



**THE ULTIMATE
NUGGET PROJECT**
PRESERVING OUR HISTORY
SECURING OUR FUTURE







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The Clock Shop and Adams Museum are partnering to create a unique piece of history: the Potato Creek Johnny 2 gold nugget (PCJ2). This one-of-a-kind nugget will be auctioned on September 22, 2012 to benefit the Adams Museum and the Wounded Warrior Project.

Potato Creek Johnny Nugget (left) and Icebox Nugget (right) are displayed on the placer gold used to create the PCJ2.

WHAT IS THE PCJ2?

The PCJ2 is a solid gold nugget melding the mold and gold of the South Dakota Black Hills' two largest gold nuggets in existence today. The placer gold taken from the site of the recently discovered Icebox Nugget was poured into a mold made from the famous Potato Creek Johnny Nugget to create a completely new piece of history: the PCJ2.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Potato Creek Johnny's gold nugget is considered the single-most valuable artifact of Black Hills history in existence. In 1929, Potato Creek Johnny found the nugget in a creek in Spearfish Canyon. He sold the leg-shaped piece, weighing 7.346 troy ounces, to pioneer businessman W.E. Adams in 1934, who then donated the nugget to the new Deadwood museum named in his honor. Stored in a bank vault, the original nugget is rarely shown; instead ceramic replicas are used for display. Both Johnny and his nugget became Deadwood legends. In 2011, the gold piece was appraised at \$500,000.



Prospectors Byron Janis and Charlie Ward with the Potato Creek Johnny and Icebox Nuggets displayed at the Journey Museum, Rapid City, 2011.

The Icebox Nugget was discovered in 2010 by Charlie Ward and Byron Janis of the Icebox Mining Company. The 5.27 troy ounce Icebox Nugget was bought by The Clock Shop owners Chris and Trevor Johnson. The father-and-son team also purchased 10.35 ounces of placer gold found in the area where the nugget was discovered. The Clock Shop has generously donated this gold to form the PCJ2.



Potato Creek Johnny with his famous gold nugget, ca. 1934.



*Potato Creek Johnny demonstrates
panning for gold, ca. 1954.*

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Representatives of the two nuggets first met in April 2011, when the Potato Creek Johnny and Icebox Nuggets were displayed together in Rapid City for a limited-time viewing. Thanks to the enthusiastic reception of the large crowd at the event, The Clock Shop and the Adams Museum arranged to show the nuggets together again in July at the Adams Museum. As throngs of visitors gathered to witness these two unique pieces of history, The Clock Shop owners Chris and Trevor Johnson proposed a novel fundraising concept—to create the PCJ2 and then auction it as a benefit for the Adams Museum.

While Chris Johnson was in the process of putting together a proposal about the PCJ2, he met military veteran and Wounded Warrior Justin Shellhammer—a man who added an unexpected dimension to the project. Shellhammer's story began after his enlistment in the US Army, training in the military police, and deployment to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. On April 5, 2005, when walking in the front of a group of soldiers, Shellhammer had spotted a mortar round on the ground.

Imagine extending your arm in a gesture to warn the soldiers behind you, and feeling the impact of another person bumping you, pushing you slightly

off balance. Consider regaining your balance, and stepping on a buried, active land mine with your left foot.

Like many unfortunate soldiers, Shellhammer's leg was amputated at Walter Reed Hospital. But unlike most amputees, only a month later Justin Shellhammer ran two miles—and the following September, he ran in a 4-1/2K race to benefit the families of firefighters and policemen killed on September 11, 2001. Shellhammer attributes this determined spirit, along with his sense of humor, to assistance from the Wounded Warrior Project.

