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Vol. 7, No. 8

Welcome to Ute Country

Many drops make a bucket,
many buckets make a pond,
many ponds make a lake,
and many lakes make an ocean.

~ Percy Ross

PEEK INSIDE...



page
6

Synergy for sustainability



page
24

Teller Tire and BTR Interiors



page
30

Lissa Hanner - Colorado girl



On Deck

This month's cover photo is of a waterfall we came upon between Turret and Salida. It appeared to be an abandoned quarry. We felt the quote fit the pic well. Each of us has a way to make a difference, something to offer, even if it's just a smile. It is important for us all to make our contributions; that we all matter; and that together we are stronger than we could be individually. When we contribute, we're better together!

We have many stories to exemplify the concept above. As you read this month's paper, you'll find many opportunities from home-school world history, to nutrition classes, to herb walks, to geology. You will find the Beaver Ponds; an extraordinary place of learning to be stewards of the environment, offering opportunity to leave a lighter footprint.

We take this opportunity to give thanks to Barbara Royal, who has contributed articles on Spiritual Direction. Barbara is pursuing a greater writing project. We wish her the best in her endeavors and hope she keeps us posted on her next publication!

Do you have photos of outdoor or indoor pets you'd like to share? Mr. Spaz, our Photo Editor, would like to see them. He is not feeling well and the only way he can meet his neighbors is by paying through your pics. He so looks forward to the next submission. Would you send Mr. Spaz your pet pics for Critter Corner to bring a smile to his day?

We welcome your comments, feedback, stories of interest, as well as criticisms. Please send to utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com or call 719-686-7393. We love to hear from you!

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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The Thymekeeper Meet some local yokels

by Mari Marques
photos by Mari Marques

Purslane *Portulaca oleracea*

Purslane, a plant that mysteriously finds its way into many gardens and sidewalk cracks is yet another nutritious superfood given freely by Mother Nature that has been designated a "weed". A low lying crawler with plump succulent leaves, purslane, aka pigweed is rich in omega 3 essential fatty acids; perhaps one of the richest of all leafy greens. Maintaining a good balance of essential fatty acids aids in cognitive thought, keeps your joints juicy as well as assisting with inflammation of all kinds. Most Americans' diets have far too much omega 6 fatty acids and most Americans suffer from inflammation of one kind or another. Maintaining a good balance of essential fatty acids is crucial for managing inflammation. It's time for an oil change America, and purslane can be of assistance simply by adding it to your meals.

Eaten raw, purslane is rich in Vitamin A, which is important for good vision; it has antioxidant properties, provides dietary fiber, and is rich in minerals such as calcium, magnesium, and potassium. Low in calories but high in nutrition, it just doesn't get any better than that. Per 43 gram serving, purslane has 7 calories, 28 mg of calcium, 29 mg of magnesium and 212 mg of potassium.

See more here: <http://nutritiondata.self.com/facts/vegetables-and-vegetable-products/2604/2>

The young shoots are juicy with a mild tangy flavor. A pleasant addition to any salad, I include it in my wild food salad mix. The older shoots can be added to soups as a vegetable or stir fried and the thick stems can be pickled in salt & vinegar to be eaten later in the year when green foods are unavailable. Moist and cooling is the energy of the plant and would make an excellent poultice when freshly juiced for burns, sunburns or any hot condition such as gout.

Per Maude Grieves book The Modern Herbal, "The juice with oil of roses was recommended for sore mouths and swollen gums and also to fasten loose teeth."

Foxtail barley grass *Hordeum jubatum*

Although you will rarely find me speaking badly of a plant, there is always that one. Currently lining nearly every roadside I've traveled in July, foxtail barley looks beautiful as it gently sways in the wind. Some people add it to their gardens as an ornamental grass it's so aesthetically pleasing. Early on it is completely harmless but as it gets older it undergoes a complete personality change. Foxtail barley becomes foxtail gnarly. The awns spread out as it ages and each one has

small barbs invisible to the naked eye that can cause serious injury to grazing animals eyes, nose, gums, throat and ears. If the awns work their way into the digestive tract, it can even cause death. The Navajo thought it could kill a man if he were to get an awn in his mouth.

Indigenous to the western United States, its primary means of reproduction is by seed. Foxtail is a perennial in the bunch grass family that is typically controlled through the use of herbicides. Because it is pretty and harmless in its beginning phase of growth, I say just cut the tops off before they mature and become wicked awns with barbs. Be sure to dispose of them in a trash receptacle because they will still fan out after picking. It can also be easily pulled out as the roots are shallow. Foxtail can germinate in the fall or the spring and attach to animals fur for further distribution. It's definitely a hitchhiker and can lower the value of sheep's wool. It also frequents meadows such as hay meadows and can render the hay useless when contaminated with it. This is a local that definitely gets around.

Meet the pea family Clovers

Many of the beautiful wildflowers that are so abundant this year are members of the Legume or pea family. The sea of yellow flowers that line the roadsides is called yellow clover or sweet clover and make excellent forage for livestock. Clovers also produce high quality nectar for the bees. Sweet clover contains quercetin which is helpful in strengthening weak capillaries.

Red clover and white clover also grow wild in Colorado and are edible, highly nutritious, and rich in protein. The young leaves can be



Red clover is nutritious, delicious, and easy to grow, not to mention beautiful!



Sweet yellow clover is a soil builder, fertility source, sub-soil aerator, weed suppressor, and erosion preventer from www.SARE.org



Foxtail barley is beautiful as it waves in the wind. (left) It turns foxtail gnarly as it begins to dry and splay the awns (right). Each awn has tiny barbs that can irritate nose, eyes, gums, throat, and ears of livestock.

gathered before flowering and eaten raw in salads or on sandwiches, boiled or steamed as a vegetable or stir fried. Clovers should be eaten in moderation however as they can be difficult to digest and cause bloating in man and animal although cooking can help counteract this effect. The dried flowers and seed heads can be ground into flour for making bread.

Red clover has long been used as a blood purifier removing toxins from the blood and is included in my detox tea as well as my wild food salad mix. It contains compounds that are both estrogenic and cancer preventative. Clovers also improve the soil by increasing the nitrogen content. For this reason and more, the clovers are allowed to grow freely in my greenhouse.

Warning: Clovers contain coumarin or compounds related to coumarin, (blood thinning compounds). If these plants are allowed to mold their coumarin can become dicoumarol and cause uncontrollable bleeding. In fact, I was recently informed by someone that the pharmaceutical blood thinner Warfarin which is derived from plant coumarins doubles as rat poison causing the animal to bleed to death.

Locoweed

Another beautiful but not so nice member of the pea family is locoweed. Locoweed comes in an assortment of colors and is despised by most livestock owners. Being poisonous to horses, sheep, and cattle, this plant contains toxic alkaloids that when eaten over a period of time can cause a disease called locoism that mainly affects the nervous system of the animal. Locoweed can cause a whole range of problems from heart disease, fluid retention, miscarriages and can even result in death. It is best to just admire this one for its beauty and keep it far away from the livestock.

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. Mari is available for private consultation or to meet with you and see what's blooming on your property in August. We will be participating in the farmers market at the Outpost Feed and Ranch Supply store in Florissant on Friday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. weather permitting.

Let's take a walk in the woods!

August 8th, 9th & 10th from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. we'll be leading herb walks on National Forest land. We'll meet at 1870 County Road 31 in Florissant and carpool or drive to the site. Come prepared with good shoes, enough water, snacks, rain gear and bug repellent. These walks are funded by donation. Pre-register with Mari at mugsys-pad@aol.com



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EM/Santa Maria Ranch

by Linda Bjorklund

The Middle Fork of the South Platte River originates behind several mountain peaks in the northwest corner of Park County. It flows past the towns of Alma and Fairplay, then follows the contour of land west of the Red Hill and Reineker ridges. It continues under the highway east of Hartsel, then just past what used to be the Hartsel Ranch, to combine with the South Fork of the South Platte River. The South Platte River eventually flows together with the North Platte River, the Missouri River, the Mississippi River, and finally empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

Early ranchers found the meadows next to this river system between Fairplay and Hartsel and assessed that it would be a great place to raise cattle. The ranch that came to be known as the EM Ranch, then the Santa Maria Ranch, was first patented in 1874 by William James George Hardy Epperson. He had married Josephine Spurlock in 1871, and was working in Alma in 1873 as a teamster. Hardy, as he was locally known, ambitiously built on his new ranch a log house, a stable, and a milk house. He dug an irrigation ditch that was 200 yards long and a fence about a half mile long.

In 1876 Hardy quit-claimed the ranch to Artemicia Epperson, his brother's wife. H.P. Epperson, the brother, then operated the ranch. The next year Hardy Epperson acquired another ranch nearby, known as the James Ranch or the Badger Springs Ranch.

In 1880 the Fairplay Flume wrote of H.P. Epperson, "He is the owner of five hundred head of cattle, has a number of medicinal springs, and a fine residence, elegantly furnished. Connected with it is a dancing room, twenty by thirty feet, for the convenience of his neighbors."

H.P. was thrown from his horse in 1881 and was nearly paralyzed from the accident. He began to use the medicinal warm springs as therapy and had plans to build a bath house. A deeper well would protect the warm water from mingling with nearby cold springs. Then in 1882, Epperson sold the ranch to Adolphus Fehringer and Frederick Rink. The sale included horses, cows, farm implements, and household goods. The new owners successfully marketed the hay that they harvested from their land. They produced from two to three hundred tons of hay annually.

The ranch was sold again several times in the next few years. In 1900 the Chalmers and Galloway Livestock Company became the owners.

This area had been settled by several English families who had known each other in their old country. Dr. David Chalmers was a practicing physician and a member of the Royal College of Surgeons. Frederick Galloway had been educated in England as a lawyer. When the doctor passed away, his son Harold Chalmers took over his partnership in the livestock business. When the EM ranch was purchased, Harold became the acting manager.

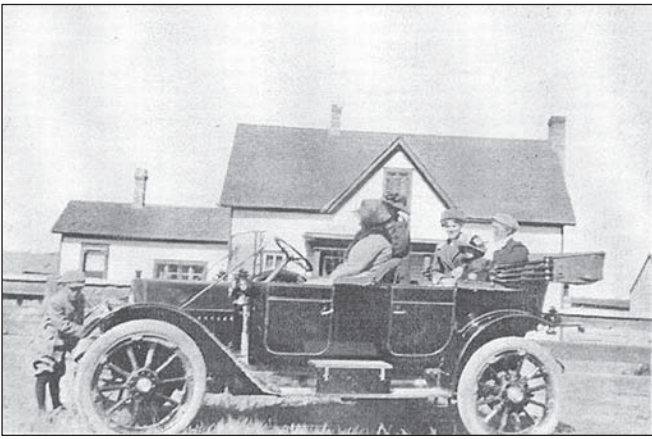
Harold Chalmers had married Georgia Belle Dudley, daughter of another nearby neighbor. She passed away shortly after the birth of their daughter, Belle Ellen, in 1886. Belle remembered living with her grandparents in a little log house about four miles from Garo. Grandfather Dudley called their place "Saint's Rest." Belle recalled attending the Garo School and learning the alphabet with slates and pencils. (The Garo school is now located at the South Park City Museum in Fairplay.)

When she was seven years old, Belle's father decided that she should go to England to be educated in a boarding school there. His mother lived in Southborough, Kent, about 60 miles south of London. Belle became used to an entirely different way of life, with servants doing all the manual labor. Servants would bring pitchers of warm water to their bedrooms for the early morning wash. Then they would prepare and serve all the meals, do all the cleaning and polishing.

After a few years, Belle's father remarried, so he and his new wife came to England in 1897



Current photo of the EM/Santa Maria main house. photo by Linda Bjorklund



Several people including Maude and Kenneth Chalmers in their Stanley Steamer. Taken about 1905 (above). Belle and a friend (below) playing tennis at the EM. Harold Chalmers is watching. Taken about 1905. Both photos are from the Wadley family collection, courtesy of the Park County Local History Archives.



to bring his daughter back with them. Belle and her stepmother Maude never got along well, but tolerated one another.

The Chalmers' also brought back with them a governess for Belle. The governess turned out to be a mistake. She was totally unfamiliar with a way of life that included no running water and no other servants. She didn't know how to build a fire, much less cook on one.

They lived then at the Trout Creek Ranch, only a few miles from the EM, which wasn't purchased until 1900. Looking for sources of amusement, Belle attempted to learn to ride on horseback. Her father didn't approve of women riding astride, so Belle first tried to ride side saddle.

He bought her a burro, who wasn't used to side saddle riding either. Belle told of an occasion when she sneaked away from the house and climbed astride the burro bareback. The burro took off and ran for a while, then stopped short. Belle flew over the burro's head. She then walked home, sure she was in trouble. Eventually her father lent to ride astride a horse.

Another English family, the Wadley's, were located at a ranch called the Red Hill Ranch, about 10 miles up the valley. The Wadley and Chalmers families became very close, often

spending Christmas and other holidays at each other's homes.

When the Livestock Company bought the EM Ranch, the Chalmers family moved there. A step-brother, Kenneth, had been born in 1899, the year before the move. Belle immediately loved the place. She recalled how hard the well water was and how long it took to cook vegetables. They would haul river water to the house to do laundry.

Belle remembered when her father bought a car, a Stanley Steamer. It had no front doors, no hood, acetylene lights, and a steam engine that drank volumes of water. Since it had no hood, Belle's father bought a rubber cover that covered the car and had holes in it for passenger's heads. It took a while for the car to warm up, so that the steam could propel it. They had to watch out for horses, who were terrified of the engine.

In 1910, Belle married one of the Wadley sons, Herbert. They joined the Wadley family at the Red Hill Ranch.

Harold Chalmers continued to manage the EM Ranch. In 1912 Harold had to testify in a water rights case. He told of how he had piped water from the warm springs to use during the winter for his stock, as well as for the family to use in the house. It was then that they began to refer to the spring as the Santa Maria Spring.

In 1920 Kenneth took over the management of the EM Ranch. He had obtained a degree in Animal Husbandry at the Colorado A&M, and was deeply involved in several local organizations that represented wool-growing ranchers. The ranch now raised cattle and sheep, as well as hay crops. Lambing sheds, a slaughterhouse, and a log granary had been added to the list of outbuildings.

The 1929 depression severely impacted the sheep operation at the EM Ranch. In 1935 Kenneth Chalmers left the ranch to take a job with the Soil Conservation Service. The Ranch passed through several hands and the buildings deteriorated.

In 1994 a couple who were interested in the local history found the EM or Santa Maria Ranch, purchased it, and took on the job of refurbishing it. They worked to get it declared on the National Registry of Historic Ranches. They obtained several grants to reclaim the house. One grant was used to raise the structure and install a basement underneath it. Other grants went to replace the seven chimneys—there were that many fireplaces or stoves. The exterior has been repainted and the interior is in the process of being redone. The ballroom, or "dancing room," is still there.

Recently Valerie Kay Wadley Bowen, a direct descendant of the Wadley family, brought more than 20 of her family members from their homes in Idaho and Iowa to Colorado to revisit the homes of their ancestors and to research their family history. They accepted an invitation to visit the EM/Santa Maria Ranch and tour the buildings. They were undaunted by having to use the outhouse and fascinated with the story that the Ranch represented about their forebears.



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Kiwanis International Foundation election results

Kiwanis International Foundation has appointed Mark B. Rabaut as president of its board of trustees for 2015-2016.

Rabaut, of Woodland Park, Colorado, is a member of the Utica-Shelby Township Kiwanis Club. Joining him on the executive committee is Chia Sing Hwang of Selangor, Malaysia, as president-elect; John E. Mayfield, Ashland City, Tennessee, as treasurer; and Robert A. “Bob” Parton, Jr., Hillsboro Beach, Florida, as immediate past president. Hwang is a member of the Kuala Lumpur Kiwanis Club; Mayfield is a member of the Cheatham County Kiwanis Club and Parton is a member of the Deerfield Beach Club.

New trustees beginning a three-year term include Ann Wilkins, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, a member of the Tahlequah Kiwanis Club; Norman A. “Norm” Velnes, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, a member of the Winnipeg Kiwanis Club, and Dr. Karl Heinz Berger, Ried im Innkreis, Austria, a member of the Ried im Innkreis Club. Trustee Albert James “Jim” Dooley, Metamora, Illinois, and a member of the Peoria Kiwanis Club, was elected to a one-year term.

They join trustees John R. Button, M.D., Ridgetown, Ontario, Canada; George Cadman, North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; Angus S. “Gus” Lamond Jr., North Chesterfield, Virginia, USA; Benjamin R. “Ben” Osterhout, Elizabethtown, Pennsyl-

vania; James M. “Jim” Rochford, Peoria, Illinois; Ronald E. “Ron” Smith, Fountain Hills, Arizona; and Patrick E. “Pat” Tritt, Athens, Georgia.

The Kiwanis International Foundation financially assists Kiwanis International in serving the children of the world. The foundation board of trustees’ responsibility includes ensuring stability and growth of the foundation funds by cultivating and soliciting financial gifts from individual Kiwanians and friends, businesses and foundations and monitoring and distributing funds worldwide through grants.

About Kiwanis

Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of clubs and members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs, including Circle K International for university students, Key Club for students age 14 to 18, Builders Club for students age 11 to 14, Kiwanis Kids for students age 6 to 12 and Aktion Club for adults living with disabilities, dedicate annually more than 18 million service hours to strengthen communities and serve children. The Kiwanis International family comprises nearly 600,000 adult and youth members in 80 countries and geographic areas. For more information about Kiwanis International, please visit www.kiwanis.org.

CPW provides millions in grants for trails program statewide

by Joe Lewandowski

Colorado Parks and Wildlife continues its tradition of supporting trails with grants of \$6.18 million slated for distribution in 2015 and 2016.

“Colorado residents love their trails and CPW’s trails program provides something for every trail user in the state,” said Tom Morrissey, state trails program manager.

The grants go to a variety of trails projects in all areas of the state, including new construction, trail maintenance, signage, education, law enforcement, and equipment purchases. Around the state, grants for 2015 and 2016 for multi-purpose motorized trails and activities will total \$4.2 million, and non-motorized trails programs will receive \$1.98 million.

The money for the motorized projects comes from off-highway vehicle registrations fees paid in Colorado. As required by state law, all money collected from the registrations goes to building and maintaining motorized trails. Motorized trails are open to all other trails users — hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians.

Grant money for non-motorized trails comes from Great Outdoors Colorado, the federal recreation trails program, and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The American Recreation Coalition and Coalition for Recreational Trails recently named Colorado a recipient of the organization’s Annual Achievement Award for outstanding use of recreational trails programs funds.

Every year government agencies and trail groups from throughout the state submit proposals to CPW for trail work. Projects range from construction of new trails for off-highway vehicles on federal public lands to maintenance of backcountry hiking trails, from rebuilding paved hiker-biker greenways within municipalities, to providing funding for law enforcement efforts on remote motorized trails. Grants are also provided for project planning, improving environmental conditions, and educational seminars and campaigns.

All trail construction and maintenance projects are reviewed by CPW trail experts and field biologists to assure conflicts between wildlife and trail uses are minimized, that trails are designed properly, and that trails won’t cause resource damage to slopes or wetlands.

A major part of the motorized trails program is the funding of 19 “Good Management” trail crews which fan out throughout the state to perform maintenance work on trails. Those crews are hired by the U.S. Forest Service, the BLM and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

“The maintenance work is very important to the overall program. We want to make sure that trails are in good condition, that use does not harm the environment and that trails are safe for all users,” Morrissey said.

Much of the money from the motorized trails program goes to the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM to pay for construction and maintenance of off-highway vehicle trails on federal lands.

“CPW was able to fund \$6.18 million of the \$6.78 million requested, so the vast majority of project requests did receiving funding,” Morrissey said. “Colorado’s program is comprehensive, funding goes to all aspects of trail development.”

