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About the Cover:
Mama Bear with Cubs, photo by
Dr. Charles Umhey (also on page 6.)



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Only YOU Can Prevent Negative Bear Conditioning

By Gary Berlin (Retired Wildlife Officer)

The United States Forest Service's slogan, "Remember... Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires" certainly holds true for those of us who live in the Front Range foothills and mountains of Colorado, as one carelessly tossed cigarette or unextinguished campfire can prove to be disastrous. A similar, but slightly modified slogan is apropos when talking about black bears in Colorado, especially in and around residential areas, and that is, "Remember, Only YOU Can Prevent the Unnecessary Euthanasia of Nuisance Black Bears."

The exact number of black bears in Colorado is unknown, as it is impossible to count free roaming wild solitary animals. However, biologists with Colorado's Division of Parks & Wildlife (CPW) know for certain that the number of black bears in the State is on the increase. In 2002, CPW estimated that there were at least 12,000 bears, and today, just 15 years later, it is estimated that there are between 17,000 and 20,000 black bears in the state.

Compounding the problem with the increased number of black bears is the fact that in just three decades, the human population in Colorado grew from 2.9 million to over five million, with many of those new residents moving into prime black bear habitat. Humans are converting some of the most productive black bear habitat to residential subdivisions. Combining the increased number of black bears in the State with the rapidly expanding human population living in bear habitat is a potential recipe for disaster.

Typically, bears in Colorado hibernate around October and emerge from their dens in late April to early May. Unless we get a sudden and prolonged cold spell in the coming weeks, with the warm weather we've enjoyed in February and March, male black bears might emerge from their dens in early April and the females just weeks later. Regardless of when the bears emerge from hibernation, they will be hungry, as they haven't had anything to drink or eat in months. Plus, many of the sows will have cubs to feed that were born in the den during hibernation, and those sows will be on the prowl for nutritious food sources.

NOW is the time for all people who live in black bear habitat to take preventative measures to ensure their property is not an attractant to bears. Bears are really smart animals with a

keen sense of smell and excellent memories. Even though they'd probably prefer a natural food source, any self-respecting bear is wise enough to know that foraging on readily available human provided food like trash, pet food, bird seed, and barbeque grill residue will provide immediate gratification. Plus, that food source is easier to access than natural food items found in the wild, like grubs, worms, and vegetation, thus less energy expended by the bear feeding itself.

Black bears quickly become conditioned to consuming human-provided food items. Once a bear learns about a reliable source of food, they will often return, sometimes for many consecutive days. When this happens, bear interactions with humans and conflicts are inevitable.

Preventing or minimizing bear-human interactions is a three way partnership between people, the bear, and CPW. If people living in bear country would practice preventative techniques, the final outcome of a bear-human interaction or conflict will be much more enjoyable for all, especially the bear.

The most important thing for people to do is to invest in bear proof trash containers and store those containers in a secure area. If you have a residential trash service, place your trash in a secure container at the curb the morning of the collection day rather than the night before.

If you must feed pets outside, remove the food at dusk and collect and dispose of all spilled food from the ground. Remove fruit trees from your property. If you are unwilling to do that, pick up and dispose of all fallen fruit daily. And, if you are unwilling to *(Continued next page.)*



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Highlander Wildlife

pick up fallen fruit, install an electric fence around the perimeter of the orchard. While you are at it, put an electric fence around your compost bin too.

If you insist on feeding birds, please bring the feeders inside your home at dusk. Clean your BBQ grill and place it in a secure storage area after each use. Close and secure your garage door and cars at night, as something as simple as the odor of a discarded fast food container or an air freshener can lure a bear into a car or garage.

For the bear's part of the equation, if people living in bear country do everything recommended to prevent enticing a bear to their property, the bear will have no choice but to move elsewhere for food more readily available. Voila, problem solved.

Lastly, if called to intercede with a bear problem, officers with Colorado Parks and Wildlife have limited options, none of them pleasant for the bear. The last thing a wildlife officer wants to do is handle a bear, as doing so issues the first of two strikes to the bear. **(An explanation of the "two strike" policy follows.)**



Upon arrival to a bear complaint, the officer will first ensure that the property owner has complied with the recommendations to eliminate all attractants from the property. The officer will also suggest aversion conditioning techniques. If the property owner has done everything in their power to dissuade the bear from visiting, the officer may have no choice but to trap and relocate the bear. Unfortunately for the bear, and officer, this is the first step to a potentially undesirable conclusion.

The DPW has an internal "2 strike" policy. If a nuisance non-threatening bear is relocated, the bear gets ear-tagged and given a one-way ride to a relocation site far from the area where they were picked up. Strike ONE is issued. If the same bear is reported as a nuisance a second time, the second strike is issued and the bear is likely trapped and euthanized, (killed).

Sometimes a home owner will comply diligently with all of the bear prevention recommendations, yet a bear will continue to become a nuisance. For some reason, that particular bear has become

habituated to residential areas and common deterrents have not proved to be successful in changing its habits. That is a bummer, as the end result is the same for the bear.

Unfortunately, many people fail to eliminate bear attractants. Those are the folks who continue to foster bear-human conflicts. When those situations arise, the errant property owner should keep in mind – it is the wildlife officer who ends up pulling the trigger of the gun to euthanize the nuisance bear, but the thoughtless homeowner who attracted the bear is the person who signed the bear's death warrant. Don't be that person.

Editor's Note: Black bears are not always black in color: cinnamon and even blondish colors are black bear species. *(Photo: by Dr. Charles Umhey.)*

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Advances For Avoiding Food Poisoning

From CSU - Food poisoning: Many of us have had it, and we won't soon forget it. Colorado State University chemists are trying to make it so we can avoid it in the first place. Borrowing concepts from medical diagnostic devices, a CSU research team has created a simple, cheap set of handheld tests that can detect the presence of many water- or food-borne pathogens. If applied in the field, such tests could greatly reduce the number of expensive follow-up tests needed to keep the food supply safe from fecal contamination. The new testing systems are innovations from the lab of the Department of Chemistry, headed up by Chuck Henry.

Fecal indicator bacteria: For their study, the researchers targeted a broad class of bacteria known as fecal indicator bacteria (FIB), which cause the highest number of hospitalizations and deaths from food poisoning. It commonly enters the food supply through contaminated water used to irrigate green vegetables like alfalfa sprouts, spinach and lettuce.

While federal regulations require frequent testing of fruits and vegetables for contamination with fecal matter, existing processes could use improvement. Common techniques like immunoassays and polymerase chain reactions (PCR) work reasonably well, but they require expensive equipment to perform and can lead to false positives. The gold standard for bacterial detection is a lab culture, but this can take up to 48 hours to complete.

'Quite a bit of chemistry': The research team went for a method that is accurate, simple and cheap. They made two types of tests that detect an enzyme associated with the FIB bacteria. The first is a small strip of paper treated with a substrate molecule that changes color when it contacts the bacterial enzyme – similar to a home pregnancy test. The researchers envision that a smart phone app could be coupled with the paper test.

"We found that with filter paper, wax and a little bit of packing tape, we can do quite a bit of chemistry on here," Henry said. "That's about two cents worth of materials." Their second test consists of screen-printed carbon electrodes on transparent sheets that are inserted into a reader. The setup is similar to a home glucometer. The researchers ran tests of contaminated water from an open-air lagoon, as well as water contaminated with *E. coli* and *Enterococcus faecalis* that was used to wash clean alfalfa sprouts. Both tests

detected the harmful bacteria within four to 12 hours.

Henry explained that his lab's new tests can't tell exactly which bacteria are present, but they can detect the broad class of FIB bacteria that are usually responsible for foodborne illness outbreaks. "At this point, it is accurate but not specific," Henry said. "This is the test that tells you that you need to do more tests." In contrast, PCR tests for bacteria currently in use are more specific, but slower and more expensive. A cheap, simple pre-test like this one could save money and time by cutting back on the overall number of food safety tests needed.

As a next step, the team wants to build a mobile computing platform for their tests. They're working on a Raspberry Pi-based system that could perform kinetic measurements to detect changes in the bacteria levels over time and automatically transmit the information to a cloud platform. The researchers are working with computer science researcher Sangmi Pallickara on these advances.

Catalyst for Innovative Partnerships: The research has been supported in part by the Catalyst for Innovative Partnerships (CIP), a program of the CSU Office of the Vice President for Research that funds cross-disciplinary science. Through CIP, Henry has collaborated with researchers in the Dept. of Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology. As a result, the food safety project has included the perspective and expertise of microbiologists, who would be most likely to use the devices in the field. The CIP team, which includes researchers Brian Geiss and Elizabeth Ryan, is also studying antimicrobial resistance, among other projects.



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Early Fire Restrictions - Leanin' Tree - Slash Days

Portions of Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests join counties in fire restrictions

BOULDER, Colo. (March 17, 2017) – Due to a forecast of continuing dry and warm conditions, and in support of fire restrictions currently enacted in Clear Creek, Gilpin, Jefferson and Boulder counties, the Boulder and Clear Creek ranger districts of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests are enacting Stage 1 fire restrictions effective today. The Stage 1 fire restrictions limit where and what type of fires visitors can have and are in place until rescinded. **Within the fire restriction area, forest visitors, including residents CANNOT:** Build or maintain a fire or use charcoal, coal, or wood stoves, except within a developed recreation site (e.g., campgrounds where fees are charged).

