

## RISTWATCH

RCVFD Quarterly Newsletter P. O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512 Issue No. 80 October, 2016

## A letter from the president:

Hi neighbors,

In this newsletter, I wanted to talk about how we raise money to support the fire department, and why it's important that we find new and innovative ways to raise money. As our area's emergency response volumes continue to grow year over year, we are finding that our financial challenges to keep up with those response volumes are growing too. Did you know that we have already had more responses year to date in 2016 than we had in all of 2014 or 2015? Most of our emergency responses these days are for medical issues and accidents on our roadways, with fires following in third place fortunately.

The annual Mountain Festival and Fine Art Auction fundraiser was just completed a few weeks ago. My sincere thanks to all of you in the community who stepped up to help out! This fundraiser requires an enormous amount of effort and countless hours of volunteer time, and while we do make ten to fifteen thousand dollars a year, for the amount of effort expended it still isn't providing enough money to close our funding gap even with the generous donations we receive from residents.

One area of great opportunity that we haven't taken enough advantage of is grants. While we have had some success with grants in past years,

## 2016 RCVFD

## **ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 — 6 PM STOVE PRAIRIE SCHOOL **ALL AREA RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.** 

We will be discussing current activities in the area and electing officers for 2017. Please bring a dish to share. (main dish, salad, bread or dessert) The Board of Directors will provide drinks and tableware.

our previous corporate structure as a 501c4 nonprofit has limited our opportunity to apply for many grants. With our recent change to a 501c3 corporate structure, that limitation has been removed. The biggest obstacle now is finding volunteers in the community who can help us seek out and apply for those grants. If you have grant writing skills and want to help us, I encourage you to reach out to me or to any member of the board to volunteer. We sure could use your assistance.

Continued on next page

## President's Letter, cont'd.

Additionally, if you have other creative ideas on how we might raise funds, we'd love to hear your ideas!

Finally, at this time of the year, many of us are cutting firewood in anticipation of colder weather and the time to burn the leftover slash is fast approaching. Be sure to get your burn permits before you plan to burn your slash piles and be careful to follow the given guidelines. You can get more information and your burn permit at this web site:

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

I encourage you to get involved with your community and with your neighbors, to continue to make our area the amazing place that it is. It is through your volunteer efforts, with all of us getting involved and contributing, that we continue to provide low cost, high quality services. Many hands make for light work.

Until next time, I wish you all the very best.

Sincerely,

Mike Thompson President, RCVFD



## 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>rd</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

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 6th, at 2 AM.

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour, and change the batteries in your smoke detectors!



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## Chief's Report

I had a great time visiting with many of you at the Festival and appreciate you coming out to support RCVFD. Our community is strong because of the people who help build it and those who continue to work to make it strong. I love being a part of it.

During the Festival, you may have noticed that one of our firetrucks left. We did not have a call, but there was a wildfire in Livermore and we provided a truck and three firefighters to help. We call those efforts "mutual aid" because departments cannot afford to gear up for bigger events that happen infrequently. So when we need a little help we reach out to the surrounding departments and together we are all better. Thanks to Phil, Jesse, Ashton and Mark who staffed that effort over two days and thanks to Norm who met them when they came back every night to make sure the equipment was in good shape.

Would you like to join and be a part of the RCVFD? I had several folks approach me at the Festival to inquire about joining. It is really easy—just start coming to training nights at 7:00 PM at Station 1, 11835 Rist Canyon Road. We have fire training on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month and medical training on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. After attending a number of trainings and demonstrating some skills, you move from recruit to responder and we issue gear. We all carry pagers, but obviously everyone cannot respond all the time, so our strength is in building our team so we always have enough responders at any given call.

I almost hate to write this because then I will be proven wrong, but so far the Rist Canyon area has

11-9-00

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avoided any significant wildfires this year. The weather is getting cooler, but it is still bone dry out here. At our house, we have not measured any significant precipitation in over a month. So even though the County has lifted the fire ban, please be extra careful with any recreational burns (aka campfires) and any other potential ignition source.

Speaking of burns, it is that time of year when you can apply for a burn permit for slash pile burning this winter. The permit application process is easy — just go to the County website at:

## http://www.larimer.org/burnpermit/index.asp

Once you receive your permit, follow all the conditions for burning (minimum amount of snow on the ground, low winds, out by dark and notify your local fire department). You can notify the RCVFD of your plans to burn slash through our website at rcvfd.org under "Community Information".