Following is a partial list of the various trail projects around the state. Ranger districts are part of the U.S. Forest Service:

Northeast region motorized trails program grants:

- Aurora, West Tollgate Creek construction, \$350,000
- South Park, Sheep Mountain motorcycle single-track trails, \$33,333
- South Park, Badger Flats trail project, \$48,149

Southeast region non-motorized trails program grants:

- Trinidad, Old Sopris Trail land acquisition, \$200,000
- Salida, Cottonwood Trail construction, \$72,350
- Rampart Range Scraggy trail single-track construction, \$126,462

Southeast region motorized trails program grants:

- Rampart Range trail crew, \$85,000
- San Carlos Ranger District trail crew, Canon City, \$85,000
- Pikes Peak Ranger District trail crew, \$85,000
- Upper Arkansas trail crew, headwaters recreation area, \$42,500
- Upper Arkansas trail crew, Salida, \$42,500
- Arkansas headwaters, Big Bend trail, \$8,000
- Rampart trail construction, South Platte Ranger District, \$98,775
- Rampart Range Motorcycle Management Committee, trail maintenance, \$199,990
- Bear Creek native trout protection, Captain Jack’s Trail relocation, Colorado Motorcycle Trail Riders, \$85,000

Statewide program support grants:

- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, training \$44,907
- Wildland Restoration Volunteers, training, \$36,772
- Wildland Restoration Volunteers, training, \$139,877
- Responsible Recreation Foundation, travel management signage, education \$330,000
- Colorado OHV Coalition, training, \$38,500

You can cope with turbulence as a passenger and an investor

If you’re like many travelers, you get a little nervous when your airplane goes through some turbulence. If you’re like a lot of investors, you may get somewhat jumpy when the financial markets are volatile. Yet flight turbulence probably isn’t as scary as it seems, and the same may be true for market volatility, if you know how to respond.

Let’s look at some positive responses to market movements:

■ Don’t overreact to turbulence.

Turbulence happens on most flights, but passengers are well aware that they can’t “bail out” at 30,000 feet, so they generally don’t panic. As an investor, you also need to avoid panicky behavior by not taking a “time out” from investing. Over a period of decades, if you were to miss just a handful of the market’s best-performing days, your returns could be dramatically reduced. The best days often follow some of the worst. So if you’re not invested in the market, you could miss out on the beginning of a new rally, which is typically when the biggest gains occur.

■ Balance your “cargo.”

The ground crew properly positions an airplane’s cargo to maintain the plane’s center of gravity and reduce the effects of turbulence. When you invest, you also need to achieve balance by owning a variety of vehicles, including stocks, bonds, government securities and certificates of deposit. You’ll want your investment mix to reflect your risk tolerance, goals and time horizon. While this type of diversification can’t guarantee profits or protect against loss, it can reduce the effects of “turbulence” that is, market volatility, on your portfolio. Over time, your “cargo” (your investments) may shift, becoming too heavy in stocks or bonds relative to your objectives. Consequently, you’ll need to periodically rebalance your portfolio to ensure it is meeting your needs.

■ Match your “transportation method” with your goals.

If you are flying from New York to Los Angeles, you may experience delays or some changes in the flight plan but your goal is still

In other words, don’t abandon your long-term strategy in favor of quick fixes, such as chasing after hot stocks that may not be suitable for your needs.

to reach Los Angeles as quickly and efficiently as possible. Consequently, you wouldn’t scrap the idea of flying and head to the West Coast on foot. When you invest, you will also encounter events, such as market downturns, that you feel may be slowing you down in your progress toward your long-term objectives, such as a comfortable retirement. But if your objectives haven’t changed, neither should your “transportation method” of reaching them. In other words, don’t abandon your long-term strategy in favor of quick fixes, such as chasing after “hot” stocks that may not be suitable for your needs.

■ Maintain perspective on your “flight path.”

When you’ve flown, you’ve probably observed (perhaps with some envy) some of your fellow passengers sleeping through periods of turbulence. In the investment world, these types of people are the ideal long-term investors; they know that turbulence, in the form of market fluctuations, is normal, because they’ve experienced it many times before. Their perspective isn’t on short-term events, such as volatility, but rather on the voyage toward their “final destination” i.e., the achievement of their long-term goals.

So when you fly, fasten your seatbelt and relax. When you invest, don’t overreact to short-term events. By following these basic guidelines, you will be a calmer traveler and a better investor.

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


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Synergy for sustainability: Beaver Ponds at Sacramento Creek Ranch

by Kathy Hansen
 photos by Jeff Hansen

Many of us are concerned for the impact we humans make on the planet, and wonder what kind of environment our children and grandchildren will inhabit. We are becoming increasingly aware of the ratio between the resources we have and how quickly we are depleting them. Words like “carbon footprint”, “renewable resources”, and “sustainability” are creeping into our vocabulary. Once we have the awareness of the NEED to change, we then seek the information to teach us HOW to make a change. What steps can each of us take and how much of a difference can we make? Where do you go and who can help you learn? Beaver Ponds Environmental Education Center (BPEEC) at Sacramento Creek Ranch in Fairplay may not have all the answers, but they sure have asked the questions. More importantly, they are willing to share what they have learned with the public.

History

The organization was founded by Al and Terry Hershey, who have dedicated their



Kevin and Bodie in front of the greenhouse.

retirement to their two primary passions: the environment and education. They developed the property to become an education center, helping to teach others sustainable methods. Al and Terry provided the property; next they needed someone to manage the property. Enter Kevin Hosman, graduate of Washington State University with a degree in Entomology, with a focus on enemy interactions and the effects of defoliators. Just before coming to BPEEC, Kevin was the on-site manager of two climate change projects for about a decade southeast of Columbia, MO. Kevin has an excellent education and valuable experience to share. He was raised on a fruit orchard in Yakima Valley in the Pacific Northwest. Coming from a multi-generational orchard that used pesticides, Kevin as a child looked up to the pesticide salesman, after all, this man took up much of Grandfather’s time so he had to be important. Then, Kevin read a book that changed his life. “Silent Spring” by Rachel Carson taught Kevin of the long-term effects of pesticides on the environment. Perhaps the passing of his Great-Grandfather and Uncle, both from pesticide poisoning, then later when Kevin was in 10th Grade, his Grandfather was also taken by pesticide. That drove the point home. Kevin knew there had to be a better way; the fire was lit in his belly to find a better way and to share that knowledge. Now he can do that from BPEEC. Kevin needed a program coordinator. Kindred spirit, Kristin Barrett fit the bill. She grew up on a ranch in Idaho where her family raised cattle, pigs, chickens, sheep, horses, and a goat. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness from University of Idaho and worked in veterinary, ranching, and dairy industries. Then she continued her education, earning a Master’s of Environmental Science also at U of I. She spent some time on a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) sustainability project where they focused on recycling, energy conservation, pollution prevention, and green purchasing. In 2010, she met her husband and moved to Alma. Her extensive knowledge and experience make her a great fit for the BPEEC. To round out the team, a site manager was needed. Eric Chatt, N.D., seemed to fulfill the qualifications as well as adding his special focus. Eric was also inspired by many books he read. Two of note are “The Healer Within” about psychoneuroimmunology and “Coming

to our Senses” by Kabat Zinn. He earned his degree in Sustainable Agriculture at Bastyr University in Seattle. Eric continued his interest in pain management and organic methods of medicinal herb production and became a Naturopathic Doctor, registered as of 2014, in Colorado. Kevin is very pleased with his team. Each has their own quest for their corner of knowledge, yet know how to integrate with what their team members contribute, creating a truly complimentary team of environmental educators. The synergy of the space and talent, united by a wave of passion merges to make BPEEC a place to pursue knowledge of nature. Per their website, “Our mission is to inspire individuals of all ages to become good stewards of the earth. We demonstrate concepts in alternative energy, agricultural sustainability, and ecology to instill in our visitors a balanced and respectful understanding of the intricacies of earth’s interrelated systems. Using science-based education methods, we integrate many scientific disciplines and collaborate with a number of educational organizations to create a teaching space that provides learning opportunities for everyone.” What does it really mean to be environmentally sustainable? According to www.thwink.org, “To define environmental sustainability we must first define sustainability. Sustainability is the ability to continue a defined behavior indefinitely. To define what environmental sustainability is we turn to the experts. Herman Daly, one of the early pioneers of ecological sustainability, looked at the problem from maintenance of natural capital viewpoint. In 1990 he proposed that: 1. For renewable resources, the rate of harvest should not exceed the rate of regeneration (sustainable yield); 2. [For pollution] The rates of waste generation from projects should not exceed the assimilative capacity of the environment (sustainable waste disposal); and 3. For nonrenewable resources the depletion of the nonrenewable resources should require comparable development of renewable substitutes for that resource.”

Sustainable energy

When it comes to energy conservation and sustainability BPEEC has been designed to be very energy efficient. While you probably have seen solar panels, and likely have seen wind turbines, have you seen a geothermal heat pump in action? Saving approximately 70 percent, this system built about 20 feet underground, circulates warm air into the dwelling when heat is needed and can be reversed when cool is needed. Another energy saver they can demonstrate is solar hydronics, or the use of solar panels to heat water, which is then used for radiant floor heat.

Sustainable agriculture

BPEEC has rescued each of the alpacas and llamas they have on their property. They also have two angora goats and two pygmy cashmere goats. Their fur can be sheared and spun into yarn. There is a section dedicated to the freely roaming heirloom chickens, bred to thrive in high altitude and are cold hearty. Clearly, the chickens were more interested in pecking at their feed than interacting with us. The alpacas and llama were very curious and got close. The goats were the friendliest of all the penned animals. Bodie, short for Bodacea, is Kevin’s golden retriever. Bodie accompanied our tour and tolerated Sam, the friendly feline who at times took center stage convincing us it is his curious nature that feeds the scientific minds of the staff.

The passive solar greenhouse is certainly worth the visit to understand how the various energy systems described above can integrate to maintain optimal temperatures in the green-

house, and how that energy can be moved into adjacent rooms as well. However, there are other experimental projects on the property. For example, the raised beds they recently developed have some interesting features, some tried and true, and some experimental. Large rocks were placed at the base of each bed and PVC pipe inserted to assure aeration of the soil. The beds were then filled with soil and compost, most of which was created on-site via various methods. There are a total of four beds as of our visit. The two southern most facing beds had rocks piled against the wood on the outside and the rocks were held in by a fence material. The question they hope to answer is if the heat the rocks absorb from the sun each day will help extend the growing season by keeping the soil warm enough in autumn. It would be interesting to see the impact on yield. BPEEC’s greenhouse has a number of projects going on. They are currently waiting to receive their predator bugs to consume the white fly infestation; a practice of pest control verses eradication. They allow a portion of what they grow to go to seed as heirloom seed collection is beneficial on so many levels, especially to maintain genetic traits that could be lost via hybrid seed practices. Heirloom seed collection is a regular practice at BPEEC.

A piece of equipment they recently received is intended to grow fodor, a plant food for livestock. It will have four growing shelves with water which cycles through. The manufacturer suggests it has the capacity to grow 60 pounds of food per day, equal to one bale of hay. This piece is about 4’ X 4’ X 4’ requiring very little space to grow that much food. The plan is to feed the alpacas, llama, goats, and chickens that inhabit BPEEC. If this piece is truly effective, think of how beef ranchers could prevent the need for antibiotics by having a readily available food source cattle are designed to digest! Another question they hope to answer, with a little help from Paul Stamets, author of “Fungi Perfecti” is ‘Can Oyster mushrooms be cultivated using an aspen log’. The hope is that the areas they inserted the spores will flourish and new colonies can be moved to another log. Each log requires water only once per week; perfect for our xeric climate. An outside area they are intentionally cultivating is the Pollinator Garden. Simple to start, just seed the designated area before



The wool from their two angora goats and two pygmy cashmere goats can be sheared and spun into yarn.

the first snow and the following spring can provide a colorful array of flowers to draw pollinators. Pollinators are a group of insects known to do the work of pollinating flowers and plants. Some of the pollinators common to the area near Fairplay include a variety of moths, butterflies, solitary bees, colony bees, humming birds, and bats. Because so many types of pollinators are directly impacted



Can adding rocks to the beds extend the growing season or the yeild by increasing temperature?

by the use of pesticides and insecticides, our food supply could potentially be vastly reduced unless we assure there is abundant opportunity for the pollinators to do their jobs. President Obama had some strong statements about the necessity of protecting our pollinators as they assure our food source in a June 20, 2014 Presidential Memorandum, “Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators. See www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/06/20/presidential-memorandum-creating-federal-strategy-promote-health-honey-b

Beaver ponds

A recent flood came through the area and destroyed a good portion of the ranch’s namesake, the beaver ponds. While surely there was a bit of grief over the loss, these scientists understand the beavers will re-create their ponds, probably on or near the property. The flood actually gives opportunity to see how the area adapts to this type of environmental change. Something else that impacts the environment is wildfire. Fire mitigation is the process used to clean up dead trees, ladder fuels, and other spent forest debris. BPEEC has designated five-two-acre plots on a portion of the property to catalogue how the forest responds to mitigation. One section is mitigated each year, while taking notes on changes from what was mitigated the year before. They are enjoying watching the small grasses and flowers appear after the spring after mitigation had taken place the year(s) prior. The area can really help folks understand the importance of fire mitigation. BPEEC is truly dedicated to educating folks of all ages about what it means to be a good steward of the environment. They are delighted when school groups ask for tours because they know the importance of encouraging science for our youth. They have hosted students from Keystone Science School as well as tours for the Boys and Girls Club in Fairplay. They are happy to collaborate with educators from Colorado Mountain College, or graduates from the University of Missouri, and welcome other higher education institutions to visit. They hope to develop paths so the disabled and elderly can also enjoy the educational experience.

To arrange for a visit to BPEEC, call 719-838-0143 or email info@beaverponds.org. This group of educated and dedicated stewards of the environment is eager to spread their knowledge to anyone interested in learning more. BPEEC is a 501(c)3, nonprofit organization that is supported from grants and donations. Mail your donation to Beaver Ponds Environmental Education Center, P.O. Box 995, Fairplay, CO 80440. Donations will help us pay for the many expenses at the Beaver Ponds including animal feed, greenhouse plantings, maintenance of the grounds, and education programs for adults and children. Any amount will help, and your donations are tax deductible.



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CC&V Exploration Day: Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars!

Geological marvels abound in the Pikes Peak Region! Scientists from around the world journey to Colorado to study this geology, but some of those scientists are born, raised and educated right here. Your child could be inspired to become one of those scientists by becoming involved with the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars! The Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars are an active youth group supported by the non-profit Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club organizations. In addition to exploring the hands-on fun of rock, mineral, and fossil collecting in the field, this group of elementary and teenaged students pursue a rigorous curriculum – applying scientific method, performing academic research, publishing articles, and working with professional organizations. Steven Wade Veatch, (with family roots back to the Cripple Creek gold rush), who teaches earth science classes accredited by the Colorado School of Mines and Emporia State University, leads this group of about 40 youth. They attend monthly meetings, go on digs, visit museums and explore the geology around the state to broaden their experience and accumulate data. Then, using this research, Veatch encourages his students to write scientific papers and journalistic articles - helping them publish this work with institutions, journals, magazines and newspapers. Pebble Pubs have been published by the Geological Society of America, the New Mexico Mineral Symposium, Deposits Magazine and Ute Country News to name just a few. In addition, Veatch’s students have done scientific and educational work at leading institutions like the Florissant Fossil Beds, Cripple Creek District Museum, Western Museum of Mining and Industry, Science Olympiad and Colorado Springs Science Festival. Join us to discover how you and your child can become involved in the Pikes Peak Pebble Pup & Earth Science Scholars and for an experiential day that will include: learning about local prospecting methods and locations; using a digital microscope; hearing stories about your neighbor - Milo the Mammoth; “digging” for fossils; and seeing how you might be published. Bring your rocks and minerals for identification and children under 18 will leave with another geological sample or two for their collection!



Steven Veatch examines a rare discovery by Pebble Pup Blake Rehr, of carbonized wood created 32 million years ago by volcanic activity at the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mine.

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Cowgirl Cookie and the Ghost of the Grange

Well, yee haw! It's time for Cowgirl Cookie to solve another mystery in a drama show at the Florissant Grange Hall! This summer's production is entitled "Cowgirl Cookie and the Ghost of the Grange" and will be performed by the Florissant Grange Players, a local youth drama club. The show is the third in the Cowgirl Cookie series written and directed by local children's playwright, Alexi Alfieri. Two performances of this summer's Cowgirl Cookie show will take place on Saturday, August 22nd. The first performance will be a matinee at 2 p.m. that includes refreshments with tickets at \$12.50 each. The second performance will be that evening at 6:30 p.m. and will include a western-style barbecue dinner sure to please with tickets priced at \$20 each.

The Florissant Grange Players is a group of local youth, ages 10 to 16, who have been together since the beginning of June to rehearse for the upcoming Cowgirl Cookie show. The Florissant Grange Players also performed a mystery dinner show entitled "The Secret of the Spoon" at the Grange Hall this past March to the delight of two packed audiences. The drama group is mentored by Alexi Alfieri who writes custom play scripts for young performers and has authored all of the Cowgirl Cookie plays which have become popular within the local community. Her two previous Cowgirl Cookie plays were entitled "Cowgirl Cookie and the Case of the Missing Chocolate Chips" and "Cowgirl Cookie and the Mysterious Disappearance of Grandma Sugar."

"Cowgirl Cookie and the Ghost of the Grange" is an old-fashioned western melodrama and comedy that tells the tale of Cowgirl Cookie, a young heroine who loves a good mystery. This year, Cowgirl Cookie is committed to finding out the truth behind a ghostly presence at the local grange hall. However, she's fairly distracted by an argument with her faithful sidekick, Snickerdoodle, and the disappearance of her beloved pet chicken, Miss Petunia. In the meantime, a very mysterious New Narrator has appeared, the overly confident Sheriff Thumbprint is chasing crazy rumors, and members of the villainous Mustache Gang — Mushy, Crummy, and Soggy — have just been released from jail...much to their dismay. A group of sassy grannies — Miz Snappy, Miz Sticky, and Miz Chewy — have taken comfortable seats on stage and hired on a personal assistant, Mac, to help them interrupt the show whenever possible with advertisements for the local grange. The show is designed to be a hoot and holler for one and all.

Members of the Florissant Grange will provide refreshments for the matinee. For the dinner show, they will be preparing authentic cowboy eats: pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, baked beans, and dessert. To purchase tickets for either the matinee or the dinner show, drop by the Florissant Grange on a Monday or Thursday evening, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. or call 719-748-5004. Seating is limited and previous drama shows performed at the Grange Hall have sold out quickly, so act fast! You don't want to miss the next chapter of Cowgirl Cookie's hilarious adventures!

CPW's Hunter Education offers shooting range grants

by Manda Walters

The 2015 Shooting Range Small Grant Program at 6060 Broadway, Denver, is accepting applications through 5 p.m., Aug. 31. Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Hunter Education program offers shooting range maintenance and improvement grants for selected facilities around the state of Colorado. "Facilities where folks can safely practice shooting skills is an important part of enjoying the outdoors," said Todd Schmidt, CPW's Hunter Education program coordinator. "These funds ensure upkeep and access can continue in a variety of ways."

Approximately five projects are selected annually, with a total of \$20,000 available for grants. Grant requests should be not less than \$500 and not more than \$5,000. Public and private shooting range facilities that allow hunter education classes and public sight-in days are encouraged to apply. Recipients must match the award at least 25 percent with non-federal cash or in-kind services in donated labor and/or supplies and equipment use.

Past funded projects have included an improved parking lot, shooting benches,

target stands, a shade shelter, and a new concrete walkway.

A project proposal is ranked primarily in terms of new and/or improved shooting range opportunities for hunter education, hunter sight-in and practice, and youth participation in shooting sports. Proposed improvements at shooting ranges that are readily available for public use is preferred, but some private use is also permitted.

Funding for the Hunter Education Shooting Range Small Grant Program is generated by federal excise taxes collected on the purchase of firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. The program is managed as a federal grant program to the states ("Section 10 — Hunter Education") by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a "User Pays — User Benefits" involving local community and business partnerships with CPW and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Learn more at <http://cpw.state.co.us/things-to-do/Pages/RangeMaintenanceGrants.aspx> or download the 2015 Shooting Range Grant Application (.doc).

Tabeguache Ute Indians dance at Florissant Fossil Beds

Central Colorado was once home to famous Ute Chiefs like Chief Ouray, his wife Chipeta, and Chief Colorow as well as the Tabeguache Band of the Ute Indians. In 1881, the Tabeguache were forced onto a reservation in Utah, removing them from their ancestral lands and their sacred mountain, Pikes Peak.

Pikes Peak is called "Tava", or Sun, in their language. "Tabeguache" is derived from the Ute word Tava, and it means "People of Sun Mountain." The Pikes Peak Historical Society recognizes that Pikes Peak or Tava, is very sacred to the Tabeguache Ute people and returns members of the Tabeguache people to Tava each year.

