

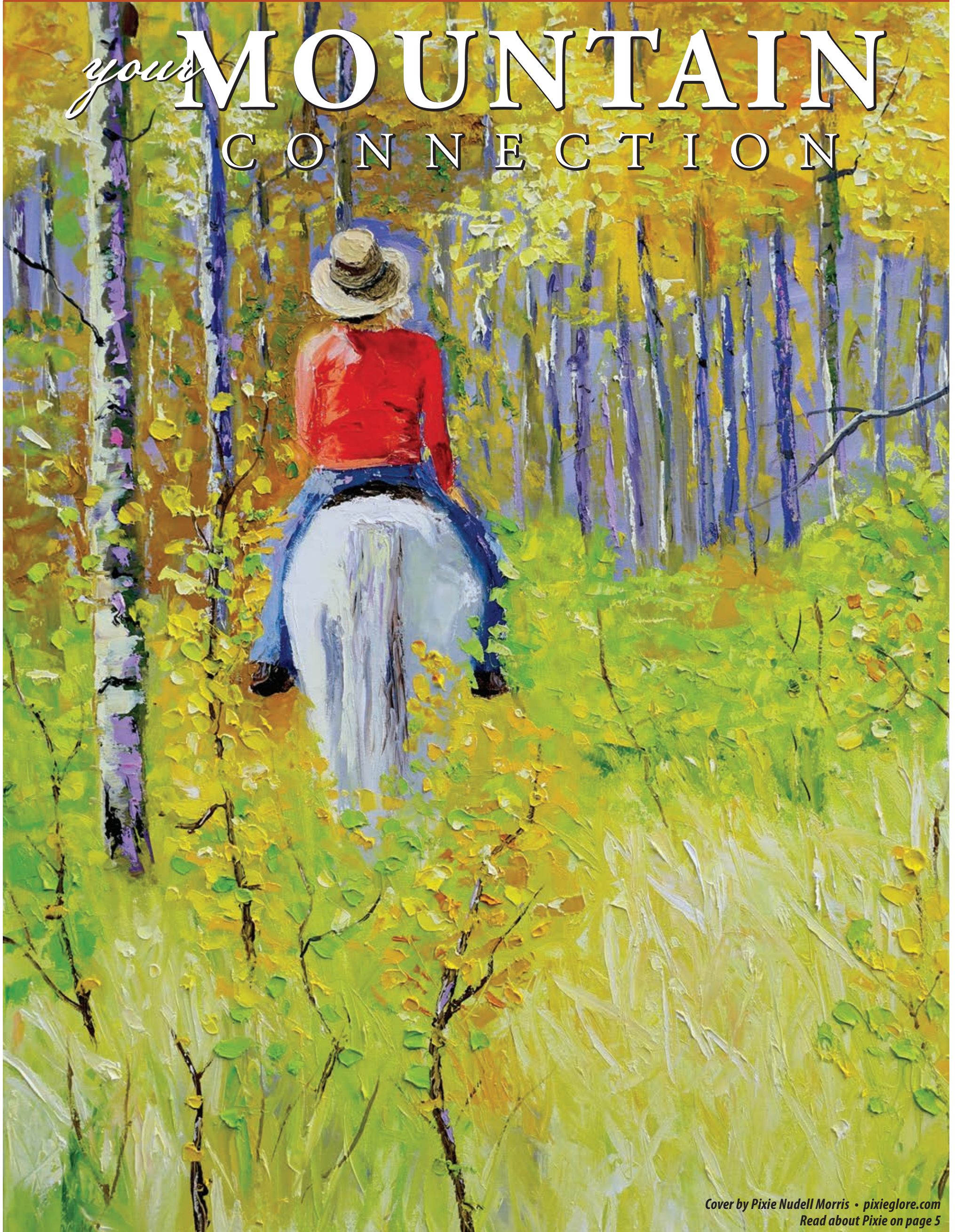
YOUR MOUNTAIN CONNECTION
t. 515-326-2672
www.YourMtnConnection.com
jeff@yourmtnconnection.com

News on the Positive Side
SEPTEMBER 2026

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DENVER, CO
PERMIT NO 2669
EDDM

your MOUNTAIN CONNECTION



Cover by Pixie Nudell Morris • pixieglore.com
Read about Pixie on page 5

— EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF OUR COMMUNITY ON PAGE 4 —

Connection to the Past



THE ResqRanch
The ResqRanch is the Premier Positive Reinforcement Animal Sanctuary
Proudly sponsored by **ASPEN PARK VET HOSPITAL • 25871 Duran Ave., Conifer CO 80433**
Phone: 303-838-3771 • Email: info@ResqRanch.org • aspenparkvet.com • ResqRanch.org



HOLISTIC VETERINARIAN IN CONIFER, CO

ASPEN PARK VET HOSPITAL • aspenparkvet.com • 855-377-2638

Keep your treasured companion happy and healthy when you schedule an appointment in the hospital, or for a housecall, with our holistic veterinarian in Conifer, CO. Aspen Park Vet Hospital is your local source for quality care. From natural remedies to animal acupuncture, we offer a series of unique treatment methods in the hospital or on housecalls for your pets. We work hard to use the science of animal behavior to help horses, dogs, cats, and koi fish live healthier and happier lives. Schedule a visit in the hospital or for a housecall today to discuss treatment for your pet.



“The mustangs don’t need another argument. They need better answers.”



I went to Colorado’s inaugural Wild Horse Symposium expecting to learn more about mustangs. I did not expect to leave with more questions than answers—or to realize that some of the most important conversations about saving wild horses have very little to do with horses running free on the range. The symposium, held August 6–8 at the Wild Horse Refuge in Craig, Colorado, and presented by The Wild Animal Sanctuary, brought together people with very different perspectives who share one common goal: finding a way to protect America’s wild horses. I had the opportunity to speak personally with Alan Bittner, Colorado Deputy State Director for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), about the challenges facing the BLM. One of the biggest is balancing the needs of wild horses with the needs of the entire ecosystem. The land also supports deer, elk and critically important sage grouse. In fact, the concentration of sage grouse at the Wild Horse Refuge makes the area important to conservation far beyond the mustangs themselves. We discussed the BLM’s Appropriate Management Level, or ALM, and Alan expressed

The Wild Horse Problem Is Bigger—and More Complicated—Than You Think

hope that the threshold could eventually be lowered so intervention could happen earlier, before a range becomes so compromised that large-scale gathers are necessary. Perhaps removing five horses at a time could prevent the need to remove hundreds later. Another uncomfortable truth is that not one single fertility-control method has ever completely solved the problem. PZP, darting, removals and other approaches have all been tried, but none has been sufficient by itself to balance wild horse populations on public lands. Natural predation isn’t enough, either. Mountain lions can prey on mustang foals, and some populations have adapted specifically to them. But mountain lion populations are also controlled, meaning there simply aren’t enough predators to make a meaningful impact on mustang numbers. So where does that leave us? During a fireside s’mores gathering, Pat Craig, founder of The Wild Animal Sanctuary, told me that one of the biggest things missing from the current process is a way to evaluate a horse’s temperament. His idea was wonderfully simple: Create a standardized personality scale, perhaps from one to five. A horse rated a one or two might be relatively comfortable around humans and potentially suitable for training and adoption. A level-five horse might be so terrified that it screams, fights and struggles continuously during examination and treatment. Pat has personally witnessed horses in that condition. His suggestion was that these horses should be identified immediately as poor candidates for adoption and considered instead for permanent sanctuary or long-term protected turnout. That could prevent profoundly traumatized animals from being repeatedly moved through short-term holding facilities in the hope that someone will eventually adopt them. And then I learned something else that

surprised me: Trained horses are far more adoptable than yearlings. This was perhaps the most frustrating part of the symposium for me personally. I watched trainers from around the country work with ten yearlings brought in for the auction. Most were clearly trying to be kind, especially with the public watching. But as a veterinarian, certified professional animal trainer and longtime student of horse behavior, I was stunned that only one trainer I observed appeared to understand the science of modern animal training—specifically, positive reinforcement, or R+. I watched clucking, driving, whipping and pressure being used to get frightened young horses to comply. I literally watched women in casts, laughing about their most recent horse injuries. And I kept thinking: We know there is another way, for both the people and the horses. We even learned about a recent Colorado State University study showing that horses started with positive reinforcement and later transitioned to traditional pressure-based training experienced less stress and tolerated the pressure better than horses that had not first been started with R+. That matters. I know only one truly high-level dressage rider who has trained a competitive horse using R+ exclusively. It took seven years. She is an extraordinary outlier, but her success proves that what we call “impossible” may simply be something we haven’t invested enough time and science into yet. For me, the symposium ultimately came down to two enormous takeaways. First, we have to protect the mustangs from nefarious characters who might see vulnerable, captured animals as an opportunity to make money—particularly when an already understaffed and underfunded government agency is trying to manage an enormous problem.

Second, if trained horses are more adoptable, and therefore more valuable, then we have to ask: What kind of training are we willing to accept, and who should be doing it? I even discussed privately with Alan whether there could be a path for private individuals with sufficient resources to lease large areas of land and provide homes for horses. He told me that a pathway had previously existed under federal law to facilitate arrangements like that, but that the current administration removed that pathway, leaving the BLM with even fewer options. There are no easy answers here. But there is hope. Pat Craig has spent 46 years rescuing animals, and what impressed me most was his common-sense belief that rescue shouldn’t simply mean keeping an animal alive. It should mean giving that animal room to express its natural behaviors and live a meaningful life. That is the kind of sanctuary I believe in, and why I support the Mustang Refuge. And I will keep reporting back to you about what I learn, because if you are generous enough to donate your hard-earned money to help animals, you deserve to know that your dollars are actually reaching people and organizations doing valuable work, like the Wild Mustang Refuge, and like the ResqRanch. The mustangs don’t need another argument. They need better answers. And together, maybe Coloradans can help lead the way. Thanks for reading! DrQ and the Crew of Aspen Park Vet Hospital and the ResqRanch

Aspen Park Veterinary Hospital is located at 25871 Duran Ave. Conifer, CO 80433. You can call the hospital at (303) 838-3771 (838-DrQ1) or visit them at www.DrQandU.org.

