Vol. 15, No. 2

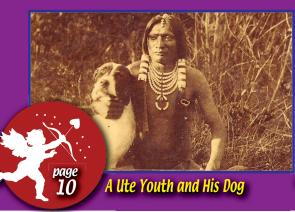
Welcome to Ute Country



Robert Fulghum

PEEK INSIDE...

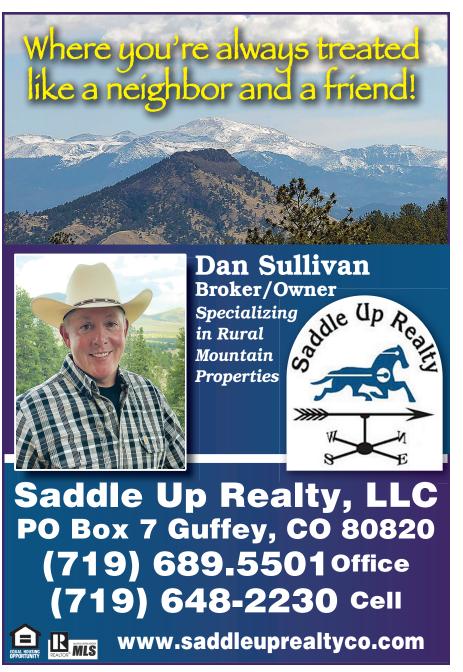




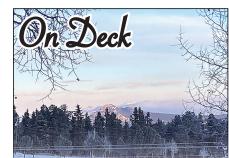












Theck out the pronghorn on our front cover! Jeff took this photograph in May 2011, near the Hartsel area. We felt it was perfect for February, as we celebrate Valentine's Day. The quote is something we agree is true as we have fallen into our mutually satisfying weirdness and call it love. We trust you can too!

Our February issue has a variety of articles for your enjoyment. Life Enhancing Journeys provides us with the evolution of relationship development that can enlighten anyone truly interested in long-term relationships. The Adventure Carousel - Missing Lynx will take you on another escapade, this time on a lynx. History buffs will enjoy several articles as Currant Creek Characters shares part XXIV, and "Ute Youth and his dog" gives insight into the items included in the photograph and how they may have been utilized. A Look Inside the Artist— Joanne Suther shares her unique approach to creating art. We also have helpful articles on prescribed burns, fire mitigation tax subtraction and avalanche safety to remind you of good common sense tactics that keep us safe in this high-desert mountain region.

Are you seeking a side gig? Do you enjoy meeting people and helping to solve problems? Ute Country News is currently seeking sales staff. If you are interested, please stop in Shipping Plus in Divide M-F 9-5:30 p.m., call us 719-686-7587 or email your intent and resume to utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com.

Do you have cute pics of your pets? We are always looking for photographs to fill Critter Corner. All you need to do is email utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com or snail mail them to POB 753 Divide, CO 80814 or drop them off at Shipping Plus in Divide M-F 9-5:30 p.m.

A special thanks to all listed here for their possible. If you have any questions please contact the publishers.

High Pine Design Jeff & Kathy Hansen POB 753, Divide, CO 80814

Utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com

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Publishers Emeritis: Carmon & Beverly Stiles

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A Look Inside the Artist Joanne Suther, multi-medium artist

It seems once an artist gets to know the processes of creating art in their choice of medium, they become scientists and begin experimenting with it. I will have to admit that I am guilty of that myself. Often they don't work, and sometimes they create a new movement. Joanne is one of those "scientist" artists. She can move smoothly between mediums and sometimes gathering them all together to create beautiful art. It takes a courageous artist to take chances and Joanne is one of them.

To create spiritual art is the basis of why humans create art to begin with. Children don't create art...they create stories. Joanne has been gifted with the ability to maintain the core of creating art...to tell the story and touch the heart.

You create such interesting watercolor paintings. Where did you learn to

I started attending art classes outside of school when I was in the 7th grade. I had a lot of learning challenges in school and art was the one area where I thrived. I wasn't the most talented student in my class, but my teacher submitted my work for a scholarship with a Saturday program at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh and I was one of the winners. The three years I attended the program we worked on drawing and painting. Then I took every art class I could while in high school. I studied art education in college, and I learned that a lot of students that were drawn to art had challenges in other academic areas just as I had. I became an advocate for those students.

I loved exploring techniques to help students lose their fear of the page. I often draw with my non-dominant hand and found that when I encouraged my students to do that, they could begin to let go of the idea that everything has to look perfect. I had them draw on post it notes to remove that sense of preciseness. I drew upon standard drawing warm-up techniques, added my own twist and over time, I found my drawing style. That translated to my plein air watercolors, especially the ones that incorporate architecture.

Before moving to Cañon City, I worked at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. I was fortunate to study and teach with some wonderful artists on staff. Learning from others always informs your own work and I learned so much from my peers while teaching there. While I was at the museum, I had the opportunity to work with The Start in Art class with 3- to 5-year-old children. I learned more about the sheer fun of intuitive painting through that experience than I ever did in all my college classes. After that I understood why the great Master of Modern Art invited children to come and paint with them in their studios

How would you explain your process?

It depends on the medium I am working in. As an art and museum educator I taught drawing, drafting, painting, printmaking, mixed media, collage, book making, and fibers. But for my watercolor work, I may start with an ink continuous line drawing. I enjoy doing modified blind contour drawings and non-dominant hand drawings for the loose quality they produce. Then I might add wet on wet loos color. That is what I did with the Ouick Draw painting of Florence Brewery, 201 *West 2nd Street, the sketch of the bank* building and the chickens at the Lavender Farm. Sometimes I start by adding loose wet on wet colors, allowing those to bleed together then let that dry. Then I will do an ink sketch on top of that. That is what I did with the little sketch of Fremont Peak.

When did you start painting?

As a student I started painting in junior high. But I started doing more personal work after I started teaching.



Joanne Suther (left) and her work Healing Spirit, Soul and Body (above).

as Facets on a Diamond is one of my favorite illustrations. I saw that all my dreams are facets on one diamond not a collection of hundreds of separate dreams. The thorns that encompass the diamond represent the Hebrew word Shamar. It means to keep, to guard and to protect as a treasure. The picture image is the hedge of thorns a shepherd would build for his sheep in the open field to protect them from predators.

What is your best subject?

Do you work in any other medium?

I enjoy drawing, acrylic, oil and cold wax,

mixed media, collage, printmaking, and book

painting on a different level, more illustrative,

making. I also art journal my dreams. It is

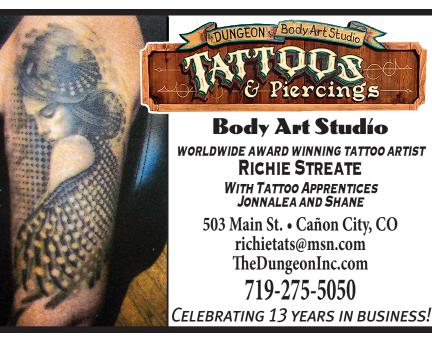
but I really enjoy it. I started those journals

in 2003 but also included childhood dreams

starting when I was three years old. Dreams

While I am enjoying the plein air work I am currently doing, I think the work I did after my healing over trauma is my best work. The mixed media painting Healing-Spirit, Soul and Body was my response to that. After my second hip replacement surgery I had to have an extra eight weeks of physical therapy continued on page 4





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A Look Inside the Artist Joanne Suther, multi-medium artist

to correct my walking gait. I was in chronic pain for over 12 years and walked with a Trendelenburg gait for most of that time. My initial therapy did not correct the gait issue. During the seventh session, the therapist saw that I was consistent in walking with a corrected gait. He wanted me to see it for myself. He walked over to me, tucked the hem of my shirt into my jeans and asked me to walk towards the mirror. He asked me to look at the button on my jeans as I walked and to tell him what I saw. I saw stillness. It was the most amazing thing. I felt it, I saw it but it had been so long since I had experienced it. At the same moment that he touched the hem of my shirt I experienced a healing over childhood trauma. I felt encapsulated in moving light and I saw scenes from my childhood but without any pain or fear and then it was gone. I didn't understand it all right then but over the next few months I began to understand the amazing healing I experienced. I think my hips held the trauma of my childhood. When they were gone and my walking gait corrected, I was able to receive the most amazing healing. I asked the therapist to write out three scriptures about the healing that happened when someone touched the hem of Jesus's garment. I had three silkscreens burned of those and screened those passages into every artwork I created over the next few years. It wasn't always readable, I just wanted it in the piece. You can see that in the image of that painting. I have had that painting photographed and plan to have small prints and cards printed along with my healing story. I think that could encourage and minister to others.

Do you do commission work?

Other than some small books, I haven't done commission work since I moved here but would be willing to do that depending on the work

What was the most difficult painting vou created?

I wouldn't say it was difficult as much as it

was challenging to create my healing painting. I just wanted it to express the sense of what really happened. The first time I showed the piece I saw a woman stand in front of it and cry. I knew then that it was perfect. I saw it happen again the second time I showed the piece. I think anyone who has experienced trauma can sense the healing.

What materials do you prefer?

I love them all, but for plein air work I love watercolors and permanent ink pens. I work on 140 # and 300 # watercolor paper. I also have lots of printmaking papers that work well with watercolor. I also like to combine acrylic paints and oxidizing paints in one work along with collage and metal leaf. Other than found text papers, I make my own collage papers. I carve my own stamps to use in creating patterns on the text papers, gelli prints and painted papers.

What do you see in your future as an

I would like to continue doing plein air work. But I also want to do some writing and publishing. I want to tell my healing story. I also dream journal. I am currently teaching a class at the Cañon City Public Library on art dream journaling and would like to expand that to children and teens. I started remembering my dreams when I was three and I know there are children out there that might benefit from a class. I also have a set of botanical prints that I have begun to write complementary letters that go along with each image. When I finish that series, I would like to publish it in a small book format. I included the first letter and print titled Overwhelmed. It is still raw, but I think it has the potential to be a powerful series that could encourage people experiencing some difficult times.

