



UTE COUNTRY NEWS

FREE

Putting the "unity" back in community™

April 2026

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

Vol. 18, No. 4

Welcome to Ute Country



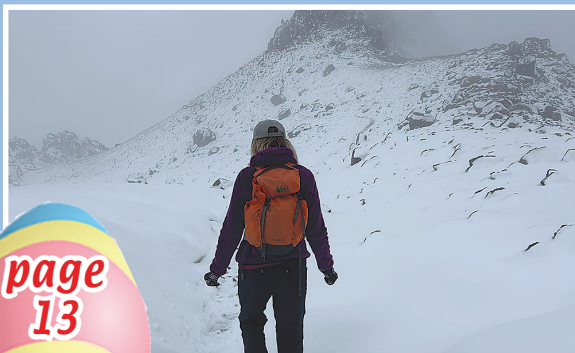
**"Here cometh April again,
and as far as I can see the world
hath more fools in it than ever."**

— Charles Lamb

PEEK INSIDE...



Honoring the Past and Shedding Light for the Future



Colorado Pharmgirl Lassen Volcanic Monument



Mountain Essentials

The Short Drive That Goes A Long Way! Colorado's best kept secret!

"The Antique Capitol of America... And So Much More!"

find it in
FLORENCE

- 2ND SATURDAY SALES!
- ANTIQUES
- FOOD
- WINE
- BEER
- LODGING
- GALLERIES
- MUSEUM
- HISTORIC THEATER
- BAKERY
- SILVERSMITH

ANTIQUE WAREHOUSE
Virginia Lindley
**Vintage & Artful Lighting
Western Accoutrements**
124 E. Main St. • Florence, CO
mvh876@gmail.com
719-621-3301
Open 7 days a week 10 - 5

103 VINTAGE MARKET
Florence Colorado Antique Capital of America
Vintage Market
103 Vintage Market
719-748-7393
103 W. Main St.
Florence, Colorado 81226
103vintagemarket@gmail.com

Aspen Leaf Bakery & Cafe
Pastries & Pies
Breakfast
Soup & Sandwiches
Soft Serve Ice Cream
Open Mon. 11 - 3;
Tues. - Thurs. 8 - 3;
Fri. & Sat. 8 - 5
Closed Sun.
Kristen Espinoza
113 West Main Street, Florence, CO 81226
Phone: (719) 784-3834

ANTIQUE BAZAAR
Moving liquidation sale,
everything must go!
Antique Bazaar • 108/110 E. Main
Gift Bazaar • 117 S. Petroleum
719-338-1628

Jayme Newsom
MOUNTAINVIEW HOMES
HOME SMART
We Sell Mountain Views!
719-419-4190 (Call or Text)

Rural Route Relics
131 W Main St, Florence, CO 81226
(719) 372-1613 or (719) 250-5083
Antiques, Vintage Items & Farm Primitives

**Blue Spruce Gallery
Art & Antiques**
Open 7 Days A Week
Fine Art, Crafts, and
Select Antiques
in a Victorian Setting
205 W. Main, Florence, CO 81226
719-784-1339 bluespruceart.com

Bakers Rack
All Things Kitchen
118 E. Main St
Florence, Colorado 81226
719-784-7141
Mary McGrail - Owner
bakersrackallthingskitchen@gmail.com

Worldwide Treasures, LLC
202 W. Main St.
Florence, CO 81226
719-784-7434
Harriet Graham
Kim Thompson
Scott Thompson



On Deck

The cover photo was taken in Victor last year April 25 during our hike at the Vindicator Trailhead. If you haven't been, we encourage you to go. There are phenomenal views, very interesting sites along the way and for those not used to the altitude, benches are available to take a breath and a load off to rest. As we reviewed various quotes for this issue, we had to laugh at the one we chose, that is until we realized we don't print foolish articles and our readers are rather brilliant! The ONLY fiction in our paper is the centerspread.

What we do have is "16th Pie Palooza," which is the BEST fundraiser for the Guffey Community Charter School, a report on the latest pie auction and play. We know we live with the threat of wildfires, yet the newcomers to the area, as well as those who haven't visited the topic in a while want to know about "Upcoming Classes on Home Hardening, Fire Mitigation and Being Fire Ready" to keep your home protected. Especially seniors want to know about "Healthy Kicks in '26: Teller County Senior Expo & County Health Fair" as opportunities abound! We have an historically accurate article from *Oyate Herbals* that helps us to remember how NOT to be foolish, "Honoring the Past and Shedding Light for the Future" in hopes that our government won't repeat harmful atrocities. An article that helps local businesses to be successful by Tracie Bennitt is "Building Up Business in Teller County: Teller Business Builders Celebrates 20 Years." Let's not forget to celebrate "Wildhorn, LLC, your High Country Auto Dealer: Congratulations on 7 years!" because milestones and reputation are worth celebrating.

Would you like to see your pets in Critter Corner? We'd love to print pics of your pets; 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.

Publishers:
High Pine Design
Jeff & Kathy Hansen
POB 753, Divide, CO 80814
719-686-7587
www.UteCountryNews.com
utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com

Sales/Account Reps:
Feel free to call 719-686-7587 so we can find the sales representative in your area to best serve your needs.
Flip Boettcher 719-429-3361
Tracie Bennitt 719-641-9541

Writers:
Chuck Atkinson, Peggy Badgett, Charlotte Baumgartner, Tracie Bennitt, Flip Boettcher, Andrea Connolly, Michael Dougherty, JA Rocky Mountain, Kendra Lee Hall, Tammie Lowell, Marianne Mogon, Toni & Don Moore, Mary Shell, Nancy Stannard, Anna Urban, Barbara Pickholz-Weiner, USDA Forest Service

Contributors:
Ark Valley Humane Society, SLV Animal Welfare Society, TCRAS

Critter Corner:
Submit photos to: utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com or PO Box 753, Divide, CO 80814

Publishers Emeritis: Carmon & Beverly Stiles

Cover Photo: Jeff Hansen

Advertisements in this publication do NOT necessarily reflect the views, opinions or affiliations of the publishers. The Ute Country News is not responsible for the content of articles or advertising in this issue. Limit one copy per reader, please share with others. Back issues available at www.utecountrynews.com. ©Copyright 2026 Ute Country News, all rights reserved. Material may not be reproduced without written permission from the publishers. Please address any comments to the publishers at utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com or POB 753 Divide CO 80814.

First Class subscriptions are available for \$40 for 13 issues, or 6 issues for \$20.



Oyate Herbals

Honoring the Past and Shedding Light for the Future

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

Welcome to Wétu or spring and the moons of renewal and growth starting with "Magák-sicaagli Wi" the moon when ducks return. It is significant in the Lakota calendar, marking the return of ducks to their northern homelands. This month is the first of the 13 moons in the Lakota year, observed by the Lakota Oyate to reflect on the changes occurring with each new moon. As Lakota people we closely observe the moon's phases and the behavior of the duck nation, which influences the timing of this month. Each month in the Lakota calendar is named based on the natural occurrences and behaviors of the animals and plants, symbolizing the connection to nature and the changing seasons.

Each spring, many years ago the camp circle moved to higher ground. Men fixed and created weapons and resumed hunting. Women gathered early berries and roots and repaired the tipis. Children enjoyed the warm weather after the confines of winter. This time frame I speak of, is what I refer to as "pre contact." A time that many of us Lakota wish we could go back to. My people have encountered many struggles and hardships over the course of history. But as I reflect on this month and with Earth Day being the 22nd, I think of an issue that is still ongoing to this date. There is no better time to honor and shed light about one of the most sacred places to us on this earth than now.

The Black Hills are not just a historical site; they're a living temple.

On April 29th, 1868, the United States entered into the treaty of Fort Laramie with a collective of Native American bands historically known as the Sioux Nation (Dakota, Lakota and Nakota tribes). This treaty established the Great Sioux Reservation, a large swath of land west of the Missouri River. It also specifically designated "Paha Sapa" the Black Hills as "unceded Indian Territory" for the exclusive use of native peoples. But when gold was found in the Black Hills, the influx of white settlers and miners led to immense pressure on the government to open the land for settlement. The United States reneged on the agreement, redrawing the boundaries of the treaty, and confining the Sioux people who were traditionally nomadic hunters to a farming lifestyle on the reservation. The Black Hills have always been known by the Lakota for its abundant hunting grounds and spiritual significance. It was a blatant abrogation that has been at the center of legal debate ever since.

This blatant disregard for the treaty led to conflicts and ultimately to the Great Sioux War of 1876, which included the infamous Battle of Little Bighorn. Despite the Lakota victory at Little Bighorn, the war ultimately resulted in the US government seizing the Black Hills. In 1877, Congress passed an act that unilaterally took the Black Hills from the Lakota, which was a clear violation of the Fort Laramie Treaty. This act was never agreed upon by three-quarters of the adult male Lakota population, as required by the treaty for any land cession. The Lakota have fought for the return of the Black



The Crazy Horse Monument being carved in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Hills ever since. In 1980, the Supreme Court ruled in *United States v. Sioux Nation*, that the US government had illegally taken the Black Hills and awarded the Lakota monetary compensation. However, the Lakota have refused to accept the money, viewing it as a symbolic betrayal of their sacred land. They continue to demand the return of the Black Hills, not just as a matter of legal rights but as a matter of justice and spiritual survival.

The Black Hills are not just a historical site; they're a living temple. The spiritual practices of the Lakota are deeply intertwined with the landscape itself. The hills are filled with sacred sites, used for ceremonies. These practices are essential to the Lakota way of life, providing a connection to the spiritual world and reinforcing our cultural identity. The "Hanbleceyapi" (vision quest) or crying for a vision for example, is a deeply personal and transformative experience, often undertaken by young men and women seeking guidance and understanding. Individuals will go to a secluded spot in the Black Hills, often a high peak or a secluded valley, and spend several days praying and meditating. Fasting and abstaining from water, opening yourself up to spiritual insights and visions. The Black Hills provide the perfect setting for this, with its natural beauty and solitude, is perfect for fostering a sense of connection to the Great Spirit, or "Wakan Tanka."

Other ceremonies, such as "Wiwanyang Wacipi" the Sun Dance, are private communal events that bring the Lakota people together to pray for the well-being of the community and the entire world. These ceremonies are often held in specific locations within the Black Hills that are considered sacred. The act of performing these ceremonies in the Black Hills reinforces our connection to the land and the spiritual heritage. The Black Hills also hold specific places that are considered particularly sacred, such as "Mato Paha" Bear Butt, which is a significant site for prayer and ceremonies. These locations are treated with the utmost respect, and ac-

cess is often restricted to those participating in specific ceremonies. The spiritual significance of the Black Hills cannot be overstated. It is the bedrock of Lakota culture and identity, providing a framework for understanding the world and our place within it. The continuation of these spiritual practices in the Black Hills is essential for the preservation of Lakota culture and the well-being of the community.

The Black Hills hold immeasurable significance for the Lakota. They are not just a place on a map; they are the heart of our spiritual and cultural identity. The origin stories, spiritual practices, and the tragic history of broken treaties all contribute to the profound connection between the Lakota and the Black Hills. The ongoing struggle to reclaim this sacred land is a testament to resilience and the unwavering commitment to protecting our heritage. So next time you hear about the Black Hills, or you are there visiting, remember that it's more than just a scenic destination; it's a sacred place with a rich history and a deep spiritual meaning for the Lakota people.

The story of the Fort Laramie Treaty and its violation is a stark reminder of the historical injustices faced by Native American tribes in the United States. It highlights the importance of honoring treaties and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples across this land.

Mitákuyepi Anpétu wašté (Good day relatives)

Many Blessings and may you walk in balance on your path

Tammie Lowell can be reached at 719-661-0410. Feel free to visit the new Oyate Herbal shop 38 Costello Ave in Florissant, CO. Hours are 10-5 p.m. daily. We offer Belly Dance Fitness classes with Catrina Lynn on Tuesdays 10:30-11:30 a.m. and Wednesdays 5:30-7 p.m., and ancient sound healing Thursdays 5:30-7 p.m. Heaven Connections offers different energy healing modalities. Stop in to pick up information and get the number for the 22 minute discovery call.

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO OUR UPCOMING EVENTS.

TRUTH & LIBERTY AWARDS BANQUET

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Leadership That Impacts Eternity
MAY 7-8
God has called you to lead. Your influence extends further than you realize—discover how to lead with wisdom, clarity, and a solid foundation.
LeaderConference.net



GRADUATION WEEK

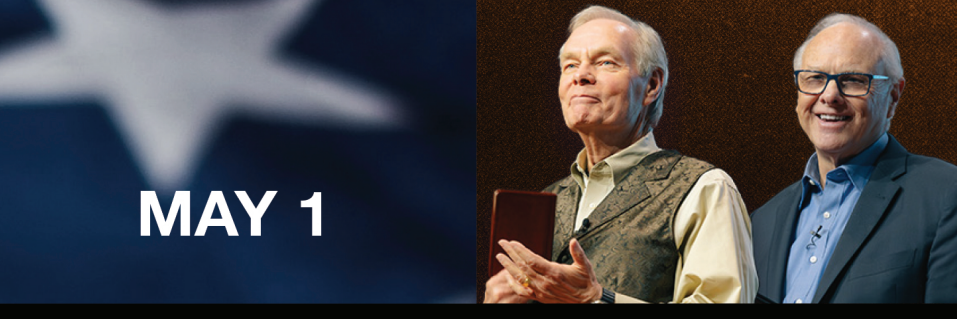
Celebrate our graduates as they embark from Charis Bible College to carry the Gospel to the nations.
MAY 16

SUMMER FAMILY BIBLE CONFERENCE

JUNE 29-JULY 3
Join us for a week of fun, family, and patriotism—where your entire family is strengthened in their faith and encouraged in their walk with God.
SummerFamily.org

FINDING AMERICA

A heartfelt patriotic performance that inspires gratitude for our great nation
JULY 3-4



MAY 1

MAY 16

JULY 3-4

VISIT AWMI.NET/EVENTS TO LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER.

We're on the web!

- Current Issue
- Old Issues
- Where to find us
- Employment Opportunities



www.utecountrynews.com

UTE COUNTRY NEWS
Putting the "unity" back in community™

Live in Ute Country part time but want the mountain living all the time?

Take us with you!

- \$40 for 1 year (13 issues!) first-class subscription.
- \$20 for 6-months (6 issues!) first-class subscription.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City State Zip
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Mail to: Ute Country News, PO Box 753 • Divide, CO 80814



SUMMER FEST
SATURDAY, APRIL 11 ~ 10AM-1PM
701 GOLD HILL PLACE, WP

Family-friendly event for youth of all ages! Explore the Discovery Zone, sign up for summer camps, sports, clubs, and youth programs, and connect with local resources and services.

Learn more about CP
Donote to change lives
www.cpteller.org

Pinwheels of POSSIBILITY



WEAR BLUE
Friday, April 10

Child Abuse Prevention Month!

When we invest in families early and often, we create the conditions where children can grow up safe, supported, and full of possibility. Wear blue to show your support for children and families!

Grannys' High Altitude Super Hemp

The Purple Building in Lake George

We offer unique, whole plant, full-spectrum CBD medicinal's made from our plants grown and processed organically on site



**CBD Whole Plant Extract
CBD Pain and Skin Salves
Hemp Tea**

Since 2015, our quality and efficacy has been trusted by locals and others all across the country. Stop by and see the difference for yourself!

Open Tues - Sat 9am - 5pm
719-748-4736 grannyshemp.com



UNLOCK WHAT'S NEXT

Your home built the equity. Now let it build what's next.

Apply for a Home Equity Line of Credit and pay No Closing Costs
with a minimum advance of \$10,000!*

Open the door to your next big step -



home renovations



education



vacation



debt consolidation

Pikes Peak Credit Union 720 W. Midland Ave - Woodland Park (719) 473-5962 pikespeakcu.com

*NMLS ID #781767. Valid on new home equity lines of credit only. No closing costs is subject to change without notice. Must advance HELOC a minimum of \$10,000 at closing to qualify for no closing costs. Appraisal fee may apply if one is required to determine your home's value. All loans are subject to final credit and property approval. Minimum monthly payment required is \$100 or the monthly interest due, whichever is greater. Financing available throughout Colorado. Must be secured by your owner-occupied residence and property insurance is required. Available credit lines range from \$10,000 - \$200,000, depending on the loan to value. Interest rates are dependent upon credit qualifications and loan to value. HELOCs have variable interest rates. Consult a tax advisor for further information regarding the deductibility of interest and charges. Certain other conditions and restrictions may apply.

Wildhorn, LLC your High Country Auto Dealer

Congratulations on 7 years!

