

Open Gym at the Community Building

The Community Building offers Open Gym and Adult Open Gym hours throughout the month for volleyball and basketball. For times, please see our Your Town Today page at www.theprowersjournal.com or call 336-2774.

Elk Foundation Banquet

Southeastern Colorado Monarchs Chapter Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Big Game Banquet.

Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for Games, Raffles and Silent Auction. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by a live auction at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 9, 2012 - Lamar Elks Lodge. For more information call Michael Macione at 719-691-0854



COW PALACE MOTEL

LAMAR, COLORADO

Saturday, February 16

8 pm to 12 am

Upstairs in the Empire Room

18 and Up with Proper ID Cover Charge

The Prowers Journal CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale

Vehicle for Sale – Price Reduced

Maroon 2008 Ford Explorer. 95,393 miles. \$10,000 – also taking bids until February 11th. Sold as is! Contact Lamar Civic Federal Credit Union – 311 S. 5th in Lamar, Colorado 81052 or 719-336-4387.

For Rent

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE

Excellent Location - 313 South 5th, Lamar - 400 Sq feet, Utilities Included. All Newly Remodeled - Your Own Private Entry - Call Lori Peterson 336-7000

Apartment for Rent

Two bedroom refurbished apartment for rent – refrigerator, stove, central air conditioning, Rent \$350 – Deposit – No Pets! Call 688-8782

Misc.

Senior Citizens, Be Informed & Be Aware

AARP ElderWatch provides you with guidelines to help guard against various business scams or investment fraud. Call toll free Monday through Friday between 9am and 4pm. 1-800-222-4444

Photography Contest

Share the Spirit Foundation and the High Plains Photography Club will be hosting a photography contest from February 22nd through February 24 at Amache Studio. Noted photographer, author and naturalist Richard Crossley will be the juror for this event. This show will be open to the public and area photographers are encouraged to participate.

On Friday, February 22 from 5:30pm to 9:00pm there will be a photographer's reception with a winter soup bar and refreshments and the winners will be announced. The public is invited free of charge.

Contact Karen Voeple at 719-688-8000 or visit highplainsphotographers.com for more information.

Help Wanted

Full Time Position Open

C.F. Maier Composites, Inc. is accepting applications for a full time office position. Applicant would establish a national marketing campaign and have general office duties. Marketing experience is required. C.F. Maier offers a full benefit package incl. 401(K). Send resumes to mail@cfmaier.com or apply at 500 E. Crystal St. Lamar, CO 81052. EOE

EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMUNICATOR

Applications are being accepted for an Emergency Communicator at Prowers County E-911. Applications and job description are available at the Human Resources Office, City Complex, 102 East Parmenter, Lamar, CO 81052-3299. Applications and testing will be continually accepted and ongoing until position is filled. Pre-employment testing is required. Upon job offer the successful applicant will be required to take a pre-employment drug and alcohol test and provide a current motor vehicle record. EOE

Human Resources Director

Full-time position at the Leadership level in a non-profit community health center located in Lamar, CO. Position handles the human resource issues for a staff of 75 staff members and their families. A Master's in Human Resources or a closely related field or five years of comparable experience is required. Apply on line at the High Plains Community Health Center website (www.highplainschc.net). The position will be open until filled. EOE

Democrats Meeting

Prowers County Democrats will be having their bi-annual reorganization meeting at the Cow Palace, Monday evening, February 11th, 2013. Registration will begin at 5:30pm, with the business meeting commencing at 6:00pm. All registered Democrats are invited to attend and participate in nominating and electing local officers. Door prize drawings will include two tickets to the annual Jefferson-Jackson dinner, to be held at the Denver Marriott, March 2, 2013.

Continuing Education

The IT Academy Center for Excellence at the Lamar Community College will be hosting Business & Information Technology Continuing Education courses in January and February. The non-credit courses will focus on Microsoft Excel. An intermediate class will take place January 28-31 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm in Betz 103 (Betz Technology Center) and will cost \$150. An advanced course will follow on February 25-28 from 6:00 - 8:30 pm in Betz 103 and will also cost \$150. Registration is open now. For more information or to register for the course, contact Elizabeth Whitham at 719-336-1583 or ITAcademy@lamarcc.edu.

