

Walnut Hills Newsletter

A Beautiful Community of Families, Friends and Neighbors for 56 years

Four Outstanding Graduates Win Walnut Hills Scholarships

A passion for protecting endangered wildlife. Work at a Christian camp for the disabled. Excellence in a dizzying list of AP and Honors courses. Advocacy for the LGBTQ community. Triumph over personal adversity. Participation in multiple sports.

That's just a partial list of what the four recipients of the 2018 Walnut Hills Scholarships have accomplished in their young lives so far.

This year marks the 44th time the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund has honored the exceptional high school graduates who live in our neighborhood, and the 2018 competition was especially keen. Several members of the selection committee noted how difficult it was to choose, with so many highly deserving candidates.

But in the end, four students rose to the top. All four are newly minted graduates of Cherry Creek High School, and each will receive a \$2,500 college scholarship, funded by the contributions of Walnut Hills residents. The four winners will be publicly honored at the Walnut Hills Civic Association's annual Ice Cream Social, in Walnut Hills Park on the 4th of July. All residents are encouraged to attend and help celebrate these students' achievements!

The Scholarship Board is delighted to announce and congratulate this year's Walnut Hills Scholarship recipients, profiled here in alphabetical order:

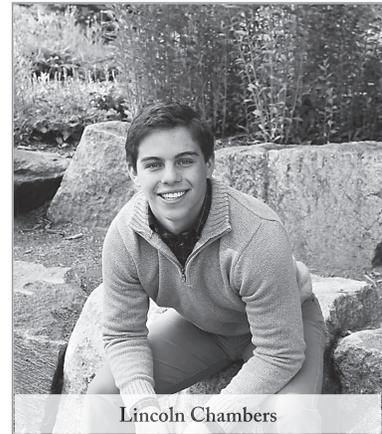
LINCOLN CHAMBERS, son of Janie Miller and Jeffrey Chambers, is a bright young man who has a passion for working with the disabled community. Lincoln has made impressive strides academically while taking on a very challenging curriculum. But by far, his most important activity is his participation in Camp Barnabas, a Missouri religious camp for children and adults with physical or mental disabilities. Working there for three summers has taught Lincoln compassion, patience and leadership, attributes he has demonstrated back at Cherry Creek High School. Last semester, Lincoln and a group of about fifteen other students helped the Special Education Department put on a full play at Creek. In addition, Lincoln works for a local tutoring company where he tutors students in Algebra I through Calculus. He has also somehow found time to successfully excel in wrestling while working part-time at various restaurant and golf course jobs. His outstanding 4.425 GPA achieved while completing over a dozen AP and Honors courses resulted in his acceptance at five major universities. Lincoln plans to attend Vanderbilt University, where he will study Economics and Mathematics with an eye toward eventually attending law school. As his camp supervisor predicts, "No matter what, Lincoln will be very successful and will positively impact everyone around him."

CALEB GERKEN, son of Walnut Hills residents Ann and Ken Gerken, is undoubtedly the kind of person you'd like to have as a student, you'd like to have as an employee, you'd like to have in your club or on your sports team or... you'd just really like to have as your friend. That's what Caleb's teachers, counselor and employers said over and over again. Along with an extremely positive attitude, Caleb is a thoughtful, kind and courteous young man who is dependable, hard-working, motivated, and ready to attack the task at hand. He is extremely well-rounded, as shown by his coursework which, though loaded with math and science, also included business and marketing classes and three years of Spanish. He has been active in DECA, and he also wrestled and played football. Yet he still found time to volunteer at Adam's Camp, a special needs camp, and has working experience as a lifeguard, and as an employee at Top Golf. He presently works as an assistant in the Before and After Care program at Dry Creek Elementary, where he supervises the kids and helps them with their homework. All of this, plus Caleb achieved an impressive 4.16 weighted GPA at Cherry Creek High School. He plans to study engineering at Purdue University.