We are Wildhorn, LLC, your High Country Auto Dealer, a local, family-owned small business, and we are excited to announce the celebration of our 7th anniversary this April. Since opening its doors in 2019, Wildhorn, LLC has had the honor of serving our community by providing quality used autos, trucks, SUVs, campers, and other motorized vehicles. We also carry or can special order a variety of off-road products to fit our customers' needs. We have recently expanded our offerings to include custom vinyl, custom apparel, and gifts.

"Reaching this milestone is a blessing and a true testament of our loyal customers and the vibrant community that has supported us from day one," said Amber, owner of Wildhorn, LLC. "We are so very grateful for the opportunity to grow in this community and look forward to many more years."

To mark this special occasion, Wildhorn, LLC will be hosting an open house, the date is still tentative and will be based on weather so we can have it outdoors. The event will feature a Meet and Greet with some of our off-road rigs, giveaways and refreshments. All are welcome to join in the festivities. Please check our Website and Facebook for updates on the event.

Wildhorn, LLC invites the community to help us celebrate seven years of success and to discover what makes this family-run establishment a cherished part of the local landscape.

FMI Wildhorn, LLC, 719-313-2178 wildhorntruck@gmail.com and www.wildhorntruck.com

Behind the Scenes Featuring Roni Gordon of Teller Senior Coalition

by Tracie Bennitt

Welcome to this new column celebrating the people we never see behind the scenes. You know who I'm talking about: The cooks, the linemen, the snow shoveler, the janitor, those folks. The ones behind the scenes who keep us going every day. That's who I'll be celebrating each month. Have a recommendation? Email me tracie.bennitt@gmail.com



In 2025, Teller Senior Coalition vehicles traveled 243,831 miles and completed 12,521 trips, transporting clients throughout Teller County and Colorado Springs. The organization operates a fleet of 14 vehicles, 9 of which are wheelchair accessible with 17 drivers, 14 paid and 3 volunteer positions. There is one major player behind the scenes who makes all this happen, Roni Gordon.

Transportation Manager at Teller Senior Coalition (TSC), Roni Gordon, transplanted from Idaho and spent 25 years in healthcare in the Denver and Pikes Peak areas. Moving to Teller County in 2004, she had been aware of TSC and the multitude of things they provided for seniors in the community. After a neighbor fell and broke his hip, she learned through his experience the difficulties in finding transportation to medical appointments for seniors throughout the area and what TSC did to fill this need.

In 2020, she followed up on an ad for a scheduler dispatcher that she saw on Facebook, thinking this might be a way she could make a difference. "I worked for Mt. View Medical Group for over 12 years traveling between Woodland Park and Colorado Springs offices," she said. "I decided that I wanted to be a part of the TSC community. I wanted to join an organization where I get to truly do good."

"I had worked in long term care for about 9 years in the Denver area and had experience taking clients to doctor appointments," she said. "I had a pretty good idea about what it took to make this happen." She said that of her driving team, one person is full-time and the others work part-time 2-3 days a week. "The average age of my drivers is 65-70 years old. They don't have to be here. They just want to be here to serve and help people."

Although I live 15 miles north of Divide, in the middle of nowhere, TSC was available if I needed them to take our senior neighbor to medical appointments or the grocery store. It was a great option to have available to us if we were ever in a position that we couldn't do that for him ourselves.

Funding for this program is from the Federal Transportation Administration. "We have to follow all of their guidelines," she said. "Each driver has over 30 hours of training before they can take the wheel." Roni said that vehicle inspections and

Aspen and Allie are Roni's fur babies.

As the puppies grew, Lucy and Snoopy formed a special bond with their big brother, Aspen — a striking Husky with light blue eyes and a regal demeanor. Aspen, a few years older, took on the role of leader, showing them how to navigate the snowy terrain, make Husky snow angels, and howl at the moon. He was patient with their playful energy, always keeping a watchful eye on his younger siblings.

One by one, the other puppies found loving homes. But Roni couldn't bring herself to part with Lucy and Snoopy. They belonged with her and Aspen on Husky Mountain, where they could run through the pines, chase the wind, and live their best Husky lives.

Years passed, and Lucy and Snoopy became seasoned adventurers, following Aspen wherever he led. Debi was just as much a part of the pack, and they adored her as much as they loved each other. One of Snoopy and Lucy's favorite things to do was give their mom kisses, right on the lips.

Adopt Me

by SLV Animal Welfare Society

Sully

Sully is a 13-week old Australian Cattle Dog mix. He will be a medium sized adult. His mom is about 35 lbs. Sully was born 12/19/2025 and will be able to go home between April 4 and 11, along with 7 siblings after spay/neuter, 3 sets of vaccinations, microchip and rabies. Please visit our website to learn more or connect for a visit: <https://www.slvaws.org/>

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



Tales from Big Sky Ranch Bed and Biscuit Surprise on Husky Mountain

by Kendra Lee Hall



Debi had always been a cat and bunny lover, but as soon as she met her first Husky in her 30s, her heart was captured, and she never looked back. Her home in Evergreen, CO, which she lovingly called Husky Mountain, had been a safe haven for countless foster dogs ever since.

One winter, she took in a beautiful Husky named Nakita, who had an insatiable appetite. No matter how much Debi fed her, Nakita always seemed hungry. Puzzled but undeterred, Debi continued to care for her until one day, she discovered the reason behind the endless hunger — Nakita was pregnant! Debi had had the pup for three weeks, had found a family for her, when one day Debi noticed her belly had dropped, the sure sign a dog is pregnant.

Excitement and anticipation filled Husky Mountain as the time grew near. Debi prepared a cozy space in front of the fireplace, ensuring Nakita was as comfortable as possible. Then, one cold evening, under the soft glow of the mountain moon, Nakita gave birth to a litter of tiny, wriggling Husky pups. Their little cries filled the cabin, and Debi's heart swelled with joy. She gently counted them, five little surprises.

Being a fan of the Peanuts comics, Debi named the puppies after her favorite characters. Among them were Lucy, a feisty little girl with a determined spirit, and Snoopy, a playful pup always eager for adventure. Each of the puppies had unique personalities, but Lucy and Snoopy stood out with their boundless energy and curiosity. They quickly became Debi's favorites, their antics bringing constant laughter to her home.

As the puppies grew, Lucy and Snoopy formed a special bond with their big brother, Aspen — a striking Husky with light blue eyes and a regal demeanor. Aspen, a few years older, took on the role of leader, showing them how to navigate the snowy terrain, make Husky snow angels, and howl at the moon. He was patient with their playful energy, always keeping a watchful eye on his younger siblings.

One by one, the other puppies found loving homes. But Debi couldn't bring herself to part with Lucy and Snoopy. They belonged with her and Aspen on Husky Mountain, where they could run through the pines, chase the wind, and live their best Husky lives.

Years passed, and Lucy and Snoopy became seasoned adventurers, following Aspen wherever he led. Debi was just as much a part of the pack, and they adored her as much as they loved each other. One of Snoopy and Lucy's favorite things to do was give their mom kisses, right on the lips.

The best surprise ever: a litter of warm, wiggly Husky puppies.

Aspen, Lucy, and Snoopy are always so excited to pull up to Big Sky Ranch.

ways a given, and plenty of love awaited them every time they visited. Life was good, filled with adventure, warmth, and family — both the one they were born into and the one they had found along the way.

Now Available!

Whimsical and Heartfelt Stories from a Colorado Dog Ranch

Scan to order the book, read free stories, and meet the dogs!

or visit www.KendraLeeHall.com

The perfect gift for the dog lovers in your life!

LEE HALL
AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR

Local Colorado Author




Scan the QR for the listing of events and when we will be in your area!!



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Mountain Naturals

COMMUNITY MARKET

Organic Foods | Local Produce
Gluten-Free | Grass-Fed Beef
Pet Food

719-687-9851
790 Red Feather Lane
Woodland Park

Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-6pm • Sat & Sun 10am-5pm

WE HAVE ORGANIC NON-GMO SEEDS!

FILL UP SPECIAL VOLUME DISCOUNTS

Global Propane

\$1.899
Gallon
500 GALLONS PLUS

*Price subject to change

(303) 660-9290
Family Owned Business

Dog Boarding

Big Sky Ranch Bed and Biscuit

Where dogs come to play, make friends, and feel at home



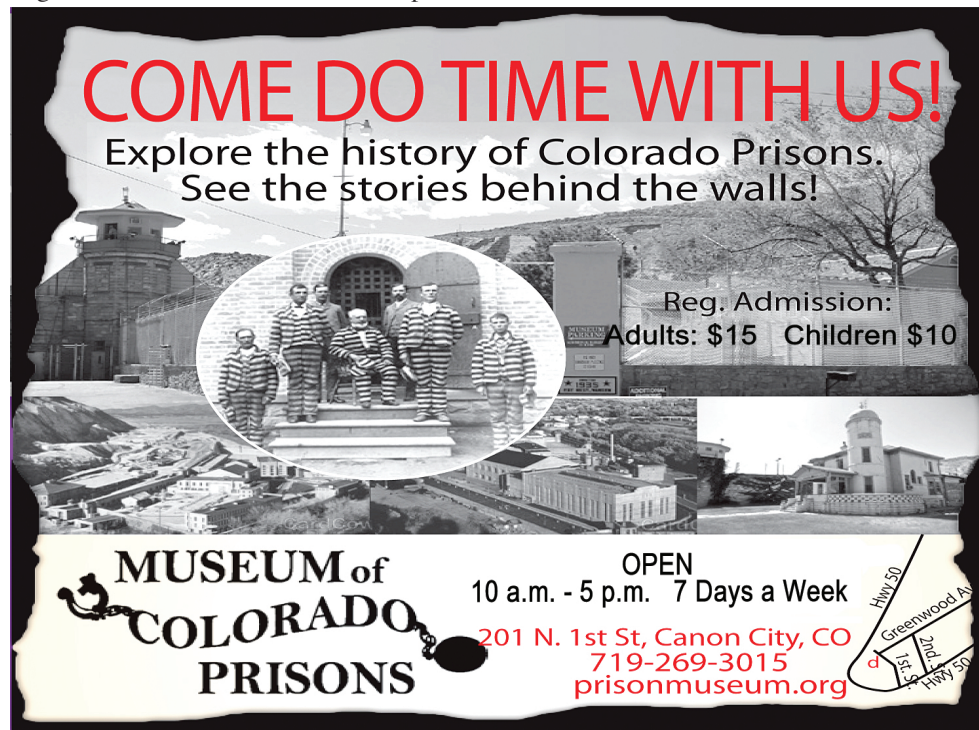
- Large fenced play areas
- All day supervised, loving care
- Hosting dogs for 10 years

970-333-0277
BigSkyRanchBedandBiscuit.com

Scan to learn more



COME DO TIME WITH US!
Explore the history of Colorado Prisons.
See the stories behind the walls!



Reg. Admission:
Adults: \$15 Children \$10

MUSEUM of COLORADO PRISONS
201 N. 1st St, Canon City, CO
719-269-3015
prisonmuseum.org

OPEN 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 7 Days a Week

PROPANE
Residential and Commercial Propane Delivery....
No additional fees.

Glaser ENERGY GROUP, INC
Divide 650 County Road 5
(719) 687-1180

COME IN AND SEE THE NEW MARKET AT THE BAKERY!

The Guffey Bakery
Serving Breakfast and Lunch!

April Saturday Dinners • 4-7pm
Four course dinners featuring:
4/4 - Shrimp pesto pasta.
4/11 - Stuffed smoked pork chops.
4/18 - Lasagna
4/25 - Beef or veggie ravioli with bolognese sauce.

Easter Sunday Brunch 10am - 2pm

Mother's Day Brunch 10am - 2pm

Smokin' Babe's BBQ Fridays noon - til gone

Mama Dana's is back featuring European Cuisine!
Reservations recommended
Come on in and meet the new chefs, Zach and Davis!

• Home grown beef by the pound available
• Introducing Mountain Bramble Coffee Roasters featuring organic, fair traded whole bean and ground coffee roasted on site.

Handmade Candy and Chocolates

336 Main Street • Guffey, CO • 719-838-4575
dana@theguffeybakery.com • www.theguffeybakery.com
Hours: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday 8am - 3pm

BLM Field Office Enters Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

The Bureau of Land Management Royal Gorge Field Office enters Stage 1 Fire Restrictions as of March 18, 2026, because of dry conditions and high fire danger. These restrictions apply to all BLM-administered public lands within the boundaries of Baca, Bent, Crowley, Custer, El Paso, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Lincoln, Otero, Park, Powers, Pueblo, and Teller counties until rescinded.

"Given the dry and windy conditions we're experiencing, entering Stage 1 fire restrictions is a necessary step to reduce the risk of wildfires in our area," said Royal Gorge Field Manager Doug Mayes. "We're asking everyone to stay alert and be mindful of their actions when outdoors. A single spark can lead to a dangerous situation, and your caution helps protect local communities, firefighters, and our public lands."

- Operating a chainsaw without a USDA or SAE approved spark arrester properly installed and working, a chemical fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity by weight, and one round point shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches.
- Using a welder, either arc or gas, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame, except in cleared areas of at least 10 feet in diameter with a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity.
- Using exploding targets.

Details about BLM Colorado year-round fire restrictions and tips for preventing wildfires are available online. Learn about fire restrictions throughout the state from the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. <https://www.blm.gov/>
FMI please contact the Royal Gorge Field Office at 719-269-8500.

Editor's note: Before we went to press, we understood that Teller County went from Stage 1 to Stage 2 fire restrictions. Each county will post fire bans/restrictions. Please check before ANY open burning as fines are stiff and the guilt could last forever if your spark accidentally started a wildfire.

Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Under stage 1 fire restrictions the following acts are prohibited:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire except within agency-provided fire grates at developed recreation sites. Devices using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel are permitted.
- Smoking, except in an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet

Photo Contest: Treasures of the Gold Belt

by Charlotte Bumgarner

Gold Belt Tour Scenic Byway is hosting a photo contest, "Treasures of the Gold Belt." The contest is open to all visitors and residents who want to participate. All photos need to be taken along the byway route or its connecting communities. Photos can be submitted through June 1st. If you have photos taken in the last 12 months those can be submitted or get out there and create some new memories. The contest is open for submission now. Photographers are requested to submit photos that will highlight one of the Byway's sustainability goals: Cultural Heritage, Conservation, Recreation and Beautification. Participants are eligible to submit four different photos, one for each of the goals. Please visit: www.goldbeltbyway.com/ announcements/2026-photo-competition/ for more information, rules and registration form. There is \$5 fee per photo to help us cover contest expenses and continue to do complete projects that fit into our goals. There will be an overall winner and plus

four winners from each of the Categories (goals). We will also be doing a viewer winner where the public and vote on their favorite. Overall winner will be a prize package with a value of at least \$500, the includes a night stay along the byway, food certificates, attraction entrances and gas money. Category winners will receive prize packages worth at least \$250. The Viewer's choice will get a package worth \$200 or more. Please note we really expect the prize packages to be more than the listed amount because we haven't got all items collected yet. All winners will also receive a custom T-shirt featuring their photograph, provided by DARE Print. Plans include a couple of public showings of the photos and celebrating the 250th anniversary of the USA and then the 150th anniversary of Colorado. Watch for more information about these events planned in July and August.

Thank you Sagentic for getting our contest up and running on the website.

The Marketplace

by Andrea Connolly

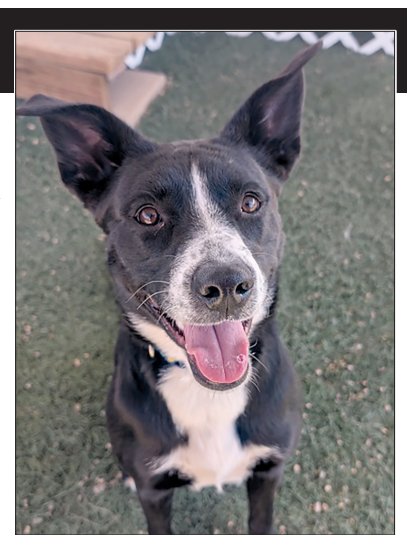
We're BACK - and BIGGER than ever! After over a month of hard work, Hunt & Homestead's The Marketplace is re-opening on April 1, in our new home and we cannot wait to welcome you in. We are at 1099 US Hwy 24 in Woodland Park, next to Safeway. Come explore 80 local makers and artists (so far!) featuring: Candles, honey, soap and skincare, jewelry, fresh sourdough, art and so much more! This space is bigger, brighter, (ahem... and toxic mold free) and filled with amazing local talent. Come celebrate with us and be among the first to shop the new Marketplace!

