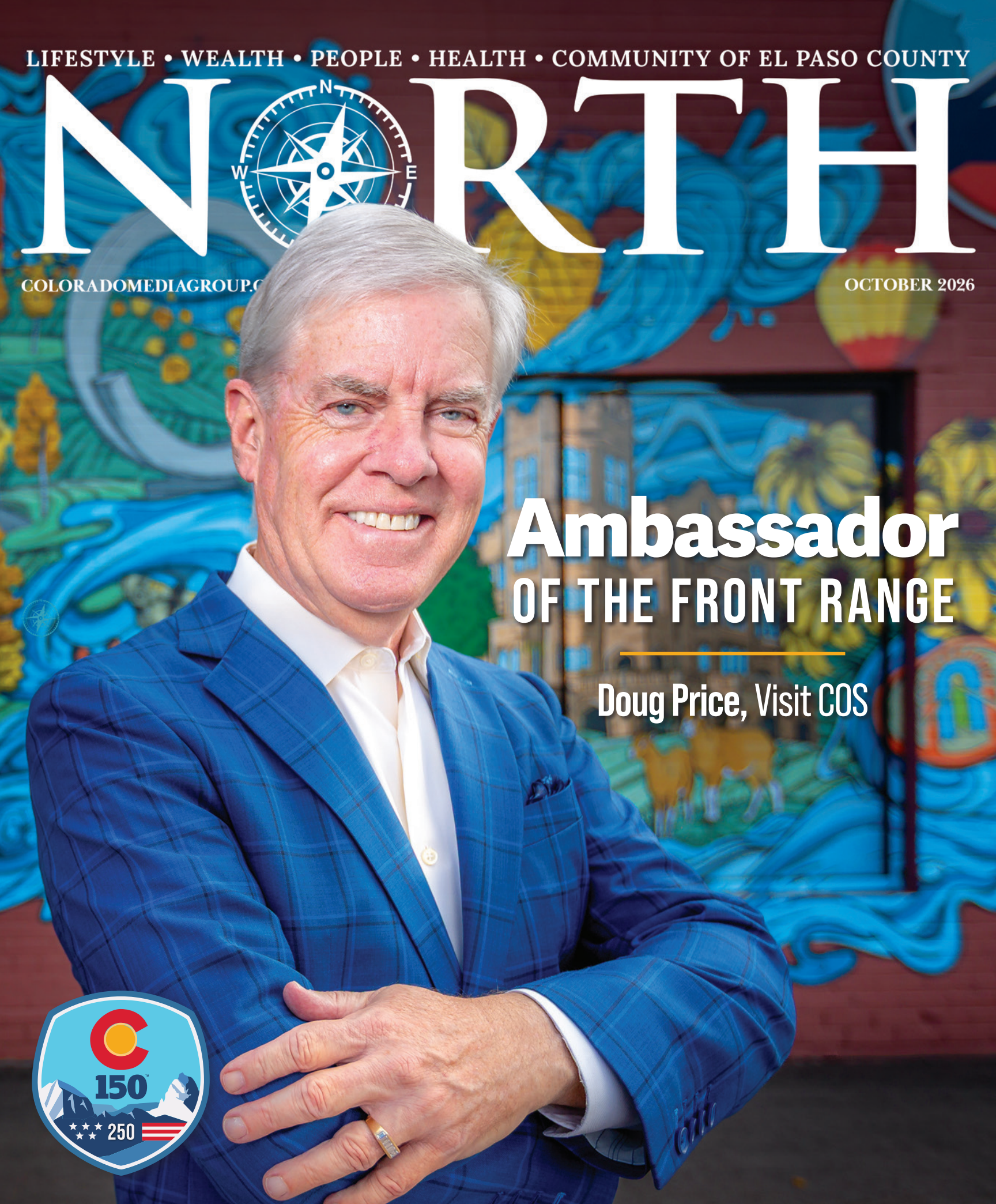
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# NORTH

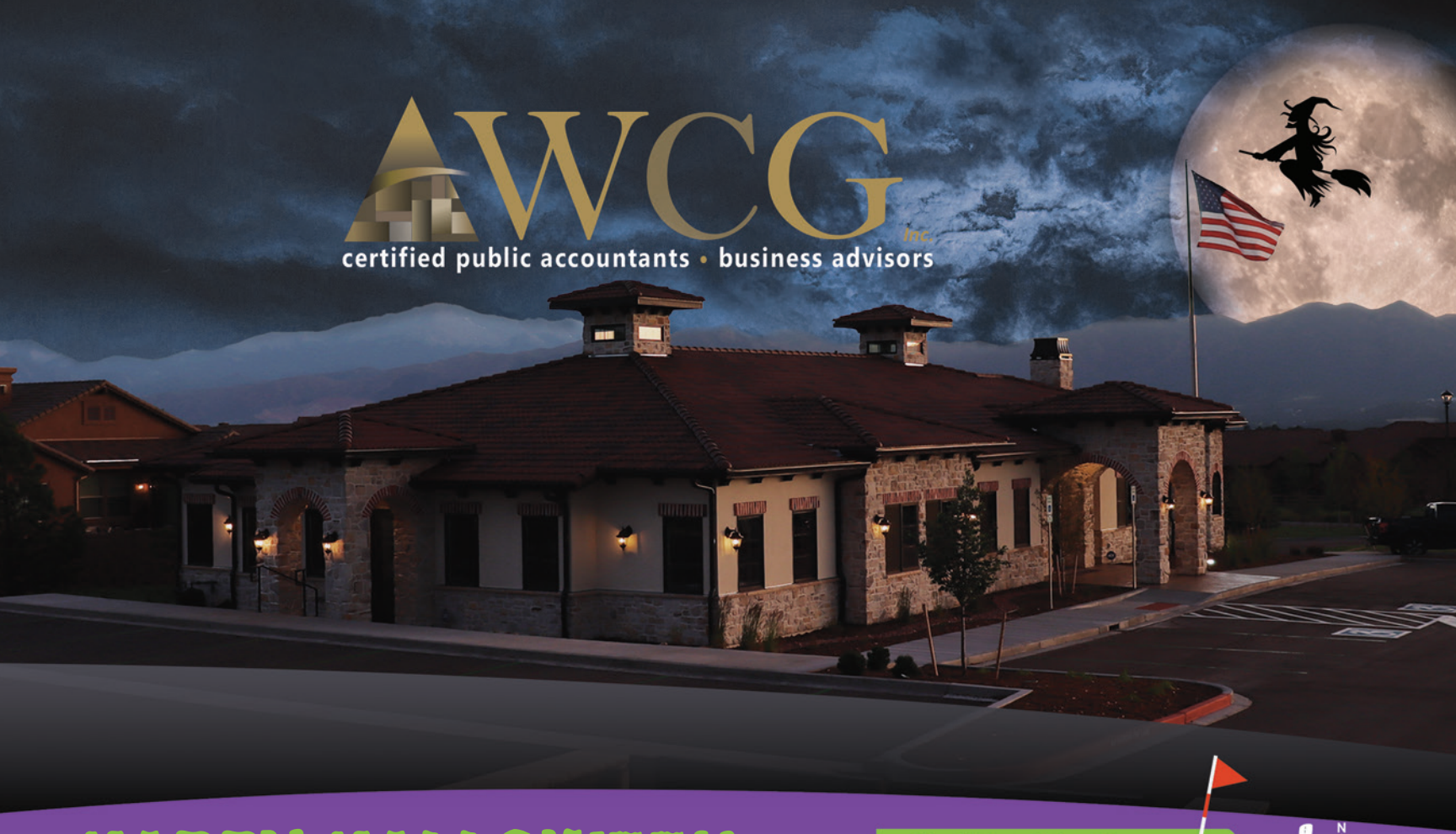
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# CONTENTS


**44** *Cover Story:*
Enjoying the City He Helped Transform
By PAM BALES

**26** 48 Hours in Cañon City
By TIFFANY LANCASTER

**58** *New Feature:*
House to Home: More is More
By ALYSSA SHIKLES


## Features


**6** 'Sweeney Todd' Served Up Delicious Challenge
By RHONDA VAN PELT

**12** Colorado Gets Ready for its Close-Up
By JEANNE DAVANT

**18** Celebrate the Visual Arts in October and Beyond
By RHONDA VAN PELT

**52** Let NORTH be Your Guide to Events in October & November

**68** Accessibility Tools to Help Navigate the Digital Realm
By LAURA FITZGERALD

**72** Thriving vs. Surviving: Facial Massage is Self-Care
By LAURA FITZGERALD

**74** Opportunities: Creative & Performing Arts Funding
By RHONDA VAN PELT


Leslie Jorgensen displays her paintings at her gallery in Salida. **P. 18**









# NORTH


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# Take a Peek Inside

October is Arts Month in the Pikes Peak region, with plenty of opportunities to celebrate the creatives among us. Check out local galleries and exhibits or hit the road for a culturally inspiring day trip. (We've got it all here!)

In Colorado Springs, the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region's Peak Radar website (peakradar.com) is the definitive resource for visual arts news in El Paso and Teller counties. There you'll find everything from museums to stage productions, exhibits to demonstrations, lectures to learning opportunities. Don't miss out!

To celebrate Arts Month, NORTH has rounded up a few of the many local options in this edition. Our writers have also compiled a few fun lists of Made in Colorado originals: TV and film. And, as always, we are introducing you to the people, places, adventures and experiences that make this area a dynamic hometown.

Let us know what you think about our newest feature, House to Home, where NORTH gives you a peek behind the curtain into homes we'd all love to call home. We were lucky enough to visit a gem in the Old North End that is brimming with culture, curiosities and creativity.

Keep in touch. We want to know what you enjoy and want to see more of, as well as what we have missed. Our goal is to be your north star in El Paso County, for all things lifestyle and living.

Until next time,
Dirk Hobbs



**Dirk R. Hobbs**
Founder, Executive Publisher
Colorado Media Group

TRUENORTH

## *BTW*

Did you spot the **hidden NORTH compass** on last issue's cover? Here's the answer key.

Think you can find it in this issue? Tag us on social media and share a photo using **#northstar**!



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Our NORTH compass was hidden on the sleeve cuff.



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By **Rhonda Van Pelt** • Photography courtesy of **Ent Center for the Arts and Colorado Springs Conservatory.**

# ‘Sweeney Todd’ Served Up Delicious Challenge for Local Theater Groups



Two “Demon Barbers” have been roaming Colorado Springs.

The Colorado Springs Conservatory’s July 31-Aug. 2 production of “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street” (school edition) drew crowds to the Ent Center for the Arts’ Shockley-Zalabak Theatre. Theatreworks’ version played at the Ent Center’s Dusty Loo Bon Vivant Theatre from Sept. 10 to Oct. 4.

Both casts and production teams revere the legendary dark musical by Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler, first mounted in 1979 and set in 19th century London.

On the surface, the two lead actors are very different.

Shabazz Green, Theatreworks Sweeney, is from New Jersey, holds a degree in theater education and has a long list of credits from American theaters, including many in Colorado. He’s about 20 years older than the Conservatory’s Sweeney, 17-year-old David Laybourne, who grew up in Colorado Springs, is applying to collegiate theater programs and has an impressive resume of local productions. ▶



Jennifer DeDominici as Mrs. Lovett and Shabazz Green as Sweeney Todd sunk their teeth into their Theatreworks roles.



They are united, though, in their love for acting and for the role they share.

In early September, Green was still in rehearsals but found time to talk about the demanding production.

"You don't have to be a theater person or a musical theater person to know the name 'Sweeney Todd.' There have been so many movies and re-creations of it, but it's definitely a tall mountain to climb," he says.

In his first time as the demon barber, Green embraced the opportunity to accomplish a bucket list goas with "this cacophony of darkness, of the macabre," under the direction of Michael Lluberes.

Green and many of the Theatreworks cast and behind-the-scenes personnel attended the Conservatory's opening night, and they have nothing but praise for what they witnessed.

"It's difficult for adults to perform 'Sweeney Todd.' So, to watch a stage full of high school students do it so wonderfully was just deeply inspiring," says Matt Giles, Theatreworks' general director.

Is Sweeney Todd evil? That's a question they've all discussed. Yes, killing people and (spoiler alert!) turning them into the blue plate special is pretty heinous.

> "Is he evil or is he a person who was PUSHED TO THE EDGE?
>
> — Shabazz Green





**David Laybourne as Sweeney and Chloe Lee as Mrs. Lovett, his partner in crime, led the Colorado Springs Conservatory production. Laybourne plans to study musical theater in college and credits his supportive family for his accomplishments.**

can understand the barber's deep grief about all he's lost and his need for revenge. Not that they're condoning how he channels those feelings.

"He has this duality to him between the sadness and heartbreak of the loss, and also that anger and vengeance," Laybourne says.

"Is he evil or is he a person who was pushed to the edge?" Green asks.

"What happens when the desire for vengeance overwhelms us and becomes our only waking thought?" Giles says.

Nathan Halvorson, the Conservatory's CEO, selected "Sweeney Todd" as its summer production and admits that people thought he was crazy. But for him, this was a good time to do it.

"We're living in contentious times, where we all get to choose how we respond to the horrors that confront us every day. And 'Sweeney Todd' is a cautionary tale about what happens when you respond in a negative way."

In early September, Halvorson, Laybourne and their pals were anticipating their foray to the Theatreworks production, where they expected to ooh and aah about the elaborate, three-story set, laugh and gasp along with the rest of the audience and speak with their counterparts afterward.

Giles and Max Shulman, Theatreworks artistic director, have pondered future connections between the two theater companies, perhaps when they need some younger performers, fostering an exchange of inspiration and experience.

"I'm just really excited to see how professional people would do the show, and the differences, especially with the actor who plays Sweeney and what his choices were. I think there's a lot to learn," Laybourne says.

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# DID YOU KNOW?

*Hollywood stars of the 50's and 60's partied here. Garden of the Gods Resort & Club was established in 1951 and attracted many people of influence: movie stars, titans of industry, politicians, artists, authors, and musicians, all drawn to this special place.*



By **Jeanne Davant**

# Colorado Gets Ready for its Close-Up with Festivals & Filmmakers






*Photo courtesy of Bloomberg.*

Your chances of seeing a movie star in Colorado will improve greatly in the coming year. That's not just because the Sundance Film Festival is coming to Boulder Jan. 21-31, 2027. It's also because the state is promoting Colorado locations to attract filmmakers, and Colorado-based filmmakers are drawing international attention.

The arrival of Sundance alone will be a huge boost to Colorado's filmmaking scene, says Royal Gorge Film Commissioner Ben Black.

"Sundance is going to create opportunities for the entire state, not just Boulder," Black says, bringing in stars, producers, distributors, filmmakers and their entourages. Some of them likely will stay for up to a month after the festival to scout locations and dig up stories to tell.

Fremont County has both the scenery and the history to interest filmmakers, he says. In the 1950s, MGM Studios built an Old West town eight miles west of Cañon City, a shooting location for some 20 film and television projects, including "Cat Ballou" (1965), "True Grit" (1969) and "The Duchess and the Dirtwater Fox" (1976).

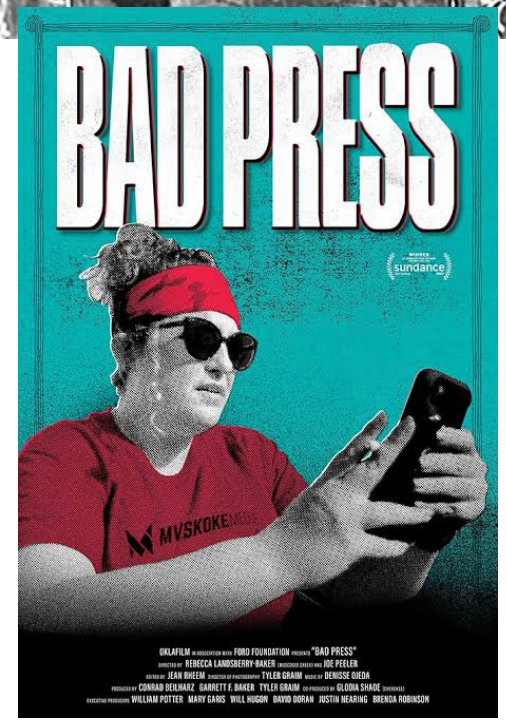
The Royal Gorge, Colorado Springs and Pueblo film commissions are among dozens of regional organizations that work with the Colorado Office of Film, Television and Media to help producers and directors scout scenic locations, secure permits and find local resources.

The office also supports local filmmakers who are garnering national and international acclaim.

Max Walker-Silverman, a native of Telluride, captured filmgoers' imaginations with his debut feature-length film, "A Love Song," which stars Dale Dickey and Wes Studi as two childhood friends who reunite at a lakeside campsite. His second feature, "Rebuilding," tells the story of a rancher, portrayed by Josh O'Connor, coping with the aftermath of a wildfire that destroyed his home. The films premiered at Sundance in 2022 and 2025, respectively.

TOP:
**"Stage Coach,"** directed by John Ford in 1939, starring John Wayne (center), was filmed in Fremont County.