The Pikes Peak Historical Society invites

you to celebrate the return of the Tabeguache Ute Indians to their ancestral land as they present their traditional dance at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. This performance will take place in the Fossil Beds amphitheater on Saturday, August 8th at 7 p.m.

This program is presented as a public service of the Pikes Peak Historical Society, and is supported by the Catamount Institute, the Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, White Horse Circle of World Council of Elders, and the Smokebrush Foundation. The Ute dance is free and seating is limited so come early. Dress warmly! For more information, call 719-748-8259 or 719-748-3861.

Back to School at Guffey Community Charter School

Guffey Community Charter School's first day of class for all students, Kindergarten through 8th grade will be Wednesday, August 19th. The school will host registration for all students, on August 14th and 15th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you are attending Guffey School, but cannot make these dates, please call the school so that we can plan a place for your child. (Entrance age requirements for kindergarten are any child may enter if five years old on or before October 1st of the year of enrollment) The school's location is 1459 Main Street in Guffey. Visit the school's website, www.guffeyschool.org, or call the school with any questions 719- 689-2093.

A favor builds a career

by Ed Treese

photos supplied by Ed Treese

I took my first picture in the late 1940s with my mother's Kodak box camera. It was many years later in high school my parents gave me a point and shoot camera, but no photography bug bit me. I had various cameras over the next 50 years and in the early 21st century I, like almost everyone else, upgrade to digital equipment allowing for flexibility in trying many different techniques without development of film costs.

Five years ago I became a professional photographer after receiving a call from my son that he had just taken a new job. He was the Set Dresser for the new Tim Allen show, "Last Man Standing." The show supposedly takes place in Denver, and he said "Dad send me some pictures of Colorado, we don't have any." I, of course, was only too happy to help him, and sent him a CD of Colorado scenery. Since the opening episode my work has been used in almost every show. Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation is still my largest customer.

The people on "Last Man Standing"

have been very easy to work with and

even encouraged to name my company "Outdoorman Photography". My photos are used as what the call "deep background" on the walls of sets, the drafting table, the magnetic board in the kitchen set, and the most utilized the calendar to the right of the refrigerator in the kitchen set. Since they change the calendar photo every week this



Ed Treese with some of his photos at the Park State Bank Exhibit.



Left to right, Ed Treese, Natalie Hibbard of Divide, and her parents Judy and Leonard Puma of Arroyo Grande, CA discussing some of the photos at the Park State Bank Exhibit.

is the easiest place to spot my work. With an average viewing audience of over 6 million people last season my work was seen over 100 million times.

The most obvious picture on set was the 4'X6' picture that was used on the back wall of "Bud's Buds" in the pot shop scene. It features Pikes Peak in the fall. I took the picture six years ago near the intersection of Woodland West Drive and Yale Place.

My project of the moment is to capture the sea gulls that fly around Divide. I hope to be able to frame them with Pikes Peak in the background along with that wonderful Colorado blue sky. I am also looking forward to visiting western Colorado and photographing the many beautiful areas out there.

I currently have exhibits at Park State Bank in Woodland Park and the Gift Shop at Pikes Peak Regional Hospital. The exhibit at the Bank features photos on canvas and will run through the month of August. The exhibit at the hospital features 8X10 framed prints and runs through September.

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Birds of the Ute Country House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

by Mary Menz
photos by Mary Menz

Birds that frequent Chaffee, Fremont, Park, and Teller Counties love the variety of scrub oak, pinyon juniper, coniferous forest, and riparian areas found in this part of Colorado. In this column, you'll learn about the common — and not so common — birds of the Ute Country.

The oft maligned House Wren is loved by many birdwatchers, yet scorned by many more. Readers who remember "The Neighborhood of Make Believe" on the television show Mr. Rogers Neighborhood may recall the puppet King Friday the XIII. He had a wooden pet House Wren aptly named *Troglodytes aedon*, which is the scientific name of the House Wren. Apparently, King Friday XIII (or perhaps Mr. Rogers, himself) was a big fan of the House Wren. Not every birder is a fan of the House Wren, however.

Why not? The very unremarkable House Wren has a habit of destroying the nests or eggs of other birds in its territory, which seriously annoys hardcore birders. Yet, this tiny songbird's glorious, bubbly song more than makes up for its aggressive behavior!

Fiercely territorial

House wrens, in general, peacefully co-exist with other birds in natural habitats. But, when multiple nest boxes or birdhouses are placed too close together, species that normally don't compete for real estate may initiate turf wars. Case in point: the House Wren and its low-down, dirty shenanigans. House Wrens may prevent other birds from using nest boxes or birdhouses by creating dummy nests, destroying other birds' eggs, and even killing nestlings of other bird species.

A dummy nest is easy to spot. A nest box or bird house that is overflowing with small sticks and twigs without any of the usual comforts of a bird home — like feathers, moss, and spider sacs — is a blatant attempt to thwart other birds from using that site. These dummy nests should always be removed, as many times as necessary during the nesting season.

Regularly monitoring nest boxes and

birdhouses is one way to manage turf wars. As soon as a broken or pecked egg is discovered in a nest, remove the egg immediately. Likewise, remove any dead nestlings. Yes, the diminutive House Wren will even kill nestlings of other species. The original nesting bird species (which might include bluebirds, chickadees, nuthatches, or tree swallows) will usually keep on laying eggs and caring for its babies. It is unlawful for humans to remove or destroy the nest of a migratory bird species, but that law does not apply to the House Wren population!

hoppers, and other insect for the six to eight very vocal and hungry nestlings. Like other birds, the parent brings in food and takes out a small fecal sac on nearly every trip to the nest, which results in a relatively "clean" environment for the young to flourish.

Care and feeding of young

House Wrens may be the bane of other bird species, but they are not without casualties of their own. Insects such as wasps, bumblebees, currant worms, and spiders, as well as small mammals like squirrels and chipmunks, can make life miserable for House Wren nestlings and can even cause death of the entire brood. Herbicides and pesticides sprayed on the House Wren's favorite food sources can also spell trouble for the entire family.

Both male and female parents are diligent in the care and feeding of their progeny. The male creates the basic foundation of the nest home, while the female refines the nest by removing any extraneous twigs as well as providing the comforts of home in the form of soft lining materials. Both parents feed the nestlings in fast and furious trips to and from the nest to harvest larvae, moths, grass-



Many reports exist that female House Wrens who have not mated will feed other birds, even other bird species! Both male and female make feeding trips to the nest as often as every two minutes during the day to feed their hungry brood. Inset photo: A destroyed egg.

Praise for the House Wren

This extremely energetic, melodious bird provides a vital service to the community. It consumes vast quantities of insects and provides hours of viewing pleasure while tending to a nest. Even its aggressive scolding when a predator approaches provides an interesting observation of nature at work. One cannot help but admire the House Wren's persistence, while listening to its joyful tune.

Mary Menz is a naturalist and master birder who lives in Ute Country at 9,000'. She first became enamored with nature as a child living in Idaho, where the expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark was studied at an early age. You can reach her at SnowberryBlossom@gmail.com.

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Westbound travelers approaching Divide will see this welcome.



Eastbound traffic will see a sign marking the historic Midland Depot. photos by Dave Martinek

Welcome to Divide The anthology of a sign

by David Martinek

After 12 years of thinking about it, and five years of active planning and work, the Divide Chamber of Commerce has finally, and proudly, erected a welcoming sign for the Divide Community — the culmination and realization of a dream.

The triangular sign rises over the road surface of U.S. Highway 24 on three 30-foot poles in the northeast corner of the Midland Depot property, about a mile east of the intersection with Highway 67. Westbound travelers will notice it prominently as they zip through the area, and perhaps think about where they are, while eastbound travelers viewing the other side will see a marker for the historic railroad station. Sandwiched on the north side between the two sign faces is an iron silhouette of a train.

"We are proud to live in Divide," said Lisa Lee, president of the Divide Chamber. "Finally, we have a beautiful sign to welcome locals and travelers alike. People will know that they are in this wonderful community of Divide."

It may seem like a simple project — to erect a sign to welcome people to an area, but the actual accomplishment was much more complicated. This is the story.

The beginning

There used to be a smaller sign welcoming travelers to Divide. It sat in the meadow (on the right for westbound drivers) just before the intersection into Meadow Park. That was when Highway 24 was only two lanes. But when the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) widened the road around 2002-'03, the sign disappeared. It has been a project of the Divide Chamber of Commerce to replace it ever since.

Around 2010 CDOT did install a green highway sign (with some prodding) for the westbound lanes identifying Divide. While appreciated, it is far too small and is just a marker. However, CDOT's action prompted the Chamber to re-energize its efforts to develop welcoming signs along all major roads leading into Divide. The original thought was that a community sign would be placed on both the east and westbound lanes of Highway 24, and another on the northbound lane of Highway 67 south. But that's when the obstacles began to appear.

Negotiating with CDOT

Initial inquiries with CDOT regarding a

special use permit to install the signs began around 2011, and that's where the Chamber ran into its first series of roadblocks (no pun).

CDOT had a hard time justifying community welcoming signs for a community that wasn't incorporated. Divide may be the oldest settlement in Teller County, but it has never been a legal city or a town. When CDOT was reminded that while Florissant was no longer incorporated, it still had "founding" signs along the highway, the Chamber was told that those signs were grandfathered, and that CDOT no longer allowed such signs today.

Getting signs erected in Teller County is a challenge anyway. One will notice that the major roads and the state and U.S. highways running through the county are void of any billboards, except perhaps for those signs (including electronic ones) put up by CDOT themselves. It seemed like a dead end right off the bat.

But after some discussion, particularly with the Midland Depot property owner, the Chamber decided to forgo plans to post signs along all the major roads leading into Divide in favor of seeking a permit to erect only one sign on the depot grounds that was large enough and high enough to be seen by both east and westbound traffic. CDOT was a little more receptive to that plan, especially since the sign wouldn't be installed along the road-side right-of-way, but on private property. However, they still had a problem with a sign marking an unincorporated area. What to do?

As conversations with CDOT continued (for many months off and on), it was encouraging to realize after a while that they were not necessarily trying to prevent a sign from being installed; they were just attempting to work through their own policies. The CDOT inspector in Colorado Springs was more favorable to a sign on private property. In fact, the depot property owner had suggested that idea himself. The inspector also agreed that they might be more receptive to a sign if it served more than one purpose. For example, the Chamber might consider a sign welcoming folks to Divide on one side, and on the other side marking the historic location of the Midland Depot. That suggestion fit nicely with the signage anticipated in the master plan for the depot anyway.

Another idea was to get the Teller County Board of County Commissioners to pass a resolution approving such a sign. In August 2012, the Teller County BOCC did, indeed,

pass a resolution approving a welcoming and historical sign for Divide. Things were looking up for the Chamber.

As a result of these actions and progress, the Chamber began planning for one much larger and more descriptive sign to be installed in the corner of the Midland Depot property which could be seen from Highway 24 in both directions and which also served as a marker for the historic Midland Depot. With the help of the community, several sign designs were floated and feedback requested. Over the course of the following years, the current design evolved, with the latest re-design being the addition of the iron silhouette of a train instead of just a drawing. The iron work to create the train was contributed by Tod Tobiasson of Creative Edge Building Consultants. Another important donation came from Above Treeline Construction, located at 12625 West Highway 24 near Divide. They contributed the three 30-foot poles upon which the eventual sign would be mounted. In addition, several Chamber members donated money or materials to help the project along.

The permitting process; waiting

With a final design, the infrastructure envisioned, and the private property available to erect the sign (including permissions from the property owner and the lease holder), the Divide Chamber officially applied for a sign installation permit from CDOT in February 2014. They also enlisted a sign painter, Ken Klug, and an architect, CRS Architects in Woodland Park, to create the sign and engineer the framework to support it. These, plus the county's resolution, CDOT's permit approval, and an engineered infrastructure would be needed to apply for a Teller County sign permit.

But the first step was getting CDOT approval, which took longer than expected — 10 months. After repeated requests for status, and maybe a little lobbying through other sources, CDOT finally approved a permit in November 2014.

The next step was to secure a general contractor and apply for the sign permit through Teller County Planning. Andersen Enterprises, Inc. in Woodland Park was selected as the contractor. They were the firm who had done the great work rehabilitating the foundation of the Midland Depot two years earlier. Application to Teller County Planning was made in December 2014 which included some revisions to the infrastructure and framework design to strengthen the whole

continued on next page

apparatus. After all, the sign was going to rise some 28 feet into the air and measure 14 feet by 8 feet. Issues like foundation stability and wind loading had to be considered. Permit approval to install the sign was obtained from Teller County Planning in February 2015.

Then the waiting began. As most everyone realizes, we have snow in the wintertime in the Pikes Peak area, lots of it, and it gets cold. It's not that we had huge snow storms over this last winter dumping feet of snow here and there, it just snowed often. When the weather cleared, it would be too cold and difficult to excavate in frozen ground. When the snows evolved into rain in April and May, and the grounds thawed, they were too wet and muddy. Accessing the intended sign area was a challenge.



Divide Chamber's Vice President Dave Martinek (left) and President Lisa Lee celebrate the completion of the sign at the Divide Chamber meeting July 8th. photo by Jeff Hansen

A brief description of the area where the sign was erected is needed here. The property between the depot and Highway 24 includes a depression that drains the water runoff from Weaverville Road and beyond to the east past the Meadow Park intersection and on further through the front of the Clark Ranch. The immediate property to the north of the depot is a wet area. Underneath this wet area is an old abandoned aqueduct. The sight where the sign was to be erected is across the wet area in the northeast corner of the depot parcel, equidistant from the highway embankment boundary fence and the Clark Ranch boundary fence. The contour of the embankment south of Highway 24 descends sharply down to the depot property about 15 feet (the reason for the 30-foot poles), after which the ground levels out into a gentle slope to the wet area.

The short story concerning weather delays is that access to the sign sight couldn't really be obtained, particularly for heavy equipment such as cement trucks, a crane or a man-lift, until around the middle of May and afterward, although the foundation holes for the poles were excavated towards the end of April.

More delays; preparing for installation

When work could finally begin in earnest, an unanticipated construction obstacle appeared. The foundation for the poles was engineered to be five feet deep and incased in concrete so that the top of poles would rise above the highway guard rail with enough exposure to mount the signs for good visibility. But when the holes were dug the last of April, it was discovered that the ground was loose clay and sand all the way to the bottom, not decomposed granite as was expected.

Apparently, when Highway 24 was widened 12 or 13 years ago, the excavation of the embankments and surrounding rights-of-way caused a lot of fill dirt and road base to be deposited over the natural soil just north of the wet area along the depot property. So when the holes for the pole foundations were dug, they were dug through the road base. With visions of a sign sailing down Ute Pass in the first heavy wind, it was obvious that the foundations would have to be re-engineered — more delay and more cost.

With the help of Alpine Engineering in Woodland Park, a rebar-reinforced footing was designed upon which the casing for the pole foundations would rest. The foundation was poured in May and allowed to cure. The consistent rains during the month made the area very soggy which caused more delay until the ground dried out. Finally, the poles were set on the foundation and cement poured up above the ground surface in early June. About 12 yards of concrete were used to pour the footing and foundations for the three poles. Mid-length up the poles a metal supporting bar

was installed to further stabilize them. Then a frame work was mounted on the poles upon which the sign would eventually be attached.

The actual sign was delivered to the depot property around the first of June. The ground to and from the sign location and around the sign had dried sufficiently to allow a crane and man lift (for mounting the sign) to access the area. Sign installation was eminent. However, there was one more interruption that was certainly not anticipated.

Sign installation

Finally, the day came during the second week of June when Andersen crews were ready to mount the sign on the framework of the three, severely reinforced, 30-foot poles. But, as they

were working, the Chamber received a call from the permit inspector at CDOT asking that they suspend work on the sign because CDOT has received two anonymous complaints that the sign was "obstructing the view." What view was being obstructed was never determined, although CDOT personnel did come to investigate the matter. Apparently, a Colorado citizen can access CDOT's website and file a complaint about anything — signs included. The Chamber complied and ceased erection of the sign until the matter could be resolved.

In conversations with CDOT later (the next Monday), it was learned that they receive complaints about signage all the time, in great numbers, but that the Chamber's sign was not really obstructing any traffic (CDOT's conclusion), nor did it impose a safety issue. The inspector in Colorado Springs had talked with Teller County Planning and had personally visited the area over the weekend. A compromise was worked out to allow installation to continue. The Chamber agreed to lower the sign a few feet on the poles, so as not to appear as high, and CDOT agreed to forward all future complaints about the sign to the Divide Chamber so that they could respond to them with the reasons why the sign was erected in the first place. The sign was lowered accordingly, requiring a revisit by a crane — even more delay and more expense.

Persistence pays off

But finally it happened! To the excitement and pleasure of the Board of Directors of the Divide Chamber of Commerce and its members, the Welcome to Divide sign was officially erected on June 25, 2015! To date, the Chamber has received numerous compliments for the inspiration, design, and beauty of the sign — and not one direct complaint.

All totaled, sign installation costs were double the estimate for installation, due mainly to the need to re-engineer the foundation and the delays caused by CDOT. The Chamber is still accepting donations and raising additional funds to pay for the sign.

The "Welcome to Divide" sign project has been a labor of love for the Divide Chamber for nearly 12 years. It's not easy to keep faith with an idea over the span of so many years. But the overwhelming support from the county, chamber members, and the local community has been the fuel that has kept the project alive. The reality of any project, though, is in working through issues and overcoming the obstacles. So the next time someone offers a simple solution to a complex problem during casual conversation, one can refer back to all the episodes and issues faced by the Divide Chamber of Commerce to install a sign that promotes the Divide community.

It's just not that easy!

(Afterward: The Divide Chamber of Commerce deeply appreciates all the contributions, assistance, encouragement, and support from the Divide community, the Teller County Board of County Commissioners, Teller County Planning, Pete Kuyper, the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition, CRS Architects, Alpine Engineering, Above Treeline Construction, Tod Tobiasson of Creative Edge Building Consultants, Ken Klug, for making the sign and even CDOT; and special appreciation goes to Carl Andersen and the crew of Andersen Enterprises, Inc. for their patience, flexibility, problem-solving and workmanship. Thanks to all!)



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A Mountain Seed: A thousand grandparents

by Jessica Kerr
photo by Anna Cortese

Warm breezes, blowing from the south, caress our faces, holding the hand of spring. The geese, ducks, robins, kingfishers, and butterflies follow this draught. Up from the south, from warmer winter places, come all kinds of things. Snow turns to rain with this breeze’s warmth. Bears smell it and wake up. Rabbits, martens, and deer change color. Grandparents pack up their RVs and head north — or from wherever they hale.

In our summertime mountains, one might find all sorts of people. Here in our high hills, with summer’s abundance come a plethora of visitors. Rafter, tourists, summer staff, snowbirds, and college kids all come to this beautiful place. One such group I’ve come to know well are the summertime RVers.

These fantastic people can be identified by their large rigs, souped-up jeeps, bumper stickers, souvenir regalia, and white or graying hair. They carry a fishing pole in one hand and a laundry basket in the other. Adorning their head is oftentimes a U.S. Army ball cap or sunhat. Among their names are perhaps the most interesting you may ever see. Their companions are small, furry, and toddle about happily. Their days are filled with hiking, fishing, jeeping, beading, laundry-washing, reading, TV-watching, and story-telling. Most of these people are someone’s grandparents.

I remember well the day my grandpa Heading died. It is the dream of every child to wake up to two feet of snow and hear that there will be no school that day. The snow fell heavily, so the ground was covered with a soft blanket on December 7th, 2007. Right after we received a call from the school announcing that school was cancelled, we got a call from my grandma. My grandpa, age 73, had passed in his sleep. Though the day was full of joy for me, it was horrendous for my mom. No one knew it would happen...it just did. I was in seventh grade. I did not yet understand what death really meant and how I would miss my grandparents when I was older. All children go through the stages of appreciation for their elders: we all take our elders for granted until a certain age, when we’re old enough learn to ask questions of our grandparents. All of mine left this earth before I learned the importance of our older teachers.

Our older teachers are our most important ones. They’ve trodden this soil before; they know the right steps and the wrong ones. They’ve seen wars, troubled times, and joy more than any of us have. They can show us how to remain joyous even after we’ve seen all of that horror that life brings us. Through the stories of our elders, we may learn how to live life well without having to find out the hard way. Stories themselves are important because they are the vehicle of understanding. Because I work in an RV park, I rub elbows with these “old people” every

day, and I gain much from their presence. I first saw Bert at the Tuesday morning coffee hour Valley RV Park hosts. He was tall and tan and spoke with an accent. Foreign languages — and the English accent of their speakers — intrigue me. I love to listen to people’s voices. Needless to say, Bert interested me immediately. However, I came to learn that his story was far more interesting than his voice.