#ShopLocal #WoodlandPark #SupportLocal #ColoradoMakers #TheMarketplaceWP

Adopt Us by TCRAS

Brielle

Hello friends! I have the cutest ears! I'm a young girl (only 9 months old), packing a whole lotta energy into a 49 pound package. Sometimes the energy is more than my little self can contain, and it just spills out in crazy, jumping, bouncy ways! I'm learning more appropriate ways to get my energy out. I'd love a family that's ready to show me proper structure and the more appropriate ways to get chill. Due to my crazy energy, I have a tendency to get extra worked up over the small humans... it's best I go with a more mature version of those small humans - my friends here say 12 and older. I also think cats are toys, so maybe it's best that I don't go to a home with any of those. I'm a whole lot of fun for adults and some dogs! I love learning though, so if you're ready for an active, high energy, very smart pup then please call my friends at TCRAS 719-686-7707 to set up a time to meet me! This space donated by the Ute Country News to promote shelter animal adoption.



Life-Enhancing Journeys Seeking Assistance: A guide to asking for help



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

There will undoubtedly come a time when you need help, yet you might hesitate to ask for it. Remember, there is nothing to be ashamed of. Everyone goes through this at some point. No matter how confident or skilled you are, keep in mind that none of us is meant to handle every challenge alone. Why not reach out and ask for support? Do you believe you should be able to figure everything out on your own? Sometimes, you keep trying to solve problems on your own until you realize you need help. When that moment arrives, it can feel humiliating, frustrating, or even shake your confidence. As a result, you might wait longer than you should before asking for help, thinking it makes you look weak. Thinking you must manage everything alone without proper support can be risky and leave you feeling stuck. Remember, reaching out for help can be a wise and brave decision; it offers the chance to gain new perspectives, motivation, and support. It also reminds you that you are not alone on this journey.

That means they can make their own choices about how they spend their time and energy and do have the right to say "no" or "not now."

Asking for help allows another person to feel capable. Allowing someone to help you is a wonderful way to show you trust their skills. It can make them feel proud and valued. Asking for and accepting help is often seen as a kind and positive gesture, reflecting strength and openness rather than weakness.

Asking for help can be beneficial for your health. Spending time with someone else can give you a break and allow you to act and think more clearly and effectively. It is like giving yourself a moment to recharge and regain your balance.

Asking for help may enhance your efficacy. Accepting help lets you be more productive, confident, inspired, resourceful, and enthusiastic — all the qualities you wanted when you felt stuck.

understand that accepting help improves outcomes and can enhance your life. The benefit of collaboration is that when you combine ideas, you may discover a new set of solutions to use alongside your own. Can you believe that others want to help? Asking someone for help might be seen by them as a compliment. Beyond the initial flattery of being valued for their skills, your potential helper feels a sense of validation and purpose. Search for the right person rather than someone convenient or with whom you feel comfortable.

Here are some things to think about when asking for help.

- Briefly share what about this person made you consider reaching out now. Saying something like, "I respect your experience in this area," can make it easier to ask for help. You might start with a friendly message such as, "Hey, I could use some help... Could I get your advice for a moment to help me figure out my next step?... I value your opinion and would like to hear your perspective." When possible, include a specific example of what you observed that explains why you sought their advice. This can help them understand why you specifically asked for their input and make them feel appreciated.
- Whenever you find yourself needing help, clearly state your goal and what you hope to accomplish. Use phrases such as: "Could you help me figure this out?... I could use some guidance on this... Would you mind looking at this with me?... I'd value your input on this... Can we work on this together?... Your help would make a big difference... Do you have time?" Include the time frame in which you need help and avoid asking at the last minute.
- The language you use to ask is important. Avoid phrases that sound timid or desperate, such as: "If you have some time... I hesitate to ask... Please do me a big favor... If you can't help me, I'm done... I'm in over my head... I really wish I didn't have to ask you... I just can't do everything myself..."
- When everything is said and done, acknowledge and appreciate all the help they have provided. Maintaining eye contact and offering a sincere "thank you" can often make a big difference in showing gratitude.

How to ask for help with confidence

Start by recognizing the importance of putting your needs above your fears. Question your fears. Negative thoughts can undermine your confidence, so change your thinking away from worry, doubt, and fear. There is a tendency to resist asking for help. From my experience, what my imagination creates is often far worse than reality.

To reduce your fear of the other person's reaction, ask yourself some questions:

- What's the worst that could happen if I ask?
- How likely is that to occur?
- If the worst happens, how long will it take me to recover and make a new plan?

To lessen fear about yourself:

- What am I concerned about doing or not doing when I ask?
- How can I prevent that?

To strengthen your motivation

- Will I be worse off if I never ask, even if they say no? What do I have to lose?
- What will I regret more — asking or not asking?

Once you feel motivated and ready to act, take some time to prepare by writing a script of what you need to say. This can be very helpful. As noted in articles about the Limbic System (UCN Feb, March and May 2018 issues), when fear arises, our Amygdala (the survival brain) becomes triggered, and the Hippocampus (which helps us think and communicate what we want) shuts down. Practicing the script trains your brain to perform well under pressure. Before making your request, calm yourself through mindful breathing, listening to a favorite song, drinking tea or water, playing with your pet, or doing bilateral movements like tapping from side to side (for example, walking is considered a bilateral movement). Everyone has different ways to gather themselves. List and use all methods that help you. Then breathe intentionally, smile, and ask confidently.

Acknowledge that asking for help is genuinely a sign of self-confidence. When you have the courage to request assistance, it allows others to see your human side. You are letting them know that you have skills, that you also acknowledge your limitations, and that you value their input. Change your perspective to

As I mentioned in previous articles, building confidence, whether asking for help or pursuing other goals, requires preparation and consistent practice. The more you practice, the more natural it feels and the easier it becomes. Be patient with yourself and keep moving forward. Often, progress comes through small, steady steps. Stay hopeful and continue working on it. With perseverance and support, you can accomplish more than you realize. You got this!

Barbara Pickholz-Weiner, RN, BSN, CACII, 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 Journeyscounselingctr@gmail.com.

April Specials
BUY A MASSAGE OR A FACIAL AND PICK ONE OF THESE SERVICES FOR FREE!



Relax & Rejuvenate
RED LIGHT THERAPY • THE SALT ROOM • FOOT DETOX

GRACE Wellness & Rejuvenation
719-618-9499
605 Main St., Canon City, CO

OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY 9 AM - 5 PM
SUNDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

FLORENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
"Serving Business & Community since 1902"

Florence, Co
The Antique Capital of America

HOME OF

#FloCo Junktique
Third Weekend in May
May 15 & 16

OPEN AIR ANTIQUE SHOW & MARKET
For Events & Info



Art
Antiques
Collectibles
Salvage
Vintage
MUCH MORE...

Reserve Space Now
WWW.FindItInFlorence.Com (719) 784-3544
Info@FindItInFlorence.Com

Florence Merchant's Association and Florence Bell Tower Cultural Center
In honor of our veterans

7TH ANNUAL ARMED FORCES SALE & EXHIBIT EVENT

MAY 9TH - MAY 25TH
Art by veterans, active military, and other service men and women will be displayed in stores along Main Street. Meet the Artists on May 9th at 3pm in the stores!

MAY 9TH AT 1PM
There will be presentations and performances at the Florence Bell Tower Cultural Center as well as Art displayed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (719) 621-3301 OR EMAIL HVR876@GMAIL.COM

Stevens Carpet Plus
Your Local Source For All Your Flooring Needs

One Stop - Full Service Shop for ALL Your Flooring Needs
Get professional, personal service and quality products right here at home

Spring Sale!
10% off all Shaw Pet Perfect carpets.

• Owners: Justin & Barbara Stevens

115 W Midland Ave, Woodland Park, CO
Call for your free estimate 719-822-6822
Showroom Hours: M,T,W,F 10-5, Thurs 12-5, Sat. by appointment

ARE YOU AND YOUR VEHICLE READY FOR WINTER TRAVEL SEASON?

SCHUMACHER'S
Alignment & Tire Center

Over 36 Years in Teller County! Teller County's Oldest Family Owned & Operated Alignment & Tire Center!

Most Major Tire Brands Now Available

- Mufflers & Custom Exhaust • Wheel Balancing • Brake Service
- Oil Changes • General Automotive Repair • Cars ~ Trucks ~ 4x4's

WITH COUPON
10% OFF LABOR ON ANY SERVICE OVER \$100

220 S. Burdette, Woodland Park, CO
719-687-2446

Jamie Schumacher
Mon-Fri 8:00-5:00

PUZZLES & POTTERY!
Your Place For Great Gifts & Local Artists!

SEE WHAT'S NEW AT SHIPPING PLUS!!

Shipping Plus
Your Full Service Shipping & Business Center

52 County Road 5 • Divide
(Behind Divide Market)
719-686-7587 • Open M-F 9-5:30
ShippingPlusCO@gmail.com
www.shippingplusco.net

The Energy to Thrive™

Thank a Lineworker!
National Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 18! We thank our lineworkers for their dedication to our members.

CORE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

www.CORE.coop

The Spark! Cripple Creek's Kick-Off Event with Awards

The Cripple Creek Firefighter Foundation is excited to announce "The Spark!" its kick-off event, featuring Fire Department Awards, to celebrate dedicated service and to support a safer, more prepared community. The event will be held on April 4 at the Cripple Creek Elks Lodge from 6-9 p.m. located at 375 E Bennett Ave, Cripple Creek, CO 80813. Tickets are \$20 each and are available now via the PayPal link. <https://www.paypal.com/donate/>

The event will honor outstanding members of the Cripple Creek Fire Department and will provide a networking opportunity for community members, firefighters, and local supporters. It will also serve as a fundraising effort to strengthen training, equipment, and safety education programs. Cripple Creek Firefighter Foundation envisions a future where our community is better equipped and trained to respond to emergencies effectively. Our mission is to empower the Cripple Creek Fire Department and enhance safety awareness through education and resources. By providing essential training opportunities, educational outreach, and critical equipment, we aim to elevate the level of safety for all Cripple Creek residents and visitors.

Event highlights include fire department awards recognizing exemplary courage, leadership, and community service, as well as keynote remarks from local leaders and fire department representatives. There will be presentations of grant opportunities and upcoming training initiatives, and opportunities to donate, sponsor, and partner with the Cripple Creek Firefighter Foundation. cripplecreekfirefighterfoundation.org/

- For sponsorship or donation inquiries, contact Chief Joe O'Connor at 719-235-2921 or joconor@cripple-creek.co.us.
- Donations can be mailed to: PO 237 Cripple Creek, CO 80813
- Cash and checks can be paid at the door on April 4.

Cripple Creek Firefighter Foundation supports the Cripple Creek Fire Department by funding training, equipment, and safety initiatives that empower firefighters to respond effectively and protect the community. The foundation is dedicated to elevating public safety awareness through education and outreach, ensuring preparedness for emergencies of all kinds.

Armed Forces Art Show

by Flip Boettcher

Since May has Memorial Day and is Armed Forces month, what better way to honor our veterans and say thank you for your service than to attend the 7th Annual Armed Forces Art Exhibit and Sale in Florence, sponsored by the Florence Merchants Association.

Active duty personnel, their spouses and children, veterans and retired personnel are welcome to submit artwork for the show.

All artwork will be on display in various Main Street businesses through the end of May starting May 9th with "Meet the Artists" 3-5 p.m.

The show will open May 9 at the Bell Tower Culture Center with the performing arts program at 1 p.m., which includes poetry or book readings, music, and dramatic performances. There will also be a brief presentation about the WWII Navajo Code talkers and the

presentation of Quilts of Valor.

New this year, according to Virginia at the Antique Warehouse, any artist participating in the Main Street exhibition will be able to show up to three works of art in the Bell Tower Culture Center's May juried art show with the entry fee waived. Entries for the Bell Tower art show have to be submitted by May 5 and the show will open May 7 with a reception on May 8 from 5-6:30 p.m., with awards presented at 6 p.m.

All interested artists please contact Virginia at 719-621-3301 or mvh87@gmail.com by May 4 to register for both shows or for more information.

Come on out and show your thanks and support for our veterans and military personnel and attend the 7th Annual Armed Forces Art Exhibit and Sale in Florence.

Adopt Me by Ark Valley Humane Society

Swiper

Meet Swiper, a charming 1.5-year-old American Blue Heeler/Alaskan Husky mix with a big personality packed into a smaller frame, he weighs just under 30 pounds! Swiper recently made his way to Ark-Valley Humane Society through their Transfer Program, a collaborative effort with Socorro Animal Shelter aimed at relieving overcrowding and giving more dogs a chance to shine. Swiper has shown himself to be a social pup, making friends with staff, volunteers, and other shelter dogs. He likes to play with fellow resident Luna, who he loves to zoom around the yard with. Swiper can be a little unsure on walks in busy areas, but with a little support and maybe a confident dog friend, he will be strutting in no time. AVHS hopes that through this transfer, Swiper can find a loving family to call his own. When shelters work together, they reduce overcrowding, increase visibility, and give dogs the individualized care they need to thrive. Ultimately saving more lives and ensuring more happy days for our furry friends. To arrange a meeting with Swiper give us a call 719-395-2737.

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



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

April Showers
Bring May flowers!

Spread The Word!
Pet Food Distributions for April 2026
Monday April 13
Monday April 27
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

Building Up Business in Teller County Teller Business Builders Celebrating 20 years!

by Tracie Bennett

Twenty years ago, a group of people in Teller County joined together to create a program to focus on businesses in our community and keep monies raised here in the community. Teller Business Builders was born. "Our organization works to promote each other and keep all funds raised here in our community," stated original member Gail Wingerd, owner of Creative Concepts of America. "We keep our money in the community, so I think that's contributed to our longevity."

TBB has completed a number of projects in the community over the years, including cleanups for years with Keep Woodland Park Beautiful, builds with Habitat for Humanity, painting at the Woodland Park Senior Center, sponsoring families with Community Partnership during the holidays and coordinating with the City of Woodland Park to provide flowers at the Bergstrom Park area. The group has also participated in the annual Christmas Parade in Woodland Park and assisted Help the Needy with feeding folks at the Cruise Above the Clouds in the fall. "About 14 years ago we did a benefit for a member who was injured in an accident," Gail said. "We made it known to the community and were able to raise enough money to cover his medical bills through a spaghetti dinner held at the Hungry Bear."

Gail said that meetings have been held for

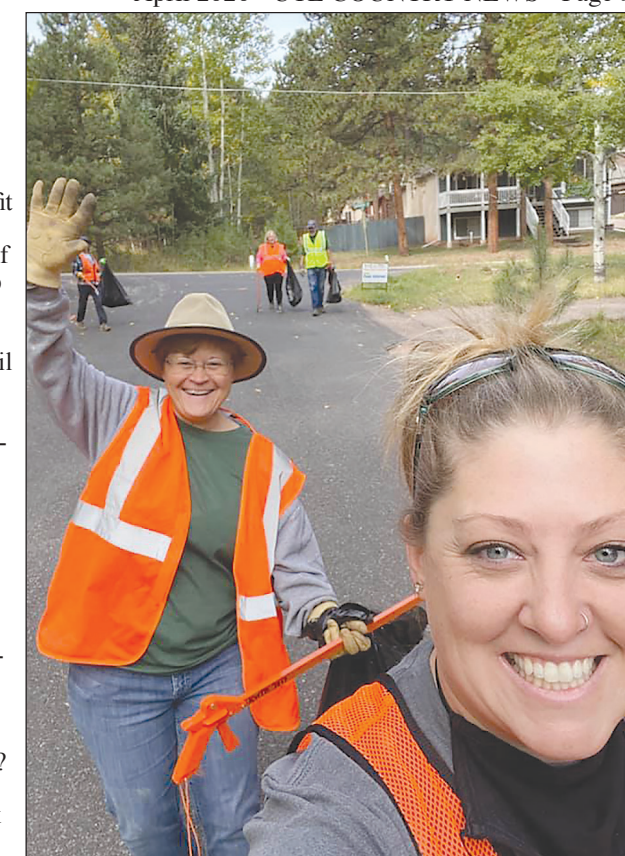
years at the Hungry Bear Restaurant in Woodland Park at 7 a.m. on Monday mornings. As a new member of the group, I can attest to the fact that 7 a.m. is REALLY early on a Monday morning. The best part of the day is Ricard's serving up of coffee and networking with a group of around 15 members whose goal is to support your business and raise you up with good, positive feedback to begin your week. Members have ranged from carpet cleaners to soap makers to sign makers to realtors to construction companies to window washers to salons to massage therapists and more.

