

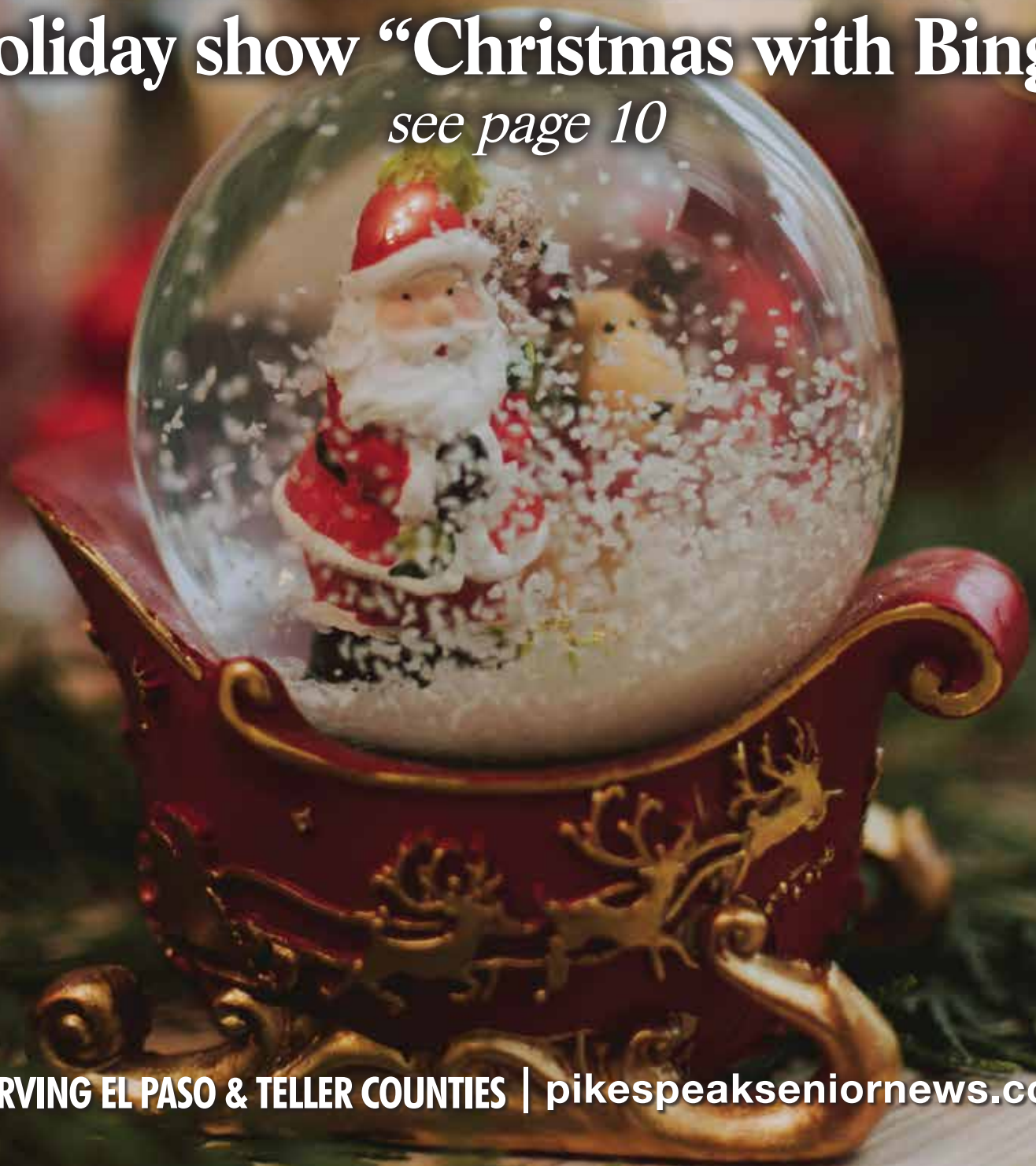
PIKES PEAK

DECEMBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025

SENIOR NEWS

**A NON-PROFIT PUBLICATION OF
THE SOCO SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER**

Travel back in time with our
holiday show “Christmas with Bing”
see page 10



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Pikes Peak

SENIOR NEWS



A publication of the Senior Resource Center of Southern Colorado a 501c3 nonprofit

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Tinseltown Talks:

Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer

Like the singer who made it famous, the novelty 80s grandma/reindeer Christmas song still going strong

By Nick Thomas

'Tis the season when television channels bombard us with round-the-clock Christmas movies while radio stations across the country add festive tunes to their daily playlists. In the latter case, one divisive ditty has been traditionally considered naughty or nice.

Elmo Shropshire didn't write "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer," but he's been singing the jolly jingle with the not-so-jolly lyrics since first hearing it in Lake Tahoe in the late 70s. The song was

released in 1979 and credited to duo Elmo & Patsy, with Elmo's then-wife Patsy Trigg.

Turning 88 this year, Shropshire (known also as "Dr. Elmo") is a competitive distance runner, too, gathering several national and world titles in his 80s. He still performs music and for several years has traveled to the East Coast in November/December with a group of musicians called The Holiday Express presenting shows at soup kitchens, hospitals, and schools for kids with

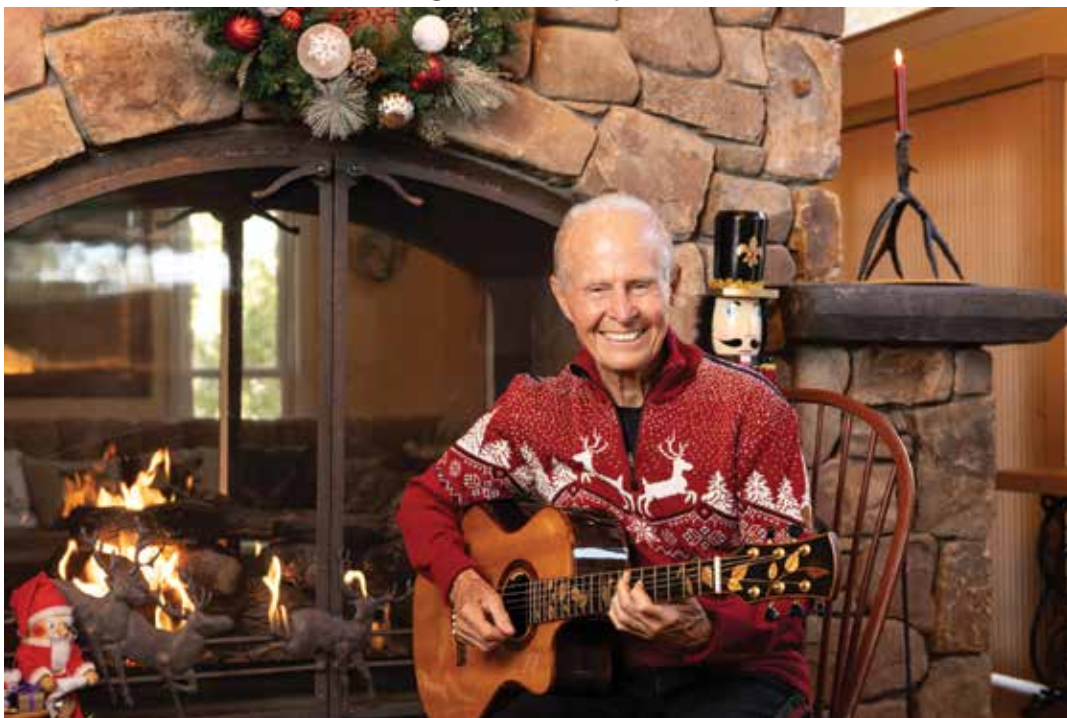
special needs, where they also distribute food and gifts.