I have been Chief of the RCVFD for nearly a year. I will admit it has been a daunting task at times—it is always hard to fill big shoes of the folks who came before you. However, the burden has been lightened by my fellow officers and responders and I am truly grateful for that. I want to give a shout out to all the RCVFD responders who respond to their pagers day and night—we have just had our 63<sup>rd</sup> call of the year making 2016 the busiest year for the department in terms of the number of calls (and it's only September). The vast majority of the calls are medical calls so we need to give extra thanks to the responders who take the extra step to achieve and retain their EMT certification. Finally, thanks to all of the members of the RCVFD community who help support the department in other ways—it takes all of your efforts to keep us going.

If you have any questions please email me at chief@rcvfd.org.

Carol Dollard
Chief, RCVFD

## 2016 Mountain Festival and Fine Art Auction

The day dawned with cloud cover and a light mist, but by Festival time the sun had arrived to greet volunteers and visitors. The beautiful weather heralded a fun and profitable day for our beloved fire department.

We had an awesome turn out of bands and entertainers, thanks to Jenn Nolte, On Stage Entertainment chair, that included the amazing talent of Colorado local folk band Rusty 44, the canyon's own great ABLE Band, bluegrass sounds of the Fort Collins Laramie River Band, the lovely and popular Rocky Mountain Belly Dancers, and the unique acapella talents of Curious Gage. Residents enjoyed the soothing tones of the local Lorna's Swingset band during the community dinner. Fish from Shaped Music Productions, LLC provided equipment and sound engineering. Huge shout out to Ron's Equipment for the use of a flatbed trailer for our stage.



Many thanks

- to Vicky
- Jordan, Jenn
- Nolte and Leisa
- Taylor for
- festival photos, •
- which you'll
- find throughout
- the Ristwatch!

Karen Steadman introduced us to a fabulous fundraiser, Gift Baskets! Visitors purchased tickets for \$1 apiece and placed them in jars to win one of the many, many gift baskets. Lucky participants went home with beautiful baskets full of artwork, tools, bath products, toys, libations and many other gifts donated by local businesses. Karen also sold RCVFD tee shirts and hoodies, which sold fast. The hoodies were especially popular and sold out by the end of the day. Tee shirts are still available for sale on our website, RCVFD. org.

Off-stage Entertainment Committee chair Victoria Jordan did a spectacular job organizing educational booths and fun activities for kids. There was lots to do that made the festival fun for families. Activities and booths included rock climbing, calf roping, fly fishing, mountain biking, chain saw maintenance, working with alpacas and an ecology center. Many children were in awe of the nine foot tall robots and



dinosaur! Our favorite face painter—Judy the Clown, was there, as well as V.I.P. visitor, Smokey Bear!

The Book Tent earned rave reviews for the ease of shopping, with fiction in alphabetical order by author, maps that helped buyers find the books they wanted and plenty of volunteers to help with checkout.

Thanks to all who donated all the yummy pies and baked goods this year for the Bake Sale Tent, run by Lisa Diederich. We had over 50 pies donated and sold out by 1:30 PM. We also had a wonderful variety of cookies, cakes, brownies and other goodies that included gluten free options. There was something for everyone. That's success!!! It was a terrific way to show our firefighters how much they mean to us and how very much we appreciate all that they do. What an honor it is to live in this community.

The food trucks offered a wide variety of food, and Shannon Shockley, Craft Booth chair, reported that the crafters were very happy that we have WiFi, so they can now accept credit cards! Sales were brisk and most crafters said they had a very successful day.

Ann Nichols, Plant Booth chair, has expanded to four tables of plants, ranging from tropicals for the home to perennials for the garden.

Art Auction chair Louise Creager brought April Freitag onboard to curate and organize a beautiful and diverse variety of artwork. Bob Coonts was our featured artist, and we had almost 50 pieces of art. Louise would like to thank all the volunteers who helped in the art tent.

All in all, we raised almost \$10,000, after expenses, for the fire department. It was another wonderful festival thanks to all the coordinators, chairs and

## 2016 Mountain Festival and Fine Art Auction, cont'd.

volunteers. We couldn't pull it off without all of your help, whether it was hanging banners, setting up Friday and Saturday, baking goodies, helping with the various tents or breaking everything down on Monday.