RIGHT:
**"Bad Press"** was filmed and produced by Tyler Graim, a Denver-based cinematographer. The documentary won the Special Jury Award at Sundance in 2023.

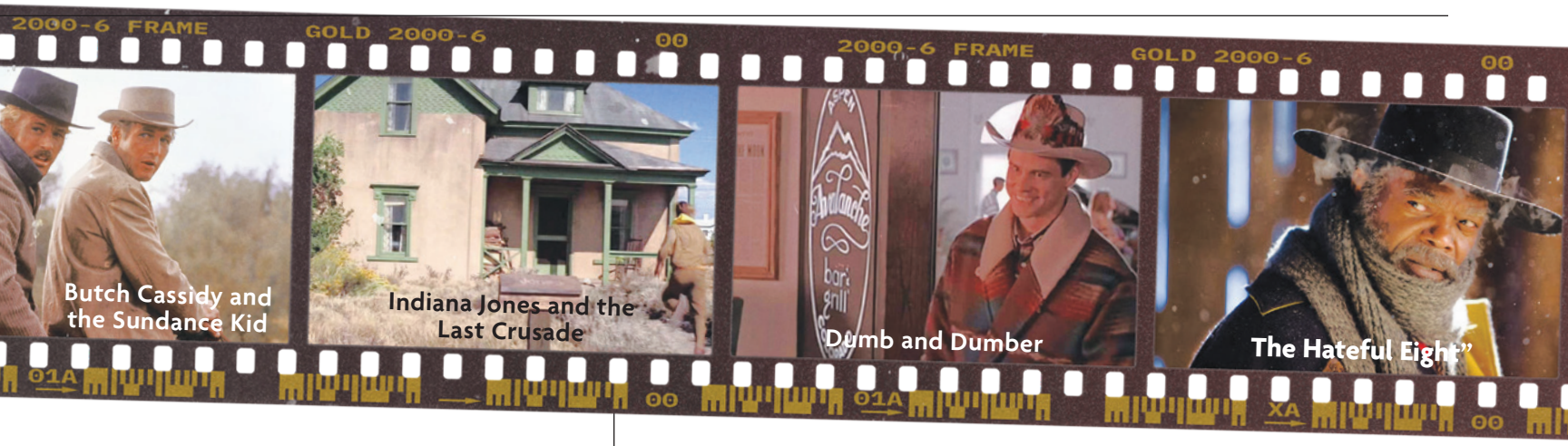



"Bad Press," a film shot and produced by Denver-based cinematographer Tyler Graim, won a Special Jury Award at Sundance in 2023. The film documents a battle for transparency and a free press within the Muscogee Nation.

Sundance isn't the only film festival in Colorado.

The Colorado Short Circuit Film Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, showcasing 80 short films over three days in September at the Ivywild School. The Independent Film Society of Colorado Springs, a nonprofit organization with a mission to promote independent filmmaking and support filmmakers, presented the festival.

The society presented its first festival, the Indie Spirit Film Festival, in 2008. It grew to become an important stop on the indie film




circuit with three days of screenings, filmmaker interviews and panels, parties and receptions.

Since 2023, the society has shifted its focus to events like the Short Circuit Film Festival. This fall, it presents the 11th annual Three Nights of Horror, Oct. 16-18 in the Ivywild School gym. On Dec. 4-5 at Cottonwood Center for the Arts, the society will host the 2026 Sundance Film Festival Short Film Tour, a showcase of standout short films from this year's Sundance Festival. For more information, visit ifsoc.org.

Also coming up this fall is the mother of local film festivals, the 39th annual Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival, Oct. 16-18 at Colorado College. Originated by Donna Guthrie and Jere Martin, who envisioned it as they were returning from the Telluride Film Festival in 1987, it's the longest-running women's film festival in North America. A unique feature is the Virtual Encore Hub, a virtual screening room that will show selected films Oct. 22-25.

## Lights, Camera COLORADO!

Find more information at **rmwfilm.org**

## Hollywood Comes to Colorado: Major Motion Pictures

**"Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"** (1969), with Paul Newman and Robert Redford, shot in Durango, Silverton and Telluride

**"Sleeper"** (1973), directed by Woody Allen, starring Diane Keaton, shot in Denver, Boulder, Genesee, Golden and Lakewood

**"National Lampoon's Vacation"** (1983), starring Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo, filmed in South Fork, Alamosa, Boone and Avondale

**"Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade"** (1989), with Harrison Ford and Sean Connery, shot in Antonito, Alamosa, Pagosa Springs and Cortez

**"The Incident"** (1990), with Walter Matthau, featured Colorado Springs locations including the 1903 El Paso County Courthouse (now the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum), Garden of the Gods and Bancroft Park in Old Colorado City

**"Dumb and Dumber"** (1994), starring Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels, filmed in Estes Park, Breckenridge, Copper Mountain and Fort Morgan

**"The Prestige"** (2006), with Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale, Scarlett Johansson and David Bowie, filmed at Redstone Castle, Durango and Telluride

**"Cop Car"** (2015), starring Kevin Bacon, filmed in and around Colorado Springs, including a scene shot at the now closed Coal Mine Dragon Chinese restaurant in Fountain

**"The Hateful Eight"** (2015), a Quentin Tarantino film starring Samuel L. Jackson, Kurt Russell, Walton Goggins and Bruce Dern, filmed in and around Telluride

**"Our Souls at Night"** (2017), with Robert Redford and Jane Fonda, filmed in Old Colorado City

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downtowncs.com/first-friday
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**Old Colorado City**
shopoldcoloradocity.com/first-friday-occ
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**Manitou Springs**
manitousprings.org
The city's galleries welcome people who love art, music and socializing 5-8 p.m. first Fridays year-round.

**Pueblo**
puebloarts.org/programs/pueblos-first-friday-art-walk
Catch the Van Gogh Downtown, a free shuttle that roams Pueblo's Creative Corridor starting at 5 p.m. first Fridays throughout the year.

**South Denver**
denversartdistrict.org
Roam Denver's Art District on Santa Fe Drive 5:30-9:30 p.m. first Fridays all year round.

southpearlstreet.com/final-friday
South Pearl Street hosts Final Friday Art Walks 5 p.m. to sunset June through October.

**Trinidad**
trinidadcreativedistrict.org
Explore the Corazón de Trinidad Creative District during first Fridays, 5-8 p.m. June through October.

**Westcliffe**
visitwetmountainvalley.com
Visit unique galleries and shops 11 a.m.-4 p.m. first Saturdays from June through October.



*Photos courtesy of South Pearl Street.*

By **Rhonda Van Pelt**



# Celebrate the Visual Arts in October & Beyond

October is Arts Month in the Pikes Peak region, so you'll have plenty of opportunities to celebrate our visually creative friends and neighbors. Check out local galleries' and museums' exhibits or roam farther afield with a fun day trip.

## Colorado Springs

The **Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region**'s Peak Radar website (peakradar.com) is the definitive resource for visual arts news in El Paso and Teller counties.

Also, COPPR collaborated with Cottonwood Center for the Arts to present "Stronger Together," a juried exhibition featuring 34 locally created artworks honoring arts organizations across the Pikes Peak region. The exhibit was on view at Cottonwood in September.

Presented in celebration of COPPR's 20th anniversary, the exhibition will then move to the Cultural Office, 287 Fountain Blvd., where it will be on display through December. The selected artworks are being purchased through underwriting from Herman Tiemens, providing direct financial support to the 21 participating artists. Afterward, each work will be given to the organization it represents.

**Information: culturaloffice.org**





## Downtown

- **Auric Gallery - auricgallery.com**
  Exhibits by Allison Daniell and Forrest Morgan in October, Susan Quinn Horsfall, Lupita Carrasco, Melissa Porter and Sara DeRose in November, and Robert Lococo and the Annual Holiday Show in December.
- **Bridge Gallery - thebridgeartgallery.com**
  "Impressions of the Spanish Rockies" group show in October, Dave Armstrong solo exhibit in November and a two-weekend cash-and-carry exhibit in December.
- **Cottonwood Center for the Arts - cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com**
  Darla Slee and Dale Johnson in October, Christine Lawson/Ruth Chandler and Smol in November and "Fantastic Mr. Anderson" in December.
- **Anita Marie Fine Art - anitamariefineart.com**
- **Bosky Studio - boskystudio.com**
- **Gallery 113 - gallery113cos.com**
- **The LookUP Gallery - thelookupgallery.com**
- **Orly's Fine Art Gallery - 730 S. Tejon St., 719-630-3371**
- **Rogue Gallery - roguegalleryco.com**
- **True North Art Gallery - truenorthartgallery.com**

## Old Colorado City

- **Hunter-Wolff Gallery - hunterwolffgallery.com**
  Sculptor/artist Adam Long in October. Meet Tony Heslop Oct. 16-18 as he celebrates 50 years in ceramics. Michelle Mitchell's wildlife pastels in November and a holiday gala in December.
- **Surface Gallery - surfacegallerycos.com**
  Ben Bires and Fran Bires, and Kristopher Orr in October, Valerie Lloyd and Sarah Tucker in November, and the Per Annum holiday show in December.
- **45 Degree Gallery - 45degreegallery.com**
- **Blue Pony - 2501 W. Colorado Ave., 719-359-0699**
- **Colorado Creative Co-op - coloradocreativeco-op.com**
- **Galleries Extraordinaire - galleriesext.com**
- **Laura Reilly Fine Art - laurareilly.com**
- **Lucky Pig - luckypiggallery.com**
- **Meraki Springs - merakisprings.com**
  Erika Suckow's "Love Letters to Colorado" in October, Tina Finn's "Small Wonders" in November and Kathy Crowther's "Nature's Bounties and All of its Wonders" in December.
- **Michael Garman Museum & Gallery - michaelgarman.com**
- **Second Floor Studios - 2418 W. Colorado Ave., 719-648-6497**
- **Squash Blossom - squashblossom.com**
- **Velez Galleries - velezgalleries.com**

## Elsewhere in Colorado Springs

- **Academy Art & Frame Co. - academyframesco.com**
- **Angie Tingle Studio & Gallery - angietingle.com**
- **Art Gallery of the Rockies - artgalleryoftherockies.com**
- **Broadmoor Galleries - broadmoorgalleries.com**
  "Translating Nature" by Dave Santillanes opens Oct. 29. "Impressions" by Robert and Robbie Moore opens Nov. 19.
- **Disruptor Gallery - shutterandstrum.org**
- **Galleries of Contemporary Art - entcenterforthearts.org/goca**
  "Simulacra (or, The Persistence of Nature in an Age of Mediation)" by Dornith Doherty, Etsuko Ichikawa and Bill Viola, and "Moon Window" by Ichikawa, both through Oct. 10. The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs "Visual Art Faculty Exhibition" Nov. 12 through Jan. 16, 2027.
- **Range Gallery - longshotphotography.com**

## Manitou Springs

- **Cherokee's of Manitou - 351 Manitou Ave., 719-685-3508**
- **Commonwheel Artists Co-op (commonwheel.com)**
  "KOSAI: The Hue of Light" by Nitra Olsen, Maggie Quinn, Sabine Wachs, Tylan Troyer, Teri Roward, Julia Wright, and Alan and Nancy Lindenmier Oct. 2-Nov. 2. Annual Holiday Market Nov. 6-Dec. 27.
- **Darpino Studio Gallery - 934 Manitou Ave., Suite 107, 719-339-9788**
- **Green Horse Gallery - 729 Manitou Ave., 719-685-0636**
  Tina Riesterer's experimental paintings through the end of November.
- **Manitou Art Center - manitouartcenter.org**
  Hagnauer Gallery: Kumi Thompson in October, "Tease" in November and the MAC Studio Artist Show in December. Gallery 515: "Emerging," by Pikes Peak State College advanced art students and alumni, in October, and Susan Marion solo exhibit in November and December.
- **Manitou Springs Heritage Museum - manitouspringsheritagecenter.org**
  Van Briggle pottery through December.

## Pueblo

- **Blo-Back Gallery - blobackgallery.com**
  Pam Baca, Nicole Lachele and Tammi Otis in October, Ashley Martin and Woody Martin in November and a pottery show and holiday group show in December.
- **John Deaux Art Gallery - johndeauxartgallery.com**
  Work by Radeaux, John Wilbar and guest artists.



- **Pueblo Art Guild Gallery - puebloartguild.org**
  A Southwest-influenced exhibit in October and an autumn exhibit in November. ▶

- **The Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center - sdc-arts.org**
  - "Nature's Edge" by Bradley Bowman and Lance Rivera through Nov. 14.
  - "La Vida Campesina: Portraits of Rural Mexico" by Peter J. Marchand through Jan. 16.
  - "Textures and Tantalizing Turns" by Eric McCue through Nov. 21.
  - "Reflections of Radeaux" depictions of nature, Nov. 17 to March 2027.
  - "Own Your Own" long-running art sale from dozens of local artists, Dec. 4 to Jan. 2.
  - "Working the Land" Southwestern art from the permanent collection, through Dec. 12.
- **Steel City Art Works Gallery - steelcityartworks.org**

## South Denver

- **Art District on Santa Fe - denversartdistrict.org**
- **910Arts - 910arts.com**
- **Access Gallery - accessgallery.org**
  "Creepy Crawlies" group exhibition Oct. 2-24.
- **Artists on Santa Fe - artistsonsantafe.com**
- **Bitfactory Gallery - bitfactory.net**
  "The Joy of Life and Death" by Tadashi Hayakawa and Vicki Christensen Oct. 16-Nov. 14.
- The Center for Visual Art - **msudenver.edu/cva**
- Chicano Humanities and Arts Council Gallery - **chacgallery.org**
  "Return of the Corn Mothers" through Oct. 16.
- Colorado Women's Art Museum - **cwamus.org**
- D'Art Gallery - **dartgallery.org**
  Carrie MaKenna, James-Allen Holmes, Deborah Carlson and Tom Riedel, through Oct. 18, SATELLITE Members Exhibition, Oct. 8-Nov. 1 and Shelley Hull and Scott Wilson, Oct. 22-Nov. 15.
- **Decadent Art Gallery - decadentartgallery.com**
- **Denver Art Society - denverartsociety.org**
- **Gallery 1505 - gallery1505.com**
- **The Lab on Santa Fe - thelabonsantafe.com**
- **Michael Warren Contemporary - michaelwarrencontemporary.com**
- **Museo de las Americas - museo.org**
  "Identidad, Memoria y Palabra" by Karla de Lara through Jan. 17. Ongoing: "La Misión: Hecho de Tierra y Espiritu/ The Mission: Made of Earth and Spirit" and "Tiempo y Lugar/Time and Place."
- **Niza Knoll Gallery - nizaknollgallery.com**
  "Mix One" through Oct. 18 and "Mix Two" Oct. 23-Dec. 6.
- **PlatteForum - platteforum.org**
- **Polished Earth Gallery - polishedearth.com**
- **Pop Gallery Denver - popgallerydenver.com**
- **Portal Gallery - recreativedenver.org/portal**
  Alison Rose Bartlett's "Scream Queens" through Nov. 1 and Carrie Shiffrin's "Patterns and Distortions" Nov. 6-Dec. 27.
- **Rolo Gallery - rologallery.art**
- **SPACE Gallery - spacegallery.org**
- **SYNC Gallery - syncgallery.com**
  "Following a Line" by Sandy Marvin and Phyllis Rider Oct. 16-Nov. 15.
- **Threyda - threyda.com**

## Woodland Park

- **Reserve Our Gallery - reserveourgallery.square.site**

## Green Mountain Falls

- **Stones, Bones & Wood - stonesbonesandwood.com**

## Victor

- **Twin Flame Gallery - twinflamegallery.com**

## Cañon City

- **Start with the Royal Gorge Art Alliance - royalgorgeartalliance.com**
- **The Artists' Gallery - 416 Main St., 719-345-4070**
- **Earth in Art Gallery - earthinartco.com**
- **Fremont Center for the Arts - fremontarts.org**
- **Medora - medoracolorado.com**

## Florence

- **Blue Spruce Art & Antiques - bluespruceart.com**

## Trinidad

- **Start with CREATE Trinidad, a Colorado Creative District - trinidadcreativedistrict.org**
- **A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art - armitchellmuseum.com**
  Katie Maher and "Resonance 2026" Oct. 2-31, Erika Victor paintings Nov. 6-28, and a group show Dec. 4-26.
- **221B Gallery - pug-okra-fbcs.squarespace.com**
- **Corazon Gallery - corazongallery.org**
- **CrazyHeart Arts - 407 N. Commercial St., 719-859-0292**

## Salida

- **Start with the Salida Creative District website - salidacreates.com**
- **Arts Collective Salida - 135 F St., 719-677-8010**
- **Brodeur Studio Gallery - brodeurart.com**
- **Carl Ortman Fine Art - carlortman.com**

