



AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2025

Pikes Peak

SENIOR NEWS

A non-profit publication of the SOCO Senior Resource Center

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Environmentalist and Singer John Denver Drew Inspiration from the Centennial State

Visit the John Denver Sanctuary in His Former Hometown of Aspen, CO

By Trevor Phipps



“Music does bring people together. It allows us to experience the same emotions. People everywhere are the same in heart and spirit. No matter what language we speak, what color we are, the form of our politics or the expression of our love and our faith, music proves we are the same.”

– John Denver

While it’s no surprise that songs titled “Take Me Home, Country Roads” and especially “Rocky Mountain High” were written with Colorado in mind, many may have forgotten the special connection folk/pop singer John Denver had to the state. Even though he wasn’t a Colorado native, Denver often travelled to the state before calling Aspen, CO his permanent home later in life.

He was an avid outdoorsman who grew much of his inspiration for his music from the beauty of the Colorado mountains. The artist (born Henry John Deutschendorf, Jr.) even chose his stage name of John Denver to express his appreciation for his favorite state.

Even after his tragic death from a plane crash in Monterey Bay, CA on October 12, 1997, the state of Colorado has made massive efforts to preserve his memory. Shortly after he passed away in 1998, Denver’s

first wife Annie Denver collaborated with Jeff Woods, Manager of Parks & Recreation at the City of Aspen to construct a sanctuary in his hometown to celebrate the late artist’s life.

Denver’s memory further lived on when Colorado’s Senate passed a resolution on March 12, 2007 to make the singer’s trademark 1972 hit “Rocky Mountain High” the state’s second official state song. Even the state lawmakers of the new millennium felt that Denver’s hit should be honored along with the much less known tune “Where the Columbines Grow” by A.J. Flynn that was named the official state song in 1915.

Denver’s name popped up in headlines again a few years later in 2011 when there was a proposal to name the eastern peak of Mount Sopris (located in the Elk Mountains range on Colorado’s western slope, west of Aspen and south of Carbondale) after him. However, even though college professor J.P. McDaniel collected around 2,000 signatures to name the second peak of Sopris “John Denver Peak,” the proposal ultimately failed. Opponents of McDaniel’s idea felt that the Mount Sopris name was deeply ingrained in the local culture and shouldn’t be changed.

Denver’s name and his hit song “Rocky Mountain High” was then mentioned in an opinion article penned by Peter Moore and published by the National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate KUNC in September 2024. But this time he wasn’t remembered in such a positive light.

In the article published on KUNC.org titled “Commentary: John Denver set out Colorado’s welcome mat. Now it’s worn.” the author goes as far as to blame Colorado’s recent overpopulation problems on Denver and his 1972 hit song.

“I was in high school in Connecticut when I first heard that irresistible opening guitar lick—dreamed up by John Denver’s friend Mike Taylor,” Moore wrote. “It was a siren call to the West, and lots of us heard it. Only 2.4 million of us Coloradans, out of a current population of nearly six million, were actually born here. And that’s kinda spooky. 2.4 million was the population of Colorado before ‘Rocky Mountain High’ was released. So 3.4 million of us—me included—are now coming home to a place we’d never been before. And John Denver threw out the welcome mat.”

John Denver Catches His Big Break

Denver was born on December 31, 1943 in Roswell, NM to a military dad,

who moved him around most of his childhood. When he was 11, Denver's grandmother gifted him a guitar and he soon found his passion for music. Denver briefly attended college at Texas Tech before he dropped out in 1963 to move to Los Angeles and pursue a career in music.

Denver got his first big break in the music industry in 1965 when he beat out 250 other singers in an audition for the popular Mitchell Trio. Denver left the band to pursue a solo music career in 1969. He soon achieved his first success as a musician when his song "Leaving on a Jet Plane" became the first and only number one hit song for Peter, Paul and Mary.

Throughout his career, Denver recorded and released approximately 300 songs, 200 of which he wrote himself. He put out 33 albums and singles that were certified Gold and Platinum in the U.S by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). It is estimated that Denver sold over 33 million units.

The John Denver Sanctuary Is More Than Just a Memorial

Along with being an outdoorsman, photographer, pilot and musician, Denver was also an avid environmentalist who liked to infuse pro-environment messages into his music. He performed for the benefit of many charitable organizations including the Deaf Camp Benefit concert. He founded two environmental groups: The Windstar Foundation, conserving land in Snowmass, and Plant-It 2020, a reforestation organization.

Just a few months after Denver died tragically in a single-fatality plane wreck in the Monterey Bay in the spring of 1998, Woods (Aspen's Parks and Recreation Manager at the time) approached his first wife Annie to put together a sanctuary on prime riverfront real estate in Aspen.