We are already looking at how to improve next year's festival. If you have any input, we would love to hear from you. We are still in need of a chairperson to oversee advertising and social media. I would love to involve the Marketing Department at CSU to give students a chance to help with a real event.

There is a lot of behind the scenes work that goes into making our main fundraiser a success. We can always find a way for you to contribute. Thank you for coming to the festival and supporting our volunteer fire department. We look forward to having our best Festival yet in 2017!

Tim Hollaman, Festival Coordinator festival coordinators@rcvfd.org















## Drone-fired peanut butter pellets: A government plan to save endangered ferrets

Black-footed ferrets are America's ferrets, the only ones native to this country—and they're in trouble. What better way to help save them than one of America's favorite contraptions, the drone?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to use unmanned aerial vehicles, more commonly known as drones, to rain peanut-butter pellets down on northeast Montana. The tasty ammunition is laced with a vaccine against the plague. The targets are prairie dogs that are commonly afflicted with the disease.

Getting those rodents to scarf down the drone-fired bait would keep them healthy, which in turn would

help the ferrets, because black-footed ferrets eat prairie dogs. Prairie dogs, in fact, make up 90 percent of the diet of the carnivorous ferrets, which also live inside the prairie dogs' old burrows. Black-footed ferrets are, in other words, entirely dependent on prairie dogs.

And keeping black-footed ferrets alive is a key mission for Fish and Wildlife,

whose literature charmingly refers to the animals as "BFFs." They're cute and oblong, with the face of a tiny badger, and they're among the most endangered species in the world. As Americans pushed West, prairie dog eradication programs, agriculture and development removed much of the ferrets' prey and habitat, and by 1987 just 18 of the little masked creatures remained.

They've since been captured, bred in captivity and reintroduced to more than two dozen spots in eight Western states, Canada and Mexico. But there still aren't many of them, and the flea-borne plague is a big threat. For years, Fish and Wildlife workers have squirted flea-killing powder—by hand—down into prairie dog burrows across the plains. But that's labor-intensive and inefficient, and there are signs the fleas might be developing a resistance, said Fish and Wildlife biologist Randy Matchett. Vaccinating the ferrets from the plague is also tough, because they live underground and are nocturnal.

Enter the peanut butter pellets—and the drones. Matchett has been hard at work developing the pellets, which encase a vaccine that has worked in lab trials and in small patches of the wild to protect prairie dogs from the plague. Now the

government wants to expand the trials to bigger, 1,000-acre areas. The idea is to head out in the early mornings, while ferrets are sleeping but prairie dogs are active, and drop a pellet every 30 feet. In tests, that rate has enticed 70 to 95 percent of prairie dogs to eat the bait (which Matchett said he knows because it tinted their whiskers pink).

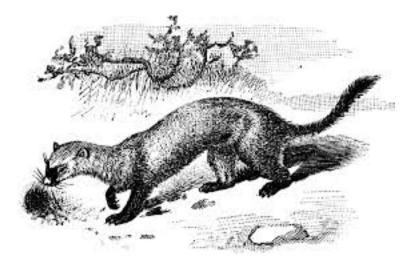
The pellets, by the way, are not M&Ms, as has been reported elsewhere, Matchett said. "We do not have an official candy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service," said an agency spokesman, Ryan Moehring. They are "more like a minimarshmallow," Matchett said.

But how to efficiently dispense them? Matchett has proposed testing two ideas at a national wildlife refuge in northeastern Montana: Strap a GPSsensing dispenser to a human-driven ATV that shoots a pellet left, right and down every 30 feet. Or strap the same sort of dispenser to a fixed-wing drone, which could be cheaper and speedier, treating two acres a minute, Matchett said. "You see

how the math and that velocity really get attractive," he said.

Matchett said he is working with a contractor to design the pellet-shooting drone, which he hopes will get a trial run later this summer. "I know nothing about drones, but he does," Matchett said. "And I've explained the requirements that we need, and he says, 'I can do that.' "Flea-killing spraying and ATVs will probably also remain in use, Moehring said. "This is conceptual and limited in scope," he said. "There is not an army of drones heading to the West."

Though the use of a drone would be novel, this is hardly the first time airdrops have been used for conservation. Among the most delightful examples actually involved airdropping the animals themselves. In the 1950s, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game rounded up beavers that were wreaking havoc on private property, packed them by twos into wooden boxes, attached them to parachutes and dropped them into remote areas where the toothy rodents' dam-building skills were needed.



