



A CALL TO ACTION PART 2

TROOPER TIPS

BY TROOPER GARY CUTLER

Last month I talked about crashes over the 2018 holiday season which took 9 lives in 7 crashes over a 72 hour period. We now need to start looking at the causes of these crashes. Each of them had a different reason for the crash, but each one did have one thing in common; a lack of due care on the roadway. Let's start with an obvious one today; mixing drinking, drugs, and driving.

Safety is all about having a preventative mindset. By this I mean why anyone would ever want to push the limit that could injure themselves or others is beyond me. I say it's not worth it. If you are going out to drink, take the preventative measures to not push that limit, even if you only to plan to have one or two drinks. Option 1: Have someone in the group be the designated driver. This option has been around for decades, yet people still fail to realize, or choose to ignore, what the consequences are if you choose to drink and drive.

Option 2: plan for someone to pick you up. There are many options available today including sober friends, or ride share services. Again, not rocket science, but very effective. My question to those who do this type of careless behavior, is how many times does it have to be stated for it to become standard practice that no one will ever do it again?

I have arrested plenty of people who went out to have a couple of drinks and ended up in jail. Their life is forever changed from that point on. I like to think I prevented them from making their life much worse because they killed someone prior to being stopped by law enforcement.

Marijuana impaired driving has been around a long time, but is still relatively new as a legalized drug. The problem I am seeing with this drug is users don't believe it is dangerous to drive while using it. It can cause your cognitive thinking to become skewed. If it wasn't bad enough already with marijuana impaired drivers, now there is increased danger for the driving public. Some marijuana users combine it with alcohol, which can enhance the impairment while driving.

Another issue we have is prescription drugs which are becoming a lot more prevalent on our roads. My years working the road have shown me that people on prescription drugs don't look it the same as driving under the influence of alcohol.

A prescription drug is regulated by doctors because the drugs change a person's chemistry. This means they are going to make the user react differently, think differently, and judge situations differently than they normally would. Even if you don't think you feel differently, you will be effected one way or the other. Prescriptions drugs can be just as dangerous as driving while drinking or using marijuana.

Think in these terms, if I told you I wanted you to do a task, but there was a 50 percent chance that while doing the task you would kill or severely injure yourself or a friend, would you do it? Now if that wasn't enough to dissuade you, then I add that even if you don't kill someone, you may go to jail, will you do it?

Please keep in mind that it just isn't worth it. I hope I have changed the mindset of at least one person that read this article to be preventative in their actions.

As always, safe travels!

MURDER IN THE MOUNTAINS

MINI NOIR FESTIVAL THIS WEEKEND

A DANGEROUSLY INTRIGUING EXPERIENCE...

Spies, capers and detectives. Twists, plots and mystery. Whether you love following the clues in a crime fiction, helping solve the puzzle in an historic whodunit, or the spine-tingling suspense of a psychological thriller, the inaugural Murder in

the Mountains Mini Noir Festival, hosted by the Literary Arts Department of the Center for the Arts, will hook you.

Both readers and writers of the genre will love readings from bestselling authors; peeking into the minds of mystery writers on how they ply their craft; learning of historic and contemporary crimes from the local sheriff, coroner and historian; and practicing planting clues and red herrings in a writing workshop (with wine!). Young detectives can discover how to dust fingerprints and other top-secret activities from professionals in the trade.

The festival kicks off with a free author reading – Noir in the Bar – at the Eldo on Friday, February 22 at 8:00 p.m., and continues into Saturday, February 23 with the riveting culmination of a Murder Mystery Dinner at Slogar on Saturday night in 1920's speakeasy style.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Friday, February 22

Noir in the Bar

Meet 'no' mingle with literary lions (and a lioness) reading their work live. Bestselling authors Barbara Nickless and Kevin J. Anderson are joined by local thriller writer Harry Woods. Scintillating cocktail specials, extended happy hour, and book giveaways. At the Eldo. 8:00 p.m. Free

Saturday, February 23

Murder in the Mountains Panel

Teaming up with Aberdeen, Scotland's crime fiction festival, Granite Noir, authors on both sides of the Atlantic join forces to debate the influence and importance of place in crime fiction. The live trans-Atlantic panel consists of bestselling Colorado-based authors Barbara Nickless and Kevin J. Anderson; and in Aberdeen, Scotland bestselling Norwegian author Jørn Lier Horst and critically acclaimed Alex Dahl. Chaired by Lesley Anne Rose in Aberdeen and Brooke MacMillan in Crested Butte. Western Colorado University, Kelly Hall room 151. 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. \$15 or \$10 with student ID

