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Vol. 12, No. 12

Welcome to Ute Country

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."

— Norman Vincent Peale

PEEK INSIDE...



A Look Inside the Artist



A Postcard's Story



Cripple Creek's minor miners

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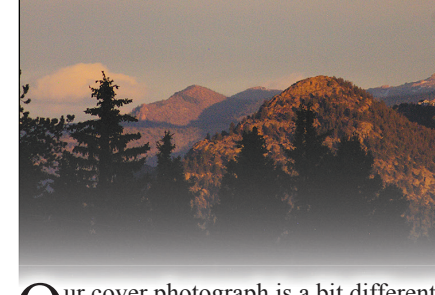
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On Deck



Our cover photograph is a bit different from what we usually do, in fact this is the first time Jeff has enhanced a photograph. Considering how different the year 2020 has been, we found it to be fitting. Much has happened in 2020 and just like in our embellished photograph, there have been some impositions, some lines have been crossed, yet at the center is always home, heart and healing.

We have articles that fit this photograph within these pages. *Pharmgirl Uprooted* opens our hearts with a compassionate article about volunteering at Little Chapel Food Pantry. *Life Enhancing Journeys* gives us tips and tools for holiday entertaining in a year of pandemic. CUSP offers creative gift-giving ideas that are Earth friendly. We also have a heart-warming fictional story in the center spread as told by Gilrind the Historian that exemplifies how a little kindness can turn an ugly situation around.

Yes, 2020 has been a challenging year, which has brought us to a difficult decision: either stop the *Ute Country News* altogether or stop the direct mail. We chose to keep this publication going. For those who are used to getting this via bulk mail, this is your last issue. However, we hope you will reach out to us to find the closest distribution point to your home or your frequently run errands; call us at Shipping Plus 719-686-7587 or visit our website: utecountrynews.com. Learn more on page 5.

We are always delighted to receive photographs of your in- or outdoor animal friends. Feel free to email them or snail mail them to POB 753 Divide, CO 80814.

Thank you for your loyal readership. We wish each of you a heartfelt holiday season!

Thank you,
—Kathy & Jeff Hansen

Musings Along the Way

Apocaloptimist

by Catherine Rodgers

“Apocaloptimist: someone who knows it’s all going to hell, but still thinks things will turn out okay.” — Thanks to Ominous Positivity Memes! Whenever I try to grab onto this continuum to find a place to begin, I find an ouroboros. So, I am starting here. I have been meditating on connecting to the *Central Sun*.

“If one imagines the force exerted by our Sun in holding the nine planets and countless asteroids and other cosmic objects in their orbits, one will get a sense of the power and majesty of our Sun. Now, if we think along the lines of Platonic cosmology of a *Central Sun* at the galactic center, the scope of its power is such as to hold more than one hundred billion Suns (not planets!), in their orbits around it, including our Sun!” ... Rudolf Steiner describes this as “the working of the *Central Sun* at the heart of our galaxy, which has been inadequately described as a ‘supermassive black hole’. It is the ‘tremendous sucking force’ of the *Central Sun* that holds all the billions of Suns/stars in their orbits in our Milky Way galaxy. The *Central Sun* at rest at the galactic center, around which all the Suns/stars are moving in a clockwise direction, is evidently what Aristotle called the Prime Mover. Everything in our galaxy is moving around this great center” which is sometimes called The Great Hub.” (from *Astrogeographica*).

This Source at the center is conceived as the transmutational point between the material world and the spiritual realm; the point of integration of the Spirit-Matter cosmos; the point of origin of all creation; the nucleus, or white-fire core, of the Cosmic Egg. In the Divine Comedy, Dante referred to it as the snow-white rose, an image of spiraling planes with the fire of Divine Love in the center, the throne of God, surrounded by beings, chanting praises. In Revelations by John of Patmos, the circle of light beings pray without ceasing “Holy holy holy is the Lord God Almighty who was, and is and is yet to be.”

I call the Spirit of the Lord upon me to guide these words. This leads me to Isaiah 11:2-3 describing the seven spirits before the throne of God. I find it easier to embrace these as the seven graces (“charisma”) of Romans 12:6-8: “The Holy Spirit manifests in humankind through these graces,” reflecting the seven-fold nature of God. “The seven graces are: 1. insight (prophecy) 2. helpfulness (service or ministry) 3. instruction (teaching) 4. encouragement 5. generosity (giving) 6. guidance (leadership) and 7. Compassion.” When we say, “God be with Thee, and with Thy Spirit” we acknowledge the grace, presence, and Spirit of Christ within each of us.

Ceaseless prayer is what the Sufis call dhikr or zikr, literally reminding ourSelf of God: God is One, the Great, the all merciful, all knowing, all loving, everywhere equally present, the in All as All. (Such mantras are my buckler against paranoid delusional people who think they have to kill anyone who disagrees with them.) The Sufis use misbahah or prayer beads to glorify God and achieve perfection. The Catholics use the rosary, the Buddhists mala. We are all praying to the One, Central Source of Love.

So I meditate on connecting my heart to this central core of Divine Love. I see a brilliant light filling my mind and heart and body. I see myself as a multi-faceted diamond radiating this all around me. This Galactic Conscious is transmuted, alchemized and distributed through the Great Sun of Sirius, through the Central Pleiadean Sun Alcione, through our Sun to that Divine Spark within each of us star seeds. Each of these planetary bodies are governing consciousness, creating from the conscious awareness of all material and immaterial beings including us. We embody the Light. The thoughts and feelings we experience are channeled back to the Center, which pulses out frequencies to return.

Every 26,000 years as we circle back around this Cosmic Central Sun there is a pulse, a download of frequency, a new higher thought if you will. Right NOW there’s this HUGE shift going on to release FEAR and to open to the non-dual, positive vibration of love. Remember that star light arrives many, many light years after the event. So all this transformation has already taken place. When we pray, we are not ASKING, we are allowing awareness to be revealed. We are accepting. When we accept unconditional love, we move into the eternal now. Game over. You WIN!

Apocalypse means the tearing of the veil, the revelation of the Divine. This involves the dissolution of our miasmas, our forgetting, our misconceptions, our mass hallucinations. This might be visualized as the destructive forces of the goddess Kali, who is also the mother protector and creator of the Universe in her other aspect as Mahakali. It seems 2020 has been a year of seeing through the stories we have told ourselves. As we enter the Christ



season, let’s remember to tell another tale of Light.

In truth this is a very ancient tale. “Although Christ appeared only later, he was always present in the spiritual sphere of the earth. Already in the ancient Oracles of Atlantis, the priests of those Oracles spoke of the *Spirit of the Sun*, of Christ. In the old Indian epoch of civilization the Holy Rishis spoke of *Vishva Karman*; Zarathustra in ancient Persia spoke of *Ahura Mazda*; Hermes in Egypt spoke of *Osiris*; and Moses spoke of the *Power* which, being eternal, brings about the harmonization of the temporal and natural, the *Power* living in the *Ehyeh asher Ehyeh* (I AM the I AM) as the harbinger of Christ. All spoke of the Christ.”*

This solstice December 21, 2020 marks an opportunity to create a world-wide community of loving hearts connected to the *Central Sun*. Guided through the Great Passage by teachers at the Mary Magdalene school, “The human family will undergo a process of illumination that requires impositions of intensely activated inner light to give energy to the alchemy required for changing consciousness. The process is called ‘Inner Solarization’ and it fertilizes the light body with a remembrance of one’s divinity and soul contract. We are invited into a process of Solar Alchemy, connecting our Earth body consciousness to that of the central galactic sun.” This will begin Advent Sunday 11/29 and continue Thursday 12/13 at Midnight MST, through 3 weeks of teachings and downloads. For more information and to register on a love offering basis go to <https://petrabrussen.com/mary-magdalene-the-great-passage/>

Blessings to each of you this Christ season. Namaste.

*Rudolf Steiner, The Deed of Christ and the Opposing Spiritual Powers. Lucifer, Ahirman, Asuras, lecture of March 22, 1909 (Complete Works, vol. 107)

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Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center news

HRRMC Pain Management clinic gets new PA

Aubrey Deegan, MPAS, PA-C has joined Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center last month, specializing in interventional pain procedures and pain management.

Deegan joins Richard Wolkowitz, M.D., and Elizabeth "Ellie" Curie, NP, as part of the Pain Management clinic, seeing patients full-time in the Outpatient Pavilion in Salida.

Deegan received her Master's Degree in Physician Assistant Studies from Texas Tech Health Science Center in Midland, Texas and a Bachelor's Degree in Human Biology from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas, with a concentration in pre-medicine and speech-language pathology.

"We're pleased to welcome Aubrey Deegan to HRRMC," said Bob Morasko, HRRMC CEO. "As a dedicated health professional who's passionate about providing the best treatment options for her patients, she is a valuable addition to our pain clinic."

Deegan is originally from Wichita, Kansas, and previously worked on the Front Range before moving to Chaffee County



Jill McQueen joins HRRMC Neurology Clinic

Jill McQueen, MSN, NP-C, has joined the HRRMC Neurology Clinic. McQueen will work directly with Dr. Yvonne Rollins, M.D., and Dr. Suzanne Lesage, M.D., seeing patients at the HRRMC Outpatient Pavilion in Salida.

Prior to this role, McQueen worked on the Infection Prevention team at HRRMC as an Employee Health nurse practitioner for the COVID-19 pandemic. She helped facilitate employee safety plans, creating internal processes for screenings, employee testing and contact tracing, while following and implementing developing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

Graduating with a Master of Science in Nursing, Rural FNP Tract from Regis University in Denver, Colorado, McQueen brings 11 years of registered nursing experience to the neurology clinic, including experience in Emergency Medicine and Neuro ICU.

"Our employees benefitted greatly from Jill McQueen's expertise and support through the early stages of the pandemic," said Bob Morasko, HRRMC CEO. "We now look forward to Jill bringing her comprehensive nursing skills to our neurology patients, complementing our neurology clinic physicians' valuable work and treatments."

"I cannot wait to put my experience and education to work for the prosperity of this small mountain community," said McQueen.

McQueen is now accepting new and established neurology patients.

FMI or to make an appointment call 719-530-2000.

FMI call 719-530-2000.

The Bakery

by Flip Boettcher

Sadly, Sarah's Place at the Bakery in Guffey closed its doors permanently on November 16, but...former owner Dana Peters will be re-opening the business, simply called The Bakery, in early December, she said.

For the winter, The Bakery will be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Come spring The Bakery will be open more days, said Peters.

The ever-popular Mama Dana's Italian Bistro will be open Saturday evenings, featuring a weekly Italian special.

Guffeyites and others will still be able to get fresh baked bread, sweet treats and delicious home cooked meals. Watch for The Bakery's opening date and time!

The Bakery is located on Main Street next door to the Guffey School.

