

THE GOLD NUGGET

Nov 2022

The Prez Sez! by Joe Johnston



Here it is in the Midterm Elections and hopefully we have a good group of candidates elected to help put the Nation back on a good economic path.

Our own club is having elections this month and I am looking forward to having a full board of candidates and officers running to guide the club in 2023. If you have not served on the board, I believe you would find it a rewarding experience and highly recommend it. This past year has been filled with challenges. We have had an excellent series of presentations and good outings with a number of 'beginner panning classes' thanks to the efforts of both Board Members and committee efforts. We have made some great headway in restarting the club after the COVID shutdowns imposed by the Government and expect to have all activities going in the coming year with more activity in the touring category and who knows what else. I would like to express my thanks to all the members that took part in the club this year and hope that each one will bring a friend to join us in the coming year. I know Board member Mike H. and I have

fired the interest of a number of people at the Greeley Gun Shows with the panning equipment and information we present there, this is just one venue that caters to the Outdoor activity and is an excellent place to network when greeting people and striking up conversations. Panning is an excellent family activity that interests all ages (what child doesn't like to 'play' in the water?) It is also a great way to 'decompress' after a stressful week. Remember: November is also Find of the Year competition. If you had a winning entry between November 2021 and October 2022 bring it in for this Yearly competition. We are also having a Silent Auction type event as our November program, so bring in that extra/working gear to swap, sell, or trade (I know, that's redundant). You just may find something to go under the Christmas tree at home. Until then, may your pan be filled with those precious colors you seek and your metal detectors hover over that find of a lifetime. (Bring those finds in for the find of the month entries.)

I can be reached at cjoej1@peoplepc.com or my cell phone 303-888-5417 (texting is discouraged).

Vice President's Corner! by Mike Stevens



Fall is here and with that I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. It is a time to enjoy with family and friends, a time when the weather changes and we prepare for the cold months ahead. I know some of you will work through the cold and upcoming snow and ice to search out wonderful yellow gold. Some will leave for warmer weather. And some will clean out buckets and cons left from this past season and have stuff to run through the winter. It's a time to check those pans and sieves for cracks and repair or replace them, clean up the carpets and the mats, drain those motors, keep those batteries charged and have everything ready for the next season and the promise of some shiny in the pan. While we have this year's stories, new adventures are awaiting us. Start planning those trips, mark those maps, and read about places to explore (perhaps in Kevin's book). A new season brings new opportunities, and it's never

too early to start dreaming about those future finds. Golden Smiles for All!

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Joe Kafka



It was nice to see everyone at the October meeting. The Club remains in the black and members may request to see the financial report at any time which I have at my table in the back whenever you wish to see it. Hope to see you all at the next meeting in November when we will again be giving away nine more gold nuggets, the largest of which is over 2.0 grams....!! Don't forget to buy your 'Special nugget tickets as well. See you all at our next meeting!

Board Meeting Minutes From Oct 2022

	Joe Johnston	X	Andy Doll		Robert Ahr	X	Gordon Smith
X	Mike Stevens	X	Joe Kafka	X	Kathy Lemuel		Mike Hurtado
X	Bobby Manning	X	Chris Kafka	X	Kevin Singel		James Long



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Quorum Present: _Yes.

Call to Order by: _V Pres Stevens_ at _6:04_pm.

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

Corrections: _none_ Approved as read/corrected: _Yes_.

Treasurer's Report: Questions: _discussion_ of how the gold is purchased for monthly drawings was conducted. Proposals will be made at November meeting_ Approved: _Yes_.

Correspondence: phone calls/texts: _ 2,_ emails _ 10, _ mail _2_.

Webmaster: Total hits __162551_ Hits in last 30 days _174_.

Committee Reports: Outings planning remains ongoing.

Unfinished Business:

- Discussion of the 50/50 sales and who would handle them as it was too much for Treasurer to undertake.. This decision will be carried over to Nov. meeting. Discussion concerning nominations for Board Officers was opened and G. Smith will undertake it as M. Hurtado has been hospitalized.
- BM LeMuel this discussed issues she had with the Board concerning lack of communication and referred to the Manual of Procedures which governs business conduct.