While he readily acknowledges that not everyone is a fan of his now-classic Christmas song, audiences would probably riot if he didn't include the novelty ballad - a catchy tune wrapped around witty and admittedly macabre lyrics, featuring Shropshire's distinctive raspy voice.

"I had no musical background or sang before moving out to California in the 60s," said Shropshire, a Kentucky native and graduate of Auburn University's veterinary college, and now lives in Novato, north of San Francisco.

After graduating from Auburn, he worked with horses at racetracks around New York, then moved to the West Coast after a trip to San Francisco and later opened an animal clinic in the Bay Area. He soon became interested in bluegrass music, learned to play the banjo and began performing with Patsy, although the couple later divorced in the 80s. Shropshire even hosted a bluegrass radio show recorded from his boarding house.

When songwriter Randy Brooks played his reindeer song for the couple when they were all stranded in



a Lake Tahoe hotel due to bad weather in 1978, Shropshire knew he wanted to record his own version.

“I just made this funny Christmas recording as a gag and a friend took it to a radio station and they started playing it,” he recalled. “People began calling in to say they loved it, but so did others who hated it. After that first Christmas, I thought that would be the end of it. But every Christmas the stations would play it again. Unbeknownst to me, they were copying the song on cassettes, and radio stations began playing it all over the country in the early 80s.”

Shropshire knew he had a hit. In 1983, he sold his vet clinic and used \$30,000 to produce a video of the song with one modification: “Grandma survives in the video!” he said. “And I played grandma and grandpa.” Patsy played Cousin Mel.

The original video currently has over 15 million YouTube views (see <https://tinyurl.com/yjmhcmmez>), while the song has sold millions of units over the years in various formats including vinyl, cassette, CD, digital, and ringtones.

“It’s impossible to tell the exact number because it’s been used so much and on so many different albums and online recordings,” said Pam Wendell, Shropshire’s wife since

2000. But the royalties keep coming anytime his version is used - in movies, TV shows, and even a plush toy reindeer that plays the song.

While Shropshire has recorded many other songs including various versions of his ‘grandma’ theme - “The Ballot of Grandma” and “Grandma’s Killer Fruitcake” - he takes the controversy of the original in his stride.

“It’s just wonderful to have a hit song, even if you only have one,” he says. “I never thought I could still be making a living from it. It’s just one of those things you could never predict.”

And for those of you grinchers who still can’t warm up to a Christmas novelty song about a granny taken out by a hit-and-run reindeer, just be grateful her encounter wasn’t with a John Deere.

That really could have been gruesome.

Nick Thomas teaches at Auburn University at Montgomery, in Alabama, and writes about classic film, television, and music for numerous magazines and newspapers. See www.getnickt.org.



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Best Places To Check Out Holiday Lighting Displays

By Trevor Phipps

During the holiday season one favorite thing to do for many is to check out the various light displays around town. Starting in early December, several homes, businesses, and local city governments work on creating holiday lighting displays for others to enjoy.

Many like to spend an evening in mid to early December cruising around the area and looking at all of the beautiful displays in order to get them into the Christmas spirit. The only problem with this holiday past time is that there isn't enough time to enjoy them all since there are so many places in the Pike Peak region that celebrate the coming of winter with gorgeous light displays.

The following is a good guide to find some of the best places in town to view holiday lights. Unfortunately, this list does not cover every place that has light displays worth viewing but it has been limited to feature some of the best and most popular lighting displays in the area.



1. Broadmoor Seven Falls Winter Lights

One of the best places to go in the holiday season is to Seven Falls and enjoy a hike up the beautiful waterfalls. For those not up for a hike the exquisite lights can be seen from the bottom. During the winter, the entire falls get lit up in a variety of colors and the area gets decorated in a Christmas theme.

The waterfalls themselves are pretty enough in the daytime, but at night in the winter time, the way they light up the falls is definitely something everyone should witness. As hikers walk up the falls they can witness up close all of the various colors of lights that make the water look as if it is glowing. On certain days Santa and Mrs. Clause make a special visit along with special treats and hot chocolate.



2. Electric Safari At The Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

During the holiday winter months, one place that tends to "go all out" with Christmas decorations is the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. The zoo itself is a special gem in the area that is loved by just about everyone who goes there. The zoo sits on the side of Cheyenne Mountain and there are several vantage points that get high enough up so visitors can enjoy views of Colorado Springs.

During the winter time, the zoo staff shows their holiday spirit by decorating their 50 acres of land. During their special “Electric Safari” nights in December, the zoo puts together over 80 light sculptures across their property. Visitors can enjoy hot chocolate and snacks at the zoo’s café, visit Santa, and ride the sky ride to enjoy an aerial view of the zoo.

3. Mountain Illumination Festival at Cave Of The Winds Mountain Park

The Cave of the Winds is one of those attractions in the area that some locals have never seen. Others see the Cave of the Winds as only a tourist location and may only visit the park when they have friends or relatives in town visiting. But, in the last few years the park has done many upgrades and has added some exciting amusement park rides to what it has to offer.

During the winter time, the park works hard at drawing in tourists and locals alike as they put up quite a lighting exhibition. Every year, the park’s staff puts up a quarter million lights to glow the top of Williams Canyon. Visitors can walk through the holiday display and enjoy a giant animated Christmas tree while sipping hot chocolate and eating s’mores to help get them in the holiday spirit.

4. City Displays

One favorite holiday pastime is going out and shopping for presents with friends and family. Most places to shop put up some sort of Christmas decorations and the holiday mood can be felt just about anywhere including malls and stores like Walmart or Target. But for those looking for something more, Old Colorado City and Manitou Springs both decorate their streets and trees around the stores.

Visiting the small stores in either of these areas, can be fun and help everyone get in the mood for Christmas.

While walking down the two strips, several lighting displays can be seen while visitors walk in and out of the area’s unique small businesses.

5. Holiday Home Tours

Another pastime enjoyed by several locals every holiday season are all of the region’s holiday home tours. During these tours, residents from across the area decorate their homes inside and out. During select days, the members of the tour invite strangers into their homes to enjoy their indoor and outdoor Christmas displays.

During these tours, visitors can not only check out beautiful lighting displays, but they can also get ideas for their own home holiday decorations. On the outside of houses, visitors on the tour can enjoy how people have decorated their houses with lights and other Christmas displays. While indoors, visitors can enjoy other decorations including sometimes large indoor Christmas trees. One of the most popular holiday home tours offered in the region is the Tweeds Holiday Home tour in Woodland Park and there are several other tours in different parts of Colorado Springs.

6. Colorado Springs Christmas Light Extravaganza

During the holidays, there are so many light displays across the city that they cannot all get included on any list or be a part of a holiday home tour. Those looking to see residences decorated across town can go online and get a list of residences to check out. The list is designed in an order so that houses close to one another can get seen one after another.

The list also included other homes that are off the path of the tour. Every Timberline Landscapes also puts out a map online that shows people where many holiday lighting displays are located across southern Colorado.

Holiday Events 2024

40th Annual Festival of Lights Parade

What: Experience one of the most beloved holiday traditions in the Pikes Peak Region, featuring nearly 100 dazzling lighted entries. Free for all, this event gathers over 70,000 people annually.