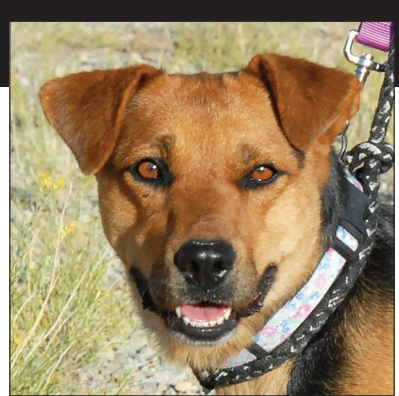
Adopt Me

by SLV Animal Welfare Society

Anastasia

Anastasia LOVES kids and is good with cats. She is about 50 pounds, 3 years old, and spayed. Her mix is unknown, perhaps golden retriever, heeler, Airedale Terrier. Anastasia loves to cuddle and is good with some dogs. Would you like to set up an opportunity to meet Anastasia? Please call 719-587-9663 (woof).

This space donated by the Ute Country News to promote shelter animal adoption.



Unique Gift Giving

by Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Stumped about gift giving this season? Is it possible to avoid the rampant consumerism and spread the joy of climate-conscious gifts that help make a smaller impact on the planet?

The best advice for sustainable gift giving is to shop locally, avoid the parade of delivery trucks in the neighborhood, and support your community. Here's some ideas for your family and friends, maybe even for yourself.

In the kitchen

- **Counter top compost bins** — sometimes these can be smelly, but look for a bin with a charcoal filter or even with worms to make short order of your organic waste.
- **Reusable produce bags** — fabric bags may even keep your produce fresh longer than the disposable plastic bags.
- **The Zero Waste Cookbook** — ask your local bookstore for this book by Giovanna Torrico and Amelia Wasiliev.
- **Reusable bowl covers** — stop fighting with cling wrap that clings to everything but the bowl!
- **Reusable sandwich bags** — fun and dishwasher safe bags for all your lunch goodies.
- **Reusable straws** — stainless steel, plastic, foldable... there are many options. Just be sure it includes a brush to clean the straw!
- **Cloth napkins and dish towels** — ditch the paper napkins and paper towels.

Around the house

- **Low flow shower head** — these aren't the wimpy shower heads from years ago. Handheld and massaging options are sure to please even the most skeptical.
- **Bidet** — experience what the rest of the world has known for a long time! No need to worry about hording toilet paper. Bidet attachments are available for existing toilet fixtures and can be installed by even the most clumsy do-it-yourself handyman.
- **Solar cell phone charger** — a take along option to keep the phone charged, even when not near an outlet.
- **Post-consumer-waste notebook** — now is a great time to begin writing a journal, or the great novel you have waiting to be put on paper. By the way, post-consumer-waste comes from the paper that we so dutifully recycle, without new material.

The experience

- **Nature guides** — a great way to learn about your area, wildflowers, trees, birds, mammals. Your local bookstore is a great resource.
- **Park passes** — gift a pass to State or National Parks and Wildlife areas.
- **Gift certificates** — for a massage, a class through the Extension Office, or to have you cook your friends a waste free meal.
- **A growler of beer** — from your favorite local brewery.
- **Restaurant takeout** — don't forget your local restaurants. You can order, pickup, and deliver a meal and share your favorite spot!

Check out the articles and ideas on <https://trashisfortossers.com/>

Remember we can all make a difference.

All of us at CUSP wish our community a happy holiday season and look forward to a fresh new year.



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Due to loss of advertising revenue because of the Covid-19 health crisis and the tariffs imposed (resulting in a 64% printing cost increase), we can no longer afford to send each box holder a copy of the *Ute Country News*. Rather than shut down the paper completely or increase advertising pricing, we have to take this action to continue to provide the good news about living in the mountains. We will continue to have our paper available for free at our newsboxes and business locations in the 4+ counties we currently serve plus our online paper at www.utecountrynews.com. For a list of where to pick us up in your community, please visit utecountrynews.com and click on the Contact Us button to see "Where to find us" or call us at 719-686-7587.

If you prefer to have the *Ute Country News* delivered in a first-class envelope each month, please see our subscription coupon on page 3 of this issue.

This could be a temporary measure, and as the virus decreases and the economy rebounds we might be able to return to our direct-mail business model that we used for the past 8+ years.

— Jeff & Kathy Hansen, Publishers

Happy Holidays and Thank You for a Good Year!

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A Look Inside the Artist Marcao PM, artist

by Mary Shell

To me a true artist is a person who ventures into any form of creating art. Someone who is always searching for something new. A person who has no fear in trying new techniques and materials, who is fearless in trying new things. In my many years of being an artist I find most artists, once their work sells, find themselves creating the same type of artwork, never trying new things. Most art galleries encourage artists to maintain a specific style that sells and not venture into new forms of art; an understandable scenario for art galleries to seek art that sells with as little risk as possible.

I admire Marcao for being one of those artists who broadens their creative endeavors and tries many forms of art. I have known Marcao for many years and he has been in two of my galleries. A favorite with the local collectors, Marcao is prolific in producing beautiful paintings in little time and effort. From landscapes to abstracts to stain glass, he has tried them all.

Interviewing Marcao was a pleasure. He's honesty and free spirit spills with joy.

How long have you been painting?

I've been painting since childhood. My first painting was an impressionist treatment of the island in the lake by our house in Connecticut.

Who inspires you the most?

I am inspired by artists and authors and musicians — these people bring into the world images and stories and songs that have influenced my own art and indeed my life. They are Boris Vallejo, John Singer Sargent, Isaac Asimov, Paulo Coelho, Grace Slick.

What is your favorite subject and medium?

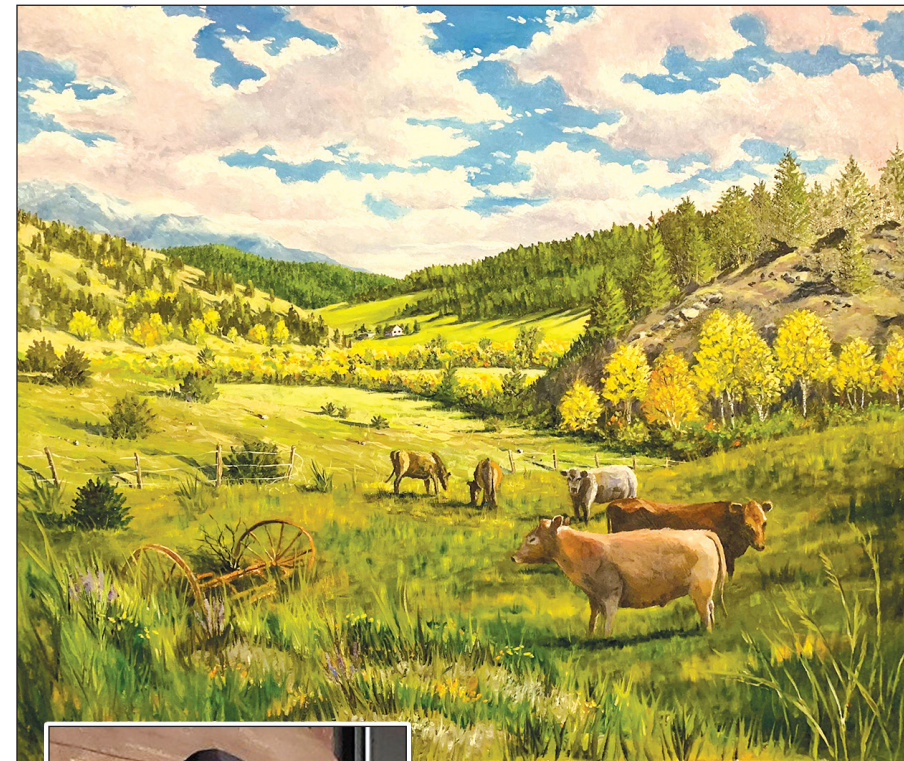
I've found myself loving to paint clouds and cloudscapes. The landforms beneath become a stage for the drama in the skies. These work easiest and best in oil, but I can execute them in watercolor and pastel without any problem.

What do you find the most difficult to paint?

The most challenging elements in a painted image for me are vehicles.

What other mediums do you use?

I produce art in oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, and stained glass. I've done some



The mood to paint is sometimes a need. I have the materials in front of me and available for use 24/7, so all I have to do is reach for the brush. If I had seen a color combination of something out in the world, or an arrangement of random items, like the mess on my kitchen counter, that form an interesting pattern or composition, those things can become fodder for future a piece of art.

What's in the future for you?

I just had a highly successful one-man exhibit at the Fremont Center for the Arts here in Cañon City. I had set up a minor soundstage in a corner of the exhibit space with speakers and amps and a pedalboard and a mixer to play guitar and bass while visitors to the gallery space looked at my art. While it's taken me decades to refine my skills as a visual artist, and I really don't have decades to become a passing musician, messing around with all this music gear is really a fun, new thing. Also, as this one-man exhibit was nearly all landscapes, I've committed to do nothing but abstracts for the next twelve months, inspired by... I'm keeping that under wraps for now, but feel free to visit me at the Fremont Center for the Arts.

You can learn more about Marcao PM on Facebook.

The mood to paint is sometimes a need. I have the materials in front of me and available for use 24/7, so all I have to do is reach for the brush.

printmaking and have been employed as a silkscreen printer. I use graphics software to produce digital art as well.

What do you do to get in the mood to paint?

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The Woolly Moth Artist & Boutique

by Flip Boettcher
photo by Flip Boettcher

One of Fairplay's newest shops, The Woolly Moth, at 716 Main Street, features an eclectic mix of items. Something for everyone.

One of the newest shops in Fairplay, which just opened September 12, is The Woolly Moth — Artist and Boutique, at 716 Main Street, next door to the Brown Burro Cafe and the Cream and Steam Coffee Shop. The shop sits back from the street and is most likely housed in an old miner's cabin from Fairplay's mining days in the early 1860s. There was no Main Street then. Fairplay's thoroughfare was one block over on historic Front Street.

The shop is owned and operated by Heather Nicholson who came to Colorado from Texas four years ago. Heather says that she has "always had an eclectic sense of style, a love for creating, and an entrepreneurial mind set, so a boutique seemed the best way for me to express that while having a job I love."

Heather also wanted to give locals an opportunity to shop in Fairplay rather than having to go to Breckenridge or beyond for items.

The shop features a wide variety of women's, children's and baby clothing, accessories, jewelry, home décor, fabric, notions, greeting cards, vinyl stickers, art supplies, games, gifts, mugs, handmade

Christmas ornaments, pillows and stained glass made by her mother.

Most of the items in the shop are made or designed by Heather, some items she has ordered from other small businesses, and she has a few items of more well-known brands, she said. Throughout the year Heather plans on having many different adult and kid craft classes. These classes will be announced on her Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/woollymothartist>.

Heather has always liked moths, feeling they were underappreciated compared to butterflies and when a moth landed on her while trying to think of a name for the new shop, she knew it had to have "moth" in the title, hence The Woolly Moth. Heather started her business online at Etsy.com and continues to have a site there at woollymothboutique.com.

The Woolly Moth is open Wednesday-Saturday 9:30-5:30 p.m., Sunday 9:30-4:30 p.m., and closed Monday and Tuesday. The phone number is 719-838-4572 and the email is thewoollymoth@yahoo.com.

