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4-SEASON GUIDE TO
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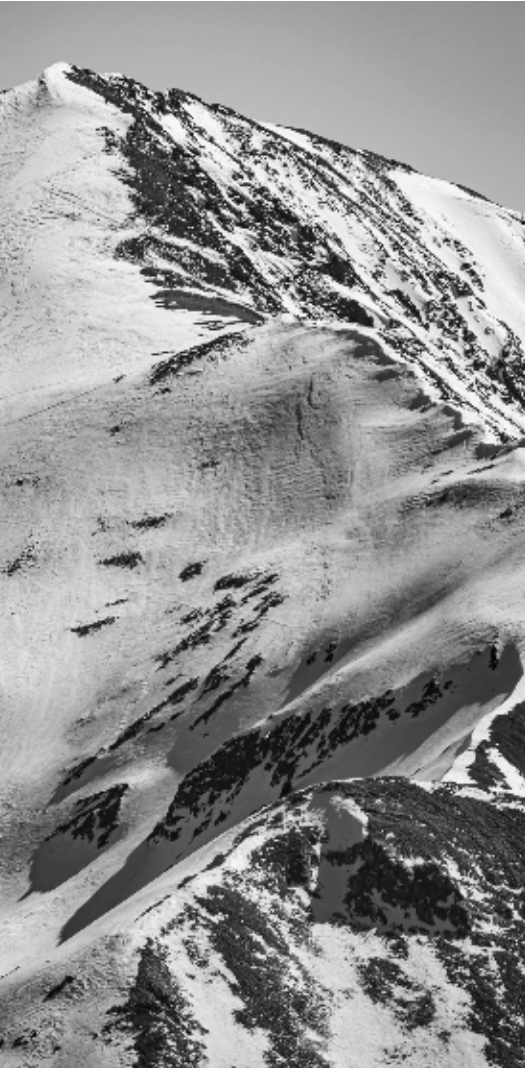
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FLY GIRLS

Three local women taking on Basalt's Gold Medal waters.

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A woman with long dark hair is standing on a beach at sunset. She is wearing a long, flowing dress with a blue and white chevron pattern. The dress has a V-neckline, short puffed sleeves, and a tiered skirt. She is barefoot. The background shows the ocean and a sunset sky with mountains in the distance.

Midland

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Willits Town Center
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from the director



Welcome to Basalt, an authentic Colorado mountain town brimming with history and a deep respect for its natural wonders. Here you'll find a unique blend of adventure, small-town charm, and a commitment to responsible tourism, all nestled against the stunning backdrop of the Rockies.

This year, we invite you to explore Historic Downtown Basalt. Midland Avenue, our main street, is undergoing a revitalization to become an even more pedestrian-friendly, energetic part of town. While construction is happening, we want to remind you that downtown is filled with locally-owned shops, art galleries, and restaurants that all provide a great addition to your stay and are always worth the visit. Experience the rich heritage of Basalt as you explore this charming part of town, lined with Victorian buildings that whisper tales of the town's railroad past at the turn of the last century.

Basalt River Park, a stunning new addition to downtown, provides a haven for relaxation and connection. Gather with friends and family, soak up the mountain air, and enjoy the vibrant energy of the community. On Wednesday nights in the summer, the park is THE place to be.

Willits offers a taste of the future. Here, innovative businesses and the nation's first net-zero performing arts center showcase Basalt's commitment to progress and sustainability. Choose from many local restaurants and be sure to pop into the different stores for unique finds.

But Basalt is more than just a charming town. It is a gateway to adventure and where stewardship thrives. Whether you cast a fly into our Gold Medal fishing waters or hike the breathtaking trails surrounding town, we encourage you to embrace the "leave no trace" philosophy. Respect the delicate balance of our ecosystem and become a part of preserving this special place for generations to come.

Discover Basalt, a place where history and adventure intertwine seamlessly. By supporting local businesses and embracing the principles of stewardship, you'll become more than just a visitor; you'll become a part of our community.

Basalt is where history and adventure await, and responsible tourism thrives.

We hope to see you soon!

KRIS MATTERA, Executive Director
BASALT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



from the mayor



Welcome to magnificent Basalt! I am so proud to serve as your mayor and to be leading, along with my fellow council members, our riverside town on a path toward more environmental sustainability, economic opportunity, and community enhancements. Across town, we are activating necessary infrastructure upgrades and embracing the spirit of our history and the values that make our town both a destination and a beloved home.

We have an abundance of music, art, and community activities throughout the summer. While you're downtown and in Willits, check out some of our nonprofits, including TACAW, a performing arts center, and The Art Base, a visual arts center, both of which the Town of Basalt supports to promote and generate art and culture that benefit our community. Through our Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC) we are also developing enhanced opportunities for public art to be displayed all around town, through private donations and public purchases, to provide even more dimension to the beauty we are known for. Join us this summer for free outdoor live music (pages 22-23) with snacks from local restaurants (pages 32-37) and explore the Basalt Sunday Market.

Both the natural and human-made beauty that defines Basalt are why we are here. Enjoy our access to Gold Medal fishing on the Fryingpan, bike on the Rio Grande Trail, hike on one of many of our trails, visit our pool and playgrounds, and savor the laid-back atmosphere with gorgeous views in every direction. You may find undiscovered pockets of peace along the Roaring Fork River, on a hidden trail, or in a new part of town you visit for the first time.

On behalf of the Basalt Town Council, we invite you to stay in touch with us and learn about our many projects on basalt.net and our interactive platform on letstalkbasalt.net. Access these sites to participate and learn about our ongoing improvement projects such as the Midland Streetscape Project and our efforts to create more connected and safer bike and pedestrian pathways on Willits Lane.

We look forward to seeing you out and about in beautiful Basalt. It's going to be a lively and exciting year ahead!

Warmest regards,
DAVID KNIGHT, Mayor
TOWN OF BASALT



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COVER PHOTO

Celebrating sounds of the season at the Basalt
Summer Concert Series in the Basalt River Park.

PHOTO BY MATT SNELL/SMPL.CP



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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

ABOUT BASALT

Incorporated in 1901, Basalt is a statutory town in Eagle and Pitkin counties in Colorado. Surrounded by wilderness, Basalt sits at the gateway of the Fryingpan Valley along the Gold Medal waters of the Roaring Fork and Fryingpan rivers in the White River National Forest at an elevation of 6,611 feet.

In 2023, the median price of a single-family home was \$2.2 million. The population within the town limits is 4,508; however, the Basalt and Midvalley community is much larger due to several adjacent unincorporated areas in both Eagle and Pitkin counties, including El Jebel, Emma, Old Snowmass, and the upper Fryingpan River Valley. ↩

POPULAR PARKS *Each with off-leash areas*

ARBANEY PARK • *Downtown* • Playground, near town pool

CROWN MOUNTAIN PARK • *El Jebel* • Playground, bike park, dog park

BASALT RIVER PARK • *Downtown* • Roaring Fork River access, play features, community gathering place

CONFLUENCE PARK • *Downtown* • Access to the confluence of the Fryingpan and the Roaring Fork rivers

LIONS PARK • *Downtown* • Bandshell, train caboose

SOUTHSIDE PARK • *Southside*

TRIANGLE PARK • *Willits* • Bandshell, splash pad

WILLITS LINEAR PARK AND FIELD • *Willits* • Playground



LODGING TAX
Basalt has a 4% lodging tax in place for lodging facilities and short-term rentals.