PRESERVE OUR HISTORY — SECURE OUR FUTURE: THE ULTIMATE NUGGET PROJECT

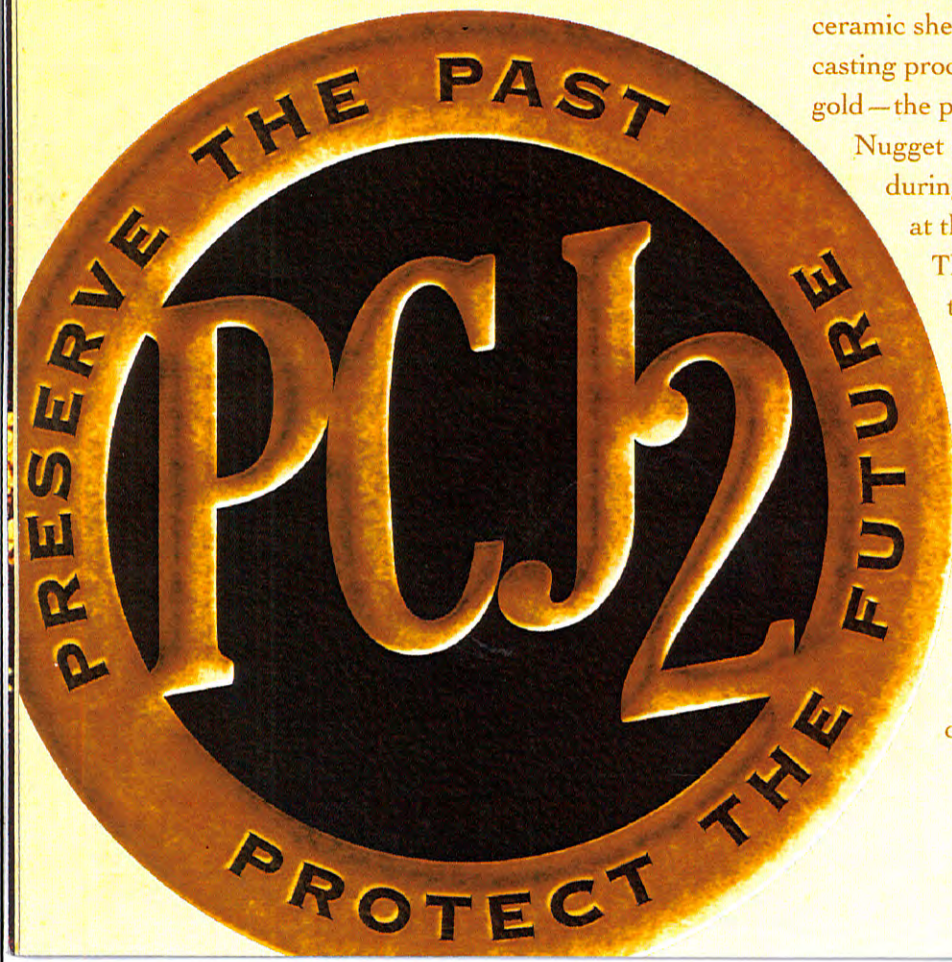
After hearing Justin Shellhammer's remarkable story of bravery, Chris and Trevor Johnson expanded their fundraising idea to add the Wounded Warrior Project as a beneficiary along with the Adams Museum; they titled the project Preserve our History—Secure our Future.

PROJECT PROCESS: MAKING THE ULTIMATE NUGGET

The Clock Shop and Adams Museum enlisted the assistance of Black Hills Bronze, the area's only fine art foundry, to create the wholly new PCJ2. The multi-step casting process has been recorded in a film

documenting its technical and industrial aspects. Filmmakers from Mediaworks have recorded the multi-step casting process fully documenting its technical and industrial aspects by following the gold as it was refined, core-sampled, weighed and assayed by experts from Rapid Precious Metals and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Then, the team visited Black Hills Bronze to watch the molding of the original nugget; they taped the mold filling with wax, and the wax's trip through the ceramic shell department. The lost-wax casting process ended with pouring molten gold—the placer gold taken from the Icebox Nugget site—into the ceramic shell during a once-in-a-lifetime celebration at the foundry on May 23, 2012. The mold was destroyed after the replica gold nugget was successfully poured; thereby forever ensuring the uniqueness of the PCJ2 nugget.

The PCJ2 auction will take place on September 22, 2012. Rick and Margi Olesen with Dakota Plains Auctions will host an online and live auction in Deadwood. The Olesens are donating their services.