— KELLER WILLIAMS FOOTHILLS REALTY —

Give More Than You Take

BY LISA PLUMMER SMITH

“You are free to choose, but you are not free from the consequence of your choice.” —A Universal Paradox



Last week a bear rummaged through my trash and helped itself to the contents of the garage refrigerator. It didn't like the ginger ale, but loved the V-8 juice, slashing open cans with its claws. It also liked the eggs, leaving eggy bear prints about. I had forgotten to close my garage door that night, thus allowing an opportunity for poor bear behavior.

This bear was not born a bad bear. Perhaps he has been conditioned over time, getting away with things his whole bear life, and has gotten bolder and bolder. He saw an opportunity and took a chance on getting away with it. Perhaps in the beginning he did risk assessment in his bear brain; but the more he got away with his bad bear behavior, the more confident he became and the more risks he took. Without checks and balances and hard love from his bear family teaching him good bear behavior, he was enabled over time and developed into a bad bear.

Actions have consequences, each creating a chain of events, or a ripple. We need to ensure we give more than we take—and apply it to our personal relationships, our government, and our relationship with the earth. The earth can heal itself, but it takes a very, very long time—like centuries or millions of years. What wicked irony it is that human-driven changes pose the biggest threat to our very own existence as humans.

The earth hosts humanity, giving life, providing oxygen to breathe, water to drink, and food to eat. Spending time in nature has scientifically proven healing benefits. It lowers stress hormones, lowers blood pressure, boosts immunity, and strengthens our hearts. It boosts our mood, restores our focus and makes us more mindful—all of these very good things!

The world we live in has changed drastically in the last seven years. We have had a global pandemic, and we have become even more reliant on the internet and technologies like artificial intelligence that use a TREMENDOUS amount of our precious water. We have experienced huge political, economic, social, cultural, demographic, weather-related, and technological changes in a very short period of time.

I use the past seven years as my example because in my life that stands for “the before and the after.” Life drastically changed for my daughter and me seven years ago when my husband died very suddenly from a heart attack. Our family was not prepared and had to pivot quickly into crisis/damage-control mode. Terms like beneficiary, payable on death, how we held title, head of household, partnership interest, contractual duties, joint accounts, primary card holder, etc., made my head literally hurt.

I like to think I thrive under pressure, but I felt like I was living in a pressure cooker. Our immediate needs were taken care of by our

family, friends, and community while necessary arrangements were made. I found myself making decisions I was unprepared for. We somehow found a way to cope, process, and eventually thrive again.

As we begin to live our seventh year in the “after,” our daughter is 19 and attending college out of state on a great scholarship. We have endured a pandemic, successfully negotiated an end to a lawsuit we had to file to protect my daughter's legacy, and survived my journey with cancer. We have made sacrifices and our lives have changed, but still we rise.

A habit of taking more than you give will not end well. It erodes trust, depletes resources, ruins relationships, leads to feelings of hopelessness, isolation and depression, strains public systems, and leads to severe social and economic problems.

Like many American families, we are getting by, but are perhaps just one catastrophe away from going under. We have to make choices when we shop for groceries, we buy most of our clothes at thrift stores, we recycle dishes and furniture, but still we donate to causes we believe in. We have benefitted from the programs in place to catch a family when hardship hits, learned to ask for and accept help, and want to “pay it forward” whenever we can.

Please vote for positive change in our nation. We are hopeful that the midterm elections will bring good changes for our society and our planet. I hope we will put leadership in place that will bring about positive change over time. I am hopeful that my daughter will find a job after college that can support her. I hope that our insurance, gasoline, grocery, and lifestyle costs will become manageable again. I am hopeful that my daughter can someday afford to purchase a home and build a family if she so chooses.

I am hopeful that our basic needs will be met, that we will have shelter, clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and clean food to eat. But most of all I am hopeful that we will put programs in place to protect our people and our earth. We must continue to give more than we take, to maintain programs meant to safeguard families from hardship, prevent trauma and work towards the greater good for all. Please raise bears up to be good bears, and please vote for change. All the best, Lisa.



Savvy Mountain Realtor specializing in Relocations/Horse Properties/Estates
Lisa Plummer Smith
Keller Williams Foothills Realty, LLC
Cell: 907-632-3683
lisarayanne@gmail.com



kw
KELLERWILLIAMS
FOOTHILLS REALTY LLC
Each Keller Williams brokerage business is independently owned and operated

LISA PLUMMER SMITH
TOP #1 MOST TRUSTED REALTOR IN COLORADO
Apple News+ CEO WEEKLY

**14850 Quandary Peak Road,
Pine, CO • \$390k**

- 5 acres with electric, septic, and well in place NG adjacent
- Backs to HOA open space
- 5 minutes to amenities



26719 Pleasant Park Road, Suite 140
Conifer, CO 80433
31207 Keats Way, Suite 101
Evergreen, CO 80439

Lisa Plummer Smith
907-632-3683 • lisarayanne@gmail.com
Keller Williams Foothills Realty, LLC

connection to the past



On February 10, 2014, the Conifer School/LWSH was listed on the National list of Historic Places



Sharon Meyer on the original stone steps to the Conifer School in 1991



In 1996 the Pleasant Park School was listed in the Colorado State Historic Register

“Mrs. Granzella made all our classes interesting. I liked hearing her talk to the older kids, learning about what we would be doing later in the upper grades.”

— Sharon Meyer Rouse



Pauline Griffith's 4th, 5th, and 6th grade class in 1953 – 1954
BACK: Gary Ostling, ?, Irene Wilhelm, Kathy Turnquist, Jeanne Schoonhoven, Lola Knight
FRONT: Freda Wolf, Sharon Griffith, Carol Schoonhoven, Bonnie Patterson, Sharon Meyer, Linda Ostling, Bonnie Brogate, John Wilson, Irvin Knight



Sharon Meyer and younger sister Cara Meyer on the porch of the Conifer School



Phebe Granzella's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders in the same classroom at the Conifer School in 1953 – 1954

SHARON'S SCHOOL EXPERIENCE IN CONIFER'S ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSES

BY CARLA MINK AND SHARON MEYER ROUSE | CONIFER HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, homesteaders in the Conifer area desperately needed schools for their children. The local school district built Medlen School in 1886, Pleasant Park School in 1894, and Conifer School in 1923. Before the Conifer School, three different schools along Bradford Toll Road between Barkley Road and Highway 285 had opened and closed due to insufficient classroom space.

Weather and harvest schedules shaped school calendars in the early days, but more so in the farming communities. Children were expected to work hard and help with the harvest. School would start after the work was done.

During the winter, heavy snowstorms west of Denver often closed schools for days at a time. One year, a blizzard with up to 5 feet of snow hit the Conifer area, forcing schools to close from December to March. Students had to attend school in the summer to make up for the lost time.

By 2026, better roads, vehicles, snow removal, farm machinery, and family vacation schedules have shifted many districts' school start dates from September to August.

September is coming, and a former Conifer resident has agreed to share an essay she wrote during the upper grades while attending Evergreen High School.

Thank you to Sharon Meyer Rouse for sharing her school experience at one-room schoolhouses in Conifer in the 1950s.

—Carla Mink

Memories from the Little White Schoolhouse and the Pleasant Park School in Conifer in the 1950s

Our school day started by having breakfast at our kitchen with the radio on and listening to Alex Dryer and maybe John Cameron Swazee report on world news and the state of the arguments around McCarthyism and the fear of Communists in our society. Mother packed our rectangular lunchboxes with mostly dry goods, since there were no juice boxes in 1950. Waxed paper was wrapped around the sandwiches.

Our bus was a Chevy panel truck with real small windows, seating about eight. We were close to the last pickup. We stood by the mailbox in our skirts and warm socks. Girls did not wear pants to school in 1950. We had warm boots and coats for snowy days. We had moved from Denver, at 34th and Madison, and shared the newly acquired house with the renters. From the yellow house it was about two miles to the school on Brandenburg Road.

US Highway 285 was being improved and expanded with a bigger shoulder. My sister Melody and our younger brother Norm Jr. stood out on the highway for the bus. Brother Erik was not yet born.

Our teacher was Phoebe Granzella, whose relatives owned the property to the east of our south meadow. She rang a hand-held bell to call us into the school to start the day in class. We each had a wooden desk with an inkwell in

it. We had ink pens and lead pencils and crayons. We could raise our hand to ask to go to the bathroom. We had a large outhouse in back of the school with two seats that were very cold, but I remember we got another indoor bathroom down in the basement which seemed like a luxury, with a sink to wash up. The furnace was there also and made a loud noise at times.

Mrs. Granzella managed to teach all eight grades in the one room, giving different assignments to different grades. So we young ones had the advantage of hearing what the older kids were learning. I remember her using the blackboard and white chalk which we all could see.

I remember that sometimes we had an assignment on a fresh paper that had just come out of the mimeograph machine in the basement that had a wet ink smell, with the color of blue ink, which sometimes was streaked. Some of it was lined so that we could practice writing our cursive letters between the lines. There was a cursive alphabet in the room for us to follow.

At lunch we would have a longer recess. We could run around the parking lot, which was pretty empty. We could also go down the hill to the south of the schoolhouse to get on the giant swing or onto the giant teeter-totter made of a long wooden plank with a metal handle. It worked best if the two kids were about the same size to rock it equally.

Mrs. Granzella made all our classes interesting. I liked hearing her talk to the older kids, learning about what we would be doing later in the upper grades. When we finished our

exercises, she would give us a sheet of manila paper to draw or color on with crayons. I loved those times.

The front porch of the school provided some protection when it was snowing. In 1953 our first through third grades moved to the Pleasant Park School, also a one-room school built in 1894. We had outgrown the space at the white school, as more families moved to the mountains. At Pleasant Park Pauline Griffith was our teacher, and her two girls were in this school with us. We had a coatroom at the entrance and an outhouse in back. I think it was a freestanding wood stove for heat. I remember it felt cold.

