

Canyon County Parks, Cultural and Natural Resources

Crossroads

Fall 2020

What we did this summer!?



Four issues per year... 2007—2020... 13 years... $4 \times 13 = 52$... Fifty-two issues of *Crossroads*.

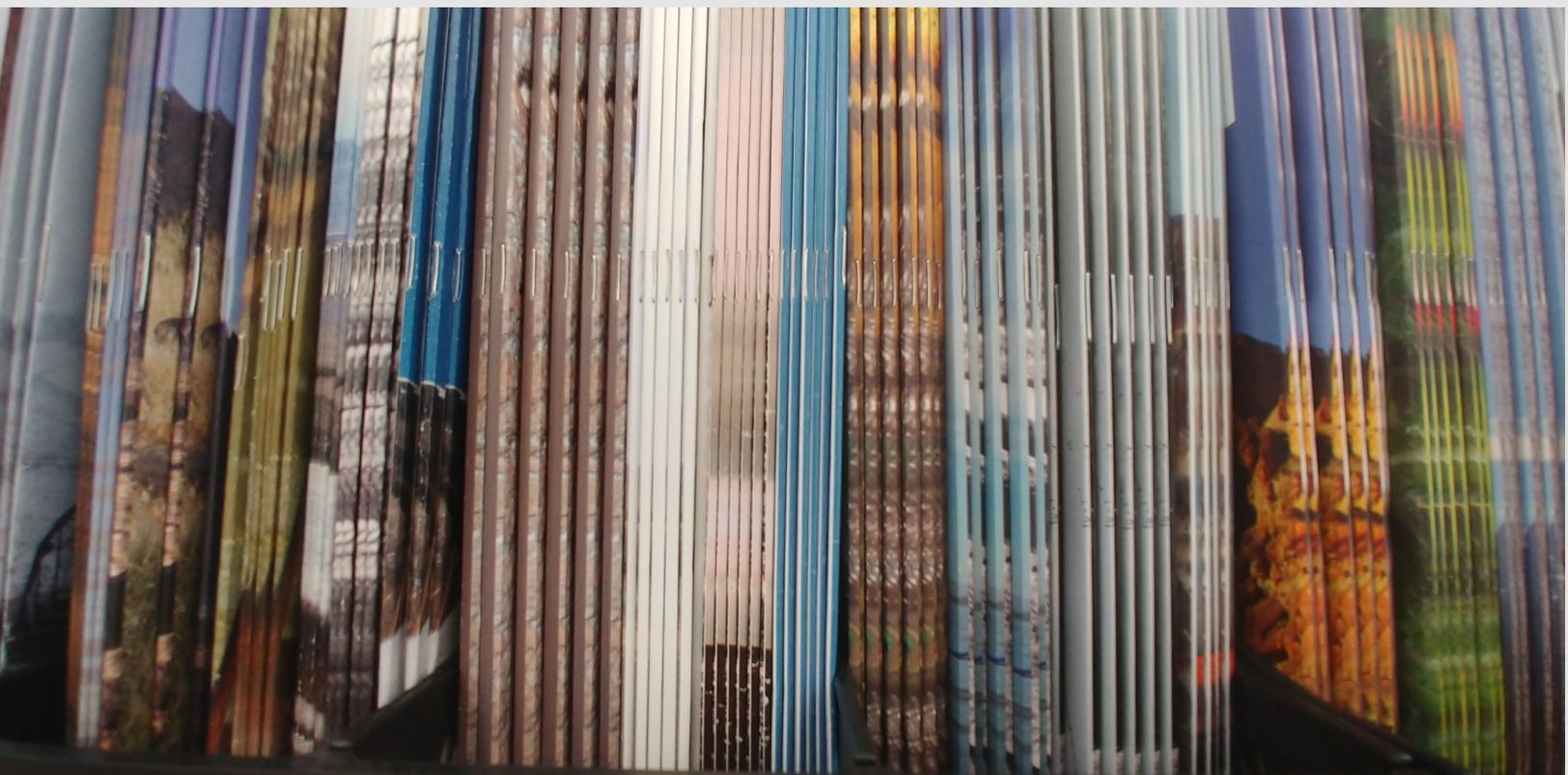
Bordering this page are the bindings of all 52 issues. The bindings that tie the years together. A twist on the phrase, “the tie that binds”. I’ve sung those words in a church hymn. The same hymn that appeared three times in Thornton Wilder’s play, “Our Town.” The words that have been used in at least one movie title. What do they mean?

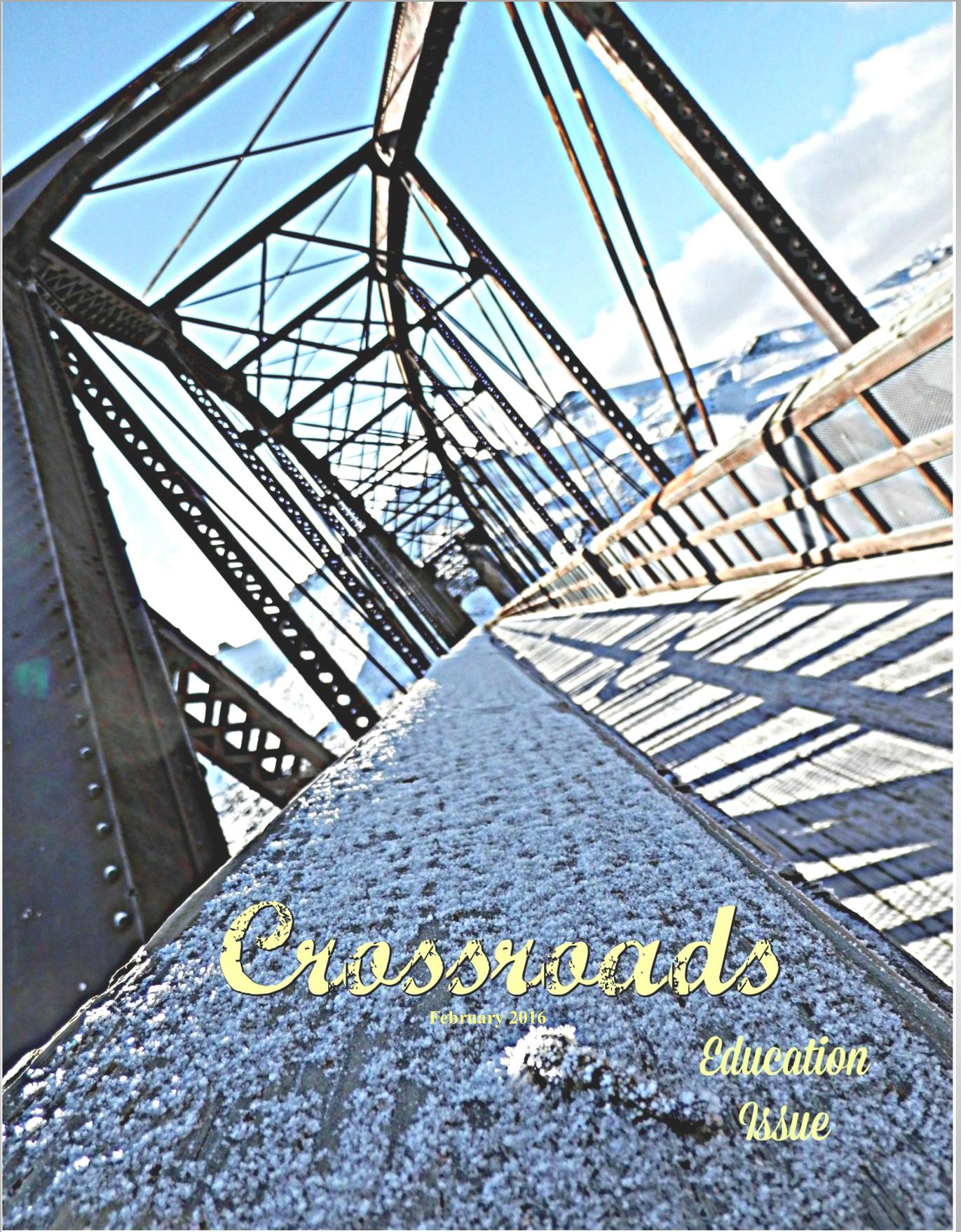
I looked it up. The tie that binds (or the ties that bind) is “*the shared belief, or other factor, that links people together.*” That says it all.

For 13 years, *Crossroads* has linked a whole bunch of us together because we share a belief in the value of the recreational and educational mission of Canyon County Parks, Cultural and Natural Resources. *Crossroads* has become an archive of our achievements and will serve as a guide for the bright future that I’m sure lies ahead.

It’s been a distinct pleasure and honor to have been part of the Canyon County Parks, Cultural and Natural Resources staff. As I leave the department for my own future adventures, I can say that producing *Crossroads* has been the most fun I’ve ever had at work! However, I certainly didn’t do it by myself. It’s always been a departmental collaboration of ideas and written words, photos and art. That’s been the fun of it. Take a look at the next few pages—some of my favorite *Crossroads* covers—great examples of our collaboration. Our staff linked together in the creative effort... the tie that binds.

