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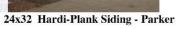
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# About the Cover: Spanish Mustangs, Mare Addie and Colt Quin, photo by Sally Romano.

Dedicated to Positive News whenever possible! Check the online issue to see the pictures in color!

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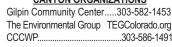
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## The Spanish Mustang

#### From Wikipedia Photos by Sally Romano

The Spanish Mustang is an American horse breed descended from horses brought from Spain during the early conquest of the Americas. They are classified within the larger grouping of the Colonial Spanish horse, a type that today is rare in Spain. (1) By the early 20th century, most of the once-vast herds of mustangs that had descended from the Spanish horses had been greatly reduced in size. Seeing that these horses were on the brink of extinction, some horseman began making efforts to find and preserve the remaining "Spanish Mustangs" drawing stock from feral and Native American herds, as well as ranch stock. The breed was one of the first to be part of a concerted preservation effort for horses of Spanish phenotype, and a breed registry was founded in 1957.

The Spanish Mustang as a modern domesticated breed differs from the feral free-roaming Mustang. (2) The latter animals are descended from both Spanish horses and other domesticated horses escaped or released from various sources; many run wild in Herd Management Areas (HMAs) of the





western United States, currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Some feral herds also exist in Canada. DNA studies indicate that Spanish breeding and type does still exist in some feral Mustang herds, including those on the Cerbat HMA (near Kingman, Arizona),(3) Pryor Mountain HMA (Montana),(4) Sulphur HMA (Utah),(5) and Kiger HMA.(6)

History: The Colonial Spanish Horse developed from animals first brought

from the Iberian peninsula to the Americas during the conquest and establishment of the Spanish colony of New Spain in what today is Mexico.(7) As the conquest of Mexico progressed during the 16th century, horse herds spread north and crossed the Rio Grande. Over the next one hundred years, horses in the Americas were stolen and traded by the Apache, Comanche, and later the Utes and Shoshone to various tribes across the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains. (8) On the brink of extinction in the early part of this century, (9) the Spanish Mustang is one of the first breeds developed from a planned conservation program to save the descendants of these Spanish (Continued next page.)

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#### **Highlander Horse**

horses.(6) This effort is mostly attributed to Robert E. Brislawn of Oshoto, Wyoming, and his brother Ferdinand L. Brislawn of Gusher, Utah. (10) Credit for the preservation effort also goes to Gilbert Jones and Ilo Belsky.(11) They gathered horses from feral Mustang herds, Native American herds and ranch stock from throughout the west, chosen because they had a phenotype that indicates Spanish ancestry. (12) Two full brothers, Buckshot and Ute, were among the first foundation stallions, sired by a buckskin stallion named Monty and out of Ute Reservation blood on the dam's side. Monty, captured in 1927 in Utah, escaped back to the wild in 1944, taking his mares with him. He was never recaptured. (9,12) Ultimately, the Brislawns and Lawrence P. Richards formed a registry, the Spanish Mustang Registry, incorporated in 1957. Due to assorted differences of opinion on what horses to accept into the registry, Jones formed the Southwest Spanish Mustang



Above: cover colt as newborn, photo by Wanda Hunt.



Association in 1977, and other offshoot registries formed later. (13) A 2006 study found that the Spanish Mustang, as well as horses from the Sulphur Springs and Kiger HMAs have DNA haplotypes that indicate origin from horses of the Iberian peninsula. (14)

Characteristics: Spanish Mustang stands from 13.2 to 15 hands (54 to 60 inches, 137 to 152 cm) in height, with horses over 15 hands not favored. They weigh between 650 and 1,100 pounds (290 and 500 kg).

They are smooth muscled with short backs, rounded rumps and low-set tails. The coupling is strong and horses are to be well balanced and smoothly built with an "uphill" build. The girth is deep, with a well laid back shoulder and fairly pronounced withers. They possess a straight or concave facial profile and wide foreheads. Necks are fairly well crested in mares and geldings and heavily crested in mature stallions. Chests are moderately narrow but



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well-defined. Chestnuts are small or missing altogether, particularly on the rear legs. Ergots are small or absent. Feet are round and hard and legs are to be of correct conformation, though hind legs may be set under a bit. Cannons are short and bone is rounded. Some individuals are gaited, with a range of different footfalls accepted. Paddling or winging out are not a fault unless there is interference or it is caused by a lack of straightness in the leg.(15)

Spanish Mustangs exist in many colors, due to the wide range of colors in their Spanish ancestors. They are commonly found in bay, chestnut, black and gray. Other



colors seen less commonly include the Appaloosa and paint patterns and solid colors such as grulla (color of cover colt), buckskin, palomino, cremello, isabella, roan and perlino.(9) Spanish Mustangs are known for their stamina and hardiness. The breed is known for its longdistance ability, and is ridden by some endurance riders.(9) The Spanish Mustang is also used to compete in a variety of English and Western riding events.(2) Photos previous pages: Chiloquin, Famous Stallion Peace Pipe and above Kahotek acting studlike.

Pipe and above Kahotek acting studlike.

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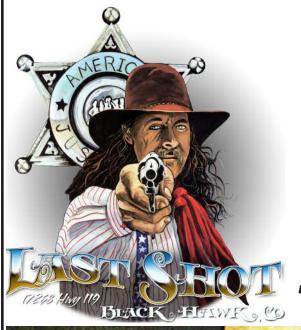
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### Saving The Colorado River

#### By Jeff Thompson

The last couple months have been hard, to say the least. On May 16, the United States Army Corps of Engineers issued its Record of Decision to permit the Windy Gap Firming Project. On July 6, the Corps issued its Record of Decision to permit the Moffat Collection System Project (Gross Reservoir Expansion). Both Records of Decision, and both Final Environmental Impact Statements that were the basis for those decisions, are pure garbage.

Last October, the Highlander published an article I wrote about the Standing Rock battle against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). The title was *The DAPL in the* Post-Constitutional Era. I wrote that it may be time to accept that our federal government is no longer the federal government organized by our long and appropriately venerated and defended Constitution of the United States. That would mean, I explained, that the federal government, with all its agencies and bureaucracies and the courts that back them up, no longer exercises legitimate power over us. If that's true, I asked, how would ignoring that reality help our situation? I asked how long could we go on pretending this hasn't happened before some very scary people step in and take charge. Then I said the truth is, as I see it, some very scary people have already stepped in and taken charge, and those scary people are the Army Corps of Engineers, the oil industry billionaires and federal court judges.