"The concept was beyond just a memorial, 'but also served as a garden to capture nature's spirit. We decided to call it a 'sanctuary' and that it should reflect John's passion for nature and protecting the environment.'—Wood," Aspen's Chamber of Commerce website states. "On August 15, 1998, Mayor Bennett and City Council officially dedicated the 4.5-acre site as the John Denver Sanctuary. Over the next 15+ years, a team of passionate professionals from the City of Aspen has transformed this small ditch, which used to flow through an underground pipe, into an environmental masterpiece. They sculpted thousands of cubic yards of earth, found and placed hundreds of boulders, planted groves of native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers and created wetlands, streams and waterfalls into this unique landscape which captures Aspen's beauty but also serves to continuously clean the community's storm water runoff."

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Take a Hike! To Great Sand Dunes National Park, Colorado

By Nick Thomas

If towering mounds of sand have never sparked your curiosity, perhaps a visit to Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve might change that. Located a 2-hour drive from Pueblo, Colorado, this stunning landscape was sculpted over the ages by wind and water carrying and depositing sand from nearby mountains. Spanning some 30 square miles, the dunes soar to 750 feet creating the tallest “sand castles” in North America.

Approaching the park along Highway 150 in late spring, we first glimpsed the towering 14,000-foot peaks of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains that dominate the horizon. About 10 miles out, a lighter area at the base of the range began to emerge, gradually taking shape beneath the shadow of the still snow-capped peaks. As we continued along the road, the 1.2 cubic miles of sand became distinct and we couldn't wait to sink our bare toes into the curious golden grains of earth that seemed so out of place sandwiched between the mountain's base and valley to the west. Unfortunately, I had foolishly forgotten a well-known interaction between sand and sun!



After a brief stop at the Visitor Center, we had the option of either driving a short distance and parking a few hundred feet from the dunes or trekking across an arid trail behind the Visitor Center— we chose the latter and encountered only one other like-minded couple.

Though bathed in sunshine, the temperature hovered around a mild 80 degrees and the sandy track was a fairly easy 0.5 mile walk to the parking area. Considered a connecting path with no formal trail name, there was a feeling of hiking through a barren wasteland with desert shrubs, dry grasses, and clusters of cactuses stretching off into the distance. With no shade, I expect the heat would be rather intense mid-summer.

As we approached the car park with the sand dunes looming, we were surprised to encounter a water barrier. Medano Creek separated the carpark from the dunes and although wide, was quite shallow – just a few inches deep in some spots. Dozens of kids splashed in the broad stream, clearly more captivated by the running water than the surrounding dunes.

After removing our shoes and placing them on the dry sand, we waded across the water. Reaching the other side, I enthusiastically began sprinting up the dunes – well, at least what passes for sprinting at my age. But after about 15 steps I realized something was wrong – the soles and heels of my feet were on fire!

I made a rapid 180, yelping my way back to the cooling water. Although the sun didn't feel particularly intense, I soon remembered that sand has a low specific heat capacity, meaning it doesn't take much energy to raise its temperature (unlike other exposed surfaces such as water or grass). It was a lesson not soon forgotten.

Crossing the water once more to collect our shoes, we returned to the dunes and began to ascend the sand mound, this time with shoes securely affixed, but had



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no aspirations to reach the summit. Trudging through deep, soft sand is exhausting on flat ground – on a steep slope, it's downright grueling. So after watching in awe those who tackled the punishing peaks attempting to conquer the sandy heights, we hiked back to the Visitor Center and our car.

For several days, my feet felt as though they were afflicted with a mild case of sunburn, but it was a small price to pay to witness this most unusual example of nature's handiwork.

Nick Thomas teaches at Auburn University at Montgomery in Alabama and has written features, columns, and interviews for many newspapers and magazines. His hiking column describes short trails, hikes, and walks from around the country that seniors might enjoy while traveling.

See www.ItsAWonderfulHike.com.v



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New Colorado Springs Senior Center Construction On Time for August Opening

New Facility Comes Equipped with Event Stage Plus Two Pickleball Courts

By Trevor Phipps

After a two-year hiatus, the Colorado Springs Senior Center located on Hancock Ave. just south of the Patty Jewett Golf Course is on time to make a grand return later this month. The new and improved senior center has grown in size and it will be better equipped to host new activities and classes.

Despite a few setbacks during the demolition process, city officials announced in July that the construction process is moving forward smoothly and it will be finished on time. The senior center plans to host its grand opening on August 29 at 10 a.m.

Colorado Springs Mayor Yemi Mobolade will be present to give a speech and cut the ribbon. The senior center will then open its doors to the public for tours of the new facility and lunch.

On June 4, media and a select few got the chance at a sneak peek tour of the new senior center. The building was still in construction, but progress could be seen. Moreover, officials said things are running smoothly and on-schedule.

According to city officials, the new senior center was made possible with a \$10 million donation from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The new facility will share the same location at 1514 N. Hancock Ave. as the previous senior center. However, the new and improved senior center (made possible through a collaborative

effort between the city of Colorado Springs and the YMCA of the Pike Peak Region), will cover 23,000 square feet compared to the 17,000-square-foot facility it replaced.

"I'm confident that we are going to be delivering an amazing space that's welcoming, flexible and fits the needs of our growing community that involves seniors," City of Colorado Springs Director of Facilities Henry Martin said in June. "While we had some initial stumbling blocks with the demolition, we are right on schedule to open this building at the end of August."