Best to you all—Kathy



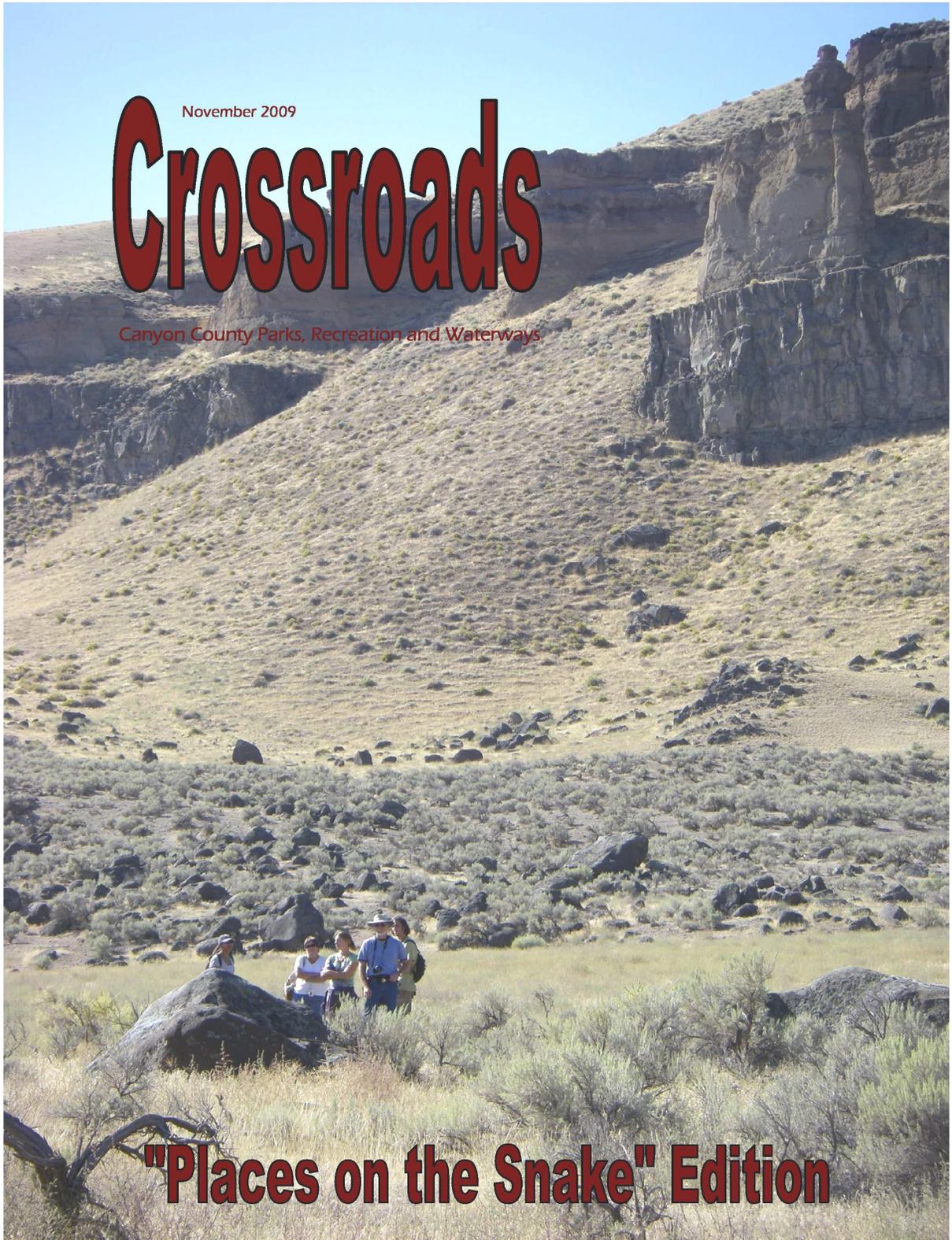


Crossroads

February 2016

Education
Issue

Former director, *Tom Bicak*, took this photo. The Historic Guffey Railroad Bridge almost certainly has been photographed hundreds of thousands of times. Tom found an angle that most wouldn't. I appreciate his art... and this historic bridge.



Another Tom Bicak photo. This was taken at Wees Bar, upstream from Celebration Park. This certainly defines a “sense of place.” For me, this photo speaks to the vastness, ruggedness and beauty of the Snake River canyon.

CROSSROADS

canyon county parks recreation & waterways
February 2014



What can I say? Here's Tom's "artistic eye" again. He took a picture of the entire, ice frosted tree. Then he started cropping. This is where it ended. Beautiful, isn't it?



August 2011

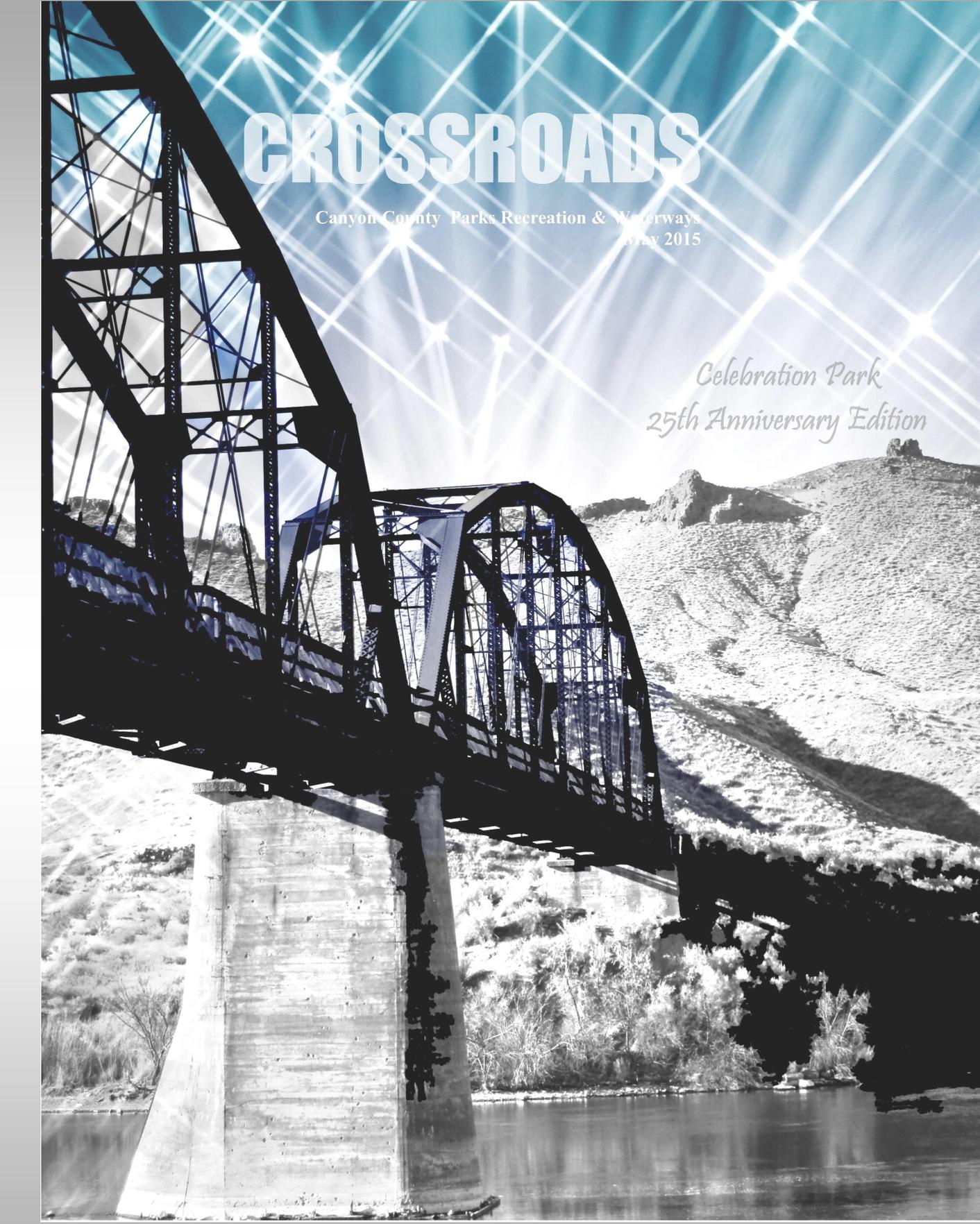
Crossroads

Canyon County Parks, Recreation and Waterways

**Another busy summer for
Canyon County Parks**

A western kingbird couple chose to nest in a rain gutter on the shop building at Celebration Park. There were many things that could have gone wrong (!) but they managed to raise their family successfully.

Laura Doty, an Interpretive Specialist with us that summer, climbed a ladder to get this shot.



