2013 Membership Dues Are Due Now…!!
You will be dropped for April

The Prez Sez by Jim Long

What in the world is going on..?? Everything I read in the paper and hear on TV says that this whole dang world is going nuts. Nobody in Washington can get a dang thing done. I have no idea what happens to these people that we elect between the time we vote for them and they arrive in Washington that makes them so stupid and mean. I have never seen anything like it.

Now if you think this is going to be about politics, well, yeah, maybe so. At least in the sense that there are issues springing up today that we didn’t really hear all that much about so very long ago. Like the closing of roads and access to our public lands. Like the cleaning up of toxic mine sites. Like the sale of oil and gas leases on federal lands. Like the practice of ‘fracking’ in relation to drilling and its effect on ground water. Like the dredging situation in California. Like local government entities starting to shut down motorized mining equipment. Like, ahh heck, I could go on and on. In just the last 12 years alone, I have been amazed to see how some of these issues have suddenly come out of seemingly nowhere and in so many cases, are having a direct impact on public awareness, both positive and negative. It seems that when we entered this new 21st Century, things have really started rapidly changing. These are new and indeed, trying times.

Now don’t get me wrong. I believe strongly in recycling and protecting the environment, in trying to do my part to reduce my carbon footprint. But I don’t go out trying to ram my position down anybody else’s throat either. I do know that we are now experiencing some fairly drastic weather events that I feel are directly linked to the thinning of the planetary ozone layer. The ice caps, both north and south, are changing. The coal industry is under fire. Mining is under fire. Gas combustion engines are under fire. Alternative energy is a big catch word but is unusually expensive. The world’s technological advances have literally changed this world that we now live in. There seems to be a lot more cancer. Gun control and mental health are on everyone’s’ mind as well. The issues are so numerous that I get a head ache just thinking about all of it. Because so many of these issues have a direct relation to the way that each of us lives our lives on a daily basis. So that brings me back to our politicians and their stance on all of these issues.

Politicians do receive a tremendous amount of pressure from special interest groups who have a lot of money backing their causes. They hear from them literally every day. So I ask you, do you have a ‘special interest’? How often have you contacted your local councilman, commissioner, representative, senator, or whoever it may be. As small scale miners, many of these issues directly affect or impact us. So I ask you, what exactly are you doing about it? Are you waiting to see what happens before you decide to act or say something about an issue? An old cowboy adage that is a favorite of mine says ‘The meek shall inherit the earth….6 feet of it!’ I have the e-mail and telephone number of every important politician in my city, county, and state in my computer for instant recall. And I use them far more frequently that even my wife knows. She is not a big fan of conflict so she doesn’t like to talk about some of this stuff. But if we don’t speak up, we will have no grounds to complain when the decision goes the wrong way. We must take the time to make our voices heard. I encourage everyone to do exactly that, in of course, a civilized manner of debate and discourse. Meanness is not allowed. There is too much of that going on in Washington already.

Well, that is about all I have from here for now. So until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottoms of your pans turn bright with that ‘Yaller Gold’!

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at jnslong945@msn.com

Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!!

The V.P. Corner by Mike Hurtado

Next up 1859, chapter 12

The future of the settlement was dismal. The few prospectors who hadn’t returned back east had holed up in the hills as people dug in for the first winter business all but came to a stop. There were barely three hundred people left of the
thousands who had come during the boom. The wretched log houses in the villages along Cherry Creek were in a state of complete paralysis. The only visible sign of progress was a new foot bridge that spanned the creek to join the two communities.

Any questions Klondike Mike 720-443-9545.

**From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger By Linda Luchtenburg**

For the month of March, we will be giving away a total of 7.6 grams of gold with the largest being 2.0 grams. We are still selling ‘blue’ tickets for the members only ‘Special Large Alaskan Nugget Drawing’, so be sure and bring a little extra money. We would like to give a special ‘Thank You’ to Jim Long, Clarence Douthett, and Bill Duncanson for donating items to the February general drawing.

