

Fond Farewell Linda!

Please join the staff at Prowers County Department of Social Services in a Come & Go to wish a Fond Farewell to outgoing director Linda Fairbairn from 2pm to 4pm on Friday, December 13 in the Mezzanine at the Department of Social Services building.

The Prowers Journal Would Make a Great Holiday Gift

A subscription to The Prowers Journal would make a great Christmas Gift. Out of town friends and relatives will appreciate keeping up with local events each week. You'll get the Police Report, Classifieds, School Sports and Schedules, Obituaries and News Events from Prowers County Communities. Just \$55 will purchase a weekly edition of The Prowers Journal for a year, mailed anywhere in the continental United States. Call or email to get your subscription gift sent for the holidays. Call 719-336-9095 or email your purchase request to theprowersjournal@gmail.com.

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.

The Prowers Journal

Classifieds

Help Wanted

Strategic Planning Coordinator

Strategic Planning Coordinator – Independent contractor position through the Prowers County Strategic Planning Steering Committee. Manage year-long project including coordinating with partners and ensuring grant requirements are met. Full job description and application at www.highplainschc.net. Applications accepted until December 6, 2013. High Plains is an equal opportunity employer. Veterans are encouraged to apply.

Mechanics, Service Writer

Ports to Plains is hiring mechanics and a service writer for our shop. Must have a clean driving record and pass a pre-employment drug test. Pick up an application in the c-store or shop and apply in person to Bruce in the main office.

Real Estate

Professional Office Location

313 South Fifth Street Lamar, CO; Suites Two and Three 800 sq. Feet - All newly remodeled; Utilities Included; Call Lori 336-7000

For Sale

Fresh Cut Christmas Trees

Christmas trees fresh cut on November 30 are for sale at 809 East Olive (Hanagan's Market). Hours are 2-6pm Monday through Friday and 12-6pm on Saturday and Sunday.

The Work Shop/Craft's Design

Antiques, Furniture, Wild Life Décor, elk & deer horn lamps, western décor, yard art & much more. Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM or call for appointment. Call Kathie Payne at 688-1968 or Frankie McCaslin at 336-3149. Store Located at 10 Austin Road, off of Memorial Dr. – watch for signs.

Miscellaneous

PUBLIC NOTICE

At the direction of the Lamar City Council certain building and construction permit fees have been reduced. Beginning January 1st, 2014 certain specialty construction projects (e.g. fences, excavation, and concrete work) are eligible for the newly reduced building permit fees. As stated in City of Lamar Municipal Code, all property owners are required to obtain a building permit prior to commencing work (e.g. replace water heater, install sprinkler system, or remodel a room) on any property. Please note that some exemptions apply. Please feel free to come by the Building Department or call (719) 336-2085 for more information. Respectfully, The City of Lamar Building Department

Support Local Producers for the Holiday Season

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – Finding the perfect tree, hunting for special menu ingredients and searching for ideal gifts can be stressful. The Colorado Department of Agriculture has a variety of online resources to help consumers through this special, but hectic, time of year. The Colorado Food and Agriculture Gift Guide and the Colorado Christmas Tree List help shoppers connect with local producers.

"You make a difference when you choose Colorado," said Commissioner of Agriculture John Salazar. "I encourage you to look for the Colorado Proud logo and buy local wherever you shop or dine."

The Colorado Food and Agriculture Gift Guide lists companies that sell items ranging from gourmet baskets filled with sweets and snacks to mouth-watering meats and fresh produce. The Christmas Tree List identifies locations where individuals can find the perfect tree for their families. The directory includes u-cut operations and information on cutting trees at national forests.

Visit www.coloradoagriculture.com to find both the Colorado Food and Agriculture Gift Guide and the Colorado Christmas Tree List. Find Colorado products year-round at www.comarketmaker.com.

