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November 2025

P.O. Box 753, Divide, CO 80814 • 719-686-7587 • utecountrynews.com

Vol. 17, No. 11

Welcome to Ute Country



**"I cannot endure to waste anything
so precious as autumnal sunshine by
staying in the house."**

— Nathaniel Hawthorne

PEEK INSIDE...



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Winter Deer



page 13

Melissa Bruce, Multi-medium artist



page 15

Rocks, cliffs, and triumph



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Jeff took our cover photo off Hwy 77 on our way back from Fairplay, last September 2024. It was the perfect opportunity as we saw the autumnal colors adorn the landscape. We felt the quote was a good fit. Colorado offers some of the best outdoor experiences due to the inherent beauty of the ever-changing landscape.

We have lots of interesting reading in our November issue. Outdoor enthusiasts will appreciate *Colorado Pharmgirl's* "Rocks, cliffs and triumph" although those who are prone to vertigo, "noodle" or "jelly" knees beware of the drop off! Get outdoors and honor our Veterans with the "VFW Post 11411" at Florissant Cemetery. Looking for a hike? Read what "Mueller State Park" has to offer because there is always something new. Thinking of going into the National Forest to find your Christmas Tree? Join the "Three-Day Tree Cutting After Party." "Gold Camp November Rocks!" is the best way to be informed of the holiday events happening in Teller County. Folks in Fremont County will enjoy both "A Florence Holly Jolly Christmas" and "Blue Spruce Arts & Antiques Holiday Show and Second Saturday." Don't forget to get out and VOTE! Teller County residents can learn more about Ballot Measures LL and MM — please choose to feed our future by feeding our children!

We know those of you with pets will be taking their holiday photos. Please consider sharing them with our readers in Critter Corner. They can be indoor or outdoor. If you would please send them via email to utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com, drop in to scan the photo at Shipping Plus or snail mail them to us at POB 753 Divide, CO 80814, we are happy to publish them!

Thank you,
—Kathy & Jeff Hansen

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

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Oyate Herbals

Growing high altitude plants and herbs in the fall

by Tammie Lowell, PhD, CMH, founder of Oyate Herbals



Han (Greetings!) Welcome to November takiyuha ('the moon when deer copulate') or waniyetu wi ('the winter moon'). It was known that when the deer lose their antlers and stop breeding it was time for the winter to come. The tribe prepared dried meat, berries, corn and whatever herbs and plants they had available to the area and put them underground for the long cold winter months.

This time is a transition for us all from the hectic harvest to preparing to hunker down and grow internally. Rutting deer means babies in spring, and we too, figure out what we will bring to the world when it warms up again. While family time can get hectic this time of year, remember to get some rest and introspection as Mother Nature covers herself and blows away what is not needed. We can learn a lot from Mother earth and the natural changes that happen. Winter is coming and it is time to go within just as the plants and trees do. It's a time to reflect on what we have learned during the summer and fall and allow it to become a part of who we are so we may blossom and grow with more knowledge and understanding in the spring.

We can learn a lot from Mother earth and the natural changes that happen.

In November, as the weather cools down and the growing season winds down, certain herbs and plants are particularly well-suited for high altitude mountain gardens. Here are some popular herbs and plants that can thrive in these conditions:

- **Basil** (*Ocimum basilicum*) Grown in several varieties for the leaves with different flavors. Attractive to bees and butterflies. Plant seeds in well-drained, medium-rich soil. It likes sunny, sheltered spots. Space mature plants 12 inches apart. Plant in rich soil and clip to first pair of leaves from base. May be grown in containers inside and out.
- **Chervil** (*Anthriscus cerefolium*) Resembles a fine-leaved parsley and fennel combined. Leaves have a light licorice, peppery flavor. Plant seeds in shade or part shade. Avoid transplanting. Thin plants to 9 inches apart. May be grown in containers indoors or out.
- **Chives** (*Allium schoenoprasum*) Flowers in early summer. Like green onion, but milder and finer leaves. Plant bulbs or starter clumps in light, medium-rich soil in sunny places. Cut flower stalks to the ground after blooming. Thin clumps every third spring. Space mature plants 5 inches apart. Transfer some clumps to grow in containers indoors or out.
- **Dill** (*Anethum graveolens*) Feathery foliage, flower umbels. Grows 2-3 feet tall. Grown for both foliage and seed, although it may not have time to form seed at high altitude. Attractive to bees and butterflies. Plant seeds in medium-rich, sandy, well-drained soil in sun. It needs wind protection. Avoid transplanting. Thin seedlings to 12 inches apart. Stake when 18 inches tall. Do not plant near fennel or they may cross-pollinate. May self-seed.
- **Fennel** (*Foeniculum vulgare*) At high altitude grow it for the leaves with their slightly anise taste. Flowers appear toward fall. Attractive to bees and butterflies. Plant seed in well-drained soil in sunny spots. Thin seedlings 2 feet apart. It makes a good container plant indoors or out when kept trimmed to 12 inches.
- **Marjoram, sweet** (*Origanum majorana*) Treated as an annual since it is not hardy in our Zones 3-4. Small bush with white flowers. Gray-green leaves with slightly bitter undertone. Attractive to bees, butterflies, and birds. Plant in medium-rich soil. Requires shade until well started, then full sun. Space mature plants 8-10 inches apart. May be grown in containers and brought indoors to overwinter.
- **Mint** (*Mentha piperita*), **Lavender** (*La-*

vandula angustifolia) and native **Wild Bergamot** (*Monarda fistulosa*) are grown for their leaves and their refreshing odor, flavor and medicinal properties. Attractive to bees and butterflies. Deer avoid them. *Nepeta cataria* (catmint) is hardy as well. Plant seedlings in rich, moist soil to prevent invasiveness, do not allow it to go to seed. (Cut back plant severely as flowers begin to fade). It can be grown in containers indoors as well.

• **Oregano** (*Oreganum vulgare*) Flavor is like sweet marjoram, but stronger and more sage-like. Plant in light, well-drained soil in full sun. Shelter from cold winds. Space mature plants 12 inches apart. It can be grown in containers indoors or out if roots are given enough room. It is a great antiviral and anti-fungal.

• **Parsley** (*Petroselinum crispum*) Grown for finely curled, aromatic leaves. Attractive to bees and butterflies. Plant in medium-rich soil in sun or part shade. Seeds best started in cold frame or window box. Space mature plants 6-8 inches. Good in pots, indoors or out if roots are given enough room. Keep leaves producing by never allowing plants to flower.

• **Rosemary** (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) Treated as an annual since it is not hardy in our Zones 3-4. Pine-like bush in mint family. Pale blue flowers. Leaves have a spicy odor and warm, piney flavor. Attractive to bees and butterflies. Plant seedlings one each in containers using well-drained soil. Place in a sunny, sheltered spot. Bring inside in the winter and place in a bright sunny window.

• **Sage** (*Salvia officinalis*) Grown for leaves. Don't use Western U.S. varieties (*Artemisia* spp), as these taste like turpentine. Attractive to bees and butterflies. Plant small plants in well-drained soil in full sun. It can be grown in containers indoors or out in full sun. Can be brought inside as a houseplant in a sunny window for winter.

• **Summer savory** (*Satureja hortensis*) Bushy plant with long, narrow leaves and

weak, woody stems. Use only young leaves. Attractive to bees. Plant in medium-rich soil in sun. Thin seedlings 6 inches apart. It can be grown in containers indoors or out.

• **Tarragon** (*Artemisia dracunculoides*) Slender, dark green leaves with sweet anise scent. Considered essential in many French dishes. Plant in well-drained soil in full sun. Propagate by root divisions. Space mature plants 3 feet apart. Subdivide every three years. It can be grown in containers indoors or out if roots are given enough room. Does not like wet feet.

• **Thyme** (*Thymus vulgaris*) Small shrub with tiny, brownish-green leaves. The leaves have unexcelled aroma and flavor. Attractive to bees and butterflies. Plant small plants in well-drained soil in full sun. Clip back each spring. Space mature plants 10 inches apart. May be grown in containers indoors and out.

These herbs and plants are not only resilient but also add flavor to your dishes, can be used for traditional medicines and be a valuable addition to a high-altitude garden. It's important to choose the right varieties for your elevation and growing area and to provide the necessary care to ensure their success in these challenging conditions. They also transition well to winter greenhouse environments and thrive if properly cared for.

You can learn more about different herbs and plants if you follow Oyate Herbals on Facebook and Instagram. You can also subscribe to our email list on the website: oyateherbals.com. You will receive our newsletter that comes out once a month with valuable information, tips and tricks to assist you and learn why plant medicine is so important to help everyone live a healthier lifestyle.

Mitákayepi Anpétu wašté (Good day relatives)
Many Blessings and May you walk in balance on your path.

You may contact Tammie at Oyate Herbals LLC, 719-661-0410.

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No Kings!

by Kathy Hansen

The Fairplay Democrats have been hosting No Kings Peaceful Protests since at least April of 2025. Even though we are non-affiliated voters, we find ALL are welcomed as long as we remain peaceful. The Fairplay Police have told us they will support our Constitutional Right to Free Speech and peaceful protests. Each protest that we have attended has gained in the number of protestors attending. We counted 150 on October 18, 2025.

We also counted the number of honks of support, thumbs up and waves of approval, the total was at 210 as we were disbanding. We also counted the number of thumbs down or disparaging remarks, the total was 7. We had one call out “losers” and we were grateful to live in a country where we still have

freedom of speech! We do not have to agree with the comment, yet we support their right to speak it.

Statistics have shown that when 3.5% of the population protests, the lawmakers begin to take notice. According to www.statista.com, the number of registered voters in the 2024 election was 173.85 million. Doing the math, 3.5% of 173.85 million is 6,084,750 million. Across the United States the numbers attending No Kings on October 18, 2025, was calculated at 8.2 million, which means statistically speaking the lawmakers are taking notice.

To learn more about No Kings peaceful protests, please google. No information on a future event was available before we went to press.

Wildfire Robotics and NoFloCo Named finalists in the Fire Grand Challenge

by Toni Moore

The North Florissant, Colorado Fire Mitigation Posse (NoFloCo) and Wildfire Robotics have been announced as finalists in the Fire Grand Challenge, a global innovation competition organized by Conservation X Labs to reimagine how communities live with fire. The partnership's project combines advanced robotics, field data, and local fire mitigation expertise to support proactive fire mitigation activities and reactive wildfire suppression efforts.

The Fire Grand Challenge brings together leading researchers, engineers, and community organizations working to reduce the catastrophic impacts of wildfires. NoFloCo and Wildfire Robotics' entry focuses on developing modular, AI-assisted robotic units designed to perform precision fuel break maintenance in wildland-urban interface (WUI) zones. These units complement forest health professionals by improving efficiency and safety during wildfires and mitigation projects.

“Our collaboration shows what's possible

when innovation meets community action,” said Toni Moore, Co-Founder of NoFloCo. “Wildfire risk can't be solved by technology alone — it takes people, partnerships, and practical tools that work for real communities.”

The partnership highlights a powerful new model for wildland resilience: merging technological ingenuity with grassroots experience. Wildfire Robotics contributes engineering and autonomous systems expertise, while NoFloCo — an award-winning mitigation network based in Teller County — provides operational insight and testing in Colorado's high-risk fire corridors.

Building on their success in the Fire Grand Challenge, Wildfire Robotics and NoFloCo plan to continue refining the platform and sharing their findings through open-source frameworks. Their shared goal is to empower other rural and volunteer organizations to access scalable, data-driven solutions for fire adaptation and community protection.



VFW Post #11411

by Jana Bartlett

Florissant-Lake George Veteran of Foreign Wars Post #11411 and its Auxiliary will conduct its Honor Guard Ceremony for Veteran's Day at the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery located at 634 County Road 421 (Upper Twin Rocks Road) at 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend the ceremony. Please come to the ceremony to pay tribute to our local Veterans. FMI Post Commander Randy Ford 719-510-9392.

Adopt Us

by TCRAS

Alaska

Hi there, friends! My name is Alaska. I am a 4-year-old, spayed Husky mix. I love all my friends here at the shelter, but I'd love to be in a home! I am a little cautious about meeting new people, but if you have cookies for me, I can be bought! I've been working on my training here. I am learning to walk nicely on a leash, I take treats nicely, and I like kids! A big yard would be fun for me to run around in. I love doing zoomies with my people! My main goal is to be queen of the household, and I need to be the only female dog in the home to be happy. Hopefully, with lots of training, I will one day be able to make doggy friends.

If you're interested in meeting me, please give TCRAS a call at 719-686-7707 to schedule an appointment!

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



SNAP Benefits for November 2025 are on HOLD

by Colorado Department of Human Services

The federal government shutdown mean the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will not send states the money for November SNAP benefits. We cannot put the money on your EBT card until this changes. This is a change impacting all SNAP households and cannot be appealed.

If you need more food resources during the government shutdown, we encourage you to reach out to your local food banks or community agencies in your area.

To find these resources:

- Colorado 211 or 866-760-6489 or www.211colorado.org

- Feeding Colorado Resources www.feeding-colorado.org/find-food or info@feeding-colorado.org.