**The Club Now Accepting Credit Cards**

The Board of Directors have approved accepting credit cards from members for certain purchases. Starting in March, 2013, the Club will accept credit cards for the payment of dues, member badges, and any products from the Club Store. The Club will not accept credit cards for the purchase of any drawing tickets as those must be made in cash only. A service fee of $0.50 will be attached to each $15.00 of payment made. Cards accepted will be Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

**March Meeting Program**

The March meeting will feature a historical presentation on the history Colorado’s Ghost Towns with a very interesting power point presentation by author and speaker Preethi Burkholder who will talk about her new book, ‘Ghost Towns of the Rockies’ and she will possibly have some of the new books at the meeting for purchase. Mrs. Burkholder has authored other books to include, “17 Women Who Shook the World,” “Finding the Money: The Guide To Financial Aid,” “Start Your Own Spa,” “Start Your Own Grant Writing Business”. I am certain that she will be signing her new book as well, so bring a little extra money if you would like to have the book. We hope to see you all there as this should be a fascinating program!

**Board Meeting Minutes From Feb 2013**

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**Quorum present?** Yes

**Call to Order:** By JJ at 6:06 am

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Yes

**Corrections:** None

**Approved as read/corrected:** Yes

**Treasurer’s Report:** Questions: None

**Approved:** Yes

**Correspondence:** 9 phone calls, 10 e-mails, 7 mailings

**Committee Reports:** None due at this time.

- Mike H reports we can get a new member prospecting package for 25.00 & will check on prices for adding concentrates.
- Mike also has artwork for detecting pin. Still working on new product line and prices.
- Janine B has a tour for 3/23 and working on 2 others.

**Webmaster:** Total Hits 127785  Hits for last month 912.

**Unfinished business:** None.
New business: Members w/o computers. Those with no e-mail address & no comp, the Club will pay for sending Newsletter. If they have computer & want it mailed, they will pay for it. Carried unanimously.

Club will start accepting credit cards with fee to cover costs, beginning March. 1 vote abstained.

Planned Outings for 2011: As of this date, we now have several Outings confirmed and more being planned. The following dates are under review by the BoD’s for planning purposes:

- 3-9 Sat Panning Demo for Rky Mtn Horse Expo, Natl West Complex, 2-4pm confirmed
- 3-23 Sat Tour West Mining Museum, $2 @ person 11a to 3p, Colorado Springs, bring lunch confirmed
- 4-27 Tour (as yet to be determined)
- 5-11 Sat Beginners Panning/Sluicing Class at Tymkovich Meats, 9am…see sign up confirmed
- 5-16 Thu Panning Demo, Aurora Water Festival, 9a-3p confirmed
- 5-18 Sat Prospecting Outing (as yet to be determined)
- 6-1 Tour (as yet to be determined)
- 6-22 Prospecting Outing in Nederland 9a
- 7-26,27,28 Prospecting Outing on Lake Creek, Leadville w/Illinois Gold Seekers
- 8-1 Sat Panning Demo for Japanese Exchange Students, Idaho Springs, 1p-4p confirmed
- 8-17 Club Picnic at Lions Park in Golden 11a-2p
- 8-24 Prospecting Outing (as yet to be determined)
- 9-5,6,7 Highlands Ranch Panning Demo confirmed
- 9-14 Sat Idaho Springs Panning Demo confirmed
- 9-28 Tour (as yet to be determined)

Additional dates may also be considered.

From the Board: Due to lack of time, there was very little routine discussion.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting Mar. 20, 2013 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting Mar. 20, 2013 at 7:00pm

Tonight’s general meeting program: Christie Wright on Park County History.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:59pm.