Smoke, except in an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while in an area at least three feet in diameter cleared of all flammable materials.

Operate a chainsaw without a USDA or SAE approved spark arrester properly installed and in effective working order, a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher kept with the operator, and one round point shovel with an overall length of at least 35 inches readily available for use.

Weld or operate acetylene or other torch with open flame except in cleared areas of at least 10 feet in diameter and in possession of a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher.

Use explosives, including fireworks. **Discharge a firearm EXCEPT a person possessing a valid Colorado hunting license lawfully involved in hunting and harvesting game. Violation of Stage 1 fire restrictions could result in a maximum fine of \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for more than six months, or both. If responsible for causing a wildfire, one could be held accountable for suppression costs of that fire.**

To view the fire restriction orders and maps, go to www.fs.usda.gov/arp. They will be listed in the “Alerts and Notices” box on the right. Fire Managers will continue to monitor conditions on the Forests and Grassland and the need for further fire restrictions. Please note that many counties are also under fire restrictions; information is available at

www.coemergency.com/p/fire-bans-danger.html

Dear Editor and Readers,

Leanin' Tree founder Ed Trumble has decided to close his art museum located in Longmont this year. His card and gift business is not affected and continues to thrive. I'm a card-sender and realized most of my stock is produced by Leanin' Tree. The museum space housed within the card production factory and office building will be repurposed for expanding the production facility and card/gift shop. The interesting factory tours will also be lengthened. I wrote a piece about Ed in the November 2014 issue, *The Taproot of Leanin' Tree*, which you can find under Archives at www.highlandermo.com. Make time before the end of August to revisit the largest privately owned western art collection in the U.S. While you are there, take a factory tour. Admission is free! Diane Bergstrom

Dear Readers,

While there are restrictions in place currently for using chainsaws, it is important to know when **Slash Days** are planned in Coal Creek Canyon to rid your properties of the limbs on the ground from cutting standing dead trees, or live tree limbs or even from cutting low hanging branches from your trees to lessen ladder fuels.

On the weekend of **May 27 and 28 the Fire Station at Camp Eden** will be taking the usual slash. On the weekend of **June 17 and 18** the same type of slash will be collected at the **bottom of Coal Creek Canyon near Blue Mountain**. Please be careful to avoid having any metal in your slash as that can harm the mulching machine process once slash has been dropped off. Stumps and plastic bags are also not allowed. Editor

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condition financially. Director Rose has actively represented you in a positive, assertive manner these past three years and will continue to work with the entire membership, staff and fellow board members to

Dave Rose has provided you with strong governance the past three years and has become more knowledgeable in his skill set to provide even more responsive representation in his second term.

Thank You for your support and Vote!

Please feel free to contact me at [facebook.com/DaveRose4UPDirector/](https://www.facebook.com/DaveRose4UPDirector/) and I will try my best to address your concerns or direct you to someone that can. Thank You, Dave Rose, United Power Board of Directors

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Western Cities Try To Cut Light Pollution

By Jodi Peterson - High Country News

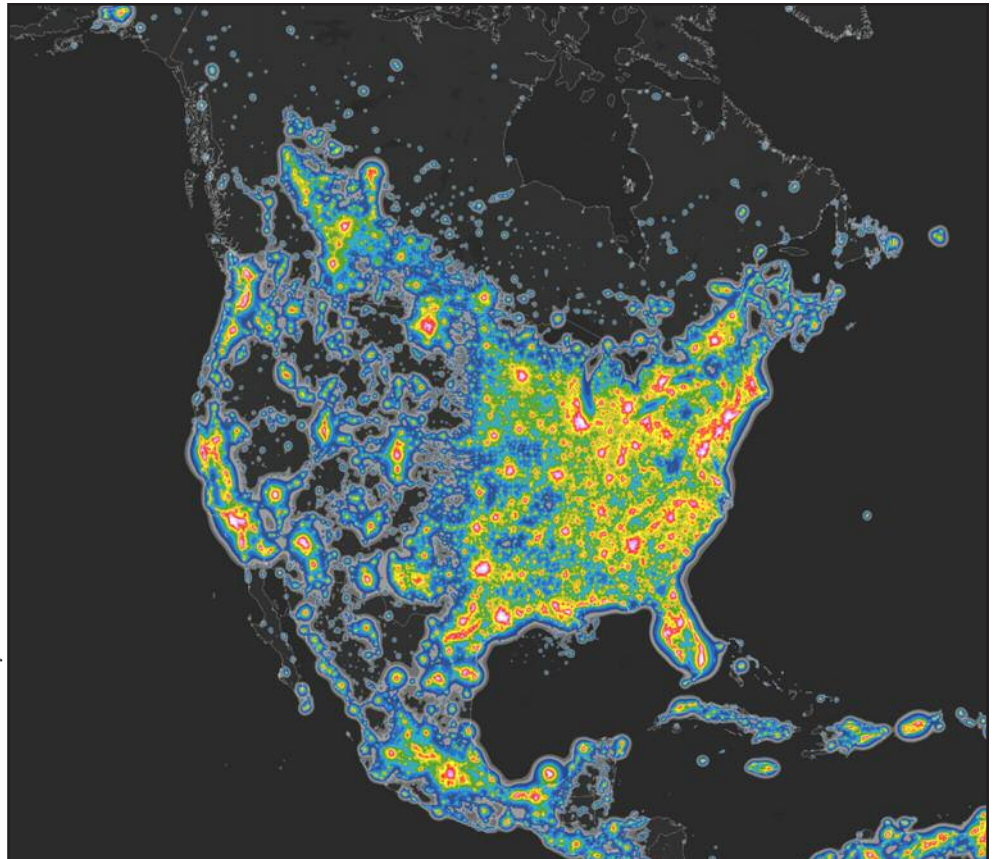
The next best chance for Westerners to see shooting stars is coming soon, between April 16 and 25, when the Lyrids meteor shower, one of the oldest known, will streak across the sky after midnight. In May the Eta Aquariids arrive, followed by the Delta Aquariids in July, and then the most spectacular of the year — the Perseids, fast, bright meteors, up to 200 an hour during Aug. 12 to 13, and the Geminids, kid-friendly because they show up soon after dark, from Dec. 7 to 17. But none of these, of course, will be visible without sufficiently dark skies.

For most of us, that will mean traveling far outside city limits to a place away from streetlights and other artificial illumination. But in some less-populated places, like High Country News’s western Colorado hometown of Paonia, the Milky Way’s glow can be seen on any clear night. That’s because Paonia is a tiny town in the high desert, with just 1,500 residents surrounded by public lands, orchards and farms.

Map of North America’s artificial sky brightness. The New World Atlas of Artificial Night Sky Brightness.

Natural darkness is important for a lot more than just stargazing, though. It’s also vital to scientific astronomy studies, migrating birds and night-flying insects. And exposure to blue-rich light at night, from computer screens and outdoor LED lights, disrupts people’s sleep cycles and may even contribute to cancer. At its January meeting, the American Astronomical Society passed a resolution “affirming that access to a dark night sky is a universal human right,

making quality outdoor lighting a worldwide imperative.” Some bigger Western cities have put a lot of effort into curbing and redesigning their light usage so that they can have dark skies, too. Flagstaff, Arizona, passed the nation’s first dark-sky ordinance in 1958, to preserve starry conditions necessary for research at the Lowell Observatory. That nearly six-decade-old effort seems to have paid off. Today, nighttime images captured by the



National Park Service show that Flagstaff emits far less artificial light than other cities of its size. The 65,000-resident city uses sodium street lights. In contrast to LED lights, which save energy but produce bright blue and white light that washes out stars and planets, sodium lights emit a

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warm red-yellow light that doesn't contribute much to overall sky glow. Flagstaff also banned commercial searchlights and shielded outdoor lights around schools and shopping centers. In 2001, it became the world's first international dark-sky city, as designated by the nonprofit International Dark-Sky Association.

Other Western cities, following Flagstaff's lead, are making an effort to turn down the wattage and return to darker skies. Last year, Phoenix voted to replace the 90,000 lights on its streets and parks with LEDs that have a more yellow hue than the standard blue-white LEDs. Los Angeles also adopted a plan to phase in warmer-colored LED lights, as did Montreal, Canada. "No one is saying that cities shouldn't be well lit," astronomy author Bob Berman recently told NBC. "Everything has its time and place, and the same is true of light and darkness. And there is a place for darkness, and, I think that is slowly being realized."

That's true for national parks as well. Because dark skies and all that they entail are such an integral part of an outdoors experience, and because parks offer some of the darkest skies still to be found, the National Park Service is studying how different types of lighting affect the natural world. Its Natural Sounds and Night Skies division has tracked light pollution in parks for years; development and oil and gas production are driving the largest increases in nighttime glow. Some public lands are trying to cut down on the artificial light – near northwestern Colorado's Dinosaur National Monument, energy companies will have to shield bright lights on rigs. (Congress, however, is moving to weaken the National Park Service's ability to oversee oil and gas drilling within park boundaries.)

To monitor light pollution, the agency has developed a special panoramic camera that produces a 360-degree view of the sky and horizon. It measures the light emitted by cities near national parks such as Flagstaff and Las Vegas; staffers presented the data gathered at the American Astronomical Society's meeting in January. The information will help the agency work with city managers to reduce light pollution. Cities up to 250 miles away contribute to lighter skies in the parks. The neon glow of Las Vegas can be seen from eight national parks, including Death Valley.

