



Vol. I, Issue 3

February/March 2000



Guffey's meteorite landed in the beautiful landscape of the Pike Trails subdivision. Photo by Matthew Smith.

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# Eye on GUFFEY

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by Guffey Community Charter School

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# ***SPACE MESSAGE***

## ***Guffey's Meteorite returns***

by LeAnn McCaslin and Matthew Smith



***Jack Murphy, Curator of Geology at the Denver Museum of Natural History will present two programs on the Guffey Meteorite on Wednesday, March 1 at the Guffey Community Charter School. Programs will be given at 3 p.m. and at 6 p.m.***

Imagine it is 1907. Two cowboys are on horseback. They look down and notice a big block of silver. They jump off their horses and realize that it's not silver. It's something else buried in the sand. Little did cowboys J.F. Witcher and Robert L. Pope know, but they had just discovered the Guffey Meteorite.

Out of 81 meteorites that have been found in Colorado, the Guffey Meteorite is the biggest. The Guffey Meteorite is 36 cm long by 23 cm wide by 15 cm thick. It weighs about 682 pounds. "It was like having a filing cabinet fall out of the sky," Jack Murphy said. Murphy is Curator of Geology at the Denver Museum of Natural History.

The Guffey Meteorite is still a mystery because researchers do not know its exact origin. It is also not known where the meteorite actually landed, but it is believed to have landed two miles west of Guffey on the other side of Chumway Park, in the shadow of Black Mountain.

The Guffey Meteorite was sold to the American Museum of Natural History because the only meteorite expert was there. It is not known how much the meteorite was sold for.

Researchers think it possibly sold for between \$15,000 and \$30,000, depending if it was sold for 50 cents per gram or \$1 per gram.

The Guffey Meteorite is unique because it is an iron meteorite. Out of the 81 meteorites that have fallen in Colorado, only 12 are iron, the rest are rock. The difference between a rock meteorite and an iron meteorite is that a rock meteorite is like the crust of the earth. An iron meteorite, however, is like the core of the earth, but a lot denser. An iron meteorite is made up of nickel and other iron minerals.

When the meteorite hit earth, it was as cold as deep space. When a meteorite enters the atmosphere, it only burns at the surface. The fastest meteorite goes 150,000 miles per hour, faster than America's regular spaceships, which go 10,000 miles per hour.

The actual Guffey Meteorite is not in Colorado. It is still in New York and will stay there. However, a piece about the size of a loaf of bread, weighing five pounds, has been cut off and has been returned to Colorado. This piece will be on display this summer at the Denver Museum of Natural History.

## *Pat's brave story*

# 9Health Fair 'saved my life'

by Yvette Enriquez

When others were going about their business, Pat Wiles was finding out she had cancer. Luckily, she was tested two years in a row so she had a baseline health check. The first year she was OK. The second year, tests taken at the 9Health Fair in Guffey found cancer. The cancer was diagnosed early enough that it could be taken care of by surgery.

Wiles says she appreciates the town's support, the 9Health Fair, and the people who took care of her house and her animals.

She spent four days in the hospital. "I am really grateful to all the volunteers at the 9health Fair. I believe the 9Health Fair saved my life," Wiles said. Wiles has also been a health fair volunteer for seven years.

"For all the volunteers out there, for people like me who have no health insurance, we rely on the 9Health Fair," she said.



Pat Wiles

## *High phone bills? Guffey's local area may be extended*

by Matthew Smith

Before the end of the year, Guffey area residents may be able to call their friends across town without paying a long distance phone bill. This will all be made possible because the Public Utilities Commission said that an extended calling area could be based on community of interest. In the past, it had to be based on the volume of calls. Both sides of the Guffey area and Fairplay have a community of interest because of schools, post office, library, fire department, and county offices. The extended calling area means that both sides of Guffey will be able call each other and Fairplay without a long distant fee.

About 60 people who attended the meeting in Guffey on Feb. 3 all voted yes to support applying for the extended calling area. The two commissioners who were there, Linda James and Jerry Solberg, saw that all the people voted, so they said that they would pay for the application. Apparently, that still has to be approved formally by the Board of County Commissioners. The idea of an extended calling

area came from a Guffey resident, Trish Maris, and Richard Kimmel who chairs the Park County Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

Kimmel will be putting together the application in the next six months and then the P.U.C. will vote on it. Maris said, "By fall or Christmas we should be able to call each other without it being long distance."

