

Colorado[®]

≡ COUNTRY LIFE

FEBRUARY 2024

A black-footed ferret is the central focus of the cover, standing in a snowy, outdoor environment. The ferret has a white face with dark brown markings around its eyes and a dark brown body. It is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a soft-focus snowfield.

**GAINING
GROUND**
for the
Black-Footed Ferret

COLORADO COUNTRY LIFE IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE COLORADO RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

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Colorado Country Life (USPS 469-400/ISSN 1090-2503) is published monthly by Colorado Rural Electric Association, 5400 Washington Street, Denver, CO 80216-1731. Periodical postage paid at Denver, Colorado. ©Copyright 2024, Colorado Rural Electric Association. Call for reprint rights.

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GET CO-OP CURIOUS

BY KYLEE COLEMAN EDITOR



KYLEE COLEMAN

It wasn't until I started working at CREA in 2017 that I really understood what it means to be an electric co-op member. And ironically enough, I had already been a member of an electric co-op for roughly 12 years. I knew we paid our electric bill to a different entity from Xcel, the investor-owned utility serving much of the Denver metro area, but that was the extent of my knowledge.

We moved off co-op lines in 2018, and I realize now that we missed out on great opportunities because we weren't curious enough about our energy provider.

But to be fair, who is? Maybe it's the bigger idea that we often take electricity for granted. Many of us don't *truly* know where it comes from and — to be honest — we don't think much about it until power is not working as we expect it to.

Your co-op employs people in your community — your friends, family, and neighbors work to keep the lights on. Its locally elected board of directors meets each month to make decisions about the future of the co-op.

Maybe you are connected with your co-op and are aware of all it does for your community. Or maybe you're like I was and couldn't even define "electric co-op."

Either way, take time this month to get curious about your local energy provider. Start by reading Your Co-op News on page 5 to learn what your co-op is doing. Poke around your co-op's website. Give them a call, and ask questions about how to make your home more energy efficient.

Better yet, co-op annual meetings are right around the corner. You, as a co-op member, are invited to attend the meeting and talk to the people behind your power. Make it a priority to go this year, and be sure to let me know what you learn about your co-op that you maybe didn't know before.

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MONTHLY GIVEAWAY

Enter to win a copy of Jessica Siskin's *Treat Yourself* cookbook. See page 10 for one of her sweetheart of a treat recipes.



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SEVERE COLD PACKS A PUNCH

A Statewide Viewpoint

BY KENT SINGER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I write this piece in mid-January, many parts of Colorado are experiencing significant snowfall and brutally cold weather. For some 80 hours, the temperatures east of the Continental Divide dipped below zero, and in many parts of eastern Colorado, the windchill hit the minus 30 degree mark.

Extreme weather is one example of a condition that can impact the resiliency of power grids. You might be surprised to learn that “resilience” isn’t exactly used to describe the major changes affecting electricity service. Instead, it’s about actionable steps electric utilities are taking to keep power flowing.

Although the terms “resiliency” and “reliability” are similar, reliability is a measure of electricity availability, while resiliency refers to the ability of electric grids to withstand stress.

More powerful and frequent natural disasters call for all electric utilities to learn new ways to do their job. These days, maintaining the power grid means planning for sudden and large-scale disruptions.

If you’re not sure what the difference is between “reliability” and “resilience,” you’re not alone. Even utilities can have slightly different definitions. But most tend to agree that grid resiliency is the ability to withstand and recover from disruptive events and to predict and adapt to ensure consumers have the reliable power they need in a time of new energy challenges.

A less-formal definition from the Future Electric Utility Regulation Advisory Group compares electric service to a boxing match: “Reliability is when you can take a punch. Resilience is how fast you get up off the canvas after you’ve been hit hard.”

While most of us can stay inside and avoid dangerous extreme weather conditions, there are many Coloradans whose occupations require them to brave the elements. Among these folks are the many ranchers, farmers, and truckers we depend on to keep the shelves in our stores stocked. It also includes the hundreds of utility workers who keep the electricity and natural gas flowing to light and heat our homes.

Electric co-op lineworkers are used to working in harsh conditions and at all times of the day and night, but working in heavy snow and bitter cold is especially difficult. Mechanical things that work reliably in milder weather are susceptible to breaking in cold weather; repairs to that equipment can be extremely difficult under those conditions. Lineworkers have to be ready to answer calls to restore outages in the middle of the night and during difficult travel situations.

Electricity is more important than ever to our daily lives. At the same time, severe weather can result in widespread outages that threaten the comfort and safety of



KENT SINGER

many co-op consumers. Electric co-ops are ready to get back up off the canvas quickly: They’re burying more power lines underground, and they’ve developed outage recovery plans that get the most essential services back online first.

And while there is always an urgency to restore power as soon as possible, especially in extreme weather conditions as we saw last month, the first priority of every Colorado co-op and every lineworker is the safety of their crews as they perform this important work. There are no shortcuts when it comes to safety. All lineworkers must follow the lifesaving safety rules, especially during extreme conditions.

Colorado co-op lineworkers, as well as all utility workers and others who keep us safe and warm during bitterly cold weather, deserve a special thanks from all of us. They are true heroes; please say “thanks” the next time you have a chance.



Photo courtesy of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association.

TIPS TO STAY WARM AND SAVE ENERGY

BY MIRANDA BOUTELLE

Q: My winter energy bills are typically higher. Can you offer advice on how to lower bills during colder months?

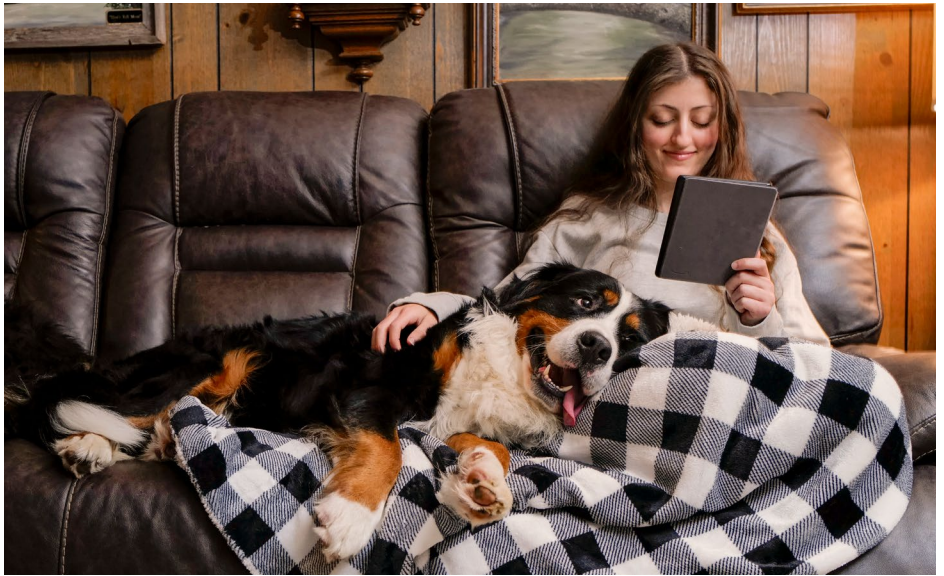
A: Cold weather can increase energy use and bills since heating accounts for the highest wintertime energy consumption in most homes. The amount of energy used to heat your home depends on your equipment, how you use it, and the efficiency of your home's shell — the building components that separate the indoors from the outdoors.

It's important to know how your home is heated so you can make informed decisions on your energy use. It also helps you prepare for upcoming bills and avoid surprises that impact your budget. A forced-air furnace is the most common type of heating system and is fueled by natural gas, propane, oil, or electricity. Heat pumps are growing in popularity and are available for forced-air systems. If you have a forced-air system, check the filter regularly and replace it when it's dirty. Ductless heat pumps, boilers, radiant heat, baseboard heaters, and electric resistance heaters are other common types of heating systems.