Flagstaff's dark-sky efforts, along with those of nearby Oak Creek and Sedona, earned all three towns certification from the IDA as Dark Skies Communities during the past few years. And they contributed to Grand Canyon National Park getting provisional Dark Sky Park designation last summer (to gain full status, it will have to retrofit two-thirds of its roughly 5,000 outdoor light fixtures, which it plans to do by 2019). Three national monuments near Flagstaff, Sunset Crater Volcano, Walnut Canyon and Wupatki, were also designated as International Dark Sky Parks in 2016. The designation recognizes "an exceptional

or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage and/or public enjoyment." About 30 U.S. parks have been so designated, most of them in the Southwest.

Nevada's Great Basin National Park gained Dark Sky Park status in spring 2016, and is one of the least-lit places remaining on the continent. That made it the perfect place for the first-ever research-level observatory built in a national park. The Great Basin Observatory, constructed in cooperation with four universities, opened last August. Its 28-inch telescope will be used by researchers all over the country as well as students at universities and high schools, who will aim it remotely through the internet. **Here are a few handy tools for those inspired by the night sky:** The New World Atlas of Artificial Night Sky Brightness, published by Science Advances, draws on NPS research and on-the-ground measurements of night sky brightness. Clear Dark Sky provides forecasts for specific observation sites. Astronomy Calendar of Celestial Events tracks comets, moon phases, meteor showers, eclipses and more. The Dark Sky Weather app lets you know if it's going to rain or snow in your location in the next hour.

Jodi Peterson is High Country News' senior editor.

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Go North, Young Woman

By Sarah Gilman - HCN

*In a place no one can see you,
you can see yourself more clearly.*

... Trust the road in your name.

*Ride Your moon
hide through the pitch black.*

Gotsta be your own bride.

— Angel Nafis, from the poem

Ghazal for Becoming Your Own Country

Think of your skin as a map.

Its marks inscribe a story of your life. The raggedness of your fingertips from biting your nails. The lines in your cheeks from laughing. The scar from surgery to help knit broken bone. The burn you gave yourself when only pain would calm you. The nick on your wrist that, whenever you touch it, makes you think of the talus field where you stumbled and cut yourself, the mountain lake where you washed the blood away.

On this August afternoon, the skin on my calves is tanned dark, crisscrossed with scratches, welted with bugbites, scummed over with beaver pond. On this August afternoon, my skin says that I've ventured into the boreal forest, and that it's kicking my ass.

I'm a few days into a 16-day canoe trip with five girlfriends down the remote Spatsizi and Upper Stikine rivers — joined threads in the high reaches of a great system of braided, salmon-bearing waterways that originate in a swath of northern British Columbia known as the Sacred Headwaters. It's a place toothy with mountain ranges, broad-shouldered with tundra plateaus, and furred with endless forests of white and black spruce and bursts of poplar just turning gold.

Roads are sparse here, so travel is by floatplane, boat, horse, and, for those who don't mind shredding their flesh in thickets of grasping branches, by foot. Which is why we've generally stuck with the canoes until now. But Krista Langlois and Kate Greenberg, our navigators, had consulted the topos and sparse guidebook entries and identified the far end of Cold Fish Lake, which appeared to be about a dozen miles off the Spatsizi, as a good base to backpack into the high alpine for tarns and tundra. So we hauled out our trusty boats and struck up a winding tributary called Mink Creek, where we would supposedly, eventually, find a trail.

Three hours later, we've puzzled through thatches of fallen logs and climbed in and out of the creek channel dozens of times, but have traveled only a mile. Even when we find the first triangular trail-blaze nailed to a tree and begin hoofing up a faint single track through yet more tangled forest, Cold Fish hovers, mirage-like, beyond reach. At 8 p.m., Krista and I drop our packs and jog ahead through deepening blue shadows until we can finally get a clear view of the lake's placid waters. They're another decidedly un placid mile away, through a thickly vegetated bog. "F__k this," we say in unison, and trot back to the group to throw down camp by a mosquito-ridden stream. By 3 p.m. the next day, we're battered, smelly, smiling and back at the Spatsizi. "Mothah Rivah!" someone exclaims, as we shed clothes and plunge into the water. "Hey, check this out," Krista yells, bending over some fireweed, then ambushes Kate Lauth with a fistful of mud. Muck flies. Anna Santo paints a smiley face on her belly. Jen Crozier



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We weren't aiming to make first descents of whitewater canyons. We just wanted to be far out in the world together for the longest stretches we could muster. I imagined us still at it in 30 years — silver-edged women in the mold of Mardy Murie, a naturalist who raised her family in the wilds of Wyoming and Alaska and helped lead the charge to preserve the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Anna Santo and Kate Lauth steer their

washes earth from Kate Greenberg's hair.

My scratches sting as I rinse the silt away, but I feel more comfortable in my skin than I have in ages. There is no one here to see us, no one but ourselves to judge what we should do or what we are capable of doing. In a world that expects women to look and act in certain ways, we've staked out territory where we can move without thought for our bodies as anything other than our native homes. We are making and remaking our maps, letting this place write itself on our arms and legs — sketching where we've been, and where we might go, should we follow these routes emerging below our feet, under our paddles, across our flesh. And after dinner, Anna slides into a sassy red dress from the costume bag, grabs a fly rod, and wades across the Mink to find a good spot to cast.

The seeds of our excursion were planted in northern Minnesota, a place made as much of lake as of land. The Kates once attended a summer camp there that culminated in a 45-day wilderness canoe trip and decided they wanted to carry that tradition into their adult lives. In the summer of 2015, they reached out to like-minded women they'd met in college, through work, in Colorado mountain towns. Krista had guided troubled teenagers on backcountry excursions in Alaska. Jen and Kate L. had done the same in the Southern Rockies. I'd spent a few summers building trails and studying birds in the high alpine. Kate G. had worked on restoring the Colorado River Delta across the border in Mexico, and Anna had researched beavers in Patagonia. All of us, now in our late 20s to mid-30s, loved the idea of building a community of outdoorswomen that we could keep coming back to as we moved on into careers in writing, medicine, therapy and advocacy.

canoe toward Red Goat Mountain on a calm stretch of the Spatsizi River. Krista Langlois

We gave ourselves a name, Wild Streak, and met by Skype on autumn evenings, researching the Northern rivers we might float — the Noatak or Kluane, the Gataga and Kechika. We chose the Upper Stikine and its tributary Spatsizi for their on- and off-water opportunities and the fact that they fit our budget of \$2,000 per person. We scoured trip reports, ordered maps, marked out possible camps. Doing it just for ourselves didn't seem like enough, so we used the trip to raise money for nonprofits that give teen girls opportunities like the ones that helped us become confident in the wilderness — ultimately bankrolling several scholarships for canoe and glacier trips.

Finally, late last July, we rendezvoused in Bellingham, Washington, stuffed a minivan and sedan with gear, and blew across the U.S. border and 1,000 miles of British Columbia to the tiny backwater of Iskut. There, on the shore of Eddontenajon Lake, we piled into a floatplane. The unexpectedly handsome pilot, Dan Brown, flashed us a dimpled grin, then lifted us with Canadian nonchalance into the sky.

Mountain ranges, then more mountain ranges, and then the Spatsizi uncoiled below us like a rope thrown across the valley floor. Aprons of rust-colored scree descended from high ridges to oxbows that looped around pocket lakes. Our landing on one of them was so smooth that I barely registered touching down until I saw spray jetting past my window. Standing on the gravel beach next to a fresh pile of bear scat, we watched the floatplane rise again, drag its reflection into the trees, vanish. We were alone in the middle of nowhere, *(Continued next page.)*

Highlander Adventure

alone in the middle of everywhere. Then, we were in the water, swimming our first loaded canoe to the portage that would put us on the 135-mile stretch of river we'd waited so long to paddle. That night, as I climbed into my tent on our first beach camp, mayflies glittered in my headlamp beam like animate stars. They reminded me of the constellation of bruises on my shins. They pointed the way.

The trip spools out as languidly as the river. We wake when we want, build morning campfires, stop when the impulse to explore strikes. Sometimes we float more than a dozen miles a day, sometimes none. We fish for Arctic grayling and Dolly Varden trout that, cooked in the coals, taste of snowmelt and salt. Not everyone has canoed whitewater before, so on the calmer Spatsizi, Kate L. and Krista help us brush up on paddling strokes and practice swinging in and out of currents and eddies. Later, we mock up a pulley-assisted rope arrangement, called a Z-drag, on a sapling. This would help us pull a canoe off a mid-river rock should a mishap occur in one of the mellow but respectable rapids.



The boats become as beloved — and irritating — as family members, and we name them accordingly. There's the Sphincter, for the puckered passenger openings in its ill-fitting brown canvas spray deck — a snap-on cover meant to keep the canoe from swamping. There's the Pussy

Rabbit, for the Russian feminist punk band and the pipe-smoking bunny emblazoned on the canoe's red sides. And there's the sleek green 17-footer that we vie for each day. That one we call Dan Brown.