CROSSROADS

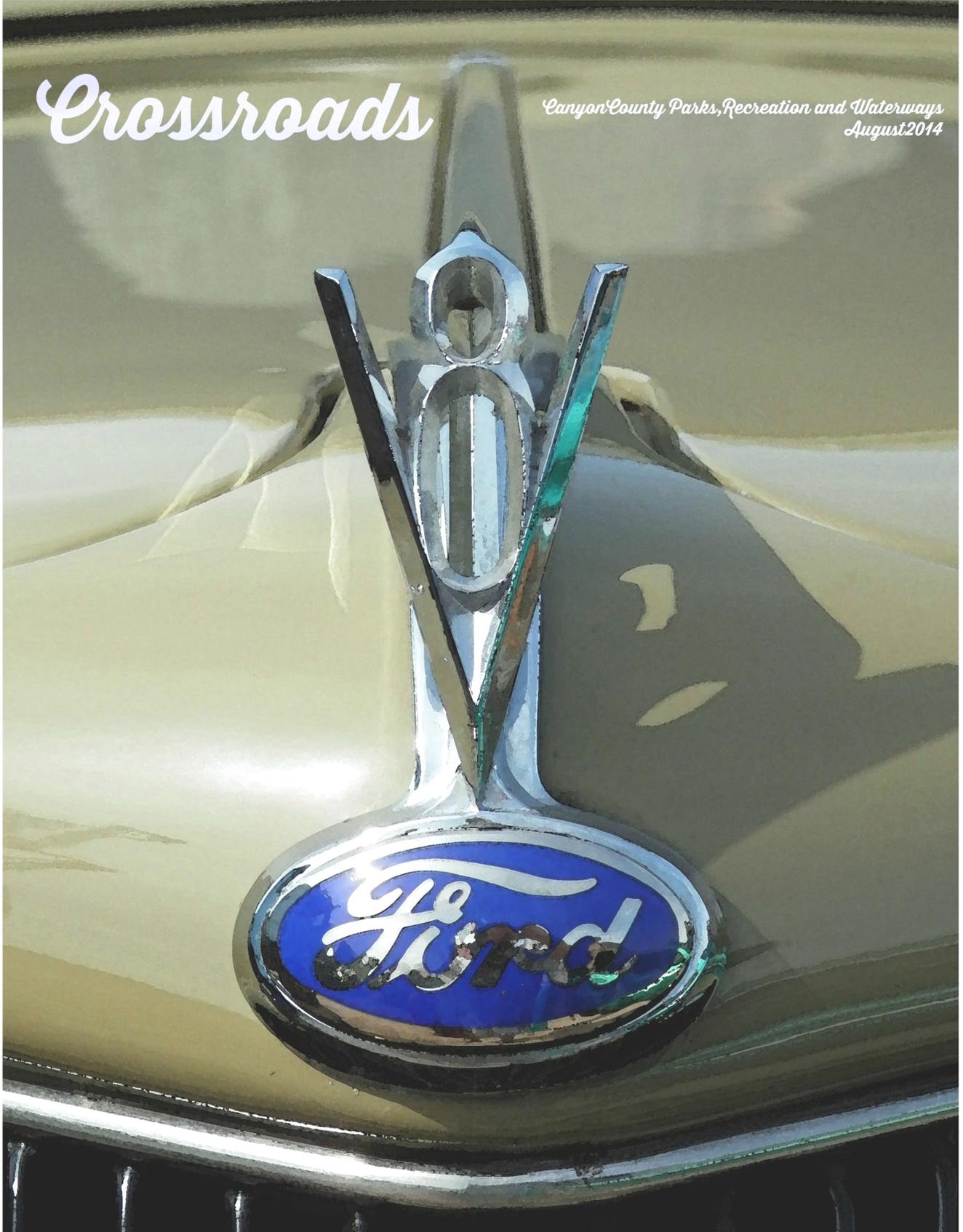
Canyon County Parks Recreation & Waterways
May 2015

*Celebration Park
25th Anniversary Edition*

I had to include another cover shot of the Historic Guffey Railroad Bridge. It goes without saying that this one is particularly meaningful. In honor of the “**Celebration Park 25th Anniversary Edition**”, I added some graphic “pizazz!”

Crossroads

Canyon County Parks, Recreation and Waterways
August 2014



The **Melba Fun Run** has been an event that brings 60—70 antique/classic cars to Celebration Park each year. Organized by the **Western Idaho Ford Model T Club** and our friend, **Don Borchers**, this year **would have been** the 26th run. It didn't happen, of course. Come on 2021! Collectively, hundreds of car photos have been taken by members of our staff over the years. Hood ornaments—they don't make em' like they used to!



Canyon County Parks, Cultural and Natural Resources

Crossroads

Winter 2019



This cover sums up all that's memorable about our field trip programming at Celebration Park where school buses are a parking lot fixture at times. Petroglyph tours and fun on the atlatl range are student favorites. The bus on this cover brought some Boise students including, *Teagan Schwend*, daughter of our current director, *Nicki Schwend*, who took that photo. The collaboration continues!



Crossroads

Fall 2020

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Director/Nicki Schwend
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 Programs Manager/Juli McCoy
 Programs Coordinator/Amelia Barton
 Maintenance Coordinator/Lori Berry
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www.canyonco.org/parks



The cover photo was taken by **Nicki Schwend** in her backyard. The two screech owls, fondly called “Hoot” and “Toot” by the Schwend family, were residing in their backyard tree, above. As time went on, Hoot and Toot would move closer to the Schwend family action, perching on tools mounted on their shed (cover photo). **BTW**, I include this issue’s cover in my favorite Crossroads cover photo collection!

From the Director

LOST BIRTHDAYS, PUBLIC LANDS AND GOOD BOOKS

In these unique times of 2020, it seems to be the year of ‘lost birthdays’ as celebrations and other gatherings are greatly impacted during Covid-19 and our new-found norms of ‘social distancing’, face masks and quarantines. My family and friends have had to deal with their fair share of figuring out, adapting or canceling monumental birthdays this year. No more big parties or blowing out candles on a big-shared layer cake; individual cupcakes and small groups it is - preferably outdoors.

With the major increases in visits to our parks and public lands I’m sure a fair share of increases have included higher



numbers of outdoor birthday gatherings. I’ve seen more than a few in the parks near my home. We’re all looking for ways to do the ordinary in unordinary times. While contemplating the ‘lost’ (or ‘adapted’?) birthdays of this year, I stumbled upon some interesting birthdays that I’m willing to bet most of us never think about – the birthdays of public lands in the US. The Bureau of Land Man-

agement was established on July 16, 1946, making it 74 years old. The National Park Service has a birthday of August 25, 1916, making the NPS 104 years old as of this last month. The Forest Service was created of February 1, 1905, making it 115 years old!

Today it’s easy to take these public lands for granted as for most of us, they’ve existed longer than we’ve been alive. It is hard to even imagine that a time existed when public lands didn’t - especially for Western states where public lands are a huge part of our states. Idaho is made up of 61.65% federally owned public land, ranking 6th in the nation in public land ownership! Of Idaho’s federal lands, almost 34% is operated by the Bureau of Land Management (over 11.5 million acres), and just shy of 63% is operated by the US Forest Service (almost



20.5 million acres).

While I’ve been mulling over birthdays and public lands, my summer reading happened to include the book **‘The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America’** by Timothy Egan. The book is named after the famous “Big Burn” of August 20, 1910 that ravaged the town of Wallace (and many other towns) and annihilated national forests in Washington, Idaho and Montana, killing mostly firefighters. It was an epic fire of profound impact to the landscape, human life, and to forestry and firefighting. While the details of the actual fire are riveting, the majority of the book is actually about the history of the founding of the U.S Forest Service under President Teddy Roosevelt and the first U.S. Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot. It reveals in detail the difficulties they faced in the beginning to create such an organization. It also describes the obstacles the first rangers faced and just how much territory they were expected to patrol and protect – an impossible feat. The challenges, obstacles and adversities these foresters faced in the first five years are enough to commend them as heroic stewards. Add on to this the trials and sacrifices (sometimes ultimate) of the 1910 Big Burn event and the stewardship of the Forest Service Rangers and Firefighters, one should feel compelled to elevate them to that of superhero status.

Public lands and the people who act as their protectors and stewards is certainly a subject worthy of reflecting on as public lands are currently bombarded with increased visitation due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I highly recommend taking the time to read ‘The Big Burn’ and think about the people who work to keep public lands available and protected, not just in the Forest Service, but other agencies too. Take some time to be grateful for these lands, from the federal, to state or local level and realize, a lot of effort went into the founding of these lands, and a lot of effort still goes in to them by everyday heroes working within the agencies. Be a steward and/or thank a steward of public lands.

While you’re at it – if you can, check out the ‘Big Burn’ exhibit in the newly remodeled Idaho State Museum, in Boise. It’s a one of a kind interactive exhibit and you won’t regret seeing it.

Nicki



Oh What a Year it has Been...

When you are in the business of running field trip programs for local schools, a global pandemic can really throw off your game. Thankfully, we have an extremely dedicated staff that has spent the spring and summer keeping our park running for our countless visitors and preparing meaningful programs for our upcoming fall of virtual learning.

Though schools were not able to visit this spring, that's not to say our park has been quiet. As a beautifully preserved open space, we were able to offer refuge during the stay at home order to so many who felt trapped in their houses. In order to keep our park running during this tumultuous time, our staff has dedicated much of their time to park improvement projects, visitor tours, and learning a whole new set of skills in order to prepare for virtual field trips. 2020 has been a wild year and it does not show signs of slowing down. We want to thank our amazing staff for continuing to provide meaningful experiences for the public and being dedicated to sharing our park with the kids who visit, even if in a slightly different way. Meet our awesome 2020 Interpretive Specialists!