"Probably the most unique business we've had as a member (other than my personal dinosaur company) was Friend and Family Fishing Company," Gail said, "along with Spirit Wolf Energetics, who did energy work on animals." Gail spoke about a fun activity one year where guys and girls competed with each other on a day long fishing trip to see who could catch the most fish. "Bob at Friend and Family Fishing coordinated the day," she said. "Our groups paid a fee to compete," according to Gail. "The guys caught the biggest fish at 11 Mile Reservoir, but the girls caught the most fish at Rampart Range. The coolest thing was that Bob donated the money back to TBB and the \$900 raised was

given to two different local nonprofit groups. That's how we operate."

Gail and Jeanine Guy are two of the original members of the group still active. "We've had up to 28 members at a time in the group," she said. "Most members stay until they either move themselves or their businesses away or get to a point they don't need the additional referrals right now," she added. According to her, over 300 local business owners have benefited from membership over the last 20 years. Over 30 members are planning on attending this year's 20-year celebration this month.

Memberships can be paid annually or semi-annually. They even offer seasonal memberships for those open only part of the year. Interested in becoming a member? Gail said to come to a meeting some Monday morning and check out the group at Hungry Bear at 111 E. Midland in Woodland Park. Visit TellerBusinessBuilders.org for more information.



Gail Wingerd (left) and Casey Loftus cleaning up during Keep Woodland Park Beautiful Day.

LEAP
warmth in every home
calor en todos los hogares

Need help heating your home this winter? ¿Necesita ayuda con la calefacción de su casa este invierno?

LEAP can help.
LEAP puede ayudarlo.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
NOVEMBER 1 - APRIL 30

ACEPTANDO SOLICITUDES 1 NOVIEMBRE - 30 ABRIL

LEAP, Colorado's Low-income Energy Assistance Program, helps eligible Coloradans with winter home heating costs.

LEAP, El Programa de Asistencia para Energía para Hogares de Bajos Ingresos de Colorado, ayuda a los residentes elegibles de Colorado pagar una parte de sus gastos de calefacción de invierno.

1-866-HEAT HELP
(1-866-432-8435)
www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap

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.

After you qualify for LEAP you can also get help with your water bill

ARTHRITIS PAIN?
TRY PAIN RELIEF SALVE!

Comfort Mountain Salve
Joboia CBD Pain Relief
Cannabis, Arnica and Clove
100mg CBD (2oz)

NATURAL & ORGANIC

SALVES - LOTIONS - CBDs - SPRAYS

TAMMIE LOWELL, NATIVE AMERICAN HERBAL WELLNESS & BEAUTY

To order your regular or extra strength (containing CBD) PAIN RELIEF SALVE, visit or call:

OyateHerbals.com
719-661-0410

YATE Herbs Follow Us for Monthly Giveaways
COMFORT MOUNTAIN SALVES

MARY SHELL ART.com

PAINT PARTIES EVERY SUNDAY
1424 Elm Ave. Canon City
719-371-5405
creatingfromthesoul@yahoo.com

CRITTER CORNER

Molly & Nola - Mark Weiner, Woodland Park, CO

Spencer looking forward to next season - Hartin Robeson, Santa Fe, NM

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

Cassie Explains Herself

by *Gilrond the Historian*

Mrs. Cassie Winslow was on her way to the school when her car stopped running.

"Oh no, Now I'll be late to class, and the children will have no teacher for hours." She said to herself as she called the towing company on her cellphone. She tried to call the school but got a busy signal.

It was 20 minutes before the tow truck got to her and her car was towed to the repair shop to be fixed.

Cassie stood in the waiting room of the shop for an hour when she heard a whirling of wind outside of the shop in a vacant lot. She looked out of the window and saw Dutch, her Angel Dragon standing looking at the window that she was looking out of.

"Dutch!" she called out as she ran out of the shop to embrace her Angel Dragon. "Oh, you are just in time." She said to him, "My car is broken and I need you to take me to the school."

"I knew there was something wrong, for I could feel that you were not happy. So, I came to you to find out if I could help. Get on my back and I will take you to your school and the children that you love so much."

Cassie was on Dutch's back in a moment and they were in the air flying toward the school.

Dutch landed in the playground and Cassie slid to the ground and gave him a hug as she started for the school building.

"Thank you, Dutch. It's good to have a friend like you," said Cassie as she opened the door to the school and entered to hurry to her classroom.

When she went inside her classroom, she found all of her students staring out of the window at Dutch as he waved and smiled back at them.

The children slowly turned and saw their teacher standing at her desk waiting for them to notice that she was there.

Then the questions started: "Is that your dragon? What kind of dragon is that? Can we ride him? Does he have a treasure hoard? What's his name?"

Cassie laughed as the question kept coming and she waived her hands to stop them.

"Alright class, now get back in your desks and I will try to answer your questions." Cassie took a deep breath and then started.

"First of all, no, he is not my dragon. But he is bonded to me. That means that Dutch and I are very special friends. He can hear my thoughts when I need him, and I can hear him too if he needs me. As I said his name is Dutch and he is the first of his kind."

Then she went on to explain how her horse had died, and she asked a sorcerer to get her another horse. But the sorcerer had made for her an Angel Dragon. So, she called him Dutch the Angel Dragon.

One of the children asked what a sorcerer was.

Cassie explained that long ago when she was a child like the students, there were magic people called sorcerers. They could do all kinds of magic. But they were not around anymore.

Cassie went on to explain that some dragons do have treasure hoards, but the Angel Dragons treasure was dice and candy, not gold and jewels, like the children would find in the dragon stories.

"Have you had any adventures with your dragon?" asked another of her students.

Cassie stopped and stood looking out

the window for a few moments and the tears started to flow from her eyes as she remembered all of the adventures she had with Dutch.

She remembered the time that her mother was very sick and needed a doctor, but the only one was many miles away. She had called on Dutch, and he came and took her mother to the doctor so quickly that he was able to heal her right away.

Then there was the time that they fought off a band of pirates that were about to attack a ship filled with gold. There were several memories of that kind, because Cassie was quite young then and loved being with her dragon and having adventures with Dutch," she answered.

Cassie shook her head and blinked her eyes as the children watched her, waiting for her to answer the question. "Adventures? Oh, yes. I've had many adventures with Dutch," she answered. Cassie could see that the questions would never stop, so she decided to teach in a different way that day. The children would learn about life in a different way today.

"I see that you have many questions about Angel Dragons and the adventures that I have had with Dutch. So, I think that we will spend the rest of the day talking about the many things that I have learned on the adventures that I had with him."

Cassie sat down on a chair in front of the class and thought for a few moments and then smiled as she started to tell of some of her adventures with Dutch the Angel Dragon.

"I remember one adventure that didn't take too long. I was very young and I loved riding on the back of my dragon. One day we were flying along over the beach and Dutch saw a small boat far out in the water that seemed to be having some sort of trouble. There was an older woman standing on the front of the boat and she was calling out for help to a much larger ship that was far away.

We could see that the men on the ship could see her and they were trying to turn their ship toward her, but it would take much time to reach where she was. Her boat was sinking quickly, and we didn't know if she could swim to the ship.

Dutch and I decided to try to help her as Dutch started down toward her. She had never seen a dragon before, and we could see that she was frightened by Dutch's appearance. Dutch flew on down and landed in the water just in front of the sinking boat. I called out to

the older lady to get on Dutch's back with me.

She tried to reach him but fell into the water and down she went. She couldn't swim. Dutch dove down after her and I grabbed her as we swam past her. We then surfaced and took her on over to the ship that was on the way over and put her on the ship's deck.

We never saw her again, but it was an act of kindness that we had done for her that

saved her life.

Another adventure that we had was when there was a big forest fire that threatened to destroy all of the crops for several farmers if it weren't stopped. It was the end of the season and all of the corn and wheat, and other tall grain crops were ready for harvest. Also, they were very dry and a fire like the one burning in the forest would destroy them all.

Some of the farmers were trying to put out the fire while others were harvesting the grains as fast as they could to get them away from the fire as it moved through the forest toward the fields.

Dutch and I were flying over the fire watching it move toward the fields of grain when Dutch had an idea. "Let's burn it back into the forest and then the crops will not burn because the trees will be burned already," Dutch said.

Dutch placed a protective spell over me as we flew down toward the front of the forest fire. The flame from his mouth was amazing as he burned the trees to ash and left no more trees to burn toward the crops.

The farmers stood amazed as the fire fell back away from the fields of grain. Then they started shouting and waving,

"Thank you."

The children were all clapping their hands and shouting, "Good job!" Some of them were farmer's children and they knew what the fire would have done to their family.

The rest of the class time was spent telling the children more of her adventures with Dutch the Angel Dragon.

The children went home talking about all that they had heard that day in class. They spent the evening telling their parents about the adven-

"Aren't you all proud of how you all helped Terry's family? You should be for you were all being kind and helpful. That is what you do for friends and family."

Terry walked up to Cassie and said, "You taught us how to be kind when you told us about your adventures with Dutch the Angel Dragon. Did you ever just have fun adventures?"

Cassie laughed and said, "Yes, we did have just fun adventures

sometimes, but the best were the ones where we were able to help someone. You just wait. Some day you will have an adventure where you will be able to help someone and have fun too. Now listen and I will tell you about an adventure where we just had fun. It was a treasure hunt in the mountains just east of our town. It was long ago and many people had tried to find the treasure that was hidden in what is now called, "The Shadow Mountains." They were called that because of

a legend that told of a shadow that moved over the tallest mountain just before the worst storm of the season. No one knew why it appeared, but it always did appear just before the storm that covered the mountains completely in snow.

The legend said that a fairy princess was once captured by a white dragon and taken to the tallest mountain and kept it there until he would be given the magic diamond that kept the mountain from turning into a volcano.

The dragon was told that the diamond was to be found in a twisted willow tree on the side of a lake seven miles from the mountain. He would have to go and get it, then return the princess to the fairy palace of Winter Mountain.

The dragon left the princess alone in the mountain cave and flew off to get the diamond. What he didn't know was that there were four fairy girls that were waiting to steal the princess away as soon as he left and take her back to the palace.

The diamond was not really in the old, twisted tree, it was just a trick. As the dragon flew away, he was attacked by giant crows that wanted to eat him. He fought the crows while the four fairy girls came to the princess and they started to fly back to the

palace.

The dragon killed all of the crows and then saw the five fairies flying toward the palace and quickly caught up with them.

The princess told the four girls to hurry away and went back with the dragon to the mountain.

The dragon had actually saved the fairies from the giant crows, because they would have eaten them if he had not killed them first.

The dragon watched the princess very carefully as he told her his story. He had been a fairy prince and had been cursed by an evil magician who turned him into the white dragon that he was.

He had only demanded the magic diamond because he, being a dragon, wanted diamonds for his hoard.

The next day the diamond was brought to the dragon and placed on the floor of the cave by one of the fairy girls, who quickly flew away.

The white dragon and the fairy princess looked at the diamond and the white dragon walked around it, looking at it until he couldn't stand it anymore. He touched the magic diamond with his claw.

He suddenly shuddered and threw back his head and flared his white wings as he staggered back from the diamond.

The fairy princess stared and backed away from the dragon, as he staggered around in the cave. Then he was covered in a gray mist and as the mist slowly cleared there, lay a young fairy prince on the floor. No longer a white dragon, but a handsome fairy prince. The curse had been broken, and he had returned to his former self.

The diamond was returned to the fairy palace and the prince and the princess were married.

Cassie stopped and looked at the class, then continued, "It was the diamond hoard that Dutch and I wanted to find. But it was just a legend. We found the cave and we searched for a long time but didn't find the diamonds."

Cassie's car was repaired and she went home where she was met by Dutch. He had a large bag in his claw and dumped it on the table in the kitchen.

Diamonds scattered over the table as he said, "We were in the wrong cave." Cassie stared at the diamonds and then smiled at Dutch.

The next day Cassie was in the classroom with the children and a bag in her hand. She walked to each desk and placed a shiny stone on it as the children watched.

Then she walked to the front of the class.

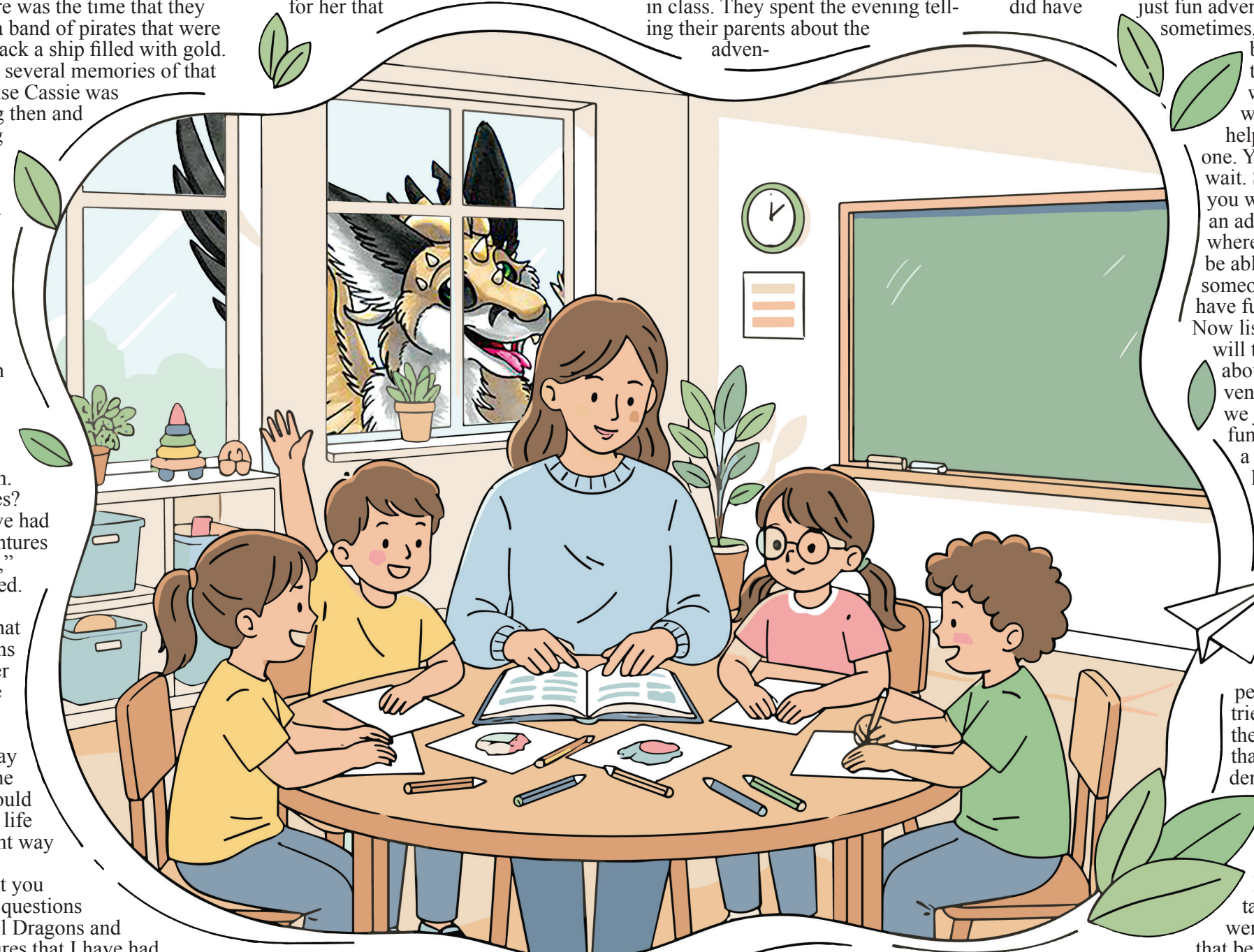
"This will be my last day to be with you," she announced, "I have someplace to go and I must go quickly. I hope you will use the stones that I have given you wisely. Good-bye."

Cassie walked out of the classroom, then out onto the playground where she mounted on Dutch the Angel Dragon's back.

Dutch took to the air as Cassie waved to the children that watched through the window in the classroom.

~ 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.



Divide Collision Center
Quality Work Since 1974!

Auto Body and Paint Repair • Insurance Claim Estimates

WE DO IT ALL!

Hundreds of Satisfied Customers
Boat Repairing & Refinishing
Plastic & Fiberglass Repair
RV Body & Frame Repair
All Insurance Companies
All Types of Painting
Hail Damage Repair
Auto Glass Service

FREE Estimates!

178 Weaverville Rd., Divide
(719) 687-7683

We're on the web!

- Current Issue
- Old Issues
- Where to find us
- Employment Opportunities

www.utecountrynews.com

5 Year Anniversary

Reserve **OG** OUR GALLERY

ART WEEKEND IN WOODLAND

10 - 50% off during event

Friday May 1 4 - 7 p.m.
Art Walk
5-year Celebration with cake!