General Meeting Minutes From Feb 2013

1. Meeting was opened at 7:05pm by Pres. Long with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Long gave the Metals Report with gold at $1565.40 an ounce, silver at $26.66, platinum at $1651.00 and palladium at $744.00.
3. Web hits for last month reflected 912 hits for the last 30 days.
4. Pres. Long announced that tonight’s program will be a power point presentation by Historian Christie Wright on the History of Park County. Christie provided a very entertaining program for 35 minutes and advised that she would be happy to come back again at a future date.
5. Treasurer Linda Luchtenburg reported that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, we are still selling tickets for the new ‘Members Only’ drawing for a large 14 gram nugget. And that 2013 membership dues are now due.
6. Pam and George Schmitt reported from the Membership Table that approx. 53 members were in attendance. There were 4 guests and 5 new members in attendance.
7. Pres Long read the ‘Question of the Month’, which was ‘What metallurgical alloy is added to gold to make ‘purple gold’? ’
8. Pres. Long advised that the Club will be starting the ‘Find of the Month’ program again starting in March. So bring those finds in and winners will get a free drawing ticket.
9. John Johnson presented the 2013 Cache Clue #2 to the membership in attendance.
10. **Pres. Long** informed the membership that we were in the process of planning the 2013 outings and confirmed the following dates were under review or confirmed:

- 3-9 Sat  Panning Demo for Rky Mtn Horse Expo, Natl West Complex, 2-4pm  **confirmed.**
- 3-23 Sat  Tour West Mining Museum, 11a to 3p, Colo Springs, bring lunch  **confirmed**
- 4-27  Tour (as yet to be determined)
- 5-11 Sat  Beginners Panning/Sluicing Class at Tymkovich Meats, 9am...see sign up  **confirmed**
- 5-16 Thu  Panning Demo, Aurora Water Festival, 9a-3p  **confirmed**
- 5-18 Sat  Prospecting Outing (as yet to be determined)
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- 8-17  Club Picnic at Lions Park in Golden 11a-2p
- 8-24  Prospecting Outing (as yet to be determined)
- 9-5,6,7  Highlands Ranch Panning Demo  **confirmed**
- 9-14 Sat  Idaho Springs Panning Demo  **confirmed**
- 9-28  Tour (as yet to be determined)

Additional dates may also be considered.

11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership of the citation of several prospectors in Adams County who were high banking and dredging Clear Creek. They were cited and levied 500.00 fines and nearly had their equipment seized. He also discussed the Board’s decision to try accepting credit cards for the benefit of the membership. We have also finished the printing of Info Cards for the members that tell them what to do when contacted by persons who claim to be in authority or who challenge you while prospecting. They will be available in March. We are in the process of obtaining Membership Cards for each member as well. They should be done soon. Also, the Club has nearly settled on a ‘Beginner’s Prospecting Package’ which will shortly become available in the Club Store and will consist of 2 pans, a classifier, snuffer bottle and vial. We are still determining if a bag of concentrates or a training bag will accompany the package. **REMEMBER, the Club has imposed a ‘self-imposed ban’ on the use of motorized equipment on the Youngfield stretch of Clear Creek since June 2012.** This is in the best interest of the property as well as the Club and our members. Thank you.

12. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 7:45pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:35pm.

13. **Pres. Long** announced that there were 41 winners of the ‘Question of the Month’ and that the answer was ‘Aluminum’. The winners all received a free red ticket for the coming gold drawings.

14. The evening was concluded with drawings for door prizes followed by drawings numerous door prizes and for the gold nuggets. A reminder that holders of drawing tickets 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 can choose to donate the tickets back to the Club. Those assisting Pres. Long in the drawings were **Chuck Cown** and **Linda Luchtenburg**.

15. **Pres. Long** thanked **Kris Kafka** and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Any member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. With the number of attendees skyrocketing recently, this really helps the folks who run the table and those who volunteer up front each month. The Club appreciates the efforts that each and every one of you to make the refreshment table enjoyable.

16. **Pres. Long** announced that the March Program will feature noted speaker and author, Preethi Burkholder who will present a power point presentation on her new book ‘Ghost Towns of the Rockies’. Ms. Burkholder has also authored a number of other books as well. We hope to see all of you there!

17. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm.
**Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5**

**Newsletter For Members Without Computers**

- GPR Members with **NO e-mail address and NO computer**, the Club will pay for sending the GPR Newsletter.
- If you have an email/computer and still want it mailed, the club will require you to pay for it ($15 annually/Prorated).

