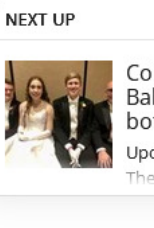
Cheyenne Mountain freshman provides some wizardry, starts Harry Potter-inspired sport team

BY CHHUN SUN chhun.sun@pikespeaknewspapers.com Oct 20, 2020

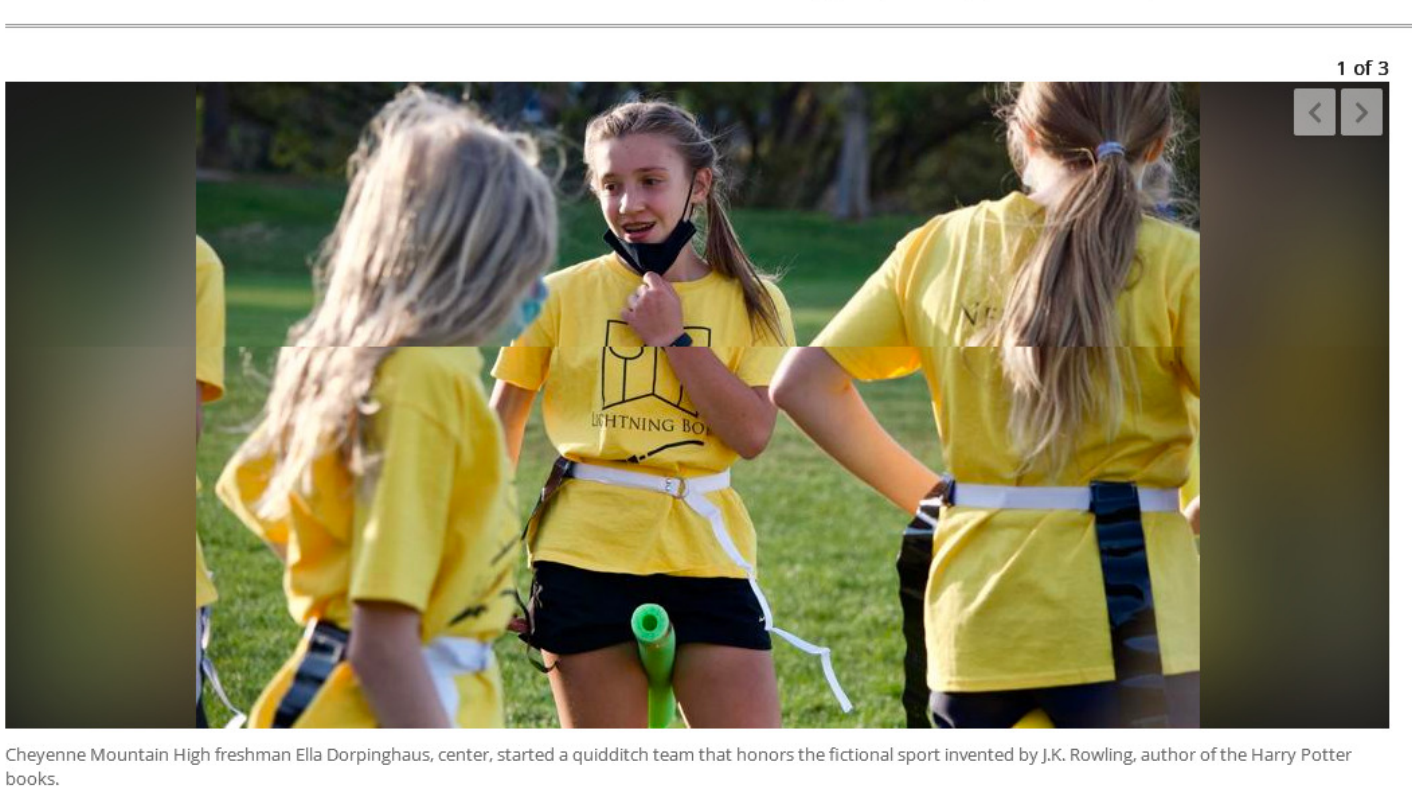
NEXT UP



Colorado Springs Debutante Ball features presentation of bot...

Upon entering the International Hall at The Broadmoor on a c...

1 of 3



Cheyenne Mountain High freshman Ella Dorpinghaus, center, started a quidditch team that honors the fictional sport invented by J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter books.

Trending Now

Pikes Peak Newspapers

MORE INFORMATION

Student gatherings could be linked to COVID-19 outbreak at Cheyenne Mountain High School

A second El Paso County high school has moved to online learning after an outbreak of COVID-19 as the county's attorney is attempting to dispel what she said was "inaccurate information" that a gathering she held could be connected to the infections.