As young Americans, we hear often of the courage of those who fought for our freedom in the World Wars. But we don’t often hear of any other heroes than our own. This is sad because there are many foreign heroes from that time besides our own.

As a boy during the World War II, Bert had been forcibly conscripted into the Nazi army. Imagine the horrors he endured. By looking at him, one would never guess the things he has seen. He was always smiling, had a great (and funny) story to tell and walked nearly everywhere he went. Many of us might ask how someone who suffered so much may be as joyous as he is. Bert is a prime example of how your story may have a rough beginning, but a wonderful ending.

Another hero: Russ is the first summertime tenant I remember meeting. His 45 foot long rig sits right in front of the office door, easily in view. In front of it sat a red motorcycle. Russ is about 93 years old — he has gone skydiving for the last couple of years for his birthday and his only mode of transportation is his motorcycle. This year he traded in his red one for a white Spyder — in short, a pretty BA (in the words of my peers) ride. I’m sure he makes many young people jealous. This just goes to show all of us young ones that we aren’t as cool as we think we are.

All of these golden-agers have taught me something and I’m grateful to have the time with them that I do. Though I have no real grandparents on earth, I still have grandpar-ents. I have a thousand of them; a thousand to check up on me, to show concern for my livelihood, wellbeing, future, and even grades. They treat me no different than one of their own grandkids, holding back no hugs, words of encouragement, words of advice, or love. Even if they have no grandchildren of their own, they can still be a grandparent to someone like me.

Storytelling is vital to our existence. We are creatures that tell stories to remember, to make a point, to compare, and to teach. We tell stories to our parents, our children, our friends, our journals, and while we sleep we even tell stories to ourselves through dreams. Our elders are the best storytellers: they have more experience in the world and more experience in the telling itself. Grandparents are the best tellers of tales because the future (me, my friends) listens to them. Grandpar-ents enhance their grandchildren’s lives; I am lucky, because I have a thousand of them.

TellerNetCast launches broadcasting company

TellerNetCast has launched the first community broadcasting company for Teller County. The company is the primary source for up-to-date information about the county for its residents and visitors. Based in Woodland Park, TellerNetCast.com offers video and radio programming that focuses on live news, events, activities, and commerce in Teller County.

The company has been created by long time, community-involved resident, A.J. Hotchkiss. During the tragic events of the 2002 Hayman fire, A.J. served as Incident Commander for the Florissant area. The fire engulfed thousands of acres and when extinguished, A.J. reflected on the difficulty of communications from authorities and general lack of information available to the public. This necessity spurred him to introduce a website that easily provided local public news and information.

TellerNetCast has also developed a network of area residents who will serve as on-the-spot reporters for news that matters to the Teller County community.

Mission Statement

TellerNetCast is the local provider for community information with breaking news,

7 ways to protect your water

by The Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Water is easy to take for granted. It’s everywhere, and we use it so often that having high quality water can sometimes seem like a given rather than a privilege. But having clean water for everything from drinking to recreation requires a concerted effort and shared responsibility. Small, daily steps to keep the water we use every day clean go a long way to ensuring this natural resource is available and usable for humans and ecosystems for generations to come.

1. Pack it in, pack it out

One of the most visible contaminants that can end up in our water is trash. Whether you’re out enjoying a picnic in the woods or just taking a walk around your neighborhood, ensuring that everything you take with you comes back home or makes it into a trash can or recycling bin reduces the amount of litter in our waterways. Anything left on the ground will eventually make its way into a water body as rainwater and runoff pick up debris and find their way to a river or stream.



Anything left on the ground will eventually make its way into a water body as rainwater and runoff pick up debris and find their way to a river or stream.

2. Maintain your septic system

A properly functioning septic system helps keep nearby well water and downstream water clean. Unlike being hooked up to a city system, having a septic system means you are responsible for keeping the system in good shape and not contaminating other sources of water. Pumping your septic tank regularly, about every two to four years, is the best way to avoid buildup that can lead to system failure and unleash disease-causing microbes into our shared waterways. Never putting diapers, paper towels, tampons, grease, solvents, oil, paint, and other similar substances down the drain also helps avoid clogging the system and having to do expensive repairs. Keeping a diagram with the location of your septic system and updated records of septic system maintenance and any repairs is a good way to ensure you are avoiding damage and keeping up with needed maintenance.

3. Prepare for wildfire

Our environment needs fire to thrive. As part of a fire-adapted ecosystem, we must do our part to prepare for inevitable fires that will burn where we live. Taking simple steps like pruning trees six to 10 feet off the ground, keeping gutters clean, replacing flammable materials like mulch and leafy debris immediately adjacent to homes with fire-resistant materials like rock, and making sure firewood is at least 30 feet away from your home can greatly reduce the risk of fire consuming your house. When whole communities work together to prepare for wildfire, the likelihood that a fire gets out of control and causes widespread destruction is reduced. In addition to health, safety, and property benefits, preparing for wildfire also has ecosystem and water quality benefits. Catastrophic fires lead to increased flooding and erosion, which introduces a steady supply of ash, sediment, and other contaminants into our waterways for years to come.

4. Control weeds

Besides being a nuisance, noxious weeds can cause serious damage to the environment and water quality. The most threatening weeds are classified as noxious if they aggressively invade native plant communities or crops; can poison livestock; can carry damaging insects, disease, or parasites; or are detrimental to the environment. Examples of noxious weeds that commonly grow in our area include musk thistle, spotted knapweed, yellow toadflax, and

Lovell Gulch trail improvement

On August 15, the Pikes Peak Group of the Colorado Mountain Club will begin working to improve the Lovell Gulch Trail north of Woodland Park. We need volunteers to help build new smooth trail around some eroded sections, and rehabilitate the old route. No experience is needed — all tools and training will be provided by the CMC or by the Forest Service. Sign up at www.cmc.org/stewardship. Contact Tom Mowle at tom@rampartprosolutions.com if you have any questions. There will be additional workdays on September 19 and October 17, and additional work next year.



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John Vollmecke and his alpacas

by Charlotte Burrous
photos by Charlotte Burrous

On top of Eight Mile Hill on Highway 50 west of Canon City, John Vollmecke has found tranquility.

It hasn't always been easy. For years, he worked a high pressure job at the federal prison complex, south of Florence, where he found it hard to relax after spending the day behind the walls. So he looked for a way to find peace.

During his lunch hour one day, his life changed when he saw an ad for an alpaca. After calling the owner, Vollmecke said he became fascinated with the idea of raising



John Vollmecke displays balls of yarn he created out of the alpaca fiber in his shop.

the South American camelids.

"The first time I saw an alpaca, I fell in love right away," he said. "I talked to (my wife Glenda, who) was a little bit hesitant about it."

After further research, the couple drove to Parker, where they saw three alpacas look at them when they entered a barn.

"That just did it for Glen (and I)," Vollmecke added.

So they purchased two pregnant females, a male and a small alpaca known as a cria then they returned home, where they built a fence, a shelter and set up everything to raise them. Along the way, the alpacas started having babies. While John worked, Glen had to deliver the babies.

At first, John enjoyed feeding and watering them as well as talking to them, which filled him with joy, just knowing they were theirs.

Along the way, he had the alpacas sheared, but wondered what to do with the fiber. He soon realized the obvious answer was to make yarn from it. After researching on the Internet, he learned alpaca fiber is not itchy and is ideal for clothing. He said it was softer than cashmere, is nearly indestructible and much lighter and warmer than wool. One alpaca produces seven to 10 pounds of fleece.

At night and on weekends, he continued to collect the fiber. At one point, he took spin-

ning tours around the state.

In his own backyard, he met Dawn Hall, who had a yarn shop in Florence. But after taking several classes, he said he couldn't get his feet and hands to work together. About that time, he attended a fiber festival in Estes Park, where he saw a woman spinning the fiber on a double treble machine, using her hands and feet together. It took him 20 minutes to learn.

That was the beginning of making it easier for him. He continued to have the alpacas sheared once a year before shaking off the dirt, straw or hay out of the fiber before washing it in a product called Kookaburra, which treats it in case there are any mites or moth eggs in it. After learning the techniques, he became involved with a machine knitters group, who took him under their wings and gave him lessons along with a bunch of patterns. As he honed his skills, he purchased a spinning wheel, a carding machine and a nibbly nobby to stretch the yarn, as well as a knitting machine then took classes to learn how



Two alpacas run inside a fence on John Vollmecke's property on Eight Mile Hill west of Canon City.



John Vollmecke works with the fiber in his shop on Eight Mile Hill west of Canon City.

to use it. During the process, he adopted each machine to fit his own needs, he said.

As he collected the yarn, he looked for items to create. The first piece he created was a shawl that came over the shoulders and pulled over the head. Not only is it a neck warmer, but also a scarf. From there, his repertoire has grown to creating scarves, hats, sweaters, socks and other merchandise in a variety of colors. Along the way, he began to sell them online and through local shops.

Best of all, he has learned to relax. It's easier since he has retired and can spin, knit, and mix the yarn any time day or night.

For more information, check the website at alpacausus.net.

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The Short Drive That Goes A Long Way



Inside North Korea

A local Woodland Park resident visits the Democratic People's Republic of Korea - Part 4 (The propaganda: a Utopian Communist State)

by Dave Martinek
photos by John Ramey.

(Forward: This is the concluding article in a four-part series chronicling the tour of North Korea taken in the fall of 2014 by John Ramey, a young internationally known entrepreneurial consultant and a part-time resident of Woodland Park.)

In 2014, a Canadian-born economic specialist, J. T. Singh, and a British videographer, Rob Whitworth, created a slick three-minute propaganda video for Pyongyang's National Tourist Administration, dubbed "Enter Pyongyang." The project was sponsored by Koryo Tours, a Beijing company that has offered "carefully guided tours" of North Korea since 1993. According to an August 2014 story in the "International Business Times" *North Korea Spreads Propaganda Message With Tourism Video Aimed At Western Internet - the video "is a gorgeously shot glimpse into a world that few outsiders, and even fewer Westerners, have had a chance to experience."*

The article continues, "North Korea knows it has a serious public relations problem. The world's most isolated nation has drawn international condemnation for forcing its population of 25 million to endure shocking levels of starvation while forcing dissenters into brutal concentration camps. Rather than correct these problems, though, and attempt to join the international community, the government of Kim Jong-Un has instead sought to save face by authorizing glossy propaganda videos that depict Pyongyang in a positive light."

John Ramey, the Woodland Park resident who visited North Korea in the fall of 2014, is one of those "fewer Westerners" who echoes those sentiments with first-hand knowledge. He personally saw the attempt by the North Korean regime to present a sanitized image of their country despite tremendous, visible contradictions. Ramey's experiences were reinforced by North Korea's stance on reunification with South Korea.

"They talked a TON about reunification, but it was all B.S.," he said. "They said the U.S. has been holding South Korea hostage since the 50s, and that the South Korean people are starving and can't wait to come home. They said one of the important ideals is that reunification needs to happen 'without outside influence.' A bronze statue in Pyongyang shows a scene of South Korean people putting their hands up asking for help from the north, and then another scene has them providing food."

The efforts of North Korea's National Tourist Administration to paint a "rosy" picture of their country were further illustrated by a number of programmed tours during Ramey's time in country.

"Everywhere we went, the area seemed to be the 'top something' in the nation," Ramey remembered. "This town is top production town. Top export are tractor, tractor parts, and tractor maintenances. The guide who said that sounded a lot like Borat. They all had a problem pronouncing the 'Y' at the end of their words."

"One of my favorite tours was of their 'Top Economic University.' It was a huge building but something was obviously not right. There were no students walking around. But since we couldn't just call them out on how odd that looked, someone got crafty and asked 'um, how many students go here?' Ten thousand was the answer. 'Um, where is everyone?' They told us they were all at lunch. It was like 2:30 in the afternoon.

"We toured a supermarket. Look at all the food we thought! In reality, North Korea has major food problems and long-term famine, yet they wanted to craft this image for us (just like everything else) that they were superior and had plenty of food. They took us to this market just to show us how much food they had. We were of course the only people there, and you couldn't buy most of it. It was just rows of old cans of spam, etc. We had access to buy foreign stuff like Coke and Doritos, but they were black marketed from Singapore and Malaysia.

"Our meals were always (relatively) extravagant. But it was so obvious. One time I peeked around a corner after dinner and saw them saving all the leftover table scraps from our plates, combining it back into bowls for later. Our meals looked nice, but they were mostly rice and cabbage, very little meat. No beef. One night we got a whole chicken thigh and wing, but it had maybe two bites of meat on the whole thing.

"They took us to a 'resort' that was like a bad horror movie with 1950s decor. It had a 'mineral hot bath' in the room. The information packet claimed the hot bath cured all kinds of stuff, including gynecological inflammation. There was no one else there but us. The employees who worked there probably saw very few people, and yet they had to show up every day ready for visitors. They had to start the generator to provide electricity to the resort while we were there.

"On another tour we were taken into an English class. When we walked in, the class started and the teacher did this act where she praised the students but told five percent of them to work harder. Then they invited me up to the front of the class to talk and answer questions, which was scary — what do I tell them about America without being executed? Turns out it wasn't to actually answer questions. They asked questions, alright, but you could tell the whole point was a demonstration to our group that they knew English very well and were 'open minded.' The questioners were pre-picked and were dressed in 1950s-80s western wear instead of their normal uniform. I tried to get them all to wave for a picture, but they didn't understand the idea or were scared. As we left, the teacher wrote on the board 'Discipline' and starting talking about the importance of being disciplined for the Party. That was a trip! Heart was racing!

"We finally visited the famous DMZ, the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. There are buildings and numerous flag poles facing each other across the border, as well as guards. When we walked close to the border, the South Korean guards would back off a little bit. I heard that after a tourist was shot in 2008, South Korean soldiers would back off to de-escalate tension when there were guests approaching from the North Korean side.

"Inside a North Korean complex we were shown where the cease fire was signed, called the American Table. The military presenter was mean muggin' in our face and talking every time about the U.S. Imperialist Dogs. We were told the Americans were so embarrassed and distraught with shame that they used the UN flag instead of their own; and then once they signed, the tears in their eyes made them forget to take everything with them. So the North Koreans put glass cases around the artifacts to memorialize the U.S.'s shameful defeat. I bribed a North Korean guard on the DMZ border with a pack of cigarettes to take a picture."

Ramey summed up his trip to North Korea by admitting that he was very scared during the days before going to Pyongyang. "A few days in I got more comfortable with where the lines were, and I made some government friends, through bribes, to hopefully have someone to fall back on if I needed them," recalled Ramey. "But even after a while, I was always aware of what I was saying and who was around me — 24/7 — especially as an American. I had a higher sense of that weight than perhaps the others did. It is incredibly draining to have to filter yourself for days nonstop, which could be very difficult when they started telling you something absolutely absurd. It's hard not to show a little smirk or roll your eyes when they are looking directly at you and saying that North Korea invented electricity and spoons, won the World Cup, and had been to the moon.

"It is also scary when they are asking you questions, because on the one hand you want to answer them in the hopes that maybe you'll get through to one of them, but on the other hand there are stories of government people asking tourists questions as a form of bait. I was told a number of Americans have been sentenced to labor prison camps because some of them were spreading 'revolution ideas' in response to such interactions.

"For example, some of my handlers got curious about my lack of a normal job, and what it means to be an entrepreneur/business owner, etc. It was so foreign to them. But I was really watching myself to not say words like 'freedom' or speak of ideas around private ownership and wealth.

"Sometimes foreigners think I'm military or a veteran because of my shaved head. So I let my hair grow out a little for the trip. And when I was in tense areas like the DMZ or the Palace viewing the bodies of the 'Dear Leaders,' I would slouch, keep my mouth kind of open, and look meek so as not to draw attention to myself. And, I would stay close to the guys that looked the most like me, so that if they spoke and people heard German, they would assume I was, too. Our group often communicated non-verbally, using sign language or movie quotes, or other references the North Koreans wouldn't understand.

"Looking back," concluded Ramey, "there were times when I and others did feel like we got too comfortable. You'd think you were alone and say something, and then regret it and think 'dammit, I shouldn't have said that, I shouldn't have taken that risk.'"

Ramey is glad he went (and came back); a lifetime experience to remember forever. Perhaps his story is one that will make us all appreciate our freedoms all the more.

(A footnote: John Ramey reported that he recently turned down an offer to return to North Korea for another visit in September.)

Sources: John Ramey; Wikipedia; International Business Times — to view the video, "Enter Pyongyang," go to: <http://www.ibtimes.com/north-korea-spreads-propaganda-message-tourism-video-aimed-western-internet-1656690>.

I bribed a North Korean military guard at the DMZ border with South Korea with a pack of cigarettes to take a picture.



The bronze scene on the South Korean side (left) shows the people starving, putting their hands up asking for help from the north, and then the northern scene (right) has them (North Korea) providing food.



Umm, how many students go here? Ten thousand. Where is everyone? Lunch.



I tried to get them all to wave for a picture, but they didn't understand the idea or were scared to (except for my homie in the second row!). The people in the back (waving) are my group.



This dude was mean muggin' and every time talking about the U.S. Imperialist Dogs! That blue building in the middle (in South Korea) opens on both ends. When we got close, the South Korean guards backed off a little bit.



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Mother Nature's wrath

by Danielle Dellinger

Spring Maiden and Summer Girl stared down at Mother Nature and the forest spirit. The energy in the air sparked and crackled, causing Summer Girl's hair to stand up on the back of her neck. Spring Maiden ground her teeth together as a pit formed in her stomach. She thought the forest spirit looked rather worried. She made eye contact with it briefly before it looked up at the clouds quickly gathering overhead. It then took off running through the valley, disappearing from view behind some trees. The girls looked up at the clouds as they darkened to gray. Something appeared to be moving inside them. They looked back down at Mother Nature, but it was hard to see her expression. She might have been smirking at them for all they knew.

She then vanished into thin air as a tremendous roar was heard from above, just as the clouds parted. . .

"Run!" Summer Girl shouted, turning and running as a white dragon dove out of the clouds straight toward them.

"The Guardian Flower!" screamed Spring Maiden, sprinting back to the trembling plant. She started digging it up, flinging dirt everywhere.

Summer Girl's moose grunted and started pawing at the dirt to help.

"Forget it!" Summer Girl yelled. "We have to—" Another roar from the dragon cut her off.

"Almost there," Spring Maiden panted, tugging at the base of the flower, trying to free the roots.

"Just grab it!" Summer Girl ran back to them and yanked up the Guardian Flower, making it squeal. She then grabbed Spring Maiden's hand, and they all went running down the foothill, hopping over rocks as fast as they could. They were almost into the trees when a beam of snow and ice hit the ground behind them, catapulting them all forward. They tumbled and rolled, bouncing into trees and rocks. The moose moaned pathetically with each hit it took.

They eventually came to a stop near the bottom of the foothill. Spring Maiden didn't move, staying curled around the Guardian Flower. Summer Girl was momentarily knocked unconscious, but she came around with a sharp inhale just as the dragon flew right over them. Thankfully, the trees mostly blocked them from view. As the dragon passed and began to circle higher into the sky, the air took on an arctic chill. Frost began to ap-

pear on the grass and pine needles. Summer Girl gave a startled gasp as her breath rose out in front of her. She looked to her fellow guardian, and panicked when she saw that Spring Maiden was still unresponsive, as frost crept along the ground toward her. Summer Girl looked to her moose, beckoning him over. Her chest tightened when she saw him limping. He lowered his head down to his companion, and she grabbed onto an antler near its base. He carefully pulled her up to her feet, then together they limped over to Spring Maiden as fast as they could.

The moose nudged Spring Maiden's shoulder with his nose. She quietly groaned and her eyes fluttered open.

"We have to go," Summer Girl whispered to her friend. "Get up. Hurry." She held out her hand.

Spring Maiden carefully sat up and took Summer Girl's hand. It was a struggle to get her feet under her, but she finally managed. The flower was protectively pinned to her chest.

"What do we do?" she asked Summer Girl.

Summer Girl looked up. "We need to find a safe place to hide first." She started to say more, but a roar came from above and progressively grew louder. She grabbed Spring Maiden's wrist and started tugging her deeper into the woods.