You may contact Joanne through her Facebook page, Joanne Suther.

You may contact Mary through her Facebook page, Mary Shell

Veteran's Appreciation Luncheon

Little Chapel of the Hills and Little Chapel Food Pantry are sponsoring a Veterans Appreciation Luncheon on Saturday Feb 11th at noon. All Veterans and their spouses are welcome, but we need to know how much food to fix and any special dietary needs. Menu choices will be:

- Beef Lasagna with Marinara Sauce/Garlic Bread/Salad
- Veggie Lasagna with White Sauce/Garlic Bread/Salad • Gluten-Free Lasagna with Marinara/GF Bread/ Salad

Please email your RSVP with your names, contact info, and menu choices to Ken & Judi at veteransdinners@gmail.com or call 719-322-7610 (leave message if no answer). Surviving spouses of Veterans are welcome too!

This meal is free of charge and is just our way of saying thank you for your service! Our address is 69 CR 5 in Divide at Little Chapel of the Hills ½ block north of the intersection of Hwy 24 and CR 5.

Adopt Me by Ark Valley Humane Society King Sweet King was adopted last year to a wonderful home. His owner provided him with endless love and care. Unfortunately, she had a major life change and made the incredibly tough decision to return King to us. We are so grateful for all the love she has shown King. We welcome all our animals back with open arms, as we know life can be tough sometimes. King is now looking to find a new equally loving home. While he waits, he goes on many

walks with our volunteers, and gets to hang out with staff in our admin area. He is wonderful on leash, and also cuddles right up by your feet when we are working. Truly the best companion! King can be selective when making dog friends, so make sure to bring your pup to the shelter to meet him. He has no history with cats or kids. If interested in meeting King please give Ark-Valley Humane Society a call at 719-395-2737.

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

Currant Creek Characters Andrew Johnson - part XXIV I

by Flip Boettcher photo by Flip Boettcher

The next early homestead down Currant ■ Creek is that of Andrew Johnson. Johnson was born Anders Johansson in Sweden in 1863 to Per Johansson and Christina Palsdotter. Johnson was one of 11 siblings. all but two of whom emigrated to the U.S.. settled and died in Kansas, except Andrew

Johnson emigrated to the U.S. in 1881 and his name was Americanized. Shortly after emigrating, Johnson became very sick in New York City. So sick he was lying in the gutter, according to his grandson Harry Bennett Johnson. Another Swede, Peter Alstrum, picked him up out of the gutter and took him back to Cripple Creek, Colorado with him and nursed him back to health.

The Alstrum's were prominent in Cripple Creek and had several mining claims. Johnson worked in the mines for a while. In 1886, Johnson started his 160-acre cash sale homestead on Currant Creek, got naturalized and on Christmas day, married Alstrum's daughter Jennie S. Jennie was born in Illinois in 1869.

Alstrum had two 160-acre homesteads One was a cash sale proofed in 1882 where 31-Mile Creek joins Currant Creek. The other, a little farther up 31-Mile Creek, was a homestead proofed in 1889. Johnson's property, which included the old, abandoned Henry Morford ranch, was an "L" shape with the short side on the north side of Alstrum's on the creek and the long side running between Alstrum's two parcels up 31-Mile Creek. The 1879 land survey map shows a house on Johnson's parcel and one on Alstrum's Currant Creek parcel. Johnson's final proof was 1891.

Andrew and Jennie had five children all born in Cañon City: Emil Andrew, 1887-1976; Mabel Augusta, August, 1890-December, 1890; Vina Viola, 1896-1900; Harry A., 1900-1979; and Arthur Earl, 1911-1999.

Johnson is not really associated with the Currant Creek area though, more in Fremont County. By the mid-1890s, he is working on the Stirrup Ranch on Tallahassee Road in Fremont County. He must have kept his Currant Creek property, because an 1899 bill of sale has Stirrup Ranch owner Alec Mermod of Divine Park selling cows to Johnson. Said cows were to be rebranded at the Stirrup Ranch corral.

The family has a house in Canon City, and the 1900 census lists them living there. Johnson is a hay laborer living with



All that is left of the Andrew Johnson homestead: at the right would be the Dell homestead and across the creek would be the Olaf Davis homestead. Currant Creek is in the foreground with State Highway 9 in the background.

Jennie, Emil and Vina. Johnson bought the Cottonwood Creek Ranch in 1900.

The year 1900 also saw Johnson part supplier of 960 cattle who were driven through Cañon City to the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad corrals east of town. The buyer was W.C. Knight of Kansas.

In 1903, Johnson, a prominent Currant Creek cattleman, was in Cañon on his way to Garden Park east of the city to start with the annual cattle roundup, reported the Cañon City Daily Record. Johnson also reported that his section near Taclamer (an old town no longer in existence on Tallahassee Road) was very prosperous and the prospect for fat cattle was good that year. In 1904 and 1907, the county commissioners appointed Johnson as the road overseer in the Cottonwood district.

In 1908 tragedy strikes at the Cottonwood Creek Ranch when a defective chimney started a fire that completely destroyed the ranch house. Johnson suffered heavy losses, as the house was uninsured. Andrew and Jennie were at home at the time but were unable to put the fire out.

The 1910 census lists Andrew and Jennie living in Cañon and Cottonwood. Johnson is raising cattle and their two sons Emil and Harry are living with them. Later in 1910 Johnson sells the Cottonwood Ranch and takes up the Tallahassee

Ranch in 1912 and proofed up a cash sale homestead on 160 acres there in 1916.

The 1920 census lists the couple in Cañon with sons Harry and Arthur Earl. A 1920 Cañon City Daily Record reports that Mr. and Mrs. Johnson came down from Tallahassee Creek for a week at their home in the city. Another 1920 CCDR reports that Johnson and Frank Christopher, current owner of the Stirrup Ranch, just returned from Denver where they have been with a shipment of cattle.

Johnson died in 1927 at the Tallahassee Ranch from "a dropsical affliction and weakened heart action," according to his obit, a result of a "paralytic stroke he suffered three or four years previously.' Johnson was buried at the Greenwood Cemetery in Cañon City.

Johnson was survived by his wife Jennie and three sons. Jennie is living with her son Arthur E. in Oregon in 1930. She is listed as widowed and the head of the household. By 1935 Jennie is in Idaho and the 1940 census lists her with son Arthur living in Idaho. She is the mother of the head of the household, a seamstress and she completed one year of high school.

Jennie died in 1957 in Tacoma, Washington and is buried in the Greenwood

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Wildfire Mitigation Measures Subtraction

by Coalition for the Upper South Platte

There's no avoiding the inevitable. Tax I time is upon us again. However, if you completed mitigation work on your property in 2022, you may be eligible to claim a subtraction on your Colorado Income tax return!

The Colorado Department of Revenue has published an information sheet on the subtraction with all the fine print: https://tax. colorado.gov/sites/tax/files/Income65.pdf Some of the details:

- The taxpayer must have a qualifying interest in the private land where the wildfire mitigation measures were performed.
- The property must be located in a wildland-urban interface area within Colorado See Colorado State Forest Service's website: https://csfs.colostate.edu/
- The property owner's annual income must be below \$120,000.
- Wildfire mitigation measures that qualify for the subtraction include creating a defensible space around structures; establishing fuel breaks; thinning woody vegetation for the primary purpose of reducing risk to structures from wildland fire; secondary treatment of woody fuels.
- All activities must meet or exceed any applicable standards established by the Colorado State Forest Service or Division of Fire Prevention and Control.

 You must have receipts for out-of-pocket costs such as payment to a contractor for wildfire mitigation measures; cost of a chainsaw if purchased primarily for wildfire mitigation measures; or equipment rental to perform wildfire mitigation.

The total subtraction claimed cannot exceed \$2,500, nor the federal taxable income reported on the return. For 2023 AND 2024 the subtraction is allowed for 50% of the actual costs.

To claim the subtraction, the taxpayer must complete and submit a Subtractions from Income Schedule (DR 0104AD) with their Colorado Individual Inc Tax Return (DR 0104).

In 2023 CUSP celebrates our 25th year! As we look forward to sustaining the health of the Upper South Platte Watershed, we also look back to some of our projects over the last 25 years.

In 2010, CUSP completed Mine Assessment Project: Report on Surface and Mine Water Sampling and Monitoring in the Upper South Platte Watershed, Park County, Colorado, https://cusp.ws/wpcontent/uploads/2014/10/CUSPmineReport2010Comp.pdf

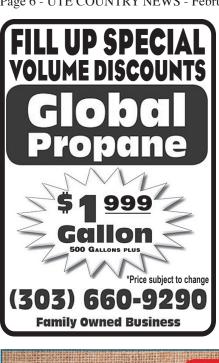
Approximately 50 mine sites were visited; 50 water-quality samples were sent for analysis; 73 sites were tested for field parameters throughout 8 prominent tributaries; basic property ownership and boundaries were determined for the 50 sites; and mine sites and tributaries were prioritized for continued monitoring. Most importantly, partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies and groups were developed and positive connections were made with mine owners.

The final report includes a comprehensive documentation of the abandoned mine lands within the watershed including relevant historical information, past abandoned mine inventories and recent inventory data

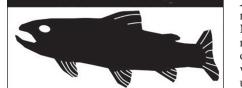
collected during the 2010 field season. The data collected in the 2010 season confirmed that not all mines discharge acid mine drainage, and that neutral to basic mine drainage dominated the Upper South Platte inventory. Although the majority of mine drainage was neutral, heavy metals were detected that exceeded state aquatic life standards and, in some cases, surpassed drinking water standards. The report identified four locations needing additional monitoring and characterization.

This report continues to guide CUSP's water quality activities in the watershed.





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BLM hosts public meetings for input on solar energy program

by Eric Coulter

As part of its ongoing effort to support responsible renewable energy development on public lands, the Bureau of Land Management is holding a public scoping meeting in Grand Junction to solicit feedback on the recently announced programmatic environmental impact statement for the BLM's utility-scale solar energy planning.