If you don't know what type of system you have, find the model number of your equipment and look it up online. You'll find information about the kind of system, how efficiently it operates, and recommendations for servicing it, which can improve system efficiency.

We use energy to make our homes comfortable. The easiest and lowest-cost way to save money on heating is to keep your thermostat as low as your comfort will allow.

The U.S. Department of Energy recommends a thermostat setting of 68 degrees in the winter while you are awake and lower when you are asleep or away from home. Keep in mind that setting the temperature too low can cause pipes to freeze.



▲ The easiest and lowest-cost way to save money on heating is to keep your thermostat as low as your comfort will allow. Adding a layer, slippers, a hat, or a lap dog can keep you comfortable in a cooler home. Photo by Mark Gilliland, Pioneer Utility Resources.

Adding an additional layer of clothing, slippers, or a hat can keep you comfortable in a cooler home.

Do you use electric resistance space heaters to heat a room or small section of your home? If so, you may see an increase on your electric bill. For example, let's say you use a 1,500-watt electric space heater to warm your living room while you watch TV or read a book. Operating that space heater for two hours each day at the U.S. average electricity rate of about 16 cents per kilowatt-hour will cost about \$15 per month. Operating that same space heater for 12 hours each day will cost about \$90 per month.

If you choose to use space heaters, use them safely. Keep them 3 feet away from anything flammable, do not leave them unattended, and plug them directly into the outlet — not an extension cord or power strip.

Just as we put on a windbreaker to keep cold winds from blowing through a sweater, your home also benefits from blocking air movement. Air-sealing can make a big improvement in the comfort of your home as well as provide energy savings. A common air sealing practice

is applying weatherstripping to exterior doors and windows. You can also seal around plumbing penetrations to help eliminate drafts. A gap often exists between the drywall or wood and the plumbing pipes and drains. Filling these gaps with expanding foam can reduce drafts in bathrooms and kitchens.

Cold, windy winter days are the perfect time to find opportunities for air sealing. Rattling doors or moving curtains can indicate air leakage. Air leakage can occur where two different materials come together, such as drywall and trim work. Cracked plaster and gaps in drywall can also cause drafts. Sealing the gaps saves energy and improves comfort.

As outdoor temperatures dip this winter, take a few proactive steps to maintain comfort in your home and keep your energy bill in check.

Miranda Boutelle is the chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy-efficiency company. She has more than 20 years of experience helping people save energy at home.



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A SWEET TREAT

Nothing says Valentine's Day like a heart-shaped box of chocolates.

This year, celebrate your love of the classic and make a crispy rice treat heart "box" you can eat right along with the chocolates themselves. Or gift one to your favorite Valentine — hopefully they will share it with you!

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Box of Chocolates Crispy Rice Treat

Here's what you'll need:

- 4 tbsp salted butter
- 6 c mini marshmallows
- 8 c crispy rice cereal
- 10 drops red food coloring
- White decorating icing
- Red decorating icing
- Gold food spray

1 heart template (Draw or print out a basic heart shape that's approximately 10 inches wide and 8 inches tall, and place it under a sheet of parchment paper. Do not put any food directly on the template.)

NOTE: Gather all ingredients and supplies before you start, as this recipe comes together rather quickly. You don't want your crispy treat to harden before you are able to shape it into a heart.

Make the Crispy Treat:

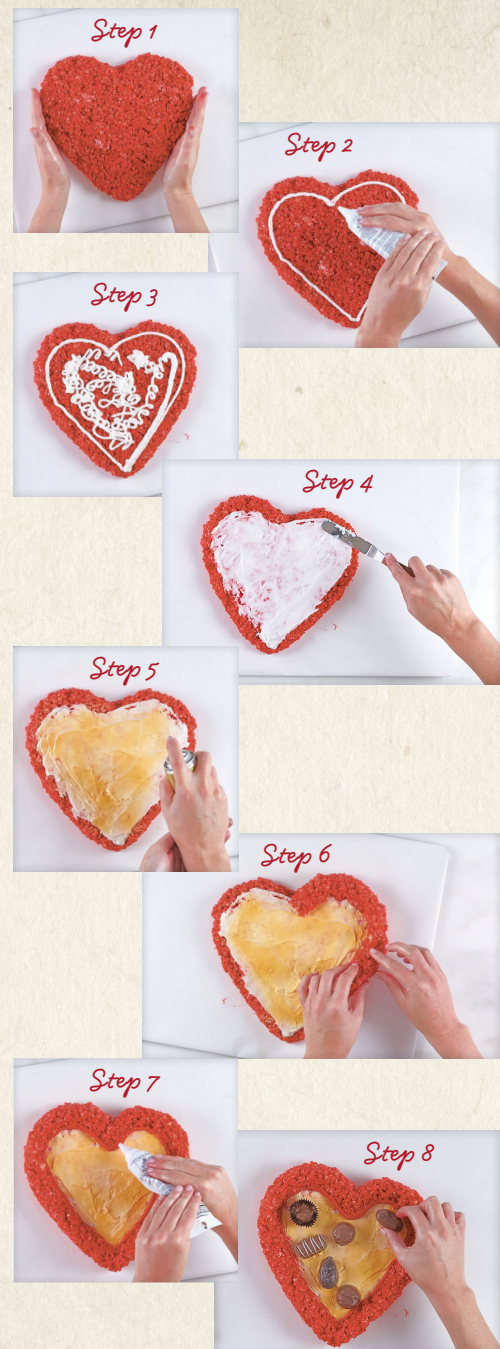
1. In a large, nonstick stockpot, melt butter over low heat until it's 80% melted, about 1 minute, 20 seconds. Note: If the butter begins to sizzle, lower the heat. It should melt very slowly.
2. Add the mini marshmallows, and stir gently with a silicon spatula, coating them with melted butter, about 30 seconds.
3. When the marshmallows are about 80% melted (when you can still see the individual marshmallow shapes but they are beginning to run together), add the food coloring. Stir for another 15 seconds and then turn off the heat.
4. Stir gently until the color is well distributed but the marshmallows are still only about 80% melted, about 35 seconds. (You should still be able to identify individual pieces within the melted ones.) It's important to work quickly and keep your eye on the pot.

The marshmallows should never become liquid. Note: If the marshmallows melt too much, the mixture will be too hot to handle—wait 1–2 minutes and then mold quickly!

5. Add the cereal and mix well, until the marshmallows and cereal are fully combined, about 40 seconds. Do not overmix.

Make the Box of Chocolates:

1. Pour about 90% of the crispy treat mixture onto the parchment-covered heart template on the work surface, reserving the rest in the pot. Generously coat your hands with cooking spray. Use both hands to mold the mixture over the template, smoothing the edges until the mixture begins to firm up into the heart shape.
2. Working quickly so the remaining mixture doesn't harden too much, use white icing with a round tip to draw a line around the perimeter of the heart, about 1 inch from the edge.
3. Draw squiggles inside the heart outline with the icing.
4. Use an offset spatula to spread the icing until it's smooth.
5. Using the gold food spray, spray over the white icing.
6. Remove the reserved mixture from the pot and place it on the treat, molding it to create a 1-inch-high raised border around the edges of the heart, covering the edge of the iced area.
7. Using red decorator icing with a round tip, line the seam where the bottom of the box and the border meet.
8. Place the chocolates on the gold area.



Excerpted from *Treat Yourself* by Jessica Siskin Workman Publishing Copyright © 2017. Photographs by Evi Abeler.