## Drone-fired peanut butter pellets: A government plan to save endangered ferrets, cont'd.

As in the case of the ferrets, the paratrooper force grew out a need for efficiency: Previously, the beavers had been trapped, packed onto horses, driven by truck to a forest, then packed onto horses again and "subjected to more handling, heat and jolting," according to a 1950 article by the department's Elmo W. Heter, who devised the parachute plan.

In 2013, U.S. helicopters dropped 2,000 dead mice strapped to makeshift cardboard and tissue parachutes onto the forests of Guam. Their mission: Kill invasive brown tree snakes. The mice had been studded with acetaminophen, the painkiller in Tylenol, which is lethal to the snakes. The parachutes tangled mice in the trees, where they made perfect tree snake snacks.

In the 1970s and 1980s, tens of thousands of vaccine-stuffed chicken heads were airdropped on to the Swiss countryside to help rid foxes of rabies. These days, Texas every year launches what it calls an "aerial assault on rabies," by sending out planes to drop millions of little plastic packets of fishmeal-coated anti-rabies bait. The targets used to be coyotes and foxes; now they're also aimed at skunks. This method is used in several Eastern

states as well, where the Department of Agriculture has long dropped cubes of anti-rabies laced dog food to prevent raccoon rabies.

And then there's this bizarre, not-definitely-true example: In the 1950s, the World Health Organization just might have parachuted live cats into Borneo, where it was hoped they'd kill the rats that were spreading plague and typhus among people. The details are sketchy—it might have been just a few cats, or might have been 14,000, and they might have floated down in baskets, according to Patrick T. O'Shaugnessy, an Iowa professor who wrote about the operation for the American Journal of Public Health in 2008. He wrote, however, that the "basic components of the cat story seem to be true," and "although seemingly bizarre in nature, this method of delivery was not uncommon."

Back in Montana, Matchett says airplanes aren't quite right for the ferret mission, because the delivery must be precise, and therefore low-flying. "We're saving hoverboards for last," he said of his vaccine-distribution plan.

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## **Event Honored Richard Schmid's Contributions to Our Community**

On Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, a luncheon was held to honor Richard Schmid, titled "Richard Schmid and Nature", at the History Colorado Center. In addition to Richard, Nancy Guzik, Bettina Schmid and Molly Schmid were honored as special guests. The awards acknowledged and highlighted the support that Richard has graciously contributed to communities and organizations over the years.

RCVFD was honored to be a part of the awards program which included a presentation by Wes Rutt and Jon Stephens representing the RCVFD. The



presentation described the history of the "Richard Schmid Fine Art Auction" and the financial contribution the auction has made to the RCVFD for many years.

On behalf of the RCVFD a plaque with the following inscription was presented to Richard.

# RIST CANYON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD Presented to RICHARD SCHMID

for

## EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE

## Presented by the Colorado Mountain Communities of

Davis Ranch Stratton Park Whale Rock Stove Prairie Buckhorn Rist Canyon Paradise Park

In addition to the RCVFD presentation, Charles Money, Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy of Estes Park, presented Richard with an award of appreciation for his work benefiting the Conservancy. The luncheon also included a panel discussion with leading American artists Kathy Anderson, Scott Burdick, Quang Ho, Daniel J. Keys and Judy Stack. The panel discussed how Richard influenced their own art by articulating the value of painting nature directly from life.

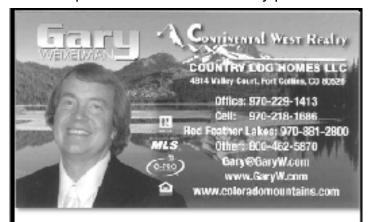
Kristen Thies of West Wind Fine Art, LLC, whom a number of you know, did a magnificent job curating and organizing the event. Also attending the event from the community were Inara Rudmanis, Gail Bratz, Nicki Rutt, Sue Stephens and Terry Carins.

## Wildlife Watch

## **Montane Forest**

The name "Montane Forest" is a very broad designation that applies to several different forest types that grow between about 6,000 and 9,000 feet in Colorado. Most of these are coniferous or mixed forest types.