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Aspen Valley Hospital
(970) 925-1120

Valley View Hospital
(970) 945-6535

After Hours Urgent Care at Valley View
(970) 384-7315

Valley Emergency Pet Care
(970) 927-5066

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Emergency/Fire/Ambulance/Police
911

Roaring Fork Fire Rescue
(non-emergency)
(970) 340-7040

Basalt Police
(non-emergency)
(970) 927-4316

Eagle County Sheriff
(non-emergency)
(970) 328-7697

Pitkin County Sheriff
(non-emergency)
(970) 920-5300

Basalt Town Hall
(970) 927-4701

Basalt Recreation Department
(970) 927-8214

Basalt Swimming Pool
(summer only)
(970) 927-4799

Basalt Post Office
(970) 927-3891

Basalt Regional Library
(970) 927-4311

Crown Mountain Park
(970) 963-6030

National Forest Service
(Ruedi Reservations)
(801) 226-3564

White River National Forest
(Aspen-Sopris Ranger Station)
(970) 963-2266

RFTA: Public Transit Service
(970) 925-8484

Basalt Chamber of Commerce
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community.

When the going gets tough, we don't sit on the sidelines. We are working tirelessly, seeking out solutions for the challenges we're all facing.

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Western Association of Chamber Executives

FOCUSED KIDS

BRAIN-BASED SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SKILLS FOR CHILDREN, TEACHERS AND PARENTS

TWELVE YEARS AGO, local Basalt resident Kathy Hegberg began taking what she had learned about the developing brain to her counseling clients. She explained that when you talk to kids about what is going on in their brains, they no longer feel like bad kids or shame for their behaviors.

This dynamic shift in mindset led to the development of FocusedKids, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that partners with schools, families, and community organizations to make healthy brains a priority for our children. The nonprofit instills mindful self-regulation skills and brain-building techniques into daily routines to increase resilience, self-awareness, and academic potential.

With FocusedKids, they also learn about neuroplasticity, meaning the brain can change and grow with practice. Students practice activities that wire the brain to master self-regulation skills, such as controlling impulses, managing emotions, and focusing attention.

Parents and teachers learn the same information and practice strategies to teach and parent with the brain in mind. Outcomes show that FocusedKids helps children develop a growth mindset and empowers them to take charge of their learning and well-being by understanding and regulating their brains. Adults learn that challenging behavior does not mean a child is “bad,” just that they haven’t yet learned to manage themselves, and adults can help using the strategies they have been taught.

One teacher said, “I would not have made it through this year without FocusedKids. I was able to reduce my stress and better manage my classroom. My students and I used the brain language



FocusedKids
BRAIN EMPOWERMENT

FocusedKids

focusedkids.org
PO Box 2042
Carbondale, CO 81623

Contact

info@focusedkids.org
or
amanda@focusedkids.org



and strategies provided by FocusedKids to improve relationships and learning.”

At the end of 2022, Hegberg passed the baton of leadership to Amanda Petersen, a longtime elementary school teacher in Basalt and FocusedKids trainer since 2018. The nonprofit is dedicated to supporting the schools, families, and community partners it works with. 🐦



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 **VALLEY VIEW**

SUMMIT54

STRENGTHENING STUDENT OUTCOMES IN BASALT AND DEVELOPING NEW EDUCATORS IN THE ROARING FORK VALLEY

SUMMIT54 IS A nonprofit organization focused on education and equity, providing free year-round academic and life enrichment programs to more than 900 elementary-aged students annually in Basalt, Carbondale, and Glenwood Springs. Summit54 was founded in 2011 by Tony and Terri Caine, immediately following Tony's successful summit of Colorado's 54 14,000-foot peaks in a single year. Embodying this feat, Summit54's mission is to assist young students in reaching the pinnacle of their potential and success.

Since its inception, Summit54 has been a steadfast advocate for educational equality, serving more than 8,500 low-income children to date, with free year-round academic and life enrichment programs. The nonprofit is an integral part of the community, providing vital support and services to help students overcome obstacles on their educational journey.

Summit54's flagship initiative – Summer Advantage – is a five-week academic and life enrichment initiative running from mid-June to mid-July, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This comprehensive

program enables students to advance academically in two and a half to four months during the summer, countering the typical "summer-slide" often experienced by students. The program not only bridges educational gaps but also fosters personal growth and development.

Complementing Summer Advantage is the free Summit54 After-School Tutoring program. One-hour tutoring sessions are held immediately after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. This initiative targets struggling students in Basalt Elementary School and other schools in the Roaring Fork School District (RFSD). More than 40 licensed RFSD teachers participate in the tutoring program, serving more than 350 students each session.

The nonprofit ensures a holistic approach to a child's well-being with low student-to-teacher ratios that provide the opportunity for greater personal attention.

Summit54 continues to climb new heights with expanded programming to serve more students. The community can take pride in the educational strides made possible through these transformative programs at Basalt Elementary School and other regional elementary schools. 🦋



SUMMIT54
Where Success is Learned & Earned

SUMMIT54
summit54.org
625 Main Street,
Suite 102B-115
Aspen, CO 81611

Contact
terri@summit54.org

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COULTER CREEK LUXURY ESTATE

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4 Bed | 5 Bath, 1 HB | 5,731 SQ FT | 4.41 Acres

This meticulously designed home in Ranch at Coulter Creek offers 360-degree mountain views and over 5,700 sq ft of livable space. Features include a movie theater, at-home gym, built-in bar, high-end appliances, vaulted ceilings, and outdoor seating areas with a gas fireplace and fire pit. The community offers over 300 acres of preserved open space, ponds, fishing, and groomed trails. Adjacent to Fisher Creek/BLM land for hiking and mountain biking.



BASALT RIVERFRONT RESIDENCE

\$4,750,000

5 Bed | 3 Bath | 3,994 SQ FT | 4.47 Acres

Riverfront, land, and privacy are in limited supply and represent the pinnacle of luxury living in the Roaring Fork Valley. Nestled on over four acres, this fully renovated, private home overlooks the Roaring Fork River. Featuring multiple outdoor entertaining areas, a beautifully landscaped yard, a pond, and multiple pathways and seating areas on the river. Located within steps of the Rio Grande Trail, in close proximity to Willits, The Roaring Fork Club and restaurants, and within 20 minutes of the ski slopes it's hard to beat this location.

COMPASS



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GET TO KNOW BASALT

VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOODS CONNECTED BY OPEN SPACE

BASALT IS A FRIENDLY, small mountain town with the advantage of possessing a diverse collection of neighborhoods — each with its own personality — and places to explore. No matter your desired adventure, Basalt is the place.

