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Weld County youth programs awards

The Community Foundation Awards \$29,814 for youth programs in Weld County

The Community Foundation recently announced grants totaling \$29,814 from the Littler Youth Fund's 94th distribution to various youth-oriented programs to support over 2,700 youth throughout Greeley and Weld County.

The Littler Youth Fund, an endowment with the Community Foundation was established in 1972 by Hubert and Mary Littler for the benefit of youth in Weld County. The agencies and projects funded were:

* **A Woman's Place, Inc.** - for a domestic violence prevention and intervention program.

* **Colorado Humanities** - for the Young Chautauqua program.

* **Franklin Middle School** - to bring in Maria Reyes, one of the former "Freedom Writers Diary" students to speak to Franklin students.

* **Fort Lupton Food and Clothing Bank** - for the Back Pack program.

* **Johnstown Java & Jams** - for six "overtime" musical events.

* **Turning Point Center for Youth and Family Development, Inc.** - for the Adolescent Day Treatment program.

The next application deadline for the Littler Youth Fund is October 1, 2008. Grant deadlines are listed on the Web site at www.cfsgwc.org. Applications are available upon request from the Community Foundation, 711 8th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631, (970) 304-9970 or from the Community Foundation Web site.

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«AUTHOR IMPERSONATOR'S appearance caps High Plains Chautauqua»

TWAIN OR LAYNE, HE'S GOT PLENTY TO SAY

By Andrew Villegas

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In 1897, 13 years before his death, Mark Twain said, "The report of my death was an exaggeration."

It was Twain's response when a reporter was sent to investigate his demise.

But in 2008 — in McAvoy Layne — Twain is alive and well.

Layne travels the world as a historical impersonator of Twain. Down to the curly locks, mustache and gait, Layne has Twain's look down. The U.S. State Department has even sent Layne — a resident of Lake Tahoe, Nev. — around Europe to speak as the humorist.

One winter, he walked into a remote cabin McAvoy Layne and emerged five days later as Mark Twain, nearly crazy with cabin fever.

Layne was trapped in a snowlogged cabin for those five days. To pass the time and maintain his sanity, he read the complete essays of Mark Twain.

Layne is in Greeley playing Twain in this year's Chautauqua. The Tribune sat down Saturday afternoon for this interview with Twain, er ... Layne.

TRIBUNE: You were on trial Saturday morning for racism, how did that go?

TWAIN: Well, some exemplary secondary students from Greeley pushed me to the edge of the cliff. They really dug in and got some good evidence out of "Huckleberry Finn," and there were two dissenters in the end, two people who thought I was guilty of racism. And the rest of the house shouted as one man, "acquitted!" But the judge said it had to be unanimous, so he postponed the next trial to another venue.