When: Saturday, December 7th, 5:50 p.m.

Where: St. Vrain Street to Vermijo Street along Tejon Street, Downtown Colorado Springs

Cost: Free

Festival of Lights Open House

What: Join the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum for crafts, face painting, and musical performances. Warm up with hot chocolate and cookies before heading to the parade.

When: Saturday, December 7th, 2:00–6:00 p.m.

Where: CSPM Annex, 121 S. Tejon Street, Suite 100, Plaza of the Rockies

Cost: Free

Snowland at Great Wolf Lodge

What: Celebrate the season in a winter wonderland with crafts, visits with Santa, and festive events. Enjoy a memorable family getaway.

When: November–December 2024 (Check website for specifics)

Where: Great Wolf Lodge, 9494 Federal Drive, Colorado Springs

Cost: Varies by package

When: www.greatwolf lodge.com

Holiday Evening at Rock Ledge Ranch

What: Explore holiday traditions with wagon rides, music, and Victorian and Edwardian celebrations. Shop for unique gifts and enjoy festive treats.

When: Wednesday, December 4th, 4:00–8:00 p.m.

Where: Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site

Cost: \$6–\$8

Web: www.rockledgeranch.com)

Brunch with Santa

What: Indulge in a holiday brunch with Santa, featuring carolers and a festive sleigh photo op.

When: TBD 2024 - 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Where: Mountain View Restaurant, Cheyenne Mountain Resort

Cost: Adults \$50, Kids (5–11) \$25

Christmas Eve Festival & Brunch at Kinship Landing

What: Celebrate with live jazz, ornament decorating, and a hot cocoa bar. Brunch and drink specials available for purchase.

When: Tuesday, December 24th, 2024 - 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Where: Kinship Landing, 415 S. Nevada Ave, Colorado Springs

Cost: Free entry; menu items for purchase

Skate in the Park

What: Glide across a real ice rink in the heart of Colorado Springs. A seasonal favorite for all ages.

When: November 2024–January 2025

Where: Acacia Park, Downtown Colorado Springs

Cost: Check website for pricing

Web: www.downtowncs.com



Santa Express Train

- What:** Ride to the North Pole aboard a holiday-themed locomotive, with Santa greeting and gifting every child.
- When:** Multiple, November–December 2024
- Where:** Royal Gorge Route Railroad
- Cost:** Varies by seating
- Web:** www.royalgorgeroute.com



Christmas Walking Tours

- What:** Enjoy a 90-minute downtown walking tour, including historic stories, a cozy eatery stop, and holiday cheer.
- When:** Saturdays in December - 1:00 p.m.
- Where:** Downtown Colorado Springs
- Cost:** Adults \$42, Children (2–16) \$12

Festival of Lights at U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum

- What:** Enjoy athlete meet-and-greets, curling, and holiday activities. Admission reduced to \$10 for the day.
- When:** TBD, Noon–5:00 p.m.
- Where:** 200 S. Sierra Madre St, Colorado Springs
- Cost:** \$10

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo’s Electric Safari

- What:** Marvel at 85 unique light sculptures and enjoy animal encounters and festive activities.
- When:** December 6–23, 25, 2024 - 5:20–8:30 p.m. (4:20 p.m. early entry for members)
- Where:** 4250 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Road, Colorado Springs
- Cost:** Varies
- Web:** www.cmzoo.org



Visit Santa at the North Pole

- What:** Enjoy Santa’s Village, rides, and holiday cheer at this vintage amusement park.
- When:** November–December 24, 2024
- Where:** 5050 Pikes Peak Hwy, Cascade, CO
- Cost:** \$32 (peak days)



Holiday Coat Drive

- What:** Donate coats at Columbia Sportswear and get \$20 off purchases of \$150+. Proceeds benefit Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center.
- When:** November–December 2024
- Where:** Columbia Sportswear, 1685 Briargate Parkway, Suite 311

Christmas Celebration at Wishing Star Farm

- What:** Live nativity petting zoo, firepits with s’mores, hayrides, Christmas lights, and more.
- When:** 2024 dates TBD | 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Where:** Wishing Star Farm: 24024 CO-94, Calhan, CO 80808
- Phone:** (719) 244-7252
- Cost:** Ages 3 & under: Free | Ages 4-12: \$6 | Ages 13+: \$9 | Groups of 12+: \$7.50.





Christmas with Bing

to benefit SOCO Senior Resource Center
Featuring Eric Elison & Friends



December 14th, 7-9pm
at the Black Forest Community Club

12530 Black Forest Rd
Black Forest 80908

Individual Tickets priced at \$35 each
when purchased in advance
or \$40 at door.

Tickets available online at:
www.ChristmasWithBing.com

Yule Day in Green Mountain Falls

- What:** A festive day of Christmas markets, family-friendly activities, and tree lighting with carolers.
- When:** December 7-89:00 AM –9:30 PM. | Tree Lighting at 5:30 PM
- Where:** 6990 Lake Street Green Mountain Falls
- Cost:** Free

Christmas Day Brunch at The Broadmoor

- What:** An elaborate Christmas brunch featuring gourmet dishes and desserts.
- When:** December 25, 2024 | Morning through early afternoon
- Where:** Broadmoor Hall, The Broadmoor
- Cost:** Adults: \$110+ | Children (10 & under): \$45+

Holiday Market + Brunch at Kinship Landing

- What:** Local artisan market, live music, and holiday brunch.
- When:** 2024 dates TBD | Market: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Brunch: 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Where:** Kinship Landing, Colorado Springs
- Cost:** Free entry; items for purchase.

Manitou Christmas Parade!

- When:** Sunday, December 8, 2024, Parade Start: 6:00 pm
- Where:** Manitou Ave – On Manitou Avenue From Ruxton Avenue to El Paso Blvd. Manitou Springs, CO

Holly & Ivy Holiday Concert

- What:** U.S. Air Force Academy Band performing holiday classics.
- When:** Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024 at 7 p.m. and Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024 at 7 p.m.
- Where:** Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts – 190 S. Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
- Cost:** Free (Tickets available starting November 25).

Christkindl Market

- What:** The Denver Christkindlmarket is an authentic, German-style holiday market, which is host to local and European craft and food vendors, and tons of magical entertainment for everyone to enjoy.
- When:** November 22 to December 23, 2024,
 Sunday - Wednesday: 11:00am - 7:00pm,
 Thursday - Saturday: 11:00am - 9:00pm (Gates close at 9:00pm)
- Where:** Civic Center Park - Denver
- Cost:** FREE and open to the public



Santa & The Grinch at Shops at Briargate

- What:** Photos with Santa, the Grinch, and Barbie; cookies, cocoa, and kids' activities.
- When:** 2024 dates TBD | 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- Where:** The Promenade Shops at Briargate
- Cost:** Free

Calendar of Events

Holiday Tea at McAllister House Museum

What: Victorian cream tea and a museum tour.
When: December 7 & 14, 2024 | Seatings at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM
Where: McAllister House Museum, Colorado Springs
Cost: \$45 per ticket



Breakfast with Santa at Dave & Buster's

What: Breakfast buffet, crafts, and a personal Santa photo.
When: December 8, 2024 | 9:00 AM
Where: Dave & Buster's, Colorado Springs
Cost: \$33 per ticket

