

PIKE SOLAR LLC



Appendix AE- Community Meeting Advertisements

PONY TAILS

Brought to you by:



Next Step Horse Rescue

El Paso County horse rescue verified by global standards

The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, has awarded Verified status to Next Step Horse Rescue (NSHR) as of Nov. 16.

Verification means that Next Step Horse Rescue meets the criteria of a true equine sanctuary/rescue and is providing humane and responsible care of the animals. To be awarded Verified status, an organization must meet GFAS's rigorous and peer-reviewed animal care standards which are confirmed by a site visit and they must also adhere to a demanding set of ethical and operational principles. The Verification status also provides a clear and trusted means for the public, donors and grantors to recognize Next Step Horse Rescue as an exceptional organization.

"We are proud to announce the recent Verification of Next Step Horse Rescue," said Daryl Tropea Ph.D., GFAS Program Director-Equine. "Most of Next Step's work involves helping equines at the center of legal cruelty or neglect cases. Many hours are devoted to helping each horse gain health and ultimately find a new home. This organization is dedicated to best practices in all aspects of their operations. They have a formalized procedure for intake, triage and assessment that provides a model for other equine rescue organizations."

"We are beyond honored to receive our verification status from such a wonderful organization," said Betina Tacoronte, president of NSHR. "I am beyond proud of all of our team members (volunteers) for their countless hours and dedication they put forth for the horses and preparation in order to make this a reality. We have been a working horse rescue in southeast El Paso County, Colorado, since 2013. We started out with a dream, and slowly it is becoming a reality. We have worked extremely hard to get accredited with GFAS and to get our verification this year, in 2020, with all of the chaos that consumed this country is a big accomplishment for us and puts us just that much closer to being accredited."

Shelter Manager Danielle Leftridge said, "Being a 501(c)3 nonprofit, getting no government funding or any type of grants and relying solely on the donations of our loyal supporters and the adoption fees of our horses that have been rehabilitated, we have managed to keep Next Step Horse Rescue's barn doors open and operating during this difficult time. We continue to be a source for horse owners who need guidance, whether it be a feed plan, training, or surrendering their beloved horse due to financial constraints brought on by

COVID – we are here to support our community and the horse community throughout Colorado."

The GFAS Equine Accreditation Program is made possible by a grant from The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Kenneth Scott Charitable Trust.

About Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the sole purpose of strengthening and supporting the work of animal sanctuaries, rescues and rehabilitation centers worldwide. The goal of GFAS in working with and assisting these animal care facilities is to ensure they are supported, honored, recognized and rewarded for meeting important criteria in providing care to the animals in residence. GFAS was founded in 2007 by animal protection leaders from a number of different organizations in response to virtually unchecked and often hidden exploitation of animals for human entertainment and financial profit. The GFAS Board of Directors guides the organization's work in a collaborative manner. While the board includes those in top leadership at The Humane Society of the United States, International Fund for Animal Welfare and American Anti-Vivisection Society, all board members serve as individuals dedicated to animal sanctuaries. www.sanctuaryfederation.org.

About Next Step Horse Rescue

Next Step Horse Rescue is an all-volunteer organization that provides rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming to horses, donkeys, ponies and miniatures in need. From its origination as a rescue in 2013, NSHR is now actively called upon by law enforcement agencies and other rescues throughout the country. NSHR's medical and farrier team, along with our shelter manager and dedicated team members, has the ability and knowledge to take on some of the worst cases of starvation, injury, neglect and abuse. NSHR has earned a reputation of stepping up when no one else can or will. In an attempt to decrease the number of horses that come through the rescue doors, we will do what we can to work with horse owners and assist them with training and feed protocols if that is what it will take for them to keep their horse with them.

The ultimate goal for every horse that comes through our barn doors is adoption. We do not set a timeline, expiration date or deadline for any horse at our rescue, especially those whose adoptability might be lessened by their age, health issues or emotional or training challeng-



These volunteers are the lifeblood of Next Step Horse Rescue. The group is always looking for more team members. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**

es. NSHR is committed to every horse, and we will continue to provide top-notch quality care, feed, shelter and rehabilitation along with a LOT of LOVE by all of our team members until their forever family comes along. To date, NSHR has adopted out 400-plus horses thanks to the dedication of all on our team!