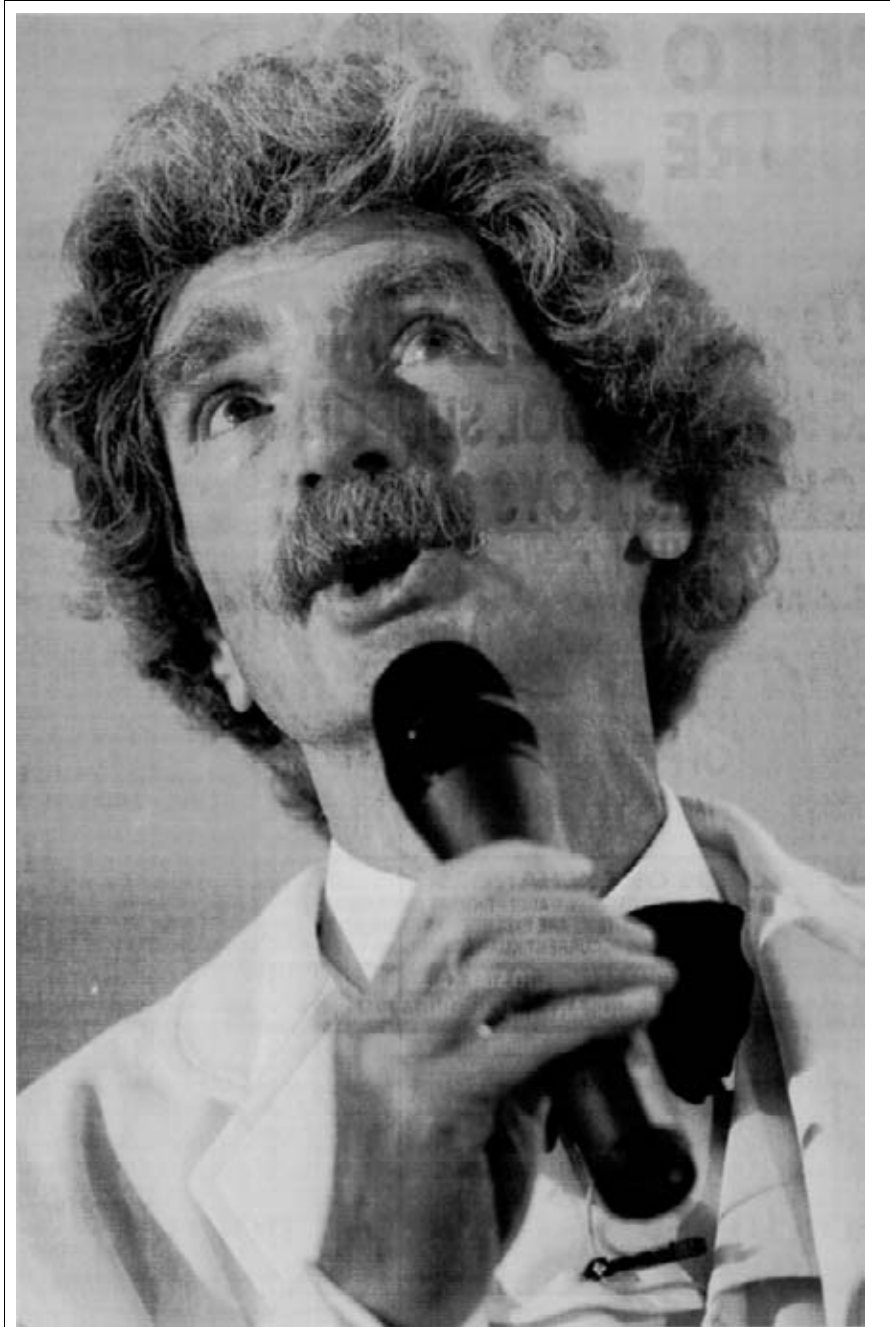
TRIBUNE: Did they tell you what sort of sentence you were facing if you were found guilty?

TWAIN: You know I got all kinds of rumors that they were preparing to do jail — a new room in your jail for me. They said I'd like the food over there very much and so on and so forth. So yeah, a typical Greeley welcome. You know they were going to be glad to have me.

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ERIC BELLAMY/ebellamy@greeleytribune.com

PORTRAYED BY MCAVOY LAYNE, Mark Twain speaks to the crowd at the High Plains Chautauqua on Saturday at Aims Community College. Layne's performance brings to an end this season of Chautauqua featuring notables from the 19th century.

« CHAUTAUQUA A SUCCESS

Jane Adams, director of the High Plains Chautauqua, said **Saturday's events attracted more than 1,500 people** and that this year's events mean Chautauqua will continue to grow.

A morning event featuring a mock trial of Mark Twain attracted nearly 300 people, she said and more than 800 people filed under the big tent to watch the evening's festivities.

People from Denver, Colorado Springs and all over Colorado came to this year's events, Adams said. Interest in Greeley's Chautauqua continues to grow despite some people saying that attendance at other Chautauquas dwindles after they've been in existence for years.

"It keeps getting bigger and better," Adams said. "It's continued to flourish."