Within Basalt, Historic Downtown, the Basalt Business Center, and Southside are to the east, while Willits and the Midvalley commercial and industrial centers are to the west. The Basalt community extends past official town limits, encompassing much of the mid-Roaring Fork Valley, starting south at Old Snowmass to nearly Catherine Store in the north. The area in between includes developments and smaller neighborhoods: Lazy Glen, Holland Hills, Seven Castles, Emma, Sopris Village, El Jebel, Blue Lake, Missouri Heights, Dakota Ridge, and Cerise Ranch.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN BASALT

At the confluence of two Gold Medal waters — the Fryingpan and the Roaring Fork rivers — lies Historic Downtown Basalt. Sometimes referred to as “Old Town,” Historic Downtown is an eclectic combination of shopping, restaurants, historical attractions, local businesses, and beautiful Victorian buildings. The two main streets are Midland Avenue and Two Rivers Road. A short walk from the downtown core is the library and the post office in one direction and the elementary and middle schools as well as the town pool in the other. Both the Basalt/Old Snowmass and Emma Trail bike paths connect either end of downtown back to the Rio Grande Trail.

BASALT BUSINESS CENTER/ SOUTHSIDE

South of Highway 82 and Downtown is the Basalt Business Center and Southside — a combination of commercial and residential areas. The Basalt Business Center has retail and service businesses, automotive shops, an after-hours urgent care clinic, and a 24/7 small-animal emergency hospital. Beyond the businesses lies the neighborhood of Southside, with single-family homes and duplexes as well as two beautiful parks. At the edge of the neighborhood overlooking the town is Basalt High School and the Longhorns stadium, the net-zero Basalt Vista neighborhood, and easy access to the Rio Grande Trail.

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EMMA

Emma is in unincorporated Pitkin County between Historic Downtown and Willits, off Highway 82. The historic townsite includes the Mather house — a Victorian brick home — the Emma Store and the one-room Emma Schoolhouse, which dates back to the 1880s when Emma was a rural outpost and train stop along the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad (more on page 24). Emma is home to ranches and farmlands, including hay and potato production. The area is known for its open space, preserving spectacular views of Basalt Mountain, Mount Sopris, and Capitol Peak. The Emma Trail bike path connects Historic Downtown to Emma, and from here, it is possible to link up to both the Rio Grande and the Willits trail. Each year, nesting ospreys return to Emma to breed and raise their fledglings.



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MIDVALLEY MEDICAL SERVICES AREA

The Midvalley is fast becoming a focal point of health and wellness, in part due to the Medical Services area, located on East Valley Road off Highway 82 and Original Road. The Midvalley Medical Center complex and Midvalley Health Institute building are home to physicians, clinics specializing in a variety of medical areas, a fitness facility, and a brand-new, state-of-the-art surgery center. Adjacent to the area is Aspen Skiing Company's innovative tiny home community for employees.

MIDVALLEY DESIGN + INDUSTRIAL CENTER

Predominately a commercial and industrial district, the Midvalley Design + Industrial Center is where creative ideas are imagined and realized. Located off Highway 82 and along Willits Lane, the varied collection of area businesses includes interior designers, home products and services, a hardware store, and fitness centers. The area is also home to several food-industry establishments, including a distillery and coffee roaster.

WILLITS

If there is a place in the valley that mimics city life, it is Willits — a blend of residences, shops, and businesses. Homes are surrounded by parks and sidewalks, making it easy to stroll around the neighborhood. Linear Park stretches the length of the neighborhood, joining Willits Town Park to the south with its small lake, soccer field, playground, and trails. The main hub of activity is Willits Town Center — a mixed residential/commercial area featuring locally-owned restaurants, a

CONTINUED >

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brewery, unique retailers, outdoor recreation stores, offices, a hotel, and a performing arts center. In conjunction with the offerings in the Midvalley Medical Services area, Willits includes fitness studios, a spa, a variety of medical offices, as well as orthopedic and physical therapy services.

Adjacent to Willits is Orchard Plaza. Located off Highway 82 and Willits Lane, Orchard Plaza offers a variety of shopping and services, including a grocery store, liquor and pet stores, as well as restaurants.



Looking to Buy or Sell a Business in the Roaring Fork Valley?

For a confidential, no cost consultation, contact:

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EL JEBEL

To the north of the town limits of Basalt is El Jebel, which is the unincorporated portion of Eagle County in the Roaring Fork Valley. The name – El Jebel – is Arabic for “The Mountain.” Adjacent to Willits on the north and west, El Jebel is bisected by Highway 82. The area encompasses the neighborhoods of Tree Farm, Sopris Village, and Blue Lake, as well as a commercial corridor featuring a garden center, fire station, preschool, several restaurants, a hotel, and other retail and service businesses. Perhaps the crown jewel of El Jebel is the aptly named Crown Mountain Park, with ball fields, playgrounds, a BMX track, and a community center. The recreational area offers something for everyone year-round. El Jebel also is the gateway to Missouri Heights, a vast mesa overlooking the valley floor with working ranches, homes, and sprawling open spaces.

FRYINGPAN RIVER VALLEY/RUEDI RESERVOIR

Perhaps the most stunning natural feature in Basalt is the Gold Medal Fryingpan River, perfect for year-round fly fishing. East of Downtown, the area is dotted with ranches and homes set against the backdrop of the White River National Forest and Hunter Fryingpan Wilderness area, with red sandstone cliffs, evergreen pines, and firs. Rich with history, the Fryingpan River Valley is worth the scenic drive. About four miles from town are the spectacular Seven Castles red-rock outcroppings. Farther up the road is the 997-acre Ruedi Reservoir, a hub of recreational activities, including sailing, stand-up paddleboarding (SUP), hiking, and camping. Insider tip: In autumn, watch for the pumpkins that mysteriously appear on roadside nooks and crannies, high ledges, and rocks jutting up from the river. 🍂

Boutique Consignment

Susie's

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 - Joseph Pilates

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

A YEAR FULL OF EVENTS IN BASALT

MOTORS ON MIDLAND AT TACAW

May 18, 2024

NOTE: Due to the construction associated with the Midland Avenue Streetscape project, the 2024 event will be held in Willits Town Center. Same great cars, new location!

Classic cars ranging from hot rods to cool cars and VW vans take over Basalt. The Saturday evening event features live music, a beer garden, and an award for best in show. The event benefits the **Basalt Education Foundation**.

BASALT HALF MARATHON

June 1, 2024

Held the first Saturday in June, the Basalt Half Marathon is arguably the fastest and most scenic half marathon on the Western Slope. The Basalt Half boasts a fun, downhill course traveling along the acclaimed Fryingpan River. The

course begins 13.1 miles from Basalt on the paved Frying Pan Road at the base of Ruedi Reservoir, finishing in the heart of downtown Basalt.

ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY RIVER FLOAT

June 8, 2024

Every year, the **Roaring Fork Conservancy** offers valley residents and visitors the opportunity to experience the Roaring Fork River first-hand. Spend the morning with RFC staff and river ambassadors as they float the middle Roaring Fork River with Blazing Adventures and Blue Sky Rafting. After the float, meet at the River Center for lunch catered by Slow Groovin.

BASALT SUNDAY MARKET

June 16–September 29, 2024

The Basalt Sunday Market is hosted by the **Town of Basalt** and has become a summer institution. Every Sunday from mid-June through

CROWN MOUNTAIN PARK SUMMERFEST SERIES

May 31 • June 13 • June 27 •
July 11, 2024

The **Crown Mountain Park Summerfest Series** is the ultimate celebration of summer, bringing the community together for a series of unforgettable events. The first event will include watching *The Goonies* in the park under the stars. The series will also feature live music and free activities for kids of all ages.

the end of September, the summer farmers market can be found on Midland Spur, right in front of Basalt Town Hall. Many of the midvalley farmers are at the market with their fresh produce for the week along with other small businesses featuring fine craft, prepared food, and creative activity in a spirited environment. Live music is provided weekly. The market is open to all from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and occurs rain or shine.

