



# RISTWATCH

RCVFD Quarterly Newsletter P. O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512 Issue No. 78 April, 2016

## A letter from the president:

Hi Neighbors,

Spring is finally here! After a warm and dry February, March has been cool and snowy, which is great for lowering our fire danger. Take advantage of the wet conditions to get your slash burns completed before the end of April. If you don't already have a burn permit, make sure you have one and that you follow the requirements for burn conditions and required notifications on the day of your slash burn. You can find all the details at:

<http://www.larimer.org/burnpermit/index.asp>

While on the topic of slash burns, for those of you who have used the community slash pile in past years, please note that due to changes in the slash site conditions, this will no longer be an option that is available for use. You can find more details in the Chief's report later in this issue. My thanks to the Lunds for making this option available to all of us in the past.

As we move further into spring and summer and enjoy the lush grasses and undergrowth that always follow our wet months, take the time to continue to keep these trimmed down, as conditions can quickly change, and with drier conditions all of that fuel near your homes and outbuildings makes it more difficult to fight fires

if they do happen. You can find more information on how to protect your property and create defensible space at:

<http://www.firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness/be-firewise/home-and-landscape.aspx>

The planning for our fall festival is now underway and we are always in need of new volunteers to help us, so if you can assist, please contact our festival coordinator at [festival.contact@rcvfd.org](mailto:festival.contact@rcvfd.org) to volunteer and to get more information on how you can be of assistance.

As always, I encourage you to find ways to get involved with your community and with your neighbors to continue to make our area a wonderful, beautiful and safe place to live. It is through your volunteer efforts, with new people getting involved and contributing, that we continue to provide low cost, high quality services.

I wish you all the very best.

Sincerely,

*Mike Thompson*  
*President, RCVFD*



# Chief's Report

## Calls

While the year started out pretty quiet, March has been busy. RCVFD responders have answered six calls in less than two weeks, bringing the total calls to 13 this year. As is typical this time of year, most of our calls are medical, but we also had a structure fire (started by a chimney) and a small grass fire in February caused by a power line blown down in the wind. Luckily our spring snows have made the grasses very wet and the fire danger is LOW. Note that you can always get up to date status of the fire danger at [www.rcvfd.org](http://www.rcvfd.org).

## Community Slash Pile

For years Richard and Elenore Lund have generously provided their meadow for a community slash pile. Normally we chip the pile, but this year we did not get the grant to pay for chipping. In addition, since the floods of 2013 the site has become too muddy and needed to be closed. As a result, RCVFD got a permit from the state (required for piles this large) and in mid-March, RCVFD firefighters performed a controlled burn. Note that the site is now CLOSED. Please do not take any slash to the site. Many thanks to the Lunds for hosting this community slash pile for all these years.

Residents will now have to handle slash on their own property. If you are unsure of how to get a burn permit for your property, go to the Larimer County website where they have information on how to build slash piles, proper conditions for burning and instruction on how to apply for a permit. The URL is:

[www.larimer.org/burnpermit/index.asp](http://www.larimer.org/burnpermit/index.asp)

Permits are only good from October through April, so it is too late for this season. However, you can start building slash piles this summer to burn next season.

## Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

RCVFD is hosting an Open House and Educational Day on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at Station 1 [11835 Rist Canyon Rd] from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. There is additional information on this event in this issue of the Ristwatch. Laurie Franklin did a terrific job spearheading an effort to secure an NFPA grant to fund this event. Come meet your neighbors and RCVFD responders. We hope to see you there.

*Carol Dollard*  
*Chief, RCVFD*



Will RCVFD find you when they need to? Consider purchasing a reflective sign. Just \$15! All we need is your address. Order today! Call Louise Creager at 970.217.6843.

### RCVFD Monthly Meeting Schedule:

Meetings at Firehouse #1 on Rist Canyon Rd.