Filbeck Realty

719-336-4301

311 East Walnut \$35,000
308 South 6th \$66,500
804 South 14th \$77,500
Golden Arrow Motel \$80,000

Zumba Fitness at the Community Building

Ditch the workout, join the party! Tasha Shelton offers Zumba classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-6:30pm at the Lamar Community Building. Classes are \$5 or a punch card can be purchased: 10 classes for \$30 or 20 classes for \$50.

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.

NOW HIRING

Maxim Healthcare would like to hire RN's LPN's and CNA's for Home Healthcare - Please Contact: Kristy Kimsey, Greg Lovato, or David Snyder at:

Maxim Healthcare
317 West 3rd Suite 100
La Junta, CO
Ph 719-383-0990

Gates Family Foundation Awards Major Grant to Southeast Colorado Collaboration Effort

The Gates Family Foundation recently awarded nearly \$400,000 in grant money to a collaborative effort to preserve the southeastern Colorado landscape and revitalize its communities. The grant was awarded to four project applicants: Canyons & Plains of Southeast Colorado, Palmer Land Trust, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and Rocky Mountain Farmers Union.

Together these four groups share a vision to build upon the unparalleled array of natural, historical and agricultural resources in southeastern Colorado and forge a sustainable economic future for the region. The project spans eight counties: Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers and Pueblo.

Working with these four main organizations will be three implementation partners: the National Park Service, the Nature Conservancy, and the Pinon Canyon Expansion Opposition Coalition. All seven organizations have already accomplished much in the region, but this grant will fund a powerful, coordinated effort to achieve results.

Goals of the effort are for cooperative planning to drive overall efforts in the region; to energize rural communities by a rich overlay of tourism and business infrastructure; and to promote conservation by private landowners to preserve local control of land and water resources, protect future prosperity, and create one of the largest protected landscapes on its kind in the country.

Working towards these goals over the next few years, the partners seek to build core conservation and tourism development capacity, expand land stewardship and agricultural infrastructure for long-term economic impact, and establish a national heritage area in southeastern Colorado.

Overall, the partners were granted funding in the amount of \$390,000. Canyons & Plains, the southeastern Colorado regional heritage tourism group, received \$200,000. Palmer Land Trust received \$110,000. Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory received \$30,000. Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, and their subcontractor, Guidestone Colorado, received \$50,000. All are moving forward with hiring staff and coordinating efforts to build on their shared vision.

Canyons & Plains and Palmer Land Trust have now opened offices at the Idea Center, 408 North Main Street, in Rocky Ford. Both have also hired new staff: Rick Manzanares, as Executive Director for Canyons & Plains, and Ginger Davison, as Palmer Land Trust Lower Arkansas Valley Conservation Director.

The Gates Grant partners will be hosting an Open House at the Idea Center in Rocky Ford on Wednesday, December 18 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. All are invited to come and meet the partners' new staff members and learn more about this exciting project for southeastern Colorado.

Canyons & Plains (formerly known as the Southeast Colorado Regional Heritage Task Force) is a heritage tourism development organization. Formed in 2003, C&P serves seven counties—Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, Prowers and eastern Las Animas. The non-profit group promotes visitation to and stewardship of the unique historical, natural and cultural assets of south-eastern Colorado among resident, state, national, and international audiences. Since its formation, C&P has garnered over \$1 million in funding for projects in the area. For more information contact: Rick Manzanares, 719.688.5026

Toys for Tots Countdown to Christmas

While Darlene Lopez gets 40 names for assistance in one day for the Toys for Tots campaign for Prowers County, she's also throwing away trash. "I have filled 13 dumpsters with 'donations' that are just trash!" she said earlier this week. "If these items are something that your own child wouldn't use, why would you donate them to Toys for Tots for other children?" she asked. Donations should be either brand new, unwrapped toys, or at least toys that are still serviceable, clean, and can be used by area children.

Lopez is looking at the calendar and recent donations and feeling the urgency of time and needed funds. "We received \$900 from the recent radiothon at KWAY and an earlier one at KLMR brought in \$950, but we are short of where we want to be at this point," she added. Lopez, who heads the annual Toys for Tots drive said the Colorado State Patrol's, 'Fill the Cruiser with Toy's event at Walmart this past Friday went well. "We had to open the windows of the

cruisers to get the toys out of the vehicles and each toy was brand new," Lopez said.