Kate L. becomes my frequent paddling partner, talking me through maneuvers around submerged logs and whale-backed boulders, then pumping her fist with me in triumph as I gain confidence steering Dan Brown from the stern. In the wide valley where the Spats pours into the broader, faster Stikine, we float over the hard line where the water shifts from opaque beige to a turquoise so clear I can see river-bottom stones six feet below, our shadow slipping over them as if we're still flying.

An old fire scar marks the shore with miles of skeletonized trunks, like a splatter of gray paint across the dark landscape. When it rains, which is often, the drops bead brightly across the Stikine's surface before melting into its flow. We stay warm in skintight wetsuits and dub ourselves the Future Dolphin Trainers of America. In one spot, sheared-off earthen banks rise 20 feet above our heads where a landslide blocked the river earlier in the summer. The Stikine still tears insistently at the remains, dragging whole spruce trees free and pulling them along in the current beside our canoes. A thunderstorm boils up over the confluence with the Pitman River as we're eating dinner one evening. The towering clouds catch the last sun, send down a spark of rainbow, set the forest burning anew with light. We stand watching, ankle-deep in mud with our arms around each other, our faces gold, our gnocchi forgotten.

Save for a man we glimpse a week into the trip, tending a remote riverside lodge, we meet nobody. Little wonder, then, that the landscape feels secretive. We encounter few animals, but each sandbar is brailed with tracks: Bears, both grizzly and black, wolves with paws larger than my palms, bobcat, lynx, moose, beaver, porcupine. We find skulls and antlers pressed into the spongy forest floor. Odd splashes ring from the river some nights, and groans and crashes haunt the bushes. Even one of the three moose that we actually see seems insubstantial as a ghost. The young bull clacks his teeth and rolls his eyes, splashing down the center of the channel, and then, when Krista and I turn for a

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Highlander Adventure



paddle hard in the bow. Exposed rocks and pourovers slip by, waves splash across my arms and fill my lap. When the rapid spits us out into the slackwater of the tight canyon below, we lift our paddles to the cloudy sky and cheer.

Loading canoes onto a floatplane on Eddontenajon Lake in northern British Columbia, during a 16-day all-women canoe trip. Krista Langlois

Later, long after we've repacked our gear and driven hundreds of miles south, we stop at a busy lakeside campground. I cook dinner for the crew in silence, then break away to sit at the water's edge alone, feeling scraped out by the end of the journey, the sudden plunge into a

frenetic world of strangers, cellphone service, social media. Two loons paddle nearby, singing long and low from the reeds. And then the full moon surprises me with its sudden appearance. Its first fingers of light fold over the ridges to the east, slowly hoist its glare into the sky, reach for my hands. I see my cracked knuckles, the thick new calluses on my palms. Look where you've been, I whisper to no one. Imagine where you'll go. I wipe my eyes with the back of my wrist and head back to my friends.

*Sarah Gilman is an HCN contributing editor and writer based in Portland Oregon. Her work will be anthologized in **The Best Women's Travel Writing**, in May.*

moment to navigate a riffle, vanishes without sound or trace.

There are other mysteries, too. Along one bar, the river's high-water flows have left not-quite-cairns of clustered stones. Delicate, almost deliberate, arrangements of bone-white driftwood decorate high-water lines and former eddies. It's as if the country murmurs just beyond the edge of hearing, moves just beyond the edge of vision, watches us as even we watch it slip past.

But if the country keeps itself close, it steadily reveals us to one another. We make decisions by consensus, move fluidly together on the water, support each other taking risks, or choosing not to.

On our last day, we come upon a significant rapid, one we'd failed to note on the map. Anna — one of our boldest members, and one of the least experienced on whitewater — decides she wants to test her new steering skills. We eddy out so she can replace Kate G. in the stern of the Sphincter, and all of us rock-hop down the shore to scout routes through midstream boulders that churn the Stikine into a froth. Then, we slide back under our spray decks and push off, one by one, into the current.

Krista and Jen take the lead without incident, then Kate G. and Anna, who punches through a big hole, scoops in a fair amount of river, but does just fine. In the rear, Kate L. steers the Pussy Rabbit beautifully from the stern, while I

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Sportsmen Take Aim At Law Enforcement Bill

By Rebecca Worby - HCN

They see HR 622 as a complex and serious threat to public lands.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, a vocal proponent of transferring federal public lands to state control, has gotten an earful lately. His recent town hall in Cottonwood Heights, Utah, turned rowdy, swamped by more than 1,000 citizens. Riled up over his stance on public lands and his refusal to support investigations of President Donald Trump's possible conflicts of interests, despite his position as House Oversight and Government Reform Committee chairman, they booed and chanted "Do your job" and "Explain yourself."

But he appears to be willing to listen to one interest group: sportsmen. On Feb. 2, Chaffetz credited pressure from hook-and-bullet groups for his decision to kill the public lands transfer bill he recently introduced, HR 621. And those groups hope he'll listen again when it comes to companion bill HR 622, the Local Enforcement for Local Lands Act.

Sponsored by Chaffetz and cosponsored by several representatives from across the West, this bill presents a less direct threat: it would hand a difficult job — enforcing federal regulations on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service — to local police. Sportsmen fear that this would undermine federal agencies' ability to manage those 438 million acres, making the lands more vulnerable not only to abuse but to potential transfer as well. "It's one more stake in the heart of public access to public lands," says Whit Fosburgh, Theodore

Roosevelt Conservation Partnership president and CEO.

For sportsmen, this is only the latest in a long history of conservation fights. "Sometimes people think hunters are new to this table," says Land Tawney, president and CEO of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, "but we've been doing this for the last 120 years." The intensity of recent threats to public lands, however, has led to greater awareness than ever, spurring widespread involvement from the sportsmen community. BHA's membership, for example, has increased by 25% since the election, and has tripled over the last year. "A lot more folks are emboldened to speak up now," says Fosburgh.

BHA recently coordinated a press conference on HR 622, giving both sportsmen and career law enforcement employees from the BLM and Forest Service a platform to voice their opposition. This came about because the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, seeing potential allies in the sportsmen community, reached out to BHA. Together, they decided to take action "while this thing is hot," says Tawney.

The bill would remove the law enforcement functions currently carried out by BLM and Forest Service personnel, instead deputizing local law enforcement and providing funding via block grants. During the conference, Tawney compared this to "asking your dentist to do gallbladder surgery for you."

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, which represents 26,000 federal agent members, unanimously opposes the bill, according to Pat O'Carroll, executive director. The BLM and Forest Service, O'Carroll explained,

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routinely confront complex cases pertaining to “archaeological resources, timber theft, international drug trafficking, illegal immigration, wildlife poaching and catastrophic wildfires.” He expressed doubt that local enforcement would be capable of investigating such cases, which can sprawl over numerous jurisdictions and even international boundaries. Federal agents are free from the political pressures that might impact local police, he added.

Speaking during the conference, Lanny Wagner, now-retired chief law enforcement ranger for the BLM, emphasized not only the extensive training and knowledge necessary to enforce such cases, but also the passion and time that federal agents must dedicate to them. While he underscored his respect for local law enforcement, he added, “I’m not sure a sheriff’s office or its employees would have the same dedication and time or even energy” to pursue such cases.

Retired Forest Service Law Enforcement & Investigations Patrol Captain Jay Webster addressed the issue of local enforcement not only from a professional perspective, but also as a hunter and hiker who uses public lands almost daily. “I don’t want to meet a sheriff who’s out there just getting his shift in so he can go home,” he said, “I want to meet with Forest Service personnel.” Federal agents and local police simply have different expertise, he noted. A



Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service law enforcement rangers enforce a wide set of laws, from timber theft to drug trafficking. Photo:BLM California

sheriff’s priority is serving the citizens of the community. If a home robbery and a public-lands wildfire take place at the same time, O’Carroll explained, “they’re probably going to be going for the robbery.”

The press conference was just one piece of a larger campaign against HR 622. Riding the momentum of their successful push against HR 621, BHA and other sportsmen groups have engaged Chaffetz on social media, in Washington D.C., and on his home turf.

Sportsmen are also collaborating with outdoor industry and environmental groups, both to fight HR 622 and to defend public lands more generally. Conservation is not a partisan issue, so bills that threaten public lands have the unique ability to draw a wide range of user groups together. “There’s nothing more universal,” says Tawney.

It may be universal, but it’s also particularly dear to sportsmen, which is why “folks are waking up” now, as Fosburgh puts it. HR 622 is among the “continued flank attacks on our public lands system,” he says, and sportsmen intend to keep fighting these attacks at every turn: If you get rid of public lands, “you effectively end hunting as we know it in America.”

Rebecca Worby is an editorial intern at High Country News.

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Top Right: Handsome Gunther.

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Child Identity Theft

From Jim Plane - State Farm Insurance

Chances are you shred or secure any paperwork that contains personally identifying information, such as your Social Security number or birth date. But do you do the same for your children?

You ought to. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) estimates that at least 6% of all identity theft cases involve children. Youngsters' personal information is appealing to thieves who can use it to build a clean credit profile where one doesn't currently exist.

Another reason: It takes longer to get caught.

Adults may be actively involved in the credit world, checking statements and scores, but 'parents aren't checking their children's credit, so thieves can do more damage over an extended amount of time,' says Eva Velasquez, president and CEO of the Identity Theft Resource Center, an organization dedicated to educating consumers and assisting victims.