When the shutdown ends, we'll know more about the future of SNAP benefits.

More up-to-date information can be found on the CDHS website: cdhs.colorado.gov/snap

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Teller County residents can find food at:

CRIPPLE CREEK

- Aspen Mine Center 166 E. Bennett Ave, Cripple Creek. 719-689-3584. Mon-Fri 10-3 p.m.



A Florence Holly Jolly Christmas

by Flip Boettcher

This year Florence will celebrate the holiday season with a Holly Jolly Christmas starting the Saturday after Thanksgiving and every Saturday until December 20 from 11-3 p.m., sponsored by the Florence Chamber of Commerce.

The event will start off November 29 with a parade for families, floats, bands and more plus the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus.

December 6 will feature a family fun walk/run, Christmas costume contest, a snowball (Styrofoam) fight after the walk/run and a family dance at the Rialto Theater.

December 13 will be Christmas crafts, letters to Santa, and Fundue Fondue in local shops for the second Saturday celebration.

December 20 there will be the Elk's Lodge Santa party, the Pioneer Museum model train exhibit, Jingle Bell Jam, and caroling.

Every Saturday Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at Winter wonderland with hot chocolate and cookies. The Winter wonderland will also feature a Memorial tree, Veteran's tree, Giving tree, DAR tree, a Fremont County Archive tree, a Pioneer Museum tree and more. There will also be a contest for best Christmas decor for business and residential participants.

Come on down to Florence for a free family fun fest and join the Florence Chamber of Commerce, City of Florence, Florence Merchants, local businesses, non-profits and citizens celebrating a Holly Jolly Christmas.

FMI: fcocofficemanager@gmail.com, 303-880-8146or www.finditinflorence.com.



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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- Little Chapel Food Pantry 69 CR 5 Divide. 719-322-7612 2nd & 4th Mon 2-5 p.m.

- Pet Food Pantry 69 CR 5, Divide. 719-244-3969. 2nd & 4th Mon 2-5 p.m.

- Teller Senior Coalition 11115 US Hwy 24 Unit 2D, Divide. 719-687-3330. Mon-Thurs 9-3 p.m. and Fri 9-1 p.m.

GREEN MOUNTAIN FALLS

- Wildwood Food Pantry at Church in the Wildwood 10585 Ute Pass Ave Green Mountain Falls. 719-684-9427. 2nd & 4th Tues 1:30-3 p.m.

WOODLAND PARK

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- Community Partnership 701 Gold Hill Place Woodland Park (Mon-Thurs 9-4 p.m.) 719-686-0705.

- Mountain View United Methodist Church 1101 Rampart Range Rd. 719-687-3868. 1st & 3rd Wed, healthy meal.

- St. Martin Food Pantry at Our Lady of the Woods Catholic Parish 116 S West St. 719-687-9345. 1st & 3rd Sunday 10:30-noon.

WEB CONNECTION

- Lasagna Love. Need a hand with feeding your kiddos? Your neighbors want to help! Request a free lasagna delivery www.lasagnalove.org/request-a-meal.



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Applications can be accessed online or at your Teller County DHS office at Tamarac Business Center in Woodland Park or Aspen Mine Center in Cripple Creek.



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Big Sky Ranch Bed and Biscuit Missing Dachshund

by Kendra Lee Hall

It was shaping up to be a beautiful morning at Big Sky Ranch Bed and Biscuit. The sun was just starting to illuminate the snowy mountains, and they glowed a soft pink. Frost sparkled in a kaleidoscope of color on the deck railing outside the window. Inside the cozy main room, the dogs were beginning to stir. Some stretched with their backs arched like cats, while others rolled over with soft grunts. Dog tags jingled gently as tails began to wag, and paws shuffled on the floor. Lindsey moved through the room like she did every morning, greeting her dog guests. “Good morning, Lucy, good morning Snoopy, and yes, you too, handsome Aspen,” she said to the huskies who shared one large pen for sleeping at night.

“Morning, Winston,” she said with a smile, giving his golden head a pat. She moved from pen to pen, receiving tail wags and nuzzles in return. Big dogs, little dogs, fluffy heads, curly tails — she greeted every dog. Everything seemed in order — until she realized one pup was missing.

Otis. Otis, the tiny reddish-brown Dachshund with the attitude of a Great Dane, was nowhere to be seen. Lindsey’s heart did a little lurch.

“Oh no,” she whispered. Her eyes darted around the room.

“Otis?” she called, her voice rising just slightly.

She scanned the room again, her eyes darting from pen to pen, from the water bowls to the cozy nooks where the smaller dogs liked to curl up. But Otis was definitely missing.

“Otis?” she called again, trying to keep her growing worry out of her voice.

No response.

The other dogs watched curiously as she searched. Sensing something was up, they all stood up and watched her, their tails wagging with curiosity. Boone, the Terrier mix, let out a helpful woof. Oscar, the German Shepherd, gave an encouraging Awooo, short and to the point.

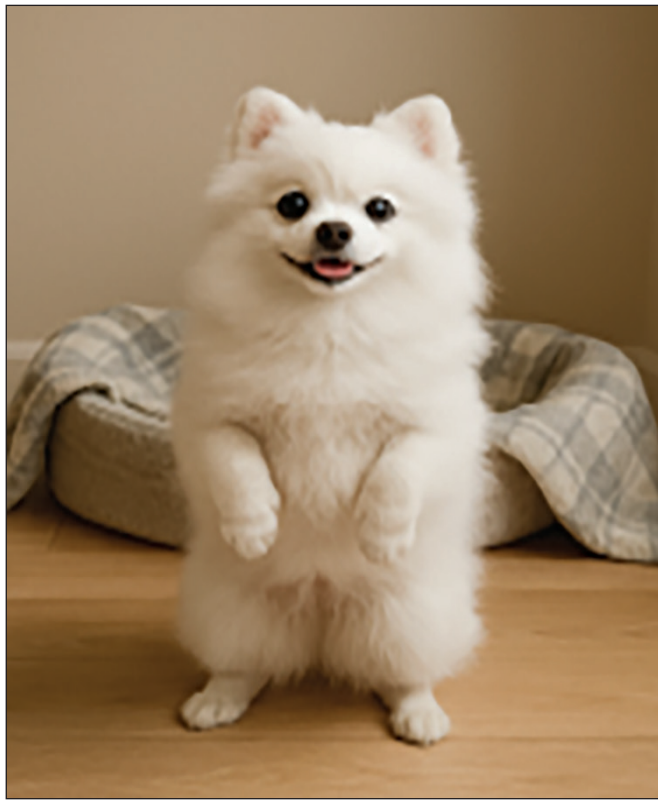
Snowflake, the energetic Pomeranian, stood up on her two back feet and spun in a circle, which was her usual reaction when she got

excited.

Lindsey searched everywhere, even opening cabinets (because, hey, stranger things had happened), and checked behind the log pile by the wood stove, stacked high for cold winter nights.

Nothing. No sign of the little guy.

She was so sure she had counted all eight dogs after bringing them in from their last break outside last night. She was diligent about always doing a head count and making sure every dog was accounted for. The Bed and Biscuit had a large whiteboard hung in the room to keep track of the number of dogs in-house. It was continually updated so that the caretaker on duty had a quick reference. They always knew, at a glance, how many dogs were in-house at any given time.



Snowflake stands on her back feet and spins in a circle when excited.



Otis is found!

throughout the day.

She counted eight dogs last night before turning in herself. She remembered now. She had given Otis a belly rub before bedtime. So he must have gotten away, somehow.

Fearing the worst, she headed for the door to check outside when she heard it. A muffled, contented sigh came from Otis’ pen. She hurried over, her heart skipping, and peered inside. It looked empty — just a soft heap of blankets on the plush dog bed. She reached in and gently pressed her hand into the blanket mound. It was warm, and there was definitely something there other than blankets and a dog bed.

Then it moved.

She carefully peeled back the layers, and there, buried beneath them, was the little Dachshund. He blinked up at her sleepily, let out a long, dramatic yawn, and stretched his stubby legs.

“Otis, oh my gosh, you scared me to death!” Lindsey gasped with a laugh of pure relief.

She knelt down and gave him a big hug. He leaned into her and then gave her a lick on the nose.

From across the room, Winston barked happily. Snowflake jumped up and down, yipping with joy. Crisis averted! Otis had been found.

From that day forward, Lindsey made a new rule: Before panicking, always check under the blankets.

This was especially important on busy days, when there were several check-ins and check-outs, and the number of dogs changed often

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Winter Deer

by Steven Wade Veatch



*They move so slightly
you might miss*

the calm in their silence—

*browsing bitterbrush,
noses dusted with snow.*

*Each breath a small hope
rising into silence.*

*No shelter, no promise—
just the soft surrender
to winter’s stillness.*

What the “LL” and “MM”?

by Kathy Hansen

The Teller County ballot is very short. You may vote for school board and there are Ballot Measures, LL and MM. This will discuss the Ballot Measures.

From the ballot, “A “yes/for” vote on any ballot question is a vote in favor of changing current law or existing circumstances, and a “no/against” vote on any ballot question is a vote against changing current law or existing circumstances.”

LL does not raise taxes on anyone. It allows the state to keep and spend (revenue already earned) to pay for funding healthy school meals for all students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

MM would only raise taxes on those whose federal taxable income is \$300,000 or more, and it would be done by limiting the state deduction. It would fund breakfast and lunch for all students in kindergarten through 12th grade and increase the wages for employees who prepare and serve school meals, helping schools use basic, nutritious ingredients, instead of processed products. This also ensures that Colorado grown and raised products are part of the school meal.

It seems that the entire community benefits from healthy children as opposed to being burdened by children challenged with physical or mental disabilities due to lack of nutrition in their developmental years.

It seems that Colorado farmers and ranchers will benefit from the ability to sell their harvests to the state for school lunches.

It seems that the cafeteria workers, who earn an average of \$15/hour (per ZipRecruiter), would benefit from earning a higher wage.

Back in 2012, Feeding America reported that 20-25% of Teller County residents are food insecure. This year Teller County Commissioner Dan Williams reported that 30% of Teller County residents are food insecure.

Here’s a really simple question: Do you believe it is important to FEED OUR CHILDREN? If you answered “yes” please vote for both LL and MM.

If you answered “no” then there are literally grave concerns. It seems to me that a GREAT country cares for ALL of its people. The most basic need beyond oxygen and water is food.

Here’s another question: To whom would you share how proud you were of voting AGAINST feeding children? Can you sleep with yourself or look yourself in the mirror knowing a choice you made at the ballot box caused a child to go hungry, to become physically or mentally disabled, or worst case scenario — could you live with yourself if you knew your vote caused someone to die the painful death of starvation?

Please vote “YES” on both LL and MM. Those who run our future depend on it!

Adopt Me Winter

by SLV Animal Welfare Society



This is 3-month-old Winter, who is part Husky and perhaps long-haired German Shepherd. There are 4 other females and 3 males who appear similar to her and also need homes. Winter will be 50-60 pounds as an adult. She is spayed, current on all vaccines and microchipped. Still with her mom and littermates. They all love to play and cuddle. Check out our website to see where our next adoption fair is held or to reach us: <https://www.slvaws.org/>.

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

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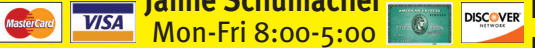
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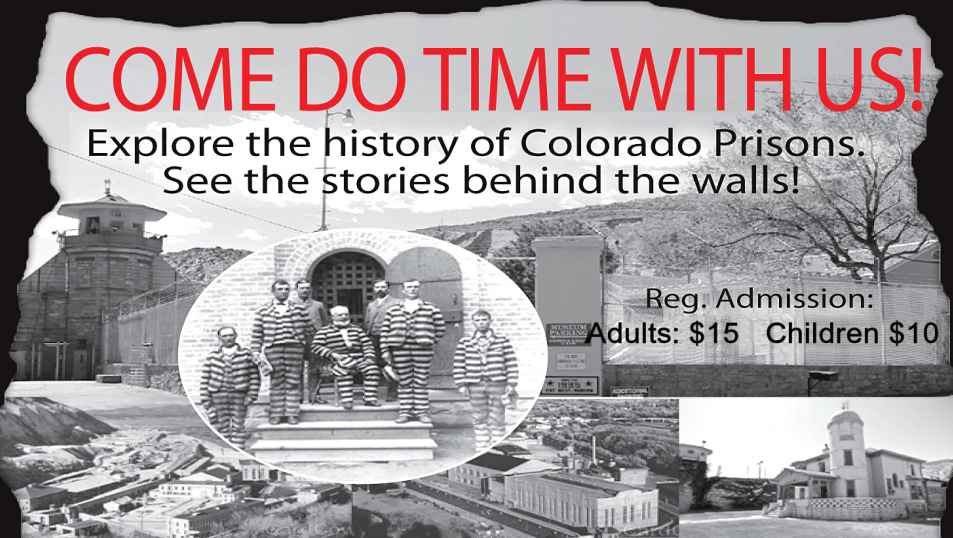
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Blue Spruce Art and Antiques Holiday Show and Second Saturday in Florence

The Blue Spruce Gallery annual "Holiday Marketplace" has a wide variety of hand-crafted gift items from 30 talented artists. There is beautiful jewelry by Harold Taylor, carved and turned wood items by Jim Red Hawk and Vicki Portice, and unique pottery from Nancy Soderstrom and Amy Burnham. Tammy Van Ulzen will have Christmas cards available, and Julie Burnham's metal sculptures and ornaments are always a great find. Jan Lata offers beautiful watercolors, tea towels, and purses, and Rose Starling has a wide variety of painted items, from ornaments to pieces of furniture. There will be new silk scarves, cross-body bags, and pillows from Pat Wiles, and locally made soaps for those special people on your gift list. Gloria Jean Countryman features her pillows and her wall art of collage squares. Cat

Roberts has created necklaces with vintage buttons and jewelry. Joan Sindler's beautiful woven scarves are perfect gifts, and Diane DeDuca has a new selection of alpaca hats, socks, and scarves. Of course there are always paintings, ceramics, and vintage Native American jewelry items for you to browse. So many gift items for you to choose from!! Support your local artists and find holiday treasures.

