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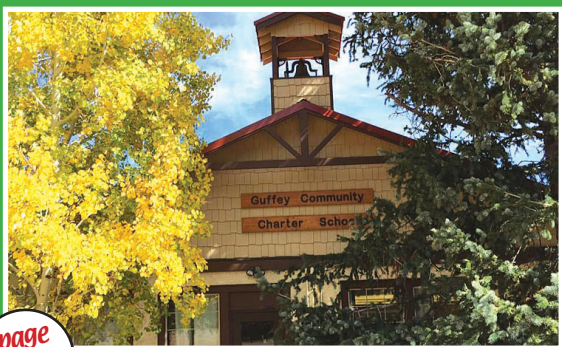
Vol. 9, No. 12

## Welcome to Ute Country

**"Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmastime."**

— Laura Ingalls Wilder

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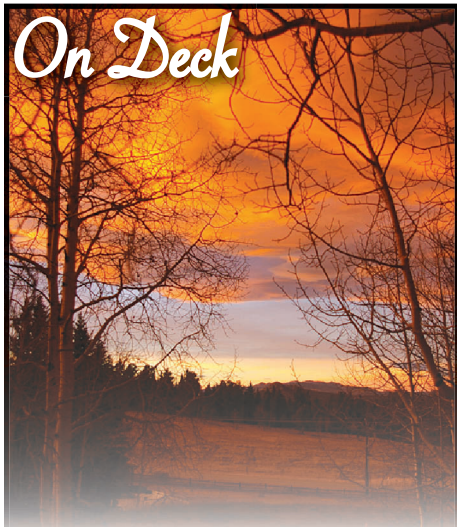
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Eric Dickson Memorial





This month's cover photo is of Santa and Emma-Jean Beal taken at Christmas in Divide on November 11, 2017. It is a fantastic celebration that gets everyone in the mood for the holidays.

Do you notice anything different? You've told us you'd like the *Ute Country News* easier to read and that you enjoy reading it cover to cover. We've heard you and our new format on brighter paper is easier to read and won't get your hands quite as inky as before.

We hope you enjoy this issue. There are lots of interesting articles to get you thinking and pondering.

Enjoy the holiday season! We hope everyone has a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, a Satisfying Solstice, and a close-knit Kwanza.

We love hearing from you and receiving your comments as well as photos for Critter Corner. You may contact us at 719-686-7393 or [utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com) or via web at [www.utecountrynews.com](http://www.utecountrynews.com). Keep reading!

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 Snowflakes and shysters

by Mari Marques-Worden

The holiday season is a time for family get-togethers, good food, celebration and festivities but it also is a time to be aware. If there is one subject I really don't like to have to address, it's shysters. The holiday season seems to bring them out of the woodwork but trust me, they are out there all year and you probably won't see them coming. Which is why I want to bring some facts regarding herbs and your health out in the open because holidays and health seem to be two areas of vulnerability.

If you know anyone who suffers from a debilitating disease, you know that person would spend their last dime to resolve or relieve the issue. Problem is, the shysters know it too. Something else to be aware of if you have ever suffered from an incapacitating ailment, is the thought lurking in the back of your mind of the possibility that it could happen again.

For example, I recently met with a person who suffered from scarlet fever. This resulted in a horrific full on body rash that rendered her nearly helpless. Anything coming into contact with her skin was excruciating and even simply lying down or sitting was painful as she felt her entire body had been sand blasted.

Because the rash started behind her knees, every time she has a slight itch there, the thought that the rash could return is the first one she has, even though re-occurrence is unlikely. As an herbalist I see this time and time again. In fact, it's more likely than not to happen with just about everyone I talk to regarding their health.

Now apply that to anyone who has had cancer or a tumor. We all do it; we seem to be wired that way and doctors don't necessarily help when asked if the ailment could occur again. Could is such a pretentious word that leaves us lingering when in actuality the words "it could" should promptly be followed with, "but it may not." Words matter, especially when coming from someone you trust. Everyone is an individual; diet and lifestyle choices can greatly affect the chances of a re-occurrence of an illness.

That being said, the people who are out to capitalize on your health, or lack of, also know about our lingering phobias surrounding re-occurring illness. It's perhaps one of the oldest tricks in the book. They know how to hook you and they know how to keep you there, unless of course, you run across an herbalist who knows a thing or two about herbs.

Recently I met with an individual who unfortunately got caught up in a scam. It was with his blessing I share this story.

Max (not his real name) had recently been diagnosed with a tumor and underwent surgery to have it removed. This was

a horrific event in his life and of course when asked if it could happen again, the doctor answered with the almost predictable response, "yes, it could." The surgery left him with a significant scar that was visible from a distance and the lingering thought that the tumor could return.

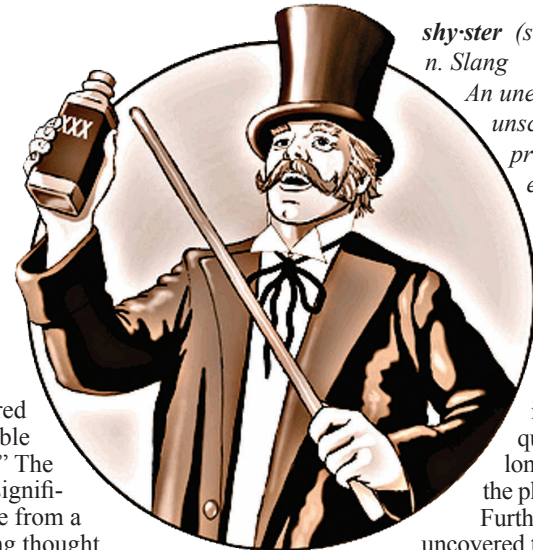
On one of his visits to the hot springs, Max overheard a group of people talking about an herbal "compound" that was good for nearly everything that ails you including tumors and cancer. Most of us have either suffered from one of those conditions or care about someone who has, so of course it's going to get some attention, and this time it was Max.

The "compound" was marketed as a "unique American Indian herbal compound that has reached through time, over several hundred years, to meet the needs of an ailing civilization today." Thousands of people have benefited from the compound under the sage guidance of Mr. Pocket Robber (not his real name) and many Native Americans prior to this period. The list of ailments supposedly cured by the compound ranges from cancer to gum disease with a host of others in between. Understandably, Max fell for it hook, line and sinker. He contacted Mr. Pocket Robber who was very helpful at first and promptly sent off \$400 for a product he hoped would stop any future tumors dead in their tracks.

He took the product internally for 12 days at which point he says he felt awful. Further communication with Mr. Pocket Robber had taken a turn and he was informed that Mr. Robber was a very busy man with over 60,000 clients. Take just a minute to do the math on that.

Enter, appalled herbalist. When Max came to me with three two-ounce jars of the compound and a very unprofessional looking hand-out with gory pictures and instructions on the use of the product, I put on my detective cap.

First of all, the ingredients listed were a few minerals and a "blend of synergistic herbs." Although I recognized it as a knock off of the blend known as black salve, I wanted to hear what herbs were included. I immediately called the number listed on the product for more information. To my surprise I got Mr. Pocket Robber himself who was happy to launch into his spiel on the amazing Native American formula made by the same family for over 125 years. When I told him I just wanted to know what was in the blend his tone changed to stern and he informed me they aren't giving out the formula. I explained that I didn't want to make it, but only wanted to know due to possible allergic reaction. At which point he bluntly replied, "just don't take it, what's the problem?" I responded that the problem is one of



**shy-ster** (shī'stər)  
n. Slang  
An unethical, unscrupulous practitioner, especially of law.

integrity; his. This launched him into a raging rant that I'm quite sure went on long after I hung up the phone.

Further investigation uncovered the fact that Mr. Pocket Robber, a man who calls himself a healer is a world traveler with no known relevant health related education. Quackwatch.com reports the following:

*Federal law requires that products marketed for preventing or treating disease (a) be recognized as safe and effective by experts, (b) identify their ingredients, and (c) be labeled with adequate directions for their intended use.*

This product meets none of these standards. In April 2005, the FDA ordered Mr. Pocket Robber and Pocket Robbers Inc., to stop marketing the product. He didn't.

The other interesting tidbit I found in my investigation is Mr. Robber and his company promote a variety of hot springs on his social media account. I think we've come full circle on this one.

Fortunately, this story has a happy ending. Because Max used a credit card when he purchased the product, he was able to get the charges reversed and because he stopped taking it after 12 days, it has had no lingering negative effects on his health. At the doses recommended in the handout, I can only assume that if this product hasn't been reported to have hurt anyone by now, they probably haven't lived to tell about it.

• **Fact:** Herbs are inexpensive. Even the most expensive ones are \$12-\$15 per ounce with saffron being the exception. No matter how you blend them, it doesn't make them more expensive than they are on an individual basis.

• **Fact:** There is no miracle herb or herbal blend that is going to heal every little thing from warts to tumors; quite possibly with cannabis being the exception.

• **Fact:** If an herbal product in any form from essential oil to salve appears to have burned your skin then indeed it has. It isn't the bad "juju" being released from your body as I've heard some people claim.

• **Fact:** If a person has integrity, there should be no problem bringing that integrity into question. If someone holds the self-proclaimed title of "healer" you have every right to ask for their credentials. Where did they study medicine or gain their knowledge on health and well-being are perfectly acceptable questions to ask. If you are met with defensiveness over these kinds of questions, it is a clear sign the person is not on the up and up and at this point it's fine to walk away with your wallet intact.

**Note:** Black salve contains the herb blood root and should never be used either internally or externally without the close oversight of a qualified and experienced health practitioner. I've personally seen it burn a hole in a person's skin who was using it topically and in Mr. Robber's own documentation, scarring may occur if used topically. You are skin on the inside as well. He also notes that the compound should be capsulized daily as it will melt capsules if left too long. Do you really want to put that in your mouth and swallow it? Trust that there are much safer remedies available, especially in Colorado.

Mari Marques-Worden is a Certified Herbalist and owner of The Thymekeeper. For questions or more information contact: Mari at [mugsyspad@aol.com](mailto:mugsyspad@aol.com) or 719-439-7303 or 719-748-3388.

## Health care vs health coverage

by Judy Van Acker

There is a world of difference between the terms health care and health coverage. Health care is about people getting the care they need when they need it. It is us, as individuals caring for each other, providing comfort, medicine, and nourishment so people can rest and heal. Remember the song "We are family"? That's us — all of us — making sure that there are protections in place so that the sick, the injured, and our most vulnerable are taken care of.

Health coverage on the other hand is something totally different. The term health coverage is lip service, which means we have you covered — if you can afford it. Treating people like commodities, like products to be manipulated, diminishes us. Most of us believe that we have pretty good health insurance policies, but this is a fallacy. For example, you may think you have adequate health coverage, but once a crisis strikes and you open the hospital bill to discover you owe thousands upon thousands of dollars, and your insurance company is shirking their responsibility, well, this can really send you to the mat. Most likely, you will have to dip into your savings, or heaven forbid, you may have to file for bankruptcy and possibly lose your home. This is not health coverage, and it certainly isn't health care; this is a one-two punch, wealth transfer. Call it whatever you like, it's messed up. There are three culprits in the health care arena: insurance companies, hospitals, and pharmaceutical companies. Let's take them on one at a time.

### Insurance companies

In one corner, we have insurance companies — big bloated dudes with a strong right upper cut. A little-known fact is that in the early 1950s health insurance companies existed to pay people's medical bills ([https://www.ache.org/pubs/Morrisey2253\\_Chapter\\_1.pdf](https://www.ache.org/pubs/Morrisey2253_Chapter_1.pdf)). Through a series of convoluted tax breaks, these guys are now making huge profits off of peoples' illnesses. Since there is no one there to stop them, like governments do in other countries with universal health care, they have ballooned into the giants we see now. You know, the suits and ties walking the halls of Congress, pulling out ready-made policies to hawk and sell to our representatives. At the brick and mortar institutes, insurance CEOs are rewarded handsomely (millions of dollars annually) to make sure that their investors and stockholders benefit on a grand scale. This big business ethic of making a buck off the backs of the sick and injured is not the definition of health care. It's not even the definition of health coverage, since these insurance companies employ entire departments of people to find ways to deny people the care they need. So, these guys rarely provide coverage and they certainly do not provide care. Remind me, why are they here? Oh, right, there here to knock the little guy around.

### Hospitals

Let's focus our attention on the second corner of the arena, our hospitals. Wiley guys with swift hands. Surely, hospitals provide care, yes? Yup, they do — for a price. I've talked to nurses who are truly embarrassed at the hoops they have to jump through recording everything they touch so it can be counted and sent over to billing. In some cases, patients may experience "officials" walking into rooms asking a few questions, only for the patient to discover later that they have been billed for the "visit". This is deception on a grand scale. This is unleashed greed. Then the hospitals gleefully bill the insurance companies and around and around we go. The only problem with these guys duking it out, is that the one who staggers out of the arena all bloodied and mangled is the patient.

### Pharmaceutical companies

Now onto our third culprit, Big Pharma. These guys are on the sidelines popping popcorn and showering everyone with the latest and greatest drugs on the market. They don't much care who wins the fight as long as they are able to make huge profits off whomever will buy their wares. If folks cannot afford their medication, who cares, there are larger profits to pursue by tweaking an already existing drug and slapping a new and improved label on it.

This, my friends, is what it truly comes down to — profit over human lives. Health care has become a commodity to be bought and sold to the highest bidder.

Some people say we have a free market-based system, but there are no market based solutions, because people cannot call around as they are having a heart attack to see which hospital will give them the best deal. Do we truly have a fair choice of health insurance plans, when these for-profit businesses only care about big profits and dividends, and then stomp off when they perceive their profit margins are in jeopardy? I'm still puzzled as to why these guys are getting in the middle of me and my doctor, anyway. The pharmaceutical companies who line the pockets of our representatives and jack the price of medications through the roof so that many Americans are now dividing their doses or often going without — sometimes at the cost of their lives — do they really care about us?

We have to shut down this three-ring circus. It's time to put CARE back into health. It sounds so depressing and overwhelming, because it is. We all know that hope is our best fortification against despair. There is hope. There is hope that people will speak out against this unjust health care system and demand change. There is hope that the



passion we see at the grass-roots level will grow until we no longer can ignore the need for fundamental changes to our corrupt healthcare system. There is hope that our representatives will do the right thing. Stop laughing, it is possible! This is not a partisan issue, because the majority of Americans agree that we have a broken health care system and that our government should take action (<http://news.gallup.com/poll/4708/healthcare-system.aspx>). Our strength lies in our numbers and it also lies in our commitment to one another. So, let's band together as one united nation who cares about the fate of our family, our neighbors, our friends, and our community. It is not only the responsible thing to do, it the right thing to do. Act now!

Call your local, state, and national representatives and tell them that our health care system is broken. Tell them that other countries offer health care to ALL of their citizens for less than half the price of what we pay here in the United States (<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2015/oct/us-health-care-from-a-global-perspective>). Tell them that for too long we have let health insurance companies, hospitals, and big pharma profit off our sick and our injured. Tell them that their actions will decide how you cast your vote. Finally, talk to your neighbors, your friends, and family about universal health care. Your voice matters!

Help our local organization — Health Care for All — Putting CARE back into Health by contacting us to assist financially, or by volunteering — there is much to do! Please LIKE us on Facebook. Health Care for All (Fremont, Custer and Chaffee Co.) For more information email me at [jf-vanacker@gmail.com](mailto:jf-vanacker@gmail.com).

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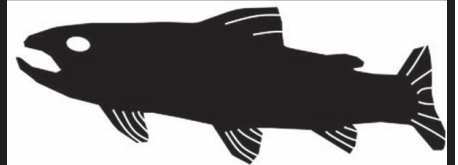


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## 100 Years of the Guffey School

by Flip Boettcher

Although there has been a school in Guffey for over 120 years, the school building, at its present site, will be celebrating 100 years in 2018. The school is planning some special events throughout the 2018 school year, according to Principal Martine Walker.

The first school in Guffey began in 1895 at an unknown location, but not the present site, according to Charles "Charlie" Alfred Dell (1905 - 1983) in *Guffey: One Hundred Years of Memories*. The first school was a town school and Charlie's aunt taught in that first school.

Several years later, an addition was added to the existing town schoolhouse and it became part of a school district, said Charlie.

Besides Charlie's aunt, another of the Guffey School's early teachers was Hilda Dorothea "Thea" Carlson, born in Idaho Springs, Colorado, in 1893. Thea graduated from the State Teachers College of Colorado in Greeley in 1913, and accepted a teaching position at the Guffey School. Thea taught for three school years there before marrying her best friend Helen's brother, the cowboy from Guffey, William Ferrington in 1916. The Ferrington's homesteaded northeast of Guffey, from "A Guffey Teacher," by Linda Bjorklund in the November, 2014 *Ute Country News*.

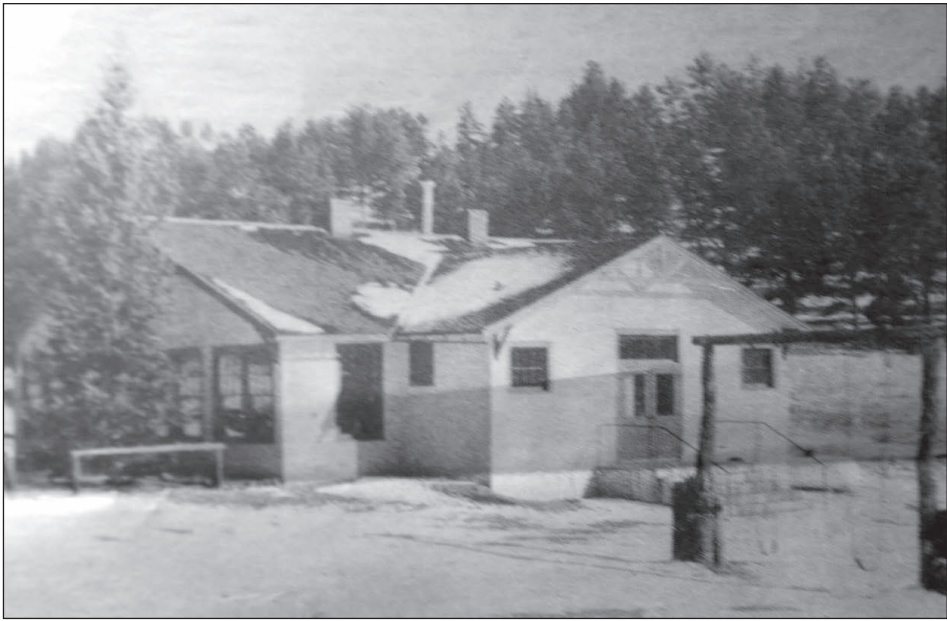
In March, 1918, the electors of a proposed joint school district between Fremont and Park Counties met for a vote on the consolidated school district. Out of 79 ballots cast, 76 were in favor of the joint school district and Guffey School was in Joint District 49. Among those voting were Mr. and Mrs. William Ferrington and Helen Ferrington. A board of school directors was also elected.

In April, the voters of Joint District 49 met and voted a one-time-only levy tax of seven mills for the purpose of selecting and buying a site, constructing a schoolhouse and furnishing it. Lots 1, 18, 19 and 20 in block 18 were approved for purchase from E.C. Carver. In May, two contractors from Cripple Creek, J.C. Harker "Hawkie" and his father were selected with the lowest bid of \$3,790 to build the schoolhouse, according to Ellen N. Pigg, Joint District 49 board of director's secretary.

According to Charlie, many of the old buildings in Guffey and buildings the county donated were torn down and the lumber re-used in construction of the new schoolhouse. Everyone helped, even the kids, and Charlie said "after that we had the cleanest little town you ever saw."

Unfortunately, with World War I, the cost of building materials almost doubled and the school could not be completed at its first estimated cost. The board decided to complete only the three rooms, leaving the exterior, the hall and the water unfinished. Originally, the school was heated by wood and had two chimneys. At some point there was also a water tank added in the attic, filled by a hand pump that supplied water for the school.

By September, the three rooms were complete and principal Miss Margaret MacKenzie (salary of \$110/month) and Miss Ruth



The old school from the south. you can see the two chimneys. notice how small the Colorado blue spruce is.

Merriam, primary and intermediate grade teacher (paid \$90/month) were hired.

From early October that year until early December, the school was closed because of the flu epidemic.

Finally, in early December the school re-opened and another teacher was needed and hired because of the 34 pupils. Miss Edna Terry was hired as intermediate teacher. There was one teacher for 1st-4th grades, one for 5th-8th and one for high school.

Also in 1918, the teacherage, institutional or teacher housing, was built across from the school. It was 30 feet in length and 32 feet wide and only one story. The property was owned by E.T. Hickey in 1897 before the building was built for the teachers, but there is no mention of how the site was purchased, who purchased it, or who built the teacherage, Historic Survey of the Town of Guffey by the Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission in 2007.