According to Martin, the demolition of the previous facility started in October 2023. After having being slightly delayed due to having to dispose of hazardous materials present in the old building, the new facility broke ground in June 2024.

The added square footage allowed the senior center to expand its capabilities and be more accessible with no stairs in the entire building. There will now be more indoor and outdoor meeting/gathering places as well as better parking.

"We have improved parking," Martin said. "Parking was a huge deal as we were talking to the community. And, I'm glad to say that we delivered on that."

According to the Colorado Springs Senior Center's Operations Director Tom Lathrop, the new facility will largely expand the number of people they can accommodate and the



activities/events they can offer. "If you had been to the senior center before, you saw that what we were doing was really making an impact for seniors in the community," Lathrop said. "And, we are going to be able to do so much more with this particular space (the event center/pickleball courts). We are going to be able to do pickleball in here and we will be able to have our dances in here once a week again. There is so much to really get excited about. The really cool thing about the senior center is that there's no monthly fee. You just have to be 55. Because when people retire they get to the point where, 'I'm done working what am I going to do?' Well, we have tons of activities for you to participate in."

Senior Center to Be Equipped with New Features and Multi-Purpose Rooms

The main area where the media event in June took place proves to be the crown gem of the new facility. The space can be opened up with retractable walls where over a hundred people will be able to meet for special events. The large room has a small stage on one side with a giant screen that can drop down. The large, open space can also be used to host events like craft fairs the senior center puts on sometimes during the weekends.

When the senior center is open for their regular hours Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., walls can close and the large open space turns into separate rooms. The space

is built to house two indoor pickleball courts that can also be used as rooms for dance or exercise classes. The area behind the stage can also be closed off and double as a classroom.

At the entrance of the new facility, there will be a large lobby area and an outdoor patio. Guests will be greeted by a volunteer at the front desk. An area behind the front desk is reserved for office space for staff. The lobby will also have a stove where cooking demonstrations and classes can be held.

To the left of the main entrance, is the kitchen and dining room. Every Monday through Friday, the senior center will have lunch provided through their partnership with Silver Key. Seniors can eat lunch in the indoor or outdoor dining area with their peers five days a week for an affordable price of \$3.50.

Down the hall from the main lobby sits restrooms, sitting areas and a room for the senior center's foot clinic. Further down the hall is a new technology room where computers and other handheld devices like tablets will be available for guests to use. There will also be technology experts available to assist guests with their computers, tablets or cell phones. Additionally, the building houses a fitness room/workout gym located next to the technology center.

The other side of the building will be where all of the

classrooms are located. The new senior center will have a total of five classrooms (six if you include the room behind the stage in the event area). All of the classrooms come with sinks and projector screens. The senior center will soon be able to continue the classes they still offer at the downtown YMCA facility as well as expand to more.

According to Lathrop, who has been the operations director of the senior center since 2023, the new facility will be able to accommodate 500 to 600 people every day. Before the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020, the senior center saw at their maximum around 300 to 400 guests per day. But with their new facility and the changing demographics within Colorado Springs, Lathrop expects to nearly double the amount of 55+ guests they used to accommodate.

And even though the senior center is open to anyone over age 55, Lathrop said that the average age of people who attend is 75. "These days more people are working well into their 60s," Lathrop explained. "So since we are only open Monday through Friday eight to five, we typically get people who are retired and in their 70s and older."

For the past few months, the staff has been working diligently on the new programming schedule for the fall season. Lathrop said that the class and activities schedule will be released on August 1. To check out the events and programs schedule for the new senior center after it opens, visit their website at seniorcenter.ppymca.org.

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Senior & Caregiver
Resource Calendar

August

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 Colo Springs (IP) Alzheimer's Association Support Group, 10-11:30
3	4	5 Colo Springs (IP) Estate Planning Dinner, Educational Seminar, 6 PM - 8 PM, +1 More	6 Woodland Park (IP) Alzheimer's Association Support Group, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM	7	8 Colo Springs (N) Alzheimer's Association Support Group, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM +1 more	9 Monument (In- Person) Alzheimer's Association Support Group, 9:45 am - 11:15 am
10	11	12 Colo Springs (IP) Estate Planning Dinner, Educational Seminar, 6 PM - 8 PM, +1 More	13 Colo Springs (IP) Digital Smarts; Simple ways to Stay Safe Online, Educational Seminar, 1 PM - 3 PM	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Colo Springs (IP) Alzheimer's Association Support Group, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	22 Colo Springs (IP) Powerful tools for Caregivers, Educational Series, 10 AM - 11:30 AM, +1 more	23
24	25	26 Colorado Springs (In- Person) Alzheimer's Association Support Group, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	27 Colo Springs (IP) Estate Planning Dinner, Educational Seminar, 6 PM - 8 PM	28	29	30
31	1	Notes				

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Caregiver Resource Calendar – August 2025

Note: Events are managed by their respective organizers.

