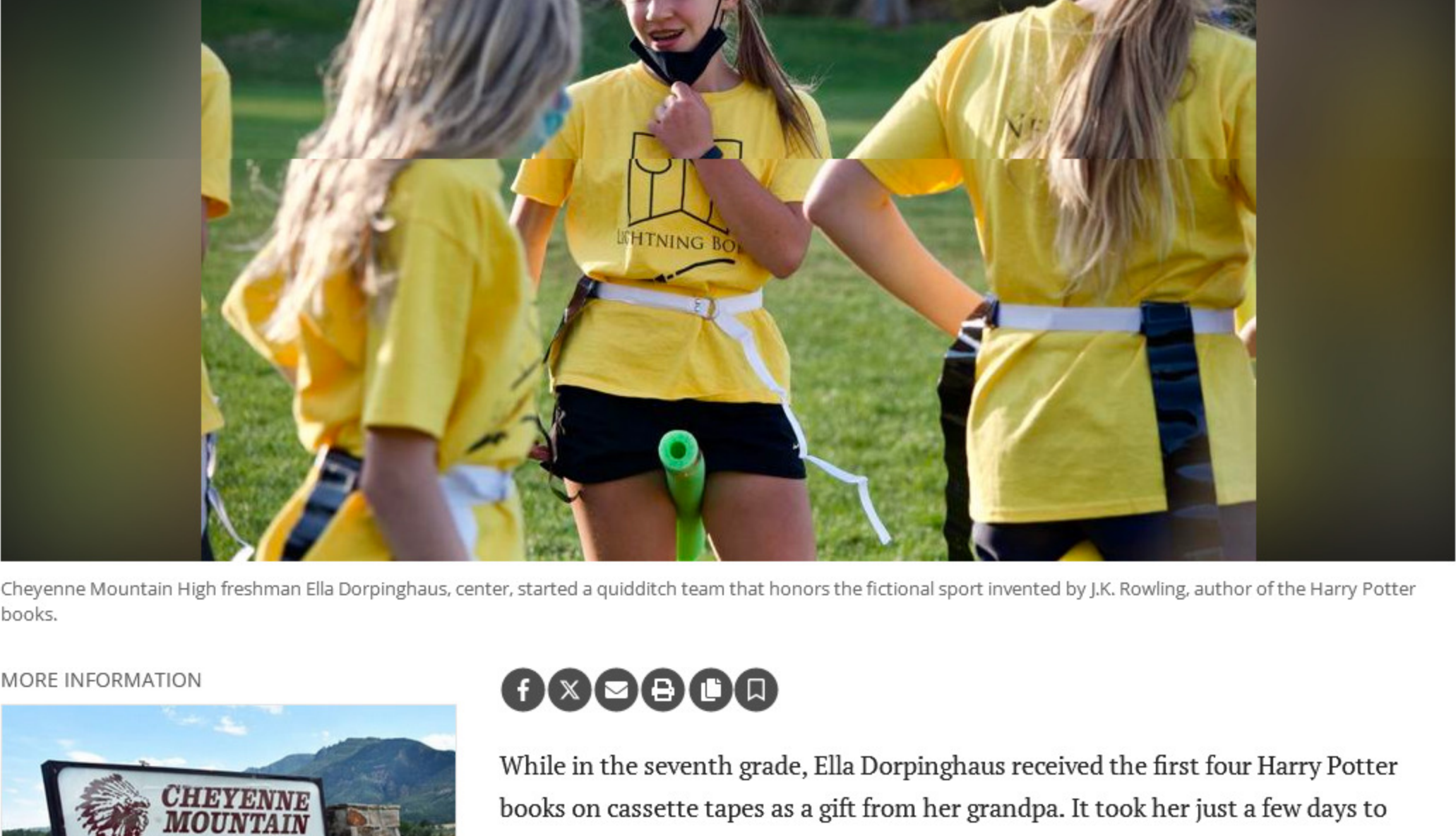


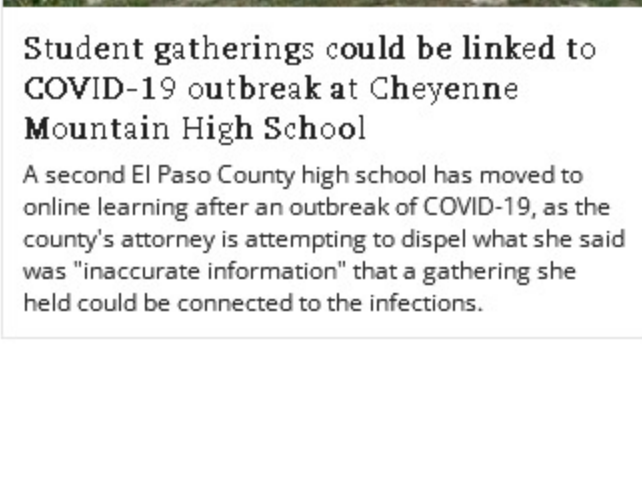
Cheyenne Mountain freshman provides some wizardry, starts Harry Potter-inspired sports team

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



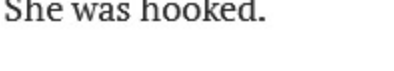
Cheyenne Mountain High freshman Ella Dorpinghaus, center, started a quidditch team that honors the fictional sport invented by J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter books.