Saturday May 2 Beginning at 9 a.m.
Car Show - 9a
Art Studio Tours - 10a
Art Activity for Kids - 11a
Art Show Opening - 6p

calling All Crafters:

Set up May 2 in front of Reserve Our Gallery
400 W. Midland WP
719-401-2301
reserveourgallery@gmail.com
\$20

WANT TO BE A BETTER VERSION OF YOURSELF?

Discover Your Own Path, so You can Feel More Comfortable, Confident & Peaceful. You will learn valuable tools & how to use them to Make a Difference in Your Life. Get New Perspective Quickly.

- RN • Psychotherapist • Brain Injury Specialist
- PLT (Past Life Regression Therapy) • Healing from Trauma
- Quit Smoking Hypnosis (and other habits)
- EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing) • Hypnosis

Find Hope, Freedom & Peace.

Cell: 719-510-1268

Web: journeycounselingcenter.com



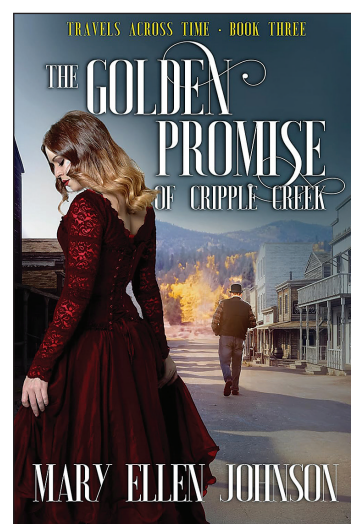
Barbara Pickholz-Weiner

Colorado Labor Wars in Cripple Creek District

by Marianne Magon

Local author Mary Ellen Johnson will be showcasing her latest book, *The Golden Promise of Cripple Creek* at the April 19th Chautauqua presented by Pikes Peak Historical Society (PPHS). The Chautauqua will be held at 2 p.m. at Lake George Charter School. A resident of Woodland Park for more than 40 years, Johnson raised her family there and draws inspiration from the region's dramatic past. Her blue-collar background sparked an enduring interest in the Colorado Labor Wars — one of the most significant yet lesser-known conflicts in American labor history — when wealthy mine owners clashed with the powerful Western Federation of Miners. That passion inspired her latest time-travel historical novel, *The Golden Promise of Cripple Creek*.

Johnson's writing blends meticulous research with emotionally rich storytelling where love collides with power, loyalty, and revolution, and historical events are brought vividly to life. In addition to *The Golden Promise of Cripple Creek*, she is the author of the medieval Knights of England series and the time-travel romances *Before I Wake* and *Eternal Beloved*.



Johnson gives a detailed description of the Colorado Labor Wars, with emphasis on the Cripple Creek District. She offers biographies of primary players such as: Western Federation of Miner's Big Bill Hayward, Governor James Peabody, criminal Harry Orchard and Pinkerton's James McParland, whose initial claim to fame was crushing the Molly Maguires in Pennsylvania's anthracite coal mines. She also offers her reasoning for believing the widely accepted narrative regarding the perpetrators of the Independence Depot is incorrect.

Copies of *Golden Promise* will be available after the presentation for \$20 and Ms. Johnson will accept cash or checks. She will also have copies of her other books as well.

PPHS's Chautauqua is free and open to the public. No reservations are needed and all are welcome to attend. This Chautauqua will be held Sunday, April 19 at 2 p.m. at Lake George Charter School, 38874 US Hwy 24, Lake George, CO. FMI call 719-748-8259 or 719-291-6563.

Criminal Justice, Tina Peters and Protecting our State Rights

by District Attorney, Michael Dougherty

The horrific assassination of Charlie Kirk left our country reeling. A suspect was arrested, and the next question became whether he would be prosecuted federally or by the State of Utah. This type of decision must always be based on the best application of the law, not political motivations or political agendas.

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 now 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 of felony and misdemeanor crimes. The state court judge sentenced Peters to state prison. President Trump has repeatedly 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.

For the past several months, Governor Polis has been considering whether to commute Peters' sentence. Let me be clear — a reduction in her sentence would be an absolute miscarriage of justice, and if the rationale is that her sentence is simply too long, then her case should not be the only one considered for leniency. A two-tiered justice system cannot be tolerated, where the powerful receive preferential treatment. No one is above the law.

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 29 years, in New York City and Colorado. He is a candidate for Attorney General of Colorado.



Colorado Pharmgirl Lassen Volcanic Monument

by Peggy Budgett

I drove my camping van to Incline Village last September to dog sit for my son and his girlfriend. When they got back from their vacation, I decided to visit some of the California National Parks. However, a wildfire in King's Canyon was spreading smoke into Yosemite and beyond. Alex and Meg suggested heading north, so I snagged a campsite at Lassen Volcanic National Monument. As I drove to the park the next morning, ranches dotted fertile valleys. Then rural towns gave way foothills, and a fine drizzle transformed into a dreary rain as I entered the park.

A quick stop at the outpost netted an area map along with a junior ranger booklet. I could hardly qualify for junior anymore, but the rangers who handed out badges didn't seem to mind, and I liked doing the activities. The temperature had dropped considerably by the time I parked in the campground. After throwing on my raincoat, I walked to the camp store and wandered their heated aisles with other sodden campers escaping the weather. I bought a few packages of chips along with a hot chocolate and scurried back to the van.

I set up my bed, huddled under blankets and sipped my drink while turning the pages of a trashy romance novel. After a few chapters, I realized that the steady plink on the metal roof had stopped. The map showed a short hike around the lake adjacent to the campground. I grabbed my coat, gloves and hat, walked to the trailhead, and squished along the muddy path. It felt good to move. As I gazed across the little pond, two snow-covered peaks appeared. Snow? In September? In California?

The drizzle started again, and I trudged back to the van. Dark descended quickly, and I fell asleep to the hum of a generator at the campsite next to me. I woke when the sun peeked through the windshield, threw on my hiking gear and started the 10 mile drive to the trailhead. The road wound through old

forest and the remnants of the 2021 Dixie fire, which had burned more than 70% of the park. The devastation was visible everywhere; blackened trees populated most of the land. It was sobering. Finally, I pulled into a crowded parking lot with lots of school buses. The quiet solo hike I'd anticipated disappeared in the cloud shrouding Lassen Peak. Sighing, I assembled my hiking pack, made sure I had a full water bottle and snacks, and locked the van. I waited in line for a porta-potty, listening to the kids chatter. I was grateful I wasn't one of the chaperones. There was a lot of adolescent angst about "who liked who" and "she's wearing that?!" floating in the air, along with general unhappiness at having to hike up a mountain. At least there was still toilet paper in the stall when it was my turn.

I shouldered my pack and started walking. Numerous switchbacks on the steady incline passed through stunted pines and shrubs. Quite different from Colorado, but pretty in its own way. I passed a squad of young boys that had stopped to kick rocks down the hill. Worried one might bounce off the head of an unsuspecting hiker below; I told them nicely to stop. They glared at me with the black looks kids reserved for grown-ups who spoiled great activities.

I continued on, following the trail to the backside of the mountain where snow covered the path. Mist swirled between giant rock formations as I pulled my traction spikes on my boots. Then I started up the final climb and met a couple heading the opposite direction. I stood aside to let them pass. The woman warned me that it was icy ahead; they had turned around. "No sense in risking a broken hip!" she said with a smile, taking in my hiking skirt, leggings and lack of trekking poles doubtfully. I grimaced back. The mist turned into thick fog as I picked my way slowly along, hoping the tracks wouldn't lead me over a cliff.

After a few rock-climbing moves and sev-

eral heart-stopping slips on the ice, I found myself at the summit. Suddenly, the sun pierced the clouds, and snow fields glittered like diamonds. It was stunning. I lingered for a bit, drank some water, and then faced my descent through the boulder field. I slid on my butt for most of it. Once I was back on the trail, the snow was already melting. Half-way down, I stopped to let a group of fifth grade girls pass. A petite strawberry-blonde in braids doubled over next to me to catch her breath. "Are we close?" she gasped. I decided it was best to lie a little and nodded. "Can I have a hug?" she asked. Without thinking, I wrapped my arms around her. "You've got this," I said. She sighed theatrically and then trudged onward with her friends. I whispered "good luck" to the exasperated teacher as he passed and was tempted to skip down the trail. I hadn't realized I'd needed a hug too. Being kind and open to others when they request a little encouragement is sometimes exactly what we



Peggy trudges her way to the peak amidst the snow.

need, too.

Peggy Budgett is an artist and writer. Her book *Rooster* in the Drive-Through is available for sale at *Shipping Plus in Divide*. 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

OLD WEST

ALL WINES 25% OFF THROUGH APRIL 15

Come celebrate our first anniversary with us.

Hours: Monday - Saturday 3 - 7pm Sunday 12 - 5pm

LIQUORS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE OLD WEST

719-239-1638 • 1431 CAÑON ST., GUFFEY, CO

Shipping Plus

Your Full Service Shipping & Business Center

IS MOVING!! AS OF JUNE 1, 2026

Our New Address Will Be: 121 County Road 5, Divide, CO 80814 Just 200 feet north of our current location, across County Road 5!

For All Your Printing & Copy Services...

Restaurant Menus • Tri-fold Brochures & Flyers • Spiral-Bound Booklets & Calendars POA & HOA Newsletters (with/without mailing) Stop in for a printing quote!

Shipping Plus will be CLOSED APRIL 29 for 8 days and we Re-open on Thursday May 8, 2026.

We must travel for a Family Celebration of Life and to carry out final wishes. We apologize for any inconvenience as we are unable to receive or send out packages during this closure. Thank you for understanding.

719-686-7587 • Open M-F 9-5:30 ShippingPlusCO@gmail.com • www.shippingplusco.net



Keep Your Butts In Your Car! Save our forests and homes!

Guffey Library's New Branch Manager

by Flip Boettcher

The Guffey Library, one of the four in the Park County Library system, has a new branch manager, Jennifer Taylor. Taylor started at the Guffey Library last December and essentially had no training, she said, but is learning fast.

Taylor loves to read and loves books, so she is a good fit for the library, and she brings some new energy and has lots of ideas. Community involvement is very important, and Taylor is very community orientated.

Taylor would like to see the library be more of a community center with perhaps a bookmobile down the road to reach more of the isolated community members. Taylor is also working on reviving the library summer reading program for the students and wants to have more crafts available for them. She even talks about some sort of cooking/food program or class. Her ideas are only limited by time and her budget.

Taylor was born in Massachusetts and went to Los Angeles to attend UCLA there. She

ended up staying there 30 years, 25 of those with the LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department) where she was a detective and retired as a lieutenant. Taylor then moved to Las Vegas where she was a private investigator for two years. To help with her mother-in-law's care, she and her husband moved to Colorado Springs where Taylor continued her PI work.

Wanting to get out of the city and have some property, Taylor and her husband moved to Guffey May 2022 and by June she was a member of the Southern Park County Fire Protection District fire department and on her way to becoming an EMT. Community service is definitely in her blood.

In her spare time, Taylor makes soap! Since Taylor lives in the Old Kathleen Ranch, she calls her soap OKR Bars but is thinking of changing the name because a lot of people have not heard of the Old Kathleen Ranch. Taylor tries to make the soap as natural as possible using a variety of organic items,

Guffey Evacuation Shelters

by Flip Boettcher

The small town of Guffey has three evacuation shelters. One is at the Southern Park County Fire Protection District fire department #1 in Guffey, the Community Center next to the library and at the Guffey Community Charter School; the GCCS is a registered American Red Cross partner shelter. Although, if there were a wildfire close to Guffey, which is filled with dry, wooden-historic buildings, the town would quickly burn down. Wildfire is the greatest threat to the Guffey area. Although, Currant Creek has seen its share of flooding over the years.

Park County residents should be sure they are signed up with the county for CODE RED alerts. In case of an emergency people will be informed about evacuations and where to go. If you aren't signed up for CODE RED or need to update your contact information, go to www.parkcountycolorado.gov. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

Two American Red Cross members from Colorado Springs came to Guffey to provide an overview of shelter operations. Richard Garcia has been with the Red Cross for 23 years, mostly involved with sheltering from

natural disasters like floods, fires and extreme temperatures. Garcia coordinates 120 volunteers. Darlene Avery has been with the Red Cross for three years and is involved with sheltering and spiritual health.

Nine people, who would potentially be setting up, opening, running and closing the Guffey shelters were in attendance.

Red Cross evacuation centers provide people with shelter, food and support, said Garcia. There is much more about running evacuation centers than meets the eye.

The main thing that people running an evacuation center need to keep in mind is that they will be sheltering a potentially diverse group of people, who have never lived together, are stressed and traumatized about having to evacuate their homes with few possessions, and having no idea when they might be returning or if their home has been destroyed.

The Red Cross provides shelter with an army cot for sleeping in a separate dormitory area from the rest of the shelter; three meals per day, ideally in a separate eating area, which in an urban area have to come from a commercial kitchen, but in our area they can come from local folks or one of our restaurants — you have to be careful with food, said Garcia; a comfort

kit with shampoo, etc. and support.

While service animals are accepted at shelters, pets are not unless so designated. The GCCS will accept pets in crates in one of their rooms. TCRAS (Teller County Regional Animal Shelter) also helps with small animals. For larger animals SPCFPD chief Eric Stahly said emergency services would come up with a space for an evacuation site for them and SPCFPD has been working on that with local resident Amy Mason.

No media or videos are allowed in the shelter as well and no one who is not signed in. All sign-in information is confidential. The Red Cross provides disaster preparedness training for communities as well, said Avery, and responds to worldwide disasters and has about 100 training events per month, training about 40,000 people per year, said Garcia.

The Red Cross was founded in 1863 in Geneva, Switzerland by Henry Dunant in response to the suffering of soldiers during the Battle of Solferino and has since expanded its humanitarian efforts globally, becoming a key player in disaster relief and health services, Wikipedia.

Clarissa Harlow Burton, better known as Clara, founded the American Red Cross in 1881 after learning about the Red Cross founded

in 1863. Barton went to Europe and became involved with the International Red Cross during the Franco-Prussian War and was determined to bring the organization to America.

The American Red Cross is a "non-profit humanitarian organization that provides emergency assistance, disaster relief, and disaster preparedness education in the United States," Wikipedia; it is an affiliate of the International Red Cross. As founder of the Red Cross, Clara is considered a visionary whose humanitarian spirit and intense devotion to helping others, forged a bold path of service to help those in need and helped change the world, Wikipedia.

Barton established the Red Cross in Dansville, New York and was the organizations first president and resigned in 1904.

The Red Cross has provided services after many notable disasters, including the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, WWI, the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918, WWII, Hurricane Katrina and the Maui wildfires of 2023. So, in case of an emergency, the Red Cross is there.

In this time of weird weather and now extreme drought, remember to be prepared, alert, sign-up for Park County's CODE RED, have a go-bag packed and an evacuation plan ready, including any pets and livestock.



The Guffey Library New Branch Manager Jennifer Taylor.

A Look Inside the Artist Kara Smith, Multi-medium artist

by Mary Shell

I love finding artists that work comfortably working in many different mediums. I call them the artists that love 'playing in the mud', meaning they have no fear of creating in many ways, as long as they create. They, like Kara, understand that creating art means to play.

Kara's work is expressive, as if she can see the essence of her subjects. Unlike most artists (including myself) who stick to a theme, or series, Kara seems to see a variety of subjects that need to be expressed in a painting.

Below is what she expressed on her Facebook page and I felt everyone needed to know this about her:

"Hello family and friends.... I recently decided to embark on a journey through the Milan Art Institute. Art has always been my passion, but I've always put other things first! NOW it is my time! I'm going for it! I just finished my first painting in this program, and I wanted to share it with you because this has been a dream of mine for a long time. This painting represents the beginning of my journey toward becoming an artist and finding my own voice."

How long have you been painting?

I painted some as a child and in high school, but most of my younger years I spent time drawing. I just started painting, really painting, in 2021. I picked up a paint brush and decided I wanted to attempt a portrait in watercolor of my nephew. It came out great and it started the fire in my soul to start creating again. I began painting and drawing portraits of family, pets, landscapes, and celebrities. A coworker of my daughter asked her if I could paint a memorial picture of his sister which inspired me to start a customized art business in 2023. I would take your photos of pets, family, landscapes and create an original piece of art that you could display in your home instead of it being hidden in your phone's gallery. By the end of that year, I had successfully painted and/or drawn approximately 25 pieces that I sold locally and/or shipped all over the United States.

You have so many different subjects you paint, do you have a favorite?

Portraits! As a young child, I used to have drawing contests with a childhood friend. I used to spend a lot of time drawing noses, eyes, hands, and faces to compete with her. Then I would buy magazines with my babysitting money and draw portraits of the women in the ads. I believe I was born with a lot of natural talent, but it was all the thousands of drawings and hours, perfecting the shapes and contours of the parts of a face, that really made portraits effortless and inspiring to me. I now see faces in textures of wood, or carpet, or wallpaper, or anything really. I dream about portraits and faces and hope that I can recreate the visions in my dreams.