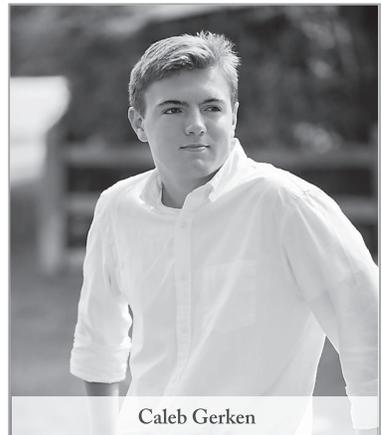
ERIC GOTTSCHALL, son of Christopher and Melissa Gottschall, and a lifelong resident of Walnut Hills, enjoys skiing as well as running cross country and track. He participated in the latter two sports throughout his time at Cherry Creek High School. Academically, he took more than fifteen honors and AP level classes at Creek. His counselor says that when it came down to the challenge of balancing his course work along with athletics and family life, "Eric did it with grace and fortitude." Eric's AP Human Geography teacher describes him as a "self-starter" and "an exceptional student who takes his studies seriously." This is clearly displayed in Eric's grades and test scores, with a weighted GPA of 4.022 and an ACT Composite Score of 31. Eric also had to overcome a fractured tibia that he suffered when he collided with a tree while skiing. From this accident he indicates that, through hard work and the "kindness of others," he was able to once again conquer the slopes. Eric is certainly not one to back down from a challenge, as his academic and athletic successes make clear. In the fall, he will continue his academic career by enrolling in the Leeds Honors Program at the University of Colorado Boulder.

AUDREY KOENIG, daughter of Lynda and David Koenig, and another lifelong Walnut Hills resident, has what her counselor calls a "passion for animals." She has shown it by volunteering for four years at the Denver Zoo, assisting the Great Apes keeper. And she plans to pursue it through outdoor field research in college, and ultimately through a career working with wildlife that is endangered by human activity. At the same time, her counselor adds, Audrey has a deep "compassion toward humans." You can see this in her remarkable record of service: teaching science to elementary school kids, serving three years on the South Suburban Youth Commission, assisting at the nursery at her church, serving as a peer ambassador at Cherry Creek High School, and perhaps most meaningfully to her, participating in Creek's gay-straight alliance, where she tries to speak up "for others who feel like they can't." Academically, Audrey has excelled at Creek, taking numerous AP, honors, and college prep classes, achieving Academic High Honors, and being selected into the National Honor Society. In the fall, she will attend Colorado State University, with plans to major in conservation biology. "Audrey is extremely focused," writes a neighbor. "She has adjusted her path but never her objective...she has identified her purpose and steers her course accordingly."

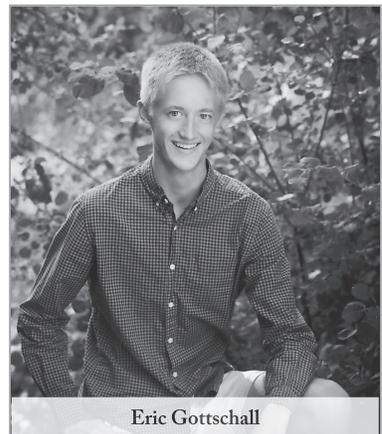
The Walnut Hills Scholarship Board is honored to publicly recognize Lincoln, Caleb, Eric, and Audrey — four young people who are a great credit to our community, and of whom the whole neighborhood can be tremendously proud. We would also like to express our enduring gratitude to the Walnut Hills Civic Association, the Walnut Hills Newsletter, and the residents of Walnut Hills, who through their generosity have sustained this neighborhood-based scholarship — a true rarity — since 1972.



Lincoln Chambers



Caleb Gerken



Eric Gottschall



Audrey Koenig

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NOTICE: Walnut Hills Civic Association By-laws are in the process of being updated. A draft of all proposed changes will be published in the Walnut Hills Newsletter (Aug/Sept Issue) and on the Walnut Hills Civic Association website for review and comment. Comment period will have a duration of 30 days from published date.

October Electronic Recycling

Back by popular demand, the WHCA will again hold Electronic Recycling during Dumpster Days in October. Accepted electronic equipment includes: General E-Waste (Computer Towers, Laptops, Servers, Tablets, iPads, Kindle's, e-Readers, CRT/LED/LCD Monitors, POS systems, Smartphones, cell phones, telephones, telephone systems; UPS batteries, battery backup units, routers, switches, hubs, modems; Fax machines, copiers, printers, scanners, plotters; Cables, cords, power supplies, keyboards, mice; Stereo components and speakers, radios, reel to reels; DVR/VCR/DVD/CD players; Xbox/Wii/Play Stations, related gaming equipment; Cable boxes, satellite TV components (dish/receiver); Cameras, camcorders, film projectors; Recording equipment, A/V equipment, overhead projectors; Calculators, adding machines, typewriters, word processors) TVs (LCD/LED/CRT, Rear Projection, Plasma) Small household appliances (microwaves, fans, lamps and other small appliances). **NOTE: WE CAN'T** accept refrigerators, large appliances, A/C units, thermostats or any items with hazardous chemicals. If you have an item that is not on this list, but would like to know if you can recycle it, contact Jackie at Blue Star Recyclers at 720-584-8917 and let her know you are with the WHCA.