While in the seventh grade, Ella Dorpinghaus received the first four Harry Potter books on cassette tapes as a gift from her grandpa. It took her just a few days to finish listening to them all.

She was hooked.

Two years later, her obsession with the widely successful chronicles of the young wizard Harry Potter and his friends have grown beyond her imagination. Now a freshman at Cheyenne Mountain High School, Dorpinghaus has started a quidditch team that honors the fictional sport invented by J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter books.

“It’s been interesting,” Dorpinghaus said about putting together a team of fellow classmates and students from the elementary and junior high schools in the Cheyenne Mountain area. So far, the Lightning Bolts boast 20-plus players with at least two more expected to join.

But this quidditch team isn’t all fun and no play. The Bolts want to be competitive and eventually play beyond each other once the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

“When we figure it out,” Dorpinghaus said, “we’ll compete.”

In the Harry Potter books and movies, quidditch is a dangerous sport played by wizards and witches on a giant serpent known as a basilisk. They fly on broomsticks.

In real life, it’s a little different.

In the case of the Lightning Bolts, they play and practice at Broadmoor Valley Park. Half of the team has never read or saw the movies, so Dorpinghaus, who’s both coach and player, has had to spend some time explaining the rules and positions.

With the instructions by U.S. Quidditch, Dorpinghaus and some friends started putting together a team a couple months ago. They started playing in her backyard. Anyone can try.

“That’s kind of why I love quidditch,” Dorpinghaus said. “There’s a position for everyone. Even if you don’t like running, you can still play. If you like running, there’s a position for you.”

Teams feature three chasers, two beaters, a keeper and seeker. There are three kind of balls: a quaffle, a snitch and bludgers. Chasers — the equivalent of a forward in soccer — aim to send a quaffle through one of three hoops guarded by keepers. Beaters can throw bludgers at chasers, while seekers can chase the runner with the snitch, a magical ball that signifies the end of a game when the opposing team captures it.

Teams use a deflated volleyball as the quaffle.

And they all play with a shortened swimming noodle between their legs in place of a broomstick, since, you know, non-fictional players can’t really fly.

“If you explain their position,” Dorpinghaus said, “it’s not hard to understand. If they know what they have to do, they don’t have to know what everyone else does.”

At first, Dorpinghaus didn’t know how people in her area would react to the idea of starting a quidditch team. But now, she has enough players to split the team into two. Adults and other observers have enjoyed watching the kids compete in a sport that’s beyond their imagination.

“All of the quidditch parents have been incredibly impressed with Ella as a coach and as a leader,” said Megan May, a Lightning Bolts parent. “She is so organized, hardworking, creative, positive and fun. My kids have a blast running around playing quidditch with their buddies, and as a parent, I love that they get to be around a wonderful role model like Ella.”

In other words, everyone involved is hooked to the new sport.

Tags Cheyenne News Feature Cheyenne News

CHEYENNE EDITION

Colorado Springs Debutante Ball features presentation of both 2020 and 2021 groups

By LIBBY KINDER Dec 29, 2021

Upon entering the International Hall at The Broadmoor on a crisp winter evening in late December, guests were reminded of the lyrics penned by songwriter, Phil Collins: Something’s “in the air tonight ... And I’ve been waiting for this moment, for all my life ...”

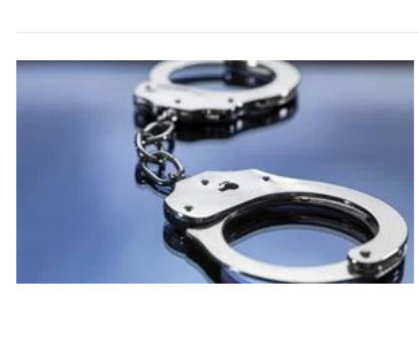
CHEYENNE EDITION

Around the Neighborhood events calendar on Dec. 29, 2021

BY CARLOTTA OLSON Special from The Gazette Dec 28, 2021

Around the neighborhood

Carlotta Olson
Editorial Assistant



CHEYENNE EDITION

Cheyenne Mountain area crime calls for service on Dec. 29, 2021

Dec 28, 2021

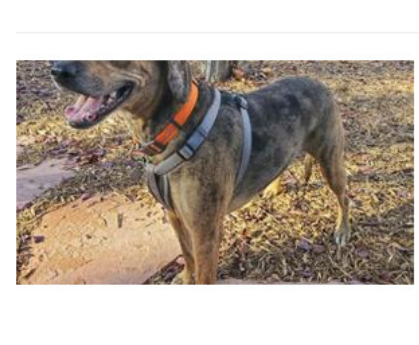
The following is a list of incidents within the 80906 ZIP code reported at myneighborhoodupdate.net from Dec. 14-20. This information is published with permission from Corona Solutions.