A moment later, another beam of ice and snow struck near them. Trees fell and exploded with the force and the ice shards that easily shattered through them. They all felt debris hit them; one good-size chunk of wood pegged Summer Girl in the back of the head. She had enough presence of mind to muffle her cry of pain. As far as she could tell, the dragon wasn't quite sure of their location. But apparently the dragon still heard her, and blasted another powerful beam at them.

Summer Girl managed to get onto her moose's back as they ran. She then pulled Spring Maiden up with her. The moose took off at a gallop, ignoring the pain in its leg. The frost rapidly spread across the ground, posing the greatest threat to Spring Maiden because she was plant-like. Frost forms when the temperature drops and the moisture in the air condenses into dew. It then freezes on plants at thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit. If the temperature drops far enough that the plant cells freeze, non-hardy plants die. The frost was already several feet in front of them. Summer Girl peered around Spring Maiden's shoulder when she heard her teeth start to chatter. Frost clung to her hair and eyebrows. Summer Girl wrapped her arms firmly around her friend, trying to warm her up.

A couple minutes later the moose grunted, and Summer Girl looked forward to see that there was a clearing up ahead. She grabbed the fur on the back of the moose's neck, pulling on it to get him to stop, which he did abruptly. Summer Girl looked up to find the dragon, but she couldn't see or hear anything. She fidgeted as she tried to decide what to do.

"We have to run," whispered Spring Maiden, her teeth still chattering. "It'll find us if we stay still too long. It's our only chance."

"I know," Summer Girl muttered in her ear. "But it'll be game over for us if we run out into the open."

"It's our only choice. . ."

Summer Girl shook her head. "No. We can turn around."

"Back to the foothill? We can't. We'll be way more of a target there, with no easy escape."

"But we might have a ch—"

"We won't," Spring Maiden murmured sternly, looking over her shoulder at Summer Girl with a firm look. She then looked forward and kicked her heels into the moose's sides. "Go!"

The moose bolted forward, almost throwing them off. They weren't even to the middle of the clearing when there was a roar and the sound of flapping wings.

"Go, go!" shouted Spring Maiden, kicking the moose's sides again.

The ground rumbled and shook as the dragon made a less-than-graceful landing behind them. They heard it growl and snap its jaws together. Now that it was only mere feet away, the cold air went straight to their bones. Moving became extremely difficult, especially for Spring Maiden. Snow began to fall and a biting frost started to climb up their limbs and burn their skin. The moose could only limp along again, the extreme cold causing his injury to ache deeply.

"K-keep going," Spring Maiden stuttered. Her whole body shook violently as she shivered.

Summer Girl held on to her tightly. "We're not gonna make it," she moaned, her face hidden in Spring Maiden's neck and hair.

"Don't say that," hissed Spring Maiden.

The moose let out a groan and tried to pick up the pace, especially when he realized that the dragon was crawling quickly after them like a hungry alligator.

Spring Maiden looked behind them, and then kicked the moose's sides again with her heels. "Please, go!"

The moose groaned and mustered up some more strength, managing to lope along. They were near the other side of the clearing by now. The dragon stretched out its neck and caught the moose on his hindquarters a bit. The moose squealed and jumped forward, fear and adrenaline numbing his pain. The dragon roared and gave chase, crashing along behind the group. They barely made it into the trees, just when the dragon's jaws was about to snap shut around the moose's hind leg. The moose took them far into the trees until they could barely see the dragon, who roared angrily. It then lowered its head and sent a beam of snow and ice toward them. Luckily, there was a large boulder there to block the blast. They listened to the ice shatter on its hard surface.

Spring Maiden was so cold that her skin was beginning to turn blue, while her feet were slowly changing back into roots and burrowing into the ground to find some sort of warmth. Summer Girl put her arm around Spring Maiden and rubbed her arm.

"Hang in there," she whispered. "I'll keep you warm." She leaned in and kissed Spring Maiden's cheek. The Guardian Flower, still clutched to Spring Maiden's chest, purred quietly at Summer Girl's kiss.

"We have to get rid of it," muttered Spring Maiden, bowing her head and breathing sharply and quickly, clouds of her breath rising up in front of her. She felt like her

body was starting to harden. "I'm going to be frozen soon. . ."

The dragon roared from somewhere nearby. Summer Girl frowned worriedly and squeezed Spring Maiden to her. "Please, don't give up. Hang on a little longer."

Spring Maiden shook her head slowly. "I don't think I'll be able to. . ." she breathed. She lifted her head and looked at Summer Girl with emotional eyes. Summer Girl was about to say something, but another presence caught her attention. She looked up and saw the forest spirit striding toward them through the trees. She admired that the spirit could move silently despite its enormous size. She was sure that its head would come a few feet short of the dragon's. The forest spirit held out a hand to Spring Maiden when it reached her. Its brown fur and large antlers glittered with frost and snow. Spring Maiden reached up with a shaky hand and took the spirit's hand. It carefully pulled her to her feet. She was a little unsteady at first as her feet went from roots back to human feet. The forest spirit took the Guardian Flower and handed it to Summer Girl, then knelt in front of Spring Maiden so she could climb onto its back.

Once she was on its back, she felt her body slowly warming up. Moving became easier again. She nestled into the spirit's fur, and they began to walk. She took a couple minutes to relax before she peered around the forest spirit to see where they were going. They were walking straight toward the clearing, where the dragon was pacing at the edge of the trees.

"What're you doing?" exclaimed Spring Maiden in a hushed tone, grabbing the spirit's arm. "Please stop!"

The forest spirit stopped, and looked over its shoulder at her and smiled kindly. It reached back and put a comforting hand on her leg. She felt calmness spread over her. Her heart rate evened out, and she was able to take deep breaths. The spirit smiled more, then looked forward again. The dragon's head was lowered and it was staring right at them. The forest spirit locked eyes with the dragon, who reared its head back and sent a beam of just ice through the trees at them. The spirit's antlers glowed hazel and a force field appeared around them, dispersing the beam in numerous

directions when it hit. Spring Maiden stood up on the forest spirit's back to see better. As she looked at the spirit's glowing antlers, she felt an urge to put her hands on them. She slowly wrapped her hands around the slender things like they were bike handlebars. She instantly felt a pulsing vibration in her hands and heard a loud humming in her ears.

Suddenly, the forest spirit launched forward into a full-out gallop, heading right for the dragon. When they were about halfway to the dragon, Mother Nature appeared in front of them in her shimmering androgynous form.

"You're interfering again," she said to the forest spirit, but it ignored her and ran right through her.

Spring Maiden gasped and looked back, but Mother Nature was gone. She returned her attention forward just as they burst out of the trees, forcing the dragon to back up. The spirit slid to a stop and both it and Spring Maiden put their hands together as if praying, then slowly started to pull them apart. As they did that, the dragon attempted to break through the force field to get at them. The snapping of its jaws was loud and sharp. Two bright white orbs formed between Spring Maiden's hands and the spirit's. The bigger the space between their hands, the larger the orbs got. When the orbs were as big as basketballs, they clenched them tightly between their hands and two bright lights shot out from them right at the dragon's head as it was coming in again to try to break the force field.

The dragon screeched and quickly retreated. But with masterful control, the guardian and the spirit kept the bands of light right on the dragon's head. A minute later the spirit dropped its band of light to the dragon's heart. The dragon cried out and flailed about. It finally crashed to the ground when the band of light burned through its chest and out the other side.

The orbs immediately disappeared, and Spring Maiden collapsed into a sitting position on the forest spirit's back, breathing hard and trembling from exhaustion. She could feel the spirit shaking, too. But they both breathed a sigh of relief. She wrapped her arms around the middle of the spirit's upper torso to thank it for its help. She felt its large hand rest on top of her arms. Things were going to be okay.

Suddenly, Mother Nature was in front of them. "You have

interfered for the last time. That dragon was a deliberate test for only the guardians." Behind her, frost from the land was being pulled back into the dragon's body. A moment later the body disappeared into a puff of snowy powder.

Mother Nature glided toward them. "I told you to stay out of this, but you didn't listen, spirit," she spat angrily.

The forest spirit gave her a calm, challenging glare.

Her form rippled furiously. "You're done." She abruptly appeared inches from the forest spirit. She reached up and put a hand on the center of its chest, digging her fingers in.

"No, wait!" shouted Spring Maiden, but in vain.

A high, blood-curdling shriek filled the air as the spirit threw back its head in agony. The spirit's mouth was closed, so it was as if the shriek was coming from the air itself. The forest spirit began to convulse, and Spring Maiden fell with it as it collapsed in a heap in front of Mother Nature.

"I warned you! You should've listened. Now, your powers are mine," Mother Nature said, a dangerous edge to her tone. Then she was gone.

Even though the shrieking had stopped, it still rang in Spring Maiden's ears. She quickly moved to the forest spirit's head, checking its neck for a pulse, which thankfully, was there.

"Wake up, please wake up," she whimpered. She then looked up to see Summer Girl and the moose coming toward them. They looked shocked.

Mother Nature had just changed everything.

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BLM proposes improvements Adds camp sites and restrooms to Shelf Road Climbing Area

by Kyle Sullivan

The Bureau of Land Management Royal Gorge Field Office, in coordination with the Pike's Peak Climbers Alliance, is seeking public input on a proposal to add campsites, restrooms and day-use parking at the popular Shelf Road Climbing Area.

"The rock climbing community really loves Shelf Road and we are excited to be working with the BLM on this project," said Jes Meiris with the recently formed Pike's Peak Climber's Alliance.

The BLM is proposing to add approximately 10 to 15 campsites to each campground as well as adding day-use parking and restrooms. Campsites would be equipped with fire rings, picnic tables, and tent pads. These improvements would be designed to mirror current facilities and blend with the natural environment catering to the rock climbing user group. The current fees of \$7 per individual site and \$14 per group site would apply to these sites as well.

"We've been hearing complaints about long lines for the restroom in the morning and a lack of available campsites," said Kalem Leonard, Outdoor Recreation Planner. "We hope this project can address these concerns and improves people's experience at the site."

The two campgrounds, the Banks and Sand Gulch, were constructed in 1995 as a response to rock climbing development in the area. At the time, the BLM estimated the area saw approximately 18,000 visitors.

The BLM now estimates the sites see nearly 60,000 visitors a year and the facilities provided are no longer adequate for current visitation levels.

Specific details about the project, including description of the proposed expansion and conceptual maps are available on the Royal Gorge Field Office webpage at: www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo/planning.html.



Volunteers from the Rocky Mountain Field Institute help with trail maintenance at the Shelf Road Rock Climbing Area.

A public scoping period gives the public a chance to tell the BLM what issues and concerns they think should be addressed and alternatives to consider. This comment period will run through August 21, 2015. Comments concerning the proposed action, alternatives and identification of environmental issues are most helpful. For additional information or to submit a comment, please contact Kalem Leonard at 719-269-8538 or email comments@rgfo.blm.gov with "Shelf Road Campgrounds" in the subject line.

16th Annual Victor Celebrates the Arts show and sale

Victor, Colorado, and the Cripple Creek Mining District were known as the World's Greatest Gold Camp in the 1890's. Now the historic town of 450 hearty souls is proud to celebrate the 16th Anniversary of Victor Celebrates the Arts, an En Plein Air* Show and Sale, Sept 5 through 7.

Why Victor? Artists love the community that has been preserved sometimes by benign neglect. Urban renewal has never been to Victor. Newscaster Lowell Thomas, pugilist Jack Dempsey, the Marx Bros, the Ripley Bros, mean old Harry Orchard are no longer there, of course, but the town remains much as it was in the 1920's, sort of raw, unfettered; authentic if you will. On Aug 31 dozens of artists from around the country arrive to begin a week long effort to capture the ambience of this unpolished gem of Colorado gold mining history. Starting with blank canvasses, they seek out interesting buildings, shops, eateries, flora and fauna, locals, historic head frames, and spectacular mountain scenery to create paintings of past history. September in the Colorado Rockies is sight to be seen as well. Note that Victor has had no forest fires, floods or beetle kill. Nearly 300 paintings are for sale ranging from \$100 to \$1000 in the Elks Lodge Gallery, 3rd Street at Diamond Ave. Log on to victorcelebratesarts.org or call 719-689-5836 for more details.

What is "Victor Celebrates the Arts"?

VCTA was organized in 1999. Volunteers work tirelessly from March to October to produce and manage the spectacular En Plein Air show and sale of original art. It is held each year over the September Labor Day Weekend. We are proudly celebrating our 16th Show and Sale this year. The focus of our nonprofit organization is spelled out in the mission statement: "to promote art, culture, education, and business development locally". The event showcases many local artists and affords an opportunity for Coloradans to see historic Victor through the

eyes of talented artists. We bring art and art education to a city known to have few cultural events.

Area students in Cripple Creek & Victor schools participate in Young At Art, an event geared toward introducing youth to the elements of En Plein Air. Their paintings are displayed and judged at the Elks Lodge Gallery during the show. The Sunday morning Brush Rush is an artist's three hour competition that visitors love to watch. Finished paintings are taken to the Elks Gallery where the artists themselves vote for the best painting. These paintings are for sale as well. Monday morning (Labor Day) there is a "Quick Draw" competition in Wallace Park. Still life and vignettes are set up in the Park. The public votes for the painting to determine the winner of the \$100 prize. The public may purchase the originals and bin work that artists provide.

In the early years of VCTA, some area residents tended to dismiss the significant efforts of our volunteers. The merchants, however, were thrilled with the hundreds of visitors we attracted to the city. The economic boost continues to be acknowledged. The City of Victor recognizes VCTA as the most important event of the year. During the many years that VCTA has functioned, residents share pride in our success. They now assist in a host of supportive roles, especially during the week prior to the show and sale.

Over the last 14 years, an average of 50 artists from five states arrive in Victor the week prior to Labor Day Weekend. Their canvasses are blank. By the end of seven days, they have created three finished, framed paintings, all within a few miles of the Victor City Hall. In past years, 40 to 50 percent of the paintings in the judged show



have sold. Call 719-689-5836 or 303-324-4030 for information or log on to victorcelebratesarts.org.

*EN PLEIN AIR refers to painting on location, out of doors where there is no control of weather conditions.

DIVIDE EVENTS Saturday, August 22

Paws in the Park 5K Trail Run 7:30am

Hayden Divide Park Loop

2K Dog Walk for Pledges 8:30am

Summit Elementary

Divide Wide Yard Sale 9am - 3pm

Summit Elementary

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Teller Tire and BTR Interiors

by Kathy Hansen
 photos by Jeff Hansen

The building on the southeast corner of U.S. Highway 24 and Highway 67 in Divide had been pretty much vacant since about 2009. Today, it houses two separate businesses run by a couple of friends (who happen to interact more like brothers). Mike Sewell, owner of BTR Interiors and Wayne Matthews, owner of Teller Tire have moved in.

Mike was surprised what a difference the storefront made commenting, "I had lots of callers who were surprised I've been in business here in Divide for six years." People are certainly noticing.

"It is what the community needed," stated Wayne, who went on to say how there are only two options for tires in Teller County and both are in Woodland Park. Teller Tire is much closer for the residents on the west or south end of the county as well as for those in Lake George, Cripple Creek, Victor, Guffey, even Hartsel.

Wayne can get any brand of tire you would like, whether it is Firestone, Good-year, or a greener product like Nokian. Those who need good traction yet are concerned for the environment, as well as for how quickly a tire can wear the road surface, will be happy to find this product is competitively priced.

In fact, when it comes to pricing, Wayne said, "We will do everything we can to meet or beat a competitor's price. Get their numbers first, and I'll be lower." Wayne then reminded us that the base tax in Colorado is 2.9 percent, but that can go as high as 10.4 percent depending on municipalities. The Woodland Park tax is 6.9 percent, whereas the total you pay in Divide is 3.9 percent. The savings on the tax alone can change the bottom line quickly.

Aside from the ability to get any brand you want, Wayne can also get any size you want. Imagine exploring the Pike National Forest on your ATV and only 20 minutes into it, you get a flat. No need to go all the way to Woodland, Wayne can help you. He can also get wheels for hand trucks, or tires for lawn mowers.

Wayne offers a more personal customer service. He will rotate your tires for the life of the tire. He will rebalance as needed, which can be often on some of our challenging roads. If the tire you purchased from him goes flat and it is fixable, he does so for free. As the seasons change from winter to summer and back again, Wayne is there for your seasonal tire change-out.

Wayne is also there to point you in the right direction when your needs are beyond his offerings. He has developed a great relationship with Big Sky Automotive, which is just down the street for the customers who need break work or mechanical help.

Understanding what the customer really needs is also a strength Mike of BTR Interiors possesses. He's been in the construction industry since 1992, and his experience is quite valuable. First, Mike will listen to your vision for flooring (hardwood, carpet, tile, and laminate) or cabinetry. He will then listen to your budget. He has a wide variety



Derek Hansen & Wayne Matthews of Teller Tire on left and Mile Sewell of BTR Interiors.

of options that can fit most any price range. Mike will be candid with you about what you can expect from each of his products and how durable each can be.

Next, you can trust Mike's crews. "I don't hire just anybody. All my guys are licensed and insured. They've been with me for five or six years." He said many of his customers are surprised when he shows up at the job-site to oversee his crew. "If you want it done right, come here," commented Mike.

Sometimes there are customers who are surprised he doesn't maintain a stock

mind to the customer.

Mike and Wayne are enjoying their new digs, and said it has been a very positive experience. The landlord was willing to accommodate a facelift and some modifications to the buildings in a very amicable manner. They built a privacy fence for the old tires so there is a place for them to rest until the hauler comes, without creating an eyesore for the corner. Donny at Too Busy Painting was a delight to work with, and very accommodating as far as customer traffic near their equipment. Brad from Nieman Electric was also very easy to work with and efficient in changing the raceways for different use. Connie Sewell and Sam Matthews pitched in with the remodel assuring a clean and welcoming scheme, being aware that women are often the purchasers of tires in the family. They patronized Divide Merchantile and The Picket Fence for the decor in the waiting room and the restroom. You really should see the bathroom at Teller Tire.

Check your tire tread. Teller Tire is offering great specials during their Grand Opening the week of Aug. 24 through Aug. 29. (Must purchase and install that week for discounts



The walls of Teller Tire are adorned with car parts from Denver area Furniture Row Racing team #78.



BTR Interiors has a multitude of samples to choose from.

of products. When a customer needs product today, Mike sends them to Butch at Factory Direct Carpet and Flooring because Butch carries stock and can help them that day. BTR Interiors is all special order product, which is typically three to 10 days out.

"Most of my business is repeat customers," said Mike. He went on to say people decide they want to make a change in a room, BTR Interiors installs the transformation, the customer is happy and in a few years when another room is needing a change they come back because they can trust the quality of product as well as the professional install. This brings peace of

to apply). He'll get you a great price and safe install. Give him a call at 719-687-0606.

Next time a room in your home is looking dingy and ready for a facelift, go visit Mike at BTR Interiors. He'll work with your vision, your budget, and your schedule to make the transformation occur. Give him a call at 719-687-4286.

In each case, you will get excellent customer service, your needs will be met, and you'll likely become a repeat customer!

Quilter's Above the Clouds Quilt Show, August 8

Are you wondering what you can do on a summer Saturday to entertain yourself or your guests? Come to the Ninth Annual show of Woodland Park's Quilter's Above the Clouds Quilt Guild. "Quilts in the Aspens" where you will be inspired, amazed, educated and yes, entertained as you browse through



Our quilts on display at last year's show.

over 100 beautiful quilts made by local quilters. Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 8th when the show will take place from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Woodland Park Middle School, 600 East Kelly Road. Admission to the show is \$2; children under 12 years are free.

Not only will you see and vote for your favorite quilts displayed in one of six categories, but you'll also experience several special exhibits to peak your interest.

Do you like history and antiques? A collection of vintage quilts will be shown on an antique bed in an old-fashioned bed turning where each quilt is turned back for view as the history of the quilt is explained.

Are you inspired by challenges? Several guild challenge quilts, all including the same print fabric in some original way, will be exhibited and you can vote for your favorite quilt in the challenge.

Are you intrigued by mysteries? There will be a group of mystery quilts meaning that the pattern of the quilt was unknown to the quilt maker until the final session of the class.

Can you imagine that a quilt "made by committee" could be a beautiful work of art? So-called "Round Robin" quilts with each border added by a different person will be shown demonstrating delightful cohesion among the individual contributions.

Want to learn a new skill? Experts will be demonstrating various quilting and sewing techniques such as fashioning sewn items from clothesline and fabric strips into beautiful fiber bowls and baskets. Learn how to how to add flair to your quilt projects using machine embroidery. See a scrap quilt made the "Simple Simon" way. A professional long arm quilter will give insider tips and advice on quilting the quilt top to complete your masterpiece!