We are also committed to the enrichment of the community through our love of horses. We offer educational programs for children and adults alike, including field trips and horse camps for Scout Troops and other groups as well. We host several events at the rescue for the general public to come and see who we are and what we are all about to include quarterly Open Barn events. We also bring in top-notch horse trainers throughout the year for the community and all of our adopters to gain more knowledge and confidence with their horses. We have a group of miniature horses who make their rounds at various

nursing homes and events throughout the year who bring pure joy to all who see them. NSHR is very aware that by building the relationship between humans and horses, we can simultaneously increase the awareness of the equine needs all while spreading joy and knowledge to all those we come across. If you would like to learn more about our organization, please visit our website at nextstephorserescue.org or our Facebook page at facebook.com/NSHR.Colorado.

SPECIALIZING IN QUALITY POST FRAME BUILDINGS



**Commercial
Equestrian
Hobby Shops**

**Agricultural
Garages
And More!**

Eastern CO
970-230-2052

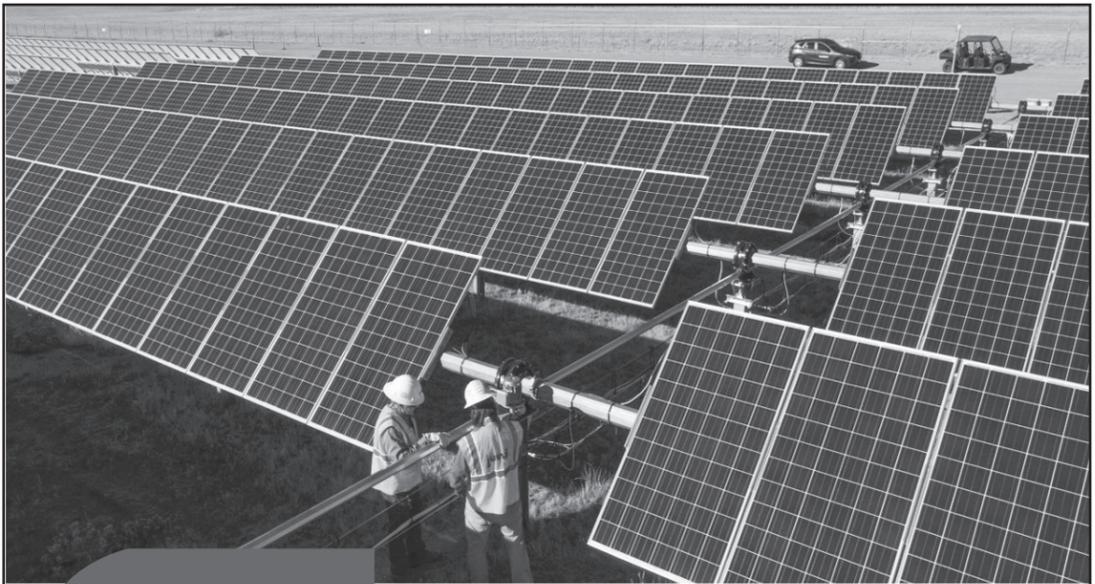
NE and Western IA
402-426-5022

Wisconsin
608-988-6338



www.GingerichStructures.com





Virtual Community Meeting Notice

Upcoming El Paso County Solar and Storage Project

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Join a Virtual Community Meeting to Learn More About This Project

**JANUARY 13, 2021
AT 6 P.M.**

Construction for the project could begin as early as fall of 2021 and be complete by the end of 2023.

RSVP and Learn More at juwicolorado.com/pikesolar/



What's Happening...

Email events and activities to:
karinhill@epcan.com

Liquor Stop

WEEKLY SPECIALS
391-0002

Cigarettes by the carton now available!

DRIVE THRU SERVICE!

6525 Fountain Mesa Rd.

corner of Fountain Mesa & Fontaine Blvd.

Military & Senior Discounts

MONDAY



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Mark your calendars!

Hello. My name is Amybeth Griswold, and I have resided in the Fountain Valley area for a very long time. As we all know, the holidays, especially Christmas, can be both a blessed time and a challenging time. With the COVID virus taking forefront in the news and in our own personal lives, it has been extremely difficult to be with our loved ones during this special time of year.

As a daughter, sister, aunt, friend, and resident of Fountain, I too, can relate to this difficult position Covid had presented.

As a small part in bringing some joy during the holidays, I invite fellow Fountain residents to stop/drive by our residence to view the various Christmas lights and themes in our front yard. I will have plush animals, stockings, ornaments, and candy canes for the children to have. Don't worry moms, dads, and big kids, there will be something for you too!

I strongly encourage the practice of Covid safety, for your families and my family's sake. You're welcome to look from your vehicles, as well as see the lights close up, in person, however, please wear masks and practice some social distancing (I know it can be difficult in such a confined outdoor area....just do your best!)