CHEYENNE EDITION

Letters to the Editor — Dec. 29, 2021

Dec 28, 2021

Letters to the Editor — Dec. 29, 2021



CHEYENNE EDITION

Pet of the Week: Dec. 29, 2021

Dec 28, 2021

Safe Place for Pets, 1520 N. Hancock Ave., safeplacepets.org, 719-359-0201

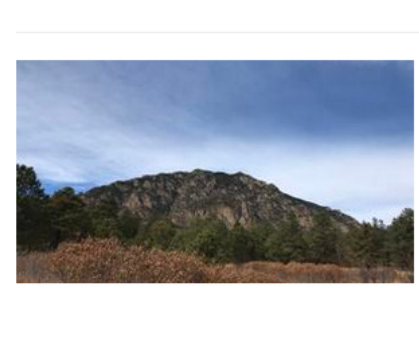
CHEYENNE EDITION

Another year-end shoutout to those who care for the sick | From the Editor

MICHELLE KARAS michelle.karas@pikespeaknewspapers.com Dec 28, 2021

As I was trying to find the words for my final column of 2021, I took a look back at what I was writing a year ago.

Michelle Karas
Editor, Pikes Peak Newspapers



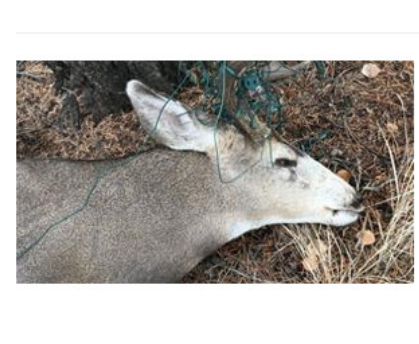
CHEYENNE EDITION

Happy Trails: A gentle loop displaying vast beauty of Cheyenne Mountain State Park

By Seth Boster Special from The Gazette Dec 28, 2021

We’re always pleasantly surprised by the space available at Cheyenne Mountain State Park’s Limekiln trailhead, the park’s primary launch point. We trail regulars in Colorado Springs are accustomed to parking hassles at other preserves in the city, especially in summer. But from our experienc...

Seth Boster
Features writer

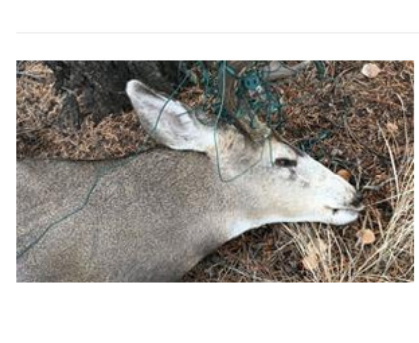


CHEYENNE EDITION

Give wildlife a holiday treat by protecting them from your decorations | Wildlife Matters

CASSIDY ENGLISH Dec 28, 2021

Driving through town during the holidays is always a joyful time. Colorful, twinkling lights adorn houses and trees. Garland and ribbons hang on porch railings. Inflatable Santas and reindeer are tethered in front yards.



CHEYENNE EDITION

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CHEYENNE EDITION

East Coast gems — Off the beaten track | Such a Fine Sight to See

LIBBY KINDER Dec 28, 2021

Typically, as fall arrives, my husband, Ron, and I load up the trailer, and accompanied by our little dog, Gracie, we head off on an extended journey. Last month I focused on five National Parks we visited during our trip to the east coast. This month, I want to let fellow travel-lovers in o...

CHEYENNE EDITION

East Coast gems — Off the beaten track | Such a Fine Sight to See

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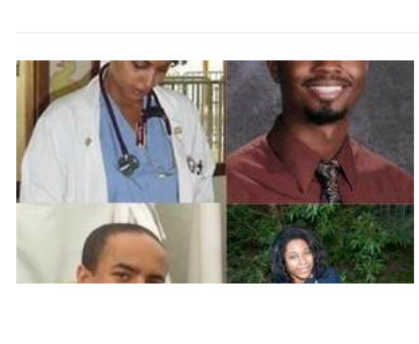
CHEYENNE EDITION

News roundup: Cheyenne Mountain and Broadmoor area news in brief

Dec 28, 2021

County seeks volunteers for Citizen Outreach Group



CHEYENNE EDITION

Colorado Springs-based Sachs Foundation accepting scholarship applications

By O'Dell Isaac Special from The Gazette Dec 27, 2021

A Colorado Springs-based nonprofit will begin accepting scholarship grant applications on New Year’s Day. The Sachs Foundation has helped more than 3,000 Black Coloradans afford college.

