



PIKES PEAK BULLETIN

Serving Manitou Springs, Old Colorado City, Downtown Colorado Springs and Lower Ute Pass

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Good times roll at CarniBall 2025

Revelers filled Iron Springs Chateau on Feb. 22 for the 6th annual CarniBall. The Mardi Gras fun continues with the Carnivale parade and Mumbo Jumbo Gumbo Cookoff on Saturday, March 1. More photos of the quirky fun and Carnivale info on page 12. 🌈

From left to right: Mara Jackson, Natalie Francoise, Frank Case, Elizabeth Fluharty and Dallas.

Photo by Mark Lee



DOGE-ordered layoffs affect Forest Service fire mitigation, VA crisis hotline

BY KARIN ZEITVOGEL

“These people have done absolutely nothing wrong,” Colorado Senator Michael Bennet said on the Senate floor in Washington, D.C., days after President Donald Trump issued yet another executive order, this time calling for

“large-scale reductions in force” at federal government agencies.

At least 2,000 Forest Service staff were fired during the cull that followed – that’s the figure cited by the USDA, though the union representing the workers says it’s more like

3,400, according to Fire and Safety Journal Americas.

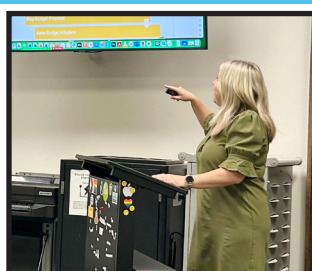
Among them were roughly 150 employees in Colorado who help manage more than 24 million acres of public lands, including the 1.1 million-acre Pike National Forest,

which lies just west of Manitou and Colorado Springs.

The cuts are part of a wider Trump administration plan to drastically cut government spending, overseen by DOGE, the governmental efficiency initiative headed by Elon Musk.

SEE DOGE on p.3 →

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Manitou schools funding woes

By Heidi Beedle

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Dear Mrs. Hughes

How to handle retirement blues?

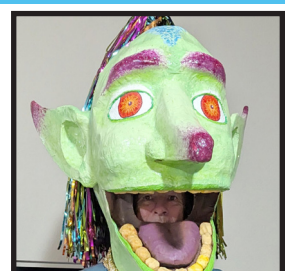
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Editor's Note Creating meaningful, important, community news with *you*

— BY HEILA ERSHADI/PIKES PEAK BULLETIN MANAGING EDITOR —

As many of you know, the Bulletin has a long history in Manitou Springs, existing in various iterations for over a century. When the Bulletin ceased publication along with a number of other newspapers a few years ago, community members including our publisher Lyn Ettinger-Harwell rallied to bring it back as a nonprofit.

Why we expanded our coverage area to Downtown COS

Old Colorado City and Green Mountain Falls have been part of our coverage area since reincorporating as a nonprofit because they had recently lost their hyperlocal newspapers – a serious and growing problem in Colorado and the nation. But it became apparent fairly quickly that this coverage area was not generating enough advertising dollars, grant opportunities or subscriptions and donations to be sustainable. We were headed toward financial crisis.

But, as the saying goes, in every crisis there is an opportunity. We saw a need and a want for public affairs coverage and other community-oriented stories that would appeal to a broader audience. Expanding our coverage into Downtown Colorado Springs made sense – we were already covering most of the Avenue Creative Circuit; now we cover all of it.

We have kept the Manitou coverage, and the Manitou ethos of community spirit, but increased what we cover to be meaningful and relevant to a wider audience, opening the door to new advertisers, subscribers, donors and grant opportunities.

What we do now

As your community newspaper, we cover Manitou Springs local

government and school board – no other outlet does this consistently. And we have coverage of Colorado Springs City Council now as well. Heidi Beedle is our Manitou Springs town hall and school board reporter, Karin Zeitvogel just started covering Colorado Springs city council, and both cover other important public affairs issues.

Daniel Mohrmann, who runs an online high school sports website that covers the entire state, is a Mustangs alum and covers MSHS athletics. This is an area we'd love to expand to celebrate the athletic achievements of more young people at Coronado and Palmer High Schools, and we are exploring how to make that happen.

We also publish student journalism, and events and achievements in areas like music, theater and robotics. Again, this would be a great area to grow – we want young people

to feel connected to their community newspaper, and to form a lifelong relationship with local news.

It's not going to be enough to just put out a great newspaper.

We preview upcoming events that bring people together and foster community spirit – recently, Carni-Ball and Carnivale, and the Manni Awards – plus small business and nonprofit profiles, and we just started up an original advice column called Dear Mrs. Hughes (the pen name is a character from Downton Abbey, if you're wondering). And we have great features on environmental issues as well as columns by beloved writers like John Hazle-

hurst, Pam Zubeck and more. Lately we've been especially focused on stories that connect and inspire us, and we are looking at how to plug into the Infectious Generosity Movement that was recently affirmed by the Manitou Springs City Council.

Building news community in the real world

But it's not going to be enough to just put out a great newspaper. Not today, with the internet full of news-like content of varying quality, and with what seems like a year's worth of national news happening every week.

To fill the role of journalism – to inform and connect our community – we need to think bigger. I believe we need to get offline and connect in the real world. One idea we have is to expand on our coverage with civic forums where you can learn more about an issue, and what you can do to be part of solutions. For example, we've covered how local advocates were preparing for the effects of recent executive actions around immigration. We envision a public discussion that puts a human face on this issue and informs attendees how they can make a positive difference. Other discussion topics could include LGBTQ+ rights, housing access, veteran support and more.

Please see page 14 for a list of nine ways you can be a part of the Bulletin team. We'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas, and we look forward to creating meaningful, important, community news with you. 🌎



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DON'T BE TRASHY



PLEASE RECYCLE US

DOGE continued from p.1 →

They were fired in the midst of a historic drought in the West and fire seasons that last year-round, Bennet said, speaking to what appeared to be a fairly empty chamber.

Firefighters were excluded from the mass firings, but the people who were laid off were key to preventing blazes and making the work of wildland firefighters easier. They “maintained trails, removed combustible debris from forests, supported firefighters and secured funds for wildfire mitigation,” the Associated Press wrote. They “protected sacred sites, cleared trails, cleaned campgrounds and bathrooms, educated visitors and managed wildlife. They also provided safety, including search and rescue and emergency medical treatment,” Cassidy Randall wrote in the Guardian.

The Forest Service was already understaffed and underfunded, Kurt Schroeder – who served for 26 years as Park Operations and Development Manager for Colorado Springs before retiring in 2022 – told the Colorado Springs City Council on Feb. 11.

“What happens when that lightning strike hits that tree out there, or that unattended ember from a campfire blows around – and there will be a lot of those because among the people who got these letters were the rangers,” he said.

“We don’t have to look to L.A. to understand the consequences of a wildfire on our community. We’ve got our own Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires. In 2002, there was the Hayman fire that burned over 138,000 acres. In 1854, a fire that started on what is now Fort Car-

son burned up Cheyenne Mountain all the way to Wilkerson Pass. My concern is: Who do we call?” he said.

Most of the fired workers were probationary – which doesn’t necessarily mean they were new to their career field. In federal government jobs, a promotion or change in department means going back to probationary status, even if a worker has been on the job or in the career field for decades.

Few government workers were willing to speak publicly about losing their jobs or, for the lucky ones, still hanging on to work. Some said on social media that they had been warned not to speak to the media, although one laid-off worker said, “What are they going to do? Fire me again?”

The Pikes Peak Bulletin contacted the Forest Service in Colorado Springs for this story and was referred to a regional office of the Department of Agriculture, the parent agency of the Forest Service.

After several days, the USDA responded with a statement, saying Secretary Brooke Rollins “fully supports the President’s directive to improve government, eliminate inefficiencies,” and takes seriously its “responsibility to be good stewards of the American people’s hard-earned taxpayer dollars and to ensure that every dollar spent goes to serve the people, not the bureaucracy.”

“As part of this effort, USDA has made the difficult decision to release about 2,000 probationary, non-firefighting employees from the Forest Service. To be clear, none of

these individuals were operational firefighters.” Many of the fired workers were “compensated by temporary [Inflation Reduction Act] funding,” the statement said.

Then, it blamed the layoffs on the previous administration of President Joe Biden, saying it had “hired thousands of people with no plan in place to pay them long term.”

It is actually Congress that appropriates funding for federal agencies, not presidents – though Vice President Kamala Harris did cast the tie-breaking vote that passed the IRA through Congress.

The IRA was intended to slow inflation and provide billions in funding toward clean energy and climate-related projects, including wildfire mitigation – the USDA was appropriated \$1.8 billion from the IRA to reduce the risk of wildfire to neighborhoods, infrastructure and

“We don’t have to look to L.A. to understand the consequences of a wildfire.”

Kurt Schroeder

watersheds on top of a \$1.4 billion appropriated in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for wildfire risk reduction, according to the USDA website.

The IRA has been criticized, especially by Republicans and particularly for uncapped subsidies – the House Committee on Ways and Means called it “green corporate welfare” in 2023.

‘I’m just at a loss’: Veterans, suicide crisis line workers axed by Doge

It wasn’t just the Forest Service that was affected by the firing spree. More than 2% of the probationary workforce at the Department of Veterans Affairs lost their jobs, too, with officials saying they were not in mission-critical positions, Military.com reported.

Among the workers caught up in the VA layoffs were those who work on the suicide crisis line, Military.com reported.

Roughly 90,000 veterans live in Colorado Springs, making up nearly 17% of the city’s population.

One veteran lamented on social media that they were “just at a loss” after being canned.

“I worked hard. I joined the military. I got an education. I got a dream job helping people and doing what I love,” the disabled veteran wrote. “I lived a quiet and modest life. Then, I got fired last week. I’m just at a loss. What’s the point of the social contract if someone I never met and has more wealth than I could possibly imagine can just take that away from me?”

“I stand to lose everything. It seems like our country’s leadership is just laughing and golfing.” 🤔



The Waldo Canyon fire

Image courtesy of iStock

Rockrimmon Library: New temporary venue, same old fight

BY KARIN ZEITVOGEL

A grassroots movement that fought the Pikes Peak Library District for months as it forged ahead with a plan to close Rockrimmon Library last year is poised to open an interim library in northwest Colorado Springs.

After the controversial closure of the Rockrimmon Library in December, residents of the northwest side of Colorado Springs and COS Reads, the nonprofit born from the Save Rockrimmon Library campaign, partnered with Christ the King Lutheran Church to re-home the Rockrimmon library, at least temporarily, at the church. Reading at the Rock: Rockrimmon Interim Library will “serve as a hub for

community connection, a volunteer-run book lending program, and a meeting place for local events” according to SaveRockrimmonLibrary.com. It is expected to open in March.

Thousands of books have been donated to Reading at the Rock – more than the interim library can hold in its temporary home.

Even as the library is reborn, residents and some City Council members are continuing the fight for changes on how the PPLD board of trustees operates.

“We’re doing the best we can with what we’ve got,” mother-of-four Veronica Baker told the Pikes Peak Bulletin. “That should be noted by

PPLD and others. We hope that they’ll see we need more.”

Rockrimmon was the second busiest library in Colorado Springs when it closed at the end of November.

Councilmember Dave Donelson, who represents the district that includes Rockrimmon, has called repeatedly for PPLD board members to be removed if they fail to carry out their duties and obligations. That would require a majority vote on City Council and the Board of County Commissioners and is something City Council should focus on after the April 1 municipal elections, Donelson said at the Feb. 25 City Council meeting. 🤔

Steve Abbott, the former manager of Rockrimmon Library, helps sort through stacks of donated books on Feb. 22.



Photo courtesy of COS Reads

Manitou schools brace for budget blows

BY HEIDI BEEDLE

Manitou Springs School District 14 is bracing for a significant hit to the budget in the coming years. As a result of Colorado's \$1.3 billion budget deficit this year and changes to the school funding formula, D14 could be facing a \$1.17 million loss of revenue.

"Last legislative session, last May, they passed a new finance formula," explained D14 CFO Suzi Thompson during this week's Manitou Springs Board of Education meeting. "We've had the same finance formula since 1994 and it was passed to start in the 25-26 school year. Really what this new formula does is shift the spending and add more factors."

School districts are funded, in part, according to the number of students they serve. Colorado currently uses a five-year enrollment average to determine how much per-pupil funding to send to school districts. The new funding formula changes that to a four-year enrollment average for some districts starting next year. To address the state budget deficit, Gov. Jared Polis has proposed using a single-year student count rather than a multi-year average. Thompson says this will significantly impact D14.

"Taking averaging out of the formula impacts us long term," said Thompson. "It's kind of like a hidden negative factor ... it's like almost \$1.2 million a year for us."

Colorado's negative factor, or budget stabilization factor, is a provision in state law that reduces the amount of total program funding and state aid provided to K-12 school districts. As of 2019, Colorado was \$2,158 below the national average (more than 16% below the national average) for per pupil spending, according to the Colorado Education Association.

"Definitely in the Pikes Peak region we are the hardest hit," said Thompson. "We are one of the hardest hit school districts in the state."

Superintendent Sean Dorsey noted the impact this could have on hiring in the district. "In years past, we've been able to hire earlier, and principals love to do that because it's the cream of the crop in the hiring pool," he said. "The unfortunate piece of this is we're going to have to be very careful and cautious. We're going to have to dialogue more about each and every position that's open. It's going to be a process to get positions approved for rehire."

Kolleen Johnson, D14's executive director of secondary schools, noted that so far this year the district has received 71 choice applications, or applications from families who live outside of D14 who are seeking to enroll. Students choosing in from outside of district boundaries can offset funding losses from declining enrollment. Students from outside of the district are able to attend as long as there are enough slots available after the enrollment of students who live within district boundaries.

