

Our History

40 YEARS AGO

From The Telluride Times, June 30, 1977

ELK HERD FOUND DEAD FROM MYSTERIOUS PLUNGE

When Jack Pera went for a hike near upper Mill and Eider Creeks, he was hoping to find a few elk in the high mountain meadows. Instead, Pera, a local wildlife expert, found 61 elk scattered on the talus at the base of a 12,500-foot ridge in Park Basin. All were dead.



BOBBIE SHAFFER
A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Pera spotted the elk carcasses from below. "Something just didn't look right," he said, "So I took out my binoculars and that's when I saw them. After finding a couple of carcasses still caught on the cliffs above, he realized the elk must have fallen to their deaths.

The next day, DOW Officers Lyle Bennett and Ken Miller returned with Pera to the site.

While both officers were a little skeptical of Pera's story, they could not dispute the evidence: piles of carcasses on the steep slope at the base of a 60-foot cliff. "I've never seen anything like it," said Bennet. Occasionally a deer or elk might slip and fall to its death, but 61? It's just unheard of.

The officers speculated that the incident must have happened in July or August of 1976. "The bulls still had velvet on their antlers and the calves were quite small," Miller pointed out.

The reason the elk jumped from the cliff may have been a low-flying aircraft.

It also was speculated that lightning may have spooked the animals, causing them to stampede, but generally elk just don't do that.

Animals such as a mountain lion, bear, or coyote could have been the cause. Elk are just too ac-

See HISTORY, Page 59

Birthdays

July 2: Bonnie Cohen, Terryl Dahl, Michael Erie, Patrick Fallon, Candice Good, Erica Goodwin, Steven Green, Diane Kipfer, Radina Lukanova, Elizabeth Plamondon, Roxanne Perry Raleigh, Julia Reid, Chandler Tamulonis; **July 3:** Joyce Allred, Sandra Dubois, Julie Fee, Erin Geis, Palmyre Gleason, Chris "Lover Boy" Loccisano, Angela Mallard; **July 4:** Regis Arnold, Eleanor Greenbank, Pam Guillory, Heidi Strahl.

If you'd like any additions, deletions or corrections to the birthday list, please contact Bobbie at bobbies@telluride-colorado.net. Ages 18 and over please.



Parting shot...

"The Hillstompers band will lead the Fourth of July parade again and perform at The Liberty Monday (7:30 p.m.) and Tuesday (6 p.m.) night."

—John Hopkins

TELLURIDE DAILY PLANET

ORBIT

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

JULY 2, 2017



The team at Frank.ai: Ahti Nurme, Harry Kanistik and Jan Plaan. (Courtesy photo)

BUSINESS

Start me up

After local mentoring, international companies to navigate next steps

By SAGE MARSHALL
Special to the Planet

In the second floor of The Peaks Resort & Spa, there's a sleek-looking office filled with young people using silver MacBook Pros. If not for the view of the mountains, you might think the office is in Silicon Valley.

It's actually the Telluride Venture Accelerator program, an offshoot of the Telluride Foundation that supports start-ups by hosting them in Mountain Village, offering entrepreneurial mentorship and networking opportunities — even investing in the businesses.

The program hosted seven companies from the beginning of March until the end of June, and two of them were based in other countries.

Marc Nager, TVA managing director and vice president of innovation for the foundation, noted the importance of bringing in international companies.

"The opportunity to bring in different cultures and a diversity of perspective is fundamental to building a high-quality entrepreneurial ecosystem," Nager said.

This year's international entrepreneurs hail from Eastern Europe and Southwest Asia.

Frank.ai is a technology start-up founded in Estonia that uses automation to optimize online advertising for small- and mid-size businesses. Rightclick.io is a website development company that started in Pakistan.

Nager said the TVA program is especially useful for international entrepreneurs because of access to the globally connected group of mentors in Telluride.

Jan Plaan is CEO and co-founder of Frank.ai. Plaan said he was initially cautious about the program. That caution subsided over time.

"At first I was really hesitant, because I 'Googled' Telluride and saw that it was 9,000 feet up in the mountains and had only

2,000 people," Plaan said. "I'm so happy that we came here. We've been able to get access to people that I'm not sure we could have in other places."

Hashim Yasin, co-founder and COO of Rightclick.io, also spoke about the supportive Telluride community.