According to Maude Marie (West) Ownbey in *100 Years of Guffey*, the outside of the teacherage was built from dynamite boxes; that's what's under the wooden siding. All the window glass came from Cripple Creek after the 1896 fires. "That's recycling Guffey-style," she said. The Ownbey's purchased the teacherage in the 1960's and it is still in the family today.

Lillian Fayetta (Pike) Langerock was 10 years old when she and her family moved to Guffey in 1928, *100 Years of Guffey*. Langerock remembers two teachers well, Mrs. Kirkpatrick and Mrs. Koontz, when she went to the Guffey School. She remembers that the teacherage had a marble counter top in the kitchen and Mrs. Koontz had parties for the school students. Some of them included "taffy pulls and candy making parties; card parties; Halloween parties; and

cookouts in the creek bed south of the jail (south of the school) — potatoes fried over an open fire (full of ashes), wieners and marshmallows, and we loved it."

Sometime in the 1950s, the school was temporarily closed and was permanently closed in 1961 when the state ordered all school districts to re-district. There were so few students in Guffey's 1st-6th grades, that they were bused to Cripple Creek and Cañon City. It was at this time that the Guffey School joined other schools in this part of Park County under the RE-2 School District, according to Charlene West, in *100 Years of Guffey*.

In the 1960s and 1970s when the school was closed, the Guffey Community Club held meetings in the school and hosted dances where they served alcohol, according to club minutes provided by Pat Ownbey. The club disbanded because of internal differences.

Bob and Peg Larson moved to Guffey in the summer of 1977 and Bob taught school and Peg was a speech therapist in Cañon City. When Bob got out of teaching in Cañon City around 1979, mainly because of the long drive, many community members and parents of students approached him about re-starting the school in Guffey, eliminating the long bus rides for the students.

The Larson's approached the RE-2 school board about re-starting the Guffey School but they were turned down for lack of funds. In 1980, the Larson's opened a private school in their small home in Pike Trails west of Guffey called Black Mountain Elementary School for grades K-6 taught by Bob. Peg kept her job in Cañon City.

Funding came from a monthly tuition of \$50 paid in some cash, but mostly by gratuities or bartering, said Peg Larson in an

continued on next page

interview. More than half the school supplies were acquired and donated by the Larson's (*Park County Republican*, January, 1982).

The number of students that year fluctuated from seven to 12 with 10 ending the year, said Peg. They held the Christmas program that year at the old school because it was too much for their small house, she remembers.

In 1981, under pressure from school student's parents and the Larson's, as well as seeing the success of the Larson's Black Mountain School, the RE-2 school board voted to re-model and modernize the old Guffey School building and re-open for classes, (*Fremont County Sun*, April, 1982). They hired Bob as teacher for grades K-6 for the 1981-82 school year and Lennie Dilts as his aid.

According to Bob, it also was becoming a little too much to continue having the school at their house. "When the school was there," Bob said, "that little house took a beating," (*Fremont County Sun*, April, 1982).

The remodel was started in May, 1981, but due to construction delays, was not able to open until December 10 that year at a cost of about \$32,000 to the district (*Fremont County Sun*, April, 1982). So, the Larson's continued to have the school another half of a school year at their house with even more students than before, said Peg.

When the Guffey School finally re-opened, there were 19 students in grades K-6. According to Dilts, the remodeled school had three rooms, a stage and indoor plumbing (*Park County Republican*, January, 1982). Charlene West, *100 Years of Guffey*, said that the Guffey School had three rooms, a large hallway and two restrooms in 1981.

Sometime in the early 1980s Larson retired and the RE-2 board had to hire two teachers to replace him, said Peg. In 1988, Peg started teaching at the Guffey School.

In 1995, the RE-2 district school board created the Charter School with two operating sites, Lake George and Guffey. Early in 1996, the RE-2 board approved operating funds for the Charter School which was to open in the fall of 1996. Ginny Jaramillo was hired as administrator/principal of both schools and Frank Ruvo (president of the Guffey Community Charter School's board of directors today) stepped up as president of the Charter School board from Vice President (*The Flume*, February 16, 1996).

By the summer of 1999, the two schools, Lake George and Guffey, decided to separate and each become a separate charter school. There were unresolved conflicts between the two schools (*The Flume*, July 23, 1999). The Charter School board does not represent the Guffey community, said concerned citizens, and it was felt that Guffey needed to govern and manage its own school. The RE-2 board approved the application for a separate charter school in Guffey after two executive sessions and considerable public debate.

Peg Larson was the RE-2 board member from Guffey at the time and voted for the



Recent photo as seen on the school's Facebook page. Note the size of the tree today!

separation. She had been teaching for the Charter School in Guffey since 1996 and at the Guffey School since 1988.

In the fall of 1996, a 4,500 square foot addition to the old adobe schoolhouse was started on the south side of the Guffey Community Charter School (GCCS). The addition would include a multi-purpose room, office space, and kitchen upstairs; two bathrooms on the original schoolhouse level; and classrooms downstairs.

Unfortunately, due to improper and inadequate construction problems and legal problems resulting from that, the opening of the addition was delayed until October, 1997. To fix the unsafe structure and make it safe cost the district an additional \$300,000, reported the *Rocky Mountain News*, no date.

Another big event occurred at the GCCS when the roof of the original schoolhouse started sagging and had to be replaced in 2011. The problem was noticed a couple of days before school was to start that year. That part of the building was closed and the 10 middle school students who had their classroom there were bused one mile to Mountain Light Real Estate at Colorado State Highway 9 and Park County Road 102 for classes.

First the interior drop ceiling was torn out exposing the heavy, 93-year-old beams, rafters and roof decking. The roof decking was actually milled 1 inch by 6 inch wooden decking, not OSB board or plywood. One could see the old, grey, weathered wood of the second-hand lumber used and the lighter newly milled wood that was used in construction in 1918. Also, several of the old rafters had snapped with the stress.

Looking up, one could see the two old chimneys going up through the roof. The chimneys were taken down to below the new roof line. One could also see the old water tank which was removed, as well. Then the entire roof was torn off and with it, sadly, another piece of Guffey history was gone.

Ruvo said that they found bits and pieces of old newspapers from the 1920s that had apparently been used as insulation. The old beams and rafters were replaced with modern, engineered trusses.

The old school bell, which rang in 1918 and still rings today, was housed in a bell tower on the north side of the original schoolhouse. The tower was removed with the roof and is now housed in a cupola on the roof in the front of the building.

High speed internet came to the GCCS and the local surrounding area in 2014. With grants and donations, the RE-2 school district purchased the 20 acres and the hill (the highest point in the Guffey bowl) east of the school to acquire line-of-sight access to South Park Telephone's high-speed internet service. High-speed internet is a must for schools in this day and age, said Pam Moore, then school principal and spearhead for the project.

Over the years, the Guffey School has been a center of the community. Community members have volunteered their time teaching, tutoring and mentoring students. Many dedicated community members have donated countless hours to get the Guffey School where it is today.

The school has sponsored many, many community events including the 9 Health Fair, Town Hall meetings, flu shot clinics, informative and educational programs with guest speakers, fund-raising events, a carnival, seminars, a community garden, to name just a few.

The school also offers their annual programs: Open House, Halloween parade, Veteran's Day program, winter program, Pie Palooza, spring program and Graduation ceremonies.

Join the GCCS in celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2018. First though, Walker is looking for people who have memories of the Guffey School and who would be willing to share their memories with the public at perhaps a community potluck. Everything is still in the planning stages Walker said. Contact Walker at: mwalker@guffeyschool.org with your Guffey School memories.

Anyone with information and or pictures of the location of the original 1895 school-house, pictures of the addition and year, pictures of the schoolhouse in 1918-1981, or any other information about the school, please contact the writer of this article via [utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com).

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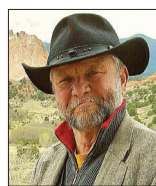
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## Driven by a Passion

To encourage, enhance and nurture early literacy

by Ron Cook

Thousands of years ago mankind started communicating. Early forms were considered to be gestures, facial expressions, and sounds. These forms continue today. We will have to look at the nonverbal subliminal methods of communication in another column. It is amazing and often unconscious! Our focus today will be on the importance of enhancing early literacy. This begins around the time sounds became words that were spoken; and later written and read. Although all children learn language mostly on their own; what facilitates, enhances, and nurtures this process? Why must we stimulate our young children? When should this "education" begin? What are the essential elements of this early linguistic nurturing?

Let's go!  
Fifty and 60 years ago it was possible for one spouse to be the main breadwinner for an average family. Today that is not the common experience. Now both spouses often work so that they can pay their bills and give their family about the same quality of life as families had in the not so distant past. Quality time with children has become a premium. How do we best use that time?

For answers to this question I solicited the help/advice of an expert... Leslie Jackson, a librarian at Florissant Public Library. Leslie gave me a list of resources that I will share with you at the end of this article. I have known Leslie for about a year participating in her Friday Storytelling program for young children at the Florissant Library. She has a pattern of teaching in this program that highlights the things she believes are important to develop early literacy. Let's look at six areas she emphasizes that are most important. I will add some of my own thoughts from my background in psychology and 40 years of teaching experience.

Two amazing pieces of information have come out of developmental research: children learn language with modeling, practice, and exposure; and children who do not have these three elements do not learn language well, or at all in some cases (studies of feral children). Mrs. Jackson has referred us to six main areas where language is best learned. These are:

1. Print motivation
2. Print awareness
3. Letter knowledge
4. Vocabulary
5. Phonological awareness
6. Narrative skills

What does this mean? Let's break it down in simple language.

Print motivation simply means to look at yourself and see what you enjoy. We all enjoy often different subject matters. Know what you enjoy and read in that area! I believe it is a parental dedication to literacy that we expose ourselves to good reading, speaking, and writing. Giving our children a good foundation starts with our own habits. None of us are perfect so don't think you have to read *War and Peace* before you have children! Just read... and enjoy it. Read with your child, expose them to what you like. Length of time doing this is not as important as having fun!

Print awareness relates to starting children with books they can handle physically. Use thick-paged books, pointing to pictures and words. Have them look for words around them in their world.

Letter knowledge pertains to the names and sounds of words. Talk about and point out

shapes. Play "Same and Different" as well as "I Spy" games with children. Read ABC books, and help the child learn their own name.

Learning a lot of words stimulates vocabulary. Children can learn any language in the world before the age of five, but they should learn their native language first. Use language as a positive form of communication. Talk to children frequently explaining words, reading books with new words.

Phonological awareness helps children hear the smaller sounds of words. Help this by teaching sing-songs, rhymes, and tongue twisters. Mrs. Jackson's favorites are *The Itsy Bitsy Spider*, *The Wheels of the Bus*, and *Zoom Zoom Zoom*. She also uses finger plays along with arts and crafts in her Friday storytelling sessions. My granddaughter, Tali, and I like to sing these diddies as well as some Beatles songs as we drive around our mountain community. Picking a letter sound of the day and using it is another way to accomplish this goal.

The good news is that kids love to repeat things! Great for them, perhaps a little more difficult for adults. The truth is that we only learn what we repeat. Short term memory is only about 20 seconds long (*Brain Rules* - John Medina)!

Narrative skills help children to tell stories and describe things and events. Even before a child is aware of the letters in words, they can tell stories. Asking open ended questions, talking about the day, mixing up a story and having them reorganize it, make new endings for stories, making up stories, and naming objects, feelings and events can all nurture this skill.

I hardly agree with all practices, and have seen it at work with my own children and grandchildren. Tali (my youngest grandchild) gained a leg-up for pre-school by attending and enjoying Leslie Jackson's Friday Storytime (at 10 a.m.). Developmental findings also agree with early literacy stimulation. My favorite resource for this is from micro-biologist John Medina's book *Brain Rules*. He lists 12 rules that help the brain to operate better. Some of these rules include: repetition, good sleep, focus on one thing at a time, exercise, attending to visual images, using more of the senses etc. It is well worth looking at his work online. There are some fun and funny videos that he includes. He also has done research primarily on babies. Enjoy this!

My last comment would be to make the library your child's friend. There are so many great resources and materials for a child to love. You will also find friendly knowledgeable librarians trained to assist you with the wonderful project of raising your children!

I hope this helps you to see how important our parenting roles are in the encouragement, enhancement and nurturing of our children literacy proficiency! Here's a little alliteration to conclude our literacy travels:

*The liberally loved labor of childhood literacy is a libation that pays twice... once for the literate laborer; and once for the beloved learning-literate!*

Thanks for reading!

Now here is your moment of resource Zen...

- Erik Erikson, *Erikson's Theories of Psychosocial Development*
- <http://www.ala.org/pla/resources/tools/youth-services/early-literacy>
- <https://www.clel.org/about3>
- <http://www.getreadytoread.org/early-learning-childhood-basics/early-literacy>
- John Medina *Brain Rules* (Book, DVD and website)

## Kidde fire extinguisher recall

by Kathy and Jeff Hansen

Every household should have a fire extinguisher, especially if you heat with wood. Many garages and some vehicles have them on board as well. If you have a fire extinguisher, go look at it now to see if it is the Kidde brand.

The Kidde fire extinguisher recall affects Kidde fire extinguishers made from 1973-2017, that's 37.8 million Kidde fire extinguishers!

It turns out they can clog, the nozzle can detach, require excessive force to discharge or even fail to discharge all together.

At the time of this writing, the Today.com website said there were 391 reports of a problem; 1 death in 2014 because the firefighters on scene couldn't get it to work; 16 injuries and 91 reports of property damage.

A local reader from Jefferson had heard on TV about the Kidde fire extinguisher recall. She looked at her extinguisher and sure



enough, it was a Kidde. She called the number on the extinguisher 1-800-880-6788 and was directed to another number just for the recall 1-855-271-0773. The receptionist asked for the number below the UL in a circle. A reference number was then given along with a promise a new (not defective) fire extinguisher would arrive within 15-20 business days.

The reader from Jefferson asked if she should return the defective Kidde fire extinguisher to them. The receptionist could not answer, but said if so, a label and packaging would be supplied with the new extinguisher.

This led the reader to wonder what does one do with the old, defective fire extinguisher?

Brandon Owings, Station Manager, Firefighter, and EMT with Divide Fire Station had the answer. He said old fire extinguishers can be brought to the Divide Fire Station at 103 Cedar Mountain Road, from 8-4 p.m. They can use them for trainings and can recycle them!

Special thanks to the concerned reader from Jefferson and to Brandon Owings for helping with this article.

## Parade of Lights and Christmas Mountain USA

by Barbara Wind

photos by Barbara Wind

Under a balmy, starlit sky the City of Salida hosted the annual Parade of Lights and lighting of Christmas Mountain USA festivities. Hundreds of spectators including the very young and very young at heart lined the sidewalks of downtown F Street to welcome in the holiday season. The Parade of Lights kicked off the events at 6 p.m. featuring an enchanting variety of twinkling fairy-tale floats and delightful walking characters.



Many downtown business got into the spirit.

As the last parade entry passed Riverside Park, all attention turned to the east where Santa flipped the switch, suddenly transforming Tenderfoot Mountain (aka S Mountain) into "Christmas Mountain USA" followed by a spectacular fireworks display, both traditions that began in the late 1980s.

In addition, Riverside Park was magically transformed into "Holiday Park" with the lighting of the sparkling arches intertwined with trees that form a charming pathway through the park.

The trees are decorated and donated by local businesses and civic groups.

Downtown merchants, restaurants and galleries extended business hours for holiday shoppers and socializing, many of



Tenderfoot Mountain, lit up with lights and fireworks, becomes "Christmas Mountain USA".

which welcomed visitors with hot cider and holiday cookies.

Following the lightings, the Salida Steam Plant and American Overhead Door Company hosted a community Open House at the Steam Plant dubbed the *Holiday Roundup* where bodies and spirits were warmed by free hot chocolate, mulled cider and bakery treats while enjoying the delightful musical entertainment provided by the *Drunken Hearts Band*.

The Parade of Lights and Christmas Mountain USA are organized by the Salida Business Alliance (SBA).



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## Thanksgiving: A time of fabricated Indians, fake history, or honesty and reconciliation?

by Monte Yellow Bird, Sr. and Dr. Michael Yellow Bird Sr.

The Thanksgiving tradition is truly a slice of Americana, an important event that is associated with the culture of the United States. Historically, this time was celebrated as a harvest festival, a time to thank God for his many blessings. Today, pilgrim hats, turkeys, cornucopias, family gatherings, feasts, prayers of thanks, and school assignments all symbolize, recount, and honor this American holiday. So far, so good? Not to spoil those bites of turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry, or pumpkin pie, but there is also a very uncomfortable twist to this particular day: the genocide of Native Americans; the illegal taking and occupation of their lands; and the continued oppression of these groups. For many Native and non-Native Americans, it is a time to celebrate the survival of those of us that are left. It also a time to acknowledge and grieve our many losses and to stand up to the continuing genocide, acts of hate and ignorance, and false history that fails to “make America great again.” Or is honesty and reconciliation not part of this phrase?

Because Native Americans continue to be denied their rights, face numerous acts of hate, or are not properly acknowledged in the history of this nation, I can honestly say that we are nothing more than the window-dressing for this holiday. In other words, a superficially, misleading presentation of this history. In the minds of many, but not all Americans, we are not real, nor do we fit nicely into the national narrative of equality, justice, and democracy. Instead, we are generally ignored and more likely to be fabricated Indians: At best, we are people that wear the fake multi-colored headdresses, do ridiculous war hoops and dances, stand stoically not feeling the pain of our losses, and wear war paint and fake costumes. At worst, we are a bunch of alcoholics, drug addicts, failures at “modern” society, folks that receive “special treatment” by the government, and stay on reservations living large off your tax dollars — and give nothing in return. In the minds of many we are not meant to be honored, and therefore, our presence in Thanksgiving is nothing more than to be the straight man, who plays the stooge and gives the colonizer the opportunity to construct this false narrative of Thanksgiving that we are supposed to go along with.

Well... we do not and will not go along with the racism and ignorance that is part of this holiday. Just yesterday, I was confronted with an insensitive, offensive display of what a local Divide, Colorado tire company regards as an appropriate display of Thanksgiving: a set of 2 tires, one made up to be a female pilgrim and the second an Indigenous/Native American male with two turkey feathers in its head, dressed in a mock “Indian costume.”

I called the company shortly after I saw their thanksgiving display and asked to speak to the manager. The worker who answered the phone stated that the manager wasn’t there and asked me if he could be of assistance. I introduced myself and went on to mention how inappropriate their display of Native Americans

hundreds of years, lose their culture, children, and language through federal and state policies, face daily humiliation, ridicule, and threats, continue to lose many of their tribal members through suicide, and face the terror of murdered and missing Native women, that are often disproportionately sold into sex trafficking and killed when they are no longer needed in the sex trade. It difficult for most of us Indigenous People to find much honor or humor in most of the displays and symbols that Americans create to represent us. Don’t get us wrong. There are many non-Native Americans that are wonderful allies that understand what we’ve been and continue to go through. Maybe some of them will visit the local Divide tire store and help educate the owners and workers.

In a recent article published November 2017 by the *Ute Country News*, putting the unity back in community, entitled “Chipeta Rising Celebration!” by Licia Iverson and Kathy Hansen helps us to understand the direction we should be taking in regard to the celebration of Thanksgiving. One of many important statements made by the authors is that “this is a time for healing and education, we need to understand our history and acknowledge the mistakes that have been made in the past, so we do not re-create them for our future.”

The current U.S. President Donald Trump has spoken often, and forcefully, of building a wall on America’s southern border to keep out people that would be threats to American citizens. For the most part I have disagreed with him since many that cross the borders are Indigenous Peoples that have been doing so for thousands of years. In my opinion, if we want to build walls to keep out the threats to our democracy and equality, we should be building them around those that promote false images and stereotypes that increase ignorance, complacency, hate, and misrepresentation towards Native Americans. It’s far past time for Americans to re-value what Thanksgiving is all about and advance a new narrative that educates, heals, and reconciles the past and present with the original Americans.

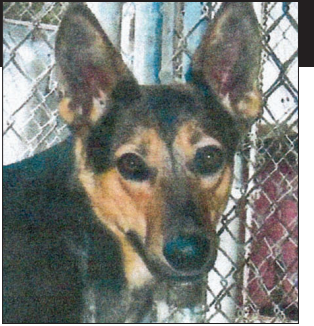
I want to end by saying that I am on the traditional territories of the Southern Ute Tribe and I acknowledge them as the original owners and caretakers of these lands. I am from the Three Affiliated Tribes in North Dakota (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara). I am visitor here. And, unless you are Southern Ute, you are a visitor too. Please practice love, respect, and understanding. No more fake history.

Monte Owen Yellow Bird Sr. aka Black Pinto Horse is a 3-year resident of Divide, Colorado.