The good news is, with a few simple steps, you can better safeguard your children's personal information and pursue

any problems on their behalf.

Ask questions

Many schools and extracurricular programs ask for kids' Social Security numbers and other personally identifying information in order for them to participate. Ask why they need this information, and whether it's mandatory. If it's indeed required, 'ask them how they will keep the information secure,' advises Velasquez. Then determine whether you're comfortable with that level of protection.

Know warning signs

'If you're receiving mail in your child's name that would typically be for adults only, that's a red flag,' says Velasquez. **Warning signs include:**

Collection notices

Bills or new credit cards

Traffic violation warrants

Jury summons

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resource that offers tips for safeguarding your information online. *Get more information at Identity Theft Resources from State Farm®. For added security, look into identity theft insurance.*

Don't request credit reports

Resist the temptation to check for a credit report in your child's name as a preventive measure unless you have a strong suspicion or know for certain that your child's identity has been compromised. 'If your child doesn't have a credit file — and they shouldn't — you could actually open one up accidentally by checking it,' says Velasquez.

Take action

If you suspect fraud — or can confirm it — contact the Identity Theft Resource Center immediately, toll-free, at 888-400-5530. They'll listen to your concerns and work with you on next steps. You'll also want to contact the FTC to get help measuring the scope of the problem, and then file a report with your local police department.

Promote privacy

It's important to teach children the importance of protecting their own personal information so they don't set themselves up to be victimized. Velasquez recommends teens and parents check out ConnectSafely, an online



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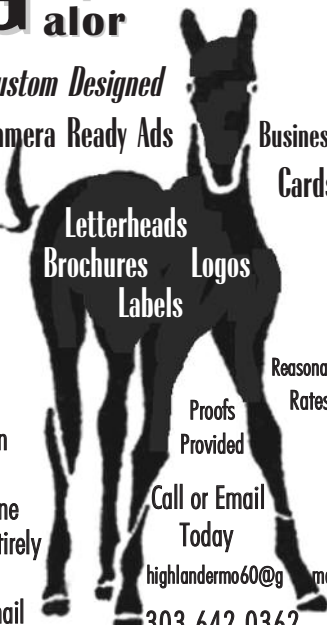
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Nine Geese

By Ingrid Winter

Nine Canada Geese come to Greenwood
Each one is covered in an oily substance
that someone dumped into the pond
where they lived throwing it away
not realizing or not caring that "away"
was someone's home.

So here they are - miserable cold hungry
and they are the lucky ones
they survived while others did not.

Their lives as refugees are not easy -
they have lost partners friends family
they are living in small cages
endure stressful baths hear strange noises
eat strange food are touched by strange hands
Still - in a short while they stop being just nine geese
and become individuals with personalities
each one as unique as you and me.

There is one who always hisses
the moment I just look at him but does not really mean it
another one moves to the far corner of the cage
trying to make himself invisible
one is a talker muttering constantly under his breath
and one is so calm that he can sleep through
just about anything

and then there is one who just stands in the middle of the
cage emanating peace and stillness
and when she slowly turns her head
and looks at me I know that she is not
a human being but a being nonetheless
with emotions and intelligence and wisdom
and the ability to touch a place deep in my heart
where words are not needed and she and I are one.

NINE GEESE II

Afternoon is the time for conversation in Gooseland
At first it's only the incessant talker
the one who constantly honks softly
as if muttering under his breath -

"I don't know why I'm here
I should be out on the pond chasing after girls
and besides the food here is mediocre
and the company isn't so great either ..."
and on and on but soon his voice is drowned out
by those of the others

Everyone has something to say, like
"Your attitude, old guy, just sucks
can't you see how good we have it here
safe from predators plenty of food and
clean water to bathe and swim in?"
and "Yes, this is the best place and the people here
are caring and kind and really want us

to get strong and healthy!”

and “I miss our pond and my family

and the rest of our flock - when can we go back?”

and “This isn’t our pond but hey - you got to accept what is and for now this is it!”

and “I hate this place I want out! out! out!”

and “Can you guys turn down the volume so I can sleep?”

and “I won’t do anything to draw attention I’ll just stand here without moving a muscle and maybe nobody will notice me!”

and “A free hotel room free food water sunshine and my buddies - what a great day and nothing to worry about!”

I listen to all that soft honking and after a while one by one the geese fall silent settle down and soon the sun is sinking and it’s sleepy time in Gooseland.

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Some take off immediately as if to make sure their freedom cannot be taken away again others stay by the shore calmly exploring this new place while some seek comfort in each other’s company and huddle together

but all of them eventually move on

and as we watch from the shore

we are happy and proud

that they don’t want to stay near us

and though we will miss them

we know that we have done our job well -

for even in captivity they have remained

what they were always meant to be:

wild and free.

Photo by Rachel Ames

Greenwood is a non-profit organization whose mission is to rehabilitate orphaned, sick, and injured wildlife for release into appropriate habitats. Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (303) 823-8455 www.greenwoodwildlife.org

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What Travels Down The Rein

By Diane Bergstrom

There is always an opportunity, at every Buck Brannaman clinic I've observed, when Buck, humane horsemanship expert, works with a rider's horse to deal with a problem that the owner hasn't been able to handle. Knowingly or unknowingly, willingly or unwillingly. During Buck's clinic last year at the Boulder County Fairgrounds, a first time attendee was having significant difficulty putting Buck's groundwork instructions into practice. Buck took over the horse, who tried not to follow his instructions as well, but as we all watched, within minutes filled with consistency and control, Buck had the horse executing the exercise. Then he handed the horse back to the owner and it all fell apart. Yes, there's a learning curve, but from where we sat, it looked like the owner couldn't bridge the change, not the horse. The horse had just demonstrated that he could and would with the right instruction and parameters. Buck pays close attention immediately following a demonstration and gives direct feedback to ensure his methods are continued. The attendee, rather than listen to Buck, argued reason after

reason why her horse shouldn't be held to the same behavior standards as the other horses in the arena. Her aggressive attitude apparently was not limited to her horse. Why someone would spend \$700 to participate in a clinic with their horse (spectator seats are \$30 a day) only to disregard and disagree with the expert's advice is beyond me, especially after she had JUST WITNESSED her horse's capabilities. Buck's intent is to help horses and he goes through their humans to do it. Year after year, I've watched both horses and riders be helped. Progress starts with the willingness to make behavioral changes and those are difficult to make if you don't change your belief system first. You have to commit to the possibility of improvement.

As Mindy Bower (Kiowa clinic sponsor, horse and rider trainer) and I left the grounds on the lunch break, we passed the same rider, who was working her horse in a pen. But it wasn't working. She hit him repeatedly with a flag, while holding him on a short lead rope and angrily yelled at him to get him to move his feet. (Not what Buck had taught.) The horse was jumping all over and trying to jerk away from her. I would too. (Buck had mentioned that his mentor, Ray Hunt, had wished he'd never promoted the use of flags as a gentling tool, because too often he'd witnessed people misusing it as a replacement for whip or a crop.) We sadly agreed that she didn't "get" the training, and probably

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will be offered. Contact sponsors Mindy Bower and Kevin Hall at 719-541-5550 or uhohranch@fair-point.net. For the rest of Buck's Colorado clinics in Steamboat Springs and Eagle,

(Clinic photo by Diane Bergstrom)

wouldn't, at her horse's expense. The attendee returned to the next session, armed with her excuses to which Buck would not engage. She got frustrated and led her horse out of the arena, giving up on her herself and her horse. I had never seen anyone do this and consulted the sponsor. She said it sometimes happens, and we discussed how you can't help people who won't accept it. The spectators were in disbelief too, and I suspect, we all felt deeply for the horse, the one with the most to lose. A friend, who specializes in rehabilitating racing greyhounds and socializes them to become pets, has a theory about owners' issues and their dog's behavior issues, that being, "Crap travels down the leash." She uses a different word for crap. You get the point. The theory can apply to horses too. Buck gives many coaching points to riders on controlling where they are at mentally and emotionally in order to get their horses to trust them, and therefore want to learn from them.

Trust comes first— through a place of understanding how a horse thinks and by managing your own emotions. I now have witnessed what travels down the rein, but year after year of covering Buck's clinics, I have witnessed more joys and successes travel back up the reins.

There are four clinics scheduled at two Front Range locations: May 19-21; Horsemanship 1 (9:00 am) and Ranch Roping (1:30 pm). Contact sponsor LuAnn Goodyear at 970-586-7682 or luannlresort@aol.com. The ridership is limited and there is unlimited spectator seating. In Kiowa, from August 18-20, Horsemanship 1 (9:00 am) and Horsemanship 2 (1:30 pm)

go to: www.brannaman.com/bbelinics. As my favorite Buckism goes, "Don't let anything but fear stop you."



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Why Are Fire Seasons Longer? More People!