Do you like to shop? Area quilt stores will be on-site offering items for sale.

Ribbons will be awarded to winning quilts in each of the following categories: Large and small bed quilts, large and small wall quilts, art quilts and Etcetera quilted items, including home décor, fashion and practical use items. A guild boutique will offer quilted items and gifts for purchase. Proceeds from the show will help support educational and charitable programs of the guild.

Area individuals or quilting groups are invited to enter a quilt into the show. Entry fee is \$5 per quilt (limit two quilts). To encourage the next generation of quilters, youth

entries age 18 and under exhibit free. Show and quilt entry information is available at Nuts 'n Bolts fabric store and other local quilt shops or at www.quiltersabovetheclouds.org. Quilt check-in will take place at Woodland Park Middle School on Thursday, August 6th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilt return will occur at the Middle School after the show on Saturday, August 8 from 5 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Quilters Above the Clouds is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promote quilting and sewing arts through educational programs, group and individual quilting challenges and sharing of ideas and projects. The guild meets monthly to learn new quilting techniques and includes over 100 quilters of all skill levels from novice to



Regina Bechard of Woodland Park in her quilt studio. Regina is a professional long arm quilter who will be giving expert tips and advice on how to give your quilt top a fantastic finish in a presentation during the show.

master. In addition to the monthly meeting, the guild also hosts two monthly work sessions to construct quilts for charitable donations, which is a major emphasis of the group. Last year, Quilters Above the Clouds donated over 100 quilts to support local causes and to comfort individuals in need due to natural disaster,

family disruptions and losses.

For additional information about the quilt show or Quilter's Above the Clouds, contact Cindy at 719-687-9679, cdemore@g.com or Mary Jane at 719-686-1643, mifairley@gmail.com.

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Growing Ideas

More tips and tidbits from the Plant Lady

by Karen Anderson The Plant Lady

August greetings, my fellow mountain Gardeners. Once again Mother Nature has favored us with the blessing of an abundance of rain in July. I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed the fresh clean air and the coolness of the summer days. The plants are relishing the moisture and are thriving here at Paradise Gardens.

I'd like to start this month's writing with a few paragraphs quoted from a very old book in my library called "America's Garden Book" written by James and Louise Bush Brown in 1939.

The reading resonates with me deeply and I would like to share it with you.

"Gardening is an art, a science and a craft. In order to obtain the most rewarding satisfactions from this many jeweled occupation, the gardener should possess something of the creative, buoyant spirit of the artist, the eager inquiring mind of the scientist, and the skillful hands and diligent zeal of the craftsman. A garden is ever-changing, for it is a thing alive. Through the years, it creates in the heart of the gardener an awareness of beauty which becomes a deeply enriching experience in his/her life; it imparts to the individual a reverence for Nature and her immutable laws; it teaches patience and humility. Seldom is perfection attained in the garden, but is ever important to work in that direction. In this, the gardener is one with Nature. And if he can bring to his tasks understanding and humility, industry and patience, he will reap the harvest of beauty and bountiful goodness which only Nature, in her wisdom can bestow."

Thanks for letting me share.

if you are planting for the first time in your landscape, give them a large amount of space as they will grow bigger each year and make that place a "forever home". They are very difficult to transplant.

Bleeding Hearts

These beauties are beginning to look pretty straggly after giving us their best show. I can very often encourage them to keep on blooming by trimming back the ragged and 'tired' looking foliage as well as the bare stem where the hearts were flowering. Cut back to the new growth in between the branches. Give them an offering of organic compost and in a short period of time, they will develop new buds. You could be enchanted by these shade loving perennials all summer long with a little extra care and love.

The Importance of deadheading

Most gardeners are aware that deadheading annuals is imperative to keep them blooming all season. Deadheading means simply cutting the spent flowers so that the plant does not go to seed prematurely. If the 'spent' flowers are left on the vine, that's exactly what they will do. But did you know that you can use this procedure with many of your perennials as well? Columbinas, Iceland poppies, wild geraniums, and a number of others will continue to produce flowers if you take the time to dead-head. I have been a seeds-woman for a few decades now and recommend that you stop deadheading at the end of August to allow the rest of the flowers to fulfill one of their primary purposes — to go to seed and reproduce.

Oh hail no!

Yes — it happens to most of us at one time or another. Heartbreaking. My sympathies and empathies are with anyone who experiences this devastating blow. I came home a couple of weeks ago to a heavy covering of the white crunchy stuff. This is very much a grieving process for me. Denial, anger, sadness, and all kinds of other emotions overtake me ... and then finally — acceptance. It helps to throw in some gratitude for the watering of the gardens. Then, the next day, the sun is shining and I get my big scissors out and start to trim away the poor pummeled plant life until it looks better. Some good old fashioned home-made organic compost should have all the nutrients I need to replenish the stripped plants and help them to start over. That's just the way it is. When there is rain, there is hail.

A few more tips for the month of August.

Weed while the weedin's good. Plant some more spinach and lettuces — even radishes. Successive plantings keep the greens fresh and crisp and there is still time to do that. Harvest what you can with a bountiful heart and always give thanks to the Earth Mother for providing everything we need to sustain life.

As always, happy Gardening!

See Out & About (page 35) for a list of current classes available.

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Spotlight on the Divide Chamber

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Come Alive Outside challenge

by Flip Boettcher
photo by Amy Mason



Members of the 18 toes 4-H dog club from left to right are Emily Mason, Troy Dabney, Sebastian Smits, and Ryan Mason.

The 18 Toes 4-H Dog Club in Guffey, under the leadership of Guffey veterinarian Amy Mason, is taking the Come Alive Outside Community Challenge; will you join them?

The Come Alive Outside initiative was started by Jim Paluch of Ohio, in 2010, to address the many adverse effects in our society of our sedentary, indoor lifestyles. Paluch wanted to engage the professional landscape industry in the movement to get people off the couch and back outside interacting with nature according to the Come Alive Outside website www.comealiveoutside.com.

What do you remember most from your childhood, the Saturday you spent indoors watching television re-runs or being outside and doing something special?

According to the New England Journal of Medicine, this is the first time in two generations that the current generation may have a shorter life expectancy than their parents. Indoor entertainment is replacing outdoor activity stated the Come Alive Outside website.

Childhood obesity is on the rise as are hours of media exposure according to the website. In house televisions and video games are also on the rise. Hours spent outside have decreased and amazingly, kids recognize more corporate logos than species added the website.

Come Alive Outside is a reminder that being outdoors helps keep us healthy and creates special memories in our lives. These three words, come alive outside, have inspired individuals, families, businesses and communities across North America to get back outdoors, according to the Come Alive Outside flyer.

Come Alive Outside, Inc. is a non-profit organization which was created this year. Their mission is to help communities create opportunities for people to live healthier lives outside. The vision is for healthy people to enjoy the benefits of the great outdoors around them; get active outside.

This year, four states — Colorado, Wisconsin, North Carolina, and Vermont are invited to participate in the Community Challenge. This is a chance for teens in Future Farmers of America, 4-H, Boys and Girls Clubs of America and other youth organizations to organize an outdoor event or project for their community. Through the process the group has the chance to gain valuable leadership, communication, and organizational skills stated the flyer.

Each participating group has to submit by November 9th, a five minute video documenting their Come Alive Outside community project or event, a 500 word essay about the

best things the group learned, and evidence of how the group got community participation.

Voting for each group's video will take place November 16 through 23 on the Come Alive Outside website. To qualify for final judging, a group must receive at least 200 votes stated the flyer. Awards will be given to winning groups in each state: first place \$1000, second place \$500 and third place \$300.

State 4-H champions, the 18 Toes Dog Club would like to share their expertise in dog training ability, obedience, rally and showmanship to interested community participants, according to Mason.

Every Thursday evening during the month of August from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., the club would like to open up their training area for visitors and guests of all ages, said Mason. This is a great opportunity for everyone to enjoy the fresh mountain air and sunshine during our short summer, enhance the human/animal bond, and get some exercise as well.

Dog ownership is not required as the club members are willing to share their dogs with community members who may not be able to have a dog at this time, but would like to interact with them.

There is also space for folks who just want to come and observe, said Mason. She added that there were many seniors in the community who might benefit from this event.

Mason said the club would like to sponsor an American Kennel Club Good Citizen Test, a community dog show, a 5-K fun run with your dog, and a community picnic in the future.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this event please contact Mason at 719-689-2262 or 18toesdogclub@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars for the Thursdays in August from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., and join the challenge to Come Alive Outside with the 18 Toes Dog Club.

Be sure to visit the Come Alive Outside website and vote for the club November 16 through 23. Any winnings will go toward improving the club's agility equipment, the training yard and the club in general said Mason.

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Nature Speaks

It's a bird, it's a bat, No, it's a Bug!!
by Dee DeJong

In late summer, I am always surprised by this hovering creature that shows up in my garden and local meadows of wildflowers. It looks like a hummingbird, drinks nectar like some bats but has no feathers or fur. What I do see though is antennae, giving me a clue that it is an insect and more specifically a moth or butterfly. After studying the patterns (white lines on the veins of the fore-wings), coloring of the hind-wings (pink and black banding) and other physical features (black and white horizontal stripes on the back), I found it is a White-lined Sphinx Moth (*Hyles lineata*).

This amazing flier is very common throughout the United States and Canada and is one of the largest of the moths with a wing span of up to 4 inches. It feeds on the nectar of flowers and as it goes from one plant to the other it helps to pollinate them. Some of the flowers that provide a food source are Columbines, Clovers, Thistles, and Evening Primrose. These moths are primary pollinators of the Primrose Family, as they are their



preferred flower to feed on, both in the caterpillar (leaves) and adult form (nectar).

The next time you are out enjoying the wildflowers of the Rockies and you see what looks like a hummingbird, take a second look. It's not a bird, not a bat but a beautiful White-lined Sphinx Moth. Take a moment to thank him for pollinating the flowers so next year you can walk through even more beauty.

For more nature information please call 720-838-3277 or visit our website at www.guides-to-go.com.

He's radioactive-active

Pikes Peak Pebble Pup and Earth Science Scholar to Speak at Denver Show
by Steven Wade Veatch

Casey Martin, a Pikes Peak Pebble Pup and Earth Science Scholar will be a featured speaker at the 2015 Denver Gem and Mineral Show. Casey's presentation is: "Radioactivity in Colorado Dinosaur Fossils." Casey has been working with a Geiger counter and conducting research on radioactive rocks, minerals, and fossils.



Casey Martin

He will share his latest research. His presentation is Saturday, September 18, 2015, at noon. He will present his work in the Speaker's Room at the Denver Merchandise Mart as part of the show's educational programming.

Casey Martin is 12 years old and attends Eagleview Middle School in Colorado Springs. Casey has been keenly interested in earth science from a very young age and has been an active member of the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups

and Earth Science Scholars since 2011. He has led several of the club meetings. He has worked on all of the public outreach programs, including Cool Science at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and at Colorado College.

His past primary interests have included rocks, volcanos, dinosaurs, fossils, magnetism, and astronomy; he has collected a large number of mineral specimens. Currently, his main area of interest is radioactivity and studies low-level radioactive minerals and fossils with the aid of his vintage Geiger counter. Casey won 1st place in 2013 his elementary school's science fair with his magnetic levitation experiment and 2nd place 2012 with his copper-plating experiment. Casey is also an active Boy Scout.



Marigreen Pines Tour 2015

Another successful year

by Kathy Hansen
photo by Jeff Hansen

One of the first prominent families to settle in the Cascade area was the Thomas Cusack family. When he and his wife, Mary Greene, decided to move to the area in 1895, Thomas purchased the Ellinor Cottage as a wedding gift to Mary. The couple moved in, and started a family.

Thomas and Mary had a total of five children. As their family grew, they added onto the cottage. Eventually it was decided to build a mansion to accommodate family that visited from far away states. Construction began in 1922, the same year Mary died.

The last surviving of their children, Anne Cusack Johnson, donated the property in 1978 to the Order of the Holy Cross. However, a stipulation was included; the Ute Pass Historical Society would be allowed to open it for tours every three years.

This past year, as in those before proved to be a success as all the tickets sold out!

Ticket holders met at the Ute Pass Elementary School for a brief video, narrated by Anne Cusack Johnson. It is the perfect way to set the stage for what you are about to see. Everyone boards a bus, as the docent provides additional history of the area. After the short ride to Marigreen Pines, the passengers split into two groups; one begins at the mansion and the other at the cottage. Tours are self-guided with docents or brothers of the Order in each room. A treat of cookies and punch are served on the patio.

Did you miss this year's tour? You'll have three years to plan for the next opportunity, so mark your calendar for July, 2018!



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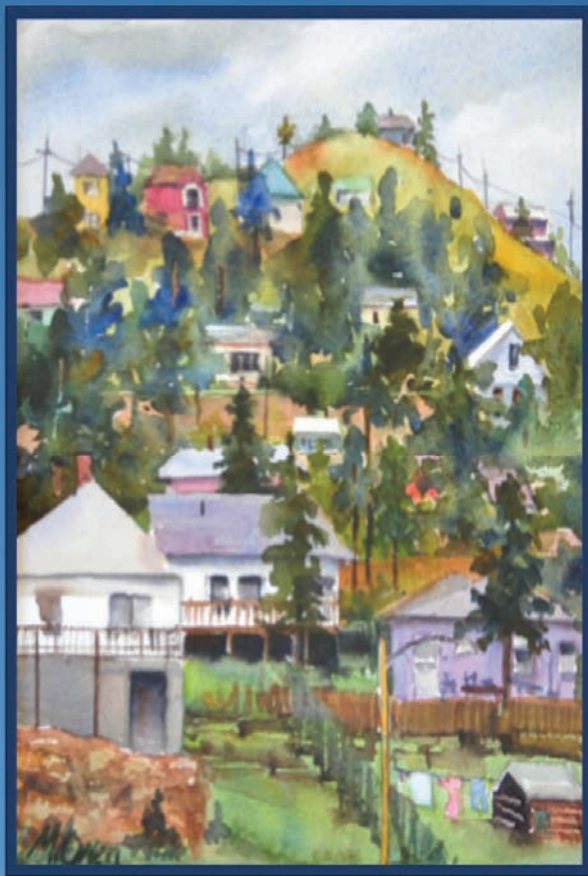
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Lissa Hanner - Colorado girl

by Flip Boettcher

photos courtesy of Lissa Hanner

When she was 15 years old, singer songwriter Lissa Hanner knew she had come home, when her father's job transferred him from San Diego, California to Colorado Springs. Today, Hanner lives in Guffey and has recently released her third album, "My Colorado". Hanner had always loved Colorado John Denver and was thrilled, she said to move to Colorado where she "just fit right in", stated her bio on her website www.lissahanner.com.

Hanner had had a dream about being a singer songwriter and shortly started singing and playing guitar at local Colorado Springs bars and clubs for fun with a girlfriend, she said. At that time Hanner was mostly playing other people's songs.

Hanner would occasionally write a song she said, but didn't really take her song writing seriously until she moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where for the first few years she performed all original music in a folk duo.

Hanner also was part of the "Words and Music" program sponsored by the Country Music Hall of Fame. Songwriters go into the local public schools and compose music for lyrics written by the students, Hanner explained.

While in Nashville, Hanner met and married Gary Hanner and they soon had a daughter, Sage. As she watched Sage growing up, Hanner longed to be in Colorado and raise her daughter in the mountains. Sage went to the Guffey School and graduated from the eighth grade there. She now lives in Texas.

Even though Hanner loved Nashville and the energy there, she never felt at home. So around 2000, the Hanner family moved to Guffey. "The town is basically two blocks wide, it's small. It has two bars and a café — it's a happening little town" according to Hanner's bio.

Hanner still pursued her song writing and music, even though she had moved to a small mountain town. Hanner was once again that girl "living in the mountains, writing songs about the places I love and the people I've met", according to her bio.

Since moving to Guffey, Hanner has released three albums. The first album entitled, "It's My Mother's Fault", was mostly recorded at her home studio and is a collection of cover songs and some co-written songs, she said. I learned a lot in the process of making that album Hanner added.

The second album "30" is a collection of 30 songs; 28 originals, recorded at various studios over the years with her brother, Guffey resident, Chuck Binkowski, Jr.

Hanner's latest release in 2012, "My Colorado", was recorded in several trips to Nashville with her brother. It is a collection of nine original songs and a cover of one of her most favorite songs as a child, John Denver's "Rocky Mountain High."

The original songs on "My Colorado," were

all written over the last decade said Hanner, and are a heartfelt tribute to people and places in the state she loves so dearly. The album also shows how Hanner has grown as a song writer and recording artist over the years.

Hanner is very proud and enthusiastic about "My Colorado" and is currently working on a live solo show to take on the road throughout Colorado visiting nursing homes, tourist centers and community centers. The



"I love the mountains. I love the way I feel when I look at the sky and the trees. I was meant to be here, I just knew it."

Lissa Hanner

Hanner hopes to have the video finished by September of this year when she will put it on YouTube and hopes it will go viral.

Music artists in the past used to strive for a record deal to go big, said Hanner, but now days one has to be on the internet and social media to go big. Since it costs a lot to hire someone to do the media work, Hanner does most of it by herself. Not only is it a learning experience she said, but it takes a lot of time as well.

Hanner also owns PineCone Entertainment, LLC, an Americana Indie recording label, based in Guffey. According to Hanner, Americana is a new type of way to categorize a certain sound which is a more raw, acoustic bluegrass, folk sound. The label features not only Hanner, but also singer songwriter George Eldon from Webber Park, Colorado, who Hanner plays with sometimes at local shows.

Even though Hanner is busy marketing, writing songs and performing in Guffey once a month in the summer at the Bull Moose, she finds time to spend with her four dogs, three cats and three horses. She is also enjoying our lovely green summer she added.

Hanner said she really only wants to play concerts in Guffey and her goal is to have her own recording studio here in the mountains she loves. "I love the mountains. I love the way I feel when I look at the sky and the trees. I was meant to be here, I just knew it", she said in her bio.

For more information about Hanner, upcoming shows, to sign up for her news mailings and to see her videos, visit her website, her Twitter page, her Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/lissahannermusic/>, or YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnm9Ju9Jf8RG53Tph1LV2fg>.



The Monsanto Years

by Carol Grieve

When I was growing up in the sixties, nothing was more fulfilling to me than listening to my favorite bands. This was a time of much unrest at the political, social, and educational levels. Many of us were calling for change in our government and protesting to end the Vietnam War. During this timeframe, some of the music being released by the great artists of this era reflected this unrest and brought us the message of change.

We are in another time of unrest and people are again standing up and speaking out against corporate control. In particular, speaking up about companies like Monsanto and the other chemical companies, who are genetically engineering our food with toxic chemicals and using us as their human guinea pigs. Neil Young + Promise of the Real are speaking out in a big way!

I was only 16 when Woodstock happened, so hitchhiking to New York wasn't really an option, at least as far as my parents were concerned. But — there was this band that I fell in love with — Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. There was something so soulful and meaningful in their music and I could not get enough of it. I had been a big Neil Young fan when he was with Buffalo Springfield so when he joined Crosby, Stills and Nash, it was magic! There was just something about him that I was drawn to — the way he wrote and sang from the heart. I bought his album "Harvest" when it came out in 1972 and fell in love all over again! I learned to play the guitar that year and the first song I wanted to learn was Neil Young's song, "Heart of Gold".



Fast forward to 2015 and I am now a food activist, health coach, writer, and speaker, educating everyone who wants to know about what is happening with our food supply. I have interviewed the very best experts in the world to discuss the dangers of GMOs, glyphosate (RoundUp), and other toxins that are being placed in our food by corporations, and in particular, Monsanto. I have studied, researched, and learned so much over the past six years, since starting Food Integrity Now, about food and have made it my mission to educate and raise awareness about the poisoning of our food — the poisoning of our children! Neil Young gets this!

I knew Neil Young was an environmental activist speaking out against the pollution of our planet. But when he started speaking out against GMOs and Starbucks, and boycotting them because of their Monsanto milk, I fell in love all over again, again! In a statement last November, Young said: "I used to line up

and get my latte every day, but yesterday was my last one. Starbucks has teamed up with Monsanto to sue Vermont, and stop accurate food labeling...we have a right to know what we put in our mouths. Starbucks doesn't think you have the right to know what what's in your coffee. So it's teamed up with Monsanto to sue the small U.S. state of Vermont to stop you from finding out. Hiding behind the shadowy 'Grocery Manufacturers Association', Starbucks is supporting a lawsuit that's aiming to block a landmark law that requires genetically-modified ingredients be labeled..."