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 at the 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+ 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 Focus](#) [Cheyenne News](#)



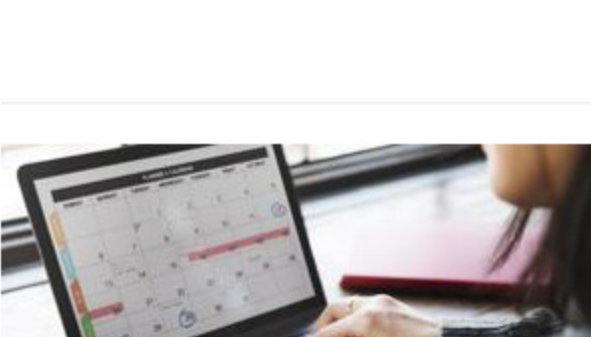
Cheyenne Mountain area crime calls for service on Oct. 21, 2020

Oct 20, 2020
The following is a list of incidents within the 80906 ZIP code reported at myneighborhoodupdate.net from Oct. 6-12. This information is published with permission from Corona Solutions.



Expansive meadows await along Mount Esther ridge | Take a Hike

Joe LaFleur Oct 20, 2020
Head westward on U.S. 24 to the stoplight in Cascade. Turn left on Fountain Avenue but keep right after about .5 miles to continue on Chipika Park Road. After about 1.25 miles, turn left on Picabo Road, continue for about a half-mile, then turn left on dirt Mountain Road to reach the small t...

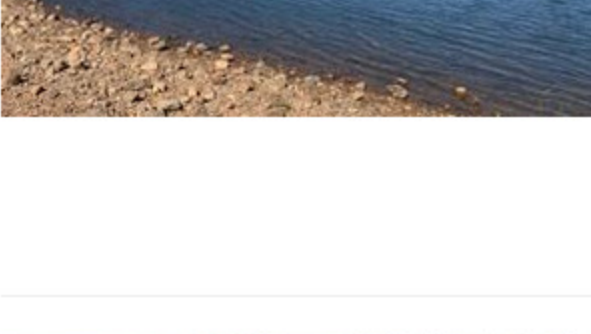


Around the Neighborhood events calendar on Oct. 21, 2020

BY CARLOTTA OLSON The Gazette Oct 20, 2020
Around the neighborhood



Carlotta Olson
Editorial Assistant



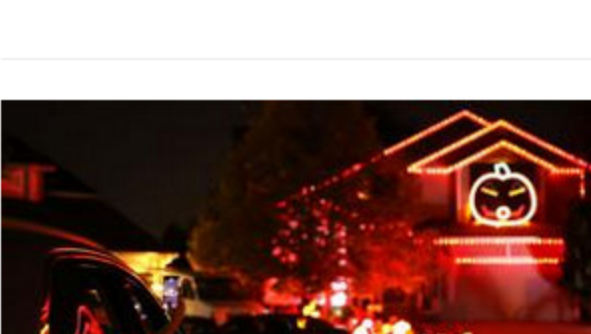
News roundup: Cheyenne Mountain and Broadmoor area news in brief

Oct 20, 2020
SOUTH SUBURBAN RESERVOIR CLOSED THROUGH SPRING 2021



Gather 'round: Veteran-owned Campfire Coffee brings coffee and community to Colorado Springs

TAYLOR DEAN Oct 20, 2020
When you walk up to the Colorado Campfire Coffee trailer, you're greeted with warm smiles and welcoming conversations. While the images of the Colorado forest and the Rocky Mountains across the sides of the trailer invite you in, it's the creative drinks and friendly owners that entice you to stay.



Celebrate Halloween safely in the time of COVID | From the Editor

MICHELLE KARAS michelle.karas@pikespeaknewspapers.com Oct 20, 2020
Holidays this year are bound to be different, and Halloween is no exception.



Michelle Karas
Editor, Pikes Peak Newspapers



Flobots co-founder, Denver nonprofit leader named state's music ambassador

MICHAEL KARLIK Colorado Politics Oct 20, 2020
Stephen Brackett, co-founder of the Flobots, is Colorado's new music ambassador, the Polis administration announced on Thursday.



