

THE ASPEN TIMES

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MUCKING IT UP



ANNA STONEHOUSE/THE ASPEN TIMES

Basalt senior Carly Robinson laughs as she crawls through the mud under an obstacle followed by one of her "High Power Surgeon" teammates, senior Alex Seibert, on Friday afternoon for the student and staff Basalt High School mud run. Glenwood Springs and Roaring Fork high schools also were invited to participate. The community mud run will take place today. Anyone can come and do the public race this morning; just show up at 10 a.m. to pre-register, pay the \$20 fee and sign a waiver. The race starts at 11 a.m.

Search for Delta man is unsuccessful

David Krause
The Aspen Times

A multi-jurisdictional group of more than 20 people searched western Pitkin County on Friday for a Delta man who has been missing for nearly two weeks, but they did not find any signs of him or the motorcycle he was riding.

The Pitkin County Sheriff's Office and Mountain Rescue Aspen joined other agencies to look for Robert (Bob) Geisler, 51, along Highway 133 between Carbondale and McClure Pass. Geisler was last seen May 12 after leaving Glenwood Springs and thought to be heading back to Delta via the pass.

He left Glenwood just before 3 p.m. on his black Harley Davidson motorcycle in the direction of McClure Pass, which is about 25 miles south of Carbondale, officials said.

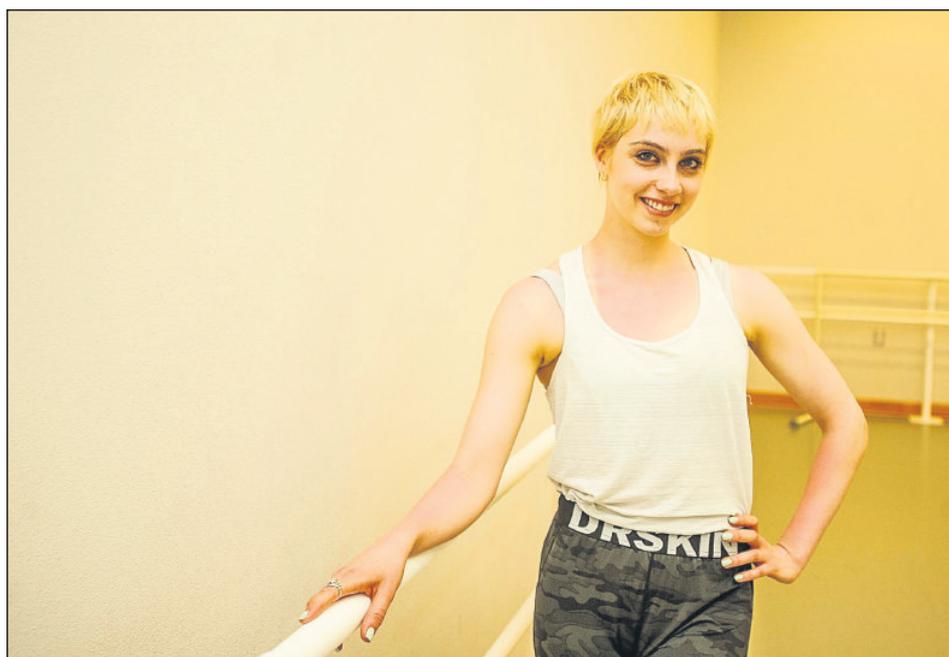
Geisler was wearing a black-and-white checkered



Robert (Bob) Geisler

MISSING MAN, A6

Winton joins Aspen Santa Fe Ballet



ANNA STONEHOUSE/THE ASPEN TIMES

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet has added dancer Jenny Winton to the company.

Andrew Travers
The Aspen Times

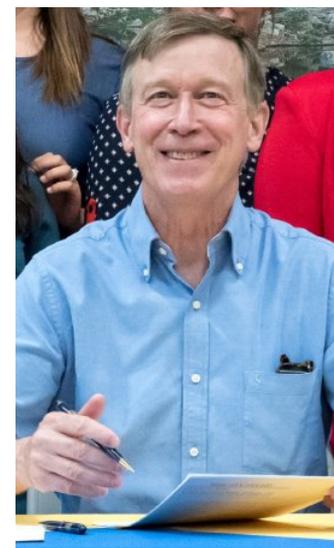
Jenny Winton has danced with the Joffrey Ballet and toured with the Broadway musical "Dirty Dancing" and performed in works ranging from classical to contemporary to commercial. Winton this month joined Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, where her diverse background will come in handy performing the company's diverse repertoire.