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was. He responded that he wasn’t responsible for it and told me he would mention it to his manager. I have yet to hear back.

No doubt that the employees and owners of this display thought it was a clever, creative use of their materials. And, I believe that most Native Americans could appreciate it if they didn’t have their lands and resources stolen from them for



## Teacher Feature: Mrs. Marla Wise

Submitted school year 2016-2017

Submitted by: Clara Espinosa, parent

Grade: 2nd grade

School: Columbine Elementary, Woodland Park, CO



*“Mrs. Wise is extremely patient with her students. She has gone above and more to help my son with his learning disability. She is always trying to find fun ways to teach the children and keep them excited to come into her class.”*

Teacher Feature has been a 2017 monthly column to acknowledge teachers in our region. We thank all the schools, teachers, parents, and students that participated. Thank you for educating our youth!

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# Reiki Heaven and Earth Chakras - recipients of energy

by Olga Daich

Through the practice of Reiki, I humbly recognized how little we know about the “invisible” world. I truly believe we are living in a time of huge changes in humanity. A time of awakening where science is playing a very important role. We have been ruled by the information that comes through our five senses. Some scientific discoveries are telling us that our brain process 400,000 million bits of information per second but we are only aware of 200 of them. The difference between 400,000 million and 200 is too big to be ignored. According to this, we should be asking ourselves, what information are we missing? What is out there that I am not perceiving? Through the quantum principles, we are taking steps to answer these questions. It is just the beginning of an awakening process.

The story I will be sharing today may sound like nonsense, spooky, weird and so on for some of you. For me and those who dare to dig into quantum physics principles this story has a lot of sense. There is free will in each of us.

Two of my friends from high school times were living in a different state, across the country. We didn’t have any close contact after our graduation but a few years ago something happened that brought us together again. Through Skype, we started to communicate once more.

My two friends, Nora and Ariana (fictitious names) were roommates at that time.

Ariana started to tell me that she wasn’t feeling right. Winter time could be hard in the state where she was living. She didn’t adapt well to the weather. We thought it may be some type of physical stress due to the new environment. We were trying to catch up all the years without having news from each other.

During one of our skype conversations I mentioned my Reiki practice. They’d never heard about Reiki before so I tried to explain to them what it was.

One day, Nora told me that she was worried about Ariana. She told me that Ariana didn’t look right; she was having emotional and physical struggles. As a rule, I don’t do Reiki if the person involved doesn’t ask for it. A few weeks later Ariana asked me if I could do Reiki for her. She was wondering if, despite the distance I will be able to help her. I tried to explain to her how distance healing works and told her that I was glad she asked for it.

I told her that we can do the session by Skype and that for doing the Reiki we may set an appointment to be sure we had a quiet time. That will help us during the session.

She told me that her and Nora were planning on renting a cabin in the mountains to spent a couple of days far away from the noise of the city. We decided to get together

by skype during that weekend so we will have a peaceful and quiet place. We set a day and time for her Reiki session.

The day came. I remember sitting in front of my computer, waiting for them to show up by skype. After a half hour still waiting and since I had Ariana’s permission for her Reiki, I decide to start the session without them.

Ariana had very low energy. Most of her chakras were closed or open but with a very low energy on them. When I was checking her 5th chakra, the pendulum didn’t move. I knew what that meant. As I said before in one of my past articles, when the pendulum doesn’t move it means that there is a low frequency energy sitting in the chakra. The physical manifestation of a disturbing energy on the 5th chakra is related to a thyroid gland imbalance.

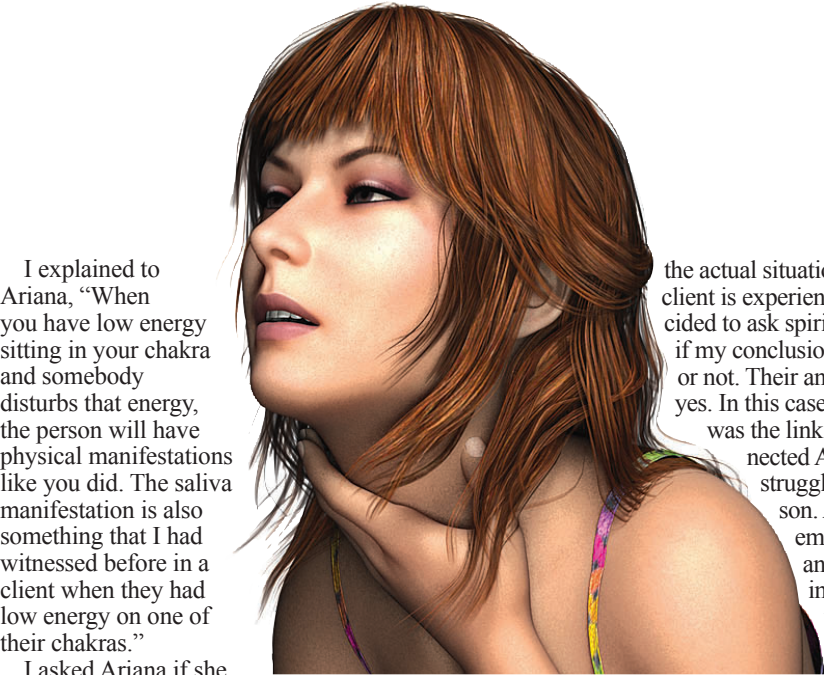
At that moment Nora came online, she apologized for the delay and told me that Ariana will be in front of the video camera in a few minutes. While I was waiting for her I told Nora what I had found so far. A couple of minutes later Ariana came and sat in front of the camera. I told her that I had already started with the evaluation of her energy levels and chakras.

## Everything is made of energy: human beings, animals, plants, rocks, everything holds its own energy.

When I told her “you have a low energy sitting in your 5th chakra”, she asked me where that 5th chakra was located. I told her “in your throat.” I saw Ariana screaming while she was holding her throat with both hands. Her overreaction took me by surprise. I asked her, “what is it? What happened?”. She said “Olga I have to tell you something but please don’t get mad with me.”

She told me that the day before, a friend of Nora came to visit them. This friend works with a healing energy technique (I won’t name it here). She told Ariana that she can help her feel better. Ariana agreed to get her healing energy session. The woman started the session.

According to Ariana, this woman started placing her hands on different parts of Ariana’s body. At some point the woman placed her hands near Ariana’s throat. My friend started to feel a burning sensation. She tried to stay still but the burning sensation on her throat became so painful that she had to ask the woman to stop. Beside the burning sensation she said that her mouth was watering excessively and she wasn’t able to stop that.



I explained to Ariana, “When you have low energy sitting in your chakra and somebody disturbs that energy, the person will have physical manifestations like you did. The saliva manifestation is also something that I had witnessed before in a client when they had low energy on one of their chakras.”

I asked Ariana if she had any symptoms of a thyroid imbalance. She told me that she was extremely cold and tired all the time and she was losing weight. These are symptoms related with thyroid imbalance. Ariana wanted to know how she got the low energy. I told her that we can get that type of energy from different sources. It could be from a “dark” place or from another person. Low frequency emotions like hate, fear, envy, to name some, seems to be the open door for them.

She asked me what she should do while I do the Reiki. I told her: Sit in a comfortable position, try to do a meditation, put your thoughts away as much as you can.

I started the session as I do when I have to clean low energies from a chakra. I worked on her chakras, got them cleaned and balanced. It was almost at the end of the session that I got this vision (or information): Somebody was standing at the edge of a building. This person was on the 3th floor looking down and thinking about jumping. I was not sure who that person was. That was all the information that I got.

When I finish the Reiki, I asked her if she tried to kill herself in the past. She said, “No! Why are you asking me that?” I told her about my vision and that I was not sure who was trying to jump, or the reason I was having that vision. Ariana told me she has a son that has mental problems; he did try to jump from the 3rd floor of a building. She told me that her relationship with him was bad; she was afraid of him, she didn’t feel safe around him. She also told me that one day they got into an argument and he came at her furiously and put his hands around her throat. She remembers that moment as terrifying and the moment that made her decide to run away from him to a different city.

With this new information it was easy to know where she got the low energy in her 5th chakra. At that moment when Ariana was panicked and fearful, this low energy coming from her son went from his hands to her throat.

I have been learning during my Reiki practice that my visions are the way to get information about events that are related with

her son. Ariana needed to be aware of that so she would be able to work on healing their relationship.

When we talk about energies we must talk about different energy vibrations (frequencies). Everything is made of energy: human beings, animals, plants, rocks, everything holds its own energy. What you attract to your personal energy field depends on the state of your energy vibrations. Emotions raise or lower your vibration.

This young man had been dealing with the demons in his mind for years. It is up to the lector to decide if they were real or not.

*Namaste.*

**Workshop: Heaven and Earth**

The best way to understand concepts such as healing energies, distant healing, connections with different realms, intuition, connections with higher spiritual beings among some other, is through the study of our own being in a deeper way.

For that purpose, the first part of this workshop will provide information about: What is energy? What is our physical world made of? What principles rule our invisible world? What are we perceiving as our reality? What is the connection between emotions, chakras, and wellness?

This first part will provide the tools to understand the second part of the workshop where we will talk about healing techniques like Reiki, hooponopano, meditation, the healing power of water and so on.

Both parts of the workshop will have energy practice exercises as well as a free chakra check for each of the participants interested. We will plan on different dates for each part of the workshop.

A minimum number of six participants are required before we can schedule. The cost is \$40 for each date. For more information, please contact by email: olgacely@hotmail.com or by text: 801-628 9273.

*The same contact information is also for scheduling a Reiki session.*



## Mindful mammals

by Eric Chatt N.D.

What would it be like to be in the perceptive place of a local great horned owl or a beaver?

How are animals mindful? How can we be more mindful mammals? When out in the woods observing creatures in their natural environment it is fun to think about how these organisms are each adapted for their particular ecological niches.



Winter is such a peaceful time to be out in nature, the quiet and calm can feel so blissfully beautiful as can a windy snowstorm if you are prepared and in the right mindset. Wintertime is a great opportunity to engage the senses and notice natural nuance. This is mindfulness. Most animals do it naturally. Our mind and body may require us to relearn or re-condition this basic natural state of being. Here we will highlight some specific adaptations of a few species from Colorado, which a mindful wanderer may wish to entertain.

The great horned owl is one with a distinctive call and a large body size. To facilitate hunting the face has been shaped by evolution in a very flat way, which optimizes the acoustic perception. Acoustic awareness in these birds is phenomenal. They can hear the beating hearts of many animals at once. They hunt in the dark; kind of creepy, totally cool!

Imagine what an owl could hear on a calm winter night. A rustle in the leaves from 500 yards or more? Under the snow? Yep. To decrease the noise made while in flight, the feathers are specialized to help in a stealthy

attack and reduce turbulence and noise associated with attacking prey.

Beavers are territorial like many other animals. They have an amazingly complex system of communication involving scent mounds. If you happened to be near a beaver pond at dawn or dusk you may observe them constructing a mound of mud that may be up to 20” in height or diameter. Then if you were listening closely you may hear a sound while the beaver releases a “load” of castoreum and/or anal gland secretions. The mound projecting above the height of a dam may help during flood as well as aiding in the dissemination of scent for territorial marking. The moisture of the mud helps intensify the scent.

A keystone species is one that has a large impact relative to its size in an ecosystem. Beavers are a great example of a keystone species acting as natural wetlands engineers, filtering water that may be polluted, helping retain water for riparian habitat, sequestering carbon in the logs buried in dams, and they help in developing soil in rocky and sometimes inhospitable rubble, aiding in the overall biodiversity in an area. They are mindful little rodents, helping their ecosystem, naturally.

Perhaps the rodent has something to teach us. If we were truly mindful, would we treat Mother Nature how we do as humans, or would we use the capacity of our cerebral cortex and help our own environment? Hopefully we can understand our impacts a bit more clearly than a rodent and consciously contribute towards the betterment of our own little niches.

*Beaver Ponds Environmental Education Center (BPEEC) thanks to a Summit Foundation Grant now has snowshoes available for groups to facilitate environmental education at all levels in the winter. Learn more about our soap making class on December 10 from 2-4 p.m. on 31. Keep your eye out for future events around sustainable living, high altitude gardening, forest and beaver ecology and more. The staff at BPEEC wishes everyone a nice end of the year and holiday season.*

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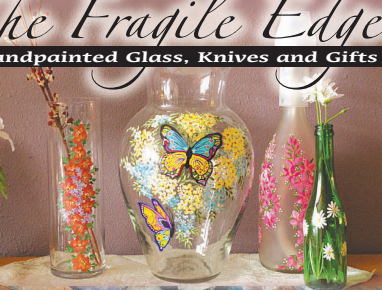
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## Iron Tree

The place to fortify your body

by Kathy Hansen  
photos by Jeff Hansen

### The Legend of the Iron Tree

It was 34 million years ago and raging hot lava from a mighty volcano poured over the giant trees in the Florissant, Colorado valley. All but one. A beautiful tree remained, absorbing the historic greatness of the power of the native gods.

The Natives called this remaining tree "Iron Tree" and great delicious feasts of long memory were held under its revered branches. The Iron Tree of Florissant was known far and wide as a destination that made even the least of gourmets salivate and yearn to be there. In honor of the legend, the Florissant Iron Tree Restaurant prepares delicious and artful dishes reminiscent of the feasts held so long ago.

Keep believing in legends,  
our friends, and come often.

This beautiful tale was crafted by Gwen, Ross Derby's grandmother as a gift to Ross and Jocelyn Albrizzi to represent their new business in Florissant, Iron Tree Comfort Foods and Bakery. Based on Florissant's volcanic past, it brings the reader to the present day.

It began spring of 2017 when Ross and Jocelyn came to Florissant to cater Ross's parents' (LeAnn and Dan Derby) retirement party. Everyone was so impressed with the food and the presentation, they suggested Ross and Jocelyn open a restaurant in Florissant.

As recent graduates from their culinary program, assignments about restaurant concepts came rushing to their minds; the creative juices began to flow and an incredible stream came forth. They found their pillars of sustainability, local-to-table, fresh-scratch-made, and comfort food. Ross was quick to point out comfort food is not a style of food as much as it is freedom to create. Knowing the science of food as his canvas, he displays a palette to please each palate. As he said, "To play. To create. To make something delicious!" This is where things are really getting interesting.

In addition to their breakfast and lunch menus available Thursday through Monday, they are also planning to begin some evening dining events. The liquor license is in the works. They will sell a limited number tickets for a specific evening; dietary restrictions will be taken into account and suggestions are encouraged. The dining experience will include

three to four carefully considered courses, including salad, soup, main entrée and dessert. It may even begin with an *amuse bouche* specially crafted by Jocelyn to give each diner's taste buds a tease of what's ahead.

Another dining event would be a wine and cheese night to include local artists; musical, visual or both. We noticed the art had already changed with two visits about a month apart. It will be an evening pleasing to the palate as well as visual and auditory senses.

In addition to dine-in options, they are also considering take-out choices and have already begun looking at the compostable packaging to be kind to the environment! When they said sustainable, they meant it.

Both Ross and Jocelyn enjoy the slightest of suggestions to get started. For example, if you mentioned pork, the next thing you know they are telling you how they are seeking a local pork grower and Ross thinks of his siracha and lime recipe for a dry rub which they intend to use this summer for a pig roast.

Jocelyn seeks feedback as well. You just never know when she'll be whipping up a new dessert recipe and need a taste-tester to see if it is sweet enough without overpowering the undertones. She recalls someone telling her the cake was a little dry. She dashed up to take a taste herself and agreed with the customer, taking note to make a change for next time. Every true artist can image their goal and is willing to tweak each incarnation until perfection is achieved. Jocelyn is no exception!

She was happy to accept the Thanksgiving challenge of creating a vegan custard (can you imagine?). In her words, "Bring it on! That's fun for me!"

We asked how she's doing with the high-altitude adjustments on the baking end. We were surprised to hear the altitude adjustments were nothing compared to learning her state-of-the-art oven. Jocelyn joked about the oven being smarter than she is, "This oven will text me when it is time to take the buns out!" she giggled. It was clear to see she is having fun mastering the oven in her kitchen.

Those buns by the way, are scratch made.



Owners Ross Derby  
and Jocelyn Albrizzi.

There are even gluten-free options! Are yeast breads a favorite? You're in luck because Jocelyn has the science of yeast down pat and is confident enough to play with it, besides that she loves it. "Whenever I'm covered in flour it's a good day for me!" she said as her eyes lit up.

Do you have a favorite grain? Go ahead and ask for it if you

don't see it in their pastry case. (The contents of the pastry case have changed each time we've come in. It's fun to see what they will offer next.) Their grain supplier is Ardent Mills from the front range. They were not kidding when they said local.

We mentioned we buy 100% grass-fed beef from a local grower and Ross's eyes lit up; we were happy to share the reference. Ross then shared he grinds his own burger, makes his own sausage, and made the bacon on our burgers! We sure hope one day they will have the brown-sugar-cured bacon for sale in their case because that was the best bacon I've ever had. Scratch-made really makes a difference.

They know the importance of sourcing wholesome ingredients for our food; not just because of the flavor but for how good it feels. A body should feel good after consuming a meal; ready to continue with the remainder of the day, properly vitalized and re-charged to go onward.

Those who have food sensitivities are often weary of eating out. Food sensitivities can be difficult to narrow down in today's age of enriched flours, food additives, preservatives, nitrates, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and other chemicals such as potassium bromate, often added to dough to make it elastic. All of these can cause food sensitivity symptoms.

Someone like Jocelyn who understands the science behind the food doesn't need to use potassium bromate because she has the scientific understanding and the skill to bring you hand-crafted croissants, crème puffs, eclairs, challah and garlic focaccia bread from wholesome ingredients.

Both Jocelyn and Ross were adamant that quality ingredients and skill create delicious food that is good for our bodies. Ross has plans to make his own sauerkraut

continued on next page

The Iron Tree Restaurant in  
downtown Florissant, CO.

and kimchi. If you see a Rueben sandwich on the menu, there is a good chance it will be Ross's sauerkraut because he would assure it was only made with the best ingredients and proper process.

The food comes back to the Legend of the Iron Tree, a destination for a delicious feast; food makes people healthy and strong, and a place that brings people together. Their customer service is outstanding because they truly care about your opinion; you are neighbors and likely to be friends before long with this amicable and fun-loving couple and their support staff (family).

Iron Tree is a great location to plan a gathering. Our very own Plant Lady, Karen Anderson invited me to a special celebration, but I couldn't attend due to a prior commitment. I called Jocelyn to see if I could bring a vase and some fresh flowers the day before the celebration so Karen could have flowers on her table that she could take home. There was no hesitation at all! They were willing to give up precious cooler space and work around delicate flowers so Karen could have flowers for her special day. Now, that is customer service!

Jocelyn and Ross are very considerate people. This is the first restaurant I've ever been in that offers complimentary mouthwash in the restroom. "We have a lot of people who come here for breakfast and then go straight to work. We thought it was a great idea!" said Jocelyn. Go ahead and order



1500 volts, baking soda and water created the iron tree images on the table tops.



onions and peppers on your omelet after all. Enjoy those breakfast tacos and use as much hot sauce as you like. The condiments are near the beverage station; help yourself!

Yes, they will treat you like family at Iron Tree. When you arrive you can look at a menu and order at the pastry case counter. If you drink water, coffee or iced tea it is self-service at the beverage station inside the dining room. If you drink hot tea, you can choose from their tea menu and they will bring it to you. The mug is customer and environmentally friendly; the lid lifts off to expose the tea strainer, which at the perfect point of steeping can be lifted from the mug and set on the upside-down lid. They will bring a hot water refill if you like. The tea is served with a sugared swizzle stick crafted by Jocelyn's brother, Tucker, a tea sommelier. It is a fun way to allow just a little sweetness to melt into the tea without overpowering the tea itself; a nice touch that makes tea time more fun!

Jocelyn and Ross are grateful for all the input from family. From business advice from Jocelyn's dad, to being support staff, decorating, to the silent partner, special thanks to the brother that used 1500 volts, baking soda and water to create the iron tree images on the table tops, and special thanks to Gwen for the legend. The whole family is supportive of Jocelyn and Ross and willing to do what they can to provide a pleasant dining experience.

Speaking of which, we dined there twice; once for breakfast and once for lunch. Both meals were fantastic! For breakfast, Jeff enjoyed the French toast served with caramelized bananas, which he enjoyed very much. He shared a taste with me; I enjoyed it too! I was surprised at the depth of flavors to savor, instead of just sweet and sugary.

I had green pepper and mushroom omelet with home-made potatoes. I was delighted they used real eggs and fresh veggies.