On Second Saturday, November 8th, the Blue Spruce gallery will have refreshments 2-4 p.m. The holiday market at the Blue Spruce will be open through December, the perfect place for your fun holiday shopping.

Blue Spruce Gallery is located at 205 West Main Street in Florence. Call 784-1339 for more information.

Criminal Justice, Tina Peters and Protecting our State Rights

by Michael Dougherty

The horrific assassination of Charlie Kirk has left our country reeling. A suspect was arrested, and the next question is whether he will be prosecuted federally or by the State of Utah. This decision must be based on the best application of the law, not political motivations. The separation of federal and state powers has never been more important. At a time when volatile political rhetoric and unacceptable political violence are increasing, the non-partisan integrity of the criminal justice system is essential.

The perfect example of these principles is the Tina Peters case. Peters, a Republican, was the Mesa County Clerk and responsible for the integrity of elections. In 2021, she let an unauthorized person copy data from the county's vote-counting equipment. Passwords and files from the voting machines were posted online and shared with political groups claiming the 2020 presidential election was stolen.

When these events were discovered, Mesa County District Attorney Dan Rubinstein, also a Republican, immediately initiated a criminal investigation. The case was complex and had statewide ramifications, so DA Rubinstein reached out to Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser — a Democrat — for assistance.

The DA-AG team presented the case to a Mesa County Grand Jury. This fact is important because, under the law, the prosecutors could have filed charges against Peters directly in court. Instead, they chose to present the evidence to citizens of Mesa County — an overwhelmingly Republican community — to decide if there were grounds to proceed with charges. The Grand Jury indicted her, charging Peters with conspiracy, identity theft and other violations of state laws.

In 2024, the case went to trial in a state court. Although others may seek credit for the prosecution of Tina Peters, DA Rubinstein and two Assistant Attorney Generals, on behalf of their offices, tried the case together. Experience matters, especially when it comes to handling serious cases. I have worked with each of these three attorneys for over 15 years and know them to be outstanding prosecutors of the highest integrity.

Despite repeated threats and protests, these exemplary public servants prosecuted the case without fear or favor. Their actions — based on the rule of law, not partisan politics — should be an example nationwide. A Republican and Democrat came together at a time when justice required it.

A Mesa County trial jury convicted Peters



Michael Dougherty

of felony and misdemeanor crimes. The state court judge sentenced Peters to state prison.

President Trump has threatened the State of Colorado with "harsh measures" if Peters is not immediately released from prison. Read that again.

When we were growing up, these were words you would hear about a faraway nation that let political cronies escape the rule of law, instead of facing the consequences the justice system deemed appropriate.

We cannot let our justice system be corrupted by political influence. The federal government cannot infringe upon the right to prosecute state-level cases, whether for a murder or the public corruption of Tina Peters.

Let me be clear — this principle is true whether we are talking about President Biden, President Trump, or any other leader. The fact that a president enjoys a political alliance with a particular individual does not mean the federal government gets to subvert the justice system of a state. The ongoing efforts of the federal government to help Tina Peters are unprecedented and a threat to the rule of law and states' rights.

In this time of hyper-politicization, the united efforts to secure justice in the Peters case should be celebrated, not attacked by the federal government for political purposes. As with the Charlie Kirk case, doing the right thing means upholding the rule of law, fighting for justice, and respecting state's rights to enforce their laws.

Michael Dougherty is the District Attorney for the 20th Judicial District (Boulder County). He has been a prosecutor for 28 years, in New York City and Colorado.



People See, People Do You can Kindle Kindness, too!

by Readers of Ute Country News

This is a column dedicated to acts of kindness. Therefore, no names are included in order to keep the focus on the behavior. We welcome your stories of kindness you experienced or witnessed! Please email them to utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com or stop in at Shipping Plus to tell us about it or mail it to Ute Country News POB 753 Divide, CO 80814.

• He was looking at greeting cards. Before we knew it, he was holding the door open! Quick-thinking acts of kindness are always appreciated!

• She had just experienced a troubling situation. Certainly, we can help with the task at hand. Once we had things all wrapped up, I could see she was tearing up, just like I do once the situation is over. I offered a hug; she accepted. An act of kindness like offering a hug can sometimes make it easier to let go of the unpleasant experience as you soak in the better experience.

• An overheard conversation... "I told him here is why you need to fund this organization. We teach them communication skills, how to organize their project and critical

thinking skills. We know that the kids who have come through (organization name) become successful adults. They learn to think critically and that is crucial to navigating life. This is an investment in our future!" Supporting organizations that nurture and teach our children important skills is an act of kindness for the FUTURE of our community!

• A gentleman ordered a meal program and soon after learned of a family member being admitted to hospice. He called to tell us what was happening and said we should eat the food in the box. Whenever we get such a windfall, we feel it is important to share with others we know. Turns out, the first person we shared with also shares our philosophy and knows of a few others in need. That box fed at least 3 families. Feeding people is an act of kindness!

• You know, there are some people who you can just predict are ALWAYS aware of others and make themselves available to help. Sure enough, when the gentleman with the walker approached, I knew this Veteran would immediately rush to open the door

for the gentleman with the walker (opened it for his exit, as well). No surprise that both were Veterans because their service stems from their hearts.

• There was a fire. It will take time to repair all the damage before the business can open again. How neighborly and kind that another business owner offered freezer space for that which could be frozen.

• Time and time again, I see Veterans reaching to open a door for someone coming or going. It seems their service is endless.

• The gift of plant-based pain relievers and rose water facial mist were greatly appreciated. It was the heartfelt message in the card that truly made my heart sing. Notes of appreciation are acts of kindness and so are thoughtful gifts of plant-based pain relievers.

• An apology offered, an apology accepted, and apology reciprocated. Burying the hatchet and moving on is an act of kindness of the healing variety. Yay!

• She was at a restaurant and overheard another woman thank them for their service, so she motioned the server over, to ask the server if she could pay for the meal that our Veteran's ate. Providing food is an act of kindness.

• She told me she has attended many protests. The one that stood out most was in a small town with 1 spotlight, which was where they gathered. As cars came by, their signs went up along with waves and sometimes the heart sign. The light turned red. She made eye contact with a male passenger, who quickly averted his eyes. When he looked at her again, she gave him the heart sign and mouthed the words, "I love you." He again averted his eyes. One last time he looked at her, she again gave the heart sign and mouthed the words, "I love you." Next to her was an elderly blind man in a wheelchair with his wife beside him. He said to his wife, "What just happened? I felt the entire air around me change." She told him of the heart sign and "I love you" being mouthed to the passenger. Telling someone you love them is perhaps the most powerful act of kindness.

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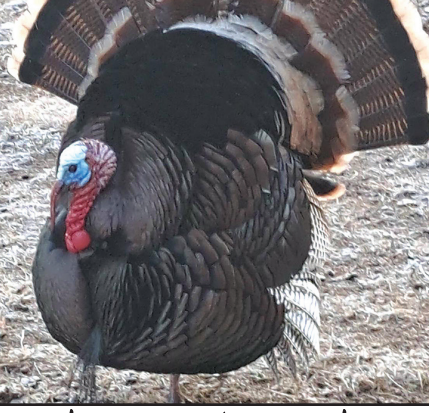
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The Cabin in the Woods - part III

by Gilrund the Historian

Anthony held the old map in his hands as he rode on the back of Goldwing, his dragon friend. They were following the directions of the map to find more treasure for the dragon's hoard.

According to the map, there should be an island far off in the Northern Sea that held a pirate's collection of treasure that he had taken from the many ships he had robbed.

For hours, they flew in search of that one island that the map told them was made up of one tall mountain with only two trees near the top. The rest was covered with tall grass and a few bushes. The treasure would be hidden between the two trees.

Goldwing flew higher and higher so that he could see farther and even farther with his Dragon Vision.

"I have found it, my friend," said the dragon as he started down in a shallow dive toward the sea.

Soon Anthony saw the island too and the two trees on the top of the mountain.

"Fly to the trees. The treasure should be between them," said Anthony.

Soon they landed just in front of the trees on the only flat spot that could be seen on the mountain.

Anthony was soon looking down at the dirt that was the only ground that could be seen on the mountain. All the rest of the mountain was covered with tall grass.

Goldwing was soon digging into the earth with his strong claws, and it wasn't long before he pulled out a small chest. He laid it on the ground in front of Anthony, then continued digging.

Anthony found there wasn't a lock on this chest, so he opened it. There inside was just what they were looking for, the gold and silver coins shining in the sun.

Goldwing stopped digging for a moment to look at the treasure, then started digging again, even more vigorously.

It wasn't long before the dragon pulled out of the hole another larger chest which he placed in front of Anthony. Then it was back to digging and pulling out chests, then trunks and large canvas sacks.

Soon, Anthony was surrounded by the treasure that the dragon had dug up.

Goldwing had dug so much that he was now down inside the hole and could hardly be seen. He stopped at last.

The dragon climbed out of the hole and looked over the top of the mound of treasure chests at Anthony as he said, "I'm tired and hungry. I'm going fishing."

The dragon flew off over the ocean waters and was soon diving into the sea and catching fish and eating them.

Anthony sat on one of the treasure trunks and ate the lunch that he had brought in a cloth sack and drank from a leather water-skin as he watched his dragon friend feed on the fish.

After a while Goldwing flew back to the island and landed next to Anthony. "There is no more treasure in between the trees. I have dug down beyond the roots of the trees and found no more.

"Now comes the hard part, taking all of this back to our cave. It will take a long time. I can only take two or three trunks or chests at a time. They are heavy with gold and silver."

"Perhaps some of the other dragons could carry some of them for you," suggested Anthony.

"Then I would have to give up some of my treasure in payment to them," answered the dragon, "No, it will take time and a great deal of effort, but I will do it myself. I must increase my hoard. After we rest, we will start with the larger trunks."

Back and forth, back and forth, Goldwing flew for four days carrying the treasure to his cave. Anthony didn't go with him after the first flight. Anthony spent most of his time sorting out the treasure and making the dragon's bed bigger and thicker.

Goldwing loved his bed!

Anthony also shared the treasure when he went into the village. He bought new shoes and some new clothes. Also, he would go to the tavern looking for old sailors that might have a map they might want to sell.

There were times that he would buy one, but just like the Dragon Riders, most of the time the treasure was long gone or never had been there. There were always adventures to be had, but that is another story.

You must be wondering what happened to the three boys that started this whole adventure. Well, after they had brought their father Seth, the King of Zorr, to see the burned remains of the old cabin, they went back home to their castle to tell their mother Queen Kara of their adventure and to show her the wonderful swords that Finn had rescued from the burning cabin.

As the boys, Ronan, Loic and Finn handled and sometimes played with their swords, they found that they seemed to have magical properties.

They found, mostly by accident, that Ronan's sword would light up if the boys went into a dark place. Loic's sword appeared to have the ability to heal wounds. That was found when Finn accidentally cut Loic's foot as he lowered his blade and struck Loic's left foot. The wound wasn't bad, but it did bleed some until Loic touched his foot with his blade. Suddenly, the wound was gone. The boys stood and stared at the healed foot and the wonderful sword that Loic held in his hand.

"I don't believe it, do it again," demanded Loic. So, Finn stuck Loic's other foot with his sword blade. After Loic stopped shouting, "Not so hard!" and dancing around on his other foot, he touched the wound with his sword blade and the wound went away, no more blood, no more pain.

After the boys calmed down from watching such a magical thing happen, Finn grinned and started chasing Loic around the room pretending he was going to stick Loic's foot again, as Loic cried out, "Stop it, stop it! It works, it works. I believe it works!"

Finn stopped chasing his brother as the three boys laughed and laughed.

But what they wanted to know now was what could Finn's sword do that was magical? They went into a dark room, but it didn't light up like Ronan's sword. They knew that it wouldn't heal because it caused the wounds, not healed them.