Virtually the exact same thing that I wrote about last October is happening now in Colorado. The scary people are once again the Army Corps of Engineers and the federal court judges and, instead of the oil industry billionaires, the Army Corps is now doing the bidding of

the real estate billionaires and their puppets on the Denver Water Board and the Board of Directors of the Northern Colorado Water Conservation District. The Final **Environmental Impact Statements and** Records of Decision for the Windy Gap Firming and Moffat projects are nothing but smoke and mirrors to cover up the Corps' intention to completely disregard the National Environmental Policy Act and the Clean Water Act and allow the real estate billionaires to seize control of the Upper Colorado, Fraser and Williams Fork rivers, steal the water and leave us with nothing but the remnants of rivers that have been destroyed.

As I explained last October, the government organized by the United States Constitution, and consented to

by the People, is government by laws which are enacted by the members of the United States Congress on behalf of the people who elect them. Two of those laws are the National Environmental Policy Act and the Clean Water Act. If I were to write an article explaining all the ways the Army Corps flouted both those laws, it would be about the length of Tolstoy's War and Peace. For this article, I'm just going to focus on The Big Lie. The Big Lie is found in the Special Conditions section, paragraph 10.1, of the Windy Gap Firming Project Record of Decision and in the Special Conditions section, paragraph 11.1, of the Moffat Record of Decision. Paragraph 10.1 of the Windy Gap Firming Project Record of Decision is as follows: Based on information provided by the Permittee, the Corps has determined the overall project purpose is to deliver a firm annual yield of approximately 30,000 AF of water from the existing Windy Gap Project to meet a portion of the water deliveries from the original Windy Gap Project and to provide up to 3,000 AF of storage to firm water deliveries for the MPWCD. This project purpose was the basis upon which the Corps conducted its review of the application, as well as a basis for the Corps' determination that permit issuance is in the best interest of the public. Accordingly, the Corps authorizes no change in project purpose, or in the nature of the permitted activity, without prior review and approval.

Based on the comments that were received on the Windy Gap Firming Project, and its knowledge of the basics of Colorado water law, which it would certainly have in order to be competent to prepare, or supervise the preparation of, Environmental Impact Statements of this nature, the Army Corps would (Continued on next page.)



#### **Highlander Issues**

have to know that the purpose of the Windy Gap Firming Project is to deliver in excess of 60,000 acre feet of water annually to the participants in the project. The Environmental Impact Statement for the Windy Gap Firming Project was prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation. But the Corps participated in its preparation as a cooperating agency, reviewed the statement and adopted it in its Record of Decision on the Windy Gap Firming Project permit and it has substantial experience in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements of this nature.

The Environmental Impact Statement for the Windy Gap Firming Project documents a need for almost 111,000 acre feet of water and concludes that there are no reasonable alternatives for meeting this need that do not involve diverting this water from the Colorado River at the Windy Gap Dam. Under the Windy Gap water rights, the project has the right to divert water from the Colorado River at the rate of 600 cubic feet per second, provided that the water is used for beneficial purposes. That means that, provided the water is used for beneficial purposes, the Windy Gap Project can divert water from the Colorado river at the rate of 1,190 acre feet per day, 35,700 acre feet per month, and 434,382 acre feet per year. In the process of permitting the original Windy Gap Project, the project agreed to limit its average annual diversions from the Colorado River to just over 60,000 acre feet. That's the only reason the purpose



of the Windy Gap Firming Project can be fairly said to be to divert only just over 60,000 acre feet annually from the Colorado River and deliver it to the project participants. It's clear that the Army Corps intentionally understated the impact of the Windy Gap Firming Project on the Colorado River by a factor of over 2.

What's more, the Corps intentionally misrepresented the National Environmental Policy Act requirement with regard to evaluating the purpose of the project. The National Environmental Policy Act requires that the Environmental Impact Statement evaluate the *underlying* purpose of the project. Based on the comments that were received, and its knowledge of the basics of Colorado land development law, which it would certainly have in order to be competent to prepare, or supervise the preparation of, Environmental Impact Statements of this nature, the Army Corps would have to know that the *underlying* purpose of this project is to encourage urban development in the areas under the jurisdiction of the participants in the project. The Corps would have to know that under Colorado's Municipal Annexation Act, the municipal participants in the project can deny an annexation application, and therefore deny municipal water services, for any reason, and would be foolish to grant an annexation application it can't support with its water supply. Similarly, the Corps would have to know that, under Colorado's Local Government Land Use Control and Enabling Act, county governments with jurisdiction over areas not under the jurisdiction of municipalities can deny land development applications that are not supported by adequate water supply. In fact, counties are encouraged to deny land development applications that are not supported by adequate water supply.

So its clear that the *underlying* purpose of the project is not to avoid a water shortage brought about by urban development and population growth that is out of the control of the participants in the project, as the Corps and the Environmental Impact Statement would have us believe, but rather to encourage urban development and population growth in the areas that are under the jurisdiction of the participants in the project by acquiring as much new water supply as possible. The Army Corps of Engineers intentionally misrepresented the National Environmental Policy Act requirement with regard to evaluating the *underlying* purpose of the project in order to completely avoid any evaluation of the adverse environmental impacts of the urban development and population growth the project is intended to encourage. Paragraph 11.1 of the Moffat Record of Decision is as follows: Based on information provided by the Permittee, the Corps has determined the overall Project purpose is to develop a firm annual yield of approximately 18,000 AF of water to the Moffat Treatment Plant and raw water customers upstream of the Moffat Treatment Plant. This Project purpose was the basis upon which the Corps conducted its review of the Section 404 Application, as well

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as the basis for the Corps determination that permit issuance is in the best interest of the public. The Corps authorization incorporates the Environmental Pool and Osprey Point Quarry site as minimization measures. This authorization does not allow Denver Water to use the Environmental Pool for storage of municipal supply. No change in the Project purpose may occur without prior review and approval by the Corps.