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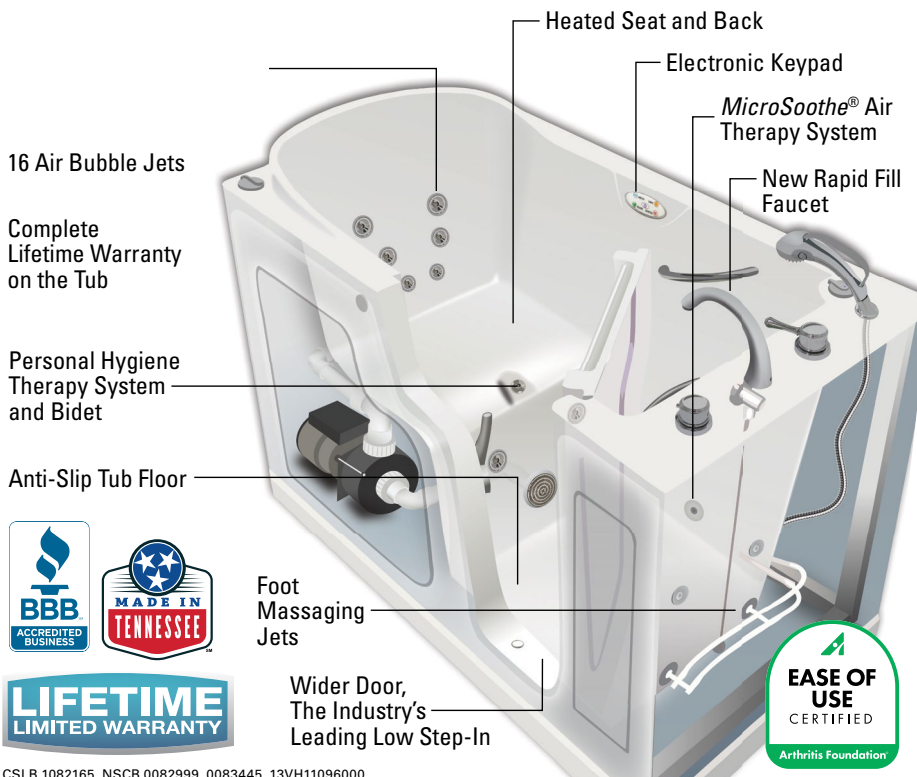


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GAINING GROUND

for the Black-Footed Ferret

BY BECKY JENSEN

On a blustery day in early November, a school bus lumbers through a private gate and down a dusty two-track road on Walker Ranch in Pueblo County. With a whoosh of its air brakes, it comes to a halt.

“Here come our helpers,” says Ed Schmal, southeast region wildlife biologist with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Schmal, who manages black-footed ferret recovery on the ranch, walks over to greet the children.

Fifty fourth grade students from Morton Elementary School in Pueblo pour out of the bus and into the fresh air and sunshine. The kids talk nonstop, excited to see the most endangered mammal in North America. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — which oversees the nationwide breeding, protection, and reintroduction of the black-footed ferret — has invited the local students to help release a few into the wild. It’s a rare opportunity.

BACK FROM THE BRINK

Black-footed ferrets, the only ferret native to the Americas, thrived for 100,000 years across the Great Plains between Canada and Mexico. When European settlers arrived in the 1800s, they brought new diseases, plowed through grasslands, and began poisoning the ferret’s primary

source of food and shelter: the prairie dog. According to USFWS, there may have been as many as one million black-footed ferrets in the late 1800s. But by the end of the 1970s, the species was presumed extinct.

By some miracle in 1981, a colony of 129 ferrets was discovered on a ranch near Meeteetse, Wyoming, giving biologists a second chance to save the Lazarus species. But sylvatic plague and canine distemper quickly decimated the wild ferret’s numbers, once again threatening the small carnivore with extinction.

Scientists captured the remaining ferrets, and thanks to efforts led by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, USFWS, and other partners, seven of the Meeteetse survivors were able to reproduce in captivity. The Magnificent Seven became the founding mothers and fathers of all future generations of black-footed ferrets in the world.

An estimated 300–500 black-footed ferrets live in the wild today, and Colorado is one of eight Western states bringing the federally protected species back to its historic geographic range. Of the 34 reintroduction sites between Arizona and Montana, nine are in Colorado. The release at Walker Ranch will add 13 more ferrets to the wild population.

THE KEY TO RECOVERY

“Collaboration is key,” says Justin Chuvén, recovery program coordinator for the USFWS National Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center near Fort Collins. Founded in 2001, the Colorado facility is the largest of six captive-breeding programs in North America, which includes five zoos. “Black-footed ferret recovery would not be possible without the partnership of tribal, state, and federal agencies, private landowners, multiple zoos, nonprofits, and more,” he says. “There’s no way that we, or any other single entity, could do it on our own.”

Ferret recovery in Colorado also involves the U.S. Army, Colorado Cattleman’s Association, City of Fort Collins Natural Areas, grazing associations, universities, and land trusts, among many other entities.

Because the majority of land in Colorado is privately owned, Schmal says that ferret recovery would be nearly impossible without the cooperation of private landowners.

“Ranchers are some of the best conservationists out there, and some of the most important partners we have at Colorado Parks and Wildlife,” Schmal says. He points to the owners of Walker Ranch as

◀ Morton Elementary students eagerly volunteer when Justin Chuyen (center) of the USFWS National Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center asks someone to carry a cage. Photo by Becky Jensen.

good examples. “Gary and Georgia are just amazing people. They have this land ethic, this conservation ethic, that drives everything they do. That’s why we have such large open spaces around our community for wildlife.”

VITAL ROLE OF PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

At nearly 80,000 acres of shortgrass prairie, Walker Ranch sprawls across western Pueblo and eastern Fremont counties. It’s a working cow-calf operation run by husband and wife Gary and Georgia Walker — the first private landowners in Colorado to allow the reintroduction of black-footed ferrets on their property.

Gary Walker has worked this land for 60 years. He and his wife bought the family ranch in 1994 and nearly tripled its acreage over time. Out of all the properties they could have purchased, the Walkers chose the historically overpoached and overgrazed land west of Pueblo. “It needed us the most. It needed us to fix it.”

In the early days of owning the ranch, native elk, deer, turkey, and bighorn sheep populations were nonexistent. “Things were out of balance,” Gary says of the ecosystem, a fact that troubled him deeply. “Any rancher worth his salt cares about the health of the land.”

When it comes to prairie dogs, however, the Walkers have never been fans. Although most ecologists would disagree, many ranchers believe that prairie dogs take prime forage away from cattle, and take shortgrass prairies down to where it can’t recover.

Prairie dog burrows, like hollow booby traps, can also cause serious injury. One day, while moving cattle across a pasture, Gary’s quarter horse plunged through a burrow and fell hard, crushing him. The rancher suffered 30 fractures, including a broken back and collarbone. His recovery was long and painful.

“Do I love prairie dogs? No. But I love black-footed ferrets and other wildlife more,” he says, knowing a healthy prairie dog population is key to a healthier wildlife population in general, including raptors, swift foxes, songbirds, burrowing owls, and others. “I protect the [prairie] dogs to protect it all.”

Today on Walker Ranch, more than 3,000 acres for prairie dogs are protected under a voluntary safe harbor agreement with the USFWS, and 170 black-footed ferrets have been released there since 2013. By doing so, Gary and Georgia are eligible for ferret-related financial incentives provided by CPW and the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service. But it’s not about money for the Walkers. The greatest reward, Gary says, is how good it makes him feel to restore balance to the landscape. “We’re trying to do the right thing for this land,” Gary says, proud to bring a natural predator of the prairie dog back to the ranch. Because of the family’s life-long commitment to conservation, Walker Ranch is once again home to large herds of elk, deer, pronghorn,

and bighorn sheep, flocks of wild turkeys, and a growing population of critically endangered black-footed ferrets.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

“The greatest threat to the ferret is sylvatic plague,” Schmal says without hesitation. The deadly exotic disease, spread by fleas, can wipe out entire colonies of prairie dogs and ferrets in a matter of weeks.