The BLM is considering updates to its 2012 Western Solar Plan that included six southwestern states — Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah — and is seeking comment regarding expanding its solar planning to include five additional states: Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. The Grand Junction meeting is one of a series being held in February in various western states, as well as in Washington DC and virtually. For the complete list of meetings

visit https://www.blm.gov/ "The BLM is committed to expanding renewable energy development on public lands to help lead the nation into a clean energy future, enhance America's energy security, and provide for good-paying union jobs," said BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning. "We look forward to hearing from the public on effective ways to expand our nation's capacity for producing solar energy while continuing to ensure robust protection of our public lands and waters."

The Grand Junction meeting will be held

on February 9th from 3-7 p.m. at Grand Junction Convention Center, 159 Main Street in the Whitewater/Kannah Rooms. Parking is complimentary for attendees. Individuals that need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation and other reasonable accommodations should contact the BLM at Solar@BLM.gov.

A virtual meeting will also be held Feb. 13 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. Pre-registration is required. Click below to register:

https://argonne.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdOGhqTsoH695-CQKbVk2QMr XxPikfo.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The Notice of Intent to update the BLM's 2012 solar programmatic environmental impact statement was published in the Federal Register on December 8, 2022, with interested parties invited to submit written feedback or to participate in one of the in-person or virtual public scoping meetings.

The public comment period will remain open for 15 days after the last public scoping meeting. For the most current information on these meetings and to view the Notice of Intent, visit the BLM's ePlanning web site at https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022371/570.

Prescribed burning in Park County

by South Park Ranger District

As part of the ongoing hazardous fuels reduction project on the Pike-San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands, fire managers on South Park Ranger District are preparing for prescribed burning of slash piles in Park County. If conditions permit, ignition of piles may occur through March 2023.

The 405 acres of the proposed pile burns on the South Park Ranger District are:

- Lake George east piles north of Highway 24, south and east of Trail Creek Road, adjacent to the Lake George Forest Service Work Center.
- Road 98 piles about 1/2 mile south of Wagon Tongue Subdivision, and on both sides of County Road 98.

To facilitate burning, each of the selected areas have been prepared in advance to ensure safe fire operations. The piles in these areas consist of small trees, as well as treetops, limbs cut and piled during ongoing hazardous fuels reduction projects around recreation areas, reservoirs, and private property. These prescribed burns will help improve forest health, as well as reduce the heavy fuel loading that poses a safety threat to firefighters suppressing wildfires

and the recreating public in the area.

Ignitions will occur only when weather and fuel conditions meet prescriptive parameters and when smoke impacts can be managed within established requirements. Ignition and burning operations may continue for several days depending on the number of piles being burned. Fire personnel will monitor the burns until the fires are completely out.

Smoke is a natural byproduct of fire, and some amounts are unavoidable. However, fire managers and prescribed fire specialists do attempt to minimize smoke impact to the public during prescribed burning. Once burning begins, expect smoke to be visible from Woodland Park, Divide, Florissant, and Lake George. Smoke may also linger over the burn areas for a few days following initial ignitions. For more information on smoke and health, please visit: www.colorado.gov/ pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health.

Follow @PSICC NF on Twitter for upto-date information on this and other topics. Use #LkGeoRX for South Park Ranger District for prescribed fire notifications. For more fire information resources, please visit our website www.fs.usda.gov/ detail/psicc/fire/?cid=fseprd667411.

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Check avalanche forecasts before you go! by Bridget O'Rourke

olorado Parks and Wildlife wants to remind winter outdoor enthusiasts to check avalanche forecasts at www. colorado.gov/avalanche before going into the backcountry.

Early-season snowfall followed by heavy snow in December and early January has created dangerous avalanche conditions. The Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) interactive online map provides valuable, and potentially life-saving, information about dangerous avalanche areas around the state.

The CAIC recorded over 870 avalanches since Dec. 26, 2022. There has been a fatal avalanche accidents three weekends in January, killing four people. The avalanche danger is not going down and people can expect these dangerous conditions throughout the holiday weekend.

"We have seen more avalanches this year than we do on a typical year, and recently they've gotten much bigger," said CAIC's Director Ethan Greene. "We want everyone to enjoy the wonderful public lands in Colorado and go home alive and well to their family and friends. We need everyone headed into the backcountry to plan their trip carefully and avoid avalanche hazards

In Colorado, outdoor adventurers must be mindful of the risks that winter weather and constantly shifting weather patterns can present. Dangerous weather conditions that raise concerns are unpredictable, such as strong wind gusts, heavy snow storms, cold water temperatures and avalanches.

Before heading out in the backcountry or on trails that go through avalanche terrain, CPW advises the following winter recreation safety tips:

- Check the CAIC avalanche forecast and plan backcountry travel accordingly. Take avalanche training
- Carry all required safety gear. Make sure you and every member of your group carry an avalanche-rescue transceiver, a probe pole, and a shovel — and know how to use this equipment.
- Keep wildlife wild. Wildlife viewing ethics are particularly important during the winter. Maintain distance and do not chase animals.

Regardless, if you enjoy relaxed activities like snowshoeing and ice fishing or more advanced activities like snowmobiling and skiing, CPW encourages people that plan to spend time outside this weekend and winter to recreate safely and be mindful of avalanches and wildlife on our landscapes. Watch this Know Before You Go video

to learn about why and when avalanches happen. For more information about CA-IC's education resources page, visit https:// avalanche.state.co.us/education/resources. To support avalanche safety programs

in Colorado, visit cpw.info/keepcoloradowild. Colorado residents who get a \$29 Keep Colorado Wild Pass with their vehicle registration through the Division of Motor Vehicles help support local search and rescue teams and avalanche safety

Get ready to celebrate! 4th Annual Woodland Park Saint Patrick's Day **Parade and Crawl**

by Mickie Richardson

The 4th Annual Woodland Park Saint Patrick's Day Parade and Pub/Food Crawl at noon. The parade starts at Memorial Park, goes in front of the Ute Pass Cultural Center, then finishes along Baldwin. All area groups, organizations, clubs and businesses are invited to have a float, classic car, walking or riding groups participate. The Pub/Food Crawl begins after the parade. Crawl cards are \$5 and they are filled with discounts and deals from favorite area eateries. We are still accepting vendors for this as well. The parade and crawl vendor participant deadline is February 24, 2023. The Crawl Card deals are good starting the 11th at 1 p.m. through March 18. Cards will be for sale March 11 at the table in front of the Cultural Center before and after the parade. FMI www.mountaineire.org or mountaineire@yahoo.com.

Adopt Me by AARF Pepper Ann

 ${f P}^{
m epper}$ Ann is a loveable, 6-year-old female cattle dog. She is spayed and up to date on all her shots. Pepper Ann at 75 pounds, has a New Year's resolution to lose weight. So, a few green beans mixed in her kibbles and lots of walks should be in her future along with lots of face licks for you. She is waiting for the right family for her forever home. Could it be yours? Please call Dottie at Adoptable Animal Rescue Force 719-748-9091, aarfcolorado.com or aarfcolorado@gmail.com to arrange a meet and greet!

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





Thank you!

We are excited to say that you and our matching grantors helped us reach our One By One fundraising goal of \$80,000!! Our deepest gratitude to each one of YOU for making our important work possible! Together we will make a greater difference and change more lives in 2023! Visit www.onenationwt.org





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you, Jack. But I know someone that

Just then a mist formed behind

and walked forward to stand by the

"This is Larry the Lynx," intro-

duced Danny the dragon, "As you

may know the Lynx is a keeper of

be able to give you the answers to

Danny, then said in a soft voice,

your questions. Right Larry?"

"Perhaps. Come, young one,

mount me and we shall see

what we might see.

Jack mounted on

the Lynx's back and

around them. Soon,

they were in a dif-

ferent place as the

mist cleared away

somewhat, but still

floated around at

There before

their feet.

them was a

round frame

large flat,

the mist started to grow

secrets. So, I think that Larry might

The big cat looked at Jack and then

the dragon and a Lynx appeared

might be able to."

dragon

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Holiday greetings from Finneas..



..and Fiona – Nichole McAllister,| Franklin, WI

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

The Adventure Carousel Missing Lynx

by Gilrund the Historian

Sack was on his way to Ben's house when his mother called him back and told him that Ben's mother had just called to tell her that Ben had the flu and wouldn't be able to meet him at the malt shop

"Rats!" said Jack to himself as he turned back into the house and returned to his bedroom. "We were going to plan a new adventure today."

Jack sat in his bedroom for about an hour when he decided to text Ben on his phone.

"Hi, your mom says that you've got the flu and I can't come over. Perhaps we could plan our next adventure on the phone.'

Jack waited for a response for nearly an hour and Ben didn't text back.

"Wow, he must be really sick," thought Jack, "I guess I'll go to the carousel by myself. It won't be as much fun, but I want to do something today."

Jack walked to the malt shop that was near the carousel and ordered his chocolate malt and sat down at one of the tables to wait for it to be made.

As he waited, in walked Janice, the young woman that used to work in the malt shop. She had gone away and gotten married six months ago.

Janice saw Jack sitting at the table and waved as another young man entered behind her.

"HI, Jack," said Janice, "I would like you to meet my husband, Bill. I think you may have met him before." Jack stood up and extended his hand to Bill to shake hands.

"Good to see you again, Jack," said Bill, "You and your friend Ben changed my life and I want to thank you for that."

Janice smiled as she took her husband's hand and said, "You changed my life too, Jack and I thank you. We thought you and Ben might be here today and so we came to see you and say "Hi" before we returned to our home in Lexton. Will you tell Ben "Hi" for us when you see him

Jack didn't know what to say. These people shouldn't even be here: they lived in a mystical land not here in the Colorado mountains.

Jack knew Bill as King William of Lexton, a kingdom in a land that he and Ben had gone to on one of their adventures.