In May this year, Young made a further statement, "Contrary to the misleading information coming from Starbucks, the coffee company is in alliance with other Food Giants, including Monsanto, in suing the state of Vermont to overturn the GMO labeling laws voted for by the people. An alliance is a pact, coalition or friendship between two or more parties, made in order to advance common goals and to secure common interests. Starbucks and Monsanto are members of the Grocery Manufacturers Alliance. The Grocery Manufacturers Alliance sued the state of Vermont to overturn the people's will to mandate GMO labeling in Vermont. In communications with Starbucks the company was unresponsive to the direct question on whether Starbuck's coffee product contained GMOs."

On April 27, 2015, Chief Judge Christina Reiss of the U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont issued an opinion that mostly favored the State of Vermont and the positions of GMO-labeling advocates. However this is only the first round, the Plaintiffs have not announced their next steps. At this point, they may seek an interlocutory appeal of this decision at the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

However, all state labeling will go away if Senator Mike Pompeo gets his way with a Bill he introduced last year into congress, The Dark Act (H.R. 1599). This Bill is called the Dark Act because in essence it will keep us in the dark as to what is in our food supply. H.R. 1599 will stop all state labeling initiatives and make the labeling of GMOs voluntary! Monsanto and the other chemical companies, along with the Grocery Manufacturers Association have spent over \$50 million in their effort to stop these initiatives. This begs the question, why?

Why have they spent so much money to stop this labeling? The answer is that they know GMOs have no benefit to humans, they do not have more nutrition than conventional crops, they do not increase yields and they do not taste better. Given this, they are greatly concerned about the consumer (you) and that if you see a label on a package that says "contains genetically modified ingredients," that you might make a different choice given the untested and inherent risks associated with GMOs. This is why they are so desperately working on defeating any state labeling initiative and are lobbying greatly to get the Dark Act passed.

The Dark Act (H.R. 1599) is coming up for vote very soon. What can we do? We can call or write our representatives and tell them to oppose H.R. 1599. If you believe you have the right to know what is in your food, here is a link to contact your representative: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>. To learn more about the Dark Act, go to <http://www.ewg.org/agmag/2014/04/pompeo-s-dark-act-will-keep-consumers-dark>

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House by a vote of 271 to 147. I listened to the entire hearing live and witnessed a travesty of justice. It is a sad day when the House passes a Bill that will deny Americans the right to know what is in their food. As I listened to many of our representatives speak today, I was appalled and saddened by the blatant lies about GMOs and pesticides. If I had been there, I could have cited through scientific evidence so many of their lies. This is a win for the corporations and a loss for Americans! If this Bill is passed in Congress, it will preempt all State labeling initiatives. Since the hearing was taped, I plan on calling out each and every one of the representatives that were either grossly misinformed or out-and-out lying! The next step for H.R. 1599 is in the Senate. I urge each and every one of you who feel that we have a right to know what is in our food and that we should not be kept in the dark, to contact your congressmen and tell them you do not want to be kept in the DARK! Enough is enough! It is time to stand up for America!

Carol Grieve is a Certified Life Coach and Wellness Coach, the host of the widely-claimed talk radio show, Food Integrity Now (www.foodintegritynow.org), and a speaker and writer. For more information on health and wellness coaching contact Carol at carol@foodintegritynow.org or call 415-302-7100. Phone or Skype sessions are available.

She is currently conducting classes on food education at Mountain Naturals Community Market in Woodland Park every Saturday at 3 p.m. For a list of topics email carol@foodintegritynow.org or call Mountain Naturals at 719-687-9851 for more information.

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The Psychic Corner Four common myths about Psychic Consultants

by Claudia Brownlie

As I've shared in previous columns, there are a number of different abilities and skills that a professional psychic consultant may be gifted with. Some of my fellow practitioners may have one or two ways in which they are able to perceive information about their client, while others of us may have a number of abilities that will be utilized during a client's reading.

Myth #1 - A crystal ball or tarot cards must be used

Not all gifted, professional psychics are going to be gazing into a crystal ball or staring into a candle's flame to see your future. Many of us don't use tarot cards, pendulums, or other divinatory tools during the session. Whether a psychic does or doesn't use a divination method during

Myth #4 - Psychics can tell you your future

While a gifted psychic should be able to perceive information pertaining to events that will happen in your life or with others in your life, a client cannot expect 100 percent for-sure information to be provided, "telling" them how to proceed in a given situation. While yes, it would be a bonus if you did receive very clear and hopefully correct guidance on how to proceed and what the likely outcome might be for the situation in question, this isn't exactly telling the future.

"No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path."

Gautama Buddha involved in the situation.



your reading does not necessarily mean your reading will be less accurate. A psychic may choose to use additional methods if they've found it helps them focus more strongly and positively during a session.

Myth #2 - Psychics can read your mind

A true psychic doesn't "read minds" per se. What we do is to tune into the energy that is within and around our client. Based on the questions or concerns the client has come to have a reading for, the psychic will then be able to perceive the client's strongest energies and dominant feelings. The more gifted a psychic is, the more able they are to perceive the subtle energies and gain impressions. But don't think that the psychic should be able to tell you exactly what you're thinking about at the moment (such as what your favorite food is, or the name of your pet). Maybe the psychic can tell you precisely what's on your mind at that moment, but if they can't that is in no way proof they aren't psychic!

Myth #3 - A true psychic should see visions

As example, one of my gifts is that I am clairvoyant — I am able to see visions. However, many psychics cannot. This doesn't mean they can't give you a great reading; it only means that each one of us have our gifts in specific areas. Some psychics are more strongly able to hear, feel, smell, taste, and/or communicate with spirits or angels, to name a few of the ways information may come through during the reading. Some may have to use a divination tool or other method to help bring forth the information that they then will interpret for you, such as using their tarot cards to gain insight, or gazing into their crystal ball to see visions of what is happening with you. Each psychic is unique in how they perceive and bring forth the information.

It's all free will and completely up to you

In conclusion, the most important thing to remember is this: An ethical, professional psychic cannot give you any guarantees what the outcome of your concern or troubling situation will take — if you'll get the job for sure, if a windfall of money will definitely come your way, if you'll regain your lost love — nor anything else pertaining to the direction your life will take in whatever it is that you had the reading for. This is because a psychic cannot make you walk that path (just as no one else can, for that matter). In the end, your free will is what reigns supreme! The future is not set in stone; it can and will change based on what you choose to do or not do and any actions you decide to take are up to you.

See you next month! With love, light & blessings.

Claudia Brownlie is a Woodland Park, Colorado-based Professional Psychic Intuitive Consultant and certified Life Coach, serving clients locally and world-wide. In-person, telephone, and Skype video chat appointments are available. Claudia also provides classes and lectures, and offers psychic reading services tailored for corporate events and private parties. For more information please call her: (719) 602-5440. Or visit her website: ClaudiaBrownlie.com.

Adopt Me Annabell

by Angie Davis of TCRAS

Hey, I'm Annabell and I need a home! I'm a sweet kitty hoping to get adopted soon and I think you should take me home! How about it? I'm a fun girl to have around and I would be a good friend if you give me a chance. Check in on me at the shelter and I'll see if I can fit you into my schedule.

Visit me at TCRAS, 308 Weaverville Road in Divide, or call 719-686-7707. To see everyone check out www.tcraxcolorado.org.



Red Cross volunteer recruitment and training information

by Bill Fortune

The American Red Cross and the Woodland Park Community Church have partnered to support Teller County in times of disaster.

The Woodland Park Community Church located at 800 Valley View Dr. Woodland Park, Colo. has been selected as a Red Cross emergency shelter. As such, the church will be available to open for emergency evacuations or emergency sheltering should there be a need in Teller County. Woodland Park Community Church will join hundreds of other facilities in southeast Colorado that have offered to support their communities in times of disaster.

"We have a wide variety of designated facilities because there is a wide variety of need in a disaster response," said Sally Broomfield, disaster program manager for the American Red Cross of Southeastern Colorado. "We have churches, schools, and community centers throughout the territory willing to step up and help."

While having a designated facility is important when there is a crisis, it is also important to have volunteers who are trained to help in those facilities. The Red Cross is recruiting new volunteers and will provide training at the church in August for members of Woodland Park Community Church. That training is open to the public in an effort to recruit additional volunteers.

Training sessions will be held at the Woodland Park Community Church as follows:

- August 6, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Disaster Cycle Service: An Overview (In class training)
- August 13, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Shelter Fundamentals (In class training)
- August 20, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Shelter Exercise (hands on simulation)
- August 27, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Psychological First Aid (In class and simulation)

To attend any of these training sessions contact: Larry Cornett at larry.cornett@redcross.org or call 719-785-2700.

To sign up as a Red Cross volunteer go to www.redcross.org/colorado and click on Volunteer then click on CO Springs/SE CO and follow the instructions.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds, and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org/colorado, on Twitter- @ppredcross, or join our blog at <http://coloradoredcross.blogspot.com>.

Military/Veterans August Pass 2015 CPW offers free park entrance to active-duty, veterans

by Manda Walters

Colorado Parks and Wildlife offers free park entrance to active-duty military and veterans during the month of August as a result of House Bill 15-1045, signed into law May 27, 2015.

"We invite Colorado's military community to enjoy all of the beauty and recreational opportunities Colorado State Parks have to offer," said CPW Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Margaret Taylor.

CPW encourages eligible individuals to get their pass in advance at any CPW office or state park to avoid delays at the gate on a planned recreation day.

"Archery, boating, rock climbing, hiking, geocaching and wildlife-viewing, along with well-equipped nature centers and picnic areas are just a few of the options for service members to relax and recharge," added Taylor.

See all the options in the 2015 Parks Guide.

Veterans and active-duty military personnel (including active duty, Reserve and National Guard members) can obtain a military hang-tag pass valid for free admission during the month of August, by showing the CPW parks staff one of the following: Active or retired military identification, DD Form 2765, DD214, Veterans Affairs medical card, a current Colorado Driver's License or state issued identification card with the veteran seal printed on it.

Once eligibility is confirmed, the military hang-tag pass is issued to the service member. The hang-tag pass is valid when hung from the rear-view mirror of a service member occupied vehicle, and admits all passengers of that vehicle.

Park entrance fees are waived for veterans and active-duty personnel in the month of August, but activities like fishing and

camping will still require a valid license and permit. Go to <http://cpw.state.co.us/placeto-go/parks/Pages/parkMap.aspx> or <http://cpw.state.co.us/placeto-go/parks/Pages/default.aspx> to locate a state park near you.

This year \$150,000 was appropriated from general funds to mitigate lost revenue. Free access for veterans and active duty military is slated to continue every year in which general fund dollars are appropriated by the General Assembly.

For more information see the Military/Veterans August Pass 2015 Fact Sheet. Feel free to distribute this fact sheet at Vet Centers, Morale, Welfare & Recreation and Veteran's Affairs offices around the state.

Rampart Library news

by Anne Knowles

The Summer Reading programs at Rampart Library District hit new highs this year. As of July 20, there were over 850 children, teens, and adults registered. "Summer reading is very important in helping children and teens retain their levels of reading achievement. Research shows that these levels can fall significantly for those who do not read during the summer, and this loss is cumulative", stated Julie Wilson, the District's Youth Services Manager.

Celebrate the District's annual End of Summer Program at Woodland Park on Friday, August 7 from 10 a.m. to noon, and come prepared to have lots of fun. All ages are invited.

Summer Reading would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors: Arby's, Bronco Billy's, Burger King, Café Leo, Century Casino, Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company, Friends of the Florissant Library, Gold Hill Theatres, IREA, Rampart Library District Foundation, Sonic, Ute Pass Kiwanis, Walmart, Wendy's, and Woodland Park Pikes Peak Lions Club. The library and the entire community give you a huge thank you for helping to make this year's program the best ever!

August will be a great month at the Florissant Public Library. Storytime is now on Fridays at 10 a.m. and will be held every Friday except August 7 so that everyone can attend the end of summer party in Woodland Park. You won't want to miss the last movie of the Florissant summer series on Friday, August 7 at 2 p.m.

Register for Florissant's CPR class on Friday, August 14 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. by calling the Florissant Library at 719-748-3939. There is a charge of \$35 per person for the class and \$40 per person for the class and certification. This Heartsaver CPR class is an instructor and video-led American Heart Association course that teaches adult CPR, AED use and how to relieve choking on an adult. It is for anyone with limited or no medical training.

The BookWorms Book Club at Florissant will meet on Wednesday, August 19 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the book "The Light Between Oceans" by M.L. Stedman. The Book Club at Woodland Park will feature "Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese on Tuesday, August 4 at 10:30 a.m.

The next monthly free legal clinic offered online at both libraries will be held on Friday, August 7 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. This is by appointment only and it books up very quickly so be sure to call Florissant at 719-748-3939 or Woodland Park at 719-687-9281 ext. 103 if you are interested.

Ann Lincoln, one of our favorite performers, will be back by popular demand at Woodland Park Public Library on Wednesday, August 12 from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. In the "Super Ann Show", she will perform amazing feats of strength and courage in a one-of-a-kind Magic, Juggling and Comedy Show for all ages.

The AARP Smart Driver Course driver refresher course for drivers 50+ who want to improve their driving skills and avoid traffic violations will be held in Woodland Park on Thursday, August 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is a charge of \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non AARP members. Insurance companies may offer a discount for those completing the course. Preregistration is required at the Woodland Park Circulation Desk or by calling 719-687-9281 ext. 113.

The Rampart Library District Foundation would like to thank everyone in the community for your support at the First Annual Love Your Libraries Fiesta in July. There was a wonderful turnout and great fun was had by all. Our deepest thanks go to the Country Lodge for providing the venue, the entertainment by Cari Dell Trio, a check for \$2,000 for matching ticket sales and all of their help in making this a really successful event.

We look forward to seeing all of you in our libraries during the month of August! The District will be closed on September 6 and 7 for Labor Day.

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August 19, 2015

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ALMA
2, 9, 16, 29, & 30 Gladys Kravitz provides music at the Alma Coffee House from 10 a.m. to noon.

BUENA VISTA
1&2 Gold Rush Days, BVHOPE will have a booth at the Gold Rush Days in Buena Vista August 1st and 2nd. We are partnering with the UCOUNT group and will have direct trade items available from all over the world for sale. All the proceeds from the sales go directly back to the women who make them in their own countries. Please come visit us and empower these women.

1 & 2 Retreat on Stages of Meditation from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sat, and 10 a.m. to noon Sun. Register at www.bodhimanga.org call Michael for more info 888-550-1777 or email michael@vivitech.com

7 2015 1st Annual Geocaching Journey Kick-Off. See ad on page 12.

8 Really really free clothing giveaway from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Congressional United Church of Christ located at 217 Crossman.

8 Climb Your Everest with Dr. Jon Kedrowski at 7 p.m. meet at the Trailhead outdoor store.

29-30 19th Annual King Boletus Mushroom Festival. See ad on page 12.

CANON CITY
4, 11, 18, 25 NAMI Connection Support Group for adults with a serious mental illness. Share experiences and resources in a safe environment. Meetings are free and confidential. Group meets every Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Thomas More Hospital in the Community Education Room. Contact Sherry at 719-671-7954 or NAMIsouth-eastco@gmail.com.

12 Fremont County Emergency Food Assistance Program distribution at First United Methodist Church, 801 Main Street, 1:30 p.m. until gone. Call Erin Trinkel 719-275-4191 X111 for more information.

19 NAMI Family Support Group for family and caregivers of individual with a serious mental illness. Share experiences and resources in a safe environment. Meetings are free and confidential. Group meets third Wednesday of every month at St. Thomas More Hospital in the Community Education Room. Contact Yvette at 719-275-0338 or NAMIsouth-eastco@gmail.com.

21 Fremont County Community Supplemental Food Program distribution. 3rd Fridays each month from 9 a.m. to noon at Loaves & Fishes, 24 Justice Center Rd. Call Traci Nelson for more information 719-275-0593.

COPPER MOUNTAIN
1 & 2 A Long Standing Tradition: Copper Triangle Raises Money for Parkinson's Disease. The famous Copper Triangle has long been considered one of Colorado's classic alpine road rides featuring three iconic climbs. The Copper Triangle exemplifies cycling in the Colorado Rockies. The Copper Triangle is a 78-mile ride with an elevation gain of almost 6,000 feet over three mountain passes: Fremont, Tennessee, and Vail. This year's event is raising money for the Davis Phinney Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping people living with Parkinson's Disease.

6 & 7 Run as One with Ragnar Relay. Grab your friends and sign up for this 200-mile relay race set to start at Copper and end at Aspen Snowmass. Each participant runs three times with each leg ranging between 3 to 8 miles varying in difficulty. Ragnar is all about team bonding and is perfect for runners of all abilities from novice to the most elite.

7, 8, 9 The World's Best Guitarists United at Guitar Town. The world's best guitarists come together for the 11th Annual Guitar Town Festival featuring free guitar workshops, free live music, the ArtGuitar silent auction, and a kid's music activities. This year's lineup includes Steve Vai, Eric Johnson, John Jorgenson and much more. New for 2015 is Andy May's Acoustic Kids Showcase. This showcase is an opportunity for young guitarists of any level under age 16 to perform in a supportive environment.

15 Running for the Kids in Warrior Dash. The Warrior Dash is a one-of-a-kind racing experience as it's the world's largest obstacle race series. With obstacles named Muddy Mayhem, Giant Cliffhanger, and Vicious Valley, athletes are put to the ultimate physical and mental test as they run their way through this unique 5K course. Warrior Dash has hosted over 150,000 participants and has collectively raised over \$5 million for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital with partnering events through Red Frog Events.

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~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.