**TOUR**

**March 23rd, 2013**

**Western Museum of Mining & Industry**

225 North Gate Blvd, Colorado Springs

Upon arrival, let them know you are with the Prospectors of the Rockies. With over 4000 artifacts on display inside, as well as outdoor exhibits, there will be plenty of exploring for all. Start early and or stay later! Exhibits include Colorado history, mining and industrial technology, geology and more!

11am - Women in Mining Presentation held in the Library. This will last approximately 45 minutes. *(2 donation requested for this.)*

Noon - Bring a sack lunch! There are picnic tables on the property for our lunch break.

1pm - Tour of the museum and machinery. *(Stamp Mill will be operating)*

Museum is located just off 1-25 at Exit 156A; opposite from the north entrance to the U.S. Air Force Academy. *(Digger will have the Signup sheet at the March meeting. If attending the 11am presentation, money will be collected at the time of signup.)*

**This is a true story about four people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody**

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do the job. Anybody could have done it but Nobody actually did it. Somebody got very angry about that because it was Everybody’s job to do it. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn’t do it. So it ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when actually Nobody had asked Anybody to do it!!!

**CLUB Address has Changed**

The Official Club address has changed. The new address is **PO Box 150096, Lakewood, Co. zip code 80215-0096**. Each member should make note of this new change. This was undertaken as the Club is based in Lakewood and that is where we meet. The old address was quite far south and a lot more difficult to access. We hope this does not create an inconvenience for the membership.

**March Birthstones**

The modern birthstone for the month of March is aquamarine. Bloodstone is sometimes considered an alternate birthstone for March since it is the Zodiac stone for Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20).

Aquamarine is a variety of beryl, which is the same gemstone family as emerald and Morganite. Though aquamarine and emerald belong to the same family, they are surprisingly different. They are both beryllium aluminum silicates. Where emerald is colored by trace amounts of chromium and and/or vanadium, aquamarine is colored by iron. But while emerald and beryl have essentially the same specific gravity and refractive index, emerald tends to be quite hazy and included, while aquamarine typically has excellent transparency and clarity.

Though the beryls are quite hard gems -- rating 7.5 to 8 on the Mohs scale -- emerald has always been regarded as a somewhat delicate gem due to its many inclusions. Emeralds are usually oiled to fill fractures and improve their color.
Aquamarine, on the other hand, requires no special treatment and is suitable for all kinds of jewelry, including rings. Most aquamarines have been heat treated at low temperature to reduce the level of green or yellow tones.

The intensity of color and the clarity of the stone are the most important criteria when evaluating aquamarine. Deep blue aquamarines are rare and command the highest prices in the world’s gemstone markets, though deep blue aquamarine is still a pastel blue. Unlike other gems, aquamarine is not diminished by lesser intensity of color -- many people actually prefer the more crystal clear lighter gemstones to the richer, deeper colors. You will find aquamarine in both faceted and cabochon cuts.

Aquamarine derives its name from the Latin term for seawater, and has a long tradition as the sailor’s lucky stone. The Greeks and the Romans knew the aquamarine as the sailor’s gem, ensuring the safe and prosperous passage across stormy seas. Legend has it that aquamarines were the prized possessions of mermaids and thus would protect sailors from danger, including warding off sea sickness.

An alternate birthstone for March is Bloodstone, a dark green opaque quartz flecked with red spots. The name bloodstone derives from the legendary belief that the red coloration resulted from the blood of Christ spilling onto green jasper during the crucifixion. For this reason, too, the stone has been called "martyr's stone." Bloodstone is mined in India, Brazil, Uruguay, Australia, and the United States. Ideal for carving into cameos and beads, this stone symbolizes courage.

(Reprinted from Internet Google site of Gemstone.com)

A Miner’s Laugh

An old miner was sick and in the hospital. There was a nurse who was driving him crazy. Every time that she came in, she would talk to him like he was a little child. She would say in a patronizing voice, “And how are we doing this morning”, or “Are we ready for a bath”, or “Are we hungry today?”