You must be a PAID member of the WHCA to attend the electronic recycling. Your \$25 dues grants you one dump to the dumpsters and the electronic recycling in October. Please pay via cash, check or PayPal at

www.walnuthillscolorado.org.

Walnut Hills 4th of July Parade and Ice Cream Social

Summer is here and the WHCA is working on the 4th of July festivities. Please decorate and bring your parents, grandparents, kids, dogs, bikes, trikes, wagons, classic cars, etc. and join us in the parade! South Suburban will be leading the parade with a fire truck. Please arrive at the Dry Creek Elementary School Parking lot at 9:30 am as we will start the parade promptly at 10:00 am. Route will be the same as always with the final destination of the Walnut Hills Park. Community building and ice cream eating to follow (approx. 10:30 am). Walnut Hills Scholarship fund will be presenting our talented seniors with the collected 2018 scholarship monies.

Walnut Hills Civic Association Membership Drive

You know that \$25.00 you spent on dinner, or a night at the movies, or a pair of shoes that gives you blisters, or a new wrench to replace the one you already have? You could also spend that same \$25.00 with the Walnut Hills Civic Association and support a variety of events throughout the 2018 year including Dumpster Days, Electronic Recycling, Easter Egg Hunt, 4 of July Ice Cream Social among others. We put all of the funds to good use. Please pay via cash, check or PayPal at www.walnuthillscolorado.org. Note: Dues are NOT tax deductible.

Walnut Hills Scholarship Financial Update

Dear residents of Walnut Hills, We are so grateful for the continuing support of our community and residents. We have the unique opportunity each and every year to provide a few of our graduating seniors with some financial assistance entering their first year of college. This year we have once again announced the four recipients from the class of 2018. We want to take a moment and thank everyone who has already contributed to the scholarship fund this year. If you've forgotten or have yet to commit to the idea of giving this year, it's not too late to contribute to this year's fund. Any donations received will go directly to this year's scholarships and would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be sent to, or dropped off at:

Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund
7158 S Quince St
Centennial, CO 80112
Thank you once again for your support and generosity. Sincerely,
Scott Bess, Peggy Castle, Laura Klee, and Bill Philpott

Walnut Hills Night Out will be held this year on Saturday, August 11th from 5-7 pm at the Walnut Hills School near the amphitheater. We will again have:

- Live music
- Centennial area agencies and services that cover our neighborhood
- Tents with local Walnut Hills businesses (if you have a local WH business and want to participate please contact Myra Garcia for information)
- Food - burgers and hot dogs this year
- Treats for dogs
- Frisbee golf and other games

For information on WH Night Out please contact Myra Garcia - neighborhood4@walnuthillscolorado.org

Castlewood Library

The Arapahoe Libraries Summer Reading program is the main event of the year, so step right up and read this summer from June 2 through July 29. Register for all ages (babies through adult). Reading records are available at the library beginning Saturday, June 2 through Sunday, July 22. Bring completed reading records back to the library between July 14-29 to pick up final prizes.

The greatest books and events will be found at the library this summer, so don't miss out!



Eagle Scout Candidate

Devin Dumonceau needs donations to install a picnic table in our communities' new shade shelter by the tennis courts for his Eagle Scout Project. We could all enjoy a place to sit and eat, so please consider donating. Checks payable to Devin Dumonceau Boy Scout Troop 457 at 7143 Valentia Way Centennial, CO 80112, or drop the donation off in the orange bucket on the front porch. Thank you!



