

TELLURIDE DAILY PLANET

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SUNDAY

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Don't quote me but...

"Best 'YES' of my life! 19 years and still loving every part of this ride."

—Becca Tudor

Calendar

Sunday

- "Moana": 5:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m., The Nugget Theatre
- AA: 5:30 p.m., Christ Church

Monday

- Town Offices Closed for New Year's Celebration: Jan. 2
- "Moana": 5:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m., The Nugget Theatre
- AA: 5:30 p.m., Christ Church
- Alanon: 5:30 p.m., Christ Church
- "Buena Vista Social Club": 6 p.m., Wilkinson Public Library

Tuesday

- AA: 7 a.m., Christ Church
- Jewish Community Ski Tuesdays: 10:30 a.m., (every Tuesday), Meet at Allred's/San Sophia Gondola Station
- NA: 5:30 p.m., Christ Church
- "Moana": 5:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m., The Nugget Theatre
- Mountain Village Town Hall Center Public Workshop: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Telluride Conference Center

Weather

Muse: "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream"
—C.S. Lewis

Forecast: Sunday is predicted to bring snow showers with a high of 31. Monday will feature more snow showers with a high of 26, while Tuesday is going to be cloudy with a high of 25.

IN ORBIT:

Sunday Focus:
Sports

Nordic skiing clinics
start this month

Coming Wednesday:
Lifestyle, Arts
& Entertainment

TELLURIDE

New Year's resolutions a moot practice

By **JUSTIN CRIADO**
Senior Staff Writer

Many no longer set yearly goals

New year, new you?

Not necessarily, according to several pessimistic patrons around town.

"Hell, no. I'm going to keep doing what I'm doing," Jordan Perry of Telluride said. "I love my repetitive life."

Perry laughed when asked about his 2017 New Year's resolution.

"I haven't thought about it yet," he said. "I still have time."

As 2016 wanes into the past, it's become common practice in pop culture to shed the dead dreams of the previous 365 days in hopes the proceeding set of seasons will bring about a per-

sonal revolution of sorts.

When pressed about his favorite part of 2016, Perry paused for a moment.

"The end of it," he answered.

He admitted nothing in particular about 2016 made him praise the end; he's typically like

this every year, he said.

"Just keep on keeping on," Perry said with a smile.

Unlike Perry, Kyra Westman wasn't a fan of the year that brought us such historical moments like Kim Kardashian's Paris heist and Donald Trump's Twitter feed. But that hasn't crushed her hope for the impending Chinese Year of the Fire Rooster.

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Seth Sachson, center, director of the Aspen Animal Shelter, met Josh and Katja Rapaport, founders of the Telluride Animal Foundation, at Aspen's airport last week after they flew 11 dogs from New Mexico to Colorado. (Photo by Jordan Curet/Special to the Planet)

ANIMAL WELFARE

Saving lives

Telluride Animal Foundation collaborates with outside rescue organizations

By **MAUREEN PELISSON**
Daily Planet staff

Gallup, New Mexico resident David Tom was out walking his dogs one morning when he saw a skinny dog running down the street after a car. He flagged down the owner of the car who denied that the dog trailing him was his. The man told him, "You can take her."

David followed the dog, and she led him to her litter of puppies in a storm drain. David was the perfect person to find the family as he and his wife, Babette Herrmann, run the Four Corners Pet Alliance, a small

rescue group in Gallup that raises funds to help supplement the care of their many fosters.

Ultimately, the puppies ended up being rescued through the aid of Telluride Animal Foundation founders Josh and Katja Rapaport. But the many issues relating to the stray-animal population in Gallup and the surrounding Four Corners region remain an overwhelming problem.

Gallup borders the Navajo Nation, Native American territory that covers approximately 27,000 square miles and occupies portions of northwestern New Mexico, northeastern

Arizona and southeastern Utah. Like most of the reservation, it's impoverished, with a high unemployment rate, and its residents struggle to provide for themselves, let alone their pets.

"The needs are vast, and services are limited," Herrmann said.

According to Paonia-based RezDawg Rescue, there are only five full-time animal-control officers among four shelters on the reservation, doing their best to handle a stray-animal population estimated to range from 100,000 to as many as 445,000.

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ENTERTAINMENT

BILL MAHONEY, REAL-LIFE SUPERHERO

The Tellurider was area's development-fighting skier

By **JUSTIN CRIADO**
Senior Staff Writer

It's been a long time since the Tellurider has fought off his arch enemy, the Leveler.

The 1972 comic book was a marketing campaign for the newly opened Telluride Ski Resort as the protagonist campaigned for environmental protection and historic preservation, while clearing ski runs all by himself in the process.

Montrose resident Bill Mahoney doesn't talk much about the "funny book" that he inspired while he was the mountain manager at the resort.

"I haven't thought too much about it," Mahoney, 88, said.

The resort's marketing manager, B. Jones, thought of the superhero idea as a way to separate the brand new Telluride ski spot from others in the state.

