. Advance registration is required. In the past these programs have filled up quickly, so call early for reservations. Tables and grills are available near the visitor center for picnics before the program. For reservations call (719) 748 - 3253 ext. 202. Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. The entrance fee for the park is \$3 per adult (16 years or older) or free with one of the many federal land passes. For more information please call the Monument at (719) 748 - 3253 ext. 122 or 202 or visit our website at www.nps.gov/flfo.

FLORISSANT GRANGE

13 The Second Annual Potato Festival from noon to 3 p.m. We will have potato sack races, a potato dig, Mr. Potato Head contest, potato sack fashion show and more. Join us and bring your favorite potato dish to share.

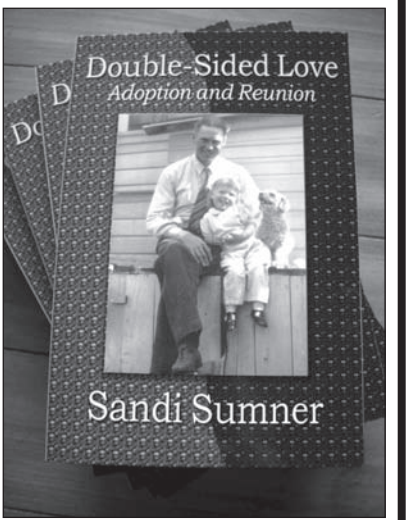
The Florissant Grange will have burgers, brats, hot dogs, chips and cookies to go with it for a small donation. Hope to see you all there. Call 748-5004 for more information. Leave a message and we will call you back.

20 The Best Breakfast around will be served 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Florissant Grange Hall. Join us for homemade biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, bacon, hash browns or make your own breakfast burrito. Call 748-5004 for more information. Leave a message and we will call you back. **Jam Night** - Every Thursday all

LOCAL AUTHOR TO GIVE BOOK SIGNINGS

Sandi Sumner's latest novel is a work of fiction entitled, "Double-Sided Love: Adoption and Reunion". On Sept. 6th she will be giving a presentation at Rampart Library in Woodland Park from 1p.m. to 3 p.m. in their large meeting room downstairs. She will share her adoption and reunion story, and answer any questions from the audience. Light refreshments available. Then on Sept. 20th, she will be giving a book talk in Lake George at the Library from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. The format will be the same as the talk in Woodland Park, but the Friends of the Library will provide light refreshments. No reservations necessary.

Sumner has three other non-fiction books in print, including "Women Pilots of Alaska", "Wheels Up" and "Alaska Women's Journey". The Journey is about climbing Mt. McKinley & Mt. Everest.



year the Grange Hall is open from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the Jammers Music and Pot Luck. For more information call the Grange at 719-748-5004.

Yoga - Tuesdays at 9 a.m. for all ages and 10:30 a.m. for Seniors. Thursdays at 9 a.m. Call 719-748-3678 for more info.

FLORISSANT PUBLIC LIBRARY

22, 24, & 29 (then Oct 1, 6, & 8) Nutrition Education Program. Florissant Public Library is partnering with Community Partners up to provide a nutrition education program with a series of six classes for

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~OUT AND ABOUT~

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adults. Community Partnership received a grant from the Colorado Health Foundation for this program which will provide hands-on classes using lots of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. It will help participants make healthy meals at home on a budget and improve their eating habits and nutrition knowledge. Participants will take home a bag of groceries each week to practice what they have learned. Pre-registration is required by calling Kathy Cefus at 686-0705 ext. 1 or emailing her at kathy@cteller.org. Classes will be held Mondays and Wednesdays, September 22, 24, 29 and October 1, 6, 8 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

PIKES PEAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
The Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum is located in Florissant at 18033 Teller County Road #1, across from the Florissant Post Office. The Museum is



WOODLAND PARK FARMER'S MARKET
5, 12, 19, & 26 The Woodland Park Farmer's Market, every Friday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Center and Henrietta. SNAP welcomed. Featuring fresh farm vegetables and local produce, fruit from the western slope, high-altitude nursery plants, bakery-fresh bread, cheese, salsa, jams, pasta, natural meats (bison and grass raised chickens). For more information call (719) 689-3133 or 648-7286 or email: info@WPFarmersmarket.com

open each Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 748-8259.

GUFFEY
13 & 14 and 27 & 28 Grammy's Mountain Market at the point of Hwy 9 and CR 102, mile marker 21, near Guffey. Fresh produce, homemade jams, nuts/trail mixes, canned goods, pure fresh honey, Canadian wild rice and more! Begins 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit grammysmtmkt.com. We'll be here every other week-end through October 25 & 26.
27 Beth Wood will be performing at The Bull Moose in Guffey on Saturday, September 27th for a special Dinner/Show. Make reservations early for limited, preferred seating at The Bull Moose by calling 719-689-4199 or Juniper Blue Music 719-479-2224.