Winton's arrival is the latest in a series of additions that have transformed the acclaimed, locally based company in recent years. Of the 11 dancers currently in the company, seven have joined since 2015.

They've filled the shoes of retiring longtime Aspen Santa Fe dancers like Samantha Klanac Campanile, who left in 2016, and Emily Franc (nee Proctor), who retired this spring. The fresh faces are ushering in a new era for a company at which dancers often stick around for long stretches and entire careers. They're performing alongside Aspen Santa Fe stalwarts like Katherine Bolanos — a company member since 2004 — and Seia Rassenti and Joseph Watson,

WINTON, A6

INSIDE



Governor in Glenwood

Gov. John Hickenlooper was in Glenwood Springs at Colorado Mountain College's meeting and conference center Friday afternoon to sign two education-related bills.

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OBITUARIES

Wayne E. Vagneur

Oct. 31, 1929 – May 21, 2018

Wayne Vagneur, 88, of Carbondale, died May 21, 2018 at Peregrine Landing Senior Living Facility in Glenwood Springs. A full obituary including services will follow at a later date. He lived the majority of his life on the family ranch in Woody Creek, that was established over 100 years ago. He later moved to Carbondale.

He is survived by wife Lois Vagneur of Carbondale, daughter Laurie Vagneur of Rifle, daughter Julie Wedhorn of Rullison and step daughter Belinda Brownell of Carbondale. He is also survived by four

grand-children, as well as hundreds of friends and family members. Wayne Vagneur, 88, of Carbondale, died May 21, 2018 at Peregrine Landing Senior Living Facility in Glenwood Springs. A full obituary including services will follow at a later date. He lived the majority of his life on the family ranch in Woody Creek, that was established over 100 years ago. He later moved to Carbondale.

He is survived by wife Lois Vagneur of Carbondale, daughter Laurie Vagneur of Rifle, daughter Julie Wedhorn of Rullison and step daughter Belinda Brownell of Carbondale. He is also survived by four grand-children, as well as hundreds of friends and family members.



Vagneur

Christina Gertrude Loerstcher

Feb 17, 1963 - May 15, 2018

Colorado native Christina Gertrude Loerstcher passed away on Tuesday May 15th in her home in Carbondale.

Christina was born in Craig, CO and raised in Oak Creek. An amazing athlete Chris was the 400 meter record holder at Sorroco High School. She went to college for volleyball at Adams State College and graduated from CU Boulder with a focus in recreation.

Christina met Mark Loerstcher on the softball field 24 years ago where they fell in love and started their lives together. Chris worked hard for the Town of Carbondale planning events

like the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch with Santa. She also enjoyed teaching children as a ski instructor for AVSC for 28 years and as a swim instructor for over 30 years.

Christina was a dedicated worker and a loving wife and mother. She is survived by her mother Rita, uncle John, siblings Martina and Stephen; her devoted husband Mark; children Monique, Jake, and Valerie; and kiten Cinders.

The memorial service for Chris will be held on Saturday, June 2nd at the American Legion from 2pm-6pm. This will be a colorful event to celebrate the life of Christina Gertrude Loerstcher. The family asks in lieu flowers please donate to Valerie Loerstcher's college fund.



Loerstcher

MISSING MAN

From page A1

flannel jacket and is described as 6-feet tall, 215 pounds with blond hair and blue eyes.

"We've done telephone record searches and his cellphone last pinged in Carbondale that afternoon, which is why we think that was his route back to Delta," Glenwood Springs Police Lt. John Hassell said Friday. "The last we knew he was heading back toward his house on the 12th, and we have no reason to believe otherwise. This search is at the top of our priority (of missing persons' cases) as we want to get as much closure for the family as possible."

Geisler's daughter Tiffany Toothaker said Friday the family has spent days walking the highway after collecting surveillance video from businesses along the way.