"I have to do this meeting, then this, then this, before I can accept this kid," explained Johnson. "Because of the number of spaces someone's not going to get in, but I think scheduling can help us speed up the process."

D14 Board of Education director Jill Bishop noted the importance of students choosing Manitou Springs. "We need kids," she said. "Anything that we can do to speed up the process [is good]. I'm pleased to hear that you guys are looking at that and figuring out ways to [speed up the process] because I know there's a lot of moving parts."

Manitou Springs Middle School Principal moving on

Manitou Springs Middle School Principal Dustin Cady announced during this week's board meeting that this will be his last year in D14. "My wife Mary and I made the decision, we want our kids to grow up surrounded by their grandparents'

love and support," he said. "We are moving to the Boulder area this summer, and it's very bittersweet for me. I have loved my time at Manitou. This school has given so much to me and this district, and it's a fantastic community. I want to thank, in particular, the district leadership team for your support over the last five years. And in particular, the past two years, Sean [Dorsey] and Kolleen [Johnson] have been really helpful for me personally as a leader. And then all of my teammates, I wish we could have worked together a little bit longer, but it's been just an amazing experience. And I thank you for your support. I think the school is positioned to continue to thrive into the future."

Before his announcement, Cady and Assistant Principal Areashera Bartlett presented to the board on the middle school's performance. Manitou Springs Middle School has shown an 11% increase in CMAS scores, and Cady and Bartlett reported successes in the school's writing program.

Dorsey recognized Cady's efforts. "Even though I wasn't here when you found this place, I know what it was," he said. "There was hard work being done. You brought the touches of culture and systems and 'This is the way we do things around here,' the direction and the focus. You and Area came together as a wonderful team on behalf of kids and families and staff. You need to be proud of the work that you've done."

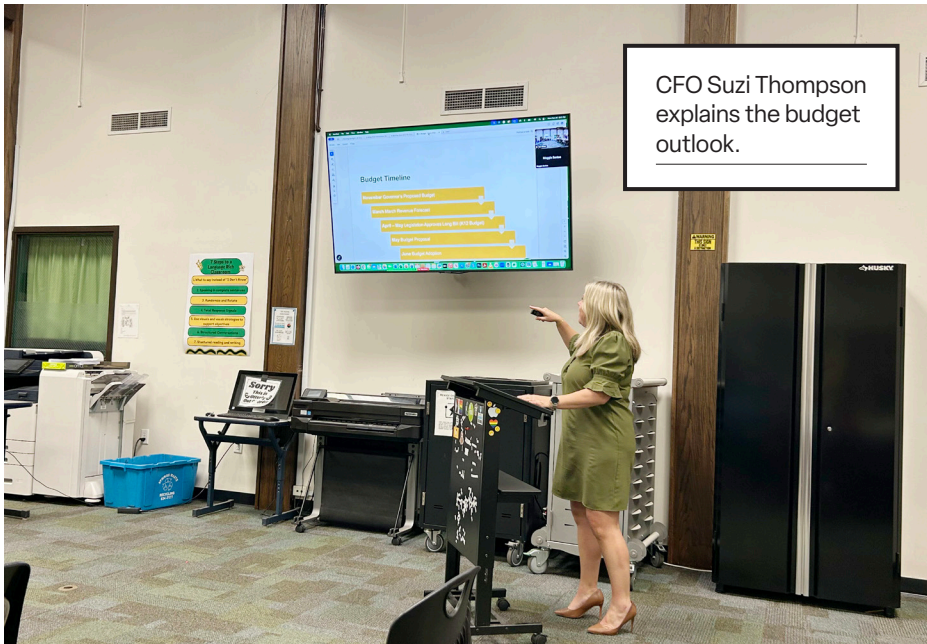


Photo by Heidi Beedle



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Colorado health care providers fear 'devastating' impacts of potential Medicaid cuts

BY LINDSEY TOOMER/COLORADO NEWSLINE

Colorado health care providers said Wednesday that federal cuts to Medicaid being weighed by Republicans in Congress would drastically impair their ability to provide services to patients and keep their doors open.

At a news conference alongside U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette, a Denver Democrat, leaders with Denver Health, Tepeyac Community Health Center and the Colorado Hospital Association said Medicaid cuts would lead to reduced services, layoffs and even facility closures around the state.

Republican budget proposals in Congress could roll back how much money the federal government provides to match states for Medicaid, a joint health care program for people with low incomes or disabilities that covers 1 in 5 people living in the U.S.

Donna Lynne, CEO of Denver Health, said the public health care provider could lose up to \$1 billion of its \$1.5 billion budget if Medicaid funding dwindles.

“Medicaid is a lifeline, and it is crucial to the success, frankly, of our entire state.”
Colorado Hospital Association CEO Jeff Tieman

“We can’t afford to do that,” Lynne said. “We’d have to cut services. We’d have to lay off employees, and the impact, not just in Denver but in the entire state, it’s catastrophic.”

Lynne said Denver Health would also have to scale back biomedical research efforts.

Jeff Tieman, CEO of the Colorado Hospital Association, said 70% of the hospitals in Colorado are al-

ready operating with very small or negative margins. He said cuts to Medicaid would result in patients losing coverage and access to health care, shuttering of services and even certain hospitals, and a “diminished” provider community. Medicaid funding losses would disproportionately harm small and rural hospitals, he said.

“Medicaid is a lifeline, and it is crucial to the success, frankly, of our entire state,” Tieman said.

DeGette said during Trump’s first term in 2017, Medicaid cuts were proposed, and the “outpouring of opposition from Americans was so great” that those proposals were tabled. She said public support for Medicaid has grown since then, citing a KFF poll that found 77% of Americans support Medicaid ahead of Trump’s inauguration.

“The Trump administration has caused chaos and confusion for patients all across the country,” she said at her Denver office Wednesday. “Frankly, these cuts would impact millions of Americans, thousands of people in my congressional district in order to pay for a huge tax cut for billionaires.”

DeGette, the ranking Democrat on the health subcommittee of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, said she and other Democrats will oppose “draconian” cuts to health care coverage that negatively affect their constituents.

With Colorado anticipating a tight state budget in the coming years, DeGette said the state would not be able to make up for Medicaid funding that could be lost at the federal level.

“Colorado’s already going to be struggling in the next budget cycle to be able to even pay for what they’re paying for now,” she said.



Colorado Hospital Association CEO Jeff Tieman, Denver Health CEO Donna Lynne, U.S. Rep. Dianna DeGette, and Tepeyac Community Health Center CEO Jim Garcia spoke about the threat federal Medicaid cuts would pose to health care access in Colorado on Feb. 19, 2025, at DeGette’s Denver office.



Photo by Lindsey Toomer/Colorado Newsline


and is essential to ensuring it is able to offer integrated care, meaning patients can access medical, mental health and dental care at the same place. Medicaid cuts would lead to patients delaying or foregoing care, he said, which could lead to higher costing emergency hospital visits.

“This would be a devastating impact on our already lean budget and would require us to contract our services and limit the care we are able to provide to our patients,” Garcia said. 🗣️

Jim Garcia, CEO at Tepeyac Community Health Center, said Tepeyac has the highest percentage of uninsured patients among community health centers, as well as the lowest percentage of Medicaid patients.

He said Medicaid represents about 10% of the center’s revenue



**SCAM
ALERT**

Scam Alert from MSPD

MSPD is warning the public about ShroomWonders.com, a fraudulent website falsely claiming to sell psilocybin mushrooms. The site appears legitimate, featuring fake reviews and working links, and falsely lists a storefront at 937 Manitou Ave, which actually belongs to the legitimate business Mushroom Mondays.

The scam website provides a Colorado-based phone number (720-619-1282) that directs callers to a voicemail before sending a text requesting PayPal "Family and Friends" payments, which offer no buyer protection. An MSPD investigation traced the website's registration to Nairobi, Kenya, and confirmed no business licenses exist for "Shroom Wonders" in Colorado.

While Colorado Proposition 122 decriminalized possession of psilocybin, the sale remains illegal outside of state-approved healing centers. There are no licensed dispensaries for psilocybin in Colorado, and any business claiming otherwise is fraudulent.

Do not send money to this website. Report suspicious activity to MSPD at 719-390-5555. Stay informed, follow us for updates.



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Jennifer Moore, Lawyer

Meet Caleb Patterson, Green Mountain Falls' new town manager

“This is a fresh start, with a new community, with an awesome board, with great citizens. I’m really looking forward to being able to serve. Seeing what that means for me, and seeing what the town’s wants and needs are, is really important to me.”

So begins Caleb Patterson, Green Mountain Falls’ newest town manager. His new position began Feb. 3 after months of board controversy regarding budgetary constraints, past town manager experiences and opinions about present town needs.

Patterson is no stranger to board controversy. He retired from his post as town manager of Westcliffe due to a reported falling-out with the mayor. He became available at the perfect moment for GMF’s open position.

“Managers take on an enormous amount of risk. We have to uproot our families,” he noted, adding that his family still resides in Westcliffe while he rents a room in Colorado Springs. He also cited concerns with cost of living and contract terms that factor in to such a big move.

His current contract comes under evaluation and renewal each year.

Patterson confidently states that, “I did it [agreed to this position] because I wanted to take on the challenge. If I can prove to a populace that a manager is absolutely worth it, that would be huge for my profession.”

“I’ve gotten a lot done so far,” he continues. “There’s been no financial reporting for the last few years. As a manager, that’s my number one thing to get done.”

He’s been streamlining accounts, records, procedures, line-items and more. He’d like to get monthly budget reports initiated by the end of March, balancing transparency and efficiency.

What does the future hold for Green Mountain Falls?

“One of the first things I’d like to do is to have some way-finding signage right at the highway that shows people there’s a town here. There’s not just houses. There’s restaurants, there’s businesses, there’s an art scene here,” he said. “Trying to

bring people off Hwy. 24 down to our little town I think is crucial. We haven’t tapped into that yet. So economic development, starting with wayfinding signage, something simple ... There’s other ways we could support our current businesses through partnering with them, helping with their outward appearance, making the area a little more beautified.”

Where does the money for that come from?

“The bulk is going to have to come from grants, and that’s the reason why I think we need to do better in economic development,” he said. “We have a 3% sales tax, a short-term rental tax, a lodging tax, a property tax, but at the end of the day we’re only pulling in \$845,000. The easy cop out answer would be, ‘oh let’s just increase taxes,’ but that’s not the answer. So, what we have to do is to make an investment

“I wanted to take on the challenge.

**Caleb Patterson,
GMF town manager**

in our businesses ... economic development is vital.”

Regarding recent refurbishes and projects including the gazebo bridge, the stilling basin, the gazebo, and the fitness court along with other potential projects to come such as refurbishing the bridge into town and the pool park, Patterson thinks GMF is “doing pretty good so far protecting the vibe of a small mountain town community.”

“Trying to balance [supporting our small-town aspect] is always kind of a trick while trying to move us forward,” he said.

Patterson has a close working relationship with the town’s mayor Todd Dixon and others. “Todd has been an awesome mayor, someone I can learn from, and partner with. He’s always been really helpful, and I’ve really appreciated that,” he said.

“I’m the boots on the ground...If the board wants to go to the employees, they go through me,” he said.

Caleb Patterson, new GMF town manager, and Mayor Todd Dixon during a meet and greet early February.



“The relationship [with the Board] is always something that is being refined, worked upon, balancing expectations and reality, and it’s pretty tricky.”

Patterson will rely on lessons learned from his Westcliffe experience in his new relationship with the current Board of Trustees.

“Our department heads [and I] get along great,” he said. “They are super supportive, and they love to serve, and our relationship is really strong. I would say with the board as well.”

Patterson concludes, “Give me some time. I promise to show results. Right now, I’m working on a lot of goals for this year ... I love citizen engagement ... If anyone has

any way that you think that the town could be better, I’m open, and I’d love to talk with you.”

You can reach Caleb Patterson at manager@gmfco.us, and go to greenmountainfalls.colorado.gov for more information on governance in GMF. 🍷

It's great to skate

Roland, Lucia, Katie and Envian Stadlmair from Colorado Springs come up for skating and small-town family fun.



Active transportation Q&A with Craig Burbank

COURTESY OF PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE MANITOU

Greetings from PaC-MAN! To PaC-MAN is to Pedestrian and Cycle Manitou. Perhaps no one in our community does just that – walking and taking transit that is – more than Craig Burbank. We interviewed Craig during the pandemic back in 2020 about his ultra-walking exploits and thought a check-in was long overdue. We caught up with him recently at the MAC community space for a chat. Have an active transportation story to share with the community? Please reach out to @pacmanitou to direct message us.

How long have you been living in Manitou Springs and why did you choose to live here?

I moved to Manitou in March 2017 after retiring from Walmart where I used to work and live in the Woodland Park area. Since I am an ultra-endurance athlete, I love the close proximity to trails, mountain hikes, and access to transit and other shuttle services such as Rocky Mountain Ride, which is a great way to get back to Manitou after hiking Pikes Peak.

It's worth noting that I've been living car-free now for over 31 years after giving up my car back in August 1993. I also credit my good health to an active lifestyle and am fortunate to have the time to spend time in our great outdoors and fresh Colorado air. Interestingly enough, in Sept 2024, AAA posted that the average cost of new car ownership costs someone in the U.S. \$12,297 annually. I largely credit my good health and youthful appearance in my early seventies to an active lifestyle.

What are the pros/cons of walking and taking the bus in Manitou?