The day we went for lunch was cold and windy; a burger appealed to both of us. Jeff had the home-made fries and I chose the chips, also home-made. Both were delicious! The burgers were done to perfection; the juices of

meat alongside the sautéed onions blended beautifully. No need for any condiments to mask any flavors here. Jeff's burger was served on a home-made bun that he really enjoyed. I declined the gluten-free option because it was before I knew all their buns are scratch-made and the care they put into sourcing their ingredients. Now that I know their quality standards, I may give it a try next time we're in.

Will we go back? Absolutely! Our dining experiences at Iron Tree have been by far the very best we've had to date in Teller County. The quality of ingredients coupled with the skill with which they are crafted are truly beyond compare. Add in the ambience; the friendly-family service and a very pleasant environment to ease digestion. Oh, and another benefit is that their prices are reasonable.

A note to those who sometimes dine alone. Sometimes it is more comfortable with a book to read. There is a bookcase in the back of the dining room; help yourself!

There are also games available for families to engage in while their food is being prepared. Jocelyn sees the Iron Tree as the center of this community that has welcomed her and Ross so easily. Already, there are regular faces and folks they know by name. They are happy to have people to design meals for, to create culinary delights that are as good for you as they are delicious, and to share in life's adventures. She said of the Iron Tree in the middle of Florissant, "Our guests are our branches; strong, like fossils!" and she looks forward to feeding them.

The Iron Tree is located at 37 Costello Avenue in Florissant, where Oney's used to be. Their hours are Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. For those of you who enjoy chicken and waffles or eggs benedict, the Sunday brunch menu is available 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. They are closed Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information call 719-684-4937.

### Sources

<https://www.treehugger.com/health/dz-ens-baked-goods-found-to-have-cancer-risk-chemical-potassium-bromate.html>.

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## Featured Non-Profit: Friends of Mueller State Park (FOMSP)

by Barbara Berger

Mueller State Park is located in Divide, Colorado. It is home to many species of wildlife and birds including elk, black bear, hawks, turkeys and mule deer. The Park has over 5,000 acres of spring-fed meadows, forested ridges and massive rocks of Pikes Peak Granite. There are over 44 miles of hiking trails, some of which have been designated for usage by hikers, horse-back riding and bicyclists.

Last year, some of the Park's volunteers decided to get together and resurrect the "Friends of Mueller State Park" with help from the Colorado State Parks Friends organization. While initially very successful, the "Friends of Mueller State Park" (FOMSP) had not been active for several years. The current volunteers believed that the FOMSP could once again engage people using the Park, connect citizens to Teller County's most precious resource, inspire stewardship of the land, and guide people to "Rekindle Their Spirit".

The "Friends" are working with Park staff and community partners to promote educational activities and assist with the effective management of the natural resources of Mueller State Park (MSP). Acting independently, they help to raise funds to support Park programs and projects, to serve as advocates for critical issues and to preserve the history and culture of MSP. The FOMSP helps fund

the Outdoor Skills Day and Mueller In Gold events. The FOMSP is a 501(c)3. All members are volunteers and the FOMSP have no paid staff. All donations and grant money directly supports Park activities.

Some of their accomplishments to date have been to cover the cost of printing Jr. Ranger books and other educational materials. Transportation for field trips to the Park was provided for over 1,500 children in 2016-2017 and the FOMSP helped fund a trip by the Woodland Park High School's AP Environmental Science team to the international competition in Maryland in July.

The webcam in the Visitor Center, (<https://weather.weatherbug.com/weather-camera/?cam=DVDCO>), was recently repaired with funds raised through FOMSP memberships and donations. Two major projects that are currently in the planning stages are the renovation of the exhibits at the Visitor Center, that are about 20 years old, and the construction of a pavilion to provide covered space for picnics and other events. Acquiring adjacent land that could be added to the Park for future generations to enjoy is something that is foremost in the minds of all members.

For more information, go to [www.FriendsOfMuellerSP.com](http://www.FriendsOfMuellerSP.com). Join us and share your passion for Mueller State Park. "Nature Awaits" and there are "Miles To Hike".



## Salida hospital expands cardiac testing

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center now offers cardiac CT scans, which can help doctors detect or evaluate heart disease. This imaging test uses X-rays to take many detailed pictures of the heart and blood vessels. Computers can combine these pictures to create a 3-D image of the heart.

There are two main types of cardiac CT: coronary calcium scoring and coronary CT angiography.

A cardiac CT for calcium scoring, also known as a heart scan, is a simple, painless screening test. A heart scan looks for calcium in the walls of the coronary arteries, the vessels that supply oxygen-rich blood to the heart. The amount of calcium found on this scan helps identify a patient's risk for coronary artery disease.

Coronary CT angiography (angiogram) looks at the arteries that supply blood to the heart and can be used to diagnose the cause of chest pain or other symptoms. This test requires physician consultation because a contrast dye is injected into the patient's veins and medication is usually prescribed to slow the heart rate to produce a clearer image on the scan.

"Upgrading our CT scanner to provide cardiac diagnostic studies is an important step in

providing more comprehensive cardiology services locally," said hospital CEO Bob Morasco.

The hospital purchased the new CT scanner to replace the CT scanner installed in 2003. In addition to offering cardiac capabilities, the new scanner provides enhanced image quality and reduces a patient's exposure to radiation.

A \$200,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and proceeds from the HRRMC Foundation's 2016 Jewel Ball helped pay for the new scanner, which cost \$605,000.

HRRMC has been expanding its cardiac services over the past year. James Schmidt, M.D., an interventional cardiologist from Colorado Springs Cardiologists, began seeing patients full time in Chaffee County in the summer of 2016. Pamela Taylor, M.D., and Derrick Fansler, M.D., of Colorado Springs Cardiologists, provide coverage when Dr. Schmidt is not available.

The new CT scanner offers the cardiologists an important tool for diagnosing heart disease and enables patients to schedule tests locally rather than traveling to the Front Range.

To schedule a cardiac CT scan at HRRMC, with a doctor's order, call 719-530-2318.

Adopt Me by Ark Valley Humane Society

## Gizmo

This is Gizmo. Gizmo is a 13-year-old cat who is handsome and loving. He'd do best in a home where he can take long naps during the day and live a fairly low-key life in his golden years. To adopt Gizmo, call us at 719-395-2737 or drop by any day noon to 5:30 p.m.

• **Home Fur the Holidays** runs through January 1, 2018. All adult dogs and cats, 12 months or older have an adoption fee of only \$25! Price includes spay/neuter, age-appropriate vaccines, and a micro-chip. For more information visit [www.ark-valley.org](http://www.ark-valley.org) or 719-395-2737. AVHS is located at 701 Gregg Drive in Buena Vista.



## Guns and common sense

Opinion by Teller Tom

Unfortunately, guns and common sense more and more are two words that do not belong in the same sentence these days. Daily shootings take place as well as worse and more horrific mass shootings repeat with regular rapid-fire insanity. Is there anything that can be done? What changes might reduce this murderous outcome? Or...are we beyond saving from this scourge on humanity, especially in the USA?

- Some things to consider...
- More people have been killed in this country by guns than all of our wars put together from the Revolutionary War to the present.
  - The United States has the highest murder rate in the world, although we are far from the most populated country.
  - There is at least one gun for each person in America, although all of these guns are owned by only 9 million citizens which is but 3% of the total population.
  - In the last 100 years gun laws have gotten more lax, while gun crimes have steadily increased.
  - After every mass shooting gun sales and stock have skyrocketed (gun shops are already sold out of the infamous "bumper" feature for semi-automatic rifles.)
  - While automatic guns have been made illegal, attachments to make semi-automatic weapons are legal and easily attached.

The Second Amendment originally allowed citizens to keep firearms to protect themselves, hunt, and be prepared as a militia. There was no army retained nor organized after the Revolutionary War. The intention was to form a militia if military conflicts developed. The size and scope of the military we have today was not something envisioned by the founding fathers. A citizen-army made more sense. They would be called and would fight with more passion for what was theirs. Frontiersmen would have been shocked to think they could not openly carry the weapons that they used on a daily basis. As time went on, the need for an organized military became necessary. This brought with it a new problem...what now would be the understanding about the right to bear arms?

Slowly guns came into use for robberies and other forms of crimes. The James Gang, renegade Civil War confederate fighters, put the new Colt five-shooter pistol into use for crime after the War. The Winchester repeater was another quick-fire weapon of choice by hunters and criminals alike. Machine guns and rapid fire high-power pistols came out of World War I. Prohibition popularized the use of weapons in protecting and enforcing the illegal trade of alcohol. Vietnam brought us the semi-automatic and automatic weapons. Rifles are still used by hunters, but are controlled in most states. In Michigan the use of rifles for hunting is still prohibited below the 44th parallel. However, in many states it is lawful to open carry...even long guns

(rifles and shotguns). Nevada is one of those states. "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to bear and keep arms shall not be infringed." This wording of the 2nd Amendment has been argued to mean that having a militia was one reason to bear arms, but did not require a citizen to belong to a militia. The right was not to be "infringed." At the time of the writing, America did not have automatic weapons, high powered pistols, or silencers. The argument has changed.

Today, the day after a mass shooting takes place (every 200 days in 1980...every 64 days today according to figures supplied by a chronological spreadsheet on the *Mother Earth News* website, and an article on the CNN website done by CNN News dated October 4, 2017) gun sales increase exponentially! Is this for protection or the fear that all guns will be banned?

Suicide accounts for two thirds of gun deaths each year (*Guns Deaths are Mostly Suicides*, *New York Times*, October 8, 2015). Do guns protect you, or provide the means to endanger you from yourself? For some reason many gun owners fear the federal government will come to take their guns from them. This has never been the case. Marshall Law has never been generally applied in the United States. All the guns already out there may just be a problem going forward. New guns and modern gun innovation are the relevant questions.

I'm thinking the National Guard and the other Reserve branches are the current out-cropping of a regulated militia. What is the number of guns that seem okay for a citizen to own, and what are the minimum qualifications to own and use a gun?

Even though I served during Vietnam and have been trained how to use a gun, I have never felt comfortable with guns around. Contrary to westerners and television or movie depictions of guns, there is no minor gun wound. The least invasive gunshot wound can be fatal. Most people do not get shot, put on a sling, and carry on with life the next day. During the Civil War the most common surgery and cause of death was infection and amputation. Gun wounds are ugly and serious for humans. Please explain what the purpose of most handguns is, if not to shoot people?

The first recorded mass shooting was not until 1949. Howard Unruh took a deadly 20 minute walk on September 6, 1949 through his Camden, New Jersey neighborhood ("The Story of the First Mass Murder in History," *Smithsonian Magazine*, October 14, 2015) Thirteen were killed and 20 injured. The mental state and emotional disposition of the Mr. Unruh fit many profiles of lone killers since then. Now we have a shooter in Las Vegas who makes no sense and follows no pattern. The bar has been lowered, but the



death toll and injury numbers have increased. In one shooting more were killed and injured than any day in Iraq or Afghanistan. This has evolved to a new sick level. So much so that the Center for Disease Control has asked to do a study; it seems the current administration has refused the request.

Many are shot and killed each day in America. Perhaps we cannot stop the mass killings, but perhaps we can reduce the daily murders (over 30,000 last year, with 73,000 wounded by gunfire – CBS study, February 1, 2017) by finding ways to control the mass distribution of weapons.

There is a gun show every weekend in Las Vegas...and this is only one city. Everything is easier at a gun show. The Las Vegas shooter had 23 weapons in his room. This was a carefully planned mass murder. He had surveillance in the hallway outside the two rooms he worked his terror. He used more than 10 suitcases to bring in his guns. He had tripods in two windows set-up to fire death on strangers below. He had been in the hotel staying on the 32nd floor for three days. Nothing from his past gave a clue leading to this act.

We may have a new kind of killer, and he is heavily armed... What we will do for the common good is the question. Stay tuned to the pulse of the country to see what the answer to that question might be. The current administration and congress have shown no movement on this issue. More mass murders have not seemed to move the discussion and action forward. Perhaps common sense might??? Let's hope...

The Las Vegas shootings took place on October 1, 2017. It is now the middle of November. More mass shootings have taken place. The time span between mass shootings has now been accelerated from about 64 days...to every two weeks. When will it be time to talk about this issue? Our President has declared that the Sutherland Springs shootings are a mental health issue. His first executive order as President was to make it easier for the mentally ill to obtain guns. How is that working out? This shooter fired 15 magazines of 30 shells each...450 rounds! That seems like a conscious act.

**Editor's note:** There have been at least three mass shootings since October 1, 2017 (Texas, Colorado, California). Please see the sidebar from Gun Violence Archive 2017. We were struck by the number of teens killed or injured, suicides, and unintentional shootings. The website referenced is updated daily if not more regularly. We need to ask ourselves if we like where we see this is going and what we're willing to do if we want to see a different direction.

GUN VIOLENCE Archive 2017	
Total Number of Incidents	54,889
Number of Deaths <sup>1</sup>	13,845
Number of Injuries <sup>1</sup>	28,184
Number of Children (age 0-11) Killed or Injured <sup>1</sup>	662
Number of Teens (age 12-17) Killed or Injured <sup>1</sup>	2,908
Mass Shooting <sup>2</sup>	321
Officer Involved Incident Officer Shot or Killed <sup>2</sup>	273
Officer Involved Incident Subject-Suspect Shot or Killed <sup>2</sup>	1,841
Home Invasion <sup>2</sup>	2,219
Defensive Use <sup>2</sup>	1,808
Unintentional Shooting <sup>2</sup>	1,796
<small>Gun violence and crime incidents are collected/validated from 2,500 sources daily - incidents and their source data are found at the <a href="http://gunviolencearchive.org">gunviolencearchive.org</a> website.</small>	
<small>1: Actual number of deaths and injuries 2: Number of INCIDENTS reported and verified</small>	
<small>22,000 Annual Suicides not included on Daily Summary Ledger</small>	
<small>Numbers on this table reflect a subset of all information collected and will not add to 100% of incidents.</small>	
<small><a href="http://www.gunviolencearchive.org">www.gunviolencearchive.org</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/gunviolencearchive">www.facebook.com/gunviolencearchive</a></small>	
<b>Data Validated: November 22, 2017</b>	
<small>GUN VIOLENCE Archive</small>	

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**www.FriendsOfMuellerSP.com**

## ICD acknowledges Stephenie Kaufmann

Woodland Park dentist Dr. Stephenie Kaufmann was inducted as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists at its 88th Annual Convocation in Atlanta, Georgia on October 19, 2017.

An honorary organization for the recognition of outstanding and meritorious service to the profession and community, the College presented Dr. Stephenie Kaufmann with a membership plaque, a gold lapel pin and a gold key symbolic of this Fellowship for conspicuous service rendered in the art and science of Dentistry.

In an impressive cap and gown ceremony, 265 dentists from the United States were inducted into the College at this year's ceremony witnessed by hundreds of members and guests. The College, with representative chapters in more than 120 countries, has over 11,000 members, including about 6,500 in the United States.

Congratulations Dr. Stephenie Kaufmann!



## SCFA's Community Grant recipients

The Salida Council for the Arts (SCFTA) is proud to announce the current recipients of the 2017 SCFTA Community Grants, which support specific arts and cultural projects or events, according to Jessie Miller, Community Grants Chair.

The winners of this cycle of Community Grants are as follows:

- Jessica Goncalves, on behalf of The Alliance Against Domestic Abuse, has been awarded a \$500 Grant to conduct healing creative Pottery workshops for clients at The Maverick Potter.
- Steve Kucera, on behalf of TINTS Productions (Theater In Non-Traditional Spaces), has been awarded a \$500 Grant to bring theater back to Salida by producing a play that will employ local actors and will be produced in non-traditional spaces, making it accessible to the Salida community as a whole.

Krista Jarvis, on behalf of Community Costumes Inc., has been awarded a \$500 Grant for Dias de Los Muertos to create costumes and props for the much loved Salida yearly community event, which includes workshops, costume making, parade, and potluck, and intends on bringing a Spanish speaking interpreter for the workshops to learn more about this historically Mexican celebration.

Recipients of the Community Grants were announced, introduced and awarded their checks by Jessie Miller, on behalf of the Salida Council for the Arts and the Grants Committee, at the Creative Mixer November 9, 2017 at the Salida SteamPlant, a monthly event taking place on the first Thursday of each month from 5:30-7 p.m.

In 2017, the Council has received 28 exceptional applications, six of which were awarded \$500 each in Community Grants, totaling \$3000. The multitude of applications and the true creative passion of the applicants spoke to the strength of arts and culture in our local community. Congratulations to all the current Grant recipients!" exclaims Miller.

These Community Grant projects need to have a definable connection to the Salida Community and be supportive of the Council's Mission Statement. Sue Ann Hum, SCFTA President, added, "We hope to be able to provide annual support in our community with similar grants. Giving matters. Area residents' financial support of the Council's activities and fundraising will continue to make these Grants available in the future, enriching the cultural life of our community. If you want to contribute to the Arts Council, just click on "Support" on our website at <http://www.salidacouncilforthearts.org>."

The SCFTA Mission Statement: "Our mission is to enrich the cultural life of our community by nurturing and supporting excellence in the arts; to increase the community's awareness of and appreciation for the arts; to promote and encourage arts education; and to serve as liaison between the arts, businesses, government and educational institutions."



*This photo was taken at the Creative Mixer November 9, 2017 at the SteamPlant. From Left to Right: Steve Kucera-TINTS Productions, child-Harry Dempsey, Andrea Shultz-Ward the Director of The Alliance Against Domestic Abuse, Jessie Miller-Board Member on SCFTA and Chair of the Community Grants Committee, Krista Jarvis-Costumes Inc., 2 children-Rowan and Ulysses Jarvis.*

## Adopt Me by TCRAS Sherbert

Hi! My name is Sherbert. I am a beautiful girl looking for a quiet home. I would prefer to not have young children, as they scare me. I may take a little while to warm up, but please know I am worth the wait. You can visit me at TCRAS 308 Weaverville Road in Divide. If you need directions you can call 719-686-7707 and the very kind folks at TCRAS will help you with directions.



## Mountain River Lodge

Where luxury meets wilderness



*The main lodge.*

Mountain River Lodge and Cabins (formerly Eleven Mile Motel) in Lake George, Colorado is now completely remodeled and open! These first class cabins are in the heart of little Lake George with scenic views overlooking the lake. Originally built in 1949, these historic cabins have been lovingly renovated into upscale luxury cabin lodging, while still keeping the original structural integrity.

There are seven cabins which consist of 10 units; eight singles and two family cabins, decorated with rustic and elegance and designed for comfort. The single cabins feature a queen bed, pillow top mattress, fine linens, 42" Smart HDTV, WiFi, mini refrigerator, microwave, granite desk tops, custom marble and stone bathroom with walk-in showers and heated toilet seats. The large family cabins sleep seven and feature a living room with luxury pull out queen memory foam mattress, a master bedroom with queen bed, and a second bedroom with twin bunk beds and a pull-out trundle. There are deluxe roll-aways available and the property is pet friendly.

Complimentary snacks and bottled water are stocked in each room and a continental breakfast is provided the following morning in the lodge.

The main lodge is an inviting space with leather seating, a stone fireplace and a 65"



*The cabins have been renovated into upscale luxury cabin lodging, while still keeping the original structural integrity.*



*A large paved patio is the perfect place to gaze at our star-filled night sky while snuggling next to a fire roasting marshmallows and grilling your fresh catch of the day.*

smart HDTV to enjoy your favorite sporting event. The lodge is a great place to enjoy breakfast which is served in the lobby where you can enjoy picturesque views out the windows while surrounded with incredible photography. Guests are welcome to sip a glass of wine while watching TV, relax reading a favorite book and warm up by the fire.

At the heart of the resort is a stunning large paved patio with commercial grills, two fire pits, and a gorgeous rock fireplace with numerous seating areas and tables. This is a perfect place to gaze at our star-filled night sky while snuggling next to a fire roasting marshmallows and grilling your fresh catch of the day, with a chance to hear bald eagles screeching above.

The staff takes pride in creating personalized care with a mission to help create unforgettable memories during your vacation. Daily room refreshing is offered, as well as nightly turn down service.

There are packages available including a Farm-to-Table Night which includes gourmet grass-fed beef burgers on the patio by a local chef or the Aspen romance package that includes dinner on the patio by the fire with complimentary beverages, and breakfast in bed. They also offer custom fishing packages with local professional fishing guides.

Groups are welcome to reserve the property for reunions, weddings or corporate retreats. The public is welcome to take a tour of the property. Please call 719-748-1353 for questions or availability.



*The cabins are decorated with rustic and elegance, and designed for comfort.*



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

# Hello from space Chapter 6

Helix froze at the sight of Marik appearing from around the corner and watched in horror as his own aura collided with Marik's body. Marik collapsed, along with the numerous soldiers that had surrounded Helix. His mind raced as he swiftly glanced around the room at the bodies. So many bodies. His eyes landed back on Marik, and he rushed forward and knelt beside him. Just as he was about to touch his arm, he stopped himself as he remembered that his touch in his true form would leave a horrible burn on Marik's skin. A strangled sob escaped Helix's throat as the enormity of the situation crushed him from the inside out.