- Eye Candy Art & Treasure - **eyecandysalida.com**
- Four Winds Gallery - **118 F St., 719-539-6075**
- The Green Cat Gallery - **greencat-salida.com**
- Joshua Been - **joshuabeen.com**
- Katie Maher Fine Art - **katiemaherfineart.com**
- Leslie Jorgensen Fine Art - **lesliejorgensen.com**
- Mary Leslie Fine Art - **marylesliestudio.com**
- The Maverick Potter - **maverickpotter.com**
- Michael Clark Fine Art - **michaelclarkfineart.com**
- North: A Fine Art Destination - **anartdestination.com**
- Patti Vincent Studio & Gallery - **pattivincent.com**
- Sage Mountain Gallery - **114 E. First St., 970-623-4022**
- Salida Dreamer Studio & Gallery - **patriciaaguilarfineart.com**

## Westcliffe

- Andy Mast Fine Art - **andymastfineart.com**
- Arterburn Art - **michaelarterburnart.com**
- Brookwood Gallery - **211 Main St., 719-371-4475**
- Greenstone Artworks - **greenstoneart.com**
- K2 Gallery Arts - **103 N. Main St., 719-250-8886**
- Molly P Custom Art - **401 Main St., 479-332-1631**
- Sangres Art Guild/3rd Street Gallery - **sangresartguild.org**
  "Fresh Paint Art Show," plein air artists, Oct. 1-31; "The Natural World," Nov. 5-28; and "Winter Wonderful," Dec. 3-23.
- Wild Iris Gallery - **210 Main St., 719-783-4323**

## Crestone

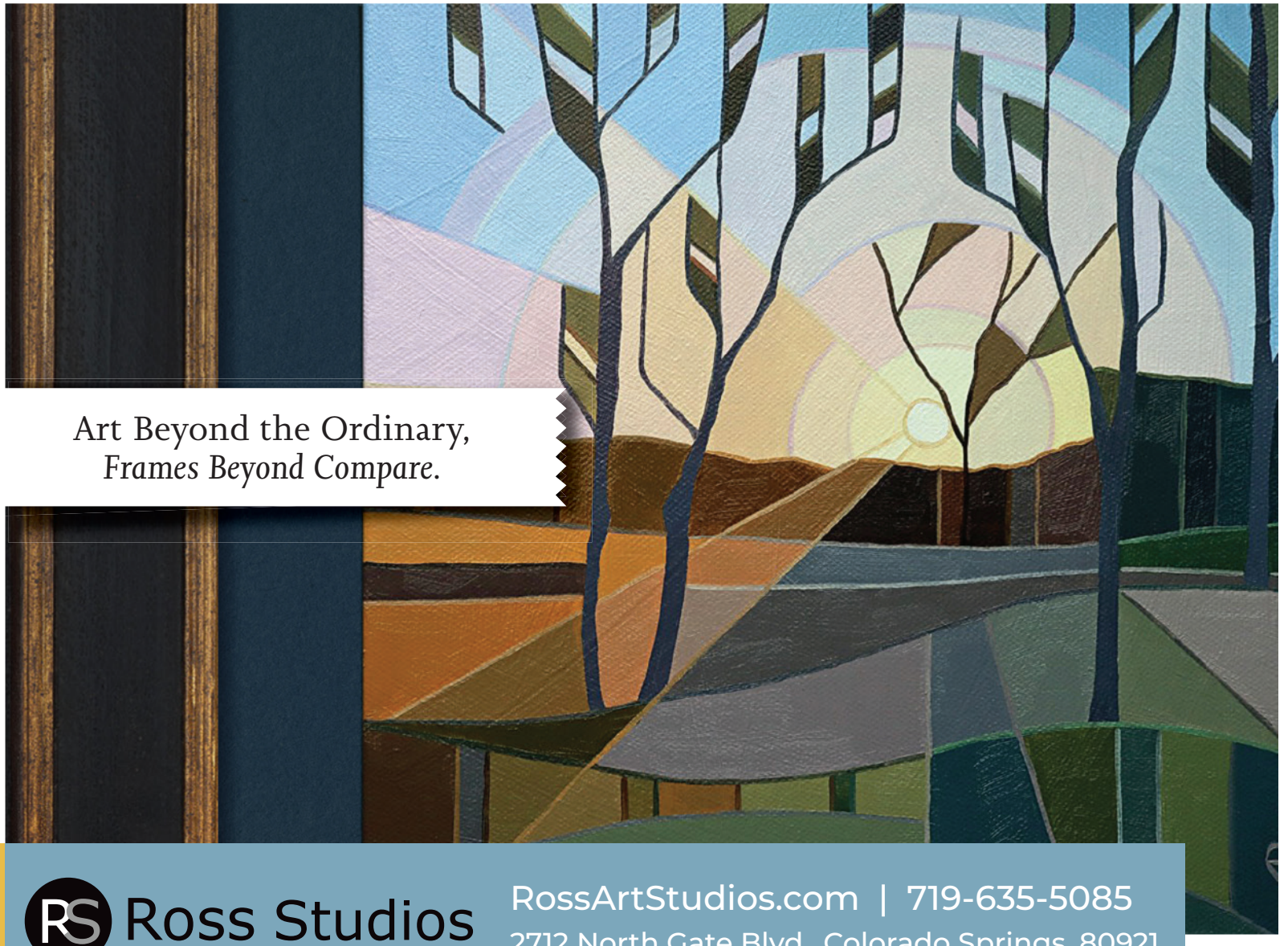
- Crestone Artisans Gallery - **crestoneartisansgallery.com**



## La Veta

- Artisans on Main - **artisansonmain.art**
- Estelle Center for Creative Arts - **estellecreativearts.com**
- Shalawalla Gallery - **shalawalla.com**
- Spanish Peaks Arts Council - **spanishpeaksarts.org**
  "Fall into Color" through Oct. 10, "Artists' Choice" Oct. 15-Nov. 14 and "Gift of Art" Nov. 19-Jan. 2.
- Whitmore Studio and Gallery - **616 Poplar St., 805-448-0929**



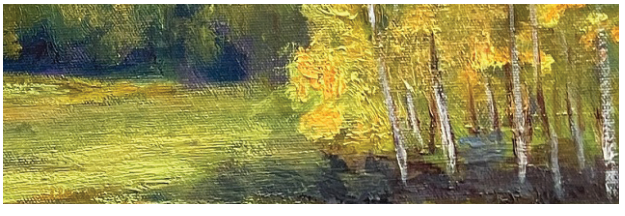



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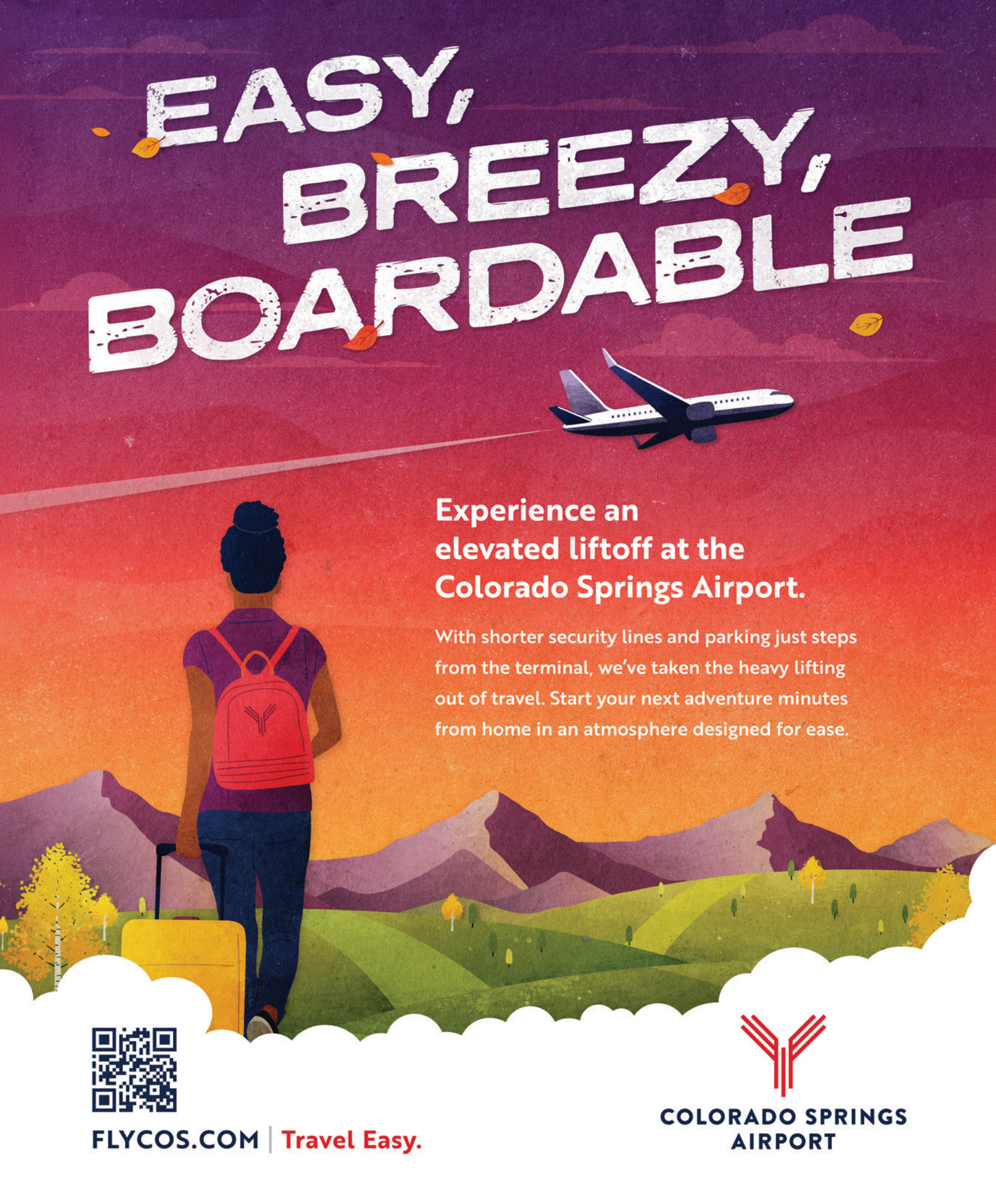
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COLORADO SPRINGS AIRPORT

By **Laura Fitzgerald**

# Grab Popcorn for These TV Shows Filmed in Colorado



From reality dating shows to lovable 1970s sitcoms, Colorado has served as a backdrop for several television shows throughout the decades.



## "Coach Prime"

**Prime Video, Apple TV**

This TV documentary follows Deion Sanders, legendary retired football player and University of Colorado Boulder head football coach, on his quest to uplift the underdog Colorado Buffaloes football team.



## "The Ranch"

**Netflix**

The opening credits of this star-studded series follow a semi-pro football player who returns to his family's Colorado ranch after a decade abroad. Opening credits feature shots from the picturesque small town of Ouray on Colorado's Western Slope and of the former 141 Saloon in Naturita as matriarch Maggie's fictional bar.



## "Dog the Bounty Hunter"

**A&E**

This reality show follows Duane "Dog" Chapman, his wife, Beth, and various other family members as they track down fugitives across Hawai'i's and Colorado's rugged and beautiful terrain. Along the way, the unconventional family must navigate their tumultuous personal and professional lives.



## "The Real World: Denver"

**Paramount Plus**

In this quintessential MTV reality series, seven 20-somethings must learn to live together in a two-story building in Denver's Lower Downtown. Drama erupts as the group navigates friendship, frenemies, romance and the everyday challenges of real life in the Mile High City.



## "Married at First Sight: Denver"

**Lifetime, Prime Video, Peacock**

When perfect strangers legally marry each other, drama and chaos ensue. This Lifetime reality TV series stopped in Denver for its 18th season, with shots of Red Rocks Amphitheater, City Park, Cheesman Memorial and bars and restaurants around Denver.





STAFF FAVORITE



## "Mork & Mindy"

**Pluto TV**

Starring a lovable alien thrust into life on Earth, this 1970s sitcom used Boulder as the backdrop for an intergalactic love story between Mindy, a University of Colorado student, and Robin Williams' Mork, an alien who doesn't understand humor and is just trying to fit in. Some establishing shots feature Boulder's beautiful mountain landscapes, downtown Boulder's Pearl Street Mall and campus and the stately Victorian home at 1619 Pine St.



## "Diagnosis: Murder"

**Pluto TV**

Hollywood legend Dick Van Dyke stars as Dr. Mark Sloan, a medical doctor who solves crimes with the help of his son Steve, a homicide detective played by Van Dyke's real-life son, Barry. The first few episodes of the first season of this 1990s drama were shot in Denver, showing City Park, various warehouse locations in Lower Downtown and St. Luke's Hospital.



## "Love is Blind: Denver"

**Netflix**

In this hit reality dating show, Denver singles looking for love find it in unlikely places. Contestants date through a wall and propose marriage without ever seeing each other's faces. After speed dating and a tropical honeymoon, couples must return to live in downtown Denver to test their love in the real world. Spot couples at Denver restaurants like Le Bilboquet, Linger, My Neighbor Felix and Stampede.



## "Stargate SG1"

**Apple TV, Netflix, Prime Video**

Fact meets fiction in this sci-fi thriller. In the show, Stargate Command in Cheyenne Mountain is the main base of operations for the SG-1 team as they fight extraterrestrial threats. A few establishing shots show the real Cheyenne Mountain Military Complex, which originally was excavated as a military control center during the Cold War and is now used as an alternate command center and training site for various military agencies.

By **Tiffany Lancaster**



# 48 Hours in Cañon City

Cañon City and nearby Royal Gorge have a history shaped by railroads, mining, tourism and the dramatic landscape surrounding the Arkansas River. Cañon City was founded in 1860, and the community quickly became a center for transportation, mining and exploration. Just south of town, the Royal Gorge presented a seemingly impossible challenge. Its narrow granite walls left little room for a railroad, but the Denver & Rio Grande Railway ultimately pushed tracks through the canyon in the late 1870s. The route became known as the "Scenic Line of the World," carrying passengers through the gorge and making the landscape an attraction in its own right.

Although the original passenger railroad eventually disappeared, the canyon's role as a destination never faded. The Royal Gorge Route Railroad was revived in 1998, and today visitors can again travel through the canyon by train. Cañon City and the Royal Gorge now offer a distinctly different kind of Colorado getaway, where historic downtown streets, dinosaur discoveries, scenic rail travel, hiking, rafting and the iconic Royal Gorge Bridge come together within a compact destination. For a weekend, the area offers an opportunity to experience Colorado's dynamic landscape while also discovering the history and local character that helped put this part of the state on the map.

# Itinerary: *Friday*

**1:30 pm Shopping in the Historic Cañon City Downtown**
This walkable historic downtown is filled with locally owned boutiques, antique shops, art galleries and specialty stores, offering handmade goods, Western-inspired gifts, vintage décor and Colorado souvenirs. Highlights include The Artists' Gallery, featuring work from more than 50 local artists, The Lucky Stop and Vintage Revival.

**6:00 pm Dinner at Fremont Provisions**
A lively downtown restaurant and sports bar that combines scratch-made seasonal dishes with multiple screens, local craft beer and handcrafted cocktails, making it a casual spot to unwind after a day exploring the area. For adventurous diners, the restaurant's 50/50 Challenge stacks burgers, bacon, chicken, prime rib, pulled pork, potatoes, onion rings, queso and cheese into one enormous burger.

**8:30 pm Stargazing & Drinks at Whitewater Rooftop Social**
Perched above downtown Cañon City, Whitewater Rooftop Social offers 2,000 square feet of open-air dining with craft cocktails, elevated eats and panoramic mountain views, making it an ideal spot to watch a sunset. They often host events such as live music, trivia and special seasonal events throughout the year.




# *Saturday*

**8:00 am Breakfast at The Bean Pedaler**
In the heart of downtown, The Bean Pedaler combines craft coffee, homemade baked goods, with a curated craft beer selection, making it a convenient stop before or after exploring Cañon City's bike trails. Its breakfast power bowl includes grains, fire-roasted vegetables, eggs, potatoes, green chiles, mozzarella and black bean-corn salsa.

**11:00 am Visit the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park**
Towering above the Arkansas River, the Royal Gorge Bridge offers spectacular canyon views alongside ziplining, the Royal Rush Sky coaster, playgrounds, exhibits and other family-friendly activities. Built in 1929, the bridge remains one of the defining landmarks of the Royal Gorge and provides a chance to experience the views from 1,200 feet above the river.

**1:00 pm Lunch at Whitewater Bar & Grill**
Founded by local Arkansas River rafting guides, Whitewater has grown from a roadside stop for hungry rafters into a destination known for smoked barbecue, generous portions, cold drinks and a lively patio. The Royal Gorge Burger, featuring Colorado beef, thick-cut bacon, an egg and American cheese, is one of the heartier options.




Cañon City's historic downtown offers a mix of locally owned shops, galleries, antiques and Colorado-inspired finds.

**3:00 pm Ride the Royal Gorge Route Railroad**
This memorable journey through the heart of the canyon offers dramatic Rocky Mountain scenery from comfortable railcars. There's onboard dining, with your choice of coach seating or the upscale Vista Dome, as well as first-class lunch and dinner trips. Since its revival in 1998, the family-owned Colorado company has emphasized combining the historic railroad experience with attentive service and dining.