Again, based on the comments that were received, and its knowledge of the basics of Colorado water law, which it would certainly have in order to be competent to prepare, or supervise the preparation of, Environmental Impact Statements of this nature, the Army Corps would have to know that the purpose of the Moffat Collection System Project is to deliver about 74,000 acre feet of water annually to Denver Water's customers. The Environmental Impact Statement for the Moffat Project documents a need for almost 74,000 acre feet of new water supply and concludes that there are no reasonable alternatives for meeting this need that do not involve diverting this water from the Fraser and Williams Fork rivers and their tributaries. The Fraser and Williams Fork rivers are tributaries of the Colorado River, so any diversion from these rivers is a diversion from the Colorado River.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Moffat Project was prepared by the Army Corps. According to the Final Environmental Impact Statement, the new water supply would be met by utilization of a collection of water rights known as the Fraser River Diversion Project. Under these water rights, Denver Water has the right to divert water from the Fraser River and several of its tributaries at the rate of 1,280 cubic feet per second, provided that the water is used for beneficial purposes. That means that, provided the water is used for beneficial purposes, Denver Water has the right to divert water from the Fraser River and it's tributaries at the rate of 2,539 acre feet per day, 76,160 acre feet per month and 926,682 acre feet per year. The limiting factor is that the water must be used for beneficial purposes. According to the Environmental Impact Statement, the amount of additional water needed, and thus the amount of water that can be used for beneficial purposes, is about 74,000 acre feet. It's clear that the Army Corps intentionally understated the impact of the Moffat Project on the Colorado River by a factor of over 4.

As explained here, the need for the additional water supply is entirely under the control of the municipalities served by Denver Water and the counties that have jurisdiction over areas that are served by Denver Water. So its' clear that the *underlying* purpose of the project is not to avoid a water shortage brought about by urban development and population growth that is out of the control of the municipal and county governments with jurisdiction over the areas that would be served by Denver Water, as the Army Corps would have us believe, but rather to encourage urban development and population growth in

the areas that are under the jurisdiction of those municipal and county governments by acquiring as much new water supply as possible. The Army Corps of Engineers intentionally misrepresented the National Environmental Policy Act requirement with regard to evaluating the purpose of the Moffat Project in order to completely avoid any evaluation of the adverse environmental impacts of the urban development and population growth the project is intended to encourage.

When we see a federal agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, intentionally disregard the laws enacted by the members of the United States Congress on behalf of the people who elect them, and do the bidding of billionaires instead, that's pretty strong evidence that the Constitution of the United States has been overthrown. When we see the courts uphold the actions of the Army Corps of Engineers, as they are doing in the case of the Dakota Access Pipeline, that's pretty strong evidence that the Constitution of the United States has been overthrown. If the government we have is no longer the government organized by the United States Constitution and consented to by the People, what is this government? "The Corporate State" is the most commonly used name for this new government because this new government serves the billionaires who operate through corporations.

Time is running out, but there are still some things that can be done to stop these water projects. In my opinion, one of the most important things we can do is to pressure our Boulder County Board of Commissioners to deny a land use permit, popularly known as a 1041 permit, for the Gross Reservoir construction project. You can bet that all the politicians in this state that serve as puppets for the real estate billionaires, including Governor Hickenlooper, are pressuring the commissioners to grant the permit. Governor Hickenlooper wants to get both these projects for the billionaires so bad he can taste it. We can expect the commissioners to hold a hearing on the 1041 permit in the near future. It's time to start organizing ourselves and preparing for that hearing. Remember that by working to save the Colorado River from the Corporate State, we are working to restore our United States Constitution. (For those unfamiliar: The Windy Gap Firming Project includes construction of the 90,000-acre-foot Chimney Hollow Reservoir on the East Slope west of Carter Lake.)

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### Policy Of Least Regrets

By Bob Kropfli

We often hear that the global warming issue is not 'settled science,' and that the relevant science is very complex and not completely understood. This is partly true. Global warming and humanity's contribution to it is not settled in the minds of about 3% of climate scientists and many conservative politicians who listen only to them. In the minds of the other 97% the issue is pretty much settled, though there are remaining questions about the exact rate of warming and details about what some of the effects on humanity might be. So what is the best way to make an informed decision here?

There is a way to look at this issue that should appeal to conservatives; it's a way of addressing climate change that would be agreeable to all. That approach is the "policy of least regrets," a policy that emphasizes risk aversion, and

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what could be more conservative than that? It's an idea described years ago by the late Steven Schneider when he was a climatologist at NCAR.

When faced with a choice like we have with global warming, the policy of least regrets endorses action that leads to the fewest regrets if underlying assumptions are wrong. It seems like a reasonable approach in a world of uncertainty even though the informed uncertainty about global warming is minuscule. Think about how this viewpoint informs what we should do about global warming.

If the huge majority of climate scientists are wrong and their recommendations are followed, the country would have spent billions on renewable energy and conservation that would otherwise be unspent. That's the downside. The result would be a robust, distributed power grid and enhanced renewable energy production. The production and distribution of electrical power would be much less vulnerable to terrorist attack than one that's centralized like the one we have now in the form of large nuclear, coal and gas fired power plants. We could cut our dependence on oil imported from countries that are not our greatest allies. We would have cleaner air and water and have created jobs in 21st century industries. New wind farms and solar gardens would multiply, and we would once again be leading in alternative energy technology that the world is embracing. All of these benefits would be realized even if climate scientists were wrong, but we nevertheless followed their advice to cut CO2 emissions by fostering

> conservation and renewable energy production. There would be few regrets about any of these consequences.

Now consider a scenario in which global warming skeptics are wrong, but we do nothing to reduce CO2 production while the planet warms at an ever-accelerating pace. Colorado would be impacted by a shortened ski season. Pine beetle infestations would accelerate because of fewer extreme cold weather outbreaks that destroy their larvae. Extended dry spells would increase the number and intensity of forest fires. Climate change in rural areas would place heavy burdens on farmers and ranchers as they try to adapt to a rapidly warming environment.

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PAGE 12 August 2017 Mountain top removal in Appalachia allowing easy access to coal would cause deposition of toxic material into nearby streams, devastating the land and poisoning the water. Air quality would continue to worsen everywhere. Most importantly, and at a huge cost to the nation, rising sea level would flood many coastal cities along our eastern seaboard. This is happening right now with clear weather flooding frequently occurring in southern Florida when tides are high. These are the adverse consequences we would endure if climate skeptics are wrong and we continued with their business-as-usual policies.

Our country is now at a crossroads. The Trump Administration is charting a new course that diminishes sustainable, renewable energy and promotes the use of fossil fuels. That seems like a policy of most regrets. One would think that a conservative course of action, then, would be to oppose the President's plan that's based almost entirely on burning fossil fuels.

The policy of least regrets on climate would be the most risk averse, most sensible and most popular thing to do. What are we waiting for?

Something we can all do is to call Governor Hickenlooper's office (303) 866-2471) and ask him to take the path of least regrets by having Colorado join with twelve other states (so far) that have signed on to the National Climate Alliance to help meet our goals set out by the Paris Climate Accord that the President has abandoned. Or go to www.colorado.gov and scroll down to a box that says 'Share Your Comments' and tell him your thoughts.