Organizers are responsible for communicating any changes to attendees. Please contact the event organizer directly with any questions specific to the event.

Colorado Springs (In-Person)

– Estate Planning Dinner Seminar (Biaggi's)

Description: Join estate planning attorney Jarrod Easterling of Mason Law & Planning Group for a complimentary dinner seminar. Learn how to protect your assets, ensure your medical wishes are honored, and avoid probate. This engaging seminar uses real-life examples to make complex topics easy to understand. Bring your spouse or adult heirs to ensure everyone benefits from this valuable information.

Date: August 5, 2025

Start Time: 6:00 PM **End Time:** 8:00 PM

Location: Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano, Colorado Springs

Contact Information: Deborah Margerum
events@mlapg.com | (719) 428-4495 RSVP: RSVP required; space is limited. Register online at this link or by contacting the organizer.

Colorado Springs (In-Person)

– Estate Planning Dinner Seminar (ViewHouse)

Description: Join estate planning attorney Troy Brinkman of Mason Law & Planning Group for a complimentary dinner seminar. This presentation provides actionable strategies for asset protection, honoring your wishes, and avoiding probate. Ideal for families, caregivers, and seniors seeking to plan ahead.

Date: August 12, 2025

Start Time: 6:00 PM

End Time: 8:00 PM

Location: ViewHouse Colorado Springs

Contact Information: Deborah Margerum
events@mlapg.com | (719) 428-4495 RSVP: RSVP required; space is limited. Register online at this link or contact the organizer.

Colorado Springs (In-Person) – Digital Smarts: Simple Ways to Stay Safe Online

Description: CarePatrol Presents Digital Smarts: Simple Ways to Stay Safe Online by Kate Hufnagel

Join us for Digital Smarts: Simple Ways to Stay Safe Online; a practical and engaging presentation designed to help you navigate today's digital world with more confidence. You'll learn how to create stronger passwords, recognize common scams and take easy steps to secure your smartphone and online accounts. Whether you're new to technology or use it every day, this session will leave you feeling more informed and empowered.

Date: August 13th, 2025

Start Time: 1:00 pm **End Time:** 3:00 pm

Location: Hammond Law Group,
2955 Professional Pl #300, Colorado Springs, CO 80904

Contact Information: Colin Maynard cmaynard@carepatrol.com
RSVP: RSVP preferred, intake206@carepatrol.com | (719) 257-3001|

Colorado Springs (In-Person)

– Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Description: Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an in-person 6-week class series that supports caregivers in caring for themselves while caring for someone else. By focusing on your own health and well-being, you become a more effective caregiver. Led by experienced class leaders, participants will receive the Caregiver Help Book and practical tools to reduce stress, improve self-confidence, manage time, set goals, solve problems, communicate effectively, make informed decisions, and locate helpful resources.

Date: August 22, 2025

Start Time: 10:00 AM **End Time:** 11:30 AM

Location: Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging,
14 S Chestnut, Colorado Springs

Contact Information: Lucy Cahill
lcahill@ppacg.org | (719) 471-2096 ext. 144 RSVP: RSVP required; space is limited. Email or call Lucy Cahill, or register at ppacg.org

Colorado Springs (In-Person)

– Estate Planning Dinner Seminar (Hacienda)

Description: Estate planning attorney Jarrod Easterling presents a complimentary dinner seminar designed to help you safeguard your assets and prepare for the future. Learn how to navigate estate planning with clarity and confidence in this accessible and informative event.

Date: August 27, 2025

Start Time: 6:00 PM **End Time:** 8:00 PM

Location: Hacienda Colorado Springs

Contact Information: Deborah Margerum
events@mlapg.com | (719) 428-4495 RSVP: RSVP required; space is limited. Register online at this link or contact the organizer.

Ongoing Support Groups

Woodland Park (Virtual)

– Alzheimer's Association Support Group

Description: A support group for caregivers, family, and friends of individuals with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. Upon registration, participants will receive a link and phone number to join the virtual meeting.

Date: Monthly on 1st Tuesday

Start Time: 4:30 pm **End Time:** 6:00 pm

Location: Virtual

Contact Information: Alzheimer's Association
www.alz.org/crf | 800-272-3900 RSVP: Pre-registration encouraged

Woodland Park (In-Person) – Alzheimer's Association Support Group

Description: A support group for caregivers, family, and friends of individuals with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. Upon registration, participants will be confirmed for the in-person meeting.

Date: Monthly on 1st Wednesday

Start Time: 2:00 pm **End Time:** 4:30 pm

Location: 800 Valley View Dr., Woodland Park, CO

Contact Information: Alzheimer's Association
www.alz.org/crf | 800-272-3900 RSVP: Pre-registration encouraged

Colorado Springs (In-Person – Broadmoor Community Church)

– Alzheimer’s Association Support Group

Description: A support group for caregivers, family, and friends of individuals with Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia. Upon registration, participants will be confirmed for the in-person meeting.