What had he done? Could he fix this? How? How could he fix this? All his life he'd been a healer, a caretaker. But now here he was, wreaking havoc and death on humans to save the life of one little alien. The alien was important, yes, she was. But was her life worth more than all of the ones he'd just ended for the sake of rescuing her?

He forced down the almost immovable lump in his throat, his gaze resting on Marik's peaceful face. That's when it hit him. Marik had stayed. Despite his fears and anxiety, he'd stayed and come to help.

Helix whimpered, allowing himself to transition into his human form so he could safely touch Marik, just in case.

There had to be a chance. A way. There just had to be. It all couldn't be over just like that. Not in one horribly timed moment. No, it couldn't be.

Helix lifted Marik's eyelid, and his heart cracked when he saw Marik's lifeless eye staring blankly upward. No more light. No more shiny life.

What had Marik thought in that brief moment when he'd seen Helix's actual form? Had he been scared? In awe? Confused? Or disgusted?

Helix grasped Marik's hand tightly in his own as he finally contacted the Excellency Council to let them know what had happened. He stayed in that position, the room silent except for normal hums and beeps from the surrounding machines. Red lights over the doors flashed, and somewhere a fan clicked on to circulate air throughout the room.

The Excellency Council trio soon somberly paraded into the room, dressed all in black, including the feathers around their necks. In unison, they looked around at the carnage, and even sighed heavily as one. After collecting themselves, they went around the room slipping a little pill into everyone's ears. The pill would turn into a little worm host that would return the human to normal after a few days of eating the memories of the whole event. But they stopped when they got to Marik.

"Did he see you directly from the front?" asked one.

Helix bowed his head, solemnly nodding. "There's a high probability that you burned away his soul."

Helix nodded again. He held Marik's hand a little tighter.

"You've become very affectionate toward the human boy," noted another.

"He's special," Helix managed to whisper. "All of this happened because you wanted to save a human and a grey alien. This is not what was intended. We will bring the grey alien and human with us while we decide what to do. Once back home, you are to not see either of them. You're too involved now. Understand?"

"I understand." Helix stood up, and the three Council members waved their hands and caused Marik's body to disappear. Then they let the grey alien out of her cell, and all five of them touched a large orb and disappeared now. Understand?"

Back home, Helix watched from the far end of the hall as his two companions were wheeled into separate rooms. The Excellency Council was going to study both of them. Marik would be studied in his entirety, and only the grey alien's heart would be studied. He desperately wanted to be with both of them, but the Excellency Council had given him a stern warning of the consequences that would follow if he were caught near their rooms.

After their respective doors had closed and no one was in the hall, Helix turned and left for his place of residence. Once he was there, he stood in front of a window where he could clearly see his reflection. His species had no need for mirrors. At first, he waved at himself, still in his human form. Waving was a strange action to him, and it felt unnatural. He dropped his hand to his side, and then transformed back into his real self. He looked at the black, shimmering mass reflected in the window. Long tendrils, like dreadlocks, cascaded down his back, and slowly moved from side to side as he turned his head. His eyes were a steely blue, and three white dots outlined the underside of each eye. He stepped closer to the window, revealing in more detail to himself what looked to be stars and nebulae inside of his amoeba-like body. He had a predominantly one type of nebula on his body called planetary nebula. They are formed when a star dies. When a star can no longer sustain its own fusion reactions after burning through so much material, the star's gravity causes it to collapse, and the interior heats up. This produces a stellar wind that lasts for a few thousand years, blowing away the star's outer layers. That results in shells of glowing gas around a small core, thus creating what appear to be giant gas planets, hence the name planetary nebula.

Helix looked down at his twinkling hands, desperately wishing that looking like the universe hadn't killed his favorite human. He then gazed into his own eyes, cursing his actions and his existence. All he wanted was to bring Marik back. Sighing, he went to his desk and sat down, pulling up all of their messages

on the computer. He slowly scrolled through them, reading them and smiling. Then he came across one conversation that made him pause.

*Marik: I really like you.  
Helix: You do? Why?  
Marik: You're so nice and comforting. I feel at home with you.  
Helix: Home? I don't understand.  
Marik: I feel like I belong in your world.  
That your world, and you, are my home.  
Helix: Oh. Home equals belonging?  
Marik: Ha ha, yes.  
Helix: I like that.*

Helix felt himself blushing even now, his cheeks lighting up and alternating colors like an LED (light emitting diode) light. He read over the conversation again and again, and found that he was unable to stop himself from thinking about how deadly he and his world were to Marik. He shut off his computer and sat there in the dark until there was a knock on his door. When he opened it, a message was left on his floor mat, summoning him to Marik's room. He knew it wasn't Marik's handwriting, but part of him was hoping that it was somehow from Marik.

He hurriedly approached Marik's room, but abruptly stopped outside of it, his hand hovering just in front of the door about to knock. What was he going to encounter on the other side? Would Marik be awake? Or had the Excellency Council summoned him just to banish him? He hoped Marik would be awake. He knocked tentatively and then entered when he heard a command to do so.

Marik was not awake. Marik's body had entered the early stages of decay.

Helix swallowed his nausea, standing at the foot of the bed.

The leader of the Excellency Council turned to Helix. "We have accessed his memories." Helix's breathing quickened. "You have? What did you find?"

"The moment before his death," the leader replied. The leader tapped a tablet screen and a monitor turned on. The image on the screen was that of Helix as he changed from Marik's point of view. Marik's thoughts came through the speakers as if he were actually talking.

*"Oh my god, what is that? Who is that?"* Helix's transformation completed on the screen. *"Wow. Oh wow. So beautiful, so amazing!"* Helix's aura shot out through the room.

Marik dropped to the ground at the same time as the soldiers.

*"What's happening? Helix? Where are you?"* The screen went black.

Helix had to look away, a dreadful feeling coming over him that he had not felt before. Grief.

"How do we save him?" Helix stammered, a hand over his mouth.

"We're not sure we can. We've studied the grey alien, who has three hearts, and have taken some tissue samples. We will plant those, and once we're sure that they're strong and viable, we'll inject those into the human." "You mean Marik?" "Excuse me?"

Helix turned his hard gaze to the leader of the Council. "His name is Marik. Say it. Say his name."

The leader exchanged glances with the other two Council members. "We knew this was not a good idea. Helix, please exit the room."

Helix shook his head. "Please, no. I am dying from how awful I feel. I need to be near him. I need to be able to tell him that I'm sorry and that I'll figure out a way to bring him back."

"Do you not understand the concept of death, Helix?" the leader asked, the voice soft with concern.

"Marik can't be dead. Someone as special as him can't be gone just like that. He's still in there. I know it. I feel it." It was all Helix could do to keep his voice from trembling.

The Council leader sighed. "This is why we do not get involved with humans. Too much grief. Too much... everything." The leader moved around the bed to Helix, placing a hand on his shoulder. "I'm sorry, but I'm afraid that as of right now Marik is gone." The name sounded strange rolling off of the leader's tongue, but it had been said, and that was all Helix could really ask for in that moment.

The Council leader began to usher Helix out of the room, but Helix stopped and twisted out of the leader's grasp. "May I go across the hall to see the alien? Please. I'm sure she's terrified, and I don't want to be alone right now."

The leader sighed heavily, and then nodded after a moment of thought. "Fine. But do not spend too much time there. Understand?"

Helix quickly nodded and left the room, striding across the hall. The grey alien was lying in a bed, eyes fixed on the wall beside her. Helix frowned slightly as he approached her, gently clearing his throat once he was close enough.

She reluctantly turned her head to him, looking him up and down.

Helix swallowed nervously. "Are you thinking about marking the wall?"

She didn't move or make a sound. "You're not a prisoner. I promise."

At that, she turned her head away, going back to staring at the wall.

"I know it feels like it, but please just trust me." Still nothing from her.

"May I hold your hand? Let me explain what we're wanting to do." She still didn't do anything, but she didn't pull her hand away from his when he took it. He shut his eyes and showed her images of where her tissue samples were going to be planted, and then how they were going to be injected into Marik. He did his best to show her that Marik would hopefully be able to speak once he woke up.

When he opened his eyes, she was staring at him with what he knew was skepticism. "You don't think I understand death either, do you?"

She kept staring at him.

"Maybe I don't. Maybe I don't know what it's like to suddenly have someone not be there anymore. But with what my species is capable of, I have to believe that we have a way to restore his life. I need him to be alive." He dropped his eyes. "He is... my home. He is where I belong."

He lifted his twinkling hand to study it. "He's my world. And I never got to tell him that, because I just now realized what he means to me."

He felt a light touch on the back of his hand, and he brought his eyes up to hers. She shared her feelings she'd had when she realized he'd come back to save them. The elation and the pride that she'd felt when she realized what he was internally fighting and winning against.

Helix couldn't help but smile. "Yeah. I felt the same way. He's pretty remarkable like that. I want you to be there for the planting and when he wakes up. You deserve to witness what you've helped do." He then blinked.

"Why am I suddenly able to communicate with you now?" She pointed to where her ears would be if she had them.

"Hearing?" She shook her head. "Listening?" She nodded.

"Oh. I'm listening." Again, she nodded.

He smirked. "That's just another thing that Marik has helped me with, apparently. Thank you for listening to me as well."

She slid her hand into his, and held it firmly.

"Why doesn't my touch burn you?"

She shrugged a shoulder and shook her head.

"Maybe it's something that only happens to humans. They are rather fragile, but somehow extraordinarily resilient. Marik went through so much, things that would bring down more powerful creatures, and yet, he rose above everything. Maybe humans exist to teach the universe about resilience, and to show how wrong it is to underestimate even the most delicate."

She nodded and gently squeezed his hand.

It wasn't long before the Council leader shoed Helix out of the room, and together they transported the tissue samples to the garden. They were buried in the soil, which was gently patted into place with small bursts of intense flame. Day after day, Helix watched over the scorched patch of soil, and happened to notice the scorch marks lightening. When the marks were completely gone, they dug

by Danielle Dellinger

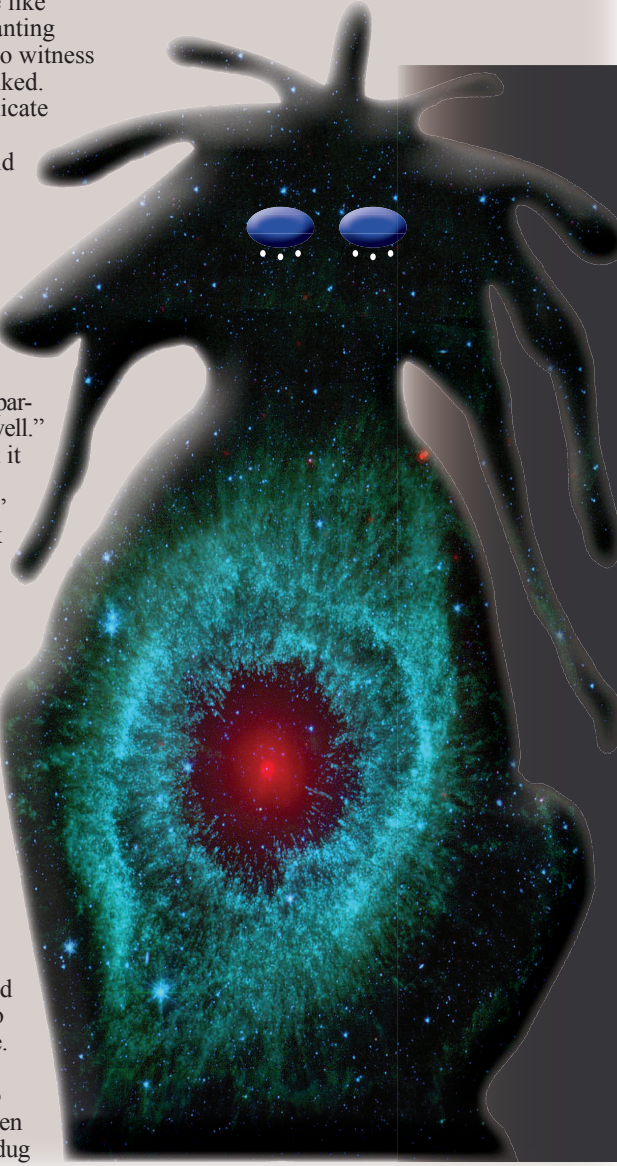
Chapter 5 appeared in November 2017's issue, on pages 18 & 19.

The samples and carried them into the lab where Marik's body was being kept on a bed of ice beads. They gave him three injections: one in the heart, and the other two in each of his temples. The grey alien was wheeled in and sat next to Helix, and together they watched as Marik's color returned and the monitors began to show what were hopefully signs of life. Marik's chest began to slowly rise and fall.

To be continued...

Debut novel Dating the Grim Reaper is available for purchase online only in print and digital formats at Barnes & Noble, Amazon, Google Play, and iBooks. Brief summary: Two college guys start dating. One guy is a murderer, and the other turns out to be the grim reaper. It's full of Greek mythology and romance.

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## Obituary



### Donna Kay Strait

Donna was born March 15, 1956 and died November 15, 2017. She passed in the afternoon at her home in Florissant, Colorado. She was comfortable and happy she was at home. She died from her cancer related issues. Donna was 61 years old.

Donna is survived by her children Jeremy (Julie), Mandy (AJ), Jesse, 7 grandchildren, her mother Helen Sloan from Bloomfield, Iowa, her sister Karen (Jeff) Kincart, Bloomfield, IA, her brother, Bob Sloan, Norwalk, IA.

In-Laws include Barb Pitman (Dean), Mike Strait (Judy), Teri Roberts, Curt Strait (Nichole).

Several nieces, nephews, cousins and a whole host of friends.

Donna is predeceased by Richard Strait and Irvin Sloan.

Memorial Donation Fund: 2728 Lower Twin Rocks Rd, Florissant, CO 80816. 719-687-4184 Email: [manager@solidrockcampco.com](mailto:manager@solidrockcampco.com)



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• Dec 23 Glogg and Nog 1-5  
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## Life-Enhancing Journeys Learn to keep communication paths open

by Barbara Pickholz-Weiner

As the past few articles have been focusing on communication: talking to ourselves in a more supportive manner (Oct 2017) as well as how we hear what others are saying to us (Nov 2017), we will now be focusing on how to keep communication paths open so others can hear what we are saying. Speaking up, even when we are upset, can actually be a beneficial for and strengthen our relationships.

In any relationship, speaking directly and honestly can lead to more clarity and understanding. Yet, we often sit quietly and say nothing to our partner, or explode in an irrational way when we want to bring up a complaint. We may be unaware that our silence can come from fear that our partner will get too defensive, or their temper will flare, or they may refuse to take responsibility, or we may come across as a petty whiner. Without a willingness to speak up when we are irritated, resentment can build and we may feel misunderstood by our offended partner.

One of the reasons we may avoid communicating our displeasure is because we may be unsure as to how to do it. Ask yourself, "Was there anyone in my life who demonstrated constructive communication? ...my parents? ...my friends ...?" I'm unsure about you; in my life there was nobody who had the knowledge or the ability to teach me. I had to find out on my own as an adult (and I'm still learning). This is not about parent-bashing. I'd like to believe they did the best they could with who they were at the time and their knowledge base. So, how could we have possibly learned when even the grown-ups who raised us had no experience voicing their complaints constructively?

After years of working with individuals, couples or families, I've found that teaching them a new, common vocabulary, has been beneficial for most. Learning this "new language" takes consistent practice to become proficient. You wouldn't expect yourself to visit Germany, for example, and begin to speak their language well immediately. The same is true for learning methods to express yourself effectively. Using this information with your primary relationship, with friends or with professional associations, can create a healthier and more satisfying connection.

There are some concepts to keep in mind as you move through the process of adapting to a new language. Remember, using a neutral tone whenever you make the request, what my friend David calls a "grey rock" tone, is advantageous. Remain flexible in your thinking. You might be pleasantly surprised to discover new ideas which may have never occurred to you. Breathe deliberately prior to saying anything. This creates a relaxation response. The calmer and less emotional you are when you talk and respond, the easier it will be for your

partner to focus on the message. Never take anything personally. It's simply how they are feeling and perceiving in that moment. Remind yourself, "It's not about me..." and keep breathing.

Here are a variety of phrases which can help keep communication paths open:

- "Were you aware that...?" "I'm unsure if you realized..." "I've been noticing..." (Asking it as a question allows the person to receive the information without feeling shame).
- "How about if...?" (This phrase is useful when you know what you want, yet you indicate that you are flexible and willing to negotiate).
- "Let me think about that and I'll get back to you by..." (This phrase needs to be said immediately after a question is asked. Responding promptly lets the other person to know you heard them. The phrase also allows you to give yourself some time so you can respond rather than react).

### All relationships involve conflict, complaints or some version of compromise.

- "How I see it is..." "My point of view is..." or "My understanding is..." (This helps to clarify your perspective which then assists you in sharing it with another).
- "This is what I want...will that create any problems for you?" (Make a statement as to your desire then ask the question. You're not asking permission; you're being courteous and considerate of the other person).
- "Is there anything else you would like to say...?" (Be patient and give the other person some time).
- "How important is this to you...?" (If it's unimportant to you, defer to the person with whom you're talking. It doesn't mean you have no opinion. It simply means you are just fine with any decision that's made).
- Say, "I feel sad..." or "How annoying..." "What a disappointment..." instead of "I'm sorry" (if you are acknowledging, rather than apologizing). Here's an example: "My boss just fired me..." Rather than saying "I'm sorry," consider "How infuriating ... I feel sad for you, is there any way I can help?"
- When offering a general apology, one where you're unsure what you did or said that might have been upsetting, consider saying: "if there was anything I did to hurt, upset, anger, etc., you, please accept my apology..."

- ogy..." Can you be the bigger person and accept culpability even though what you did or said may have been unintentional?
- Repeat back, or paraphrase what you heard the other person say. This gives the speaker the message that you heard them and it confirms you understood what they were saying. This also keeps you from needing to think of how you want to respond while they are still talking. All you need to do is simply repeat what you heard them say.
  - Listen patiently (rather than formulating what your next comment may be while your partner continues talking).
  - Avoid assumptions. Telling someone what you think they believe, want or require, can be frustrating to them. Instead, make a statement then follow up with, "Is that accurate or true?" Here's an example: "I know you really hate your job..." (an assumption) "Is that true?" (verifying the accuracy of your statement). If, however, someone makes an assumption without confirming it with you, it may require you calling them out on it, "You just made an assumption about me...please check it out with me..."
  - Avoid complaining about something that has already occurred. Instead say, "In the future..." or "The next time this happens..." "Next time would you be willing to..." (There's nothing we can do about what's already happened and it can become annoying to be criticized for something from the past you're unable to change).
  - Acknowledge the other person's feelings when it's obvious, "You seem upset...angry...sad...hurt...surprised...overwhelmed...etc." (Then check the validity of what you perceive by asking "Is that true?" Without verifying the accuracy of what you're noticing, it becomes nothing more than an assumption).
  - "If you were doing something that bothered (hurt or upset) me, would you want to know? How would you like me to tell you?" (We all hear criticism differently. This provides you with a method in which to offer feedback in a manner which can be heard).
  - "Even though I agreed to \_\_\_\_\_, I've been thinking about it and I'd like to discuss it further." (Whatever promises you might have made, any changes must be requested prior to the scheduled agreement deadline. Agreements must be kept or renegotiated 100% of the time for trust to be maintained).
  - When bringing up an unpleasant conversation, open the dialogue with "...this is really difficult for me to talk about...or...I'm having a hard time letting you know..." (By doing so, it reveals you're willing to be vulnerable and approachable which



may generate some compassion for you even before you begin).

Many years ago (specifically, it was 1980), my husband and I were struggling in the early stage of our relationship. Alarmingly, we were on the verge of divorce. Because we promised each other we would do whatever it takes to fix any problems which may arise, we worked with a marriage counselor who helped us move past our anger and resentment back into a loving connection. One of the methods we used was to create this list of phrases which enabled us to change from automatic, mindless retorts to more thoughtful responses. I remember walking around the house with the list. Before I offered a comeback to my husband, I'd ask him to wait a minute, I'd refer to the list, then I'd respond. This definitely took time and effort and it was so worth it. We are now four decades into our marriage and we continue to use these phrases and concepts which has produced a more enriched life together.

All relationships involve conflict, complaints or some version of compromise. Learning how to maintain a secure relationship while being true to yourself, strengthens the bond. When you know who you are, you know what you want, and you are willing and able to share yourself authentically with your partner, everyone has a much better chance of attaining lifelong happiness.

Keep practicing. Keep rehearsing. Keep trying. It takes effort to become comfortable communicating with new verbal styles while changing old communication habits. It's worth it!