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## Human Noise Pollution Is Disrupting Wild Places

By Rachel Buxton - CSU

High levels of sound disrupt many endangered species within their critical habitat.

This article was originally published on *The Conversation*. As transportation networks expand and urban areas grow, noise from sources such as vehicle engines is spreading into remote places. Human-caused noise has consequences for wildlife, entire ecosystems and people. It reduces the ability to hear natural sounds, which

can mean the difference between life and death for many animals, and degrade the calming effect that we feel when we spend time in wild places.

Protected areas in the United States, such as national parks and wildlife refuges, provide places for respite and recreation, and are essential for natural resource conservation. To understand how noise may be affecting these places, we need to measure all sounds and determine what fraction come from human activities.

In a recent study, our team used millions of hours of acoustic recordings and sophisticated models to measure human-caused noise in protected areas. We found that noise pollution doubled sound energy in many U.S. protected areas, and that noise was encroaching into the furthest reaches of remote areas.

Our approach can help protected area managers enhance recreation opportunities for visitors to enjoy natural sounds and protect sensitive species. These acoustic resources are important for our physical and emotional well-being, and are beautiful. Like outstanding scenery, pristine soundscapes where people can escape the clamor of everyday life deserve protection.

#### What is noise pollution?

"Noise" is an unwanted or inappropriate sound. We focused on human sources of noise in natural environments, such as sounds from aircraft, highways or industrial sources. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, noise pollution is noise that interferes with normal activities, such as sleeping and conversation, and disrupts or diminishes our quality of life.

Human-caused noise in protected areas interferes with visitors' experience and alters ecological communities. For example, noise may scare away carnivores, resulting in inflated numbers of prey species such as deer. To understand noise sources in parks and inform management, the National Park Service has been monitoring sounds at hundreds of

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PAGE 14 August 2017

sites for the past two decades.

#### **Estimating human-generated noise**

Noise is hard to quantify at largelandscape scales because it can't be measured by satellite or other visual observations. Instead researchers have to collect acoustic recordings over a wide area. NPS scientists on our team used acoustic measurements taken from 492 sites around the continental United States to build a sound model that quantified the acoustic environment.

A red fox listens for prey under the snow in Yellowstone National Park. Noise can affect foxes and other animals that rely on

> their hearing when they hunt. Neal Herbert/National Park Service

They used algorithms to determine the relationship between sound measurements and dozens of geospatial features that can affect measured average sound levels. Examples include climate data, such as precipitation and wind speed; natural features, such as topography and vegetation cover; and human features, such as air traffic and proximity to roads. Using these relationships, we predicted how much human-caused noise is added to natural sound levels across the continental United States.

To get an idea of the potential spatial extent of noise pollution effects, we summarized the amount of protected land experiencing human-produced noise three or 10 decibels above natural. These increments represent a doubling and a 10-fold increase, respectively, in sound energy, and a 50 to 90% reduction in the distance at which natural sounds can be heard. Based on a literature review, we found that these thresholds are

known to impact human experience in parks and have a range of repercussions for wildlife.

#### Few escapes from noise

The good news is that in many cases, protected areas are quieter than surrounding lands. However, we found that human-caused noise doubled environmental sound in 63% of U.S. protected areas, and produced a tenfold or greater increase in 21% of protected areas.

Noise depends on how a protected area is managed, where a site is located and what kinds of activities take place nearby. For example, we found that protected areas managed by local government had the most noise pollution, mainly because they were in or near large urban centers. The main



noise sources were roads, aircraft, land-use conversion and resource extraction activities such as oil and gas production, mining and logging.

We were encouraged to find that wilderness areas – places that are preserved in their natural state, without roads or other development – were *(Continued next page.)* 



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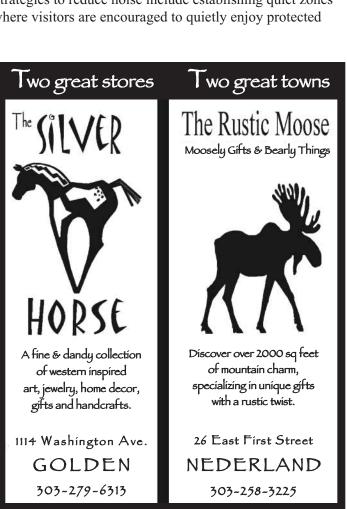
the quietest protected areas, with near-natural sound levels. However, we also found that 12% of wilderness areas experienced noise that doubled sound energy. Wilderness areas are managed to minimize human influence, so most noise sources come from outside their borders.

Finally, we found that many endangered species, particularly plants and invertebrates, experience high levels of noise pollution in their critical habitat – geographic areas that are essential for their survival. Examples include the Palos Verdes Blue butterfly, which is found only in Los Angeles County, California, and the Franciscan manzanita, a shrub that once was thought extinct, and is found only in the San Francisco Bay area.

Of course plants can't hear, but many species with which they interact are affected by noise. For example, noise changes the distribution of birds, which are important pollinators and seed dispersers. This means that noise can reduce the recruitment of seedlings.

#### Turning down the volume

Noise pollution is pervasive in many protected areas, but there are ways to reduce it. We have identified noisy areas that will quickly benefit from noise mitigation efforts, especially in habitats that support endangered species. Strategies to reduce noise include establishing quiet zones where visitors are encouraged to quietly enjoy protected





National Park Service staff set up an acoustic recording station as a car passes on Going-to- the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park, Montana, National Park Service

area surroundings, and confining noise corridors by aligning airplane flight patterns over roads. Our work provides insights for restoring natural acoustic environments, so that visitors can still enjoy the sounds of birdsong and wind through the trees.

Rachel Buxton is a postdoctoral research fellow at CSU. **Editor's Note:** So imagine the noise from increasing Gross Reservoir: blasting dynamite, crushing rock, removing thousands of trees, semi-truck traffic for five or more years. All wildlife will be gone along with our peace of mind we work so hard to achieve simply by choosing to live in a mountainous forest setting. Enduring winter hardships all while Denver Water tries to rob us of any tranquility.



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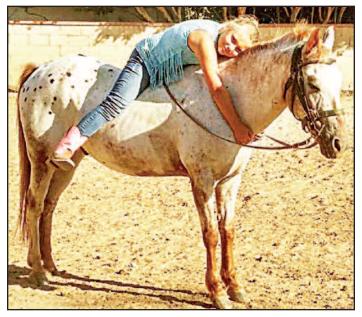
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#### **Animals & Their Companions**







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#### **Animals & Their Companions**



Previous Page: Top left:
Ashlynn on Chance.
Top Right: Indie & Gypsy.