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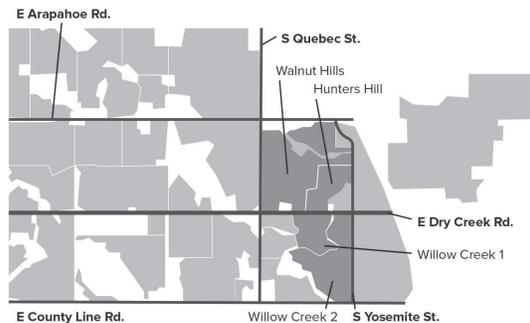


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This is next generation Internet that has huge benefits not just for homes but for businesses too. We're talking symmetrical gigabit Internet. 1000 Mbps download and 1000 Mbps upload. It's an Internet connection that doesn't slow down no matter how many people are in the house, in the city, or online.

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Centennial, CO Fiber Network



Construction has started in Walnut Hills

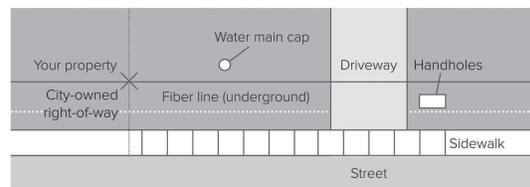
Over the next six months, you'll see us hard at work, building and expanding the network and putting all the infrastructure necessities in place that make fiber work. When the network is ready to go, we'll start installing our first fiber customers in Phase 1B, anticipated to start Summer of 2018.

We plan to build the network out to most of Centennial. For the most up to date information regarding what neighborhoods we'll be building to next go to ting.com/centennial and click on News.

- Phase 1A - Willow Creek 1 and 2 (currently under construction)
- Phase 1B - Walnut Hills and Hunters Hill

Construction: Here's the plan

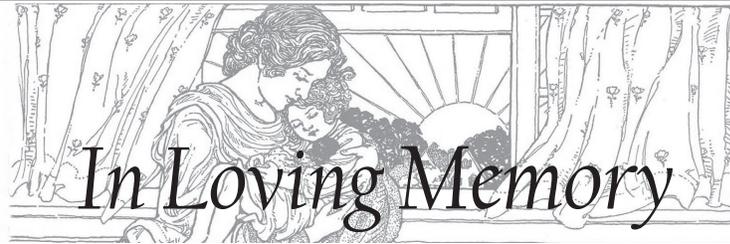
- In one day of work, we can typically construct the infrastructure of our network for 20 homes.
- Before we start construction a utility location service will mark the underground utilities in your neighborhood. This process ensures underground utilities won't be disrupted during construction.
- We bring the fiber line to your home by a method called directional boring. A directional bore will travel underground up to 300 feet and is directed to avoid underground utilities. The directional bore creates the path that will eventually house fiber conduit.
- Handholes are required every couple of house lengths. These Handholes are unobtrusive and look very much like the kind of recessed access hatch you might find in a lawn irrigation system.



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Pre-order at ting.com/centennial



Long time Walnut Hills resident, Jo Ann Lenore (Stilley) Curtis Smith, 75, died Tuesday May 1, 2018 at home with her family by her side. Memorial services were held in the backyard of her Walnut Hills home on May 11. Her family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to all Walnut Hills friends and neighbors who took time to offer their condolences and kind memories during this difficult time. JoAnn is survived by her loving husband Edward Smith and four children: Shannon (husband, Greg), Dee (husband, Chris), CJ, and Alaena (husband, Matt). She is also survived by five wonderful grandchildren: Cassidy (wife, Katrina), Angelina, Freya, Jasper, and Bridg as well as her brother John and sister Sheir. JoAnn is preceded in death by her parents Leo and Esther Stilley and two daughters Shelley and Kalindi. Jo Ann loved her family and life in Walnut Hills with equal passion. She and Edward have been entrepreneurs and have run their own business for 30 years as of 2018. Jo Ann is the heart of the

Curtis-Smith family and earned the nickname 'dispatch' as a result. All family activities always centered around Jo Ann and her home. Her supportive and loving spirit will be greatly missed by all who knew her. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to National Jewish Research or performing a random act of kindness in honor of Jo Ann.

Saying Goodbye

Jan Fuller

In April, friends and neighbors in our block of So. Tamarac Ct. said goodbye to Lois Cady. Lois and her friend, Marge Gordon, moved into their new house in Sept. 1963. They were the first residents in what was then the western edge of Walnut Hills. The street wasn't paved and ended at Fremont to the south. Arapahoe Rd. only went to Holly and there was a wide-open view of the mountains. Cows, coyotes and prairie dogs roamed the area to the West. Rattlesnakes sunned themselves on the driveways, and tumble weeds filled porches and window wells when the wind blew. There were no trees, not even a Walnut Tree, and no shopping anywhere near.