New Business:

- Discussions were conducted concerning the increase in monthly rent of the Clements Center going to \$190.83 per month. This increase will raise the annual total to \$2230 for 2023. BM Manning was appointed to try negotiations for a better price.
- The Board also approved the purchase of additional stamps for A. Doll for 2023.

Planned Outings: The Outing Schedule has been pretty much established and Andy has published it with the Newsletter. We will continue to schedule as opportunities arrive.

- Nov. 5 Metal Detecting Hunt at Majestic Park in Arvada, 11:00am, weather permitting.
- Nov. 19 Tour of Geology Museum at School of mines in Golden.
- Dec. 21 Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner and Recognition Program.

Board Members Items of Discussion: Due to the length of business discussions, there was no time for additional input.

Tonight's General Meeting Program: Bobby Manning will discuss the processing of gold at the High Mountain Mine in Alma, Colorado.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting __11/16/22__ at 6:00pm /Next General Meeting: __11/16/22__ at 7:00pm

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at __7:10__ pm.

('Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little' Edmund Burke)

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

58 years ago a candidate for high office used symbols from the periodic table of elements in their campaign. Name the candidate, the office they were seeking, and the symbols used in the correct order. (hint one is an element and the other is a compound)

2022 GPR Board of Directors Members

President
Joe Johnston

Vice President
Mike Stevens

Secretary/Treasurer
Joe Kafka

2 Year Board Members
Bobby Manning (2023)

1 Year Board Members

Andy Doll

Chris Kafka

Robert Ahr

Kevin Singel

Kathy Lemuel

Gordon Smith

Mike Hurtado

Past President

James Long

General Meeting Minutes From Oct 2022

1. Meeting was opened at 7:10 pm by V.Pres. Stevens with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. V.Pres. Stevens then announced that the evening Program was BM Bobby Manning on the processing of gold at the High Mountain Mine in Alma, Colorado.
3. V.Pres. Stevens then gave the Metals Report: Gold 1638.00, Silver 19.40, Platinum 932.00, Palladium 1800.00, Rhodium 12750.00.
4. Web hits for last month was 174.
5. Treasurer Joe Kafka advised that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, don't forget to buy tickets for tonight's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.4 grams. We have a new 'Special Nugget' so buy lots of tickets.