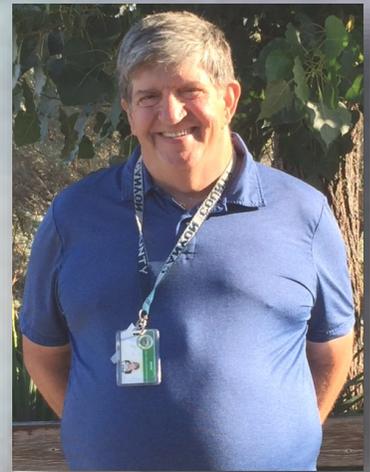
Brenda—2 years



Jessica—2 years



Tim—3 years



Larry—4 years



Brett— 2 years



David— 9 years



Terry— 2 years



Deb— 6 years



Javier— 6 years



Megan— 4 years



THE FLEXIBLE 2020 SEASON AT

CELEBRATION PARK

By Amelia Barton,
Programs Coordinator

Summer Programming

This spring turned us all on our heads, and it was no different here at Canyon County Parks. We were very disheartened that we were not able to bring any schools down to Celebration Park this spring for field trips. That is the heart of what we do, and it felt so dormant around here without classes of kids running around every day! While most of our team was working from home for much of the spring, our Maintenance Coordinator, Lori, was making sure the park was in good condition. She told us that this spring was one of the busiest she's ever seen! While our facilities were closed for a couple months, we were still open for day use and had people visit as a good way to social distance and get outside of their homes. We were happy we could be a place of refuge during this chaotic time, and were relieved when we could safely open up our facilities again.

Part of our reopening meant that we could host some summer programs. We had small groups and practiced safe social distancing in order to still give kids the experience of being at our special park. Our Interpretive Specialists are experts at what they do! They bring enthusiasm and wonder to kids as they explore the petroglyphs, hear ghost stories on the bridge, and learn about prehistoric artifacts. Of course, everyone is concerned

about safety during these uncertain times, and we implemented strict safety protocols to make sure we kept our visitors and ourselves safe.

Our staff wears masks during all programs, and create “bubbles”, use their walking stick as a measuring tool, or draw lines in the dirt to make sure kids stay the safe six feet away. We, as educators, know that being a kid during this time is especially scary. All these new procedures and protocols make it hard to just be a kid. We are committed to making it as fun and light-hearted as possible so kids can still giggle and play. We found that if we make it more like a fun game than a strict rule, kids will not only follow the guidelines but also enjoy the added challenge. Staying in a safety bubble or concentrating to keep toes on a line is a bit less scary than saying “six feet apart so we don’t get sick!!” We are committed to maintaining a positive experience for kids as they come to the park, and are doing all we can to continue this as we move forward!

We had several successful programs this summer, and felt so glad we could continue sharing our park with kids.



Virtual Fall Programs



This fall is going to be another unusual school semester. We know that several school districts have decided to start the school year virtually, and others who are having in-person learning are switching to hybrid models that will have only partially full classes each day. Regardless, most schools have declared that field trips are a no go, and understandably so. It is impossible to social distance with kids while on a bus and, with different kids meeting different days, any given day would inevitably exclude part of the class. However, we are committed at Canyon County to still offer high quality programs that fit the needs to teachers. At this time, we are still planning on having small, in person field trips if some groups are able to make that work. We will continue safety protocols of everyone wearing masks, social distancing, and disinfecting any equipment in between uses.

However, we know that is not going to be an option for most groups. In order to meet schools where they are, we will be offering modified programs this fall. We will have a few different options that will help teachers and the public choose what

fits their needs. Like many educational organizations, we are working hard to prepare quality virtual programs to support distance learning. We will be offering live video presentations with our Interpretive Specialists so that classrooms can still get a field trip experience. They will include exploring the petroglyphs, learning about the historic Guffey Bridge, atlatl demonstrations and more! Of course, we specialize in our place-based model so we will be replicating that as best we can. We really want to give kids the opportunity to “visit” our park virtually, so will be including videos of different parts of the park, interactive activities, and live discussions with our awesome staff. We know we can never replace a visit to our park, but we want to still be able to impart the value of this wide open space we love. We know a virtual connection can at least give a taste of what we offer. Our mission is to connect people with the history and inherent value of open spaces in Idaho and want to bring that into our virtual programs as much as possible.

If scheduling a live field trip seems challenging, we will be offering teachers the option to have a recorded field trip they can play at their discretion. Additionally, we will have some shorter segmented videos that would be able to fit easily into a busy schedule. For schools that are still willing to host visitors outside, we are also prepared to offer outreach lessons with our staff. We would be able to come to your school lawn or another large open space and do a modified version of our field trips. We would ensure small group size, social distanced activities, as well as the required masks. **Teachers, if you are already scheduled, please reach out to let us know which option suits you the best.** If you are not already scheduled for the fall and think a virtual field trip would work well, please contact our Programs Coordinator, Amelia Barton, at abarton@canyonco.org for more info. This new schedule will provide more flexibility so we may be able to fit you in!

In addition to these new resources for teachers, we will be offering more virtual experiences from our park for the public to enjoy as well. Please follow us on social media to see videos of our staff talking about our awesome resources! Our Facebook page is Canyon County Parks, Cultural, and Natural Resources and our Instagram is [@canyoncountyparks](https://www.instagram.com/canyoncountyparks). Additionally, check out our new “Digital Education Resources” page on our website at www.canyonco.org/digital-education-resources/. There you can find videos, photos, and activities you can do on your own at home or down at the park!

While we are happy we can offer all these digital tools, we have our fingers crossed we will be able to return to normal field trips in the spring. We have our flagship archeology field trip, Stories in Stone, which is based on fourth grade school standards. Kids will explore the historic artifacts around our park and learn about the people who used this land to survive. In our Wildland Fire Ecology field trip, middle school students will learn about how fire shapes our landscape, firefighting techniques, and how native plants are adapted to be fire resistant. In our Lake Lowell field trip, second and third graders will learn about the ecology and history of the Lake Lowell region through water quality testing and educational games! If you have not already, be sure to sign up for one of our field trips at www.canyonco.org/field-trips/. We look forward to seeing you again in person soon! In the meantime, stay safe everyone!





“HUG” YOUR COUNTY PARKS MAINTENANCE PEOPLE

By **LORI BERRY,**
CELEBRATION PARK MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

Have you ever been to a county facility such as a park or a park restroom and found a mess, whether it be toilet tissue strewn across the floor, trash cans overflowing or worse? You probably experienced the time frame between a city or county workers efforts to clean the facility and the public misusing that facility. As a county maintenance employee, I've seen it all. Restroom stall doors ripped off their hinges, graffiti painted across a wall, signs removed and destroyed, toilet tissue and paper towel dispensers stolen and yes of course, bodily fluids and solids smeared or splattered where it has no business being.



We Canyon County maintenance folks are a strong minded, fierce bunch. To be able to clean up the intentional destruction of others and take it in stride is admirable to say the least. The sad part is that it shouldn't be something we even have to experience. We do, though, because of that small percentage of people who have no consideration or respect for anything or anyone. It's difficult to keep a positive attitude after you've just replaced a fence or bench that someone burned in a campfire. It's hard to keep a smile on your face when you've just had to call in a sand blaster to remove graffiti from a block wall. It's a challenge to love your fellow man when that man has just left an immense mess of trash and debris strewn all over the ground when there was a trash can nearby. Nothing surprises us anymore. It's actually odd to not have a huge mess to clean up following a Friday or Saturday night. It's rare but it happens.



You've probably experienced a time when you wanted to go fishing at your favorite spot along the river or lake and found that it has been closed to the public. Or perhaps you've decided to take an ATV drive along an isolated trail only to find it closed to foot traffic only or closed to all public access. These frustrating closures are often a result of misuse. Nefarious activities are also a reason for area closures. Discarded fuel cans, syringes and stolen safes are a few of the items found by our staff at Celebration Park.

So while you are enjoying your local county, state or federal land, keep in mind that without the constant efforts of your dedicated government maintenance employees, your experience would seem like a trip to the County dump.

being neighborly at celebration park



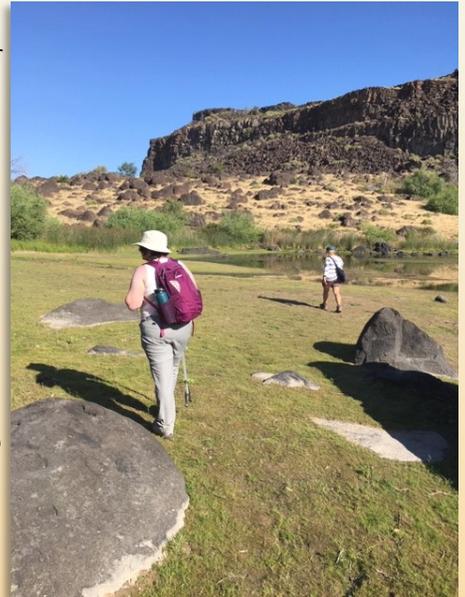
by TIM SYREEN

Celebration Park staff take a lot of pride in their park. It is a place that provides unique educational opportunities, recreational fishing, and plenty of other outdoor activities within its borders for visitors. It is truly an awe-inspiring place to see. But the park is also a key component to what rests just beyond its borders.

