

TELLURIDE DAILY PLANET

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THURSDAY

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Don't quote me but...
Twilight at the Transfer with Michael Tobin is Thursday from 6-8 p.m.

Calendar

Thursday

- Summer's Bounty: Ah Haa School culinary class, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., ahhaa.org
- Historical Walking Tour: Telluride Historical Museum, 1-2:30 p.m.
- Fall Equinox Sound Bath: Transfer Warehouse, 4 p.m., free admission
- Meet the Author: Katherine E. Standefer, 'Lightning Flowers,' Wilkinson Public Library Program Room, 5:30 p.m.
- Live Music: Altezza, Peaks Resort, 5-8 p.m.
- AA: Christ Church (and via Zoom), 5:30 p.m., Zoom code 825-3167-0042
- Wine for Everyone: Orange Wines, Ah Haa School, 6-8 p.m., ahhaa.org
- Live Music: Michael Tobin, Transfer Warehouse, 6-8 p.m., free admission
- Film: 'Three Thousand Years of Longing,' Nugget Theatre, 7 p.m.

Weather

Forecast: Thunderstorms are in the forecast Thursday with a high of 58.

Muse: "The path to success is to take massive, determined action."—Tony Robbins

IN ORBIT:

Thursday focus: A closer look

Old West Fest

Friday: Music & Entertainment

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY

Commissioners hear public health update

By SUZANNE CHEAVENS
Associate Editor

'Better but far from over'

It's not grinding society to a halt anymore, as evidenced by Telluride's full slate of summer festivals and other events, but COVID-19 remains an ongoing concern for public health officials. The San Miguel Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) heard an update

Wednesday from county public health director, Grace Franklin, who reminded them that COVID's presence is still diligently monitored by health offi-

cial. It is, she said, "better but far from over."

Franklin said that comparing COVID to the flu is a little cavalier.

"COVID is still one of the leading causes of death within our country, with over 400 Americans dying each day from COVID," Franklin said. "This is causing about 10 percent excess deaths a year across our nation. And I feel like we've been very fortunate here to

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From left, Mountain Trip's Karl Welter, Erin Laine and Bill Allen with their Department of the Interior's Citizen's Award for Bravery. The trio received the honor for saving a climber's life on Denali in 2017. (Photo courtesy of Mountain Trip)

OUTDOORS

Mountain Trip guides recognized by Department of the Interior

Locals receive National Bravery Award for saving climber's life on Denali

By AMY M. PETERS
Planet Contributor

Mountain Trip guide and co-owner Bill Allen, along with local guides Karl Welter and Erin Laine, were honored with the Department of the Interior's (DOI) Citizen's Award for Bravery for saving a climber's life on Denali. The DOI's most prestigious recognition, the award was presented at a Sept. 8 ceremony in Washington D.C. by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland with all three guides in attendance.

According to a news release, on June 5, 2017, the team was leading a group of climbers up the West Buttress of Denali, North America's highest peak. The team was sleeping in their tents when, after midnight, a climber sought help for his

partner who'd fallen into a crevasse without a rope.

The guides quickly packed their gear, roped up and went down the glacier to look for the fallen climber, Martin Takac of Slovakia, who was wedged tightly in narrow blue ice walls about 40 feet down.

"I thought we were looking at a dead guy," Welter recalled. "He was moaning, barely conscious. He was totally pinned in the ice."

Welter referred to his team's recovery effort as "bravery in competence" as they lowered down into the dark crevasse.

"It was uncomfortable, challenging and tight inside the crevasse, which added to the intensity of the situation," he said.

It took crews 14 hours to free Takac, who was flown to

a hospital in critical condition with trauma injuries and hypothermia.

A first for Mountain Trip, this year's Citizen's Awards for Bravery recognized several adventure guides, park service rangers and volunteers for "heroic acts or unusual bravery in the face of danger."

"According to one ranger I spoke to, it's also the first time this has been awarded to any operation on Denali which is a very active rescue landscape," Allen added.

Mountain Trip first opened in 1973, offering guided trips on Denali. Allen and local Todd Rutledge, who both guided for Mountain Trip, bought the adventure operation 20 years ago and set up offices on Main

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EVENTS

AUTHORS UNCOVERED

Katherine E. Standefer guest at Thursday's library reading

By JUSTIN CRIADO
Editor

Author Katherine E. Standefer lives with an insidious horror. She talks about it frankly, almost lovingly, but the implanted cardiac defibrillator was supposed to make her life easier after a rare diagnosis called for the device to be surgically placed into her chest. Then 10 years ago, she experienced "three accidental shocks to the heart," which has left her with a "nest of snapped off, stripped wires stuck in my right ventricle," as she put it.

In "Lightning Flowers: My Journey to Uncover the Cost of Saving a Life," her intimate memoir about health, illness, and the invisible reverberating effects of our medical system, Standefer recounts the astonishing true story of the diagnosis that upended her rugged life in the mountains of Wyoming and sent her tumbling into a fraught maze of cardiology units, dramatic surgeries, and slow, painful recoveries. As her life increasingly revolved around the internal defibrillator freshly wired into her heart, she became consumed with questions about the supply chain that allows such an ostensibly miraculous device to exist.

"The book opens with me taking three accidental shocks to the heart from my implanted cardiac defibrillator. And that was a moment that it really occurred to me that this device inside me could do more harm in my life than good. I already had had some questions about it. And this moment really tipped the balance

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