



Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

August 2023

Burning Mountain Festival 2023 Grand Marshalls

The Town of New Castle has announced that the Grand Marshalls for the 2023 Burning Mountain Festival Parade will be Ross Sr. and Ramona Talbott.

Ross and Ramona were married in 1957. When it was time to start a family, the two wanted to raise their children on a farm, so in 1959 they purchased land on the south side of the river in New Castle. Today they still reside in the same location where their original home once stood.

The Talbott's initially sold fruit locally in New Castle from the family farm in Palisade, Talbott Farms. Ross was quick, however, to plant his own apple orchard and run his business in New Castle. The orchard required extra hands and with the lack of options for housing in New Castle at the time, Ross invited workers to bring trailers to set up on the property. Then realizing the need for affordable housing, he purchased eleven trailers for use by his employees. Over the years, he continued to add more and more trailers until he had 309 of them. Apple growing gave way to affordable housing.

The Talbotts had keen eyes for spotting needs in the community, and they built the Apple Tree Mall so residents could access necessities without having to go far from home. The mall housed a laundromat, café, hair salons, doctor, hardware store, gas station, convenience store and gift shop. Eventually Mr. T's was added to the family's enterprises, providing hardware and lumber to the entire area.



Ross served as Fire Chief of the New Castle Fire Department and founded the church which is now New Hope Church next to City Market. The Talbotts have remained familiar figures in town, especially during the Burning Mountain Festival, when Ross and son Russell were the announcers for the Festival Parade. Five children and several grandchildren and great grandchildren later, the couple and their family still play a major role in the New Castle community. They look forward to seeing friends old and new at the 2023 parade.

Photo: Ross and Ramona Talbott walk across the pedestrian bridge at its grand opening in 2014.

Community Market Continues in August

The Community Market attracted big crowds in July and looks to be even more popular in August. The music lineup for the market includes Gerry Goodman on August 3, Barry Anderson on the 10th, Oran Mor on the 17th, Stone Kitchen on the 24th and Valle Musica on August 31. On the 31st, which is the final day for the Market, New Castle Liquors will host a beer and wine tasting event. Come to Burning Mountain Park every Thursday from 4:30 to 7:00 pm.

Photo: Corporal Reynolds and Detective Polen at the market.



51st Burning Mountain Festival September 8-9

The 51st Burning Mountain Festival is on track for Friday, September 8 and Saturday, September 9. On Friday, Burning Mountain Park will open with food and craft vendors at 5:00 pm, featuring music from Mitt Spicy and the Blues Bandits from 5:00 to 7:00, followed by Whiskey Stomp from 7:30 to 10:00. The Beer Gazebo will be open from 5:00 to 9:00. Volunteer New Castle will announce the Volunteers of the Year awards from the stage on Friday at 7:00pm.

On Saturday, the fun starts with the 10 am parade down Main Street, beginning at Elk Creek Elementary School. The parade theme this year is *A World of Dreams*. Other activities on Saturday will include a 5K Run, Foam Pit, Log Splitting Contest, Pie Eating Contest, Car Show, Strider Race, Tug o' War and more.

Of course, the food and craft vendors and the beer gazebo all return on Saturday. Music will be provided by the Basement Brothers from 3:00 to 4:00 pm, Dustin Elliott and the Broken Radio from 5:00 to 7:00 and A Band Called Alexis from 7:30 to 10:00. Food vendors will include: Aspen Mini Donuts, Capital Deli, Rolling Fork, Colorado Snow, Rifle Creek Kettle Corn, Cub Scout Snow Cone Wagon and the traditional Lions Club Pie Sale.

The town would like to extend a big thank you to the sponsors so far; Alpine Bank, Trailhead Chiropractic, Pepsi, and Grand River Health. Commemorative t-shirts will be on sale will be on sale at the New Castle Community Center, at the New Castle Community Market and at the festival.