Commonwheel Artists Co-op Holiday Market

What: Handcrafted gifts from local artists.
When: November 1 - December 28, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Where: Commonwheel Artists Co-Op, Manitou Springs
Cost: Free entry

Colorado Springs Holiday Food & Gift Festival

What: 150+ exhibitors, live music, and new wine/distillery tastings.
When: December 6-8, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Fri/Sat), 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Sun)
Where: Norris Penrose Event Center
Cost: Adults: \$8 | 15 & under: Free

Nightfall Holiday Market

What: Christmas shopping, live music, and cocktails.
When: December 6, 2024 | 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Where: Clay Venues, Colorado Springs
Cost: Free

Cheyenne Mountain High School Holiday Craft Fair

What: 140+ vendors selling handcrafted items.
When: December 7, 2024 | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Where: Cheyenne Mountain High School, Colorado Springs
Cost: Free

New Year's Eve Celebrations

What: New Year's Eve Under the Lights. Music, s'mores, and photo ops.
When: December 31, 2024 | 6:00 PM - 12:00 AM
Where: Old Colorado City
Cost: Free

New Year's Eve Gala at Glen Eyrie Castle

What: Dinner, live music, and optional midnight hike.
When: December 31, 2024 | 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Where: Glen Eyrie Castle, Colorado Springs
Cost: \$135 per person



The Broadmoor New Year's Eve Gala

What: Elegant dinner with live music by The Broadmoor Pops.
When: December 31, 2024
Where: Broadmoor Hall
Cost: TBD



Woodland Park and Cripple Creek December/January Events

Gold Camp Christmas

What: Escape from the modern distractions, and celebrate an old-fashioned Christmas in Cripple Creek and Victor. Holiday activities will kick off with the nightly Gold Camp Christmas Holiday Headframe Lighting throughout Cripple Creek and Victor. Experience the lights in the Gold Camp by taking a drive (with your favorite Christmas tunes playing) on a self-guided tour through our area as our mine headframes are decorated with large Christmas light displays. Would you prefer a guided tour? Then be sure to check out the detailed schedule of events for the time and date for the guided tour over the main event weekend.



When: November 8 - December 19 **2024 December Schedule**

- December 11th • 11:30-1pm Christmas Luncheon by Newmont, Aspen Mine Center East
- December 12th • 3:30-6:30 pm Winter Wonderland Reception, Aspen Mine Center East
- December 12th – 14th • Christmas Tree Silent Auction at Aspen Mine Center East during office hours
- December 13th • 11:30-1:00 Soup for the Soul and Christmas Cookie Contest, Aspen Mine Center East
- December 13th • 5:30 pm Headframe Lights Guided Tour, bus leaves from Aspen Mine Center East
 - 6:00 pm Victor Parade of Lights, Victor Main Street
 - 6:30 pm Victor Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Victor
 - 6:45 pm Victor Christmas, Victor Elks Lodge
 - 7:00 pm Victor Jingle Bell Ball, Victor Elks Lodge
- December 14th • 9:00-3:00 Annual Gold Camp Christmas Craft Fair, June Hack Community Center, Parks & Recreation
 - 11:00-1:30 Annual Luncheon, Aspen Mine Center East
 - 11:00-1:30 Hot Chocolate/Cider and S'mores outside Aspen Mine Center East
 - 12:00 pm Annual Gold Camp Christmas Parade, led by CCV American Legion Color Guard – Bennett Avenue
 - 12:30 Visit with Santa @ Aspen Mine Center East
 - 12:30-2:00 pm Children's Indoor Activities, Aspen Mine Center East
 - 3:30-5:00 pm Colorado Springs Chorale FREE CONCERT, Cripple Creek Baptist Church
- December 19th • 4:30-7:00 pm Toys for Tots, Cripple Creek-Victor High School Cafetorium

Miracle on Mistletoe Mountain

What: It's Christmas in Cripple Creek, and Clara, an angel treading on thin ice with her heavenly bosses, receives a last chance at redemption. Tasked with aiding Joe and Molly Kelly, proprietors of a boarding house for the downtrodden, Clara must thwart the nefarious plans of Mr. Parker, a conniving tycoon bent on seizing their beloved home. Echoing the timeless charm of It's a Wonderful Life, this captivating tale is a tribute to love and sacrifice set against the backdrop of the exhilarating Cripple Creek gold rush era. Join us for a heartwarming journey that celebrates the true spirit of Christmas! A Thin Air Theatre production.



When: November 29 - December 29
Where: Butte Theater 139 E. Bennett Ave Cripple Creek, CO 80813
Cost: \$24
Web: <https://tinyurl.com/4k5xjj85>
Phone: 719-689-6402

Holiday Headframe Lighting

What: Come and tour the greatest gold camp in U.S. history, bring the whole family and pack the hot chocolate. Take a drive through the remnants of the booming gold rush, and experience one of the largest working gold mines in the world. Now is the best time to come because it's holiday season and many of the standing mining headframes are decorated with giant lighted decorations. Remain cozy and warm in your vehicle as you tour the lights. The displays are lit weekend evenings November 30th-January 1st, and nightly Christmas Eve through New Year's Day, weather allowing. Happy golden holidays to you and your loved ones!!!!



When: November 30, 2024 @ 4:30 pm - January 1, 2025 @ 4:30 pm
Web: For a complete list of activities and events being held leading up to, and during the Gold Camp Christmas celebration, go to <https://tinyurl.com/4fd5j294>

Woodland Park BOOK CLUB

What: Meets monthly on the First Tuesday at 10:30 am in the Large Meeting Room. For adult readers!
When: 12/3/2024 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Where: Rampart Library District 218 East Midland Avenue Woodland Park, CO 80863



Calendar of Events

Breakfast With Santa

- What:** This is Ute Pass Kiwanis's annual gift to the families of Teller County! Please come and kick off your Christmas season with us!
- When:** 12/7/2024 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- Where:** Ute Pass Cultural Center 210 E. Midland Ave. Woodland Park, co 80866
- Phone:** Pat Hyslop - 719-642-8679
- Web:** <https://tinyurl.com/yspxdfds>



Tweed's Holiday Home Tour 2024

- What:** Presenting the 2024 Tweed's Holiday Home Tour and the 26th Annual "Sounds of the Season" the 7th and 8th of December from 10 to 5 pm each day. This year benefiting the Community Cupboard of Woodland Park, Friends of Mueller State Park, Mountain Artists and Voices of Grief Support and Education Center. There will be 6 homes on this years' tour. A Hospitality Location at the Woodland Professional building, northwest corner of Hwy. 24 and West Street.
- When:** 12/7/2024 - 12/8/2024 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- Where:** Various locations in the Ute Pass area - 3 in Divide and 2 in Woodland Park
- Cost:** Tickets will be available the beginning of September on our website at www.wphht.org -prices are adults \$20 each; students (5-12) are \$5.00 each; preschoolers are free.
- Phone:** Joy Smith 281-435-7973
- Web:** <https://tinyurl.com/zme7kan8>



Lights Above the Clouds Parade

- What:** This winter parade happens each year on the first Saturday in December. Visit a warm your "bum" fire by the street along the route in order to stay warm. Enjoy hot chocolate while visiting several businesses that are open during the evening festivities. The event is a great family friendly event. Afterwards, the celebration and awards ceremony are held at the Ute Pass Cultural Center. Listen to music, eat cookies, have hot chocolate AND the bar is open for adult beverages. The parade is on highway 24 from Taco Bell to Tweeds. It begins at 6 p.m. and the awards ceremony follows afterwards at the Ute Pass Cultural Center.
- When:** 12/7/2024 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- Where:** City of Woodland Park - Main Street
- Phone:** Gayle Gross - 719-233-9902
- Web:** <https://tinyurl.com/sh65n35j>



Ugly Sweater Bingo!