Time management is required and some planning as well. I often grocery shop about 4-5 times a week, which also accounts for a portion of my training. Most of my errands are for groceries where I prefer to walk to places approximately 8 miles away such as Costco and Trader Joe's where I can find good deals. I use a mid-sized backpack to make these journeys and find that carrying an extra small tote bag also helps to pack most groceries home. I also use Mountain Metro Transit

(MMT) routes #3 and #19 mostly for the return trip.

Planning also includes figuring out if a monthly bus pass vs. a punch card, where you still need transfer slips, is more feasible. For me, a monthly bus pass saves me money and time since I skip the need for transfer slips which takes time when boarding.

Another part of the planning process is figuring out which bus route(s) to use. I suggest looking up the MMT system map which shows you which routes overlap.

It would be nice to have signalized pedestrian crossings where the timing prioritized pedestrians. Many times, I must wait for one or even two light cycles before I can cross at an intersection. This is largely the

I've been living car-free now for over 31 years.
Craig Burbank

case when walking/training in Colorado Springs where the poor timing at signalized intersections add time to my training efforts. I now mainly focus training expeditions in Woodland Park where there are fewer signalized crossings and good shuttle service such as the Rambling Express where I can catch a ride home if the weather goes south.

The pros include getting some training time in while walking errands, which keeps me fit. I've also been lucky to see many moonlit hikes, sunrises, mountain lions and other otherwise stealthy wildlife sightings during my excursions on foot.

What infrastructure and/or esthetic improvement would have the most positive impact on your walking and transit experiences in Manitou?

Having benches at bus stops is nice, but having weather-protected bus shelters would be a huge improvement. Most bus headways are not brief, so having a proper shelter to protect people from the elements would be great. Many times, bus users are elderly and have physical challenges and are waiting in hot or inclement weather including wind chill. This is a hardship, and proper shelters would help to keep people

comfortable while waiting for the bus.

Making signalized pedestrian crossings that activate sooner at intersections would help elevate the experience outside of cars. Woodland Park has good, signalized pedestrian crossing timing when you push the button.

Bus Rapid Transit service would also be nice for the more heavily used routes.

What advice would you give someone who would like to give active transportation in Manitou a try but does not have much time?

Half of the challenge is figuring out the bus system and which buses to take. Go online for the most current system map.

What do you think would increase more active transportation use in Manitou?


Offering hard copy master bus system maps might help to promote more transit use since it can be intimidating to figure out the bus system.

What other form(s) of transportation do you use and what has that experience been like?



I also carpool with a friend or neighbor from time to time when it's convenient. Getting a lift when it's raining hard, or when the wind gusts are strong, makes the journey more pleasant – and a bonus is having the opportunity to visit with friends. 🌈





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Dear Mrs. Hughes

An original Pikes Peak Bulletin advice column

[Letters may be lightly edited for clarity and printability. --ed]

Dear Mrs. Hughes,

I would like to write you about an issue that has been worrying me lately. I had the same job for 33 years as a teacher in an elementary school. I loved everything about my job, but as I approached retirement age, I began to get excited about retiring. So much so that I retired at the beginning of the school year, when I could have worked an extra year. I was very excited about all the things I could do – pursuing my love of theater, music and writing, engaging in volunteer work, hiking, and spending more time with my children and grandchildren. Even though I am a widow, I did not at all consider that I might feel lonely, as I have many friends and am usually very busy with a wealth of activities.

Well, I've been retired for a number of months, and even though all of that is true, I have found myself feeling lonelier than I thought. There are times when my friends and children are busy, when I have already completed the goals that I have made for myself and have no other daily activity planned, and I feel emptier than I had imagined. I find myself looking for another thing to do, something else to occupy myself with. It doesn't help that I live in a rural area, not close to all of the opportunities available in the city...

Was I wrong not to have extended my working life, as I could have? Should I try to occupy myself more with volunteer work? I don't want to take on too many responsibilities, as I was so looking forward to the freedom that retirement would offer me. I live in a place that I love and am blessed with health, a loving extended family and wonderful friends. So why do I find myself

confused and at a loss for understanding what I am feeling?

Awaiting your reply,
A Rural Retiree

Dear Rural Retiree,

First of all, congratulations on your retirement and thank you for your service! That is something we often say to military personnel and veterans, but I believe teaching is one of the most important professions there is. To be an elementary school teacher for 33 years speaks towards your big heart, giving nature, patience, creativity, dedication to education over making a larger income, and of course, love of children. It is quite an achievement. As a mother and grandmother, I thank you.

Being part of a school system is like being part of a big, extended family. You have nurtured relationships with co-workers, parents and students for over three decades. That is a whole life. It makes perfect sense that you would feel bereft and lonely, a bit afloat. So many people have difficulty with retirement at first for this very reason. Not only was your life incredibly full, (probably too busy!), but it also had structure. You woke up every morning knowing exactly what you would be doing that day and what was expected of you. You had a lot of people to take care of. People depended on you. You were essential.

Do you know that in England when you're laid off they say you're redundant? I always found this such cruel terminology. One minute you're essential, the next you're redundant. You are not redundant, but you are grieving. Leaving a long-term job where you gave so much of yourself, to so many, every day, will

of course leave a gaping hole. How could it not?

It reminds me of a phenomenon I've experience that I call post-production blues. I used to facilitate women's retreats and, a long time ago, act in plays. I gave everything to both of these endeavors. Planning and rehearsing for months, being surrounded by particular people for a great deal of time, sharing our lives in very intimate ways. Being an extrovert, these were some of the happiest, most fulfilled times of my life. Invariably, when a retreat or play was over, I would fall into a deep depression. It happened every time. The space that activity held and the people I was so close to were gone and I was left feeling incredibly lonely and ... I guess truth be told, redundant. What I was really feeling was grief over the loss of a community where I felt creative, recognized, respected, appreciated ... vital.

You are going through something similar, but on a grander scale. Give yourself time and patience to feel the loss. It makes perfect sense that your emotions are confusing. Retirement is something you have been looking forward to for a long time and it is not feeling like you thought it would. Don't second guess your-

self for leaving a year early. You would feel this way no matter when you left. It's just something you have to go through before finding your groove as a free-wheeling retiree.

It sounds like you have close family, wonderful friends, and lots of interesting activities that you already participate in. Give yourself some grace to find your way. If you don't want to commit to new responsibilities or more volunteer work right away, don't. A good friend of mine is experiencing the same thing. She finds that planning ahead so she has at least one thing to do every day or someone to meet makes a big difference. Perhaps taking a class in something completely new would be fun. If there aren't a lot in your area, there are tons online. Maybe it's time to take that trip you've always fantasized about. Maybe this would be a good time to visit an old friend. Getting out and experiencing a new environment might open your mind to new possibilities. It might take a while to find your footing in this new land called retirement, but you will!

Yours most truly,
Mrs. Hughes

About Mrs. Hughes

Mrs. Hughes is the pen name of Raizel Weiss Heizer, a licensed professional counselor, officiant, sacred passage doula and grandmother in Colorado Springs. She also has a background in the performing arts. Send your questions on life, love, money, parenting, difficult neighbors, or any sticky situations to heila@pikespeakbulletin.org. No topic off limits, though publication is not guaranteed. Use a pseudonym if you wish.



JOIN THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Please send your letters to the editor to heila@pikespeakbulletin.org by noon on the Tuesday before publication and include your first and last name as well as contact information. Please cite your sources for any statistics or other factual assertions. Letters under 500 words that do not need extensive fact-checking are more likely to be published. The Pikes Peak Bulletin does not endorse opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor.



IT'S OUR OPINION THAT
YOU SHOULD RECYCLE US

A letter to readers

Dear Readers,

It is such a joy to be writing this column and communicating with you in such an intimate way. The highlight of my week is finding a cozy coffee shop in which to hunker down and answer your letters. As this is something new to the Pikes Peak Bulletin, not everyone might be familiar with how an advice column works. You must write to me! Talk about whatever is on your mind. Nothing is off limits, although there is no guarantee your letter will be printed. Use a pseudonym. Send your letters to: DearMrsHughes@pikespeakbulletin.org

Yours most truly,
Mrs. Hughes



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Pressed flowers from long ago contrast with the ugliness in Washington today

Last week's miserable weather gave us few options for amusement. Hitting the bars, or enjoying a meal at your favorite restaurant? Too cold, unless you could find a parking place within a block – so why even try? Tidy up the house and do minor repairs? Not if you have three unhappy dogs who, like their owners, are bored inside and miserable outside. That leaves a single option: go through the bookshelves and find something you haven't read – or read it so long ago that you've forgotten the plot, the characters, or whether you liked it in the first place.

That's particularly true of me, a book hoarder, with thousands of frayed volumes collecting dust in multiple bookshelves. Some I inherited, some were presents, some I bought at bookstores, garage sales, thrift stores and some are just there. Looking at them, I'm reminded of Edgar Allen Poe's *The Raven*. "Once upon a midnight dreary while I pon-

dered, weak and weary Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore..."

As if guided by Poe's spirit, I opened a book that I'd never noticed, never remembered buying or acquiring, and never opened: Volume II of Appleton's *Portrait Guide of Women*, published in 1875. A carefully folded blank letter was enclosed, bearing the name Isabel Clark in gold letters – nothing more.

“Democrats, independents and principled Republicans need to band together and resist this dreadful oligarchy.”

The women celebrated in the book included Pocahontas, Maria Theresa, Catherine II of Russia, the Empress Josephine, Florence Nightingale, Martha Washington and half a dozen others. Each was pictured in delicate etchings, regally dressed

and radiating loving yet distant femininity. Bound in dark brown leather with gold lettering, the book is beautifully printed and probably hasn't been opened since the late 19th century or early 20th century, when Isabel Clark used the heavy old volume to press flowers.

They're still there: pansies, petunias, bluebells and half a dozen others, bright and cheerful remembrances of a long-forgotten summer. The *Portrait Guide* was published ten years after the end of the Civil War, in a time when our nation was trying to heal the wounds incurred by both North and South.

Ours is a very different time, one of increasing anger and division. Far from trying to heal wounds, the new administration wants to create many more, imprisoning the innocent and freeing the guilty. It's a season of revenge led by tax-evading billionaires who want to run everything, of angry men and proud ignorance.

At 84, I'm in the deepening twilight of life, so I should probably just pay no attention to the evildoers in Washington and enjoy my remaining days in our much-beloved West-side home.

But thanks to Trump and his uncivil servants, I can't look away. And I don't know what to do, other than to support candidates for office who are not enslaved by the siren call of the Trumpistas. Good luck with that, as virtually every Republican elected official has pledged fealty to the master of Mar-a-Lago. We can hope that things will change, but that's futile. Democrats, independents and principled Republicans need to band together and resist this dreadful oligarchy.

It won't be easy. As Shakespeare wrote, "Cry havoc, and let slip the dogs of war."

Or just sit at home and admire the pressed flowers... 🌸

Beyond the Bell with Chris Schools need you—not more bureaucracy

BY CHRIS BRIGGS-HALE, BOARD MEMBER/PIKES PEAK BULLETIN

Readers of the Bulletin, public schools need you – now more than ever. Strong schools don't just educate children; they build communities. They are where families, organizations and neighbors come together with a shared purpose: ensuring every child has the chance to thrive. Public education is at its best when it serves as a true community hub – a space where different perspectives, backgrounds and ideas meet in the pursuit of deep learning.

But that mission is slipping away. Schools are drowning in bureaucratic requirements, losing their ability to focus on what matters most: students. Instead of fostering creativity, they are bound by rigid mandates. Instead of prioritizing relationships, they are buried in compliance reports and endless paperwork. Standardized tests demand instant results, even though real learning takes time. The contradictions pile up, and students suffer most.

Research shows that principals spend over 60% of their workweek on non-instructional tasks – compliance, scheduling and supervision –

rather than supporting teachers and students. Schools are no longer structured to foster learning; they are increasingly designed to manage mandates. Reform efforts, while often well-intended, have created layers of bureaucracy that take time away from students and teachers. Instead of bringing people together, these rigid systems push schools further from the communities they serve.

Yet, there is hope. The strength of public education has always been in the people who show up – parents, volunteers, educators, and advocates who refuse to let red tape define what is possible. Readers of the Bulletin, public education needs you. Here's how you can help:

Volunteer in schools and after-school programs.

Support local education foundations through donations or advocacy.

Ask your school or superintendent, "What can I do right now to lighten the load?"

Amplify teachers' voices by sharing their stories.

Urge elected officials to hold listening sessions with educators before enacting policies.

Schools thrive when communities engage – but first, they need relief from the bureaucratic weight crushing them. Let's lift that burden so they can focus on building systems that deepen student learning rather than ones that create unnecessary obstacles.

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About the Author

Chris Briggs-Hale serves on the Board of Directors for the *Pikes Peak Bulletin* and is a retired principal from Manitou Springs School District 14. He is the CEO of Waterfall Learning, a leadership and instructional coaching firm serving schools in Colorado and California.

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Nelson's Barber Shop has charm of yesteryear

BY CASEY BRADLEY GENT

Tucked in a small shopping plaza on W. Colorado Avenue, in Old Colorado City's eclectic mix of businesses, is Nelson's Barber Shop.

Mr. Boggs, a shaggy and adorable mutt, is the official greeter. I'm met by gentle licks against my hand before Mr. Boggs leans into my legs for extra attention. He is shop-owner Mike Nelson's companion and – clearly – he helps run the place.

"I've spent 14 years here in this location," Nelson explains, "and before that I spent 14 years in the Uintah Gardens shopping center" which is right down the road.