The boys sat on some chairs talking and wondering what Finn's sword might be able to do when their father the King came into the room and asked them if they had seen his favorite goblet? He had used it during dinner for an emissary from another kingdom the night before and now he couldn't find it, "I've looked everywhere that I was last night and it's not anywhere."

Finn's sword started to vibrate in his hand and the point raised up to point toward the door of the room.

The boys knew right away what was happening, they followed Finn as he held his sword up and walked toward the door. Father followed, wondering what Finn was doing.

They left the practice room and walked down the hallway, up the stairs to the Banquet Room and inside the room. Finn stopped as the sword made him turn a little to the left and pointed at a beautifully upholstered chair that was against the wall under a large tapestry.

Finn walked to the chair, then the sword pointed behind the chair. Loic pulled the chair out a little and then reached behind it onto the floor. He raised up with the goblet in his hand as he grinned at his father.

The king walked over and took the goblet from Loic's hand with a question on his royal face as he looked at his three sons.

"Our swords are magical, father," said Ronan as all three boys raised their swords so their father could see them. Ronan went on, "Mine will light up a dark room, Loic's

sword will heal a wound. Now we know that Finn's sword will help you find things. Isn't it wonderful?"

Seth smiled and then started to laugh and laugh as did his sons. Finally, he said, "Only in the Kingdom of Zorr could such a thing happen. These are the swords that you found in the old cabin that burned down, are they not?"

The boys all agreed that they were the swords that Finn had taken out of the burning cabin.

"They shall all have a special place in this kingdom's history," pronounced the King, "I just know it."

He was right. It was three days later, during a heavy thunderstorm, that the guard was discovered lying unconscious in the hallway that led to the queen's sewing room. It was then noticed that the queen was missing, a ransom note was found pinned on her chair with her favorite sewing needle.

The demand was for more than half of what was in the kingdom treasury or the queen's body would be found in the Caves of Despair.

Seth, the king, was frantic as he talked to the guards about how to rescue the queen. The three brothers were listening at the throne room door as the conversation continued on and on.

Ronan motioned for his brothers to follow him back to their rooms.

"They're never going to get mother back if they don't stop talking and do something!" he exclaimed.

"I say we go get her ourselves," returned Finn.

"I agree!" said Loic, "We have magic swords. We can do it!"

"Where are the Caves of Despair anyway?" asked Ronan.

"My sword will lead us there," said Finn. "My sword will light up the caves," added Ronan.

"I will fight until the kidnappers will need the healing of my sword," growled Loic.

The boys ordered lunches brought to them in canvas sacks and they changed clothes into hunting garments. Then slipped out of the castle that night.

Finn held his sword in front of them as the sword led them through the back streets of the Crystal City, then out the west end into the hills that contained the Caves of Despair.

It was a difficult journey for the boys, for they had never gone by themselves so far. They had always had servants to do the work for them. But now they had to follow the trail led by Finn's sword in the dark. They couldn't use Ronan's sword to give them light, or they would be caught and sent back to the castle to wait on the adults to do all the work of finding mother.

The rising sun found the boys sleeping under some trees and they awoke only because a frisky squirrel had dropped some nut shells on their heads.

They were wet and hungry as they ate some of the food that had been prepared for them. Then Finn pulled out his sword and they continued to follow it to the Caves of Despair.

By noon as they climbed over the top of a hill, they saw what appeared to be three caves at the bottom of the next hill that was much higher than the one they were on. In front of the middle cave was a man sitting drinking something and holding an old, rusted sword across his legs.

"I think we have found where they have taken mother," whispered Loic, "Why else would they have a guard in front of that cave?"

"What do we do now?" asked Finn.

Ronan thought for a moment then said, "I think that we must draw that man away from the cave so that we can get inside to find mother."

Finn smiled as he said, "I'll do it."

Finn slipped away from his brothers and running from bush to tree to bush, came close to the guard. As Ronan and Loic watched, Finn made the bush shake, then looked over the bush and the guard saw him.

"Hey!" shouted the guard as he rose to his feet and started after Finn. Finn was fast on his feet and turned to run, drawing the guard away from the mouth of the cave.

Ronan and Loic quickly ran around the other side of the hill

they were watching from and quickly entered the cave.

Another of the kidnappers had heard the guard shout. He was running toward the entrance of the cave as Ronan and Loic ran into the cave.

They ran into each other, and the kidnaper was impaled on Ronan's sword. He fell to the ground dead.

Ronan stared in disbelief at the dead man.

"Good job," smiled Loic as they stood side by side looking at the body.

"Come on," said Loic as Ronan recovered his sword and it lit up the tunnel. The two boys continued down the tunnel watching for where their mother might be kept captive. The tunnel turned right into an open cavern that was lit up by several burning torches stuck into the soft earth. There sitting on an old dead tree stump was their mother, tied and gagged. Next to her was another of the kidnappers holding a knife to her neck.

The kidnaper grinned as he looked down the tunnel behind the two boys. Then he laughed, "Well, well. What have we here? Two children that have come to rescue mommy?"

He kidnaper threw back his head and laughed and laughed, but only for a moment. Then the laughing stopped, and the evil man looked at them with a surprised look on his face as he slumped over to the ground to laugh no more.

Loic walked over to the dead man and said, "My sword won't heal that wound." As he pulled his sword out of the body. Loic had thrown his sword at the man as he laughed at them for coming to free their mother.

Mother Kana looked at her boys and smiled as Ronan cut the ropes that bound her, then she pulled the cloth from around her mouth, "Thank you, boys. Where is your father?"

"We don't know mother," answered Ronan, "Come, we must find Finn."

Kana and the boys started out of the cavern and stopped when they heard footsteps coming down toward them. Ronan and Loic raised their swords as they stepped in front of their mother. The light from Ronan's sword showed who it was that approached them, it was Finn, and he was carrying his sword flat on his shoulder.

"Oh, good you found her," he said as he waved at his mother.

"What happened to the guard?" asked Ronan.

"Oh, well, he found out that he can't swim when he tried to follow me as I ran by a pool. Actually, he slipped and fell in as we ran by it. So, I came back to see how you were doing. I see that you got Mom, so let's go home, I'm hungry."

Mother just stared at her boys and shook her head as they walked out of the cave and found their father and a dozen soldiers waiting for them.

"Hi Father!" cried Ronan, "Here's Mom. Can you give us a ride back home?"

The King just stared at his sons and then his wife the queen, who just stood there shaking her head to say, "I don't know, I just don't know."

The ride back to the castle took the rest of the day and dinner was waiting for them when they got there. The answering of questions over dinner took a whole lot longer. In fact, the questions were still coming for months after the Queen was rescued by her sons.

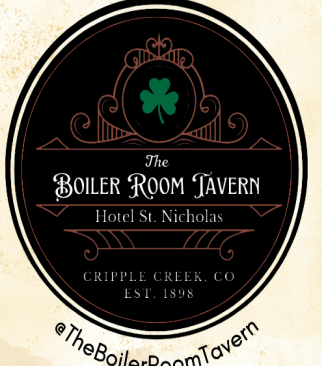
The Caves of Despair had an even more terrible reputation now, but curious people still went there to see where their queen had been held captive.

~ The End ~

Chuck Atkinson of Como, CO 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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Life-Enhancing Journeys

The true price of being nice

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

Meeting someone so nice is a pleasure. They listen attentively, frequently agree with me, and appear enthusiastic when I ask for favors. I feel fortunate to have met such a friendly and helpful person. However, I am suspicious of their agreeableness and question whether it is genuine. What is their real reason for being so nice? Are they possibly hoping for something in return someday? While their niceness might ease initial interactions, it can also lead to unhealthy habits. Sometimes, being too nice is not the best approach. This article explores how to communicate more clearly about what you truly want instead of just being overly nice.

Being excessively “nice” describes a pattern of behavior where people often put others’ desires and wants before their own, mainly because they fear confrontation, disapproval, or rejection.

The lessons we learn about caring for others as we grew up, stay with us and help shape who we are today. Did you believe that pleasing others was the best way to gain love? Are you still doing that, or are you now building more meaningful connections? When I worked on stopping my people-pleasing habits, I found it helpful to understand the difference between being nice and being kind. This realization helped me build stronger, more genuine relationships and stay true to myself. Being both nice and kind can lead to positive social interactions, even though they serve different purposes.

While writing this article, I recognized that being kind and acting nicely may seem alike, but their motivations differ significantly. One stems from fear: “I need to act nicely to reduce my anxiety about potential conflict or rejection.” The other originates from a conscious choice: “I decide to behave kindly because it aligns with my core values and sense of doing what is right.” Which of these influences your behavior?

I understand this pattern all too well. In the early years of my relationship with my husband, I often found myself automatically agreeing to whatever he asked without really thinking about the situation. Sometimes I would forget to follow through with what I agreed to, and my “yes” was more of a reflex than a genuine commitment. Looking back, I realize how this caused problems for us, leading to frustration, difficulty trusting me, and hurt feelings. My husband, being a kind and gentle person, would feel disappointed when I failed to follow through, and I would feel guilty and ashamed of my part in that. It was a tough time for both of us, but it also became a chance for growth.

Being “too nice” often means consistently putting others’ needs and wants before your own, usually out of fear of conflict or upsetting someone. Originally, ‘nice’ meant simple or timid, describing someone naïve. However, today, it primarily refers to someone polite and eager to please, sometimes only superficially. You might see yourself as nice but also realize you are giving too much or accepting too many requests, which can harm you. This can result in insincere actions aimed solely at pleasing others, inhibiting genuine connections. Instead of just being polite, it is preferable to be honest.

Nice is superficial, focusing on appearances

and maintaining peace, while true kindness originates from within and deepens through honesty and authenticity. The term “kindness” derives from “kin,” meaning “we are as one,” emphasizing connection. Although “nice” often describes surface-level manners related to how things sound, look, taste, or smell, kindness remains consistently genuine and considerate. Recognizing this difference can significantly change your approach to interactions.

Being excessively “nice” describes a pattern of behavior where people often put others’ desires and wants before their own, mainly because they fear confrontation, disapproval, or rejection.

Humans naturally need to bond with others. A long time ago, this need was built into the brains of early humans because being part of a group was essential for survival. Nowadays, our brains still have this primitive part that wants connection, but we also have a more advanced, modern part that encourages individuality. Sometimes, these two parts can seem to conflict. Understanding, accepting and managing these different parts of ourselves can often lead to a happier, more fulfilling life.

Kindness and niceness are usually perceived as positive social qualities. However, being too nice can cause problems in relationships because it might make you think that pleasing others is the key to being accepted and loved. Relying on others (external validation) for your value can harm relationships. How can you trust someone who seems polite on the surface but might be secretly unhappy or unfulfilled inside?

Realizing that always trying to please others can sometimes make you feel taken for granted, leaving you feeling resentful and hollow. When you look inward, do you feel empty? Speaking with words that sound nice but do not truly reflect your feelings indicates that you are being dishonest with yourself. It means you are pretending to be polite without truly being sincere. Whether it is accepting extra tasks from your boss, agreeing to favors you would rather decline, or saying yes to a last-minute project, it is essential to learn how to set boundaries (see articles on Boundaries, UCN July-Sept 2018). Doing this helps maintain a healthy balance and respect in your relationships.

Showing kindness does not mean agreeing to every request. It is okay to be friendly while standing strong and doing what you believe is right. Sometimes, you need to be firm instead of just nice, mainly to show that you refuse to be pushed around or taken advantage of.

When someone asks you to do something and you want to say, “I don’t want to,” it

offers a good opportunity to practice setting limits. Trust your gut, which is already saying “No.” If you are unsure how to say no, remember your instincts are guiding you. Respect your feelings and assertively say “No.” This supports your well-being and maintains your boundaries.

Do not worry about how they will feel about your answer. Their emotions are like yours; neither should fear the other’s feelings. Take a deep breath and remember your decision has already been made so honor yourself.

Here are several strategies to liberate yourself from a “too nice” mindset:

1. Prioritize your needs and focus on your desires. If you neglect yourself, you might depend on others to take care of you. This can harm your relationships by making you seem needy or manipulative, or by expecting something in return.
2. Invest in yourself by focusing on your needs rather than on trying to please everyone. Embrace your unique self and love who you are. Say “yes” when it feels right and “no” to what does not.
3. Remind yourself that you deserve love simply for being you. Accept and start appreciating yourself. The more you recognize your worth and act accordingly, the more confident and connected you will feel, rather than just being perceived as “too nice.”
4. The paradox is that when you stop worrying over how to make others value you, they are likely to begin appreciating you more than ever before.
5. Pay attention to your posture. Avoid looking down at your toes, which can make you seem weak or insecure. Instead, stand up straight, make eye contact, and hold your head high. This way, you appear confident without saying a word.
6. Pause and take a breath before speaking or acting. This helps you respond calmly instead of reacting impulsively.
7. Speak calmly and confidently with an assertive tone. Be gentle yet firm. Clearly state what you want, then pause and listen.
8. Allow yourself to say “no” when necessary but also learn to negotiate. Instead of saying “no,” try asking, “What if...?” or “How about if...?”