- What:** Back by popular demand- Ugly Sweater Bingo! Prize for the ugliest sweater! \$20 gets you 10 chances to win! All proceeds benefit the children of Teller County!
- When:** 12/12/2024 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
- Where:** Ute Pass Cultural Center 210 E. Midland Ave. Woodland Park, co 80866
- Phone:** Pat Hyslop - 719-642-8679
- Web:** <https://tinyurl.com/mr47ury3>



Annual Christmas Craft Fair

- What:** We've been fortunate to have vendors from across the state sell their goods at our Annual Craft Fair. Spaces sell out quickly. So reserve your spot by calling Cripple Creek Parks and Recreation today. Each 5' X 10' space is only \$20, or make it a 10' X 10' space for only \$40. Give us a call at 719-689-3514 to reserve your spot.
- When:** December 14 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Cost:** 5' X 10' space \$20, 10' X 10' space \$40
- Limited number of tables available for \$2 rental fee (limit one table per vendor)
- Limited number of electrical outlets available with space rental for \$2
- Come sell, come shop, we'd love to have you!
- Phone:** Contact Cripple Creek Parks & Recreation for registration information at 719-689-3514.



New Year's in the Gold Camp

- What:** Welcome 2025 with a bang in the World's Greatest Gold Camp!
- When:** December 31 @ 8:00 pm - 11:30 pm

Cripple Creek Ice Castles coming this winter

What: Tickets are on sale soon!!! The castle will open mid-December depending on the weather. Please go to <https://icecastles.com/cripple-creek-colorado> to purchase your tickets for this event. Click on the "Buy Tickets" button to reveal the dates that tickets are available. Click on your desired date to reveal the times that are available for that day. It is strongly recommended that you purchase tickets online to assure availability. Ticket availability will be expanded by the Ice Castle staff as they know better when they will be opening. Any questions or issues with ticketing should be communicated through supportco@icecastles.com. The City of Cripple Creek is not involved with ticket sales, ticket availability or ticketing questions. Cripple Creek is proud to be the Colorado host for Ice Castles again this year. This is a timed ticketed event, which means only a set number of tickets are sold for each session. This allows you to know when to arrive and keeps the number of visitors at a manageable level. Ticket sales are done online and walk-up tickets are typically not available.

ICE CASTLE HOURS (Holiday and Winter break hours may change.)

Mondays & Tuesdays – CLOSED

Wednesdays – 4:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Thursdays – 4:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Fridays – 3:00 PM – 11:30 PM

Saturdays – 11:00 AM – 11:30 PM

Sundays – 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM

PARKING

Please use Ice Castles designated parking area when you are visiting the Castle. Parking is available on Fourth Street, south of Warren Avenue. Parking attendants will direct you to your parking spot when you arrive. For your safety, please do NOT attempt to walk from downtown to the Ice Castle location, or use non-designated parking areas.

The City of Cripple Creek Transportation Department does provide on-demand bus service for those staying at local hotels or visiting any of our businesses, restaurants, or casinos. To request a ride please call 719-689-7711.

ACCESSIBILITY

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Enjoy a Unique Winter Getaway

Head North Instead of South

By Trevor Phipps



When many who live in cold states like Colorado dream of a winter vacation, they think of somewhere hot and tropical. Often Colorado residents grow tired of dealing with the ins and outs of winter weather and book vacations down south to warm up for a week or so.

Others however (like Pikes Peak Senior News Reader Cindy Powell), prefer diving deeper into the winter season by heading further north. After reading the Christmas '22 issue of Pikes Peak Senior News discussing the polar bears in Churchill, Canada, Powell sent pictures she took of her visiting the town in fall of 2017.

“Unlike most people, who prefer vacationing in Hawaii or Florida, I go to the Arctic in the winter,” Powell told Pikes Peak Senior News. “For those who don’t mind cold weather,

I highly recommend Churchill. It’s an eccentric little town, and I loved it!”

Colorado itself has always been known to be a prime spot for a holiday or winter vacation. Many who live in states that don’t get to experience snow like to come to the Rocky Mountains to experience winter wonderland firsthand. Every winter, visitors hit the ski slopes in Colorado and frequent the state’s unrivaled wintertime events and festivals.

Those who live in the cities in the Front Range also enjoy trekking into the mountain towns in the winter to participate in activities or just get into the holiday spirit. But for some residents, Colorado just isn’t enough and during the cold season they want to explore outside of the state.

Some choose to go far north to places like Canada or Alaska. Those

two options can be desirable for those who don’t mind days of nearly complete darkness. Besides, visiting the far north part of the world during the winter can be quite an experience due to the presence of the beautiful Northern Lights.

Therefore, this holiday season Pikes Peak Senior News staff decided to explore some more exotic winter trips, which were mentioned to us by Powell.

Re-Exploring a Trip to Churchill, Canada

After the December '22 issue came out, the e-mails of PPSN staff were flooded with people saying they liked the article and were considering taking the trip. The town is not only a unique place in the world where visitors can enjoy the Northern Lights spectacle, but polar bear guests give the village its unique charm.

The small town of Churchill has a population of around 1,000 and it sits on the edge of the Hudson Bay in Canada. The town is so remote that people can only get there by taking a boat, an airplane, or riding on a train from Winnipeg which is about 1,000 miles away. Due to its remote and unique location, Churchill is considered the “Polar





Bear Capital of the World” because it is the most accessible and southernmost place to see the giant animals.

The bears spend most of the year out on the frozen parts of Hudson Bay hunting seals until the ice melts and they begin to migrate to shore. In the summer, around 3,000 polar bears can be seen along the shores of the bay near the town. The months of October and November prove to be the best time to see the bears as they roam around the land waiting for the ice on the bay to freeze again.

During the fall months, the area fills up with tourists wanting to take a trip out of town with one of the over a dozen tour companies that are permitted to give tours of the network of trails in the area to see polar bears. Frontiers North Adventures is a family owned touring company that has specialized in giving tours of the

northern region of Canada for over 30 years.

Although there are several ways to see polar bears in the area including helicopter tours, boat tours, and walking tours, the Frontier North Adventures tundra buggy tours seem to be the most popular. The tundra buggies first debuted in 1979 and they come with giant tires that can make it across the rough terrain and tundra of the area.

Take a Trip to See the Finish of the Famous Iditarod Sled Dog Race in Nome, Alaska

For those looking for another unique winter event, a trip to Alaska might just be perfect. According to the Visit Nome, Alaska website, the town’s major claim to fame every March is the finish to the Iditarod Sled Dog Race which is one of the toughest dog sled races in the world.

“The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race is a 1,049 mile trek



through some of the most extreme wilderness in the nation,” the website states. “The first Iditarod race was held in 1973 and has been extremely popular ever since. During the finish of the race Nome’s population grows by approximately 1,000 people and turns Nome into what people everywhere warmly refer to as the ‘Mardi Gras of the North’. With hundreds of events to participate in and the ability to rub elbows with some of the most notorious names in the dog mushing industry, the finish of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Nome is an event not to be missed.”