The dates and times are as follows:
Sunday, December 20th 6:00pm-7:30pm
Monday, December 21st 6:00pm-7:30pm
@ 7135 KILLINGTON STREET, FOUNTAIN

Giving trees

These companies and others offer young trees and seedlings packaged and delivered as gifts:

www.etrinitree.com

www.treegivers.com

www.seedsoflife.com

www.arborday.org

www.greenworldproject.net

www.treesforachange.com

www.nextgenmemorials.com

thetreesremember.com

— Brenda Weaver

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What's Happening at the Fountain Creek Nature Center

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The Fountain Creek Nature Center is located at 320 Pepper Grass Lane in Fountain. For more info. call 520-6745 or visit www.elpasocountyparks.com ONLINE REGISTRATION available at www.elpasocountynaturecenters.com.

Programs require pre-paid registration. Due to COVID-19, programs are subject to cancellation. Call the Nature Center or check website for current status. Masks or cloth face coverings required.

2s & 3s Outdoors: Mighty Migrators
Thursdays, December 31, 10–11:15 a.m.
 Explore nature with your 2 or 3 year-old through interactive activities, a story, and a short hike. \$3 per person including siblings and adults.

Morning Hike & Campfire
Saturday, January 2, 10–11:30 a.m.
 Start the new year off right by joining us for a short winter hike followed by a campfire, songs, stories, and of course, s'mores! Geared towards ages 7 and up. \$4 per member, \$5 per nonmember.

Nature Adventures: Digging Dinosaurs
Thursdays, January 7 & 21, 10–11:30 a.m.
 Children ages 3-6, with an adult, will enjoy puppet shows or stories, crafts, hands-on activities, and discovery time on the trail. \$3 per person including siblings and adults.

Winter Bird Count
Saturday, January 9, 8:30–11 a.m.
Beginning to advanced birders are invited to observe and record the numbers of bird species and populations found in Fountain Creek Regional Park. \$5 per person.

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 Explore nature with your 2 or 3 year-old through interactive activities, a story, and a short hike. \$3 per person including siblings and adults.

Save the Eagles
Saturday, January 16, 10 a.m.–noon
 Celebrate Save the Eagles Day with a lesson about eagles all over the world, a craft, and a hike to perhaps see local bald eagles or other birds of prey soaring overhead. Bring binoculars if you have a pair! \$4 per member, \$5 per nonmember.

Nature's Classroom: Walk the Wetlands
Friday, January 22, 2–4 p.m.
 Use your senses to explore the wetland and discover the plants and animals that live here. This program meets Colorado State Learning Standards through a puppet show, animal inquiry activity, and guided hike. Geared towards grades Pre-K – 2nd. \$4 per person including adults and siblings.

TUMBLEWEED COUNTRY KENNELS

12599 Jordan Road, Fountain, CO 80817
tumbleweedcountrykennels@gmail.com

- Short/Long-Term Pet Boarding
- Full Service Grooming Salon
- Pet Transportation Services
- 10% Military Discount
- Private Dog Park
- Pet Sitting

719-382-1126

www.TumbleweedCountryKennels.com

PIERCE

Continued from P. 1

Ultimately, the event raised over \$400, with many people also donating directly to the GoFundMe page. As of Dec. 22, the fund has raised over half of its \$10,000 goal.

Various local musicians used Facebook to spread memories about Pierce. Joe Shadowens posted the following on Oct. 27:

"I remember the first time I met Christine. Playing for a Santana cover band just killing it on the bongo drums! I remember shaking her hand and thinking I was holding the hand of a brick mason from all the calluses from playing drums for so many years. She inspired me so many times to be a better person and musicians and absolutely lives to perform. She never said no to a song, a gig or a friend in need. Her can-do attitude, strength, skill and passion serve as an inspiration to us all!"

Brian Krewson is the lead singer for the blues and rock band Riverbottom, and remembers meeting Christine four years ago when she came with a friend to audition for the band.

"From the minute she sat down, there was absolutely no question of whether or not we'd be working with her," he said.

Krewson and Pierce are the only remaining original members of Riverbottom. Pierce also played drums with the Colorado Springs bands Sargents Sargent and George Duncan and the Moonlighters. According to Krewson, this only gives a taste of her involvement in the Colorado Springs music community.