The new West Jefferson Elementary School opened in the spring of 1955 with a modern gym, boys and girls bathrooms, an outdoor sand pit for high jump and long jump, and a parking lot. Mrs. Tyler then was my fifth grade teacher, and we had to go under our desks for air raid drills because of the Communist threat from Russia. She was tall and commanded respect with her big grey bun and strong lower lip. Mrs. Granzella came also to teach kindergarten. I especially remember Mrs. Smith (Margaret K. Smith) from 8th grade, who taught us to diagram sentences with dangling participles. And we learned to sing a song in Spanish that I still remember! She also had a big bun of white hair. She was definitely a true language teacher.

I will never forget my early years at the white school in Conifer, with the mix of ages of kids in class and outside, many of us with our siblings.

We got a really personal education.

“One of the really important things about preservation is it connects people to history in a very tangible way.” — Myrick Howard

The mission of the Conifer Historical Society is to share the region's legacy by collecting, preserving, and exhibiting historical and cultural materials.

www.coniferhistoricalsociety.org

CornerStone

Auto Glass



FREE WINDSHIELD QUOTE

25 Years of Trusted Auto Glass Service

From everyday drivers to exotics, classics, and antiques — we replace it all!

- Windshield & Auto Glass Replacement
- Chip Repairs
- In-House ADAS Recalibration
- Free Mobile Service for Most Vehicles
- Quality Parts & Professional Certified Installation



303-697-5252 • www.cornerstoneautoglass.com

KEEP ENJOYING EVERGREEN

A muddy dog shouldn't cut your day short.

Trail to Tail

call or text to book today

720-902-0986

THEHAIROFDOGS.COM

www.facebook.com/hair.of.the.dog.pet.grooming.2023

PROUDLY LOCAL

HAIR OF THE DOG EST. 2016

GROOMING CO.

4602 PLETTNER LANE, EVERGREEN, CO



Jeff Smith owner/publisher

I have been reminded recently just how important health really is. I have always been blessed with good health, until recently when I had a couple of hiccups that got my attention. Everything worked out well, but I am now paying more attention to my health. I recommend it for everyone, no matter what age.

Early fall is a great time to take care of your home and property, too. Start all those projects you've been thinking about all summer, or for several summers. Get in shape for winter! Hopefully we will not have a repeat of last winter, and we will get the normal snowfall or more.

We recently lost a great champion of Evergreen. Linda Kirkpatrick passed away after her fight with cancer. Please read the article about Linda by Anne Vickstrom on page 6.

Yes, it's football season again. Golf is winding

I'm Just Sayin'...

September 2026 – Health and Fall fix up

down. WNBA is winding down (I have been watching the Indiana Fever). Baseball is winding down (I have not been watching the Rockies). I am hopeful that the Broncos can have as good a regular season as last year and a better, smarter, postseason.

Broncos – It's preseason, so it is hard to really tell anything. First half against the Falcons looked good.

Iowa Hawkeyes – First preseason game is September 5th.

Rockies – They're not the worst, but close to it, again. Hovering around 400 percent.

Quackadilly says:

"When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."

— Theodore Roosevelt

Cover Artist Pixie Glore-Morris

Pixie Glore-Morris was born in England and led a nomadic life filled with creativity, adventure and travel. She journeyed to Utah and then to Arizona, Colorado, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

In Utah she put herself through art school while running heavy equipment. Home was a 33' school bus where she lived with her daughter Dawn. Eventually she graduated with a BFA and a teaching certificate.

Her artistic spirit led her to painting indigenous people with watercolor in Africa, the South Pacific, and Papua New Guinea before settling in Spain and France, where she embraced oil painting in an impressionist style with a palette knife. She lived there for 13 years before returning to Colorado. Now she concentrates on Western landscapes and wildlife. She has exhibited extensively in the US and abroad and won many awards.

You can see Pixie's full bio at: www.pixiesart.com
pixiespaintbrush@gmail.com • <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOsrrDih0Io>

NEWS ON THE POSITIVE SIDE

your MOUNTAIN CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 2026 • VOL XXXIV N09

next issue • OCTOBER 2026

t. 515-326-2672

www.YourMtnConnection.com

email. jeff@yourmtnconnection.com

Stories are contributed by local residents to inspire healthy living, happy families, and community giving. Email your story to jeff@yourmtnconnection.com.

Stories accepted on a space-available basis only.

Advertorials are paid advertising.

Business Profiles cost \$400, limited one per year.

From the Experts educational columns cost \$300/month, minimum three-month commitment.

Deadline for ads and articles is September 16.

Call **515-326-2672**.



Owner / Publisher
Sales Consultant
jeff@mtnconnection.com
Jeff Smith



Copy Editor
Emily Fose

Our October theme:
Food, Dining, and Breweries



Creative Director
Marty Hallberg



Writer / Photographer
Gary Loffler

Contributing Writers:

Cathy Kowalski

Penny Randell

Kaarsten Turner

Anne Vickstrom

from the experts

— EVERGREEN HEALTH INSURANCE —

Beware of Medicare Fraud!

BY ED REGALADO

I have been selling health insurance for decades, and over the years I've watched many things change in the industry; some of them are good, and some not so good. The internet and advances in technology have brought with them mixed changes. On the upside, how we choose and enroll in health insurance plans is much easier for both brokers and clients. I use helpful online quoting tools every day. One of the downsides is that the volume of information that's available out there can feel inundating to consumers, and you don't know what kind of rabbit hole you'll find yourself in just trying to figure out what to do when you turn 65. And unfortunately, worst of all is the abundance of online predatory behavior.

Seniors are particular targets online, especially those seeking Medicare. It's important to know that, if someone calls you about Medicare, unless you requested the call, it is fraudulent. Medicare will never call you, and brokers are not allowed to contact you unless they have written permission to do so. If you get a call that offers "free stuff," it is fraudulent. While it's true there are Medicare Advantage plans with extra benefits such as free groceries and other perks, these are generally Special Needs Plans for those who are on Medicare and Medicaid.

Is a Supplement Plan or an Advantage Plan better? Should an Advantage plan be an HMO or a PPO plan? An experienced broker can help you sort it out. Luckily, our assistance comes at no cost to you, since brokers are paid through the insurance companies whose plans we are certified to sell. You want an independent, local



"I get to know my clients, and they know me."

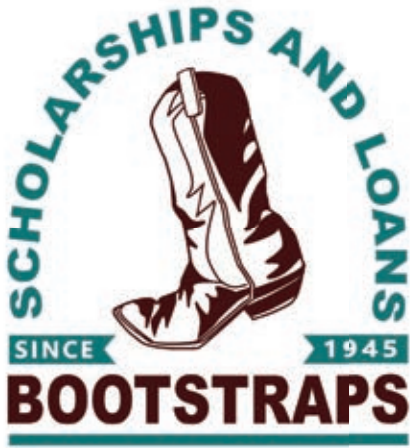
broker who is able to sell you plans from the different carriers in your area.

Crooks have always been around, and in the flesh, most of us generally know how to avoid them. With the internet, they can disguise themselves as anything. At worst, a friendly "agent" with a stolen logo attempts to solicit your information or hack into your computer to steal your personal information. While I am able to process enrollments online, I enjoy meeting most of my clients in my office at The Stone House. I get to know my clients, and they know me.

We can start talking about next year's plans beginning October 1st, and the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) starts on October 15th. AEP is the opportunity to sign up for a 2027 Advantage Plan. It's also open season for telemarketers who will lure you with advertisements offering "free" stuff or other enticing benefits. Beware! If you call that 800 number, they will try to collect your information, and the unsolicited calls will really start! I almost got scammed clicking on a link I shouldn't have, and I thought I was careful! I've learned that there are tricksters out there who prey on all of us, but especially on seniors who generally are trusting. So, beware and be careful.

If I can help you, please give me a call!

Ed Regalado is a certified broker. The office is located at the Stone House at 1524 Belford Court in Evergreen. Ed can be reached at 303-674-1945 or send an email to: edregalado46@gmail.com.



Bootstraps Announces Amy Carman as New Executive Director

Bootstraps is pleased to announce Amy Carman as its new Executive Director, effective September 1, 2026. Carman brings more than 20 years of leadership experience, a strong background in education and nonprofit management, and a deep commitment to the mountain community.

Carman previously served as Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of the High Rockies, Executive Director of School Finance and Grants at the Colorado Department of Education, and President of the Platte Canyon RE-1 School Board.

Her connection to Bootstraps is personal. A graduate of Evergreen High School, Carman received a Bootstraps scholarship as a student. She has remained deeply connected to the mountain community and understands firsthand the impact that financial support can have on a student's educational and career journey.

"I am passionate about empowering young

people to reach their full potential, and I am eager to bring my leadership, fundraising expertise, and commitment to equity to Bootstraps," said Carman.

Carman will work alongside current Executive Director Susan Henry beginning September 1 to ensure a smooth transition before Henry's retirement in December.

"We are thrilled to welcome Amy to Bootstraps," said Henry. "Her leadership experience, passion for students, and personal connection to our mission make her an exceptional choice to lead Bootstraps into the future."

For more information about Bootstraps, visit our website www.BootstrapsInc.org or call 720-618-8924.

Linda Kirkpatrick

BY ANNE VICKSTROM

"Linda's fingerprints are on almost everything good in Evergreen."



"It has been said that perhaps Linda's greatest gift was making connections throughout our community."

Our mountain community has lost a big part of our foundation. On August 1, surrounded by her daughter and grandchildren, Linda Kirkpatrick left the community she loved and worked endlessly to improve for over 45 years.

Linda joined the love of her life, her husband John Kirkpatrick, in Evergreen in 1981. Little did our community know how she would impact her new home.

In 1983, she accomplished building a home base for the all-volunteer ambulance service.

In 1984, after a break-in at her home, she assisted the sheriff's office in catching the offenders who had committed 65 other burglaries, and for her efforts was given a citizen's commendation.

It has been said that perhaps Linda's greatest gift was making connections throughout our community. With her quiet demeanor, she was adept at listening to folks at local events, meetings, or just the grocery store. When someone expressed a need or concern, she would "noodle" the problem until she came up with a solution. Then she would be off finding who in the community could come together to make our day-to-day lives better.