Hemp Industry Presentation

Mike Bowman, a Yuma county farmer, renewable energy activist, and currently serving on the "White House Rural Task Force", will provide an informative presentation: INNOVATION: the Pathway to Jobs & Rural Bio-Fuel Economy; Monday, February 11th, 7:00pm at the Cow Palace in the Colorado Room.

LPD Notice

The Lamar Police Department receives found property on a continual basis that includes bicycles, cell phones, keys, driver's licenses and numerous other items. These items are kept for 6 months in an attempt to locate the owners. We encourage persons with lost property to contact the police department Monday through Friday from 8 am to 3 pm at 336-4341.

Classified Ads - Published by Robinson Printing, Inc. - February 6, 2013

Concealed Weapons Permits Increasing in Prowers County

Gun safety and legislation regulating their ownership and registration have been one of the foremost discussions in this country since the re-election of President Obama and the slaughter of 20 children in Connecticut. Gun sales are up across the country and Prowers County has followed suit with a noticeable increase in requests for concealed carry permits for handguns. Prowers County Sheriff Jim Faull said that he has noticed a jump in the number of requests that have been made over the past several months.

Sheriff Faull and this reporter discussed the steps needed to acquire a concealed carry permit, what one allows you to do and the responsibilities and laws that come with the permit. Faull said that women constitute 60% of the permit requests in the county and background checks have been lengthened up to 90 days from the usual three to four week wait for an application to be processed.

“When a person applies, we don’t require a reason for their request for a concealed carry permit, the type of handgun or how they’re going to carry it. That’s all up to them,” the sheriff said. “People can expect a 90 day wait for their fingerprints to come through, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation will review their case and federal listings for any warrants or past issues will be checked,” he added.

Sheriff Faull said he does get concerned about not being as well acquainted with who the county residents are as he once was when an application is made. “Our department gets notified on the eligibility of a person for the permit and my deputies also conduct a local records investigation. Part of their time on this goes into the cost of the permit,” he explained. Faull said that most counties will charge \$100 for a part of the fee, but the charge is only \$75 in Prowers County. “An applicant will have to pay \$52.50 into the CBI to cover the cost of fingerprints and the background check. We’ll take their money order or bank check made to the CBI and the county charges \$25 for local efforts into the background check.” Sheriff Faull said applicants can save some time and money by downloading the application off the Sheriff’s Department website. “We used to get a lot of applications and we’d conduct the check, but then the person never came back and that would be time consuming and cost the department money,” he said. The permits are good for five years, but they can be revoked by the sheriff’s department for inappropriate action or if you’ve been convicted on matters such as a domestic violence incident or a DUI. “I’ve only had one instance in the past year where I denied a concealed carry permit,” Sheriff Faull added.

Ironically, you can walk down the street in Colorado with a holstered pistol and you won’t be breaking any laws, but you may get stopped and questioned just as a precaution. Faull explained, “There’s nothing to prevent you from doing this, but you can expect you’ll draw attention to yourself and someone will probably call the authorities just to ask about what’s going on. You may be asked to leave a store or restaurant by the owner as the gun may upset his clients and business.” Faull added, “Just as there are drug free zones around a school campus, there’s also no gun zones as well. Even if you have a permit, that doesn’t give you the right to go into those areas.” Faull said that especially applies to bars. “If you have a concealed carry permit and you’re going out for drinks sometime, put the weapon in the trunk of your car and don’t carry it into a bar. If you’re caught drinking and carrying a gun you’re going to have a charge of prohibited use of a weapon against you. You can’t drink and drive and it just makes no sense to me to be carrying a gun when you’re out drinking.” The Prowers County Courthouse also has some rules on the matter. Sheriff Faull said, “We have a metal detector that screens everyone, but if you come through and get detected with a knife or gun, you’ll just be asked to go back and place it in your vehicle. We don’t confiscate your weapon, but you’re not allowed to bring it inside, either.”