What medium do you use the most?

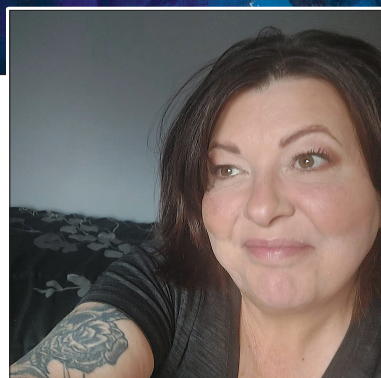
I would say I've been using pencil the longest, and I am probably the most proficient with pencils. In 2021, when I started painting in watercolor, I became obsessed with the flow and ease of it. I have really perfected the process of watercolor and I enjoy it immensely. I just started working with acrylics last year and I am trying to perfect my process in that. I also recently used oils for the first time ever. I hope to expand my knowledge of all mediums. I don't want to be limited or known for just one medium or subject. I want to know and create with every tool available to me.

Who inspires you to create?

My family! Most of my life when I create it is for my family. When my kids were small, they used to watch me draw or ask me to draw things for them, and now my grandkids are getting to the age that they do the same thing. They are the ones who encourage me to create, give me feedback, and remind me that it is never too late to do something you love and were born to do!

What are your favorite colors to use?

I would have to say Burnt Sienna is the color I'm most drawn to. I almost always use it for my underpainting. I love the warm tex-



ture of the color. It reminds me of Autumn, and a cozy space in my heart, nostalgic of loved ones that have passed. I honestly love all colors though and enjoy mixing and layering colors to create that perfect combination for a shadow, a highlight or a feeling.

painting, live, in the gym at an art fair, while lots of people were watching. It was very intimidating to do that, especially being my first ever acrylic painting. It was a painting of a Native American Woman. I did have offers to buy that painting, but I gave it to my mom as a gift. My daughter has that painting now. I look at it now and I don't think it was all that impressive, but at the time it was and I was only 16. I can never put a price tag on that experience and memory.

What's the future for you?

I am currently enrolled in the Milan Art Institute Mastery Program. It is an amazing online art program that teaches fundamentals of drawing and painting in all mediums, finding your voice as an artist, and the business side of making it as a full-time artist. I am very excited about this program! I'm hoping to gain new skills, work in new mediums, and explore new opportunities. My goal is to "make it" as an artist. I have always thought I couldn't make a living with my art. So, I worked meaningless jobs that didn't bring me joy. I am finally following my dreams and doing what I love! I believe if I put time and effort into this, it will happen for me. I used to think I was too old to start something new and follow my dreams, I don't think that anymore. If there is something you love, are passionate about, and are good at.... DO IT! Whether you're 18, 53 (like me), or 75... It's never too late! Take the leap!

You can reach Kara via Facebook or kcsmith2025@hotmail.com
You can reach Mary Shell at www.maryshellart.com

What was your worst art project?

I don't think I would classify it as a project... but at the end of 2023, after starting my art business and feeling that I succeeded, I went through a divorce. It was very painful and I had a lot of dark feelings and anger consuming my every thought. I needed a release for all those emotions and decided to paint what I was feeling. It turned out quite dark, ugly, and there was not anything I would ever want to share with the world. But it freed me! Every bad thought and feeling I painted on that canvas. As soon as I finished it, I felt at peace with myself. Painting started me on the journey of finding myself again, and healing things that were broken inside me.

Is there something you would like to try next?

I want to continue my exploration of Acrylic and Oil painting. I also want to begin to incorporate spray paint, collage, and modeling paste into my paintings.

Most artists have a favorite painting they created and would never sell; do you have one?

In high school I painted my first ever acrylic

16th Pie Palooza

by Flip Boettcher
photo courtesy of Kelli Burke

Guffey pie frenzy has finally settled down after the Guffey Community Charter School's 16th Pie Palooza on March 12 raised \$8,566 for the school. The Pie Palooza is the school's biggest fundraiser of the year. The Grand Champion — Best in Show this year was Leslie Randall with her Dutch Apple Pie, which was also the top selling pie for \$500.

About 60 or more people plus students packed into the school's multi-purpose room. The pies started arriving at the school around 3 p.m. with each pie baker submitting two of the same kind of pie, one for the contest and one for the auction.

The idea for the Pie Palooza came up at a school staff meeting as a school fundraiser and the school's first middle school teacher, Alexi Alifieri, wrote three melodramas for the event, which the school rotates each year. This year's melodrama was "In a Pickle at the Pie Palooza." The melodrama this year was dedicated to Lacie, a former student who died tragically last year. Lacie loved the Pie Palooza.

The melodrama featured the Pie Sisters — Besta, Lotta and Honey; the villains — Minceat, Crusty and Creamy; the Pie Angels — strawberry/hubarb, cherry, apple with cheese, and blueberry; the judge was Sheriff Rollin' Dough. The students did a really good job acting and the costumes were great.

After the melodrama the middle school performed a really great song, "50 States in America" with a dance routine.

While the melodrama and dance routine were going on, the five pie judges were sampling and judging the pies. One judge for each of the four pie categories — Frank Schiola, head judge, Eric Kellogg, Fire Chief Aric Stahly and Harrison Elam — and one judge for the student pies — Mikavla Batts.

After the melodrama, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in the four categories — fruit, cream, savory and other — and the student category were announced, as well as the Grand Champion — Best in Show.

After the winners were announced, it was time for pie tasting with auction bidders going first and students last.

Then it was time for the pie auction. Alan Woolsey was again the auctioneer. An



Left to right are Fire Chief Aric Stahly, Eric Kellogg, Grand Champion - Best in Show Leslie Randall, Mikavla Batts and Frank Schiola, head judge. You can't really see him, but Harrison Elam is behind Leslie Randall.

auctioneer can make or break an auction, and Woolsey is really good and gets the crowd going. Woolsey owns his own auction company in Canon City and donates his services to the school for the Pie Palooza. Former School Administrator Pam Moore was the master of ceremonies and Former School Teacher Jenny Peck was the "Vanna White" pie presenter.

There were 39 pies to auction with the first pie, Mrs. MacDonald's classes Chocolate Chip Pie Ooza, selling for \$40. The auction took off from there with friendly rivalries. Eighteen pies sold in the \$20 - \$100 range; 13 pies sold in the \$100 - \$200 range; two pies sold in the \$200 - \$300 range; and five pies sold in the \$300 - \$500 range. The Grand Champion pie, Leslie Randall's Dutch Apple Pie was sold last for a whopping \$500.

Overall, the school raised \$8,566 in pie sales, t-shirt sales and donations. School administrator Kelli Burke sends out a big "THANK YOU" to the school staff, volunteers, judges, auctioneer, pie makers and pie buyers." The GCCS is a big part of the community with the school supporting the community and the community supporting the school. By the way, it is not too early to think about what kind of pie you want to bake for next year's 17th Pie Palooza.

The winners were — pie baker, kind of pie, sold for:

- FRUIT**
1. Leslie Randall — Dutch Apple - \$500.
 2. John Buckner — Apple Hatch Chili - \$300.
 3. Jackie Magee — Peaches and Cream - \$110.

- CREAM**
1. Louise Peterson — Cajeta Goat Cheesecake - \$190.
 2. Beth Hall — Choco Fluffermutter - \$160.
 3. Laura Batts — Key Lime - \$150.

- SAVORY**
1. Carolyn Barker — Curry Chicken - \$330.
 2. Rita Mick — Filo Brie Apple Date Concertina - \$300.
 3. Anna Clare Monlezun — Bacon Cheese Burger - \$350.

- OTHER**
1. Chris Peterson — Baklava Cheesecake - \$90.
 2. Tavis Y. — Spaghetti - \$80.
 3. Rita Mick — Filo Crinkle Peach - \$100.

- STUDENT**
1. Hunter Loesing — German Chocolate - \$120.
 2. Cenovia Mann — Lemon Raspberry - \$130.
 3. Mrs. MacDonald's Class — Chocolate Chip Pie Ooza - \$40.

Local Author Publishes Tales from the Bed and Biscuit

Jefferson, CO author Kendra Lee Hall has released a new book, *Tales from the Bed and Biscuit*, a heartwarming collection of stories inspired by the many dogs who have stayed at her mountain boarding ranch, Big Sky Ranch Bed and Biscuit.

Set in the Colorado Rockies, the book shares the adventures and personalities of the canine guests who visit the ranch. From playful Golden Retrievers to spirited Terriers and gentle giants, each story celebrates the unique character of the dogs and the joy they bring.

Hall, who operates Big Sky Ranch Bed and Biscuit at the foot of Kenosha Pass, says the stories grew out of years of caring for dogs at the ranch.

"I was inspired to write *Tales from the Bed and Biscuit* because each day I laugh and love as I share my days with my four-legged guests." Hall said. "Each dog that comes through the gates has a unique personality, and I love when clients share their stories — as in the case of Drake who was rescued from the jungles of Costa Rica, and the Husky trio Aspen, Snoopy and Lucy featured in the story, "Surprise on Husky Mountain!"

Lee hopes readers will feel a connection, as some of the stories may remind them of a beloved pup in their own lives.

Signed copies of *Tales from the Bed and Biscuit* are available at www.KendraLeeHall.com. Also available through online retailers including Amazon. Visit Lee's website to read free stories, meet some of the characters, and learn more.

For more information visit www.KendraLeeHall.com.

See advertisements and read "Surprise on Husky Mountain" on page 5.

TELLER COUNTY JOB FAIR

1 - 3 PM
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2026

Ute Pass Cultural Center
210 E. MIDLAND AVE
WOODLAND PARK, CO 80863

REGISTER NOW AT CONNECTINGCOLORADO.GOV

Learn more at
PPWFC.ORG/JOB-FAIRS/

Veterans receive priority of service.
Paid from CDLE's Workforce Enterprise Funds.

PRESENTING THE

FLORENCE MERCHANTS 24TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW

ON MAIN STREET IN FLORENCE

MAY 17TH
2026
9AM TO 3PM

CHECK IN AT 7 AM
REGISTER NOW AT:
www.antiquecapitalofamerica.com

TRUTH & LIBERTY AWARDS BANQUET

A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR TRUTH & LIBERTY

Friday, May 1, 2026 | 6 p.m.

Join us to celebrate
courageous and
faithful leaders.

David Barton

Recipient of the Samuel Adams Award for Courageous Christian Leadership

- Celebrating 250 years of faith and heritage
- Exclusive stage preview of *Finding America*
- Honoring leaders who have stood for life, freedom, and biblical truth
- Supporting the mission of Truth & Liberty

Tina Peters

Recipient of the Samuel Whittemore Award for Heroic Christian Citizenship

Join us on Friday, May 1, at Charis Bible College in Woodland Park for the Truth & Liberty Awards Banquet. Together, we will celebrate our God-given heritage and honor courageous Christian leadership as we recognize **David Barton** and **Tina Peters** for their steadfast faith, devotion to the truth, and unwavering boldness.

Special Presentation

Experience a live stage preview of *Finding America*—a Broadway-style patriotic performance commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Reserve your tickets or become a sponsor at TruthandLiberty.net/Sponsors.
Every ticket directly supports Truth & Liberty's mission to equip the church, bring believers together, and activate them to shape culture with purpose and conviction.

Charis Bible College | 800 Gospel Truth Way | Woodland Park, CO 80863

Forestland on Mosquito Range Peak Purchased

by USDA Forest Service

On March 18, 2026, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and The Conservation Fund announced the Forest Service's purchase and permanent protection of 480 acres on Mount Bross from The Conservation Fund, which acquired the property last September to secure outstanding recreational opportunities and access to Colorado's high mountain peaks.

The agency plans to manage the land on this "Fourteener" — or "14er," a peak that rises above 14,000 feet — for public trail access and to protect critical headwaters and wildlife habitat. The purchase includes a portion of the DeCaLiBron Loop Trail — across Mounts Democrat, Cameron, Lincoln and Bross — between Mount Lincoln and Mount Bross. Local communities have expressed support for the acquisition, including Park County and the nearby towns of Alma and Fairplay, who depend on the recreation economy that Mount Bross supports and the water that it provides.

"We are excited to bring access and conservation efforts that will benefit the community and wildlife in such a popular recreation area," said Pike-San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands Forest Supervisor Ryan Nehl. "We could not have accomplished this without the support of The Conservation Fund, Park County and many other partners, with whom we are honored to care for the land and ensure its protection for many generations to come."

This announcement continues momentum on a multi-year initiative to protect Colorado's 14ers. It builds on The Conservation Fund's and Forest Service's recent work in 2023 to add 289 acres to the national forest at the Kite Lake Trailhead and major portions of the DeCaLiBron trail, places on the 14ers that had been closed to hikers in past years. The Mount Bross purchase occurs at a key time, as Colorado, the "Centennial State," celebrates its 150th statehood anniversary.

"Mount Bross is a place where Colorado's recreation, heritage and natural wonder all come together. This project shows what's possible when local communities, conservation

partners and the Forest Service move quickly together to protect Colorado's most cherished landscapes," said Kelly Ingebritson, senior field representative at The Conservation Fund.

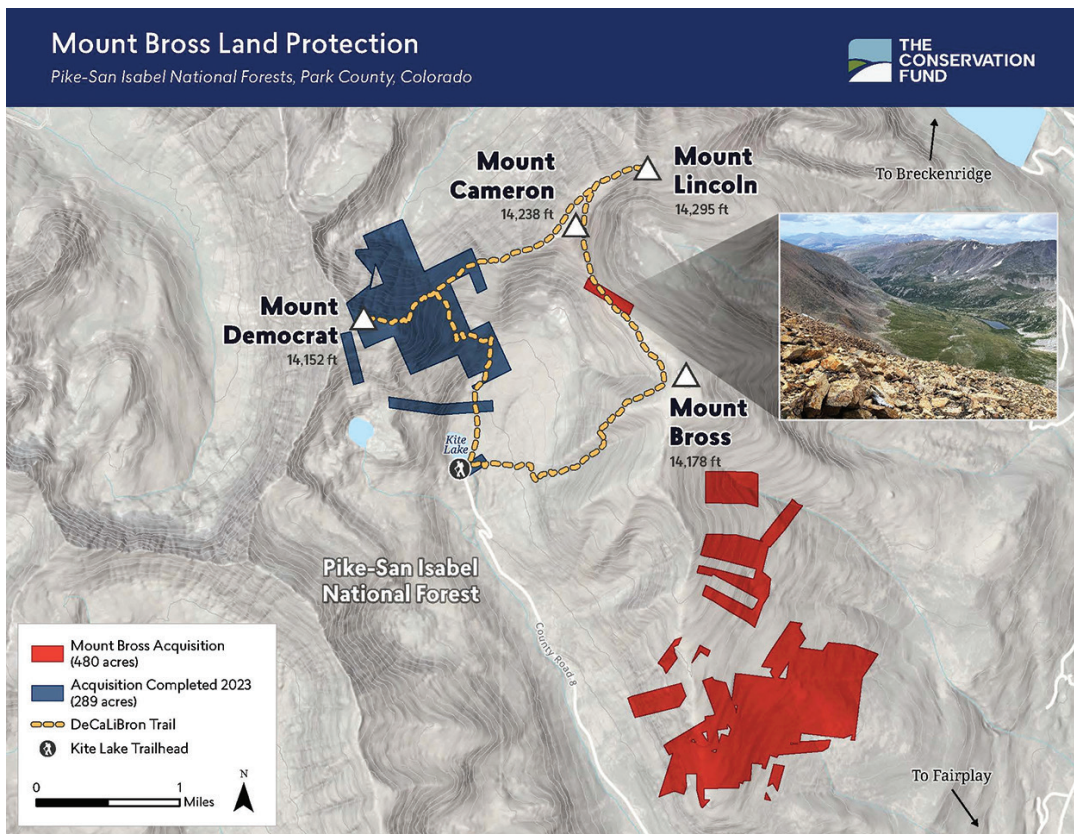
As part of the Pike-San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands, these 480 acres will protect the headwaters of the South Platte River, a vital source of drinking water, agricultural irrigation and a healthy downstream environment. They will also protect and strengthen critical wildlife corridors by preserving continuous, undeveloped habitats for elk, moose and bighorn sheep, easing the threat of human-wildlife encroachment.

While this acquisition protects land and improves overall access on Mount Bross, it does not include the summit, which remains privately owned. Consequently, public access to the summit remains restricted at this time.