The list of families in need this year is now up to 180 and Lopez said more will be coming in now that we're in December and just three weeks from Christmas. "Last year we had almost 400 people on the list and I know we'll come close to that this year, too," she remarked. Volunteers and cash donations top her list of priority needs.

Volunteers can help out with the stacking and packing of toy donations at the County Annex starting at 1pm Saturday, December 14. All the items are moved to the Lamar Middle School on December 21, beginning at 1pm. "Anyone who can spare some time and has a trailer or pick-up truck is really needed that afternoon," she said. The packages are moved from the annex to the school once the holiday break is underway and the gifts are coordinated for future drivers on the day before Christmas. "Our last big need will be that day," Lopez said, adding, "We'll need volunteer drivers as early at 9:30 that morning so we can have all the deliveries wrapped up by the afternoon and our helpers can spend that time with their families."

Lopez said the Lamar Elks Lodge will hold an early bird bingo evening on Thursday, December 12, starting at 6:30pm and a donation box for gift toys will be set out at the lodge with hopes that it will be filled by the end of the evening. Call Lopez for additional information at 719-688-0167. *By Russ Baldwin*

Lamar to Host Canyons & Plains Annual Meeting

Canyons & Plains of Southeast Colorado will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Prowers County Annex Building, 1001 S. Main Street in Lamar, Colo. The meeting will be followed by lunch at Becky's Restaurant located at 105 Lee Avenue. Anyone interested is invited; you do not need to be a member of Canyons & Plains to attend.

Canyons & Plains recently received a grant from the Gates Family Foundation in partnership with Palmer Land Trust, Guidestone and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. The goal of the grant is to engender a comprehensive approach to conservation and promotion of agricultural and natural resources, wildlife, agritourism and heritage tourism. Additional implementation partners in the grant include The Nature Conservancy, National Park Service and Pinon Canyon Expansion Opposition Coalition.

As a result of the grant, Canyons & Plains recently hired Rick Manzanares as its Executive Director. He grew up in Manzanola, Colo., and has worked in different parts of the State in cultural and heritage projects for 20 years. He recently retired as the Museum Director for the Fort Garland Museum in Fort Garland, Colo. While at Fort Garland, Manzanares worked on the development and federal designation of the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area. Consideration of a National Heritage Area will be one topic of discussion at the Annual Meeting.

The business agenda will include a presentation of the Annual Report and election of new Board Members. Vacancies for the Board exist in Prowers, Crowley and Baca Counties.

All interested individuals are urged to attend the Annual Meeting. The coming year promises to be one of the most exciting in the organization's history. For additional information or questions regarding the Annual Meeting, please call Rick Manzanares at 719.688.5026.

Public Safety Citizens Academy Starts in January

Want to ride along with a police officer or spend a shift with the ambulance crew? What about taking a tour of the fire department? Here is your chance to learn more about public safety in our community.

The Lamar Police Department is accepting applications to attend the Public Safety Citizens Academy that begins Thursday, January 9, 2014. This academy will include sessions devoted to Fire and Emergency Medical Services as well as the traditional Police classes.

The academy presentations will give participants a basic understanding of the services provided by police, fire and emergency medical services in the City of Lamar. The academy will run for 14 weeks. Normally, the sessions will run from 7pm to 9pm on Thursday evenings. The classes conclude on Saturday, April 12, with a live fire exercise at the police range. A barbecue and a high angle operation will be presented by the Lamar Fire Department as well.

Applications are now available and will be accepted until Monday, January 6, 2014. If you would like to attend the 2014 Citizens Academy, come by the Lamar Police Department at 505 South Main Street and pick up an application. Call the department with any questions at 719-336-4341 or ask a Lamar Police Officer or Firefighter. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and will be subjected to a background check.