Barbara Pickholz-Weiner, RN, BSN, CACHI, MAC, EMDR II, has been the director of Journeys Counseling Center, Inc. and has provided healing opportunities for people since 1982. You may contact her at 719-510-1268.

## Eric Dickson Memorial Honoring a life and a legacy

by Kathy Hansen

Statues are often erected to memorialize a life well-lived so that we can remember someone who truly lived a remarkable life; someone who inspires us to lead a more meaningful or perhaps intentional life. Such is the case for Eric V. Dickson.

He was born Dec. 17, 1947 in Decatur, Illinois. It was 1956 when he and his family moved to Woodland Park, Colorado.

Eric's heroism began soon after. At the age of 10, Eric was playing with three of his friends in Memorial Park. Johnny was on a raft and his dog tried to jump onto the raft, which caused it to capsize. Eric jumped in and tried to get Johnny out, but couldn't so he ran to Johnny's house to get Johnny's dad. Sadly, it was too late. However, Eric did the best he could to save Johnny, and was responsible enough to get an adult when he needed help.



Original memorial before it was vandalized and removed.

Eric's leadership abilities were strong! He was well liked among his peers; those younger than he looked up to him. Eric was one of those rare older kids that didn't mind helping younger or less experienced kids learn how to ice skate or fish. He seemed to find a way to include everyone. Most importantly, he did not tolerate bullying.

He was very active in high school; each year he was class officer (president his freshman and sophomore years) and on the basketball team, lettering all four years. He also played baseball and football (lettering in both). His senior year he was president of Student Council, team captain of the basketball team, and homecoming king. He belonged to the school's Driver Safety Club, was president of the Rodeo Club, and he founded the Misfits Club, a local youth organization of which he was president for three years.

Local resident and friend of Eric, Steve Plutt shared with us it was his leadership in the Misfits where he had witnessed Eric's ethics and leadership skills. Steve told us Eric would step in when a bullying situation would occur; he simply didn't allow the bigger kids to pick on the younger kids. He would also refuse entry to any student coming to a dance or event, who might have alcohol on his/her breath.

It is easy to understand what Steve said next, "He had the respect of all us kids, all his peers and even the adults around him. He was really an exceptional person."

Being involved with so many activities, it's hard to imagine how Eric found time to hold a job so he could earn money to help his family.

Eric graduated in 1967 from Woodland Park High School and three days later enlisted in the USMC to fight in the Viet Nam War. For readers who may not be aware, our country had a draft system from WWII to 1973. Eric did not wait for his so-called number to be up; he volunteered for service. The Viet Nam War was controversial and unpopular with many Americans. Many who fought were not welcomed when they came home.

Lance Corporal Eric V. Dickson was killed in action on May 31, 1968. This was the deadliest month in the entire

Viet Nam War for Americans. He was Woodland Park and Teller County's *only* death casualty of the Viet Nam War.

When the news of his death reached Woodland Park, it's 700 residents were hit hard. So many of the residents knew Eric, as happens in a small town or when someone stands out as Eric did.

It was actually the members of the Misfits that collected the donations for a memorial plaque and fountain which were erected in Eric's honor smack dab in the middle of Woodland Park (where Bergstrom Park is now) so everyone could see it, being the prime location at the time. The fountain was dedicated in 1969; the Marine Corps sent an Honor Guard for the ceremony. The landscaping was done by La Sertoma Club and Elmo Hammer did the quartz rock work for the base of the fountain.

Vandals broke the fountain in 1978 and the city replaced it. When the fountain was vandalized again in 1980, the city did not move to replace it and it was referred to only as a "decorative fountain" that was the focal point of the park

with no mention of Eric V. Dickson (*Ute Pass Courier*, Oct 23, 1980).

By 1982 the memorial plaque was relocated to the Avenue of Flags mini park in Woodland, near the theater.

The Bergstrom Park revitalization project began in 1986. The quartz base of the fountain, what was left of it, was removed as part of the demolition phase.

We cannot even begin to imagine how Eric's mother, Shirley Jean Dickson-Serion felt about that.

The vandalism of Eric's memorial was a pity and a shame that haunted Steve Plutt. After Steve retired, the idea of Eric's memorial being lost forever began to eat away at Steve's serenity until Memorial Day of 2017 at which point he decided to take action and form the Eric V. Dickson Memorial Project. Support grew quickly as Steve contacted one of Eric's best friends, Steve Storrs. They began reaching out and were energized by the support they received. See sidebar for Eric V. Dickson Memorial Project Committee members.

The committee reached out to government officials from the local to state levels. An outpouring of support followed on all levels. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1980 set change jars throughout Woodland Park and funding began to flow for the project. The members of VFW Post 6051 the members of VFW Post 11411 and the members of American Legion Post 1980 all pledged support of the project. El Pomar Foundation actually called Steve to help their cause.

Local artist, Dixie Clare stepped right up, as she often does, and volunteered to draw the rendering of the intended statue which is based on a photo of Eric while he was in Nam. (His story will be where his name is on the drawing).

The base is a hexagon to be carved out of mahogany granite found in the USA. The stone mason lives in Divide; his name is Tim Carr of Rocky Mountain Memorials. The bronze artist is Victor, Colorado's own Mark Halterman.

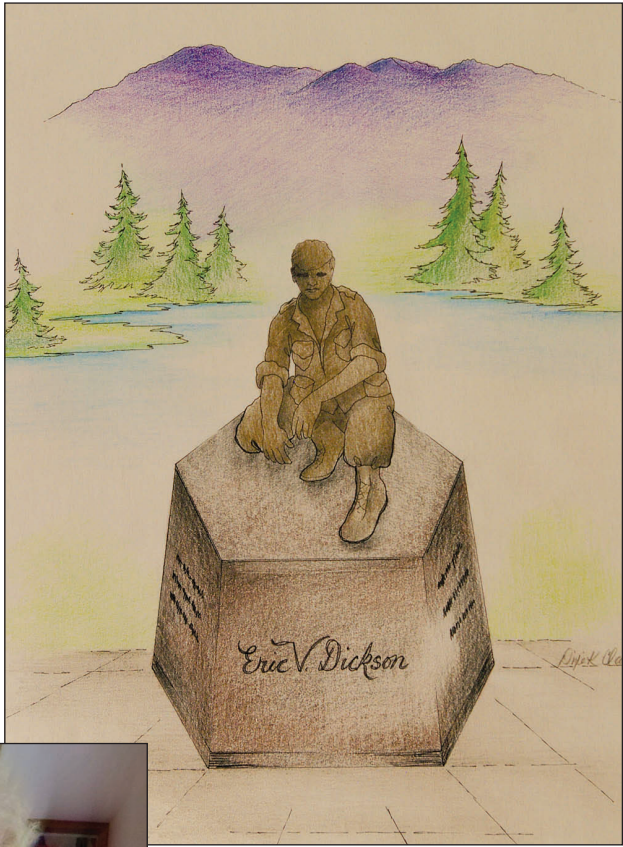
"Welcome Home" will be added to the left and right panels, and there are spaces on the left and right panels available by minimum donation of \$100, to represent those who served our country in Viet Nam. This will help to pay for the statue whose current cost is estimated at \$70 thousand.

In only three months the project raised \$25 thousand and found an anonymous donor who agreed to match tax deductible donations dollar for dollar!

### Where?

Where will the Eric V. Dickson memorial be placed? The question is up for discussion.

Memorial Park seems like a rather obvious location as its



Artist rendering of the proposed memorial by Dixie Clare (above). It is based on a photograph of Eric while in Viet Nam (see photo on cover).

Eric's mother holds the medal she received as a Gold Star Mother (left).



name would imply, but also because it is the place that holds the pond where Eric, at age 10, so boldly acted in an effort to save his friend, Johnny. It is where Eric taught classmates to ice skate, fish, and to play fairly. It is where Eric dated and married during a leave from Nam, high school sweetheart, Chris Oaks. It is where his statue can inspire people of all ages today, a place of prominence in the community as it was originally intended to be.

We know it will mean a lot 91-year-old Gold Star Mother, Shirley Jean Dickson-Serion, who currently lives in Canon City. In

her letter penned July 25, 2017 to Woodland Park she writes, "Now that a new memorial is to be built, I can think of no better place for it than near our old house by the pond. At the time we lived on Henrietta Street only a few houses away from the pond. Our son loved that park and spent many times there while he was growing up. That was his favorite place to take his girlfriend when he was a young teenager."

Shirley continues, "A mother never gets over the loss of a child and her heart is permanently broken. This memorial to be placed in Memorial Park will never bring Eric back, but it is a great tribute to a young man that gave his life for his town, state and country."

The Eric V. Dickson Memorial Project Committee would like to express their sincerest thanks to:

- Val Carr, Woodland Park Council Member
- Paul Saunier, Woodland Park Council Member
- David Buttery, Woodland Park City Administrator
- Kevin Grantham, Colorado State Senate President
- The Historic Ute Inn
- Mr. Dan Williams
- Norm Steen, Teller County Commissioner who has gone above and beyond in his support.
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1980
- VFW Post 6051
- VFW Post 11411
- American Legion Post 1980
- Dixie Clare
- Tim Carr
- Mark Halterman

You may make a tax-deductible donation at any ENT Credit Union under the Eric V. Dickson Memorial including the location at 920 Paradise Lodge Lane in Woodland Park. You may also send donations to American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, c/o Eric Dickson Memorial 1960 Valley View Drive, Woodland Park, CO 80863.

### Eric V. Dickson Memorial Project Committee members:

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Timothy McMillin | Elijah Murphy |
| Mark Agan        | Kim Plutt     |
| Elizabeth Agan   | Steve Storrs  |
| Denise Denomme   | Steve Plutt   |

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## One Nation Walking Together Native American Christmas

by Urban Turzi

There often arises the question among non-Native Americans if Indians celebrate Christmas. Well, the simple answer is yes, many do. But, to understand the complete answer, one must look at the question through the lens of history.



After European contact, many Native American tribes blended Christian beliefs with their traditional cultures and began celebrating a hybrid of Christian and Native beliefs. In fact, about three quarters of the Indian population identifies with a secular faith, the most common being Catholics. The holidays are a time of giving and this is not a foreign concept to Native cultures. All throughout the year, many Native American cultures celebrate special occasions (i. e. graduations, weddings, funerals, etc.) and events with "giveaways". Such generosity in Native communities is a sign of a giving heart, with spiritual as well as social value. So, the concept of holiday giving easily coincides with traditional Native American beliefs.



This is also a time when our organization, One Nation Walking Together, focuses on services for those needing a little extra boost of hope and cheer. In addition to providing year-round humanitarian service (such as clothing, furniture, hygiene products, housewares etc.), each year we help brighten the holidays for tens of thousands of Native Americans through our Holiday Gift Program. Native children and Elders alike enjoy the gifts and the opportunity to celebrate the holiday season in the same ways as other Americans. The past year we were able to send about 2250 Christmas gifts, valued at \$49,350 all of which has been donated to us from generous folks throughout our country who believe in the spirit of giving on a year-round basis. This process begins in the summer months when the first of the Native tribes or schools start asking for the gifts.

Before European contact, the Indian tribes of North America did not celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, since they hadn't heard of Him. However, many of the Indian people of North America have been Christians for several hundred years. Over this time, customs which were introduced to them by the missionaries have become adapted to the native cultures, and are an integral part of their Christmas traditions today. Many Native Americans did observe a celebration near Christmas time, called the Winter Solstice. The Winter Solstice is the longest night of the year and falls on December 21/22. It was celebrated in the Americas long before European

influence arrived. Different Indian tribes associate different beliefs and rituals with it.

For example, the Hopi tribal celebrations are dedicated to giving aid and direction to the sun that is ready to return to give strength for new life. Their ceremony is called Soyal. Lasting for 20 days, it includes prayer-stick making, purification, rituals, and a concluding rabbit hunt, feast and blessings.

According to Huron tradition, their first Christmas carol was written by a Jesuit missionary priest, Fr Jean de Brebeuf, around 1640-41. The carol, known as 'Twas in the Moon of Winter Time — *Jesous Ahaton-hia*, originally written in the Huron language and later translated to French, has become a well-known and much-loved carol even today. The Hurons built a small chapel of fir trees and bark to honor the manger at Bethlehem. This became the 'stable' where Jesus was born. Some Hurons traveled as much as two days to be there for the Christmas celebration. The animals at the manger were the fox, the buffalo and the bear. The Hurons also made a traditional tent of skins and their nativity figures were all dressed as Native Americans.

There is a mysterious good-looking brave who wears white buckskins and brings gifts to Indian children. His name is appropriately "Handsome Fellow". There was a Native American man in the 1800s who was an important leader and warrior in the Creek tribe. His Indian name was Chief Hobbythacco, which means Handsome Fellow. Did the tradition arise from him?

Chiefs in Native American cultures were often the beneficiaries of many gifts. According to the traditions of Native Americans, the chief would then share these gifts with others of the tribe who were less fortunate.

Looks-for-Buffalo, an Oglala Sioux spiritual leader, explains the meaning of Christmas to the traditional Indian people of the Americas in the following writing by him.

"Every day is our Christmas. Every meal is our Christmas. At every meal we take a little portion of the food we are eating, and we offer it to the spirit world on behalf of the four-legged, and the winged, and the two-legged. We pray — not the way most Christians pray — but we thank the Grandfathers, the Spirit, and the Guardian Angel.

The Indian Culture is actually grounded in the traditions of a Roving Angel. The life-ways of Roving Angels are actually the way Indian People live. They hold out their hands and help the sick and the needy. They feed and clothe the poor. We have high respect for the avatar because we believe that it is in giving that we receive.

We are taught as Traditional children that we have abundance. The Creator has given us everything: the water, the air we breathe, the earth as our flesh, and our energy force: our heart. We are thankful every day. We pray early in the morning, before sunrise, to the morning star and the evening star. We pray for our relatives who are in the universe that someday they will come. We also pray that the Great Spirit's son will live again.

To the Indian People, Christmas is every day and they don't believe in taking without asking. Herbs are prayed over before being gathered, by asking the plant for permission to take some cuttings. An offer of tobacco is made to the plant in gratitude. We do not pull the herb out by its roots, but cut the plant even with the surface of the earth, so that another generation will be born in its place.



The 1904 San Francisco magazine cover by Maynard Dixon shows Santa Claus with a cowboy and a Native American man.

American children, the newspaper noted, "were quick to show interest in the Christmas tree."

Some Native Americans put a special spin on Christmas, incorporating traditions and tales that dated back ages. The Salish passed down a Christmas story of a "great and good man who came among their forefathers and performed miracles of all kinds, and on leaving them said he would return in the form of a large white coyote," the 1910 *Winchester News* (Kentucky) noted. "They say he has appeared at different times, but has not been seen now for more than 150 years."

In San Felipe Pueblo, N.M., the 1913 *Yale Expositor* (St. Clair County, Michigan) newspaper account pointed out that the holiday celebration among Native Americans living there was "a curious mixture of Christian and pagan customs. Members went to the old mission church in the morning, held a feast at midday and then began 'a fantastic and ceremonial dance that continues for half a week'." Currently, Christmas is still celebrated at some of the Pueblos in many of the same ways. Deborah A. Jojola, Curator of Exhibitions at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, explains that today "most of the Pueblo Nations within New Mexico have seasonal cycles for ceremonies and celebrations." Many Pueblo communities celebrate the harvest, she says, and the day of the patron saint of the church and the village "blends both Native and Catholic expressions with a single purpose — the welfare of the people."

Even with the history mentioned above, the level of poverty that exists today in Native communities for so many Native people, sometimes makes Christmas a very sad time. With no money for food, clothing, or other basic necessities of life, the traditional Christmas spirit we see advertised via the media is but another hurdle causing much hopelessness in the lives of the poorest of the poor, our Native American brothers and sisters. The question for the toddlers, whether they live on reservations or in urban centers, is not *what* Santa will bring them for Christmas, but, will they have anything to eat on this festive occasion.

One Nation Walking Together is a Colorado Springs based nonprofit making a difference in the lives of Native Americans. One by one each of us can bring hope and create a brighter future for those living in impoverished conditions. You can make a difference today by donating online at [www.onenationwt.org](http://www.onenationwt.org) or mail your gift to ONWT, 3150 N. Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80907. Donations are tax deductible and through December 31 your gift will be matched up to \$15,200! Thank you for your kindhearted support! Happy Holidays!!

**Sources:**

- https://images.search.yahoo.com (search: Santa Claus and American Indians)
- https://indiancountrymedianetwork.com (search: Native American Christmas)
- Lee, Murray: Partnership with Native Americans, December 16, 2014.
- Manakata American Indian Council: Floyd Looks for Buffalo Hand
- One Nation Walking Together: Staff archives
- Weeks, Linton: NPR News Department, December 24, 2014.

It is really important that these ways never be lost. And to this day we feed the Elders, we feed the family on Christmas day. We explain to the little children that to receive a gift is to enjoy it, and when the enjoyment is gone, they are to pass it on to another child, so that they, too, can enjoy it. If a child gets a doll, that doll will change hands about eight times in a year, from one child to another.

Every day is Christmas in Indian Country. Daily living is centered around the spirit of giving and walking the Red Road. Walking the Red Road means making everything you do a spiritual act. If neighbors or strangers stop over to visit at your house, we offer them dinner. The more one gives, the more spiritual we become. The Christ Consciousness, the same spirit of giving that is present at Christmas, is present every day in Indian Country."

**"The Christ Consciousness, the same spirit of giving that is present at Christmas, is present every day in Indian Country."**  
— Floyd Looks for Buffalo Hand

With the spread of Christianity among some Native Americans in the early 20th century came certain Christmas rituals — trees, presents, and jolly old Santa Claus — that were folded into traditional wintertime celebrations.

According to a 1909 account in the *Tombstone Epitaph*, members of the Gila River Indian Community, living on reservations in Arizona, were introduced to Christmas customs imported from Europe. "It was the first time the Indians had ever seen the good old saint (Nicholas) and they were highly amused and pleased."

The *Yale Expositor* of St. Clair County, Michigan, reported on December 18, 1913 of certain Lakota living in South Dakota, whose Christmas came through government-run schools. In each village, the Lakota collected funds for a feast. One member dressed up as Kris Kringle and made speeches and handed out presents. Native







# Newmont Legacy Fund

Celebrating the conclusion of its first ever Legacy Fund employee giving campaign at the Cripple Creek and Victor (CC&V) mine, Newmont Mining Corporation announced that the site attained their goal of 30 % employee participation, generating donation pledges totaling \$70,000 from CC&V employees. Newmont will match the generosity of its CC&V employees by matching their contributions 100 %, resulting in \$140,000 in total pledged donations that will go to local non-profit organizations in 2018.

The Legacy Fund is a non-profit organization founded in 2010 that allows Newmont employees to make donations to nonprofit organizations of their choice through payroll deduction. In addition to shepherding the employee's donation to the selected nonprofits, Newmont matches their donation dollar-for-dollar. (It is somewhat similar to many other employee giving campaigns that are run by third party organizations like the United Way, or even the federal government's Combined Federal Campaign.) This is a great way to ensure alignment between the priorities of employees and the community investment of the company.

The Legacy Fund is managed by a nine-person board of directors made up of Newmont Employees. All costs for operating the Legacy Fund are paid by Newmont and are not borne by the receiving organizations. In essence, there is no "handling fee," ensuring

# Breck Film Fest Film On the Road to Salida!

The Salida Council for the Arts has just unveiled a tremendous, artistic, local Film Festival. The council has been working for months with the Film Festival team in Breckenridge and the result is a one-day festival of over 45 films viewed at the 2017 Breck Film Fest.

Breck Film Fest-*Film On the Road in Salida!* is being held at the Salida Steam-Plant Event Center on Saturday, December 2. A kick-off event the night before, "Celebrate Cinema with Filmmakers," will feature films, trailers and a panel of celebrated local filmmakers in a party atmosphere.

Led by chairman Martin Jolley, the Council's Film Fest Committee, Laura Barton, Rob Dubin, Rick Hum, Scott McCumber, Jane Jolley and Sue Ann Hum, viewed countless hours of film to select the very best offerings for the Salida audience. "We are excited about being able to present current films by international and local filmmakers," according to Jolley. "Some of the films the committee selected will make you cry, some will make you laugh, and some will make you break out in song and verse. I feel certain it will be a fun and entertaining festival."

Ranging in length from 1 1/2 to 101 minutes, films to be enjoyed include comedies,

that the selected organizations receive 100% of the donors' gifts.

When making a Legacy Fund gift, employees select their donation amount and follow some very basic guidelines to select their recipient. There are essentially two options for giving:

- Employees may select one or more specific 501(c)3 organizations in Teller County, Freemont County, or El Paso County that provide essential human services. In this instance, both the employee's donation and the Newmont company match go to that selected organization.
- Employees may select one or more specific 501(c)3 organizations that do not provide an essential human service, e.g. Focus on the Forest. In this case, the selected nonprofit will receive the employee's donation but the Newmont company match will go to build the CC&V Endowment Fund that will provide future funding for essential human services.