BASALT SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

June 19–August 28, 2024

A long-standing Basalt tradition, the Basalt Summer Concert Series has been showcasing a wide variety of musical genres with performances across town for over 30 years. The free concerts are held during the summer months on Wednesday evenings from 5:30–8:30 p.m., at the Basalt River Park in Downtown.

Bring a blanket, chairs, a picnic, and enjoy free live music all summer long. Be sure to support area businesses by stopping in for dinner or happy hour afterward. *NOTE: Instead of a concert on July 3, 2024, join us for*

BASALT RIVER JAMS
 July 6, 2024

New for 2024! On Saturday, from early afternoon until the evening, the Basalt River Park will come alive with a special event featuring performances from five bands, including a few favorites from the 2023 Basalt Summer Concert series lineup. The **Town of Basalt** is collaborating with **The Art Base** and the **Basalt Regional Library** for Basalt's first annual Boat Parade. Participants will put in upstream at Fisherman's Park, float past the Basalt River Park, finishing the parade at Durox Park boat launch area. Details about the new river park event and how to participate will be available on the Town's website and its social media.

Willits Local Vocals
 May 31-September 6, 2024

New for 2024! In addition to the Wednesday night concert series, Triangle Park will be home to *Willits Local Vocals*, a series of eight intimate live music performances occurring every other Friday night during the summer. The venue will be used both as a location for local artists to headline their own evening as well as serve as an incubator for new talent building their skills for the big stage. More information is available on the Town of Basalt's website.

TACAW'S ANNUAL GALA
 June 27, 2024

This gala is **TACAW's** biggest fundraising event of the year, hosted on its spectacular indoor/outdoor campus. The evening features live music, comedy, cocktails, a seated dinner, and a festive after-party. There will also be a number of performative surprises throughout the night from the creative community. All proceeds support the nonprofit's mission to elevate the growing artistic community in the Roaring Fork Valley. TACAW is home to an ongoing presentation of artists, musicians, speakers, authors, and comedians.

ASPEN VALLEY MARATHON • HALF MARATHON • 5K
 July 13, 2024

The second Saturday in July is the annual running of the **Aspen Valley Marathon**, Half Marathon and 5K. A Boston Qualifier, the marathon is a beautiful and scenic run along the Rio Grande trail (80% paved trail/20% hard-packed dirt). Throughout the marathon and half marathon runners descend from Aspen to Basalt, a net downhill that is prime for a Personal Record or a BQ.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
 August 6, 2024

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign held every first Tuesday of August to promote strong police-community

partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. In Basalt, National Night Out provides a great opportunity to bring together neighbors and those who protect our community under positive circumstances. The community block party and cookout are hosted by the **Basalt Police Department**, the **Roaring Fork Fire and Rescue Authority**, and other local first responders in the valley. The family-friendly event also showcases the different emergency vehicles, including police cars, fire trucks, and more.

pARTy AT THE ART BASE
 August 17, 2024

The annual gala for **The Art Base**, every third Saturday in August, supports the nonprofit's mission to foster creative expression in the visual arts for all ages and abilities. The evening features a specialty cocktail reception, fine wine and dining, live music, an exclusive silent auction of over one hundred 10" x 10" artworks donated by esteemed Colorado artists, as well as award presentations. The theme of the silent auction is "name unseen" — artists are instructed not to sign their names on the front of their 10 x 10 work, so the creator's identity remains a secret until after the auction.

BASALSA
 August 24, 2024

Join us for the annual summer tradition that is Basalsa! (The name is a blending of "Basalt" and "Salsa"). Originally conceived in 2008 by Pete McBride, Basalsa is a one-day dance festival featuring workshops, social dancing, and

performances for the whole community to enjoy. Since 2021, **TACAW** has hosted this family-friendly event in partnership with **MEZCLA SOCIALS DANCE**. The fun salsa celebration features multiple esteemed instructors, kid's activities, food trucks, and live music at the evening social. And it is all free!

TASTE OF BASALT
 November 2, 2024

The annual Taste of Basalt is a fund drive for the **Basalt Education Foundation**, and is traditionally held at the Roaring Fork Club the first Saturday in November. Food samples, wine tasting, dancing, a silent auction, and more make for a great night. The proceeds from the event help to enhance education in the Basalt Public Schools.

BASALT TURKEY TROT
 November 28, 2024

Come burn the bird AND support Basalt schools on Thanksgiving morning at the annual Basalt Turkey Trot! Choose your own holiday fitness adventure - run or walk the traditional 5K or the one mile fun run. Enjoy music, concessions, a raffle, and prizes for first place adult, kid and best costume. Gobble gobble!

MENORAH LIGHTING
 December 25, 2024
 (First day of Hanukkah)

The Town of Basalt, in collaboration with the Aspen Jewish Congregation, annually hosts a menorah lighting ceremony on the first day of Hanukkah at Triangle Park in Willits Town Center.



For more local events, explore the **Basalt Chamber's calendar** at business.basaltchamber.org/events

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTINGS

December 6, (Willits) •
 December 13, 2024 (Historic Downtown)

The Town of Basalt hosts two different evenings to get into the holiday spirit with one event at Triangle Park in Willits and another in Downtown in the Basalt River Park. Both evenings are family-friendly and a wonderful opportunity to get out, enjoy the community and do a little holiday shopping. Each night includes caroling, a tree lighting, and of course Santa and Mrs. Claus.





EMMA: THEN & NOW

A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE HISTORIC RAILROAD STOP

BY MEGAN TACKETT

THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL IS THE MOST TRAFFICKED PATHWAY in the Emma area – the historic community that developed in the late 19th century – but it’s not the only one. From the Rio Grande, recreationists can connect to the Emma Trail and to downtown Basalt or Willits. Chris Beiser, arborist and horticulturist for the Town of Basalt, says that the trees along those trails offer rather whimsical glimpses into the area’s history that still bear fruit today.

“There are apple trees planted all along that trail system,” he says. “If you went during harvest time or in the springtime when they bloom, you can find dozens of apple trees littered across the entire trail. You can tell people just — Johnny Applesseed-style — dropped apple seeds along the trails over the dozens of years.”

It is the apricot tree that really steals the show.

“I always call the apricot tree Basalt’s unofficial town tree,” he says, adding that “they’re definitely not native. From what I

can tell, they were planted probably by the first people who settled in Basalt.”

That heritage is protected and intentionally maintained at the Emma Town Site Orchard, overseen by Pitkin County Open Space and Trails (POST). It was part of a larger 12.5-acre purchase of the Emma Town Site in 2008, supplemented by the Town of Basalt. And as recently as this year, Pitkin County’s stewardship of Emma continues to grow: The Emma Community Trust in January 2024 gifted the county

with the Emma Schoolhouse, a central component of the area’s history.

After W.L. Phillips sold a three-quarter lot for a dollar (equivalent to about \$35 today) to Joint School District No. 3 in 1909, the one-room schoolhouse along Highway 82 was erected between 1910 and 1912.