"She was loved and respected by everybody in it," he said. "Anybody, and I mean anybody who needed session work, who needed a sit-in artist, she is always the first phone call and she's more than happy to do it. You ask what projects has she worked with, I find it very difficult to think of any major project in or around Colorado Springs that hasn't worked with Christine at one point in time or another. She's one of the most prolific session players."

A Facebook group, "Where is Christine Pierce?" was set up on Oct. 21 and collects well wishes, news footage about the search and any new tips. As of press time, the group (facebook.com/groups/423102205343709) has over 900 members. Krewson, who is leading the civilian side of the search, posted an update on Dec. 14 stating that Pierce's family had moved

her belongings from her apartment purely to keep them somewhere more secure.

"This should not be interpreted as any type of closing of efforts to find answers," Krewson wrote. "The family also wanted me to convey their love to all of you for your continued vigilance. The outpouring of love and support has been heartwarming. Christine is truly loved by this community, and we continue to search for answers."

This publication contacted the Colorado Springs Police the week of Dec. 11 for comment. The department's public affairs section stated that as of this time, they have no new information for public release. Krewson said he and others have searched for Pierce along any of her established travel routes, and he gets daily calls from people reporting sightings of her. He follows up on these sightings as much as possible, but none of them have been correct so far. He also stated that the private investigator has gone through most of the information that the civilians have also examined.

"The police have been working with the family and they have maintained that they have been making significant progress," Krewson said. "But with their inability to comment on active investigations, they haven't provided any details about what that might look like. As a community at this point, we're pretty much relegated to waiting for what the police can determine. We have no more new information to go off of from our end. We have no new leads that would suggest a new area where we can start searching or canvassing... We're very much still holding out hope and still holding vigilance."

Krewson emphasized that he represents the civilian side of the search, and he's doing everything he can to work with authorities.

"We're all on the same team here," Krewson said. "I do try to keep the police updated, I get calls on a semi-regular basis from the police, perhaps asking for additional information, and I always relay any new or verifiable information I've collected. There are no competing teams here. We all just want Christine to come home."

To report any sightings, contact the Colorado Springs Police at 719-444-7000. To get involved in the civilian side of the search, contact Brian Krewson at 719-237-7614. To donate to the GoFundMe project, go to gofundme.com/f/x2qm4b-bring-christine-home.

mas bonus," Council Member Tamara Estes said.

The item was brought up by Mayor Gabe Ortega, and it applies only to this year. If the council wants to consider making it a permanent paid holiday, the matter will need to be brought forward again. City Manager Scott Trainor said if the council is leaning toward that, he will incorporate it into a revised Personnel Manual, which will be reviewed by the council early in 2021.

The council also voted to approve an agreement between Colorado Springs Mountain Metro Transit and Fountain Municipal Transit for shared territory to allow for service to the county's new public health facility on Hwy. 85-87 in Fountain. This includes a new stop for Fountain at Main Street and Marquette in Security.

The council also approved an agreement with Midstate Energy and the Colorado Energy Office to develop a performance contract project for the city.

MISSING

ENDANGERED
DOWNTOWN COLORADO SPRINGS RESIDENT



CHRISTINE PIERCE

D.O.B. 09/14/1958
Height: 5'
Weight 160
Eye Color: Brown
Hair: Grey / Short

Facebook:
WHERE IS CHRISTINE PIERCE

LAST SEEN
10/16/2020
COLORADO
SPRINGS CO

MISSING PERSONS CASE NO. 20-36471

CALL CSPD WITH ANY INFORMATION

719-444-7000

Alternate Contact: Brian K 719-237-7614

This poster has been distributed in the Fountain Valley area and Colorado Springs, in the hopes of getting any information about Christine Pierce, who disappeared on Oct. 16. Police and a private investigator are looking through the information gathered to find any leads.

COVID

Continued from P. 1

She did say that these are voluntary, and for those without insurance they will be available at no cost. However, those with insurance should expect their insurance to be billed. Vaccines won't be available at private practices until the spring or summer.