"How did you get here?" Jack asked as his malt was placed on the table by the waitress.

"Oh, you should know that" replied Janice, "We rode in on the carousel and we will leave on it too. It's a magical place, you know."

"But I thought that it only was magical at night. That's when Ben and I went to it, only at night." Janice smiled and said, "Perhaps, once you have had an adventure on the carousel, the magic works all the time. It did for Bill and I."

Bill touched Janice's shoulder and motioned that they must leave. Janice gave Jack a kiss on the cheek and said, "Thanks again, I am very

Jack watched as the happy couple left the malt shop and walked toward the Carousel of Happiness.

Jack sat down at his table and as he drank his malt wondered if the magic would work for him during the day.

"Probably not," he thought, "I don't live there like Janice does with King William. She had no carousel animal to ride on, so It had to be all magic. It's so confusing!"

Jack waited until night before he walked back to the carousel and entered the back door, as he always did. There was Danny the dragon waiting for him.

"Where is Leo the lion?" Jack asked as he looked around in the carousel building "Ben didn't come with you this

time, so I was the only one needed tonight." answered the dragon. Jack stood in front of the dragon and said, "I have a question that I

think only you could answer." He told of meeting Janice and King William that afternoon and what they had told him of how they got to this their own

magical

that turned slowly in the wind that "How did they do that? Could Ben blew through the openings in the and I do it too?" Jack asked. old building. There were many brass tubes that stuck up from the wooden Danny looked at Jack for a moment and then said, "I can't answer that for frame and shined in the sun.

"What is this that we are looking at?" asked Jack.

"Watch and see," was the answer by the Lynx, "We have as much time as we will need for your answer."

Jack continued to watch as a young man walked into the large building and up to the round platform and looked at it closely. He had a notebook in his hand and appeared to be writing things in the notebook as he walked around and looked at the

> writing in book. "Why didn't he see us?" asked Jack. "We are still in the mist and cannot

platform. Then he turned and

be seen. answered Larry. The scene changed

and Jack were in a large workshop and the young man they had seen looking at the round platform was working with wood cutting tools on a

Larry

"That looks

like one of

the horses on the

carousel at home,"

"Yes." Replied Larry,

'Do you now understand

what we are seeing? This

said Jack.

large block of wood. Leaning against the side walls of the shop were several other large blocks of wood and a partly completed carving of a horse.

> said, "What will you give me if I spare your home tree, little wood nymph?" "What would you desire?" she returned. "I know that you have some magic

your question about the magic."

man work on the carving of the ani-

mals that would be put on the carou-

sel. Jack saw the care and love that

"He knows how much the children,

like you, and yes, the adults too,

will love riding on his creations. He

is aware of the good memories and

happy thoughts that they will gener-

ate as they are ridden over and over

again. That is part of the magic.'

Jack watched as the same young

The scene changed again, and

man walked through a wooded place

carefully at the various trees that he

passed. He would stop at a certain tree

and touch it with his fingers and then

fingertips and then continue on.

I think he's looking for something

able to feel it, whatever it is."

special about the trees. He must be

"Keep watching." Said the Lynx.

man stop at a certain tree and run his

fingertips over it again and again, then

he smiled as he stood back and raised

Then slowly the figure of a young

woman came out of the tree and faced

"This is my home and if you cut it

She was a strange looking woman

brown. She was slightly shorter than

the young man and of a slim build

with angular features. She had dark

dress just above her knees, which

looked to be of tree bark, and she

wore dark sandals made of bark on

The young man smiled at her and

skin and a pointed upturned nose and

green eyes. She was dressed in a short

down, I shall die," said the woman,

who was, in fact, a wood nymph.

with long stringy hair of a dark

the young man as he stood back and

his axe to strike the base of the tree.

"NO!" came a cry from the tree.

"Please don't cut it down!"

lowered his axe.

It was then that Jack saw the young

for, Jack?" asked the Lynx.

with an axe in his hand and looked

and I would have some of that placed on my carvings of wood for the carousel that I am building. I have a desire for the children that ride them to have magical adventures that no one else may have and remember them for the rest of their lives. Will you do that for me and the children?"

The wood nymph looked at the is the beginning of the carousel. Keep watching and you'll get the answer to young man and smiled as she said, "You ask not for yourself, but for the They continued to watch the young joy of others. Therefore, I shall grant

what you ask."

The wood nymph raised her thin, brown hands and said some words went into the carvings. He watched as that the young man could not underthe young man rubbed his hands over stand. Then she looked in his eyes and the carvings as he worked and smiled. smiled.

"You have your desire," she said. "Everything that you make for the children and those who are older seeking joy will have the magic that you wanted."

"Thank you," returned the young man. He turned and started to walk out of the forest, while the wood nymph smiled as she walked back into her tree home.

The mist surrounded Larry the lynx and Jack and they soon found themselves back at the carousel with Danny the dragon.

go one to the next to touch it with his Danny asked, "Did you find your answers, Jack? Do you now under-"What do you suppose he is looking stand why and how we are here in this carousel?" "I'm not sure," answered Jack, "But

"Jack nodded his head as he answered. "Yes. I understand it now. It is because of the love of a man for children and for the joy that a place like this brings to others. This place will always be MAGICAL for all who seek the joy of it. Thank you, Larry, I think that I understand how the magic works now. It must be a deep desire that brings out the magic. May I share what I have learned with my friend Ben?"

Larry looked at Jack and said in his soft voice, "Yes, but only with Ben. If it is known to all, the magic will be lost and we can't have that, can we?"

"Then only with my friend Ben. I promise." Replied Jack.

A mist arose and Larry the lynx disappeared and Danny the dragon looked at Jack as he said, "It's time to go now, my friend. Return when you wish and always remember the magic of the carousel."

Did Jack tell Ben the secret of the Carousel? Yes, he did, and they both kept the secret to themselves. Because of that knowledge they had many more wonderful adventures in places that one could only imagine.

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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Chuck Atkinson of Como, CO enjoys

Carousel of Happiness for engaging in this ficticious series based on their carousel. Carousel of Happiness is located at 20 Lakeview Drive in Nederland, CO.



A Ute Youth and His Dog

Tohn Hillers, an early American photog-**J** rapher, took this remarkable photograph known as the "Indian Boy and His Dog," in 1874. The youth in the tea-colored photograph belonged to the Uintah, one of 12 bands of the Ute tribe, and lived in Utah's Unita (no "h" at the end) Valley. "Uintah Utes" refers to western Ute bands who were relocated after 1863, by the federal government, from central Utah to the Uintah Reservation. This band lived in the Unita Basin to the area around the Green River and the Tavaputs Plateau.

This young man is in his late teens, perhaps 17. This is the age when Chief Ouray joined his father's warriors. Warriors were highly respected because they offered their lives to protect their people. This teen spent much of his time hunting, fishing, and making weapons to hunt with and for protection. Although his name is not recorded, he too may have joined a warrior band.

The young Ute is not wearing his everyday outfit. He is undoubtedly attired for the photographer, who asked him to don all his regalia. The teenage Ute is wearing his hair in traditional Ute style with two braids hung over his chest. The Utes never cut their hair. Ethnographer Ann Smith reports, "Men wore their hair parted in the middle and arranged in two braids, with otter or weasel skin braided in towards the

ends for decoration." The cylinders covering his braids are likely made of buckskin decorated with colored porcupine quills. A length of fur from an animal — possibly otter, mink, or the summer fur of a weasel — is attached.

He parted his hair in the middle, and put decorations in his part, doubtless disks of dentalium shells, as they have a consistent size and shape. These shells were cherished trade commodities and are still worn on regalia. The large shell that crests the three disks in his part is an Olivella shell (a medium-sized to large marine snail), also a coveted trade item that is found in abundance in Ute

The young man is wearing what appears to a necklace made of bone or shell beads strung together with a sinew string. According to Celinda Kaelin, noted historian, "The pendent is quillwork in the shape of the Four Directions symbol. This symbol is sacred to the Ute and is represented in their Medicine Wheels.'

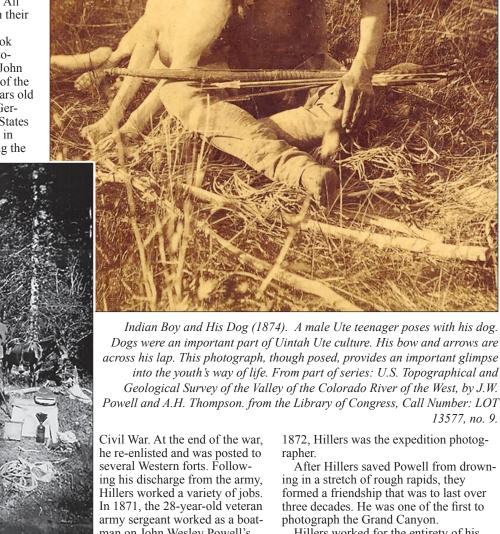
A sinew-wrapped bow and several arrows are spread out across the Ute teen's lap. Arrows shot from bows were lethal up to 70 yards. One arrow point might be obsidian, making him a person with sacred abilities. Other points were made of metal. The Utes

were practical. They would utilize metal for tips if it could be easily found. If not. they would resort to using stone points.

The young Ute is in common men's wear of leggings and a breech cloth. He is also barefoot, which is common in the summer and depends on personal preference.

Dogs were important to Ute culture, and they were often large. According to author Jan Pettit, "This well-bred dog may have been obtained through trade or was a gift." Utes denied ever eating dogs. Dogs barked whenever an enemy approached and provided an alarm for the Ute warriors. Dogs also guarded against wolves. Since dogs were never fed, they cleaned up all waste around a village. Each family owned between one and twelve dogs. Other animals, such as hawks and fawns, were kept by children. This photo shows how much the Utes loved their pets. All animals were considered relatives in their cosmology.