Twice each year, Schmal and his team dust active burrows for fleas, and they bait the prairie dogs with tasty oral vaccine pellets to combat the plague.

Before releasing new ferrets, biologists vaccinate and microchip them for future monitoring. But just because a ferret is chipped doesn’t make it easy to track. Ferrets are solitary, nocturnal creatures that live mostly underground. Current chip readers — rings placed over burrow holes — can only count animals that exit a tunnel through the ring. It’s a matter of chance, making it tough to gather accurate headcounts.

Surveying the health and activity of ferrets also means countless cold, dark nights of spotlighting from trucks in the hope of seeing that distinctive emerald-green eyeshine. Spotting wild kits is a major sign of success, but vaccinations don’t transfer from the captive-bred parent, so biologists need to catch, chip, and vaccinate wild-born kits. To make the job even harder, ferrets are notoriously trap-shy.

To help biologists do their job more efficiently, scent dogs are being trained to find ferrets in the field. In an effort to save money, CPW pioneered a more affordable technique for mass-producing oral vaccine pellets. And to make distributing the pellets easier, the USFWS and the World



“ I love seeing the smiles on their faces, hearing their laughter, hearing them talk about it. Any chance we get to bring kids out into the natural world, and help them see what’s happening, that’s how we create the next generation of conservationists. This is where it starts.” — Ed Schmal, CPW

◀ Morton Elementary students release a ferret under the close supervision of Justin Chuyen with USFWS. Photo by Becky Jensen.

Wildlife Fund are developing faster delivery methods, including the use of drones and ATVs. According to Schmal, scientists at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute are working to replace ring readers with remote GPS satellite monitoring capabilities, an eagerly anticipated next-gen technology.

Scientists are also addressing the ferret's genetic diversity conundrum through cutting-edge research. With the proven ability to clone ferrets, the USFWS and its partner zoos are working toward diversifying the gene pool to reduce the risk of inbreeding.

FERRETING OUT A FUTURE

Back on Walker Ranch, the fourth graders whoop and holler as they run up and over a small hill. The chilly wind is picking up, and they return with rosy cheeks. This wide-open landscape is the perfect place for kids to stretch their growing legs and release energy. Walker Ranch is the perfect place to release the young black-footed ferrets, too.

Schmal gazes across a sea of dormant grasses and shrubs toward the distant horizon. "It may not look like it's a very rich environment for wildlife, but when you get out there and start looking around, it's incredibly rich," he says. "There's so much life out there. It's just phenomenal."

Chuyen and his team arrive from the National Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center located 200 miles north. It's been a long drive. They open the back of their government vehicle, revealing 13 pet carriers holding captive-bred ferrets. Each animal graduated from a 30-day preconditioning program at the facility, having to prove, among other things, they could hunt live prey.

The children, once boisterous with excitement, now hush one another so they can hear the ferret's distinct chatter. The animals poke curious noses through their cage doors.

CPW and USFWS biologists lead smaller groups of students to the prairie dog burrows preselected by Schmal. In each group, one student hauls a ferret cage. Another carries a long, protective leather glove. A third

volunteer pinches a blue surgical glove between their index finger and thumb. Inside is a dead hamster, the ferret's last free meal.

In Chuyen's group, the kids gather around an active prairie dog burrow hole, but not too closely. A young girl slides her hand into the massive leather glove, which swallows her entire arm. Proportional to their body size, ferrets have the largest canines of any mammal in North America — the glove is mandatory safety equipment. She unlocks the door of the carrier and holds it open. Chuyen removes some of the nesting material and tilts the cage forward. The kids hold their breath.

A shy black-footed ferret, fully grown at 2 pounds, finally pokes its small, masked face through the open door. It looks around the circle of kids for a few seconds, sniffs the air, then darts down the tunnel into its new home.

The teacher corrals her students, reminding them to thank the biologists before heading back toward the ranch gate. The kids skip across the open prairie, kicking up dust. With animated faces and hands, they relive favorite parts of the day with their classmates as they climb aboard the waiting bus.

"I love seeing the smiles on their faces, hearing their laughter, hearing them talk about it," Schmal says. "Any chance we get to bring kids out into the natural world, and help them see what's happening, that's how we create the next generation of conservationists. This is where it starts."

When asked about the future of the black-footed ferret, Chuyen is optimistic. "There are many people dedicating their lives to solving the problems that challenge this animal's recovery," he says. "It's going to take a lot more effort, and many more years, but this is a story of success. It's a reason for hope."

Becky Jensen is a writer and podcast contributor who lives and works in a little cabin on a big river in Northern Colorado. She's a former farm girl turned mountain mama and a proud member of Poudre Valley REA. You can find her at beckyjensenwrites.com.



Georgia and Gary Walker, owners of Walker Ranch, help during an earlier ferret release. Photo courtesy of Gary Walker.



Ranchers are some of the best conservationists out there, and some of the most important partners we have at Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Gary and Georgia are just amazing people. They have this land ethic, this conservation ethic, that drives everything they do. That's why we have such large open spaces around our community for wildlife." — Ed Schmal, CPW



Photo by Justin Chuyen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center.

Will This Strange Antarctic Squid Solve America's Memory Crisis?

New Deep Sea Discovery Proven to Be The #1 Natural Enhancer of Memory and Focus

Half a mile beneath the icy waters off the coast of Argentina lives one of the most remarkable creatures in the world.

Fully grown, they're less than 2 feet long and weigh under 10 pounds...

But despite their small size, this strange little squid can have a bigger positive impact on your brain health than any other species on the planet.

They are the single richest source of a vital "brain food" that 250 million Americans are starving for, according to a study published in the British Medical Journal.

It's a safe, natural compound called DHA - one of the building blocks of your brain. It helps children grow their brains significantly bigger during development. And in adults, it protects brain cells from dying as they get older.

Because DHA is so important, lacking enough of it is not only dangerous to your overall health but could be directly related to your brain shrinking with age.

With more than 16 million Americans suffering from age-associated cognitive impairment, it's clear to a top US doctor that's where the problem lies.

Regenerative medicine specialist Dr. Al Sears, says thankfully, "there's still hope for seniors. Getting more of this vital brain food can make a life changing difference for your mental clarity, focus, and memory."

Dr. Sears, a highly-acclaimed, board-certified doctor— who has published more than 500 studies and written 4 bestselling books — says we should be able to get enough DHA in our diets... but we don't anymore.

"For thousands of years, fish were a great natural source of DHA. But due to industrial fish farming practices, the fish we eat and the fish oils you see at the store are no longer as nutrient-dense as they once were," he explains.

DHA is backed by hundreds of studies for supporting razor sharp focus, extraordinary mental clarity, and a lightning quick memory... especially in seniors.

So, if you're struggling with focus, mental clarity, or memory as you get older...

Dr. Sears recommends a different approach.

THE SECRET TO A LASTING MEMORY

Research has shown that our paleo ancestors were able to grow bigger and smarter brains by eating foods rich in one ingredient — DHA.

"Our hippocampus thrives off DHA and grows because of it," explains Dr. Sears. "Without DHA, our brains would shrink, and our memories would quickly fade."

A groundbreaking study from the University of Alberta confirmed this. Animals given a diet rich in DHA saw a 29% boost in their hippocampus — the part of the brain responsible for learning and memory. As a result, these animals became smarter.

Another study on more than 1,500 seniors found that those whose brains were deficient in DHA had significantly smaller brains — a characteristic of accelerated aging and weakened memory.

PEOPLE'S BRAINS ARE SHRINKING AND THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW IT

Dr. Sears uncovered that sometime during the 1990s, fish farmers stopped giving their animals a natural, DHA-rich diet and began feeding them a diet that was 70% vegetarian.