While enjoying the event, people can take a custom 10-day snow machine tour of their own from Elim to Nome. During the trip, visitors get the chance to view the Northern Lights, soak in remote hot springs, eat fresh Alaskan king crab and visit several villages along the Iditarod Trail. Other tour companies in the area offer dog sled rides, helicopter tours and the chance to snowshoe to a historic dredge or out on the frozen ocean.



Head to Canada for the Finish of The Yukon Quest

Another famous sled dog race goes a different route through the snow and frozen tundra, but the Yukon Quest is known as the “World’s Toughest Sled Dog Race.” “To put it simply, the Yukon Quest is a sled dog race where mushers, with their teams of up fourteen dogs, embark on a 1,000 mile journey from Fairbanks, Alaska (US) to Whitehorse, Yukon (Canada),” an article published on Sidetracked.com stated. “They carry all the supplies they need for the duration of the race in their sled. The 2012 race marked the 24th running of the historic event, and a diverse group of twenty-three mushers had travelled from around the world to compete.”

This year, the race starts in Teslin, Yukon, Canada on February 2, 2025. Anyone can follow the famous race live online by visiting yukonquest.com.

For those who do want to take the trip, there are plenty of tour packages where people can enjoy a unique behind-the-scenes experience of the race. Other tours take visitors to race checkpoints and take time to check out exquisite views of the Northern Lights.

For those that don’t wish to travel as far there are closer places where people can experience dog sled races. However, most of the major dog sled races are in the north and the Midwest parts of the country. The closest major race to Colorado would be the Annual Pedigree Stage Stop Race that starts on January 31 in Jackson Hole, Wyoming and ends on February 8 in Dubois, Wyoming.

Although they aren’t considered major races like the others mentioned, the Rocky Mountain Sled Dog Club puts on races every year in Colorado like the Grand Mesa Summit Challenge and the Silverton Flying Dogs Sled Race. Those who wish to try dog sledding for themselves can book a dog sledding tour through a company in several mountain towns including Vail, Breckenridge, Leadville, Edwards and Steamboat Springs.

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Seniors Can Learn and Connect with the UCCS Listening In Program

Experience University Life During the Golden Years

By Trevor Phipps

The opportunity to learn new things never actually ends when people get older. Whether the purpose is to re-visit a field someone had studied in the past or to gain knowledge in something entirely new, Older Americans often find several benefits in continuing their education.

Last October, the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) Campus announced their recently-earned designation of being an Age-Friendly University with a special launch event. During the event, representatives from the university discussed what it means to be officially designated as an Age-Friendly University.

The event then switched gears to discussing aging-related work on the

campus. At the end, attendees got the chance to talk with researchers who have conducted various studies on aging populations.

During the presentations, community resident Ross Jacobsen addressed the crowd and told a story about his experiences participating in the UCCS Listening In program.

“Listening In allows lifelong learners age 55 or older the opportunity to attend regular-session courses on a space-available basis,” the UCCS Alumni website states. “No academic credit is earned, but the program provides an opportunity for seasoned adults to share in the vast and varied resources of the university.”

Jacobsen had a great experience getting the chance to listen in or

audit various university classes for what he called “a very affordable cost.” During the Age-Friendly University Launch Event, Jacobsen made the crowd laugh with his story about him trying to connect with those in a younger generation. Overall, Jacobsen sounded like he enjoyed the experience to connect with the younger traditional college-age students and he highly recommended the program for anyone over 55.

“How many of you can think of a subject you wish you would have taken in high school or college?” Jacobsen asked the crowd at the launch event. “Listening In is the pot of gold at the end of that wishful rainbow. For me, it was theater. I was a jock, but I had always wished that



I had done some theater. This semester, 50 years later, thanks to the UCCS Listening In program I am taking foundations in acting.”

Moreover, Jacobsen said he has taken several classes to continue his education including the history of rock ‘n’ roll, foundations in drawing, geography of the Pikes Peak Region, beginning piano, world religions and the psychology of aging. “My philosophy is to take a wide range of classes, other folks like to stick to one subject like a foreign language,” Jacobsen said.

He went further and said that he enjoys being a card-holding university student and getting all of the perks that come with it. He said he has participated in clubs and enjoyed attending sporting events.

Lastly, Jacobsen told the crowd that he highly appreciated the chance to have intergenerational interactions with the younger students. “As an older adult, there is this primal force within me that wants to share my life experiences with younger people,” Jacobsen explained. “So when I started my Listening In journey seven years ago, I was sure the students and faculty I interfaced with would be falling all over themselves to seek out Ross’s professional and personal knowledge and experience. (He makes a buzzer sound).

It didn’t happen. Here’s what I have learned, the best way for me to connect with young people on campus was to bring snacks. Seriously, once a month bring snacks to class and let them know you like them and let them know you believe in them. When I do that, everything else falls in place.”

He told a story of a young woman he had met in his drawing class by giving snacks to his classmates. The two then began to meet up and build a relationship centered on Jacobsen’s interest in poetry. The two still occasionally keep in touch.

“So as far as intergenerational interaction goes, I don’t think you can get any better than that, because of snacks,” Jacobsen said.

The way the program works is that prospective Listening In students can submit a list of classes they are interested in taking two weeks before the semester starts. If there are openings and the professor approves it, then they can take the classes as if they were a student, just not for credit or a grade. For more information about the program, visit <https://alumni.uccs.edu/continuing-education>.



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Connections for Living by MBK™ supports those living with Alzheimer’s or dementia by offering an avenue for physical wellness, a secure environment, enriching activities and meaningful involvement for families. By acknowledging needs that may not be voiced as dementia progressed, our program goes beyond care to reconnect residents with the world around them—preserving each individual’s uniqueness and enhancing the quality of life for residents, families and caregivers alike.



Alzheimer's disease and related dementia is a challenging topic but discussing it can help us all

By Edgar Carreno and Hillary Lum

For too long, many people have viewed Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia with a sense of uncertainty and confusion.

Those who have been touched by it, either as patients or care partners, may have felt like they were dealt a bad hand of cards -- one with life-changing consequences.

These days we know that we have more control than previously thought – to reduce our risk, to detect symptoms early, and to make plans that improve quality of life both for the patient and for their loved ones.

It all starts with something surprisingly simple: a conversation.

Stigma often has created a barrier to open discussions of this topic. Stigma and embarrassment can stop people from collaborating with their family, friends and healthcare providers to limit their likelihood of

getting dementia or to manage a diagnosis together.

We get it: Thinking about dementia can bring up painful emotions including fear, frustration, and hopelessness. Even as we work towards better treatment options for symptoms, we know there is no cure yet.

There is hope.

Everyone can take steps to reduce their risk of Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia, like talking openly with loved ones and adopting healthy habits. Having conversations about dementia can help improve the lives of those who may be experiencing symptoms or concerned about their brain health.

That's the focus of TalkAboutDementia.org, a new public awareness campaign from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

In Colorado, more than 90,000 older adults, age 65 years and older, live with Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia. Many more are affected as care partners and loved ones.

Black/African Americans, Latinos and American Indian/Alaskan Natives are disproportionately impacted and these groups will see the largest increases in dementia in the coming decades.