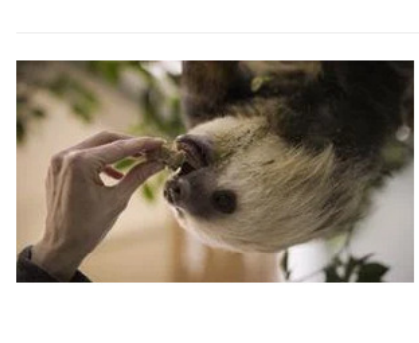
O'Dell Isaac

CHEYENNE EDITION

Alternatives to bigger jails aren’t a partisan issue | Writers on the Range

MATT WITT Dec 27, 2021

If you know someone is a Republican or Democrat, then you might assume you know exactly where they stand on whether local jails need to be expanded.



CHEYENNE EDITION

Practicing patience: Meet the two-toed sloths at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

By JENNIFER MULSON Special from The Gazette Dec 27, 2021

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is home to three sloths: Chalupa, Bosco and Bean. Keepers thought Chalupa was a boy, until she gave birth to Bean in 2019, who remains unsexed. True to their reputation, the sloths take an inordinate amount of time to amble down from their perches in their beloved ficus trees to eat their herbivore breakfasts. The nocturnal creatures, who sleep at least 18 hours a day, mostly live to wake up, move and eat, before going back to sleep.

Jennifer Mulson

CHEYENNE EDITION

Mothers and daughters help nonprofits through National Charity League

Linda Navarro Special from The Gazette Dec 27, 2021

National Charity League teams daughters and their mothers in philanthropic work.

Linda Navarro
Journalist

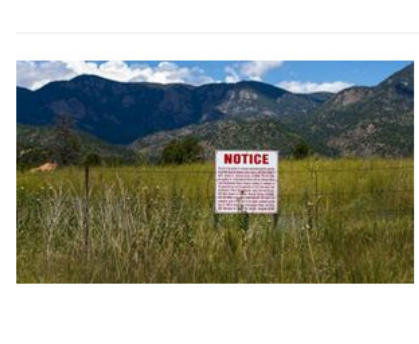
CHEYENNE EDITION

Colorado Springs-based women's football team Rocky Mountain Thunderkatz seeks national title

By Chhun Sun chhun.sun@pikespeaknewspapers.com Dec 27, 2021

When coach Damareo Pruitt invite friends and family to his football games, they always seem skeptical.

Chhun Sun
Reporter



CHEYENNE EDITION

El Pomar will purchase ranch land for $3.75 million as part of settlement of lawsuit alleging undue lobbying influence over granite mining proposal

By CHRISTOPHER OSHER Special from The Gazette Dec 27, 2021

The El Pomar Foundation will spend $3.75 million to purchase ranch land as part of a settlement that will result in the dismissal of a lawsuit accusing the nonprofit of violating state law by secretly lobbying members of then Gov. John Hickenlooper’s staff to kill a controversial proposal fo...

Christopher Osher
Senior Investigative Reporter/Editor

CHEYENNE EDITION

Challenges and successes: A year in the life of Tambi Tyler, Head of The Colorado Springs School

By LIBBY KINDER Dec 22, 2021

Tambi L. Tyler has faced down a global pandemic over the past 19 months in her role as the leader of the notable, Broadmoor-neighborhood landmark. She has overcome mind-boggling challenges, and met success with flying colors at every turn.

CHEYENNE EDITION

Farewell and thank you: Some sad news about the Cheyenne Edition | From the Editor

MICHELLE KARAS michelle.karas@pikespeaknewspapers.com Dec 22, 2021

It is with a heavy heart that I convey the news that the Cheyenne Edition will cease to operate as of Dec. 31.

Michelle Karas
Editor, Pikes Peak Newspapers

CHEYENNE EDITION

News roundup: Cheyenne Mountain and Broadmoor area news in brief

Dec 21, 2021

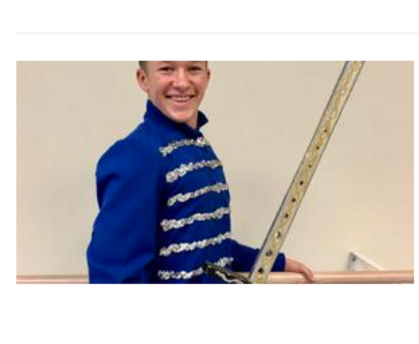
County seeks volunteers for Citizen Outreach Group

CHEYENNE EDITION

Cheyenne Mountain Junior High robotics team earns award at state competition

By WILLIAM J. DAGENDESH Dec 21, 2021

The Cheyenne Mountain Junior High School robotics team, Thunderbots, captured the Motivate Award in the FIRST LEGO League State Championships.



CHEYENNE EDITION

Colorado Springs teen cast in lead role of 'A Colorado Nutcracker'

By LIBBY KINDER Dec 21, 2021

At the age of 7, Cheyenne Mountain-area resident Levi Ladd declared to his best friend: “I’m going to be an actor and a director!” Ladd says the idea just popped into his head; and now at the age of 14, he is well on his way to realizing his dreams.