John Hillers (1843-1925), who took this photograph, began making photographs in 1871 while part of Major John Wesley Powell's second expedition of the Colorado River. Hillers was nine years old when he emigrated from Hanover, Germany with his family to the United States in the 1850s. He spent several years in the army and saw some action during the



Hillers at work with his negatives at a campsite on the Aquarius Plateau, Utah Territory, July 1875. Photograph by Almon became interested in the survey's Thompson or Grove Karl Gilbert. National Archives photo no. photography and was soon the 57-PS-805 (U. S. Geological Survey Collection). photographer's assistant. By



Indian Boy and His Dog (1874). A male Ute teenager poses with his dog. Dogs were an important part of Uintah Ute culture. His bow and arrows are across his lap. This photograph, though posed, provides an important glimpse into the youth's way of life. From part of series: U.S. Topographical and Geological Survey of the Valley of the Colorado River of the West, by J.W.

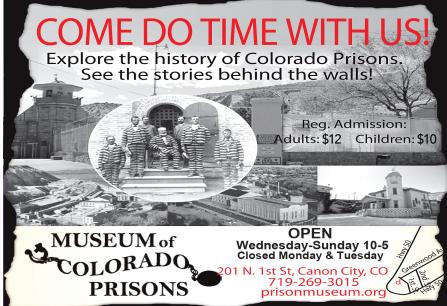
Civil War. At the end of the war, he re-enlisted and was posted to several Western forts. Following his discharge from the army, Hillers worked a variety of jobs. In 1871, the 28-year-old veteran army sergeant worked as a boatman on John Wesley Powell's expedition to map the Colorado River. While on Powell's boat, the Emma Dean (named after Powell's wife), he entertained the crew with rollicking stories and spirited songs. He quickly

1872, Hillers was the expedition photog-

After Hillers saved Powell from drowning in a stretch of rough rapids, they formed a friendship that was to last over three decades. He was one of the first to photograph the Grand Canyon.

Hillers worked for the entirety of his extraordinary 29-year career as a photographer for the federal government and made more than two thousand negatives of anthropological and geological subjects. He left behind possibly the most spectacular visual record of the 19th century West. His work contributed to transforming American photography from being strictly utilitarian into an art form.







Life-Enhancing JourneysThe evolution of relationships by Barbara Pickholz-Weiner, RN, BSN, CACIII, MAC, EMDRII

R emember when you met that person who seemed perfect for you? You fell madly in love and wanted to spend every moment with that special person. You thought about how compatible you were with your values, goals, desires, dreams, etc. Conversation flowed easily. Every touch sent shivers through your body. It was as if your partner could do no wrong. Any minor faults were unimportant to you. Your lives were starting to merge as you were moving from "I" to "we." You and your companion became inseparable Everything seemed fun and exciting and you felt more alive than ever. You were on a high from the love chemicals (primarily dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin) coursing through your veins. It gave you the feeling that you were living in "heaven on earth' and life seemed amazing. Your attention was totally present, in your conscious mind, 100% of the time

Welcome to Attraction and Romance - Stage 1, of the five stages of relationships. It usually lasts from two months to two years. How soon it fades varies, yet it inevitably wears off.

The traits you saw in your new love were so exciting. "Ooh! You're such a smart, strong and powerful person..." "It's as if you can read my mind because you're so sensitive to my needs and feelings..." "You're so dependable..." You found what you were looking for!

Stage 2: Disillusionment or Crisis Stage

After a while, the love chemicals decrease and you are no longer enchanted. Life becomes routine, misgivings may appear in the relationship. This is where the conscious mind retreats and the unconscious mind takes over. Your desire to be together declines and euphoric feelings wane. Instead of giving your partner your undivided attention, you focus again on your responsibilities. You are now functioning automatically from your unconscious mind. Here is an example: My partner asks me a simple question while I am trying to figure out a solution to a problem. I am irritated at being interrupted and I snap at my mate. My partner is shocked and thinks, "What just happened...Who are you?" The conflicts get worse when I am accused of being nasty. I am now on the defense and I respond with, "what are you talking about...you're crazy?" The attraction and romance disappear as you become less responsive to your partner's needs.

That perfect partner is now getting on your nerves. During this phase, many things that were once cherished or overlooked about your relationship, change into irritation, (example: "you're so strong and powerful..." becomes "you're overpowering...too intense" or what used to be "you're so sensitive to my needs and feelings..." turns into "you're too sensitive..." or "you're so dependable" is now "you're so rigid").

Disappointment is common at this stage. Couples start to see their partner for who they are, versus whom they thought they were. Power struggles intensify, and your partner seems to have changed. You feel unfulfilled, emotionally neglected or abused. You may be wondering, "What happened to our "heaven on earth?" "Maybe we are not perfect for each other after all." "If this continues, will I lose myself or feel imprisoned?" You seriously consider ending the relationship.

Most couples will hit the crisis stage and break up because they are unsure how to move past the conflicts. Where it goes from here depends on the choices you make.

I went through this phase with my partner (now together over four decades). When the excitement of our relationship subsided, I remember feeling that the

spark was gone with my mate. Talking to a therapist helped me to see the situation more clearly. She suggested that I view my partner based on his behavior; someone who was committed, trustworthy and dependable rather than believing he was unexciting. Reframing my perception of my partner convinced me to stay, to work on our relationship, as well as look at myself and acknowledge the part I contributed.

This would be a truly remarkable world if everybody learned and lived the experience of wholehearted love.

Stage 3 is The Love or Leave Choice and there are only three options: decide to leave, stick it out despite how unhappy you are or commit to repairing the rela-

When you operate from the unconscious mind, the young, frightened, angry child inside of you will defend itself by blaming the partner. An example would be "No — I am not doing anything wrong... it's your fault...you have to change." That strategy will keep you trapped. Continuing this approach will cause you to be defensive, withdrawn, critical and blaming, all of which will destroy the relationship.

The amount of work you are willing to put into yourself and your relationship will determine the direction of your partnership. Remaining in love requires hard work because love is more than just a feeling; it is action, however, without guidelines and effort, you will fail.

The *Lasting Love Choice* is when you decide to commit to working on the relationship. Committed, connected love develops, which is different from new, wildly romantic love. Instead of it being exhilarating, unpredictable and idealistic, the connection is more realistic, stable and

Contented couples believe that keeping their relationship harmonious requires good communication skills, mutual respect and admiration, as well as trust. Sex is important, too, however, any kind of affectionate touch reminds your mate that you want to be close to them.

If you decide to work on your connection, the effort pays off as you create a more thoughtful flow of love. More time is spent on initiating happiness, respect, harmony and being a good listener. You and your partner are now co-creating the relationship you desire, while leaving behind the unconscious, unsettled issues.

Becoming curious ("I wonder...) will deactivate criticism. This shifts you from the unconscious, critical brain to the conscious, rational mind. Now you can decide which path you want to take, your CHOICE, defines your relationship.

The Commitment Stage, Stage 4 is the glue that holds your relationship together. It means you decided to remain a couple, even though you are aware there likely will be difficult times ahead. Having previously created heaven on earth, you can choose that healthier state again.

Accepting that your partner is an individual, with their own set of dreams, limitations, ambitions, wants, and needs, without trying to change them, is considerate. Part of the attraction between the two of you is that you are different from each other. It is unnecessary for your partner to always agree with you or to value, believe and like the same things you do. Accept when their opinion is different from yours because it is unnecessary to always agree.

Be willing to reveal your true self and practice being open and clear with your thoughts, wants and needs. For example, "I'm unsure what to do now...can you help me?" "I feel scared...sad ...would you hold me?" Always acknowledge when your partner shares their perspective so they feel seen and heard, "I thought I heard you say..." "Please repeat that so I understand you...

Your love life needs to feel like a safe space for each of you, where you can express authentically your emotions, desires, concerns, and so forth.

Being polite by using phrases such as "please," "thank you," and "are you willing?" is appreciated. Feeling positive about how you have co-created a harmonious relationship together keeps each other motivated to follow this path.

Partners still get angry with each other and they still have disagreements, however, they use the conflicts to bring about deeper sharing, greater intimacy, connection and true reconciliation.

Stage 5 — The Rekindling of Wholehearted Love

This stage is where all the hard work makes everything worthwhile. Finally, you and your mate are a team, a true partnership. This point is where you start to feel strong collectively as well as individually. You experience a new sense of closeness and a fulfilling intimacy that enables you to communicate with respect, compassion, appreciation, and understanding. You can respond (the conscious mind) instead of reacting (the unconscious brain) when you get upset. The relationship is mutually satisfying and is built upon trust, empathy, consideration, and acceptance. You both have learned to constructively handle conflict by discussing it while learning to calm yourselves if you feel agitated during these times. You think about the great times fondly and, when the difficult times roll around, you have the skills to work out any concerns.

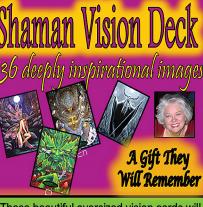
You are more confident in taking risks knowing you have a safe place to land, and a strong connection to your partner. Two people who achieved this state have truly given themselves a gift! You now see your mate as your main support and can enjoy the benefits of a truly committed relationship

Gratefully, my partner and I attained this level of Wholehearted Love, prior to having children, by working with a couple's counselor. We were willing to address our personal issues along with the problems in our relationship, even though it was painful at times and required effort, but it was worth it. We found ourselves living in, a now realistic, "heaven on earth." We are the best of friends and truly adore one another. We always look for ways to rekindle our love, reserving time to be together, at least once a week.

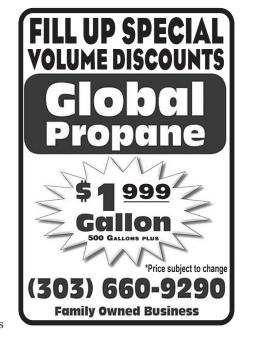
I still use many of the tools learned from our therapist and I teach them to others when needed.

This would be a truly remarkable world if everybody learned and lived the experience of wholehearted love.