Annual "Pyro" Trail Run August 12

The Pyro Push It Up Trail Run honors New Castle native Captain William "Pyro" DuBois, who was killed when his plane went down on December 1, 2014. His family and friends invite runners to experience a scenic mountain trail, crossing streams and meandering through Aspen groves in Colorado's Flat Tops.

Pyro's run includes several options, allowing everyone to participate: a family friendly 3.5K, a greater challenge at 7.7K, or for those who want to "push it up," there's a 13K Double Down run. More information and links to registration can be found on *Pyro's Trail Run* on Facebook.



Fire in the Hole 5K

The River Center will host their 3rd annual "Fire in the Hole" 5K on September 9th during the Burning Mountain Festival celebration. Advanced registration is at the New Castle Recreation's website. The cost is \$35 for pre-registration and \$40 the day of the race. Runners should be at Burning Mountain Park by 7:15 am, in advance of the race start time 7:30 am.

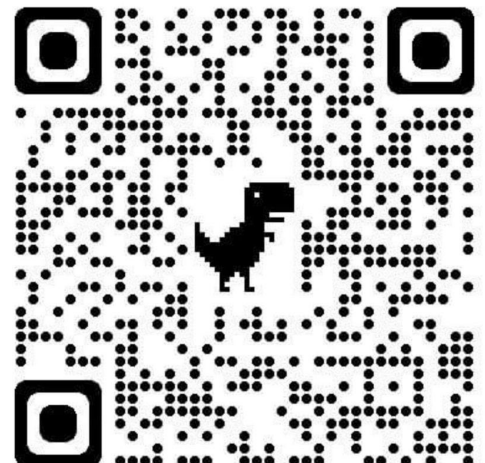
Additional information is available at rivercenternewcastle.org or by calling 970-984-4333.

SANA 5K Returns August 26

The Safe and Abundant Nutrition Alliance (SANA) will return to New Castle with their August 26 5K walk/run awareness campaign. Last year over 90 participants and 15 organizations were present at the event. Even more participation is anticipated this year, as additional organizations plan to join in to bring awareness to food insecurity. The theme this year is "Hunger Doesn't Have to be a Secret."

Informational booths about accessing local food resources and programs will be at the event, giving eligible attendees the opportunity to sign up for food assistance. They will also provide information about the issue of food insecurity in the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys, and share SANA's vision of a community where access to affordable and healthy food is available to all.

Information about the times, places and registration for the 5K walk/race will be available on the SANA Facebook page: *Safe and Abundant Nutrition Alliance-SANA*.



Did You Know That. . .

- The Dirty Hog Dash had 321 kids participate this year.
- The New Castle PD is looking for good people to join their team. Apply in person at New Castle PD.
- Crack seal operations are taking place this month in the areas of Silverado Trail, White Horse and Whitetail Drive in Lakota.
- Signs about the importance of pollinators (bees and butterflies) have appeared in several of the town flower planters, courtesy of the Climate and Environment Commission.
- The New Castle Dog Park is now open in V-I-X Park. Donations are being collected for additional amenities.



Mayor Pro Tem Grady Hazelton cuts the ribbon at the Dog Park grand opening.

New Faces for New Castle

The Town of New Castle is pleased to introduce its newest teammates:

Ariana Cornejo: Athletics and Activities Coordinator

Aime Medina: Professional Assistant to the Town Clerk

Lori Welch: Staff Accountant

Next month the newsletter will have a spotlight on the new faces at Public Works.

Changes May Be Coming to Water Meter Reading

Every month, Utility Department staff walk the entire town to read water meters for monthly utility billing. This process takes several days to complete, using valuable staff time. In winter, with heavy snow and ice, the process takes even longer and poses additional challenges. Town staff and Town Council are working to improve the process.

To use staff time more efficiently, the Public Works, Town Clerk and Administrative staff have presented a revised meter reading schedule to Town Council for their consideration. This revised schedule would reduce the total number of times that residential water meters are read each year and free valuable staff time for other projects. Commercial accounts would continue to be read every month and billed accordingly.

In the winter months, most residents do not exceed their winter water limits, resulting in predictable utility billing. In summer months, with lawn irrigation, meter reading is more important, however, is not always required for accurate utility billing.

On August 15, 2023, Town Council will consider an ordinance that adjusts residential water meter readings from every month down to five times per year. Residents will, however, continue to receive a monthly utility bill from the Town. The proposal calls for the Utility Department to read residential water meters in April, May, July, September, and November. In winter, with no residential water meter readings, residents will be billed the published base rates. In summer, during the months of June, August, and October, bills will be estimated using the prior month's water usage and corrected the following month based on actual meter readings.

Additionally, Town Council will also consider eliminating the sewer overage charge for residential accounts.

Town Council Honors Caleb Thompson

At the July 18 meeting of the Town Council, Mayor Art Riddile read a proclamation honoring recent Coal Ridge graduate Caleb Thompson. Caleb spent his senior year as a Rotary Exchange Student in Turkey. On February 6, 2023, he was living with a host family in Adana, Turkey, when the region was hit with a magnitude 7.8 earthquake, followed by a second 7.7 quake, leaving 40,000 dead, and many more injured. Caleb sought out volunteer opportunities, setting up tents, doing electrical repairs, making sandwiches, carrying supplies and translating for incoming rescue workers.

Along with his mother, Coal Ridge teacher Gina Thompson, Caleb has continued to help earthquake victims through the Glenwood Springs Rotary Club. The Town Council applauded Caleb for his spirit of service and honored his commitment to humanitarian work.

New Castle Chamber of Commerce “Growing Businesses, Building Community”

From the Chamber of Commerce:

The New Castle Chamber has two new members.

Working out of her home in New Castle, Walezka Rivers operates Airi Photo. Originally from Mexico, Walezka has been in the area for 15 years. Airi Photo is a family business as River’s four children help with the work. She enjoys hiking and being on the river with husband Adam and their children. Airi Photo offers three kinds of photobooths -- Digital, Classic and Advanced. Rivers is pleased that her business allows her to meet the needs of the community by providing a service that brings joy. Contact Airi Photo Booth by phone at (970) 319-9208 or by email at info@airiphoto.com Their Web Page can be found at www.airiphoto.com.

Mike Cerise and his son Nick own Double Down Hauling, providing the area with hauling services and much more. Their tag, “You call, we haul,” describes their business perfectly. Some of the services they offer include gravel driveways, top soil for lawns and gardens, and dump runs. They employ a variety of vehicles including a dump truck, a flatbed and a skid steer. Both Cerises were born at Valley View Hospital; Mike graduated from Rifle High School and Nick is a recent Glenwood High School graduate. Double Down’s phone number is (970) 379-0703 or and their email is doubledownhauling@gmail.com.

New Castle Conversations at the Library

The New Castle Branch Library is proud to host a series of roundtable conversations where local community leaders will discuss their role in our town and share their vision for New Castle. New Castle Trails and Town Hall officials have already met with residents in June and July. The New Castle Conversation with the Police Department will take place on August 30. On September 27, Colorado River Fire Rescue will be at the Library. Both events begin at 6:00 p.m. This series is free and participation is open to all. For more information call the library at 970-984-2346.

Council Highlights

- Ordinance TC2023-2 – Final Approval Lakota Canyon Ranch Filing 8 (Longview)
- Discussion of possible relocation of miner memorial
- Roundabout funding
- Proclamation: Pollinator Week
- Proclamation: Parks and Recreation Month
- Proclamation: Caleb Thompson
- Approval of Special Event Liquor License for Burning Mountain Festival and Community Market
- Appointment: Interim Town Clerk



Photos from July’s Dirty Hog Dash and grand opening of the New Castle Dog Park.