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6. Shelly Zornes reported that we had 50 members in attendance. There was 1 guest present tonight. The total meeting attendance was 51.
7. V.Pres. Stevens read the 'Question of the Month', which was "...In 1925 an important invention that incorporated gold was patented which would eventually lead to all of the microelectronics that are in use today.(hint: C. Ducas). Winners will receive an extra ticket to the gold nugget drawings later during the evening program.
8. V.Pres. Stevens advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the 'Finds of the Month' table and that the monthly winners from tonight will need to be saved for the Finds of the Year competition in November, 2022. A reminder to all that their gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out the entry cards completely. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.
9. Gordon Smith announced the 'Cache Clue # 10'. You must be present at the meeting in order to get the Cache clues
10. Bobby Dehmlow advised that the Club Store had numerous items for sale. Be sure to drop by at the break and support your Club by buying something. We have some more of our gold bags also.
11. V.Pres. Stevens informed the membership that the Schedule of Outings has been completed and posted in the Newsletter.
12. Shelly Zornes advised that the Christmas Dinner sign-up was in the back and ready for folks to indicate what they would be bringing.
13. There was a reminder to be sure to vote on the Finds of the Month and to answer the Question of the Month during the break Members who check things out of the Club Library are reminded to return them promptly. Don't forget to donate to the Refreshment Table. There was nothing added from the Floor.
14. V.Pres. Stevens announced the break at 8:25 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:40 pm.
15. V.Pres. Stevens announced the winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was, "...A method for creating what we now know as the Printed Circuit Board! There were a total of 21 winners who received an extra ticket for the upcoming gold drawings.
16. V.Pres. Stevens announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month' for May 2022. Those were:
 - Best Coin – Cindy Olson with an old 2 mill tax token she found near Leadville, Colo.
 - Best Jewelry – John Olson with a sterling silver ring he found while metal detecting near Brighton, Colo.
 - Best Mineral –. Connie Cantrell with a quartz/calcite specimen she found on the Butter Road Ranch in Conifer, Colo..
 - Best Artifact – Cindy Olson with an old horseshoe she found near Leadville, Colo..
 - Best Bottle – There was no entry in this category for this month.
 - Most Raw Gold – Joe Fortunato with 3.1 grams of gold nuggets he found in northern Nevada.
 - Largest Raw Gold – There was no entry in this category for this month.
17. V.Pres Stevens then announced the winners of the Pumpkin Carving Contest. They were
 - Steve Pott, 1st place,
 - Bob Holmburg, 2nd place and
 - John Olson, 3rd place.Each won a gold nugget for their efforts and photos of their creations are posted in the newsletter. Thanks to all who carved and entered the competition. They were pretty good this year.
18. V.Pres. Stevens concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the GPR, JJ Long, and Kevin Singel followed by the drawing for 9 gold nuggets. V Pres Stevens also wants to remind that holders of drawing Tickets for the Regular gold drawings who did not win and want to redeem those tickets may present them at the end of the Meeting and they will be reimbursed at .01 cents on the dollar, or they shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were Joe Kafka and John Olson.
19. V.Pres. Stevens reminds the members that sometimes during the meetings, The President's time is overwhelmingly taken up by the many who wish to speak to him and he apologizes if anyone ever feels like he is unavailable. It is not his intent to be inaccessible and he encourages anyone with questions to contact him by e-mail or phone outside the meetings at any time. His e-mail and phone number are on the web site.
20. V.Pres. Stevens thanked Greg and Nancy Knerl and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. All members are encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. Don't forget the 'tip jar' also, which helps



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to defray costs. This really helps the folks who run the table and those who volunteer up front each month. The Club appreciates the efforts of each and every one of you to make the refreshment table enjoyable.

21. **The November Meeting Program is to be determined but we will be having elections and a used/new equipment garage sale so bring what you don't want any more and see if somebody else wants it.!**
22. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

From Your Library

Thank you Greg and Nancy Knerl for donating 4 publications of the Southwestern Lore Journal of Colorado Archaeology. Each publication documents the history of specific digs, what they found and biographies of early archaeologists. Interesting information on several locations in Colorado.

Stop by the table if you have any prospecting books you would like to donate. We would appreciate adding your books to the club collection for others to read.

"Books and doors are the same thing. You open them, and you go through into another world." – Jeanette Winterson

Obituary

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Jack C. Williams, 93, of Surprise, Arizona. Those of you who buy and sell gold know that Jack was the husband of Gerri Williams, the owner of Miner's Keepers, of Surprise Arizona. Jerri has supplied the gold for our Club for a number of years now and has been a great supporter of our Club. We often got the chance to visit with her and Jack when they were able to make the GPAA Show when it came to Denver. Jack was a quiet man but had a tremendous sense of humor. They were originally from the Denver area back in the day but wound up establishing their business base in Arizona, closer to the gold fields. They are quite well known nationally and internationally and Jack will be sorely missed by many. He was a good man and an artisan in jewelry making involving gold. Rest in Peace old friend, there is gold aplenty where you now live!



A Miner's Laugh

The airline had a policy that required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, smile, and give them a - 'Thanks for flying XYZ airline'. An airline pilot on this particular flight hammered his plane into the runway really hard. In light of his bad landing, he had difficulty looking the passengers in the eye, all the time expecting that a passenger would have a smart comment. However, it seemed that all the passengers were too shell shocked to say anything.

Finally, everyone had gotten off except for this little old retired miner walking with a cane. He said, 'Sonny, mind if I ask you a question?' 'Why no Sir,' said the pilot, 'What is it', the little old miner squinted his eyes and said, 'Did we land or were we shot down...?'