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## Maurice Ownby

# Half century of memories; millennium of hopes

by Ashley Smith, Matthew Smith, and Savanna Velasquez

The town of Guffey has been around for over 100 years. One man has been around to see many of the changes. Maurice Ownbey has resided in Guffey for about half that time. "I first came to Guffey when I was in 4-H," he said. He met his wife, Marie West, in Guffey. Marie was born in Guffey and has lived here all of her life. Together they raised two children.

According to Ownbey, the Guffey school has seen a lot of changes over the years. Yet, much remains the same. The school was built in 1918. At that time there were three teachers and three classrooms (much like there are today). The school had 30 students and a great baseball team. "They would play Hartsel and Lake George, and as I remember, they would beat them a lot," Ownbey said. Plays were held on the stage. That stage is still in the school today.

"When my wife was in the sixth or seventh grade, the government had a lunch program," Ownbey said. Marie's aunt cooked for the program, serving from 10 to 20 students depending on the year. To prevent students from getting sick, "the powers-that-be decided that all the children needed cod liver oil. They'd line them [the students] all up and give it with the same spoon," Ownbey said with a chuckle.

One reason why Ownbey moved to Guffey was so his kids could go to school. "Going to school was very hard because of all the snow." His son went to school here in 1954. "There were only about 10 kids here at that time, and about half of them were Wests," Ownbey remembered. The school was closed in the 1960s and 1970s. Ownbey drove the school bus to Lake



*Maurice Ownbey points out the window to where the old post office used to be. Photo by Savanna Velasquez.*



# *Pascha wants to grow a phone tree*

by Yvette Enriquez

Pascha McKeough has a dream. Her dream is that the town of Guffey will have a phone tree. She believes a phone tree is needed in order to let everyone know about important news in a timely way. A phone tree is when one person calls several others to tell them something important. Then they each call several others, who also call several others. Pretty soon everybody gets the word.

“This could be helpful for situations like families in need of support due to illness, fire, or accidents; community meetings or cancellations; community celebrations~ the 9Health Fair; educational classes; and recreational events,

McKeough said.

McKeough said she will be glad to start the phone tree and answer any questions. Others who are willing to help are asked to call her at 689-9044.

## **Charter Board is having an election**

by Ashley Smith

The Guffey Community Charter School Board is having an election. The election will be held the third Wednesday of April. People who want to run for the Board have to notify the Board President, Dave Henley, that they want to be a candidate. They have to do this 30 days before the election.

On the second Thursday of March, the current Board will meet and talk to people interested in running for the Guffey Board. That will be a time to learn about the Carver Policy Governance Model and the responsibilities of the Board.

To be a candidate, people must understand the goals of the school and support the Carver Policy Governance Model. They need to commit to training about how it works. People will need to understand the duties and responsibilities of the Board.

The Carver Policy says that the school staff and Board have different jobs. The Board's job is not to deal with day-to-day school issues. Its job is to deal with policy.

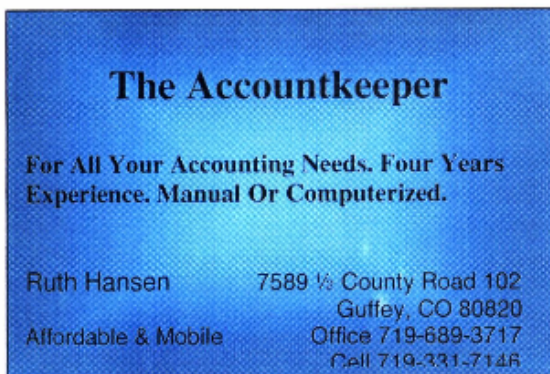
The difference between the Guffey School Board and the Re-2 School Board is that the Re-2 School Board deals with issues that are important to the whole Re-2 area. The Guffey Community Charter School Board deals only with issues about the local school.



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# Master plan meetings coming to county

by Matthew Smith

There are going to be meetings all over the county, and the Park County Planning Commission hopes that people will show up and talk about the surveys.

The survey was about what the people think. At the meeting they'll also talk about the strategic master plan. The strategic master plan is gathering up all the survey information to make new land use regulations. Part of the plan is to ask what the people want or don't want to happen to the land.

What the Planning Commission learns is that other parts of the county think differently, so that's why it is important to take surveys. Like in Guffey there may be enough water, but in Hartsel they don't have a lot. That's why it's important to take surveys.

Judy Robbins, who is a member of the Planning Commission says to come to the meetings and see what is decided and get what you want for your community.

## INTERNET HUMOR

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?  
How come wrong numbers are never busy?