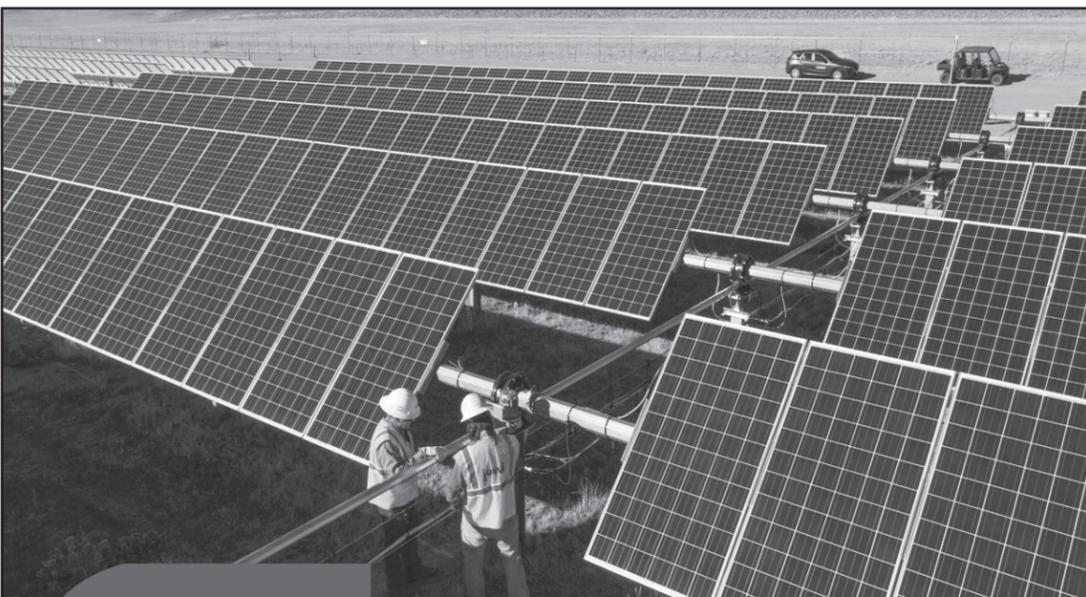
All of the details discussed here and more are available online at: elpasocountyhealth.org.

Other city business

In other business, the council voted to give city employees Christmas Eve off as a paid holiday. The council has discussed the matter in prior years, but generally decided against it due to the extra money it would cost, particularly for first responders who still have to work regardless.

This year, in light of all the challenges COVID-19 has brought, the council agreed that it was the least that could be done for city staff.

"They deserve some sort of Christ-



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A look back at MRHS student magazine

By G. Connor Salter

Like many high schools and colleges, Mesa Ridge High School had a student literary magazine. Titled "Envision," the first issue came out in 1999. Linda Schwartz, a tutor with the Widefield School District 3 (WSD3) online program D3 My Way, taught at Mesa Ridge at the time and served as the magazine's adviser.

"The magazine first came out of the creative writing class at Widefield High School when I took it over from another teacher who retired," she said. "I transferred to Mesa when it was built in 1997 and took the practice of the magazine being created and published by the advanced creative writing class with me. Students from the first class named the magazine, because Mesa was a place where we all 'envisioned' great things."

Students throughout the school would submit pieces (including poetry, prose and artwork) to the advanced creative writing class. The class would then evaluate submissions based on guidelines that they had put together. Following discussions, they would publish what they considered to be the best pieces. Occasionally faculty would submit pieces as well.

"We had one English teacher, Eoin McMahon, who wrote an especially compelling poem about the Vietnam War, of which he'd been a part," Schwartz remembered. "Students were definitely impacted by his words and exquisite writing."

Schwartz also recalled that the editing work gave students a chance to develop new skills.

"They would hold discussions about the pieces that really helped them grow as writers themselves," Schwartz said. "The students in this class loved writing, and it was certainly a labor of love and a tremendous learning experience for those advanced creative writers in my class!"

The first issue was dedicated to Mark Hatchell, the first principal at Mesa Ridge. It was edited by Sheila Paul, Jefferey Sutherland and Matthew Treat, with a cover design by Benjamin Walther-Franks and a title page illustration by Michael Sutherland. Local printing company, Ink Fountain Printing, printed copies for the school.

Schwartz retired in 2006, and Earl MacEnulty took over the creative writing courses; he says as

far as he can remember, the magazine didn't last very long after Schwartz's retirement.

"I may have done one issue right at the very beginning," MacEnulty recalled.

According to MacEnulty, "Envision" folded because student interest seemed to have waned, but other creative projects stepped in to fill its place. For example, the school's art teachers regularly give shows that display student work.

Around the time that "Envision" ended, MacEnulty (who also teaches film and drama) began working to expand video production efforts at the school. This led to expanding KMRC, the school's news show. With new equipment and a variety of new film classes to teach students about narrative and documentary filmmaking, MacEnulty was able to turn KMRC into a larger show with a "weekly Video Newsmagazine" covering student events, while also showcasing documentaries and other film projects that students have put together.

"We've done some anti-bullying pieces that are quite good," MacEnulty said.