Nelson's Barber Shop is a history buff's dream. Within the barbershop, Nelson has collected relics from Colorado Springs and the surrounding communities including train parts and an apparatus, he says, that is left over from the Glen Eyrie Silica mine. His magazine rack offers clients a chance to brush up on history or outdoor skills while waiting for a haircut with editions of The Backwoodsman, Horseman's Territory and Actual Archaeology.

He also displays several of his guitars – Nelson shares that playing the guitar is his first love. A shiny

electric guitar lies in the empty barber's chair next to the seat he leaves open for clients.

"I wanted to be Hank Williams when I was a little kid," Nelson says.

However, playing music in bars late every night led to a reliance on alcohol. He proudly shares that in just a few weeks, on March 15, he will mark his 36th year of sobriety. And he still plays guitar.

Becoming a barber was a positive change both mentally and financially.

"A lot of barbers are former military barbers," Nelson explains, "but I was actually trained in style. I cut hair for 10 years before I picked up a clipper."

Early in his career, Nelson attended barber apprenticeship school in San Diego California. Before the apprenticeship, he attended cosmetology school in his home state of North Dakota.

Nelson shares that while most of his business is comprised of regular clientele, he has cut hair for people from almost every country. He does more men's than women's haircuts, explaining "I just like being able to please the customers."

In addition to giving great haircuts, for men who want the fresh-faced look Nelson provides hot lather shaves with a straight razor – a service that many shops once provided, but few do today.

If you visit Nelson's Barber Shop, be aware Nelson is a self-proclaimed techno phobic. He accepts payment via cash and check – and will also accept gold or silver. It would be fitting if someone did pay

in gold or silver, because I'm half-ready to see Buffalo Bill Cody or Wyatt Earp saunter into the place. They would be at ease in this place that brings a feel of bygone eras into the present.

And I'm not the only one to notice this – reviews on Google, where Nelson's Barber Shop has a 4.9-star rating, include lines like "Walk in barbershop like you remember growing up."

In addition to old timey payment methods, you might consider bringing a dog treat or two for Mr. Boggs.

For more info or to make an appointment, the barbershop phone number is 719-291-0312 or just stop in (2812 W. Colorado Ave.). 🐾



Photo by Casey Bradley Gent



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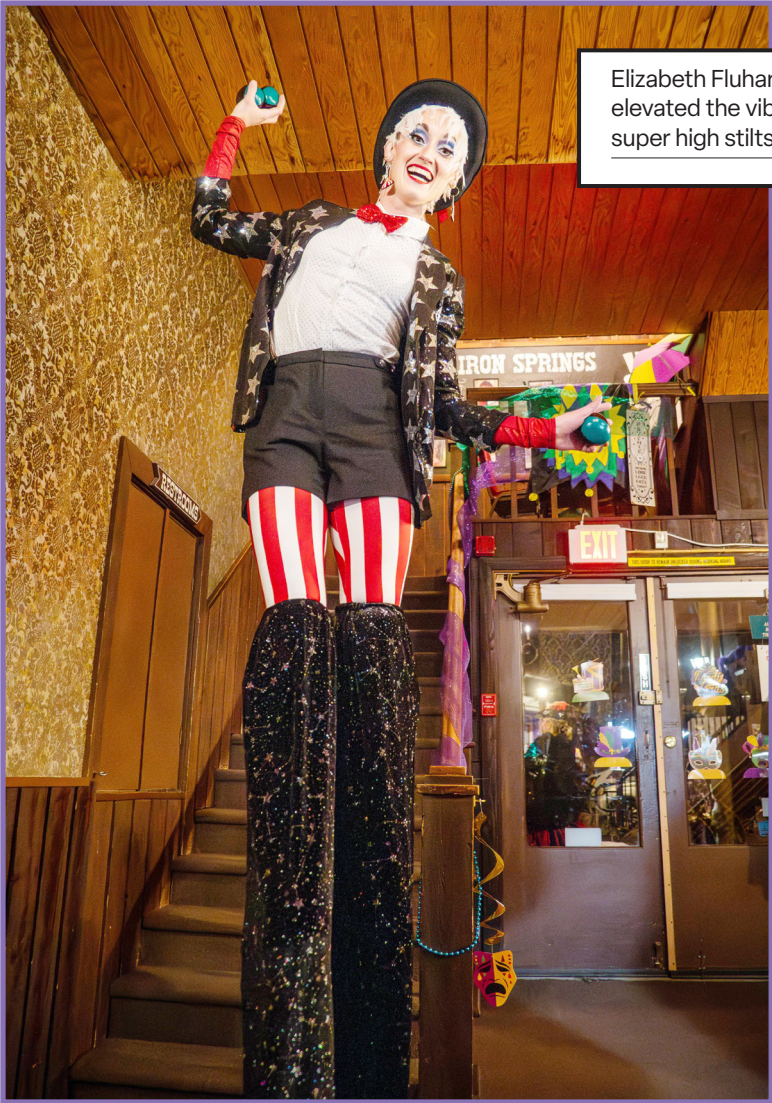
Manitou Springs Single Family Homes Last Ten Sales

Address	Beds	Baths	Garage	Square Feet	Days on Market	Sold Price
7 Crystal Park Place	2	1	2	916	55	\$ 360,000
206 Beckers Lane	2	1	1	1,152	84	\$ 380,000
107 Crystal Park Rd.	2	1	1	1,410	136	\$ 450,000
330 Crystal Hills Blvd.	5	3	2	2,928	79	\$ 482,000
220 Duncan Avenue	3	2	1	1,490	80	\$ 495,000
7 Escondido Valle	5	3	2	2,788	7	\$ 535,000
36 Kris Lane	4	3	1	2,288	10	\$ 570,000
963 Osage Avenue	3	3	2	2,418	68	\$ 632,000
913 High Road	3	2	2	2,100	5	\$ 660,000
14 Edgewood Pathway	3	3	3	3,632	183	\$1,050,000
Averages =	2,112	71		\$ 561,400		

Based on information from the Pikes Peak REALTOR® Services Corp. ("RSC"), for the period 12/04/24 through 02/20/25.

Scenes from CarniBall 2025, continued from front page.

PHOTOS BY MARK LEE



Elizabeth Fluharty elevated the vibe with super high stilts.



Page and Griffin Saulsbury sported stylish attire.

Katie Orr and Lily Grace O'Kelly threw the dice at the craps table.



2025 Carnivale Royal Court King Sean Bradley and Guinn Holy.



2025 Carnivale Royal Court Jester Dallas rocked the hula hoop.

2025 Carnivale Royal Court

- King:** Sean Bradley
- Queen:** Rebecca Allen
- Duke:** Luke Prince
- Duke:** Daniel Arana
- Duchess:** Marisa Cutlip
- Duchess:** Heather Flores de la Garza Murphrey
- Jester:** Dallas

Merlin and Nancy Vincent: Restoring Carnivale history

COURTESY OF MANITOU CARNIVALE

When the ManiKrewe Carnivale committee was formed a few years ago, we happily inherited more than 30 years of Manitou Springs Carnivale history. Decorations, banners, beads, costumes and ephemera. But Carnivale’s most enduring legacy are the giant puppets – the King, Aries, The Owl, The Three Headed Monster, The Jester (mistakenly dubbed The Blue-Eyed Boy, as he was missing his costume), The Purple Alien, The Green Alien, to name a few. In lieu of floats, giant puppets are Manitou’s Carnivale jam.

Many of the puppets are 15 to 20 years old, if not older. Some have been lost, damaged from many years of use, storage in someone’s garage, age, etc. As artist Patti Smithsonian once said, “Papier-mâché just isn’t meant to last that long.” The ManiKrewe committee knew that preservation of this integral Carnivale element would have to be a major goal. So, we set about making repairs – lots of paper, gauze, paste, paint, fabric – doing our untutored best to keep these puppets in play. And then, last year, the day of the Carnivale parade, Merlin Vincent showed up at the Manitou Art Center as we were loading puppets out to the street.

“I made that puppet,” he said, as we carried The Blue-Eyed Boy (aka The Jester) out. We stood in shock. Finding one of the original puppet-makers in the wild was something we never expected (Al Laurie, are you out there?). A hurried conversation and exchange of information led to an offer by Merlin to work on restoring some of the older puppets. It was a return to a fun time for Merlin, as his last time to be involved was years ago.

“Sometime around 2010 I went to the Carnivale parade for the first time. I thought it was wonderful: a people’s parade where anyone who

“I made a new puppet each year for a while, until I started to run out of storage space. I decided to donate three puppets to Manitou, and it was great fun to go and watch them in the parade. I got a real kick when sometimes they made it into the newspaper or were interviewed on TV!” he said.

A recently retired software engineer, he sees the connection. “Creative people are often drawn to engineering since it’s basically a melding of art and science. I spent my career building cool things! I know many engineers who are artists or musicians.”

Luckily for Carnivale, he was drawn to creating giant puppets.

“Puppets and sculpture in general are both an artistic endeavor and an engineering problem,” he said. “How do I make a structure for the alien I want to build that’s sturdy, but not too heavy to wear, and I can see out of it? I chose cardboard and had fun learning how to shape it and cover it. For some puppets the costume has to fit a strange shape (big cardboard shoulders) but still look natural.”

Vincent has a creative collaborator in his wife Nancy.

“My wife is an amazing fabric artist and seamstress,” he said. “I patched a pair of jeans once, so it

was great that she wanted to be involved. The fool’s cap that The Jester puppet wears is a good example of her work – it’s a very complex shape! Seeing the puppet and its clothes come together at the end is really satisfying for both of us.”

Those of us in ManiKrewe weren’t even aware that there had been a costume that went with The Jester. We didn’t even know it had been a Jester. Seeing the puppet restored to its former glory, where it will make a debut in the parade March 1, is exciting.

Along with three fully restored puppets with costumes, Vincent spent hours remaking the oversized Carnivale letters that are carried by the Royal Court in the parade.

“The original letters were great – whoever made them did a great job, but time had really taken its toll,” he said.

The ManiKrewe committee is incredibly grateful to Merlin and Nancy Vincent for their dedication and for lending their creativity and expertise.

It’s our hope that we can convince them to continue their important work on these pieces of Carnivale history.

“I always have ideas percolating,” he says. “But no new puppets yet.” Stay tuned, folks! 🍷

“Seeing the puppet and its clothes come together at the end is really satisfying for both of us.”
Merlin Vincent

wanted to could march, wearing homemade costumes and displaying whatever art they could wear, carry, or play,” he said. “The wearable puppets looked especially fun, and I decided to make one and wear it the next year. I made the puppet head, and my wife created its costume.”

That first puppet was The Jester. After that, Vincent was all in.



Courtesy photo

Community turns out for Pikes Peak Bulletin forum

Upwards of 80 people filled the Border Burger Bar seating area for the Pikes Peak Bulletin's forum, "A Stronger Newsroom Creates a Stronger Community."

Hosted by the inimitable journalist/filmmaker/playwright Warren Epstein, the panel speakers were media consultant Carol Wood; Colorado College Journalism Institute Manager Corey Hutchins; media consultant Bill Densmore; and Natalie Johnson, whom Epstein described as "possibly the most quoted" person in the area as she serves on the Manitou Springs City Council and the D14 school board and is the director of the Manitou Arts Center.

The panelists discussed the importance of local news as well as the many challenges including the decline of print advertising and a president who calls the press "the enemy of the people." Hutchins spoke of educating the next generation of journalists and other students who will not make journalism a career but are interested in how news is communicated. Wood and Densmore related how they

each take what they've learned through decades in the news industry to help news outlets thrive today. Johnson talked about the importance of local news in informing the public and how lost a community can become without it – including the time the Bulletin was inactive before being revived as a nonprofit in 2023.

On tables at the event were paper for posing one "open question" and nine ways to participate in the Pikes Peak Bulletin.

Open question

"What would it take to inspire you to engage with — and support — a community newspaper that fosters participatory democracy and connection for Manitou Springs and the Pikes Peak region?"

Nine ways to participate with the Pikes Peak Bulletin

1. Financial support: donations, grants, buy a gift subscription for a family member or friend
2. Send us your story tips and ideas including public affairs, inspiring stories, events, etc.

3. Write op-eds and letters to the editor, or to our advice columnist Mrs. Hughes
4. Connect us with local business owners and others who may wish to advertise
5. Visit with the publisher and editor at coffee hours to discuss issues of local importance
6. Apply to be a board member
7. Re-post our stories on social media and/or share your issue of the Bulletin with others
8. Join the Bulletin in creating a sense of community, tolerance, safety, inquiry and belonging by attending our civic forums
9. Volunteer to deliver papers, write grants, help organize civic forums, proofread – whatever you have to offer, we need you!

Send comments and feedback to Community@PikesPeakBulletin.org or call the editor, Heila Ershadi, at 719-373-1150. See page 2 for a note from the editor about what the Bulletin is doing now and ideas for the future. 🍌

Publisher Lyn Ettinger-Harwell spoke to the Bulletin's commitment to inclusivity.



Photo by Kadie Kirkpatrick

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Warren Epstein addressed the audience.

Photo by Kadie Kirkpatrick

From left to right: Moderator Warren Epstein with panelists Bill Densmore, Corey Hutchins, Carol Wood and Natalie Johnson.

Photo by Kadie Kirkpatrick

SCHOOLS

Mustangs boys basketball team gets signature win over Vanguard

PHOTOS AND STORY BY DANIEL MOHRMANN

Heading into the second half of the Manitou Springs boys basketball team's game against Vanguard on Feb. 24, coach Nick Nunley stressed one crucial goal for his players.