Murder & Mystery in the Gunnison Valley

An absorbing discussion on murder, mystery and intrigue in the Gunnison Valley, featuring County Coroner Michael Barnes, Gunnison County Sheriff John

Gallowich and local historian Duane Vandenbusche. Learn about the gunfights,

disappearances, mysteries and gruesome bloodshed — from first settlers to

contemporary criminal cases. Chaired by Director of Western's MFA program in Creative Writing, Mark Todd. At the Gunnison Arts Center. 1 – 2 p.m. \$10 or \$5 with student ID

Junior Forensic Workshop.

Dust for fingerprints, case for clues and solve the crime scene mystery in this wonderful introduction to forensic science. Suitable for late elementary and middle school students. In partnership with the Crested Butte Marshal's Office and Crested Butte Old Rock Library. At the Crested Butte Marshal's Office. 2:30 p.m. \$15 to cover top secret detective supplies

Pinot & Noir - Mystery Writing Workshop

Learn to commit murder and get the inside scoop on mystery writing from an award-winning and bestselling crime novelist. Delve into structure, creating compelling characters, planting clues and red herrings, burying the bodies, and handling that essential requirement of the modern thriller - the twist. Pinot Noir flights served for participants 21 and older. Instructor: Best-selling crime novelist Barbara Nickless. At Eclectic Gallery, 226 Elk Avenue. 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. \$65 includes wine tasting

Murder Mystery Dinner

Join us for a dangerously fun evening of murder and mystery in a 1920s speakeasy. See if you have what it takes to be the night's top detective, or the shadiest suspect around. This thrilling and immersive evening is space limited, book ahead to avoid disappointment. At The Slogar. 7:00 p.m. \$45 includes dinner, murder, mystery & some drinks

PRESENTING AUTHORS

Barbara Nickless is the author of the award-winning crime novels Blood on the Tracks and Dead Stop, featuring railroad cop Sydney Rose Parnell and her K9 partner, Clyde. Sydney and Clyde's next thriller, Ambush, was just released this November 2018. When she's not writing or traveling, Barbara is often in the Colorado Rockies hiking, caving, snowshoeing and drinking single malt Scotch—although usually not at the same time.

Alex Dahl was born in Oslo and is the critically acclaimed author of The Boy at the Door. She graduated with a B.A. in Russian and German linguistics with international studies and went on to complete an M.A. in creative writing at Bath Spa University, followed by an M.S. in business management at Bath University. Alex has published short stories in the U.K. and the U.S. and is a serious Francophile.

Jørn Lier Horst is a bestselling author and former Senior Investigating Officer from Norway. A recent winner of the Glass Key Award for “Best Nordic Crime Novel” and the prestigious Martin Beck Award, he made his debut in 2004 with the crime novel *Key Witness*, based on a true murder story. His crime novels have been extremely successful in Europe and are characterized by political and social commentary subtext. The *Katharina Code* is the latest in his detective William Wisting series.

Kevin J. Anderson has published more than 140 books, 56 of which have been national or international bestsellers, including numerous novels in the *Star Wars*, *X-Files* and *Dune* universes. His unique steampunk fantasy novels *Clockwork Angels* and *Clockwork Lives* were written with legendary rock drummer Neil Peart, based on the concept album by the band *Rush*. His original works include the *Saga of Seven Suns* series, the *Terra Incognita* fantasy trilogy, the *Saga of Shadows* trilogy, and his humorous horror series featuring *Dan Shamble*, *Zombie PI*. He has edited numerous anthologies; and written comics, games, and the lyrics to two rock CDs. Anderson and his wife Rebecca Moesta are the publishers of *Wordfire Press*.

Price

Tickets may be purchased to individual events or purchase a Festival Pass for \$100. The Full Festival pass includes entry to all events; books signed by visiting writers; and discounts at select local businesses.