Operations – 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM  
Fire Training – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM  
Board Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM  
Medical Training – 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM

# WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY

**Saturday, May 7, 2016**

## RIST CANYON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Where:** RCVFD Station 1, 11835 Rist Canyon Road, Bellvue, CO

**When:** Saturday, May 7 from 10am to 2pm

**Details:** Meet the volunteer firefighters and learn about fire resistant plants and how to make your home Firewise, evacuation & pet evacuation materials available, home address numbers available so responders can identify your house, activities for kids & refreshments

**Email Laurie at [laurie@rcvfd.org](mailto:laurie@rcvfd.org)**  
*for more information*



# PEOPLE PROJECTS PURPOSE

[www.WildfirePrepDay.org](http://www.WildfirePrepDay.org) #WildfirePrepDay

NFPA and State Farm are pleased to support the 2016 Wildfire Community Preparedness Day campaign, but have not assessed or evaluated any of the community projects, activities or initiatives. Recognition of any kind in no way implies endorsement or approval of a project, its safety or effectiveness, and the supporters disclaim all liability in connection with any such project, activity or initiative.



Sponsored by **State Farm**


**Save the Date! Saturday, May 7th, from 10 am to 2 pm**



Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 10am-2pm, come on over to Station 1 and meet the volunteer firefighters and members who serve our community, learn about evacuation preparation for you and your pets, get educated about how we can work towards a Firewise Community designation and gain knowledge about fire resistant plants/landscaping. Check out our firehouse, trucks and equipment, pick up activity books for the kiddos, and enjoy some refreshments! Who knows—a celebrity or two might even show up!

A great big THANK YOU goes out to the entire Rist Canyon community for helping RCVFD secure a grant to fund our Wildfire Community Preparedness Day 2016 - Open Firehouse! RCVFD competed with over 200 agencies nationwide for this grant and our proposed "Open Firehouse" project received 1,867 votes (with our nearest competitor coming in at just over 700). The grant is through the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and is funded by State Farm Insurance.

For more information, see the ad in this month's Ristwatch or email [laurie@rcvfd.org](mailto:laurie@rcvfd.org).