CHEYENNE EDITION

Cheyenne Mountain area crime calls for service on Dec. 22, 2021

Dec 21, 2021

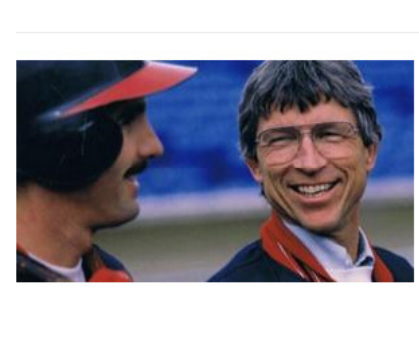
The following is a list of incidents within the 80906 ZIP code reported at myneighborhoodupdate.net from Dec. 7-13. This information is published with permission from Corona Solutions.

CHEYENNE EDITION

The Holiday Pet Memorial Tree | Outsider's View

SUSAN DAVIES Dec 15, 2020

Many adjectives come to mind as I consider 2020. Some I can’t print here. But negative opinions are not universally held.



CHEYENNE EDITION

'Father of Baseball in Colorado Springs' is headed to Florida | From the Sidelines

By Danny Summers danny.summers@pikespeaknewspapers.com Dec 15, 2020

Every couple of months I have a beverage with my good friend, Fred Whitacre, and a few of our buddies at various establishments around town.

Danny Summers
Pikes Peak Newspapers Sports Reporter

CHEYENNE EDITION

Cheyenne Mountain area real estate sales: Sept. 7-13, 2020

Dec 15, 2020

This list was obtained from the El Paso County Assessor’s Office and covers sales recorded Sept. 7-13, 2020. All listings include address and sales price.

CHEYENNE EDITION

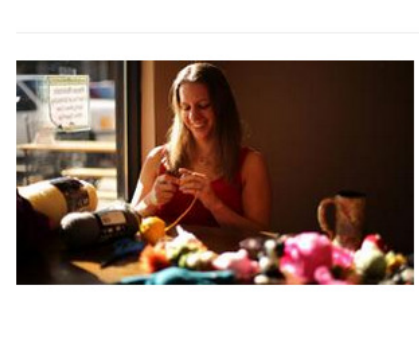
A seasonal tribute tree to pets

Dec 14, 2020

CHEYENNE EDITION

Westside holiday decorations illuminate

Dec 14, 2020



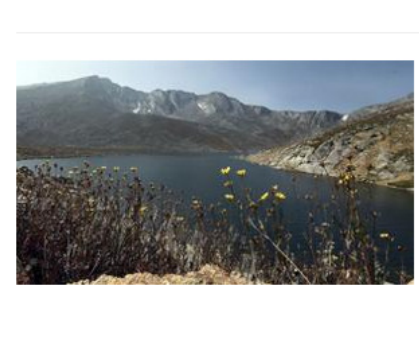
CHEYENNE EDITION

Black Forest woman's crocheted creations make for cute Christmas ornaments

By Amanda Hancock Special from The Gazette Dec 14, 2020

A Black Forest woman crochets all sorts of cute creatures to sell as Christmas ornaments.

Amanda Hancock
Reporter



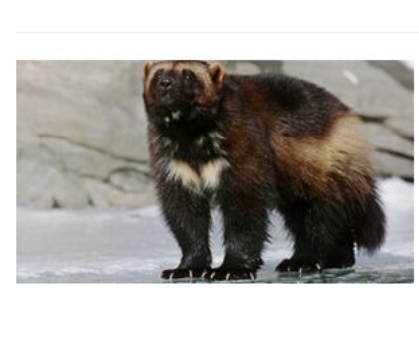
CHEYENNE EDITION

Amid controversy, new book traces detailed history of Colorado 14er names

By Seth Boster Special from The Gazette Dec 14, 2020

In 2017, during a meeting of the Denver Fortnightly Club, the historic literary organization founded and continued by women, Jeri Norgren listened to a reading about the group’s role in the naming of Mount Evans. The club signed a petition for the 14,000-foot mountain’s honoree, Colorado’s f...

Seth Boster
Features writer



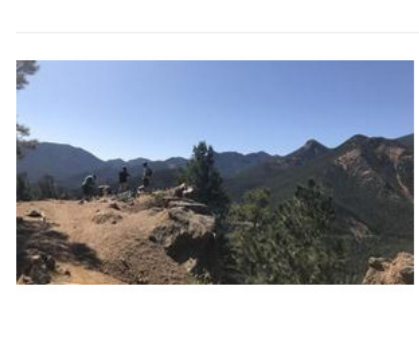
CHEYENNE EDITION

On heels of wolf debate in Colorado, could wolverines be next?