Whenever someone asks what she accomplished, one of the first achievements mentioned is saving our beloved Elk Meadow Park. Under threat of development that would have included 238 homes, a hotel, and a convention center, Linda led a team of dedicated volunteers who, in only five months, saved the 408 acres that retains its stunning beauty, historic structures, and hiking and biking trails we all enjoy.

Over the coming years, as she discovered needs in our mountain community, she put her energy and talent toward helping many organizations achieve their goals. With a list

too long to name all of the organizations she worked with, included are Bootstraps, the Jeffco Action Center, Mountain Area Land Trust, Leadership Evergreen, Evergreen Chamber, Craig Rehabilitation Center, Cystic Fibrosis ProAM Tennis Event, Mount Evans Hospice, Evergreen Jazz Festival, Drive Smart, Rocky Mountain Village, Boogie Benefits, Resilience 1220, Evergreen High School, and many more.

She also published *UpBeat*, and later *Just Around Here*, that compiled over 500 profiles on people and positive events, and she wrote for the *Canyon Courier*.

During COVID, Linda was named to the Jefferson County Hall of Fame.

Most recently, she served as the Executive Director for Evergreen Legacy Foundation and, after

the shooting at EHS, chaired EvergreenStrong, under ELF. As an example of Linda's tenacity, when she learned that the Jefferson County School District had set aside \$1.5 million to replace damaged school doors, Linda made some calls. She had a local business repair the doors for \$100,000, saving the District both the effort and significant cost.

Under Linda's guidance, Evergreen Legacy Fund grew into Evergreen Legacy Foundation to serve as a conduit for other non-profits in our community to reach their goals. Linda also proposed turning the former Bergen Meadow campus into a multi-use facility to address a wide range of needs in our community.

Linda's fingerprints are on almost everything good in Evergreen. She is and will be missed. Some of her last words to me were that she hoped she would serve as inspiration for others to get involved in our community.

Honestly, Fall

BY KAARSTEN TURNER

"Fall shows you what a thing actually was made of, once the disguise drops."

Last month I talked about the people transitioning in my household. Today I'm going to talk about what is happening outside. I met some folks at Red Rocks last week. We started chatting about pistachios in California and elk in Evergreen. While it hasn't started yet, we know those elk will be rutting in early fall, and you can hear them before you see them, that hoarse, rising bugle carrying across a drainage that's gone quiet everywhere else. As the days start to shorten, the rest of the critters and trees and shrubs start shutting down. The elk are the one thing around here still spending themselves at full volume while the rest of us start to conserve, letting go of what we can't afford to carry through winter.

The books call the biology of autumn "senescence," the technical word for a leaf shutting down its own process, walling itself off from the branch that fed it, turning away and going out in color. The chlorophyll leaves first, and what's left had been hidden underneath there the whole time. It's the most honest season there is. Spring lies to you a little. It can be growth and green and forward motion, and it lets you believe that's what health looks like. Outside of those rutting elk, fall doesn't perform. Fall shows you what a thing actually was made of, once the disguise drops.



"As the days start to shorten, the rest of the critters and trees and shrubs start shutting down."

I think about disturbance regimes a lot. In everyday terms, this is the pattern by which a forest gets knocked down and comes back different, sometimes better. Fall is a disturbance you can set your watch by. It isn't dramatic like fire. It doesn't need a match. It just needs time and cold, and it takes apart the effort of a whole spring and summer, one species at a time, starting with whatever is most exposed. Aspen go first, then the willows along the creek. The conifers hold out, because they were built to, because their whole strategy is refusing to fully let go of anything.

I've spent a long time being the conifer, holding needles through winters that I should instead have shed. I called it resilience, when it was really just a refusal to look at what senescence actually offers, which is clarity. I stopped spending energy on the leaves that were never going to survive the frost anyway. I let the color show up not as beauty, but as proof of what the leaf was doing all along, underneath the green everyone assumed was the whole story. It's a healthy thing, finishing a sentence it started months ago.

Kaarsten is a forester, a mama to two boys, a sunchaser, a writer, and a lover of chocolate. She's lived in Conifer for a while now.



1000+5 star reviews on google!

Nourish Your Soul

Locally Owned, Family Operated Since 2007
100% Organic, handcrafted skincare & wellness products.
(Next to Papa Murphy's & BMO Bank)

Heart Centered Products, Yoga, Music & Healing.

Shop organic skincare, CBD & wellness products!

NEW CBG Vitality

Full Spectrum CBG Hemp Extract

35% OFF & FREE STARTER

Try a starter size of one of our best-selling products! Choose from No More Aches, Eye Cream, Face Cream, CBD, Lip Balm & more!
Email required to redeem at purchase. Valid on Taspen's & Dragonfly products only.
Not valid with other promotions.
Expires 9-30-26
Your Mountain Connection

- ✓ Whole Body Wellbeing
- ✓ Balanced Energy
- ✓ Focus & Mental Clarity
- ✓ Gut-Brain Harmony



Colorado owned & operated

303.816.0429
Taspen.com
Dragonflyhempcbd.com

25797 Conifer Road
Conifer, Colorado
80433.

Taspen's
HEALING CENTER
Yoga Music

Open Daily See website for more details!
TaspenHealingCenter.com

Transform Your Life!
720.576.6129

Offering a variety of yoga classes, workshops, ceremonies & healing modalities to help raise your vibration & bring the body, mind & spirit into balance.

Crystal Bed or EVOX Sessions



Change your perception, change your life!
Sound, Light & Vibrational healing!
30-45 min sessions available!

Ion Foot Detox



Boosts the immune system | Improves sleep patterns | Helps with energy levels | Helps with detoxification | Improves wellbeing!

\$15 OFF
Ion Foot Detox
40% OFF
Crystal Bed or EVOX Session

Email required to redeem at purchase.
Not valid with other promotions.
Expires 9-30-26
Your Mountain Connection

Mount Evans brings hope



When you're living with a chronic or progressive illness, Mount Evans will be there to help you manage your symptoms and stress.



MOUNT EVANS

HOME HEALTH CARE & HOSPICE

303-674-6400 MountEvans.org

CLOTHING • GIFTS
HOME DÉCOR
SOUVENIRS
JEWELRY

Evergreen Crafters

Simple, thoughtful gifts
for every occasion...
stop in and see what's new!

VISIT US IN DOWNTOWN EVERGREEN
OPEN DAILY • 303.674.3153
www.evergreencrafters.com



**Specializing in
Watch and Jewelry
Repairs Since 1997**

We service Rolex, Omega, Bulova, Seiko, Citizen, and more. Antique pocket watches restored. We carry Hadley Roma watch bands — leather, metal, and silicone. Estate jewelry for sale. Full line of batteries. Free estimates!

**Armato's Clock Watch & Jewelry Repair of Lakewood, CO
has opened a new location in Evergreen**

Evergreen Watch & Jewelry & Repair
27888 Meadow Dr Unit B2, Evergreen, CO 80439
Hours: Monday – Friday 10 am to 5 pm | 720-866-8724

WE BUY GOLD, SILVER, AND WATCHES

*You can't buy happiness...
but you can **Buy Local**
It's kind of the **Same Thing.***

KNOTTY PINE

The Best
ICE CREAM-COFFEE-CANDY
GIFT-SOUVENIR SHOP!

"The Bailey Store" for everything
Bailey! T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, coffee
mugs, magnets, stickers, lots of fun stuff!!

Open 10 – 5 every day but Wed
60641 HWY 285 • Bailey, CO 80421
Theknottypine.net • 303-838-5679

10% off
with this ad

**Edibles!
Smokeables!
Topicals!
Souvenirs!**



Sunrise Solutions
**43 Main Street
Bailey, CO 80421**
303-816-MEDS (6337)
www.sunrisesolutionsbailey.com

TRANSFORM & PROTECT YOUR HOME

LOCAL & FAMILY-OWNED • LICENSED & INSURED • QUALITY WORKMANSHIP





SUPERIOR PAINTING

TRANSFORM YOUR HOME

- ✓ Exterior Painting
- ✓ Exterior Staining
- ✓ Interior Painting
- ✓ Cabinet Refinishing



GET A FREE ESTIMATE

(720) 318-3601

SUPERIORPAINTINGCOLORADO.COM



SERVING COLORADO FOR 25+ YEARS

ONE OWNERSHIP. SAME STANDARD.



SUPERIOR ROOFING & EXTERIORS

KEEP YOUR HOME PROTECTED

- ✓ Roof Replacement
- ✓ Full Siding Replacement
- ✓ Gutter Installation
- ✓ Hail Insurance Claim Specialists



SCHEDULE A FREE INSPECTION

(720) 838-6474

SUPERIORROOFINGANDEXTERIORS.CO

PAVING SEALCOATING CRACK FILL

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL





BEFORE **AFTER**

303-586-5041

Mountain Resident Owned
Over 10 Years Experience

Paving • Hot Tar • Asphalt • Tar and Chip
Grading • Graveling Resurfacing • Milling
Sealcoating • Excavating

HOME-BASED BUSINESS FOR SALE

Profitable business for over 30 years

Locally owned and operated

20 – 25 hours per week

Great potential growth

Doing business in Evergreen, Conifer, Pine, and Bailey

Current owner will stay through transition

Inquire at

silvertopp12@gmail.com

your MOUNTAIN CONNECTION

|

phone 515-326-2672 | email jeff@yourmtnconnection.com | www.YourMtnConnection.com



21 Years in Conifer, locally owned



Personal Training

Get a personalized fitness program designed around your goals that will give you more energy, lower your stress level, and make everything easier.

Why On The Move Fitness and Wellness?

Motivation – you will work harder and more consistently with our positive support.

Accountability – we'll provide a structured and flexible fitness schedule that fits seamlessly into your life.

Personalized Program – we design a program around your specific goals, abilities, and schedule.

Efficiency – strength training, cardio work, core training, flexibility, and balance all rolled into a focused session.

Certified Trainers – a qualified trainer knows how to develop *safe* and effective fitness programs.

Fun! – we keep your workout creative and fun and you will love the camaraderie of our positive clientele.