"It became expensive for farmers to feed fish what they'd eat in the wild," explains Dr. Sears. "But in order to produce DHA, fish need to eat a natural, marine diet, like the one they'd eat in the wild."

"Since fish farmers are depriving these animals of their natural diet, DHA is almost nonexistent in the oils they produce."

"And since more than 80% of fish oil comes from farms, it's no wonder the country is experiencing a memory crisis. Most people's brains are shrinking and they don't even know it."

So, what can people do to improve their memory and brain function in the most effective way possible?



MEMORY-RESTORING SENSATION: The memory-saving oil in this Antarctic squid restores decades of lost brain power starting in just 24 hours.

Dr. Sears says, "Find a quality DHA supplement that doesn't come from a farmed source. That will protect your brain cells and the functions they serve well into old age."

Dr. Sears and his team worked tirelessly for over 2 years developing a unique brain-boosting formula called **Omega Rejuvenol**.

It's made from the most powerful source of DHA in the ocean, squid and krill — two species that cannot be farmed.

According to Dr. Sears, these are the purest and most potent sources of DHA in the world, because they haven't been tampered with. "**Omega Rejuvenol** is sourced from the most sustainable fishery in Antarctica. You won't find this oil in any stores."

MORE IMPRESSIVE RESULTS

Already, the formula has sold more than 850,000 bottles. And for a good reason, too. Satisfied customers can't stop raving about the memory-boosting benefits of quality-sourced DHA oil.

"The first time I took it, I was amazed. The brain fog I struggled with for years was gone within 24 hours. The next day, I woke up with the energy and mental clarity of a new man," says Owen R.

"I remember what it was like before I started taking **Omega Rejuvenol**... the lack of focus... the dull moods... the slippery memory... but now my mind is as clear as it's ever been," says Estelle H.

"My mood and focus are at an all-time high. I've always had trouble concentrating, and now I think I know why," raves Bernice J. "The difference that **Omega Rejuvenol** makes couldn't be more noticeable."

And 70-year-old Mark K. says, "My focus and memory are back to age-30 levels."

These are just a handful of the thousands of reviews Dr. Sears regularly receives thanks to his breakthrough memory formula, **Omega Rejuvenol**.

WHERE TO FIND OMEGA REJUVENOL

To secure bottles of this brain-booster, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-440-6192**. "It takes time to manufacture these bottles," says Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship the product directly to customers who need it most."

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about this product, he is offering a 100%, money-back guarantee on every order. "Send back any used or unused bottles within 90 days and I'll rush you a refund," says Dr. Sears.

The Hotline is taking orders for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number may be shut down to allow for inventory restocking.

Call **1-800-440-6192** to secure your limited supply of **Omega Rejuvenol**. Readers of this publication immediately qualify for a steep discount, but supplies are limited. To take advantage of this great offer use Promo Code **COOM224** when you call.

CSU Receives Funding for Inertial Fusion Research Hub

The process that powers the sun and stars — fusion — could be key to providing reliable, sustainable, and noncarbon-emitting energy. Inertial fusion energy uses powerful lasers to heat a small target containing fusible material.

IFE received a boost of funding in December 2023. The U.S. Department of Energy announced it will fund a program to establish multi-institution and multidisciplinary hubs to advance laser-driven inertial fusion energy science and technology research. The hub will be headquartered at Colorado State University in Fort Collins

At November’s CREA Energy Innovations Summit, researchers and pioneers in the field — Felicie Albert, Jeffrey King, and Zabrina Johal — presented their work on fusion and the “future of energy.” Explaining her work at the Livermore National Laboratory, Albert spoke about the December 2022 breakthrough at the National Ignition Facility. NIF produced 3.14 megajoules of fusion output by focusing on 2.05 MJ of laser light to heat a small target containing fusible material. According to LaserNetUS, lasers are expected to play a pivotal part in the fusion process.

Researchers at CSU will work to upgrade its high-efficiency lasers system from one to two petawatts.



Electric Co-ops Prepare for Extreme Weather

Power outages are unavoidable for any utility, especially this time of year. From the earliest days of electricity, weather has presented the biggest challenges to reliability and safety. Severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, heat waves, heavy snowfalls, flooding, and wind events have long put power lines and Colorado’s electric co-op crews to the test.

If you’ve thought storm events seem to be more frequent and more intense these days, you’re not wrong. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which tracks weather and climate disasters, reported an annual average of 18 such events between 2018 and 2022. That compares to an average of just 8.1 major disasters per year from 1980 to 2017.

Electric co-ops diligently work to prepare for these intense weather events to make sure their co-op members have reliable — and safe — electricity. Co-ops are also taking steps to prevent damage from happening in the first place.

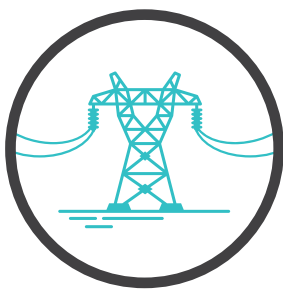
For example, you may have noticed your co-op’s emphasis on tree trimming and other vegetation management strategies. Keeping trees and branches at a safe distance from power lines reduces the potential for heavy snow or wind-related outages. Co-ops also keep an eye on poles and install more durable replacements when necessary.

It’s a smart idea to plan and prepare for outages by keeping up with weather forecasts. Now is a great time to prepare an emergency kit with outage essentials, such as flashlights, extra batteries, water bottles, and a nonperishable food supply. If you rely on electric life support equipment, make plans for power outages. If you have special medical equipment at home, such as a respirator, CPAP machine, or an insulin pump, consider purchasing a backup generator to power or charge those devices. Always have contingency plans in place.

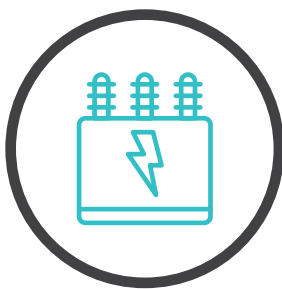
Considering the impact of potential weather disasters and implementing steps to prevent damage are examples of your electric cooperative’s dedication to making sure your power is always ready when you need it most. And despite the unpredictable challenges caused by extreme winter weather, dedicated co-op crews and dispatch staff work until power is fully restored to their members.

Steps to Restoring Power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the safest way and shortest time possible.



1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines
These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.



2. Distribution Substations
Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.



3. Main Distribution Lines
Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.



4. Individual Homes and Businesses
After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.



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Looking to comfortably heat your home this winter while being more efficient, environmentally friendly, and still save money? Consider a high-efficiency heat pump!

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+ IMPROVES YOUR HOME'S AIR QUALITY

Natural gas and propane furnaces generate heat by burning a mixture of fossil-fuel and air. Heat pumps don't use combustible fuel to create heat which eliminates potential exposure to dangerous combustion byproducts such as carbon monoxide.

+ SAVES MONEY COMPARED TO ELECTRIC BASEBOARD HEAT OR PROPANE FURNACES

A heat pump can transfer up to 300% more energy than it consumes, compared to a high-efficiency propane furnace's 95% rating. Because of this, electric heat pumps can also save substantially on fuel consumption.

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Indoor Herb Gardening

BY VICKI SPENCER MASTER GARDENER | GARDENING@COLORADOCOUNTRYLIFE.ORG

In *The Herb Gardening Handbook*, Andrew Perry captures the essence of gardening when he states, “There is something incredibly rewarding and relaxing about the gentle, rhythmic nature of growing.” This is emphasized by daily observations of indoor herb gardens.

Fortunately for the novice, herb gardens are a low-risk way to learn edible gardening. You can begin with seeds, cuttings, or seedlings. Seedlings provide the most immediate reward as you don’t have to wait before clipping a few sprigs from your plants to embellish recipes.