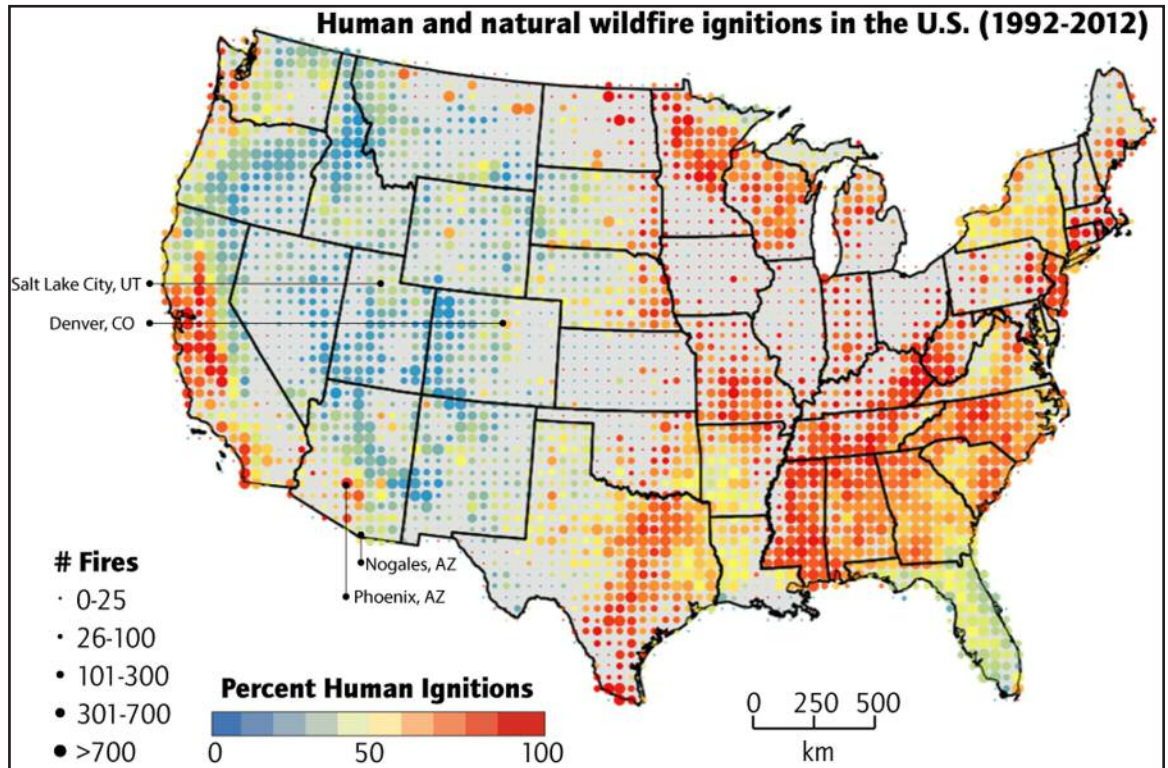
Maya L. Kapoor - HCN

New research finds illegal campfires, cigarette butts and other accidental ignitions have nearly tripled the wildfire season.

Over three months in 2016, the Soberanes fire burned 132,127 acres of central California's coast, blazing through dry swaths of dense chaparral, mixed hardwood timber and redwoods. Costing \$260 million to suppress, it became the most expensive fire in the country's history. And it wasn't caused by lightning, which is relatively scarce in that part of the country, but by an illegal campfire in Garrapata State Park. Human-caused climate change has meant more, and bigger, wildfires throughout the country. But as

astute pyrologist Bruce Springsteen once wrote, "You can't start a fire without a spark." According to new wildfire research, the source of that spark is, more often than not, a

person. What's more, due to these human-caused ignitions, the country's conflagrations have grown significantly larger and more frequent, while the overall fire season has tripled in length. *Bethany Bradley/University of Massachusetts Amherst*
Jennifer Balch, assistant professor of geography at the



University of Colorado-Boulder, quantified just how significant humans' role in providing that spark is. Balch and her colleagues investigated federal, state and local

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records provided by the Forest Service of wildfires on public and private lands from 1992 to 2012. They determined that 84% of the 1.5 million wildfires that burned nationally over those two decades were lit by humans, not including controlled burns intentionally lit for fire management. In total, humans started more than 1.2 million fires.

Even in parts of the country where lightning strikes cause the most fires — such as the Intermountain West — humans have increased the number, size and length of the season for wildfires overall. By mapping the Forest Service data, Balch’s team found that fires primarily ignite in areas of human-wildland interface: roads, urban encroachment into wild spaces and the edges of agricultural fields. Areas of high human population density and fewer lightning-caused fires experience more wildfires overall. These include central and southern California, where lightning is dry but rare, and the East Coast, where lightning is common but often accompanied by fuel-soaking storms. And in urbanizing areas of the Intermountain West, human-ignited wildfires are increasing. This pattern can be seen along Colorado’s Front Range, where human-caused wildfires cluster where people have moved into wildlands near cities such as Fort Collins, Boulder, Denver and Colorado Springs.

Wildfires are larger and more common in areas of greater human density. This pattern is clear in coastal regions. New research shows that it’s true in urbanizing regions of the West as well. Fire, as Balch pointed out, is a normal part of life. “From making breakfast on a gas-powered stove in the morning, to turning over the car’s combustion engine ignition, people use fire every day,” Balch said. The causes of wildfires often are part of daily life, too: **a cigarette flung from a car window**; a power line arcing when everyone runs the air conditioner at once; a spark hitting dried vegetation when a motorist on the side of the road starts her engine.

And while lightning-caused fires typically occur during the summer, human-caused fires are spread out throughout the year. Nationally, the fire season has grown by three months on average. Balch suggests her research points to the need to rethink current fire management practices. “Over a hundred years of fire suppression hasn’t worked. We haven’t put fire out,” Balch said. “We need to think through how we sustainably live with fire and promote more prescribed burns.”

In the past, people have been resistant to controlled burns near communities. People don’t like living near the

“patchwork patterns” of a burned landscape, Balch said. And yet humans invite fire into their lives, sometimes just for the fun of it: The most common day for wildfire ignitions in the United States was July 4, with 7,762 fires burning more than 350,000 acres in 21 years. “Things might have been different if Independence Day was in winter,” Balch said.

Maya L. Kapoor is an associate editor at High Country News.

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The Apprentice President

By the time this issue hits the stands, who knows how many more 'apprentice' type mistakes our commander in chief will have made. At the time of this writing, mid-March the list is growing daily. Our Executive Office is not supposed to be a learn-as-you-go type of high-level political position. I totally respect the Office of The President, but each person elected to it must still earn the respect of the people. We have luckily survived bad presidents over the many years, some even in my lifetime, why name names as a couple have already passed on to greener pastures or are suffering in hell (if you believe in that sort of punishment).


But this current administration sure is lowering the bar for any and all future presidents by way of the lack of knowledge about how things are done and what is legal for the Executive Branch and what is in our Constitution. Webster's definition of apprentice: One who is learning an occupation under a skilled worker, a beginner. Which is the way many freshmen politicians have navigated Washington, but most surrounded themselves with folks in the know with experience and ethical savvy.

I lived through Watergate when Nixon took lying to a




whole new low and in case you weren't old enough in those days to know what was going on, well let's just say 'tricky dick' lied until the chickens and the cows came home. Until he was forced to resign because the 'writing on the wall' was on tape: proof of his illegal acts and activities, but it still took too long for him to cave and amounted to a ton of taxpayer money under the guise of investigations and grand jury proceedings.

I wonder if this new president has the smarts to resign before he might get impeached? In recent years impeachment of a president gets trotted out as a threat for sexual misbehavior or unfortunate events, unlike the JFK era the media takes true bliss in looking for bad conduct in any arena of personal life and while I couldn't care less about our commander in chief's love life: I do care what his proclivities are about collusion with an enemy of the country, especially during (*and after*) a campaign.

This is looking more and more just like a 'reality show' with all the fake drama and social media importance that I must admit I don't give a damn about. I still believe ethical beliefs or political values and honesty count more than how many twitter followers one has. Now call me old school, I won't take offense - but Mr. President is well past 65 years old and acts like a toddler someone took his toy away from - tantrums in the public eye (even if it is on Twitter) are just



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the immature machinations of a spoiled adult child.

This particular spoiled child holds a singularly powerful position in our world and I am worried he has no idea of boundaries, much less repercussions should he decide to act out and do revenge type 'world changing' power plays. He has shown no filters, no self-control, no common sense, no conscience and even his extended family should be very afraid of his future actions should 'God Forbid' someone actually crosses him. I hate to admit I watched a couple of his 'The Apprentice' shows when a celebrity I admired had decided to be at the mercy of this guy just to be on TV. It was an enlightening experience, truly - to watch a megalomaniac paid by corporate television work at sifting through celebrities to be an apprentice in his business.

I wish some cable network would replay those shows just to enlighten the viewing public of who this guy really is, an old male chauvinist playing at inauthentic attempts to be altruistic for the charities of the contestants. He had them doing menial tasks, begging their friends for donations all while he sat back and maybe matched a couple thousand dollars for the winners, it was the saddest play for being a good guy I honestly have ever witnessed. I have no doubt all the contestants were appalled by the experience and regret signing up for that ultimate humiliation.

What can we do to manage this mistake and possible world annihilation? Well, you can contact your Senators and Representatives regularly to let them know your

concerns and urge them (at the risk for their re-election) to block the harmful, irresponsible and unethical policies this administration is showing as it continues to flagrantly work at wasting our tax dollars in too many areas to name.