**6:30 pm Dinner at Boudreauxs BBQ**
This family- and dog-friendly barbecue spot serves traditionally smoked meats cooked over pecan wood alongside more than a dozen Colorado craft beers and a full bar. The spacious outdoor patio offers games for customers to enjoy. Try their house-made beef, jalapeño and cheese sausage links.

**9:30 pm Enjoy a Late-Night Drink at Fremont Public House or The War Room**
Located inside the historic Hotel St. Cloud, Fremont Public House features handcrafted cocktails, shots from a bullet caliber shot glass and, in true Colorado fashion, a selection of craft beers in the hotel's restored original lobby bar. The hidden War Room offers a more intimate, speakeasy-inspired setting for upscale cocktails and conversation.

## *Sunday*

**11:30 am Brunch at Cañon City Mugs**
Known as a longtime local gathering spot, Cañon City Mugs serves fresh-made breakfast and brunch alongside espresso drinks, smoothies, lunch, dinner and a full bar. Locally owned and operated, it specializes in made-to-order dishes. Weekend brunch is available from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Try the Granny Cakes, a secret house recipe pancake.

**1:00 pm Hike the Tunnel Drive Trail**
Just a mile from downtown, the flat, two-mile Tunnel Drive Trail follows the Arkansas River through three granite-blasted tunnels, offering views of the Royal Gorge landscape along a route suitable for walking, running and biking. Benches make it an easy option for families and visitors of varying abilities. The rock surrounding the trail is approximately 1.7 billion years old, creating a colorful landscape of pink and white granite ribbons.

**3:00 pm Scenic Car Ride to Skyline Drive**
This narrow, one-way road follows the dramatic ridge above Cañon City, providing sweeping mountain and city views. Pullouts offer opportunities to stop and take in the scenery, while an interpretive area near the top highlights dinosaur tracks preserved in the rock. The short but adventurous drive is approximately 2.5 miles long with an elevation gain of 272 feet. Note: a small car or truck would suit this route best, and larger vehicles should not attempt the road.



Hotel St. Cloud


Royal Gorge Cabins


Starlite Vintage Resort

# Where to Stay

STAFF FAVORITE

## Hotel St. Cloud

One of Colorado's oldest hotels, the historic Hotel St. Cloud blends 19th century character with modern luxury in a reimagined 36-room property on Cañon City's Main Street. Originally opened in 1883 and moved brick by brick from Silver Cliff to Cañon City in 1886, the hotel changed ownership in 2018, was painstakingly restored and reopened in summer 2025.

## Royal Gorge Cabins

This upscale mountain getaway features private cabins, comfortable amenities and easy access to the region's outdoor adventures. Guests can also take advantage of concierge services backed by the property owners' decades of experience as professional outfitters.

## Starlite Vintage Resort

Just minutes from the Royal Gorge, Starlite Vintage Resort transforms a historic 1960s-era campground into a nostalgic Colorado getaway with restored vintage trailers, retro apartments, cabins, RV sites and tent camping. A heated pool, hot tub, sauna and activities add modern comforts to the retro roadside atmosphere, making the property feel more like an experience.











# This Winter, Follow Your North Star

## Plan Your Winter Escape

This December, wonder takes flight at Hotel Polaris. Climb into the pilot's seat for a simulated flight to Finland with Santa as your co-pilot or dial the lobby's vintage Santa Hotline to hear a special message from the North Pole. Then settle in with a custom cup from the cocoa bar, decorate aviation-themed cookies and gather around the fire pit for s'mores beneath a Colorado winter sky.

From first arrival to final farewell, Wings of Winter is filled with holiday traditions that take on a distinctly Polaris perspective. Reserve your place among the stars and chart a course for a holiday escape unlike any other.

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By **Pam Bales**

# From Motorcycles to Money to Mining

## Area Museums Have So Much More

**The Pikes Peak region boasts more than 40 museums, but only the biggest ones get regular attention. Here's a closer look at 16 smaller, unusual museums worth exploring.**

## Colorado Springs

**The Pikes Peak Trolley Museum & Restoration Shop**
coloradospringstrolleys.com
This all-volunteer museum in the 1888 Rock Island Railroad Roundhouse preserves restored streetcars, including a 1919 Birney Safety car and a 1948 PCC car guests can ride. It's one of the only places in the region where visitors can ride a piece of the collection as well as view it.

**The Money Museum**
money.org/money-museum
The American Numismatic Association operates the largest museum in the country dedicated to money, with 250,000 artifacts spanning ancient currency to modern coinage. A Mini Mint demonstration shows how coins were historically made, and free Saturday classes serve kids ages 7 to 14.

**The World Figure Skating Museum & Hall of Fame**
worldskatingmuseum.org
This museum traces figure skating history through costumes, medals and artifacts including pieces from Michelle Kwan and other champions. It's tied directly to the city's identity as home of U.S. Figure Skating and a mecca for skaters, coaches and fans.

**The Western Museum of Mining & Industry**
wmmi.org
Situated on 27 acres near North Gate Boulevard, this huge museum features working steam engines, an ore mill, a model mine drift and gold panning. Annual events include a fall Harvest Festival and STEM camps for kids.

**The National Museum of World War II Aviation**
worldwariiaviation.org
Opened to the public in 2012, this nonprofit endeavor is located near Colorado Springs Airport. Nearly all the aircraft on display have been fully restored to flying conditions. It also includes more than 4,000 artifacts and historical documents.

**Rocky Mountain Motorcycle Museum and Hall of Fame**
themotorcyclemuseum.com
Displayed above the Avenue 19 food hall in downtown Colorado Springs are more than 75 restored vintage motorcycles. The collection spans decades of motorcycle history, from early American makes to classic imports, each restored to running condition.

**May Natural History Museum**
coloradospringsbugmuseum.com
The "Bug Museum" holds the world's largest private insect collection, which includes specimens gathered from six continents, giving visitors a rare, close-up look at insects they'd never encounter locally. It's open May through October, so plan accordingly.




## Manitou Springs

**Miramont Castle**
The 14,000-square-foot Victorian mansion built in 1895 for a French priest is now preserved by the Manitou Springs Historical Society. The building features nine architectural styles combined into one structure, with period rooms, a doll museum and a tearoom.

**Manitou Springs Heritage Museum**
manitouspringsheritagecenter.org
This free, volunteer-run museum covers the town's history as a Victorian-era health resort. Exhibits trace how mineral springs and mountain air drew visitors from around the world more than a century ago.

## Pueblo

**Steelworks Museum**
steelworks.us
The Steelworks Center of the West is housed in the 1901 Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. Medical Dispensary building in Pueblo. It tells the story of the CF&I and its outsized role in industrializing the American West. Exhibits cover the mines, mills and workers who built that industry.

**El Pueblo History Museum**
elpueblohistorymuseum.org
This museum is built around a recreated 1840s adobe trading post that once anchored trade routes along the Arkansas River. The museum sits atop the original archaeological excavation site where the trading post once stood.



## Monument/ Palmer Lake

**Lucretia Vaile Museum**
palmerdividehistory.org
Since 1964, the Palmer Lake Historical Society has operated this small museum to preserve the history of the Tri-Lakes region. Named for a local outdoorswoman and Colorado Mountain Club founder, the collection highlights early homesteaders and the arrival of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. ▶



The Old Homestead House Museum

## Cañon City

**Museum of Colorado Prisons**
canoncitycolorado.com/museum-of-colorado-prisons
Set inside the former Cell House No. 4 of the Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility, this museum covers 140 years of Colorado prison history. Exhibits include the state's retired gas chamber, confiscated weapons and belongings of notable Colorado criminals.

## Victor

**Victor Lowell Thomas Museum**
victormuseum.com
Housed in an 1899 building, this museum offers two floors of artifacts covering Victor's 1890s gold rush heyday. It also displays memorabilia from journalist/author Lowell Thomas, who grew up in Victor and worked there as a gold miner, cook and newspaper reporter before becoming famous.

## Cripple Creek

**The Old Homestead House Museum**
oldhomesteadhouse.com
Built in 1896 by Madame Pearl de Vere, this was the most elite, and most expensive, parlor house in Cripple Creek's red-light district. It's the only standing brothel left in Cripple Creek and is just one of three brothel museums nationwide. De Vere died of a morphine overdose in 1897 at age 37; her funeral drew the largest crowd Cripple Creek had ever seen.

**The Outlaws and Lawmen Jail Museum**
cityofcripplecreek.com
Housed in the original Teller County Jail, this museum is authentic, right down to the 1901 jail cells (some of which look like large cages). There was no shortage of lawlessness in the rough mining camps of Cripple Creek, and those caught breaking the law often "did time" in this building.


















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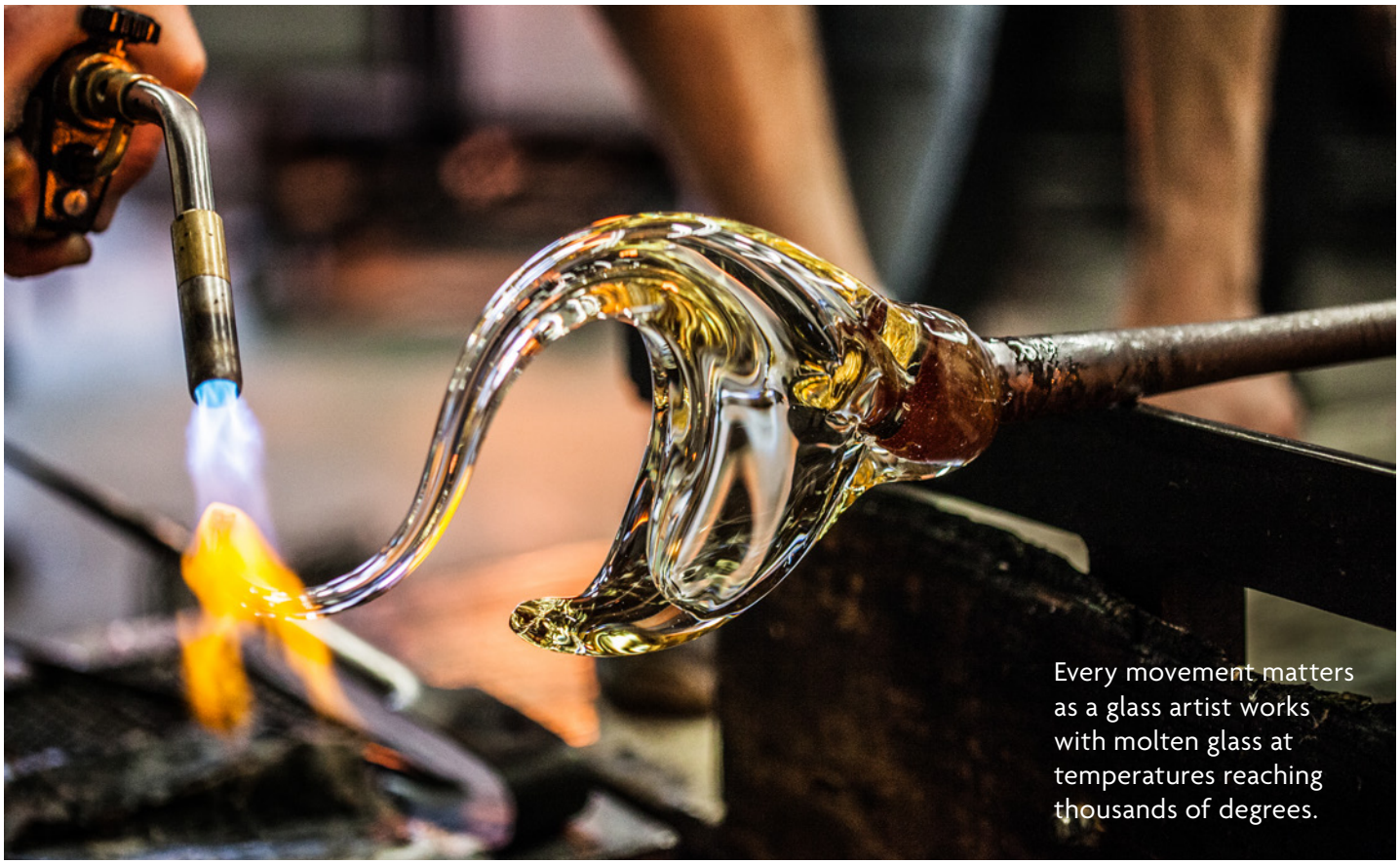
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***719-930-0219 call or text***

By **Tiffany Lancaster**

# Beauty in the Flame

## The Art of Making Glass





Every movement matters as a glass artist works with molten glass at temperatures reaching thousands of degrees.

The craft of glassmaking continues to captivate artists and makers across Colorado. There's something almost magical about watching a piece of glass take shape.

Inside a hot shop, glowing molten glass can look like a small piece of the sun. With a steady hand, constant rotation and carefully timed movements, a glass artist transforms that material into something recognizable, such as a vessel, sculpture, ornament or unique work of art.

It's an art form built around heat, movement and patience, but perhaps most importantly, trust.

Glassmaking dates back thousands of years. The Corning Museum of Glass traces the first human-made glass to approximately 4,000 years ago, when people in Mesopotamia discovered that sand, soda and lime could be transformed into glass. Centuries later, glassblowing emerged as a revolutionary technique, allowing molten glass to be inflated at the end of a tube.

Modern glass artists have more sophisticated furnaces, tools and equipment, but the material still responds to the same fundamentals of heat, gravity, air and motion. The artist must learn to read the glass, watching its color, movement and consistency to determine when it's ready to be shaped.

Glassblowers work with material at temperatures nearing 2,100 degrees Fahrenheit, when glass is anything but rigid. As the glass cools, it becomes progressively less malleable, giving the artist a limited window for adjustments.

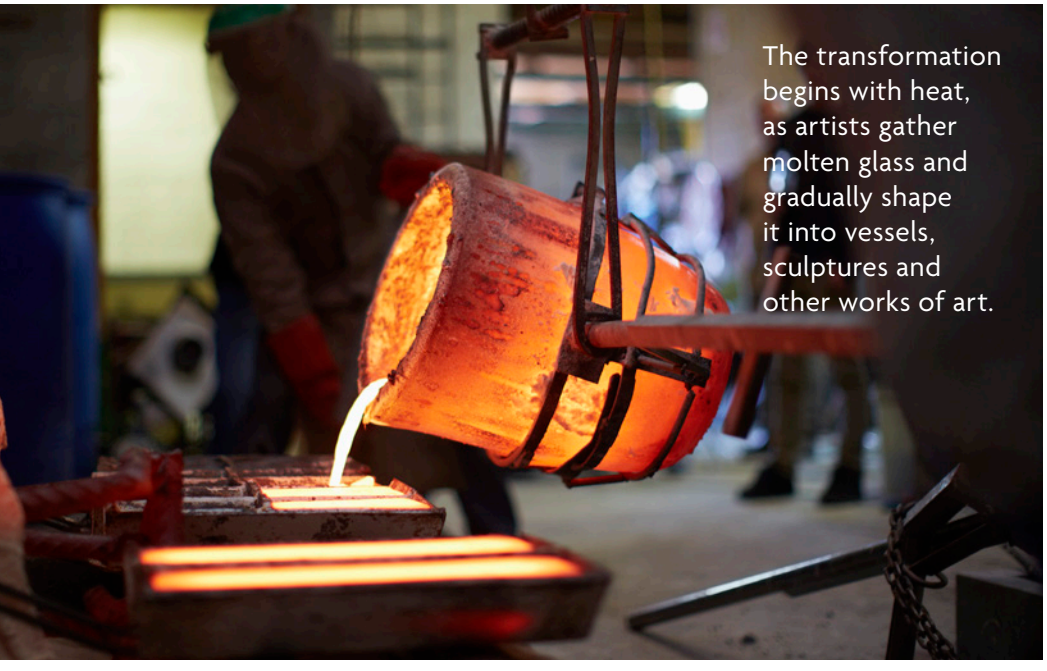
The process typically begins by gathering molten glass onto the end of a blowpipe. The artist rotates the pipe continuously, using tools to shape the material while air introduced through the pipe creates a bubble inside. Additional layers of glass, colors and decorative elements can be added before the piece is shaped again. The process is part choreography and part problem-solving.

An artist may begin with a particular shape or design in mind, but the material has a say in the final product. A slight change in temperature, an extra turn of the pipe or a moment's hesitation alter the outcome.

Glass must be cooled carefully and slowly through a process called annealing to prevent cracking or shattering.

Fusing represents another side of the medium. Rather than shaping a molten gather on a blowpipe, artists can cut, layer and arrange pieces of glass before heating them in a kiln. Other techniques include flameworking, casting, slumping and coldworking. ▶





The transformation begins with heat, as artists gather molten glass and gradually shape it into vessels, sculptures and other works of art.

Colorado Springs is home to several glass artists and working studios. Glassblowing Studio by Elev8 Premier operates as a glassblowing studio and school, offering hands-on introductory experiences as well as space for professional glassworkers. Nearby, the Glassblowers of Manitou is Colorado's oldest glass-blowing store. The family-owned business was established in 1974 and continues to specialize in blown glass, although live demonstrations are available.