LAKE GEORGE PARK COUNTY SENIOR

COALITION POTLUCK
17 We meet the 3rd Wed at noon. Park County Senior Coalition potluck at the Lake George Senior Center (yellow metal building by maintenance shop on north side of Hwy 24). Bingo will follow the potluck this month, so please bring a wrapped "white elephant" prize and your dish. Table service and coffee/tea furnished.

TPCD ANNUAL MEETING
27 Join the Teller Park Conservation District at its Annual Meeting featuring keynote speaker, Craig McHugh from Pikes Peak Small Farm Project from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. FREE! Topics on the agenda include: holistic pasture management, market farming, beekeeping, aquaponics/hydroponics, noxious weed management. Lunch will be served. Encouraging Small Farms & Sustainable Living in Teller and Park Counties. Refundable \$5 deposit required to hold your spot. Contact Teller Park Conservation District at 719-686-9405 x104 or www.tellerparkcd.org

WOODLAND PARK
6 Are you new to Medicare? Do you want to review your current plan? You are invited to a FREE two-hour class. Saturday, September 6, 10 a.m. to noon. Woodland Park Senior Center, 312 North Center Street. Presented by Lisa Hietala, Senior Insurance Specialist, Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging (not an insurance agency). Class content: Medicare benefits A, B & D; Other insurance options: Medigaps/Supplements, Medicare Advantage plans; Informational handouts. Questions & Answers. Call 687-3877 or 339-0954 to sign up. Reservations appreciated.

CELEBRATE LOCAL FOOD!
20 Mountain Naturals hosts a special day dedicated to celebrating local foods. Stop by to see vendors, artists, and music. Call 719-687-9851 for more information.

CLAIMING MY KINGDOM
13 Move from life's challenges to the Kingdom of Spirit The Kingdom of Spirit is embodied in your flesh. You are royalty! Are you ready to claim your birthright? Barbara Royal, Spiritual Life Coach, is excited to present the workshop series: "Claiming My Kingdom". In this series of workshops, you will learn tools to help you move from the challenges of life to the Kingdom of Spirit and harvest the fruits of health, wealth, love, peace, joy. Come to the first class ready to learn about your spiritual resources for accessing the Kingdom and much more. Stay tuned for the announcement of future dates in this workshop series. The workshop will be held at Peoples National Bank, 651 Scott Avenue, Woodland Park, CO 80863 on September 13, 2014 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Early bird investment is \$36.00; after September 10 your investment is \$42. Contact Barbara Royal at 719-687-6823 or miraclesofwellness@gmail.com with questions and to make your reservation. To learn more about Barbara, visit her Facebook page, Barbara Royal's Spiritual Life Coaching.

DINOSAUR RESOURCE CENTER
27 The Challenger Learning Center will bring their planetarium to the RMDRC with continual shows. Sit back, relax, and enjoy your solar system, as a trained astronomer blasts you off into an adventure that is out of this world! See our website for more details. This program begins at 11 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. The Dinosaur Resource Center is located at 201 S. Fairview St., Woodland Park, CO. See our website: <http://www.mdrcc.com>

FINAL COUNTDOWN
9 Living Streams Church at 108 North Park Street in Woodland Park will be presenting Pastor Billy Crone from Sunrise Baptist Church in Las Vegas, Nevada in his series "The Final Countdown". We will meet every Tuesday beginning on September 9 at 7 p.m. Please call for reservations since seating is limited. 719-687-2388.

MOUNTAIN TOP CYCLING CLUB
14 The Mountain Top Cycling Club will host its Third Annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, September 14th at noon. We will meet at Mountain Scoops, located by the movie theater. Please arrive early to sign a waiver form and gather for a group photo. The route will be Centennial Trail to Manitou Lake and back, about 15 miles round trip. Children must be accompanied by an adult, and helmets are required. Each rider will receive a coupon for a free single scoop cone or cup of ice cream. Call Denise Symes with any questions at 719-440-9738.