By Seth Boster Special from The Gazette Dec 14, 2020

When the opportunity came in 2008, when the rare wolverine presented itself just in time for the technology to meet it, researchers in Wyoming took advantage.

Seth Boster
Features writer



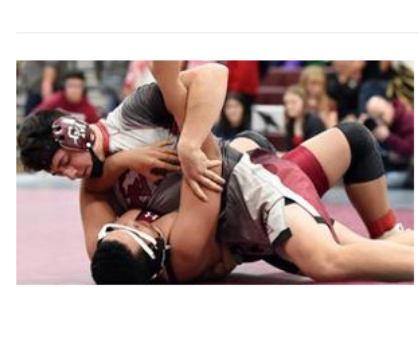
CHEYENNE EDITION

Controversial Jones Park in Colorado Springs has new trails proposed

By Seth Boster Special from The Gazette Dec 14, 2020

If approved, a new master plan would double trail mileage in Jones Park, the popular, backcountry getaway in Colorado Springs’ southwest mountains.

Seth Boster
Features writer



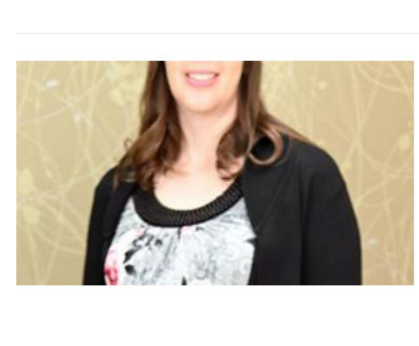
CHEYENNE EDITION

Colorado high school sports seasons delayed with rise in COVID-19 cases

By Lindsey Smith Special from The Gazette Dec 8, 2020

The Colorado High School Activities Association announced Monday that the start of Season B, which includes basketball, wrestling, girls’ swimming and ice hockey, has been delayed due to the rise in COVID-19 cases across the state.

Lindsey Smith
Preps Editor



CHEYENNE EDITION

Cheyenne Mountain area business buzz

Dec 8, 2020

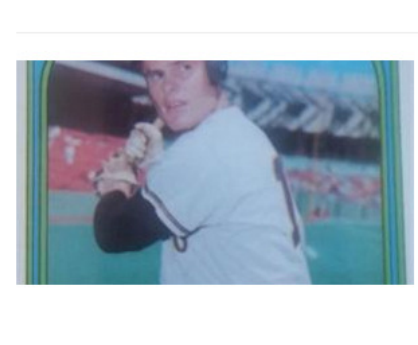
The Cheyenne Mountain Business Buzz highlights the local economic scene, promotions, acquisitions and expansions. Contact Chhun Sun at chhun.sun@pikespeaknewspapers.com for the chance to be featured.

CHEYENNE EDITION

News roundup: Cheyenne Mountain and Broadmoor area news in brief

Dec 8, 2020

CSPD PARTNERS WITH LOCAL ORGS FOR ANNUAL TOY DRIVE



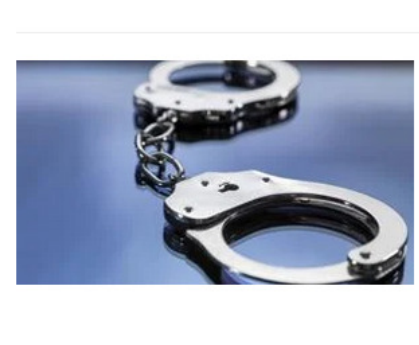
CHEYENNE EDITION

Frick Award finalists for baseball broadcasting have area ties | From the Sidelines

By Danny Summers danny.summers@pikespeaknewspapers.com Dec 8, 2020

On Dec. 9, the National Baseball Hall of Fame will announce this year’s selection for the Ford C. Frick Award for excellence in broadcasting.

Danny Summers
Pikes Peak Newspapers Sports Reporter

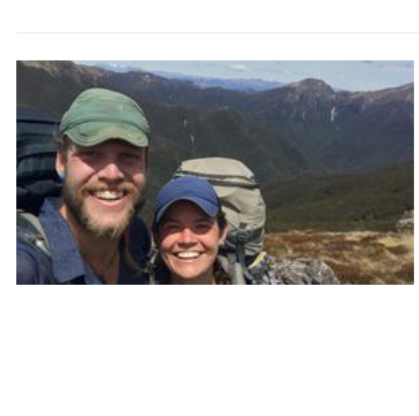


CHEYENNE EDITION

Cheyenne Mountain area crime calls for service on Dec. 9, 2020

Dec 8, 2020

The following is a list of incidents within the 80906 ZIP code reported at myneighborhoodupdate.net from Nov. 24-30. This information is published with permission from Corona Solutions.