Date: Monthly on 1st Saturday

Start Time: 10:00 am **End Time:** 11:30 am

Location: Broadmoor Community Church,
315 Lake Ave., Colorado Springs, CO

Contact Information: Alzheimer’s Association

www.alz.org/crf | 800-272-3900 RSVP: Pre-registration encouraged

Colorado Springs (In-Person – Luther Hall)

– Alzheimer’s Association Support Group

Description: A support group for caregivers, family, and friends of individuals with Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia. Upon registration, participants will be confirmed for the in-person meeting.

Date: Monthly on 2nd Tuesday

Start Time: 1:15 pm **End Time:** 2:45 pm

Location: Luther Hall, 1524 N. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, CO

Primary Contact Name: Alzheimer’s Association

www.alz.org/crf | 800-272-3900 RSVP: Pre-registration encouraged

Pueblo (In-Person – SRDA)

– Alzheimer’s Association Support Group

Description: A support group for caregivers, family, and friends of individuals with Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia. Upon registration, participants will be confirmed for the in-person meeting.

Date: Monthly on 2nd & 4th Friday

Start Time: 11:00 am **End Time:** 12:00 pm

Location: SRDA, 230 N. Union Ave., Pueblo, CO

Contact Information: Alzheimer’s Association www.alz.org/crf | 800-272-3900 RSVP: Pre-registration encouraged

Colorado Springs (Virtual)

– Alzheimer’s Association Support Group

Description: A support group for caregivers, family, and friends of individuals with Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia. Upon registration, participants will receive a link and phone number to join the virtual meeting.

Date: Monthly on 2nd Friday

Start Time: 10:00 am **End Time:** 11:30 am

Location: Virtual

Contact Information: Alzheimer’s Association

www.alz.org/crf | 800-272-3900 RSVP: Pre-registration encouraged

Monument (In-Person

– First National Bank of Monument)

– Alzheimer’s Association Support Group

Description: A support group for caregivers, family, and friends of individuals with Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia. Upon registration, participants will be confirmed for the in-person meeting.

Date: Monthly on 2nd Saturday

Start Time: 9:45 am **End Time:** 11:15 am

Location: First National Bank of Monument,
581 Highway 105, Monument, CO

Contact Information: Alzheimer’s Association

www.alz.org/crf | 800-272-3900 RSVP: Pre-registration encouraged

Colorado Springs

(In-Person – First Presbyterian Church)

– Alzheimer’s Association Support Group

Description: A support group for caregivers, family, and friends of individuals with Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia. Upon registration, participants will be confirmed for the in-person meeting.

Date: Monthly on 3rd Thursday

Start Time: 1:30 pm **End Time:** 3:00 pm

Location: First Presbyterian Church,
219 E. Bijou St., Colorado Springs, CO

Contact Information: Alzheimer’s Association

www.alz.org/crf | 800-272-3900 RSVP: Pre-registration encouraged

Colorado Springs

(In-Person – Calvary United Methodist Church)

– Alzheimer’s Association Support Group

Description: A support group for caregivers, family, and friends of individuals with Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia. Upon registration, participants will be confirmed for the in-person meeting.

Date: Monthly on 4th Tuesday

Start Time: 6:30 pm **End Time:** 8:00 pm

Location: Calvary United Methodist Church, 4210 Austin Bluffs Pkwy.,
Colorado Springs, CO

Contact Information: Alzheimer’s Association

www.alz.org/crf | 800-272-3900

Calendar of Events

August/September Calendar 2025 Local Events

(visit their website for any last-minute scheduling changes)

Vino & Notes Wine and Music Festival

What: Shuttle parking at Woodland Park HS.
Handicap parking near entrance corner of Henrietta St and Park St
When: Saturday August 2nd 11am-5pm
Where: Memorial Park - Woodland Park, CO
Web: Tickets at vinoandnotes.com



Mountain Arts Festival in Woodland Park

What: Celebrating its 40th year, the Mountain Arts Festival, is a juried art exhibition held in Memorial Park in Woodland Park. The two-day event showcases work from local and national artists, featuring a diverse range of artistic mediums including painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics, jewelry, and mixed media.
When: August 9-10th, 2025
Where: Memorial Park in Woodland Park

Colorado State Fair

What: The fair will be held at the Colorado State Fairgrounds. The fair will feature a variety of events and attractions including PRCA rodeos, concerts, and more.
When: August 22 - September 1, 2025.
Where: Colorado State Fairgrounds, Pueblo, CO.
Web: coloradostatefair.com



¡La Vida! Colorado Springs

What: Experience the flavors of the Americas and sample cuisine from Puerto Rico, Cuba, Argentina, Peru, El Salvador, Honduras, Spain, United States and the many regions of Mexico at this celebration of Hispanic culture.
When: Saturday, August 23, 2025, 5:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Where: Country Club of Colorado, 125 Clubhouse Drive
Cost: \$100 - Hispanic Chamber Members,
\$150 - Community Member Ticket
Web: cshispanicchamber.com