Herbs prefer consistent moisture, but too much water turns leaves yellow and rots roots. Herbs grow best in containers with drainage holes and saucers that protect surfaces underneath. If you want to experiment with solid containers, such as Mason jars, place pebbles in the bottom to collect excess water.

Ideally most herbs grown indoors should be placed in south-facing windowsills. Growth is slower in north-facing windows, in the middle of a room, and during winter when daylight is limited. Thankfully, modern technology helps compensate for less than ideal conditions.

Aerogarden’s hydroponic kit is compact enough for a window ledge. It includes six herb seed pods, liquid plant nutrients, a full-spectrum grow light, and an indicator reminding when to add water or plant food. Click and Grow’s Smart Garden 3, with three pods, is designed for households that don’t use lots of herbs, and it has an extension arm that raises lights as plants grow. No windowsills? No problem. Garden Therapy offers a unique kit with six different types of seeds, planters that stick directly to window glass, and a marker to write herb names on the window.

Basil, cilantro, chives, chervil, parsley, rosemary, bay laurel, mint, oregano, sage, thyme, and lemongrass are among the easiest herbs to grow. Encourage productive growth by harvesting them on a regular basis. Pinch leaves off, or use kitchen shears. If you notice long, woody stems, cut back the top third of the plant. But don’t remove more than a quarter of the plant at once as it could cause distress and kill the plant.

Unfortunately, indoor herb plants won’t last forever. Eventually they outgrow their containers or become root bound and need to be repotted or transplanted outdoors. Perennial herbs such as lavender,

mint, oregano, and sage can be planted in the ground after any threat of frost. Pots of annual herbs — including basil — can be moved outdoors until the end of the growing season, then brought back inside as cold weather approaches. Beware of bringing pests indoors too. To avoid this risk, leave perennials outdoors and grow new indoor herbs each year. Or grow insect-detering herbs such as mint, basil, lavender, chives, and rosemary.

Indoor herb gardens add greenery and fragrance to your home while making cooking more convenient. No more last-minute trips to the store for recipes that call for fresh herbs. No more waste when herbs come in large bundles but you only need a pinch. Simply enjoy the pleasure of cooking with fresh herbs at your fingertips.

Master Gardener Vicki Spencer has an eclectic background in conservation, water, natural resources, and more.



LEARN MORE ONLINE

Read previous gardening columns at www.coloradocountrylife.coop. Click on Gardening under Living in Colorado.

“96% of Burning, Tingling Leg & Foot Pain Rubbed Out On the *First Dose* of My New Remedy Reveals Harvard Doctor”

Never in the world did I think a Harvard doctor would say my remedy is the only one that worked for his 96% of patients. All I did was create a natural remedy I hoped would help my wife’s foot and leg pain.

By Alex Collins, Inventor

I’m in 7th heaven after reading this...! Harvard trained Dr Eric Wood says, “Now I finally have a natural solution I can recommend to my patients who suffer from leg and foot problems with pain. I’m delighted because previous treatments were not effective, but Neuroflo worked for *every one* of my patients without side effects.”

I created Neuroflo and I’m thrilled to tell you about it! My remedy doesn’t cost a lot, you don’t need a prescription, and 6 blue-chip, clinical studies *verified* its effectiveness. Imagine for a moment if you could...

- Go to sleep and wake up without throbbing pain
- Sooth the tiny nerves in your extremities that *directly* cause pain
- Get the feeling back in your feet, hands and legs
- Increase your blood flow to your hands, legs and feet
- Improve your finger strength—open any jar in seconds

MY SECRET: Science UNLOCKED The Amazing Power Plants Have to Stay Healthy and Repair Themselves

Plants are the healthiest life forms in the world. They stay this way without medicines of any kind. Finally understanding how they repair themselves helped scientists develop this all-natural, self-healing

treatments for you and me. We have this miracle from plant life to thank for it.

This God-given gift from nature can now help us all. You can now find this breakthrough “Plant Secret” solution in a new formula under the brand name Neuroflo. The all-natural ingredients in this breakthrough have been shown in six blue-chip, placebo-controlled medical studies involving 543 participants to be effective and safe.

Your Neuropathy, Swollen Legs and Feet, Edema, Chronic Venous Insufficiency (CVI) and Other Problems Can Now Be Conquered

Now you *don’t* need drugs with horrible side-effects. The 8 scientifically selected, all-natural ingredients in Neuroflo work by helping to repair your most distressed cells—just like plants do—helping to strengthen your arteries and increase strong blood flow.

The ingredients in Neuroflo improve your circulation so rich oxygen-filled blood gets to your damaged nerves and repairs them. This almost eliminates your pain. Oxygen-starved nerves in your hands, legs and feet is the major cause of your painful condition.

You’ll quickly experience a new sense of wellbeing when your hands, legs and feet become more nimble and warmer, letting you feel them again. Even the *slightest* decrease in blood flow sets off the stinging, aching, swelling and coldness.

“A Stunning 95% Reduction in LEG SWELLING, Verified in Clinical Study”

Says Dove Medical Press & Development and Therapy



“God bless this remedy.”

...meaning, discomfort, water retention, leg swelling, tiredness and circulation improved in 95% of test subjects.

Swollen legs are a warning sign. They mean blood and fluid is forced out of the blood vessels into the surrounding tissue. This causes non-stop pain. This is where Neuroflo’s active ingredient is such a big help.

Life Can Be a Lot of Fun Again Once Your Aches and Pains Are Gone

What if I told you that it *really* is possible to make every day the kind of day you can celebrate your life and good health?

By increasing blood flow through your body...banishing the throbbing pain in your hands, legs and feet...staying in a good mood...**retaining more energy** and healthy muscle function...and **kick-up-your-heels vitality**...*It’s not too much to ask with Neuroflo.* Here’s your next step...

I’m proud to say that **this is the official release of NeuroFlo for Colorado Country Life readers. Everyone who calls within the next 10 days will receive 50% OFF their first order.** A toll-free hotline number has been set up for local readers to call for this 50% OFF savings. The number will be open starting at 7:00 am today and only for the next 10 days.

All you have to do is CALL TOLL-FREE 1-877-418-9161 and provide the operator with the special discount approval code: **NEF158. It works for you or it FREE.**

Very Important: Due to Neuroflo’s popularity and media exposure on ABC, CBS and FOX NEWS, please give us a call *right now.* Our friendly operators are standing by. We’re open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Those who miss the 10-day deadline for up to 50% OFF will have to pay more for Neuroflo. **Act now—this offer may NOT be repeated!**

Meet My 8 Magical Ingredients Could Take Away Your Persistent, Stinging Pain That *Never* Seems to Go Away...

These 8 ingredients were chosen for their clinically-tested power to help support your cells in the same full-force way nature does for plants:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Ruscus aculeatus | 6. Aesculus hippocastanum |
| 2. Diosim | 7. Ginger root |
| 3. Crataegus | 8. Cayenne pepper |
| 4. L-arginine | |
| 5. Niacin | |

Harvard-trained doctor says it “works for every one of my patients.”



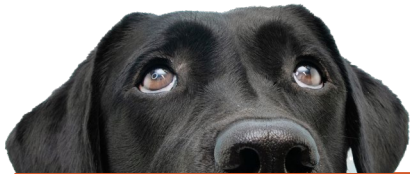
CALLING ALL AMAZING SERVICE DOG HANDLERS

September is National Service Dog Month — a month-long recognition that honors the dogs that have a career helping humans.

Join us in celebrating the extraordinary bond between you and your service dog. We invite you to participate in an upcoming story for CCL by sharing your unique stories of the loyal service dog in your life. Tell us how your four-legged hero plays a pivotal role in your life, providing support, love, and lifesaving assistance.

Do you have a touching tale of how your service dog has helped you? Or maybe you want to share a message of gratitude to your amazing dog.

We want to hear from you. Share your inspiring stories for a chance for it to be published in our September 2024 issue of *Colorado Country Life*.