CHEYENNE EDITION

Meet Barr Camp's new caretakers, eager to make home on Pikes Peak

By Seth Boster Special from The Gazette Dec 8, 2020

In recent years they’ve lived in a van in Australia, ideal for adventures in between their work in the field as outdoor educators. And then they made their home in the Montana wilds, tasked with trail maintenance.

Seth Boster
Features writer

CHEYENNE EDITION

Cheyenne Mountain football boasts first winning record since 2016

By Danny Summers danny.summers@pikespeaknewspapers.com Dec 8, 2020

A new league, a fresh outlook and a different kind of season combined for the Cheyenne Mountain High School football team to enjoy great success this fall.

Danny Summers
Pikes Peak Newspapers Sports Reporter

CHEYENNE EDITION

El Paso County installing fencing, signs to protect Paint Mines park from visiting hordes

By Mary Shinn Special from The Gazette Dec 8, 2020

Visitors could be deterred from crawling all over the fragile rock formations at the Paint Mines Interpretive Park after El Paso County installs fencing and signs in coming months.

Mary Shinn

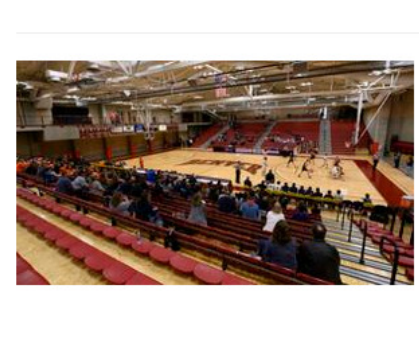
CHEYENNE EDITION

Tesla dealership coming soon to Colorado Springs

By Wayne Heilman Special from The Gazette Dec 8, 2020

Just weeks after getting its first In-N-Out restaurant, Colorado Springs is about to get another long-sought California import with cult-like appeal — a Tesla dealership.

Wayne Heilman
Business Writer



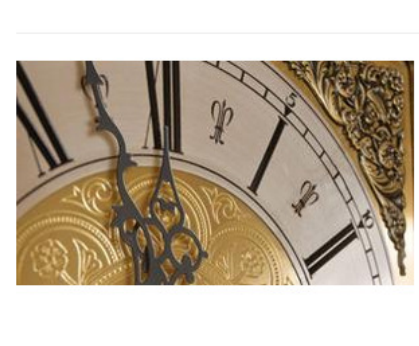
CHEYENNE EDITION

CHSAA awaits response from health officials regarding variances for Season B

Lindsey Smith Special from The Gazette Dec 8, 2020

As the 2020 football season comes to an end in the midst of a surge of COVID-19 cases in Colorado, the focus for high school sports fans across the state will soon shift to Season B.

Lindsey Smith
Preps Editor



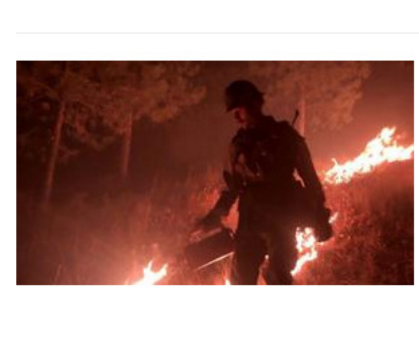
CHEYENNE EDITION

Ring out the old, ring in the new | From the Editor

MICHELLE KARAS michelle.karas@pikespeaknewspapers.com Dec 8, 2020

We had no inkling last year at this time, what was to come.

Michelle Karas
Editor, Pikes Peak Newspapers



CHEYENNE EDITION

It’s time to come to the aid of wildland firefighters | Writers on the Range

HARRISON RAINE Dec 8, 2020

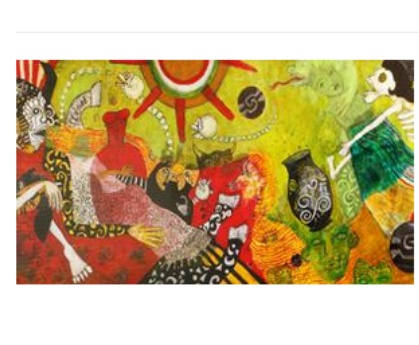
By mid-September, there was no one left to call. The West, with its thousands of federal, state, and local fire engines and crews, had been tapped out.

CHEYENNE EDITION

Board of Education perspective on CMHS mascot | District 12 Perspectives

MONICA FUREY PELOSO Dec 8, 2020

Based on recent feedback regarding the Cheyenne Mountain High School team name, the District 12 Board of Education is evaluating the future of the Indian team name. This issue is not new, but has perhaps gained momentum due to the larger context of social issues across our country. This is a...