Michael Karlik, Colorado Politics



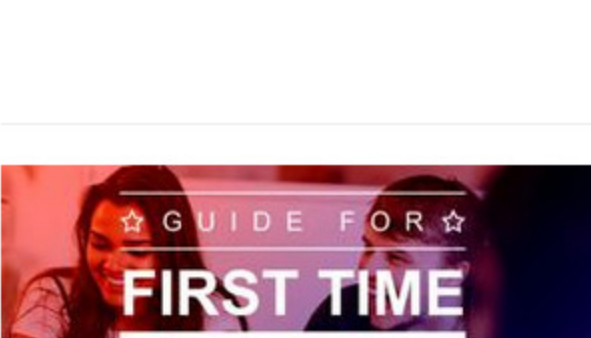
The mountains don't care | Outsider's View

SUSAN DAVIES Oct 20, 2020
Can you recall an October this lovely? Fall colors are still stunning and flowers are still blooming. We may pay the price later with harsh winter weather and we definitely need moisture in some form of precipitation.



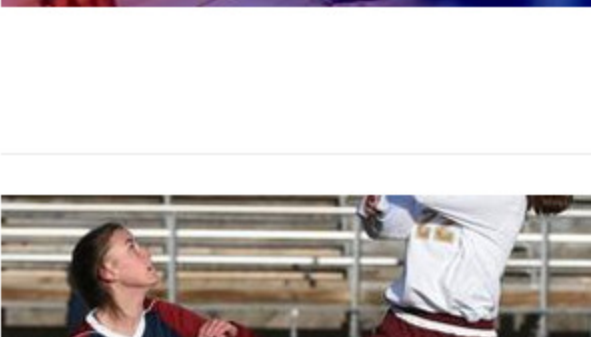
Cheyenne Mountain area real estate sales: July 13-19, 2020

Oct 20, 2020
This list was obtained from the El Paso County Assessor's Office and covers sales recorded during the period of July 13-19. Each listing includes the address and sales price.



Five ways the library can help you vote | Library Limelight

KAYAH SWANSON Oct 19, 2020
I'm sure you haven't heard about this, so I just want to make sure you know there's an election coming up.



Cheyenne Mountain grad 1 of 3 Colorado recipients of elite congressional award for young people

Erin Prater erin.prater@gazette.com Oct 19, 2020
A Cheyenne Mountain High School graduate is one of three Colorado recipients of a prestigious congressional award for young Americans.

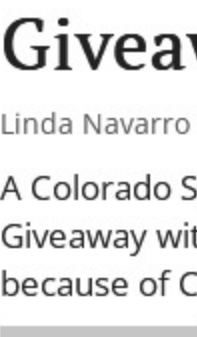


Erin Prater
Nightly Metro Editor

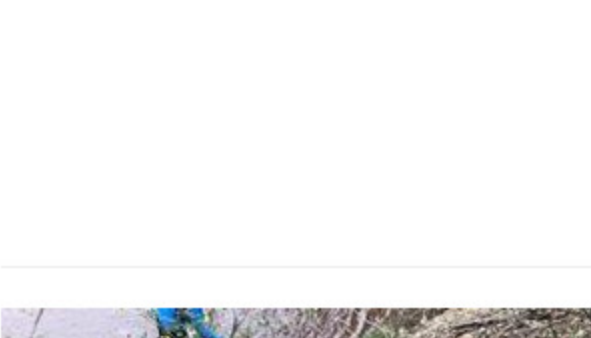


The pandemic forces a change for the 2020 Bob Telmosse Christmas Giveaway

Linda Navarro Special From The Gazette Oct 19, 2020
A Colorado Springs holiday tradition, the Bob Telmosse Christmas Giveaway with toys and bikes for needy children, is changing this year because of COVID-19.

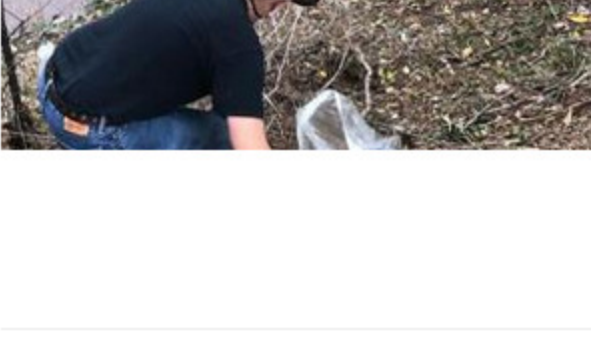


Linda Navarro
Journalist



Fontaine qui Bouille: What a long, strange trip our water takes | Life in Our Watershed

BILL BANKS Oct 19, 2020
The water in Fountain Creek takes a wild ride on its 75-mile journey.