(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us 'old miners')



The finds of the Month Oct 2022:

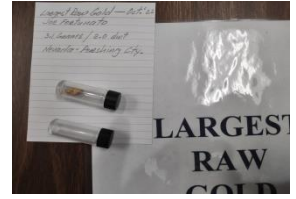
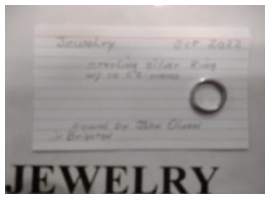
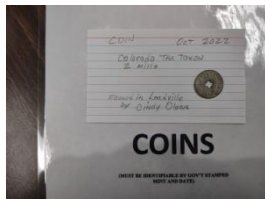
Contest runs from November 2021 thru October 2022. We will be looking forward to seeing what you folks have found since last November. . The following submissions were selected at the September meeting.

- **Best Coin – Cindy Olson** with an old 2 mill tax token she found near Leadville, Colo...
- **Best Jewelry – John Olson** with a sterling silver ring he found while metal detecting near Brighton, Colo..
- **Best Mineral –. Connie Cantrell** with a quartz/calcite specimen she found on the Butter Road Ranch in Conifer, Colo..
- **Best Artifact – Cindy Olson** with an old horseshoe she found near Leadville, Colo..
- **Best Bottle –** There was no entry in this category for this month.
- **Most Raw Gold – Joe Fortunato** with 3.1 grams of gold nuggets he found in northern Nevada..



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- **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no entry in this category for this month.



Be sure to bring any Finds that you have found in the last 30 days to the meeting. You must list the date that you found the item and the area you found it when you submit it. **Each monthly winner must save your winning Find and submit them in November 2022 for the Find of the Year in each category.**

2022 Pumpkin Carving Contest

The Annual Pumpkin Carving contest was conducted at the October meeting and there were 5 entrants that were submitted for judging. As usual, there were some pretty good submissions with a couple bordering on the macabre to say the least. When the judging was done and the pumpkin seeds stopped flying, the winners were finally determined. Congratulations to Stephen Pott, for his winning submission of a Pumpkin Gold Mine, to Bob Holmburg for his second place carving of what happens when you prospect in Indian country, and to John Olson for the third place submission of an amethyst and gold Geode. Each winner received a gold nugget for their efforts. Photos by JJ Long



Hylands Ranch Historical Society Panning Demo

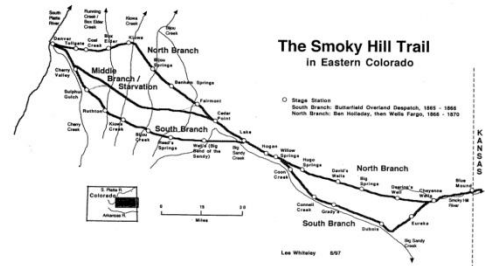
The Club conducted a Panning Demo at the Hylands Ranch Historical Society on Oct. 17. There were some 50 to 70 folks present for a discussion on the history of gold in the Hylands Ranch area. BM's Gordon and Yvonne Smith conducted the panning demo and BM Kevin Singel was also present to sign and sell a few of his books on *Finding Gold in Colorado*. There were several other authors present and the overall theme was a celebration of the Historical Societies 30th Anniversary of celebrating the heritage of the Hylands Ranch area. This area has actually only been a community since 1981 but has had its history dating back to around the start of the Colorado Gold Rush in 1859. The first known crop in the area was potatoes and later the area became known as a beef producer for the fast growing Denver community. The Hylands Ranch Mansion was built around 1910 by Samuel Long (*no relation to JJ*) who was a petroleum engineer and later became a railroad owner as well. And there was some small amounts of gold found in the area and still is today, although the majority of interest was in Cherry Creek and the South Platte River as well as the unbelievably rich Clear Creek on downstream. (Photos provided by the Hylands Ranch Cultural Association.)