# People worldwide are on to Guffey

by Jake Bauman

The Guffey Community Charter School has been discovered by the Australian government. David Price, Assistant to the Minister of Education for Australia, will be coming to the Guffey school on March 21, according to Ginny Jaramillo, teacher/administrator.

Price is a Churchill Fellow who is someone who studies schools. He is coming because he wants to know how rural communities and schools work together in the United States.

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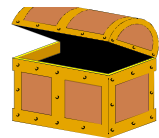
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# Calendar

by Savanna Velasquez

## City Hall Activities

- May 27** -- Biscuits and Gravy Cook-off  
**June 10** -- Fiddle contest  
**July 4** -- Chicken fly  
**September 2** -- Biscuits and Gravy Cook-off

## Yoga Class Times (different locations)

Contact Regan Henley, 689-3465

- Mon 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Wed 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
Thur 6:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.  
Sat 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Fee: 1½ hour class, \$9  
2 hour class, \$12

## School Activities

- May 4** -- Potluck, 5:30 p.m. and Spring Program 6:30 p.m.  
**June 1** -- Awards & Graduation Ceremony, 2 p.m.  
**March 1** -- Meteorite Program 3 p.m. & 6 p.m.

## Guffey Community Charter Board

- March 9** -- 6 p.m., Guffey school  
**April 13** -- 6 p.m., Guffey school  
**May 11** -- 6 p.m., Guffey school

## Re-2 District Board in Guffey

- May 8** -- 7 p.m., Guffey school  
**April 9** -- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 9Health Fair, Guffey school

## Classified ads

**FREE:** Washer, stoves, refrigerator, and other misc. Call 719/479-2218.

**FOR SALE:** Utility trailer, \$300 OBO. Call 719/479-2218.

## Collector stamps are available

by Amanda Andrews

Stamp collectors may want to know that there are three new stamps that are now available at the Guffey post office. All three of the stamps cost 33 cents each. The newest of the three stamps is the Black Heritage stamp with Patricia Roberts Harris. Harris is on this stamp because she was the first African American to serve as a member of a presidential cabinet.

The second stamp is the Lunar New Year stamp. It came out January 7, 2000. The other stamp is called Year 2000. It came out December 27, 1999.

## Is Guffey growing?

by Savanna Velasquez

Some people say Guffey is nice, but wait five years. Linda Alarcon, Guffey postmaster, says the number of rented post office boxes has gone up in the last year from 171 to 196. That means about 25 families have moved to the Guffey area. Also the number of home delivery boxes has gone up from 190 to 240.

There are a number of reasons why people like to move up here. According to Holly Remington, local realtor, half of the people she sells properties to are either retired or self-employed. Alarcon says there are more and more home-based businesses, which means more mail.

Some other long-time residents, though, just say: "Let's see if they make it through two winters!"

# Happy birthday!

Matt Smith – Feb. 21

(Good luck sharing the day with a teacher!)

Peg Larson – Feb. 21

Elijah Alarcon – March 16

Kyle Gibbs – March 12

Kaleigh Gerlich – March 19

(Happy days sharing with two boys!)



-- Coloring by Amanda Andrews

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*Kids in kindergarten through grade 3 had an author party where they dressed in costume. Some of them, like Cassy Hotovy, read to some older kids, like Jake Bauman.*

## Seniors schedule meetings

by **Yvette Enriquez**

Seniors, those who are 60 years and older, are invited to come to the Senior Coalition board meetings. The next board meetings are on March 9 and April 13 in Fairplay. Drivers are still needed to drive seniors to meetings and doctor appointments. For details call the Guffey area's seniors coordinator Susan Larcom Vines at 689-2559.

## *It's party time in Cripple Creek*

by **Yvette Enriquez**

The second annual Pearl's Follies will be held on Friday, March 3 at the Cripple Creek Elks Lodge. Starting at 6 p.m. There will be a cocktail hour, hors d'oeuvres and surprises. Then at 7 p.m. there will be dancing, singing and comedy. Entertainment will be provided by the Lays Brothers, Jody Baker, Les Hinneman, Buddy Clark, Norbie Larsen, Greg Brazill and The Phantom Canyon Band, among others.

Proceeds from Pearl's Follies benefit the Old Homestead House Museum. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$15 for couples, and \$2.50 for kids between the ages of 10 and 13. Free parking is available at the lot next to the Homestead House Museum on Myers Ave. For additional details, call Charlotte at 689-2485 or Lodie at 689-2754.