Celebration Park is a gateway to the numerous outdoor activities available on its neighboring lands. The park provides access to the Snake River for boating, numerous fishing spots within and around the park, great horseback riding, and hiking trails in three different counties (Canyon, Ada, and Owyhee). Staff are accustomed to pointing out fishing spots, talking about river conditions, and directing hikers on how to get to their destination and what they can expect on their trip. In recent years, staff have kicked it up a notch and embraced a neighborly attitude by extending the pride they take in their own park to the places that surround it. This is especially true for the most popular nearby hiking trail, the Halverson Lakes Trail.

The Halverson Lakes Trail is a remarkable short hike that sees many guests throughout the year. Visitors park in a small dirt parking lot on the east end of Celebration Park to make their way up to the lakes, less than a mile away. Hikers start with an easy walk along the dirt road that runs along the Snake River. Views of the rising canyon along with little islands within the river stand out when you look right, and when looking left, large pieces of melon gravel deposited by the Bonneville Flood 15,000 years ago are the attraction. Shortly you come to a trailhead where the path starts to bend to the left. As you climb up a bit, the Snake River seems to vanish as you walk through a vast opening of desert lined with smaller pieces of melon gravel. Soon you will start to catch a glimpse of the tops of trees and green foliage over a small hill. As you come over the hill the first of the Halverson Lakes reveals itself as a beautiful oasis in the middle of the Snake River desert landscape.

early homesteaders can be found near their shores. According to the Bureau of Land Management, the lakes' water is sustained today mostly by the irrigation run-off coming from the farming operations on the upper plateau. Blue gill, bass, and crappie were planted years ago and have maintained populations, making this a popular destination for fisherman



looking for hike-in fishing spots. The lakes have become a common Idaho story: they started as a natural feature, people enhanced it to fit their needs and then abandoned that usage, and now the lakes remain a majestic hybrid of the natural world and human works for people to visit and learn some of Idaho's story in the process. (Source: <https://www.blm.gov/visit/halverson-bar-lake>)

Staff from Celebration Park have seen this prevalent trail as an opportunity to act as good neighbors. All well-used places need that extra bit of love and care to keep them nice for future visitors. For the third year in a row, staff members have embarked on this hike armed with trash pickers and grabbers, trash bags, and plenty of water. As a group, they spot and cleanup any trash left behind. They carefully maneuver around poison ivy to reach that one piece of garbage stuck in the thick of the bushes. They search the shore of the lake for pieces of forgotten debris. They keep a watchful eye out for snakes or other critters. They endure the hot July weather of the region. They take in the natural beauty of the hike all the while removing the things that are not a part of the breathtaking landscape. They show the same pride in this place as they do in their own park, keeping it nice and inviting. They try to be good neighbors.

As mentioned earlier, all beautiful places sometimes need that extra help to remain that way. So next time you are on this trail or any of your favorite trails, you can ask yourself, how can I be neighborly to this place? As the Celebration Park staff have learned, a little help goes a long way.



The lakes themselves have changed a bit over the years. Named after two brothers, Al and Roy Halverson, who were local farmers, the lakes started as natural depressions that collected seasonal waters from some smaller springs. After their discovery, homesteaders and farmers excavated them out to hold more water. Remains of historical stone shelters used by

*Canyon County Parks, Cultural and Natural Resources
presents:*

“REMEMBER THE LADIES”

1920–2020

**AN EXHIBIT CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE 19TH AMENDMENT AND THE
AMERICAN WOMAN’S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT**

***CANYON CROSSROADS MUSEUM
AT CELEBRATION PARK***

AUGUST 7, 2020—JULY 31ST, 2021

10AM—2PM EACH DAY



IDAHO WOMEN 100



Idaho can be proud that it's courageous past made it the 4th state in our country to give women the right to vote. On November 3, 1896, via Senate Joint Resolution 2, by a vote of nearly two to one in favor (12,126 to 6,282), Idaho changed history, long before the 19th amendment to the US constitution was passed in 1920. Idaho, and the western states of Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and Washington, led the country in the effort of women's suffrage.

Building on Idaho's past, we will look to the year 2020 that marks the 100th anniversary of the women's right to vote, and the beginning of the Idaho Women 100 celebration.

This celebration will honor the women's suffrage movement and bring together organizations to shape the unlimited future of women's leadership in the great state of Idaho.

www.idahowomen100.com

Canyon County Parks, Cultural and Natural Resources

is pleased to be an endorser of the Idaho Women 100 celebration.

Our **Canyon Crossroads Museum** exhibit at **Celebration Park** commemorates the brave women (and men) who worked tirelessly at the national level for women's suffrage. We're also very proud to tell some of the story about "Suffrage in the West" - how Idaho and its western neighbors had the good sense to give their women the vote much earlier than the rest of the nation.



Canyon Crossroads Museum at Celebration Park is one of about eleven of its kind in the nation. Canyon Crossroads Museum is a *Kunstahalle*, a non-collecting institution; it has no permanent collection and has no plans to form one. *Kunstahalle* is a German term for a facility that mounts exhibitions, a centuries-old tradition of presenting art and artifacts on loan from other institutions.

Our mission is to offer quality, consistently excellent academic opportunities with exhibitions and related programming that are constantly changing.

Canyon Crossroads Museum and Celebration Park are operated by Canyon County Parks, Cultural and Natural Resources



Situated along the Snake River, **Celebration Park** was established as Idaho's only archaeological park in 1989. A walk through the huge basalt melon gravels deposited by the Bonneville flood reveals petroglyphs 100 to 10,000 years old. Visitors learn about the Paleolithic and Archaic lifeways and enjoy throwing a dart with an atlatl. Experience a walking tour of historic Guffey Railroad Bridge and be captivated by southwest Idaho's early mining and railroad history.



Canyon Crossroads

Museum at Celebration Park

6831 Hot Spot Lane, Melba ID 83641



Exhibit Production

Presented by: Canyon County Parks, Cultural and Natural Resources (CCPCNR) Crossroads Museum at Celebration Park, Nichole Schwend, Director

Exhibit research and design: Kathy Kershner, Deputy Director, CCPCNR

**Printing (posters and catalog): Canyon County Print Shop—Anita Hollis, Shawna Chaney, Abbie Nickel
Greg Rast, IT Director**

Exhibit installation assistance: Lori Berry, CCPCNR, Celebration Park Maintenance Coordinator



1920–2020

“REMEMBER THE LADIES”

**THE 19TH AMENDMENT TO
THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION
WAS OFFICIALLY RATIFIED ON AUGUST 26, 1920
GIVING WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE.**

**WE CELEBRATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION!**

The story of the Women’s Suffrage movement is one **American** story among hundreds about people who were seeking the rights that would give them their ultimate freedom. The Suffrage Movement was about the equal right of women to vote, to have representation and to be free to pursue their success and happiness.

It’s a challenge to present an American story without questioning everything. Have we been faithful to the history? Have we been objective? Have we paid rightful homage to the people in these stories, giving them the respect, honor and truthfulness that they deserve?

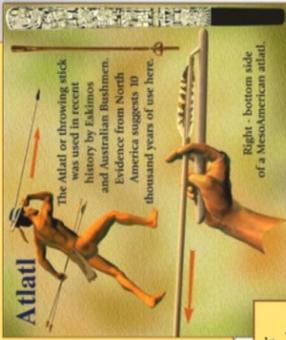
This is not a detailed chronology of the Suffrage Movement. There is far too much to tell; however, the hope is that this information will provide you with a better understanding of this very American story and that you will be inspired to continue to learn more.



Welcome to the Celebration Park Atlatl Range!

What is an atlatl?

An atlatl, or spear thrower, is a wooden or bone stick with a hook on one end that you can use to throw a spear farther and faster than you could throw a spear with your hand. The oldest atlatls were found in the Czech Republic and NW Africa and date as far back as 25,000 years. In North America they are thought to have been used for about 10-12,000 years. It is likely this technology came to the Americas across Beringia from Eurasia during Ice Age human migration then dispersed through time in North America.



According to the Merriam Webster Dictionary this funny looking word is pronounced "at-lá-el".



The dart in this photo is similar to those used with the atlatl in the Americas. When striking prey, the fore shaft of the dart with the lithic or bone point would dislodge from the shaft. There was cordage that attached to the shaft allowing the hunter to pull the animal almost like a fishing pole.

How does an atlatl work?

When most people throw spears or darts, they grab them in the middle and give them a big heave. When you grip the dart in the middle and heave it you are accelerating it from its center of gravity. This is a very inefficient means of acceleration. You are pulling half of the dart and pushing half. You can't get much speed or force this way.

When you use the atlatl you put the spur in the knook, pinch the dart and throw over-hand while releasing at the apex of the throw. The atlatl accelerates the dart from its end, a much more efficient means of acceleration.

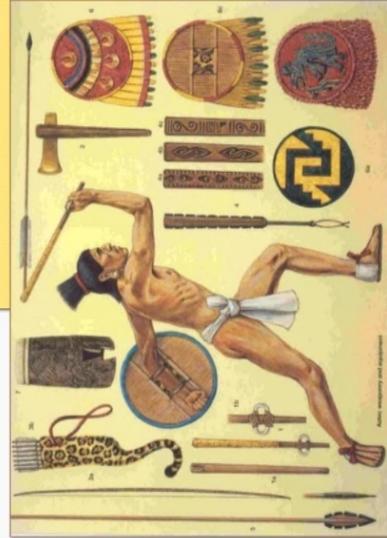
The law of inertia (Newton's 1st Law) states that things at rest stay at rest and things in motion (accelerating) stay in motion. When you bring your arm forward, the fletched (feathered) end accelerates much faster than the pointed end. Scientists call this process bending. All the atlatl does is bend the dart. When the dart is bent it stores potential energy. That energy is released when the dart is released.