Smokey Hill Trail Historical Society Panning Demo

On Oct. 22, the Club performed a panning demo for some 45 members and participants of the Smokey Hill Trail Historical Society on the Prairie Ridge Buffalo Ranch just southwest of Limon, Colo.. The event was put together by members of the Smokey Hill Trail Society and they were having a large gathering in the area to celebrate and talk about the history of the Trail and its connection to the Colorado Gold Rush of the 1860's. The Smokey Hill Trail originated near Atchison, Kansas and pretty well followed the Smokey Hill River west just south of the modern day route of I-70 from Leavenworth, Kansas to Denver, Colorado. At the location of Limon, Colorado, the Trail broke off into three routes to Denver known as the northern route (which follows the modern I-70 and onto what is now East Colfax avenue) and the southern route (which led to Parker, Colorado and established the Mile Houses along the way) and the third was called the Starvation Trail (Aptly named as it was a barren route that cost many men their lives if they were ill prepared).. The northern route followed present day I-70 and was the trail mostly used by the thousands who came west in 1859 and 1860, 61 for the Colorado Gold Rush. The Oregon Trail to the north and the Sante Fe Trail to the south were major trails used by the average settlers who were moving west to build new lives and forge a new nation, but the Smokey Hill Trail was the Trail of choice for the thousands of miners seeking riches in the gold fields of Colorado. There are still some old ruts and remnants of the Trail visible on portions of the route and the Trail was so popular that the later stagecoach lines, railroad lines and modern highways and interstates followed the relative easy terrain of the Trail from Leavenworth, Kansas to Denver, Colorado.



Club members JJ Long and Brandon Luchtenburg conducted the demo but didn't get any photos, sorry.

The Future of Gold Mining in South Park

(Recent events in South Park leave us wondering what the future of gold mining in the Fairplay and Alma areas will be. Member Bobby Manning spoke of this at the October meeting and the Denver Post ran an article on the situation in the Oct. 23rd edition. I am passing the gist of this article on for your thoughts.... JJ)

Residents win Fight to Keep Rivers Clean - by Bruce Finley Denver Post Reporter

Colorado mountain residents got so frustrated by the gold and gravel mining churning through wetlands along headwaters of the South Platte River that they took oversight into their own hands. And after a seven year fight that led to federal court, they have prevailed. They won a ruling that tilts the nation's legal landscape in favor of controlling water pollution. This US District Court ruling in Denver last month declares that miners must go through a public process and obtain permits before discharging pollutants into waste ponds near waterways. It is the first federal court case to apply a 2020 US Supreme Court decision that seepage from industrial waste ponds into alluvial groundwater can be "the functional equivalent" of surface discharges directly into rivers. The Federal Clean Water Act prohibits pollution without permits that specify contaminants and become increasingly restrictive. Colorado lawmakers separately have passed a rule that requires greater efforts to prevent long-term degradation of water before a new mine can open. These add up to toughening regulatory conditions. But leaders in Alma and neighboring Fairplay, unlike counterparts in towns that have turned into pricey resorts, remain relatively receptive to mining as long as it doesn't destroy mother nature.. Mining serves as a counterbalance against a tourism and visitation economy that is transforming Colorado in a way that makes housing affordable. And leaders here see potential if rules are enforced and "reclamation" to restore landscapes finally gets done. "Mining is part of our heritage and many people would rather have mining than tourism," says Alma Mayor Saam Golgoon. "They argue that tourism will ruin our community." Golgoon said, raising concerns that outside marketers will dictate a 'brand' for his town. It is a quandary – 14,271 foot Quandary Peak rises above Alma – reflecting intensifying struggles of communities around the Rocky Mountain West to define their own future. Mining began here in 1859 during the Colorado Gold Rush and became an economic mainstay leading to statehood. And back then, there were few rules applied in a free for all scramble for gold. And hulking gray heaps of mining waste have loomed here for decades across hundreds of acres in South Park, along with scars to delicate tundra on surrounding snow covered mountains. Much of that damage resulted from unregulated mining before 1977, the "pre-law era of the wild west", said Ginny Brannon, director of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, the state agency charged with regulatory oversight. Because no rules applied before 1977, miners responsible for a portion of that mess aren't obligated