**UNPARALLELED CUSTOMER SATISFACTION
SINCE 2006!**

**JOIN OUR
TEAM!**

We are looking for a Part-Time Trainer to add to our staff! Must be certified with NASM, ACE, or NSCA. Send resume with hourly rate requirements to: deb@onthemovefitness.com

Call us at (303) 816-1426 or visit

www.onthemovefitness.com

Located on the frontage road in Conifer.

A Skeptic's View

Oral Traditions

BY GARY LOFFLER

For most of humankind's existence, oral traditions (also called oral history) were the way that knowledge and history were shared.

There is some evidence that suggests writing was in use 40,000 years ago, but it was really the purview of only a small percentage of the population of most civilizations. Storytellers were the ones who carried legends and histories from generation to generation. Even when civilizations in Egypt and Europe had a consistent, wide-spread written language, storytelling was still common.

Aesop's fables have an origin in ancient Greece around 550 BCE, but they were not actually written down for three centuries. Even these early written collections of his fables are thought to include stories he did not write. Adding to the confusion about which tales originated with Aesop and which were added later is the similarity of stories from India. "The Wolf and the Crane" in particular is nearly identical to a Buddhist teaching about a woodpecker and a lion. In both cases the predator pleads for help because of a bone lodged in its throat and offers a reward for that help. In both cases, after the heron or the woodpecker successfully removes the bone, it is told that sticking its head in a predator's mouth and not dying should be reward enough. The moral of the story is, "Expect no reward when working for the wicked." I would note that in modern times we tend not to view wolves and lions as the existential threats they were in other eras, so the moral is not as obvious.

A moral is one of the main features of an Aesop fable. In “The Stork and the Fox,” the fox invites the stork to dinner but serves soup in a shallow bowl that the stork cannot eat from. The stork then invites the fox to dinner but serves soup in a tall vessel. The fox is unable to get to the soup



“Storytellers were the ones who carried legends and histories from generation to generation.”

and complains, whereupon the stork admonishes him with the moral, "Do not play tricks on your neighbors unless you can stand the same treatment yourself."

Max Miller from *Tasting History* often mentions that history is recorded by the people who wrote stuff down. He plays on the adage “history is written by the victors,” but twists it a bit to account for the inconsistencies that creep into historical accounts because of the bias of the writers. In the case of Aesop, we know that he did not write all of the hundreds of stories credited to him, and that some may have predated him or originated on another continent; but it made sense to collect them all into one volume. Pretty much anything storytellers were reciting that included talking animals and a moral were ascribed to Aesop and dropped into his books. In 1693 John Locke advocated for using the fables for educating children,

and some of the morals were shifted to that end in some printings. The fables have been translated into many different languages and tweaked for different purposes.

This collecting of oral histories into single volumes happened later in Europe as well. Bram Stoker took folk tales and refined them into his 1897 novel *Dracula*. Similar tales had been part of the oral tradition for a while, but because he got them into print successfully, rightly or wrongly, he is considered the originator. This does not mean that he was a plagiarist. He was an exceptional author, and a large part of the success of the *Dracula* novel was his ability to weave an exciting story from the threads of the folk tales.

About 50 years before Stoker's work, Hans Christian Andersen had done the same thing. He collected and wrote down a lot of local folk tales. Again, as with Stoker, he is credited with

the creation of these tales, when actually it was more of a skilled interpretation. There is nothing wrong with this; new generations frequently retell their parent's stories to match their own experience. An example is Aesop's "The Ant and the Grasshopper." Some people feel that because the grasshopper played and sang for others, perhaps it should have been rewarded for that work. Also, Disney's retelling of "The Little Mermaid" is far removed from the original. I would not recommend reading the original to children without first reading it yourself.

One of Andersen's early collections included the story "The Emperor's New Clothes." The roots for this story can be traced to similar Spanish tales that may have Persian origins; it possibly was a very early Aesop fable. There is also a story from India in which a nobleman is deceived by weavers. In Andersen's version, a vainglorious king is known for his lavish spending on clothes. A pair of weavers approach him, displaying some material that is luxurious but can only be seen by people of great intellect. The king cannot see the material but will not admit to this, because he does not want to seem stupid. He orders an outfit to be made and then parades through the town wearing it. Of course, he is not actually wearing anything; but his courtiers and cronies don't want to displease the king, so they tell him the outfit is very becoming. In the earlier tales either no one informs the king about the clothes, or he realizes his mistake but the culprits have already fled. In Andersen's version a child sees the king and wonders why he has no clothes on. This embarrasses the king, and he vows to reform his self centered ways.

Being a skeptic and rather pessimistic, I tend to think that story would more likely end with the child and his family thrown in a dungeon, but that would be a rather dark ending for what should be a more uplifting tale about telling the truth and learning from our mistakes.



**In Business
Since 1988**

**FREE
ESTIMATES!!**

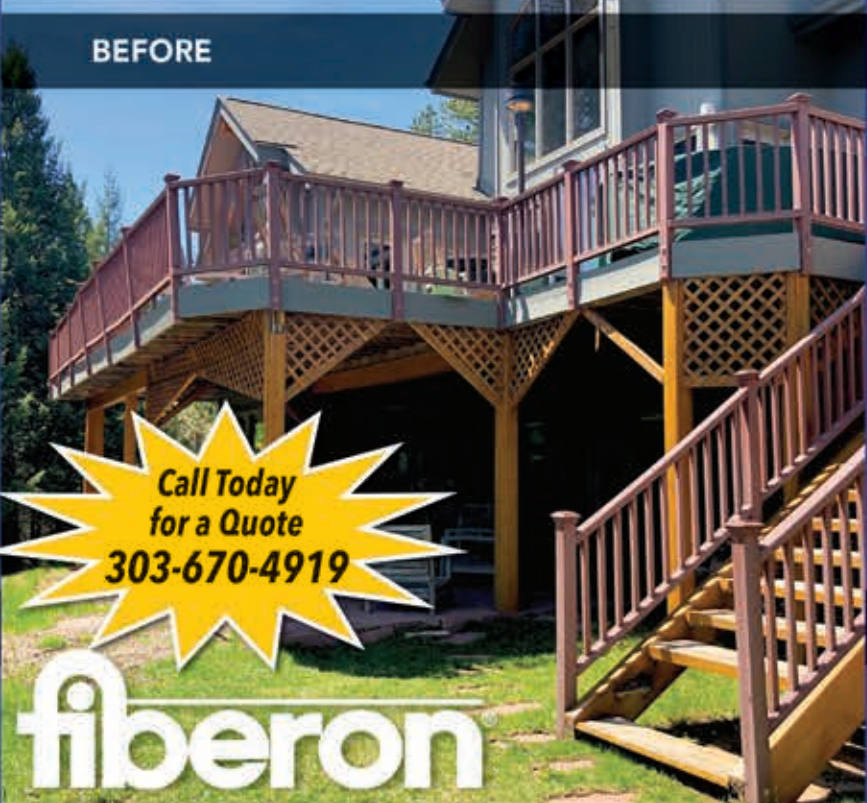
YOU HAVE A GREAT VIEW...
But is Your Home's Exterior Not So Great?
LET US HELP YOU CHANGE THAT!



**CUSTOM OUTDOOR
LIVING SPACES**

**ROOF STRUCTURES
AND PERGOLAS**

**WINDOWS
AND DOORS**



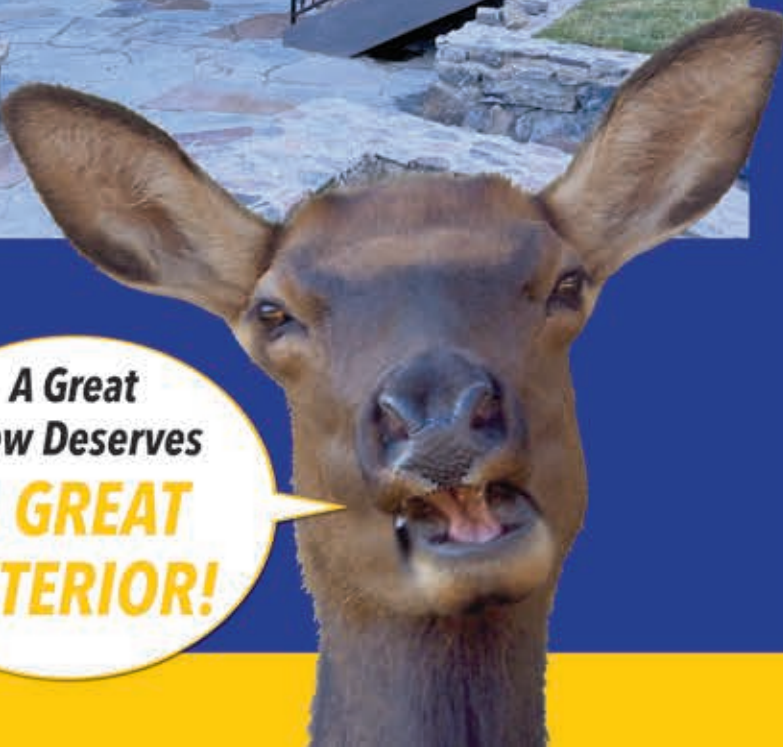
**Call Today
for a Quote
303-670-4919**

fiberon



**CELEBRATING OUR 30TH YEAR
IN EVERGREEN!**

**A Great
View Deserves
A GREAT
EXTERIOR!**



COOKING CLASSES WITH... CASTLES & KITCHENS

We're Just Peachy!