Here are phrases to help you communicate more effectively, beyond just being polite. Feel free to come up with your own ideas:

- Silence can be the perfect response, giving you 5-7 seconds of calm, letting their words truly sink in.
- Only apologize when necessary.
- Speak clearly and directly.
- Starting with “No” can simplify and speed up the conversation.
- Say “I want to be upfront and clear.”
- Acknowledge others with “I hear you.”
- Share your view by saying, “I value your

- opinion, yet I see things differently.”
- State “That doesn’t work for me.”
- If someone is disrespectful, you can say, “If you continue speaking to me that way, I will end the conversation.”
- Share your discomfort by saying, “That’s something I’m uncomfortable with.”
- Show acknowledgment with “I understand. That is good to know.”
- Politely decline with “No, I’d rather not.”

I recommend practicing your potential comebacks to boost your confidence. Rehearsing can help your brain stay calm and focused, especially during stressful moments.

Keep repeating your response if they continue bothering you or simply walk away. Only explain yourself if it concerns someone who is important to you. Otherwise, no explanation is needed. If someone asks, “Why can’t you?” (a rude question that is none of their business), you can choose to ignore it. Remember, being asked a question does not mean you are obligated to answer. You might say, “Not this time,” or “I’m focusing on my priorities right now, and I appreciate your understanding.” That is enough.

Avoid remarks like “Oh, I’m sorry. I really wish I could but...” or “You know, I’m just so busy and stressed right now,” because they can sound like excuses or apologies. Be honest instead of overly polite.

Stop trying to please everyone. Remember, you cannot make everyone happy. Prioritizing self-kindness probably will likely not lead to abandonment. Investing in yourself can be empowering, and saying “No” is essential. Caring for your needs increases happiness and lets you help others from a position of strength rather than out of neediness or manipulation. Your actions and words will be seen as acts of kindness. When you show unconditional compassion, it reflects your appreciation and respect for others. Being true to yourself makes it easier to support your well-being, beliefs, boundaries, and growth. Additionally, it can inspire others to follow your example.

You can remain kind and friendly while maintaining firmness. People value authenticity over superficial niceness. Use your words to make a positive impact. Remember, your voice has the power to inspire change, especially within (see October 2025 article “The Stories You Tell Yourself...”). Embrace this power and let it make a difference. It can be so liberating.

PS. Be cautious around people you perceive as having difficult personalities (narcissists or psychopaths) who may interpret your kindness as agreement or approval, possibly encouraging their self-important behavior. It is essential to be clear and firm with them. Make sure you know who you are dealing with. This topic will be discussed in a future article.

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 719-510-1268 (cell) or email Journeycounselingctr@gmail.com.



A Look Inside the Artist

Melissa Bruce, Multi-medium artist

by Mary Shell

It’s not often that I come across an artist who is comfortable creating in multiple mediums. Melissa is one of them. There is so much to consider when you use oils, acrylic and watercolors. As Melissa explained, each medium requires a different approach. That means before she begins, she decides which medium to use. It’s sort of like learning to use different musical instruments. The tools are different. The approach is different. Even the amount of pressure you put on the brush when painting is different. When you use these mediums, you become a scientist...what if I add this to that? Kudos to you Melissa for venturing out of the norm and taking risks.

How old were you when you first started painting?

I was in my teens when I advanced from charcoal and pastels to watercolor. My art journey began with private art lessons in childhood, arranged by my mother in the absence of art education in the public school where I grew up in Arkansas.

What’s your favorite medium?

My favorite medium is watercolor, though I also enjoy acrylic.

What is your favorite subject?

My favorite subject is landscapes, particularly fall and winter scenes.

Can you explain your process?

My process varies with each medium. For watercolor, I lightly sketch with pencil or watercolor pencil, then lay in the light value areas, beginning with the distant areas of the scene and move forward. It is important to consider the mid-ground in order to capture the depth of the painting. The darker values are added next, and the details are developed as the final stage. With acrylic, I do not sketch, but rather begin with an undercoat over the entire canvas, followed by building dark to light and adding details at the end.

Who inspires you to create?

I draw inspiration from fellow watercolor artists with whom I paint for 3-hour stints three mornings each month. It is a small group, gathered to work on our individual projects while providing feedback and encouragement to each other along the way. I also find it inspiring to meet the challenge posed by themes selected for the rotating exhibit of the Mountain Artists, shown on the first floor of the Woodland Park Library. Creating paintings to fit the theme of each rotation motivates me to create paintings I would not have thought to tackle otherwise. I grow as an artist through these experiences.

Who’s your favorite artist?

I have two favorite artists. John Singer Sargent, as I marvel at the contrasts in lighting he captures in his watercolors, and Anne Gordon, Signature Member of the New England Watercolor Society, for her mastery of watercolor, no matter the subject.

What is the most difficult painting you have created?

I believe it is the Loon at Twilight in Maine. That watercolor painting is based on a refer-



ence photograph I took on a moonlit evening when my husband and I were on an anniversary trip, vacationing in the north woods of Maine in Jackman on Big Wood Lake. Getting the twilight atmosphere and moonlight reflection in the water was a challenge that I have been unable to replicate.

Is there anything new in your future?

I have two relatively new future directions. One is painting with watercolor on gesso covered canvas. Eric Fetch in Colorado Springs has introduced me to this approach. Secondly, I recently explored painting en plein air. I look forward to expanding my abilities in that arena. I find it quite a challenge to coordinate the painting process outdoors. I find watercolor dries too quickly for me to manage it outdoors, so I have embarked on oil painting in that setting. With oils, I get almost as much paint on my person as on the canvas; it is a steep learning curve, but I haven’t given up yet.

What haven’t you tried that you would like to do in art?

I am interested in exploring fiber art. My initial step was to take a Quilting 101 class to learn the basics, with the intent of applying the process to creating fabric landscape wall hangings.

What is your favorite painting that you made?

A child riding away on a weathered tricy-

cle, that represents an adventure I took at two years of age. My destination was to join the children I saw playing on a curvy sidewalk about a mile down our street as my family drove past. I was almost there before my panicked family, in search, tracked me down. To my surprise, I was hugged, not paddled, when they found me.

What is it that you want people to see in your art?

I hope the viewer is able to relate to the painting; that they see something that speaks to them, resonates with them.

How do you choose your subjects?

I choose scenes that invite me in, that I can envision, or that I, or someone close to me, has experienced in the past. I like my paintings to hold some degree of meaning.

Do you create a story with your paintings?

Some of my paintings evolve from a story or experience. Others invite the viewer to imagine an experience.

Add anything that people would like to know about yourself.

I began college majoring in Art and English but came to the realization that supporting myself as an artist would be a precarious proposition. I discovered a passion for speech-language pathology and went on to pursue that career, ultimately directing uni-



versity clinical training programs at University of Vermont and University of Houston. In the later years of my university career, I found my way back to painting, sporadically taking watercolor classes when my schedule permitted. Since retiring after 37 years of clinic administration and moving to Woodland Park in 2020, I have been able to nurture my love of painting. I have taken classes locally from Frank Glass (acrylic), Michael Gault (oil) and Eric Fetch (watercolor). Now that I have the time and freedom to paint, I consider this my “encore career!” Readers who would like to view my portfolio can visit my website at melissabrucefineart.net.

Readers or artists (perhaps to be featured in this column) who wish to contact Mary Shell may do so via creatingfromthesoul@yahoo.com or https://maryshellart.com/.



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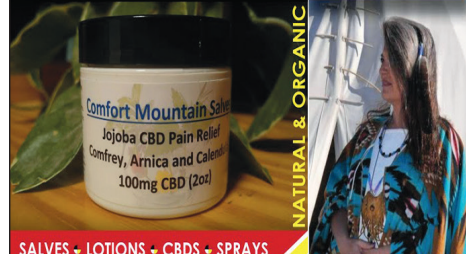
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Gold Camp November Rocks!

by Tracie Bennitt

Holiday events have been celebrated in the Historic Gold Camp since the 1890s. This year the activities will kick off with the theme selected by the Community of Caring Christmas Committee, “Gold Camp Country Christmas.”

Hotel St. Nicholas is holding an afternoon tea at the historic hotel on November 9. Located in the Parlor, you’ll be able to enjoy sweets, savories and finger sandwiches. Over 12 different kinds of teas are available. Sit in for a nice cup and tea and munchies from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Hotel St. Nicholas at 303 N. 3rd Ave. in Cripple Creek. November 10th they will celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday in the Boiler Room Tavern. More information will be available on their FaceBook and Instagram pages.

The first event of the year at Aspen Mine Center (AMC) is a fundraiser for the AMC Community of Caring Christmas events. Last year I had an opportunity to host a table at the Cup of Christmas Tea. An individual or group is able to host a table for six to eight guests. The host of the table invites friends and coworkers, decorates the table and brings the munchies for the table. My table was a Christmas Pickle! Everyone received a pickle tree decoration and got to munch on a variety of pickle hors d’oeuvres along with pickle cupcakes! Needless to say, my table was a hit. The event kicks off at 11:30 a.m. on November 15 at AMC East. Tickets are \$15 each or \$20 at the door. To host a table or buy a ticket, call 719-912-5021.



Gold Camp November Rocks — Pickle Tea Table.

November 24th you can bring in your decorated holiday wreaths and baskets and also decorate a holiday tree at the Aspen Mine Center for this annual fundraiser. This is an annual competition to crown the best of the best in the Gold Camp. A silent auction kicks off and runs through December 5th. All funds raised from the auction go to the AMC Community of Caring. Check on their Facebook page for entry applications.

On November 26 all are welcome to attend the annual Thanksgiving Dinner at AMC. This annual event helps build community, connections, support and services in the Gold



Gold Camp November Rocks - tea party table.

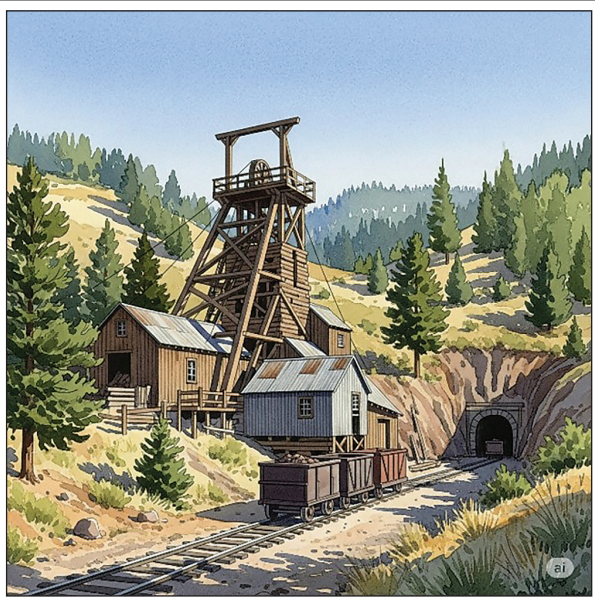
Camp. Volunteers can bring food including turkeys and sides and help serve or drive meals to locals who can’t make it to the event. The meal, which is really good each year that I’ve attended, has turkey, dressing, potatoes, pumpkin pie and more! Last year Ted Borden, Executive Director AMC, even provided me with my very own can of jellied cranberry sauce. My meal was perfect. Contact the folks at AMC to volunteer.

The Butte Theater kicks off their holiday show, Irving Berlin’s White Christmas, on November 28th and runs through December 28th. Based on the beloved movie of the same name, veterans Bob Wallace and Phil Davis have a successful song-and-dance act after World War II. With romance in mind, the two follow a duo of beautiful singing sisters enroute to their Christmas show at a Vermont lodge, which just happens to be owned by Bob and Phil’s former army commander. With a dazzling score featuring well-known standards including “Blue Skies,” “I Love a Piano,” “How Deep Is the Ocean” and the perennial title song, “White Christmas” is an uplifting, wholesome musical that will delight audiences of all ages. Tickets can be purchased at www.cityofcripplecreek.com/butte-theater.

Victor will celebrate Small Small Business Saturday on November 29 at the Vicci Center 201 S 2nd Street. Youth entrepreneurs can set up to sell their wares and learn what it takes to be in business. Contact 719-492-1770 for more details.

Also, on the 29th, the City of Cripple Creek is holding a Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration in Pocket Park located at 337 E. Bennett Ave. next to City Hall at 6 p.m. Plan on gathering with friends and neighbors to light the new community Christmas tree. Santa will visit. Festive drinks and S’mores will be available. Local carolers will share the holiday spirit with classic holiday melodies.

As you can see, there is a LOT of fun to be had in the Gold Camp this holiday season!