"The support is amazing," Yasin said. "Everyone is always ready to help."

Harry Kanistik, one of the co-founders of Frank.ai, plans on staying in Boston to run the American branch of the company. Yasin also plans to stay in the United States to run his company with his co-founder in Los Angeles.

"The U.S. is one of the biggest markets, and we decided to go after the biggest markets," Kanistik said.

Kanistik and Yasin's plans are contingent on acquiring the appropriate visas. Both are in the U.S. on six-month visas.

See BUSINESS, Page 59

Sunday Focus: Business & Real Estate

1. The Sheridan Opera House has a three-day Art Exhibition and Sale coming up of those lustrous plein air paintings you've been seeing around town. It takes place on Sunday from noon-7 p.m. and 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, in Elks Park and Oak Street Park outside the Sheridan Opera House.
2. Get in the Fourth of July spirit before the Fourth of July at a Red, White and Blues Concert Monday evening at Sunset Plaza. The music goes from 6-8 p.m.
3. Telluride's Independence Day celebration will include a main street parade (11 a.m.), firemen's barbecue in Town Park (noon) and a fireworks display. Create your own fireworks by entering the Telluride Hot Shot Photo Contest, another annual tradition (the contest is in its eighth year). For more information, visit TellurideHotShotPhotoContest.com.

REAL ESTATE

SALE FOREVER PROTECTS ENJOYMENT OF BEAR CREEK

SPECIAL TO THE PLANET

Bear Creek Reserve is the final chapter of a long-standing conservation effort to preserve the Bear Creek Valley in its natural state.

In 2003, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) purchased Kentucky Placer, a 120-acre parcel of land stretching from the entry of the Bear Creek Trailhead to the base of Bridal Veil Falls. TPL worked with the Town of Telluride with the vision of protecting critical active and passive open space that was the final piece of the puzzle of a complex network of open space parcels surrounding the Town.

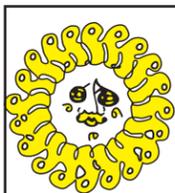
TPL created three lots at the entrance to Bear Creek to be able to provide an economic solution for purchasing and protecting this final piece of the puzzle, according to a news release from Telluride Properties. The three lots have now been developed as the Residences at Bear Creek Reserve, the result of an ambitious conservation project that will serve Telluride residents and its visitors in perpetuity.

Developer Chris Chaffin formed the partnership that purchased the property from TPL in 2012.

"I have such respect for the work that TPL does to preserve critical open space," Chaffin said. "This was a personal opportunity to help complete the Conservation Development strategy of protecting important open space by developing a small piece of the land, which is in a very appropriate place for three residences."

Bear Creek Reserve is comprised of three single-family residences situated at the entrance to Bear Creek Valley. In the spir-

See BEAR CREEK, Page 59

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Sale protects Bear Creek

BEAR CREEK, from page 68

it of preservation and the unique native setting, a team of local designers and builders were charged with creating artfully designed, modern residences that maintained a deep connection with their natural surroundings, the news release said.

Architect Eric Cummings ambitiously conceptualized spaciouly contiguous living areas nestled in a sophisticated tree house that captures a canopy of mountain and town views. Each residence has been carefully fashioned by Studio Lambiotte to reflect a functional and natu-

rally modern design inspired by the adventure driven Telluride lifestyle.

Millwork steel, burnt walnut cabinetry, Taj Mahal granite countertops and modern fixtures were blended to create a palate that homebuyers immediately responded to. Bringing it all together, seasoned builders, Finbro Construction, have effectually transformed years of planning and design into the artful, quality-built homes you see today.

The first residence at Bear Creek Reserve was completed in February, and upon being staged, quickly fell under con-

tract with the remaining two unfinished residences following quickly behind.

"Selling a project pre-completion is rare in Telluride and I feel like the success we have had with Bear Creek Reserve is directly relatable to a unique and extremely desirable product that has been collectively accomplished. Buyers appreciate the singularity of this setting and playing a role in its preservation," stated Brian O'Neill of the O'Neill Stetina Group at Telluride Properties.

For more information, send an email to brian@oneillstetina.com or visit OneillStetina.com.

Start me up

BUSINESS, from page 68

Andrew Moriarty, deputy organizing director at FWD.us, expects that the two businesses might face difficulties staying in the U.S.