Check out all the great items Heather has at The Woolly Moth.

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Evergreen Heritage Calendar

The year 2021 promises to be a year of celebration in our community. Please join Evergreen Heritage as we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of our founding on July 31, 1871. The City of Colorado Springs is planning many historic and entertaining events throughout 2021.

Evergreen Heritage's 2021 Sesquicentennial Calendar celebrates the founding pioneers buried at Evergreen and Fairview Cemeteries.

All proceeds from the sale of this beautiful calendar are used for continued restoration projects at both our local cemeteries.

Please visit: <https://www.evergreenheritagecs.com/2020/11/evergreen-heritage-2021-calendar.html>

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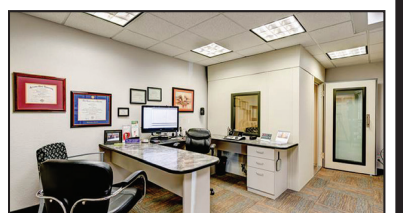
Untreated hearing loss can lead to isolation, memory problems, and even dementia?

Recent research by John Hopkins and the National Institute on Aging suggests that people with untreated hearing loss are more likely to develop memory problems. The strain of decoding compromised sound and isolation of hearing loss increase the risk for dementia and other cognitive disorders.



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HELPING PEOPLE HEAR BETTER FOR THREE GENERATIONS



Life-Enhancing Journeys In pursuit of happiness during the holidays (even in 2020)

by Barbara Pickholz-Weiner, RN, BSN, CACIII, MAC, EMDRII

Now that we are entering the final month of the year — this usually being a very busy time for many people — how are we going to survive the holidays especially considering all that is going on here and worldwide? There is so much uncertainty now which can cause us to project ourselves into an ambiguous future, intensifying anxiety. The pandemic promotes a sense of living during insecure times which may undermine our foundation causing even more suffering.

Many of us are accustomed to having parties and other gatherings with coworkers, friends and family yet this year will be so different than anything most of us have ever encountered. Please know that it's okay to not be okay during the holidays — especially during this challenging year — and there are many others who are going through similar struggles to what you are now experiencing. This holiday season will likely be different because of the prohibition of larger gatherings — one of the many inconvenient consequences of the pandemic. Accepting rather than resisting the present situation in which we find ourselves can help to reduce our distress.

Scientists and medical professionals for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourage us to physical/social distance and to wear masks. These recommendations are extremely important if you or a loved one is at increased risk for complications from COVID-19. Intellectually we understand that spending time together with others may be unwise, but the battle within ourselves of intellectually understanding and emotionally understanding a situation is often difficult. We are, after all, only human. You might say to yourself that you will take every precaution possible; however, the mere act of traveling may increase your chances of contracting and spreading the virus to others. Before making holiday travel plans, the CDC recommends checking the number of COVID-19 cases that will be reported in the last seven days to the states in which you will be traveling.

As I read my writings here, I realize that this is a situation with which I am struggling at present. My future son-in-law's family is planning on meeting us for the first time when they fly from the East Coast to Denver to spend time in our home for the holidays. They are medical professionals so I know they will be as vigilant as possible, yet a sense of unease continues to plague my thoughts. I am wrestling with the anxiety of being face-to-face with strangers from another state wondering: "Are they safe? Is it worth the risk? What is the smartest choice?" Even though I can appreciate that we are able to discuss possibilities to create the most well-informed options to ensure everyone's safety, in the

back of my mind I still have a concern.

It is more important than ever to pay attention to your emotional health this year and to plan ahead so you feel mentally prepared. Even if you will not be gathering with relatives this year, applying some coping strategies can help you find creative ways to celebrate apart and navigate the difficult emotions that may arise this holiday season.

Acknowledge and accept

The more you are able to acknowledge and accept that this holiday season may feel very different than past holiday get-togethers, the more you will be able to be present with the season's true significance as well as blessings that can be available to you. This attitude can help enhance your level of ease.

Do something meaningful for others

One reliable way to feel less lonely is by helping others. This could be accomplished by volunteering in some way — sending holiday cards to local nursing homes or collecting and delivering gifts to people in need or helping at a soup kitchen or at an animal shelter, among other ways. When we are able to do something positive for others, it brings us increased feelings of gratitude and joy. Helping others is a powerful way to find fulfillment and can enable us to feel more connected which is so positive for others, for the community as well as for ourselves.

Physical health

Exercise boosts mental and emotional health; get moving — start going for walks, jogging or running. Get enough rest, keep yourself well hydrated, eat regularly and healthfully. Consider trying yoga, Tai Chi, meditation, and other mindfulness activities. If you have access to the internet, you can find many instructional videos to help you get started. Download one of the many calming apps. If you have never attempted some of these activities, you may surprise yourself by how rewarding and enjoyable it can be.

Take time out for yourself

Often times the holiday season requires more from you than usual — such as shopping, decorating and planning meals. To help manage the stress of a long list of duties, be sure to take time to recharge yourself.

- Read a book or listen to a podcast — turn on your favorite music and dance with wild abandon.
- Focus on the present or current moment rather than ruminating over the past or having anxiety about the future.
- Practice gratitude (see October 2020 article) by choosing to look at the positives around you instead of the negatives.
- Become more connected with yourself

by asking some thoughtful questions such as "Who am I as a person, what is important to me, what provides my life with purpose, what is essential to my happiness, what fulfills me, what is it like being me?" Be authentic with yourself and your personal beliefs. Spending time exploring yourself can provide so much value to your life.

Spirituality

Spirituality means different things to each person and no individual person has the one true belief that applies to all. Explore some ways with which you connect with your own spirituality. There are many options — going to church, mosque, synagogue, or taking a walk, listening to Mother Nature, meditating, etc. Maintaining rituals from your past which have been fulfilling can help you to feel closer to those previous family gatherings. Focus on the customs which you are still able to perform, rather than the ones you are missing out on. Spend some time assessing the values and beliefs you uphold and decide if they continue to be relevant at present. Maintain those which still offer comfort and jettison those which no longer apply. This could be the perfect time to establish new traditions. Find what brings you peace and purpose.

Use technology to manage feelings of loneliness.

If you are unable to gather together with friends and family during the holidays, using technology can help ease feelings of isolation.

There are many videoconferencing platforms, such as Zoom, FaceTime, Skype and WhatsApp. Choose the agreed upon platform and select a time during the holidays to connect with everyone. With video chats, you can even invite distant relatives and friends from all over the world to participate. Consider reaching out to others who seem to be in a similar situation.

Safely seek out companionship to overcome the holiday blues

The holidays can stir feelings of anxiety or depression even without a pandemic. Unrealistic expectations, sentimental memories, loss of a loved one or even less sunlight during this time of year can trigger holiday blues. Safely spending time with caring, supportive people who live locally can increase a sense of wellbeing.

For all gatherings aside from immediate family members who live with you, be sure to follow social distancing guidelines. To maintain a safe social distance from those who don't live in your household, the CDC recommends:

- Arranging seating to be at least 6 feet apart
- Encouraging guests to bring their own

food and beverages

- Gathering outside, if possible (this time of the year in Colorado is always uncertain)
- Opening windows for increased ventilation if you'll be meeting indoors
- Wearing masks if you'll be sitting or standing less than 6 feet apart

It is misguided to think that the pandemic will hinder your event. Gatherings with safe COVID-19 precautions can still create festive and fun experiences.

Connect with those who may be grieving (see November 2020 article on Grief)

Grief is the normal and natural emotional reaction to loss or change of any kind and modifying your holiday traditions is a huge adjustment. Spending holidays with your family is a familiar pattern of behavior that you might be inadvisable to do this year. Understanding what grief is — the conflicting feelings caused by the end of or change in a familiar pattern of behavior — may enable you to experience less discomfort.

The holiday season can be especially heartbreaking for those who have lost loved ones. Maybe you are grieving yourself. If you are unable to be with friends and family members to comfort them directly, reach out and share warm memories about the person they have lost. If you are willing, mentioning the deceased rather than avoiding the topic can be helpful. This gives the grieving person permission to express some of their sad feelings, remember happier times and keep their loved one's memory alive.

Hopefully your family is safe and healthy and you might be joyful about that yet also feeling disappointed that you are unable to physically be together. That is grief too.

Seek help if you need it

The holiday season of 2020 could be the perfect storm of elements to wreak havoc on our mental health. Experiencing more severe mood swings is not a sign of weakness — you are human. If you are noticing that the holiday season seems to be intensifying feelings of depression, stress or anxiety or if you feel like you are suffering more than usual, there may be an underlying mental health condition being exposed. Reaching out and accepting help from a reliable and trustworthy friend and/or family member may be an appropriate solution. If it is applicable, express to your friend or family member that you just want to be heard and it is unnecessary for them to try to fix you. If, however, you are continuing to struggle, please consider getting in touch with a trained professional. As with a most illnesses, your discomfort likely is temporary and acquiring assistance will enable you to remedy the condition more effectively.

As we approach the final stretch of the year, the holidays will undoubtedly be different this year. The reality is the holidays will happen even during a global pandemic. Although we have physical distance, we still can still have social closeness. To strengthen your resiliency and your ability to cope this holiday season, think creatively, be flexible, welcome some new traditions, and — above all — be kind to yourself and others knowing that you are not alone in your feelings.

Barbara Pickholz-Weiner, RN, BSN, CACIII, MAC, EMDRII is the program director of Journeys Counseling Center, Inc. At Journeys we teach you tools, skills and help you discover resources to live the most effective life possible. We guide, support and coach you along the path you desire, to become the best version of yourself. To contact Barbara, call 719-687-6927 (office) or 719-510-1268 (cell).

Eagle Rock Ranch

by Flip Boettcher



Some of the Black Angus cows in the pasture at the Eagle Rock Ranch. Famous Eagle Rock is in the background. photo courtesy of www.eaglerockbeef.com

The Eagle Rock Ranch, located south of Jefferson on Tarryall Creek, has been a hay and cattle ranch in continuous operation for over 150 years. It is one of the oldest in Park County. The ERR is opening a store in Fairplay at 530 historic Front Street, where one can purchase ERR pasture-raised, grain finished, high-quality beef, which is also available online at www.eaglerockbeef.com.

The ranch was established in 1868, when disgruntled gold prospector Louis Holst arrived in Tarryall to find all the available land along the creek already claimed. While he did not find any gold, Holst, like many others, turned to stock raising and patented his first 160 acres in 1875 and his second 160 acres in 1876.

The ranch is located in the Tarryall Valley, a national rural historic district, on Tarryall Creek near Eagle Rock, at 9,000 feet. The ranch has grown to 3,000 acres of deeded land with 200 cow/calf pairs. The ranch has some of the oldest original "territorial" water rights in the area, established before Colorado became a state.

The ranch was purchased in 2012 by Jean and David Gottenborg, first generation ranchers, fulfilling a lifelong dream. Both Jean and David have been Colorado residents since the early 1970s and have raised their family in the state.