To a large degree, the building, as well as the students, were under the careful stewardship of the lone teacher, who, in addition to teaching grades one through eight, also carried water to the school each day. A wood- and coal-burning stove warmed the single classroom, with two outhouses out back alongside a shed for horses (and coal storage).

Class was in session beginning mid-September, with a break in October. This break was no holiday; it was the

“I always call the apricot tree Basalt’s unofficial town tree...they’re definitely not native. From what I can tell, they were planted probably by the first people who settled in Basalt.”

- Chris Beiser

potato harvest, and the area’s ranching families needed all available hands to tend to the crop. Similarly, the children would mind their studies through the winter until early spring, when ranch work required their efforts.

Emma’s agricultural heritage benefited immensely from its surrounding geography: The Roaring Fork River kept the ditches and canals flowing to irrigate crops, and the area’s proximity to Aspen (when Aspen was well on its way to becoming the country’s sixth-largest silver producer) put it right along the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad — today’s Rio Grande Trail. Already a rest stop on the original stagecoach freight line from Aspen to Glenwood Springs, Emma became even more bustling when the railway was laid. By the late 1880s, Emma had a post office and, thanks to entrepreneur Charles



OPPOSITE: Modern day photo of the Emma Schoolhouse.

ABOVE: Archive photo of Nellie Stapleton or Julia Stapleton at the Emma schoolhouse, circa 1920. The teacher is standing with a large group of students. © Aspen Historical Society. All rights reserved.

RIGHT: A wide variety of heritage fruit trees can be found around the Emma area, including apricots, apples, and plums. In the spring time, the beautiful blooms decorate the Emma trail bike path.

Mather, the iconic Mather House and Emma Store to anchor its reputation as a midvalley mainstay.

By 1943, Aspen’s mines were producing far less silver. “The Rio Grande RR that the station Emma is on continues one train a day into Aspen, but they do very little business, and the mines in Aspen having played out, Aspen is dead,” Basalt resident Ernest Gray wrote in a letter penned that year. It was later published via Aspen Journalism in a 2014 edition of *The Aspen Times*.

It wasn’t long after that Emma slowed down, too. In 1948, the Emma Schoolhouse teacher, then Miss Kimuel, dismissed her last class as students were transferred to a new building in Basalt. No longer actively an educational operation, the Emma Schoolhouse was deeded to the Emma Community Trust that same year.



When the Emma Community Trust in turn bestowed the school to the county in January 2024, it was a welcome addition to the Emma area that Open Space and Trails manages – which, alongside the Mathers House, Emma Store buildings and the Emma Townsite Orchard, also includes the agricultural property on the opposite side of Highway 82, leased to Two Roots Farm.

“We feel very lucky to have a county that will lease to farmers like us — at an affordable rate — so we can get our feet under us as beginning farmers here,” says Two Roots founder Harper Kaufman. Since getting the lease in 2018, Kaufman’s operation has been thriving, now with nine employees and a 5-acre vegetable garden.

“The county has supported us because the community has supported us. The community is excited to see local food being grown and having public land dedicated to organic vegetable production.”

With Two Roots tilling the land, Emma is far from a ghost town. The Two Roots’ Community-Supported Agriculture program now boasts more than 200 members.

“People come to the farm and pick up every week or every other week and get this bounty of what we’re harvesting through the season,” Kaufman says.

It’s a 21-week, 60-crop season, from May through October with, you guessed it, potatoes as part of the share.

“We’re very proud to be in a place like Emma, where there is such a strong agricultural history,” Kaufman says. “We’re really just adding to that story.” 🍷

ABOVE: The agricultural legacy continues today with crops growing at Two Roots Farm in Emma.

BELOW: Archive photo of E. Powell near Emma, circa 1910, driving a sled pulled by a team of two horses on a road through the mud. Written on the back: “E. Powell Sr. west of Emma with [horses] Duke and Dick.” © Aspen Historical Society. All rights reserved.





“We feel very lucky to have a county that will lease to farmers like us — at an affordable rate — so we can get our feet under us as beginning farmers here.”
 - Two Roots founder Harper Kaufman



ABOVE: Harvesting beets in Emma.

BOTTOM: Archive photo of the Mather House in Emma, circa 1898. The home of Charles Mather and family, was built in Emma, next to the Post Office and Store. This was a brick house built, circa 1898. Posing are family members Charles Mather, boy George Mather, mother Alice Mather, and a grandmother (the parent of either Alice or Charles) standing on the porch.
 © Aspen Historical Society. All rights reserved.

Simply As Unique As You Are.

Heirlooms

144 Midland Ave. Basalt, CO
www.heirloomsbasalt.com

Photo by
Brooke Casillas

@heirloomsresale



LOCAL SHOPPING AT ITS FINEST

ONE-OF-A-KIND OFFERINGS MAKE BASALT A GREAT PLACE FOR RETAIL THERAPY

BASALT AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

are home to an unbelievable array of shopping experiences. While there are plenty of ways to play outside, there are exciting places to explore in Basalt beyond the trails. From bargain shopping to high-end retail, variety adds to the thrill of the hunt. The midvalley has everything you've been looking for and more, whether at the farmers market or an independent retailer. Every shopper will find treasures in Basalt's locally-owned shops and galleries. Exceptional service and the willingness to find exactly what you are looking for is the best part about shopping in our mountain town.

FABULOUS FINDS

A big benefit of Basalt is that you won't find large chain stores offering the same items found nationwide. Shopping here means visiting locally-owned and operated stores that pride themselves on showcasing distinct clothing, shoes and accessories from around the world, including **Midland Shoe Company** and **Midland Clothing Company**. Basalt's variety of stores fit all budgets, paired with small-town charm and customer service. A big advantage of being down the road from Aspen is the access

to high-end and designer pieces (including furniture) at affordable prices. Be sure to visit **Heirlooms** and **Susie's at Willits** for a wide variety of clothing and home goods. A short drive upvalley is **P.E. 101**, a women's clothing store. Treat yourself at **L'Pink Studio Bar**, a clothing boutique that also offers skin spa services, including hydrafacials.

For any adjustments, **Pat Degelo - Design** is your source for a tailor/seamstress. There is more than meets the eye at **Basalt Printing & Art Supply** with toys,

games, and other fun gifts to enjoy. **The Shop at TAB** (The Art Base) is home to creative inspired gifts and affordable art. **Bookbinders Basalt** goes beyond its namesake, offering a variety of cards and gifts options. The **Basalt Clinic Pharmacy** has more than medication, with small gifts and greeting cards. Local businesses **Two Leaves and a Bud**, **Warm Wear**, and **Hangai Mountain Textiles** have online stores for easy shopping. Inspiring jewelry can be found at **One of a Kind Jewelry, JK**

CONTINUED >



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Eye Pieces, a Colorado-based optical boutique, offers exclusive eyewear options carefully curated from around the world. From luxury fashion brands to specialized sports frames, there is something for everyone. Customers can shop brands like Maui Jim, Krewe, Jacques Marie Mage, and more.

With locations in Snowmass Base Village and Willits Town Center, Eye Pieces offers the widest range of optical products and services throughout the valley.

FULL PRESCRIPTION LENS SERVICES

The team at Eye Pieces are experts in tailoring prescription optics precisely to your needs. Specializing in custom prescription optics for various styles, from luxury eyewear to sport sunglasses and snow goggles, their opticians excel at crafting personalized solutions.