Funding for the acquisition came from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which was permanently funded through the bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act signed by President Trump in 2020. LWCF, established in 1965, reinvests a small percentage of offshore energy revenues — not taxpayer dollars — in conservation and recreation access projects that support critical natural resources, wild habitats, historic sites and working lands. This project was made possible thanks to swift action by The Conservation Fund and in partnership with Park County, the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative, Colorado Mountain Club Foundation, and a local landowner, Earth Energy Resources, LLC.

Leaders from partner organizations emphasized the project's significance:

"Park County celebrates this community driven project. Our Land and Water



Trust Fund grant was a catalyst to protect the Mount Bross lands and headwaters, strengthen our outdoor recreation economy and preserve significant water resources for our communities," said Lucas Meyer, Park County manager.

that make Colorado great."

"We are thrilled to see Mount Bross lands protected and added to public lands. We have been glad to be a part of this effort to ensure the Mosquito Range's exceptional alpine biodiversity and headwaters support our local communities and provide critical wildlife habitat," said Cara Doyle, executive director of the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative.

"Protecting another key portion of the DeCaLiBron trail and viewed as a win for the 14ers and for hikers. This is one of the most popular 14er area hikes in Colorado, with over 15,000 hiker use days last year," added Lloyd Athearn, executive director of the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative. "We are glad to partner on this project that helps with trail access and protecting these peaks

Colorado Mountain Club Foundation is pleased to help with this important acquisition," said John Lacher, a board member of the Colorado Mountain Club Foundation.

People See, People Do

You can Kindle Kindness, too!

by Readers of Ute Country News

This is a column dedicated to acts of kindness. There are no names of people or businesses because the focus is the kind behavior, in hopes that we can generate more kindness to co-create a kinder society. Have you witnessed or experienced an act of kindness? Please share by emailing utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com, coming into Shipping Plus and telling us or by snail mailing your experience to Ute Country News POB 753 Divide, CO 80814.

- He has many, so shares his plants with me in pots printed with his 3-D printer. Sharing plants is an act of kindness for the people and the plants.
- What a kind day — 3 different people held the door for me today!
- Words of appreciation are happily accepted because they balance out the com-

plainers. Be kind and give a compliment; you might get a smile in return.

- They were willing to negotiate, which is an act of kindness.
- The best part of having a sister is when you ask, "When can we talk this weekend? I need my big sister." She lets me know she's there for me! Having someone in your life you can count on to be there is kindness.
- The internet went out and efforts to fix the issue commenced. Nothing was effective. Within a few short minutes, we received a text that the tower had lost power, and they have already been in contact with the electric company to repair it. That text was an act of kindness because we knew all parties were aware and it was in their hands, not ours.

- Listening to the complaints gave me a chance to vent and that is what I needed. Letting someone vent is an act of kindness. Get rid of the nasty and return to peace.
- He came upon a box and opened it. He found all kinds of military certificates, awards, medals and photographs. Considering he is a Veteran, he could recognize the significance of the items and took the challenge upon himself to track down the owner, then return the items to him. This was an act of kindness.

- He saw an elderly gentleman getting up from the table at the restaurant and noticed moving was difficult, so he offered to hold the door. Just as he held the door, a woman noticed the elderly gentleman was using a cane and realized it would be difficult for

him to carry his "take home package" of leftovers, so she asked if she could carry that to the vehicle for him. Noticing when someone could use some help and offering that help is an act of kindness! How cool that we live in a community where this helping comes so naturally!

- The visit was unexpected. I was under a deadline and let him know. He agreed he came unannounced and left materials for me to view at my leisure and promptly left. Respecting someone's boundaries, whether the boundaries are for time or anything else, is a sign of respect and kindness!
- Reciprocity is an act of kindness.
- He went for that door before I had a chance to move from behind the counter. Holding the door is an act of kindness.

Mountain Essentials

by Flip Boettcher
photo courtesy of Nicole McChesney

Welcome to the new location of the Mountain Essentials shop. They are still located on Fairplay's historic Front Street, just a little farther down, in a larger location, at 549 Front Street. The sign out front says, "Come on in... we smell good!"

Mountain Essentials will be celebrating their grand re-opening and 7 year anniversary on June 13th 11-6 p.m. Alex the alpaca and his friends will be there for a petting zoo, along with cotton candy, snacks, permanent jewelry and good company.

The shop, owned and operated by Nicole McChesney, features everything goat milk. McChesney milks her goats and turns that goat milk into wonderful products for the shop including all her skincare products like her award-winning soaps and lotions, lip balms and more.

The shop also includes 20 different Colorado vendors, all women, and besides skincare products there are candles, creamy goat milk fudge and quite an assortment of gifts.

McChesney, who was born in Denver and grew up in Buena Vista, and her husband are Colorado natives and have lived in Fairplay 18 years and currently have about 60 goats, McChesney said.

Mountain Essentials first opened on June 15, 2019 in a small shop at 520 Front Street, where Wizards of the Peaks gaming store is now. McChesney quickly outgrew that space and moved next door to a larger store at 526 Front Street in August 2020.

Mountain Essentials survived COVID and now for her 7th anniversary, McChesney pur-



Mountain Essentials owner Nicole McChesney in front of her new shop location on Fairplay's historic Front Street.

chased the building at 549 Front Street, did an extensive remodel and opened March 1.

The Mountain Essentials hours change seasonally. If you want more information on hours, upcoming events and classes visit their

Facebook and Instagram sites @mountainessentialsllc. Their website is: www.mountainessentialsllc.com or phone: 719-839-9591.

Come on in and see what great items and gifts they have.

Junior Achievement: Education for What's Next

by Junior Achievement, Rocky Mountain

What's Next? That's the question on everyone's mind.

Technologies like AI and our rapidly changing economy are affecting the workforce and making a significant impact on the employment prospects of this and future generations. Once, a high school education was enough for a good job that could provide for the essentials of life.

But over the years, advances in technology and global competition have brought us to a point where even a college degree might not be enough. Today, more than one-third of college graduates are "underemployed," meaning they work jobs that don't require a college degree and may pay less than a living wage, according to data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

At Junior Achievement, we are committed to finding answers. As a strategic partner working in collaboration with educators, employers, investors, leaders, and the communities they serve, we are dedicated to helping students achieve academically today and economically tomorrow.

According to the Camber Collective, the top four life experiences expected to positively affect lifetime earnings, and promote economic mobility, are 1) completing secondary education, 2) graduating with a degree in a high-paying field of study, 3) receiving mentorship during adolescence, and 4) obtaining a first full-time job with opportunity for advancement.

Job skills training and business ownership can also be beneficial. These experiences can contribute to gaining transferable skills and competencies, such as creative and critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and continuous learning, needed to succeed in our



Junior Achievement in action.

rapidly changing economy.

We believe every student deserves a future filled with choices and opportunities. That's why we focus on what drives real economic mobility by helping students become confident, capable, competent, and connected. Three in five JA alumni say they started or owned a business, another lever for economic mobility, because of their JA experience (59%).

As the leader in experiential learning oper-

ating on a national scale with over a century of experience, we are driving toward lasting change. This means ensuring a generation of students has the transferable skills and competencies needed to ensure they have choice-filled futures tomorrow.

Join us. To find out more about volunteering here in Teller County, contact Sherri L. Albertson at salbertson@jarockymountain.org. We'd love to have you on our team!

Mountain Artists Announces CALL FOR ARTISTS

2026 Mountain Arts Festival

by Nancy Stannard

The Mountain Artists of Teller County are preparing for the 41st annual Mountain Arts Festival that will take place August 8 and 9, 2026 by announcing the Call for Artists.

This festival attracts between 2,000 - 3,000 visitors from the Pikes Peak area and beyond. Artists have the opportunity to display and sell their art without the typical gallery commitments or costs of commissions. Festival participation often leads to the development of a returning collector base, and benefits of networking with other artists to learn about the display opportunities across the region. In addition to art, there will be food trucks, and live music.

Artists will benefit from peak tourist season traffic, comfortable mountain weather, proximity to Colorado Springs buying audience, and lower registration fees than most art fes-

tivals. Booth pricing for both days: Individual booth: \$190; Shared 2-artist booth: \$220. Price includes jurying fee. Deadline to apply is May 31, 2026.

Originally established in 1989 the purpose of the Mountain Artists is to promote, encourage, support, and assist in the making and showing of visual arts of persons of all ages in the Ute Pass, Teller County and surrounding areas.

Teller County Student Art Show

The Mountain Artists sponsor the annual Teller County Student Art Show open to all middle school, high school, private school and home-schooled students living in Teller County. The juried exhibition celebrates student creativity across multiple artistic categories, including oils, acrylics, watercolor,

drawing, mixed media, digital design, 3-D works, and photography. A respected local art educator or artist judges the submissions, with students receiving ribbons, certificates, and cash awards during a special awards ceremony and reception. Following the event, the student artwork is displayed at the Woodland park Library, providing an opportunity for the community to appreciate and support young artistic talent.

Students should print and complete the application and bring it with their artwork to the Woodland Park Public Library on Friday, April 10, from 3-5:30 p.m. Awards will be presented Saturday April 18 at 4 p.m. downstairs at the library.

Middle school students will be eligible for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons, High school students will be eligible for ribbons plus

Healthy Kicks in '26

Teller County Senior Expo & County Health Fair

by Tracie Bennitt

A major fact of life is that we all keep getting older. Major resources in our community include a variety of Senior Organizations tasked with keeping us "older" folks in the know.

In 2015 the goal was to establish a collaboration that connected senior services throughout Teller County. Starting as a vision by Paula Levy, who owned DayBreak, an adult day care center in Woodland Park, (she is now located in Colorado Springs running Never Alone Consulting), Mary Barrowman, who was with Prospect Home Care and Deb Idleman, who was with Pikes Peak Regional Hospital, the plan was to seek out an efficient way to ensure that residents could access information needed to navigate the complex world of healthcare resources available in the Teller County Region.

April 25th, from 9-1 p.m., Healthy Kicks in '26 will take place at the Woodland Park Community Church located at 800 Valley View Dr. in Woodland Park organized by the Golden Bridge Network. This is a dynamic senior expo highlighting programs and services for healthy, active living in our community. Some of the resources at the event will include Hands Only CPR Instruction, balance awareness and exercises, the state vaccine van, and speakers to include Teller County Commissioner Dan Williams, Commander Tedesco from Teller County Sheriff's Office, and Wendy Henley from Right at Home, a home care company that serves all of Teller County.

The event will provide tools, connections and resources available to seniors here in the community. Some of those resources include healthcare options, health and wellness programs, home healthcare, hospice services, financial planning, estate planning, assisted living, skilled nursing care and much more.

Not only will you get all this great information, but lunch is provided for FREE courtesy of the Aspen Mine Center and music by Dana Rodenbaugh.

In addition to the Senior Expo & County Health Fair, Teller County Public Health & Environment is trying to gather Oxygen needs information from our community. They are considering an emergency access program to help our community since there are no Oxygen companies located in Teller County. As the extent of the community need is unknown, gathering information is critical. The attached QR code provides a questionnaire to help with this process.

Members in the Golden Bridge Network include Aspen Mine Center — Cripple Creek, Teller Senior Coalition — Divide, Woodland Park Senior Center, Teller County Public Health and Environment, Department of Human Services: Adult Protection, Forest Ridge, various Hospice and Home Care Agencies, Senior Choice Benefits, Voices of Grief and UHealth — Pikes Peak Regional Hospital and The Aspen.

Apply Now: <https://tinyurl.com/MtnArts-Festival>

Learn more: TheMountainArtists.org

Follow us

Instagram: @mtnartsfest

Facebook: Mountain Artists of Teller County

Guffey Community Charter School is now enrolling for the 26/27 School Year

Please call 719-689-2093 or visit our website for more information guffeyschool.org

If you would like to learn more about our little K-8 school, please go to our website: www.guffeyschool.org

FILL UP SPECIAL VOLUME DISCOUNTS

Global Propane

\$1,899

Gallon

500 GALLONS PLUS

*Price subject to change

(303) 660-9290

Family Owned Business

Advertise in the paper that's for the whole family...

• Interesting & informative articles
• NO RANTING!
• Average 95% pick-up rate!
• 11,000 papers printed each month
• Over 100 distribution points in over 4 counties

Your advertising dollar goes further in the paper that gets read "cover-to-cover" - most commonly heard feedback from our readers.

Call or Email for more information on how to get your word out!

719-686-7587 • utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com

~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.nami-colorado.org/>
- Suicide prevention: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/> or dial 988

CAÑON CITY

- Sundays Paint with Mary Shell - see page 10.

LIBRARY

- 1st Friday Lego Club 3 p.m.
- 2nd Friday Breakfast Box 3 p.m.
- 3rd Friday Creative Crafting 3 p.m.
- 3rd Saturday Cañon City Gardening Club 1-2:30 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 10-10:30
- Chess Club Wednesdays 2 p.m.
- Cribbage Club Fridays 10-noon
- Dulcimer Club for kids 2nd and 4th Wednesday 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- Mahjong Club Tuesdays 1-4 p.m.
- Metaphysical Group Second Saturdays 10:30 a.m.
- Rummikub Club meets 3rd Monday of each month 1 p.m.
- Story Swap Book Chat 1st and 3rd Tuesdays available.
- Story time and craft Tuesday and Thursdays 10:30 a.m.
- All at 516 Macon Ave unless otherwise specified. FMI 719-269-9020 www.ccpil.lib.co.us

CASCADE

UTE PASS LIBRARY

2, 16 Device Drop-in Help 3-4 p.m.

Need help with your laptop, smart-phone, tablet, or the Library's new online catalog? Stop by our Device Drop-In Hour and our staff can assist you. No registration is required. Please bring your power cords and devices. We cannot help with installing software, removing viruses, or setting up computers.

3 Tween: Snack Magnets 3:30-4:30 p.m. Sculpt something deliciously adorable and create your own mini food-themed magnets using colorful clay. From tiny pizzas to mini donuts, you will shape and decorate your creations before turning them into magnets to take home and display. Ages 9-12.

10 LEGO Build 3:30-4:30 p.m. Engineering your best LEGO creation and completing LEGO challenges are only some of the possibilities at this open-ended LEGO program using the Library's LEGO resources. Join us for creative fun! All ages welcome.

11 Colorado Mosses 3-4 p.m. As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the State of Colorado, join us in learning the art of mosses by transforming Colorado toons into stunning artworks! Ages 13 - 18. Registration required at ppld.librarymarket.com/event/coloradomosses-524625

25 Jigsaw Puzzle Swap 2-4 p.m. Give a puzzle, get a new-to-you puzzle in exchange at the Jigsaw Puzzle Swap! We will only accept gently used puzzles.

- Fridays Storytime 10:30-11:15 a.m. Stories and more for children ages 3-7, and their parents or caregivers.

COLORADO SPRINGS

18 Pucks 4 Paws 4 p.m. Ed Robson Arena at Colorado College, fundraiser for TCRAS.

CRIPPLE CREEK

4 Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Parks N Rec Line-up 12:30 p.m., Hunt begins at 1 p.m. Ages 0-12 years.

4 The Spark! Kick-off event featuring Fire Department Awards 6-9 p.m. See page 8.

6-24 Colorado Road & Bridge Institute an intensive, full-time, three-week training program where selected applicants receive FREE hands-on training and a CDL. FMI 970-204-8294 or email CLTAP@FrontRange.edu

11 Randall Stewart presents: Simplified Geology of the Cripple Creek/Victor Gold Mining District 10-noon FREE admission at the Heritage Center. Light refreshments will be served and books available for purchase.

16 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.

FAIRPLAY WIZARDS OF THE PEAKS

4 One Shot Saturdays 7 p.m.

5 Catan Group 2 p.m.

12 Chess Group 2 p.m.

26 Word Game Group 2 p.m.

- Monday's Cribbage Group weekly 6 p.m.
- Monday's Boozy Board Games bi-weekly 6 p.m. FREE at Snitching Lady Distillery
- Wednesdays Trivia Night bi-weekly 6 p.m. FREE at Snitching Lady Distillery
- Thursdays Learn to Play 6 p.m. "For-est Shuffle"
- Fridays Mini Magic 7 p.m.
- Saturdays Adult RPGs 6 p.m./7 p.m. Different RPG each week.

FLORENCE

25 Chili and Beer at the Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center 100 E Front St 11 a.m.-??? The Museum sells chili and the brewery sells the beer. \$15 a cup and you keep the cup from P&G Pottery. Seconds of chili available at no extra cost. FMI 719-784-1904 or www.florencepioneermuseum.org

JOHN C. FREMONT LIBRARY

3 The John C. Fremont Library Chapter of Silent Book Club 2-4 p.m. Bring any book of your choosing and read silently with other avid readers.