The old miner was getting pretty tired of all that and he decided he had had enough of her shenanigans, so one morning at breakfast, he took the apple juice off his tray and set it aside. Later, the nurse came back in and gave him a urine bottle for testing. The old boy emptied the apple juice into the urine bottle and waited. Soon the nurse returned and picked it up and looked at it. “My, it seems that we are just a little cloudy today”.

The old miner then snatched the bottle back from her hand, popped off the cap, and drank it right down, saying “Well, shoot! I’ll just run it through again. Maybe I can filter it better this time!”

The nurse promptly fainted.

The old miner just smiled and gently pressed the call button!

(Taken from the internet, author unknown)

Prospector’s Return

One balmy September day, in 1948, the Colorado Springs police received a letter from Mae McGraith in Denver, asking them to search for her uncle, a ninety year old prospector. The prospector’s undying faith is a legend more true than the trails of buried treasure he has left behind him. William Burch, of Wabasso, Florida, was no exception to the rule. His faith remained unwavering and bright through half a century.

Burch left his wife and home in the 1890’s to prospect in the area on which lofty Pikes Peak looks down indifferently on world famous Cripple Creek and Victor. Burch was about five feet seven inches tall with squinting blue eyes that searched constantly for the strike that would send him home a rich and triumphant man. Like so many prospectors, he preferred to work alone, trekking off every morning at dawn into the tangled maze of gulches and canyons making up the ore-rich terrain. His wiry figure, a familiar sight in Victor, Colorado, seemed tireless. The white head of Pikes Peak, sentinel of the plains and guardian of some of the richest gold
discoveries in history, was his landmark. Usually, he was noticed heading for its south slope, just ten or 15 miles from Victor.

After several years of prospecting, there was a change in Burch, something a little cocky in his walk, something a little brighter in his eyes. The Victor miners, fond of the mild little man, teased him about striking it rich and hiding his loot. Burch only smiled with the smugness of a man who could talk if he wanted to, and didn’t want to. Only once or twice did he make what might be considered a slip or two. Putting these bits of conversation together, the old time miners decided Burch had discovered a rich vein of ore. Rumors, in the way they have, grew. Burch had a mine like the famous Strong Mine of Victor. Burch had made one of the richest discoveries in the whole district. Burch’s mine was a tunnel with walls of solid gold. The mild blue eyed man was a figure of mystery with the fame and stature mystery imparts.

At the very height of all the excitement, Burch suddenly disappeared. Foul play was suspected and many a search was organized. But neither Burch nor any evidence of his diggings was ever found. Then his landlady said he had struck it rich and retired. As one exciting event after another happened in the course of normal life in Colorado’s lushest gold camp, the quiet little man was forgotten.

But Burch himself, whatever the reason for his disappearance and whatever he did in the intervening years, did not forget his mine on the south slopes of Pikes Peak. His faith in its riches, were they real or just the product of a prospector’s shining faith, never died. And in 1948, he left his home in Florida, saying that he planned to return to a rich mine that he had owned years ago. He passed through Denver to see his niece and then just simply disappeared again. The woman was quite worried as her uncle was now ninety years old and very feeble.

The white haired old man was found wandering up on the south slope of Pikes Peak, some fifteen miles from Victor. He died soon after without revealing where his mine was, if indeed he had actually found it again. His secret died with him, but prospectors near Pikes Peak are still keeping an eye open for a long abandoned mine that is just as rich, or richer, than the old Strong Mine of Victor.

*Taken from Colorado’s Lost Gold Mines and Buried Treasure by Caroline Bancroft, copyright 1961, also related in the Rocky Mountain News, 1948*

### FROM THE PAST

**Recovering Gold from Black Sand**

As appearing in *The Gold Nugget, March 1996* by Charles Hawkins

For as long as you have been prospecting, I am sure most of you have heard the instructions to save your black sand, but why? What do you do with the stuff? After you have panned all the gold you can remove with your gold pan and sniffer bottle (also called snifter or snuffer), what next? The answer is not all that complicated ... save it in 5-gallon buckets. After all, you worked hard to get these concentrates and, best of all, if you found gold, there's sure to be more in your black sand. The next question is, how can I get to that gold?