The other concern the sheriff expressed was being aware of the emotional make-up of a person who applies for a concealed carry permit or a gun permit in general. “That’s the big issue that’s being discussed right now,” he explained. “We’re starting to look at a shooter’s mental make up like the guy in Connecticut or the Aurora theater shooting and sometimes you can’t tell when a person’s on the emotional edge.” Sheriff Faull said, “We need to have some way of recognizing a person with mental problems, but the Hippa rules limit how much medical knowledge

you can have of a person. We don’t know if a person is stressed over a pending divorce or business problem or has other issues that make them go this way. We need to find a way to get that information, but do it without becoming a Big Brother country where citizens have no privacy.” Faull cautioned that the state legislature should take a time out for about a year before putting something into immediate law. “Let’s have a debate and some serious discussions about safety and how we can protect people and not violate our constitutional rights. Right now the media is feeding on this situation and we hear about every shooting taking place on the nightly news.”

Faull added that he doesn’t think safety concerns will amount to gun confiscation in the nation, stating, “There’s just so many it won’t be feasible and there’s probably more guns in the country than citizens right now. I don’t see how it would happen and that’s not something I’d make my department do anyway. It’s a violation of our constitutional rights.” He is in favor of having tougher automatic jail sentences when using a gun in a crime. “I think we’d see less use of guns in crimes if the criminal knew he was automatically going to prison if a gun is used. No plea bargains between lawyers, no discussion with the DA or defense attorney or judges. It’s just an automatic sentence that is added to the charges against you when you bring a gun to a crime.” “We also need regulations on straw purchases,” he continued. “You shouldn’t be able to buy a gun with the intent to turn around to sell it to someone who wants to avoid a background check. If I sell my brother a gun, even to another state, the gun is sent to a registered gun dealer or law agency and stays there until the new background check is approved and then the gun deal goes through.”

Sheriff Faull said he doesn’t see any sense in restricting high capacity magazines. “The government shouldn’t have the right to limit the number of bullets your gun can carry. It won’t work and it’s just not practical.” Faull cited a recent example when an intruder in Alabama broke into a home and a woman shot the felon five times and still didn’t completely stop him. “Some of the home invasion situations are not limited to just one person anymore,” he explained. “If you have two or three people breaking into your home, a small capacity clip might stop one person, but what about the other two? How will you deal with them?” he asked.

Faull concluded by saying it’s mostly a matter of common sense. “I’m not worried about law abiding citizens. They have a right to own weapons, but they also have an obligation to know the law and take steps to make sure their weapons are out of reach of other people in their homes. That’s the way to stay safe and protected.” *By Russ Baldwin*

Pat Palmer Receives Award

On January 19, the Bent’s Fort Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association began its 19th year with a standing-room crowd only at the John W. Rawlings Center in Las Animas. Over 75 members and guests attended the meeting which began with a catered noon meal.

After lunch, Roger Slusher, President of the Santa Fe Trail Association, gave a first person portrayal of James Aull, a prominent trader and merchant on the Santa Fe Trail. Mr. Aull and his brothers owner mercantile stores in Lexington, Missouri, that sold the goods that the traders carried along the Trail to Mexico.

Following Mr. Slusher’s presentation, members learned of the Chapter’s plans for 2013. Eleven events have been planned, including speakers, Trail marking, service projects, and tours to historic sites. The final tour of the year will be a weekend trip to Taos to visit historic sites there.

The highlight of the Chapter meeting was the presentation of the Member of the Year. The 2012 honoree was Pat Palmer, from Lamar. Mr. Palmer has been the Chapter’s President for several years running and organizes many of the tours, events, and meals.

The next Bent’s Fort Chapter event will be a sign marking day in March when we will install National Park Service signs that mark Trail crossings. Check out our chapter on Facebook for more information about this event.