For full details and information visit: www.crestedbuttearts.org/Murder-in-the-Mountains

JONI 75



Here's my Joni Mitchell story: the year is 1983, I am living in Wellington, New Zealand. For “Liar’s Night” I would say I was twelve years old at the time. I hear that Joni Mitchell is playing a concert at Victoria University. I board the scenic hillside tram to the show. It is a large, plain music hall, somewhere you’d hear a recital. A grand piano is downstage right and Joni Mitchell hunkers down there for hours. As the venue has a large aisle down the left side, I inch my way closer and closer, until for the last few songs, I am fifteen feet away her. If God is a woman (and many say she is, or certainly should be) Joni Mitchell is her: her aura emanating from her like stage lights; her voice and presence, completely

angelic. She is also, as everyone knows, humorous and self-deprecating, stemming from her Canadian roots. I am transfixed, in the presence of an other-worldly being. An angel if ever there was one.

Later on, a film friend from LA said he would have regular, hours-long conversations with Joni Mitchell, the two of them alone, sitting at the bar in Venice, California. I thought him the luckiest man alive. I wanted to move to LA, just in hopes I could join them.

On November 7th of last year, Joni Mitchell turned seventy-five. Luckily for us, they threw a giant, two-night musical tribute concert for her in Los Angeles and had cameras rolling. On Saturday, March 2nd, Crested Butte Film Festival will present the birthday present / film made from that concert, the wondrous, *JONI 75*, the queen of all musical-tribute films, 7:00 p.m. at The Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$20 and are available at cbfilmfest.org, the Center, and any remaining, at the door.

A hand-selected group of peers and protégés including James Taylor, Graham Nash, Seal, Rufus Wainwright, Brandi Carlile, Emmylou Harris, Norah Jones and more will perform her music and speak of her influence, creating an intimate portrait of one of contemporary music’s most popular and reclusive performers. The film is sponsored by Joel Benisch.

On March 21st, Crested Butte Film Festival partners with Mountain Roots Food Project for Dinner and A Movie: a

farm-to-table dinner 5:30 at The Depot, an 8:00 p.m. showing of the back-to-farming film, THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM. Tickets are \$50 for Dinner and the Movie, \$12 for the film, cbfilmfest.org

The 9th annual Crested Butte Film Festival brings 100 films and 30 visiting filmmakers and actors to town, September 26 -29. cbfilmfest.org

IF YOU ARE UNDER 18, NEVER HUNTED AND WANT TO GET TURKEY HUNTING TIPS FROM CPW MENTORS, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!



If you are a true novice hunter under 18 and want to learn how to hunt turkey the correct way, Colorado Parks and Wildlife encourages you to apply for a chance at participating in a pair of mentored turkey hunts on private lands in Colorado's Northwest Region this spring.

Prospective hunters must submit their application for either hunt by April 1, 2019.

The first hunt is in Meeker, April 12-14, the second in Craig, May 3-5. All youth are encouraged to apply; however, CPW will give special consideration to those that have never hunted, don't come from a hunting family or do not have the opportunity to learn from an experienced mentor.

Both hunts are offered through CPW's Hunter Outreach Program, dedicated to introducing novice women and youth to the benefits of hunting by providing expert, hands-on guidance.

"We've been doing this for several years now and it's been enormously successful," said Assistant Area Wildlife Manager Mike Swaro of Craig. "So

many kids want to hunt but they don't have anyone to show how to do it the right way. Turkey hunting is a lot of fun, but very challenging and nearly impossible to do unless you get instruction, and that is why we are here."

"I love doing this," said District Wildlife Manager Bailey Franklin of Meeker. "I get so much satisfaction knowing these kids have learned a valuable life skill, learned about wildlife management and how to handle a firearm responsibly. But the best part is that after a few days with a skilled mentor, these kids can go out and hunt turkey safely on their own. That's what it's all about."

How To Apply:

All applications must include:

- The youth's name, address, Hunter Education number and Customer Identification Number (CID), if applicable
- A parent or guardian's contact information, including an email address and phone number
- A short narrative, handwritten by the youth and in their own words explaining why he or she should be selected over other youth for this special hunting experience

Meeker Turkey Hunt

Applications can be hand delivered to the Meeker CPW office at 73485 Hwy. 64; emailed to the hunt coordinator, bailey.franklin@state.co.us, or mailed to the following address prior to April 1 deadline:

DWM Bailey Franklin
PO Box 1181
Meeker, CO 81641
Craig Turkey Hunt

Applications can be hand delivered to the Meeker CPW office at 73485 Hwy. 64; emailed to the hunt coordinator,