Mahoney said he had no idea that the green spandex-wearing protector was modeled after him, but he didn't necessarily care so much because he was just trying to bring skiing to a former mining town.

"It was a surprise for me," he said.

Mahoney is about as Telluride as the snow-covered mountain-tops. The Mahoneys moved to

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Lives

LIVES, from page 1

Herrmann and Tom started Four Corners Pet Alliance after years spent fostering and rescuing dogs in the Gallup area.

"Culturally, animals are treated differently here, and our goal is to collaborate more with the Navajo leaders to make more of a difference locally," Herrmann said.

When driving through the Navajo Nation, it's hard not to notice the plight of the stray animal population. They are seen on the roadside, at gas stations and fast-food restaurants, begging for food.

"These animals would be euthanized if it wasn't for their lifeline — the rescues in Colorado," Herrmann said.

RezDawg Rescue coordinated the rescue of the storm-drain puppies along with another litter from the Gallup-McKinley Humane Society. The Rapaports got involved by transporting 11 dogs from Gallup to the Aspen Animal Shelter.

The transport was paid entirely by the Rapaports and not their foundation. Telluride Animal Foundation funds pay for spay and neuter clinics and routine care of rescued animals.

"It truly takes a village," said Katja Rapaport. "Eleven dogs may not seem like a lot at first glance, but that's 11 fewer animals that can procreate."

When the Rapaports started the foundation in 2011, they saw a need to assist the rescues in the Four Corners region with efforts to reduce the over-population; since then, they have subsidized the spay and neuter of over 10,000 animals.

"We will continue to fund spay and neuter clinics, and can't do that without support from donors and the community," Rapaport said. "In addition to spay and neuter, we are looking to build our foster network, and in 2017 we will be working on educational programs that highlight the scope of the problem for animals in our area, as we know they can face euthanasia without rescue."

All the rescue groups concur that more education is needed. The groups are working with Navajo Nation leaders to continue an effort toward more collabora-

tion to end animal neglect and suffering.

"It can be overwhelming on the reservation," Herrmann said. "The Telluride Animal Foundation is making a significant impact here; I'm so grateful for them."

The Aspen Animal Shelter took in the 11 dogs, and on her first day, Jade, one of the yellow Labrador mixed puppies was adopted. The Aspen Animal Shelter adopted out over 400 animals in 2016, many of them from the reservation.

"We're incredibly grateful to organizations like the Aspen Animal Shelter that open their doors to so many animals," Katja Rapaport said. "They set the example for other communities to educate and support adoption first, proving that there are rescues of every age, size and breed available."

Last week's transport was one of a dozen that Katja and Josh Rapaport have flown, saving hundreds of dogs and cats from an uncertain fate and sending them onto better lives over the past few years.

To support their efforts and learn more, visit www.tellurideanimalfoundation.org.



Bill Mahoney's likeness as the Tellurider is still spotted around town in the form of vintage T-shirts sold at Telluride Trappings & Toggery. (Photo by Justin Criado/The Watch)

Mahoney

MAHONEY, from page 1

the area in 1932 during the Great Depression. Bill would eventually work in the mines before becoming involved with the ski resort in the 1970s.

In all, Mahoney lived in Telluride for more than 80 years, and was a four-term Town Council member. He was chosen as the Telluride Foundation's 2011 Outstanding Citizen for all he'd done for the community.

He has relocated to Montrose with his wife, Twylla, within the past year, citing the rigors of life so far above sea level as the main reason why.

"Once you reach a certain point, you don't want to deal with the shoveling snow and everything," he said.

Mahoney visits Telluride

often, given he still has family there, including three great-granddaughters.

"It's kind of hard to give it up," Mahoney said of his Telluride ties.

Even though Mahoney hasn't skied since 1983, his likeness as the Tellurider is still spotted around town in the form of vintage T-shirts sold at Telluride Trappings & Toggery.

Original comic books and posters are hard to find, and are somewhat of a local novelty.

"I have tons of the funny books and posters," Mahoney said.

For the curious, the Telluride Historical Museum has a Tellurider comic on display.

Mahoney, known as "Senior," volunteered extensively at the museum, including giving historic presentations and donating memorabilia and original footage, collections manager K.D. Rohrer said.

"There are good oral histories that the Mahoney boys have recorded," Rohrer said. "You

can find them in the Telluride Room of the library, or if they're checked out, we have some here at the museum."

At his age, Mahoney knows his best runs are behind him, evidence of a life well-loved on the powder. He admits he probably needs hearing aids and his feet are failing him, but his mind is still sharp as ever.

"I'm dying from the feet up," he said. "My feet went to hell. They're numb."

The comic's footer proclaims the Tellurider's triumph in bringing such a beloved winter activity to the area.

"You've done it Tellurider!" it reads. "You've put skiing on the worlds greatest mountains!"

When asked if he's ever told tales of the mighty Tellurider to family throughout the years, Mahoney shrugs it off like most modest masked avengers.

"I don't think about it," he said. "I don't like to brag."