At World Senior Games, Davis and Turley earn gold, silver

BY CAILEY MCDERMOTT
Managing Editor

In their third trip to the annual Huntsman World Senior Games Oct. 5–17, square dancers Andrith Davis and Michael Turley returned home to Chaffee County with a gold and a silver medal each.

Davis and Turley are dance partners and avid members of the Monarch Mavericks Square Dance Club in Salida. Davis has been square dancing since 2011, Turley since 2009. At Huntsman they competed against more than 185 dancers from around the world.

The pair returned home from the games with bronze medals last year. Davis said this time they were determined to level up. Now they've got the complete set.

The dancing pair earned gold in the random mainstream square dance and silver in the mainstream square dance.

Davis explained that for the random competition dance partner names are drawn at random to form a square – so four couples.

"We got a fantastic square. There were three other couples – you can't square dance by yourself," she said.

For the mainstream they came with their square, or group, already formed and known. Two of the couples were from Colorado Springs, the third from San Diego, California. In that competition they earned silver.

She explained that square dancing at Huntsman is not a typical competition.

"It's not how good you are. It's how well you fix it when you break down," Davis said. "It's really different from most other competitions. You gotta fix it and keep on dancing."

Davis said for her dance partner, Turley, earning gold was a dream come true.

From childhood Turley dreamed of competing in the Olympics and bringing home the gold. Davis said he had thought it would be in equestrian, but earning gold at the Senior Games, competing against square dancers from around the world, counts.

"For me, I just like being gone for the week and dancing with everybody. I'm glad we got the medals – but it would have been fun without it," Davis said.

She said for their first year at the games they didn't win medals, and she had a blast then too.

"(At the games) we kick up our heels and laugh and sometimes act silly and do stunts and shenanigans and prank each other. Square dancing is such a blast. It's a natural high. It's the sorta thing I need. I'm 80 years old. I need to kick up my heels and have fun."

She said that's true for everyone, it doesn't matter what age.

The Huntsman Games are for persons 50 or older, and every year more than 11,000 athletes compete in dozens of individual and team sports.

Email monarch.mavericks@gmail to learn more about the sport of square dancing.

The Monarch Mavericks dance on the second and fourth Saturdays each month. The next dance will be from 1:30–4 p.m. Oct. 24 at the American Legion Hut, 235 W. 10th St.



Andrith Davis and Michael Turley, members of the Monarch Mavericks Square Dance Club, earned gold and silver medals at the annual Huntsman World Senior Games in St. George, Utah, Oct. 6. Davis and Turley won gold in the random mainstream square dance and silver in the mainstream dance. (Courtesy photo)

Sunday Science talk to focus on aircraft safety

"Aircraft Design and Operation for Safety" is the title of the next Sunday Science talk presented by the Central Colorado Humanists at 10 a.m. Nov. 1 at A Church, 419 D St.

Bill Samples will give a high-level overview of how governments and industry regulate the design and operation of aircraft for safety. "At the end of this evidence-based presentation those with a fear of flying may come to an understanding that the trip to the airport is generally more dangerous than the flight itself for the airlines and less so for small planes," a press release stated.

Samples has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's in engineering management. He worked in avionics engineering for more than 35 years, working on electronics for aircraft and space vehicles. His responsibilities included troubleshooting and repair, quality assurance, accident investigation and creating documents, procedures and tests to ensure the safety of airborne equipment. He has been a pilot for 52 years with more than 7,000 hours of logged time.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m., and the public is welcome. The Sunday Science Hospitality Committee welcomes any contributions to the "treat table," including fruit and baked goods. Coffee will be served.

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