

Gilpin County News

75 cents Vol 3, 08

BLACK HAWK, CO

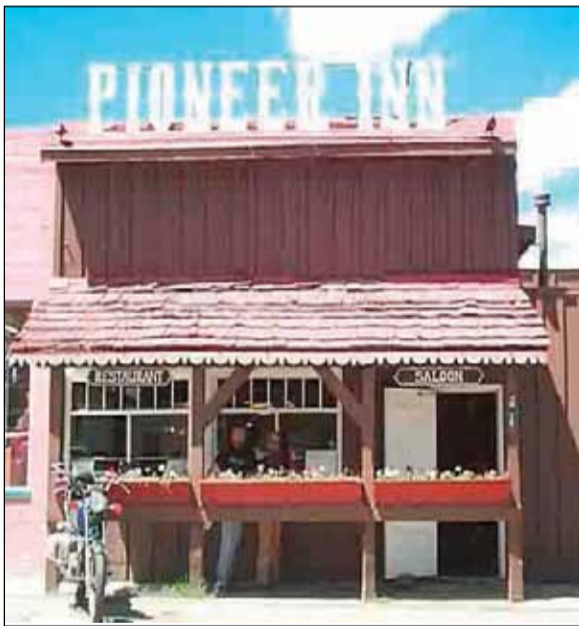
www.GilpinCountyNews.com

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2006



DAVE GIBSON

This great white shark is not in your favorite local trout pond! *GCN* photographer Dave Gibson captured this beauty on film while on a recent photo safari to South Africa. **p8-9**



Pioneer Inn of Nederland celebrates 35th year. **p15**



LYNN VOLKENS

Heroes Ulmer and Beard honored by Black Hawk. **p2**



AARON STORMS

Annual Ned vs Gilpin gridiron frenzy. **p16**

COUNTY

Road & Bridge building over budget, training truck drivers, culvert vacuum, Public Health Services, ambulance inspections, library report, DOLA hearings, and Open Space Mill Levy pros/cons. **p3**

FAMILY

The importance of Fathers and how to keep from being traded for a couple of goldfish! **p15**

CITY

Central City approves Junior Fire Fighter program. **p4**

Great White Sharks up close

At Dyer Island

In Greek mythology, Lamia was a beautiful Ethiopian queen loved by Zeus. When her children were stolen by a jealous Hera, in desperation she plucked her eyes out and went mad. Zeus then turned her into a shark, in which form she extracted revenge as a hunter and devourer of others' children. The cruelty, which became obsessive, distorted her features and made her ugly.

Sharks have long been vilified throughout history. Myth and legend continue to shape our perceptions of them to this day. Considered a threatened species, in truth they are merely doing their job - being sharks, filling a necessary niche on the planet of which we share.

Where the South Atlantic and Indian-Pacific oceans meet at Walker Bay lies Gansbaai, South Africa, widely considered the premier great white shark viewing and cage diving location in the world. The sharks here feed on fish, turtles, dolphins, pinnipeds, and smaller sharks, along with a few scraps of putrefied tuna supplied by the seven local shark diving operators. Nearby Dyer Island, where the densest known populations of great white sharks reside, also provides a healthy resource of Cape fur seals and the occasional jack-ass penguin. With a life span of up to forty years, the great white's length can reach 20 feet, and a single shark can weigh as much as two tons. A more typical size in this area runs between eight and fourteen feet, tipping the scales at 2000 pounds.

Setting out on a 36-foot cata-



DAVE GIBSON

maran with eighteen passengers and three crewmen, the air is heavy with anticipation as we try to visualize our upcoming adventure. We arrive twenty minutes later and drop anchor near Dyer Island. Chum bags are lowered into the water and an unctuous scent trail slowly drifts away from the boat. The captain slices away long strips of meat, attaches them to a line and float, and heaves them overboard. A wooden seal decoy affectionately called a "cookie" is also offered in case the shark fancies dessert. All there is to do now is wait.

This is the part where the pulsating, ever-loudening theme-song from the movie "Jaws" plays in your head. "SHARK!" someone yells, and unmistakably, a nine-foot great white shark suddenly appears, circling the boat in a nonchalant deliberate fashion, gauging what morsels await beneath the surface. Taking a couple more passes, he heads directly for the bait, lunging within inches of the meat before it's teasingly hauled back to the boat. Tuna is too expensive to give to every shark that happens by, and today there will be many.

It doesn't take long before another shark is sighted - a much larger shark! Perhaps 12 feet long, its enormous shadow lumbers below, patiently surmising the scene, seeming to exude supreme confidence that must come with being the emperor of your domain. His pace quickens with each successive approach. Closer every time, he zeroes in on his target. Then, racing forward, he opens his gaping maw and explodes with a mighty clamp of his jaws, shaking his head violently back and forth, intent on claiming his prize. The

shark speeds toward the shark cage containing five spellbound divers, excitedly absorbed in the action, cameras firing. With lure in mouth, he swoops into the cage, rocking it with his pectoral fin. The crewman holds on steadfastly as the shark streaks to the stern. Abruptly, with a thundering splash, he is gone, leaving us with only disbelief and a severed line.

PhatJeeps.com

- Steering correction
- Custom roll cages
- Custom bumpers
- Custom rock sliders
- Suspension upgrades
- Off-road recovery and repair

3 0 3 - 2 5 8 - 1 4 4 4
www.phatjeeps.com



DAVE GIBSON

With a thundering splash this great white shark is gone!

and personal...

LEFT: A great white shark takes the bait.