Lois grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Northern Michigan. After graduating from nursing school in 1945, she worked for thirty-eight years in various nursing roles in the Midwest and Colorado. She retired in 1985. She continued to care for her home and yard and survived our kids and grandkids hitting baseballs into her yard and running over her new little pine tree while learning to ride a bike. She loves camping and traveling and still drives her RV. She is a great photographer, and one wall of her family room was filled with travel pictures from many areas around the world and U.S.

Lois is 93 years young in May, still in good health and ready to start a new chapter in her life. She moved to Gladstone, Michigan to be near her large extended family. We miss you Lois and wish you all the best.



Randolph E. Fincher, O.D.
Edward J. Golesh, O.D.
Laura L. Juba-Terrell, O.D.
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Walnut Hills Community Elementary

Dear Walnut Hills Community,

It is hard to believe this my last newsletter of the 2017-2018 school year. I know many of you are looking forward to the summer. However, I can honestly say I do not want the year to come to a close. It has truly

been a fabulous and magical year. The learning has been immense and invigorating.

The relationships I have continued to build with each Walnut Hills's family and child has filled my heart with such joy and happiness. Our children enlighten and inspire me to be a better, stronger leader daily. Each day I come to school, I stop at the front door and thank my amazingly lucky stars for the opportunity bestowed upon me. It is a privilege to work at such a wonderful school filled with educators who are 100% committed to the success of each of our children. I am every bit as humbled and honored at this moment of the year as I was the first time I stepped into Walnut Hills two years ago.

Each year all CCSD schools write school goals. This year we focused on four school goals.

- By May 2018, the English Language Arts status achievement scores of 3rd-5th grade will increase by 10% or more as measured by the PARCC summative assessment.
- By May 2018, Kindergarten-5th grade teachers as well as specialists including; physical education, music, art, special education, ELS, GT, and intervention, will fully implement the PLC model to guarantee continuous improvement in the content area of reading. The full implementation of PLC's will increase reading achievement for all student kindergarten through fifth grade as measured by iReady.
- By May 2018, 100% of our staff will understand the six themes of CRE with a focus on relationships and asset-focused factors in regards to increasing reading achievement for all students.
- By May 2018, 100% of K-5 teachers will fully implement STEAM through the LAUNCH cycle and project-based learning.

I am happy to report that we successfully implemented the Professional Learning Community (PLC) model school-wide. During our PLC's, we focused on increasing reading achievement for all children which we have seen tremendous growth and look forward to our English Language Arts state assessment results in August. We worked to increase our Inclusive Excellence work through increased knowledge of Culturally Responsive Education (CRE) with a focus on relationships and asset-focused factors. Teachers and students developed more authentic relationships which allowed the teacher to learn each child's assets and how to use their assets to personalize learning experiences. We also were very excited about our S.T.E.A.M. school-wide implementation this year. Children learned the innovation design cycle process through a book called L.A.U.N.C.H. We had four extremely successful LAUNCH days this year where children K-5 designed projects and launched them into the world!

Walnut Hills Elementary School is a magical place where kids get the opportunity to learn, create, explore, and thrive. I am completely blessed by our families, community, and children! I am grateful for such a wonderful year.