## *Ankrum wins wood*

by **Savanna Velasquez**

Friends of the Guffey Library had a fundraiser over the holidays. They earned approximately \$270. The prize was a cord of wood. The winner of the wood was Susan Ankrum.



## *The Book*

*"Books make good gifts"*

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# The fox eats the pig

by Joshua Daniel Smith

*Editor's note: We have decided to print the fictional story, "The fox eats the pig" by Joshua Smith. We want to give readers an idea about what the lower grades in the Guffey Community Charter School are writing. Joshua was not asked to write this story. He did it on his own.*

Once a little pig named Slopie ate some green grass and a fox came along and said *yum*. The pig ran away. The fox named Peter howled, and he was mad so he ran after Slopie. The pig was in a hiding place. The fox ran back to his home. The fox was very hungry so he ran after Slopie again. The fox found the pig. He chased the pig. He lost the pig. He still ran after the pig and found him. The pig could not lose him. So the fox ate the pig. The end.



## Deputies watch for speeders

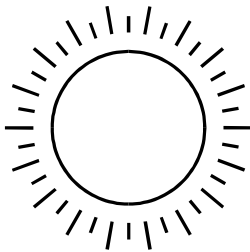
by Matthew Smith

Sheriff's deputies are patrolling State Highway 9 and County Road 102. The deputies have passed out 36 speeding tickets since December. "Slow down and buckle up," Deputy Mike Brown exclaimed.

There were also six domestic violence calls since December. Other than this, Guffey has been a quiet place, Brown said.

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*Frank Ruvo helps students in the Guffey school's greenhouse project cut a board to make a solar pod. A solar pod is smaller than a greenhouse . . . you can't get into it. It's buried in the ground, which helps make the growing season longer.  
 Photo by LeAnn McCaslin.*

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# Eye on the Sky

## *Look for spring . . . in the sky*

by Chris Peterson (clp@alumni.caltech.edu)

Although its signs usually come a little late to Guffey, we are only a few weeks from the traditional start of spring. This year the March equinox will occur 35 minutes after midnight on the evening of March 19. At that moment the sun will be directly over the equator, beginning its northward climb toward summer in our hemisphere.

The fact that we have seasons is a consequence of the earth's axis of rotation being tilted with respect to the plane of its orbit. This means that as we revolve around the sun over the course of a year, the position of the sun in the sky changes. There are four times we take particular note of: the December solstice, when the North Pole is tilted its farthest from the sun, the June solstice, when the North Pole is tilted its closest to the sun, and the March and September equinoxes, when the poles are not tilted with respect to the sun at all. These events occur every time the earth travels another quarter of the way around the sun, and therefore, are separated by three month intervals. In the United States, it is customary to consider that spring begins on the March equinox, summer on the June solstice, autumn on the September equinox, and winter on the December solstice.

The June and December solstices are often referred to as the summer and winter

solstices, and the March and September equinoxes as the spring and autumn equinoxes. It is better to refer to them by their months, however, as the seasons are reversed between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. In New Zealand, for example, the March equinox marks the beginning of autumn.

On the equinoxes, the sun appears to rise exactly in the East and set exactly in the West everywhere on earth. You can test this by finding an east-west road and observing where the sun rises and sets. The day and night will also be of equal length, 12 hours each, everywhere in the world. Actually, there is one exception to these rules: At the North and South poles, there is no sunrise or sunset on the equinoxes. The half visible sun simply revolves around the entire horizon over the course of the day (or night, if you prefer).

Today we understand the physical meaning of the solstices and equinoxes. To ancient cultures, however, these events took on great mystical and practical significance. Without knowing that the earth circles the sun, ancient astronomers were able to predict the seasons and the position of the sun in the sky. In some cases they built structures which served as astronomical instruments for the detection of seasonal events. Examples survive to this day in Central America

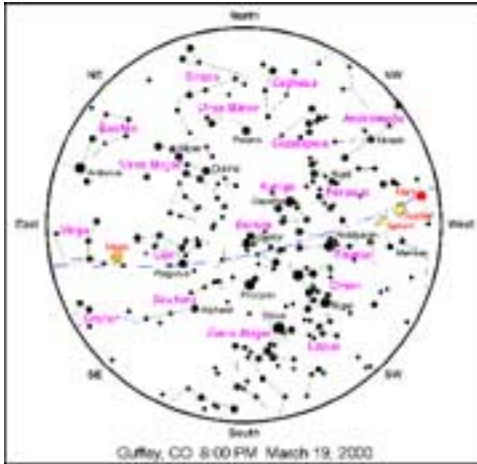
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(the Mayans and Aztecs), Europe (the Celts and Druids), and Africa (the Egyptians). Typically, these structures feature elements which cast shadows or direct light beams onto targets on a given solstice or equinox. In addition to such architectural evidence, written records have survived from the Mayans, Egyptians and Chinese that prove these cultures were able to create accurate calendars.