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 vou desire, to become the best version of yourself. To contact Barbara, call 719-510-1268 (cell) or email Journeyscounselingctr@gmail.com.



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Fitness ON the Mountain Health, Wellness & Fitness Fair

 Γ itness On the Mountain held the first Health, Wellness & Fitness Fair on January 7, 2023, and what an amazing event it turned out to be. The overwhelmingly, positive response from both attendees and vendors left me speechless as 17 vendors from the Ute Pass region beautifully, showcased their services and products to almost 100 attendees.

Vendors commented, "the best event we've attended as a vendor, ever." "I spoke non-stop to the nicest and most receptive people." "The attendees were very engaged and interested in learning about my services and products.'

The attendees were equally as happy with learning and experiencing new concepts, methods and practices designed to enhance their lives.

In the September 2022 column of Fitness On the Mountain, I wrote about keeping our bodies safe as we transition through the seasonal activities of our choices. Part of keeping our bodies safe is addressing issues as they come up. Not all aches and pains are the result of acute injuries such as a fall or a sprained ankle. It's often the chronic issues that setback our goals. The small ache in our knee that was ignored can lead to bigger problems. We begin to compensate for that ache by altering our movement patterns, thus creating muscle imbalances and eventually

Sciatica, more correctly known as Piriformis Syndrome, is a nerve impingement typically the result of muscle imbalances often caused by sitting too much. We initially address the pain with ibuprofen. Eventually, we seek medical help. However, the next appointment is weeks out as is the MRI and Physical Therapy. Meanwhile, you've been suffering for months.

I am advocating for:

#1 Prevention

#2 Early intervention **#3** Restoration

Many of the vendors at our wellness fair last month have the training and experience to help with all three.

Functional Massage Therapist and Founder of Movement Training Co, Chris Gonzales demonstrated on attendees a Functional Range Assessment (FRA). FRA shows Chris what an individual needs to improve mobility, to increase resilience to injury, to function properly and the resulting freedom to live our lives doing the things we love to do. When you become a client of Movement Training Co you get the best of both his practices. Chris is a Licensed Massage Therapist, a Movement Specialist, a Personal Trainer and an adventurer who understands the passion for the outdoors.

Some of our vendors were celebrities here in Teller County such as, Karen Anderson, also known as, "The Plant Lady." I was sincerely delighted to speak briefly



Hanna Pope, owner of Zyia Activewear will take the The coffee samples were time to learn your size and style preferences. amazing, as was the on-

to Karen and hope to learn more about the benefits of working with plants and highaltitude gardening, as well as learning about yoga poses to help gardeners avoid

Shining Mountain Golf course came with their chipping net and computer swing analysis system. As with all sports and fitness, finding instructors that teach proper form and technique is important to injury prevention. It was fun seeing Shining Mountain golf professionals, PGA PRO Jon Husby and Golf Instructor Guisseppi, in action, as they patiently taught younger golfers how to hold and swing the club. More advanced golfers stepped up to showcase their skill and some, to just have fun. I was reminded that whatever our activity of choice is or how advanced or novice we are, having a knowledgeable professional fine tune our movements can help us avoid overuse injuries and improve our game/s.

Owner and instructor of Kenpo Karate, Thom Seehafer is a promoter of all things fitness, safety and mental health. Under his instructions kids and adults will learn self-confidence, self-esteem, selfawareness, self-respect and self-defense. Thom is a huge advocate for helping our community in multiple ways

outside of his gym, as well. I was very excited to meet Dana Richardson of Dana's Dance. Not only does she teach all styles of children's dance, she instills a love of dance while teaching manners and respect. I saw a few adult classes on her schedule, as

A nice little gem, Tree of Life Wellness, offers Massage Therapy, Healy and Vibrational Sound Therapy. It is conveniently located in Woodland Park and offers online services as well.

The Ute Pass Social Club began over 40 years ago when line customer service. The Camacho family has traveled the world learning their trade. In addition to all that coffee deliciousness Model Citizen is also partnered with Victory Service Dogs. A portion of the proceeds goes to providing service dogs to veterans when you purchase from the Vets Helping Vets collection. Hanna Pope, owner of



Shining Mountain Golf course came with their chipping net and computer swing analysis system. Cover: Rachelle Bryant and her husband James represent Hempworx, which has an impeccable CBD

ves online and in person.

enthusiasts, Freedom Fit

joined our vendor list and

rocked the building with

energy and push-up contests.

Owner Hannah Haesler and

her rockstar list of trainers

personal trainer and co-

including, Jessie Huthmaker,

owner of Righteous Ground

Coffee Roastery. Don't let

these trainers' lovely smiles

deceive you, though. Jack

LaLanne would be honored

My vision of Fitness ON

The Mountain Health Well-

ness & Fitness Fair had amazing support

right out of the gate. By mid-October,

that vision began to unfold. I could not

have brought it to life it wasn't for Ra-

chel Buckley from Nature Mama Body

Care LLC, Rachelle Bryant, owner of

Hempworx, and the Hansens at Ship-

ping Plus. Rachel is the owner of Nature

her shop, above Shipping Plus. Rachel is

a cosmetic formulation specialist, Reiki

master, and herbalist, among many other

Peak Oils For Life, owner and educa-

tor, Leandra Jackson is passionate about

supplements, she's on a mission to share

wellness and nutrition. Leandra does

not just sell doTerra essential oils and

her knowledge and to personalize her

Owner and artist of Mae's Jewelry

Box, Marsha Rice, creates beautiful heal-

ing jewelry with crystals and stones. She

created a design specifically for Thom

Seehafer of Kenpo Karate WP. Thom

requested a piece that would represent

the phoenix, in honor of his non-profit

Anti-Bullying campaign Colorado Phoe-

nix Project. It was a very special moment

when Marsha presented Thom with his

customers' experience in wellness.

Mama Body Care and can be found in

to have them carry on his

For the hardcore fitness



Susan Griswold, Debbie Orlowski, and Teresa Koetter represented The Ute Pass Social Club.



Olla Terve Healing Arts owner and founder, Linda Kilpela creates Sacred Sound Spa experiences.



Karen Anderson, AKA "The Plant Lady". was there with service

a few friends would meet at local restaurants and diners. It's blossomed over the years to over 100 members and now has groups within the organization. Huge "shout out" to Yoga Instructor Debbie Orlowski, to Susan Griswold, and Teresa Koetter who organize the UPSC hikes.

One of the most visited vendors was Model Citizen Coffee. A veteran-owned company and Family-owned business with a mission "to inspire people to do good."

Zyia Activewear caught my interest as an expert at the nuances of running a business on social media, as well as, in person. If I have a question about a promotion or a piece I'm interested in, Hanna is quick to reply and does so with great patience. She took the time to learn my size, style preferences and sends me notices when an item pops up that I might like or if she suspects I ordered an item that might not fit me properly. I adore exceptional customer

Julie Bearden Massage and her plants and beadwork Body Work joined our vendor

list in the middle of relocating her established business from Monument to the Florissant/Guffev areas. We are so happy to have such a valuable resource in the Florissant area for those community members that just can't get to town as often as they like. Julie began her passion for her business while caring for her father in his later years.

True Self Blueprint - Olla Terve Healing Arts took the prize for most innovative a recipient of some of that passion and and appealing booth design. Owner and founder, Linda Kilpela creates Sacred Sound Spa experiences. Participants were drawn to her beach scene booth, complete with umbrella and anti-gravity chairs, were leisurely swept away by soothing audio via headphones. Linda helps her clients achieve stress free and pain free

Phoenix necklace. Rachelle Bryant is another lady on a mission to build people up in any way she can. Rachelle represents Hempworx. which has an impeccable product line, a progressive business model, and hefty compensation system. As a Hempworx Affiliate, Rachelle takes it to a higher level. She is relentless about making sure each customer has an epic experience, especially with the CBD line. Equally awesome is the fact that Rachelle and her husband James together own and operate six businesses. They are passionate for each one but the focus for all six businesses revolves around their story. their passion, their family and their love for educating others. I'm proud to be

For more info on all our vendors and our next Wellness Fair check out our website: utepasswellnessproviders.com or contact: Lori Martin at lorimartinfitness@icloud.com

grateful for our friendship

MÖVE, HEAL, LIVE ...LOCAL

Pikes Peak Historical Society presents Craig Karlin at February Chautauqua

by Marianne Mogon

Pikes Peak Historical Society is happy to announce their upcoming Chautauqua, February 19 at 2 p.m. at Lake George Charter School. The speaker will be Craig Karlin of Lake George and he will be sharing the history of Lake George and his business, Granite Canyon General Store.

On December 3, 1922, the Frost Mansion, built around 1897 by George W. Frost, considered the founder of Lake George, burned to the ground. The mansion was located just a few feet behind where Granite Canyon General Store sits today and is outlined by 12 large white flags.

In March of 2020, Craig and Lisa Karlin purchased Starky's General Store in Lake George, promptly naming it Granite Canyon General Store and changed the dynamics of the store to reflect the area in pictures, working with local artists to display their art to the benefit of both locals and tourists alike.

They chose the name Granite Canyon

General Store to pay tribute to the historical name of Eleven Mile Canyon. The building itself has an unique history that spans nearly a century. The cabin they live in behind the store also has its own historical significance that the Karlin's are currently researching. Some have thought it was moved to Lake George from Howbert before it was flooded to establish Eleven Mile Reservoir; some have thought that it was moved from Lidderdale, once located in Eleven Mile Canyon. However, the Karlin's have learned from previous owners that the cabin was once one of the two saloons located at the entrance to the Canyon. There were two saloons in Lake George and the other was moved to become Lake George School and later moved again to the South Park Museum in Fairplay.