They had to win the third quarter. On average, the Coursers out-score their opponents by 15 points in the third quarter this season. But on Monday, the Mustangs edged them 6-2 and that proved crucial in a 47-39 win over Vanguard, the biggest win in the young Nunley era of Manitou basketball.

"These guys figured out that they can give that kind of effort, they can beat anybody," Nunley said.

Preparation and effort were the two ingredients that lifted the Mustangs (15-6 overall, 9-4 Tri-Peaks) to the win. Cohen Barrett did his usual thing on offense, scoring a team-high 16. Ashur Lavigne had 13 and Thomas Spraggins had a clutch eight.

The weight of the win was not lost on the Mustangs as they look to improve their seeding position and play a high level of basketball with the postseason beginning next week.

"This is a top-10 team in [Class] 3A right now," Lavigne said. "They made it to the 3A finals last year and they're a lot better than they were last season. And we competed with them."

It gives the team a fresh feeling of confidence heading into the Tri-Peaks tournament. The Mustangs are likely to be grouped with Lamar,

Buena Vista and Salida. They went 1-2 against those teams this season, but the perspective of the Vanguard win would change their approach in any rematch.

"If you study the team you're playing, you're going to know them inside and out," Lavigne said. "If you know all their tricks, you'll know what to do and when to do it."

Of those three games, the Buena Vista loss is probably the game that stands out the most. The Mustangs led through three quarters and looked like the better team for the majority of the game. But a 21-9 fourth quarter for the Demons allowed them to leave the Mustangs

the ball and be smart with it. These boys just straight-up wanted it from the jump."

And that's what they did in the closing minutes. Barrett hit some clutch free throws, and the Mustangs limited their turnovers, allowing the home crowd to rush the floor in celebration when the final buzzer sounded.

As of Tuesday, the Mustangs sat at No. 19 in the CH-SAA Selection and Seeding Index. But two games will remain against solid teams, so there is always potential that they could improve their seeding and be in a decent spot when the state tournament bracket is released on Sunday. 🏀



Manitou Springs junior Cohen Barrett looks for an open teammate during the second half of the Mustangs' 47-39 win over Vanguard on Feb. 24.

“They can give that kind of effort; they can beat anybody.”
Coach Nick Nunley

with a dejecting loss in their hands.

There was little doubt that Vanguard was a more talented team than Buena Vista, so when the Mustangs had a fourth-quarter lead there was a lingering feeling that history could repeat itself in a five-day span.

As the Coursers cut into the Manitou lead, Nunley took every chance to put his guys at ease and reinforce his belief in them.

"I called a timeout to go over some things and before I could even say it, they said that we can't have another Buena Vista outcome," Nunley said. "We need to hold onto

SPORTS CALENDAR

Friday, Feb. 28

Girls basketball: Tri-Peaks Crossover tournament at Florence High School (Time and Opponent TBA)

Boys basketball: Tri-Peaks Crossover tournament at Florence High School (Time and Opponent TBA)

Saturday, March 1

Girls basketball: Tri-Peaks Crossover tournament at Florence High School (Time and Opponent TBA)

Boys basketball: Tri-Peaks Crossover tournament at Florence High School (Time and Opponent TBA)

Friday, March 7

Girls basketball: 4A state basketball tournament first round (Time, Opponent, Location TBD)

Boys basketball: 4A state basketball tournament first round (Time, Opponent, Location TBD)

Saturday, March 8

Girls basketball: 4A state basketball tournament second round (Time, Opponent, Location TBD)

Boys basketball: 4A state basketball tournament second round (Time, Opponent, Location TBD)

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Manitou girls basketball team headed to final playoff audition of the season

PHOTO AND STORY BY DANIEL MOHRMANN

The final playoff audition for the Manitou Springs girls basketball comes this week as the Mustangs get two games in the Tri-Peaks tournament, which will take place in Florence on Friday and Saturday.

The league tournament format will place teams in groups of four, based on their position in the standings. As of now, the Mustangs (10-11 overall, 7-6 Tri-Peaks) sit at No. 7, which would group them with Ellicott, Buena Vista and Vanguard. If that holds heading into the weekend, Manitou can finish as high as fifth in the league.

But there's a bigger issue at hand. As of Tuesday, the Mustangs are No. 29 in the Class 4A Selection and Seeding Index, which constructs the playoff field. The top 32 teams in the Index will make the postseason when brackets are released on Sunday.

To stay inside of that field of 32, the Mustangs will have to get back to some of the good things they were doing when they rattled off five straight league wins starting in mid-January.

There were some good things that the Mustangs were doing in a 62-41 loss to Vanguard, they just need to apply them in crucial moments to pick up another win or two.

"Our offensive movement was stronger than it had been all season," coach Gabby Santos said. "We have to take opportunities to shoot confidently and that changes the game for us. We just have to put those two things together."

Over the last week, the Mustangs beat Buena Vista 33-26 before losing to Ellicott 44-31 and then concluding the regular season schedule with the loss to Vanguard on Feb. 24.

The biggest takeaway from the team is that it is able to play with a little more urgency once it gets to halftime than in the first 16 minutes of regulation.

Stronger second halves have been consistent all year long, so the girls are trying to figure out how to implement a sense of urgency sooner.

"We have to find that fire in the first half," junior Brooklynn Sheffield said. "We always have it in the second. We come out strong in that

second half, but it's the first half that always gets us."

The Ellicott loss is a prime example. The Mustangs scored eight total points in the first half and then outscored the Thunderhawks 23-18 in the second. Nolan Barrett was a big piece of that as she scored a team-high 12 points. She has been placed in the starting lineup more frequently and has given the offense a big boost when she's on the floor.

"She's a kid that when you push her, she works harder," Santos said. "Some players let people get under their skin. Nolan is someone that if you push her, she'll look at you and say, 'Alright, let's play.'"

Barrett again led the Mustangs on Monday, scoring 14 against Vanguard and Lexi Sobral added 10, a season-high for her.

Those little contributions will be crucial for the Mustangs as they head into the league tournament. And as they sit right on the cutline of making playoffs, they very much have their backs against the wall.

It's time to come out swinging. 🐾



Manitou Springs sophomore Lexi Sobral prepares to take a shot during the second half of the Mustangs' loss to Vanguard on Feb. 24.



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LIVE MUSIC CALENDAR

Friday, Feb. 28

- * Alchemy, Rawbert, 7 p.m.
- * Armadillo Ranch, 8th Street Alley, 8 p.m.
- * Black Forest Community Center, Blue Canyon Boys, CC Bluegrass, 7 p.m.
- * Black Sheep, Joy Oladokun, 7 p.m.
- * Buffalo Lodge, Old Dangerfield, 6 p.m.
- * Buzzed Crow Bistro, Retromental, Steelhenge, 8 p.m.
- * Front Range BBQ, Joe Johnson, 4:30 p.m.
- * Good Company, Skin & Bones, 8 p.m.
- * Jack Quinn's, The McDeviants, 7:30 p.m.
- * Kinfolks, Sapphires Garden, 8 p.m.
- * Luchal's (Fountain), DJ Lemon Head, 7 p.m.
- * Lulu's Downtown, House Party, 8 p.m.
- * Manitou Winery, David Manship, 5:30 p.m.
- * Murphy's Tavern, Davenport Band, 8 p.m.
- * Ohana Kava Bar (downtown), Lindsey Meyers, 8 p.m.
- * Overtime Sports Bar, Hat Trick, 9 p.m.
- * Phil Long Music Hall, Red Mountain Highway, Ryan Chrys, Tim Meegan Jr, Colton Hittle, 6 p.m.
- * Pikes Peak Center, 7 p.m.
- * Rail Yard, TBA, 6 p.m.
- * Rico's Cafe, Craig Walter, 6 p.m.
- * Stargazers, The BUS Band Trio, 7 p.m.
- * Storybook Brewing, The Street Deacons, 6 p.m.
- * Summa, Poole & The Gang, 7 p.m.
- * Tokki, Dalonious Funk, 7 p.m.
- * Triple Nickel, Back Stage People, Hurricane Dave & The Storm Chasers, Sclerotia, 8 p.m.
- * Vultures, Lake Drive, Creek, Series Break, 8 p.m.
- * The Whiskey Baron, 6 p.m.

Saturday, March 1

- * 105 Social House, Kevin Mastin, 6 p.m.
- * Armadillo Ranch, Tribe, 8 p.m.

- * Back East Bar & Grill (Briargate), 7:30 p.m.
- * The Black Sheep, MJ Lenderman & The Wind, 8 p.m.
- * Buffalo Lodge, Gabe From the Future, 2:30 p.m., Ben Guzman Old Time Band, 6 p.m.
- * Buzzed Crow Bistro, Time Worp, Altitude Sickness, 8 p.m.
- * Chicken Coop, TBA, 9 p.m.
- * Jack Quinn's, TBA, 7:30 p.m.
- * Kinfolks, The Goods, 1 p.m., Thomas Andrews & Friends, 5 p.m.
- * Luchal's (Fountain), R&B Brunch w/ DJ Lemon Head, 11 a.m.
- * Lulu's Downtown, Lulu Benning & Carter Searcy, 1 p.m.
- * Lulu's Downtown, Rence Fest, 5 p.m.
- * Mother Muffs, Big Sky, 8 p.m.
- * Murphy's Tavern, Roots & Rhythm, 8 p.m.
- * Notes, Jazz Brunch, 9 a.m.
- * Ohana Kava Bar (downtown), 8 p.m.
- * Phil Long Music Hall, ELO Experience, 7 p.m.
- * Rail Yard, TBA, 6 p.m.
- * Rico's, Rafiel & The Roomshakers, 6 p.m.
- * Stargazers, Santa Rios (Santana tribute), 7 p.m.
- * Summa, Chronic Funk Disorder, 6:30 p.m.
- * Sunshine Studios, Endymion - An Electronic Masquerade, 8 p.m.
- * Tokki, Moldy Figs, 7 p.m.
- * The Townhouse, ET's, 12 p.m.
- * Vultures, Kobthebuilder, 8 p.m.
- * What's Left Records, Gindscape, Upon A Fields Whisper, Helleborus, 7:30 p.m.
- * Whiskey Baron, Ashlee & The Longshot Revival, 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 2

- * Armadillo Ranch, Mike Ippolito, 1 p.m.
- * The Black Sheep, Tyr, Aether Realm, Oak, Ash & Thorn, Ob Nixilis, 7:30 p.m.
- * Front Range BBQ, Grass It Up, 2 p.m.
- * Lulu's, Rebirth Brass Band, 8 p.m.
- * Lumen8, Jazz Brunch w/ Todd Williams Trio, 10 a.m.
- * Notes, Jazz Brunch, 9 a.m.



Courtesy photo

Open Mics Jams

- * Buffalo Lodge, Bluegrass Jam, 3 p.m.
- * Jack Quinn's, Celtic Jam, 3 p.m.
- * Mother Muff's, Sunday Brunch w/ Tim Costello & Dylan Teifer, 11 a.m.
- * Rico's, Open Mic, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, March 3

- * Armadillo Ranch, LOOK'EE HERE!, 6 p.m.

Open Mics Jams

- * Open Mic Night Frisky's, 8 p.m.
- * Vultures, Open Mic (comedy/ music), 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 4

- * Kinfolks, Lost Junction Family Jam, 7 p.m.
- * Lulu's Downtown, Matt Lynn, Joby Gaines, Alone at the Movies, 7 p.m.

Open Mics & Jams

- * Lulu's Downtown, Open Mic w/ John Bueno, 8 p.m.
- * O' Furry's, Deryk's Music Open Mic, 6 p.m.
- * Rico's, Spoken Words Open Mic w/ Jack Wallick, 6 p.m.
- * Ultra Flat Black Gallery, Open Mic Night, 8 p.m.
- * Whistle Pig Brewing (T- Gap), Sweet T's Rude Blues Jam, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5

- * Buffalo Lodge, Black Rose Acoustic Society Showcase, 6 p.m.
- * Distillery 291, Todd Haller & Friends, 5:30 p.m.
- * Front Range BBQ, TBA, 6:30 p.m.
- * Kinfolks, Dylan Teifer, 5 p.m.
- * Tokki, Tyler Griffith, 6:30 p.m.
- * Trinity Brewing, Springs Contemporary Big Band, 6 p.m.

Open Mics & Jams

- * Detour Lounge, Open Mic, 8 p.m.
- * Jives Coffee, Over-Prepared Open Mic, 6 p.m.
- * Kinfolks, Musician's Open Mic, 7 p.m.
- * One Love Island Bar, Jam hosted by Peter Wooten, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 6

- * Armadillo Ranch, Battle of the Bands, 8 p.m.
- * Buffalo Lodge, Lindsey Facknitz, 6 p.m.
- * Buzzed Crow Bistro, Aces & Eights, 8 p.m.
- * Chile Colorado, Mariachi Diamante, 5 p.m.
- * Jack Quinn's, TBA, 6:30 p.m.
- * Kinfolks, Molly Jam Dance Party, 7 p.m.
- * Luchals (Fountain), Hot Boots Duo, 6 p.m.
- * Lulu's Downtown, Autumnal, Your Jack, 8 p.m.