Their daughter Erin, her husband Matt Michalski, and three children, Adeline, David and Harper, spend their time between working on the ranch and residing in Breckenridge. Their son Drew, his wife Emily and three children, Wyatt, Margot and George live in Denver and help on the ranch when they can. The ranch is proud to be mainly family run with the help of one full-time Ranch Manager and hourly help as needed. However, the bulk of the work still falls on David and Jean's shoulders and they like to do things the old-fashioned way.

The Gottenborgs believe in sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. That means managing the resources on the ranch, "in the land, air, soil, plants and animals with a focus on how their practices on the ranch affect the quality of life and sustainability of the ranch for present and future," from the website, while generating a reasonable profit. One of their missions is to "produce a consistent profit while protecting the assets of the ranch," per the website. The family manages the way people, livestock and natural landscapes interact at the ranch.

Ranching is hard work and Mother Nature is a quirky partner, so most things go up and down.

The family drives the herd on horseback



to the high-country pastures in the summer and back down to the lower-hay meadows in the fall for the winter. They grow and cut their own high altitude, weed-free Timothy grass in the hay meadows. "Quality in everything we do," per their website.

Ranching is hard work and Mother Nature is a quirky partner, so most things go up and down.

Grass grown in South Park is slow growing, excellent quality and high in protein. The native bright green grass that grew in South Park was superior to any other and became so renowned it was sent by railroad to the east coast and shipped to the Queen of England and the Russian Czar to feed their horses.

The Gottenborgs raise pure bred Black Angus cattle. The Black Angus was introduced in Scotland in the 1800s. The first Black Angus arrived in the United States about 1873, imported by George Grant.

Black Angus is a strong breed with robust health, a good disposition and high-quality beef with lots of marbling and fine texture. One of their missions is to "produce the highest quality beef possible," according to the website.

The ERR is a member of the Beef Quality Assurance Program, which assures proper management techniques and commitment to quality, of its members. The EER produces high quality, high-mountain, all-natural and pasture raised beef and are members of the Global Animal Partnership with a level #4 certification. All beef is raised without antibiotics, added hormones or animal products.

The GAP has five levels of Animal Welfare Certification. Level #1 is certified; level #2 is enriched environment; level #3 is outdoor access; level #4 is pasture raised; and level #5 is animal centered and the entire life is spent on the farm. Each level adds onto the previous level and the higher the number the more the animal's environment mimics its natural environment.

Check out the Eagle Rock Ranch store at 530 Front Street in Fairplay, next door to the Unrepentant Artist and across the street from the Hand Hotel. The store will be opening December 1, just in time for the holidays. FMI www.eaglerockbeef.com or 970-977-9391.



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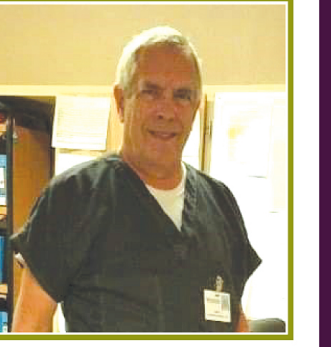


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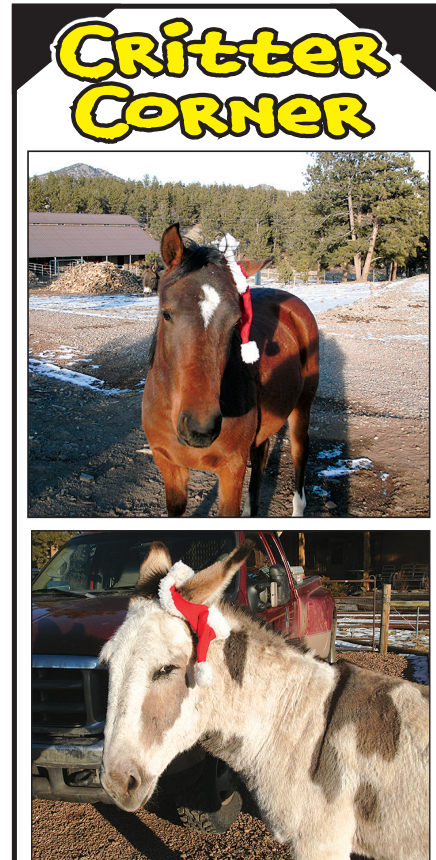


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Wishing everyone a Merry Xmas (Rose, top and Elvis the donkey at bottom) - Chuck and Linda Rinkar, Guffey, CO

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

The Magic Christmas Tree *by Gilrund the Historian*

The kids were riding their bikes up and down the cul-de-sac of Lincoln Drive in the small town of Yucaipa California. It was a beautiful Saturday in the fall and the kids were having a wonderful time. Especially when they would ride their bikes over old Mr. Paxton's beautiful lawn.

Mr. Paxton spent hours mowing, trimming, and watering his small lawn. It was his pride and joy to see the deep green of his lawn and know that it was the finest lawn on the street.

Nothing made him more angry than when the kids would ride their bikes on his lawn and leave tire marks in the grass, and the kids on the street knew it. Mr. Paxton would run out of his front door and shout at the kids when he saw them ride by, telling them to keep off his lawn. The kids would be long gone by then, but they could still hear him shouting at them from down the street.

They knew that they shouldn't do it, but it was fun to get a reaction from the old man. They knew that they weren't really hurting the lawn, for they rode over everyone's lawn and no one else complained, just old Mr. Paxton.

Mr. Paxton was a retired baker and had worked in his own shop in the town of Yucaipa for many years. Now that he had retired, he stayed in his house and took care of all his plants and his beloved lawn.

He loved it when the kids were in school. The street was quiet, there was no shouting or laughing. The parents were all at work and Mr. Paxton would open his garage door and put on some music with his record player and tap dance to the music in the dim light of the garage.

He had learned to tap dance when he was young and though he had not done it professionally, he still kept up the practice and his rhythm was very good.

The only thing that really bothered him were the children on the street, they were so noisy, and they walked and rode their bikes on his lawn.

He got to the point that he sat in a lawn chair on his front porch and watched to make sure that the children would only ride on the sidewalk or the street. If they even came close to his lawn, he would shout at them to stay away.

The kids always called him "Old man Paxton." It was from a story that was told to them by grandma about a mean old man that was called "Old Man

Kline" and how he changed from a mean old man to a kind older man.

The kids said that Mr. Paxton was still in the "Mean old man" stage and that was why they called him what they did.

Fall passed and winter came. Mr. Paxton stayed in his house most of the time, looking out of the large front window or watching the sports on the television.

He was not a happy man.

On a cold day in late November, Jeremy, one of the kids on the block suggested to some of the others that to make Old Man Paxton change, like Old Man Kline, they should get him a little Christmas tree and decorate it and put it on his lawn without him knowing who did it.

The other kids thought that was a great idea and even if it didn't make him kinder, it would irritate him because they would put it on his beloved lawn and that would be fun too.

Jeremy went to his mom and dad with the idea and they thought it would be a kind thing to do. So off to the Christmas tree farm they went and walked up and down the rows of trees looking for the perfect tree for Mr. Paxton.

There were all sizes of trees to pick from as they looked at them. At last they came to a row that didn't have very many good trees left, it had been picked over quite a bit, and not many people were walking down that row.

Jeremy looked down the row of trees and saw a tree that would work just fine for old Mr. Paxton. He walked down the row for a better look and stopped in front of the little tree.

It was quite small, only 18 inches or so tall. The branches were not a very bright green and they drooped down a bit. The top was slightly bent over, like the tree was too tired to hold its head up.

"This is the one!" Jeremy thought, "We'll have it dug up and put in a pot. If they cut it down, there won't be enough left to decorate. I think that we can decorate it with dad's old solar lights and some paper balls and string some popcorn to put around it. Then put it on his lawn after he has gone to bed. What a surprise he'll have when he sees it."

He showed the tree to his parents and they questioned buying such a small tired looking tree.

Jeremy responded, "Mr. Paxton loves his lawn and takes such good care of it, maybe he will focus on this poor little tree and leave us kids alone for once. It should give him something to do beside yelling at us."

Dad looked at mom and said, "Well, he does have a point. Perhaps the poor old guy needs something to do. Okay, we'll get it."

The tree was dug up and placed in a pot and taken home.

Most of the kids laughed when they saw it, but they still helped decorated it with the old solar lights and made paper balls and streamers and icicles. They even strung what popcorn that they didn't eat and put it around the little tree.

The branches drooped even more with the weight of the lights and decorations and the paper star that they had put on the top made them laugh as it hung over the side of the tree.

"Who's going to put the tree on his lawn?" asked Joey as they watched the solar lights light up in the darkness of dad's garage.

There were several "Not me," responses until Jeremy finally said that he would do it.

"Yeah, Jeremy should do it," said Kenny, "It was his idea."

Jeremy walked quickly up the street toward Mr. Paxton's house. He could see most of the neighbor kids were watching him. Wearing dark clothes didn't help much. They could see him because the solar

"So, when are you going to do it, Jeremy?" asked Lee.

"Do it tonight!" they all shouted, except Jeremy.

"Ok, ok, I'll do it tonight. Who's coming with me?"

It got really quiet, until Jeremy said, "Alright, I'll do it myself. I hope I don't get caught."

It was dark early, for the clouds had covered the sun and it was about to snow, as Jeremy looked up the street to see if the lights were out at Mr. Paxton's house.

They were all out except for some dim flickering blue light from the TV somewhere inside the house. Jeremy had dressed in warm and dark colored clothes. He didn't want to be seen. He picked up the little Christmas tree and

lights were shining in the darkness and they knew that he had to be quick or Old Mr. Paxton would catch him walking on his lawn. Then he would be in big trouble. Jeremy tiptoed onto the lawn and placed the potted tree down right in front of the house's big front window. Then turned and ran as fast as he could back down the street to his house.

The tree shined and blinked in the darkness and if one were to look closely, they could see the paper decorations and the string of popcorn.

Mr. Paxton must have been watching Football on the TV until he went to bed. He didn't look out of his windows even once all night.

The tree sparkled all night and made the snow glow as the snow fell, until the sun came up in the morning.

Mr. Paxton looked out his front window as he usually did to make sure that the kids stayed off his lawn on the way to school.

It was then that he saw the tree standing in the dim light of the sun. It was snow covered, but he could still see that it had lights and decorations on it. What he really noticed was that it was in a pot. He put on his heavy boots and coat and went outside to retrieve the tree and took it back inside. He knew just what he would do with the tree.

As the day passed the kids went to school and the snow had melted. When they came home, they saw that the tree was still there where Jeremy had put it. But now it was "in" the lawn. Mr. Paxton had dug a hole and had carefully planted the little tree with all the decorations still on it.

He had put fertilizer in the soil that would make the tree grow strong and the branches were already standing out as they should and the top was straight as it could be with the white paper star standing proud.

The kids couldn't believe what they were seeing and the whole bunch walked up to Mr. Paxton's house and stared at the tree as they stood on the sidewalk. Mr. Paxton came out of his house and smiled at the kids as they all started to back away.

