

BRIGHTON SENIOR CENTER

HAPPENINGS

575 BUSH STREET • 303-655-2075

OPEN MON. - FRI. 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

REGISTRATION FOR MARCH AND APRIL CLASSES AND TRIPS

The new Newsletters are out. Registration for the March and April Classes and Trips begins.

8:00 a.m.

Mon- March 1, 2010

KNIT AND CROCHET

Enjoy the company of others as you knit or crochet. Instructor Evelyn Gaschler will help you with the crochet project of your choice. Learn new techniques and stitches from each other. Beginners welcome.

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Thursdays Mar. 4-April 29

\$4.00

Deadline: ongoing

ATHENIAN RESTAURANT

The Athenian Restaurant in Aurora provides excellent Greek food, service, and an atmosphere. The staff treats you like family and is very helpful when choosing your meal. Hands down the best Greek restaurant in the Denver metro area.

12:45 p.m.

Wed. Mar 3

\$4.00 (plus meal)

Deadline: Tue. March 2

THE CELTIC EXPERIENCE

The Rocky Mountain Brassworks will bring to life beautiful brass interpretations of old and magical Celtic tunes. They will also be joined on state by members of the Centennial State Bagpipe and Drums Corps for a powerful and moving brass and bagpipes. No meal.

6:30 p.m.

Fri. Mar 5

\$14.00

Deadline: Wed. March 3/by Noon

BRIGHTON SENIOR CENTER DAILY NOON MEAL**Monday, Mar. 1, 11:30 a.m.**

Choice 1: Turkey Pot Pie

Choice 2: American Lasagna.

Tuesday, Mar. 2, noon

Choice 1: Chilli con Carne

Choice 2: Arroz con Pollo

Wednesday, Mar. 3, noon

Choice 1: Chicken Scallopini

Choice 2: Chicken with Mushroom Sauce

Thursday, Mar. 4, 11:30 am,

Choice 1: Chicken Fried Steak

Choice 2: Chicken a la King

A hot, nutritious lunch with your choice of two entrees is provided by Volunteers of America, Monday through Thursday. Daily donations for meals are greatly appreciated - requested contribution is \$2.50 per meal if 60 & older. Cost is \$5 if under 60. Reserve your meal two days in advance by calling 303-655-2075 between the hours of 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday - Thursdays.



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OUTDOORS

The travels of the Canada Goose

BY RON HELBUSCHE

Whether sportsmen are simply drawn to the daily flights of the local Canada geese, they attract our attention and have become winter residents in our local neighborhoods. The geese can be an irritation to golfers and park managers. Conversely, they offer an up close and personal nature experience for kids and those who enjoy observing wildlife.

Unlike the neighborhood fox, prairie dog, cottontail rabbit or even coyote, these graceful birds do not make our communities their year-round home. Colorado, over the past four decades, has gradually attracted a growing number of these migrating waterfowl. Canada geese are nomads, moving along an age-old flyway to and from their summer nesting grounds in Canada's neighboring provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and northern Canadian inland wetland regions.

Seemingly out of nowhere, these flocks appear in November in our urban areas. The numbers increase over time. If the weather is stable with limited snow cover and less than continued subzero

temperatures. These migratory waterfowl will make the Front Range their winter home but only for a few months. After we have become accustomed to them, we realize one day in March the flocks are dwindling and we wonder, where are the geese? Where did they go? Why did they leave?

A natural instinct driven by longer days and warming temperatures slowly brings the scattered flocks of Canada geese together. They gather and stage in preparation for their return to northern summer nesting grounds. In a quiet hour of the night, unseen by any of us, the assemblage of hundreds— even thousands—of these birds rise in unison, select leaders among themselves, organize into the popular "V" formations and quietly start their migration back north. The travelers will periodically stop for food, water and rest but always with their instinctive natural GPS focused on the vast wetlands of southern Canada.

There are some theories wildlife scientists have come to accept to explain migration. One suggesting, rather than hibernate as many wild mammals do during the winter months, geese and birds move south to more accommodating climates.

Another concept of transmutation says the annual change in bird feathers and colors forces opposing colored birds apart, thus the migration movement. A third theory is that of Northern-Southern Ancestral Home, which purports during the ice age both water and land was covered at various time periods eliminating water for resting and land for food sources, thus forcing birds and geese to move in search of both. A fourth and more understandable theory is photoperiodism that indicates changes in the length of day and temperatures, loss of food sources and icing of water bodies, forced migratory movement of the geese and birds to find water and food.

Whatever theory one might subscribe to, the fact remains; Mother Nature has created a pattern of movement among birds and the Canada geese. We clearly witness this phenomenon each fall and spring right in our neighborhoods. Be watchful, one morning the large numbers of Canada geese we witnessed the day before will be absent. Sometime during the quiet of the night they said goodbye, but fortunately, they will be back.

Contact the author at Ron-Hellbusch@comcast.net.

RHOADES

from page 4

A Published Author

Next to Jesus, his wife, his family and pizza, Rhoades lists his other love as writing. He maintains several blogs of his own and will soon be a published author. He is the author of three novels. His first, "Altar," will be available on amazon.com within the next month.

Rhoades said he's been writing for years. He began writing an adventure novel for his kids but has expanded his subject interest to supernatural thrillers, such as "Altar." In addition to his love for theater

and writing, he also enjoys music, he said.

"My wife says I'm a Renaissance man, but I'm not sure if that's true or not," he laughed.

Family Support

There's no doubt that as Rhoades set foot on the stage at Prairie View High School as Daddy Warbucks, his family was singing along with him from the seats.

"Break a leg, dad! I'm so proud of your determination with these plays and can't wait to come see you tonight!" one of his daughters wrote on his wife's blog Feb. 18.

Another of his daughters added, "I'm SO excited to see Annie on Saturday night!!! I know it will be great, and I know you will be AWESOME Dad!"

A Dream Fulfilled

Rhoades feels fortunate that he has been able to be involved in Prairie Playhouse's production of "Annie," which will run through mid-March at Prairie View High School.

"'Annie' is an overwhelming message of hopes and dreams and of having a positive outlook even in the face of great adversity, abandonment and rejection," Rhoades said. "We all want and need a Daddy Warbucks in our life to become a savior.

"It's the quintessential story of that hope and having that person that's going to take care of you and take care of the problems," he said.