Ancient peoples were also very aware of the night sky, and understood that the positions of the stars changed throughout the year. They were able to predict the seasons accurately by determining which stars were crossing directly overhead at a specific time, usually midnight or

sunrise. This type of information was of vital importance, as it told them when to plant or harvest their crops.

If you want to celebrate this year's March equinox, you don't need a clock to determine its exact time. Just imagine a line running straight across the sky from North to South. When the full moon is just crossing this line... welcome spring!

## Ready, set, spell!

by Savanna Velasquez

About 40 kids from grades 3 through 8 showed up for the Re-2 District Spelling Bee held recently at the Edith Teter Elementary School in Fairplay.

There were five rounds in all, but unfortunately, none of the Guffey kids make it through all the rounds. Kaleigh Gerlich made it to the first round and misspelled the word *racket*. Then Alex Henley misspelled the word *platonian* in round three. LeAnn McCaslin, last year's District winner, was still in . . . but missed the word *kerchief* in round four.

The only two kids who made it to the final round were Rebecca Pell, grade 4, and Ira McManah, grade 8, both from Fairplay schools. McManah turned out to be the winner of the Spelling Bee. "I thought the person who won was lucky, and I wish I could have congratulated him," McCaslin said.



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# Library users go beyond the books

by LeAnn McCaslin

The Guffey Library has just received a lot of new books. There's good news for kids, according to Regan Henley, librarian. The first three books in the J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series are available for checkout. Adults may be interested in knowing that Dr. Heller's *Carbohydrate Addict's Healthy Heart Program* is available.

The meetings for the Guffey Literary Society are every second Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. February book selection *Love In the Time of Cholera* by Marquez. Copies of this book are available.

Also, the Friends of the Guffey Library will meet at the library on Tuesday, March 7 at 1 p.m. For more information, call Henley at 689-9280.

# Auxiliary elects new officers

by Ashley Smith

Linda Stanley was just elected president of the auxiliary for the Southern Park County Fire Protection District (Guffey). She replaces Trish Maris who had served since the Auxiliary began a couple of years ago. Judy Hudak is vice president and Ell Growth, secretary-treasurer.

The fire auxiliary supports firefighters. They make money for the fire department and give them food while they are working.

According to Stanley, they plan to have a garage sale fund-raiser and a barn dance at the new Station 3. If anyone would like to get involved in the fire auxiliary, call Stanley at 660-0529.

# Life in a small town

by Jake Bauman

*What do you do for fun in the winter?* In Guffey some people like to spend time outdoors while others prefer to watch movies.

Donny Kinne, who lives east of Guffey, likes to sit by a nice warm fire and watch movies while drinking hot cocoa. She also likes to go hiking or ice fishing, and then again, she likes making snow angels and sledding. On really cold days she likes to bake. "I love it up here. People are really friendly," Kinne said.

Dave Foster, who also lives east of Guffey, likes to watch movies and read. Sometimes he likes to ride horses. "It's great up here," Foster said, referring to life in this small town.

Fred Zuercher, of the Bear Trap subdivision, takes hikes and looks at wildlife. He also likes to go ice fishing. He loves life in a small town. "I have more time to accomplish all my work," he said.

**Internet humor:** Have you ever seen a toad on a toadstool?



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# Animal Awareness: *Adoption's an option*

by LeAnn McCaslin

Adopting older animals and strays can be tiring. But, it can pay off, and strays are sometimes the most loyal pets you can find.

One of my first experiences was my first cat, Mushy. We had gotten Mushy from a friend. Mushy has tan-colored long hair. He is older, and he sheds a lot. When we first got him, he wouldn't let us touch him. Now, he is very loyal.

Our next cat was a short hair, Smokey. Smokey was a stray. She just appeared on our porch one day, along with another cat who had been there a long time, Nightengale. Nightengale is wild, with black fur and gold eyes. He hisses at us and won't let us touch him. He has been wild all his life.

But Smokey was different. She strolled

right up to us and purred. She would meow and sit on our laps. Finally, we let her inside. We were nervous about it, and Mushy didn't like it at first, but now Mushy and Smokey are best of friends.