Schwartz looks back fondly on "Envision," remembering the impact it had on its contributors.

"I would call working on the magazine one of the best teaching experiences I've ever had," she said. "Students were seriously invested in putting together the best product they could, and they had to read through a good number of submissions. The discussion and evaluation that transpired were about writing, and the learning the students gained from looking at those pieces and evaluating them served to improve their own writing and their love of it. It was exciting... a lot of work, but well worth it!"

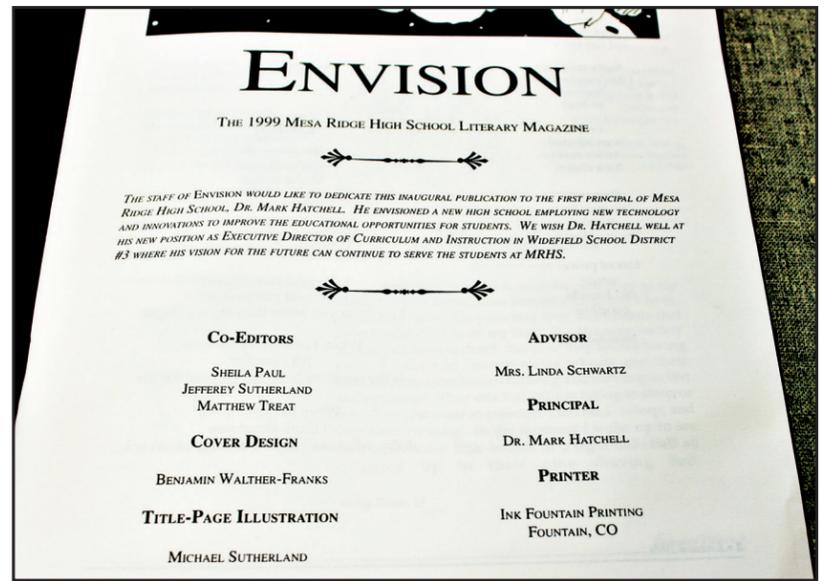
Schwartz was particularly pleased to see how "Envision" gave a voice for high school students who often don't get to display their talents.

"I was the 'adviser,' not the teacher, and it felt incredible to be able to step back and watch the growth and effort of my students result in a beautiful representation of the creative writers in our school," she said. "Students involved in sports are recognized all the time, but the more creative students, who write and draw, are seldom celebrated."



The cover for Envision's first issue, above, with art from Mesa Ridge High School students. Below is the first page in Envision's inaugural issue, which included a dedication to Mark Hatchell, the first principal of Mesa Ridge High School.

NEWS PHOTOS BY G. CONNOR SALTER



INK FOUNTAIN

Continued from P. 1

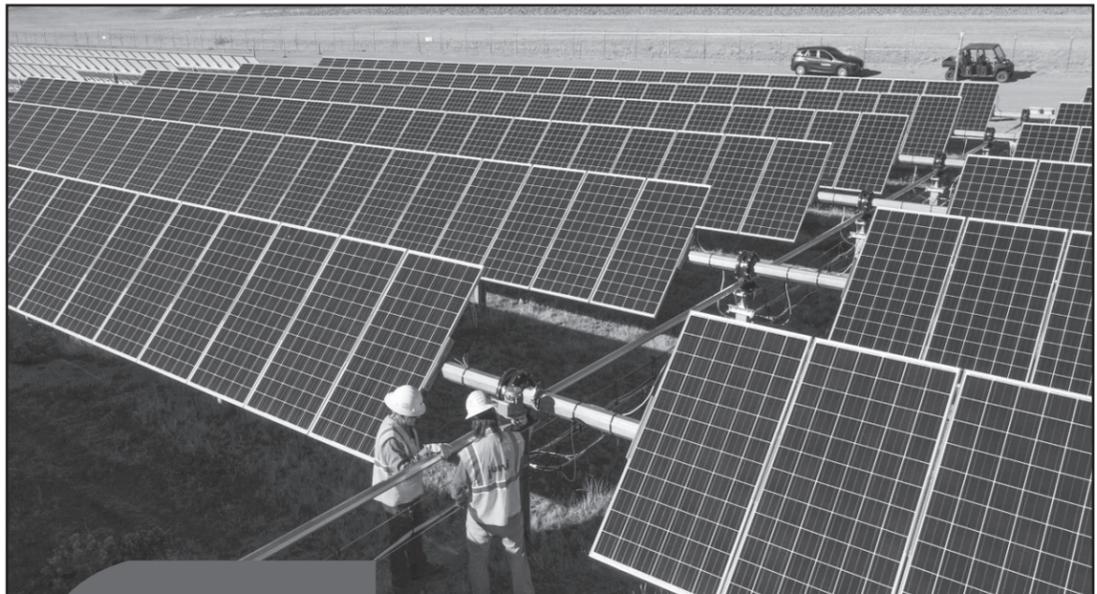
special as they are," she said. "I want to still do the same things

that Sandy offered, and if we can do even more, we can do even more. The customers come first, and we're here to accommodate them first."