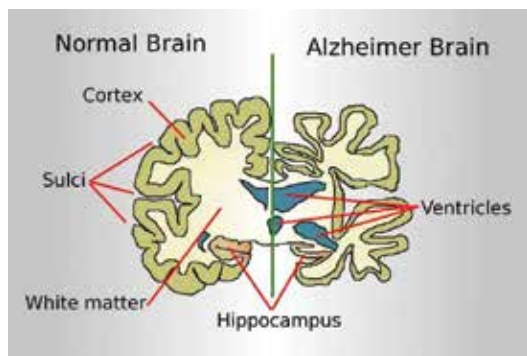
Information is power for all of us.

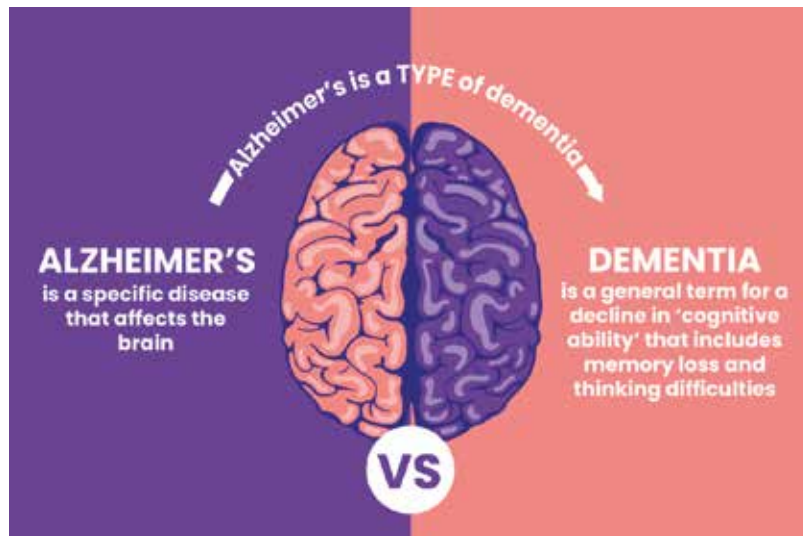
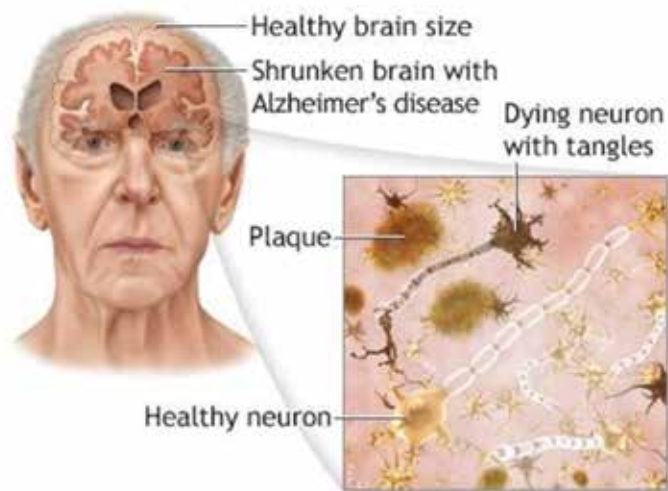
New research highlights that 45% of dementia cases could be prevented or delayed by addressing risk factors.

Prevention steps include:

- Addressing hearing loss and vision impairment
- Protecting against head injuries
- Staying physically active and eating healthy foods
- Quitting tobacco
- Limiting alcohol consumption
- Preventing and managing chronic conditions, especially high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and diabetes
- Getting enough sleep
- Staying socially engaged

It's time we all started thinking about brain health in the same way we think of supporting the health of





other parts of our body like our heart, liver, and lungs. Our choices can support our wellness. Our choices can reduce the chance of disease among us and our loved ones.

Another key is staying alert to potential signs of dementia.

Dementia is not a normal part of aging. Sadly, half of dementia cases may go undiagnosed. Early detection can dramatically improve the progression of the disease. Early diagnosis also allows for treatment and empowers the patient to play a role in care decisions and planning for their future.

When we talk to our health care providers about our concerns, we can make sure we get screened. Health care providers provide the expertise and diagnosis, but we can help by starting the conversation with them.

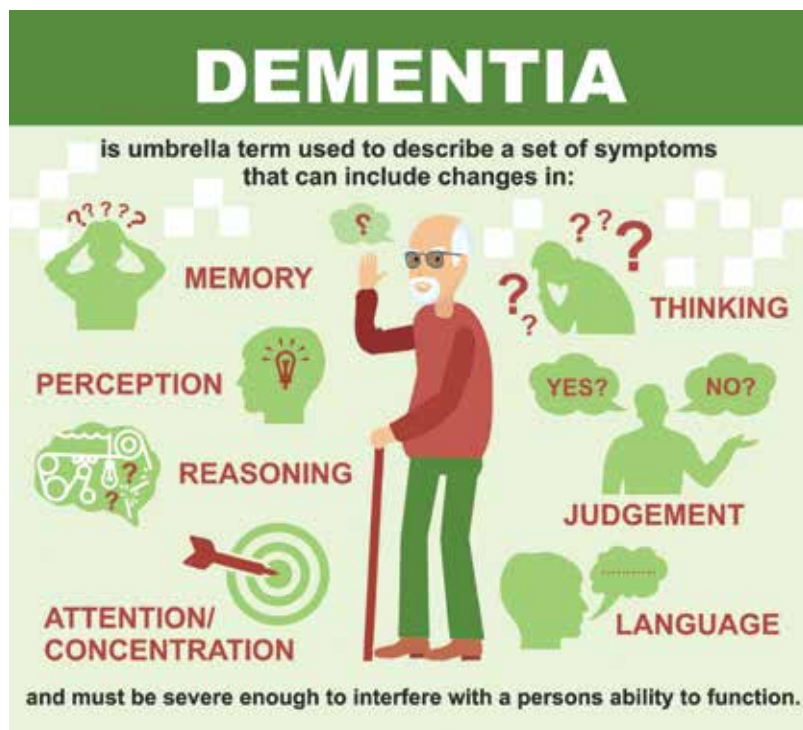
The CDPHE campaign is a product of a five-year state plan to address the impact of dementia on Coloradans -- in particular on those populations disproportionately impacted by the disease.

TalkAboutDementia.org provides practical information for Coloradans and it offers links to other verified resources. It's a great place to start learning more about brain health and dementia.

This information can help start the conversation, and that's the first step to better outcomes. It is time for all of us to embrace this vital discussion and Talk About Dementia.

Editor's Note - this ran in the Colorado Springs Gazette and Denver Gazette on Aug. 31 and authored by Edgar Carreno and Hillary Lum.

Edgar Carreno, an Alzheimer's Association volunteer, served on the advisory committee for the Colorado Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias State Plan. Hillary Lum, M.D., Ph.D., is a geriatrician and dementia care researcher at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Both have supported family members with dementia.





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PLAY SUDUKO

Key on page 30.