CC&V just wrapped up the campaign for pledges for the 2018 calendar year. More than 65 local organizations will receive funding through the Legacy Fund on a quarterly basis in 2018. The recipients will vary from year to year, based on selection by our employees. 2018 recipients will include the American Red Cross in El Paso County, Boy Scouts of America, Family Crisis Services,

Inc. in Fremont County, CASA in Teller County, Day Break Adult Day Program in Teller County, Girl Scouts of America in El Paso County, Teller Senior Coalition, and numerous other local organizations.

We are currently building the Endowment Fund and will not be considering distributions until Newmont ceases operations at CC&V. When that time comes, we will provide funding in much the same manner that we currently grant Community Investment Program funds.

The Legacy Fund gifts are separate from the mine's Community Investment Program. The Legacy Fund is employee giving and the Community Investment Program is Newmont giving in which requests for grants, donations, and sponsorships are requested through an application process.

On a monthly basis, the Community Investment Committee evaluates applications based on purpose, need, community support, and alignment with company values and budget. The \$20,000 in grants awarded at the recent Woodland Park School District meeting are part of this program. Multiple programs at the Elementary Schools, Middle and High School will benefit from these grants. Similar grants are given through the Cripple Creek School District as well. In both instances, CC&V made a \$20,000 investment in the school district and the district managed the program to evaluate and

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# Thank You!

Divide Chamber of Commerce extends a *Special Thanks* to the businesses who helped make Christmas in Divide at Summit Elementary another huge success!

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# Making a difference

by *Sandi Sumner*

My oldest son was in the 4th grade at Saratoga Elementary in Silicon Valley in California and my daughter in 2nd grade. A single parent with a 2-year-old in pre-school, and working full time managing the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, I made a decision. I decided to donate our 40-gallon fish tank to my older son's 4th grade class. His teacher warmed to the idea immediately, so that relieved me of one more task at home. With a Collie named Danny Boy at home, we were not alone.

One evening our family went to dinner at a popular Mexican restaurant where a woman stood for hours, near the entry, hand-making tortillas. She took a roll of dough from a bowl then rapidly slapped it back and forth between her hands. Every tortilla she made was the exact same size. Somehow that evening I learned she was a single mother of five children and their sole support.

The following Monday, I went to my son's 4th grade teacher and my daughter's 2nd grade teacher and described how we could all do something special for this single mother and five children for Christmas. First, the teachers jumped on the suggestion of making color-

ful paper chains and ornaments. I took on the task of providing a Christmas tree. Then the two teachers and I decided to try and provide the family with some presents. Somehow, we obtained the names, ages and sex of each child, and at some point, where they lived. (As I recall it was a two-bedroom apartment.)

Each teacher sent home a letter explaining our project and asking if they would like to provide a gift for one of the children. There may have been 40 children in 2nd and 4th grade and a like number of Christmas gifts were donated.

My children's father obtained a tree and stand. I recall filling a basket with a turkey and other foods. The children's mother was expecting us, so she and her five children met us at the door of their apartment. I fought back tears, watching the children jumping up and down, laughing, excited to put all the gifts under their tree. We were all singing Jingle Bells when the mother first answered the door, and I was able to hug her.

It's natural to be filled with inner joy when you give without any expectation. It's more than 40 years ago now, since we surprised this family with a bounty of Christmas joy and love, but it seems like only yesterday.

# AVHS welcomes Amber van Leuken

Ark-Valley Humane Society has announced Amber van Leuken as its new executive director. Van Leuken will fill the vacancy of former executive director, Jonathan McDonell, after he accepted a position at a shelter in the Northeast.

"We are very pleased to announce this new appointment," said Dr. John Ellis, Ark-Valley Humane Society Board Chair. "Amber's experience and dedication to Ark-Valley Humane Society will make her a tremendous asset as our leader."

"I am humbled and honored to step into this new role," van Leuken remarks. "It's an exciting time to be in animal welfare and I look forward to growing Ark-Valley Humane Society as a progressive and community-focused animal shelter. I look forward to leading our efforts to improve the lives of companion animals and support the connection between people and pets."

Van Leuken has been involved with Ark-Valley Humane Society since 2004. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from Cornell University, and a Master of Arts degree in Psychology with a Specialization in Nonprofit Management from the University of the Rockies. With significant experience in animal welfare and nonprofit management, van Leuken will advance Ark-Valley Humane Society's current strategic plan and guide the organization's mission of advocating for the welfare of all animals through compassion and care.

Previously, van Leuken served Ark-Valley Humane Society as Programs and Services



# Where is Zack this month?

by *Pet Food Pantry*

Zack is a certified Therapy dog and the mascot for the Pet Food Pantry for Teller County. He has dedicated himself to helping families keep their furry friends when they fall on hard economic times. This month, he wants to give back to the community.

On December 24th from 10 a.m. to noon, he will be at City Market, 777 Gold Hill Pl S, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. Zack's owners will be handing out dog biscuits made from "spent grain" donated by the Ute Pass Brewery to dog owners and catnip toys to cat owner.

Please stop by and give Zack a hug! Thank you for your support.

For more information, go to [www.PetFoodPantryTC.com](http://www.PetFoodPantryTC.com).





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Mueller State Park

Mueller State Park invites visitors to come out to the park to enjoy the peace and quiet the winter months can offer! Hiking goes on year-round and once the snow arrives, lots of folks come out for snowshoeing, skiing and sledding. The park is open every day for outdoor activities and the Visitor Center is open every day from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. except Christmas Day. Celebrate the New Year on January 1st by joining in on guided First Day Hikes! See you on the trails!

2 Nature's Ornaments 11-2 p.m. Let nature's bounty inspire your creativity! Make some holiday ornaments or crafts to take home!

10 Hike: School Pond Trail 9:30 a.m. Meet at School Pond Trailhead. Join Naturalist Rose to hike School Pond Trail. Enjoy the tranquility through 2 miles of forest and meadow.

17 Hike: Outlook Ridge Trail 9:30 a.m.

Meet at Outlook Ridge Trailhead. Join Naturalist Rose to hike Outlook Ridge, visit overlooks to see mountain vistas to the southwest. 2-3 miles.

25 Christmas Day. The Visitor Center will be closed, but the park is open.

January 1, 2018 First Day Hikes. Colorado State Parks have taken on the tradition of hosting hikes on New Year's Day — to start the New Year out right! Join in First Day Hikes at Mueller! Bring water, snacks, (snowshoes?) and dress for snow.



Last year's First Day Hikers.

Mueller events are free; however, a \$7 daily pass or \$70 annual vehicle park pass is required to enter the park. For more information, call the park at 719-687-2366.

Cup and Cone's Truffles



Chocolatiers Shelby Woolsey and Brooklyn Hall are producing truffles that will be sold by the box in the micro-chocolate shop at the Cup and Cone.

Chocolate truffles are in full production in Cañon City! "My staff is very innovative," said Jeri Fry, proprietor of the Cup and Cone at 4th and Royal Gorge Blvd. "They have taken on this seasonal creation, worked all the bugs out, and now are producing a delicious, beautiful product."

Manufacturing on this micro scale insures freshness. The staff will be making small batches of 10 different flavors through the holiday season. "This allows us to stay open into winter," said Fry. "My staff knows how to add value by contributing to the success of the shop."

Shelby Woolsey, who has been with the Cup and Cone for 2 ½ years, formulated the recipes for the 10 different flavors. "It takes lots of steps to make the truffles, but we follow best practices and find it takes less room than I ever thought so we are able to do it right here in the shop."

"It makes me appreciate a truffle," said Brooklyn Hall, one of Cup and Cone's new Chocolatiers. "It takes patience and a long time to make just one; this is not easy!" Brooklyn developed the dipping technique that is used.

"You have to know how to make them perfectly round throughout the process and take care to track the flavors when doing different batches," said Abigail Hoffman who started at the Cup and Cone just over three years ago.

Two sizes of boxed truffles are available for gift-giving. The micro-chocolate shop also offers dipped waffle cones, dipped pretzel rods and chocolate covered espresso beans molded like roses.

The seasonal Gingerbread Bakery is in full swing as well, baking from scratch and hosting holiday parties, known as jubilees, where you can decorate your own gingerbread house.

"I train my staff as baristas, soda jerks, sugar artists, bakers and now chocolatiers," said Fry.

Cup and Cone is the largest ice cream shop in the region and is open daily in the winter 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on week days. To escape or celebrate, come to the Cup and Cone.

Colorado Gives Day

CUSP

Yes, it's that time of year, again. The season for giving, and, for nonprofit organizations, the season for asking. Sometimes it can feel overwhelming as we are hit with a barrage of requests for donations, making it seem like charities always have their hands out, asking for money, and often they do.

An important question to ask is "Why are there so many nonprofits?" The simple answer is "Because we need them." Most nonprofits serving our communities were started to address an important need not being filled by other means, for instance, through governmental agencies.

Charities provide a broad spectrum of programs and services. From human service organizations helping people and families in need, to environmental nonprofits that protect our vital natural resources, the work that these groups do enrich and enhance the quality of all of our lives. As a society, we reveal our humanity when we support these groups. We create a culture of care when, through donations, we financially acknowledge the important work that our nonprofits implement and sustain.

You don't need to access services directly from a nonprofit to benefit from the work they do. If children in your town who are otherwise underserved are receiving free tutoring after school to bring their grades up, you benefit from a better educated community. If a natural resource protection nonprofit is cleaning out debris after a wildfire or making a green forest more resilient, you benefit from a restored and healthier environment.

Many nonprofits partner with local, state and federal governments to augment and strengthen their regional services. For example, CUSP works closely with the US Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado

Department of Natural Resources, The Colorado Department of Health & Environment (CDPHE) and the EPA. Through the successful acquisition of state and federal grants run through these agencies, we are able to bring tax dollars back into our community to implement projects and programs that cover watershed issues from emergency response during and after wildfires and post-fire floods, to large, ecological restoration projects across vast landscapes. However, the grants that fund these projects require matching funds. That's where your donations and volunteer time become critical to this partnership. Your donations are an integral investment, strategically leveraged to secure grant funding.

The health of our watershed is inextricably tied to the health of our forests. Healthy forests act as a living filter to improve the quality of water throughout the watershed and in areas downstream. In the Upper South Platte Watershed, ponderosa pine forests dominate, with areas of mixed conifer, aspen, and lodgepole. Currently, many of these forests are overcrowded and in poor health, leaving them vulnerable to insect infestations, disease outbreaks, and catastrophic fire. CUSP proactively works on projects on public and private land to improve the health of the forests and protect our surrounding communities.

From vulnerable people to vulnerable landscapes, each of us has the power to make a difference for the better. We hope that you will consider a donation to CUSP during our end of year campaign. Colorado Gives Day (Tuesday, December 5th) is a growing tradition throughout the state and nonprofits that participate are eligible for benefits via the Incentive Fund

established by Community First Foundation and FirstBank. Of course, donations any time are deeply appreciated and put to good use. You can donate online at <https://www.coloradogives.org/CUSP/overview> or send a check to CUSP — P.O. Box 726, Lake George, CO 80827.

From all of us at CUSP, we wish you and yours a peaceful holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year.

Victor Lowell Thomas Museum

The Victor Lowell Thomas Museum will participate in Colorado Gives Day 2017 — an initiative to increase philanthropy in Colorado through online giving to Colorado charities. Presented by Community First Foundation and FirstBank, Colorado Gives Day is a 24-hour period on Dec. 5, 2017, to "Give where you live" by making online donations to the hundreds of charities featured on Community First Foundation's online giving resource, ColoradoGives.org.

The museum is in the midst of a fundraising campaign to acquire funds for the installation of restrooms and other amenities. The museum building, built in 1899, has no heat and no running water. The project will make it possible for the museum to be open longer into the colder months of the year and accommodate school groups, as well special events during the fall and spring months.

The museum has participated in Colorado Gives Day the past five years. To participate and make donations, visit <https://www.coloradogives.org/victorcolorado/overview>.

The museum is open weekends until Dec. 23, 2017. The restroom project will be completed this winter.

For more information about the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum please visit Victor-

IndyGive



Community Partnership

Join the CP Team for Happy Hour at Bier-Werks 4-7 p.m. Proceeds will be donated to CP through the IndyGive! Campaign and matched by Newmont CC&V Mine.

Community Partnership Family Resource Center in Divide has these activities available across Teller County: Family development services, adult education, GED test preparation and testing, early childhood education, parenting programs, cooking and nutrition classes, adult exercise, community gardens, parent engagement, and basic needs services. A contribution helps to strengthen our community! Help support families go from surviving to thriving with your donation today. [www.indygive.com/cpfr](http://www.indygive.com/cpfr).



TCRAS!

TCRAS is a non-profit, limited access shelter serving the communities throughout the Pikes Peak region. We do not receive state or federal funding, but rely on the support of donors and volunteers like you! We endeavor to provide the highest quality care to the pets in our shelter and to provide a safe, warm bed, healthy meals and lots of love until they find their forever home or are reunited with their family.

Each year, TCRAS helps nearly 1,000 dogs and cats. Every dollar makes a BIG difference in the lives of the pets we serve. We hope you'll consider a gift to TCRAS through the Give! Campaign.

Colorado.com. For more information about Colorado Gives Day and the other charities involved, please visit [ColoradoGivesDay.org](http://ColoradoGivesDay.org).



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## Tuition assistance for Veterans

by Larry Ingram, USN-Ret

**Colorado National Guard Tuition Assistance**  
Any member of the Colorado National Guard is eligible for state tuition assistance, up to 100 % tuition paid at any Colorado state-funded school depending on funding available. State funding can be used in conjunction with federal tuition assistance. Deadline for spring semester is Dec. 1. Deadline for fall semester is July 1. Summer deadline is May 1.

**Eligibility**  
Colorado National Guard member must serve two years for each year granted. As of July 1, 2000, any new member of the Colorado National Guard eligible for state tuition assistance must have a minimum of six months of service in the Colorado National Guard. Interstate Transfer (ISTs) and In-Service Recruits (ISRs) are waived from this requirement. As of July 1, 2005, the state Tuition Assistance (TA) program is no longer a payback program; to get TA the member must be in drilling status with the Colorado National Guard. Also, must maintain a 2.0 grade point average.

**In-state tuition rates available to all service members**  
Colorado will offer public in-state tuition rates to all service members who qualify for benefits under the Post 9/11 GI Bill. The tuition bill, which hopes to make Colorado schools more attractive to current and former military personnel, will offer in-state tuition rates to veterans from all over the country, provided they qualify for benefits under the new GI Bill. At most public Colorado universities and colleges, the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition is about \$8,000. Service members' families will also be eligible for in-state tuition, provided they qualify for benefits under the GI Bill's transfer option.

AffordableColleges.com now offers a financial aid resource for veterans as well as active duty military service members. While many opportunities are specific to a particular military branch or terms of service/operations, other military scholarships for veterans and active duty service members are available across all five military branches. For more information, visit <http://www.affordablecolleges.com/resources/scholarships-for-military>  
**Colorado Office of Veterans Education & Training**  
9101 East Lowry Boulevard  
Denver, CO 80230-6011  
Phone: 303-595-1620

## ~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](mailto:utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com).

**BUENA VISTA**  
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 American Legion BINGO 7-9 p.m. Friday nights.  
3 Tell a Story, Teach a Lesson: Defining moments in life. 5-6:30 p.m. at the Watershed.  
8, 9, 10 Winter Light Concert at 7:30 p.m. at Clearview Community Church, 457 Rodeo Rd.  
12 Celtic & Old Time Music Jam 6:30-8:30 p.m. All abilities are welcome on the second Tuesday each month! Bring your instrument(s) and a tune to share. Free with donations appreciated. Call Carole Barnes for more info 719-395-6704.

**CAÑON CITY**  
11 Free Legal Clinic 2-3:30 p.m. at Cañon City Library. Walk-ins welcome!  
NAMI: Connection Recovery Support Group, adults living with mental illness, meets every Wednesday 5:30-7 p.m. at St Thomas More Hospital Community Education Room 1338 Play Ave. Free safe and confidential. 719-315-4975 or [www.namisoutheastco.org](http://www.namisoutheastco.org).

**CRIPPLE CREEK CC-V SCHOOLS**  
6 Cresson Cougars Christmas Concert at Cresson Elementary 5 p.m.  
7 CC-V Pioneers Band and Choir Concert 6 p.m. in the Cafetorium.  
14 Pioneers Drama Department present 2nd Annual "Christmas Salute to the Troops" in the Cafetorium. Dinner service begins at 6:45 p.m. and show begins at 7:15 p.m. Cost is \$5 for adults/\$3 for children. Military members (active and retired) Free!  
• GED classes are Monds and Weds 8-11 a.m. at Ferguson Memorial Library. Call 719-686-0705 for more information or to register.

**PARKS N REC**  
9 Gold Camp Christmas Craft Fair



**BUENA VISTA**  
The Buena Vista Christmas Opening has been a wonderful tradition of our town for many years. While this is coordinated by the Buena Vista Chamber of Commerce and many volunteers it is not a Chamber fund-raiser or event. Instead it is meant to be a community opportunity that unites small businesses, residents, and visitors to share in the holiday spirit and celebrate the true essence of community. This year's theme is "Peace on Earth and Good Will to All." There are continuous FREE events all day into the evening including two parades on December 2.

New this year attendees become part of the Parade of Lights: We are encouraging residents, attendees and businesses from each nearby neighborhood and town sections (South Main St., East Main St., and West Main St., and Hwy 24) to join the end of the Parade of Lights and/or meet/merge the parade at the Community Tree for lighting (Optimist Park / Splash Park). Those joining can be in Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol" costumes or join with candles, headlamps, flashlights etc.

Here is a sampling of the current scheduled FREE events:  
• 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free Chocolate Walk. Visit local businesses,

To see a complete list of events visit: <https://www.buenavistacolorado.org/events-christmas-opening-events-or-office@BuenaVistaColorado.org>

continued on next page

Help CP reach our goal of \$23,000 through the IndyGive! Campaign. Donate today at [www.indygive.com/CPFRC](http://www.indygive.com/CPFRC). All donations matched by Newmont CC&V Mine.

**LITTLE CHAPEL FOOD PANTRY**  
4, 18 Drive-up distribution. To avoid traffic issues times are by last name beginning with  
A-H 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
I-Q 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
R-Z 5:30-6:30 p.m.

**FAIRPLAY**  
2 A Holiday Victorian Tea and Topsy Tea Party during a real Colorado Christmas Celebration at the Valiton Hotel and South Park Pub & Grill at 500 Main St. The Tea is at 2:30 p.m. "Tea Talk" and "Unpeep" Show: wear your finest Victorian hats or borrow them at the door. Tickets \$12. Enjoy the sound of celtic harpist Maryanne Rozzi until 4 p.m. Call 719-838-0279 or email [solarozzi@](mailto:solarozzi@)



**CRIPPLE CREEK ASPEN MINE CENTER**  
7, 8, 9 Gold Camp Christmas. The opening reception is Thursday evening at the Aspen Mine Center. Soup for the Soul lunch is Friday at 11:30 a.m. (The parade is in Victor and starts at 6 p.m.) Saturday's Craft Fair is from 9-3 p.m. at Parks N Rec. The Parade is at noon. The Colorado Springs Choral will delight everyone with their Christmas music selections at the Baptist Church at 137 North First Street at 3:30 p.m. For full itinerary call Kathi Pilcher 719-659-3599 go to [visitoripplecreek.com](http://visitoripplecreek.com).

yahoo.com for more information. Topsy Tea Party at 6 p.m. (21 and older). Not your average tea party. Tickets \$15. Tickets at Town Hall 901 Main St. or call 719-836-2622.  
10 Holiday Handmade Soap class 2-4 p.m. at Beaver Ponds Environmental Education Center. We will be incorporating wildcrafted and greenhouse cultivated herbs. Prices vary from \$15 for one bar of soap to \$35 for four custom hand-crafted bars and a fun time with your friends at BPEEC! Make your local, custom, public health gift of soap for your loved ones this holiday.

**FLORENCE JOHN C. FREMONT LIBRARY**  
1-15 Friends of Library Silent Auction. Place your bids on items before Dec 15 at 2 p.m. Proceeds go to library services, programs, and events. Come join the fun and thank you for your support!  
Meet and greet 6-8 p.m. The Library Board of Trustees invites all members of the community to join in the discussion for the future planning of a new library building! Come for the conversation, share your input, and enjoy the complimentary coffee, tea, and snacks provided by the Friends of the Library.