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to restore wetlands around Alma and Fairplay – and another estimated 23,000 abandoned mine sites around the state – creating a public challenge. Yet Colorado officials still allow mining, even the strip mining done in this area, where ship sized dredges raked through wetlands, ripping up millions of tons of rock for industrial sifting to extract gold. Gravel miners dig even deeper into pits, scouring out material for making concrete. Dozens of trucks roll out every day hauling gravel to Front Range contractors for paving cities and roads. Laws set no limits on the number of mines. State regulators have issued permits for nine gold and gravel mines classified as “active” here, and 45 gold mines statewide, records show, including the Newmont Corporation’s stadium sized Cripple Creek and Victor pit mine. The current rules give mine operators five years after they formally declare a mine closed to complete cleanup and replanting, a period that can be extended without penalty. Bond money posted by companies is calculated to cover the cost of revegetation sufficient for a future industrial use, but not a return to natural conditions. Mining industry leaders have long lamented rules they say are too burdensome. But even in a tighter regulatory landscape, some see a robust mining future in Colorado as possible with steady high gold prices (above \$1600 an ounce) and global demands for computer circuitry, jewelry and banking, combined with gravel as a secondary product to make concrete. “Mining is required for what we like to do in the United States,” said James Murray, an owner of High Mountain Mining, which runs the Alma Placer Mine just south of the town of Alma. “If it cannot be grown, it has to be mined.” Local activists began fighting in 2014 after a mining mishap turned headwaters brown, threatening fish and invertebrates. They formed Save South Park, campaigned unsuccessfully against a local rezoning to facilitate a new mine near homes, and pressed government regulatory overseers to get more involved. “But we couldn’t get anybody from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the state to do anything about the damage,” said hotel manager Pam Stone, who coordinated opposition with microbiologist Richard Hamilton, a resident who died in 2016. “They’re not supposed to pollute when they mine. They’re supposed to put it all back, but nobody ever puts it all back,” Stone said. “They just leave big, ugly messes.” The activists learned that operators of the Alma Placer Mine were discharging waste into riverside settling ponds without a permit, and filed a lawsuit in federal court. They hired Boulder based attorney Randall Weiner as part of their team, and won. Federal Judge William Martinez ruled that High Mountain Mine was discharging pollution illegally and ordered the company to pay a fine of \$500,000 plus legal costs. “Colorado and a lot of other states are now going to have to ramp up their efforts to get facilities to get permits. Those permits can become stricter and stricter, with the goal that we end up with water that is fishable and drinkable, which is the purpose of the Clean Water Act,” Weiner said. “The fine this Judge imposed will serve as a wake-up call to industrial operators around the country within a few hundred feet of important water bodies: Any pollution requires a discharge permit, even if it flows through groundwater to get into the rivers. Water in Colorado and around the West is getting scarce. We all cherish this precious resource. So we need to do mining in a way that allows all of us to have our needs met.” High Mountain Mining officials are appealing the ruling. One of the lawyers representing the townspeople, Western Mining Action Project senior attorney Jeff Parsons, faulted state agencies for laxity. “Even a small operator can cause a big problem,” Parsons said, referring to Colorado’s Gold King Mine blowout in 2015 that turned the Animas River mustard yellow and other mining disasters. “At the Alma Placer Mine, the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, should have been engaged, and should have made sure that those miners had a permit years ago.” State mining regulatory program director Russ Means said that annual inspections will be done to ensure the Alma Placer Mine operates under an appropriate permit. “We will be working with the CDPHE on permitting requirements. Certainly, anything that moves forward, it has to protect water,” Means said. “We’ll be working with the industry and other state and local officials to make sure we comply with any regulations that we need to.” Colorado water quality inspectors currently “do not have a mechanism to identify” mining and other industrial sites where companies discharge pollutants into waste ponds along rivers, CDPHE spokeswoman Kaitlyn Beekman said. (A state document shows that, following the federal court ruling, an enforcement official warned High Mountain Mining of “potential violations” for “unauthorized discharge” of “pollutant effluent” containing calcium, potassium, sodium and magnesium from ponds into headwaters unless the company applies for a permit by Nov. 4.) Environmental critics contend Colorado’s mining rules and enforcement remain too weak, allowing harm to high country forests (including bristlecone pines up to 2000 years old), mountain tundra and streams. Here in Alma (North America’s highest town at 10,361 feet) and Fairplay, few residents dispute local school teacher turned lawyer Wendy Kerner’s assessment that the huge mining waste heaps choking waterways ‘uglify’ an otherwise picturesque area. Kerner pointed from the balcony of her home at a mining pit, heavy machinery and waste pond recently so blatant and exploitive of the environment. She said, “We accept more and more degradation because it is happening gradually. We become used to what we see, almost complacent. And so it continues and diminishes the natural environment.” But, meanwhile, Colorado’s broader resort tourism and mountain home construction boom is accelerating