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I think we need to be little more modest

« TWAIN Q&A From AA1

TRIBUNE: In 2008 here, lots of stuff going on in the world, what do you think of this year so far?

TWAIN: Well it's an exciting year in America. I said at the turn of the (20th century), "I do not like to see our eagle's talons on any other land," and I still feel that way. It's going to be exciting — our election — I don't know how it's going to turn out, but I will predict on the 20th of January, 2009, President Grant will move up a rung. No, I don't think Mount Rushmore is threatened. But I know both are politicians and it only encourages them. Look how difficult it is to find a politician today with morals high enough that he will stay bought.

TRIBUNE: What do you think is the most pressing issue facing America right now?

TWAIN: Well, some call it imperialism, some call it pre-emptive war, some call it hubris. I think we need to be a little more modest. I don't think we need to tell everybody in the world how to live, how to be a capitalist or how to run their lives. Here we are over in Iraq trying to (give them) democracy when they've been a theocracy for so long, and we keep telling them how great it's going to be, and this new thing happens that we're going to get out of there.

TRIBUNE: What do you think about Greeley?

TWAIN: Oh, I love Greeley. You know Horace (Greeley) had a good idea. It's a little utopia here. The people are so

welcoming and warm and make you want to stay. But I think that the very fact that Chautauqua came to Greeley was a natural phenomenon because Greeley is so open and willing to accept people of all different ages and races and backgrounds and eager to find out about them and learn from them. So (Greeley) really was a natural magnet for Chautauqua, they were just meant for each other. ...

TRIBUNE: Any words of advice or wisdom for people living in Greeley right now?

TWAIN: I'd like to remind people "Heaven for climate, Hell for company." But actually, that's just in jest. I do believe that we ought to endeavor so to live that when we come to die, even the undertaker will be sorry.

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Historic storm stalls history

Chautauqua events canceled due to weather for first time in nine years

By Sharon Dunn
sdunn@greeleytribune.com

For the first time in its nine-year history, Chautauqua organizers canceled the evening performances Wednesday at Aims Community College.

Now, organizers are scrambling to find a backup location, as the grounds at Aims were saturated Wednesday night, said Jane Adams, director of the High Plains Chautauqua.

"People always say they are so glad that Chautauqua has come to town, because we'll finally get rain," Adams said. "But it's never shut us down."

Organizers canceled the evening performance shortly before it was set to start. The rain had been coming down, and there was a lot of lightning. The tipping point came when a tornado warning was issued in Greeley until 7:30 p.m. That eventually passed, but the weather was still too bad to reconvene.

"We've had hail storms that collected pockets of hail on top of the tent," Adams said of Chautauqua's history in Greeley. "We always get a rainstorm at least once during Chautauqua, but with the tornado warnings and all the lightning, we evacuated the tent, had people huddled in the General Services building, in the torna-

do-safe halls, until it was safe to let them out."

Organizers called off Chautauqua's second night only and have rescheduled the night's performers, Dorothy Mains Prince as Frances E.W. Harper and David Fenimore as Horace Greeley, to tonight and Friday.

Prince will be added to the lineup tonight, which will start a half-hour earlier at 6:30 p.m., and Fenimore will be added to the lineup Friday. She said the music will start at 5:45 p.m. both nights.

"Our concern right now is whether the tent site is going to be dried off enough to safely run the power," Adams said. "It was really wet out there. ... At the same time, we're searching for an alternative site in case that doesn't happen."

Adams said she hopes that alternative site could be either at the Union Colony Civic Center, or Frasier Hall at the University of Northern Colorado, but there was nothing definite late Wednesday. That decision will likely come today.

Adams said the scheduled daytime events today will go on as scheduled.

"We thank everyone for their patience and good sense of humor and hope that holds out, because tomorrow will be a longer night. But they're all worth seeing."

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« TODAY'S SCHEDULE

8-9:15 a.m.