- ALMA**
2, 9, 16, 29, & 30 Gladys Kravitz provides music at the Alma Coffee House from 10 a.m. to noon.
- BUENA VISTA**
1&2 Gold Rush Days, BVHOPE will have a booth at the Gold Rush Days in Buena Vista August 1st and 2nd. We are partnering with the UCOUNT group and will have direct trade items available from all over the world for sale. All the proceeds from the sales go directly back to the women who make them in their own countries. Please come visit us and empower these women.
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- 21 Fremont County Community Supplemental Food Program distribution. 3rd Fridays each month from 9 a.m. to noon at Loaves & Fishes, 24 Justice Center Rd. Call Traci Nelson for more information 719-275-0593.
- COPPER MOUNTAIN**
1 & 2 A Long Standing Tradition: Copper Triangle Raises Money for Parkinson's Disease. The famous Copper Triangle has long been considered one of Colorado's classic alpine road rides featuring three iconic climbs. The Copper Triangle exemplifies cycling in the Colorado Rockies. The Copper Triangle is a 78-mile ride with an elevation gain of almost 6,000 feet over three mountain passes: Fremont, Tennessee, and Vail. This year's event is raising money for the Davis Phinney Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping people living with Parkinson's Disease.
- 6 & 7 Run as One with Ragnar Relay. Grab your friends and sign up for this 200-mile relay race set to start at Copper and end at Aspen Snowmass. Each participant runs three times with each leg ranging between 3 to 8 miles varying in difficulty. Ragnar is all about team bonding and is perfect for runners of all abilities from novice to the most elite.
- 7, 8, 9 The World's Best Guitarists United at Guitar Town. The world's best guitarists come together for the 11th Annual Guitar Town Festival featuring free guitar workshops, free live music, the ArtGuitar silent auction, and a kid's music activities. This year's lineup includes Steve Vai, Eric Johnson, John Jorgenson and much more. New for 2015 is Andy May's Acoustic Kids Showcase. This showcase is an opportunity for young guitarists of any level under age 16 to perform in a supportive environment.
- 15 Running for the Kids in Warrior Dash. The Warrior Dash is a one-of-a-kind racing experience as it's the world's largest obstacle race series. With obstacles named Muddy Mayhem, Giant Cliffhanger, and Vicious Valley, athletes are put to the ultimate physical and mental test as they run their way through this unique 5K course. Warrior Dash has hosted over 150,000 participants and has collectively raised over \$5 million for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital with partnering events through Red Frog Events.
- 19 World-Class Cyclists Descend onto Copper for the U.S. Pro Cycling Challenge. Copper Mountain is proud to host the Stage 3 Start of the USA Pro Cycling Challenge 2015. Building on its reputation for hosting cycling events, Copper steps up to the plate and is set to host thousands of the world's most elite cyclists. The Stage 3 start is scheduled to begin at 11:10 a.m. on Wednesday, August 19 in Copper's Center Village. Get to Copper early and stay late for the Start Festival set to feature free live music, food and activities for the family to enjoy. For more information on the Pro Challenge at Copper, visit prochallenge.coppercolorado.com.
- 22 We All Scream for Mac-n-Cheese at Mac-N-Cheese Fest. Another new event for Copper in 2015 is Mac-N-Cheese Fest. It's an event where you can compete for the title of "Best Mac and Cheese in Summit County."
- 29 No 3-Rings Here at the Cider and Beer Circus. You won't find any animals or clowns at this circus. On August 29, the Cider and Beer Circus is set to descend onto Copper with dozens of cider houses and breweries supplying samples throughout the day. Enjoy live music in Burning Stones Plaza from March 4th.
- 29 & 30 Genuine Jazz & Wine Festival. Relax in the beautiful backdrop of Copper as stars from smooth to fusion delight your senses at the 50th annual Genuine Wine and Jazz Festival. A world-renowned lineup with Rick Braun, Bobby Lyle, Joey Somerville, Euge Groove, Peter White, Johnathan Butler plus delicious food and wine tastings add up to a smooth mountain getaway. For more information please call 970-968-2318 or guestfeedback@coppercolorado.com.
- CRIPPLE CREEK**
8 CK&C Exploratory Day: Pikes Peak Fossil Puns and Earth Science Scholars. See ad on page 7.
- Through Aug. 29 "Foul Play: or the Scuttling of the Sapphire" (Melo-drama & Summer Olio) Love & intrigue from London to the high seas! In order to erase a crushing debt, scheming Albert Wardlaw sinks his father's ship the Sapphire to collect the insurance money. But little did he know that his bride-to-be was a passenger aboard the scuttled ship. Adventure, romance...and a missing treasure in gold! This show will be followed by our World Famous Summer Olio filled with music, dance & raucous laughter.
- Through Aug. 29 "Into the Woods" (A Musical by Stephen Sondheim & James Lapine) A humorous combining of a number of classic fairy tales into one story. A baker & his wife are assigned a number of tasks by the neighborhood witch; only after completing these duties will they be able to have the child for which they long. During their quest to fulfill the witches' demands, they encounter Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Cinderella, and several other fairy tale characters. The traditional stories are parodied and altered at will, yet the original fairy tales' sense of wonder and, at times, darkness remains intact. The Tony Award winning score includes such songs as Children Will Listen, Giants in the Sky, & No One is Alone. For more information, visit ButteTheater.com.
- 28 Aspen Mine Center's Teller County Food Distribution from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring photo ID and proof of Teller County residency. Call 719-689-3584 for more information.
- GOLD BAR THEATER**
1 Happy Birthday Colorado with Chuck Pyle — see side box page 35
- 21 American Folk Hank Cramer
- 29 Cowboy Poet/Songwriter Barry Ward — see side box page 35
- All shows start at 7 p.m. To learn more visit imperialhotelrestaurant.com or call 719-838-0116
- DIVIDE**
4 the Mountain Top Cycling Club (MTCC) will host its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. at McGinty's restaurant in Divide. McGinty's is a support sponsor of the MTCC. Meeting on the patio, meeting starts at 7 p.m. Shenna Lee-Gelmore will be our guest speaker. Shenna is a Reflexologist and Usui Reiki Practitioner/Teacher, facilitating healing on all levels: emotional, physical, mindfull and spiritual. Shenna will be offering valuable information on how various modalities can bring relief to not only your feet, also your entire being! Come join us for the Mountain Top Cycling Club event updates and door prizes. Visit www.mountaintopcyclingclub.com for more information or call Debbie 719-689-3435.
- 6 Project WILD at Mueller State Park. Project WILD captures the attention of students by using wildlife as the topic. As one of the most widely-used education programs of its kind among educators of students in kindergarten through high school, its mission is to provide

wildlife-based conservation and environmental education to foster responsible actions toward wildlife and related natural resources. To register or get more information about these classes, please contact Linda Groat at Mueller State Park, 719-687-2366 ext. 107 or linda@state.co.us. Participants must pre-register. Some fees are required and tuition is required for the optional college credit.

6 Divide Fire Protection District annual Pancake Breakfast. See ad this page.

10 & 24 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 littlechapel-foodpantry@outlook.com.

22 Spend the day in Divide. The fun starts with Paws in the Park 5K Trail Run at 7:30 a.m. at Hayden Divide Park Loop. Next the 2K Dog Walk for Pledges at 8:30 a.m. at Summit Elementary. Then is the Divide Wide Yard Sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Summit Elementary. The Great Divide Little Flight occurs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hayden Divide Park Loop. FREE for kids! Sponsored by: TCRAS 719-686-7707 and Divide Chamber of Commerce 719-686-7587.

FAIRPLAY

The South Park City Museum will open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please come and enjoy a walk through the "1800's Mining Museum". Any questions, phone 719-836-2387, check-out our web-site at southparkcity.org or email info@southparkcity.org

7, 14, 21, & 28 South Park Steakhouse presents Gladys Kravitz from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

FLORENCE

BELL TOWER
201 E SECOND STREET
15 "Summer in the City" Theme Show through Aug. 15.

5 Concert by Acoustic Eldon (Joe Scott and Hannah Alkire). Their sound is a blend of Celtic, Folk, World and Latin music influences. From 7 to 9 p.m.

28 Art Show TBA: reception 5 to 7 p.m.

JOHN C. FREMONT LIBRARY

4 Bucksin Joe 2.0 with Sherry Johns at 7 p.m. Local historian, Sherry Johns, will share his career and with the Denver Broncos, former NFL wide receiver Vance Johnson started drinking to escape the pressures and reality of his life. The tragic and untimely loss of his son caused Vance's alcohol addiction to worsen, sending him down a desperate and self-destructive spiral which eventually culminated in a 26-day coma. He stopped eating and had given up the will to live. After a series of failed recovery attempts, Vance drew upon his faith in God and the determination that made him a fierce competitor on the playing field to once again endeavor sobriety. Vance has opened up himself to the benefits of recovery and, since completing his treatment, has been instrumental in helping patients in our Men's Program overcome their addiction and reclaim their lives. For more information call 719-539-2575.

6 Chaffee County The Emergency Food Assistance Program & Community Supplemental Food Program distributions. First Thursday of each month at Salda Community Center, 305 F Street, from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call Elaine Alleman for more information 719-539-3351.

7 Free Legal Clinic from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. A free legal clinic for parties who have no attorney, will be featured on the FIRST FRIDAY of each month at the your Florissant Public Library. By computer link, volunteer attorneys will answer questions, help fill out forms, and explain the process and procedure for all areas of civil litigation, including family law, property law, probate law, collections, appeals, landlord-tenant law, small claims, veterans issues, and civil protection orders. Please pre-register by calling 719-748-3939 for Florissant. All free!

FLORISSANT

7, 14, 21, 28 Outpost Feed and Ranch Supply Farmer's Market from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Local produce, Palisade peaches, baked goods from Gold Camp Bakery, honey products from Honeyville, eggs, botanicals from the Thymerkeez, local artists and crafts. Vendor space available at no fee! Contact Ginger 719-748-5039. Located in Florissant at 18129 CR 1.

FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS

Join us for any of our daily events, offered 7 days a week throughout the Summer season:

• Ranger Talk: Amphitheater from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

• Ranger Hike: Petrified Forest Loop (1 mile) at 11 a.m.

• Fossil Learning Lab: Open Hours & Activities 1 to 3 p.m.

• Historic Hornbæk Homestead: Open Hours & Tours from 3 to 4 p.m. (Dependent on staff availability)

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Wildflower Walks: Join Ranger Shawn to discover local wildflowers! Round for 1-3 miles on- and off-trail around the backcountry's blooms. Every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29 Yoga Hikes: Join Ranger Denise for yoga along the trail! Hikes are approximately 1-2 miles, with stops for peaceful stretching. Every Wednesday & Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

8 Tabeguache Ute Indians Dance at the amphitheater behind visitor center, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Pikes Peak Historical Society has been hosting the return of the Northern Ute Nation since 1999 and is also supported by the Catamount Institute, the Friends of Florissant

continued on next page

~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.

continued from page 34

Fossil Beds, White Horse Circle of World Council of Elders, and the Smokebrush Foundation. See page 8 for more information.

28 Moonlight Hikes: Join us for a 2 to 4 mile night hike by the light of the Full Moon. Bring a flashlight for safety, but do not expect to need it! Friday, August 28 from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Hornbæk Wildlife Loop.

7 & 12 Night Sky Stargazes: Park Rangers team up with the Colorado Springs Astronomical Society, to share the wonders of the night sky. We start with a Ranger presentation, then step outside for stargazing with telescopes. Viewing is weather-dependent. "Measuring the Dark" on August 7 from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. "Perseids Meteor Shower" August 12 from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

22 Day Sky Sun-Gazes: Drop by the Visitor Center for an up-close view of the sun, through telescopes with safe solar filters. "The Sun and Moon" August 22 from noon to 2 p.m.

25 Fee-Free Day — National Park Service's 99th Birthday: The NPS is 99 years old! To celebrate, August 25 is a Fee-Free Day (no admission fee from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.). Special activities to be announced. Cost to visit is \$5. For more information please call the Monument at 719-748-3253 ext. 122. Sponsored by: TCRAS 719-686-7707 and Divide Chamber of Commerce 719-686-7587.

THUNDERBOLT INN

1 Red Hot Blues Katz, 2 p.m.

15 Beach Party, 1 p.m. featuring Mo Champagne & The Meso Horns and more!

29 Hayes, Epp & Bones, 6 p.m. Classic Rock!

Call 719-748-3968 for more info.

THYMEKEEPER WALKS

See page 2 for August hikes.

LAKE GEORGE

15 Lake George Fire Department Spaghetti dinner at 4:30 p.m. at the Lake George Fire Station.

15 & 16 Lake George Extravaganza. Craft fair/ flea market and library used book sale. Food and drink available. Lake George Community Park. Booth space is \$5. Contact Kim 719-748-3949.

15 & 16 Arkansas Valley Flywheelers Antique tractor Pull at the Lake George Community Park. Contact Ed 719-748-8383.

19 Park County Senior Potluck. We meet the 3rd Wed at noon - Park County Senior potluck at the Lake George Senior Center (yellow metal building by maintenance shop on north side of Hwy 24). Table service and coffee/tea furnished. Call Carol for more information at 719-689-5950.

21, 22, 23 The 16th Annual Lake George Gem and Mineral Show. Vendors, jewelry booths, food and more from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Next to the Lake George Post Office. Meet Richard Fretter and "Prospectors". Contact Rebecca 719-330-8123.

24 & 25 Lake George Charter School holds its Open House at 6:30 p.m. Aug 24 and the first day of school for students is August 25.

SALIDA

2 Heart of the Rockies Radio presents Vance Johnson Cowboy Church, at 8:30 a.m. at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds. During his career, Vance Johnson has won numerous NFL wide receiver Vance Johnson started drinking to escape the pressures and reality of his life. The tragic and untimely loss of his son caused Vance's alcohol addiction to worsen, sending him down a desperate and self-destructive spiral which eventually culminated in a 26-day coma. He stopped eating and had given up the will to live. After a series of failed recovery attempts, Vance drew upon his faith in God and the determination that made him a fierce competitor on the playing field to once again endeavor sobriety. Vance has opened up himself to the benefits of recovery and, since completing his treatment, has been instrumental in helping patients in our Men's Program overcome their addiction and reclaim their lives. For more information call 719-539-2575.

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7 Charge Ahead Colorado Grants for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations are due on Aug. 17. Eligible entities include workplaces, organizations, businesses and multi-family housing units. For more information as well as instructions on how to apply visit this website: http://clearfleets.org/documents/electric_charge-ahead-colorado. For questions contact: marianace@connect.net. In an effort to improve air quality and encourage deployment of electric vehicles across the State of Colorado, the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) and Colorado Energy Office (CEO) have teamed up to provide financial support for electric vehicles (EV) and electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE). To view a full list of projects awarded through Charge Ahead Colorado, please visit http://clearfleets.org/documents/electric_charge-ahead-colorado. awarded projects

PARADISE GARDENS

15 Paradise Gardens will be celebrating the New Moon Energy with Debbie Winking CYI of Heart Song Yoga with a gentle, relaxing and meditative yoga session on Sat. August 15th. Gardens will open for your enjoyment at 8:30 a.m. with Sharing Circle at 9 a.m. followed by our yoga practice. Bring a friend, a mat, water, maybe some insect repellent and a very simple snack to share. Cost is \$20.

29 Honor the Full Moon and your selves by joining us for an evening of Yoga on Sat. Aug. 29th. Gardens open at 6:30 p.m. for meandering, mingling, and musing. Our very gentle practice will start around 8 p.m. lasting about 1 1/2 hours with visting (if you wish) afterwards. Snacks are always appreciated but not required. Cost is \$20. Please RSVP so we know how to plan for space. To register and for directions, call Karen at 748-3521 or Debbie at 748-3678. Namaste'

PIKES PEAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

is located in Florissant at 18033 Teller County Road #1, across from the Florissant Post Office. The Museum is open Friday, Saturday, and Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 719-748-3435.

29 & 30 Ruben Sautie and the Hopi Eagle Dancers at 1 p.m. Join us

in Medicine Wheel Ceremony and Dance August 29 at 1 p.m. at Sacred Earth Sanctuary, 633 Valley Rd. Florissant, CO 80816. Suggested Donation \$50. Ruben will also lead us in Sacred Sweat Lodge August 30 at 10 a.m. at The Sacred Earth Sanctuary in Florissant by donation. Please RSVP for both events pati@sacredearthfound.org

THUNDERBOLT INN

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29 Hayes, Epp & Bones, 6 p.m. Classic Rock!

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WOODLAND PARK

7 Rattle Library. A free legal clinic for parties who have no attorney, will be featured from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the FIRST FRIDAY of each month at the your Woodland Park & Public Library in Woodland Park. By computer link, volunteer attorneys will answer questions, help fill out forms, and explain the process and procedure for all areas of civil litigation, including family law, property law, probate law, collections, appeals, landlord-tenant law, small claims, veterans issues, and civil protection orders. Please pre-register by calling 719-687-9281 ext.103 for Woodland

Western Music Association

Appearing at Florissant Grange August 8

by Sonja Oliver

Western music and cowboy poetry enthusiasts have an opportunity to hear award-winning cowboy poets and musicians from the American West at the Florissant Grange on Saturday, Aug. 8 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The public is invited come and enjoy original and new Western songs, poems and stories as well as old favorites performed by some of Colorado's best western entertainers at the historic 1880s schoolhouse located in Florissant, Colo. at 2009 County Rd. 31.

Featured artists include many award-winning entertainers: 2014 WMA Female Poet of the Year Susie Knight from Conifer, Colo., Sandy Reay (2010 WMA Finalist - Song of the Year) from Monument, Colo., Dennis Russell (2014 WMA Cowboy Poetry Jackpot Novice Champion) from Cimarron, N.M., Local favorites and Four Mile ranchers Tom and Donna Hutton (2005 AWA Poetry Album of the Year) of Woodland Park, Allen and Jill Kirkham (2015 Cowboy Idol Musicians) from Rapid City, S.D., Almeda Bradshaw (Acclaimed Touring Western Singer/Songwriter) of Huntley, MT, Dick and Jane Morton (National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo Champ and 2007 AWA Cowgirl Poet) from Colorado Springs, Yodeling Cowboy Tim Krebs from Lewis, Colo., and another local favorite — Cowboy Poet Trigger Schaefer from Colorado Springs.

Admission to the WMA - Colorado Showcase/Jam is \$10. For more information call Susie Knight at 303-495-4869. Visit

Summer fun at Mueller State Park planned for August

by Linda Groat

Mueller State Park is planning lots of summer fun for the month of August! Campground programs, guided hikes, children's programs and many more activities are happening daily. Learn a new outdoor hobby like archery, fly fishing or nature photography. The best part of all is free park entrance will be offered to active-duty military and veterans throughout August! Contact the park of your choice for details. Before the kids go back to school, get out and enjoy our beautiful Colorado State Parks!

Saturday, August 1st
 • Hike: Fishing at Rock Canyon, 9 a.m.
 • Children: In an Ant Hill, 11 a.m.
 • Hike: Cahill Loop, 10 a.m.
 • Amphitheater: Campfire Songs & Games, 7 p.m.
 • Amphitheater: 200 Years in Mueller State Parks, 8 p.m.

Sunday, August 2nd
 • Hike: Stoner Mill/School Pond, 9:15 am
 • Children: Going Buggy - Bees, 1:30 pm
 • Pond Safari, 2 p.m.
 • Amphitheater: With the Weather, 8 p.m.

Monday, August 3rd
COLORADO DAY!
 Free entrance to all Colorado State Parks today!
 • Hike: Homestead Hike, 9:15 am
 • Amphitheater: B.L.T., 8 p.m.

Tuesday, August 4th
 • Hike: Lost and Geer Pond, 9 a.m.

• Amphitheater: Beavers: Forgotten Architects of America, 8 p.m.

Friday, August 7th
 • Amphitheater: Coyote Tales, 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 8th
 • Family Nature Club - Butterflies, 9 a.m.
 • Hike: Cahill Loop, 10 a.m.
 • Archery for Beginners, 2-4 p.m.
 • Amphitheater: The Purrfect Cat, 8 p.m.

Sunday, August 9th
 • Hike: Aspen Trail, 9:15 am
 • Amphitheater: Mueller Critters, 8 p.m.

Monday, August 10th
 • Hike: Rock Canyon, 9:15 am

Tuesday, August 11th
 • Hike: Stoner Mill/School Pond, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, August 12th
 • Hike: Rock Canyon, 9 a.m.

Thursday, August 13th
 • Hike: Buffalo Rock, 9 a.m.

Friday, August 14th
 • Hike: Grouse Mountain Overlook, 1:30 pm
 • Amphitheater - Those Sly Foxes, 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 15th
 • Hike: Cahill Loop, 10 a.m.
 • Archery for Beginners, 2-4 p.m.

• Hike: Peak View Plus, 2 p.m.
 • Amphitheater: Bear Aware, 8 p.m.

Sunday, August 16th
 • Children - Rock Art, 2 p.m.
 • Amphitheater: Our Slithery Friends, 8 p.m.

Monday, August 17th
 • Hike: Cheesman Trail, 9:15 am
 • Hike: Aspen Trail, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, August 19th
 • Hike: Elk Meadow, 9 a.m.
 • Children: Nature Stories, 2 p.m.

Thursday, August 20th
 • Hike: Preacher's Hollow, 2 p.m.
 • Star Party, 8 p.m.

Friday, August 21st
 • Fly Fishing Basics, 10 a.m.
 • Amphitheater - Nocturnal Animals, 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 22nd
 • Children: Going on a Bear Hunt, 1 p.m.
 • Amphitheater: Lex Nichols - Native Flute, 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 23rd
 • Hike: Preacher's Hollow, 9 a.m.
 • Amphitheater: Digital Outdoors, 7:45 pm

Monday, August 24th
 • Hike: Stoner Mill/School Pond, 9:15 am
 • Hike: Digital Outdoors, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, August 25th
 • Hike: Logger Mountain, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, August 26th
 • Hike: Wildflower Hike, 9 a.m.
 • Pond Safari, 1 p.m.

Thursday, August 27th
 • Hike: Dynamite Cabin, 9 a.m.

Friday, August 28th
 • Hike: Homestead Hike, 1 p.m.
 • Amphitheater: Bear Facts, 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 29th
 • GPS Event, 8:30 am
 • Hike: Rock Canyon, 9 a.m.
 • Hike: Full Moon Hike, 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 30th
 • Hike: Black Bear, 9 a.m.
 • Amphitheater: B.L.T., 7:30 pm

Monday, August 31st
 • Hike: Aspen, 9:15 am
 • Hike: Outlook Ridge, 1 p.m.

The events are free; however, a seven dollar daily pass or \$70 annual park pass is required to enter the park. For more information, call the park at 719-687-2366. Mueller State Park is located just 45 minutes from Colorado Springs on the west side of Pike Peak.

~ UTE COUNTRY BUSINESS ~

The Insurance Center, LLC

Julie A. Matthews
Owner/Agent

105 Sundial Drive
Woodland Park, CO 80863
juliem@wpinsurancecenter.com
719-687-3094
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www.wpinsurancecenter.com



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