PROJECT PARTNERS

The Clock Shop of Rapid City has been helping generations throughout the Black Hills with their timepieces for over 25 years. The Clock Shop has expanded its business to include gold, silver and jewelry; and has built a new sister store, Presidential Pawn, which focuses on high-end heirlooms. Chris and Trevor Johnson believe in community spirit and take great pride in helping their employees, other businesses and the community to prosper. This is what led them to develop the PCJ2 fund-raising opportunity for which they are donating the placer gold and paying for the mold, casting, creation of a hand-made presentation box and the videography.

Deadwood's Adams Museum is the Black Hills' oldest history museum, and was founded by pioneer businessman W.E. Adams in 1930. Museum exhibits explore Deadwood's raucous past and feature the stories of legends Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane. Visitors learn about the mysterious Thoen Stone; come face-to-face with the fossilized remains of a one-of-a-kind plesiosaur; and see the first locomotive in the Black Hills. Adams Museum exhibits bring the magic of the Black Hills to life by recounting the many stories of the people who left their mark here. Potato Creek Johnny's find (featuring a replica) is one of its signature exhibits.



PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

Black Hills Bronze is more than the "usual" fine art foundry. Co-owners, Grant and Kristin Standard, have populated their facility with veterans of the foundry industry who expertly duplicate the artwork of some of the best artists in the country. Meanwhile, both of the Standards, who volunteer for local and statewide arts organizations, also have read the research proving art has a positive influence on the mental development of our children, and how art in healthcare facilities helps patients heal faster. By combining skill and vision, Black Hills Bronze makes art intended to improve our quality of life.

Dakota Plains Auctions specializes in fully cataloged sales utilizing online bidding capabilities for those unable to attend their auctions. Co-owners Rick and Margi Olesen's auctions reflect their love of history, including collectible firearms, Western, Native American, Victorian and other items of historic interest. Their goal is to provide quality auctions, earning their customers trust through hard work and honesty.

Questions may be addressed to Mary A. Kopco, DHI Foundation Executive Director, 605/722-4800, ext. 102 or by email at mary@deadwoodhistory.com.

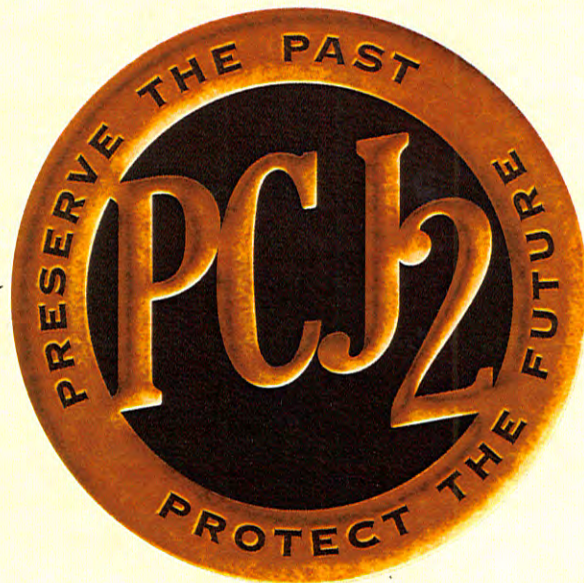
PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

Using funds raised by auctioning the PCJ2, the Adams Museum will construct a highly-secure space to exhibit the original Potato Creek Johnny gold nugget. The remaining funds will increase the organization's operating endowment.

The Wounded Warrior Project has a mission to foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded warriors in this nation's history, with programs uniquely structured to nurture the mind and body, and encourage economic empowerment and engagement. Under each of these program areas, the Wounded Warrior Project offers a variety of programs to meet a range of needs. All Wounded Warrior Project programs are free. To participate, warriors must have incurred service-connected wounds, injuries, or illnesses on or after September 11, 2001.

Project donors to date are: The Clock Shop, Adams Museum/Deadwood History, Inc., Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission, Black Hills Bronze, Dakota Plains Auctions, Mediaworks, Rapid Precious Metals, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Spore Creative, and TDG Communications.





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