Bottom Left:
Maya & Parker.
Bottom Right: Ryder Naps.

This page: Top - Cover Colt, Quin grazing. Bottom Left: Sun Conure Tiki and Jan.

Bottom: Cover Colt Quin scratches at an itch.







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## How To Welcome Your New Neighbors

From Jim Plane - State Farm Insurance

Remember that gluten-free muffin basket your neighbor brought by when you moved into your new home? Little did you know, that little gesture belongs to a long held tradition. Welcoming new neighbors into a community has been expressed in numerous ways and in nearly every country around the world. In Colonial America, for instance, the pineapple became a popular gift symbolizing hospitality—a tradition brought over from various European nations.

India: In India, it's common practice to bring fruit and flowers as a housewarming gift. Other traditions include inviting the new family to your home for lunch or dinner and, at the end of a visit, bestowing a gift on the new neighbors before they leave. In traditional households, the gift is usually given to women and could be anything from a new sari to something useful for the house.

France: The French will invite the newest additions to their blocks or buildings over for what is known as "l'aperitif," or "l'apro" for short a late afternoon snack of cheese and cured sausages. In the countryside, neighbors

will invite new residents over for a barbecue. In 1999, the first "La Fte des Voisins" (Neighbor's Day) happened as part of an effort to "strengthen local links, develop a sense of belonging to the same area, create solidarity between neighbors, [and] mobilize against isolation and exclusion." Held every spring, the day is dedicated to neighbors meeting neighbors and celebrating with longtime ones.

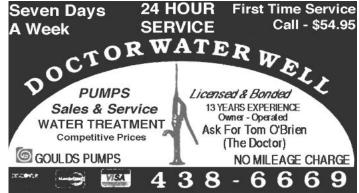
United States: Easily one of the most cited American etiquette experts, Emily Post and her descendants have taken it upon themselves to keep her legacy alive and update the rule book on manners for the digital age.

According to the Emily Post Institute, the best ways to welcome new neighbors are to deliver a bouquet of garden flowers or a plate of cookies along with a collection of takeout menus from your favorite local places. A good neighbor also shares information on garbage and recycling pickup. Other neighbor-relations experts suggest bringing practical items, like a pound of flavored sugar, to help build up the basics in the new home.

Japan: Neighborly relations are delicate business in this island nation. The new kids on the block are expected to dole out gifts to their established neighbors. These small gifts (hand towels, typically) go to everyone in the neighborhood. Keeping it small is important; a gift too large will make people feel as though they should give it back.

Russia: It was once fairly common for Russian dignitaries to visit surrounding villages. Local merchants and villagers would present their distinguished guests with a loaf of bread and salt. The custom spread through Europe and even as far as Israel as a gesture to welcome new neighbors. The bread is so the newcomers "shall never know hunger," and the salt is so their life "shall always





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have flavor." More than symbolic, these practical gifts also help newbies build their pantry.

Italy: Italians will gift a new home with a broom that occupants may use to sweep away the old to make room for the new—and to get rid of any pesky evil spirits still lingering. If a young couple moves into their first home together, neighbors offer uncooked rice as a "fertile" blessing upon the home, candles so they may always have light and olive oil to keep one another faithful.

Kenya: A three-legged stool and a traditional Luo oxtail fly whisk are common housewarming gifts of the country's Luo tribes people. When President Obama first took office, he received these same gifts from his step-grandmother on his father's side, a native Kenyan.

Germany: Ancient Norsemen held the oak tree in high regard, celebrating it as the "tree of heaven." They would collect acorns and line them up along windowsills as a protection against evil spirits. While this practice has diminished, modern Germans often welcome new inhabitants to the neighborhood with cookware adorned with acorn carvings or images. The Germans also believe that a rooster in a new home will keep away trespassers.

Similar to the acorn, they've given up giving the actual rooster in favor of gifts decorated with them. A rooster, after all, isn't the most neighborly of pets.

Do you have your own housewarming traditions? How do you welcome new neighbors into the community? Find more resources for all life stages on www.statefarm.com/Insurance State Farm like finding the right home and property insurance when becoming the new neighbor in a different community.



http://www.TEGColorado.org





August 2017 Page 21

### Parks Pass ~ Ticks ~ Fire Restrictions

#### Dear Editor,

Some misinformation is going around the internet about the increase date for the National Park Lifetime Access Pass. The pass, which has cost \$10 since 1994, is going to increase to \$80 on August 28th. If you are 62 or older, you can pay only \$10 before August 28th at any National Park or federal recreation area that charges an entry fee. It is advised to purchase them in person as significant delays are expected when purchasing it online or by mail. Another option for seniors is to purchase a Senior Annual Pass for \$20.

Diane Bergstrom

#### Dear Editor.

A reminder to dog owners that ticks are more prevalent this year, and to carefully check your dogs and cats after they have been outside. An elderly dachshund picked up two female Dermacentor ticks in Nederland, that caused her temporary paralysis. The owner took her home and later discovered the ticks and rushed the dog to her vet for removal, who confirmed they caused the paralysis. The female ticks' saliva releases a toxin that affects the nervous system. Paralysis is extremely rare but can be fatal once the respiratory system is effected. Symptoms can appear six to nine days after a bite. The dog's owner wanted to warn everyone to check their dogs for ticks, especially if the dog shows signs of paralysis.

Diane Bergstrom

Stage 1 fire restrictions are in place until October 1, 2017. Within the fire restriction area, forest visitors 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. Be in possession or use of explosives, including fireworks.

Discharge a firearm EXCEPT a person possessing a valid Colorado hunting license lawfully involved in hunting and harvesting game. Violation of any of these provisions 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.

U.S. Forest Service



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### Anima/Persona

By Ingrid Winter

The word "animal" is derived from "anima"

~Latin for the soul~
and yet
throughout our
troubled relationship
with these creatures

we have denied them a soul

and have given ourselves the permission to imprison torture

and kill them at will

We who are called "persons" also a word that comes from Latin

"persona"

~the mask that actors wore on stage

in ancient times



So we

who are never ourselves

but are always
wearing one mask
or another

Presume

to have dominion over creatures

who are always
just themselves
who never
wear masks
and are

nothing but embodied souls.

Photo Courtesy Alexa Boyes. Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is to rehabilitate orphaned, sick, & injured wildlife for release into appropriate habitats. 303.823.8455.