A 22-inch atlatl bends the dart enough to increase the power of the throw about 200 times and the velocity of the dart about fifteen times. We have put fourth graders on radar. They can throw darts about 110 miles per hour. They will go clear through hay bales and car doors. Atlatls were used by prehistoric people to hunt a variety of mammals.

Why is it called an atlatl?

These weapons had many names in the respective cultures in which they were used. The name atlatl came from the Aztecs. They were used successfully by the Aztec against the Spanish in the 16th century. The Spanish dreaded these weapons that often pierced their protective armor. The atlatl predates the bow and arrow. The bow and arrow was invented about 2000 to 3500 years ago. The atlatl was used for fish, megafauna, and later on game such as bison and deer. The size and shape of the atlatl varied with the size of the prey or distance of the throw needed. An atlatl is made of wood, bone or antler. Atlatls are sometimes incised with designs and have decorative or good luck items attached to them. They also may have weights attached to them.



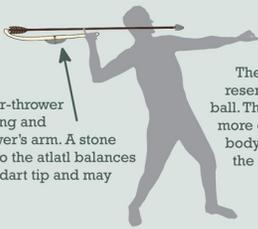
For Everyone's Safety...

- **DO NOT** use this area as a gun or archery range. It is an atlatl range only! It does not provide enough distance between trails and the range to be safely used with high powered weapons.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO CAMPING** in this area. Camping is restricted to designated areas with fire pits.

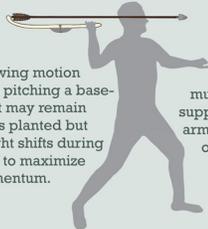


Atlatl Mechanics

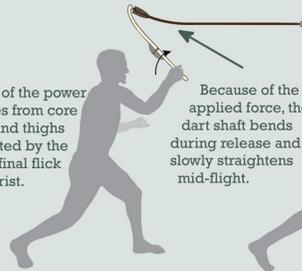
The atlatl or spear-thrower is 30 to 100 cm long and extends the thrower's arm. A stone weight attached to the atlatl balances the weight of the dart tip and may add more power.



The throwing motion resembles pitching a baseball. The feet may remain more or less planted but body weight shifts during the throw to maximize momentum.



Much of the power comes from core muscles and thighs supplemented by the arm and a final flick of the wrist.



Because of the applied force, the dart shaft bends during release and slowly straightens mid-flight.



Feathers at the back of the dart ('fletching') create drag that keeps the dart from wobbling

An atlatl dart can be thrown the length of a football field but is accurate up to about 40 m.



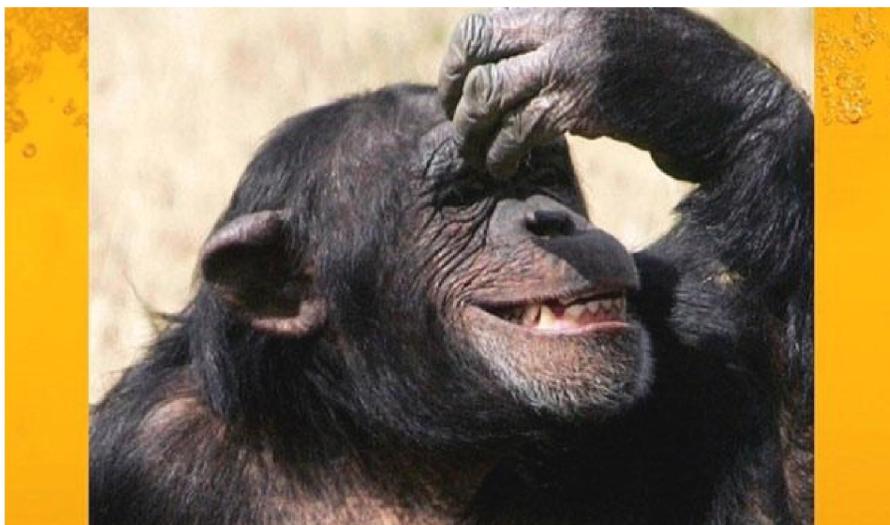
Atlatl action at Celebration Park over the years...



Let's Talk

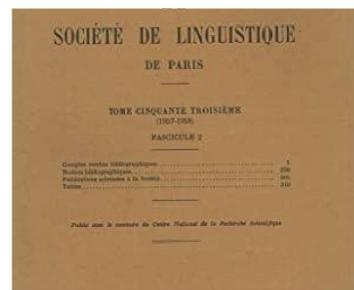
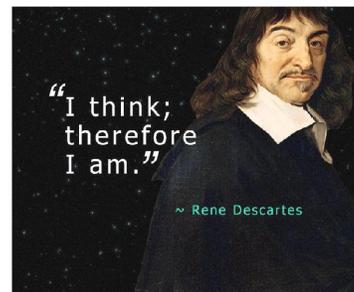
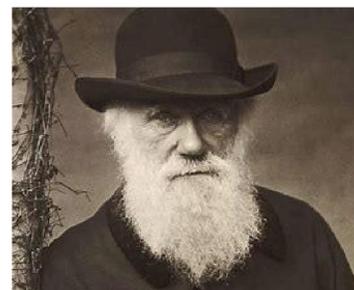
(* Insert mild expletive here to alleviate some stress from this global crisis.

BY TOM BICAK AND AJ MUMAU



The (*) pandemic has changed the world profoundly. It has changed me in some unpleasant ways. We are all growing very weary of this threat to our health and families and our spirits are only buoyed up by the promise of a medical miracle brewing in the laboratories of some of the smartest people on the planet. I wish every morning that they will triumph and that they hurry the (*) up. Here is something that has lifted my morale. In our isolation, my daughter AJ and I decided to collaborate on this article, she did the research and draft, I synthesized and voiced the story and coincidentally, voice is the subject of this article. I am first author because she lost the coin toss.

Homo sapiens, are the only creatures to ever have language as far as we know. Did those woolly mammoth talk? How about some clever dinosaurs? Well, we will never know. It is a good bet they never wrote anything down. So why us? How did language come about? These questions have produced a surge of disparate possibilities since 1859 when Darwin published *On the Origin of Species*. There are two major schools of thought. Either gesture evolved first or speech. We examine six quite different perspectives that suggest a path to understanding why we can take our thoughts and the thoughts of others, convert them to black and white smudges that will convey our thoughts to you. Again, (*) remarkable.



The scientific discourse community, during the Christian Era was satisfied with language as a Divine gift. “God Speaks to us Through Godly People in our World. Exodus 18:12 ESV “(Collins Pub. 1989). Rene Descartes, the founder of modern philosophy, thought language was so complex that it could not be analyzed and because of its complexity and flexibility, it was proof of a Divine gift (1985/1647). Language as a complex Divine gift, although possible is a “God of the gaps” excuse. Complexity is not evidence of God’s hand. While many use God to caulk the gaps in our knowledge, people like Copernicus, Galileo, Darwin and Hawking fill in these gaps by making the complex understandable. I am continually amazed that Rene Descartes has remained famous for about 350

years while practically never having a correct perspective on anything. I am sciency, therefore I was not a philosophy major.

On November 24, 1859 things changed forever when reluctant Charles Darwin, a devoutly religious man, was convinced to publish, *On the Origin of Species*. His theory took God out of the discussion and speculation erupted. Not only did it ignite a persistent conflict between creationists and evolutionists, but it caused chaos in the scientific community. Darwin proposed a theory for change, but he did not include a mechanism (Darwin, 2010). There were no boundaries, you could tell any story you wanted and call it evolutionary theory. Scientists refer to them as “just so stories”; they are unsubstantiated with data. This was not good for serious scientific discourse and the search for truth.

In linguistics the reckless speculation got so bad that in 1866 the *Société de linguist de Paris* murdered the study of language evolution. “The Society does not accept any communication concerning either the origin of language or the creation of a universal language.” (Bergounix, 2005). If the French were not going to talk about it, well, neither were the English, Germans, or anyone else in Europe and certainly not the Americans; they were in a civil war. Gordon Hewes (1973) reignited interest in the evolution of language. Hewes postulated that either gesture evolved first or speech. He advocated for gesture. This controversy is still smoldering.

“The evolution of language might be “the hardest problem in science” (Christiansen & Kirby, 2003). The controversial topic of gesture first or speech has elicited passionate opinions from an international scientific community for about 50 years. There are standards of evidence that must be met to effectively argue perspectives on the evolution of language. Modern biology defines evolution as change in gene frequency. Scientists believe *Homo sapiens* acquired language through this process. There are five ways to change gene frequency: mutation, gene flow disequilibrium, non-random mating, drift (population bottleneck) and natural selection. Gene frequency changes must be identified and linked irrefutably to language acquisition. Changing genetics must explain the scope



of language and its function and explain the uniqueness of language or there is no evidence that language evolved.