Ponderosa Pine is typically the dominant tree from about 6000-8000 feet. It can be recognized at a great distance by its reddish bark, its long needles forming large ball-like clumps, its broad but sparse crown, and its tendency to form open forests in which the trees grow widely spaced. A few species of birds, such as Pygmy Nuthatch and Grace's Warbler, are so strongly associated with Ponderosa that they are rarely found away from it. Many other typical species include Bandtailed Pigeon, Flammulated Owl, Northern Sawwhet Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, Plumbeous Vireo, Western Bluebird, and Western Tanager. Mammals using Ponderosa include the uncommon and beautiful Abert's or Tasseleared Squirrel. Common understory plants



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include kinnikinnick, Oregon grape, lupine, and yarrow. The striking Western Pine Elfin is one of the most common butterflies.



Quaking

Aspen is one of Colorado's most unmistakable trees, especially considering that white birches do not occur in the state. Scattered individual aspens may grow in the ponderosa and lodgepole belts, or entire hillsides may be covered by pure stands, some of which may be the result of the vegetative spread of a single individual. Some of these huge interconnected aspen stands are considered the largest organisms in the world. Many species rely on cavities in aspens for nesting purposes, and therefore the wildlife watching tends to be best in the most mature groves-the ones where the trees have the largest diameter.

Many coniferous forests in the state contain a mix of several conifer species, especially Douglas-Fir, Blue Spruce, Limber Pine and Bristlecone Pine. Various montane birds may inhabit mixed-conifer forest, such as Rubycrowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Dusky and Hammond's Flycatchers, Black-headed Grosbeak, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, Dusky Grouse, and Brown Creeper. Elk, deer, bear, weasels, bobcats, and mountain lions may inhabit these forests, and flowers may include the calypso orchid, Jacob's ladder, and the state flower, Colorado blue columbine. (Reprinted from the CPW webpage. coloradobirdingtrail.com.)

For questions about wildlife, contact me at 970-692-1733, email chad.morgan@state.co.us, or at our Ft. Collins office, 970-472-4300.

Chad Morgan

District Wildlife Manager-Poudre District

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#### Buckhorn ~ Stove Prairie ~ Rist Canyon



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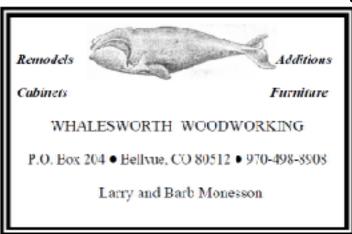
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## **Notes from Stove Prairie School**

From Debra Randol

In these last days of summer the kids have been playing with their grasshopper friends on the playground and watching our adorable nest of baby birds grow up and fly from their home. Our beautiful buck that enjoys our school during quiet summer breaks was here again for his fourth year, and has since returned to his winter home. We look forward to seeing him again next year!

#### **Preschool**

Preschool meets each morning, Monday through Thursday from 8-12. Three- and four-year-old children can attend. Right now, we have some space available. Call 488-6585 for more details.

#### Winter Festival

The PTO will host the annual Stove Prairie Winter Festival on **Saturday, December 3**, 10:00-4:00. Come see what the Festival has to offer:

- Local artisans provide unique shopping opportunities (Applications go out mid-October.) If you would like to rent a booth to sell your artwork or craft, contact Roxana at 221-2600.
- Students will sell their creations at Kids' Corner.
- Community members can help by providing homemade items and baked goods for the Country Store, where Stove Prairie t-shirts, Richard Schmid note cards and prints of the school are sold, or by renting a booth space (community members get first dibs), donating to the Silent Auction and by shopping on Festival Day.
- The parents have made another beautiful quilt to raffle. Quilt tickets will soon be available in your neighborhood. We hope you will have many chances to win! For tickets or information, call Tiffany Link at 484-3367. Soon we will post photos to the web site at: <a href="http://sto.psdschools.org/">http://sto.psdschools.org/</a>
- Silent Auction always offers a variety of special items on which to bid. If you have awesome items to donate to the Silent Auction, please contact Kim Whitin at 221-1168. Include some business cards or brochures with an item you donate to promote your business.

## Year-Round Fundraising in Partnership with Businesses

Thank you to the community members who help!

• King Soopers has a splendid deal where we can earn \$250 every time card reloads and orders amount to \$5,000, earnings at 5%. We keep them here at the school. First you buy a card for \$5, with that much loaded on the card already. (first hoop) Take it to the service deck at KS and load with amount you determine. (second hoop) Shop. Use your card to pay for your purchases and a percentage of the total will benefit our school.