LIVE MUSIC CALENDAR CONTINUED

- * Ohana Kava Bar, EJRM, 7 p.m.
- * Phil Long Hall, Chrome Horse (Dylan tribute), 7 p.m.
- * Rico's Cafe, John Wise, 5 p.m.
- * Tokki, LOOK'EE HERE, 6:30 p.m.
- * **Open Mics Jams**
- * Bar-K, Open Mic, 7 p.m.
- * Finish Line, Open Mic, 6:30 p.m.
- * Trails End Taproom, Open Mic, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 7

- * 110 Reserve (Woodland Park), 6 p.m.
- * Alchemy, Rawbert, 7 p.m.
- * Armadillo Ranch, Blue Frog Full On Orchestra, 8 p.m.
- * Black Sheep, Debi Tirar Mas Fiestas | The Bad Bunny Party, 9

- p.m.
- * Buffalo Lodge, John Spengler & Frenemies, 6 p.m.
- * Buzzed Crow Bistro, Mimic, 8 p.m.
- * Cleats West, TBA, 8 p.m.
- * Crystola Roadhouse, TBA, 7 p.m.
- * Front Range BBQ, TBA, 4:30 p.m.
- * Homa Cafe & Bar, Jonathan Sherrill, 5 p.m.
- * Jack Quinn's, TBA, 7:30 p.m.
- * Kinfolks, Kings of Trio, 7 p.m.
- * Luchal's (Fountain), DJ Lemon Head, 7 p.m.
- * Lulu's Downtown, Shadowgrass, Magoo, 8 p.m.
- * Manitou Winery, Interrobang, 5:30 p.m.
- * Mill Hill Saloon, Hot Boots Band, 7:45 p.m.
- * Murphy's Tavern, TBA, 8 p.m.
- * Ohana Kava Bar (downtown), Richard Raymond II, 8 p.m.

- * Oskar Blues, Jehry Robinson, Tony Fontinelli, Yoshghost, Tha Seekah, Prophecizer, 7 p.m.
- * Phil Long Music Hall, Van Halen Experience, 7 p.m.
- * Pikes Peak Center, CS Philharmonic-The Texas Tenors, 7:30 p.m.
- * Rail Yard, TBA, 6 p.m.
- * Rico's Cafe, The Cleveland Experiment, 6 p.m.
- * Stargazers, Teada, 7 p.m.
- * Summa, New Vintage Jazz, 6:30 p.m.
- * Sunshine Studios, Tantric, Pulsifier, 6 p.m.
- * Tokki, Matt Brooker, 7 p.m.
- * Vultures, Florissant, The Polite Heretic, The 86'd, A Place for Owls, 8 p.m.
- * What's Left Records, Smoke Burial, Hell Grammites, Thrillrot, 7:30 p.m.

Musicians and bands are welcome to submit information about upcoming performances in Downtown Colorado Springs, Old Colorado City, Manitou Springs, and Lower Ute Pass. Send complete details to heila@pikespeakbulletin.org at least 10 days before the gig. Images will be used if space is available. Music listings brought to you by Moondog Music Shop. Email moondogmusiccos@gmail.com to be added to their weekly local music listing newsletter



ARTS CALENDAR

FIRST FRIDAY ARTWALK

Join the robust arts community of the Avenue Creative Circuit for an evening of arts events throughout Downtown Colorado Springs, Old Colorado City and Manitou Springs during the First Friday Art Walk each month. Listen to live music, wander the galleries and mingle with the artistic community. Goes 5-8 p.m. or later.

GREEN HORSE GALLERY - 729 MANITOU AVE.

Michelle Manquen of Evergreen is the featured artist at Green Horse Gallery in March. Her pieces are colorful abstract and landscape designs made of kiln-formed glass mounted on aluminum and steel. Green Horse Gallery is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursdays-Mondays. Information: 719-685-0636.

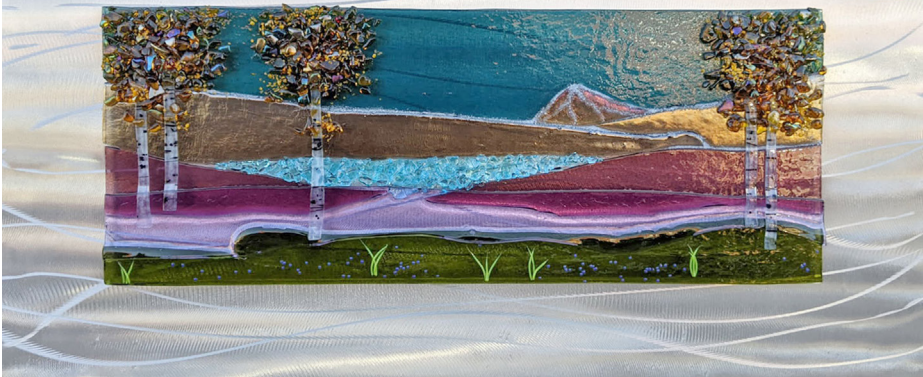
MANITOU SPRINGS HERITAGE MUSEUM - 517 MANITOU AVE.

- * The Photography of E.S. Curtis and Roland Reed-Historic and Contemporary First Nation Images, through May 1

This community-building exhibit contrasts and compares historic and contemporary First Nation photography. View the iconic photogravures of Curtis and Reed and contemporary images as seen through the camera lens of indigenous photographers, Amanda Jones, Manny Hawkwing Pulido, Kenny Frost and world-famous filmmaker, photographer and lecturer Larry Cesspooch. These First Nation Images are representative of the photographers' tribes, families, friends and landscapes that depict their way of life and communities. See the collections of kachinas, fetishes, pottery and artwork of indigenous peoples living throughout the West. Information: ManitouSpringsHeritageCenter.org or 719-685-1454.

- * **Ski Areas of the Pikes Peak Region, through June 2025**
This exhibit is a collaboration with the Colorado Snowsports Museum in Vail which provided some amazing historic photographs. Due to the efforts of the Pikes Peak Ski Club and Don Lawrie, the club's first president, ski areas like the Pikes Peak Ski Area and Ski Broadmoor were successful for many years while other Ski Areas were planned, but never

Michelle Manquen of Evergreen is the featured artist at Green Horse Gallery in March.



Courtesy photo

operational. This exhibit tells the stories of the early skiing pioneers who were dedicated to promoting the sport of skiing within the Pikes Peak Region.

COLORADO SPRINGS FINE ARTS CENTER AT COLORADO COLLEGE - 30 WEST DALE ST.

- * **A People's History of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, through Spring 2025**
The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center invites the community to help shape a new exhibition, *A People's History of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center*. The interactive installation explores the center's history, from its 1919

founding as the Broadmoor Art Academy to its 1936 role as the nation's first multi-arts facility. Visitors can share stories and insights, adding to a timeline of key events, artworks and artifacts. Curator Pat Musick will be on hand at scheduled times to engage with the public and incorporate contributions into the display. This community-driven project will inform the ongoing reinstallation of the center's permanent collection.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS GALLERY OF CONTEMPORARY ART - 5225 N. NEVADA AVE.

- * **Psycullescence Exhibit, through March 15**

ARTS CALENDAR CONTINUED

Be sure to visit the UCCS Gallery of Contemporary Art (GOCA) to experience the Psycullescense exhibit, created by local visionary artist Patrick Shearn. Don't miss this dynamic and captivating display of contemporary artistry!

MANITOU ART CENTER - 513 MANITOU AVE.

- ★ **Manitou Made Market, every Saturday through March 29**
Manitou Farmers Market Founders Leilani and Vincent Coleman have teamed up with the Manitou Art Center to host the Manitou Made Market, working with the community to bring in local farms, artists and food to help fill a growing need in Manitou. Shop an array of local goods from 9 a.m. to noon, every Saturday through March 29.

COMMONWHEEL ARTISTS CO-OP - 102 CAÑON AVE.

- ★ **Happy Little Trees, Feb. 7 through March 3**

The Photography of E.S. Curtis and Roland Reed-Historic and Contemporary First Nation Images will be on display at the Manitou Springs Heritage Museum though May 1.



Commonwheel Artists Co-op is excited to announce, 'Happy Little Trees,' a Commonwheel Member show celebrating the magic of trees! Exhibit runs Feb. 7- March 3 in the Creek Side Gallery in downtown Manitou Springs. The artists' reception is Friday, Feb. 7 from 5-8 p.m.

- ★ **Ripples and Rhythms March 7 through March 31**
Ripples and Rhythms is an exhibition conceived of and featuring art by local Colorado artist Katie Curcio that explores movement and fluidity through depictions of waterscapes. Water, a source of life and a symbol of constant change, has always held a profound significance, particularly in Manitou Springs with its renowned natural springs. This exhibition captures the essence of water and movement in many forms, from the gentle ebb and flow of bodies of water and the ecosystems that inhabit them. Joining Katie for Ripples and Rhythms are fellow local Colorado artists Ken Cowdery, Deb Hager, Jeremiah Houck and Maggie Quinn.

THEATER & PERFORMANCE ART EVENTS

Millibo Art Theatre - 1626 S. Tejon

- ★ **Please Ship This Wet Gift, March 1 and 2**
Join the MAT for one clown's presentation about terrible feelings. This original work uses drawing, audience suggestions, made-up songs, puppetry, and cardboard sharks to

explore dealing with the things in life that are unfair, scary, sad and just really annoying. The show brings compassion and lightness to the heavy stuff providing family audiences with an opportunity to laugh together. More info and tickets at TheMAT.org/please-ship-this-wet-gift-at-the-mat-2025.

ART CALL FOR ENTRIES Auric Gallery - 125 E. Boulder St.

- ★ **a Muse: A call to artists for a figurative art exhibit, through March 15 at 5 p.m.**
In contemporary times, the human figure – each artwork will be differentiated by the way each artist approaches their subject. Acceptable media include, but are not limited to paintings, drawings, fiber arts, digital art, photography, sculpture, ceramics, mixed media, collage, assemblage, mosaics, metalsmithing and woodworking. All pieces must be for sale; in the event of a sale, artist will retain 50% of the sale price and the gallery a 50% commission. Full submission info at AuricGallery.com.



Photo courtesy of Auric Gallery

Please Ship This Wet Gift, March 1-2 at Millibo Art Theatre

Courtesy photo



Send complete information — who, what, when, where, why and how — at least 10 days ahead of time to calendars@pikespeakbulletin.org.

CALLS FOR ENTRIES

The Manitou Art Center is seeking artists and groups/collectives to exhibit in the Hagnauer Gallery in 2026. Exhibits last for one month and the art can be of any media, discipline and style, as long as the artists haven't exhibited at the MAC for the three years before 2026. Three jurors (TBD) will select from the submissions. Entry form: form.jotform.com/231725535838160.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events change. Always double-check before you go!

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

- ★ **Carnivale**
It's Mardi Gras season and there's no party like Carnivale in Manitou Springs!

- ★ **Mumbo Jumbo Gumbo Cookoff, 11 a.m.** at Soda Springs Park (1016 Manitou Ave.). Only 75 cents per taste. Professional and Amateur categories. Competition Registration: ManitouSprings.org/mumbo-jumbo-gumbo-cook-off.
- ★ **Carnivale parade, 1 p.m.** on Manitou Avenue. Event parking and additional information: ManitouSprings.org/carnivale-parade.

- ★ **Birdsong Sister Circle**
Women gathering in a supported community on the New Moon. We will explore Breathwork, Song, Earth Based Ritual, Vocal Alchemy w/Somatic Movement and a Potluck to follow. Please bring anything to make your nest comfortable. Drums, rattles and noise makers are welcome. Please bring a mug for hot tea. Tea will be made with herbs ruled by the

astrology sign. The ceremony is from 6-8 p.m. and the potluck begins at 8 p.m. Cost is \$33. Registration: SoulshinesYogaCascade.com. Location: Soulshines Yoga Studio & Healing Arts, 8025 W. Highway 24, Cascade. It is next to the Wines of Colorado restaurant. Information: Amanda Smolinski at 719-433-1104.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR CONTINUED

MONDAY, MARCH 3

★ **Manitou Springs Women's Club Fashion Show for Women and Canines**

Join the Manitou Springs Women's Club at this month's meeting at 6 p.m., Memorial Hall (606 Manitou Ave.). Enjoy a baked potato bar dinner and fashions presented by local merchants, artisans and Gigi's Animal Lovers' Gift Shop. \$10 suggested donation. Information: ManitouSpringsWomensClub.org.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

★ **March Merriment-Amuse Bouche Fundraiser for Pikes Peak Opera League**

Spring fun with an evening of laughter and melody at March Merriment, presented by Art Song Colorado, where jokes and songs intertwine to create a delightful tapestry of entertainment. As another sun sets over Belle Paris, another group of artists sit in a Parisian café and argue over whose musical compositions best captured that French je ne sais quoi! Meet Georges Bizet, Jacques Offenbach, Francis Poulenc and Erik Satie and their music in this operatic comedy designed to parody their life and times. The show includes French repertoire, French history and culture and plenty of silliness! Sponsored by Robyn Hamilton and Grant Langdon, 5-8 p.m. at Patty Jewett Bar & Grill (900 E Espanola St, Colorado Springs). Tickets \$65/Member \$75/Non-member: PikesPeakOperaLeague.org/event-details/march-merriment-amuse-bouche
Information: 719-481-0426 or president@pikespeakoperaleague.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

★ **A History of Skiing on Pikes Peak, encore presentation by Don Sanborn**

The first presentation, which drew an enthusiastic crowd, accompanied the launch of our new winter exhibit "Ski Areas of the Pikes Peak Region," a collaboration with the Colorado Snowsports Museum in Vail. Don Sanborn will discuss the evolution of skiing on Pikes Peak from 1929

to 1984 and the dedication, perseverance and funding it took to establish and maintain the sport of skiing in the Pikes Peak region. Find out which amazing feat earned Don Sanborn's grandfather, Don Lawrie, a seat in the Colorado Snowsports Hall of Fame. Don hails from a family that has been very active on Pikes Peak. He is the only person who has raced in the Pikes Peak Auto Hill Climb, run the Pikes Peak Marathon and climbed with the AdAmAn Club. Don is an engaging speaker, so save the date and don't miss it! Event starts at 10 a.m. and is free to the public, but pre-registration is required (50 maximum). Register at Eventbrite.com/e/a-history-of-skiing-on-pikes-peak-by-don-sanborn-tickets-1255788179249.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

★ **City Council District 3 Candidate Forum hosted by Organization of Westside Neighbors**

The Organization of Westside Neighbors (OWN) hosts a City Council District 3 Candidate Forum, 6-9 p.m. at Seven's Gate Taproom (77 South 7th St., Colorado Springs 80905). This community event will provide an opportunity for District 3 residents to hear directly from the candidates about the issues that matter most to the Westside. Each candidate will have time to share their vision, priorities and plans for the district, followed by a meet-and-greet session where neighbors can engage with the candidates one-on-one. Submit questions ahead of the event at Tiny.cc/D3Questions. This event is free and open to the public. RSVP: Westside-Bestside.org. Information: info@own-cos.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

★ **Soulshines Guided Sound Journey**

Working with the astrology Sun Sign and Full Moon Lunar Eclipse energy on a journey filled with Breathwork, Guided Meditation, Bija Seed Mantra, Vocal Toning and Sound Bath. The sound bath includes drums, crystal bowls, rattles, shruti and whatever energy is calling. The journey is a guide to allow yourself to be creative, explorative and create a deep relaxing meditative experience. From 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Soulshines Yoga Studio & Healing Arts

It's Mardi Gras season! CarniBall is Feb. 22 and the Carnivale parade is March 1.