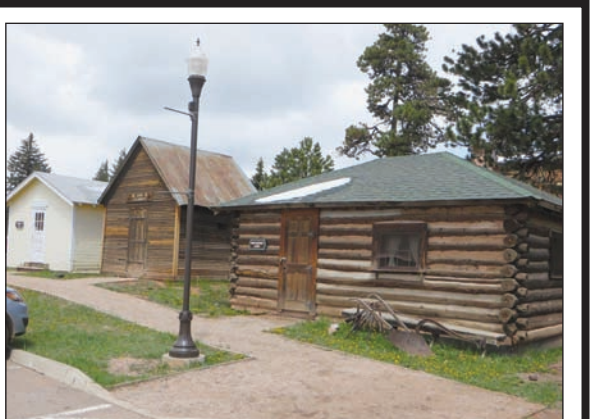
PEACE VISIONING
20 Peace Visioning Starting September 20 then every Saturday beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Mountain View United Methodist Church, 1101 Rampart Range Road, Woodland Park, CO 80863. An open circle for those passionate about voicing Spirit's vision of peace in our lives and world. For more information: Barbara Royal, CSD, 719-687-6823 or miraclesofwellness@gmail.com.

PIKES PEAK WORK FORCE
17 How to make the Job Fair work for you! Woodland Park Library from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 719-687-3730 for more information.

WOODLAND MUSIC SERIES
13 Big Band Bash featuring Pegasus from the US Air Force, Air Academy High School Jazz Ensemble and Swing Factory from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. On the Green at the Midland Pavilion adjacent to the Ute Pass Cultural Center. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and enjoy the mountain air, panoramic view, and moving music. Umbrellas are suggested for the sun and possible showers. The Woodland Music Series will be selling wine and BierWerks' Beer (L.D. Required) Food will be available for purchase. Kids bounce house. Fun for the whole family! Contact phone: 687-5284. Free to the public but donations are accepted.

UTE PASS CHAMBER PLAYERS
7 The Ute Pass Chamber Players present their first concert of the 2014-2015 season on September 7, at 3 p.m., at High View Baptist Church, 1151 Rampart Range Road, Woodland Park. The program includes music of Beethoven, Loeffler, and Hummel. Featured musicians are Guy Dutra-Silveira (Oboe), Mary Anne Lemoine (Viola), Mary Lindsay (Cello), Elisa Wicks (Violin), Clark Wilson (Bassoon) and Barb Riley-Cunningham (Piano). Due to a generous bequest from the estate of Cheryl Lyne Shoenberger, tickets are offered at the reduced rate of \$15 (\$5 for students with valid school ID) and are available at www.utepasschamberplayers.com or at the door. Please call 686-1798 for more information.

UTE PASS REGIONAL TRAIL
6 El Paso County will conduct a grand opening ceremony to commemorate the completion of construction of a 3-mile segment of the Ute Pass Regional Trail from Manitou Springs



UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & PIKES PEAK MUSEUM
13 The five Museum buildings in History Park will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for free, self-guided tours (donations gratefully accepted!). A walking tour of historic downtown Woodland Park meets at the Museum Center at History Park at 10:30 a.m. and lasts about 90 minutes. Contact UPHS at 719-686-7512 or check our website at: UtePassHistoricalSociety.org.

to Longs Ranch Road on Saturday, September 6 at 10:30 a.m. The ceremony and ribbon cutting will include comments by County and Native American tribal officials and other stakeholders. After the ceremony, guests are welcome to stay and view interpretive materials and the proposed Ute Medicine Wheel site.

UTE PASS SADDLE CLUB
14 Fun Day held at 19250 E Hwy 24 in Woodland Park. For more information contact Monique at 719-687-9975 or info@wpsaddleclub.com

WHOLISTIC NETWORKING
16 "Living a vibrant, energetic life through hormone balance". The Wholistic Networking Community invites you to meet area practitioners and learn about wholistic wellness from 11-12:30 at the Rampart Public Library, 218 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, CO 80863. "Wholistic" in our name includes all who pursue conscious living, a healthy lifestyle and desire a peaceful, natural world. Be sure to mark your calendars for our regular meetings on the third Tuesday of every month. Our speaker for September 16 is Kelly Calabrese MS, CCN

UTE TRAIL MUZZLE LOADERS
Shoot and meetings the last Saturday of each month at Victor. For information call 719-684-7780.



OUTPOST FEED & SUPPLY'S CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY
12 Ginger and staff at Florissant's Outpost Feed & Supply would like to thank their customers for their loyalty. Stop by the Outpost Feed & Supply from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and see the many manufacturer's booths with special sales September 12 only. Ginger would like to treat customers to a free lunch from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Call 719-748-5039 for more information.

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USA Pro Challenge zips through Colorado

by Kathy Hansen
photos by Jeff Hansen

The 2014 USA Pro Challenge was an incredible event to observe, no matter where in the state you had a chance to see it, but you better not blink. Bicyclists zipped through Florissant at approximately 35 to 40 mph in the rain. The rain did not stop the crowd from gathering to see this incredible event.



The leaders fly by (left), followed by the rest of the pack (above). Spectators braved the rain to cheer on the racers as they made their way past the Thunderbird Inn in Florissant towards Lake George (right).



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