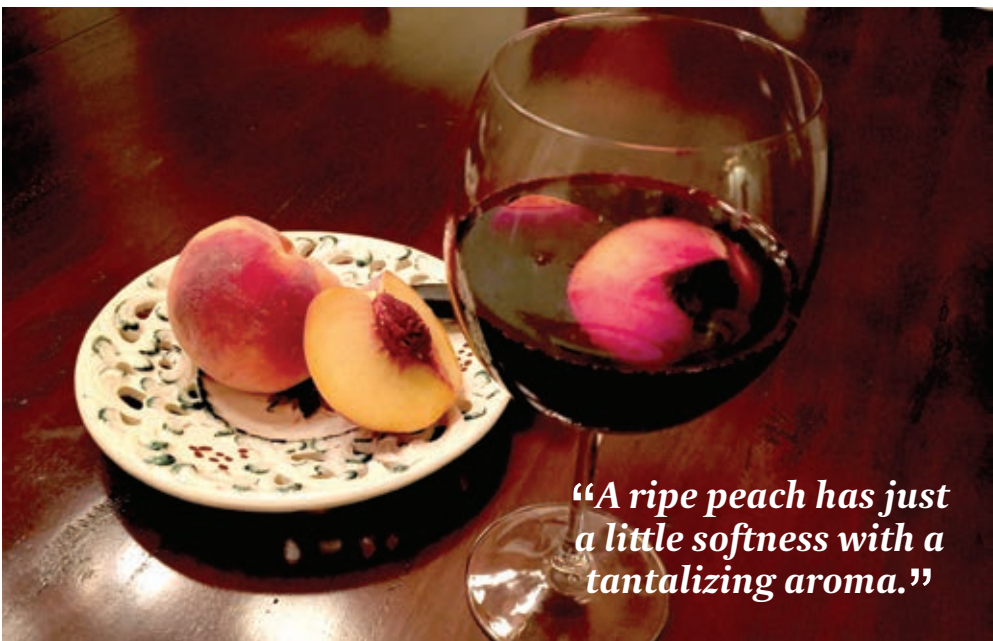
BY FRANCESCA ARNIOTES

One of my college summer study abroad experiences was spending June, July and August living as a member of a family in the mountains of Chiapas, Mexico. We had horses and rode through the forests, plucking mangoes from the trees as we passed them. The family had some property on the edge of the rainforest where they had planted some peach trees. On the first visits to the orchard, the peaches were still green, the size and shape of eggs. Mama picked a basket of them, and when we got home, we worked together to prepare them. We made a cut through the skin to the pit, all around each peach from the stem down, around the bottom and back up. Then all the way around a second time, so the peach was incised in quarters. She poured water into a pot and added a bowl of sugar, two cinnamon sticks, and a vanilla bean. It was brought to a boil, then simmered for a short while. Then the peaches were dropped in and cooked in the syrup until they became soft. Spooned out and cooled, they tasted so good. I liked them better that way than when they were ripe.

That's the thing about a peach. What a tease, what a heartbreaker it can be. Yellow gold, a whisper of blush rolling into blood red. Perfect in my hand, smooth, promising. Anticipation building, I bite into it. And it is...dry, mealy, bland, and disappointing.

But if you live in Colorado and it's August, it's a whole different story.

Palisade peaches, sweet, flavorful and impossibly juicy, are the world's absolute best. They never disappoint. They are in the supermarkets starting at the beginning of the month. Best is finding a fruit stand or a truck from one of the farms. We order a case through Rotary Club in July and count down the weeks until that special Saturday when a box of perfectly ripe peaches that were picked just the day before arrives with our name on it. How lucky we are to have access to fruit just hours from the tree, with all



the aroma and flavor intact, never having been refrigerated. In fact, they're at their best a little warm. They are perfectly ripe and don't keep long—only a couple of days. We dive in and eat as many as we dare! I bring peaches to my kids. I can give a beautiful ripe peach “tip” to the mail carrier, UPS, and school secretary. I don't can, so I blanch, peel, slice, and flash-freeze. Bring a pot of water to a boil, cut a shallow X in the base of the peach, dunk it for about 20 seconds. Then slip the peel off. Holding it in a paper towel, cut slices away from the pit, lay them on a parchment-covered baking sheet without touching and set into the freezer. Then you can pop them into a baggie. I bake peach crumbles, with a streusel of brown sugar, flour, butter, and a pinch of cinnamon on top.

Colorado peaches have all the fuzz, too. My dad used to love them. He would visit us in August

to enjoy them. They reminded him of his youth when all peaches were fuzzy. As a kid, he worked for a huckster, riding in the back of a truck delivering fruit and vegetables around town. He hated how the fuzz tickled and itched his nose back then, but he grew nostalgic after an adulthood of clean-shaven but flavorless peaches. So a trip across the country to enjoy a peach was perfectly justified. That's how good they are!

What makes our Palisade peaches special is that the conditions are perfect for growing exquisite fruit: volcanic soil, hot, sunny days and cool, breezy nights. Our farmers allow the peaches to ripen on the trees, and then they rush them to local customers. A ripe peach has just a little softness with a tantalizing aroma. If you find Colorado peaches in the supermarket—look for “Colorado Proud” to be sure—you might find some that need a day to fully ripen. Keep them on

the counter stem side down. If you need them a couple of days from when you buy them, you can put them in the fridge to slow the ripening. But be sure to eat them at room temperature. Many people make preserves. There are seconds, available from the farms, for a discounted price, if you do. Seconds are also excellent for baking.

I have had three grandfathers. One was from Sicily, one from the hills east of Naples, and one from Formia, south of Rome. Because they spoke their own dialects, they couldn't converse with one another. But they had one thing in common: they revered a ripe peach. They all enjoyed a ripe peach sliced into a glass of red wine after dinner. Because I fear a horrified reaction from our winemaker friends in Chianti, I have closeted my own indulgence in this tradition while there, enjoying my wine-with-peach in secret in the kitchen while getting ready to prepare dinner. I think it's delicious, it keeps my grandfathers' memory alive and maybe someday, I'll gather the nerve to bring it up with our friends, learn that their Tuscan grandfathers did the same thing, and bring my enjoyment out into the light! Meanwhile, give it a try yourself and let me know what you think.

Cooking Classes with

CASTLES & KITCHENS

Join us! We offer hands-on cooking classes in our Conifer kitchen. Browse classes on our website www.castlesandkitchens.com or contact Francesca or Tom at castlesandkitchens@gmail.com. We are located on the back of the STAPLES center. Access to upper parking lot is off South Kitty Dr right behind the Mexican restaurant at the south end of the shops.

OUR FAMOUS PALISADE PEACHES • FRESH PICKED CORN • LOCAL HONEY

Home of The Pumpkin Patch & The Christmas Tree Lot & Country Store

An Evergreen tradition since 1992

JP TOTAL'S

FARMER'S MARKET

Great Location • Great Staff • Tremendous Produce and Goods

Beautiful Old-Fashioned Roadside Store at 4370 Independence Trail, Evergreen

Open EVERY DAY 10 am–Dark • 303.670.8414

visit our website @ www.jptotalfarmersmarket.com

ROCKY FORD WATERMELON • OUR FAMOUS GRAND JUNCTION TOMATOES

ROCKY FORD CANTALOUPE

APPLES • PEARS • PLUMS • ORANGES • LIMES • LEMONS

YOUR LOCAL ASPHALT SPECIALISTS

- Paving
- Crack filling
- Sealcoating
- Asphalt Maintenance
- Installing New Driveways
- Commercial Parking Lots
- Private Roads
- Pothole Repair
- Overlaying
- Patching



We'll always
get right back
with you



303-870-4069 Call or Text



www.AllSonsAsphalt.com



Evergreen Chamber Ribbon Cuttings and News



Taste Your Way Through Evergreen

BY ERICA SPRENKEL

How many times have you driven past a restaurant and thought, “I really need to try that place”? **Taste of Evergreen** gives you the chance to do just that and experience many of our local favorites, all in one evening.

On Tuesday, September 15, the Evergreen Lake House will come alive with the incredible flavors found throughout our community. Local eateries and specialty beverage businesses will showcase what they do best, giving guests the opportunity to taste their way through Evergreen.

Of course, the food is a big part of what makes this event so much fun. But what I love most is the opportunity to discover and rediscover the businesses right here in our own back yard.

You may find a new favorite restaurant, meet the owner of a business you’ve passed dozens of times, or taste something that has you planning your next visit. For our local businesses, it’s an opportunity to meet new customers, reconnect with longtime supporters, and share the passion behind what they do.

Taste of Evergreen brings all of that together in one beautiful place. Add the Evergreen Lake House, friends and neighbors, and a great evening of food and drinks, and it’s easy to understand why this event has become an Evergreen favorite.

Taste of Evergreen is Tuesday, September 15, from 5–7pm at the Evergreen Lake House. Tickets are on sale now, and the event has sold out in previous years, so don’t wait too long.

For tickets and more information visit <https://evergreenchamber.org/taste-of-evergreen/>. Come hungry, bring a friend, and you may just discover your new favorite local spot!

Follow us on Facebook.
Visit our website EvergreenChamber.org.
Call us anytime 303-674-3412.



TASTE OF EVERGREEN

Tuesday, September 15th

Get Tickets Now!

<https://evergreenchamber.org/taste-of-evergreen/>

MONTHLY CHAMBER BREAKFAST

Marketing that Works: Practical Strategies for Small Businesses

Wednesday Sep 2, 2026 • 7:30 - 9:00 am
Hiwan Golf Club • 30671 Clubhouse Ln • Evergreen

www.evergreenchamber.org

Conifer Chamber Ribbon Cuttings and News



Volunteer Fair: Find Your Place to Make a Difference

BY BETH SCHNEIDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Looking for a meaningful way to get involved in your community? The **Volunteer Fair** on Wednesday, September 23, from 10 am to 12 pm at Our Lady of the Pines is the perfect opportunity to discover how you can make a difference right here at home.

This community-wide event is designed to connect local organizations with individuals who are ready to lend their time, talents, and energy to causes that matter. Local nonprofits, civic groups, and community-focused organizations will be on hand to share information about their missions and the many volunteer opportunities available.

Whether you have a few hours a month, a special skill you would like to share, or simply a desire to meet new people and help your community, there is likely an organization that could use your support.

Volunteering is a wonderful way to connect with others, learn something new, support important local causes, and become an even more active part of our community.

Come to the Volunteer Fair, meet local organizations, explore the opportunities, and find the place where your time and talents can make a difference. You may just discover a new passion, make some great connections, and find a way to give back that is meaningful to you.

Join us Wednesday, September 23, from 10 am to noon at Our Lady of the Pines. We hope to see you there!

Beth Schneider, Executive Director
Conifer Area Chamber of Commerce

If you have any membership questions, please contact the chamber office:
director@GoConifer.com, 303-838-5711.
Thank you for your continued support and thank you for shopping local!