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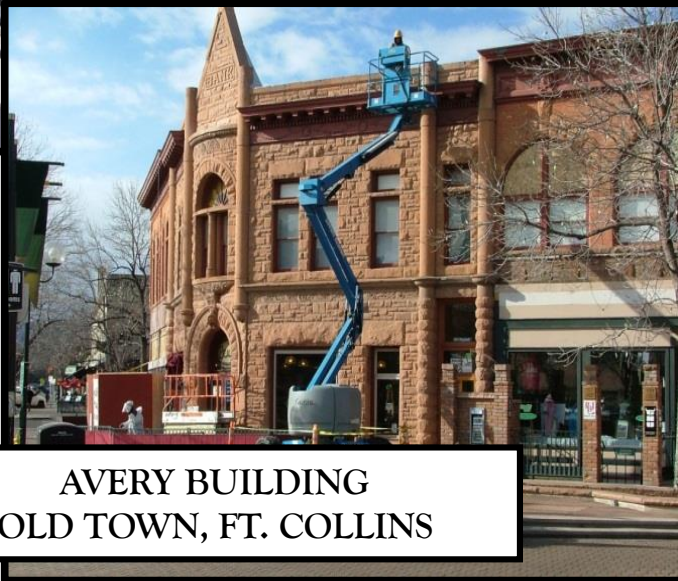
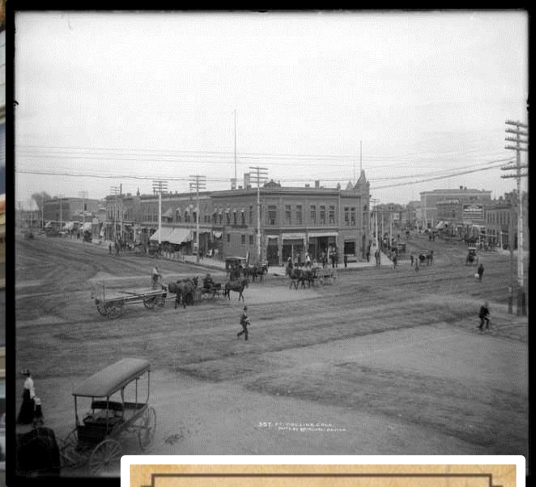
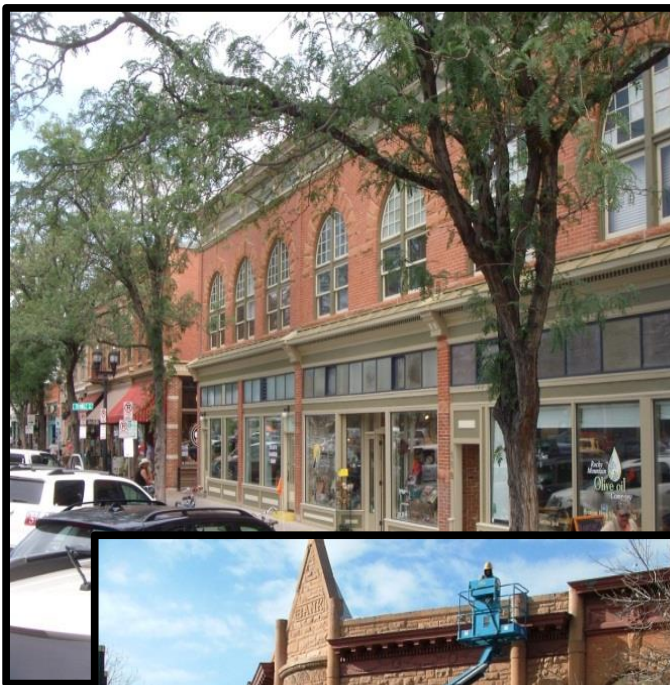
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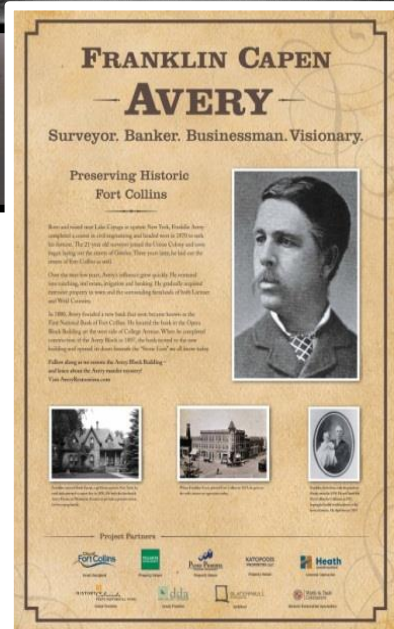


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## Mountain Festival News



Well, it's that time, folks. Time to start preparing for our annual Mountain Festival on Sunday, September 4th. What would you like to do—arrange pony rides or hay rides for the kids? Dish out ice cream for an hour? Help set up the artwork for the Fine Art Auction? Please contact the chairpeople listed below to help with an activity that interests you! And consider chairing a committee—there are a few opportunities still available.

### Chairpeople:

Advertising—TBD

Art Auction—Louise Creager [louisecreager@gmail.com](mailto:louisecreager@gmail.com)

Book Tent—Becky Lunt [blunt143@gmail.com](mailto:blunt143@gmail.com)

Car Show—Brian Finley [firebrian2000@yahoo.com](mailto:firebrian2000@yahoo.com)

Children's Activities—TBD

Craft Booths—Shannon Shockley [sshocklebellvue@gmail.com](mailto:sshocklebellvue@gmail.com)

Food Vendors—Bridget Tisthammer [bridget@frii.com](mailto:bridget@frii.com)

Ice Cream Booth—Shane Downing [shane@tracydowning.org](mailto:shane@tracydowning.org)

Offstage Entertainment—TBD

Onstage Entertainment—Jennifer Nolte [jennifer.nolte@uchealth.org](mailto:jennifer.nolte@uchealth.org)

Silent Auction—TBD

Tim Hollaman, Festival Coordinator  
[thollaman1@gmail.com](mailto:thollaman1@gmail.com)

A nursery school teacher was delivering a station wagon full of kids home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children began discussing the dog's duties.

"They use him to keep crowds back," said one youngster.

