Air Force mascot abduction

DAVE GIBSON

College prank gone wrong

by Dave Gibson

An ill-conceived college prank before the November 3rd football game between Air Force and Army in West Point, N.Y., went terribly wrong. The tradition of stealing the opposing team's mascot in the past might have seemed funny to some and never resulted in injury until now. The practice dates back over a century with Navy kidnapping Army's mule and Army "getting Navy's goat." Unfortunately for Air Force's mascot, a bird is more fragile than a mule or a goat and another branch of the service has now been regrettably included in the shenanigans. Two Army cadets abducted Aurora (a 22-year old gyrfalcon) and Oblio (a 15-year old peregrine falcon) Friday night from the home of an Army Colonel sponsor. Having been cloaked in a sweater and stored in a dog carrier overnight, Aurora suffered abrasions to her wings apparently from thrashing about the cage. Blood was noted on her feathers when she was returned the next morning as the guilty parties realized that their reprehensible mischief had gone awry. Back in Colorado Saturday night, it was feared that Aurora would have to be euthanized due in part to her advanced age. After being examined by a master falconer and Fort Carson veterinarians, the gyrfalcon showed signs of improvement and was soon flying around her enclosure. Aurora is expected to make a full recovery.

The United States Military Academy issued a formal apology Sunday. Although usually cited in the mistreatment of horses and mules, "Abuse of a public animal" is a criminal offense in the military. If applied in this case, the as of yet unnamed perpetrators may face a year in jail and dishonorable discharge.

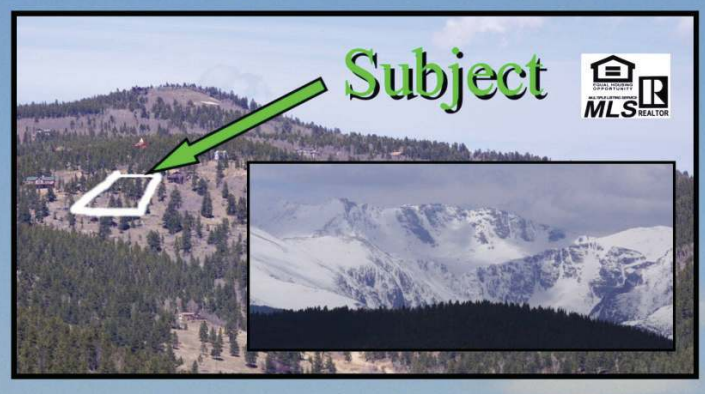
Dave Gibson has been a contributor at the *Weekly Register-Call* for thirteen years. Past articles and pictures may be viewed at www.DaveGibsonImages.com.

21st Annual
Tommyknocker Holidays
at the Historic Teller House
120 Eureka St, Central City

Thursday Nov 29 at 1:30 - Childrens Parade and Party
Friday Nov 30 at 6:30 - Lighting of Tree, Candle Walk, Sweaters, and Community Potluck at Teller House
Saturday Dec 1, 10-4 - Holiday Bazaar at the Teller House
Sunday Dec 2, 10-3 - Holiday Bazaar at the Teller House

Enjoy Gift Bazaar, Food,
Arts & Crafts, Father Christmas, Kids Activities,
Music, and Door Prizes!
For information and vendor inquiries, call 303-582-5919

Property of the Week
2089 Coyote Circle...$99,900



View of Mt Evans and surrounding 14ers. Lot is 2.06 acres. South facing, gently sloping, Mixture of aspen and pine, utilities in roadway. Homes in the immediate area command $495k — $637k. Shared driveway to top of lot. #7271228

Denise Byers
720.302.3636
owner/broker
dbyers@byers-sellers.com

Randy Byers
303.718.1943
associate broker
randy@byers-sellers.com

Byers & Sellers Mountain Properties, LLC
Est. 1997 byers-sellers.com 303.642.7951