She said he was last seen on video in Carbondale at 3:16 p.m. They also checked with the West Elk Mine near Somerset, which is on the south side of McClure Pass about 50 miles from Carbondale, and he never was seen going by there and "they have really good cameras, so he would have shown up."

That is what leads her to believe he disappeared between those areas.

"The longer it goes without finding him gets more and more frustrating," Toothaker said. "At first the hardest part was convincing (authorities) that he was gone."

She said Geisler went to Glenwood to see his son's baseball game and the drive back should have taken about two hours. She said he is a responsible rider who has been on motorcycles for years.

"We're kind of running out of ...," Toothaker said as her voice tailed off. "We've looked and looked. It feels like it is kind of over our heads at this point."

The Glenwood Springs Police Department is the lead investigating agency because he was last seen there, Hassell said.

Pitkin County Sheriff's director of operations Alex Burchetta said the teams Friday searched 50 to 100 feet off the road to the river along the Crystal River Valley. The foot search lasted about five hours, he said.

"I think everyone was hopeful we would find something, but unfortunately we were not able to," Deputy Burchetta said.

He said another search is not planned yet but "if anyone makes a request for assistance we'll certainly do our part."

The Glenwood Springs Police Department made the request Thursday and asked Pitkin County to help spearhead the coordinated search.

Since Friday's search on the north side of McClure Pass did not turn up any leads, Hassell said they next would start intensifying their search on the other side of the pass.

"We're going to work with Gunnison County to cover the top of McClure Pass and work down toward Paonia," Hassell said.

Also joining Friday's efforts were the Carbondale Fire Department, Garfield County Search and Rescue and the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Glenwood Springs police at 970-384-6500 or the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office at 970-920-5310.

WINTON

From page A1

who are in their tenth season here.

Winton arrived in Aspen two weeks ago and immediately jumped into rehearsals for summer performances of Alexander Ekman's "Tuplet."

Previously a company member at Joffrey Ballet in Chicago for five years, Winton left in 2014 to join the national tour of the Broadway musical "Dirty Dancing" — she played Penny, the pregnant resort dancer — which kept her on the road for two years.

She was freelancing out of New York last year when she got word from a dance teacher that Aspen Santa Fe Ballet was looking for guest artists to perform in its annual production of "The Nutcracker."

She landed a spot in the show and spent a month here for its December run. It had been three years since she'd done a full ballet production.

"So it was a mental and physical test but it also reminded me how much I missed company life," Winton said outside the Aspen Santa Fe rehearsal studio last week. "I had gotten to a point where I had experienced a lot of different things and I could take all that I had experienced and bring it back to a company setting and it would be a whole new thing."

Her work on "The Nutcracker" helped earn Winton a place as a company member.

Since arriving, Winton's been inspired, she said, working alongside gifted dancers who can

WINTON, A7

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WHICH WAY IS NORTH?



ANNA STONEHOUSE/THE ASPEN TIMES

Lindsey Beres with Outdoors Adventure Quest laughs as she needs to upright her map during a map and compass instructional course at Aspen Tap on Friday evening.

WINTON

From page A6

move fluidly from style to style and guest choreographer to guest choreographer — dancers who could pull off “The Nutcracker” and with whom she is currently rehearsing the aggressively contemporary “Tuplet,” which includes cutting-edge multimedia aspects.

“The exceptional thing about this company is that the dancers are so versatile — they go do ‘Nutcracker’ and then they turn around and they do ‘Tuplet,’ which is so different,” she said. “There are very few companies that can excel at both.”

A San Francisco native, Winton was trained at the San Francisco Ballet School and worked primarily in classical technique until her time at Joffrey led her into some more modern and contemporary works. As she begins her

tenure in Aspen, Winton is excited about the challenges and risks that dancers are pushed to take here.

“As an artist it’s all about trying new things and being open to that and not being afraid to fall on your face and make a mistake,” she said. “Especially with a classical background, you have this sense of ‘Well, I have to be perfect.’ But I believe that finding the human aspect of the dancing is the most interesting and it’s the best way to connect with people.”

The nurturing creative environment at Aspen Santa Fe and the tight-knit company, she believes, emboldens dancers to do their best work.

“I don’t feel held back at all here, I don’t feel suppressed in any way,” she said. “To get that kind of support and encouragement is exceptional in this industry.”

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