

In the winter, regulars sustain Wondervu Cafe

By John Bear
Staff Writer

The patio at the Wondervu Cafe is closed for the winter, but waitress Sue Widholm knows which table is the best place to sit down on a warm day — table 36.

“You just get the best view, especially on a clear day,” Widholm said. “You are looking at the Continental Divide.”

Owner Adeline Ortiz-Clairmont has spent nearly 43 years building the cafe into the local landmark that it is today.

The restaurant has been used on “America’s Most Wanted” and another movie

production crew shot a winter scene at the restaurant. It was in the summer, however, so the producers used potato flakes as snow, much to the delight of a potbellied pig that lived across the highway, according to Ortiz-Clairmont.

According to the Wondervu Historical and Architectural Survey commissioned by Boulder County, the cafe is the most recognizable landmark in the area. Wondervu came into being in the 1920s as a mountain-top retreat for lower-middle class and working class Denver residents.

For \$990,000, the Wondervu

Cafe can be yours.

“I’ve put a lot of work into the Wondervu,” said Ortiz-Clairmont, now 67. “I love it, but on the other hand, I think I need to enjoy life a little bit and be able to do some things I’ve been missing out on.”

She came to the area with her first husband, the late Leonard Ortiz, when she was 24 years old. Her parents, who ran their own restaurant in Denver, bought what was once called The Wondervu Cafe — which sold fare such as broasted chicken and hot dogs — but found running two restaurants too burdensome.

“My parent’s restaurant was called Nita’s Mexican Food,” she said. “I was a waitress and a cook there, so I grew up in the business.”

Ortiz-Clairmont said she and her husband already loved coming to the mountains to fish and hike, so it seemed like the perfect fit. She built her house nearby so she can enjoy the 60-mile stretch of the Front Range at work and at home.

Located along Colo. 72 in Coal Creek Canyon, The Wondervu Cafe has become something of a community hub for area residents. The gift shop

See WONDERVU, 2B

and the lights were functioning and emitting an audible sound.

The cyclist, Satur said, was on the north sidewalk and crossed the tracks into the path of the oncoming train. The sidewalk is north of the intersection of Ken Pratt and Nelson Road and isn’t blocked by the train crossing gate.

The man was riding his bike, which had a trailer attached, when he was hit, according to witnesses. Police initially thought he was walking his bike across the intersection.

Police have not identified the cyclist, but said that he died from his injuries.

Satur wrote in a later email that police believe the man is a transient from Longmont or from the Longmont area.

The Boulder County Coroner’s Office will identify the man as part of its investigation. Once his family is notified, his name will be released, Satur wrote.

The intersection was closed for about five hours while police investigated.

Accomplishments of Boulder County people

Philip Tobias, a Boulder technical and marketing communicator, is volunteering again in 2019 as the membership chairperson for the Boulder Writers Alliance (bwa.org). BWA serves Boulder, Denver, and Longmont communicators and employers.

Reilly S. Rastello, of Boulder, has been named to the dean’s list for fall 2018 at the University of Notre Dame’s College of Arts and Letters. Students who achieve dean’s honors at Notre Dame represent the top 30 percent of students in their college.

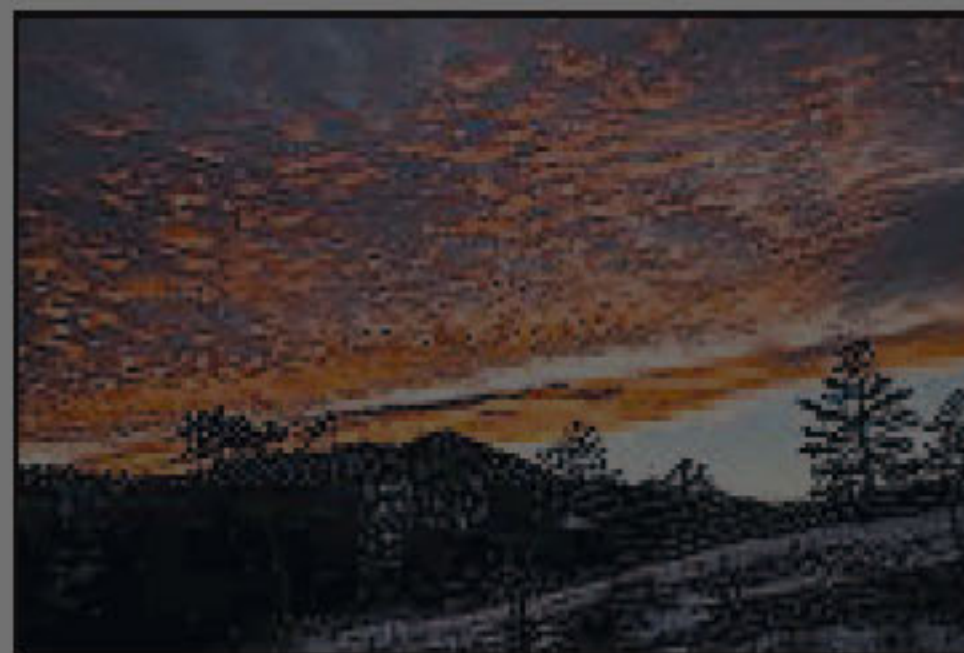
The following local students have been named to the dean’s list for fall 2018 at the College of Saint Mary, Omaha, Neb., for maintaining at least a 3.5 grade-point average:
Keegan Sakalosky, Erie;
Emma Turner, Loveland.

The following local students have been named to the dean’s list for fall 2018 at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, N.H.:
Sarina Philips, Lafayette, with honors;
Ciara Blanchette, Erie, with high honors.

The following local students graduated in December from University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie, Wis.:
Rachel Hasting, Longmont, bachelor of science;
Erica Chippendale, Loveland, professional science master.

The following local students have been named to the dean’s list for fall 2018 at the Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Conn., for
See ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2B

Boulder sunset



This sunset, in its waning moments, captivated many across Boulder County on Jan. 26.

Pat Spence
Courtesy photo

Submit your photos

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