Coffee & Conversation with
Chautauquans
Borders Books & Cafe, 2863
35th Ave.

9:30-10:30 a.m.

Thoreau on Slavery and the
Conscience by Kevin Radaker
College Center Room 727-
728, Aims Community
College

10:45-11:45 a.m.

"Will the Real John Brown ...
Please Stand Up?" by
Dorothy Mains Prince
College Center Room 727-
728, Aims Community
College

1-2 p.m.

Humor is the Best Weapon:
19th Century Editorial
Cartoons by David Fenimore
College Center Room 727-
728, Aims Community
College

2:15-3:15 p.m.

So You Want to Be a
Chautauqua Performer? by
Hank Fincken
College Center Room 727-
728, Aims Community
College

**UNDER THE BIG TENT,
AIMS**

5:30-8 p.m.

Featured food vendor:
MeMe's Brick Oven Pizza

5:45-6:30 p.m.

Appalachian Mountain
Songs by Lesley Manning &
Ann Radcliffe, and Negro
Spirituals by Diane Bolden-
Taylor & Charlotte Mills

6:30-9 p.m.

Dorothy Mains Prince as
Frances E.W. Harper
Kevin Radaker as Henry David
Thoreau
Annette Baldwin as Susan B.
Anthony

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« **DAILY PLANNER**

TODAY

« **HIGH PLAINS CHAUTAUQUA**, "American Spirit: Practical Dreamers," today through Saturday, under the big tent at Aims Community College. Details, www.highplainschautauqua.org or (970) 339-6365.

« **EATON FARMERS MARKET**, 4-7 p.m., 1st Street west of U.S. 85 in downtown Eaton. In-season fruits and veggies, homemade foods, ARC's Hand to Hand bagels, plants, free water, collection point for Weld Food Bank. Details, Carla Sullivan, (970) 454-3344.

• **CALL-A-LAWYER**, 6:30-8 p.m., first Thursday, (970) 353-7554. Free legal information. Spanish-speaking attorneys or an interpreter available. Sponsored by Weld County Legal Services Inc.

« **OPEN BLUES JAM AT**

CORLEONE'S hosted by the Robert Wilson Blues Band, 7:30-11 p.m. Thursdays, Corleone's Italian Underground, 822 9th St., Greeley.

FRIDAY

« **NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHTS**, movie, "Rudy" (PG), East Memorial Park, 2100 Balsam Ave., Greeley. Movie begins at dusk. Free. In case of inclement weather or for more information call (970) 350-9400. Details, www.greeleygov.com/festivals.

« **LIVE MUSIC AT CORLEONE'S**, Dan Treanor, 8 p.m., Corleone's Italian Underground, 822 9th St., Greeley.

« **BINGO**, sponsored by Los Alegres Ancianos Mexicanos, LAAM, 12:30 p.m. Tuesday and Fridays, Lucky Queen Bingo Hall, 298 6th Ave.,

Greeley. Details, (970) 352-4644.

SUNDAY

« **DUTCH HOP/POLKA DANCE**, music by Rich Dechant, 3-7 p.m., Loveland Veterans Club, 305 N. Cleveland Ave., Loveland. Sponsored by American Volga Germans and hosted by Rich and Janet Dechant. German/American food available at a reasonable cost. Admission: \$6 adults; 14 and younger free when accompanied by an adult. Details, (970) 330-5422 or (970) 515-6636.

« **DUTCH HOP**, Northern Colorado Dutch Hop, 3-7 p.m. Sunday, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2121, 2514 7th Ave., Greeley. Music by Ronnie Eckhart. Admission: \$6 and free for those 14 and younger. Food and drink at reasonable prices will be available. Details, John Prall at (970) 330-3460.

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JEANE LANG OF GREELEY waits out a tornado warning at Aims Community College after the High Plains Chautauqua event was canceled due to the rain Wednesday night in Greeley. BREI MAHITMAN/dnartman@greeleytribune.com