16 Family movie and pajama party 2:30 p.m. Show-up in your PJs. We will read the book and watch the movie *The Polar Express*. A young boy embarks on a magical adventure to the North Pole on the Polar Express Train. During his adventure he learns about friendship, bravery, and the spirit of Christmas. Rated G, 100 minutes. FREE Cookies & Hot Chocolate served after the show!  
18 Winter Crafts 3 p.m. All ages welcome! Join us for some simple and easy crafting fun — make your own projects to take home and celebrate the winter season.

**Adult programs**  
5 Vegan Book Club at 11:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday each month. We discuss topics related to veganism.  
• Wednesdays Wool Gatherers at 10 a.m. Meet to yak, knit, crochet or quilt. Bring your own project. All levels welcome.

**Youth programs**  
• Wednesdays Story Time at 10:30 a.m. All ages and abilities are welcome. Come hear stories, sing songs, and do a craft. Themes change weekly with an emphasis on Early Literacy and learning.  
• Thursdays Teen Group at 3:45 p.m.

**~OUT AND ABOUT~**  
Sixth through 12th graders are welcome to socialize, participate in a project and have snacks. Topics change weekly.  
• Fridays Growing Readers Story Time at 10:30 a.m. All ages and abilities are welcome. Friends, family and neighbors who care for children are especially encouraged to attend. Become a partner with us and the Temple-Hoyne Buell Foundation, who graciously provides the grant monies for this special story time and materials.

• December featured artist is Betti Royall's series *Progress*. Betti, a resident of Canon City, enjoyed drawing and painting while growing up and started her lifelong desire to paint four and a half years ago. Using her favorite media of oil and pastels, Betti discovered one of the best learning tools to her technique. Come see the delightful work of this artist and find out more about the funny story of this technique. There will be a reception for the artist on Saturday, December 9 from 2-4 p.m. at the library.  
All programs at the John C. Fremont Library 1330 Church Avenue. Call 719-784-4649.

**FLORISSANT**  
6 Free Legal Clinic at Florissant Library 3-4 p.m. Please pre-register by calling 719-748-3939.  
15 Night Sky Program 6:30-9 p.m. Join park staff and members of the Colorado Springs Astronomical Society for a look at the dark skies above Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. For more information call 719-748-3253 ext. 202.

**FLORISSANT GRANGE**  
9 Children's Christmas Party 1-3 p.m. Hey kids! Santa is making an early stop right here in Florissant! Bring your folks out to meet and have a picture taken with Mr. & Mrs. Clause. A Cocoa & Cookies Party with special crafts and goodies will also be happening there for all you good girls and boys.  
16 Procrastinators delight 9-3 p.m. Last Minute Craft Fair. Choose from a variety of handmade items for a gift for that special someone or treat yourself to something nice! No admission. Vendors, \$15, per table. For more info call 719-748-5009.

**FLORISSANT LIBRARY**  
• Storytimes are Fridays 10-10:45 a.m. Special guest on Dec 8 is Mrs. Claus. Join Miss Leslie for stories,

## FLORENCE

All Aboard the Florence Pioneer Museum!



A snowy Christmas train by Shannon Lovins.

The Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center rides in the Christmas season on the rails!! What started out as a small model train display has grown into a BIG model train display, complete with two Christmas villages and a western Christmas town. The Museum gave an all call to the Eastern Fremont County community: can we borrow your model trains and villages? The community answered: YES! Through December and January 2018, FPM will display various gauges and types of model trains.

The Museum wants to give a tip of the ol' Casey Jones railroad hat to: Ray Anderson, Walter and Barbara Baker, Bob Barnes, Shannon Lovins, Rudl Mergelman, and Cindy Sturch, who brought in "G" gauge trains, "O" gauge trains "HO" gauge trains and even a "Z" gauge train. There is a G.I. Joe train set, a Florence & Cripple Creek train and a Santa car for the park in one of the Christmas villages. The FPM will host an Open House, Friday, December 1st, from 5-7 p.m. for the community to come and get a first-hand look at our wonderful model trains. Enjoy a hot cup of apple cider as you browse through the FPM. The Pueblo Model Railroad Association will be bringing in several "HO" train displays including a small running train around a diorama. The diorama is called "Mt. Herman" and was created by Jerrl Hauber of PMRA in honor of a club member who passed away. The running train exhibit will ONLY be at the Museum on December 1, 5-7 p.m. President Ralph Taylor and other PMRA club members will be on hand to talk trains. The exhibits in the display case from PMRA will be shown from now until the end of January.  
A local train enthusiast, Bryce Nelson, is still looking for like-minded folks who enjoy model trains to contact him. Bryce would like to start a local group for people who are interested in getting together to talk trains. You can contact Bryce at: [bnelson5563@gmail.com](mailto:bnelson5563@gmail.com).

The FPM and Research Center will be open this winter for the FIRST TIME since 1964. The Museum is getting an HVAC system in The Braden Griffith Room this month. We are all very excited to have this addition to our building. Thank you *Generations* from Cañon City for helping us stay warm and cozy!

31 New Year's Eve Breakfast Served 8-11 a.m.  
For more information check our website at [www.thebullmoossein-guffey.com](http://www.thebullmoossein-guffey.com), facebook [www.facebook.com/thebullmoossein-guffey](http://www.facebook.com/thebullmoossein-guffey) or call 719-689-4199

**BULL MOOSE RESTAURANT & BAR**  
2 Friends of Guffey Library Silent Auction 1-3 p.m.  
4 & 18 Bingo with Cash Prizes 6-9 p.m.  
8 & 15 Karaoke 6-9 p.m.  
16 Donovan Lee Hosting Annual Christmas Party 6-9 p.m.  
19- 28 Closed  
30 Lissa Hanner Hosting New Year's Party 6-10 p.m.

**FRESHWATER BAR & GRILL**  
2 Adam Ashley & Joe Bellavia 5-8 p.m.  
9 Pup Morse 5-8 p.m.

continued on page 32

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## Rampart Library news

Remembering our veterans beyond Veteran's Day

by Michelle Dukette

This Veterans Day I had the privilege of attending an event at the Ute Pass Cultural Center to honor our vets. It was a full house with veterans wearing hats and other clothing marked Vietnam, Korea, Persian Gulf and even a few proud vets from World War II. At that event I learned that 15% of the population on Teller County is comprised of men and women who have served in the military. This is an astonishing number and one that our community should be proud of. We have a rich history of brave, selfless and honorable citizens.

While Veterans Day has come and gone there are still many opportunities to acknowledge and honor the veterans in our community. Currently tucked away on the third floor of the Woodland Park Library is a wonderful display created by the Ute Pass Historical Society commemorating American Veterans of War from Teller County called Warriors of Woodland Park. The society has done diligent research on each of the 84 buried in the Woodland Park Cemetery. Spanning the Civil War through the Persian Gulf, these individuals were not only brave soldiers, but often civic minded citizens active in their local community.

Orville Elbert "Andy" Anderson, a Marine and Orderly to General Douglas MacArthur, for instance, was former town marshal and maintenance man for the cities of Woodland Park and

king. (Read more on page 21).

Eric enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1967 immediately after graduating from high school. He was assigned to B Company, First Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces and was a designated Mortarman. On May 31, 1968, Eric was killed in action by an explosive device. He was Teller County's first and only casualty of the Vietnam War.

Though Dickson did not survive Vietnam to become active in his community, his legacy lives on and he has inspired many others to do so in his honor. The Eric V. Dickson Memorial Project, led by local veterans and others in the community passionate about remembering and honoring local veterans is currently raising funds to erect a war memorial in Eric's honor. The goal is to raise \$70,000 dollars and have the statue erected in November 2018. If you feel that this is a worthy project and would like to support it, or would like to donate as a holiday gift to a loved one, please mail your donation to, or stop by in person to: ENT Credit Union-Eric Dickson Project c/o American Legion, Ladies Auxiliary, Post 1980, 920 Paradise Lodge Lane, Woodland



Park Colorado 80863. For more information on our local American Legion Post visit: [www.post1980.org/](http://www.post1980.org/)  
With the holidays here and visits with family and friends, a

reminder that the Rampart Library District is currently searching for and collecting war letters for our 2018 exhibit *Home: A History of War Through Letters*. We are asking at this time for individuals in our local community to search through their own history — to explore your own desk drawers, dressers, and boxes and ask family members involved in war efforts to contribute letters. We are looking for letters from any time period — from the Revolutionary War to the current campaign in Afghanistan. Letters written overseas or on the home front. Letters, cards, postcards, photographs and telegrams from husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, friends, and children. Handwritten, typed, or in email form — all contributions are welcome.

Documents will be scanned and immediately returned to contributors. For more information and to arrange a time to contribute a wartime letter, please contact Michelle Dukette at 719-687-9281 or send an email to [michelled@rampartlibrarydistrict.org](mailto:michelled@rampartlibrarydistrict.org). Deadline for submittals is February 1, 2018.



continued from page 31

The bar will be open and refreshments will be provided. Thank you for supporting your local library!

4 Talking Threads at 1 p.m. Our wonderful knitting group will be initializing plans to begin a project to benefit community members and will also be hosting their potluck holiday party.

5 Friends of Guffey Library final quarterly meeting of 2017 at 10 a.m. All are welcome. We value your opinions of what you would like to see happen at your local library.

11 Patches & Pieces 11 a.m. Guffey quilting group.

25 Closed. Merry Christmas everyone! All events open to the public and are free! Please feel free to call or email with any questions 719-689-9280 Guffeylib@parkco.us or visit <http://parkcounty.colibraries.org>

#### JEFFERSON

• Jefferson Community Civic Association will have their Christmas Potluck Dinner, Saturday, December 9th. The dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by entertainment at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a dish to share. Weather permitting. You may call Helen Baker at 719-836-0173 with questions or if you have a talent you would like to share following dinner. This will be held at the Jefferson Community Building, one block East of Hwy 285.

#### LAKE GEORGE

7 Holiday Program 6:30 p.m.  
11-14 Lion's Pride Gift Shop  
12 Charter Board Meeting 6 p.m.  
19 Class parties 3 p.m.  
Dec 20-January 2 Holiday break — No school.  
January 3 classes resume.

#### NATHROP

9 Annual Holiday Celebration for Collegiate Peaks Bank 6-8 p.m. at Mount Princeton Hot Springs Pavilion. There is no better instrument to convey the essence of the Holidays than the harp. Which is why you should catch the haunting sound of a heavenly instrument when Celtic Harpist Maryanne Rozzi performs background music for the Annual Holiday Celebration for Collegiate Peaks Bank. For more information call 719-838-0279, or email [solarozzi@yahoo.com](mailto:solarozzi@yahoo.com)

#### SALIDA

1, 2 Breck Film Fest see page 26.  
2 The 37th Annual Holiday Sampler II Arts & Crafts Bazaar 9-4 p.m. Chaffee County Fairgrounds with 40 unique vendors. Door prizes, concessions available. Admission is free!  
6 Free Legal Clinic 2-3 p.m. at Salida Regional Library. Walk-ins welcome!  
7 Chaffee County The Emergency Food Assistance Program & Commodity Supplemental Food

Program distributions the first Thursday of each month at Salida Community Center 305 F Street from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call Elaine for more information 719-530-3351.

9, 10 The Notables and You've Got Male will present their winter concert series *Winter Light*.

14 Each month on the second Thursday, the SCTFA presents the Creative Mixer. Artists working in all genres are encouraged to attend and meet like-minded people, to share influences and news, to soak up fresh ideas, and to be inspired by the energy that makes Salida a center of support and expression. Each mixer begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Paquette Gallery, in the lobby of The SteamPlant Theater (220 West Sackett Avenue) on the south bank of the dynamic Arkansas River, where we are treated to a visual feast of the current artwork on display in the Paquette Gallery. The exhibiting artist briefly talks about their work, their need to express, and their unique perspective.

18 *White Christmas* at the SteamPlant 7 p.m. Sellars Project Space will once again screen *White Christmas* as their Partnership for Community Action Monday Movie. The beloved holiday classic from 1954, starring Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney, is about a successful song-and-dance team that become romantically involved with a sister act, and team up to save the failing Vermont inn of their former commanding general. Sing-alongs will be encouraged during the musical numbers. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Popcorn and hot cocoa, in addition to adult beverages will be offered in the lobby prior to screening. Space is limited. Go to [www.gopica.com/movies](http://www.gopica.com/movies) to reserve seats.

#### VICTOR

8 The parade starts at 6 p.m.  
• Gold Camp Christmas Headframe Lighting weekend evenings through January 1 (weather permitting). Self-guided tour map at VictorColorado.com.

#### WOODLAND PARK

2 Lighter Side of Christmas Parade! Line-up 4:30-5:30 p.m. Parade at 6 p.m. along Hwy 24.  
6 Free Legal Clinic at WP Library 3-4 p.m. Please pre-register by calling 719-687-9281 ext. 103.  
8-10 Heart of Christmas. For show times and more information visit [www.HeartOfChristmas.org](http://www.HeartOfChristmas.org) or call 719-635-1111.  
9 Ute Pass Historical Society's Holiday Open House in our Gift Shop 11-2 p.m. Enjoy hot spiced cider and cookies while you shop our great selection of books and unique holiday gifts (great ideas for the hard-to-buy-for). The Gift Shop is

## ~OUT AND ABOUT~

located in the Ute Pass Historical Society's Museum Center, next to the library. Call 719-686-7512 for more information. The 2018 Green Mountain Falls calendars and the Ute Pass Pictorial Calendars are on sale at 231 E. Henrietta, open Wed-Sat 10-3 p.m.

16 Senior Center Pancake Breakfast at the Woodland Park Senior Center SE corner of Pine Street and Lake Ave 8-11 a.m. Take a break from holiday cooking and join us for a fresh cooked, all you can eat, breakfast of fluffy pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, melon and the best biscuits and gravy around. We hope to help you start off your Christmas celebrating with a Ho! Ho! Ho! Your home town seniors will be flipping the pancakes and serving them up with juice and coffee or hot tea for only \$2. Kids 6 and under eat for \$2. This open to the public fundraising event helps to support the programs and activities of the Woodland Park Senior Center. We appreciated the support of each one of you! Mark your calendars and plan to join us on the 3rd Saturday each month of the year.

• GED classes Monds and Weds 6-8 p.m. at Woodland Park High School. Call 719-686-0705 for more information or to register.

#### RAMPART LIBRARY

• Tai Chi Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. Fridays, 10 a.m. Tai Chi for Arthritis and 11 a.m. Sun Style  
• Books and Babies Storytime Tuesdays, 10-10:20 a.m. Join Miss Beth and enjoy songs, finger plays and stories with your baby! Recommended for kids age 2 and under with parents/caregivers.  
• Storytime Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:05-10:45 a.m. Stories, songs and fingerplays with Miss Julie & Miss Beth! Craft offered after every regular story time - recommended for ages 3 and up!  
• Lego Club is Fridays all day!

#### Teen programs:

6 Planner Party 4 p.m. Start 2018 off right with a pretty new planner! Supplies are provided. Sign up in the Teen Room.  
13 Anime Club 3:30-5 p.m. Do you love Anime? Not sure? Have no clue what it is? Then stop in and join us as we watch the first 3 episodes of an Anime. This first meeting, you will also have an opportunity to vote on upcoming titles for future Anime clubs.  
14 New! Mixed Media Club 3:30-4:30 p.m. Media: brushed lettering and holiday gift tags. Art supplies will be provided. Stop by the Teen Room to sign-up.

All teen programs in Teen Room.

#### Book Clubs:

6 Not So Young Adult Book Club 11 a.m. For adults who love to read Young Adult Fiction, this is the book club for you! Some read YA because they are quick, or fresh, or remind us what it's like to feel young and full of possibilities. No matter your reason, all of us agree the stories are what draw us in. Don't be shy, we'd love to have you join us! Currently Reading: *The Serpent King* by Jeff Zentner.  
5 Book Club 10:30-noon in 3rd floor Board Room. Currently reading: *Lamb: the Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal* by Christopher Moore. January Book: *One of Ours* by Willa Cather.  
• *Warriors of Woodland Park*, an exhibit offered by the Ute Pass Historical Society, pays tribute to all veterans buried in the Woodland Park Cemetery. Every vet is featured by name and branch of service, along with personal data if known. Moses Baldwin was the Father of Woodland Park... and a corporal in the Union Army. Orville Anderson was a Marine orderly for General MacArthur. Elsa Hayward was one of the first women to serve as a Navy WAVE (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) during World War II. Other brave men and women served as pilots, radio operators, tank mechanics, and other jobs. You are invited to learn about those involved in controversy, men held as prisoners of war, and one young Marine who was Woodland Park's only Vietnam casualty.  
• *Warriors of Woodland Park - Military Veterans of the Woodland Park Cemetery* is on display in the Woodland Park Library during regular working hours through mid-December.  
• Rampart Library District will be closed on Sunday, December 24 and Monday, December 25 for the Christmas Holiday. Also closed on Sunday, December 31 and Monday, January 1 for New Year's.

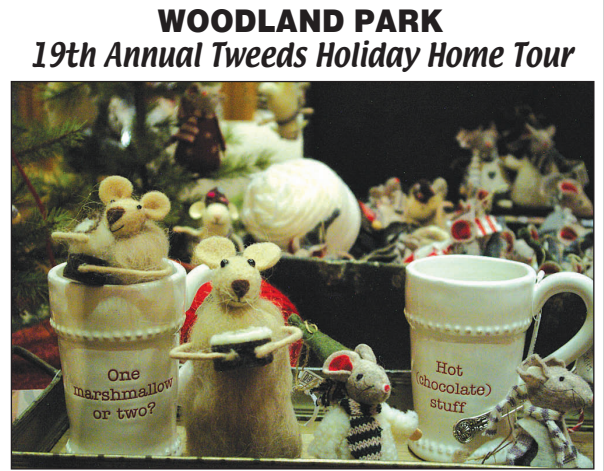
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2 Breakfast with Santa 8 a.m. Free! Sponsored by Ute Pass Kiwanis Club.  
2 City Christmas Tree Lighting following parade at 6 p.m. Music, refreshments and a visit from Santa.  
3 Woodland Park Wind Symphony Christmas Concert 6 p.m. cocktail hour with performances by small ensembles, 7 p.m. concert at Ute Pass Cultural Center. Join us in the beautifully decorated concert hall. Free; donations welcome. [www.woodlandparkwindsymphony.com](http://www.woodlandparkwindsymphony.com) Facebook at woodland park wind symphony.  
7 Prospect Home Care & Hospice *Lights of Love* 6 p.m. Call Janet La Reau for more information 719-687-0549.  
9 Indoor Winter Market 9-1 p.m.  
10 Woodland Park Community Singers' Concert 3 p.m. Free!  
17 DayBreak Song Spinner Christmas Show 1-2:20 p.m. Tickets \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Contact Paula Levy at [paula@daybreakadp.com](mailto:paula@daybreakadp.com) or 719-687-3000 for tickets and information.  
17 A Snazzy-Jazzy Christmas Concert featuring Swing Factory Big Band at 7 p.m. Free! Enjoy an evening of snazzy-jazzy interpretations of Christmas music, featuring carols recorded by Stan Kenton and his Neophonic Orchestra. For more information call 719-687-2210 and visit [www.woodlandparkwindsymphony.com](http://www.woodlandparkwindsymphony.com)  
24 Nondenominational Christmas Eve Service 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

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#### TEEN CENTER

Sign up sheets for all activities are at the teen center!  
1 New Member Orientation. If you're new to the Teen Center, come discover everything there is to do here! 3-30 p.m.  
6, 13 & 27 Snack Special: Apples, walnuts & vanilla yogurt parfait 50¢  
4 Christmas Coloring Pages Let your artistic side shine with our fun, festive art pages!  
6 STEM GEM. Try your hand with our cool science experiment! You'll be surprised how much fun learning can be! 4-5 p.m.  
8 & 19 Chill Day at the Teen Center. A day of quiet fun and relaxation at the Teen Center.  
12 Adopt-A-Spot. Help keep the area



The Tweeds mice were busy decorating for the tour.

Saturday & Sunday, December 2-3, 10-5 p.m.  
This wonderful tour of festively decorated holiday homes has served as a fundraiser for the Teller County community since 1999. Initially proceeds were dedicated to providing enhancements to the Dickson Auditorium. After completion of this project, the event was generously gifted to Pikes Peak Regional Medical Center Foundation to help fund hospital campus projects. In 2011 the Foundation reached out to partner with other local service organizations, with the intention of expanding this delightful event, while benefiting a much broader audience across this region. Since its inception, the Tour has raised over \$162,000.00 for Teller County non-profits!  
Our beneficiaries for 2017 Tour proceeds are: CHOICES, Friends of Mueller State Park, and Woodland Park Senior Citizens Organization.  
In 2016, Tweeds Holiday Home Tour, Inc. became an independent 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Tickets for the tour are available at [www.wphht.org](http://www.wphht.org) and at Tweeds in Woodland Park.

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