The Cripple Creek Gold Camp

by Steven Wade Veatch

*Come with me to the gold camp,
where headframes pierced the sky
and men chased glittering veins
underground with picks and shovels.*

*Dreams of riches brought my great-grandfather
from England to the Elkton mine.
He knew the darkness of tunnels,
the veins that flared like lightning through rock—
he knew this was where he belonged.*

*Below ground, bells clanged,
drills rattled, explosions shook the walls;
ore cars kept their iron rhythm,
a refrain that filled both day and night.*

*Trains hauled rock to the mills,
tailings piled in spreading mounds,
while molten gold was poured from ore.*

*Come with me to the gold camp—
its echoes still thread through my blood,
the dust, the rails, the rocks
name the place I belong.*



Colorado Pharmgirl Rocks, cliffs, and triumph

by Peggy Badgett

I saw a photo of the adventure years ago, on a Midwest friend’s refrigerator. Back then, I was in the middle of funding braces and car insurance for three teenagers. My bank accounts hovered near the brink of broke for many years. But the idea waited in the corner of my consciousness, waiting. Twenty-one years later, it was finally my turn. Alex’s friend Taylor, an experienced rock climber, agreed to guide me on the Telluride Via Ferrata to celebrate my 65th birthday.

I stayed with her family in their new house the night before, so we could get an early morning start. Nerves had me tossing and turning until the sun peeked through the windows, but a cup of coffee fortified me. After parking the car, Taylor and I hiked to the top of Bridal Veil Falls. Well, she hiked. I huffed and puffed and tried to keep up. It was beautiful, and steep.

When we reached the beginning of the course, we geared up. My fingers fumbled with my climbing harness; it had been a long time since I’d used it. After watching me struggle for a few minutes, Taylor helped me step into the assembly, snug the straps, and make sure everything was aligned correctly. It was vital for my safety, so I didn’t mind feeling like a five-year-old on the first day of kindergarten.

We reviewed the technique for using ferrata straps, which are specifically designed to carry sudden loads on traverses. They would save us from falling a thousand-feet if a foot slipped or we missed a handhold. I hoped. After tightening our helmet straps, we proceeded to the start of the course. A team of four women started ahead of us.

There was another group of at least 12 people with two guides behind us. No pressure at all. Even with gear and helmets, it was obvious who the oldest one was on the mountain. Me.

We gave the tour ahead of us a few minutes, then stepped onto the path. My heart hammered. What on earth was I thinking? I wasn’t a climber. Taylor turned back and gave me a grin, almost as if she knew I was ready to chicken out. I took a deep breath and focused on putting one foot in front of the other. I could do this after surviving labor three times without drugs. The trail was narrow with wicked-looking sheer drops onto sharp boulders below. After several glances, I decided it was probably best to not focus on that and kept a steady hand on the rock walls along my right side.

After a few minutes, I found my rhythm. Taylor and I continued our chat from the hike up, about life, relationships, and dogs. Always fun, and it distracted me from the certain death lurking beside me. For the first half mile of hiking, the large group was right behind us. Then they got stuck at a spot where a small jump was required to cross a gap; one of their members balked. I was glad they had graciously allowed us to go before them.

The smaller tour ahead faded in and out of our view as the trail snaked its way along the deepening canyon walls.

When we reached the first cabling spot, I shakily attached my carabiners and wondered how secure the bolts and rings were. Luckily, I didn’t have much time to dwell on potential disasters; Taylor had nimbly navigated the area and coached me across with foot and hand placement.

When I reached where she stood, we high-fived and I released the breath I’d been holding.

My confidence blossomed. We established new rhythms. Clip in with front lead, step, grip, unclip back lead and move to next position, clip in back, unclip front, step, grip. I was doing it! Then, just as we finished a segment that required a bit more daring, we met the group in front of us. They were taking a break in a large hammock mounted on the rock face, and their guide motioned us through. We scampered around the corner and saw that what lay before us was an entirely different class of challenge. Taylor and I looked at each other. I gulped loudly.

I mimicked her motions for 30 seconds. Then made the mistake of looking down when both my feet were squeezed onto one metal rung and I was reaching for the next hold. My body froze. The air whooshed out of my lungs. Panic whirled through my mind. I could see the headline: “Search and Rescue retrieves Hysterical Senior on Telluride Via Ferrata.” My children would roll their eyes and plan my move to assisted living. Slowly, I forced

my gaze back to the red rock wall. I brushed a finger against its comforting solid warmth and took a little breath. Taylor’s voice reached me; she had reached on a wide ledge. “You can do this,” she said, “Not much farther.” Gripping tightly with my front hand, I unclipped the back carabiner and connected it to the one by my shoulder. Then stretched my front leg until it reached the next bar, transferred weight, and did my best impression of a spider. Unclip, stretch, clip, step, reach, unclip, reach, step. Focused on the centuries-old granite in front of my nose. Didn’t look down again. After what felt like an hour, but was merely minutes, I reached the same ledge. “Whew!” I said and grinned at her lopsidedly.

We hugged, and I secretly hoped the most difficult was behind us because I wasn’t sure my courage would hold out much longer.

Several climbing moves were required on the next face where a shallow ravine yawned below. They weren’t impossible for a mom who had ignored upper body strengthening the last few years, but I vowed to start weight training again. Soon. After that section, we took a break, guzzled some water, and watched the small group cross the big wall. I felt better when sev-



Peggy conquers her fears!

eral in their group froze in the same area I had, but they made it through. The large group was nowhere in sight. We continued. The areas requiring clipping in and out decreased until the trail became walkable, and we reached the end. Adrenaline coursed through my body as we strolled down the rocky path to the car.

Taylor had helped me fulfill a long-standing dream and I was grateful to have shared the experience with her. This Medicare-card-carrying adventure mom isn’t ready for the retirement pasture yet!

Peggy Badgett is an artist and writer. She has several years’ worth of adventures you can read for free on her website pharmgirl.org, and can be reached at coloradopharmgirl@gmail.com Her book Rooster in the Drive-Through is available for sale at Shipping Plus in Divide.



Peggy on the Telluride Via Ferrata.



Taylor and Peggy happily survive.

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HAPPY Thanksgiving DAY

Pet Food Pantry Volunteers hope your day is filled with peace, love and joy!

The Pet Food Pantry Volunteers & our Mascots, Yete, Baylee and Daisy, want to Thank you for your donations!



Spread The Word!

Pet Food Distributions for November 2025

Monday November 10
Monday November 24
2 - 5 p.m.

at the Little Chapel of the Hills, Divide, CO.
Help us keep pets at home with their families!
www.PetFoodPantryTC.com

We continue to need your support.





Get on the Nice list...

Ship Your Packages Early!

Ship By Monday, December 15th To Have Them Delivered By Christmas!

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**Holiday Hours:
Mon-Fri 9-5:30pm, Sat, Dec 6 & 13 10-1pm
Closed Dec 24 - 28, and Dec 31-Jan 4**

If it Sounds Too Good to Be True, It Just May Be

by Tracie Bennitt

As someone who strives to live healthy and use supplements instead of drugs, it's frustrating to have someone in your circle have a condition that defies all treatments. Nothing you attempt has any effect and the pain rules.

Four years ago, John, my husband, fell and sustained a traumatic head injury. The resulting concussion left him with constant headaches, many days debilitating with him on the couch in immense pain. Cranial sacral treatments helped temporarily. Acupuncture and acupressure treatments relieved some severe pain. Massage was great, but the pain never went away. We were stuck and at a total loss as to what to do to help him.

A few months ago, Jenn Gibson FNP-C made a presentation at Teller Business Builders. She had started looking for a treatment for her nine year old daughter who had been diagnosed with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) and told she'd have difficulty walking and be in pain the rest of her life. This definitely was NOT the solution she was looking for.

Following extensive research, Jenn came across a treatment called Scrambler Therapy. It's an innovative, non-invasive non-pharmaceutical treatment that is effective in 80-90% of the people treated by reducing, and in many cases, eliminating the pain they're suffering from. FDA approved in 2009, Scrambler Therapy is supported with over a decade of independent clinical trials from places such as John Hopkins, Mayo Clinic and MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Using superficial electrodes attached to the skin sending "no pain" signals to the nervous system and brain, the treatment is effectively "scrambling" and replacing the previous pain signals. Many people respond to the treatment sessions with little to no pain following the session. Depending on the, in my opinion, stubbornness of your brain, following a few sessions, people can last for months or longer before needing a booster treatment or maybe be fine.

Jenn was so impressed with her findings

that she travelled to Italy to train under the instruction of the inventor of the program, Professor Marinco. With 12 years' experience as a nurse practitioner in emergency, internal and family medicine, she is the perfect provider for people with neurological pain. She was the perfect provider for John.

Following a call from a friend at her presentation, an appointment for John was scheduled and a miracle happened! Following the 45 minute session, John's pain level went down from a 9 to a 3!!! The first treatment lasted for about 48 hours, a LONG time for someone who has been in constant pain for the last four years. In the last two months, he has had 7 additional treatments, each one lasting longer. As Jenn explains, the treatments are retraining his brain.

John is one of those whose brain is having a harder time letting go of the conditioned pain. He has had a number of treatments over the last five months. The good thing is that the time between treatments is getting longer. His brain is slowly adjusting to the "NEW" and letting go of most of the old pain. It's definitely a journey, but for the first time in years, his pain has decreased and stayed decreased for a longer period of time following each treatment.

Jenn just added a new piece to her therapy inventory, MLS Laser Therapy. MLS Laser Therapy is an innovative, non-invasive, non-pharmaceutical treatment solution designed to reduce pain, inflammation, and swelling while promoting faster healing of injured tissues. John has begun these treatments. Our thinking was that the tension in his neck and shoulder areas, following years of intense pain, was adding to the return of his headaches. The MLS Therapy Laser uses concentrated light energy to stimulate the body's own healing process. Using specific wavelengths, the MLS Laser Therapy can speed up the process of relieving inflammation. For John, the treatment feels like he's had a massage in the neck and shoulder area. Having been his "home therapist" for 38 years, I can attest to the fact that his shoulder and neck areas are more relaxed.



Jenn at Peak Pain Relief can be reached at 719-204-5084.

Result? His headache has stayed down for a longer time. This therapy works for 85-90% of patients with musculoskeletal pain, inflammation or arthritis.

The most exciting thing about all of this is that Jenn has been able to help John with his chronic pain. Honestly, it felt like a miracle after the first treatment. I recommend anyone with pain issues to contact Jenn and let her see if she can help. Her website is www.peak-painrelief.com and you can text or call her at 719-204-5084.

Fall-tastic Times with JA

Junior Achievement of Teller County has had a fun and productive fall season!

by Sherri Albertson

photos courtesy of Lake George Charter School

Junior Achievement was recently welcomed into Lake George Charter School for a JA In A Day event. Volunteers taught financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship classes to Kinder through 11th grade students. The specialized JA sessions cover a wide range of relevant, hands-on experiences giving students the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in the business world. These learning experiences also align with Colorado state educational standards.

Melba Robinson-Santa, Assistant Vice President/ Branch Manager at VECTRA Bank in Woodland Park, shared that "it was truly inspiring to witness the potential of these young leaders — and an honor to contribute, even



Sherri Albertson, JA of Teller County, reads a story about earning and saving money to Ms. Walker's Kindergarten students at Lake George Charter School.

Students work in teams under the guidance of JA volunteers to develop a business proposal and experience the process of a real-world business challenge.

in a small way, to their development. Investing in the future starts with our students, and Junior Achievement knows it!"

The majority of the 6th graders at Merit



Students in Ms. Doty's 2nd grade class at Lake George Charter School learned how community businesses work led by JA Volunteer, Cindy Newman from USAA.

Academy recently began the newer JA Start it Up sessions. This program immerses students in entrepreneurship by challenging them to develop a new flavor for Oogie's Gourmet Popcorn. Students work in teams under the guidance of JA volunteers to develop a business proposal and experience the process of a real-world business challenge. The program teaches foundational business concepts, entrepreneurial thinking, and teamwork through hands-on activities.

Cresson Elementary in Cripple Creek will host JA in November to present lessons to the 1st through 5th grade students. The 25/26 school year marks 15+ years of partnership with JA at Cresson and the teachers and students welcome JA volunteers with open arms each year!

The Junior Achievement programs continue to make a difference in the lives of our local students. YOU, too, can inspire students and build a brighter future for Teller County's youth. Get involved! Contact Sherri L. Albertson at 719-650-4089 or via email to sherri.albertson@ja.org. FMI: <https://www.jarocky-mountain.org/>.



Prepare for Fall Prescribed Fire Treatments

by Forest Service

Fire managers on the Pike-San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands are planning prescribed fire operations this fall, pending all required approvals. This work will continue through the fall as weather, fuel and air quality conditions allow. Fire managers prepare the project areas and monitor conditions leading up to and during implementation and may postpone or cancel prescribed fires if conditions are unfavorable. The forest and grassland website, Facebook and X will provide project-specific notifications before any planned prescribed fire activities.