Basically stop the folks behind the President who are urging him to do radical right changes that will hurt and harm the majority of the middle and poverty level citizens. They care nothing about healthcare, social security or our Veterans and all their actions will work to remove all the progressive actions taken in the last twenty years to increase our middle class. They are scope locked literally on keeping the poor in poverty and paying for more warmongering in the name of national security than in providing preventative medical care for any American citizens (*taxpayers pay for indigent medical care anyway.*)

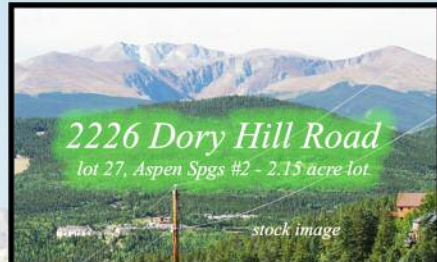
Any politician that calls Social Security or even Medicare entitlements has never had FICA removed from their paycheck for years. I've been paying that tax since I was fifteen years old and received my first paycheck in 1968. If Congress has had bad judgment and has failed to invest my money responsibly, then they should learn to avoid bad investing and be more conservative so seniors have a chance to get their money back in their retirement years.

I have no doubt I will get nasty, hateful and even threatening responses to this OpEd because the right feels more empowered simply by President Trump's election to the White House, get in line. **By A.M. Wilks**

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Buffalo Field Campaign-buffalofieldcampaign.org

More than 1,200 of America's last wild buffalo have been killed this winter, and it isn't over yet. Hunting along Yellowstone's boundaries has taken the lives of more than 400 buffalo. Hunters are still in the field making kills. It's a terrible time of year to hunt. The buffalo — like other wild grazers — have used up all of their fat stores, and are showing ribs and bony hips, waiting for the re-greening of the Earth so they can again replenish their huge bodies. This is also the time of year when the long, harsh winter takes her toll, too. There will be many buffalo who will not survive into spring, but the government is not accounting for these deaths in their mad rush to reduce this most significant and vulnerable population. Further, hunters are still killing adult female buffalo who will begin having their calves in about six weeks. All too often, BFC patrols make heartbreaking discoveries of finding fully-formed baby buffalo in their mother's gut piles.

Additionally, Yellowstone National Park — shamefully complicit in Montana's livestock industry's war against wild buffalo — has captured close to 800 buffalo, all of whom have been or will be sent to slaughter. The trap is emptying quickly, though Yellowstone continues to attempt to capture. Recently, some buffalo have resisted these attempts, while others have not been so lucky. Recently in Gardiner, BFC patrols documented as five Yellowstone wranglers on horseback tried to trap fifty-five buffalo; all but one got away, running to the hills for their lives. The unfortunate mama buffalo who was trapped caught the attention of another family group of twenty-two. Coming dangerously close to the trap, they sealed their own fate as the wranglers, hungry to capture, took advantage of the situation. Hundreds of wild buffalo are gone forever. BFC's Mike Mease and Stephany Seay attended the second media tour of Yellowstone's trap recently, where we again witnessed Yellowstone park rangers, wranglers, and biologists doing the service of the Montana Dept. of Livestock as they loaded wild buffalo onto stock trailers headed for the slaughterhouse, then proceeded to move more through the trap. It has become business as usual for these buffalo abusers, just another day in the park. They tell us that they don't like doing this, that they want slaughter to end, but their actions say something else.



Yellowstone National Park is not without significant power, but they have shown they are without courage. They can stand up to Montana and refuse to participate. But they don't. Their cold routine of capturing, testing, sorting, and shipping the country's national mammal to a horrific death — as they don the image of this sacred being on their uniforms and rake in millions from the people who come to adore them — has become just another day at work. They attempt to put the task of change on the public, shirking responsibility for their part in these crimes. While it is true that a current Montana law -

MCA 81-2-120 — is the driver behind the cumulative mismanagement plans and practices, Yellowstone should not have the luxury of of passing the buck. The world's most well-known national park has astounding influence that they choose not to use. Instead, they kill America's last wild buffalo. By the end of March, this should all be over. Please continue to keep pressure on Montana and Yellowstone. Do not ease up. Be relentless and don't accept their excuses. Laws, decisions, and management plans can be changed.

**Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk
307-344-2002**

Montana Governor Steve Bullock 406-444-3111

And contact your members of Congress to tell them that this must end once and for all. Congress holds the purse strings and can end the funding.

The coming of spring is beginning to benefit the buffalo, and we are thankful. The Gardiner Basin is swiftly losing all of its snow and the earth is beginning to turn green again. This is encouraging buffalo to migrate away from the vicinity of the trap and away from the boundary where hunters still wait. In the Hebgen Basin, west of the park, however, there is still a significant amount of snow covering the ground. It's beginning to melt, and south-facing slopes are opening up, but with so much snow there's still a long way to go. Soon spring migration will begin in earnest, as family groups — hopefully by the hundreds — will make their way to their calving grounds around Horse Butte. BFC patrols will soon shift our focus to the highway, helping to warn motorists as the buffalo move through this important corridor.

The Race Of Life: The Happiness Factor

By Frosty Wooldridge

Bhutan in Asia sets the benchmark for living a “happy” life. Its culture mandates that “happiness” holds the highest distinction in the realm of daily living. Those citizens living in that country enjoy a much slower and quieter living pace. They maintain a spiritual connection to their world.

Thus, peace and harmony thrive among Bhutan’s citizens. No murders, no headaches, no prescription drugs, no alcoholism, no gridlock, no air pollution, no slums and no social unrest. When I visited that country, I came away with a “happiness factor” that thrives within me today. I caught what they live and incorporated it into my own life in our high speed, high stress society.

How do they maintain “happiness” in a world racing toward some kind of destination on the horizon?

America features almost the opposite culture from Bhutan. Nearly everyone exceeds the speed limit on our nation’s highways. Most Americans buy the fastest Internet provider on the market. They flip TV channels faster than a ping-pong game. Urgency dominates America’s fast food joints, laxatives and painkillers.

Pain sufferers buy 131 million doses of popular headache and pain relievers annually.

What makes the difference in the “happiness factor” in Bhutan and the “high stress factor” prevalent in American big cities? Instead of hell bent to get there, try the Bhutan way of thinking about the quality of your life. Even if you live in a big city, you may gather Mother Nature around you at your office with plants, fish aquarium and relaxed music.

At home, you may create peaceful scenes replete with flowers, plants and paintings that soothe your spirit. You may create a backyard with a waterfall, birdbath and bird feeder.

You may create a “spiritual sandbox” whereby you may take off your shoes daily and thrust your feet into the “biorhythms of the universe” and re-synchronize your body to the

pulse of the galaxy. You may incorporate four quintessential decisions to shift your life from stress to peaceful living:

Tell yourself each day, “Life is good.” Think primal, pure fountain, universal source and energy. Remember your childhood when you played for the sheer joy of movement. Re-introduce “play” into your daily schedule. A walk along a trail, a quiet moment in your rocker, a swing in the park and bird watching by a pond. Take delight in a dragonfly landing on a Lilly pad. Walk away from the dark night of the soul or anything bothering you—by your intellectual choice through practice. Think of the good.

Understand and appreciate that, “I am capable; I am joyful and I am enough.” *(Continued next page.)*



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Highlander Inner View

Inadequacy and comparisons permeate a large swatch of American life—business, school and social gatherings. This world today stems from comparisons with others. You may choose to be at peace with yourself because you no longer compare yourself to or with anyone. You cherish yourself because you are the only you in the world.

You did not come to this planet to prove yourself. You arrived in grand style to express yourself, laugh with life, create with life and entertain yourself with whatever passion(s) catches your fancy. Once you seek and strike upon your passions—stress, anxiety and pain vanish into your rear view mirrors.

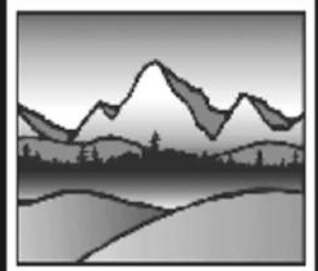
Finally, like the Bhutanese people, you gather your happiness factor by engaging your “calming factor” via your connection to the natural world. You impel yourself into wholeness by the little choices that build on your self-acceptance and finally, your freedom from headaches, pain and anxiety.

What absorbs or thrills you? Okay, engage it. As you do,



you feel captivated in life’s activities, which, in turn render happiness. Recreate your life to your bearings. Seek that which vibrates with your being. Enjoy the miracle of life pulsating in every cell of your body. As you do, you dwell within the “happiness factor” throughout all your days.

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NEDERLAND and PEAK to PEAK LOCATIONS

Dam Liquors, next to B&F Market, Nederland
Gilpin County Justice Center, Hwy 46
Gilpin County Recreation Center Lobby, Hwy 46
Mountain Man Outdoor Store, 20 Lakeview Dr.
Boulder Creek Lodge, 55 Lakeview Drive
Roy's Last Shot Bar & Grille, 17268 Hwy 119
Salto Coffee Works 112 E. 2nd Street, Nederland
Nederland Info. Ctr, First St & Hwy 119, Nederland
Nederland People's Food Coop, Main St, Nederland
New Moon Bakery & Internet Cafe, 1 W. First St.,
Rustic Moose, 26 E. First St., Nederland
Sundance Cafe, 23942 Hwy 119, Nederland
Taggerts, Hwy 119 at Colorado Sierra
Underground Liquor, 15107 Highway 119

Advertisers can take advantage of many features:
FREE Graphic Design - Change your ad Monthly!
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working LINKS TO YOUR WEBSITE.**

Online issues download quickly for fast web viewing and (***save it to your Desktop to read at your leisure***) so it can be viewed in Adobe Reader: select Page Display and Two Page View to read it as it appears in the hard copies with pictures in color.