Labor Day Lift off

What: Colorful hot air balloons are the stars of this buoyant festival, which includes morning liftoffs, evening balloon glows, live music, skydivers and remote-controlled balloon displays.
When: August 30, 2025 6:00 AM -11:00 AM
Where: Memorial Park 1605 E. Pikes Peak Ave
Web: labordayliftoff.com



Commonwheel Artists 51st Annual Labor Day Art Festival

What: Celebrate and support local artists at the 51st annual Labor Day weekend festival in Manitou Springs. Enjoy live music and specialty foods as you tour the talents of sculptors, jewelers, potters, painters and more.
When: August 30 - 31 - September 1st, 2025, 10am-5pm daily
Where: Memorial Park In Manitou Springs
Web: commonwheel.com

Best of the West Wing Fest

What: An adventure for your taste buds, eyes & ears with a stunning backdrop of Pikes Peak. The Best of the West Wing Fest has set the standard for great events that bring our community together. Check online for upcoming Date and Time, tickets. Vote on the Best Wings in the West, Local Brews & Spirits and Live local bands/musicians, emcees, DJ, contests & more
Web: bestofthewestwingfest.com



Blues on the Mesa

Where: Gold Hill Mesa 142 S. Raven Mine Dr.
When: Saturday, September 27th, 2025
Web: bluesonthemesa.org
Purchase tickets online by Thursday, Sept 25, 9pm
or at the gate the day of the festival.

Pueblo Chile & Frijoles Festival

What: The event features live entertainment, street vendors, cooking competitions, and chilies, chilies, chilies! Held downtown along Union Avenue, the festival draws Pueblo residents as well as people from across the state and around the nation.

When: September 19-21, 2025
 Friday 3:00pm - 12:00am
 Saturday 10:00am - 12:00am
 Sunday 10:00am - 5:00pm

Where: Historic Downtown Pueblo/Union Avenue



Colorado Statewide Festivals

Leadville Boom Days.

What: Venture up to the highest incorporated city in North America for a long weekend packed with family-friendly activities that celebrate Leadville's mining and Old West heritage. Wander through the street fair, cheer on your favorite donkey during the burro races, watch the parade and ogle impressive vehicles at the car show.

When: Aug. 1st-3rd, 2025

Where: Leadville

Web: leadvilleboomdays.org



Snowmass Plein Air Art Festival.

What: Over 20 remarkable Colorado artists head to Snowmass the week of August 4, spending four days painting the natural beauty and splendor of the surrounding landscape. On Saturday, August 9 and Sunday, August 10, guests and locals are invited to Snowmass Base Village to view the artwork and purchase their favorite pieces to take home!

When: Aug. 4th-10th

Web: gosnowmass.com/event/plein-air-art-festival/2025-08-09/

Olathe Sweet Corn Festival.

What: Corn is having a moment this year, thanks to a viral video of a cute 7-year-old named Tariq professing his love for the juicy yellow vegetable and gleefully exclaiming, "It's corn!" (And if you don't know what we're talking about, do yourself a favor and look it up.) What better way to celebrate the majesty of this starchy staple than by heading to Olathe for the annual festival. Olathe.

When: Aug. 23rd, 2025

Web: olathesweetcornfest.com



Vail Wine Classic.

What: Whether you love whites, reds, rosés, bubbles or all of the above, you're sure to find your new favorite wine at this three-day event, which includes paired dinners, seminars and grand tastings with wineries from all over the world. Vail.

When: Aug. 7-10th, 2025

Web: vailwineclassic.com



Rocky Mountain Folks Festival.

What: For over 30 years our "Summit of the Song" has brought together some of our favorite songwriters of all genres to the Planet Bluegrass Ranch in Lyons, CO for three days of music, camping, and inspiration. Plant your chair along the St. Vrain River for epic performances on the main stage, intimate sets in the Wildflower Pavilion, and magical moments with your Festivarian Family.

When: Aug. 8-10

Web: <https://bluegrass.com/folks>

Telluride Jazz Festival.

When: Aug. 8-10

Where: Telluride

Web: telluridejazz.org



Calendar of Events

Sculpture in the Park.

What: Back for its 39th year, this Loveland festival features 2,000 works from 160 artists from around the world. Admire the artworks in the park and maybe even buy one to take home.

When: Aug. 8-10 2025

Where: Benson Sculpture Garden, 2908 Aspen Drive, Loveland.

Web: sculptureinthepark.org



10th annual Estes Park Wine Festival.

What: The festival will be open from 11:00 AM till 5:00 PM Saturday and 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM on Sunday. The Estes Park Wine Festival is a 21 and over event. Ticket includes a wine glass, wine tote and unlimited tastings, along with live music, retail vendors, artisans and food vendors. This popular wine festival typically sells out, so grab a ticket while you can and enjoy unlimited wine tastings, live music, food and shopping in scenic Bond Park. Estes Park.

When: Aug. 9-10th 2025

Web: estesparkwinefestival.com

Art in the Park Loveland.