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Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1) Puts away, as luggage
- 6) Forelimb bones
- 11) Do one's darndest
- 14) "Filthy" dough
- 15) Speaks like the Lord?
- 16) Go quickly
- 17) Learned ___ (wised up)
- 19) Holiday for a holiday?
- 20) Tip precariously
- 21) Away from the shore (Var.)
- 23) At all times, in verse
- 24) "Modern Family" name
- 26) Musical time-out
- 27) Incisor neighbor
- 30) What limericks do
- 33) Arizona flattop
- 36) Cutting from the payroll
- 38) Autocrat of yore
- 39) Way out
- 40) "Beats me," slangily
- 41) Latvia's largest city
- 42) Mideast's ___ Strip
- 43) More fitting
- 44) On what the Earth turns
- 45) Coldwater fish
- 47) "Scooby-Doo" character
- 49) Pencil holders, sometimes
- 51) Homer Simpson's catchword
- 52) Smartphone download
- 55) From the beginning
- 59) Almost, but not quite
- 61) "I ___ your pardon?"
- 62) Early morning time
- 64) Scrooge's comment
- 65) Concluded
- 66) Try a mouthful
- 67) Dirt road depression
- 68) Four make an acre
- 69) Black-and-white cookies

DOWN

- 1) Roofing material
- 2) One-on-one student
- 3) Fall shade
- 4) An order of the court
- 5) Nero was his 2-Down
- 6) Mil. entertainment group
- 7) Lawrence of Scandinavia
- 8) Short evening?
- 9) Engaged in combat
- 10) Spring fall
- 11) Three dozen
- 12) Orange coat
- 13) Desires
- 18) Southern Spanish city
- 22) Smoker's need
- 25) Snafus
- 27) Andorran's tongue
- 28) Beethoven's final symphony
- 29) The Supreme Court, for one
- 31) Bethlehem trio
- 32) History chapters
- 33) Actresses Tilly and Ryan
- 34) It's bigger than a test
- 35) Like some dresses or shoes
- 37) Sister monsters of mythology
- 46) More hackneyed
- 48) Depressed urban area
- 50) Shorthand taker, for short
- 52) Got up
- 53) Mickey Mouse's pet pooch
- 54) Combustible funeral structures
- 55) Shortened form of a wd.
- 56) Bridges or Geste
- 57) Prefix with "Chinese" or "European"
- 58) Newspaper section
- 60) Quite some way
- 63) Classifieds, e.g.

WHO DO WE APPRECIATE?

By Gail Dennis

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Key on page 30.

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Christmas Enchiladas

Christmas style enchiladas have both red and green sauces, making them perfect for anyone who just can't decide what they like best! My recipe takes the idea further with specks of red and green in the cheesy filling too! Easy to make using your favorite premade sauces, with just six ingredients, and endless flexibility to customize it to your own tastes.

4 servings | prep time: 20min | cook time: 20min

Ingredients

- 12 corn tortillas
- 8 oz queso fresco or feta cheese, crumbled
- 4 oz canned diced green chilis
- ½ red bell pepper, finely diced
- ¾ cup red enchilada sauce
- ¾ cup green enchilada sauce
- vegetable or olive oil, for cooking



Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 180C / 360F.
2. Reserve one tablespoon of the crumbled cheese (for topping) and then prepare the filling by mixing the remaining cheese, peppers and chilis. Add salt and pepper to taste.
3. Now we can start rolling the enchiladas. The first thing we need to do is heat the tortillas to make them pliable. You can do this by holding them (with tongs, one at a time) over a gas flame until they start to droop, or you can place them briefly in a dry hot pan.
4. Smear a little enchilada sauce over each tortilla, just enough to moisten it, and then spoon in some filling. (I alternate using red and green sauce for the inside of the enchiladas – I don't try to use both in each one!)
5. Roll the tortilla and place in a small, lightly oiled casserole dish or roasting pan. Repeat until you have used up all of your filling.
6. Brush the top of the enchiladas lightly with oil and bake for 10-15 minutes, until they are starting to brown.
7. Spoon over the sauce, red on one side and green on the other.
8. Bake for an additional 5 minutes until the sauce is heated through.
9. Sprinkle the reserved cheese on top, and any additional toppings you wish to add. Serve.

Story in 100 Words

Subsidence • By Gary Fincke'

It's not the end of the world, fallout covering homeowners in the housing plan built over long-closed mines, firestorms and shock-waves making refugees of survivors. It's not a cancer cluster among families measuring themselves by mortgages that outlive them. It's not an apocalypse, the cinderblock cracked where corners of their houses keel over like drunks. It's my father inside the fire hall huddled with his neighbors. It's his hands straightening the map where his modest street shows so large he believes it's a river. It's closed-circuit news, my watching when he walks his hallway, measuring slope with his body, leaning.

Mexican Chocolate Cheesecake

Planning a Mexican menu? Complete the meal with this heavenly cheesecake—the cinnamon and chili powder add authentic flavor.

16 Servings | prep time 30 Min | total 8 Hr 40 Min

Ingredients

Crust

- 1 1/2 cups crushed vanilla wafer cookies (about 35 cookies)
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted

Filling

- 1 1/2 cups semisweet chocolate chips (9 oz)
- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- 3 packages (8 oz each) cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder, if desired
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

3 eggs

Topping and Garnish

- 2 cups sweetened whipped cream
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Chocolate shavings, if desired



Directions

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Wrap outside bottom and side of 8-inch springform pan with heavy-duty foil to prevent leaking. Spray inside bottom and side of pan with cooking spray. In small bowl, mix crust ingredients. Press in bottom of pan. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until set. Reduce oven temperature to 300°F. Cool crust 10 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, in 2-quart saucepan, melt chocolate chips and whipping cream over medium-low heat; stir until smooth. Remove from heat. In large bowl, beat cream cheese, sugar, chili powder, 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon and the vanilla with electric mixer on medium speed until fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time, just until blended. Stir in chocolate mixture. Pour filling over crust.
3. Bake at 300°F 1 hour or until edge of cheesecake is set at least 2 inches from edge of pan but center of cheesecake still jiggles slightly. Turn oven off; open oven door 4 inches. Let cheesecake remain in oven 30 minutes. Run small metal spatula around edge of pan to loosen cheesecake. Cool in pan on cooling rack 30 minutes. Refrigerate at least 6 hours or overnight.
4. To serve, run small metal spatula around edge of pan; carefully remove foil and side of pan. Cut cheesecake into slices. Top slices with whipped cream; sprinkle with 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon. Garnish with chocolate shavings. Cover; refrigerate any remaining cheesecake.

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6	2	9	5	8	1	4	7	3
1	3	7	6	4	2	9	5	8
5	8	4	9	3	7	6	1	2
9	5	2	4	6	3	7	8	1
4	7	1	2	9	8	3	6	5
8	6	3	1	7	5	2	4	9

Crossword Puzzle Solution

1	S	T	O	W	S	6	U	L	N	A	S	11	T	R	Y
14	L	U	C	R	E	15	S	A	I	T	H	16	H	I	E
17	A	T	H	I	N	G	18	O	R	T	W	19	I	N	N
20	T	E	E	T	E	R	21	S	E	A	W	22	A	R	D
23	E	E	R	24	C	A	M	25	26	R	E	S	T		
			27	C	A	N	I	N	E	28	29	R	H	Y	M
33	M	E	S	A	34	35	36	A	X	I	N	37	T	S	A
39	E	X	I	T	40	D	U	N	N	O	41	R	I	G	A
42	G	A	Z	A	43	A	P	T	E	R	44	A	X	I	S
45	S	M	E	L	T	46	47	S	H	A	G	48	G	Y	
			49	E	A	R	S	50	51	D	O	H	52	A	P
55	A	B	I	N	I	T	I	O	57	58	59	N	E	A	R
61	B	E	G	62	T	E	N	P	A	S	T	F	O	60	U
64	B	A	H	65	E	N	D	E	D	66	T	A	S	T	E
67	R	U	T	68	R	O	O	D	S	69	O	R	E	O	S



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