Happy Summer!
Miss Bourbonnic



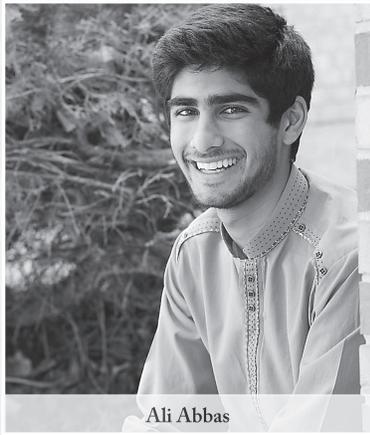
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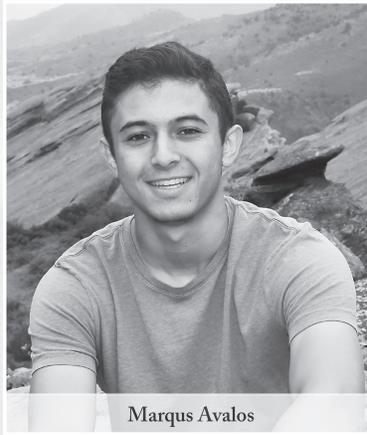
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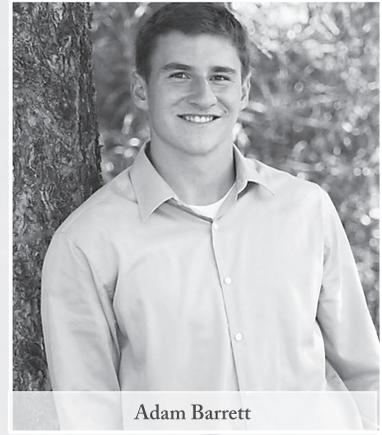
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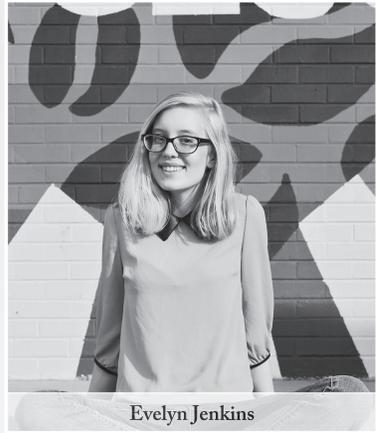
Adam Barrett



Rachel Goodman



Victoria Griffiths



Evelyn Jenkins



Aubrea Jo Leikam



Chris Martin



Oliver Molberg



Ty Robert Engelke



Alexander Tatman



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Ian Bosman



Kevin Danfelser



Joseph Michael Frankin



Azariah Grace Jesuroga



Chloe Lane



Cameron Welch



Reed Peterson



Michael R. Ragnow



Leo Rahn

Walnut Hills Celebrates 2018 Graduates

What A Wet Dumpster Days!

Donna Senn

Mother's Day weekend started misty and cool. With 52 cars coming through to dump their "stuff" and Brookie and Dawd making out very well in the recycles department.

Saturday May 19th started rainy, then just got wetter after that! 43 dumps plus 11 houses coming back an extra time, made 2018 Spring Dumpster Days a success.

A Big Thanks to The Garbage Man guys for being true troopers in the rain and cold. To Brookie and his son Dawd for their participation each and every time for years now! Let's not forget the WHCA for putting this event on and standing in the rain to make sure every friend and neighbor got their chance to dump.

Ana Carrera, Julie Gamec, Andrea Suhaka you are the best! Next Dumpster Day will be Saturday October 13th - 8 to 11am. See you then!



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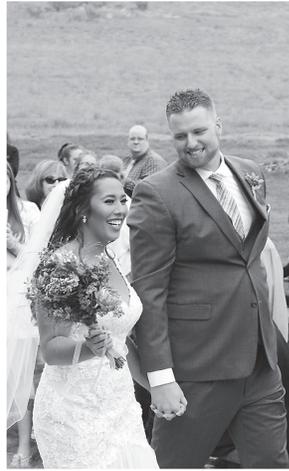
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Wedding Announcement

Cassidy Parker Curtis, son of Chris and Dee Peterson, eloped and married his college sweetheart, Katrina Michelle Domingo, on May 20, 2017. After moving back to Denver, from Spokane, they renewed their vows to celebrate with family and friends on their anniversary. The ceremony and reception were held at the beautiful Ellis Ranch in Loveland, Colorado.



Just twelve hours after the ceremony and reception, Cassidy was on a plane to Vancouver, BC to attend training camp and work to earn a roster spot with the Canadian Football team, the BC Lions. Katrina and their three dogs are holding down the fort at their home in Littleton, while she maintains her position as a tennis pro at Greenwood Athletic Club, and coaches summer tennis camps.



Items of Interest

JHF

A Great Story

Most of us, sometimes in our lives, have had occasion to know about "Show & Tell", either in our life or our kids' lives. It is a favorite of some elementary school teachers to get students used to standing in front of a class (crowd) and making a presentation. I thought you might enjoy this story, as much as I did, by an Anonymous Second Grade Teacher. JHF

The Middle Wife

By an Anonymous Second Grade Teacher

When I was a kid, I loved show-and-tell. So, I always have a few sessions with my students. It helps them get over shyness and usually, show-and-tell is pretty tame. Kids bring in pet turtles, model airplanes, pictures of fish they catch, stuff like that. And I never, ever place any boundaries or limitations on them. If they want to lug it in to school and talk about it, they're welcome.