What: For more than 50 years, Art in the Park has been promoting the visual arts. During this year's festival organized by the Thompson Valley Art League and Lincoln Gallery more than 200 craftspeople and artisans will display their works.

When: Aug. 9th-10th

Where: North Lake Park, 2750 N. Taft Ave., Loveland.

Web: artintheparkloveland.com

Palisade Peach Festival.

What: Take a minute to thank the hard-working farmers who toil away to bring us these sweet, juicy fruits every summer. Now in its 57th year, this festival of deliciousness on the Western Slope includes orchard tours, a pancake breakfast, a 5K fun run, peach-eating contests, barbecue, cooking demos and more.

When: Aug. 15- 18

Where: Palisade.

Web: palisadepeachfest.com



Snowmass Cidermass.

What: There are so many reasons to love cider. It tastes great, for one. It's friendly to those folks who can't do gluten. And it has a way of bringing people together, like it does at this festival, which features sips from more than 30 cideries and distilleries.

When: Aug. 16

Where: Snowmass.

Web: gosnowmass.com/event/cidermass

Durango Blues Train.

What: This is one of the most unique festivals in Colorado: Board a historic steam-powered locomotive for six live blues performances organized by the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. As the train rolls along the tracks, you get to boogie your way from car to car. Be sure to pause now and then to admire the gorgeous scenery.

When: Aug. 21-23, 2025

Where: Durango.

Web: durangobluestrain.com



Loveland Corn Roast Festival.

What: This year marks the 129th year of this festival, which pays homage to those sweet yellow kernels that farmers harvest every August. The two-day celebration includes a parade, a beer garden, live music, activities for kids and, of course, tons of delicious roasted corn.

When: Aug. 23

Web: loveland.org/events-2/festival-information

Boulder Taco Fest.

What: Go ahead, eat as many tacos as you want — we won't judge. And while you digest, check out lucha libre wrestling matches, live music, pinatas and other activities. Wash it all down with a margarita (or two).

When: Aug. 23rd

Where: Boulder Civic Area & Library, 1001 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder.

Web: bouldertacofest.com



Jazz Aspen Snowmass' Labor Day Experience.

What: Don't let the name fool you: There's way more than jazz at this beloved end-of-summer music festival. Headliners this year include Foo Fighters, the Lumineers, Old Dominion and Billy Idol.

When: Aug 29-31

Where: Snowmass Town Park, Snowmass Village.

Web: jazzaspensnowmass.org

Solo Flights.

What: Love the performing arts? Then venture up to the Roaring Fork Valley for this weeklong new works festival. Watch the creative process work its magic as you attend performances, discussions, talkbacks, panels & receptions.

When: September

Where: Aspen.

Web: theatreaspen.org/solo-flights

Longs Peak Scottish-Irish

Highland Festival.

What: You don't have to be Scottish or Irish to appreciate Celtic culture—or, more importantly, to enjoy yourself at this lively annual shindig, which includes military music displays, whiskey tastings, strongman competitions, dog exhibitions, bagpiping contests, highland dance and a parade.

When: Sept. 5-7, 2025

Where: Estes Park.

Web: scotfest.com



Snowmass Wine Festival.

What: For a quick weekend getaway filled with wine and beautiful scenery, head to this half-day fest in the Roaring Fork Valley. As you sip and sample your way through the more than 30 tables of international wines, be sure to bid on some of the silent auction items. Your dollars help fund scholarships and grants offered by the Rotary Club.

When: Sept. 12-13

Where: Town Park, 2909 Brush Creek Road, Snowmass.

Web: gosnowmass.com/event/snowmass-wine-festival

Telluride Blues

& Brews Festival.

What: Need an excuse for one last summer road trip? Point your wheels southwest for three days of craft beer and live

musical performances in an array of genres, including gospel, soul, indie, funk, blues and jam band. Bring the kids, too, because it's a family-friendly affair.

When: Sept. 12-14

Where: Telluride

Web: tellurideblues.com



Steamboat Food & Wine Festival

The Steamboat Food & Wine Festival is a beloved Yampa Valley event that brings together award-winning chefs, winemakers, and other epicurean experts from across the nation. Choose from educational seminars, tastings, paired dinners, and more at this fall foodie event in the mountains.

When: October 2-5

Where: Steamboat Springs

Web: Steamboatfoodandwine.com

Union Peak Festival.

What: Think Copper is just for skiing? Think again. This mountain resort knows how to throw a good party, complete with live music, sports clinics and art.

When: Sept. 5-7

Where: Copper Mountain.