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## Your Guide To August's Solar Eclipse

From Paige Blankenbuehler – High Country News
Totality, telescopes: How ready are you
for the event of the century?

On **Aug. 21** in the West, a total solar eclipse will pass over Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming and a tiny sliver in Montana. It's been almost 100 years since a full eclipse swept coast-to-coast within the continental U.S. You'll have to be in a 70-mile-wide band called the "path of totality"— and wade through hordes of gawkers — to see it, and that won't be easy. So we've put together a little guide to help you find your way.

Start here! Are you in the path of totality? Heck yes! But do you have a nice view of the sky? Yeah!

**Solar glasses:** Get a pair of these. If you are in the path

Jerry SOLD

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of totality, then you will need eye protection such as these Eclipse Glasses for the partial phases of the eclipse.

If you are not in the path of totality, then you ALWAYS need to view the eclipse through them! Go to www.eclipse2017.org/glasses\_order.htm

NASA has great information at their https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov.

Are clouds going to ruin your view?

Check the historical cloud cover map, which provides average August cloud cover on the eclipse track.

On the days leading up to the eclipse, check this eclipse cloud forecaster. Both can be viewed at

#### www.eclipse2017.org

<u>Create a pin-hole viewer that will project the eclipse</u> no matter where you are. NASA has some great tips.

Or — view the eclipse with something you probably already have at home a colander:

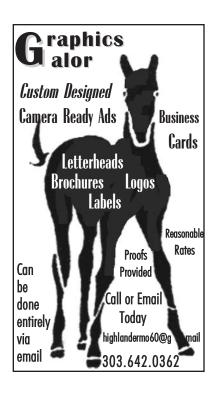
<u>WITH YOUR BACK TO THE SUN,</u>

project it onto a piece of paper.

Check out photos of the eclipse: #HCNsolareclipse Livestream the eclipse from your computer, thanks to NASA.

Bonus: During the eclipse, pay attention to birds and nocuturnal creatures reacting to the unexpected darkness.





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## Why Are Coyotes So Polarizing?

By Lawrence Lenhart - High Country News

First things first: Coyote. When you read the word, how many syllables do you hear? Your answer, according to Dan Flores, author of *Coyote America*, may be "immediately diagnostic of a whole range of belief systems and values." The ki-YOH-tee versus ki-yote divide is one of the best indicators of a person's coyote politics, a nearly hard-and-fast way that

NPS/Michael Vamstad

we subconsciously identify ourselves: as defenders of the species, in the case of the former, or as a manager, shooter and/or trapper, in the latter. A coyote in Joshua Tree National Park, California.

In *Coyote America*, Flores occasionally assumes the mantle of coyote's head of public relations, demonstrating how the species, once "dead last in public appeal — behind rattlesnakes, skunks, vultures, rats,

and cockroaches," overcame its stigma as "varmint" to become a darling among the very people who most infrequently encounter it — modern-day urbanites. More often, though, Flores is content to serve as a guide to the species, relaying the coyote's complicated natural, cultural,

political and mythological histories. It is why Flores describes his book as, "in most respects, a coyote biography."

Tales about Old Man Coyote have proliferated in Native America, most likely since the days of the ancestral Clovis people, ensuring the canid's status as perhaps the continent's most charismatic species. Flores examines the animist religions of *Coyotism* that arose during the Neolithic

Revolution, a time marked by the domestication of plants and animals, including the coyote. Ultimately, however, the coyote's revered status among humans is probably due to one very unique ecological coincidence: We are the only two mammalian species to have distributed ourselves so completely across the North American continent, making us "Darwinian mirrors" of each other. And because coyotes are truly "American originals" — they

evolved not in the Old World, but here on this continent — they also remind us, as Flores says, "that we are new and barely real here."

This fact hasn't stopped humans from attempting to eradicate coyotes. In the chapters *A War on Wild Things* and





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The Archpredator of Our Time, Flores delves into how coyotes came to be first regarded as a "parasite on civilization." It was rare for Western settlers to agree wholeheartedly on anything, and yet they soon arrived at a common consensus — that coyote and wolves were a scourge that endangered range life. This resulted in the establishment of bounties (at the time, a generous \$1 per scalp) across most plains and desert states. It didn't take long for Congress to adopt an even more radical eradication program in 1931 that targeted both predators along with "other animals injurious to agriculture and animal husbandry."

Flores calls this "species cleansing," a term he deliberately links to fascist rhetoric and episodes of genocide. And yet the campaign to clobber the coyote faced significant opposition. Flores suggests that the discourse between federal policymakers and scientists began to resemble a "predator-prey dialectic" itself, a parallel to what was happening between hunters and coyotes. This is around the time the famed environmentalist Aldo Leopold "had come to realize that a predator-free 'paradise' contained a fatal non sequitur."

National parks and "scientist saviors" fought to preserve the species. But that's not the whole story. Ultimately, coyotes took matters into their own paws. As it turns out, Canis latrans is nearly indestructible. With the help of computer simulations, biologists discovered a rare adaptive breeding mechanism that helps ensure the species' survival, despite the odds: In the wake of population control measures, female coyotes tend to birth even larger litters with more surviving pups. Flores' overview of environmental legal protection is more than a timeline; it's a drama of its own, full of political villainy along with the occasional victory lap. Flores is eager to recognize the coyote's cultural champions, from Walt Disney to Edward Abbey, whose tone in his writing about the coyote sometimes verges on the gloating, a trademark "thumb in the eye of Western ranching."

Still, though, with 500,000 coyotes killed every year — about one per minute — the "varmint" stigma clearly persists. A photograph on page 185 taken by Kevin Bixby depicts at least 15 coyote corpses in the New Mexican desert following a coyote-hunting contest. It's no wonder coyotes have taken to our cities. From New York City to Denver to Los Angeles — and nearly every other major metropolis in the United States — the spike in urban coyote populations indicates yet another phase of the canid's unique adaptability.

Of course, seeing a coyote in the city also presents humans with an opportunity to adapt. "To confront a predator," Flores writes, "is to stand before the dual-faced god from our deep past," to be reminded of "bright teeth." Americans who want to be "re-wilded" and re-connected to nature (a distinct craving posited by evolutionary biologist Marc Bekoff) now need look no further than the few thriving — in our own city centers and suburbs. *Coyote America* by Dan Flores 271 pages, hardcover: \$27.50. Basic Books, 2016.