He called them back and said, "I know that you kids put that little tree on my lawn to irritate me. But I love making things grow. That poor little tree needed some help when you brought it to me all decorated the way it was. So, I gave it some help and look at it now, standing proud and as tall as it can. Thank you,

you have been kind to an old man and a tree that now has a chance to grow up and be beautiful."

Then he turned and went back into the house and the kids all looked at each other with wonder on their faces.

"Who was this man?" they wondered, "That had spoken to them kindly and he even smiled at them?"

Then Mr. Paxton came back out onto his porch and in his hands was a large tray of cookies that were still warm. He had baked them that afternoon.

He walked down the steps of his porch to the kids and said, "Here is something that I think you will like. Thank you again for the Christmas tree. Help yourselves."

It didn't take long for all the cookies to be gone, for Mr. Paxton was a very good baker and kids loved warm cookies.

Mr. Paxton laughed as he listened to the kids muffled "Thank you's" as they ate the cookies.

"Come by again tomorrow and there will be more," he called out as the children walked away eating, "Do you like brownies and cinnamon rolls?"

The kids all nodded that they did. Mr. Paxton knew that they would be back, for children love those kinds of sweets.

Each day the neighborhood kids came to Mr. Paxton's house after school for the wonderful treats that he would bake just for them. Never once did they step on his lawn or ride their bikes over his grass.

He had changed from "Old Mr. Paxton to Happy Mr. Paxton."

It was a totally different Christmas that year, for there was a different atmosphere on Lincoln Drive. Mr. Paxton's house was decorated for the first time in memory. The little Christmas tree in his front yard was the center of attention on Lincoln Drive, Yucaipa California.

If you came by at the right time, you just might catch Mr. Paxton dancing in his garage to Christmas carols and teaching some of the neighborhood kids how to dance along with him.

It all happened with the magic of the Littlest Christmas Tree.

~ The End ~

Chuck Atkinson enjoys writing fiction stories and treasure hunts for the children at his church. We are pleased to have him contribute to the only fiction in our Ute Country News.

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GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE

A Postcard's Story

by Steven Wade Veatch

Sometimes postcards reveal so much, such as this one. Lorene High mailed this postcard, showing Colorado columbines, from Cortez, Colorado, on February 20, 1941, to George Baumgartner.

George and Lorene appear to be pen pals. Lorene introduced herself to George on the postcard. She wrote on the back, "I am 21 years old and work in a drugstore and live at home with four brothers and one sister. More next time."

George Baumgartner was 30 at the time he received the postcard and worked as a section hand on the railroad near Breed, Wisconsin. George saved the postcard and kept it with his mementos.

On June 5, 1941, George enlisted in the army and was assigned to Company A, Eighty-First Chemical Mortar Battalion. Just six months later, on December 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II — the day after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

George took part in the Normandy landings on June 6, 1944. His battalion supported the landing at Easy Red Beach (the code name for one of the most fought over stretches of beach). George's Company A remained on the beach the entire morning during the allied invasion under crushing machine gun fire. George was killed that day when an enemy artillery shell exploded near him. His family buried him in Breed, Oconto County, Wisconsin.

Eight decades later, this postcard remains today to tell the beginning of a story and two lives woven together for a brief time.



Columbines adorn the front or picture side of a postcard mailed in 1941 from Cortez, CO. The message on the backside tells a story. From the S.W. Veatch postcard collection.

Financial Focus

Business owners:
You need your own retirement plan

As a business owner, you can't afford to ignore your competition. You can't afford to miss out on the trends affecting your industry. You can't afford to alienate customers. Here's one more item to add to the list: You can't afford not to create a retirement plan for yourself.

Of course, you might think, one day, you'll simply sell your business and live off the proceeds. But selling a business isn't always simple, and there's no guarantee you'll receive enough to pay for a comfortable retirement, which is why you should strongly consider creating a retirement plan now.

Here are some of the most widely used plans:

- **SEP-IRA:** You can contribute up to 25% of your compensation, as much as \$56,000 in 2019, to a SEP-IRA. Your contributions are tax deductible and your earnings grow tax-deferred until withdrawn. This plan offers you significant flexibility in making contributions for yourself and your employees. Plus, as an employer, you can generally deduct, as business expenses, any contributions you make on behalf of your plan participants.
- **SIMPLE IRA:** In 2019, you can put in up to \$13,000 — or \$16,000 if you're 50 or older — to a SIMPLE IRA. As is the case with the SEP-IRA, your earnings grow tax deferred. You can match your employees' contributions dollar for dollar, up to 3% of compensation. If you work for yourself, you can combine employee and employer contributions, so if you use the 3% matching rule, and you earn enough to fully match employee contributions, you can put in up to \$26,000 per year (or \$32,000 if you're 50 or older). Alternatively, you could contribute 2% of each eligible employee's compensation each

year, up to a maximum of \$5,600, regardless of whether the employee contributes. Contributions to your employees are tax deductible.

• **"Owner-only" 401(k) plan:** If you have no employees other than your spouse, you can establish an "owner-only" 401(k) plan, which functions similarly to a 401(k) plan offered by a large employer. Between salary deferral and profit sharing, you can contribute up to \$56,000, in pre-tax dollars, to your owner-only 401(k), or \$62,000 if you're 50 or older. Like a SEP-IRA and SIMPLE IRA, a 401(k) provides the potential to accumulate tax-deferred earnings. However, you could choose to open a Roth 401(k), which can be funded with after-tax dollars. With a Roth 401(k), your earnings can grow tax-free, provided you've had your account at least five years and you don't start taking withdrawals until you're at least 59-1/2.

Which plan is right for you? The answer depends on several factors, such as whether you have any employees and how much money you can contribute each year. But all the plans mentioned above are generally easy to establish, and the administrative costs are usually minimal. Most important, any one of them can help you build some of the resources you'll need to enjoy the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned. To select an appropriate plan, you may want to consult with your tax and financial advisors.

In any case, don't wait too long. Time goes by quickly, and when you reach that day when you're a "former" business owner, you'll want to be prepared.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by Lee F. Taylor, AAMS, your local Edward Jones Financial Advisors.



Merry Christmas



Lee F Taylor, AAMS®
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Where is Katee this month? Staying in place!

Katee wants to thank everyone who is continuing to support the Pet Food Pantry with donations so that her canine and feline friends can stay at home with their families during the holidays. She knows they will comfort their owners during this difficult time.

You can drop off donations at TCRAS or the UPS Store in the Safeway Shopping Center. You can also donate online www.PetFoodPantryTC.com. Thank you for your support!

Katee and all the Pet Food Pantry volunteers hope you all have Happy Holidays! She is pictured with one of her Christmas presents.



Adopt Me by Ark Valley Humane Society

Donovan

Remember Donovan? He's been with us longer than any other rescue. Donovan is a 4-year-old male Australian Cattle dog mix. He is gentle and sweet, loves to cuddle up with his people on the couch, on the bed or really anywhere! When Donovan isn't cuddling, he enjoys playing fetch in the yard. He needs a home without cats but may do well with a similar sized dog. We are very hopeful his forever family will come forward before the holidays! Please call 719-395-2737 to schedule a meet and greet, especially if you already have a dog; this gives them a chance to see if they like each other. Every foster he's been in have all reported he is sweet and a great canine companion to have around. If you're looking for a gentle and active dog to join your family, give us a call to meet him soon!

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Bennett – 1092 Cedar St., 80102 (starting mid-Dec.)*
Woodland Park – 800 N. Highway 67, 80863

Lights must be free from all packaging, and cannot be boxed or bagged.

* Specific dates will be at www.IREA.coop when available.

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Pharmgirl Uprooted

A beacon of hope
by Peggy Badgett



Dave

Dave the donkey stood alone in the brown grass as wind swirled gravel dust over his pretty grey coat. The first time I noticed him, I was headed to Eleven Mile Reservoir to paddle board. His forlorn brown eyes locked on mine as I carefully drove by. He didn't stray far from an abandoned gate. The fourth time I brought him an apple. After sniffing the air suspiciously, he tentatively reached his long neck to grab my offering. Dave reminded me of the young blonde girl holding a small cardboard sign on a street corner I'd seen a few days before. Her pale blue eyes spoke of cold nights huddled beneath a refrigerator box, wrapped in all her belongings. I had handed her a granola bar and some change. Animals and humans are suffering amid our viral angst.

What could I do to help? Would feeding the ass perpetuate his panhandling? Who was helping the young woman? There had to be an answer. I found mine at Little Chapel Food Pantry in Divide. In 2002, a group of church members wanted to help 50 struggling families. They fed them. Eighteen years later, the need has grown to 250-300 families receiving 85-95 pounds of food twice monthly.

The first time I volunteered, I was instructed to bag exactly 11 bright red apples for each distribution. Others beside me did the same with onions, carrots, melons, and whatever else had been gathered. As I reached into the giant plastic bin and counted, the sweet scent reminded me of picking Macintoshes in glorious Wisconsin orchards, chasing my children through corn mazes, and spilling cider donut crumbs in our old blue minivan. I had been a fortunate mom with a good job, able to provide for my family. Others weren't so lucky. Filling food boxes was hard work. Even though my shoulders and back ached when I finished my shift, knowing I was part of a passionate team filling hungry bellies made it all worthwhile.

A tiny invader is reminding us of what is truly important. In the quest for material things, we've lost compassion for our planet, precious resources, and fellow creatures. There are many ways to help others and reduce our carbon footprint. Find a charity and support it. Keep a plastic bag in your vehicle for spare moments to pick up trash. Deliver prepackaged snacks to the homeless. Use a clothesline (I have

them outside and inside; it is an energy-sparing humidifier.) Chose products with less packaging. Make it a challenge to throw away less trash. Keep a reasonable pantry of essentials, but don't deny others of the same. Deliver dinner to neighbors. Get out to admire Mother Nature and learn her lessons of resiliency and adaptability. One person can make a difference.

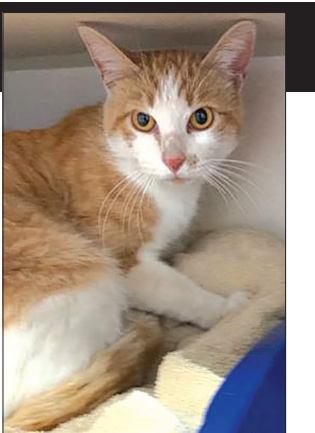
Smiles bridge the gap over masks. Be a beacon of human kindness. I bet even Dave would volunteer at the food pantry if he could, although we would have to keep him away from the carrots and apples. Monetary donations can be sent to Little Chapel Food Pantry, 69 County Road 5, Divide, Co 80814 or via their website, littlechapelfoodpantry.org. Monthly donors are desperately needed. Volunteers work on the second and fourth Mondays (exception December on first and third). Applications and background checks required.

Peggy Badgett lives near Guffey Colorado. She is a retired pharmacist, author of two books (The Rooster in the Drive Thru and Romancing the Bike both available at Shipping Plus in Divide), artist and avid adventurer. Her website is coloradopharmgirl.com, email is coloradopharmgirl@gmail.com.