Estes Park is home to Patterson Glassworks, where visitors can watch glassblowers working in the studio. The business traces its history to 1986, when glass artist Garth Mudge established the original Glassworks Studio and Gallery. Along with blown glass, the studio works with fused glass and incorporates pieces of broken glass into new artwork, giving discarded material another life.

Colorado's Front Range has several studios that give artists and the public opportunities to experience hot glass. The Furnace in Lakewood is a public access hot-glass studio and gallery. It combines production, gallery space, studio rental and classes ranging from introductory glassblowing to more advanced techniques.

In Pueblo, the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center offers glass fusing and intermediate glass workshops, giving participants the chance to develop their skills while creating their own projects.

What connects these studios is more than the equipment inside their walls. They provide places where glass can be experienced as a living process rather than simply a finished object in a gallery window. For Colorado's glass artists, the hot shop is both a workplace and a classroom, helping pass an ancient craft from one generation to the next.

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*It's how we're all connected*

By **Pam Bales** • Photography courtesy of Aquafire.

# Breathe Easy with Humidifiers for the Home





Try an artsy fireplace that humidifies instead of heats. The Pro Water Vapor Fireplace by Aquafire uses dual LED light bars with 30+ flame colors, a 20-hour runtime, direct plumbing and home automation compatibility. These unique products start at only $3,995 with several sizes and styles from wall mounted to free-standing units.

Colorado Springs sits at a higher elevation than Denver and is arid enough that indoor humidity can drop into the single digits during the winter heating season. Health experts recommend an indoor humidity in the 30-50% range.

For homeowners investing in a serious fix, the humidifier market now spans everything from whole-house systems tied into existing HVAC to artsy, stand-alone units built for a single room.

## Go Big

A steam-based humidifier, the AprilAire Model 800 ties directly into the furnace or air handler and produces up to 34 gallons of moisture per day, enough for homes of more than 4,000 square feet. Because it uses steam rather than evaporative pads, this system responds quickly and doesn't depend on airflow through the furnace to work, which matters in shoulder seasons when the HVAC system may not run constantly. It can also integrate with smart thermostat systems for whole-home automation. Expect professional installation and a cost starting at $1,000, before labor.

A fan-powered evaporative humidifier, the AprilAire Model 700/720, is another top-tier option and their most-awarded model, covering up to 6,250 square feet. The fan-powered system uses AprilAire's HydroCore media, which the company says cuts wastewater by up to 60% compared to older bypass humidifiers. It's less expensive to run than a steam system and still integrates fully into ducted HVAC, making it the more efficient but slightly less powerful unit compared to the Model 800.

The whole-house steam humidifier Ultra-Aire (made by Therma-Stor) is a self-contained high-end HVAC that contractors like for larger or architecturally complex homes. These units are typically specified by a mechanical contractor, which is worth knowing if a builder or HVAC designer is already involved in a new build or major renovation.

Here are a few companies in Colorado Springs that specialize in these types of humidification systems: Custom Climate Professionals, customclimateprofessionals.com; MJ Heating & Air, mjheating.net; and Mitchell Heating and Cooling, mitchellheating.com. ▶



Pro Water Vapor Fireplace by Aquafire

## Or Think Smaller

For a townhome, condo or any space where ducted installation isn't practical, the smaller humidifier has become a design element of its own.

The German-engineered and filter-free Original Airwasher (Venta LW45) uses a rotating disk stack to evaporate water rather than mist it, which avoids the white mineral dust that plagues ultrasonic units; at the same time, it functions as a light air purifier. The LW45 covers up to 800 square feet for around $500, with smaller LW25 and LW15 models costing closer to $300. Its minimal, almost architectural, housing and near-silent operation are perfect for open-plan condos or townhomes.

The Swiss-designed Stadler Form (Karl) is built with clean, rounded forms rather than the utilitarian plastic of typical home humidifiers. They are rated for spaces up to roughly 1,600 square feet with app-based controls and automatic humidity sensing. Stadler Form's units are more like furniture than appliances.



Venta LW45



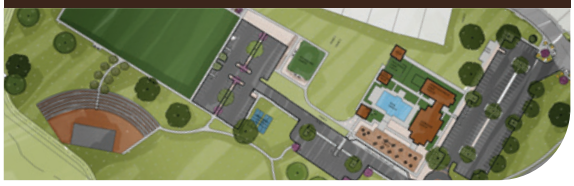
A three-in-one device, the Boneco H400 Hybrid Humidifier & Air Purifier runs as a humidifier, an air purifier or both simultaneously, with app control and dedicated sleep and baby modes. The washable pre-filter and evaporative humidification mat mean fewer recurring costs than cartridge-based systems. Plus, combining humidification with filtration in one unit is a real advantage in smaller spaces.

The Canopy Bedside Humidifier 2.0 is the most design-forward pick, and the one most likely to double as a nightstand rather than an appliance. At $150 or so, it's evaporative rather than ultrasonic (so no white dust) and fully dishwasher-safe and includes a built-in aroma diffuser. Anti-mold sensors keep the fan running whenever water is detected in the tank. The unit covers up to 500 square feet, so it's suited to a single room rather than an open living space.

Whichever category a homeowner falls into, keeping relative humidity in the 30-45% range is the sweet spot: Much higher invites condensation and mold risk, especially against cold exterior walls and windows during a Colorado winter.



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By **Pam Bales** • Photography by **Dan Kenemore**

# Enjoying the City He Helped *Transform*

After 15 years of running Visit Colorado Springs (Visit COS), and decades prior in other tourism roles, Doug Price is retiring.

Price may have the frontman title as president and CEO of Visit COS, but he's really the heart of a team. Over the years, he has been instrumental in transforming tourism in this city, working with dozens of community members and three mayors.

Price is accustomed to explaining what Visit Colorado Springs does, which is distinctly different from a chamber of commerce.

"A chamber wants you to move here or expand here as a business. We want you to come, spend your money, make memories and then take your problems and go home," he says, laughing. "But be sure to come back."

In 2025, he says, tourism brought $3.1 billion into the local economy through roughly 25.6 million visitors.

He traces Colorado Springs' tourism roots back to Gen. William Jackson Palmer, who founded the city on tourism and wellness in an era before the term "medical tourism" existed, Price notes.

"We always have been a health and wellness outdoors destination," Price says. "People came for the sunshine and dry air to be cured of tuberculosis. Now they come for hiking, biking and enjoying all that Colorado Springs has to offer."

How does someone decide to go into the hospitality and tourism business? For Price, it started at his local community college.

He was the oldest of three kids, raised in northeastern Ohio and finished high school in Fairfax, Virginia. Neither of his parents had attended college, but they were his inspiration.

"Both of my parents were storytellers. My dad was in sales," Price says. His mother eventually went to work in the Air Force civil service at the Pentagon, ending up as curator of the Air Force's art collection. "After graduation, my dad said to check out classes our community college offered. I found these classes in country club management, wine tasting, food prep, hotel operations, and I thought 'those sound interesting.'"

A professor explained that he could earn a two-year hospitality degree while working in the industry and would leave with a degree and two years of experience by the time he was 20.

"There was a hotel hiring front desk clerks near National Airport," he explains. "I applied and got the job."

He did his own math and transferred to Florida International University for his four-year degree, while also working in the industry, and came out with four years of experience and his degrees. ▶

**$3.1B**
**Brought into the local economy through tourism in 2025**

**25.6M**
**Visitors to the Colorado Springs area in 2025**




Visito
Cente



"I began my career in Miami with a small family chain of hotels, called Marriott," Price says, smiling. "They had 38 properties and told me they were planning to grow, and grow they did. I stayed with them for nearly 20 years moving through Miami, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Chicago, Marco Island [Florida], Fort Lauderdale and back to Washington, D.C."

He met his wife, Kathy, while both were working for Marriott in Chicago. Their son, Ryan, was born in Naples during the Marco Island years. For two decades, the family lived in Virginia, where they raised their son and daughter, Sarah.

Price loved the Marriott culture, but by 39, with stock options and what he calls "golden handcuffs" firmly on, he decided there had to be life after Marriott. He'd never worked anywhere else.

His last day at Marriott headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, ended with a summons to see Mr. Bill Marriott himself.

"He asked me, 'Have you made up your mind 100% that you're leaving the company?' I said yes. And he said, 'You're not going to a competitor, right?'" Price recalls.

He told Marriott he was starting his own business in sales and customer-service training, using what he'd learned at the hotel chain. Marriott told Price he'd be rooting for him as an entrepreneur.

His first client ended up being Marriott itself. His former boss, Roger Dow, kept project work coming his way as he started on this new endeavor. Wife Kathy had grown up in a family business, so she kept the books while Price did the speaking and training circuit. On Dow's advice, he wrote a book, the first of three, called "License to Sell," based on the sales training he was already doing.

"Having a book is one of the most powerful brochures you can have," he explains.

His final stint before the move west was spent at Destinations International in Washington, D.C., a trade association of destination marketing organizations from around the world. Visit Colorado Springs was one of those members. And, when the opening came up for the CEO position, Price applied.

"We were excited to trade D.C. traffic for Pikes Peak and Colorado," says Price. "But, when I got here in 2011, I knew we had work to do. Streetlights were out downtown. Parks were not being watered."

Newly elected Mayor Steve Bach recruited Price early to help bring more tourism to the city.

That relationship became the launch point for a project called City for Champions. Colorado's Regional Tourism Act had a state program offering tax-increment financing for "unique and extraordinary" tourism projects. Price and a working group of local leaders decided Colorado Springs would apply, with the mayor's support, submitting in June 2013.

The application bundled several construction projects: the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum, Weidner Field, Robson Arena at Colorado College, the Hybl Sports Medicine & Performance Center at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs and the last project, the Hosmer Visitor Center at the Air Force Academy, which opened this spring.

"The culmination of completing these major projects with seed money from the state, followed by private development funds, and watching the economic effect they've had on our community is something all of us who worked on them are extremely proud of," Price says.

> "We always have been a health and wellness outdoors destination. People came for the sunshine and dry air to be cured of tuberculosis. Now they come for hiking, biking and enjoying all that Colorado Springs has to offer.
>
> — **Doug Price**




**“We will continue to be involved with this community that we’ve grown to love.**

— Doug Price’s Promise




He's just as proud of the Olympic City USA brand, which turns 10 years old this year. Price was part of a chamber trip to Nashville where a group, including Janet Suthers, wife of then-Mayor-Elect John Suthers, got a behind-the-scenes look at how that city built "Music City USA." Once again, a group of key community members came together to create Olympic City USA branding, which was launched in February 2016 with the mayor's condition that no city tax dollars go toward promoting it.

Price credits several Colorado Springs figures with shaping his understanding of a city he wasn't from. Chuck Murphy Sr., of Murphy Constructors, took him under his wing early on to teach him local history. The late Stephanie Finley Fortune, then with the chamber, introduced him to the community and helped him build a list of people he needed to know.

After a career of serving and mentoring people, Price has his own advice for anyone chasing a passion, whether they're 25 or 65: show up every day and show you care.

"It's called giving the gift of interest in other people," he says. "They don't want to hear all about you."

Price's next chapter starts with unplugging.

"I want to bury my cell phone about six feet underground," he says, only half joking.

He and Kathy, celebrating 43 years of marriage, are ready for some new adventures. They plan to visit friends from coast to coast, play more golf (a trip to Traverse City, Michigan, is already on the calendar) and take cooking classes together.

They're not leaving Colorado Springs.

"We will continue to be involved with this community that we've grown to love," Price promises.

By **Linda DuVal**

# Meet TESSA

## *Saving Lives for Five Decades*

Matt knew he was in a toxic marriage when his wife started checking his phone messages and making him take photos to prove he was where he said he was. Then she began attacking him verbally, calling him stupid, ugly and worthless, and finally physically assaulting him with a cane.

She convinced him that it was, somehow, his fault. It escalated to the point where she was encouraging him to commit suicide, and he was so defeated and miserable, he actually started making preparations. His friends intervened and made him seek help. Long story short, he ended up at TESSA.

"When I got there, I sat in the parking lot, thinking, 'They'll never believe me.' I'm a big guy and college educated, so I should be able to handle this, right?

"I finally went inside. I was greeted with so much compassion and openness. I broke down crying."

Matt got counseling with TESSA and, after several months of one-on-one therapy, was diagnosed with PTSD. He was having nightmares, was easily startled and suffering from paranoia. Eventually, he moved to group therapy for another year.

Matt's disturbing story is not all that unusual, according to Anne Markley, CEO of TESSA, which has been rescuing victims of domestic violence here for nearly 50 years.

Markley served eight years on the agency's board before becoming CEO in 2020. She oversees a full-time staff of 52 case managers, advocates, therapists and attorneys, all of whom undergo 40 hours of confidentiality training. It offers the only confidential safehouse in El Paso and Teller counties, with another facility in Douglas County.

When TESSA started in 1977 (as the Center for the Prevention of Domestic Violence), it was funded by a grant from El Pomar. Today, most of its funding comes from federal grants, augmented by foundational grants, corporate funding and individual donations. An annual fundraiser, Pasta in the Park, each summer helps raise funds also.

Its initial clients were mostly women. Now, more men, like Matt, are coming forward with their own situations, Markley says.

Originally, it was more like an emergency hotline, offering advice, she adds. Today, it's a refuge for anyone fleeing domestic or sexual violence, human trafficking or stalking. It offers not only a safehouse where some residents stay an average of 30-45 days, but also a full array of vital support services.

In addition to their staff legal team, many local lawyers provide pro bono assistance, such as acquiring protective orders.

"We've continued to grow with the community," Markley says.

In fact, TESSA served approximately 14,000 people in 2025 and its safehouse served 315 adults and children.

The safehouse offers private rooms to each individual or family group (often a mother with children) and has communal areas for relaxing and socializing. Meals are provided, with support from Care & Share and Crossfire Ministries.



### Anne Markley

TESSA, Chief Executive Officer
**tessacs.org**
**24/7 Safeline: (719) 633-3819**
**Main Office: (719) 633-1462**

Anyone can take advantage of the program, which is free for those who can't contribute.

"Just walk into our office and say you need help," Markley says. "A front desk advocate will do a quick assessment and get you to an advocate immediately."

Their clients, whom they call "survivors," are always in control of what happens, she adds.

"They tell us what they have experienced and how we can help," she says. "They're always in the driver's seat."

Once clients have stabilized, TESSA staff helps them find housing and continues with counseling and other services they need.

Although October is officially Domestic Violence Awareness Month, incidents are somewhat seasonal, with the summer marking the highest numbers. There's also a spike just before and after the holidays and during major sporting events, statistics tell us.

In addition to direct services, TESSA does a lot of education and outreach to schools and the public. They'll provide knowledgeable speakers on request.

To get help, go directly to TESSA's administrative offices at **435 Gold Pass Heights,** in the Myron Stratton compound, or call or text at **(719) 633-3819**. Or go to any police station or sheriff's office, the district attorney's office or, if injured, Memorial Central emergency department. TESSA has connections with all of them.

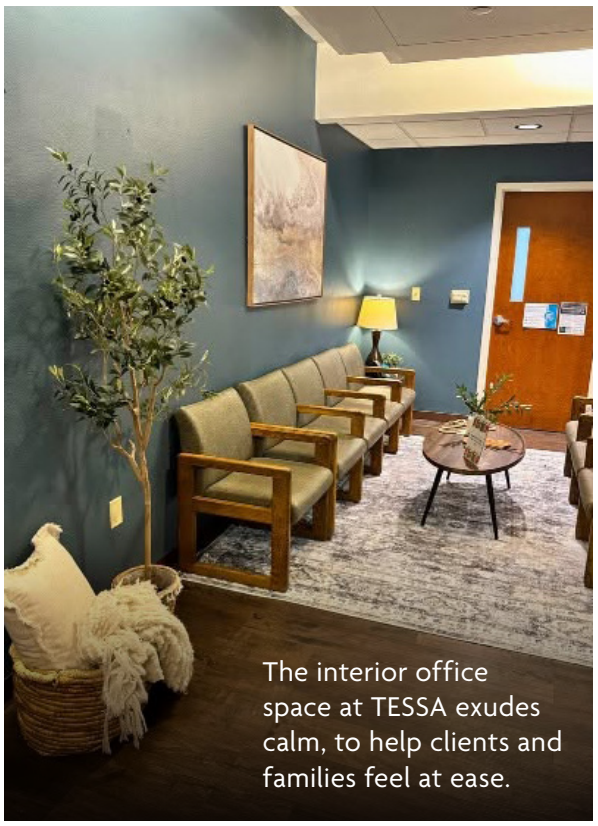
"Just go; if you're in trouble," says Matt. "TESSA literally saved my life."

**TESSA's Impact Numbers 2025**

10,571
**Crisis Calls Answered**

5,992
**Nights of Shelter Provided**

7,376
**Students Participated in Preventative Education**



The interior office space at TESSA exudes calm, to help clients and families feel at ease.