FWD.us is a non-partisan brainchild of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg that advocates for secure borders, an earned path to citizenship for those already in the U.S. and for expanding the legal immigration system.

"There's not a clear pathway, as foreign entrepreneurs, for them to stay in the country and to build their companies," Moriarty said. "Without that (pathway) there definitely are many challenges."

Both Kanistik and Yasin plan

to apply for L-1 visas, which allow managerial employees of international businesses to transfer to the United States for seven years. Kanistik is confident that he will be able to get an L-1 visa. Yasin also is optimistic, yet nervous, about getting his visa approved.

Regardless, both entrepreneurs expect they'll have to work around the U.S. legal immigration program in the future, specifically the lottery-based application for the H-1B visa which allows U.S. companies to bring in high-skilled foreign workers. Yasin said that Rightclick.io plans to hire U.S. citizens instead of bringing employees over from Pakistan. Psaan said that Frank.ai might encounter difficulty in the future, should the company decide to transfer non-manage-

rial staff from Estonia.

On a broader scale, the rules on legal immigration could be shifting.

President Trump recently issued an executive order to reassess the H-1B visa processes. Moriarty said he is optimistic that the Trump administration will work to modernize the legal immigration system.

Moriarty also cited Obama's International Entrepreneurial Rule, which grants foreign entrepreneurs "temporary parole" from having to leave the country, as an important step forward.

However, on June 21, after Moriarty spoke with The Planet, the San Francisco Chronicle reported a leak by a Trump administration official that the president plans to rescind Obama's rule.

Our History

HISTORY, from page 68

customed to other animals.

"Something," Pera said, "chased those elk up onto those cliffs and then drove them off. The one thing you can be sure of is that they were awfully frightened."

[Did anyone ever figure out what that was all about, Jack?]

30 YEARS AGO

From The Telluride Times, June 4, 1987

COUNTY LIBRARY DEDICATED TO WILKINSON

Betty and Larry Wilkinson were rewarded for their unselfish years of making sure Telluride had a library, when the new library was named after them.

In 1970, the Wilkinsons started a library backstage at the Community Center *[the old Quonset Hut]*. Then, in 1975, they circulated a petition that eventually produced a library mill levy *[property tax]*, as well as subsequent mill levy increases that resulted in the new library.

The Wilkinsons have been called "an institution of the people."

[Betty Wilkinson passed not many years later. Our current

library, of course, still honors the Wilkinsons and bears their name.]

From The Telluride Times, June 18, 1987

THOTZ BY BOB BEER

[A short paragraph from the hilarious column inspired by observing human behavior and summarizing the signs of the times. Twenty years ago, Senor Roberto Cerveza observed...]

...Now that Bluegrass Festival approaches, some of the deejays at KOTO have switched their formats and are constantly playing bluegrass music, ad nauseum. By the time Doc Watson takes the stage Saturday afternoon, you'll have heard all the Doc you can handle. And just wait 'til Grateful Dead week. "Truckin'" will be worn out. But if there were a reggae/rasta festival, no one would notice a change in programming. Jah moves in strange ways.

From The Telluride Times, June 25, 1987

AIR FORCE F-4 CIRCLES VALLEY

Planet Telluride was invaded Sunday.

No, not by Bluegrass Festival participants, nor by other aliens,

but by the U.S. Air Force.

Our representatives from the Wild Blue Yonder impressed us ... through the use of some highly advanced technology — the F-4 jet fighter.

Some friends and I were spending a peaceful afternoon at Silver Lake, fishing, sun worshipping and gawking at the splendor of it all.

All of a sudden, a tremendous roar, unlike any I had ever heard before, rolled down the slopes.

Our world has been literally shattered. Fish, estimated to be at least 20 inches long and clearly visible in the pristine water, scattered in all directions.

An F-4 at tree level? No way.

Airport officials estimate the aircraft, flying at nearly 600 mph, flew 5,000 feet above ground elevation.

This is about as close to the federal government Telluride has come recently in our own world of our own here in this valley. ...I visualized the pilot of this craft exclaiming, "We can't let them get away with this," while gazing down at the huge crowd of Bluegrass participants partying at Town Park.

Bobbie can be contacted at bobbies@telluridecolorado.net Comments are welcome.