Courtesy photo

(8025 W. Highway 24, Cascade), \$25, Registration: SoulShinesYogaCascade.com. Information: Amanda Smolinski at 719-433-1104.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MARCH 15-16

★ **Inaugural St. Pickleball's Day Tournament**

Come out to the Inaugural St. Pickleball's Day Tournament, March 15-16 at Springs Pickleball (780 Vondelpark Dr.). Men's, Women's, and Mixed Doubles teams in Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced divisions. Prizes for the top three teams in each division. Sponsored by Manitou Springs Kiwanis Club. Net proceeds go to support kids sports and leadership programming. Registration open through March 8 at SwishTournaments.com or via the QR code.



ONGOING

★ **Kundalini Yoga Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.**

Join us for a wonderful start to your week by exploring Breath Work, Kriya, and Sound Bath Meditation with optional Aromatherapy at Soulshines Yoga Studio & Healing Arts (8025 W. Highway 24, Cascade). This class is for all levels and is encouraged to go at your own rhythms. Sliding Scale \$15-\$25. Registration: SoulShinesYogaCascade.com. Information: Amanda Smolinski at 719-433-1104.

★ **Yoga Flow Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.**

Join us for a slower flow Yoga practice as we explore Breath Work, Asana and Sound Bath Meditation with optional Aromatherapy at Soulshines Yoga Studio & Healing Arts (8025 W. Highway 24, Cascade). This class is for all levels and is encouraged to go at your own rhythms. Sliding Scale \$15-\$25. Registration: SoulShinesYogaCascade.com. Information: Amanda Smolinski at 719-433-1104.

★ **The Colorado Springs Poetry Slam** is held every first Friday of the month at Bar-K at 8 p.m. It's a friendly competitive poetry competition followed by an open mic. We also host a bi-weekly writer's group for writers of all kinds. Hosted by Art the Poet.

The Manitou Art Center has a huge offering of classes open to the public. See a full calendar with descriptions at ManitouArtCenter.org/classes.



Send complete information — who, what, when, where, why and how — at least 10 days ahead of time to calendars@pikespeakbulletin.org.

FEBRUARY 19

A Colorado ID was turned into the front office over the weekend of Feb. 15-17. By Feb. 19 it still had not been claimed so it was taken in as a safekeeping item. A postcard was sent to the address on the ID card.

MSPD officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle driving recklessly in the 600 block of Manitou Avenue. The driver was arrested on DUI related charges and later released.

FEBRUARY 20

Officers stopped a vehicle for disobeying a traffic control device on El Paso Boulevard and found the driver to have an outstanding PR [Personal Recognizance] warrant. The subject was served with paperwork and released.

Officers were dispatched to the 700 block of Manitou Avenue for a cold theft. The reporting party reported two parties had stolen goods from one of the shops. Officers contacted one of the responsible parties, but did not have enough evidence to make an arrest at the time.

Officers responded to the 100 block of Beckers Lane for a disturbance. Upon investigation it was found that an unknown male and female came onto the reporting party's property attempting to steal packages. A verbal altercation took place which the unknown parties stated they had a gun. This investigation is ongoing.

Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle near Beckers Lane and El Paso Boulevard. The driver of the vehicle had a county warrant and was given a summons for DUID. The driver was booked into El Paso County CJC.

FEBRUARY 21

Manitou Springs Police Department responded to a report of a domestic disturbance in progress on Midland Avenue. Upon officers' arrival, an investigation was completed, and probable cause was found to effect and arrest of the aggressor. The suspect was arrested and later booked into CJC.

At approximately 1917 hours, Manitou Springs Police Department was called to check the welfare of a possible suicidal person on Ruxton Avenue. After long conversations and communication between the party and the EPSO BEACON Unit, it was determined that the scene was safe, and all units cleared.

FEBRUARY 22

Manitou Springs Police Officers were dispatched to a road hazard on W. Highway 24. Officers arrived on the scene and discovered a semi-truck was broken down and abandoned on the highway. Officers towed the vehicle and contacted the vehicle's operator and manager.

The Manitou Springs Police Department responded to a check the welfare of a male party that was believed to be hallucinating. Upon officers' arrival, officers discovered that the male party was not in a good

state of mind and needed further evaluation at a local hospital. The male party was transported by MSFD to a local hospital where a Manitou Springs police officer provided the hospital staff detailed information leading to a mental health hold.

Manitou Spring Police Department conducted a traffic stop in the 000 block of Manitou Avenue. After investigating the stop, a female driver was found to be under the influence of drugs and was cited for DUID.

Manitou Springs Police Department responded to a report of a male kicking a door in the 900 block of Manitou Avenue. The scene was controlled. The front door of a business had broken glass. After investigation, a male was arrested and cited for disorderly conduct and criminal mischief.

Officers received a call for service regarding a drunk person in the 700 block of Manitou Avenue. Officers located that person who had a Manitou municipal warrant. The suspect was served and released on a PR bond.



FEBRUARY 23

Officers stopped a vehicle for speeding. Driver was placed under arrest for DUI.

FEBRUARY 24

Officers responded to a cold criminal trespass of a motor vehicle. No suspects have been identified at this time.

Officers contacted a male party in an illegal homeless camp in the 100 block of Manitou Avenue, who they knew to have an outstanding misdemeanor arrest warrant. The party was arrested and booked into jail without incident.

MSPD officers located an illegal camp in the 100 block of Manitou Avenue. A party was arrested on an outstanding warrant and charged with violations related to conservation.

An officer stopped a vehicle with expired registration. The plates were fictitious. Subject was issued a summons.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Teller County Regional Animal Shelter

Hello! My name is Sye. I'm a nice, friendly, easygoing fellow! I enjoy going for walks, exploring with my nose and hanging out around my people. One of my favorite things to do is curl up in a comfy bed. I've been introduced to a couple of dogs here at TCRAS, and I'm a little curious about them, but I mostly ignore them. I am so ready for a forever home, and I'd love a place where I can bask in the sunshine, get yummy treats and be loved! Will you be my new family? If you think I could be your new best friend, please give TCRAS a call at 719-686-7707 to schedule an appointment to meet me as I am in a foster home right now!



Happy Cats Haven

Hello, I'm Mick, a dapper little tuxedo gentleman with a beauty mark to match! I'm also a polydactyl, meaning I even have extra toes to hold out for teatime! I came to Happy Cats Haven after my family could no longer care for me, and now I'm looking for my special furr-ever home. I'm a sweet guy that loves to walk, talk and brush up against your legs; I love to spend time with my hoomans! I do fine in a home with gentle children and mellow, friendly dogs. But I would do best as your only kitty. I'm about 3 years old and I can be adopted for \$100 which includes my spay/neuter, vaccinations, microchips, food and litter starter kit, and a free well-kitty checkup to help you get started.

Information: happycatshaven.org or 719-362-4600.





CLASSIFIEDS

BUY & SELL just about anything!

Contact 719-238-6211 or karen@pikespeakbulletin.org



SERVICES

BETTER HOME & YARD
15% Senior Discount (62+) Call Mike-a Senior and Veteran 719-338-4279

Mountain Medical Foot Care. Experienced local wellness nurses helping seniors put their best foot forward! Now at Westside Community Center. Diabetic care, ingrowns, corns & more. \$55. Call 719-510-5990 for

FOR RENT

Garage/studio rent \$475 a month with heat and power 67 Waltham great for storage, workshop, studio or garage use. This is not a livable space. Contact Andrea Warner with Colorado Peak Real Estate, Inc 719-648-9345 Andrea@coloradopeakre.com

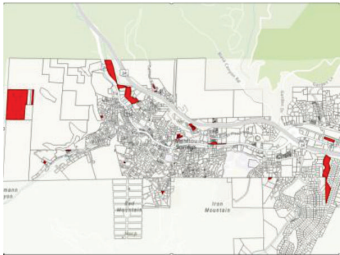
PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the
**MANITOU SPRINGS
CITY PLANNING
COMMISSION**
will hold a Public Hearing
scheduled for:
**WEDNESDAY
March 12, 2025
@ 5:30 P.M.**

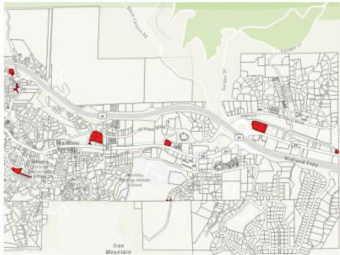
This will be an in-person meeting at City Hall, 606 Manitou Avenue, to consider the following item(s):

Review and Recommendation to City Council Regarding the adoption of Plan Manitou 2.0 as the Comprehensive Master Plan of the City of Manitou Springs. Copies of the plan are available in the Planning Department and online at <https://www.manitouspringsco.gov/762/Plan-Manitou>

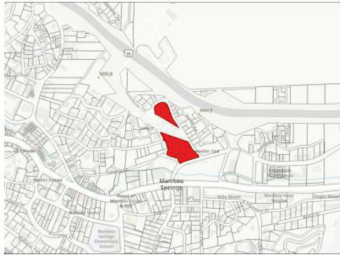
Request by **The City of Manitou Springs** for **Rezoning (to Open Space (OS))** at Tax Schedule Numbers: 7404413029, 7405203097, 7405314005, 7405314019, 7405413026, 7404410050, 7405202016, 7405203120, 7405210003, 7405211006, 7405218001, 7405404022, 7405410010, 7405411025, 7405421001, 7405424003, 7405424010, 7405424035, 7405424036, 7405428008, 7405428009, 7405428026, 7405435029, 7405435030, 7405435031, 7405435035, 7406100015, 7406101025, 7406105038, 7406108009, 7406200005, 7406200008, 7406302003, 7406403013, 7406423019, 7408216004, 7409100003, 7409202039, 7405432019, 7405432010, 7405432011, 7405431003.



Request by **The City of Manitou Springs** for **Rezoning (to Public Facility (PF))** at Tax Schedule Numbers: 7404306075, 7404318008, 7404321004, 7404410024, 7404410035, 7404410036, 7404410048, 7405212010, 7405212029, 7405212032, 7405212040, 7405213005, 7405325007.



Request by **The City of Manitou Springs** for **Rezoning (to Park (PK))** at Tax Schedule Number: 7405435025.



Public comments on these requests may be submitted in writing and received by the Planning Department by 5:00pm March 7, 2025. Comments received by this date will be provided in the Planning Commission Meeting Packet.

For more information or to give comments, please contact the Planning Department at 685-4398 or at planningdept@manitouspringsco.gov.

**INTERESTED PARTIES
ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.**

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

City of Manitou Springs
606 Manitou Avenue
Manitou Springs, CO 80829

Separate sealed bids for the **COATINGS REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2.0 MILLION GALLON (MG) WELDED STEEL WATER STORAGE TANK** project will be received by electronic mail as designated in the Information For Bidders no later than 2:00 PM, Local Mountain Time, on Friday, March 21, 2025, and then publicly opened at the office of GMS, Inc., 611 North Weber Street, Suite 300, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 and read aloud.

The Coatings Replacement and Improvements for the 2.0 MG Welded Steel Water Storage Tank project will be funded with loan proceeds from the Colorado Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRf) and the Colorado Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund. The contract terms and conditions require compliance with, but not limited to, the following specified rules, regulations, policies and procedures.

- Davis-Bacon Act specifying minimum labor wage rates for specified labor classifications.
- American Iron and Steel (AIS) provisions requiring certification of use of iron and steel products that are produced in the United States as specified in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) of 2021.
- Other specified terms and conditions appurtenant to the use of funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- The contract terms and conditions do NOT require compliance with the Build America Buy America Act (BABA).

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

City of Manitou Springs, 606 Manitou Ave, Manitou Springs, CO 80829
GMS, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 611 N. Weber, Suite 300, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Dodge Data and Analytics, 2860 S State Hwy 161 Ste 160 #501, Grand Prairie, TX 75052

An electronic file in portable document format (.pdf) of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained **after February 21, 2025**, at the office of GMS, Inc. located at 611 N. Weber Street, Suite 300, Colorado Springs, CO 80903, without charge.