"No," said another, "he's just for good luck."

A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."



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Briana Aragon, Broker Associate



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# Wildlife Watch



## Bears

We have had our first reports of bears out and about and even a break-in to a house in Estes already. So it is that time of year, even though there is a couple of feet of snow on the ground. When the bears first emerge, they are more interested in getting things working again and will be eating mostly grass for a short time period. After that, they will start looking for a better variety of food.

Last year was one of the worst years we have had in the area, in terms of negative encounters with bears and the number that had to be put down. I am hoping for a better year and not a repeat of last year, but as always, we need your help. Cleaning up and not leaving attractants out for bears will help lessen the bear issues and may even save the bear's life. For more information on things you can do, go to:

<http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/LivingwithWildlifeBears1.aspx>

There are many suggestions and tips there.

## Winter Ticks

In the spring, I usually get questions about the moose losing their hair. This is from an article from last year, but figured I would send it out again.

As its name implies, the winter tick (*Dermacentor albipictus*) is found parasitizing moose during the winter months (January – May) during which time ticks are mating, feeding on moose blood, and preparing to drop off the moose in the spring to lay eggs. The presence of adult ticks is irritating, and the moose attempt to remove ticks by rubbing against surfaces. The more severe the tick load, the more aggressively the moose groom themselves. Tick loads vary from year to year and young

animals are often more severely affected than adults. The grooming/rubbing behavior causes hair loss along

the neck and shoulders, exposing their lighter-colored skin and broken hair shafts. These lighter areas can be extensive, giving the moose a white appearance and lending the disease its name “ghost moose”. Affected animals can also be quit thin, particularly when young animals are affected. This poor body condition is presumably caused by energy loss due to grooming. Moose are the primary species affected. Elk can be affected, but with less frequency.

Things to look for are:

- Hair loss, especially around neck and shoulders
- Adult ticks on animal's skin
- Lighter areas of exposed skin and undercoat
- Thin, debilitated animals, especially young

Winter ticks are not known to carry any diseases that can be passed to humans or their pets. Winter ticks can potentially be picked up by humans or domestic animals from the environment, but there is no evidence of significant health concerns to either. Meat from infested animals is safe to eat, as the ticks only affect the skin and hair coat of their hosts.

*Cont'd on next page*



## Wildlife Watch, cont'd.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is currently conducting a study on moose throughout the state. One of the things that CPW is looking at are winter ticks and how they affect the moose and their survival. The highest count of winter ticks on one moose was 100,000.

If you do see one of these "ghost moose", best advice is to leave them alone. There is nothing that can be done for them and by spring, the ticks will drop and the moose will start to put on weight again.

### Contact

Feel free to contact me at phone number 970-692-1733, email [chad.morgan@state.co.us](mailto:chad.morgan@state.co.us), or

at our Ft. Collins office, 970-472-4300, or follow me at:

Instagram: @chad\_morgan186

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Facebook: DWM.Chad.Morgan

Flickr: chad\_morgan186

Thanks!

*Chad Morgan  
District Wildlife  
Manager-Poudre  
District*

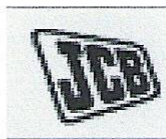


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# Notes from Stove Prairie School

## Notes from Stove Prairie School—

Happy Spring!

### Attendance Area

The Stove Prairie attendance area extends from Davis Ranch Road to the west, from the south at mile marker 19 in Buckhorn Canyon and north to Poudre Canyon. To register, visit the Poudre School District web site at: [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org) and choose School Registration.

### Preschool Screening on Friday, April 29

On Friday, April 29, 1:00-3:00, parents may bring pre-school-aged children to Stove Prairie to attend the annual Preschool Open House. Come and enjoy some refreshments while you consider what Preschool at Stove Prairie can do for your child. No appointment necessary, you can meet the teacher and make new friends. Call Manda Theilig, Preschool Site Director, at 488-6585 with any questions.

Children ages 3-5 may attend preschool here at Stove Prairie. BASE Camp, a Fort Collins non-profit agency, provides the big people. We count on Stove Prairie families to provide the little people.