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## Wyoming Trekkers Blunder Into 19th Century

By Marcia Hensley

Visiting friends last summer in Atlantic City, a tiny town at the foot of Wyoming's Wind River Mountains, I heard the locals discussing a different kind of tourist they see on the street. The visitors are hikers and bicyclists seeking a break from their months-long journeys on the Continental

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Divide Trail.

I'd seen recent movies dramatizing on-the-trail experiences: Cheryl Strayed's *Wild*, about hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, and *A Walk in the Woods*, on Bill Bryson's experience on the Appalachian Trail. But finding outdoor adventurers like them in Atlantic City, with its wild-West aura, was a surprise.

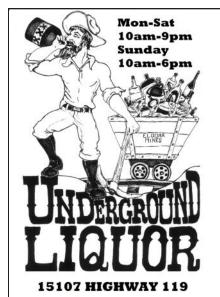
Before they even reach Atlantic City, hikers have to step back in time: They leave the Continental Divide Trail and find themselves on the main street of South Pass City, a restored boomtown, circa 1897. It still has some perfectly preserved cabins, a schoolhouse, saloon and a mercantile shop. South Pass has little else to offer beyond a mail drop site for the trail, so after trekkers check for mail, some return to the trail.

But others, seeking a camping spot and hearty meal, continue onward, 3 miles into Atlantic City, elevation 8,000 and population only 52. There, they find a rustic scattering of historic log buildings and a couple of good places to eat. If they need a major resupply, bustling Lander is a detour of 40 miles east.

Once seated in the cafÄ in Atlantic City, hikers and bicyclists are usually happy to talk to locals about their trail ups and downs. Most know from reading other hikers' websites, tweets and blogs that the Continental Divide Trail has few hostels or "trail angels" willing to assist hikers. That's one of the reasons the Continental Divide Trail is the

most challenging of the long-distance trails. At 27,000 miles, it's also the longest of the three and is still partially unfinished. Most hikers tackle the Pacific Crest and Appalachian before attempting the Continental Divide Trail, which is the only one also open to mountain biking.

Trail logbooks provide colorful stories of hiker's reactions when they're in Wyoming. "Holy Cow! Where did we end up?" one hiker wrote at finding the 19th century alive and well in South Pass City. He was a SoBo (trail lingo for southbound), just down from the Wind River Mountains about 100 miles north. He was headed into the Great Divide Basin, across 167 miles of high desert to the next resupply opportunity, at Rawlins,



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#### **Highlander Adventure**

Wyoming. From there he might venture into the Colorado Rockies and, if he's a thru-hiker, his ultimate destination might be trails' end at the Mexican border.

Atlantic City locals figure about 70 to 100 hikers and bikers pass through, usually from May through September. They come from places as far away as Finland, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, Scotland and France, as well as from all over the United States.

Some townsfolk who were leery at first of this outside intrusion have since found themselves becoming trail angels. They offer rides into town, backyard spaces to camp, warm showers and help with bicycle breakdowns. When a bicyclist collided with a cow, locals took the injured person to the emergency room in Lander.

"Love, love places like this," wrote a hiker in the Grubstake CafÄ logbook. "Makes it hard to imagine going back to ordinary life." For the few hardy souls who make Atlantic City their home, this old-fashioned place is their ordinary life. Meanwhile, as contact with trekkers increases, the town is stepping up. A gun shop owner now also stocks trail food, medicines and basic hiking gear, and a couple of small cabins and a bathhouse can be rented for a modest fee. Locals contribute free supplies to Hikers' Boxes and sometimes follow hiker's blogs to see how their trips are progressing. And hikers send postcards back to their new friends here.

"Wild, wild, country — not for wimps," wrote one hiker who had just crossed the Great Divide Basin. That's something the Atlantic City natives understand. Despite the

frontier charm of this mountain town, the cold can be dangerous and the wind brutal, as one late-season hiker discovered. Luckily, he found the church unlocked and sheltered overnight there. If hikers or bikers aren't through South Pass by mid-September, they are likely to find snow in the higher elevations in both directions.

Experiences on the trail are the main story for hikers and bikers, but off-trail there's a sub-plot that may be equally important. In this unlikely Wyoming crossroads, trekkers and locals find common ground in the landscape's gifts of beauty, isolation and the challenge of living close to the natural world.

Marcia Hensley is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). She divides her time between the Denver area and Atlantic City, Wyoming.





Paul Forbes

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ertified Veterinary



## Buffalo Field Campaign-buffalofieldcampaign.org

The Importance of BFC's Summer Outreach

Tabling inside Yellowstone on behalf of wild bison, when volunteers spend the bulk of their time in the park talking with visitors, is one of our most important summer jobs. Time and again we are reminded how important it is for us to be there, to share the buffalo's story with the hoards of people who come from around the world to see them. Most people we talk with have no idea what Yellowstone and Montana are doing to these gentle giants during the long winter months, and when they find out how our national mammal is being treated, they are ready to take action. Summer tablers have been dispensing critical information, gaining advocates for wild buffalo, and filling up petitions addressed to Montana Governor Steve Bullock urging the state to endorse a new plan that respects wild buffalo like wild elk in Montana. When these visitors next encounter Yellowstone park rangers, they will be much better informed should conversations turn towards the buffalo. The importance of speaking face to face with the thousands of people who have come to see the buffalo can not be stressed enough. Conversations that our tablers have with so many visitors brings a variety of perspectives ranging from the outlandish and inaccurate to the informed and passionate. While some people seem predisposed to not liking buffalo and believing they should be kept like pets in Yellowstone, most people we speak with are ready to do what they can to help the buffalo.

BFC's hat is off to these stellar volunteers who spend long, hot days talking with thousands of strangers every week to tell the buffalo's story. There can be challenges in communicating with so many people who hold such diverse opinions, especially when alerting them to the fact that park managers, supposed caretakers of the sacred buffalo, are in fact assisting in their destruction. Our summer volunteers open so many hearts and minds. After leaving our table, park visitors will carry the conversations and knowledge they gained from our tables into their next experiences with the buffalo and back into their daily lives.



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There are many rewards to being a BFC summer volunteer, not least of which is dispelling the government and livestock industry's myths and building stronger, better informed advocates for the last wild buffalo. Spending stretches of days for weeks at a time inside the world's first national park, surrounded by breathtaking views in the



presence of wild, migratory buffalo and all of Yellowstone's other amazing wildlife, is not something that many people have the opportunity to experience. It is a dream come true and the a chance of a lifetime.