Refer to the Information For Bidders for specific times the project site may be accessed and examined by potential bidders on March 6 or March 14, 2025.

Contact Jerica or Lauri at GMS, Inc., 611 N. Weber St, Ste 300, Colorado Springs, CO 80903; Phone: 719-475-2935 or Fax: 719-475-2938 should you desire to obtain the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS for use in bidding for this project.

Dates of Advertisement: February 21, 2025
February 28, 2025
March 7, 2025

February 14, 2025

City of Manitou Springs

Date

C:\Users\charl\Downloads\AD4BIDS.doc

District Court County, Colorado Court Address: 270 South Tejon Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903	
In the Matter of the Estate of: DIANE JOYCE ZARA Deceased <i>Counsel for Co-PR Kathleen Zara:</i> CHARLES D. RUPPRECHT, #47769 BUFKIN & SCHNEIDER LAW, LLC 2 N. Nevada Ave., suite 1140 Colorado Springs, CO 80903 (719) 247-3028 charly@bbmslaw.com	COURT USE ONLY Case Number: 24PR31335 Division: PR2
NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.	
NOTICE TO CREDITORS	
Estate of <u>Diane Joyce Zara</u> , Deceased	Case Number <u>24PR31335</u>
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to	
<input type="checkbox"/> District Court of <u>El Paso</u> , County, Colorado	
on or before June 27, 2025*, or the claims may be forever barred.	
<div><u>Kathleen Zara</u> Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice</div> <div><u>827 Marine Corps Dr., Monument, CO 80132</u> Address</div>	

Super Crossword

SONG TITLES

ACROSS

1 Teenage
witch played
by Melissa
Joan Hart
8 Breakwater
embankment
15 Nintendo title
plumber
20 Germ-free
21 Singer with
the 2018 hit
"Boo'd Up"
22 Put up, as
a building
23 Patti Smith
25 Flat, as cola
26 One of the
two Pro Bowl
gps.
27 Rantle
28 Notices
30 Hero type
31 Nina Simone
39 Napoli's
nation
41 Alien-seeking
proj.
42 City near
Disney World
43 Manicure
tool
46 Oxidizes
49 Put the
kibosh on
50 Miss Elliott
53 Dir. from
Miss. to Mich.
56 Pre-CIA gp.
57 Ad featur-
ing Smokey
Bear, e.g.

58 "Science Guy" with multiple Emmys
59 Honorable
60 Busy airport
63 George Strait
69 World capital in the Andes
74 '60s war zone
75 2010-14 Mets member
76 Britney Spears
79 Plane ticket detail
80 Large musical disk
81 Encyc. unit
82 Tosses out of the game, for short
85 "Law & Order" spinoff, in brief
88 Busy insect
89 Bessie Smith
97 Plane ticket detail, for short
98 Mafioso John
99 Narrates rather quickly
104 "This Is Life" journalist Lisa
106 Totally in favor of
107 Chuck Berry

112 "Casablanca"
woman
113 "Dies —"
(Latin hymn)
114 — Schwarz
115 Peculiar
118 Just making,
with "out"
120 Liza Minnelli
127 Roaring cat
crossbreed
128 Remove
loose cover-
ings from
129 "Tartuffe"
playwright
130 Thick
131 Ancient
Jewish
ascetics
132 Slung mud at

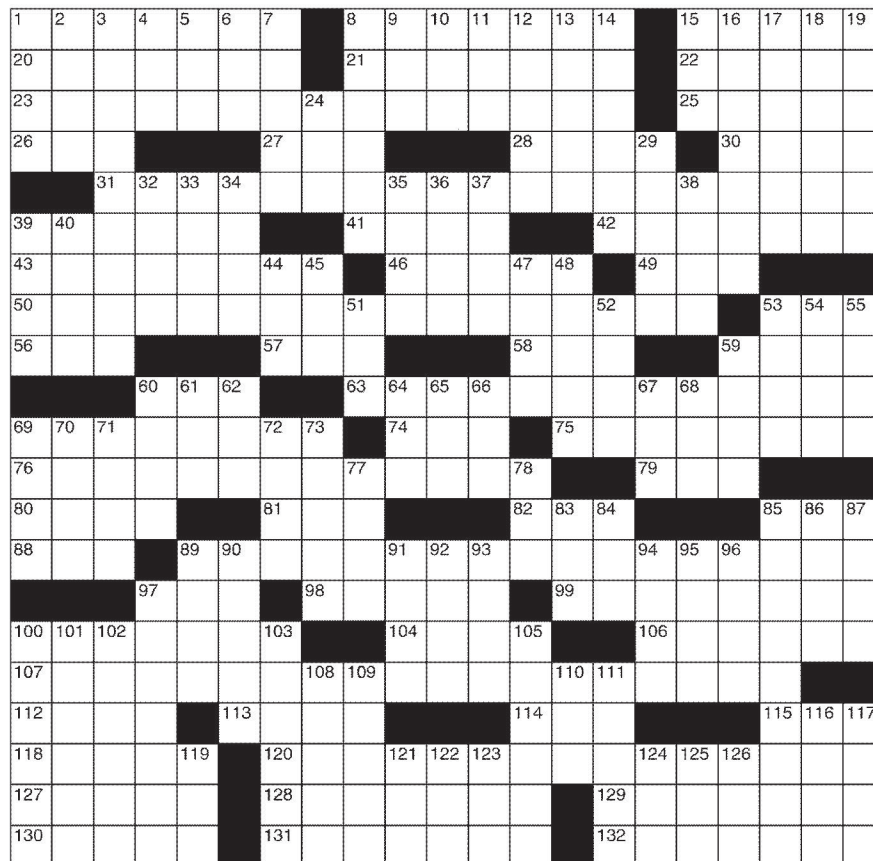
DOWN

- 1 Very long tale
- 2 Dating from
- 3 Furniture
pieces for
lying or sitting
- 4 Tach abbr.
- 5 Judge Lance
- 6 Petty peeve
- 7 Have —
on one's
shoulder
- 8 "Black
Panther"
actor Andy
- 9 "Xanadu" gp.
- 10 Sitcom ET
- 11 "679" rapper
Fetty —
- 12 Make laugh

13 Thin streets
14 "In this way"
15 Spanish for
"month"
16 Skilled crafter
17 Go further in
the book, say
18 Apple digital
storage
service
19 Verdi opera
20 Mess up
21 Hercules
player Kevin
32 Afflictions
33 Natural
talent
34 Greet loudly
35 Architect
Saarinen
36 Double —
(Oreo option)
37 Wife on "The
Addams
Family,"
casually
38 Big to-do
39 Lowdown
40 Mai —
(rum drinks)
44 Track circuit
45 Mag staffers
47 Ex-Yankee
Martinez
48 James Bond
genre, in brief
51 Ox of Tibet
52 "Doggone it!"
53 Punishment
for a tube
watcher
54 "Me neither"

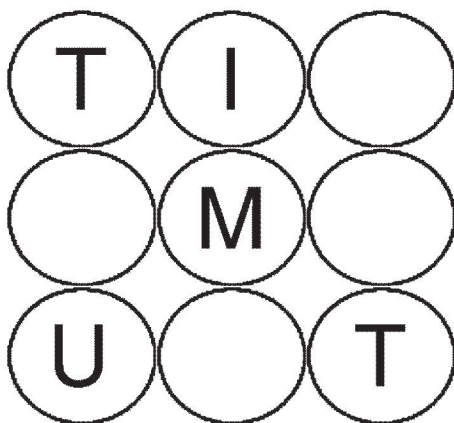
55 Rival of Ben & Jerry's
59 Nibble (on)
60 Suspend
61 Scanned market ID
62 Busy insect
64 With one flat, musically
65 Brief snooze
66 Biotech-created food
67 Atop, in verse
68 Japanese salad green
69 Links grp. for women
70 Club for a 69-Down member
71 Small fortune
72 Letters of invitation?
73 American assn.
77 Margarine, quaintly
78 Adobe Acrobat suffix
83 Fourth of a yr.
84 That girl
85 Large yellow bloom
86 Put the kibosh on
87 KGB's land
89 Paree "to be"
90 Native New Zealander

91 WWII battle town in France
92 Glue — (brand of adhesive in a tube)
93 Hog sound
94 Tesla auto, e.g.
95 String necktie
96 Kieft stretch
97 Fuel gases
100 Off-track
101 New film type in the 1920s
102 What “@” is
103 Rotational force
105 Big blunders
108 Man-goat deities
109 Marsh plants
110 Capture
111 Campus buildings
116 Have the guts
117 Made blond, maybe
119 Test for college srs.
121 Prior to, in sonnets
122 Indian flatbread
123 Not closed, in verse
124 — -pah band
125 Head brew
126 Day, to Diego



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WORD SPIRAL



Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.

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WORD LADDERS

Can you go from BRAND to TRAIL in 6 words?
Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

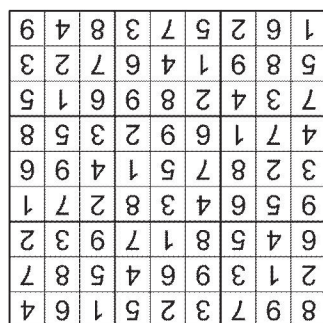
BRAND

TRAIL

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Super-Crossword



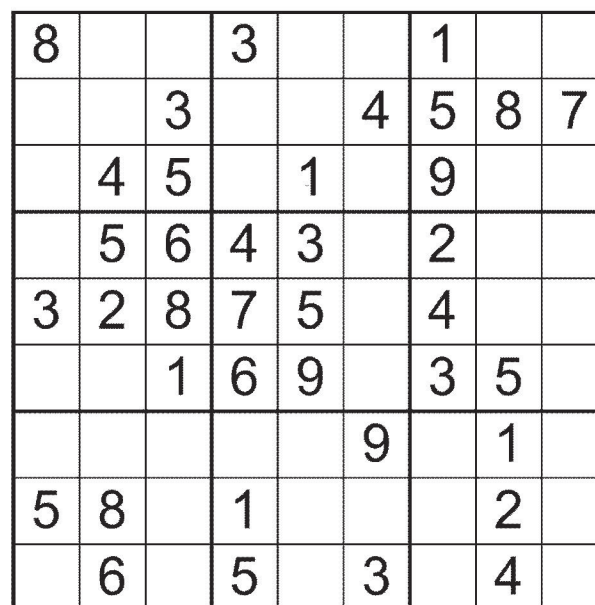
Answer

Weekly SUBOKU

Word Spiral
Answer
ULTIMATUM

— WORD LADDER —
Answer
BRAND, BRAID, BRAIN,
TRAIN, TRAIT, TRAIL

Weekly SUDOKU



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Manitou Springs Real Estate
ManitouSprings.com
(719) 685-0220

727 Manitou Ave.
Manitou Springs, CO 80829
info@manitousprings.com

Current Manitou Market Conditions

Manitou Springs now has 8 (↑) homes available and 3 (↑) more under contract.
5 (↓) homes sold in the past 30 days, so now we have about a 1.5 (↑) month supply.
Of these 16 homes, 7 (=) have had a price reduction.

Median days on the market for homes available now: 13 (↓).
Median days on the market for homes under contract: 7 (=).
Median days on the market for homes that sold in the past 30 days: 47 (↓).
Price range of homes available is \$299,000-\$999,999.

The median sold price as a percentage of the original list price: 93.33 (↑) percent.
Statistics are based on data from the Pikes Peak Multiple Listing Service, as of Feb. 25, 2025, and are deemed reliable, but not guarantee.

Our Listings



17 Cañon Ave. in Manitou Springs
3 Beds, 3 Baths, 2 Car Garage, 2,491 sq. ft.
Rooftop Patio w/ Hot Tub! \$999,999 Call Kelly or Skye



943 Oak Ridge Rd. in Crystal Park
3 Beds, 2 Bath, 2 Car Garage, 1,620 sq. ft.
2% BA Fee Offered! \$475,000 Call Emily Sawyer



100 W. Alabama Ave. in Fountain
2 Beds, 1 Bath, 984 sq. ft., 1 Car Garage, A/C
3% BA Fee Offered! \$240,000 Call Skye Lewis



163 Clarksley Rd. in Manitou Springs
5 Beds, 3 Baths, 2 Car Garage, 3,308 sq. ft.,
AMAZING Views! \$687,000 Call Skye Lewis



389 Hilltop Circle in Colorado Springs
4 Beds, 2 Baths, 2 Car Garage, 2,113 sq. ft.
2% BA Fee Offered! \$479,000 Call Skye Lewis



2 Navajo Ave. in Manitou Springs
2 Unit AirBnB, Steps from Downtown Manitou!
2% BA Fee Offered! \$799,000 Call Skye Lewis



107 Crystal Park Rd. in Manitou Springs
2 Beds, 1 Bath, 1 Car Garage, 1,410 sq. ft.
2% BA Fee Offered! \$469,990 Call Mike Farrell



1040 W. Bowman Ave., in Woodland Park
3 Beds, 2 Baths, 2 Car Garage, 1,740 sq. ft.
3% BA Fee Offered! \$560,000 Call Skye Lewis



Fell in love with Manitou?
So did we!

Kelly Morley
broker associate

Emily Sawyer
broker associate

Alicia Kruger
broker associate

Lisa Moore
broker associate

Mike Farrell
broker associate

Rachel Buller
managing broker

Skye Lewis
broker associate

Congratulations to the 2025 Carnivale Royal Court!

See you on Saturday for the Carnivale Parade and Mumbo Jumbo Gumbo Cook-off!