A Farewell and Thank You to the Community

BY BETH SCHNEIDER

As I prepare to say goodbye to the Conifer community, I find myself filled with gratitude for the past three and a half years. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Executive Director of the Conifer Area Chamber of Commerce and to work alongside so many wonderful businesses, organizations, volunteers, community leaders, and residents.

When I joined the Chamber in March 2023, I could not have imagined how much this community would come to mean to me. I have loved getting to know so many of you, celebrating your successes, supporting local businesses, and helping bring our community together through Chamber events and programs.

My husband and I have made the decision to move to the southwest region of Colorado so

that we can live closer to our son. While I am excited about this next chapter, leaving Conifer is bittersweet. This community has become a very special part of my life, and I will carry the friendships, memories, and experiences with me wherever I go.

The Chamber will introduce the new Executive Director in early September, and I will be moving in the middle of September. I am confident that the Chamber is in good hands and that the organization will continue to grow and serve this incredible community.

Thank you for welcoming me, supporting me, and allowing me to be part of your community. It has been an absolute joy to serve you, and I will always be grateful for my time in Conifer.



Manor House Properties LLC
Professional residential property management serving Evergreen, Conifer, Bailey, Morrison and the Denver Foothills

303-903-2371
manorhousepropertiescolorado.com

leigh@manorhousepropertiescolorado.com



Dance for the Dogs!

September 20th at The WagCellar – Evergreen

Join us at The WagCellar in Evergreen on September 20th for **Dance for the Dogs**, a fun-filled line dancing fundraiser benefiting Faithfully K9 Service Dogs!

Never tried line dancing? This is the perfect opportunity to give it a try! All instruction will be beginner-friendly and welcoming to dancers of all ages and experience levels.

Every dollar raised helps provide service dog training at no cost to veterans and first responders, giving them the skills and support they need to live more independently.

- Enjoy Evergreen’s dog-friendly beer garden
- Beginner-level line dancing
- Bring your love of dogs
- Food available for purchase
- Support veterans and first responders

Come dance, have some fun, enjoy the beer garden, and help us give hope where there was no hope. Grab your friends, bring your dancing shoes, and **Dance for the Dogs!**

Faithfully K9 Service Dogs and Dog Training
Call 720-934-7378 or visit the website
www.faithfullyk9.com



A CHANCE ENCOUNTER

BY ANNE VICKSTROM

“I didn’t know what to expect from him, and there I was, a stranger in the city.”



I had a chance encounter that made me stop and consider how I can help others.

While visiting a city, I stood on a sidewalk waiting for my husband. A young man walked slowly past me,

but not as you might imagine. He was stooped over, as if he were trying to pick up something off the street. He had no shoes, wore just jeans

and a t-shirt, and carried nothing. He didn’t approach anyone, he just slowly made his way down the street. Something that struck me was how he was careful to repeatedly pull up his pants as, in that position, they kept falling down. The guy had dignity.

I looked elsewhere, not wanting to gawk at him. As he continued down the street, others turned and looked. To one man who passed him, looked back, then approached me, I said, “We all want to help him.” He nodded in agreement.

My husband came out and I told him I wished he had seen the young man, as my husband has experience helping others after years as an active pastor and just being a good guy. I said I wished I had cash to help the man.

Then I spotted him again. My husband dug out some cash and handed it to me. I admit, I was hesitant to approach the fellow. I didn’t know what to expect from him, and there I was, a stranger in the city.

But I leaned over and offered him the bill. He turned with a gentle smile and thanked me with clear diction and courtesy. He didn’t smell, despite the dirt on his bare feet. I didn’t smell alcohol and his eyes were clear. I said, “It’s just a little so you can get some sandals.” He said, and this is what struck me, “I just need some caffeine and food, so I can take the next step.” Wow.

I told him, “We all have challenges, but you’re carrying more than others.” He smiled, and maybe if I’d been closer to home, known local resources, or had a better understanding of where help could be found, I might have taken

him to a store and bought him shoes. I might have referred him to professional organizations. I could have asked him to sit and share his story with us. Instead, I gently touched his shoulder and wished him well.

It wasn’t the first time I encountered a far less privileged person. Years ago, I passed a young man panhandling in the snow, also shoeless. I was walking alone in a different city, and merely looked at him, then continued on my way. My lack of action ate at me with each step I took farther and farther from him. Perhaps that memory urged me to do a bit for the young man I just met.

In our mountain community, we do a good job of taking care of those less fortunate, or with greater challenges. Evergreen Christian Outreach, Mountain Resource, Loaves and Fishes and more are there to help. I hope the next time I meet someone in need, I’ll be able to take time to truly help them, without hesitation.

By the way, after I introduced myself to the young man, he told me his name is Jake. Everyone has a name and everyone has a story.

Anne Vickstrom proudly started her writing career with *Your Mountain Connection*. She has written for regional and national publications, and has published books, including *Depths of Devotion – A Love Story Across Continents and Cultures*. She loves living in Evergreen where she and her husband raised three children and six dogs.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 11–26
This September StageDoor Theater is proud to present MUSE OF FIRE, written and directed by Colorado’s own Kelly McAllister, the award-winning international director, producer, playwright, digital creator, writer, and teacher. Come see this fantasy/comedy that’s “Funny, profane, and unexpectedly heartbreaking...a love letter to the theatre itself.” September 11–26, Friday and Saturday at 7, and Sunday at 2. Tickets, \$37/\$35. www.stagedoortheatre.org
StageDoor Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community theatre, open to everyone.

September 2–October 28
The Venue Theatre: Improv for Adults, Level 1. This introductory course welcomes beginners to the world of improvisational theater. You will learn to silence your inner critic, think on your feet, and collaborate with others in a fun and supportive environment. You will learn: the “Yes, and” philosophy, active listening, character development, object work (props), environment (pantomime), and confidence building. No prior theater or comedy experience is required. Wednesday evenings. 7 pm–9 pm. **For more information and to register, please visit: <https://www.thevenue theatre.com/improv>**
The Venue Theatre is located at 27132 Main Street, #K-100 (near Safeway), and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. At the Venue students of all ages receive professional training for stage and life!

September 3, 10, 17, and 24
Al-anon, Thursdays 7–8 pm, NEW LOCATION: Church of the Cross, 28253 Meadow Drive, Evergreen. Open meeting. Offering help to deal with the impact of another’s drinking. No dues for attending.

September 15
Taste of Evergreen from 5–7:30 pm at the Evergreen Lake House, 29612 Upper Bear Creek Road, Evergreen. Join Evergreen’s favorite restaurants, breweries, cafés, caterers, wineries, food trucks, and specialty drink makers as they compete for the title of the best sip and bite in the foothills. This is a fun community event for all ages! There will be a beer and wine garden, with music provided by John Erlandson.

September 17
Wild Aware, an Evergreen, Colorado, non-profit organization, invites you to join us for a wild evening of celebration and connection at the **Open Aware Meet and Greet** on the third Thursday of each month from 6–7:30 pm at the awesome Evergreen Brewery, 2962 Evergreen Parkway, Suite 201, Evergreen, CO, 80439. wildaware.org

September 2026



September 2
Dance Party 5:30–6:30 pm. Step into a vibrant sanctuary of sound and movement at our community wellness dance party, where Sabrina and Brenda invite you to shift from performance to presence. This gathering encourages you to drop out of your head and into your heart, using the rhythm as an anchor to deepen your connection with each intentional breath. As the music builds, you’ll find the space to shake off stagnant energy and enliven your spirit. It’s a rhythmic celebration designed to leave you feeling grounded, radiant, and authentically connected.

September 9
Dru Yoga 5:30–6:30 pm. Dru has a focus upon maintaining a healthy spine, through activation movements in the beginning of class and throughout a Dru session. A typical Dru Yoga class includes energy block release sequences, classical asanas (yoga postures), pranayama (breath work), mudras (gestures), positive affirmations, and also empowering visualizations. Dru classes are tailored to the student and their individual level, which makes it great for everyone.

September 13
Mindfulness Walk 10 am. Join Kathy at Pine Valley Ranch (30400 Crystal Lake Road, Pine) for gentle walking, grounding, and reflection. Whether you are feeling called to reconnect, reflect, or simply enjoy a calm morning, all are

September 20
Line Dance Evergreen presents Dance for the Dogs at The Wagceller, 2932 Evergreen Pkwy, Evergreen (behind the Evergreen Athletic Club), from noon–2pm. Suggested donation \$5–\$10. All proceeds benefit Faithfully K9 Service Dogs.

September 20
Celebrate the International Day of Peace from 2–5 at the Conifer Peace Park, 26215 Sutton Road, Conifer, behind the Aspen Park Community Center. Join us in creating a culture of peace, with keynote address by Jim Halderman, peace educator; dances of universal peace with Sara Rain; international potluck and conversation; and children’s activities. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket and a dish to share (one that represents your ethnicity or one you resonate with).

September 25
Wild Aware, an Evergreen, Colorado, non-profit organization, is actively recruiting volunteers, new and old, for their **Last Friday Coffee**, a monthly event that continues on the last Friday morning of every month. Our gatherings begin at 9 am in the Evergreen Bread and Cocktail Lounge, 1260 Bergen Pkwy, Evergreen. Come meet new friends and make an impact in your community! wildaware.org

September 26
Join us from noon to 3 pm at Buchanan Fields, 32003 Ellingwood Trail in Evergreen, for **JOY of Freedom Festival** supporting JOY International, a global leader in the fight against child trafficking. Enjoy live music and entertainment, delicious food and drinks, kids’ activities, and our interactive Walk Around the World, where you’ll learn about JOY’s work in the U.S., Uganda, Nepal, and Belize. <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/joyoffreedomfestival/>

October 1
Heartmath Breathwork Class at Chillax Om from 5 pm–7 pm, with charcuterie, refreshments, and 4 hours free parking. \$25/person to learn how to de-stress and uplevel longevity, health, and wellness; with clinical research-proven breathwork that you can track with heart rate variability. This is a Chillax Om Foundation 501(c)(3) non-profit Fundraiser. To learn more and get your ticket visit: <https://chillaxom.com/heartmath-breathwork-class-july-23-2026/>

October 31
EAPL’s Zombie Fun Run 5K, Saturday, October 31st. Race Starts at 10 am, Buchanan Rec Center (Ball Parks). Register at <https://raceroster.com/events/2026/119374/eapl-zombie-run-5k>

PeaceWorks, Inc. offers a complimentary Community Wellness Program as part of our advocacy for personal wellbeing, healthy relationships, and safe homes. All are welcome. Attend in person at Taspen’s Dragonfly Studio, unless otherwise noted. Register www.taspenshealingcenter.com under Events or online (Zoom details on website) www.peaceworksinco.com/communitywellness

warmly welcomed. Bring layers for the weather, water, and an open heart.