WRITERS OF ALL PUBLISHED STORIES WILL RECEIVE \$50

For official rules and to share your story, visit www.coloradocountrylife.coop/reader-engagement/dogherostories.

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Backyard Bird Watching

BY DENNIS SMITH | OUTDOORS@COLORADOCOUNTRYLIFE.ORG

I'm not exactly a dedicated bird watcher, but I am fascinated by the little buggers.

I grew up in a tiny mountain town and spent much of my youth in the woods hunting, fishing, and doing other country-boy stuff. Birds were everywhere, so I naturally learned to identify them, but I was more interested in stalking rabbits, squirrels, and deer. It wasn't until I discovered that songbirds were actually woodland tattletales that played an important role in the lives of all the other forest creatures that I began paying more attention to them. I learned that when birds were feeding, singing, and flitting happily about, it meant all was well in the woods. But if they suddenly flushed or inexplicably disappeared and the woods went quiet as death, it signaled danger; a hawk or cat was on the prowl. Likewise, the loud, shrieking calls of jays or crows warned of an owl, fox, or other predator hunting close by. Rabbits and squirrels hid or froze in their tracks; deer went on full alert.

Backyard birds behave similarly. If they flush unexpectedly into nearby bushes or mysteriously vanish altogether, a hawk, kestrel, or falcon is probably nearby — or maybe the neighbor's house cat. Depending on where you live, it could also be a red fox, coyote, or bobcat. The birds will know. And they'll let everyone else know.

I never cease to marvel at their uncanny instincts. Our feeders can be empty for a week, but the minute I fill them, birds descend on them from out of nowhere. The

day before a cold front strikes, they'll magically appear at our feeders in droves like humans flocking to the supermarket the second a TV weather forecaster announces a storm is on the way. I've noticed, too, they usually appear each morning in a kind of prearranged pecking order — by species: flickers first, then blue jays, followed by nuthatches and chickadees. Eventually finches, sparrows, and downy woodpeckers join the fray. The routine is often the same. Who ordained this order, and why?

Do the same birds return daily? Yearly? How long do they live? Are they local residents, migrators, or just random, casual wanderers? It's hard to tell. Apart from the conspicuous color differences between males and females in some species, it can be difficult to distinguish one bird from another in the same species. But recently, a blue jay with a horribly deformed beak answered at least a few of those questions for me. My photos show he (she?) has been coming to my feeders with five other blue jays several times a week since May 2021, so now I know for certain that some birds do return regularly and that blue jays can live for at least three years. But it raises more questions: How did its beak get mangled? Are those other jays his family or friends? Do they know each other? Where do they go after they eat? ... at night? ... during a storm? Like I said: They're fascinating.

Dennis Smith is a freelance outdoors writer and photographer whose work appears nationally. He lives in Loveland.


 READERS' PHOTOS


WINNER: Empire Electric Association members **Shannon Hatch** and her husband **Heath Martin** backpack the Tongariro Northern Circuit on New Zealand's North Island with the magazine. These adventurers also backpacked the Rees-Dart Track on the South Island with two copies of *CCL*, which now reside in a remote alpine hut for future travelers' enjoyment.



Grand Valley Power member **Charlotte Boylan** brings *CCL* on her holiday travels on a cruise through the Panama Canal. She stops on a hike above the treetops in Colon, Panama, to take a photo with the magazine.



Mountain View Electric member **Scott Ewen** celebrates his birthday with *CCL* at Stonehenge.

Don't forget to pack a copy of *CCL* for your next trip!

Show us where you enjoy *CCL* for a chance to win! Simply take a photo of someone (or a selfie!) with the magazine and share it with us on the Reader Engagement page at www.coloradocountrylife.coop. Each month we'll draw one photo to win \$25. The next deadline is **Thursday, February 15**.


 FUNNY STORIES

My 3-year-old daughter and I visited a children's museum, and she was really disappointed when it was time to leave. I explained, "We played for 60 minutes! That's a whole hour! That's quite a long time, sweetie."

She considered this and then pleaded, "Next time, can we stay for 16 garbage cans long?"

I laughed as I realized that measuring time is a difficult concept for a toddler. Sixteen garbage cans would sure be a lot of something!

Sierra Hess, Peyton
Mountain View Electric Association member

Our 5-year-old granddaughter is in her first year of homeschooling. During a recent video call, I asked her how math was going, to which she replied, "I can count to 100!" I then asked if she was learning addition and subtraction. She retorted disdainfully, "No, but I have distraction." When asked the source, she said, "My siblings." She has three of them, all younger than she.

Darrell Schoenig, Bellvue
Poudre Valley REA member

We were so excited to take our 3-year-old granddaughter to the Denver Aquarium. We told her about all the fish we would see in the great big tanks. As we were driving there, she kept asking, "Will the fish bite me?" We said, "No, the fish are in big tanks of water."

She was very apprehensive as we walked around the aquarium, standing far back from the exhibits. Gradually, she approached some the exhibits. After we left the aquarium, it dawned on us that she had asked the question because her papa and her daddy go fishing and come back and say, "Fishing was great, the fish were really biting."

Terry Eberly, Littleton
Mountain Parks Electric member



CCL travels with GCEA member **Mary Varoglu** to Karatsu Castle — a Japanese castle located in Karatsu, Saga Prefecture, Japan. It is a hirayamajiro, a castle built on a plain rather than a hill or mountain. At the end of the Edo period, Karatsu castle was home to the Ogasawara clan, daimyo of Karatsu Domain. It was also known as "Dancing Crane Castle."



Melvin Fahrenbruch travels through Greece with the magazine. His wife, **Rosanne**, takes his photo while they visit Santorini Island. Melvin and Rosanne are Mountain View Electric Association members.

We pay \$15 to each person who submits a funny story that is printed in the magazine. At the end of the year, we draw one name from the published stories, and that person will receive \$200. Send your stories to *Colorado Country Life*, 5400 Washington Street, Denver, CO 80216, or email funnystories@coloradocountrylife.org. Remember to include your mailing address, so we can send you a check!

Discover GRAND COUNTY

Grand County Celebrating 150 Years

BY PENNY HAMILTON

Before Colorado became a state, the Territorial Government created Grand County on February 2, 1874, naming Hot Sulphur Springs the county seat. In the 1860s, William Byers, the founder of the *Rocky Mountain News*, envisioned a hot springs resort, platting the new town and naming the streets.

Today, Grand County, nestled in Colorado's north-central Rocky Mountains, encompasses 1,868 square miles of spectacular scenery and resorts. It was named

for the Grand River — now known as the Colorado River — which begins in Rocky Mountain National Park near Grand Lake.

Across the West, the 1862 Homestead Act, which promised 160 acres of land, allowed settlers to stake their claims. In 1867, Joseph L. Wescott became Grand Lake's first permanent resident. In 1874, Billy and Mary Cozens became Fraser Valley's first residents. The Grand County Historical Association is hosting a free birthday celebration on Friday, February 2, from



▲ Grand County is celebrating 150 years of keeping life grand! Photo by Penny Rafferty Hamilton.