Prescribed fires planned include the following:

Pikes Peak Ranger District

- Phantom Creek, 3,066 acres — about 6 miles north of Divide in Teller County
- Mothball Springs, 985 acres — about 4 miles northeast of Woodland Park in El Paso County
- Manitou, 266 acres — about 2 miles southwest of Green Mountain Falls in El Paso County
- Peregrine, 270 acres — about 2 miles southwest of Green Mountain Falls in El Paso County
- Turkey Tracks, 750 acres — 1 mile east of Westcreek and 7 miles northeast of Woodland Park along Highway 67

South Park Ranger District

- Road Gulch, 1,470 acres — near Praise Mountain and County Road 98 in Park County
- Obrien, 901 acres — about 5 miles southwest of Lake George in Park County

South Platte Ranger District

- Green Mountain, 654 acres — near Bufalo Creek Recreation Area and Forest Service Road 550 in Jefferson County
- Harris Park, 596 acres — near Harris Park, Elk Creek Highlands and Forest Ridge communities in Park County
- Payne Gulch, 331 acres — south of Bailey along County Road 64 in Park County

These areas may be closed to the public for several days for public safety. Watch warning signs along roads near all project areas before, during and after prescribed fire operations.

Prescribed fires are the managed application of fire to the landscape under specified weather and fuels conditions to improve forest conditions, provide diverse habitats for plants and animals and reduce the risk of destructive wildfire.

Fire managers develop prescribed fire plans before prescribed fire projects start. The plan details the parameters, or "prescription," that fire managers must meet before implementation. The final decision to implement depends on leadership approval, resource availability and favorable conditions, including fuel moisture levels, air quality and weather forecast. Fire managers monitor conditions leading up to and during implementation and may postpone or cancel the prescribed fire if conditions are unfavorable.

Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information, visit Wood smoke and your health <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/wood-smoke-and-your-health>, or go to the AirNow Fire and Smoke Map (<https://fire.airnow.gov/#641/-98>) to find more detailed information about air quality. When driving, slow down and turn on your headlights when you encounter smoke on the road.



Lessons From the Vanished Giant

by Steven Wade Veatch

*I want to know
why the woolly mammoth's coat
no longer brushes the cold wind—
why her bones lie beneath
permafrost silence,
instead of walking
beside her calf.*

*I want to understand
the final breath
of the short-faced bear,
its hunger lost
in a forest that changed
faster than its hunger could adapt.*

*I want to study
the curve of antlers
from the Irish elk,
that once gathered the sun.
Were they too grand
for survival, or did beauty
simply go out of style?*

*I want to read the soil,
core it down to truth
and reveal the buried record
of what pollen drifted,
what bloomed and blossomed,
what thrived or died,
through the last glimmers
of a dying epoch.*

*I want to see
through the eyes of the Clovis hunter—
was it reverence or desperation
that guided their fluted points
into the great beasts?*

*I want to follow the patterns of retreat,
not just of glaciers, but of life—
where saber-tooth faded,
where the ground sloth sank
into myth.*

*I want to learn
if extinction is always
a slow forgetting,
or sometimes
a single, sharp silence
in the dark.*

*I want to know
what vanished
with them—
not just the animals,
but the stories
we no longer tell
around the fire.*

*And most of all,
I want to learn
how not to repeat
their ending.*

~OUT AND ABOUT~

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

AVAILABLE ONLINE

- NAMI Colorado: <http://www.namicolorado.org/>
- Suicide prevention: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/> or dial 988

CAÑON CITY

- 1 Museum of Colorado Prisons Day of the Dead Cemetery Crawl 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Woodpecker Hill, Historic Greenwood Cemetery. Adults \$15, children 6-12 p.m. \$10.
- 8, 9 950 Junktion 10-4 p.m. at the red barn 43880 W US 50. Join us at 950 Junktion where antiques, art and apparel cross! 2025 Vintage Christmas, hand-crafted, Santa Claus, music and more!
- Sundays Paint with Mary Shell – see more page 10.

LIBRARY

- 1 Sip and Shop: local authors, vintners, crafts and HUGE used book sale 10-2 p.m.
- 26 PCC Stem Program 3-4:30 p.m.
- 1st Friday Lego Club 3 p.m.
- 2nd Friday Breakout Box 3 p.m.
- 3rd Friday Create Crafting 3 p.m.
- Saturdays D&D for teens 12-2 p.m., adults and younger kids 2-4 p.m. Registration is required.
- B.O.O.K. (Babies on our knees) story time Mondays 10:30
- Chess Club Wednesdays 2 p.m.
- Cribbage Club Fridays 10:00n.
- Dulcimer Club for kids 2nd and 4th Wednesday 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- Mahjong Club Tuesdays 1-4 p.m.
- Metaphysical Group 2nd Saturday 10:30 a.m.
- PCC Stem program 4th Friday which may move to Wed Nov 26
- Rummikub Club meets 3rd Monday of each month 1 p.m.
- Story Swap Book Chat 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 3 p.m.
- Story time and craft Tuesday and Thursdays 10:30 a.m.
- All at 516 Macon Ave unless otherwise specified. FMI 719-269-9020 www.cclib.co.us

CHIPITA PARK

- 8-9 The 21st Annual Arts and Crafts Fair Marcroft Hall 9105 Chipita Park Rd. Sat 9-4 p.m., Sun 10-3 p.m. Once again, for our 21st year, the Chipita Park Association's Arts and Crafts will be showcasing area vendors offering textiles, pottery, jewelry, wood-crafts soap and beauty products, rustic furniture and holiday decor. Lunch and homemade baked goods are also available for purchase. Please join us! FREE! ADA compliant and plenty of parking. FMI Dee Ann 719-465-2892 or decanbr@gmail.com

COLORADO SPRINGS

- 2 The Great Gatsby Ballet at 6 p.m. at Pikes Peak Center.
- 7 Job Fair 10-2 p.m. See page 7.
- 9 Tom Segura's Come Together tour at World Arena

CRIPPLE CREEK

- 6 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.
- 9 Tea at Hotel St. Nicolas 2-4 p.m. See page 11.
- 10 Marine Corps Birthday celebration at Boiler Room Tavern inside Hotel St. Nicolas. See page 14.
- 11 BINGO the second Tuesday each month 6-8 p.m. at the American Legion Post 171. The Victor Elk's has teamed up with American Legion Post 171 to raise funds and support veterans, youth and community services in Teller County. Teamwork building a better community.
- 20 Third Thursday of the month is the Two Mile High Club monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Double Eagle Casino complex 442 East Bennett Ave.
- 28-Dec 28 Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" at the Butte Theater
- 29 Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration 6 p.m. at Pocket Park. See page 14.

ASPEN MINE CENTER

- 10 Angel Tree and Senior Tree Installation. See page 14 for ALL details.
- 15 Cup of Christmas Tea.
- 21 Commodities distribution 9-1 p.m. See page 6.
- 24 Holiday Tree/Wreaths/Baskets competition.
- 26 Thanksgiving Dinner 11:30-3 p.m. FREE! Everyone is welcome.
- Tuesdays BINGO 10:30 a.m. for seniors.
- Tuesdays Moral Reconation Therapy 5-7 p.m. at ACCC building.
- Wednesdays Luncheon 11:30-1 p.m. upstairs dining room, every Wed donations greatly appreciated, but not required.
- Mexican Train on Thursday 10:30a.m.
- First and third Thursday is for Adult Children of Alcoholics 6:30-8 p.m.

- Interested in ESL? Please contact Ann 719-493-0867.
- All programs at 166 E Bennett Ave. FMI 719-689-3584 x112.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

- 7 Playgroup 9-10 a.m. Cripple Creek Parks & Recreation. Learn, grow, play, and have fun! Join us to meet other children and caregivers, participate in fun and educational activities together, and nurture your child's development. Playgroup is for families with children 5 years and under and their caregivers, older siblings are welcome. Walk-ins welcome. FMI Aimee@cpteller.org
- GED Classes Mondays & Wednesdays 3-5 p.m. New students (min. age 16) may join GED classes after completing orientation and \$40 registration fee. FMI Katy@cpteller.org.

DIVIDE

- 7, 21 Teller Senior Coalition BINGO! 10-11:30 a.m. at Little Chapel Church 69 CR 5. RSVP 719-687-3330 ext. 6. Please call to set up a ride 719-687-0256 and join us for doughnuts, coffee and FUN!
- 10, 24 Little Chapel Food Pantry Distribution 2-5 p.m. For more info 719-222-7610 or email littlechapel-foodpantry@outlook.com
- 27 Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Toss at Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center 9-11 a.m. Be a part of the feeding our wolf, coyote and fox families and watch them enjoy their turkey dinners. No turkeys will be alive or harmed with this event. Cost is \$40 for those 12 and over, \$20 ages 6-11. Reservations required. 719-687-9742. Limited space available.

LIBRARY inside Pikes Peak Community Center 1122 US 24

- Wiggle Wednesdays Storytime every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Come get your wiggles out at this new storytime for ages 0-5
- Story Explorers every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. Read through chapter books and other stories at this special storytime for elementary aged kids. After reading, journey through a creative activity inspired by the story.
- Inventors Club on the third Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m. Get inventive with old and recycled items! The club is geared for kids 8-12. Participants will be taught to safely use hand tools, cutting tools, and various types of adhesives. FMI 719-686-5301.

FAIRPLAY

- 1 All ages Pokemon 3-5 p.m.
- 8, 22 Youth Dungeons & Dragon 4-6 p.m.
- 9, 23 Amtgard Park Days Swap 2 p.m.
- 16 Annual Game & Puzzle Swap 2 p.m.

WIZARDS OF THE PEAKS

- Weekly offerings - \$5 to play
- Sundays Game Groups 2 p.m. (Catan, Chess, Word Game)
- Sundays Amtgard Park Days Bi-weekly noon. Free.
- Mondays — Cribbage Group weekly 6 p.m.
- Mondays — Boozy Board Games Bi-weekly 6 p.m. Free at Snitching Lady.
- Tuesdays TTRPG 7/8 p.m. Different TTRPG each week
- Wednesdays Trivia Night bi-weekly 6 p.m. Free at Snitching Lady.
- Thursdays Learn to Play 6 p.m. Nov Featured game: Wavelength
- Friday — Rotating Bi-weekly at South Park Rec
- Zombicide w/Miniature painting for teens 1-3 p.m.
- Junior Adventurer's League Teen D&D 1-3 p.m.
- Friday Night Magic 7 p.m.
- Saturdays Adult RPGs 7/8 p.m., different RPG each week

FLORENCE

- 8 Holiday Marketplace at Blue Spruce Gallery see page 8.
- 15 Wine/Whiskey Pull fundraiser 5:30-8 p.m. presented by the Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center at "The Venue at Oak Creek Heritage Orchard and Farm" 800 N. Fraizer Ave. come join the museum for music, a beverage, hor d'oeuvres, a silent auction and a Wine/Whiskey pull. Presale tickets at the museum \$15 per person/\$25 a couple. At the door, \$18 per person/\$30 a couple. FMI 719-784-1904 or www.florencepioneermuseum.org.
- 29 Holly Jolly Christmas Parade for families with floats, bands and more! See page 6.
- 29-30 Holistic Art Fair Pathfinder Park Event Center
- Through Nov 4 Blue Spruce Gallery features Kathy Dorn-Walker latest show "For the Love of the National Lands." In addition to her well-known love of horses, she has a passion for the outdoors and for the beauty they have in our national parks and monuments. Kathy has been a member of Blue Spruce for 24 years. Blue Spruce Gallery is located at 205 W. Main St. FMI 719-784-1339.
- SAVE THE DATE Dec 6 Family Fun Walk/Run at Rialto Theater

JOHN C. FREMONT LIBRARY

- 3 Movie for adults at 2 p.m. As always, there will be free popcorn.
- 10 Craft program at 2 p.m. We will be painting wine glasses. Because supplies are limited, registration will be required. Call Abby at 719-784-4649 ext. 3.
- 12 The Coven City Workshop will be at the library from 11-1 p.m. to help people with career related questions.
- 18 Adult Coloring at 2 p.m. Anyone who is interested can come in, choose a coloring sheet, color and relax while listening to music.
- 24 The Friends of the Library Christmas Auction begins.
- The Florence Jr/Sr High School will be showing their art in the library in November. Come in to see the art from the school!

SWEET RADIANCE

- 23 Silent Book Club 2-4 p.m. Genre: Mystery
- 28 Black Friday Sale Event 10-5 p.m.
- Creative Sundays every Sunday 11-4 p.m.

FLORISSANT

- 11 VFW Post 11411 hosts Honor Guard at Florissant Cemetery 11 a.m. See page 4.

FLORISSANT GRANGE

- 8 Pine Need Class 9-12 p.m. All levels welcome so join us to learn to make these beautiful baskets or learn a new stitch or design element. Cost is \$10 and a donation to the Grange.
- 8 Needle Felting Class 10-12 p.m. Learn to make cute critters out of wool. Cost is \$10 and a donation to the Grange.
- 8 Fabric Art Class 1-3 p.m. Use fabric to "paint" a beautiful landscape. Cost is \$10 and a donation to the Grange.
- 26 Free Thanksgiving Dinner 6-8 p.m. Join us for a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to help us by donating or helping us serve, please text 719-510-2325.
- Quilts for Veterans meets Tuesdays 9-noon. We make quilts for Veterans.
- Thursdays Potluck and Music 6-8 p.m. Dancing encouraged! FMI to reserve your spot in classes 719-510-2325 or to contribute to Thanksgiving Dinner.