6 Movie nights for adults at 2 p.m. We will offer free popcorn but bring a drink or any other snacks you might like!

9 Making bracelets with a cardboard loan at 2 p.m.

10 Cañon City Workforce will be at the library 11-1 p.m. to help people with career related to questions.

13 Trivia at 2 p.m. The theme will be

building a better community.

ASPEN MINE CENTER

24 Commodities distribution 9-1 p.m.

- Tuesdays BINGO 10:30 a.m. for seniors.
- Tuesdays Moral Reconciliation Therapy 5-7 p.m. at ACCC building.
- Second Tuesdays Crafting Group 12-1:30 p.m. Join us in a welcoming space designed for self-expression and connection! FMI 719-471-8181 ext.163.
- What Matters every Wednesday 10:45 a.m.
- 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 Thursdays 10 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 10-11:30 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 1-3 p.m. New students (min. age 16) may join GED classes after completing orientation and \$40 registration fee. FMI Katy@cpteller.org.

DIVIDE

10, 11, 12 Birthday Celebration at the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center 4 p.m. tour. See the wolves unwrap their gifts — enriching and unforgettable. \$40 for age 12 and up, \$20 ages 2-11. FMI 719-687-9742 or wolfwildlife.org

10, 24 Teller Senior Coalition BINGO! 10-11:30 a.m. at Little Chapel Church 69 CR 5. Please call to set up a ride 719-687-0256 and join us for doughnuts, coffee and FUN!

13, 27 Little Chapel Food Pantry Distribution 2-5 p.m. For more info 719-322-7610 or email littlechapel-foodpantry@outlook.com

LIBRARY

- Wiggle Wednesdays Storytime every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Come get your wiggles out at this new storytime for ages 0-5!
- Fiber Arts Club at 11 a.m. All are invited to join this club of fiber artists! Some of these arts include crochet, knitting, felting, needlepoint, sewing, macrame and more.
- Fiber Arts Club at 11 a.m. All are invited to join this club of fiber artists! Some of these arts include crochet, knitting, felting, needlepoint, sewing, macrame and more.
- Wandering Book Club at 2 p.m. Enjoy reading and discussing themes related to adventure, travel, fantasy, and exploration of any realm, real or fiction! April's theme is "Universe Exploration." Bring a book to share about.
- Family Craft Day 11-1 p.m. Drop in and make a themed craft as a family!
- Homesteading Series at 10:30 a.m. Join us for sessions on homesteading! This session is on backyard chickens!
- Homesteading Series at 1 p.m. Join us for sessions on homesteading! This session is on long term food storage!
- Florissant Makerspace Orientation 11 a.m. Get your orientation to use the new mini Florissant Makerspace! Please give us a call to sign up for a spot!
- Florissant Bookworms Book Club 10:30-12 p.m.
- Yarnia! Fiber Arts Club 10:30-12 p.m. Beginner or expert, come crochet, knit, sew, and craft with us!
- Tart Club 3 p.m. Teens and up are welcome to join this group and learn all things tart. April's theme is "Alignment."
- Homesteading Series 10:30 a.m. Join us for sessions on homesteading! This session is on the basics of modern survival.
- Homesteading Series 1 p.m. Join us for sessions on homesteading! This session is on emergency prepping 101.
- Romantics with Altitude Book Club 4-5:30 p.m. Read and talk about romance books with other lovers of love!
- Dominion Game Club 11-1:30 p.m. A fun, fast paced, deck building card game set in Medieval Times! Meets the third Friday and the fourth Saturday of the month.
- Homesteading Series 10:30 a.m. Join us for sessions on homesteading! This session is on the basics of seed starting and greenhouse gardening.
- Homesteading Series 1 p.m. Join us for sessions on homesteading! This session is on meat rabbits.
- NoFloCo Workday See page 19
- Tools for Fire Mitigation on Private Property 2 p.m. See page 19.
- Read Amok Book Club 11-12:30 p.m. Bring up to 5 books within

LAKE GEORGE

19 Chautauqua: Colorado Labor Wars in Cripple Creek District 2 p.m. FMI page 12.

LEADVILLE NATIONAL MINING HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

21 Mining for Knowledge: Chasing Pavlov! A Highlighted History of Mining in CO a monthly zoom lecture series 5-6 p.m. \$20/login. Presented by Shane Kinney. FMI visit <https://mininghallofame.org>

MANITOU SPRINGS

16 Legends & Libations 5-8 p.m. At just \$65 per ticket, you will experience downtown Manitou Springs in a way that's never been offered before. Four different participating businesses will offer mocktails/cocktails and light bites while you enjoy a story and/or behind the scenes tour given to you by a reactor from Theatre D' Art. FMI eventany.com/events/legendsandlibations-27357/

LIBRARY

3 Soup Blend Workshop 3-4 p.m. Join us for a dry-ingredient blending workshop and explore your culinary imagination as you create a unique soup blend to enjoy at home. All supplies will be provided.

8 Manitou Springs Book Club 4-5 p.m. Join us for a monthly Bring-Your-Own book group that meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Patrons are encouraged to bring their latest read and share their thoughts with the group. Book groups are open to everyone, and they are a great opportunity to discover new

genres and titles, meet new people, and engage in discussion.

9 Homeschool Escape Room: Escape Nikola Tesla's Secret Lab! 11-12 p.m. The year is 1899, and you have found yourself locked in engineer and inventor Nikola Tesla's experimental lab right here in the Pikes Peak region! You have an hour to break into the top-secret book to find the key to safety in this escape room-like challenge. Band together and solve the clues to find your way out! Ages 13 - 18. Registration required at ppld.librarymarket.com/event/homeschool-escape-room-escape-nikola-teslas-secret-lab-523773

11 Seed Saturdays! 11-1 p.m. Stop by the seed library, inside Manitou Springs Library for free wildflower seeds and resources about native species & pollinators.

VICTOR

• Victor Lowell Thomas Museum will be open Saturday 10-4 p.m. weather allowing.

WOODLAND PARK

10, 18 Teller County Student Art Show see Mountain Artists Announces CALL FOR ARTISTS on page 17.

29 Teller County Job Training Center at the Pass Cultural Center 210 E. Midland Ave. Veterans receive priority service. FMI PPWFCE/ORG/JOB-FAIRS/

BOARDS AND BARRELS APRIL

5 Easter Sunday

13 Wine Dinner "Pacific Rim" 6 p.m.

• April also brings the Spring Summer menu change. FMI check the website <https://www.boardsandbarrelsbro.com/> Instagram and Facebook.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

6 Influenced Parent Workshop 5:30-6:30 p.m. A digital safety program presented by The Exodus Road. This workshop is designed to equip parents, caregivers, and other trusted adults with the knowledge, tools, and resources needed to intentionally support children in a increasingly complicated and sometimes dangerous digital world. Together, we'll discuss common online risks and share practical, realistic actions parents can take to help protect their kids while still allowing them to participate in the online world in healthy ways. Dinner Provided. RSVP appreciated but not required. Walk-ins welcome. FMI 719-941-9755.

10 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.

11 Summer Fest 10-1 p.m. Family-friendly event for youth of all ages! Explore the Discovery Zone. Sign up for summer camps, sports, clubs, and youth programs. Connect with local resources and services. Drop-off location for the Annual First Responders Food Drive! Non-perishable food items are being collected to replenish CP's Food Pantry. FMI Michelle@cpteller.org.

22 Renters' Rights Workshop: Evictions 101 12:30-2 p.m. Come learn about the eviction process in Colorado, including types of evictions, the five stages of an eviction, and what to expect at each stage. Presented by the Community Economic Defense Project. FMI Katy@cpteller.org.

25 Seed Starting Workshop 11-12:30 p.m. Join us for a fun, hands-on event. All ages welcome and no gardening experience needed. Learn about the Community Garden, start your own seeds (all supplies provided), and take-home materials to keep growing. FMI Michelle@cpteller.org

HARTSEL

4 Easter Egg Hunt and Hayride at Middle Way Sanctuary 1-5 p.m. 686 Reinecker Rd. The Easter eggs with prizes 1-2 p.m., Easter theme Hayrides 2-3:30 p.m., Mustang kissing booth, Guess the jelly beans for prize, Bake Sale, Cotton Candy, Snacks, Drinks and more! All proceeds benefit Middle Way Sanctuary for horses and humans!

LAKE GEORGE

19 Chautauqua: Colorado Labor Wars in Cripple Creek District 2 p.m. FMI page 12.

LEADVILLE NATIONAL MINING HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

21 Mining for Knowledge: Chasing Pavlov! A Highlighted History of Mining in CO a monthly zoom lecture series 5-6 p.m. \$20/login. Presented by Shane Kinney. FMI visit <https://mininghallofame.org>

LIBRARY

3 Soup Blend Workshop 3-4 p.m. Join us for a dry-ingredient blending workshop and explore your culinary imagination as you create a unique soup blend to enjoy at home. All supplies will be provided.

8 Manitou Springs Book Club 4-5 p.m. Join us for a monthly Bring-Your-Own book group that meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Patrons are encouraged to bring their latest read and share their thoughts with the group. Book groups are open to everyone, and they are a great opportunity to discover new

~OUT AND ABOUT~

continued from page 18

25 What You Can Do Now to Save Your Trees from Mountain Pine Beetle 10 a.m. See page 19.

25 Board Game Club for Adults 1-3 p.m. Come play a game and meet other tabletop game players! Bring a game or play one of the games we have!

28 For the Love of Writing 3 p.m. Writers of all genres and skill levels are invited to join this group of those smitten with the written!

- Fridays Toastmasters 11 a.m. Build confidence in public speaking while creating community!
- 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

3 Art Walk 4-7 p.m. Park your car at Reserve Our Gallery (400 West Midland) and pick up an art passport. Visit 8+ venues in WP, which feature fine art. Every completed passport is entered into the door prize drawing. See Reserveourgalleryart.com for more details and 10-15% off gallery items during this event.

4 Rock Painting with the Speak Life Project 2-4 p.m. Material cost of \$6.

4 Gala 6-8 p.m. Enjoy light refreshments and time to mix n' mingle. Admire the featured art show, which is "Clouds" in honor of our City Above the Clouds. This event by invitation only. Call 719-401-2301 or email reserveourgallery@gmail.com and let us know you want to be invited to the Gala. Enjoy 10-15% off gallery items during this event.

25 Last Call for the May Art Show. Theme: Casting Shadows. All mediums are considered. Cost is \$45 for three submissions. Submit digital work for consideration. Send your work to gayle@reserveourgallery.com by April 25.

SAVE THE DATES FOR MAY

1 Friday Art Walk

2 Car Show, Studio Tour, Art Activity for Kids, Art Show Opening and calling all crafters, See page 11.

Mueller State Park

by Anna Urban

Programs happen rain, snow or shine unless posted otherwise (check Facebook page for updates.) Trails this time of year may be snowy or icy.

3 Animal Antifreeze 2-3 p.m. meet at Visitor Center.

4 Junior Rangers on the Trail 11-12 p.m. meet at Outlook Ridge TH.

9 Story of Pikes Peak Hike 10-12 p.m. meet at Elk Meadow TH.

10 Basic Survival for Kids 2-3 p.m. meet at Visitor Center.

11 Sensory Hike 1-2:30 p.m. meet at Outlook Ridge TH.

look Ridge TH.

17 Tracking and Trailing 2-3 p.m. meet at Visitor Center.

18 Story of Pikes Peak Hike 10-12 p.m. meet at Elk Meadow TH.

18 Junior Rangers in the Forest 11-12 p.m. meet in front of the Visitor Center.

26 Guided Nature Hike 9:15-1 p.m. meet at Peak View TH.

May 2 Forest Bathing 1-4 p.m. meet at Outlook Ridge TH.

TH = Trailhead

FMI 719-687-2366

Did you enjoy what you read?

Please thank our advertisers!

~UTE COUNTRY BUSINESS~

Classic or New Domestic Foreign 4 - Wheel Trucks Jeeps

711 Gold Hill Place Woodland Park, CO. 80863 (719) 687-0001

"Home Town Service You Can Trust"

Home Town Garage

Old Fashioned Care With Modern Technology

Stress Less About Accounting and Taxes!

Bookkeeping, Accounting, Payroll, Individual and Business Tax Services, QuickBooks Training, and Business Consulting

Propel Accounting & Consulting

(719) 800-2432 • Propel-Accounting.com

kim@propel-accounting.com

Barbara Pickholz-Weiner RN, BSN, MAC, EMDRII

Journeys Counseling Center

(719) 510-1268

321 W Henrietta Ave • Ste AA Woodland Park, CO 80863

www.journeyscounselingcenter.com

journeyscounselingctr@gmail.com

APRIL "NO TAX" SALE - ALL TRAILER SALES - LOW PRICES - Hitchin Post pays the taxes

Hitchin' Post Trailer & Tractor Sales

800-729-2402

www.hitchinposttrailers.com

Reach over 32,000 readers in Teller, Park, Fremont, and El Paso Counties every month!

Your Ad Here

for as little as \$40.89 a month*

Call 719-686-7587 or email: utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com for more information and advertising deadlines.

*pre-paid 6-month contract rate.

Compassion ANIMAL HOSPITAL

GREGORY S. COOPER, D.V.M. PAULA VAN EVEREN, D.V.M.

(719) 687-6000

312 W. Hwy. 24 • Box 5999 Woodland Park, CO 80866

gcompassionanimalhospital@gmail.com

compassionanimalhospital.com



list. These are "neighbor helping neighbor" workdays where volunteers help homeowners accomplish a large amount of mitigation in a short amount of time. It's a great way to learn by doing, meet good people, and often go home with a truckload of firewood.

Harden Yor Home Against Wildland Fire

April 6, Woodland Park Library, Large Meeting Room 6 p.m.

May 9, Woodland Park Library, Large Meeting 2 p.m.

Practical tips from trusted sources (Colorado State Forest Service and the National Fire Protection Association) on steps you can take now to improve the chances your home survives a wildfire — especially ember-driven ignition. We'll cover windows, vent screens, decks, flower boxes, roof and siding vulnerabilities and other high-impact improvements.

What You Can Do Now to Save Your Trees from Mountain Pine Beetle

April 25 Woodland Park Library, Large Meeting Room 10 a.m.

Learn the beetle lifecycle, when to take action, and when beetles are actively seeking trees. We'll discuss what to do with standing dead trees, how to handle active infestations, and how to keep healthy trees healthy. Mountain Pine Beetle cycles are natural, but warmer, drier conditions are causing heavier impacts right now. These cycles tend to peak roughly every 20 years — acting early can save the trees closest to your home. We recently had a Woodland Park homeowner lose 12 of 13 pines in the front yard; learn how to avoid that outcome.

Organize Your Subdivision to Be Fire Ready

April 30, Florissant Public Library, Large Meeting Room 6 p.m.

At the 2/28/2026 Fire Ready discussion hosted by Braver Angels, Teller County Commissioner Erik Stone and Fire Chief Lambert stated that Teller County, local fire districts, and the Teller County Office of Emergency Management rely on HOAs/POAs and subdivisions to plan evacuation routes, identify alternate exits, and keep rights-of-way clear. In the California Paradise Fire and the 2023 Hawaii Fires, one of the deadliest factors was evacuees being overtaken by the fire front in gridlock traffic. Let's plan now — before a crisis — with best practices to reduce congestion, establish safety zones, and identify alternative routes and exits. A little planning during times of calm can avoid deadly panic.

MUSIC LESSONS

Violin, Beginning Guitar and Mandolin

FLIP: [719] 429-3361

flip@ghvalley.net

Shannon Lemons, DVM

TELLER PARK Veterinary Service

Accepting Care Credit

Large and Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, Specializing in Dentistry

719.687.2201

1084 Cedar Mtn. Road • Divide • www.tellerparkvet.com

TCRAS

Teller County Regional Animal Shelter

719.686.7707

tcrascalorado.org

TCRAS

Teller County Regional Animal Shelter

719.686.7707

tcrascalorado.org

Shipping cPlus

Your Full Service Shipping & Business Center

IS MOVING!! **AS OF JUNE 1, 2026**

Our New Address Will Be:

121 County Road 5, Divide, CO 80814

Just 200 feet north of our current location, across County Road 5!

For All Your Printing & Copy Services...

***Restaurant Menus • Tri-fold Brochures
& Flyers • Spiral-Bound Booklets & Calendars
POA & HOA Newsletters (with/without mailing)
Stop in for a printing quote!***

Shipping Plus will be **CLOSED APRIL 29** for 8 days and we
Re-open on Thursday May 8, 2026.

We must travel for a Family Celebration of Life and to carry out final wishes. We apologize for any inconvenience as we are unable to receive or send out packages during this closure. Thank you for understanding.

719-686-7587 • Open M-F 9-5:30

ShippingPlusCO@gmail.com • www.shippingplusco.net



Authorized
Shipping
Outlet