The Karlin's admiration of the history and the development of the area has led them to research and obtain information about their building and the role it has played in

the evolution and history of Lake George. They became particularly excited when they discovered foundation stones, melted pieces of stained glass, and bricks from the chimney of the mansion buried behind the store. Knowing what a significant landmark the mansion once was, the Karlin's are looking into the possibility of rebuilding the mansion to create a museum dedicated to Lake George, the Midland Railroad, ice mining, and long-lost communities like Idlewild. Granite Canyon General Store is located

on the corner of Highway 24 and County Road 96 in Lake George at the turnoff to Eleven Mile Canyon. Craig Karlin will be sharing what he has learned about Lake George and his historic store and property at PPHS' February 19 Chautauqua. The Chautauqua's are presented to the public free of charge as a public service of the



PPHS invites everyone to learn more about the history of Lake George, George Frost's Mansion, and the 85-year-old building that houses Granite Canyon General Store on Sunday, February 19 at 2 p.m. at the Lake George Charter School, 38874 US Hwy 24, Lake George, CO. The school is located only 4 minutes from Florissant, on the south side of Highway 24 just two tenths' miles west of the Ferrell Propane lot. This program is free and no reservation is required. For more information call 719-748-8259 or 719-748-3861

Adopt Me by TCRAS

Helios

Hello, my name is Helios! I'm only 2 ½ years old and I've been neutered. I've been through quite a lot in my young life but I'm living for all the love I get here at the shelter. As much as I love my friends here, I mostly want a home of my own. I would prefer a home without other feline friends so I can be king of the castle. I always greet you with a chirp and lots of head butts! If you think I'm the one for you, please call TCRAS 719-686-7707 to set up an appointment to meet me!

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

Adopt Me by SLV

Naya

Naya is a 6 ½-year-old, sweet as sweet can be Cane Corso. She is very mellow, doesn't bark much, and walks well on a leash. Nava loves to ride in a vehicle! She is good with older children; she might knock a younger one over. Naya is spayed and current on all vaccinations. She had cherry eye surgery on both eyes. Naya is a bit overweight;

she would need a ramp to get into your vehicle or a boost from behind. We hold adoption fairs 11-3:30 p.m. First Saturday of each month at 5020 N. Nevada Petco; all other Saturdays 7680 N. Academy PetSmart.

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

We Now Have A Large Format Printer!

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- Tri-fold Brochures & Flyers
- Spiral-Bound Booklets & Calendars
- POA & HOA Newsletters (with/without mailing)
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~OUT AND ABOUT~

AVAILABLE VIRTUALLY

and NAMI Southeast Colorado will offer a free Family-to-Family Class on Saturdays beginning Feb. 4. The 8-week class will be offered both in-person and virtually. Pre-registration is required. To register and for more information, email scrump1999@gmail.com

 NAMI Colorado: http://www. namicolorado.org/ Suicide prevention: https://

suicidepreventionlifeline.org/ or 1-800-273-8255 **CAÑON CITY**

LIBRARY 1 FREE Legal Self-Help Clinic 2-5 p.m. at the library call 719-

269-9020 for appointment. **8, 22** Roxanne Schuster from Natural Grocers presents on brain health at 11 a.m. She orings samples and coupons **9** Becky Stone performs at 6 p.m. in a chautaugua style performance for black his-

tory month. This program is held at Steeple Event Center. 701 Macon Ave at 6 p.m. • Adult literacy program. We

have tutors available to help • B.O.O.K. Babies on our Knees Monday 10:30 a.m.

• Break out box 2nd Friday each month 3-4 p.m.
• Chess Club Wednesday 2 p.m.

• Cribbage Club Fridays 10 a.m. All ages welcome!

 Filler Friday (different activity) each month) 3rd Friday each month 3-4 p.m. • Fremont Brain Injury Support

1st Tuesday 12:30 p.m. Lego Club 1st Friday each

month 3-4 p.m. Metaphysical Group every Saturday 10:30 a.m.

• New Neighbors Genealogy 1st Friday 1 p.m. • Story Swap Book Club 1st and

3rd Tuesday 3-4 p m · Story time and craft Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 a.m.

 February is Black History Month! All programs are located at 516 Macon Ave, un less otherwise noted above FMI 719-269-9020.

COLORADO SPRINGS

PIKES PEAK CENTER 21 Our Planet Live in Concert

CRIPPLE CREEK

meets the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at 400

by Amber King and Martin Grego

ORE Electric Cooperative (CORE),

the largest electric distribution cooper-

ative in Colorado, and Invenergy, the lead-

ing privately-held developer, owner and

operator of sustainable energy solutions,

announced a new wholesale power sup-

ply partnership on January 24, 2023. The

partnership will provide CORE with over

1.2 terawatt-hours of renewable energy per

storage, backed up by over 300 MW of ex-

isting reliable natural gas resources starting

for CORE's future as the cleanest, most re-

liable, most affordable electric company in

Colorado and signal CORE's transforma-

tion to a fully independent electric utility

Invenergy brings extensive experience

building flexible, sustainable energy solu-

tions as one of the largest developers of

clean and renewable energy projects in the

world and has successfully developed seven

projects currently in operation in Colorado.

The power agreements cover a 20-year term

with control of its power supply future.

year, which includes approximately 400

megawatts (MW) of new solar and wind

in 2026. These agreements pave the way

energy projects and 100 MW of battery

Carr St., Food and refresh

• GED Class 1-3 p.m. Mondays & Wednesdays, New students (minimum age 16) may join GED classes after completing orientation and \$40 registration fee. FMI

ASPEN MINE CENTER 25 Commodities distribution 9-1 p.m.

Katy@cpteller.org.

• Tuesdays BINGO 10:30 a.m. • Wednesdays Luncheon 11:30-

1 p.m. upstairs dining room, every Wed, FREE! • Thursdays Mexican Train 10 a.m. for seniors. FMI 719-689-3584 x124.

BUTTE THEATER 10-11 Butte-i-ful Love Stories 2023. FMI https://butteth-

18-19 Ice Fest Feud shows at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets \$10 Save the Date! March 4, for Pearl's Follies. See more in our March issue.

CRYSTOLA

DIVIDE 3, 17 Teller Senior Coalition is sponsoring BINGO, coffee and donuts for seniors 10 a.m. at the Pikes Peak Com-

11 Veterans' Appreciation Luncheon noon at Little Chapel of the Hills. See

12 Valentine's Day event 9-1 a.m. at Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center 4729 Twin Rocks Road. \$40 ages 12+ \$20 ages 8-11. Reservations required 719-687-9742.

LITTLE CHAPEL FOOD PANTRY

13, 27 This is a drive-up distribution, and to make sure to avoid traffic issues our distribution times are: Last name beginning with: A-H3:30-4:30 p.m.

....5:30-6:30 p.m.

FAIRPLAY

14 Salado restaurant on Front Street will have live music 5-7 p.m., featuring harpist Mary anne Rozzi, also food and drink specials. Reservations recommended 719-836-7031.

FLORENCE

Leading Energy Transformation

2 American Legion Post 171 **1, 8, 15, 22** Open mic Night at the Bell Tower 6:30 p.m. 1-12 Counting Kisses Contest at

ments at 5 p.m. 18-26 Ice Festival FMI 719-**3, 10, 17, 24** Trivia with Hat at

11 Florence 2nd Saturday Art Walk 1-4 p.m. Local artists showcase their work and techniques in various businesses. 11 Weaving demonstration by the Handweavers Guild of

Pueblo 2-5 p.m. at Antique Warehouse 124 East Main St. 11 Art opening at FloCo Gallery 5-7:30 p.m. February featured artist is Linda Stratton. Free

Florence Brewing Company

admission. All ages welcome. 11 John Hawtree at FloCo Gallery 6-7 p.m. Free admission All ages welcome.

11 Doc & Kit, Smythe & Taylor at the Rialto Theater 7 p.m. 18 Manitou Strings at the Bell

Tower 7 p.m. Tickets \$8 members, \$10 non-members. 26 Adam Ashley's "Johnny Cash Birthday Celebration" concert at the Rialto Theater 7 p.m.

The Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center continues to sell Dennis Lancaster's book Florence 1870s-1970s for \$24. The book and our winter hours can be found on our website: www. in the General Store link.

FLORISSANT

GRANGE 8 Gourd Class 10-12 p.m. Cost is donation and \$10 for supplies. 10 Art/Craft classes staggered on the same day:

• Pine Needle Basket Class 9-12 p.m. Cost is donation.
• Needle Felting Class 11-1 p.m. Cost is donation and \$10 for

• Paint with me class 1-3 p.m. Cost is \$35 for supplies. Please RSVP so we have enough supplies 719-510-

11 Valentine Brunch 10-1 p.m. We hope to see you all there! FMI 719-510-2325. 14, 28 Quilt of Valor Guild

meets 9-12 p.m. All quilters interested in joining us are Every Thursday Potluck and

Music 6-8 p.m. Everyone is welcome, bring a dish and a donation. Dancing is encouraged.

LIBRARY

between Invenergy and CORE.

Combined with CORE's existing gen-

erating assets, these new agreements will

supply the bulk of CORE's wholesale en-

ergy needs. With this partnership, CORE

will advance its objective of reducing car-

bon emissions by 80% by 2030 and create

more flexibility to implement additional

battery storage and other technologies in

the future. It will also secure dispatchable

resources to ensure service reliability. The

portfolio will stabilize CORE's costs to

Colorado for years to come.

elected Board of Directors.

CORE.coop/transform

keen members' rates among the lowest in

"After months of thorough analysis and

diligent planning, we're excited to announce

Colorado's premier energy provider," shared

The selection followed a competitive

evaluation of service provider proposals

and was approved by CORE's member-

For more information, visit www.

CORE's future in delivering our members

affordable, reliable and clean power as

Tim White, CORE's Board President.

8 Florissant Bookworms Book Club 10:30-12 p.m. February selection is West with Giraffe by Lynda Rutledge 9 Free Legal Clinic 2-5 p.m. at

Florissant Library. Call 719-748-3939 to sign-up.

17 Friends at the Table Cook-

book Club, theme is Cajun 11:30-1 p.m. 21 Read Amok Book Club, themed

"Self-Published" 11-12:30 p.m.