LIBRARY

- 6 Book Coven Book Club from 5:30-7 p.m. Come sit a spell! explore stories that feature witchcraft, mystical worlds, and magical adventures, from fantasy to contemporary works, creating a space for those who love all things magical and mysterious.
- 7 Family Craft Day from 11-1 p.m. Come make a craft together after storytime!
- 8 Understanding How Your Child Learns at 10:30 a.m. A free community talk exploring how comprehensive evaluations can reveal learning strengths, identify challenges, and guide academic support at school and home.
- 10 Romantics with Altitude Book Club from 4:50-5 p.m. Read and talk about romance books with other lovers of love!
- 12 Florissant Bookworms Book Club 10:30-12 p.m.
- 12 AARP Smart Drivers Course at 1 p.m. Sign up for this driving refresher course to improve your driving skills and learn how to better avoid traffic violations.
- 14 Food Crafts from 11-3 p.m. Drop in after storytime for a fun food themed craft!
- 14 Tarot Club 3 p.m. Teens and up are welcome to join this group and learn all things tarot. November's theme is "eternal."
- 15 Repotting Houseplants with Master Gardeners at 10 a.m. Learn tips and tricks for repotting your houseplants.
- 18 Read Amok Book Club themed "Symbols, Signs and Metaphors" 11-12:30 p.m. Bring up to 5 books within the theme to share!
- 21 Teen Night at 5 p.m. Join us for a pickleball tournament! Dinner is provided. Ages 13-18.
- 25 Library Book Club at 3 p.m. Join this book club where we read books that have libraries as a part of the title or a central role in the setting or story! Check our website for the titles we're reading each month.
- Thursdays from 10-11 a.m. Home-school Family Playgroup. Come make connections with other home-school families!
- Tuesdays Tai Chi 10-11 a.m. Come relax with us!
- Thursdays Yarnia! 10-12 p.m. Craft and share your knitting and crocheting love with others!
- The second and fourth Tuesday of each month join us for Hooks and Needles, an additional club for crafting! 10-12 p.m.
- Storytime every Friday at 10 a.m. FMI 719-748-3939

GUFFEY

- 8 CPR/First Aid 10-4 p.m. at SPCFPD. FMI rebkillam@gmail.com

LIBRARY

- 4 Walking, Talking Threads 1-3 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.
- 4 Socrates Café 6 p.m. Come and exchange philosophical perspectives based on personal experiences. Everyone is welcome regardless of age or background. This will not be a class, lecture or debate, just simply community dialogue.

tives based on personal experiences. Everyone is welcome regardless of age or background. This will not be a class, lecture or debate, just simply community dialogue.

- 24 Guffey Literary Society 1-3 p.m. Book choice for November is *Becoming Madam Secretary* by Stephanie Dray. The Guffey Literary Society is a wonderfully dynamic and diverse group. All are welcome to join.
- 26 Rocky Mountain Rural Health 11-2 p.m. Weather permitting, RMRH representatives will be offering free health screenings, sound financial medical advice, free clothing and much more. FMI 719-689-9280 or Guffey. Library@parkcountycgo.gov

MANITOU SPRINGS

- 25 the 31st Annual Emma Crawford Coffin Races see page 5.

PUEBLO

- 8-9 Pueblo Holistic Fair 10-6 p.m. Saturday, 10-5 p.m. Sunday at Pueblo Convention Center.

VICTOR

- Victor Lowell Thomas Museum will be open weekends 10-4 p.m. weather permitting.
- 29 Small Small Business Saturday FMI page 14.
- 29 Jan 1 Gold Camp Holiday Head Frame Lighting

WOODLAND PARK

- 8 Second Saturday Reserve Our Gallery gala 6-8 p.m. FMI <https://reserveourgallery.square.site/> or calling 719-401-2301
- 10 Teller County Veteran Appreciation Event by Teller County Veterans Task Force 1600-1900 at Ute Pass Cultural Center. This is an event for Veterans by Veterans. Free food, prize giveaways and more! FMI www.TCMAH.org veterans
- 22 Winter Market at the Cultural Center.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

- 4 Crossroads Co-Parenting Seminar 9:30-12:30 p.m. Teller County court approved parenting and divorce class seminar. \$35 fee. Pre-registration required. FMI Michelle@cpteller.org.
- Addiction Recovery Mondays 9-4 p.m. Serenity Recovery Connection provides peer and telephone recovery support and coaching. Walk-ins welcome. FMI 719-465-2295
- Addiction Support Wednesdays 9-4 p.m. Face It TOGETHER provides in-person and virtual addiction support. Confidential, compassionate peer coaching for those impacted by alcohol or other drugs, including loved ones. Sobriety not required. 18 yr and older. Walk-ins welcome. FMI www.wefacetogether.org
- Career Center Tuesdays & Thursdays 10-3 p.m. (Closed Nov 27) Pikes Peak Workforce Center helps with job searching, resume assistance, and unemployment applications. Walk-ins welcome or schedule appointments with George@cpteller.org
- Family Café Monday through Thursday 9-4 p.m. (Closed Nov 27) Enjoy coffee, Free Wi-Fi, Kid's Corner, and a space for parents and caregivers in our community to connect.
- Foundation Training Innovative Exercise Program Wednesdays 7-7:45 a.m. This is 45 minutes of activation, breathing and stretching. Feel stronger and more connected with your body after just one class. Bring your mat. FMI bethfoundationtraining@gmail.com
- GED Classes Mondays & Wednesdays 10-12 p.m. New students (min. age 16) may join GED classes after completing orientation and \$40 registration fee. FMI Katy@cpteller.org.
- Pearson VUE Testing Center Mondays 9:30-5:30 p.m. Schedule your certification or licensure exam at pearsonvue.com. Fees vary. FMI Katy@cpteller.org.
- Playgroup Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:30-11 a.m. Learn, grow, play, and have fun! Join us to meet other children and caregivers, participate in fun and educational activities together, and nurture your child's development. Playgroup is for families with children 5 years and under and their caregivers, older siblings are welcome. Walk-ins welcome. FMI Aimee@cpteller.org.
- Telehealth Location Monday through Thursday 9-4 p.m. Comfortable private rooms and equipment available for any virtual appointment including health care, therapy, vision interviews, parent-teacher conferences, and more.
- Yoga with Leah Mondays 10-11 a.m. First come, first served, no late entry. Bring your own mat and props. All levels welcome. FMI Michelle@cpteller.org.
- Yoga with Leah Wednesdays 5-6 p.m. First come, first served, no late entry. Bring your own mat and props. All levels welcome. FMI Michelle@cpteller.org.

~OUT AND ABOUT~

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

continued from page 18

- All programs at Community Partnership Family Resource Center 701 Gold Hill Place unless otherwise noted. FMI 719-686-0705.

LIBRARY

- 1 Dia De Los Muertos Special Storytime and Party at 10 a.m. Come for a special bilingual storytime, crafts and more!
- 1 Spill the Tea for Teens at 10 a.m. Join us for an hour of casual hanging out and donuts!
- 4 Woodland Park Book Club 10:30 a.m. Check our book clubs' page to see what we're reading next!
- 4 For the Love of Writing Writers Club at 3 p.m. Join your local community of writers of all genres and skill levels.
- 5 Kids Craftroom from 3-5 p.m. Join us for a craft and downtime to read, work on homework or projects!
- 5 Evening Adult Fiction Book Club 4:45 p.m. A book club for those looking for an evening group!
- 5 Evening Tarot Club at 7 p.m. Join us for an afterhours edition of tarot club! November's theme is "eternal."
- 6 Intro to Stained Glass at 12 p.m. Learn the basics of stained glass! Spots are limited. Call to sign up.
- 7 Coffee Chats 10 a.m. Join us for free coffee, donuts and conversation. Meet new friends in Woodland Park!
- 8 Creative Spaces Showcase Awards Ceremony at 1 p.m. Celebrate the winners of our showcase with us!
- 12 Letters to Veterans at 4 p.m. Come write a letter to a veteran! All supplies are provided.
- 13 Reader's Circle Book Club 10:30 a.m. in the Large Meeting Room.
- 13 Linocut Printmaking Class at 1:30 p.m. Learn how to carve rubber blocks to make your own printable images for free! Spots are limited. Please call to sign up.
- 15 Understanding How Your Child Learns at 10:30 a.m. A free community talk exploring how comprehensive evaluations can reveal learning strengths, identify challenges, and guide academic support at school and home.
- 18 Silent Book Club at 6:30-8 p.m. Bring a book or grab a library book



and read independently, together by the fireplace with a warm drink. Stay for the last half hour to chat about your book if you'd like!

19 AARP Smart Drivers Course at 1 p.m. Sign up for this driving refresher course to improve your driving skills and learn how to better avoid traffic violations.

19 Metaphysical Book Club at 5:45 p.m. Join us for open-hearted discussions around a theme every month. Topics touch on spirituality, philosophy, and metaphysics. Read one of the featured books, and bring your thoughts and ideas to share. Check the website for each month's theme and book picks!

19 Celebrating Diversity at 3:45 p.m. There is a place in your community to be recognized and supported. A teen LGBTQIA and allies group for making connections, sharing, and helping. Library staff will be present to ensure respect, safety, and enjoyment of the facility by all who participate. Snacks and an activity are provided!

20 DMV to GO from 10:30-2:15 p.m. DMV services at the library! By appointment only. Call to reserve a spot!

20 Fireside Storytime at 5:45 p.m. Join

us for a cozy evening storytime! Wear your comfy clothes and sip on hot chocolate and enjoy a fairytale by the fireplace.

- 20 Tarot Club 3 p.m. Teens and up are welcome to join this group and learn all things tarot. November's theme is "eternal."
- 22 Tea-Rea Party at 10 a.m. Stomp, sip and roar! Party like a dinosaur at our tea party! Dress in tea, dinosaur, both or neither attire.
- 22 Guffey for Dummies at 12 p.m. Everything you ever wanted to know about the guitar, but were afraid to ask! Learn the parts of the guitar, how they work and how to care for them.
- 26 Memory Cafe at 1 p.m. Have a loved one experiencing memory loss or brain change? Join this group of caregivers and loved ones for an afternoon of activities, music, refreshments, friends and community support.
- 28, 29, 30 Three-Day Tree Cutting After Party see page 9.
- Pokemon Trading Card Game Club every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. in the large meeting room. Trainers of all ability levels are welcome!
- Tuesdays Books and Babies 10 a.m. a special storytime for babies and toddlers.
- Thursdays Preschool Storytime 10 a.m.
- Thursdays Tai Chi at 4:45 p.m.
- Fridays Tai Chi at 10 a.m.

RESERVE OUR GALLERY

- 2-5 "Thankful For" Art Show and Gala 400 W Midland Ave.
- 7 First Friday Art Walk 8 business venues shuttle from Reserve Our Gallery 4-7 p.m.
- Dec 23 Holiday Gift Tables. Community members are invited to bring homemade holiday gift items to Reserve Our Gallery, which sells your work. FMI 719-401-2301 or just stop by.
- 8 "Thankful For" Gala 719-401-2301 for details or www.reserveourgallery.art
- Winter Hours 12-4 p.m. Wed, Thur, Sat & Sun, 12-6 p.m. Fridays
- Culling all artists for the December Art Show theme: The Value of White.

Mueller State Park

by Anna Miller

All hike and walk end times are an estimate and will depend on the pace of the group. Programs happen rain, snow, or shine unless posted otherwise.

- 1 Junior Rangers on the Trail 11-12:30 p.m. Meet at Outlook ridge TH.
- 2 School Pond* Hike 9:15-12 p.m.
- 7 Basic Survival for Kids 2-3 p.m. Meet at Visitor Center.
- 9 Lost Pond Hike* 9:15-12 p.m.
- 14 Tracking and Trailing 2-3 p.m. Meet at Visitor Center.
- 15 Junior Rangers in the Forest 11-12 p.m.

- Meet in front of Visitor Center.
- 15 Forest Bathing 1-3:30 p.m. Meet at Outlook Ridge TH.
- 16 Elk Meadow* Hike 9:15-11:15 a.m.
- 25 Great Hibernation Challenge 1-2:30 p.m. Meet at Visitor Center.
- 26 Turkeys 10-11:30 a.m. meet at Visitor Center.
- 28 Mix n Match Animal Skulls 10-11:30 a.m. Meet at Visitor Center.

*Indicates to meet at the Trailhead (TH) of the same name.
FMI 719-687-2366

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WPSDForward Task Force Community Project

A Community Focus on Woodland Park School District's Future



Park State Bank & Trust Awards \$30,000 Grant to WPSD

Thank you for showing up. Although we did not reach 300 participants on the meeting night, our goal is to get enough views in the month ahead to warrant the grant.

Once the new BOE is seated, Park State Bank & Trust will work with the BOE and Interim Superintendent to identify a targeted use for the grant.

Please visit wpsdforward.org to view the video from the Vision Forward Rally.

Each candidate was provided a video of their talk to be used in their campaign as they see fit.

wpsdforward.org/vfr-video

Please remember to study the candidates and vote on November 4th.