For services, visit inkfountainprinting.com or call 719-382-8721.



Dimitri and Deborah Miller will take over ownership of Ink Fountain Printing in January, with Deborah as owner and her son Dimitri as co-owner. Ink Fountain Printing has been a part of Fountain since 1981. The shop has survived numerous changes to the printing industry over the years, and still provides printing, shipping and other services.



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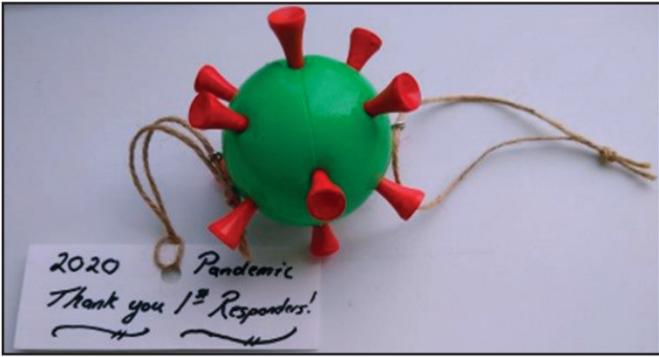
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What's Happening...



Security Library gets crafty with COVID

The Security library's first adult craft of 2021 celebrates the new year by making your own Coronavirus Ball. Kit includes a tag you can personalize with your own message of hope for the coming year.

Pickup curbside Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. They will be available through next week or until depleted.

What's Happening at the Fountain Creek Nature Center

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The Fountain Creek Nature Center is located at 320 Pepper Grass Lane in Fountain. For more info. call 520-6745 or visit www.elpasocountyparks.com ONLINE REGISTRATION available at www.elpasocountynaturecenters.com.

Programs require pre-paid registration. Due to COVID-19, programs are subject to cancellation. Call the Nature Center or check website for current status. Masks or cloth face coverings required.

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Use your senses to explore the wetland and discover the plants and animals that live here. This program meets Colorado State Learning Standards through a puppet show, animal inquiry activity, and guided hike. Geared towards grades Pre-K - 2nd. \$4 per person including adults and siblings.

\$5 tree recycling program benefits youth

Recycle your Christmas tree with TreeCycle at six area sites through Jan. 10. The program aims to reduce tree waste, create mulch, and support youth development nonprofits. Suggested minimum donation is \$5 per tree. All donations received benefit area youth through Colorado Springs Youth Sports, a charitable organization that operates the El Pomar Youth Sports Park.

For the first time this year, contactless donations are being accepted online at www.GiveButter.com/tree. Limited numbers of volunteers wearing personal protective equipment will be available to receive your tree at each site.

Trees and donations will be accepted at the following locations from 9 a.m. -4:30 p.m., Jan. 9-10:

- Baptist Road Trailhead (Baptist Road & Old Denver Highway)

- Falcon Trailhead (SW of Woodmen Road & McLaughlin Road)
- Cottonwood Creek Park (Dublin Blvd. & Montarbor Drive)
- UC Health Park (Barnes Road & Tutt Blvd.)
- Rock Ledge Ranch (Gateway Road & 30th Street)
- Memorial Park (Pikes Peak Avenue & Union Blvd.)