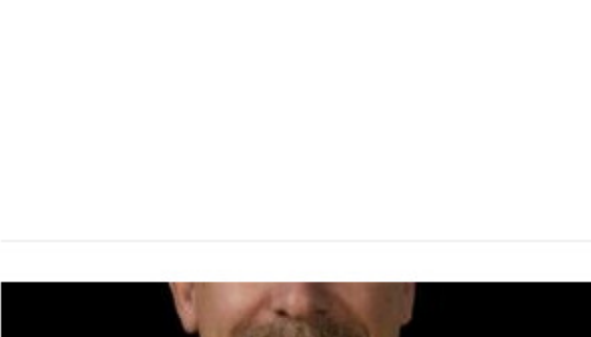


On the topic of community journalism | From the Editor

MICHELLE KARAS michelle.karas@pikespeaknewspapers.com Oct 15, 2020
Last week I was asked to speak to a local nonprofit, the Gleneagle Sertoma Club.



Michelle Karas
Editor, Pikes Peak Newspapers



D-12 board urges 'yes' on Amendment B | District 12 Perspectives

WALT COOPER Oct 14, 2020
The Cheyenne Mountain Board of Education rarely takes official positions on statewide ballot issues unless they have a direct impact on District 12 programs and operations. This election cycle, Amendment B is one such issue, and last month the D-12 Board passed a resolution urging support of...



Protesters gather outside Cheyenne Mountain School District board meeting over retiring mascot, team name

Erin Prater Special From The Gazette Oct 13, 2020
Dozens of protesters rallied outside the Cheyenne Mountain School District administration building before Monday night's Board of Education work session that included discussion of a proposed resolution to retire the use of Native American words and imagery in the district — including its co...



Erin Prater
Nightly Metro Editor



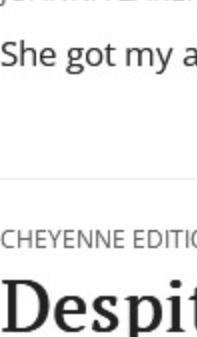
Upgrading our programming | Intentional Living in the Cañon

JOANNA ZAREMBA Oct 13, 2020
She got my attention.

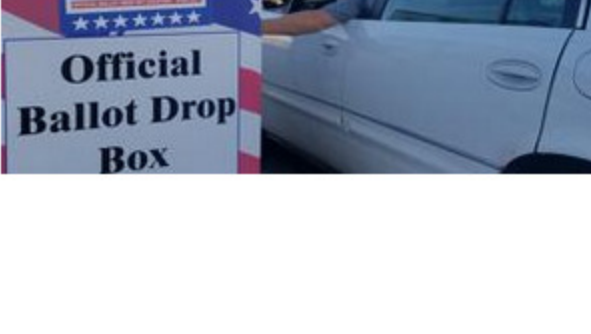


Despite pandemic, El Paso County sees flood of applicants to be election judges

By Debbie Kelley Special From The Gazette Oct 13, 2020
With coronavirus precautions in place, El Paso County has no shortage of residents willing to work the polls for the Nov. 3 election.

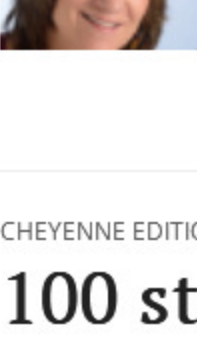


Debbie Kelley
Reporter



100 state championships — and counting — for Cheyenne Mountain after boys' golf triumph

By Danny Summers danny.summers@pikespeaknewspapers.com Oct 13, 2020
One-hundred. And counting.



Danny Summers
Pikes Peak Newspapers Sports Reporter



The day the baseball stars shined at Memorial Field | From the Sidelines

By Danny Summers danny.summers@pikespeaknewspapers.com Oct 13, 2020
For all those who were at Memorial Field (now Spurgeon) on Oct. 10, 1953, I salute you.



Danny Summers
Pikes Peak Newspapers Sports Reporter



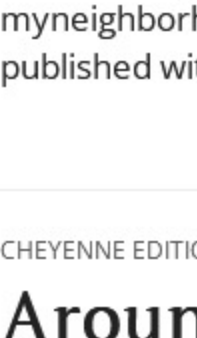
Cheyenne Mountain area crime calls for service on Oct. 14, 2020

Oct 13, 2020
The following is a list of incidents within the 80906 ZIP code reported at myneighborhoodupdate.net from Sept. 29-Oct. 5. This information is published with permission from Corona Solutions.



Around the Neighborhood events calendar on Oct. 14, 2020

BY CARLOTTA OLSON The Gazette Oct 13, 2020
Around the neighborhood



Carlotta Olson
Editorial Assistant