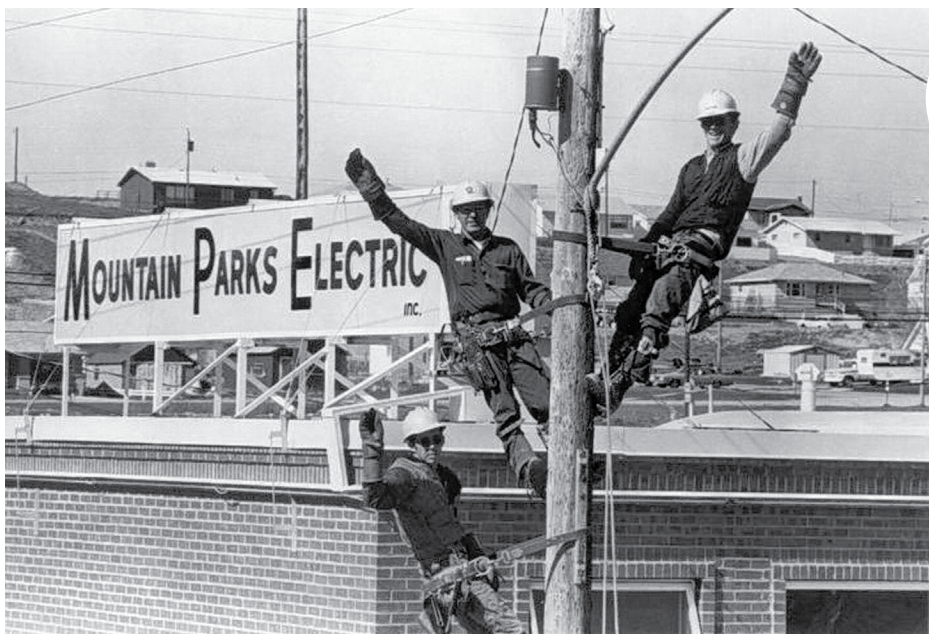
noon to 2 p.m. at the Cozens Ranch Museum. Imagine 150 years ago, pioneers built the house, barn, and corral, which is now on the National Historic Register.

Understanding the historic significance, the Grand County commissioners are partnering with preservation groups celebrating throughout the year, adopting the theme, “150 Years of Keeping Life Grand.” Colorado Speaker of the House, Julie McCluskie, and Senator Dylan Roberts, representing Grand County, are introducing a 2024 joint tribute resolution. Happy Sesquicentennial Grand County!

Dr. Hamilton is an award-winning writer, author of four books about Grand County history, *Granby: Then and Now 1905–2005*, *Around Granby* and *Grand County Images of America* series, and *A to Z: Your Grand County History Alphabet*. Hamilton is a laureate of the Colorado Authors, Colorado Women's, and Colorado Aviation Halls of Fame. Her website is www.PennyHamilton.com



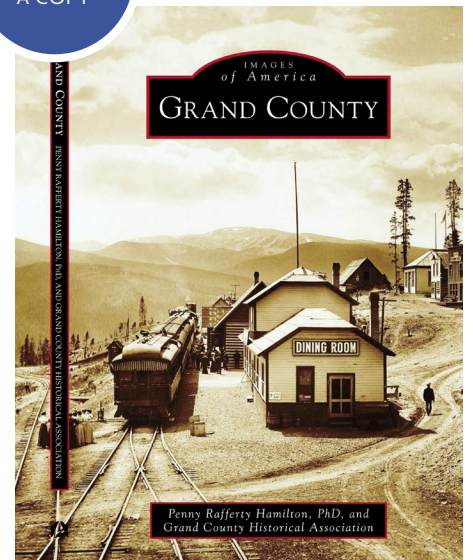
▲ The Grand County Historical Association is hosting a free 150th birthday party on February 2, 2024, at their historic Fraser Cozens Ranch Museum. Photo by Penny Rafferty Hamilton.



▲ Mountain Parks Electric in Grand County expanded county-wide electric service and upgraded distribution systems beginning in 1953. MPE linemen wave from a power pole near MPE's original headquarters in historic downtown Granby. Photo courtesy of MPE.



Enter our contest to win a copy. Visit coloradocountrylife.coop for details on how to enter.



UPCOMING GRAND COUNTY EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2

150th Birthday of Grand County Celebration
 Noon – 2 p.m. • Free
 Cozens Ranch Museum
 77849 US-40, Winter Park
 970-726-5488 • grandcountyhistory.org/event/grand-countys-150th-birthday

FEBRUARY 3

7th Annual Grand Lake Pond Hockey Classic
 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 970-627-3402 • gograndlake.com/events

FEBRUARY 10

3rd Annual Fraser Fire & Ice Festival
 4 – 8 p.m. • Free
 Fraser Lions Ponds, 570 S. Zerex Street
 allevents.in/fraser/fraser-fire-and-ice-with-the-colorado-snow-sculpting-championship/200025973732804

FEBRUARY 16

Free Movie Night at Grand Lake Community House
 6 – 8 p.m. • Free
 1025 Park Avenue, Grand Lake

FEBRUARY 17

22nd Annual Snowmobile for Life Poker Run
 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 Grand Lake
 milehisnowmobileclub.com/poker

FEBRUARY 24

Full Moon Ski Tour — Cross-Country Ski
 6 – 7:30 p.m. • \$30 per person
 Devil's Thumb Ranch, Tabernash
 970-726-8231 • devilsthumbranch.com/events

MARCH 15

Free Movie Night at Grand Lake Community House
 6 – 8 p.m. • Free
 1025 Park Avenue, Grand Lake

MARCH 23

Full Moon Ski Tour — Cross-Country Ski
 6 – 7:30 p.m. • \$30 per person
 Devil's Thumb Ranch, Tabernash
 970-726-8231 • devilsthumbranch.com/events

Grand County in winter. It's a snowy Colorado playground with so much to do. You'll find something for everyone in your family with prices to match most budgets. High-end restaurants and resorts are available, as are gorgeous places that are more rustic and cost far less. Include Grand County in your winter plans. CCL compiled a list of upcoming events to get you started.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Free Gondola Ride to Sunspot Mountaintop Lodge
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays in Winter
 4 – 7 p.m.
 Winter Park Resort
 Live music. Food and drinks available for purchase.
 winterparkresort.com/things-to-do/activities/winter-mountaintop-apres

GENERAL WINTER ACTIVITIES

- Sledding & Tubing
- Hot Springs & Spas
- Ice Skating
- Fat Biking
- Ice Fishing
- Snowmobiling
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Rec Centers
- Hunting
- Skiing & Snowboarding
- Dining
- Dog Sled Rides & Races



Come Experience the Magic of Christmas at the Moffat Road Railroad Museum!

Colorado's Largest Permanent Christmas Model Train Display

with 6 trains, 2 ski lifts, Christmas parade, model auto road way, plus more!

Interpretive Center
 includes 9 different pieces of historical railroad equipment, including a Shay steam locomotive.

Visitor Center & Gift Shop
 has railroad artifacts, plus the gift shop has handcrafted, local artisan items and kids' toys.



Open Memorial Weekend thru September and the Day After Thanksgiving thru Early January. Great (and affordable!) entertainment for families as well as railroad enthusiasts!



MoffatRoadRailroadMuseum.org
 970-509-9894 | 555 Park Lane/County Road 574, Granby





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4,453 Google Reviews

93% of customers gave us 5 stars!



I cannot stress enough how refreshing it is to see the **professionalism** and **customer service** we experienced. All other industries should take note of how to **properly perform a service** to a customer as this team has.

—Mitchell B. ★★★★★



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²Plan 4521. Subject to credit approval. Rates range from 14.26% - 21.19% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. 12 month promotional period ("Promo Period") during which interest is billed but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before Promo Period expires. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. Any unpaid balance and amounts owed after Promo Period will be paid over 84 monthly payments. For example, assuming the full credit limit is used on loan approval date and no payments are made during Promo Period, for every \$1,000 financed at a fixed interest rate of 24.99%, 12 monthly payments of \$0 followed by 84 monthly payments of \$28.29. This example is an estimate only. Actual payment amounts based on amount and timing of purchases. Call 866-936-0602 for financing costs and terms. Financing for the GreenSky® consumer loan program is provided by Equal Opportunity Lenders. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC, a subsidiary of Goldman Sachs Bank USA. NMLS #1416362. Loans originated by Goldman Sachs are issued by Goldman Sachs Bank USA, Salt Lake City Branch. NMLS #208156. www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org.