## The Reality

An estimated 20 to 50% of women and children experiencing **homelessness** became homeless while escaping domestic violence.

Approximately one in three women and one in four men experience **physical violence** by an intimate partner.

Previous strangulation by an intimate partner increases a victim's risk of **attempted homicide** approximately eightfold, and the **risk of being killed** approximately sevenfold.

Approximately 37% of Colorado women and 31% of Colorado men have experienced **physical violence, sexual violence or stalking** by an intimate partner during their lifetime.

In 2024, Colorado identified 46 domestic violence victim **fatalities**, a 24% increase from 2023.

Domestic violence victim **deaths** represented 17.2% of all Colorado homicides in 2024; the highest proportion recorded in five years.

By **Kay Rowe** • Images courtesy of the entertainer, organization or event.

# Events & Attractions

## September 2026

### The Original Colorado Springs Food Tour

**Thu., Oct. 15 - Tue., Dec. 15**, 1 pm.
Tickets: $85+
Downtown Colorado Springs
Indulge in five upscale tastings at beloved downtown restaurants paired with regional art and architecture history.
**rockymountainfoodtours.com/tours/original-colorado-springs-food-tour**

### Manitou Springs Mineral Springs Tasting Tour

**Thu., Oct. 15 - Tue., Dec. 15**, 10 am.
Tickets: $70+
Spa Building, 934 Manitou Ave., 80829
Sample famous mineral waters while strolling through historic Manitou Springs.
**rockymountainfoodtours.com/tours/manitou-market-mineral-tasting**

### Kansas: Another Fork in the Road 50th Anniversary Tour

**Thu., Oct. 15**, 8 pm. Tickets: $65 - $445
Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
Celebrate decades of this iconic classic rock legend live on their massive 2026 North American tour.
**pikespeakcenter.com/events/detail/kansas26**

### Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival

**Fri., Oct. 16 - Sun., Oct. 18**,
schedule varies. Tickets: $65 - $200
Fine Arts Center, Colorado College, 825 N. Cascade Ave., 80903
Enjoy three days of documentary, narrative, short, and animated films that honor the drive, spirit and diversity of women.
**rmwfilm.org**



### Jimmy Failla: Escape from New York Tour

**Sat., Oct. 17**, 6:30 pm. Tickets: $45+
Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
This renowned stand-up comedian brings his hit national tour to the stage for a night of non-stop laughs.
**pikespeakcenter.com/events/detail/failla26**

### Wild West Burgers & Brews Tour

**Sat., Oct. 17**, 2 pm. Tickets: $90+
Downtown Colorado Springs
Sample high-end artisan burgers perfectly paired with distinctive local craft beers.
**rockymountainfoodtours.com/tours/wild-west-burgers-brews**



### Zak Mirz

**Sun., Oct. 18**, 3 pm. Tickets: $50+
Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
This illusionist provides an interactive, family-friendly magic show blending jaw-dropping sleight of hand with heartfelt, audience-guided storytelling.
**pikespeakcenter.com/events/detail/zak-mirz**

### Forever Fab & Sixties Mania

**Tue., Oct. 20**, 7 pm. Tickets: $50+
Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
A high-energy, nostalgic double-bill concert pays tribute to The Beatles and the iconic 1960s.
**pikespeakcenter.com/events/detail/sixtiesmania**

### Monster Jam

**Fri., Oct. 23 - Sun., Oct. 25**, schedule varies.
Tickets: $30+, Broadmoor World Arena, 3185 Venetucci Blvd., 80906
Experience high-flying action as world-class drivers push 12,000-pound monster trucks to their limits in jaw-dropping competitions.
**broadmoorworldarena.com/events/detail/monsterjam26**

### Whitney Cummings: The Big Baby Tour

**Sat., Oct. 24**, 7 pm. Tickets: $30+
Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
A hilarious stand-up show exploring modern womanhood, dating and adulthood, from one of comedy's sharpest voices.
**pikespeakcenter.com/events/detail/whitneycummings**

### The Cloud Foundation's Born to Be Wild Gala

**Sat., Oct. 24**, 5:30 pm. Tickets: $100+
Flying W Ranch, 3215 Flying W Ranch Rd., 80919
Enjoy an upscale western-themed charity dinner featuring live music, historic storytelling and premium auctions.
**thecloudfoundation.org/born-to-be-wild-fundraising-gala**

### I Have a Voice Gala
**Sat., Oct. 24**, 6 pm. Tickets: $150+
The Pinery at the Hill, 775 W. Bijou St., 80905
Attend an elegant charity gala featuring fine dining, a premium program and an elite live auction, benefiting GiGi's Playhouse.
**gigisplayhouse.org/coloradosprings/gala**

### World Ballet Company: Swan Lake
**Sun., Oct. 25**, 6 pm. Tickets: $65+
Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
Experience an exquisite classical ballet performance and a professional orchestra.
**pikespeakcenter.com/events/detail/swanlakewbc**

### Architectural Heritage Design Lecture
**Wed., Oct. 28**, 7 pm. Tickets: $20+
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 80903
Discover the architectural preservation history behind Colorado's most iconic historic mountain manors and luxury resorts.
**fac.coloradocollege.edu**

### The SofaKillers Halloween Concert
**Fri., Oct. 30**, 6 pm. Tickets: $28
Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Dr., 80910
Enjoy a fun, festive night of live classic hits and Halloween costumes perfect for a memorable, lighthearted evening out.
**stargazerstheatre.com/product/sofakillers-may-2026**

### "Edward Scissorhands"
**Fri., Oct. 30 & Sat., Oct. 31**, 7:30 pm.
Tickets: $45+
Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
Experience Tim Burton's magical tale as the Colorado Springs Philharmonic performs Danny Elfman's score live in perfect sync with the film.
**pikespeakcenter.com/events/detail/phil-edwardscissorhands**



### Dia De Los Muertos
**Sun., Nov. 1 & Mon., Nov. 2**, schedule varies.
Free, Fine Arts Center, Colorado College, 825 N. Cascade Ave., 80903
Enjoy this special community gathering which includes live music, hands-on art activities and a children's costume parade. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.
**fac.coloradocollege.edu/events/dia-de-muertos**



### Billy Joel Legacy
**Sun., Nov. 1**, 7 pm.
Tickets: $40+
Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
A high-energy tribute celebrating the Piano Man's legendary hits with a spectacular live band performance.
**pikespeakcenter.com/events/detail/billy-joel-legacy**

### Mercy Me Live with Jeremy Camp
**Thu., Nov. 5**, 7 pm. Tickets: $30+
Broadmoor World Arena, 3185 Venetucci Blvd., 80906
Enjoy a night of powerful worship featuring Christian hits, uplifting anthems and deeply moving musical performances.
**broadmoorworldarena.com/events/detail/mercyme26**

### Mountain West Country Music Awards Gala
**Thu., Nov. 5 - Sat., Nov. 7**, schedule varies.
Tickets: $100+
The Antlers Hotel, 4 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
Dress up for a high-profile, multi-day competitive premium music celebration at this historic hotel.
**mountainwestcma.org**

### Straight No Chaser Live
**Sun., Nov. 8**, 7:30 pm. Tickets: $40+
Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
Enjoy this holiday concert featuring a nine-member a capella group performing energetic, humorous pop covers and seasonal classics.
**pikespeakcenter.com/events/detail/straightnochaser26**

### Todd Rundgren
**Mon., Nov. 9**, 7:30 pm. Tickets: $50+
Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
Experience an evening of innovative rock, timeless hits and legendary showmanship from a true music icon.
**pikespeakcenter.com/events/detail/todd-rundgren**

### Zeppelin Alive: A Tribute to Led Zeppelin
**Fri., Nov. 13**, 7 pm. Tickets: $25
Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Dr., 80910
A high-energy tribute to Led Zeppelin, capturing the legendary band's raw power, iconic riffs and timeless rock spirit.
**stargazerstheatre.com/product/zep-alive-july-2026**

### Colorado Springs Home Show
**Fri., Nov. 13 - Sun., Nov. 15**, schedule varies.
Free, Norris Penrose Event Center, 1045 Lower Gold Camp Rd., 80905
Connect with local experts, innovative products and exclusive trends for renovation, remodeling and landscaping.
**thespringshomeshow.com/attend-the-show**

### Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Tchaikovsky & Stravinsky
**Sat., Nov. 14 & Sun., Nov. 15**, schedule varies.
Tickets: $45+
Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
Experience the emotional power of Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky, performed live by the Colorado Springs Philharmonic during a spectacular symphonic evening.
**pikespeakcenter.com/events/detail/phil-tchaikovsky-stravinsky**

### "Private Lives"
**Thu., Nov. 19 - Sun., Dec. 13**, schedule varies.
Tickets: $20+, Ent Center for the Arts, 5225 N. Nevada Ave., 80918
Theatreworks presents Noel Coward's witty, fast-paced comedy about a divorced couple whose passion reignites after accidentally booking adjacent honeymoon suites.
**entcenterforthearts.org/events/private-lives-theatreworks**

### A Celtic Christmas
**Thu., Nov. 19**, 7:30 pm. Tickets: $50+
Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
Attend a premier symphony presentation showcasing romantic era masterworks in an festive setting.
**pikespeakcenter.com/events/detail/acelticchristmas**

### Irving Berlin's "White Christmas"
**Thu., Nov. 19 - Tue., Dec. 15**, schedule varies. Tickets: $20+, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 80903
An uplifting, wholesome musical for audiences of all ages, based on the beloved, timeless film.
**fac.coloradocollege.edu/theatre-events/irving-berlins-white-christmas**

### Dreaming of a "White Christmas": A Behind the Scenes Look
**Fri., Nov. 20**, 5:30 pm. Tickets: $20+
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 80903
Discover the journey of "White Christmas" from iconic 1954 film to celebrated stage musical, packed with behind-the-scenes stories.
**fac.coloradocollege.edu/event/dreaming-of-a-white-christmas**



### "Nutcracker" Ballet Grand Premiere
**Fri., Nov. 27 - Sun., Nov. 29**, schedule varies. Tickets: $40+
Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
Enjoy this annual classical production featuring magnificent custom costume designs and live symphonic music.
**pikespeakcenter.com/events/detail/phil-nutcracker-26**

### Small Business Saturday
**Sat., Nov. 30**, 10 am - 8 pm. Free
Old Colorado City, 80904
Enjoy free parking all day while you shop participating Old Colorado City merchants and support locally owned businesses. Stay for the Christmas stroll!
**shopoldcoloradocity.com/events/small-business-saturday-occ**

### "Hadestown" Broadway Tour
**Mon., Nov. 30 - Wed., Dec. 2**, 7:30 pm. Tickets: $60+
Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
A multi-night run of the hit Broadway musical that intertwines two mythic tales.
**pikespeakcenter.com/events/detail/bway-hadestown26**

### Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Electric Safari
**Wed., Dec. 2 - Tue., Dec. 15**, 4 pm.
Tickets: up to $25, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, 4250 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Rd., 80906
Celebrate mountainside magic with 85 light sculptures on more than 50 acres. Pose for photos with larger-than-life illuminated inflatable animals and watch a new holiday safari-themed drone show.
**cmzoo.org/events-programs/special-events/electric-safari**

### Holiday Food & Gift Festival
**Fri., Dec. 4 - Sun., Dec. 6**, schedule varies. Tickets: up to $20, Norris Penrose Event Center, 1045 Lower Gold Camp Rd., 80905
An expansive lifestyle market featuring regional artisans and gourmet food vendors.
**hfgf.com/project/colorado-springs-holiday-festival-show**




### Candy Cane Course Elite Running Event
**Sat., Dec. 5**, 9 am. Tickets: $30+
El Pomar Youth Sports Park, 2230 Executive Cir., 80906
A festive holiday run featuring professional timing, designer race apparel and custom artisan medals. Great for the whole family.
**runsignup.com/Race/CO/ColoradoSprings/CandyCaneCourseColoradoSprings**

### Festival of Lights Parade
**Sat., Dec. 5**, 5:50 pm. Free, Downtown Colorado Springs on Tejon Street, 80903
Enjoy this seasonal tradition featuring beautifully lit displays and musical performances.
**coloradospringsfestivaloflights.com**

### Tommy Ryman Comedy Gala
**Fri., Dec. 11 & Sat., Dec. 12**, schedule varies. Tickets: $15+
Loonees Comedy Corner, 1305 N. Academy Blvd., 80909
Get ready to laugh at this live stand-up comedy performance featuring VIP tables and premium craft drinks.
**looneescc.com/events/140152**



### Cirque Musica
**Tue., Dec. 15**, 7:30 pm.
Tickets: $55+,
Pikes Peak Center,
190 S. Cascade Ave., 80903
Experience a magnificent holiday musical performance featuring seasonal orchestration and a professional choir.
**pikespeakcenter.com/events/detail/cirque-musica-1**

# Experience The Broadmoor



## Penfolds Wine Dinner

**Thu., Oct. 22**

Savor a five-star reception and a curated luxury pairing dinner featuring elite vintages. Formal attire required.

## Meet the Maker: Sazerac Whiskey Dinner

**Tue., Nov. 10**

Join master distiller Harlen Wheatley for an exclusive private tasting reception and artisanal pairing dinner.

## Olympic Athletes Formal Sports Gala

**Sat., Nov. 14**

Dine alongside elite Olympic athletes at this premier black-tie event featuring a multi-course plated dinner. Formal attire required.

## Distillery Reserve Tasting Evening

**Fri., Nov. 20**

Learn insider mixology secrets from industry experts at this highly curated cocktail and spirits pairing masterclass.

## Soli Deo Gloria Concert

**Sun., Nov. 22**

Enjoy a premium, specialized classical choral recital hosted at the resort. The performance begins at 4 pm.

## Thanksgiving Holiday Grand Buffet

**Thu., Nov. 26**

Celebrate with a world-class gourmet buffet showcasing ice sculptures, live carving stations and fine pastries. Reservations are required.

## Christmas Tree Lighting Banquet & Ceremony

**Sat., Nov. 28**

Indulge in a high-end dinner pairing celebrating the formal illumination of more than 1 million holiday lights. Features holiday music and appearances by Santa and Mrs. Claus, while raising money for community groups.

## Patrimony Estate Wine Dinner

**Tue., Dec. 15**

Discover this highly regarded California vineyard at a pairing event that features Bordeaux varieties grown at high elevations near the Pacific coast.

**For more information:**
**broadmoor.com/events**



Southern Colorado Business Forum&Digest

# 40 Under 40

## Celebrating Southern Colorado's Soaring Young Professionals

**Do you know someone who's making a lasting impact in Southern Colorado? Start thinking now about the young professional who deserves to be recognized!**

The Southern Colorado Business Forum & Digest's Class of 2027 40 Under 40 will honor 40 exceptional professionals under the age of 40 who are leading, innovating and making a lasting impact across Southern Colorado.

**Nomination season opens this October,** so now is the perfect time to consider the colleague, entrepreneur, community leader or rising star you would like to recognize. Join us on February 23, 2027 as we celebrate Southern Colorado's brightest young professionals.



www.socodigest.com | 6385 Corporate Drive #100, Colorado Springs, 80919 | COLORADO MEDIAGROUP

By **National Charity League**

# Literally & Figuratively Climbing Mountains



Hard work and perseverance have been part of Kinley Kilcoyne's life since she was young. Now an Air Academy High School senior, she balances the demands of being an honors student and a varsity athlete, while being an active member of National Charity League Inc.

Kinley's love of the outdoors began when she was two years old, hiking and climbing with her family. Over the years, she has competed in gymnastics and rock climbing, and for the past five years she has played tennis at both the club and high school levels. Her consistency and calm demeanor are especially evident on the tennis court, where she has played for Air Academy since her freshman year.

This past May, Kinley and her partner placed second in the No. 3 doubles division at the CHSAA 4A state tournament. Their success reflects not only their skill but also the dedication Kinley brings to every match. She and her teammates have helped keep Air Academy among the top four teams in the state for the past three years.

Since her freshman year, Kinley has also been a member of National Charity League Inc., volunteering alongside her mother Kristina and younger sister, Kourtney. NCL gives girls opportunities to serve their communities while developing leadership skills, learning event planning and gaining an appreciation for cultural experiences.

Over three years, Kinley has volunteered more than 50 hours. Her favorite organization to serve is Project Angel Heart, a Colorado nonprofit that prepares and delivers medically tailored meals to neighbors living with severe illness. Kinley especially values the personal connection she makes with clients when she and her mother deliver meals. For her, volunteering is about showing up for people and helping them feel seen and cared for.

Next year, Kinley hopes to attend college and study nursing or pursue a pre-professional health career, such as physician assistant or certified registered nurse anesthetist. She would love to attend an SEC school, or any college with a strong football culture, and is already looking forward to tailgates, parades and the energy of campus life. She is currently enrolled in the ASD20 Certified Nursing Assistant program as she explores whether nursing is her path.





Although Kinley is eager to experience life in another part of the country, she remains deeply connected to Colorado and its outdoors. She has been hiking 14ers since elementary school, and this past summer, she traveled to Zurich with her father to hike hut-to-hut through the Swiss Alps. She also loves skiing and looks forward to returning home during holiday breaks to spend time on the slopes with her family.