Visit our latest location at Willits Town Center, equipped with a state-of-the-art lens lab for on-site assembly of customized prescription lenses.



Willits Town Center | 850 E Valley Rd. Basalt
EyePieces.com | 970.927.1984



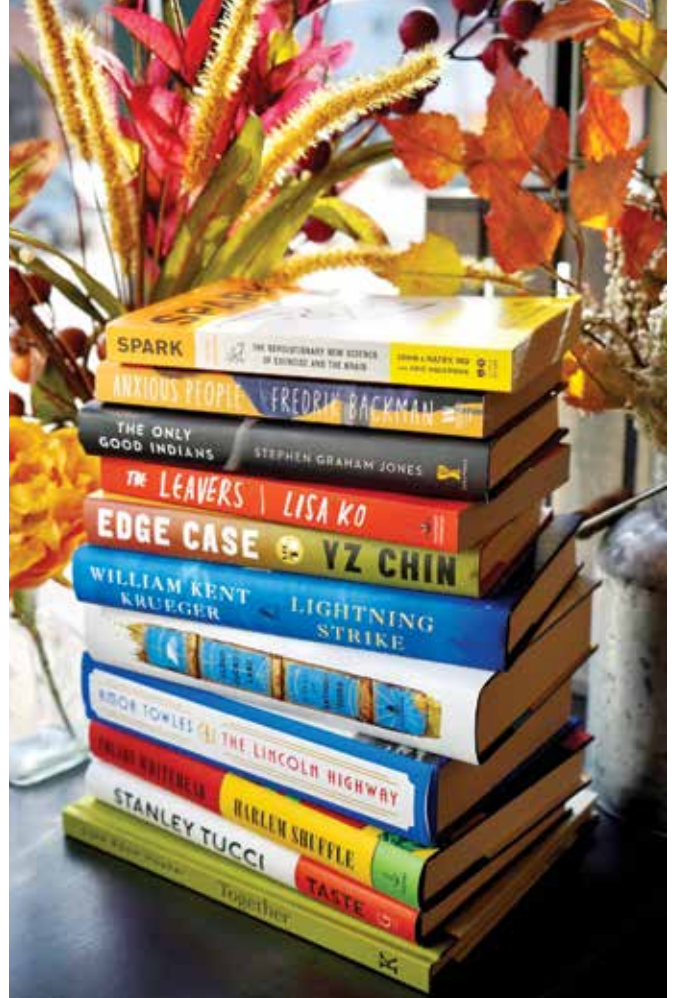
Jewels Inc., Sarah Graham Metalsmithing, and Michael Bair Designs. The **Golden Bough** and **Midland Dry Goods** features a wide variety of jewelry, art and home goods.

FOR THE HOME

Nothing makes a home feel cozier than decorating it with personal touches. **Cathers Home Furniture + Interior Design, Isberian Rug Company, A Great Find,** and **Sunset Framing** are go-to resources for furniture and decorations. **Designer Consignor** is a wonderful option for consignment furniture and housewares. **Osprey Design Studio** creates sustainably built custom furniture. **Habitat for Humanity's ReStore** sells new and gently used furniture, appliances, home goods, building materials, and more, with proceeds supporting affordable housing.

Decorate globally, while shopping locally with the online store **Brilliant Imports.** **Eagle Crest Nursery** and **Mountain Greenery Garden Shop** can assist aspiring green thumbs with any outdoor needs. For a sweet surprise and a pop of color, **Flower + Vine** and **Harrington Smith Floral** create arrangements for the home and special occasions. **HAVENS by KVD** offers fragrances for the home as well as perfumes. **Maison**, a home goods store, is a new addition to Midland Avenue.

Soak Hot Tubs & Endless Pools is your source for relaxing at home. Whether major changes to the home or simply an update in style, Basalt's businesses have you covered with **Aspen Carpet & Floors, Aspen Floorcovering, Aspen Hardware Company** (fine architectural hardware), **Aspen Rent-All** (rent construction and DIY equipment), **Aspen Tile & Bath Gallery, Decorative**



Materials (kitchen and bath), **Basalt Kitchen & Bath** (cabinetry/kitchen design), **Ellis Design Inc.** (cabinetry design), and **Living by Design** (custom window coverings/upholstery items). **Window Solutions** are your sun control experts. **The Closet Cleanse** can assist you with getting everything organized. **Specialty Appliance** will make your home kitchen feel ready for a celebrity chef. The **ALEA Group** brings together the right specialists to create smart home solutions.

OUTDOOR FUN

Colorado is known for its outdoor recreation opportunities, and Basalt is no exception. Fish the two Gold Medal waters in town with assistance from **Frying Pan Anglers** and **Taylor Creek Fly** shops. Get outfitted for your next big ride or camping trip at **Basalt Bike and Ski, Bristlecone Mountain Sports,** and **Radio Boardshop.** **Beespoke Cycling, Copper Cog,** and **Hill Climb Acupuncture & Bike Fit** are ideal options for any bike needs. Keep adventuring in the bright sun with the right look from **Eye Pieces.** **Gravirax** gets you from home to adventure with its hitch mounted ski and snowboard racks. For four-legged friends, **RJ Paddywacks** will meet all your pet supply needs. 🐾



PRO TIP:

Shopping in Basalt is a low-key experience, but be sure to talk with the store owners and staff. Their expertise and decades of experience make all the difference.

where to shop

A Great Find
El Jebel

ALEA
Midvalley Design

Aspen Carpet & Floors
Midvalley Design

Aspen Floorcovering
BBC

Aspen Hardware Co.
Midvalley Design

Aspen Rent-All
Downtown

Aspen Tile & Bath Gallery
Aspen

Basalt Bike and Ski
Willits

Basalt Clinic Pharmacy
Downtown

Basalt Kitchen & Bath
Midvalley Design

Basalt Printing & Art Supply
Downtown

Beespoke Cycling
Southside

Bookbinders Basalt
Willits

Brilliant Imports
Online

Bristlecone Mountain Sports
Willits

Cathers Home
BBC

Copper Cog
Mobile

Decorative Materials
Willits

Designer Consignor
BBC

Eagle Crest Nursery
El Jebel

Ellis Designs
Midvalley Design

Eye Pieces
Willits

Flower + Vine
Aspen

Frying Pan Anglers
Downtown

Gravirax
Snowmass

Hangai Mountain Textiles
Midvalley Design/Online

Harrington Smith Floral
Midvalley Design

HAVENS by KVD
Downtown

Heirlooms
Downtown

Hill Climb Acupuncture & Bike Fit
Downtown

Isberian Rug Company
BBC/Willits

JK Jewels Inc
Aspen

L'Pink Studio Bar
Midvalley Design

Living By Design LLC
Midvalley Design

Maison
Downtown

Michael Bair Designs
Downtown

Midland Clothing Co.
Willits

Midland Shoe
Downtown

Mountain Greenery Garden Shop
BBC

One of a Kind Jewelry
Downtown

Osprey Design Studio
Downtown

Pat Degelo-Design
Aspen

P.E. 101
Aspen

Radio Boardshop
Aspen

ReStore
Glenwood Springs

RJ Paddywacks
Orchard Plaza

Roots Rx
BBC

Sarah Graham Metalsmithing
Downtown

Specialty Appliance
BBC

SOAK Hot Tubs and Endless Pools
Willits

Sunset Framing
Midvalley Design

Susie's at Willits
Willits

Taylor Creek Fly Shops
Downtown

The Closet Cleanse
Willits

The Golden Bough/Midland Dry Goods
Downtown

The Shop at TAB
Downtown

Two Leaves and a Bud
Downtown/Online

Warm Wear
Online

Lodge
at River's Edge

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LOCAL FLAVOR

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HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

Brick Pony Pub

202 Midland Avenue | (970) 279-5021
facebook.com/BrickPony

Whether you're a Basalt resident or just passing through, Brick Pony Pub is a great place to experience for lunch or an evening out. Delicious food, refreshing drinks, and a warm atmosphere make the perfect spot to relax, unwind, and connect with the community.