Adopt Me by TCRAS Creamsicle

Forgive me for always showing my belly but I love showing it off. I am a true sweetheart and an easy keeper. I was brought to TCRAS because a nice person noticed me outside and was worried someone was looking for me. No one came to claim me. I am looking for a new beginning with you! Please call 719-686-7707 to set an appointment to meet me.

This space donated by the Ute Country News to promote shelter animal adoption.



A Childhood Lost

Cripple Creek's minor miners

by Steven Wade Veatch

Even though working in Cripple Creek goldmines mines was tough labor, occasionally, miners took a break from their deep underground toil. Some Cripple Creek miners wanted to memorialize their work in the goldfields by posing for group photographs in front of their mines. A few of these photographs have survived and are stored in various Colorado archives. Some of these photographs contained surprising faces among the cast of characters. As I studied some of these old and brittle photographs, I noticed the faces of young boys looking back at me. With a magnifying glass in hand, I looked deeper. In one photo, a young boy (upper right) puffs on a spit-soaked cigar stuck in the corner of his mouth. With his dark eyes full of mischief, he poses with his adult coworkers at the Republic mine on the Mary McKinney mine property.

These boys were part of the mine's workforce. Some historians argue that only a handful of them were there, but their number remains undetermined and their stories lost to time.

Cripple Creek mines were dangerous, and there were many ways to be killed or injured underground: rock falls (also known as widow makers), cave-ins, explosions from unignited rounds of dynamite, and accidents with machinery. These drastic situations — the injury or loss of a father — led some children of the stricken miners, all boys, to work in the mines. These boys were supporting families wherein a father may have died or was injured in a mining accident. Others were orphans and lived on their own.

These "minor miners" were known as pick boys (right). They ran errands, fetched supplies, and brought dull drills and picks to blacksmiths for sharpening. The pick boys also lugged water to thirsty miners to drink. It is likely that these boys tended the donkeys who worked with them underground.

The pick boys tramped deep underground through claustrophobic drifts (a horizontal passage underground that usually follows a vein) that wound through the gold-bearing igneous rocks. They worked amid creaking timbers, dripping water, and the threat of deadly gases. There was inadequate ventilation underground, and the fumes of blasting, candle

smoke, and rock dust from drilling filled the air. Grime stained the boys' clothes from the damp and muddy places they worked. The endless blackness of the mine swallowed the flickering light of their candles. The roar of blasting and the incessant racket of operating drills was constant. Despite these conditions, they likely labored with quiet deliberation and in their familiar routines to collect meager pay.

Some of the boys worked above ground in the ore-sorting houses. It was here that finely ground ore, considered richer than the coarser or oversized ore, was separated. Some sorting houses used a process of hand sorting to separate the higher-grade ore, something a boy could do.

Lowell Thomas was 14 years old when he rode horseback for the Portland mine, gathering specimens from other gold mines to be assayed. The Portland mine, near the rough-and-tumble goldrush town of Victor, was one of the major producers in the Cripple Creek Mining District.

Lowell Thomas grew up in Victor, where his father was the town doctor. Dr. Thomas took Lowell out for walks, where they looked for rocks and Lowell learned about geology. Lowell Thomas came back to the mining district after college and



This closeup captures a moment in time where a pick boy is sitting with a group of miners. Photo, circa 1902, courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.

worked in some of the mines and then edited several newspapers in the district for a short period. Lowell Thomas went on to be a celebrated radio and television broadcaster, author, and world traveler.

Cripple Creek was not the only place where there were boy miners. In the Leadville district, boys left high school before graduation, usually to go to work in the mines and become breadwinners for their families.

One miner's account told of his mining partner at Colorado's Climax molybdenum mine near Leadville. His partner was called "Scotty" because he was from Scotland. Scotty told him that one day when he was about 11 years old at home, the sun was low on the horizon outside, flooding his family's kitchen with the ruddy light of sunrise. He was eating breakfast with his father. His mother was busy making his father's lunch for work. Scotty's father said, "Mom, fix a lunch for Junior." The mother replied, "He's going to school and will come home for lunch, and then go back to class." The father said,

"Not anymore. He's goin' to the mine with me. He's had enough schooling." Scotty never went back to school. Back then, children became "adults" much earlier than today, going only as high as completing eighth grade in most cases before going to work.

Colorado coal mines in the early 20th century used children in their workforce. According to Martha Todd, "The coal miners as a rule all had big families. The family of five was a small family. . . I've heard of families of 12 and 15 children. . . There were no child labor laws in those days and the boys were taken into the mine [at] 11, 12, 13 years old. And the girls, just as soon as they were able to take care of baby, were kept at home. They didn't get to go to school much."

Child labor laws were slow in coming. In 1912, President Taft signed into law a bill creating "The Children's Bureau," the first federal agency that focused on improving the lives of children. When the Department of Labor was established the following year (1913), The Children's Bureau was transferred to it. However, child labor



This photo depicts a young boy posing with the adult miners at the Republic mine in the Cripple Creek Mining District. Photo circa 1899, courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.

problems were far from solved.

Leadville's Herald Democrat of October 18, 1921 featured an article about child labor. "In 20 states, boys less than 16 years old could be hired to work in mines and quarries. In 17 states, child workers under 16 years of age would not even be afforded the protection of the eight-hour workday. In 17 states there would be no law to prevent the child workers from being employed at night."

The Walsh-Healey Act, enacted in 1936 as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal, established safety standards, minimum wage, maximum hours, overtime pay, and child labor regulations on federal contracts. Finally, in 1949, the Fair Labor Standards Act prohibited child labor.

Since there were no social systems to take care of the families with a father killed or disabled in a mine, and no labor laws to protect them, some of the boys in Cripple Creek worked in the mines by necessity, becoming the breadwinners for their families. Some boys quit school and followed the lure of gold and the adventure of mining. They became the pick boys, the minor miners of the Cripple Creek Mining District. They endured the hard work and dangers of underground mining.

Trooper Tips

It's winter driving time
by Master Trooper Gary Cutler

Well we have a couple of snowstorms under our belt already this year and we have had our standard crashes that come with those storms. Just as you need to get used to your sea legs when sailing, you need to be ready for snow when driving and how your vehicle will respond to different surface textures. So, these are the topics I want to hit on in this article this month: freezing rain, windblown snow, and compacted snow.

Freezing rain scares me the most. I've been doing this job for 17 years now and in my opinion this one catches drivers off-guard the most each year. Because a driver sees the road, speeds are usually faster and the resulting crashes are more extreme. It comes down to how drivers perceive road conditions when the roadway surface, whether it be asphalt or concrete, is visible. So, this means speeds remain too fast because drivers don't consider the road surface may be slick. Just because you can see the roadway doesn't mean it's safe for fast speeds. If it's raining and the temperatures are low, that rain

can quickly turn to black ice.

Windblown roads; This is when it has snowed, but no longer snowing and there are wind gusts blowing snow over the roadway. Sometimes this is only happening in specific areas, so the perception is the road surfaces are dry. But in fact, this area will ice up a road almost immediately. Especially as the snow blows across the roadway and vehicles drive over and compact the snow even more turning it icy. Drivers assume that since it's no longer snowing and the roads are clear, speeds can be higher. Not always so.

Compacted snow roadway surfaces; This is when the snow on the road has a visible amount of snow on it and has been compacted. This can cause traction to be a problem. There can also be a layer of ice that is hidden causing driving on it to be even more dangerous. Treat it as a slick surface.

When driving in adverse weather and you are around other vehicles, make sure to give yourself more distance for stopping. There is no reason to be so close that when your tires



don't grab, you end up meeting your fellow driver in a fender bender. Try to double your usual distance. That may seem a lot, but it helps prevent unintentional crashes.

To all my 4-wheel drivers out there. I know, I have a truck too, but just because you have better traction doesn't mean you won't end up off the side of the road or hitting someone because the truck slid into them. We cover many truck crashes in the winter due to over confidence in how they handle during bad weather. Also, try not to get too close to vehicles going slower than you due to road conditions.

One last thought. Anytime the roads look wet, from either water or snow on them, never use your cruise control. If you hit standing water, snow, or ice, and you have cruise control on you are more than likely going to wreck. It's a mixture of slower reaction time and braking when you shouldn't be braking that late.

Remember to use my favorite saying: If it's raining, treat the road as if it's snowing. If it's snowing, treat the road as if it's ice. If the road is icy, just stay home. Drive safely, arrive alive.

As always, safe travels!

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One Nation Walking Together Thank you for your kindhearted support

by Kathy Turzi

I cannot believe I am writing to you and the holiday season is upon us already! What a year this has been. I have seen many say they wish this year would not have happened with all the different crazy issues of the world but I can say for me, this year has been one of the most insightful and heartwarming years ever! One Nation has had to refocus how to send the donations to the communities we serve due to the virus. Along with this, we also have had to continue to grow our local Emergency Service Program due to the large numbers of our local Native friends needing more and more assistance. Your outpouring of help last year during IndyGive! made it possible for us to remove individuals from homelessness to sheltered, transition a young family from living in their car to an apartment and also refer them to a successful job retention! We helped temporarily house a grandmother for a couple weeks while she transitioned to an apartment to prevent her from homelessness.



Let me tell you, this is a short version of what you helped us do! The gratitude shared to us from our families is so heartwarming. I receive text updates from many clients on their journeys and of the successes that are happening. During this time of social distancing, the hard part is not to be able to hug. When the tears of relief start to flow because we have alleviated the extreme fear, they were facing is so real. It is due to your heart and kindness that this is all possible.

I thank you for investing in us to make this all possible and I am so glad to let you

Kathy Turzi, Executive Director

Mueller State Park Escape to nature with guided hikes!

Whether you need to escape the hustle and bustle of the holidays or you've been stuck at home too long — escape to nature with us on a guided hike at Mueller State Park. A variety of hikes are offered for all ages.

Enjoy the beauty and quiet of the winter woods. Hear the call of a chickadee and the wind in the pines. See the crisp, white snow on Pikes Peak against a backdrop of Colorado blue sky. Breathe in the clean, mountain air. There are many reasons to visit the park this month!

New Year's Day is a time of hope and welcome for a new year called 2021! Make a fresh start by joining a First Day Hike at Mueller. It's a Colorado State Park tradition!

The Visitor Center will be closed on Christmas Day but the park is open every day for hiking and camping.

Due to COVID restrictions, all hikes and programs are limited to 10 people. Participants should sign up at the Visitor Center by calling 719-687-2366.

In addition, masks required and social

distancing observed.

6 Forest Bathing Walk 11-1:30 p.m. meet at Visitor Center Patio.

6 Hike School Pond 1:30 p.m. meet at Preacher's Hollow TH.

11 Hike: Black Bear Trail 9:15 a.m.*

13 Hike: Osborn Homestead 1:30 p.m. meet at Black Bear TH

18 Hike: Revenuer's Ridge Trail 9:15 a.m. meet at Visitor Center parking

20 Hike: Elk Meadow 1:30 p.m.*

26 Hike: Homestead Trail 9:15 a.m. meet at Outlook Ridge TH

1 Hike: Elk Meadow 9 a.m.*

1 Hike: Homestead and Black Bear 9:30 a.m. meet at Preacher's Hollow TH

1 Forest Bathing Walk 11-1:30 p.m. meet at Visitor Center Patio

*Meet at the trailhead named the same as the hike.