Gold exists in black sand in two forms, free gold and gold alloy. Free gold can be particles so small that they are almost impossible to see as individual pieces. Gold alloy is gold that is in combination with other minerals that make up the black sand. These two forms of gold are liberated in two ways, mechanical and chemical.

The first important process in recovering your free gold from your black sand is to size or screen your material. Even though the gold is about twice as heavy as the other materials that make up your black sand, it is still nearly impossible to separate the gold, unless the material you are separating it from is of the same physical size.

You can make screens from material found at a hardware store or purchase them from your local prospecting store. The size of the various screens you need is determined by the size of the material you are processing. I use several screens that I have purchased and which are designed to fit the top of a 5-gallon bucket. These are convenient and allow me to save my screened material in separate buckets until I have enough material to process.

I use 12-, 20-, 50-, and 100-mesh screens and have known people to use screens with openings as small as 200 mesh. Remember, the material must be completely dry before screening can be accomplished. The main purpose here is to get the material sized so that the gold and other material in each bucket is the same size.

After you have sized your material in several containers, you are ready to process this material and liberate the gold.

There are several mechanical products that will assist you in the removal of your free gold from your black sand. Each of these machines is unique in its own way. They all share one thing in common, however . . . they use water and specific
gravity to remove the gold. This is the same as using your sluice box, highbanker, dredge, or gold pan. Some of the most common machines are as follows.

**Mechanical Gold Separators**

**Mini-Sluice** The Mini-Sluice is a smaller brother of the sluice box you use in the stream. The smaller size allows for a small stream of water, which allows the very small gold to fall out and get trapped in the riffles and carpet of the sluice as the lighter material is carried away by the water flow.

**Spiral Gold Systems** The spiral gold pan systems come in several designs but the technology is very similar, with size, capacity, and price the largest variables. Most spiral systems start with a molded plastic pan that is mounted to a motorized unit that turns the pan. The pan is normally tilted at a 45-degree angle and either has water that is sprayed onto the pan or sits in a tub of water. The pan has machined spirals that begin at the outside edge of the pan and spiral into its center. Because of the angle and design of the spirals, the lighter material falls out of the spirals prior to reaching the center of the pan and is returned to the bottom edge of the pan where it is eventually washed over its front edge. The weight of the gold causes it to sit low in the spirals and it is carried to the center of the pan where it is recovered.

**Concentrator Bowl** The concentrator bowl is a molded plastic bowl that has a tapered cone in the center of the bowl and a water hose connection molded to its outside wall. It looks a lot like a bunt pan used by cooks to bake the cakes that have holes in the middle. As material is added to the bowl, the lighter material is swept to the top of the cone by the water flow and drained away through the center of the cone. The heavier gold remains in the bottom of the bowl.

**Chemical Gold Separation** There are several chemical methods of extracting the very last bit of gold from your black sands.

**WARNING:** ALL CHEMICAL GOLD SEPARATION PROCESSES ARE VERY DANGEROUS IF NOT PERFORMED PROPERLY AND WITH GREAT CARE.

Thus we will list the names of some of those processes but will not explain any here:

- Mercury to Recover Gold
- Fluxing and Firing Silver and Gold
- Nitric Acid to Separate Gold
- Aqua Regia to Purify Gold
- Acidic Leeching of Gold

Seek professional help and instruction before attempting any chemical gold separation process

2013 Membership Dues are Due Now…!!!
For Sale

Gold King 3” Hi-banker/dredge attachment with adjustable stand and 5 hp pump

- 125 feet of hose

Gold Buddy drywasher w/o blower motor

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For information to publish your “Ad” in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months’ issue of the Newsletter.

Contact the GPR President

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*

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**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Apr 2013**

(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (www.wmmi.org))

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*Newsletter Advert/Article Conv Deadline*