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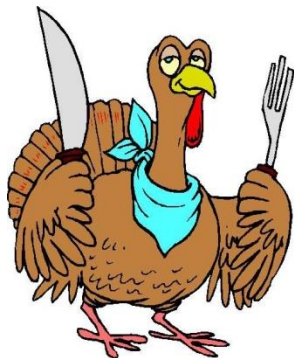
overwhelming communities across the western half of the state. Residents increasingly cannot afford to live where they work. As town after town is transformed, residents of Alma and Fairplay are also bristling against 'too many people,' traffic and commercialization. They see what happened in Breckenridge, a mere 17 miles north over Hoosier Pass, and other Summit County resorts. Once a mining hub, Breckenridge, with its ski slopes, now ranks among the world's ritziest resorts for millionaires. Mining isn't done much anymore. Property owners recently banded together and rejected a gravel mine. Historic mine remnants around Breckenridge now serve mostly as a visitor attractant with resort marketers touting rustic facades of 'an authentic mining town'. And uprooted workers, including police officers, firefighters, teachers, bus drivers, come looking for houses they might afford in Alma and Fairplay. The historic blue Fairplay-Valiton Hotel recently became a dormitory for workers. A 'Don't Brecken-ize Fairplay' bumper sticker and t-shirt depicting a miner declaring Fairplay to be 'Not Breck' reflect local sentiments. Mining culture endures. A few years ago, miners here helped create the reality TV show 'Gold Rush'. Episodes filmed around Fairplay "generated a lot of interest," town treasurer Kim Wittbrodt said. Panning for gold in the South Platte headwaters 'became sort of a bucket-list thing to do'. Record numbers of hobbyists, including semi-professional gold seekers, pay \$10 at the Town Hall for panning permits. They waded through creeks scanning for gold flakes. Permit numbers have increased from 641 in 2019 to 1191 in 2021, town records show. Day to day economic survival depends more and more on tourism and housing construction. The future is shifting toward meeting demands of well-heeled newcomers who build fancy second homes which "pays the bills," said Ken Kerkela, an electrician and longtime resident. An avid hunter, Kerkela said housing development and population growth are causing far greater environmental harm than mining, displacing elk and bighorn sheep and destroying habitat. Mining for economic balance would be tolerable, he said, "as long as they do it right." The mining opposition group Save South Park has disbanded for now. But newcomers increasingly seek pristine views from their property, landscaped like those where native Utes hunted before settlers drove them out. They welcomed toughened rules for mining. Fairplay Mayor Frank Just envisions creating a 100 acre 'river park' as a central amenity, a project local leaders painstakingly have planned for 10 years. It requires reclamation of mined lands. Just pointed to an estimated 9.7 million tons of waste heaped south of town that some residents reckon will never be moved. Locals remain relatively powerless, despite the court victory, Just said. "Whatever we would wish or desire is really a moot point," he said. "We, as a community, for the most part, we have relegated ourselves to accepting that we are a mining community. We cannot dictate to miners to the point of saying, 'You cannot continue'." However, the best mining companies have shown restoration can be done. "They've turned ground that was just a mess into very nicely landscaped, groomed areas that were planted" to hide scars, he said. "We expect, as the years progress, that this will be done. A Park County master plan prioritizes open space, wetlands, wildlife, river flows healthy enough for fishing, agriculture and rural character. For retired legal services company owner Bob White, the argument that better regulated mining could help avert ruinous tourism and over development "is a legitimate one." Yet White has settled on "more people over the mining industry and its trucks." The house he is building on a mesa looks out on gravel piles from dredging in wetlands. He hears machinery, sees white glare from industrial lights. He went to Denver to meet gravel mining executives and learned miners are planning to extract enough rock to fill a 28 ton truck every three minutes for another 40 years. He has protested repeatedly with county officials, involving master plan priorities. He purchased a 1400 acre ranch, protecting it under a conservation easement that prohibits mining, and sold it back to the community. Compared with mining, "I don't see a downside to having more people," White said. "More people might bring a few more amenities like a better grocery store. I don't mind some growth. I'd take that any day, rather than having to drive between gravel trucks, hear their backing-up beepers every day and watch their dust blow across the valley"