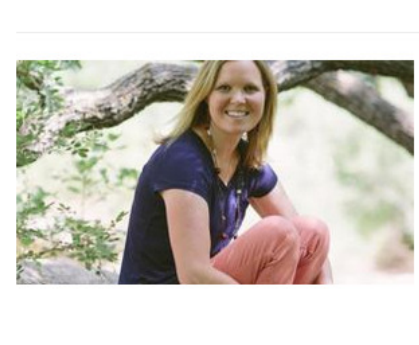
CHEYENNE EDITION

Works from Cheech Marin's Chicano art collection on display in Colorado Springs

By Jennifer Mulson Special from The Gazette Dec 8, 2020

“Papel Chicano Dos,” a traveling exhibit of works on paper from performer Cheech Marin's collection, will land Friday at Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. It will be up through June 26.

Jennifer Mulson

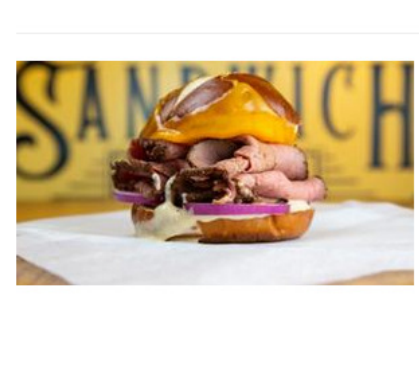


CHEYENNE EDITION

Taking in the good | Intentional Living in the Cañon

JOANNA ZAREMBA Dec 8, 2020

If you’re like me, you’re interested in learning new ways to feel a bit happier despite what’s going on outside of you.

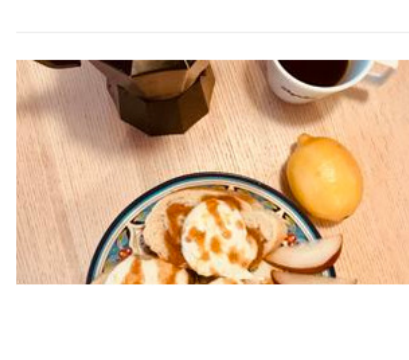


CHEYENNE EDITION

One beloved condiment reigns at west-side Colorado Springs eatery Colonel Mustard’s Sandwich Emporium

LIBBY KINDER Dec 8, 2020

A passion for mustard is the backbone of the vision for Colonel Mustard’s Sandwich Emporium, located on the West side of Colorado Springs. In the midst of the pandemic, wife and husband team Karrie Williams and Mark Jakusovsky hit the ground running, opening up the business of their dreams o...

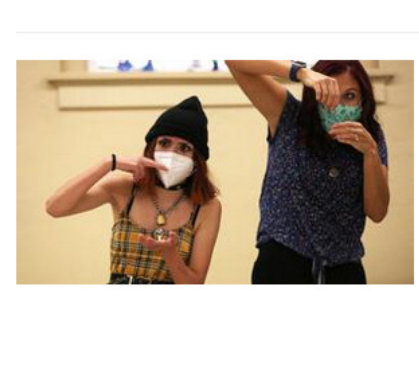


CHEYENNE EDITION

An indulgently simple breakfast | On the Table

Micah Redfield Dec 8, 2020

Sick of your pajamas yet? Does your home seem smaller than it did nine months ago? Is the grocery shopping the new highlight of your week? (It’s your chance to get out of your penguin pj’s after all.)



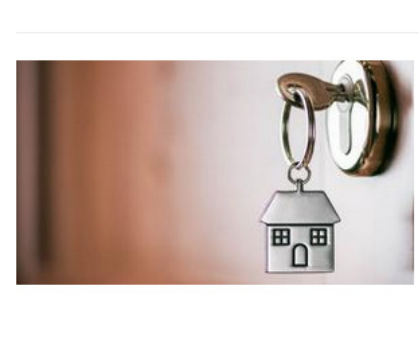
CHEYENNE EDITION

Colorado Springs improv classes offer relief for anxiety

By Jennifer Mulson Special from The Gazette Dec 8, 2020

Improv comedy can be an ideal environment for those who struggle with anxiety. It's about learning to be present in the moment and not reliving the past or planning the future.

Jennifer Mulson

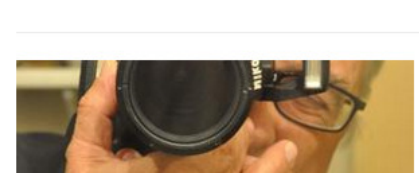


CHEYENNE EDITION

Cheyenne Mountain area real estate sales: Aug. 31-Sept. 6, 2020

Dec 8, 2020

This list was obtained from the El Paso County Assessor’s Office and covers sales recorded Aug. 31-Sept. 6. Each listing includes address and sales price.



CHEYENNE EDITION

Thank you Dad, Mom for Christmas memories | Life