As she begins her final year of high school, Kinley is embracing every moment, from senior sunrise and homecoming to prom and graduation. She knows the road ahead will require continued effort, but she is prepared to meet it with the same determination that has carried her this far.

Whether she is pursuing a career devoted to helping others, volunteering in her community or encouraging someone who is facing a challenge of their own, Kinley understands the value of perseverance. Her accomplishments are meaningful not only because of what she has achieved, but because of the heart, discipline and courage she brings to everything she does.

By **Alyssa Shikles** • Photography by **Dan Kenemore** unless noted otherwise.

# House to Home: More is More





***Editor's Note:*** *House to Home is a new feature of NORTH that takes readers inside some of the beautiful homes in Colorado Springs. This is where you can take a peek behind the curtain, literally. Meet the people who live there and learn how their house became their home.*

In a corner of Colorado Springs' historic Old North End, designers Rich Schell and Greg Wragge's house is an architectural outlier — and, after nearly 24 years of calling the space home, a deeply personal expression of the people who live there.

Built in the 1960s as the dream residence of a prominent Colorado Springs physician, the 4,800-square-foot residence was designed by architect Robert Seevers in what he called "International Modern," a style now more commonly associated with Mid-Century Modern.

When Schell and Wragge discovered the four-level split-level design home in 2002, they recognized how unique the space was. The couple — co-owners of Colorado Springs retail showroom EVAN GUY, with Schell also serving as principal of Rich Schell Interiors — wanted a home that could stand out and represent them as designers. With its generous floor plan and individual architecture, it was the perfect blank space to create a home that was entirely their own.

"I don't know that there's another home like ours in Colorado Springs, and that's what we liked about it," Schell says. "It was a phenomenal opportunity to have a beautiful home that had a direction and the potential for us as designers."

Over the past two decades, the couple has transformed the house through major renovations and an ever-evolving collection of art, antiques, furnishings and plants. From living spaces that resemble curated galleries to the intricate and lush garden grounds, the home has never been defined by a single design style. Instead, it is a culmination of remarkable objects and intentional details, all of which tell a story.

For Schell and Wragge, their home is not just another display room — it's a representation of who they are, their passions and what they love. But it is not a space they enjoy alone. Opening their doors to the community over the years, they have hosted numerous garden tours, charitable events and gatherings of more than 100 people.

"My vision is having it be my home first and sharing it second," Schell says. "I often say, I don't enjoy my home as much as I do when I have people in it, experiencing it for the first time."

Schell and Wragge recently opened their doors to NORTH Magazine, providing a first-hand look at the collections and designs that make their home one of a kind.








## Curated Clutter

No matter what direction you face or corner you peek in, there is always something to look at in Schell and Wragge's home. However, the sheer number of items — or "curated clutter," as Schell calls it — is intentional.

"I'm in the business of finding things, and I'm always exposing myself to beautiful things and estates where I get things from," Schell says. "But I don't want to buy things just to fill space. I buy things because I love them."

From hand-painted pieces of art sculpture to beautiful accessories, Schell chooses items and furniture that are statements, many of which have a history or personal story behind them. From an 1866 Italian life-size bronze statue of John the Baptist (affectionately nicknamed "JB") that stands in a living room corner, to a cabinet full of Schell's late father's Hot Wheels collection, every item is purposeful and personal.

"If someone walks into my house and asks, 'Who dusts?' I consider that the greatest compliment," Schell says.

## Collections Abound

On one wall, you'll find a curated series of portrait paintings, and on the next, a grouping of early 1900s Chinese sewing baskets. In a room Schell calls the "East Meets Africa room," there is an assortment of Asian and African art and objects. Even in the master bedroom, a collection of Lalique and French crystal resides, predominantly gifted from one of their friends.

"It doesn't matter what you collect, whether it's rocks, coins or stamps — the passion behind the collection is what drives the look," Schell says.

In theory, the conglomeration of artifacts, styles and cultural pieces might seem to clash. However, Schell's philosophy is that a mix of elements can work beautifully when they share a sense of quality, beauty and history.

"Not everything needs to match," he says. "But everything needs to belong."




# The Ultimate Man Cave

Downstairs, the aesthetic takes a sharp turn. The basement is darker, more contemporary and playful, with orange accents, a vinyl collection and an Under Armor mannequin named “Elrod” who guards the bar. “It’s this crazy, fun man cave that’s a diversion of anything else we do,” Schell says.

Even the lighting was designed to become part of the room’s art. Instead of relying primarily on traditional can lights, illumination is directed toward the walls and artwork, creating depth against the dark backdrop.

At the bottom of the stairs, a neon sign painting has been repurposed as a guest signature board — the rite of passage where visitors can leave their mark.








## The Garden, Layer by Layer

Schell's background as a floral designer — including his first Colorado Springs job as head floral designer at The Broadmoor hotel — has influenced his instinct for balance, proportion and planting.

Much like the interior of the home, Schell and Wragge's garden has developed over time. Originally overgrown and one-dimensional, the garden now is a multi-tiered, wandering masterpiece, filled with flowers, sculptures and fountains.

"If I've got five inches of dirt, I'm going to put something in it," Schell says. "My gardens are as packed as my shelves."

With warm lantern lights and comfortable nooks to sit and relax, the garden has become a favorite space to welcome guests, including local garden clubs.



## Seize the Day

After nearly a quarter-century, Schell and Wragge's home is still changing, little by little, every year. With every new purchase, design tweak or flower planted, the space is never static and resembles the couple's philosophy: "Carpe Diem."

"Seize the day, seize the moment, make the decision," Schell says. "The two saddest times I ever had were walking away from a piece of art I wanted to buy and didn't. Those are moments that haunt me forever."

For Schell and Wragge, the art of the home is simple: find what moves you, make it yours and open the door so others can witness what makes it special.




GRILLED
PORK
TENDERLOIN

By **Laura Fitzgerald**

# *Eyes on the Road*

# New State Law Aims to Make Roads Safer for Teen Drivers



Every parent of teens knows the dread associated with a new driver. Teens face the highest risk of a crash within the first 90 days of obtaining their driver's license due to general inexperience and increased risk-taking behaviors, such as distracted driving, speeding, lane violations, tailgating and low seatbelt usage.

A new state law requires training for drivers up to age 18, in an effort to make the road safer for this demographic notorious for risky driving behaviors.

## Why We Have a New Law

Over the past decade, fatalities among Colorado youth aged 15 to 20 increased by 91% to a record high of 86 drivers and passengers killed in 2025, compared to 45 in 2015, according to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

Last year, 718 people of all ages died in traffic accidents in Colorado, including pedestrians and bicyclists struck and killed by a vehicle. Teens aged 15 to 20 make up about 12% of driver or passenger fatalities.




"This isn't just about adding more hours or changing administrative rules, it's truly about saving lives. We've watched teen driver fatalities climb steadily over the last decade, and behind every one of those numbers is a family and a community changed forever," says CDOT spokesperson Tamara Rollison.

"This law ensures that as our teens and young adults gain experience behind the wheel, they are doing so with the strongest possible foundation of safety, knowledge and preparedness. By investing more time into their education up front, we are creating safer drivers and making Colorado's roads safer for everyone."

Of the 642 fatal crashes reported in Colorado in 2024, 255 involved careless or aggressive driving, a rate of 40%, and the fifth highest in the nation. The national average is nearly 13%. Roadway design, traffic patterns, enforcement practices and driver behavior may all contribute, according to a Lending Tree analysis.

## What the New Law Says

Currently, only people younger than 16 must complete a driver's training course to obtain their driver's permit.

Effective Jan. 1, 2027, to obtain a driver's permit, the new law requires:

- A 30-hour online or in-person driver education course for minors 15 through 17 years old.
- A 30-hour course or a 4-hour prequalification driver awareness program (online or in-person) for ages 18 through 20 years old.
- Those applying for a license while younger than 16 years, six months, must still complete six hours of behind-the-wheel training with an instructor.
- Motorcycle riders younger than 21 years old must complete a state-approved motorcycle safety training program for their instruction permit.

Teens younger than 18 must still complete 50 hours of driver training with a licensed adult aged 21 or older, as well as hold their permit for one full year, before taking their driver's license test.

## 'They Think They're Indestructible'

Cellphone usage and distracted driving are certainly high among teenage drivers, says Emily Catton, classroom instructor and office manager at Road Star Driving School Colorado Springs South.

"We make [teen drivers] aware they now have a license to operate a deadly weapon. A lot of times, they think, 'I'm never going to get caught. My windows are tinted. People won't see.' They try to carry passengers too early. They try to use their cellphone. They try to get away with things, and those end up causing them to get into accidents," Catton says. "Their brain is not fully developed, and they think they're indestructible."

A driving instructor will teach students the most updated driving laws, best safety practices and what to expect on the road. Driving with a parent is helpful, but many teens pick up their parents' bad habits or don't know about recent traffic laws, she says.

## Helpful Resources

Colorado Permits and First-Time Driver License
**dmv.colorado.gov/permits-first-time-driver-license**

HB24-1021 Law
**dmv.colorado.gov/hb24-1021-motor-vehicle-minor-driver-education**

About Road Star Driving School
**roadstardriving.com**
Road Star offers in-person and online courses for teenagers and adults, drives with a licensed instructor, and driving and interlock tests. Road Star has three locations in Colorado Springs.

# The Science of Longevity

## How the Hybl Performance Center is Redefining Athletic Potential



In the pursuit of peak performance, the line between a fleeting career and a lifetime of athletic vitality often comes down to one thing: data. At the William J. Hybl Sports Medicine and Performance Center in Colorado Springs, the philosophy is simple yet revolutionary—by integrating high-level medical science with elite-level training, athletes can not only recover from injuries but actually extend their competitive "prime" for years to come.

Located on the UCCS campus, the Hybl Center has created a unique ecosystem that eliminates the barriers between clinical medicine and performance training. Under one roof, patients have access to expert orthopedic physicians, advanced imaging, state-of-the-art physical therapy, and performance coaches, powered by Exos. This "Collaborative Care" model ensures that an individual's health is never managed in isolation.

## Precision Testing for Ultimate Results

The secret to the center's success lies in its rigorous, data-driven approach to assessment. When an athlete—or anyone looking to improve their health—walks through the doors, they aren't just given a standard workout plan. They undergo a comprehensive health audit that acts as a blueprint for their success.

This process involves an exhaustive series of evaluations: metabolic and nutritional assessments, VO2Max testing to gauge cardiovascular efficiency, body composition analysis, and biomechanical movement screenings. Whether it's a gait analysis for a runner or a swing analysis in the golf simulator, these tools allow the Hybl team to identify subtle inefficiencies in the body's movement patterns.

"Each patient who comes to the Hybl Center is seen as an individual, with goals that are tailored for their specific needs according to their injury, sport or activity level, and timeline," says Dr. Brad Bellard, Medical Director at the Hybl Center and a sports medicine physician.

## Bridging the Gap: From Injury to Peak

The Hybl Center's mission is to move patients beyond the traditional "recovery" mindset. While their orthopedic clinic uses leading edge, minimally invasive techniques to treat acute and chronic injuries, the goal is always a swift and safe transition to peak performance. The physical therapy department works in tandem with the performance team to ensure that rehabilitation is not just about returning to baseline, but about returning stronger and more durable than before.

This commitment to longevity is supported by a multitude of innovative resources, including altitude training chambers and advanced recovery modalities. By focusing on the "whole athlete," the center ensures that every session—whether in the weight room or the exam room—is contributing to long-term health.




Ultimately, the Hybl Performance Center is more than a facility; it is a lab for human potential. By using technology to provide a customized roadmap, the center is helping athletes redefine their own limits, ensuring that the drive to achieve does not come at the cost of long-term health. The future of longevity starts here.

**Scan the code to learn more.**

CommonSpirit

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By **Laura Fitzgerald**

# Accessibility Tools to Help Navigate the Digital Realm

Does arthritis pain stop you from typing away at a computer? Or does low vision impede your ability to read a screen?

Thankfully, new advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and accessibility technology make computer and personal device usage easier for anyone, whether you're using your desktop at home, scrolling through your phone or in need of a workplace accommodation.

## Document Magnifiers

Document magnifiers can be placed over printed or digital text to magnify it to a size that is easily readable for people with low vision. These devices can also read text out loud, or use AI to describe a picture or room. Document magnifiers can also scan a document and answer questions about the text, says Brian Smith, co-owner of Magnisight of the Rockies.

Based in Colorado Springs, Magnisight sells several magnifiers that come in a variety of sizes, from handheld devices to 15-inch screens. Information: ***magnisightoftherockies.com***

## Dictation Software

People with arthritis or other physical disabilities that make typing difficult can use voice-to-text dictation software, which allows the user to type into any text field on a computer by speaking their text out loud.

The software can either add punctuation to text automatically, or the user can manually add it with their speech. Some software has additional features such as text rewriting, the ability to add your own dictionary for proper nouns, name or place spellings, or AI-powered features.

Usually, paid versions of dictation software are more accurate and faster than free versions. Here are a few of our top picks:

- **Apple Dictation** (free software pre-installed on all Mac and iOS devices)
- **Dragon:** ***dragon.nuance.com/en-us/dragon*** (paid version only)
- **Voicy:** ***usevoicy.com*** (paid version only)
- **Willow Voice:** ***willowvoice.com*** (free and paid versions)
- **Windows Speech Recognition** (free software pre-installed on Windows computers)
- **Wispr Flow:** ***wisprflow.ai*** (free and paid versions)



## Computer Navigation Tools for Low Vision

Although document magnifiers are best for printed materials, software known as JAWS, ZoomText and Fusion are great for navigating the digital realm.

**ZoomText** is a built-in software that magnifies text for those with low vision. Other features include color contrast, focus aids and text-to-speech. **JAWS** reads text out loud and provides speech controls so that blind individuals can navigate a computer.

Want to combine the two? **Fusion** combines the screen reading power of JAWS with the magnifying ability of ZoomText for one seamlessly integrated tool for a continuum of support.

Check out all these tools at: ***vispero.com***

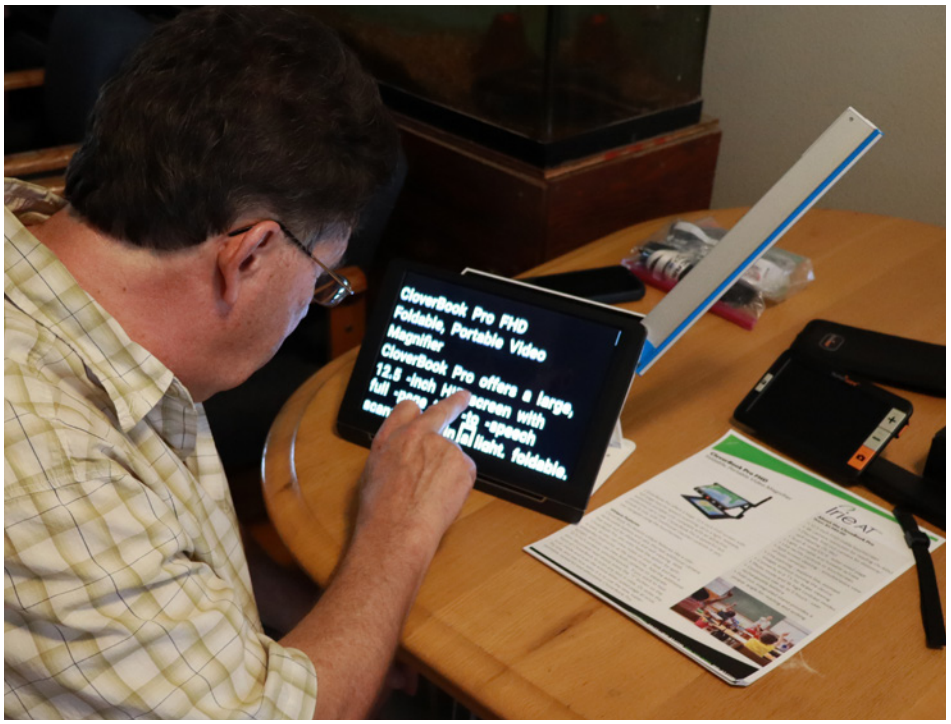



Photo by Laura Fitzgerald.



**Brian Smith**, co-owner of Magnisight of the Rockies, demonstrates a magnifier that enlarges a printed document so that people with low vision can more easily read it.

## Hands-Free Computer Mice

**Hands-free mouse products** allow those with physical disabilities to navigate a computer with ease. Glassouse offers a line of products that allow the user to use their mouth or their breath to click and eye movement to move the mouse. Learn more at: **glassouse.com**

**Tobii Dynavox** uses eye-tracking movement for a robust mouse technology with advanced capabilities without physical gear. The company also sells a variety of communication tools for those with physical, mental and cognitive disabilities. Check it out at: ***us.tobiidynavox.com***

For a more budget-friendly option, **Smyle Mouse** uses eye-tracking technology and mouth movements to navigate and click. Learn more at: ***smylemouse.com***

## Local Resources for People with Disabilities

The Independence Center offers free accessibility support so that those with all types of disabilities can lead independent lives. Staffers help individuals find the accessibility tools that are right for them and explore grant options to purchase accessibility equipment, although financial support is not guaranteed.

The Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provides free, individualized services for people with disabilities who are either searching for employment, need assistance in maintaining employment or are in school or training for employment.

## Helpful Resources

The Independence Center
**729 S. Tejon St., Colorado Springs**
**theindependencecenter.org**
**Main line: 719-471-8181**
**Video Phone (for deaf and hard of hearing): 719-358-2513**

Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
**dvr.colorado.gov**
**cdle_voc.rehab@state.co.us**
**General phone line: 303-318-8571**

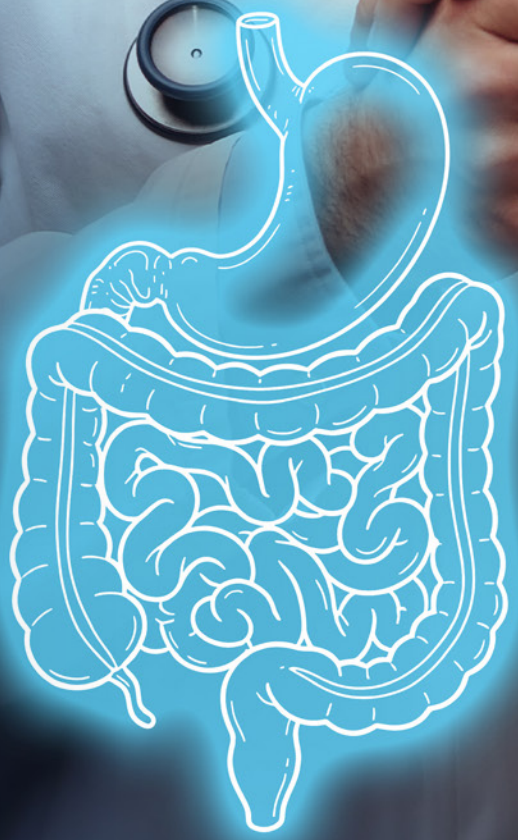
iSight Connections
**isightconnections.org**
**josieshea@isightconnections.org**
**719-270-2982**

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By **Laura Fitzgerald**

# *Thriving vs. Surviving*
# Facial Massage is Self-Care

Want to incorporate massage into your self-care routine? Don't think of it as an occasional treat ... it's a wellness practice to help you thrive.

Facial massage uses hands and/or tools to gently stroke, knead and manipulate facial muscles to promote skin health, relaxation and improved blood flow.

Facial massages include several types of treatments, says Olivia Daniel, founder and massage therapist at Homebody Wellness Collective.

Gua sha is an ancient Eastern Chinese medicinal technique that uses instruments to gently scrape and massage the skin. It promotes lymphatic drainage, which reduces fine lines, wrinkles and facial puffiness, Daniel says.

Neuromuscular massage focuses on locating and relieving painful trigger points in facial and scalp muscles. These massages can relieve tension and pain in the head, neck and jaw and provide relief from nerve pain, headaches, temporomandibular joint (TMJ) dysfunction and more.

A gentle face massage focuses on "feel-good areas," as Daniel calls them, such as the side of the head or the jaw, and uses gentle strokes that calm the nervous system.

Although further research is necessary, a handful of small scientific studies have shown that facial massages improved facial muscle mobility and skin thickness, which aids in skin rejuvenation. Other studies found facial massages provided relief for TMJ pain and alleviated itchiness, pain and the appearance of scar tissue from burns.



Daniel says receiving a facial massage or other healing modality benefits clients' mental health by providing relaxation and stillness.

"We're slowing down, grounding ourselves with our bodies and choosing to create intentional ritual in our lives," she says. "Our nervous systems have an internal memory of 'this is where I come to feel safe.'"



**Olivia Daniel**
Homebody Wellness Collective, Founder and Massage Therapist





# DIY Facial Massage Techniques

Before beginning at-home massages, Daniel recommends people learn from a trained professional or by researching online.

Still, there are a few simple techniques you can try at home. Daniel recommends putting pressure on both sides of the face at the same time to create balanced support for facial muscles.

Before beginning, wash your face and hands. Apply a small amount of serum oil or cleansing balm to your fingers so they glide over your skin easily.

1. Apply light pressure below your cheekbones with your fingertips. Move your fingers out toward the back of your head and gently push into the sides of your face below your cheekbones on your masseter muscles, which close your mouth and help you chew. Move down to your lower jaw and palpate and push in a rhythm on both sides of your face. Let your jaw go slack and gently push.

2. Use the pad of your middle or ring fingers to apply pressure below your eyebrows, then slowly move to the top of your forehead, then move your fingers back and forth rapidly.

3. Move your hands up and down your temples with the same pressure at the same time.

4. Press and glide your ring fingers into your brow bones, moving from the inner to the outer corner. Do the same movement under your eyes.

## Learn DIY Massage

HOMEBODY WELLNESS COLLECTIVE

**Want to learn DIY facial massage from a trained professional?**

Join Daniel at Homebody Wellness Collective for a 2-3:15 p.m. workshop on Oct. 18 or Nov. 8. Guests will learn about facial muscles and how they influence expression, tension and appearance; the difference between gentle lymphatic-style touch and muscular massage; techniques for areas like the jaw, brow and temples; and simple facial movements for muscular awareness and control.

Learn a 20- to 30-minute facial ritual you can do at home.

Cost: $50. Register at: **homebodywellnesscollective.com**

**About Homebody Wellness Collective**

615 N. Nevada Ave., Ste. 1
**homebodywellnesscollective.com**

The business' eight practitioners provide yoga, meditation, therapeutic massage, craniosacral therapy, cacao ritual, sound healing and wellness workshops.

By **Rhonda Van Pelt**

# Opportunities Abound for Creative & Performing Arts Funding

Colorado is a haven for creative types of all stripes, but they can't live on love alone from their audiences and gallery visitors. Fortunately, the state and our region have resources that assist individuals and visual arts and performing arts organizations so they can keep doing the work they love.



## Statewide

**Colorado Creative Industries**

CCI's mission is to "promote, support and expand the creative industries to drive Colorado's economy, grow jobs and enhance our quality of life. The creative economy subgroups are design, film and media, literary and publishing, performing arts, visual arts and design, and heritage."



**Grants and Awards**

- Colorado Creates Grant
- Arts in Society Grant
- Colorado Poet Laureate
- Governor's Creative Leadership Award
- Folk and Traditional Arts Project Grant



**Arts Education**

- Equity in Arts Learning for Colorado Youth Grant
- Poetry Out Loud Competition

**Community Development**

- Call Yourself Creative Program
- Colorado Creative Districts
- Space to Create Colorado
- Colorado Community Revitalization Grant
- Colorado Community Revitalization Tax Credit

**Professional Development**

- CCI Summit
- Colorado Change Leader Program

**Public Art**

- Art in Public Places
- Creative Capitol Exhibition



Photo by Rhonda Van Pelt

## The Pikes Peak Region

**Bee Vradenburg Foundation**

The BVF offers several types of grants: general operating, program, capacity-building, challenge, capital projects and outreach. Grantees include Millibo Art Theatre, Knob Hill Urban Arts District, the Manitou Art Center and the Colorado Springs Chorale.



**Chapman Foundation**

The foundation offers grants for performing arts and visual arts in Colorado Springs. It provides funding for general operations, projects and programs, capital needs (brick and mortar, equipment purchases, etc.) and organization capacity building. Amounts range from $1,000 to $10 million.

**El Pomar Foundation**

El Pomar offers competitive grants, El Pomar's Funds (for specific focus or geographic areas) and invitation-only grants. The grants are geared to support museums, historical associations and community arts programs, among other sectors, all to carry out the mission of Spencer and Julie Penrose.

**Give Pikes Peak**

This organization encourages people to explore ways to make connections; it's not always about making donations. One of its mottos: "Give an hour, a hand, a hello. 30-plus ways to show up for your neighbors." In 2025, 1,781 donors gave $881,351 to 74 nonprofits.

**Joseph Henry Edmondson Foundation**

The Edmondson Foundation supports nonprofits working in various sectors, including the arts. Recipients have included Concrete Couch, the Colorado Springs Conservatory and the Youth Documentary Academy.

**Manitou Arts, Culture, and Heritage**

A small percentage of Manitou Springs' use and sales taxes goes to this city-administered initiative. MACH distributes 34% of its funds via annual awards and grants to arts, culture and heritage projects and programs in Manitou Springs; the remaining funds go to historic buildings in the city.

**Manitou Springs Community Foundation**

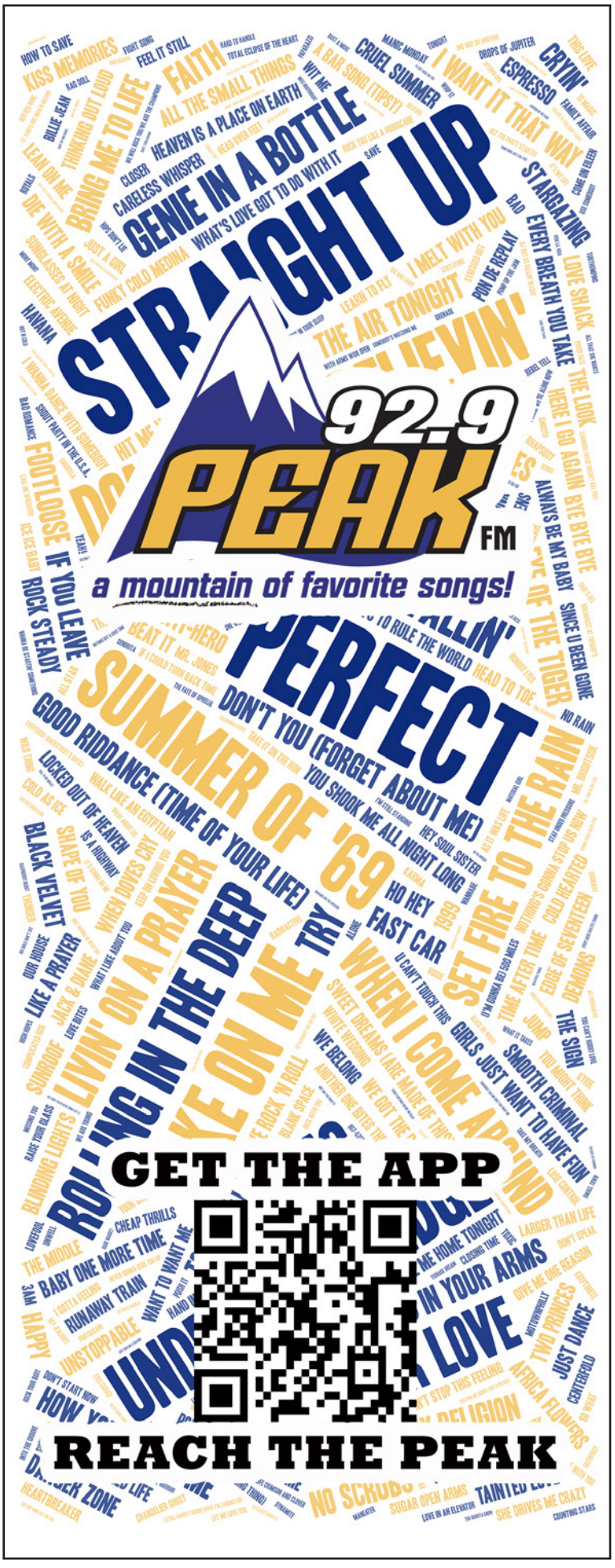
The MSCF's mission is to support projects that promote community connections, stewardship and well-being. Funded nonprofits include the Manitou Music Foundation, the Blue Hands Project and Clayfest.

**Pikes Peak Community Foundation**

The PPCF administers the Pikes Peak Fund for the Arts, which aims to enhance culture in the region. Previous grantees include the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region and Rocky Mountain Highway, which organizes the annual MeadowGrass music festival.

The **Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region** does not provide funding, but is a valuable resource for programs, collaborations and other opportunities.

The **Pueblo Arts Alliance** administers the city's Creative Corridor, promotes events and strengthens collaboration among arts and business organizations. Also in Pueblo, the Creative Consortium of Pueblo promotes the area's creative arts community.







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WE FORTIFY'S ANNUAL

# GALA NOT GALA

SAT, NOV 21, 2026

HOTEL POLARIS

FOLLOW THE CALL OF THE DISCO BALL



Don't miss We Fortify's biggest event of the year! Join us at Hotel Polaris on November 21, where we invite you to "Follow the Call of the Disco Ball" for a unique and engaging night to celebrate community, impact, and connection with a fun, 70s disco twist! Your attendance will support our our villages and help fight housing insecurity here in Colorado Springs.

Visit wefortify.org or scan to learn more!

GET TICKETS:

We Fortify

By **Kay Rowe**



# On the Road Again

## When & How to Hire Professional Movers

Relocating poses logistical challenges that can dampen the excitement of a new chapter in life. Securing a professional moving service protects your property and provides peace of mind. Delegating logistics to licensed, insured experts safeguards your health, protects your assets and preserves your energy so you can enjoy your new home.



## How does one navigate this process?



### First, verify credentials.

For local moves, check state registries like Colorado's Public Utilities Commission. For interstate moves, verify the company's U.S. Department of Transportation number via the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration database. Also verify the mover is insured so you are covered for lost, stolen or damaged items. Licensed movers follow strict industry regulations, provide written contracts and transfer liability through comprehensive valuation coverage. Does your home have a complex layout, delicate architectural finishes and heavy, high-value items like fine art or custom furniture? Professional movers provide runners to protect floors and custom-built crates for irreplaceable valuables.




## Next, research reputation.

Check for patterns regarding punctuality, vehicle quality, communication and surprise fees. Avoid firms that offer quotes only over the phone; you want a physical or virtual walkthrough. Look beyond the lowest price. Exceptionally low quotes often lead to bait-and-switch scams.



## Consider the budget.

Ask for a transparent list of potential extra fees upfront. An hourly or flat rate for labor, plus exact pricing for boxes, tape and specialty crates is common. Ask if the quote is binding, non-binding or capped to avoid surprise bills. It's best to have a "binding not-to-exceed" estimate that guarantees you won't be surcharged for unexpected weight overages.

### For a Local Relocation

1-2 Bedrooms
**$500 - $1,200**

2-3 Bedrooms
**$1,200 - $3,000**

4+ Bedrooms
**$3,500 - $7,000**

Long-Distance Moves
**$4,000 - $10,000**

In general, pricing for local moves is determined by home size, while long-distance moves are calculated by total weight and mileage. Distance, the total volume of your belongings and the specific level of labor required dictate the final price.

Packing irreplaceable jewelry, family heirlooms and legal documents yourself is advised to prevent any potential loss or damage.

**Timing is everything.** It is best to secure local moves at least two to four weeks in advance, while long-distance moves require four to eight weeks. May to September moves should be scheduled 6-10 weeks ahead due to demand. Reputable movers may require a 10% to 25% deposit to lock in dates. Consider it a red flag if you are asked to pay the full balance before delivery. Also, confirm that your belongings will stay on the same truck. A coordinated crew can complete a move in one day, whereas a lesser company might need a week.

**What protection is included?** Standard liability pays very little per pound, so you need to know your coverage options. Ideally, you should obtain an explanation of released value protection vs. full value protection and a clear policy stating that items movers break during packing are fully covered.

**How to handle damage claims?** A straightforward, step-by-step claims procedure with a specific time window for filing and resolution is in your best interest.

**Are there storage options?** Closing dates do not always align, requiring temporary holding space. Ask for details on secure, climate-controlled short or long-term storage facilities they own or partner with.

**What about a cancellation policy?** Plans change unexpectedly, and you need to know if you'll lose your deposit. A clear timeline, such as free cancellation up to seven days before the move, with transparent refund rules is important.

Photography courtesy of **Three Hundred Days Distilling**

# Toast to Autumn's Moon(shine)

Three Hundred Days Distilling crafts Colorado moonshine in Monument. Here are some cocktail recipes, using their moonshine, to savor the crisp days of autumn.



## *River Runner*




STAFF FAVORITE

### River Runner

- 1.5 oz Colorado Harvest Honey Sippin' Shine
- 1.5 oz Peach Cobbler Sippin' Shine
- 1.5 oz coconut cream (Recommended coconut cream: Coco Real Cream of Coconut)
- 3 oz orange juice
- 3 oz pineapple juice

Place all ingredients in a shaker nearly filled with ice and shake well. Strain into a 16 oz mason jar, top off with ice. Garnish with orange slice, cherry, cinnamon stick and a dash of nutmeg. Enjoy!

### Old Coloradan (Mule)

- Sippin Shine: Colorado Harvest Honey Sippin' Shine

Start with 2 oz of Colorado Harvest Honey in a copper or steel mule mug filled with ice; top with ginger beer and garnish with a lemon zest. Perfect drink on a warm autumn day.


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OCT 31
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