CLAIM TO FAME: A cowboy reputation, including on occasion, a horse hitched up to the nearby bike rack.

CC Café

104 Midland Avenue, Unit 101 | (970) 279-5527
facebook.com/ccscoffeshop

Kickstart your day with a cup of locally roasted coffee and a delicious breakfast pastry at CC Café in the heart of Downtown. Located in the historic Snell Building, this café is a great place for breakfast and lunch.

CLAIM TO FAME: A cozy environment for catching up with friends and the Limoncello Slice.

Free Range Kitchen

22864 Two Rivers Road | (970) 279-5199
freerangebasalt.com

Escape the ordinary, and experience farm-to-table freshness at Free Range Kitchen. Located next to the Basalt River Park, Free Range focuses on seasonal, locally-sourced ingredients. Expect delicious dishes and a well curated wine list, making it a great choice for a unique, flavorful dining experience. Keep an eye out for special events, including the Pinot Posse wine dinners.

CLAIM TO FAME: Farm-to-table meals and the perfect patio for enjoying the Basalt Summer Concerts on Wednesday nights.

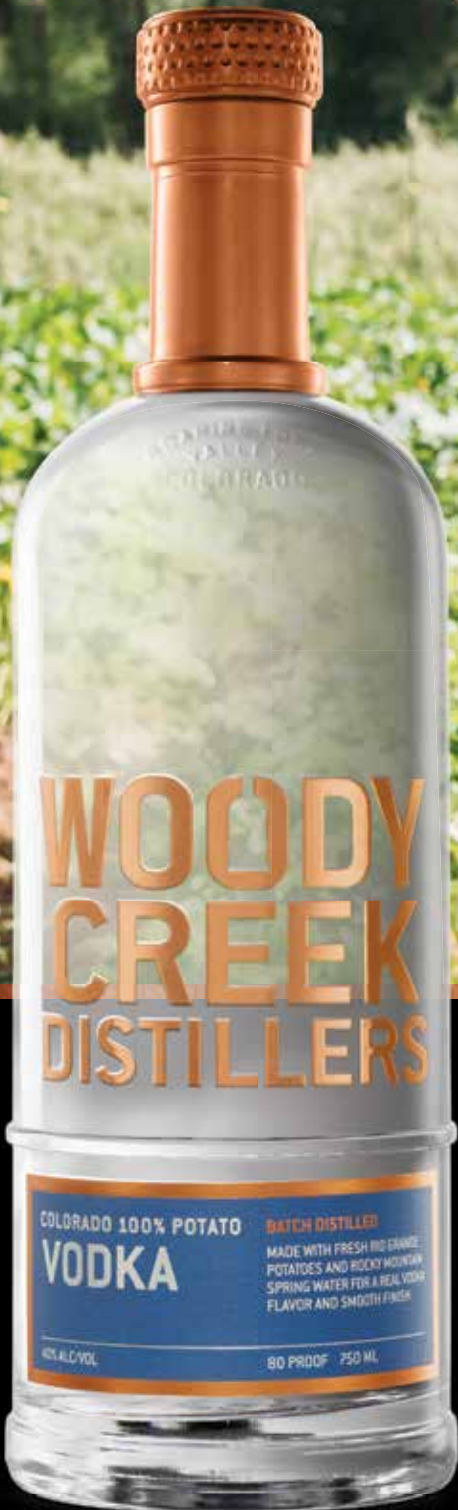
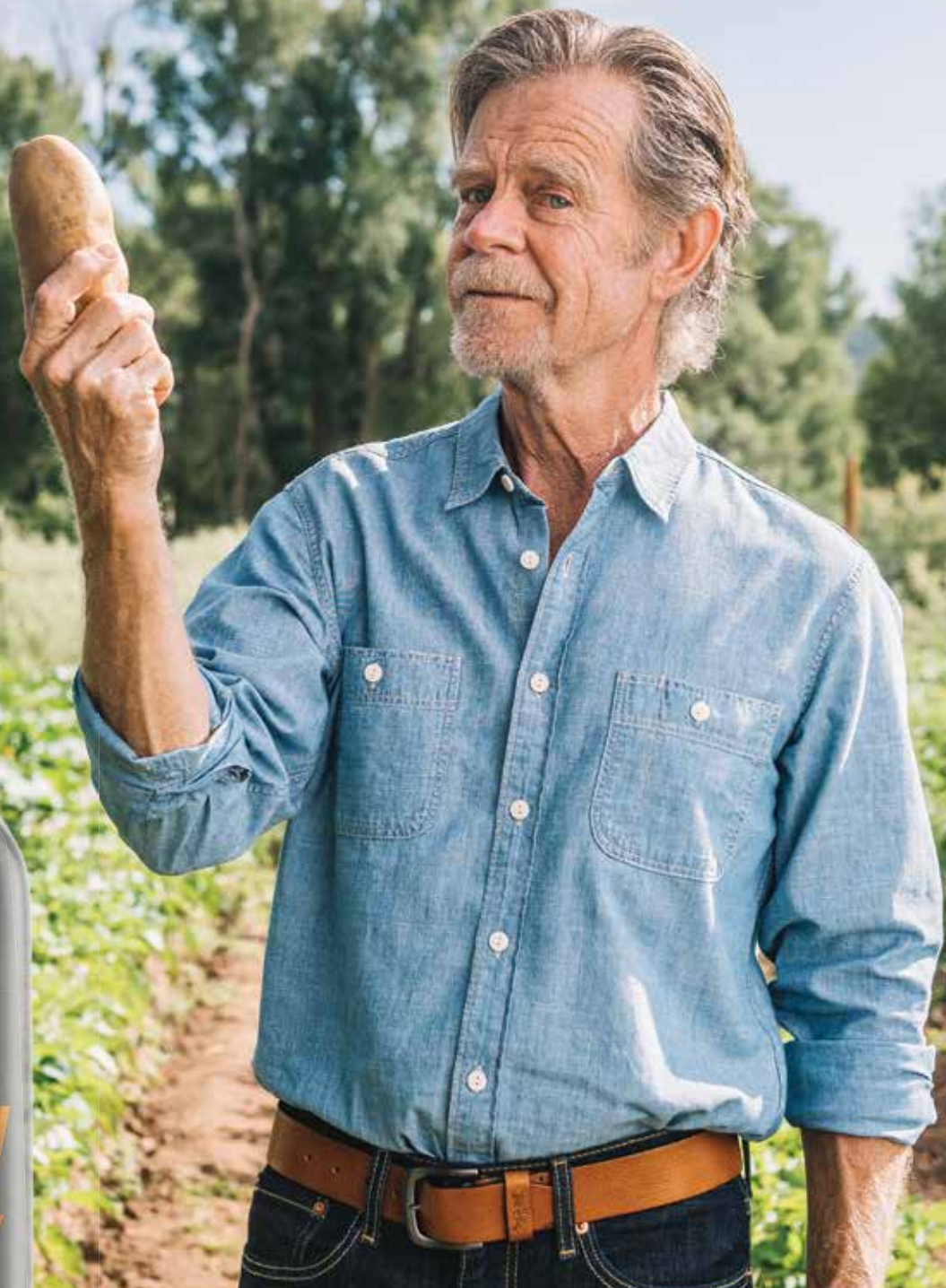
Heather's Savory Pies and Tapas Bar