☺ We hope to see you here!

### Barbecue Potluck & Book Fair on Thursday, May 5

Members of our community, including next year's kindergarten and preschool families, are invited to join us for the Barbecue Potluck on Thursday, May 5, beginning at 11:15. We will have a Scholastic Book Fair. We hope you can come!

### Registration for 2016-2017 K-5 Students

People are encouraged to register *new* students for next year at your earliest convenience. Once school lets out for the summer, the next opportunity to register is in August. The PSD web site has enrollment forms, just choose Student Registration.

## Year-Round Fundraising in Partnership with Businesses

Thank you to the community members who help the school. We find these opportunities helpful:

- Shop at King Soopers ~ for \$5, the PTO sells gift cards with \$5 on it. Every time you load it up with funds, a nice percentage comes to the PTO. Then, pay for gas and groceries with your loaded gift card ~ an awesome opportunity for the school.
- Recycle your cell phones and ink cartridges at Stove Prairie.
- Box Tops for Education are found on hundreds of your favorite products including Betty Crocker, Nestle, Ziploc, Avery, Hefty, Kleenex, Pillsbury, Green Giant, Land O Lakes, Hanes, Nature Valley, and MANY more! Every Box Top you turn in to Stove Prairie is worth 10-cents for our school and that adds up fast! Just send those to the school. You can also shop online and earn eBoxTops for our school! Simply start EVERY online shopping trip by logging in to the Box Tops Marketplace at [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com). Hundreds of retailers will donate eBox Tops to our school with every qualifying \$10 purchase! The sky's the limit!

Thank you.

*Karen England  
Stove Prairie  
Mountain School*







Jeremy Lawson  
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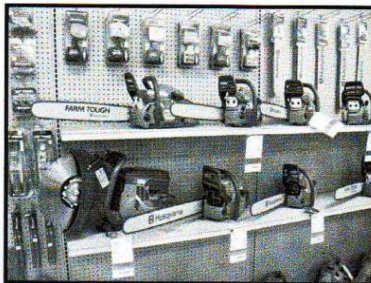
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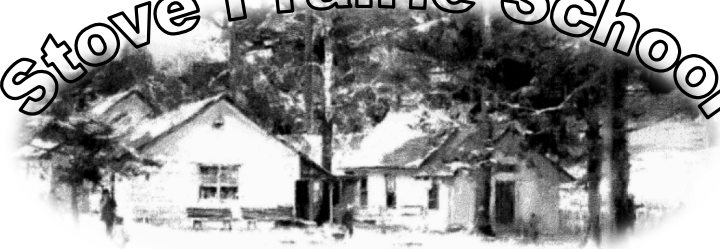


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## Upcoming Events:

- **Community Potluck/BBQ**, May 5, 11:00am
- **Scholastic Book Fair (Buy One, Get One FREE!)**, May 2 – May 5.
- **Preschool Open House**, Call Amanda Thelig, at 488-6585 for details.
- **Last Day Hike**, May 27, 8:30am

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One dark night outside a small town, a fire started inside the local chemical plant. Before long it exploded into flames and an alarm went out to fire departments from miles around.

After fighting the fire for over an hour, the chemical company president approached the fire chief and said, “All of our secret formulas are in the vault in the center of the plant. They must be saved! I will give \$50,000 to the engine company that brings them out safely!”