Web: coppercolorado.com

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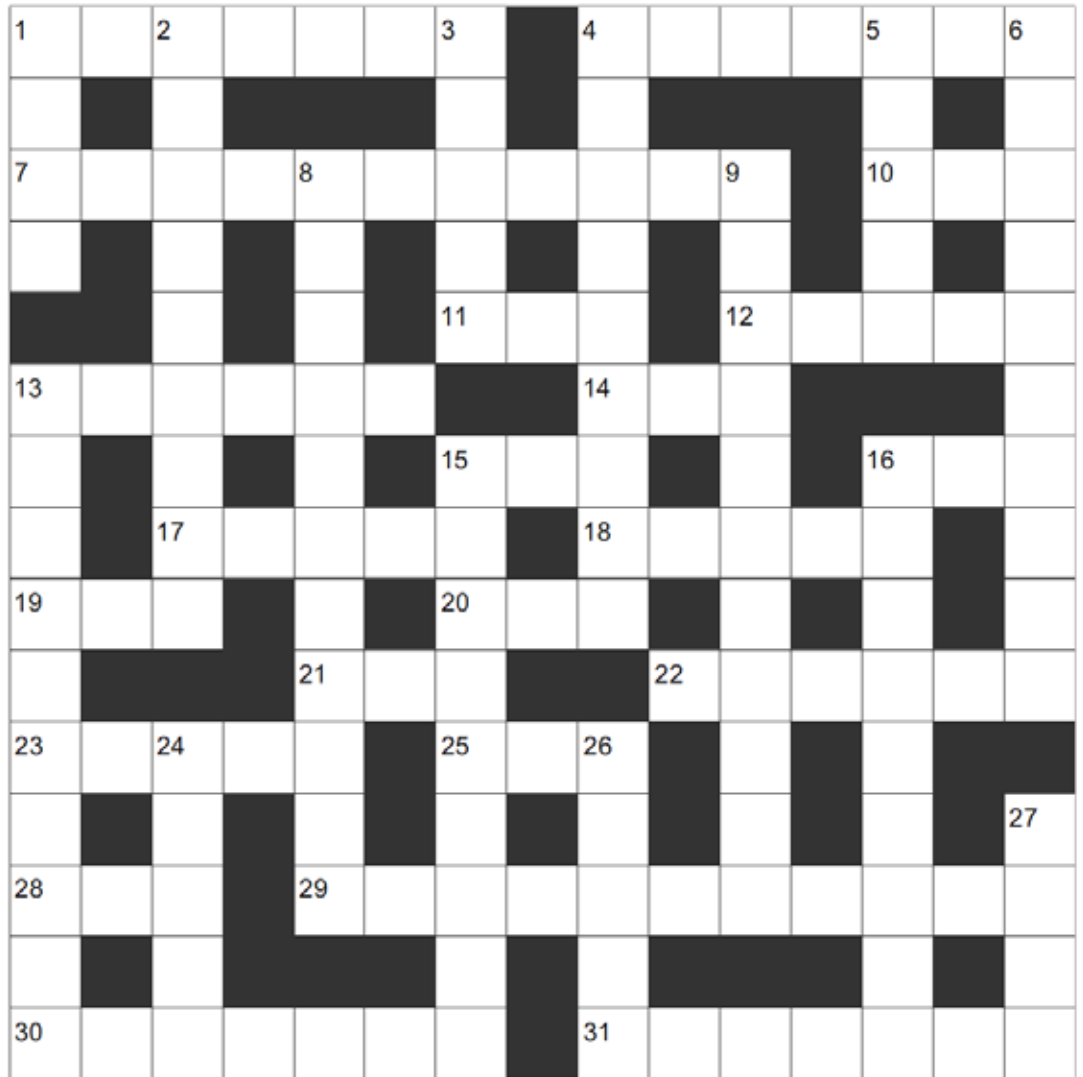


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Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Extreme (measures)
4. Evaporated (5,2)
7. Make on small-scale or greatly reduce in size
10. Kid
11. Cover
12. Elector
13. Expel (barrister)
14. Hawaiian garland
15. French friend
16. Batty
17. Prize
18. Hangman's loop
19. Chewing pellet
20. Mat
21. I am, you ...
22. Bestow (knowledge)
23. Bushy plant
25. Pester
28. Hotel or tavern
29. Allotments
30. Pickled cucumber
31. Vulgar



DOWN

1. Trial showing
2. Over & over again (2,7)
3. Heartless
4. Diminishing
5. Overthrow, coup ... (1'4)
6. Faded away (7,3)
8. Magician's chant
9. Habitat or natural surroundings
13. Appalling
15. Stimulation hormone
16. Voice amplifier
24. Wash soap from
26. Lizard
27. ... of Capri

Key on page 22.



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PLAY SUDUKO

Key on page 22.

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



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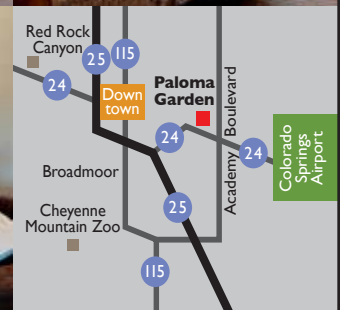


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SUDUKO KEY

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

Crossword Puzzle Solution

1	D	R	2	A	S	T	I	3	C		4	D	R	I	E	5	D	U	6	P
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28	I	N	N			29	A	L	L	O	C	A	T	I	O	N	S			
	N		S						I		K				N			L		
30	G	H	E	R	K	I	N				31	O	B	S	C	E	N	E		



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