Gesture First Perspective

Kim Sterelny holds dual faculty positions at Australian National University and the University of Wellington, New Zealand. Sterelny contends that gesture preceded speech. There was a need for cooperation to exploit the seasonally variable australopithecine requisite resources. In his paper, *Language, Gesture, Skill: The Co-evolutionary Foundations of Language* (2012), he presents a scenario, an interpretation of the gesture first concept that connects skills and gesture to the evolution of language. Hominins have used tools for about 4.5 million years. They gained control of fire about 800,000 years ago. We have been cooperative hunters with the skill to store plant and animal materials ever since then. Sterelny argues, for this to occur, information must be shared across generations. Expertise in killing big animals and storing food cannot be acquired anew every generation. There must be a never-ending discourse community. He contends that natural selection favored

“The evolution of language might be the hardest problem in science.”

those with greater technical skill and greater ability to communicate. This selective force was coupled with heightened ability to coordinate social activity and abilities to engineer changes in their environment. Only highly cooperative species that depend on skill and have rudimentary empathy are poised to evolve language. Interesting as this is, Sterelny only implies that there are genes that code for technical skill and ability to communicate. It turns out he is correct in his casual implication.

Amy Pollick and Frans de Waal examined gestures in captive chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) and bonobos (*Pan paniscus*), (2007). They hypothesized that the ape gestures would be less dependent on context than their orofacial movements and vocalizations and their gestures may elicit a greater diversity of responses than facial expression.

Bonobos used gestures more frequently than chimpanzees. Of 375 bonobo signals, 78% were gestures while only 55% of the 383 chimpanzee signals were gestural. Chimpanzees used almost twice as many

orofacial expressions and three times more vocalizations than the bonobos. In both species, the facial and vocal displays were more dependent on context than gestures. Chimpanzees and bonobos are our closest primate relatives and they use gestures, facial expressions, and vocalizations. Monkeys are more removed from us evolutionarily; they do not gesture, for this reason Pollick and de Waal assert that gestures are more recently evolved than the other two modes of display and gestures are not related to emotions as much as facial expression and vocalization and therefore more adaptable in function. Gesture may have acquired symbolic meaning in early hominins. They speculate that bonobo gestural repertoire resembles that of prelinguistic hominins.

Firstly, we diverged from the common ancestor we shared with these apes several million years ago. A lot has happened to us and a lot has happened to them in that long, long period. It is not a good idea to draw conclusions like this using ape-man comparisons; they are distant relatives and we did not evolve from their lineages. Also, where did they observe prelinguistic

hominin gestures? Lastly, they assume that if there is a behavior, then there are genes, or a gene involved in the chain of reactions that cause that behavior. It turns out this last assumption is correct too.

Evelyne Kohler and her team at the University of Parma, Italy investigated recognition of gestures and noise on a cellular level in primate brains (Kohler et.al., 2002). The mammalian brain contains mirror neurons, cells that discharge potential when an action is performed or perceived. They examined the response of neurons in the F5 region of the premotor cortex in three macaque monkeys (*Macaca nemisirina*). They recorded the activity of 497 suspected mirror neurons when presented with actions (monkey hand action, ripping paper, breaking peanut, and dropping stick) and the sounds of those actions. They also recorded neuronal response to digitized white noise and monkey vocalizations. They identified 63 neurons that discharged when stimulated by the actions and the sounds. Five neurons (about 1% of the sample) discharged for white noise or

monkey vocalizations. The sounds of paper tearing and objects breaking were the most effective stimuli. Some neurons only discharged for noise 29 of 53; 22 of these 29 neurons also responded to visual stimuli.

Mirror neurons have matching capabilities. They are specific to a stimulus and a behavior. Kohler and her team conclude that if there is discharge in a mirror neuron, the organism will perform its specific action. So, discharge in peanut breaking neuron will elicit peanut breaking action if the animal can do so. Macaque audiovisual mirror neurons are found in the region that is homologous to Broca's Area in the human brain, the reading and human motor speech area. These neurons may have contributed to the evolution of gestural language because of their action content. Response to auditory stimuli might also have contributed to the evolution of speech.

Speech first perspective

Great ape vocalizations are often produced without movement of the jaw, tongue or lips and only occasionally accompanied by facial movements. Rhythmic vocalization with complex facial movement is exceedingly rare in apes.

Gelada (*Theropithecus gelada*), or bleeding-heart monkey is found only in the mountainous regions of Ethiopia. Thore J. Bergman (2013), recorded wild geladas lip-smacking behavior. This vocalization is unique to geladas and it is called a



'wobble'. Male gelada produces wobbles when interacting with females. A wobble is a 'moan' with rhythmic lip-smacking (you can roll your eyes with me here). Wobbles from six different males were recorded and acoustically analyzed. Cycle length (opening and closing the lips) ranged from 0.111–0.159 seconds or 6.3–9.0 Hz. Human speech has a rhythm of 6–9 Hz, so gelada lip-smacking wobble is structurally like human speech. Bergman states, "This discovery shows that vocalized lip-smacking is not only possible, but that it results in a rhythmic vocalization that mirrors the periodicity found in human speech. This is evidence for a lip-smacking hypothesis of speech evolu-

tion" (Bergman, 2013).

Well, WOW, big intellectual leap on Thore's part. Are the anatomical components producing the wobble and human speech homologous? He needs to consider the evolutionary distance between gelada and humans and read up on convergent adaptation, a simpler explanation of the (*) wobble. Besides, dozens of bird species can mimic human vocalizations perfectly and they diverged from our lineage 200 million years ago and they do not even have vocal cords. It would be absurd to link bird noises with human language. So why link babbling geladas?

Robert R. Provine (2004) and his students observed 1200 instances of spontaneous laughter in free range humans. Surprisingly, speakers laughed 46% more than their audience (not surprising when you think about it). The most frequent pre-laugh comments were common greetings. Females laughed 126% more than males. Laughter follows a speaker's completed sentences. Laughter is not randomly occurring within sentences, it punctuates conversation (Provine, 2010).

Humans are not the only laughers. When chimpanzees, bonobos, and gorillas (*Gorilla spp.*) are tickled or playing, they often pant in a laugh-like way (Panksepp and Burgdorf, 2003). When "laughing", great apes softly bark once each inhalation and exhalation. Laughing humans segment their exhalation in 1/15 second vocal

from the one stride one breath pattern. This allowed the evolution of vocalizations that were not dependent on one breath. Natural selection favoring diverse vocalizations led to the evolution of speech and laughter (Provine, 2004).

The Genetic Perspective

Forkhead Fox P2 is a gene commonly referred to as FOXP2. This gene is a template for a protein with 715 amino acids in its chain (Enard et al., 2002). FOXP2 is found in many animals and it has not mutated very much over time, it is conserved. Humans and mice diverged about 70 million years ago and we differ in only 3 of the 715 amino acid positions. Enard and his team at the Max Plank Institute in Leipzig, Germany, compared the proteins produced by the FOXP2 gene in humans, chimpanzees, gorillas, and rhesus monkeys (*Macaca mulatta*). The non-human primates have identical FOXP2 genes. Apes differ from mice in only one amino acid site and they differ from humans at two sites. Enard identified a human specific change at position 325 of 718. It is a site that, when phosphorylated, inhibits transcription or reading the code for the protein. This could have a functional consequence because FOXP2 is involved in the development of speech and language in humans. They examined the protein produced by this gene in 44 North Americans and found no variation. They also examined 91 unrelated Europeans and found no variation. They examined the protein from 21 individuals remotely dis-

"This is evidence for a lip-smacking hypothesis of speech evolution."



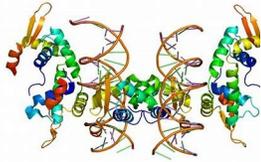
bursts. This is about two times faster than ordinary human vocal rhythm and the (*) gelada "wobble" (Provine (2004).

Chimpanzees are not quadrupeds, but neither are they bipedal. Their thorax is that of a quadruped in which running, and breathing are linked. Chimpanzees take one breath per stride to support the hollow thorax during limb impact. Bipedals have flexibility in breathing, running, and vocalizing. Bipedals can perform a great array of strides per breath. Bramble and Carrier (1983) recorded stride to breath ratios in several mammal species. Bipedals performed stride ratios of 4:1, 3:1, 5:2, 2:1, 3:2, 1:1 and 2:1 was the most common. Early bipedal hominins were released

persed on 5 different continents and found no variation at the two sites that separate us from the great apes. They consider this gene variation "fixed" in humans.

FOXP2 can undergo disruptions like point mutations, inversions, and deletions. Genes that are disrupted produce aberrant proteins because the coding is scrambled. People with disruptions in FOXP2 proteins exhibit severe difficulties with expressing themselves, understanding speech and they have problems with grammar. These issues are due to impairment of fine orofacial movements (Varhga-Khadem, 1995). If FOXP2 is responsible for this, then the time at which the gene

became fixed in the hominin population may indicate the time at which language evolved. If humans mated randomly, a Hardy-Weinberg assumption, then this puts FOXP2 fixation at 120,000 years ago. This assumption includes an infinite human population size. We know that was not the case, and we also know that human population growth is exponential, and we entered that phase about 100,000 years ago. Correcting the calculation for population growth, Enard set the date for language evolution at a conservative 200,000 years ago (Enard, 2004).