Our third cat, Furby, is Mushy's brother. Furby is another long hair, only gray. Furby also has greener eyes. We are still working with Furby's trust, and he likes us.

Our dog also was a stray. She had been swimming through a muddy river and was walking by the side of the road. She is still overweight, but she is very loyal.

The point of this article is that stray and older animals make very good pets. The only problem is that the vet bills may be expensive. When you get a stray, they often have health problems.

## There's thanksgiving after the tragedy

by C.J. Enriquez

*Frank Ruvo and his son, Dustin, were in their basement watching a movie on Dec. 20, not knowing that a fire was starting in their upstairs. The fire caused a lot of damage although the structure of the house was saved.*

"It's taken us a while to clean up the mess," Ruvo said. Thanks to people in the community with donations, he says they will be able to get everything together again. "I would really like to thank the community, and I'm grateful that Fire Station 3 was there to save our house," Ruvo said. "I really want to thank the friends and strangers who helped us out. . . . They proved that we live in a very special place here, and we should never take that for granted," he added.

The cause of the fire was an electrical problem. The next day there were 40 friends at the Ruvo family home to help clean up and rebuild. Ruvo's wife, Sandy, was not home at the time of the fire. They did get all the pets out.

There were two cats, a dog, and a turtle. He put the turtle in a cooler and put it in his car to protect it from the -2 degree temperatures.

"Already Station 3 in the Pike Trails subdivision has proven its importance. It was directly related to saving the Ruvo's home," Gene Stanley, chief of the Southern Park County Fire Protection District, said. It was the first house fire in the District in two years.



# Guffey internet domain to be created; web page links, e-mail available

by Simon Kane

The town of Guffey needs some form of regular, timely communication. "Eye on Guffey" and "The Flume" can meet some of the need, but in this day and age, there's a need for more timely announcements. That's one of the reasons why I approached the Guffey Community Association and asked them to authorize me to apply for a Guffey domain. I'm donating the space for the town's web page, and I'll do the data entry of material provided by the Community Association and other local agencies. The .US root domain is run as a public service so there is no charge to the town.

I've submitted the application to US Domain Registration, and the Guffey Community Association has sent in its letter of authorization. We're waiting now to hear back from them. If everything goes as expected, we'll soon have a Guffey.CO.US domain which will have a Guffey town web site and e-mail list. Businesses and individuals will be able to link their web pages to it or join the mailing list.

There's another big advantage for everyone in the community who is on the internet. They can have an e-mail address that they will never have to change. If they tell me their e-mail address and the name they want at Guffey.CO.US, our mail server will forward their mail at no charge. That way, even if they change their internet provider, all they have to do is tell me the new one, and they will continue to get their mail. They will never have to go through the trouble of telling everyone of an e-mail address change. They just tell me, and I change the forwarding address. In addition, I can provide Guffey.CO.US web addresses that will point to the web sites of local businesses and individuals.

There's no charge for either service – provided that the applicant donates something to a community agency or cause. The donation can be

either volunteer time or money.

There are other services that I can provide for a fee. If someone wants me to create their web site or if they have internet service but they want me to provide full e-mail service, I can do that. Full service e-mail accounts cost \$25 a year. For me to act as their webmaster or to host their site on my servers, the charges vary based on the customer's individual needs.

Watch for information about activation of the Guffey town domain and then e-mail me at [hostmaster@visioncomm.net](mailto:hostmaster@visioncomm.net) or call 689-2806.

## Letters

### *It'll be an annual event*

Dear Editorial Board:

Our Guffey community is warm, fun loving and vibrantly alive, as attested to by the wonderful response to the Christmas Day Potluck. Special gratitude to all of you many who helped, especially the school children and staff for the pretty Christmas tree and centerpieces, and the business folks who generously provided for the whole group, in so many ways.

We are an annual event! If you have suggestions, please call 689-9044. Thanks, friends!

*Pascha*

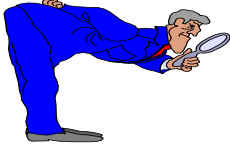
### *It's expensive*

To Our Readers:

We appreciate your interest in the community and your support of the school and the community's children. These magazines, however, are expensive to print. If you get a magazine from one of our distribution boxes, please bring or send the 50 cents to the Guffey school, P.O. Box 147, Guffey, CO 80820. Thanks!

*Lynda MacDonald, teacher*

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-- Artwork by Ashley Smith

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