If spending summer in Yellowstone National Park is something you've always dreamed of, consider volunteering with BFC. Contact our Summer Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Rae Clark at

volunteersummer@buffalofieldcampaign.org
and let her know you want to join our team and represent
the last wild buffalo. If you're traveling through
Yellowstone this summer (or next), be sure to stop by our
table at Tower Falls. We would love to meet you!

Call to help our cause: Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk 307-344-2002 and Montana Governor Steve Bullock 406-444-3111.

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## No Ordinary Moments: Your Epic Life

#### By Frosty Wooldridge

Every week in America, you read stories of amazing moments where ordinary people triumphed over failure. You may watch the "Biggest Loser" where a man or woman cut 150 pounds off his or her body to walk on stage looking fantastic in a suit or dress. Most suffered failure and depression for years concerning their obesity. In life, people from all walks of life suffer failure on many levels.

Back in 1947, Twentieth Century Fox dropped Marilyn Monroe because producer Daryl Zanuck felt she lacked the "attraction factor" to make her a star. Dr. Seuss' first book suffered 27 rejections. Richard Bach's book, *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*, faced 44 rejections from publishers. Barbara Streisand gave her Broadway debut in 1961, but the house closed after one show.

Frank Sinatra suffered expulsion from school for rowdy behavior. Singer Johnny Cash sold appliances before his songwriting and guitar playing catapulted him to fame. Walt Disney's first cartoon company suffered bankruptcy. Decca Records executive Dick Rowe rejected the Beatles in favor of "The Tremeloes" a band that soon failed. Martin Luther King suffered jail and name calling in his quest to bring equality to people of color.

Her boss fired Oprah Winfrey from her first job as an anchor at a Baltimore, Maryland television station. She faced sexism and harassment. Oprah rebounded to become the number one television talk-show host in America.



#### Peter M. Palombo

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Film academics rejected Steven Spielberg from the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts multiple times. They said, "He lacked basic abilities to comprehend the cinematic arts." Spielberg struggled until he directed such movies as "ET" that made him world famous.

At his first screen test, dancer Fred Astaire suffered the words of the director: "He can't sing. Can't act. Slightly balding. Can dance a little." He became the greatest film and dance star of his age.

Struggling author and single mom J.K. Rowling lived off welfare when she began writing the first *Harry Potter* book. She now commands the title of the richest working woman in the United Kingdom.

Stephen King spent 13 years living in a trailer with his wife and kids while he took two hours out every night to work on his writing craft. He rewrote *Carrie* after his wife pulled it back out of the wastebasket because he threw it away in total futility. The book became an instant best seller that led to 350 million copies of his books published worldwide including the famous movie, *The Shawshank Redemption*. As you know, every one of the these people continued their quests until they *(Continued next page.)* 

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#### Highlander Inner View

became world famous. Their legacies continue to this day in literature, the arts, cinema, music and equal rights. Ironically, they continued following their calling no matter what the failure rate.

Unbeknownst to most people who look at famous names, stars or political leaders—they share one thing in common: they experienced multiple failures on their way toward their success.

Many people who faced failure didn't realize how close to success they were when they quit. They allowed their frustrations, obstacles and choices to defeat them.

Where does that leave you? How do you feel about failure? What can you do about your failures? What can drive you to your ultimate success?

First of all, you must appreciate your own worth and the worth of your quest. Polly Letofsky at 42, from Vail, CO, faced enormous challenges before becoming the first



woman to walk around the world, 14,000 miles across four continents in five years to bring attention to breast cancer. She raised over a quarter of a million dollars and enjoyed 2,000 interviews from newspapers around the world.

On October 3, 2013, 64 year old Diana Nayad, a world class swimmer, took her fifth and final attempt to swim from Cuba to Florida, a distance of 90 miles over treacherous ocean waters filled with sharks, jellyfish, waves and winds. After 35 years of trying, she succeeded. She said, "You can choose to live your dreams at any age."

No matter what your age, lot in life or past failures, you enjoy every chance to succeed at your chosen-

destiny by your decisions to overcome heartache, turmoil and failure. In your lifetime, every moment leads to your epic life because there are no ordinary moments. Each moment makes your extraordinary life by your choices.

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AT www.HighlanderMo.com

to find the places where you may pick up a copy of the HIGHLANDER the first week of each month, hurry as copies go fast. Or read it online! highlandermo60@gmail.com

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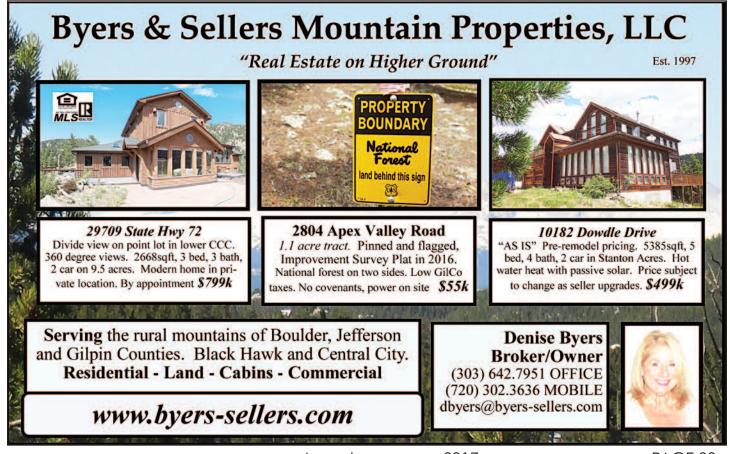
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## POWER UPDATE



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be returning \$5 million dollars in capital credits to our members.

Anyone who had service in 2016 or earlier will receive a refund as part of this year's capital credit retirement. Any member who has a retirement of \$10 or more will receive a check in the mail. Refunds under \$10 will be issued as a bill credit and will appear on bills in August or September. Watch for your refunds, coming soon!

Visit our website, www.unitedpower.com, under the 'Co-op & Community' tab to learn more about capital credits.

### **New Payment Mailing Address**

United Power now has a new payment mailing address: United Power Inc. P.O. Box 173703, Denver, CO 80217-3703. Please update your records when sending payments via standard mail. Payments mailed to the old address may be returned as undeliverable by the U.S. Postal Service. The address on remit coupons have been automatically updated.

United Power members can also make payments online by signing up for SmartHub, our online billing and payment portal, at www. unitedpower.com. Members will need to know their account number when signing up. Once members are registered, not only can they



make a payment, but they can also set up auto pay, view their electric usage history, report a power outage, select paperless billing and communicate directly with their cooperative. For more information or questions, call our Member Services Department at 303-637-1300 or visit www.unitedpower.com.

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