(And so there you have it. The newcomers coming to South Park all want to build their fancy homes with great vistas but don't want to have to put up with what was there before they got there. That is how it starts in a lot of these little mountain communities and towns in Colorado. And mining is always the bad guy in the story. This is the story that Board Member Bobby Manning was speaking of at the last meeting. He is now working for Jim Murray of High Mountain Mining. Four years ago, I was with the group that was allowed to mine on the Alma Placer site for 2 months. I saw the scars left over from the Gold Rush bunch downstream towards Fairplay. I hope that that gets repaired and the sooner the better. That was the kind of thing that gives mining the bad rap. I don't know where this will all go but I would bet even money that miners will come out second best. I am not opposed to reclamation and I believe it ought to be a mandatory part of today's mining. But the permitting process had better be fair and impartial, and I fear that it won't. And that is all I have to say.....JJ)



Black November - a turkey's story

When I was a young turkey, new to the coop, my big brother Tom took me out on the stoop, then he sat me down, and he spoke real slow, and he told me there was something that I had to know. His look and his tone I will always remember, when he told me of the horrors of... Black November.




“Come around August, now listen to me, each day you’ll get six meals instead of just three, and soon you’ll be thick, where once you were thin, and you’ll grow a big rubbery thing under your chin. And then one morning, when you’re warm in your bed, in will burst the farmer’s wife, and hack off your head, Then she’ll pluck out all your feathers so you’re bald ‘n pink, and scoop out all your insides and leave ya lyin’ in the sink. And then comes the worst part”, he said not bluffing, “She’ll spread your cheeks and pack your rear with stuffing”. Well, the rest of his words were too grim to repeat, and as I sat on the stoop like a winged piece of meat, I decided on the spot that to avoid being cooked, I’d have to lay low and remain overlooked.

I began a new diet of nuts and granola, high-roughage salads, juice and diet cola. And as they ate pastries, chocolates and crepes, I stayed in my room doing my fitness tapes. I maintained my weight of two pounds and a half, and tried not to notice when the bigger birds laughed. But ’twas I who was laughing, under my breath, as they chomped and they chewed, ever closer to death.

And sure enough when Black November rolled around, I was the last turkey left in the entire compound.

So now I’m a pet in the farmer’s wife’s lap. I haven’t a worry, so I eat and I nap. She held me today, while sewing and humming, and smiled at me and said..... “Christmas is coming”.


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Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for Dec 2022

(**WMMI** - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921
(<https://www.wmmi.org/>) (Free to GPR Member with badge)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Hanukkah Begins	19	20	Winter Solstice GPR Club Meeting	22	23	24 Christmas Eve
Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve