

(Kahtoola, SpringK, Yakrax, etc.). Age has quelled somewhat my adventurous spirit, so I usually wait a day or so after heavy snow to let younger folks break trail and pack the snow. Thank you for that.

Friends of Monument Preserve and others have

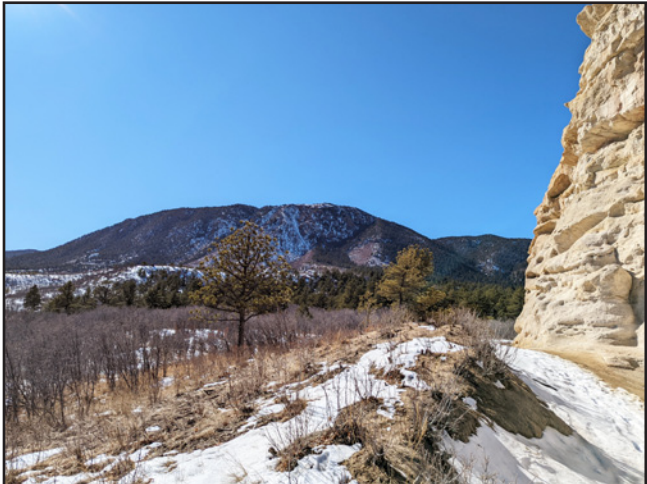
reported multiple vehicle break-ins in the Monument Preserve parking areas and other parking areas for trails east of Mount Herman and Raspberry Mountain. Please do not leave valuable items in your car while hiking, biking, or riding and, if you see suspi-

cious activity, notify the El Paso County Sheriff's Office—much of this area is outside the jurisdiction of Monument police.

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Above: This photo was taken Feb. 21, looking east from the Ice Cave Creek trail between Sundance Mountain and Chautauqua. *Photo by Steve Pate.*



Above: On Feb. 18, from Monument Rock looking west toward Mount Herman and Raspberry Mountain.



Right: The Town of Palmer Lake has installed a parking kiosk at the Reservoir Trailhead parking lot (credit cards only). The fee is \$5.30/day. Effective Feb. 24, those who do not purchase and properly display the fee receipt may be ticketed and fined \$100 and possibly have their vehicle towed. *Photos by Steve Pate.*

Art Matters

The transformative impact of public art



By Janet Sellers

In our community, we have art in public places as a cultural precedent around the town in view for the upcoming annual Art Hop season, including along the Santa Fe Trail and in some of our public parks but also in some highly visible places on private property that we can keep a lookout for and enjoy.

There are many ways that cities and public places make a call for art, including the exhibition of temporary art that is for sale or art that is commissioned for a place. Cities create invitations to artists, “artist calls,” for artworks intended for the outdoors or for public places indoors. These public artworks have a very special purpose and impact. In olden times public art was almost exclusively commissioned by leadership with focused agendas, and requirements were very specific to what the city fathers, government leaders, or religious leaders or commission entities wanted to have as the influence in the community.

These days, the moniker has changed and is fre-

quently referred to as “art in public places” which means that the artist has full freedom to create the work and submit images for review, which are then juried into selection for the public place. In my case, I create artworks to be uplifting or inspire a moment of wonder. Moments out of the daily grind can change the trajectory of a person’s mindset for the day, uplifting their consciousness and possibly their lives.

Having worked with inner-city gang youths years ago, I realized then that, although the gang life was famously very violent, inside their hearts they were creating beautiful murals. The youths revealed they were like other teens, still growing up and figuring out the world around them. The difference between these kids and others I have taught or guided in grades K through 12 and at the university level as well, is that gang youths have a very dangerous local element with weapons and reactivity within their community. That was one of the reasons the city had commissioned the mural: to make a public and social impact while

generating higher-level thinking and higher-level behaviors.

Public art particularly has the power to immediately impact people in a culture and, given that its visual, verbal languages and words are not a part of the impact and not a part of a cultural access, but the art impacts the process of social change. The public art arena has an immediate impact on many aspects of visual culture and appears to go to the very basic level of a person’s consciousness through the visual impact as well as audible and other sensory parts of a human being. We often have audio art related on-site to the visual art in terms of complex electronics, lighting-sensitive elements, and even simple things that will work with air movement such as bells or chimes.

Janet Sellers is an artist, writer, speaker, and educator. She exhibits her artworks in cities and museums in Colorado and other places around the world. She can be reached at JanetSellers@ocn.me.

Snapshots of Our Community

National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day at Lolley’s, Feb. 5



Left: There was a long line in front of Lolley’s Ice Cream in Monument when it opened at 9 a.m. on Feb. 5 to mark National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day. Lolley’s says it served more than 225 breakfast sundaes between the early opening and noon. **Above:** Customers had a choice of Belgian waffles, French toast, or doughnuts to go with their ice cream and toppings that included crumbled bacon. *Photos by Michael Weinfeld.*