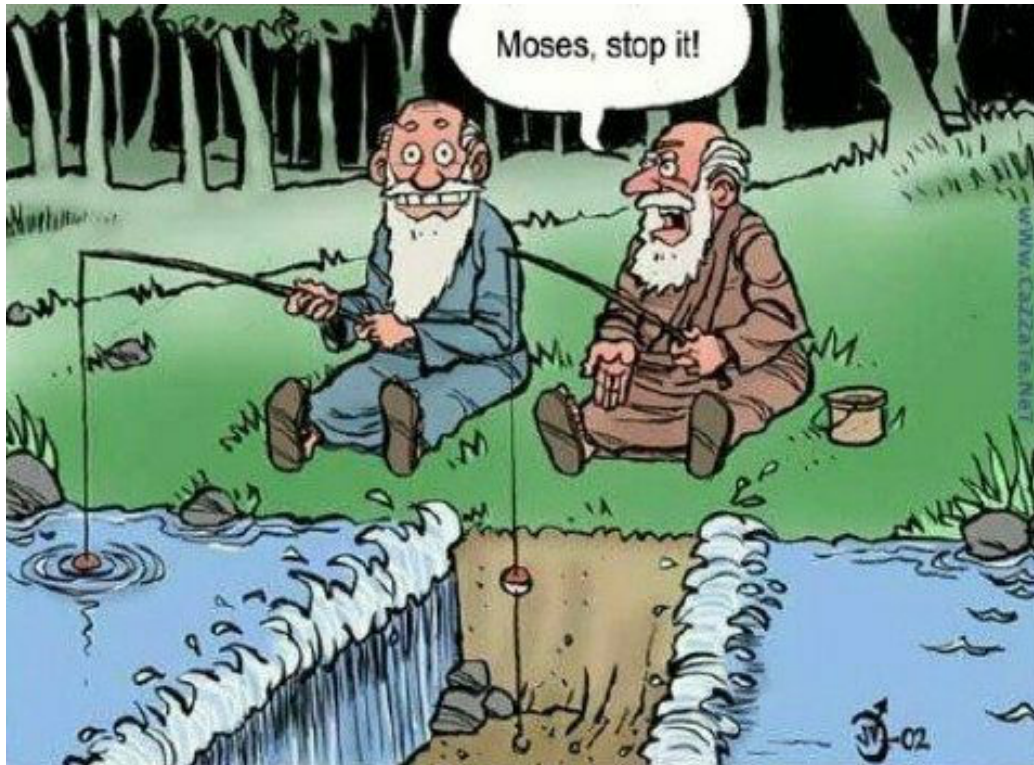
As soon as the chief heard this, he ordered the firemen to strengthen their attack on the blaze. After two more hours of attacking the fire, the president of the company offered \$100,000 to the engine company that could bring out the company’s secret files.

From the distance a long siren was heard and another fire truck came into sight. It was a local volunteer fire company composed entirely of

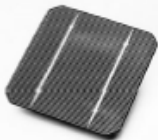
men over 65. To everyone’s amazement the little fire engine raced through the Chemical plant gates and drove straight into the middle of the inferno. In the distance the other firemen watched as the old-timers hopped off of their rig and began to fight the fire with an effort that they had never seen before.

After an hour of intense fighting the volunteer company had extinguished the fire and saved the secret formulas. Joyous, the chemical company president announced that he would double the reward to \$200,000 and walked over to personally thank each of the volunteers.

After thanking each of the old men individually, the president asked the group what they intended to do with the reward money. The fire truck driver looked him right in the eye and said, “The first thing we’re going to do is fix the dang brakes on that truck!”



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## RCVFD Slash Site

The RCVFD Slash Site has served the RCVFD community for many years, a place where residents could bring their tree trimmings while creating defensible space around their homes.

Since the High Park Fire and flood, the water table has been so high chipping has not been an option. So after many years of service, “Last Rites” were held for the slash site with a controlled burn. The slash site has been permanently closed and will undergo restoration with new grass seeded.



*Photo provided by Mark McCracken*

The Ristwatch reserves the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any article or ad at any time. We base this decision on our responsibility to our readers. We will not knowingly print any article or ad that is misleading or untruthful. Articles submitted to the Ristwatch are a representation of the author and not necessarily an endorsement by the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department.

### **HOW TO IMPRESS A WOMAN:**

**Bend over and touch your toes.**

**Then, while you're down there,  
pick up your socks and underwear.**

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**If we missed you, please call 970/419-0397.**

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I'm really not into spring cleaning.



Come to think of it, I'm not into  
summer, fall or winter cleaning either.

Visit Jim Hunt at [facebook.com/huntcartoons](https://facebook.com/huntcartoons)

Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department  
P. O. Box 2  
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Annual Festival Contact  
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