September 16
Block Therapy™ Trauma Release 5:30–6:30 pm. Trauma (physical and emotional) becomes trapped in your body and leads to pain, aging, and disease. This powerful self-healing practice unlocks the restrictions and adhesions that block blood and oxygen flow and releases trauma at a cellular level. All levels. Wear comfortable clothes. Bring a yoga mat if you have one and a water bottle.

September 23
Full Moon Circle 5:30–6:30 pm. Join us for a Full Moon Circle, a welcoming space to pause, reflect, and reconnect with yourself and the community. Through guided discussion, gentle mindfulness practices, and intention setting, we honor the energy of the full moon as a time for release, renewal, and personal growth.

September 30
Block Therapy™ Trauma Release 5:30–6:30 pm. Trauma (physical and emotional) becomes trapped in your body and leads to pain, aging, and disease. This powerful self-healing practice unlocks the restrictions and adhesions that block blood and oxygen flow and releases trauma at a cellular level. All levels. Wear comfortable clothes. Bring a yoga mat if you have one and a water bottle.



A Night of Freestyle Dance for Women • Ladies • Gals

Upcoming Dates:

- September 22, 2026
- November 3, 2026
- December 8, 2026 - Special Coed Event!

Time: 6-7 PM Cocktails/Dinner
7-9 PM Dancing

Where: The Wild Game
1204 Bergen Parkway, Evergreen

Cost: Suggested \$10 donation
to benefit Evergreen Parks & Recreation

Food & Drink: Available to order

The Vibe: DJ LOL Barbie!



The Witches Gathering

A fundraising event for PeaceWorks, celebrating the resilience of women featuring:

- Sacred Cacao Ceremony
- Savory Bites & Non-Spirited Beverages
- Dessert & Silent Auctions
- And magickal surprises!

Friday, October 2, 6 to 9 p.m.

Mountain Resource Center
11030 Kitty Drive, Conifer, CO 80433
peaceworksinco.com

Tickets: \$44 - Coven Discounts/ Sponsorships Available!



Submit your calendar events by the 10th of each month prior to the actual date of the event to news@yourmtnconnection.com.



 THE BARN
AT EVERGREEN
MEMORIAL PARK

26624 N. Turkey Creek Rd., Evergreen, CO
303-674-0556 | thebarn@evergreenmemorialpark.com
www.TheBarnatEMP.com

Evergreen Memorial Park
Funeral Home. Cemetery. Crematory.
303-674-7750
Be Green In Evergreen

**You're trying
to live a "green" life.
What about your
death?**

"NATURAL BURIAL"

Green burial, or natural burial, ensure the burial site remains as natural as possible in all respects. Interment of the body is done in a bio-degradable casket, shroud or a favorite blanket. No embalming fluid, no concrete vaults.
Now offered as an option at Evergreen Memorial Park.

303-674-7750 • 26624 N. Turkey Creek Rd, Evergreen, CO 80439
www.EvergreenMemorialPark.com • www.PetsatEMP.com

BUSINESS SERVICES

ADVERTISE HERE!



GET NOTICED! \$60 per space per month
Call 515-326-2672

ACCOUNTANT



Jesse James, CPA
• Master's Degree in Taxation from University of Denver
• Tax Planning & Preparation
• IRS Resolution
• Small Business Accounting & Consulting
• QuickBooks Consulting
• Financial Coaching
720-220-8099 • www.JHJ-CPA.com

APPLIANCE REPAIR



LARK
APPLIANCE REPAIR
(303) 656-9032
WWW.LARKAPPLIANCE.COM

ASPHALT SEAL COATING AND PAVING



Josh Wutschke
owner
American Asphalt Restoration
Office: 303-586-5041
Cell: 303-261-7740
P.O.BOX 9206 Denver, Co 80209

BATH REMODEL

Mountaintop Bath Remodeling
Complete custom bathroom remodeling
Tub and tile replacement. Tub to shower conversions.
Prime Baths acrylic bath systems.
Remodel in as little as one day!
PRIME BATHS Authorized Dealer.
Licensed, Insured.
303-495-5328 www.mountaintopbath.com

CONSTRUCTION

MD's Construction
Deck / Fence Repair High Pressure Cleaning
Tear Downs Staining
Unilock Repair / Clean Painting Exterior / Interior
Cement Work
303-720-4132
www.mdconstructioncompany.com

HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

Pace & Sons
MECHANICAL INC
Service & Installation
-HEATING -AIR CONDITIONING -FORCED AIR
-BOILERS -INDOOR AIR QUALITY
-WATER HEATERS -MINI SPLITS
-WHOLE HOUSE ATTIC FANS -VENTILATION
-WHOLE HOUSE GENERATORS -SWAMP COOLERS
Financing Available **720-898-4700**

HOME CONCIERGE

EVERGREEN
Home Concierge
Taking Care of You and Your Home While You Are Away
Lori Dyche (303) 517-6180
www.EvergreenHomeConcierge.com

IT TECHNICIAN

Craig LaGrow
IT Technician & Coach
720.732.2500
craig@evergreencomputers.com
evergreencomputers.com



PEST CONTROL

A Pest Control Co.
Residential & Commercial Pest Control
Locally owned and operated
We treat your home like we treat ours
719-203-7282 • www.apestcontrolco.com
720-370-5076 • apestcontrolcompany@gmail.com



REAL ESTATE

Homes & Lifestyles of Colorado
Thinking of Selling? Save Thousands!
*FREE Consultation - Call Kathryn
Kathryn L. Carlson, CRS Broker | Owner | Realtor
Chace Holland 303-503-7877
Mortgage Loans
c: 720-226-8199 | o: 303-816-9199
Kathryn@HomesLifestyles.com
Selling | Buying | Staging | Showing | Closing
27+ Years Selling in the Mountains | Foothills | City

ROOFING AND CONSTRUCTION

Enviro Roofing & Construction
Josh Wutschke
owner
P.O. BOX 9206
Denver, CO 80209
enviroroofing.com
Office: 303-953-7079
Cell: 303-261-7740
roofingjosh@gmail.com

SERVICES

ALL MOUNTAIN SERVICES LLC
MOVING • DELIVERY • DISPOSAL • SNOW FLOWING
OWNER **AARON MADAMA 720-254-5536**
Aaron@all-mountain-services.com



TREE SERVICE

PAC MAN TREE SERVICE
TREE REMOVALS
MITIGATION
CHIPPING
C: 720.217.3110
H: 303.838.3942
"Krzy Karl"



WATER CONDITIONING

HARD WATER ISSUES? RADON? Water Done Right
~ Water Softeners & Filtration Systems
~ Reverse Osmosis & Custom Filtration
Robert Spencer
303.907.7711
rspencer37@gmail.com
29105 Pine Rd.
Evergreen CO. 80439



WATER DELIVERY

ALPINE WATER DELIVERY
Bulk Water Deliver, Clean Potable Water
Hot Tubs • Cisterns • Livestock • Misc
Cell 720-988-5800 | Home 303-816-6461
Mountain Resident Since 1983



\$60/mo 3/mo minimum



Design Service Available

303-838-4669

Fine Furnishings and Local Artisan Gallery

Customize Something Uniquely You!



Unique Items Arrive WEEKLY!

Discover our 10,000 sf SHOWROOM

10853 US HWY 285, Suite D
Conifer, CO 80433

Tues – Sat 10 – 5
Sun 11 – 4 (Closed Monday)

Discover New Inventory on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/cfconifer/>



GRANT AUTOMOTIVE

**Expert Car and
Truck Repairs**

**Diesel Emissions
Testing**



Bring your vehicle
to someone you
can trust:
**Ben Grant
and his team
at Grant
Automotive!**

YOUR ONE-STOP SOURCE FOR THE BEST AUTO REPAIR SERVICE IN MORRISON, CO SINCE 2000

REPAIRS • ALIGNMENTS • TIRES



Ben Grant, owner

Office Hours:

M-F: 8:00 am – 5:30 pm
(closed on the weekends)

There is an after-hours drop box and
you can make after-hours
pick-up arrangements.

Professional Automotive Repair from someone you can trust to do it right!

Ben Grant, the owner of Grant Automotive, grew up in Pine Junction and has always been involved in the mountain community. At the age of 15, Ben knew that his strong interest in automotive repair would determine his professional direction and after 12 years of working for Kevin's Subaru he opened Grant Auto in July of 2000.

Ben has steadily built a loyal following and currently has ten employees. He estimates that he and his techs combine to reflect about 100 years of experience, and it is important to note that 30 of those years are his.

Ben prides himself in the volume of repeat service in American and Japanese-made vehicles. They have the latest computerized diagnostic equipment including two alignment racks that utilize digital cameras to align all four wheels accurately.

In addition to having the latest equipment, they can take care of all recommended mileage services for vehicle warranty, specializing in late-model fuel-injected cars and trucks. Diesel repair and Emissions testing are also offered.

If you need your car or truck repaired, need mileage services, basic services, or even new tires, **Grant Automotive is the place to go. It is located at 19356 Goddard Ranch Court on Highway 285**, ½ mile south of North Turkey Creek, just 6.5 miles from C-470 and Highway 285 and just down from Aspen Park.

**PLEASE CALL
303-697-0225
TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT
and visit www.GrantAutomotive.net**

19356 Goddard Ranch Court

Morrison, Colorado 80465

303.697.0225

all major credit cards accepted



Proud member of the
Better Business Bureau



5 stars from Bruce, a verified customer:

"Grant very quickly helped us out in an emergency.
We couldn't be happier!" —Bruce C.