

Art Matters

Art spaces for our creative spirit



By Janet Sellers

A new creative venue is in the historic 1880 building, the original Monument post office. Located at the corner of Second and Washington Streets, El Santo Vaquero is an art gallery with decor, handicrafts, and apparel imbued with Southern and Mexican influences and local Colorado artists and artisans' works from around the world.

The grand opening will be on June 3, starting at 10 a.m., with new one-of-a-kind items. Artist signings, demos, maker meet and greets, food trucks, and more will be present to introduce the "unique faith-based space honoring the creative spirit in all of us."

The venue is surrounded by gardens and water features. Christian Kurz, of Italian and Mexican heritage, said she looks to fill the patio and garden with bright flowers reminiscent of Mexico. She has hired an ethnic artisan to create huge wooden wing wall sculptures for the outside of the build-

ing near the west wall entrance. It will be fun to take "angel photos" there. Artisans will be creating artwork in the courtyard, and Kurz is looking to have musicians play, too. All the artworks, pottery, decor, and events will be in keeping with unique, joyful, and faith-based themes.

Recently in May for Mother's Day, Kurz offered complimentary desserts and giveaways, inviting people to bring their mother or "a mother you love" to enjoy and share with everyone "what makes your mother or mother nominee" one of a kind.

At the June Art Hop, founder Kurz will be celebrating the release and author signing of her book *The Spiritual Archetypes*. The book was initially created as a quiz titled What is your spiritual archetype? She offered correlating guidebooks, and it captivated audiences and has been downloaded over 1 million times worldwide since it was released. Kurtz designed all the art-



Above: Christian Kurz of El Santo Vaquero has created a sacred space to "gather, shop, and experience the beauty of faith through the creative Spirit." The new space will offer creative spirit-inspired events, artworks, handicrafts, decor, adornments, and space for Kurz's classes and workshops at 213 Washington St., Monument. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

work for this newest aesthetic creation. The book release and signing on July 20 at 7 p.m. coincides with the July Art Hop at the shop.

Janet Sellers is an artist, writer, and speaker with artworks exhibited in galleries and museums in the Rocky Mountains and on the East and West Coasts. Contact her at: JanetSellers@ocn.me.

Snapshots of Our Community

New girl scout troop



Above: Gleneagle Sertoma created a new scout troop for girls on April 19 that will be linked to Boy Scout Troop 194. Members of Troop 194 Girls will be able to earn merit badges and take on challenges similar to the boys' troop. District executive David Durkee says, "The value of including all siblings and family members in the wonderful world of scouting is tremendous for our community." Eight girls who are sisters of current scouts were the first to enroll. To learn more about Boy Scouts Troop 194 and 194 Girls, visit their website at csscouts.org or on Facebook at Troop 194 Gleneagle. In the photo, Troop 194 Girls are shown learning knot tying. *Photo by Christine Pollard.*

Local goalie's team wins big



Left: Bailey Unruh, a 13-year-old goalie from Lewis-Palmer Middle School, helped her team win the World Selects Invite (WSI) youth hockey world championship on April 29. Bailey is the only Coloradan on the North American Prospects, who defeated Sweden 3-2 in the final contest. The Prospects beat 11 other teams from nine countries to take home the gold. Bailey allowed only one goal in the entire tournament. The WSI is an invitation-only event that provides the top players in the world the opportunity to compete in a world-class hockey competition and cultural experience. *Photo by Eric Unruh.*

Merrick honored for sculpture



Above: On May 1, Jerry Merrick, seated, was honored with a plaque for his iconic elephant rock sculpture in Palmer Lake. A local stone mason by trade, he created the artwork for the historic Camp Elephant Rock site in Palmer Lake in 1972. A group of local Palmer Lake Arts District members and friends joined in the celebration, and he is shown here with his family members. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

Monument Glamping ribbon-cutting



Above: The Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting at Monument Glamping on May 1. Glamping is glamorous camping. Co-owners Chris and Wendy Jeub were surrounded by several members of their family in red hats and red checkered shirts as the business was officially dedicated. Chris, who's also a volunteer for *Our Community News*, said they got the idea for the business five years ago when he and his wife stayed in a tent in their yard while their house was being renovated. They now have five tents as well as four container homes, a treehouse, and a tiny house available for booking. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld.*