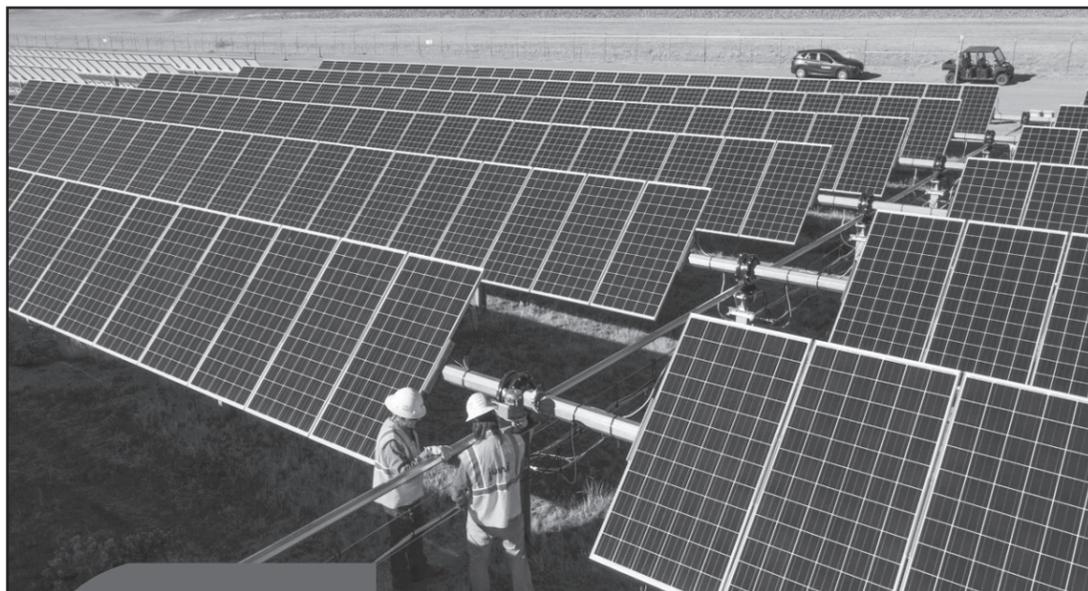
Tree drop-offs and donations can also be made at Rocky Top Resources (1755 E. Las Vegas St.) from 7:30 a.m. -5 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. -4 p.m. Saturdays through Jan. 30. Rocky Top Resources is closed on Sundays.

All decorations must be removed from trees before drop-off. Info: www.TreeCycleCOS.org, www.elpasoco.com, or (719) 520-7878.



Free Christmas Tree Drop-off site at Metcalfe Park to accept trees January 1, 2021 to February 1, 2021.

The City of Fountain Park Division is having a free drop off location at Metcalfe Park (south end by the split rail fence) for live Christmas trees on January 1, 2021 to February 1, 2021. Lights and ornaments must be removed prior to drop off. For more information, please contact Jim Watson at 719-322-2068.



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Colorado Spirit offers support group for parents, caregivers

Colorado Spirit, a counseling team working in conjunction with Aspen-Pointe to provide crisis counseling services during COVID-19, is offering a free weekly support group where parents and caregivers can discuss family challenges created by COVID-19. The group, known as Coffee Chat, meets virtually 10-11 a.m. on Thursdays using Microsoft Team Meetings. A Colorado Spirit representative described Coffee Chat as "an open forum allowing attendees to ask questions regarding online learning, the need for special accommodations, isolation, daily schedules and parenting support."

To find out more about Coffee Chat, call Colorado Spirit at 719-299-2996 or email covidresponse@aspenpointe.org. To find out how to log into Coffee Chat after joining the group, call 719-499-6794.

Colorado Spirit provides crisis counseling services geared specifically toward helping people with issues created by COVID-19. To find out more about the program, go to aspenpointe.org/covidresponse.

El Paso County Recreation Services offers classes, outdoor activities

All programs require pre-registration. In light of COVID-19, programs are subject to cancellation. Please call (719) 520-6977 for current status. Register: www.elpasocountynaturecenters.com.

Geology and History Talk at Rainbow Falls Saturday, January 9, 10-11 a.m.

Did you know that the bridge at Rainbow Falls was built during the Great Depression? Or that people come from all over the country to see the unique rock layers at the site? Register now for this informative talk by our Park Interpreters/Caretakers. \$3 for members/\$4 nonmembers.

First Aid, CPR, AED Classes Thursday, January 21, 6-7:30 p.m., Fountain Creek Nature Center

This American Red Cross course will prepare you to recognize and care for a variety of first aid, breathing and cardiac emergencies involving adults, children and infants. The blended learning course includes an online portion and an instructor-led classroom skill session. Participants must be 16 years or older: \$75.

First Aid, CPR, AED Classes for private groups

This American Red Cross course will prepare your group to recognize and care for a variety of first aid, breathing and cardiac emergencies involving adults, children and infants. This blended learning course includes an online portion and an instructor-led classroom skill session. Upon completion, participants will receive a Certification through the American Red Cross valid for two years from completion date. Participants must be at least 16 years old to take this class. The classroom portion can be held at Fountain Creek or Bear Creek Nature Center by appointment only. \$75 per person with a maximum of four people per group.