Check out these activities going on right here in this area. If you know of an activity we should include, please call us at 719-686-7587 or email us at utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com.

Come relax with us!
• Thursdays Yarnia! 10-12 p.m. Up Movie Club. Be a critic

• Tuesdays Tai Chi 10-11 a.m.

with us 1-2:30 p.m. Second & Fourth Tuesday Hooks and Needles10-12 p.m • Third Wednesday Crafting Together, a club where we finish abandoned projects 10-11:30 a.m.

• Fourth Saturday Adult Social Circle 10-11:30 a.m. Meet and make friends with ease Fridays Storytime with Ms.

Beth 10 a.m. • Family Fun Fridays 2-4 p.m., the second and third Friday FMI 719-748-3939.

GUFFEY

7 Walking, Talking Threads 12:30-3 p.m. Meets every first Tuesday of the month Take a nice brisk walk around Guffey Town and meet back at the library to

crochet, knit and talk away 11 Valentine's Day Tea Party 12-3 p.m. Friends of the Guffey Library are holding a Tea Party at the Guffey Library. Come by to socialize and have some tea with a mmunity of friends.

22 Rocky Mountain Rural Health Outreach 11-2 p.m. Weather permitting, RMRH representatives will be offering FREE health screening, sound finan-cial medical advice, FREE clothing and much more.

27 Guffey Literary Society 1-3 p.m. February's book is Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys. The Guffey Literary Society is a wonderfully dynamic and diverse group. All are welcome to join FMI 719-689-9280 or Guffeylib@parkco.us.

HARTSEL

11 The Hartsel Community

Library is hosting a Valentine's Dinner 5:30 p.m. at the Hartsel Fire Station. Cost is \$12.50 adults, \$7 kids ages 3-10, kids 2 and under free! RSVP to hartsellibrary@gmail.com or

text 303-420-5782 Country Church of Hartsel meets at the Hartsel Community Center 80 Valley View Drive 10 a.m. Sundays. Everyone is welcome! FMI call Jimmy Anderson 719-358-1100.

LAKE GEORGE

19 PPHS sponsors Craig Karlin's presentation of the History of Lake George and the Granite Canyon General Store at Lake George Charter School at 2 p.m. See page 13.

MANITOU SPRINGS

17 CarniBall with a theme of Manitou Time Machine 6-10 p.m. at Briarhurst Manor. Tickets \$50, purchase online manitousprings.org.

18 Mumbo Jumbo Gumbo

Cookoff 11-1 p.m. at Soda Springs Park. Register to cook at manitousprings.org Come for tasting at 11 a.m. at \$0.75 per taste and vote for your favorite Gumbo. 18 Carnivale Parade 1 p.m. Theme

WOODLAND **PARK**

is Manitou Time Machine.

Register to participate in the

parade manitousprings.org.

Winter Party and Membership Drive 5 p.m. at Ute Pass Cultural Center, All member and non-members welcome Let's hang out, have a good time and welcome all new members RSVP by Feb 9 by texting 719-920-7413 or email WPashley3@gmail.com.

ers present A Very Windy Concert 3 p.m. at High View Baptist Church. (Please see our ad on this page.)

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP 7-28 Cooking Matters Parents of Pre-schoolers, Tuesdays (no class Feb 21). Parents and kids will learn important lessons about self-sufficiency in the kitchen. This hands-on workshop provides take-home groceries after each class, to practice the recipes at home.

FMI Michelle@cpteller.org. 10 Crossroads Co-Parenting Seminar 9:30-1:30 p.m. Teller County court-approved parenting & divorce class. \$35 pre-registration fee required FMI Michelle@cpteller.org.

Meal and childcare provided.

13 School Readiness Screenings 9-3 p.m. Developmental screenings and assessments. includes motor, cognitive, language and social-emotional screenings; hearing screening; and school readiness assessment for children ages 1 month-5.5 years. Walk-ins welcome. FMI Jackie@cpteller.org.

14 Circle of Parents Kinship Connection 5:30-7:30 p.m. A place for those raising their randchildren or kin, to share laugh, joke and find out how other caregivers are navigating this new world. Meal and childcare provided. Second Tuesday of each month. FMI

Michelle@cpteller.org. 14 Circle of Fathers 5:30-7:30 p.m. Join a father-led group where your opinions, ideas, and point of view are heard. Meal and childcare provided. Second Tuesday of each month. FMI Steve@cpteller.org.

23 Screnagers: The Next Chapter 5:30-7:30 p.m. Join Community Partnership and Woodland Park School District for the

continued on next page

UTE PASS Chamber Players



PRESENT

A VERY WINDY CONCERT

Music of Donizetti, David, Telemann, Shinohara and more!

FEATURING:

GUY DUTRA-SILVEIRA, Oboe NANCY ANDREW, Flute **BRUCE GIBBONS, Piano DINA HOLLINGSWORTH, Flute CARLA PARMENTIER, Piano** CLARK WILSON, Bassoon BARB RILEY-CUNNINGHAM, Piano

Sunday, February 19, 2023, 3:00 PM

High View Baptist Church 1151 Rampart Range Road in Woodland Park

ADMISSION: \$15, \$5 for students with valid school ID

Bad Weather back up date: February 26, 2023 (Please check utepasschamberplayers.org for updated information) **Affiliate Member**



~OUT AND ABOUT~

continued from page 14

viewing of the film. Snacks and drinks provided FMI Michelle@cpteller.org.

27-22 Nurturing Families 5:15-7:45 p.m. Mondays (no class March 27). A nurturing and active approach to parenting in a supportive peer environment. Support for every step of your child's physical, emotional, and cognitive development. Meal and childcare provided. FMI Michelle@cpteller.org Career Center 12-4 p.m.

Tuesdays & Thursdays Pikes Peak Workforce Center can help with job searching, resume assistance and unemployment applications Walk-ins welcome. FMI Erin@cpteller.org.
• FREE Yoga with Leah Mondays (no yoga Feb 20) 10-11

doors lock at 10 a.m. Bring your own mat and props All levels welcome. FMI Michelle@cpteller.org FREE Yoga with Leah

a.m. First come, first served

Wednesdays (no yoga Feb 22) 5-6 p.m. First come, first

served, doors lock at 5 p.m. Bring your own mat and props. All levels welcome FMI Michelle@cpteller.org.

 GED Class 5-7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. New students (minimum age 16) may join GED classes after completing orientation and \$40 registration fee. FMI

Katy@cpteller.org.
• Pearson VUE Testing Center Mondays (closed Feb 20) 10-7 p.m. Schedule vour certification or licensure exam at www.pearsonvue.com. Fees vary. FMI Katy@cpteller.org. Playgroup 9:30-11 a.m. Tues-

days, Wednesdays & Fridays Parents and caregivers with children ages 5 & under. Older siblings are welcome FMI Jackie@cpteller.org. All programs at Commun Partnership 701 Gold Hill Place unless otherwise noted. FMI 719-686-0705.

LIBRARY

1, 15 Family Art Day 11-5 p.m. in Children's Activity Room 1, 15 Teen Craft Day 3:45-5:30 1 Evening Adult Fiction Book Club 5 p.m., book Shutter by Ramona Emerson

7 WP Book Club 10:30 a.m. book *Breathe* by Joyce Carol 9 Reader's Circle Book Club

10:30 a.m., book Four Winds by Kristin Hannah 9 Free Legal Clinic 2-5 p.m. at Florissant Library. Call 719-748-3939 to sign-up.

10 Giant Winter Book Sale 2-6 p.m. Grab a bag for \$5! 11 Giant Winter Book Sale 10-2 p.m. Grab a bag for \$5!

18 Open Book Club 10-11:30 a.m. ages 12-112, come to read award winners across all genres! Book, Fire Keeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley. 22 Film Club 5-6 p.m. We're

watching and discussing The Night of the Hunter (1955). Tuesdays Books and Babies

10 a.m. Storytime for babies and toddlers · Thursdays Preschool Storytime 10 a.m.

Trucks

• Thursdays Tai Chi 5 p.m. Fridays Tai Chi 10 a.m.

Mueller State Park

Winter is beautiful in the Colorado mountains! Mueller State Park is open every day for visitors year round. Guided hikes and programs are a great way to get out and experience nature! Visitors are welcome to explore on their own as well, many come out to snowshoe, ski and sled. Hiking is available year round too. Feel the brisk air on your face, enjoy the bright snow and blue sky and watch for signs of wildlife.

Winter weather is in full swing and can be quite variable. Snow can make the trails snowy, icy, or dry. Remember to dress in layers, bring water and a snack. Snowshoes or spikes are often recommended for hiking. Please access your local weather resources or call the Visitor Center between 9-4 p.m. for current conditions 719-687-2366.

4 Nature Crafts meet 2 p.m. Visitor Center 11 Rock Canyon* Hike or Snowshoe 9 a.m. 18 Hike: Stoner Mill 9 a.m. meet at Preachers Hollow TH

19 Hike: Elk Meadow* 9 a.m. **26** Hike: School Pond and Stoner Mill 9 a.m. meet at Preachers Hollow TH

*Indicates to meet at the Trailhead (TH) of the same name.

• Sledding

Peak View and Preachers Hollow are the two best hills for sledding. You may feel free to call the Visitor Center for snow conditions

Cross Country Skiing

Skiers are welcome to ski anywhere but there are three groomed trails when the snow is sufficient: Conifer Ridge, Grouse Mountain Campground loops and Black Bear Trail. You may feel free to call the Visitor Center for snow conditions. Snowshoeing

Snowshoeing is welcome anywhere when the snow is deep enough. Deep snow tends to accumulate throughout the winter. While main trails often get packed down, deep snow usually can be found off the trails and further from the road.

Mueller events are free. However, a \$10day pass, a Keep Colorado Wild Pass, or an \$80-annual vehicle pass is required to enter the park. FMI 719-687-2366.

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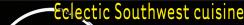
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