Mueller events are free; however, a \$9 daily pass or \$80 annual pass is required to enter the park. FMI 719-687-2366.

Adopt Me by AARF

Jack

Jack is a two year old Aussie/Heeler mix, about 40 lbs. He's great with other dogs and kids. He can be a bit of a talker, too! He loves to run and to hide his toys. He's a sweet boy who is looking for someone to play with. To arrange to meet Jack please call Dottie at 719-761-5320 or 719-748-9091 or via website aarfcOLORADO.com.

This space donated by the Ute Country News to promote shelter animal adoption.



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know we have again been accepted into the IndyGive! campaign and again we are calling on you to help us unlock our match of \$37,850. With your donation of at least \$10 your donation will be doubled making your impact twice as effective. Ninety cents of every dollar you donate goes directly to our Native American brothers and sisters in need. Any support you can give during our most vital fundraiser of the year is much needed and greatly appreciated. With your help we can transition individuals and families out of crisis and into sustainable situations. Your support is invaluable to us and allows us to fulfill our mission. Donate thru December 31 and your dollar will stretch to two dollars doubling hope, doubling food on the table, doubling brighter futures and more!

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Currant Creek Characters The Sweet Brothers: The Buffalo Spring years - part X by Flip Boettcher

As Job K. Sweet prospered, he added adjacent properties up the Little Platte River to his ranch. Sometime in the mid-1880s he added 160 acres, 1882 patent, from John M. Dixon; 160 acres from Joseph Weaver, 1881 patent; and 160 acres from William Sheffield, 1882 patent. The properties from Weaver and Sheffield had the Kester Sweet Water Ditch running through them, which is dry today.

An April 4, 1882 *Leadville Daily Herald* entry recorded a mine patent for Job and an April 27 *Flume* stated that Mrs. Job Kester Sweet was visiting friends near Cañon City.

June 1, 1882, the *Flume* reported that on May 29, H.J. Huston married Mr. I. Parker Mulock of Kester and Miss Carrie E. Abrams of Buffalo Springs at Buffalo Springs on Sunday. Parker is the nephew of ex-commissioner Ira Mulock, owner of the IM Ranch on Badger Creek. Abrams is the niece of Job K. Sweet, Esq.

A September 1882 *Flume* reported that a July party of neighbors from Buffalo Springs boarded the executive train at Platte River Station last Sunday. The group consisted of John L. Sweet, his wife and sons, Louis and Harry; George H. Green and wife; J.D. Parmalee; James McLaughlin and wife; and the family of Mr. C.L. Hall, Salt Works Ranch. Most of the group will return from Denver today.

A July 1883 *Flume* reported that at a county commissioner's meeting the fall election judges were appointed. The election judges included from Currant Creek, William H. Beery, Peter Allstrum and A.J. Bates. The judges from the Salt Works were Joseph Weaver, John L. Sweet and R. Shoemaker.

A September 1883 *Flume* noted the dissolution of a partnership between John L. Sweet and A.P. Jackson of Buffalo Springs. The firm's name was J.L. Sweet and Company. The reason cited was that Mrs. Artalisa P. Jackson was retiring.

A July 1884 *Flume* stated that Job Sweet was in town yesterday purchasing ranch supplies and a later July *Flume* said that J.L. Sweet and S.C. Haver of Buffalo Springs were in town (Fairplay) Monday and "made us a pleasant call." Haver Station, eight and a half miles west of Hartsel, on the Midland railroad was named after Samuel C. Haver. Haver was one of the owners of the historic 63 Ranch.

In August that year the *Flume* reported that Messieurs J.A. Eddy (V.V.N. Ranch), Silas D. Pollock and John L. Sweet, well-known cattlemen in the county, were in Fairplay on business last Saturday.

The "Ranch and Range" section of the December 1884 *Flume* stated that Job K. Sweet was not averse to selling his splendid hay ranch on the Little Platte. Sweet gives ill health as the reason of his desire to change.

In 1885 Job became the postmaster at Buffalo Springs. Also, in 1885 Solomon Mikels got his homestead patent adjoining the homestead of William Johnston's, which Job bought in 1882. Mikels' homestead was the one Job's niece, Carrie Abrams, did not proof up in 1881.

Also in 1885, Job and Clementine's daughter Alice is residing in Delta, Colorado with her husband Fordyce Hodgdon and their sons Ralph Kester and Foydice Clark.

In January 1885 John L. Sweet was registered at the Clarendon Hotel, according to the *Leadville Daily Herald*.

In May, the *Salida Mail* reported about a United Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association meeting with T. Witcher, treasurer, E. Mulock, J.A. Eddy and John L. Sweet attending from Park County.

In June, the *Flume* reported that Mrs. John L. Sweet returned to her home in the park after a month-long visit with her daughter in Denver. This was most likely her oldest daughter Lillie, who died in Denver.

There is not much mention of either brother or their families until February 1888, when the *Delta Independent* stated,

"Mrs. J.K. Sweet was in town to visit her daughter Mrs. F. Hodges (Hodgdon) and she seems to enjoy our lovely climate."

In May 1888, John is a delegate to the state convention and in September he is on the juror list along with John O'Brien and Thomas Grose of West 4-Mile Creek, according to the *Flume*.

In October John was a witness for Samuel C. Haver's 160-acre homestead along with E.M. Littleton, J.F. Drake and John Knight, all of Buffalo Springs.

The December 9, 1888 *Aspen Daily* reported that Mr. And Mrs. J.L. Sweet of Buffalo Springs, mother and father of L.D. (Louis) and H.L. (Harry) Sweet, arrived in Aspen via the Denver and Rio Grande railroad. They came to visit their sons and are staying a week to ten days. J.L. Sweet is a large cattle owner in Park County.

In 1891 Alice divorced Fordyce Hodgdon in Delta. The June 1891 *Buena Vista Herald* reported that John L. Sweet and Job K. Sweet, both prosperous ranchmen of South Park, transacted business here this week. In August, John was in Buena Vista on business.

In January 1892, John's son, Harry L., 27 years old, proved up his homestead near the Salt Works Ranch. In February, the *Buena Vista Colorado Democrat* states that Job K. Sweet, a wealthy ranchman of Park County is in the city on business and in May the *Buena Vista Herald* also says Job K. Sweet is in town on business. In September Mrs. J.L. Sweet and her son Lon D. of Buffalo Springs were visiting friends this week, according to the *Buena Vista Herald*.

In September 1893, three newspapers, the *Colorado Democrat*, the *Flume* and the *Delta Independent*, report the September 14 death of Job K. Sweet, 74 years, at his home in Buffalo Springs. Sweet has been a resident of the county since the first white men were here, 20 years, stated the *Colorado Democrat*.

Sweet was unusually healthy for a man his age. He was suffering from dysentery for some time previous to his death, reported the *Flume*, but he kept about and continued doing active work in the hay field when he probably needed rest.

Sweet leaves his wife Clementine and a married daughter living in Delta, whose son had been living on his grandparent's ranch for some time (perhaps since Alice's divorce in 1891); Sweet also left his 800-acre hay meadow ranch.

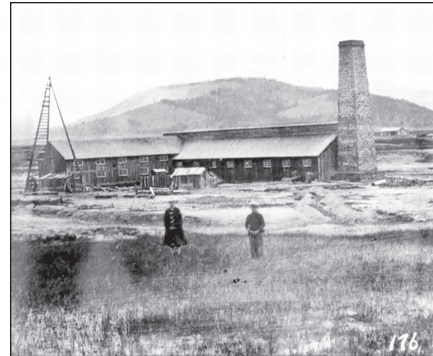
The *Delta Independent* stated that Sweet was a "man of marked courage and great firmness of character. His last illness was of short duration. Sweet was a public-spirited person of strong moral force and was honored and esteemed by his acquaintances, stated his biography. Job is buried in the Buffalo Springs Cemetery.

A November 2, 1893 *Flume* stated that Mrs. Job K. Sweet was in town on business with her brother-in-law John L. Sweet. November 11 the final notice of the settlement of the estate of Job Kester Sweet by executrix Clementine Sweet was recorded.

January 17, 1894 the *Colorado Democrat* reported that Dr. Cole was called to attend Mrs. Job K. Sweet of Park County who is seriously ill. In May, though, the *Flume* reported that Mr. Jacob Rogers came in a few days ago from the JKS Ranch, in the Buffalo Springs neighborhood, where he has been engaged hauling hay to Haver Station on the Colorado Midland railroad. Mrs. Sweet has shipped over 200 tons of hay to Mr. Thomas Grose at Cripple Creek at \$12 per ton. Clementine kept running the hay ranch after Job's death.

In June 1894 J.L. Sweet announced he was a candidate for the republicans from Park County to the state legislature and in September he was "in town this week shaking hands," reported the *Flume*.

December 21, 1894 the *Avalanche-*



Salt Works. 1870s or 1880s. Source: Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Echo (Glenwood Springs) stated that JLS of Buffalo Springs, South Park, father of HL (Harry) Sweet and the Denver and Rio Grande railroad agent at this point, arrived in the city yesterday and will remain with his son for the holidays. Mr. Sweet is interested in the large Roaring Fork potatoes to be seen in this office.

May 1895, John Sweet, one of South Park's influential men, was in Buena Vista Saturday and stayed at the Commercial Hotel, reported the *Colorado Democrat*.

December 12, 1896, Clementine passed away and shares a headstone in the Buffalo Springs Cemetery with Job. Clementine was a "woman of a thousand, and possessed a most marked character and an amiable disposition. She was very largely instrumental in assisting her husband in the attainment of success," stated her biography. A July 1897 *Flume* announced the final settlement of her estate by administrator Alice A. Hodgdon.

The 1900 U.S. census shows Alice, 52, living at the Salt Works with her son Foydice, 17, in Park County. 1910 Alice is in Long Beach, California and she passed away in San Jose, CA in 1936.

John Sweet continued to be active, and in January 1899, was in town on his way to the stockmen's convention in Denver, according to the *Chaffee County Republican*.

In August 1899 the *Flume* reported that the Honorable J.L. Sweet and wife Ella visited the county seat Sunday and according to the *Park County Bulletin*, at a Christian Science meeting in the parlor of Hotel Windsor, Mrs. J.L. Sweet delivered a very interesting address. Mr. and Mrs. Sweet are of Buffalo Springs. Mrs. Ella Sweet was listed in the 1900 census as a Christian Science practitioner. The Sweet's daughter Clara lists her religion as Christian Science in the 1920 census and is single living in Denver.

The Christian Science religion was founded in 1879 by Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910) after allegedly healing herself with the power of her mind from injuries she suffered from slipping and falling on the ice. The year 1879 was also the start of Darwinism and biblical criticism.