Well, one day this little girl, Erica, a very bright, very outgoing kid, takes her turn and waddles up to the front of the class with a pillow stuffed under her sweater.

She holds up a snapshot of an infant. "This is Luke, my baby brother, and I'm going to tell you about his birthday."

"First, Mom and Dad made him as a symbol of their love, and then Dad put a seed in my Mom's stomach, and Luke grew in there. He ate for nine months through an umbrella cord."

She's standing there with her hands on the pillow, and I'm trying not to laugh and wishing I had my camcorder with me. The kids are watching her in amazement.

"Then, about two Saturdays ago, my Mom starts saying and going, 'Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh!' Erica puts a hand behind her back and groans. She walked around the house for, like an hour, 'Oh, oh, oh!'. (Now this kid is doing a hysterical duck walk and groaning.)

"My Dad called the middle wife. She delivers babies, but she doesn't have a sign on the car like the Domino's man. They got my Mom to lie down in bed like this." (Then Erica lies down with her back against the wall.)

"And then, pop! My Mom had this bag of water she kept in there in case he got thirsty, and it just blew up and spilled all over the bed, like psshheew!". (This kid has her legs spread with her little hands miming water flowing away. It was too much!)

"Then the middle wife starts saying 'push, push,' and 'breathe, breathe'. They started counting, but never even got past ten. Then, all of a sudden, out comes my brother. He was covered in yucky stuff that they all said it was from Mom's play-center, (placenta) so there must be a lot of toys inside there. When he got out, the middle wife spanked him for crawling up in there."

Then Erica stood up, took a big theatrical bow and returned to her seat. I'm sure I applauded the loudest. Ever since then, when it's show-and-tell day, I bring my camcorder, just in case another 'Middle Wife' comes along.

Now you have two choices...laugh and close this page or pass this along to someone else to spread the laughs. I know what I did!!!

Fences, Magpies and Traffic

Bruce Ferguson

If you live in Colorado you know that April snowstorms bring May or May not bring flowers. I have rarely seen the apple blossoms have such a great year. I noticed after the recent winds that a few of the old fences lay on the ground, tired perhaps from the resistance. Wrens have been hunting spiders behind the fence posts for a few days now. In between the spring snows, the weather is warm and sunny. Some plants are confused by the weather, but most relish the moisture. Often in the morning there's ice on the water in the blue pot by the end of the drain pipe, and yet by noon it is nearly 70. Last week, a flock of robins spent two days drinking snow melt out of the blue pot. So many birds, that turns had to be taken, their beaks bickered more than drank, and then off they went. Some chickadees flit about the yard exploring places they might nest. One hangs on the entrance to the birdhouse on the fence, but never seems to go in. Another enters the gourd in which the wrens nested last summer, though it seems only to be removing debris; so many decisions. One stranger I have been seeing in the yard is the Magpie. I've never understood why we didn't have these birds visit before. I know they are pretty common in places. The first one I noticed was over by the RTD station one morning. Then last year we had one visit. This year I've seen them frequently. Two of them strut about the yard like royalty at a wedding. I have some reservations about them in that they can pester cats, but then again so will their cousins the crows.



Photograph Bruce Ferguson

Mother's Day is, of course, the beginning of the garden season in the Front Range. The actual frost-free date is more like Memorial Day. Everything happens on holidays it seems, which doesn't mean it won't freeze or snow in June or July. The ground though is warm and a few old blankets or some horticultural fleece can help at times with the weather. Watching all those small sedans weave in and out of traffic on I-25 you might think we now live in L.A., but we don't. Being prepared to put pots in a wheelbarrow and store them in the garage overnight can be helpful almost any month of the year! The best thing about spring is that the heat is off and the water's not on. I turned on the sprinklers this morning and wandered from zone to zone, identifying problems. Not a single problem from last year fixed itself. The tulips are fading, the first of the iris are blooming, and I am looking to grow some annuals this year from seed. I am never very adept at growing plants from seed, mostly I just scatter them and hope. Now the iris take their turn.

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Walnut Hills Night Out	August 11, 5-7 pm	Walnut Hills School
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Halloween Party	October 27, 2-4 pm	Walnut Hills Park
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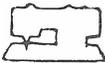
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