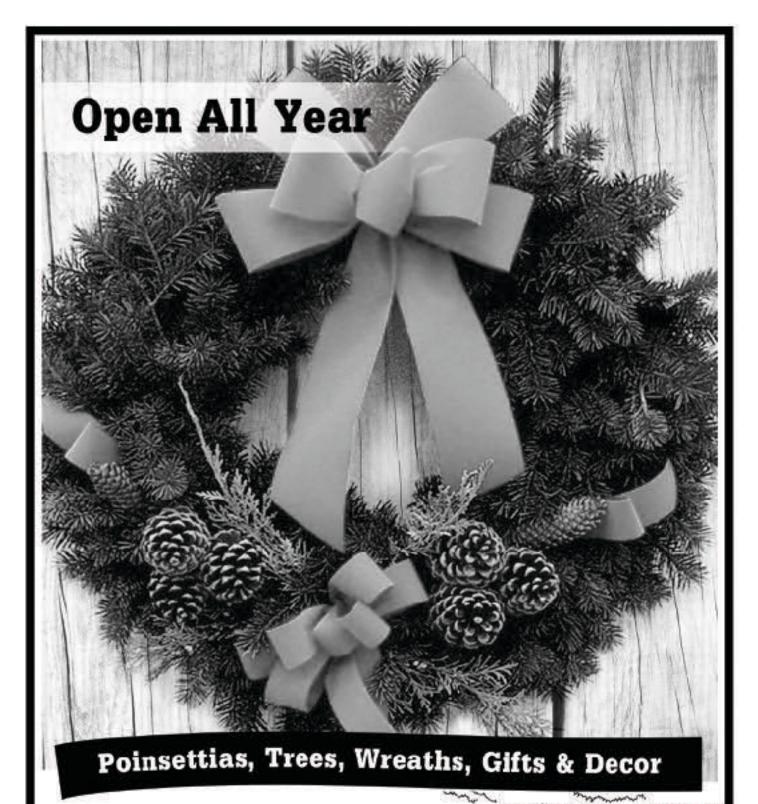
- (third hoop) ta dah! Thank you for helping the PTO make Stove Prairie a special place to attend school.
- Box Tops for Education are found on hundreds of your favorite products including Betty Crocker, Nestle, Ziploc, Avery, Hefty, Kleenex, Pillsbury, Green Giant, Land O Lakes, Hanes, Nature Valley, 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 <a href="www.btfe.com">www.btfe.com</a>. Hundreds of retailers will donate eBox Tops to our school with every qualifying \$10 purchase! The sky's the limit!

#### **Attendance Area**

The Stove Prairie attendance area extends from Davis Ranch Road to the west and from mile marker 19 in Buckhorn Canyon to the north at Poudre Canyon. Families who live outside of our attendance area and have young children who would like to attend Stove Prairie can do so under the School Choice rule in Poudre School District. School Choice forms can be submitted for the 2016-2017 school year by the end of January 2016. To apply, go online to: <a href="https://www.psdschools.org/academics/educational-choices">https://www.psdschools.org/academics/educational-choices</a> and choose your path to information and procedures.

Until next time, have a great fall! Deb Randol

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Open House

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## We Need You!

In the last Ristwatch I started a column for special, mostly one-time tasks that help keep the RCVFD strong. Not everyone can carry a pager, but many can do a special thing that frees up others for responses. Last month I asked for help rebuilding the fire danger sign at Whale Rock. Jeremy Lawson stepped up and is in the process of rebuilding the sign—many thanks for that.

This time I have one request.

• Grant Writing—as you know the RCVFD is a 501(c)3 non-profit and receives all of our funding through donations and grants. Grant opportunities pop up half a dozen times a year and we are always looking for someone to step up and take them on. Without a person dedicated to those efforts, sometimes opportunities slip by. In the past grants have proven to be a very efficient way to provide necessary resources to the RCVFD.

If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact me at <a href="mailto:chief@rcvfd.org">chief@rcvfd.org</a>.

Carol Dollard,

RCVFD Chief











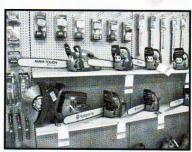


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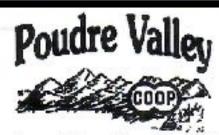
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Our fearless leader, Carol Dollard, sporting her Stove Prairie School shirt while working on a geometry lesson with husband, Harry Bates, during Festival setup on Saturday!



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Annual Festival Contact <a href="mailto:festivalcoordinators@rcvfd.org">festivalcoordinators@rcvfd.org</a>

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