Returning to mining, an April 1902 *Silverton Standard* stated that the St. Paul, one of the best properties in the Red Mountain mining district, is undergoing development all winter under the foremanship of J.L. Sweet. The property belongs to the Rockefeller's.

John stays active in Park County, too, and in September 1907 is the Salt Works delegate to the democratic convention. In May 1908, though, the *Salida Record* reports that a building owned by J.L. Sweet in the rear of the Francis Brothers store was condemned and torn down.

The 1910 census has John, 76, Ella, 72 and youngest daughter Clara, 33 living in Denver. Clara is also listed as a resident of Denver in the 1899, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1915 and 1921 listings. She died in 1921 or sometime after.

John L. Sweet died in Denver in 1912. John and Ella's daughter Lillie, who married John M. League, died in Denver, date unknown. Son Louis "Lon" D. died in Denver, sometime after 1920. Their son Harry, who married Minnie Lambert in Ridgeway, Colorado in 1892, died in Victor in 1930. Ella died in Denver in 1919.

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Readers: COVID-19 changes daily. Please follow CDC guidelines ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)) and your county's health department. Were you expecting to see your event listed and didn't? Please email utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com.

AVAILABLE VIRTUALLY

- **COLORADO** To see what status each county is in regarding Covid-19 restrictions, visit: <https://covid19.colorado.gov>
- **NAMI COLORADO:** <http://www.namicolorado.org/> Suicide prevention: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/> or 1-800-273-8255

BUENA VISTA

- 5 UAS Club Central Colorado 9-10:30 a.m. at Central Colorado Regional Airport. FMI: 719-581-2010 or ccuasclub@gmail.com. Meets every first Saturday, usually at Central Colorado Regional Airport.
- 18 BV HOPE via zoom FMI: BVHope.org.
- Thru Dec 27 Chaffee Arts Holiday Art Market M-F 10-5 p.m. & Sat/Sun 11-7 AVDI is located at 317 E Main St.

CAÑON CITY

- LIBRARY**
- 2 Free Legal Clinic 2-5 p.m. Cañon City Library. Call 719-269-9020 to be added to the list.

- 19 Santa Claus Drive-Thru 9-10:30 a.m. in our parking lot. Come get a kit for the gingerbread house contest, hot cocoa kit to enjoy at home and a picture with Santa from your car. Virtual story time with Santa at 11:30 a.m. All ages welcome! For details and link jessica@cpteller.org or 719-686-0705.
- **IndyGive!** 2020 Campaign is CP's largest fundraiser runs through Dec 31. Give like you have never given before! Donate at www.indygive.com or CPFRFC.
- Monday Yoga 10-11 a.m. at Pikes Peak Community Center, in person and virtually. Contact Jamie@cpteller.org for link.

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- 7, 21 Distributions via drive-through by last name beginning with:

A-H 3:30-4:30
I-Q 4:30-5:30
R-Z 5:30-6:30

CRIPPLE CREEK

- American Legion Post 171 meets the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at 400 Carr St., Food and refreshments at 5 p.m. We now have heat!

DIVIDE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

- 7, 9, 14 Active Parenting Teens 5:30-7:30 p.m. Three-part virtual session to learn how to better communicate with your teen (12-18 years), redirect misbehaviors and prevent substance abuse. To get link Amy@cpteller.org or 719-686-0705.

with Santa, entertainment and silent auction. FMI on Christmas Celebration 719-836-2622 and FMI on Holiday Bazaar or vendor space 970-406-1031 or www.holidaysinfairplay.net.

- 12 Winter Ball FMI 719-836-2622.

FLORENCE

- 12 All aboard for the Model Train Open House at the Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center 10-5 p.m. for an event with model trains brought in by the community. Some train models will run from 1-3 p.m. Admission will be waived for a donation to help repair the three roofs. Get your Casey Jones on for a family fun time. FMI www.florencepioneercenter.org.
- 12 Second Saturday Holiday Marketplace 1-5 p.m. at Blue Spruce through Dec 31.

FLORISSANT LIBRARY

- 10 Free Legal Clinic 3-4 p.m. Florissant Library. Call 719-748-3939 to be added to the list.
- The Youth Services team and library staff have created fun and interesting virtual programming for library patrons. Check out all our virtual programs at www.rdvirtualprograms.weebly.com.
- Stop by the Florissant Public Library to pick up Take and Make Craft Kits for kids, teens and

adults. Kits are limited. *Adult Take and Make Kits available only at the Florissant Public Library.

GRANGE

- 5 Pine Needle Basket Class 9-12 p.m. Let's make ornaments for Christmas. RSVP 719-748-5004.
- 12 Drive-Through Christmas Fun 1-2 p.m. Santa will be there to wave and his elves will hand out Christmas goodies to all the kids. FMI 719-748-5004.

SALIDA

- 9 Free Legal Clinic 2-5 p.m. at Salida Regional Library. Call 719-539-4826 to be added to the list.

VICTOR

- Holiday Headframe Lighting weekend evenings thru Dec 24, then nightly thru New Year's Day (weather permitting). Info & map at STCFG.com.

WOODLAND PARK

- 8 Nonprofit Cooperative Training with SOAR 3-4:30 p.m. via zoom. Email iwantto@soarwith-networkfundraising.org for your invitation or text NPCOOP to 833-763-0494 to learn how to register. FREE!

LIBRARY

- The Youth Services team and library staff have created fun and interesting virtual programming for library patrons. Check out all our virtual programs at www.rdvirtualprograms.weebly.com.
- Stop by the Woodland Park Public Library to pick up Take and Make Craft Kits for kids or teens. Kits are limited.

Book Clubs

- 1 Woodland Park 10:30 a.m. December book: *Vox* by Christina Dalcher. Virtual meeting call 719-687-9281 ext. 169.
- 2 Not So Young Adult 11 a.m. December book: *Being Toffee* by Sarah Crossan. Virtual meeting call 719-687-9281 ext. 116.
- 10 Senior Circle 10:30 a.m. December book: *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family and Defiance during the Blitz* by Erik Larsen. Virtual meeting call 719-687-9281 ext. 103.

Thru holiday season

- Dan Makris Holiday Outdoor Decorating Contest. See map at www.woodlandparkwindsymphony.com.
- Enjoy the Woodland Park Wind Symphony small ensemble virtual holiday concert Visit www.woodlandparkwindsymphony.com and www.lightersideof-christmas.com.



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BLM planned pile burns

The Bureau of Land Management Rocky Mountain District Fire and Aviation Management Unit is preparing to conduct pile burns in nine locations this winter on Royal Gorge Field Office-managed lands in Chaffee, Fremont, and Custer Counties.

The objective of the pile burns is to remove the slash left behind from timber harvests and previous fuels treatments. Timber harvests and fuels treatments remove beetle-killed timber and other fuels, reducing the risk of future catastrophic wildfires. They also help create various stages of plant succession, which is critical to the health of fire-adapted ecosystems. These burns will remove the leftover piled fuels but may burn some nearby live vegetation in the project area, as well. The locations of these pile burn projects for winter 2020-2021 are as follows:

- **Hole in the Rock:** 2,400 hand-built piles among Ponderosa Pine, Piñon Pine, Juniper and Gambel Oak. The project area is located north of Cañon City, off Fremont County Road 11 and east of the High Park Subdivision.
- **Whiskey:** 3,000 large hand-built piles among Ponderosa Pine, Piñon Pine, Juniper, and grass. The project area is located 6.5 miles southwest of Cripple Creek, south of Fremont County Road 11 and west of the High Park Subdivision.
- **Likely Gulch:** 2,000 hand-built piles among Piñon Pine, Juniper and Ponderosa Pine. The project area is located south of Texas Creek off CO Highway 69 and Road Gulch.

- **Mt. Harvard Estates:** 1,250 hand-built piles among Piñon Pine, Juniper and grass. The project area is located 5.5 miles north of Buena Vista, CO, ½ mile east of US 24, and immediately north and east of the Mt. Harvard Estates subdivision.
- **Tyndall:** Three machine-built piles among Ponderosa Pine and grass. The project area is located 3 miles north of Rosita, 7.5 miles east of Westcliffe and south of CO Highway 96, near Mount Tyndall.
- **Pinyon Mountain:** 450 hand-built piles among Piñon Pine, Juniper, Ponderosa Pine, and Douglas Fir. The project area is located south of the Acres of Ireland subdivision, ¾ mile south of US 50, and 1.5 miles south of Howard, CO.
- **Kerr Gulch:** 250 hand-built piles among Piñon Pine, Juniper, Ponderosa Pine, and Douglas Fir. The project area is located 1.5 miles west of US 50, 3 miles northwest of the Coal Dale, CO.
- **Thompson Mountain:** 35 machine-built piles among Ponderosa Pine, Piñon Pine, Juniper, and Gambel Oak. The project area is located 13 miles northwest of Cañon City, 2 miles east of CO Highway 9, and in the Deer Haven area near Thompson Mountain.
- **Mount Shavano:** 500 hand-built piles among Piñon Pine, Juniper, Ponderosa Pine, and Douglas Fir. The project area is located 3.5 miles north of US 50, 3.5 miles west of US 285, and 5.5 miles northwest of Poncha Springs, CO.



Smoke from the pile burns will be visible throughout the day of the burn, mostly during the warmest part of the day. With cooler temperatures in the evening, smoke may accumulate in low-lying areas. According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information on wildland fire smoke, please visit the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division's website: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>. Information on Royal Gorge Field Office winter 2020-2021 pile burns will be available on Inciweb (<https://inciweb.nwgc.gov/incident/7266/>) and on Facebook at @BLMColoradoFire as conditions become favorable to conduct these burns. For additional information, please contact Matt Norden, Fire Operations Specialist, at 719-269-8583, or John Markalunas, Assistant Fire Management Officer, at 719-852-8160.



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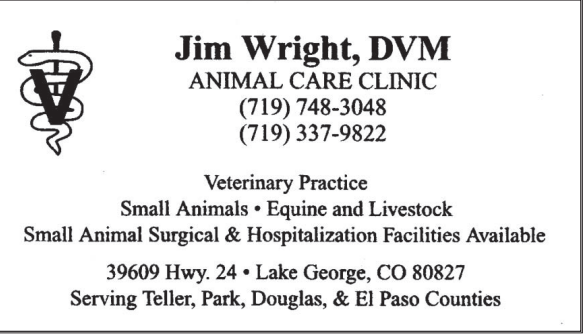
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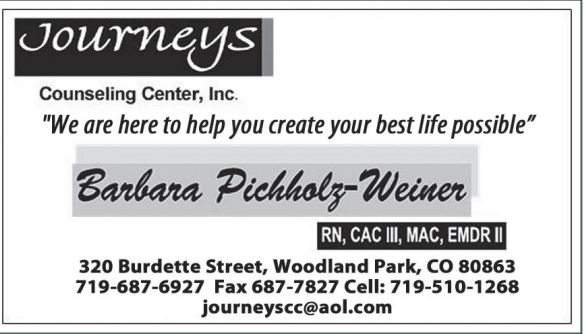
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