FOXP2 making its protein

Enard's investigation of the FOXP2 gene in humans and their primate relatives meets many of the criteria for evolutionary evidence. He shows a genetic difference between human and non-

human primates, evidence that gene frequency changed. He suggests that the initial mechanism of change was mutation and that natural selection most probably fixed that change in all humans about the time of the suspected appearance of language. He also demonstrates how this genetic change influences organs and hence the behavior of the organism as well as a plausible cause of our unique acquisition of language.

Stephen J. Gould points out that scientists often mistakenly adhere to the idea that evolution is a linear process whereby primitive organisms give rise to advanced forms (Gould, 2007). Evolution of organisms has a branching pattern. A speciation event results in two lineages. When an ancient primate ancestor's lineage diverged, it gave rise to two lines, the great apes, and the eventual humans (a branching limb as well). Both lines have evolved along-side each other ever since. One acquired speech and the other did not. A couple of random mutations in the

FOXP2 gene plausibly set humans on the path to language and the non-human primates took another path.

Is there a record of ancient genetic divergence? Paleogenomic analysis of ancient DNA is a most promising field in the investigation of the evolution of language and other behaviors (Shapiro et al., 2014). Since it is essential to demonstrate change in gene frequency those divergent genes must be discovered. DNA extraction techniques and DNA analytics are improving constantly, and they are becoming more affordable. Apparently, there deep stacks of DNA right under our feet. The deeper it is, the more ancient it is. There is promising research in ancient DNA recovery, especially from soils in cave floors, glaciers and in the permafrost (Stokstad, 2003). DNA is abundant in soils, relic of the flora and fauna of the place, both recent and ancient. In the case of animal DNA, most is suspected to have been deposited in urine and feces, thus finding DNA bearing fossils is not required in the search for ancient genes.

Global climate change is impacting areas of alpine and geographic permafrost. It is exposing new resources for evolutionary investigation. The media has made it common knowledge that the planet's frozen areas are thawing at a rapid rate. The melting causes drastic changes in the geomorphology and exposes ancient DNA bearing soils, debris, and carcasses of Pleistocene fauna, a preferred food of our early ancestors. The oldest reliable DNA recovered thus far is 400,000 years old. It was recovered from thawing Siberian soil (Stokstad, 2003). These kinds of resources could prove valuable in investigating the cause-effect links in the process of the evolution of language. Who would have thought the answer to many of our most profound questions are buried in old mud?

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*Canyon County Parks, Cultural and Natural Resources
Lake Lowell Office Expansion 2020*





The "sidelight" window of our new entrance reflects Lake Lowell Park. The new signage lets folks know who is residing in this attractive new building!



Staff at our Lake Lowell office had just moved out of the building in preparation for a long-planned expansion project when the COVID-19 "stay-at-home" order was implemented in late March. That situation led to a slight delay in the construction process. However, the anticipation made it just that much better when, on September 1, we were able to move into the remodeled office! We're still unpacking, organizing and settling into this beautiful new space.

In the next *Crossroads*, we'll have photos of the interior but in the meantime these exterior photos begin to tell the story of what an amazing job our Canyon County Facilities department did to make this happen. Our thanks to **Paul Navarro, Rick Britton and their terrific crew**. Canyon County is fortunate to have such able construction experts, electricians, plumbers, finish carpenters and landscape/grounds staff. Special thanks to **Eagle Scouts, Matthew Cline and Benton Bernard** whose volunteer crews assisted with the landscaping around the building and, while they were at it, lent a hand on some improvements to our Story Trail at Lake Lowell Park.



CAMPING IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO CELEBRATION PARK THIS YEAR

Celebration Park's East End camping will be changing (but not too much!)

Laura Barbour, Outdoor Recreation Planner

MORE INFO



Ultimately, this project will improve the accessibility of the East End and promote public recreational camping access, while maintaining the unique character of the site—a recreational gem with spectacular views up and down the Snake River canyon. Celebration Park's visitor center is a busy hub for boaters, campers, archaeology enthusiasts, and an educational field trip program that brings 10,000 K-12 students to the park each year. Half a mile upstream, the East End is more secluded and is frequented by hikers, anglers, bird-watchers, tent campers and RV users seeking a more remote-feeling experience.

IDPR's RV Fund was established to provide grants to public agencies to provide and improve facilities for RV users—learn more at <https://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/grants-and-funding>. For more information about the Celebration Park East End RV Improvement project, please contact Laura Barbour at lbarbour@canyonco.org.

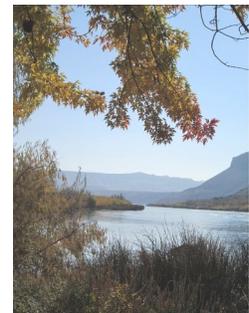
DETAILS

In June 2020, Canyon County Parks was awarded a grant in the amount of \$444,125 from the Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation's Recreational Vehicle (RV) Fund. This generous grant will enable improvements to Celebration Park's East End, a primitive campground on a scenic stretch of the Snake River. The project is scheduled to take place in 2020-2021, and will include upgrading the existing RV pads and parking areas, replacing the existing picnic tables and campsite amenities, and installing an ADA-accessible vault toilet for use by visitors. These upgrades will allow us to provide a better camping experience for our East End users, and to meet increasing demands for recreational RV camping areas in our region. Campgrounds, and RV camping areas in particular, are few and far between on the Snake River in southwest Idaho.



PLAN A VISIT

Celebration Park, established 1989, is an important historical site and archaeological site. A walk through the huge basalt melon gravels deposited by the Bonneville flood reveals ancient petroglyphs, while the historic Guffey Railroad Bridge connects the park to southwest Idaho's early mining history. Celebration Park is also nestled on the southwestern border of the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA). The NCA, managed by the Bureau of Land Management, is home to the greatest concentration of nesting birds of prey in North America—possibly the world.



*“When you’re finished changing, you’re finished” —
Benjamin Franklin*



Background—looking west from the East End towards the Guffey Railroad Bridge, framed by snow-dusted Owyhee Mountains

Inset—a typical camping area at Celebration Park’s East End.





2020—2021 “Stories In Stone” Field Trip at Celebration Park

2020-2021 Field Trip Covid-19 Information

In these challenging and ever changing times, we at Canyon County Parks want to continue to partner with teachers to provide quality, place-based education this fall. We will be reaching out to all teachers with a pre-scheduled field trip during the 2020-2021 school year to discuss program options. For schools who are able to visit in person, be assured that we are taking every precaution to ensure a safe environment for your on-site field trip. Our staff will be wearing masks as well as disinfecting all surfaces after each use. We also require all in-person participants (students, teachers and chaperones) to wear masks, and we will be social distancing throughout the field trip.

If you are not able to visit in person this year, we have prepared virtual field trip programs, featuring live teaching sessions with our Interpretive Specialists, as well as videos and other educational resources from our parks. If you have a field trip scheduled for the 2020-2021 school year, program staff will contact you with more information about our virtual programs, as well as to confirm or reschedule your field trip date and time. These virtual programs are designed to replicate the field trip experience as closely as possible. If you do not currently have a field trip scheduled for 2020-2021, feel free to reach out for more information about our virtual educational programs and digital learning resources. You may also use the “Ready to Book?” calendar on our field trip booking page at: www.canyonco.org/field-trips/ to reserve a field trip date for future school years (through July 2023).

For field trip information (on-site and virtual) please contact our Programs Coordinator, Amelia Barton at abarton@canyonco.org. Please watch for more updates as the school year progresses!



Spring 2021 Lake Lowell Field Trip For 2nd and 3rd grade

Archery - Atlatl - Feeding Frenzy—educational game of tag! - Water Quality Investigation

If you have either of these field trips already scheduled, you should do the following:

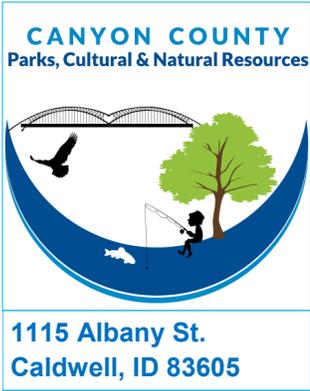
- Confirm your field trip with Amelia at: abarton@canyonco.org
- Visit our field trip website, www.canyonco.org/field-trips/ and look for **2020-2021 Field Trip Covid-19 Information** which will give you the most current status updates;
- If you wish to book a field trip, visit: www.canyonco.org/field-trips/ and look for **Field Trip Booking**.

We are currently developing virtual field trips for both the Lake Lowell Field Trip and the Wild Land Fire Field Trip— watch for that information.

Spring 2021 Wild Land Fire Field Trip for 5th and 6th grade at Celebration Park



Physics of Fire - Fire Ecology - Fire Equipment - Atlatl



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*Canyon County Parks, Cultural and Natural Resources
presents:*

“REMEMBER THE LADIES”

1920–2020

**AN EXHIBIT CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE 19TH AMENDMENT AND THE
AMERICAN WOMAN’S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT**

***CANYON CROSSROADS MUSEUM
AT CELEBRATION PARK***

AUGUST 7, 2020—JULY 31, 2021

10AM—2PM EACH DAY