The ***HIGHLANDER Monthly*** has original reporting and writing from journalists and photographers not seen or printed anywhere else. Also syndicated to reprint High Country News articles - the 'WatchDog' of the West that has factual informational writing and reporting surpassing all other news outlets regionally and nationwide.

So if you wish your Advertising to reflect Quality, Integrity and Positive News - this is the place.

NEW EMAIL:

highlandermo60@gmail.com

All ads are rotated fairly: First time ads towards the front and on the right side, next month your ad runs it will appear in the first 20 pages and after that everyone takes their turn in fair rotation. We take pride in not placing competing businesses next to your ads.

We WON'T advertise for unethical individuals or poorly run companies or businesses. We also don't print or report false or mainly negative news as all sources have been checked.

ARVADA LOCATIONS

3 Sons Italian Restaurant, 64th & Indiana
Duncan YMCA, 6350 Eldridge, Arvada
Malones's Clubhouse Grill, 64th. & Indiana, Arvada

COAL CREEK CANYON LOCATIONS

Community Center, 31528 Hwy 72
Sinclair Station-Crescent Branch Post Office, Hwy 72
Pinecliffe Post Office - Hwy 72, Pinecliffe
Westfalen Hof Restaurant, 32138 Hwy 72
Wondervu Café, 33492 Hwy 72

CENTRAL CITY LOCATIONS

Central City Post Office Lobby
Central City Information Center, Main Street
Dostal Alley-Brewery & Casino, Central City
Gilpin County Courthouse, Central City

Highlander Ad Index & Business Telephone Numbers

ADVERTISING

Graphics Galore pgs 17, 21 303.642.0362
Highlander Monthly pg 33 303.642.0362

ANIMAL CARE

Angels w/Paws-Cat Rescue pg 26 303.274.2264
Certified Communicator pg 19 303.447.0275
Cheshire Cat - Catio 303.642.0362
Hands, Hoofs & Paws pg 20 303.503.6068
Rock the Shelter- Sat. Apr. 29 Central City pg 11
Vet Tech Pet Sitting pg 31 303.642.0477

APPLIANCE

ProTech Appliance pg 28 303.642.7223

ART

The Silver Horse - pg 14 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 14 303.258.3225

ATTORNEYS

JK & K, P.C. pg 25 720.943.1095

AUTOMOBILE

Carl's Corner pg 19 303.642.7144
Kysar's Place Inc. pg 23 303.582.3566
Mountain Muffler pg 24 303.278.2043

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 8 303.258.3132
Arrow Drilling-pg 22 303.421.8766
B & H Asphalt Paving ins cov 303.810.0531
Keating Pipeworks, Inc. pg 10 720.974.0023
Meyer Hardware pg 3 303.279.3393
Peter Palombo, Surveyor-pg 15 720.849.7509
RedPoint Construction pg 14 303.642.3691
Steel Structures America ins cov 970.420.7100

BUSINESS SERVICES

APT Accounting pg 24 303.642.1040
Graphics Galore pg 17, 21 303.642.0362
Michelle Marciniak, CPA pg 10 303.642.7371
Wondervu Consulting Serv. pg 32 303.642.0433

CHIMNEY SWEEPS

MidTown Chimney pg 26 303.670.7785

CLOTHING

Mountain Man Store pg 28 303.258.3295
The Rustic Moose - pg 14 303.258.3225

COMPUTER SERVICE & REPAIR

Wondervu Consulting Serv. pg 32 303.642.0433

ELECTRIC

United Power - Inside back Cover 303.642.7921

ENTERTAINMENT

KGNU Radio pg 20 303.449.4885
Jaime Mezo Scuba Diving Cozumel, Q.Roo pg 15
Rock the Shelter- Sat. Apr. 29 Central City pg 11

ENVIRONMENTAL

The Environmental Group - tegcolorado.org

EXCAVATING

Driveway Doctor pg 16 303.642.0606
Silver Eagle Excavating pg 21 303.642.7464

FARRIER

Forbes Farrier Service pg 28 303.642.7437

FIREWOOD & FOREST MANAGEMENT

High Timber Mtn Tree Serv. pg 6 303.258.7942
Lumber Jacks - pg 18 720.212.1875

GIFTS

The Silver Horse - pg 14 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 14 303.258.3225

GROCERIES

B & F Mountain Market pg 17 303.258.3105

GUNSMITH

Colo. Gun Rooms LLC pg 15 303.957.9964

HEALTH & FITNESS

Hands, Hoofs & Paws pg 20 303.503.6068
Nederdance pg 25 303.258.9427

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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B & H Asphalt Paving ins cov 303.810.0531
Colorado Water Wizard pg 27 303.447.0789
House Cleaning pg 27 303.956.3532
Meyer Hardware pg 3 303.279.3393
Redpoint Construction pg 14 303.642.3691

HORSE BOARDING

Rudolph Ranch, Inc. pg 18 303.582.5230

INSURANCE

Jim Plane-State Farm- pg 21 720.890.5916

LIQUOR

Mid-County Liquors pg 17 3093.642.7686
Underground Liquor pg 7 303.582.6034

PIANO LESSONS

In Coal Creek Canyon pg 16 303.642.8423

PLUMBING

Keating Pipeworks, Inc. pg 10 720.974.0023

PROPANE

Carl's Corner pg 19 303.642.7144

REAL ESTATE

Black Hawk-Jerry Baker pg 27 303.881.3953
Byers-Sellers Mtn Properties pg 29 303.642.7951
Mock Realty-Kathy Keating -Back cov 303.642.1133
Summit Up Property Mgt. pg 24 303.618.8266

RESTAURANTS

Westfalen Hof - pg 12 303.642.3180

RENTAL

A to Z Rental Ctr. pg 5 303.232.7417

RETAIL

ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 8 303.258.3132
B & F Mountain Market pg 17 303.258.3105
Meyer Hardware pg 3 303.279.3393
Mountain Man Store pg 28 303.258.3295
The Silver Horse - pg 14 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 14 303.258.3225

REVERSE MORTGAGES

Universal Lending Corp. pg 23 303.791.4786

ROOFING

Independence Roofing pg 3 720.399.0355

STEEL STRUCTURES

Steel Structures America ins cov 970.420.7100

TAXES

APT Accounting pg 24 303.642.1040
Michelle Marciniak, CPA pg 10 303.642.7371

WATER & WELL

Arrow Drilling pg 22 303.421.8766
Colorado Water Wizard pg 27 303.447.0789
Doctor Water Well pg 12 303.438.6669

APRIL
2017

POWER UPDATE



Save Trees with Paperless Billing

United Power members who no longer wish to receive a printed bill in the mail can sign up for Paperless Billing.

To sign up for Paperless Billing, call our Member Services department at 303-637-1300 or login to SmartHub to update your printed bill settings.

Once you are enrolled in Paperless Billing, a paper bill will no longer be mailed to you. You will receive an e-mail notification when your statement is available.

www.unitedpower.com



Building Tomorrow's COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR ELECTION & ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY

April 18, 2017

4:30 p.m. Registration & Dinner

6:30 p.m. Meeting & Prizes

ADAMS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
9755 HENDERSON ROAD, BRIGHTON
ENTER AT THE EXHIBIT HALL

www.UnitedPower.com



Customer Service: 303-637-1300

Coal Creek Office: 303-642-7921

www.unitedpower.com

Time for your check up!

Coal Creek Canyon

9Health Fair



Ask a Medical Question – Get a Referral | Basic Blood Chemistry Screen | Blood Pressure Screen | Body Mass Index Screen

Kids' activities...and much MORE!

Now recruiting medical & non-medical volunteers to work the Coal Creek Canyon 9Health Fair.
Sign up to volunteer at : www.9healthfair.org/volunteer



Follow Coal Creek Canyon 9Health Fair on Facebook for weekly updates!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Saturday, April 29 | 7:00am to 12:00noon
Coal Creek Canyon K-8 School
11719 Ranch Elsie Rd, Golden, CO 80403



118 Gap Road
Amazing Mountain Retreat
5 BD/ 4 BA 2,670 sq.ft. **\$610,000**



8300 Spirit Horse
Bring Your Dreams, Solar.
11.43 Acres **\$145,900**



11693 Hillcrest Road
Remodeled Raised Ranch on 1 Acre
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,088 sq ft **\$379,000**



3491 Gross Dam Road
A Slice of Mountain Privacy
38.92 Acres **\$189,000**



3174 Coal Creek Canyon Drive
Cozy Home next to S. Boulder Creek
2 BD/ 2 BA 1,770 sq.ft. **\$189,000**



34060 Skyline Drive
Beautiful Mountain Home
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,863 sq.ft. **\$499,000**



1055 Divide View Drive
Fabulous Custom Home on 2 Acres
4 BD/ 5 BA 4,732 sq.ft. **\$739,000**



0 Tiber Road - Land
Two Adjacent Lots
1.88 Acres **\$68,000**



Kathy Keating,
CRS, ABR, GRI
EcoBroker,
Broker Associate
303.642.1133

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Broker Associate
303.497.0641