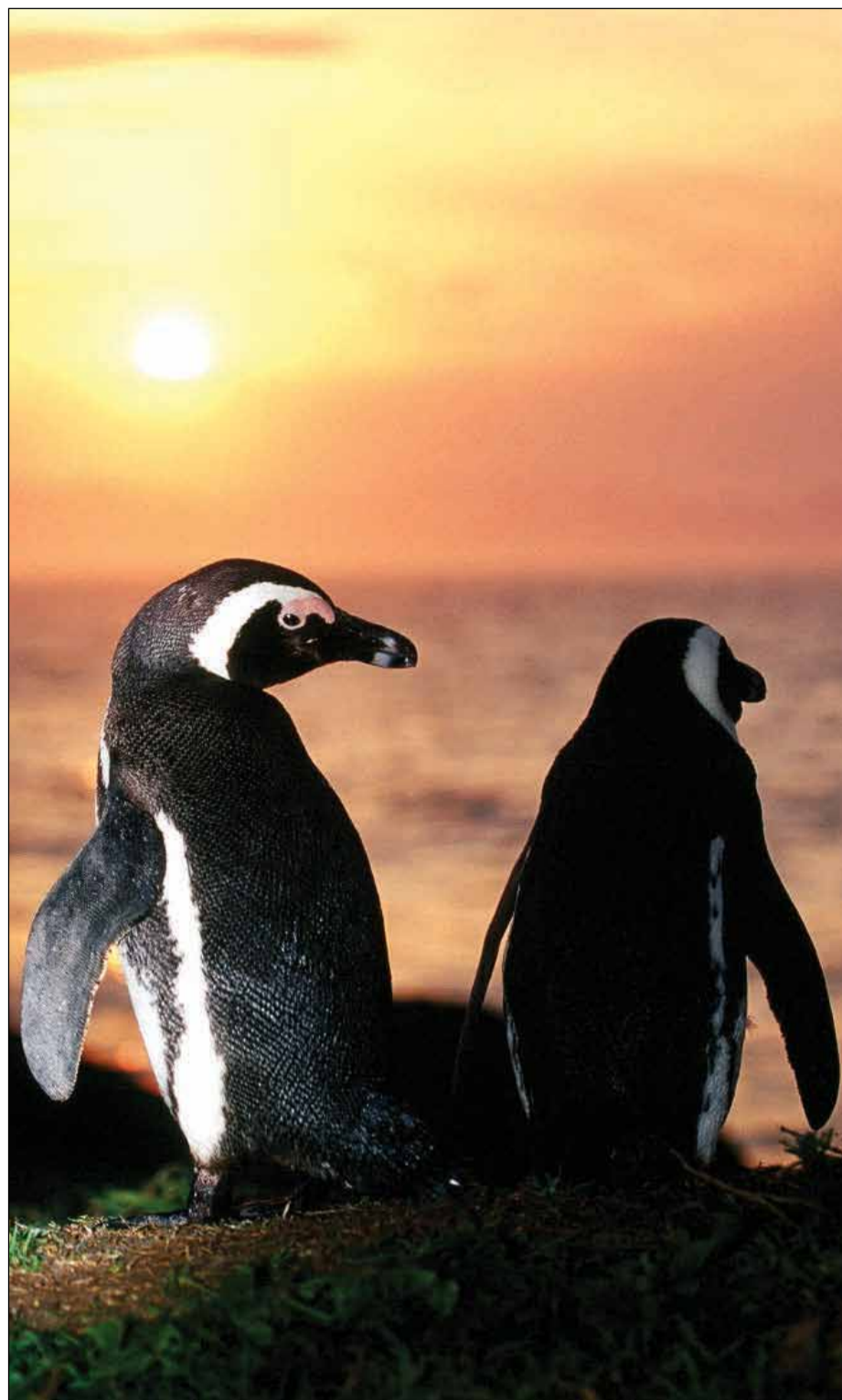
BELOW: Great white shark spy hopping. The only type of shark known to regularly do so.



DAVE GIBSON

I am left with a sense of awe, not only due to the shark's sheer power but also because of the sleek, graceful, efficiency with which they carry out their task. Their razor-sharp teeth made a lasting impression on me too, as well as on the dead tuna. Not being the apex predator on the food chain can be unsettling at times, evoking deeply ingrained primeval fears. Although he's gained my respect and admiration, I

wouldn't even vaguely consider taking a swim in these waters! Ernest Hemingway may have put it best when he wrote: "He is not a scavenger nor just a moving appetite as some sharks are. He's beautiful and noble and knows no fear of anything."



DAVE GIBSON

Jackass or African penguin are on the great white shark menu.

Help your business grow!

Advertise!

For ads that get results, call

Gilpin County News
303-582-0133
www.gilpincountynews.com

"EXCEEDING YOUR EXPECTATIONS"

Charming!

**450 W Spring Street
Nederland**

Charming bungalow in Old Town Nederland.
 2 BR, 2 BA, 560 sq ft.
 MLS#505699
\$187,000

Great Views!

**248 Beethoven Drive
Mid-Gilpin County**

.78 acre, 4 BR, 2 BA, 2,500 sq ft, mountain contemporary, heated floors, 2-car attached garage, Nederland schools. Sunny location with great views! MLS#500211
\$349,000

Offered by Eleanor Yeager - "Working for you"

Eleanor Yeager
 303-543-3096
 nederland2000@msn.com

Each office independently owned and operated.

We are located at the traffic circle in Nederland, and also have 16 regional offices along the Front Range and Boulder to better serve you!

Offered by Heather Games - "Mountain property specialist"

Heather Games
 303-543-3095
 heathergames@earthlink.net