166 Midland Avenue | (970) 927-0151
heatherssavorypies.com

Heather's Savory Pies and Tapas Bar tantalizes taste buds with unique flavors. The atmosphere and food both known for the offerings of comfort and warmth. Famous for flaky, homemade pies in savory fillings, Heather's is perfect for lunch or dinner. Whether it's the five spice Salmon dish or Colorado lamb chops, you are bound to find a homemade gourmet favorite. Enjoy a mountain-casual atmosphere and live music five days a week. Be sure to save room for the homemade desserts.

CLAIM TO FAME: Chicken Pot Pie paired with live music. The Pistachio Cake is not to be missed.

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Jalisco Grill Basalt

305 Gold Rivers Court
(970) 279-5014
jaliscogrillbasalt.com

Savor authentic Mexican cuisine at Jalisco Grill with its wide variety of dishes to satisfy your hunger. Enjoy classics like tacos al pastor, steak fajitas, mole enchiladas, and chimichangas, or explore the menu for more adventurous options like the molcajete.

CLAIM TO FAME: An extensive menu and the specialty margaritas — be sure to try the Missyrita.

Stubbie's Sports Bar & Eatery

0123 Emma Road, Suite 208
(970) 927-0501 | facebook.com/StubbiesSportsBarAndEatery

Craving wings, burgers, and brews? Stubbie's is your go-to for a casual hangout. This local watering hole is the place to watch the game on big screens and enjoy delicious pub fare like its famous wings and tasty pizza. Unwind with a unique canned craft beer from a rotating selection or one of the dozen on-tap beers. With a friendly atmosphere and local favorite status, Stubbie's is a great spot to catch a game and a bite, an extensive menu, happy hour specials, coin pool tables, shuffleboard, darts, and golden tee.

CLAIM TO FAME: Don't skip trivia night or karaoke.

The Tippy Trout

181 Basalt Center Circle
(970) 927-9301 | thetipsytrout.com

You can't ask for a better view than The Tippy Trout in Basalt. Nestled up against the river, you can enjoy made-from-scratch pub grub for lunch and dinner. They have an inviting indoor/outdoor bar which makes it ideal for post-adventure relaxation or hosting any event.

CLAIM TO FAME: The valley's only riverside restaurant — grab a table on the patio and try the honey — smoked trout dip.



**WILLITS/
EL JEBEL**

Capitol Creek Brewery

371 Market Street | (970) 279-5723
capitolcreekbrewery.com

After a hard day of outdoor adventures, quench your thirst at Capitol Creek Brewery, a modern craft brewery and gastropub with a mountain twist. Enjoy one of the many craft beers brewed on-site in the taproom or out on the patio, soaking up the sun. Don't be surprised if Westbound & Down Brewing's award-winning beers make an appearance on tap later this year.

CLAIM TO FAME: Confit Truffle Potatoes paired with any beer.

El Korita Restaurant

251 Harris Street | (970) 277-4500

El Korita is a local favorite Mexican restaurant offering a wide variety of dishes including seafood, fajitas, and

classic Mexican fare. They also have a large bar with tasty margaritas and outdoor seating available, making it a great spot for après or a warm summer night with friends.

CLAIM TO FAME: Tampiqueña — The ultimate surf and turf dish.

Hoffmann House Restaurant & Bar

30 Kodiak Drive | (970) 340-8000

Located inside The Hoffmann Hotel, this restaurant and bar provides an unparalleled dining experience, complete with expertly crafted cocktails. The sprawling grand bar, inviting dining area, and mountain-inspired lobby create the perfect setting for enjoying casual Italian cuisine in a captivating ambiance. Start your day off right with breakfast, and return for dinner or a nightcap. In the warmer months, outdoor seating provides stunning views of the serene Kodiak Lake, adding a picturesque backdrop to the dining experience. Come

**ADDITIONAL
BASALT
RESTAURANTS:**

Butch's Lobster Shack

144 Midland Avenue
(970) 618-3306

Café Bernard

200 Midland Avenue
(970) 927-4292

Craft Coffee

160 Midland Avenue
(970) 977-9916

Jaffa Middle Eastern Kitchen

400 E Valley Road
(970) 927-9432

Mod's Thai House

132 Midland Avenue
(970) 279-5760

Ryno's

305 Gold Rivers Court
(970) 279-5174

Scottie's

45 Duroux Lane #600
(970) 927-9432

Sundae

499 Market Street
(970) 279-4590

Sure Thing Burger

729 E Valley Road
(970) 279-5418

Tempranillo Restaurant

165 Midland Avenue
(970) 927-3342

The Whole Empanada

31 Duroux Lane G
(970) 948-4894

Timbo's Pizza

23258 Two Rivers Road
(970) 927-3556

Two Rivers Bar & Cafe

156 Midland Avenue
(970) 927-3348

Wienerstube

351 Market Street
(970) 279-5567

Zane's Tavern Willits

190 Robinson Street
(970) 279-2135



to Hoffmann House for moments worth savoring.

CLAIM TO FAME: Delicious wood-fired pizza and a beautiful atmosphere.

New!
Kyoto Japanese Cuisine

231 Harris Street
(970) 510-5956

Like the beautiful cherry blossoms of the island nation of Japan, a new restaurant is in bloom in Willits. Arriving in 2024 is a new concept from veteran Midvalley restaurateurs focused on Japanese cuisine. Named for the former capital of Japan, experience the art of Japanese cuisine in a welcoming atmosphere, perfect for a memorable lunch or dinner in Basalt.

CLAIM TO FAME: One of the newest menus to explore in town.

CONTINUED >

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Mezzaluna Willits

941 East Valley Road
(970) 279-5258
mezzalunawillits.com

A top-class dining experience awaits when you indulge in Italian cuisine at Mezzaluna Willits. The menu features house-made pasta, fresh seafood, and wood-fired pizzas. Whether you're craving classic Italian fare or something more creative, Mezzaluna has something for everyone, be it with the kids, at happy hour, or for a date night.

CLAIM TO FAME: A bar menu that is perfect for Aprés Ski or before a show at TACAW.

New York Pizza

400 E Valley Road, Unit D
(970) 963-6088 | nyp.pizza/basalt

Satisfy your pizza cravings at New York Pizza. This long-time valley



It's all about the pie!

and the music, the wine,
the ambiance, the people...

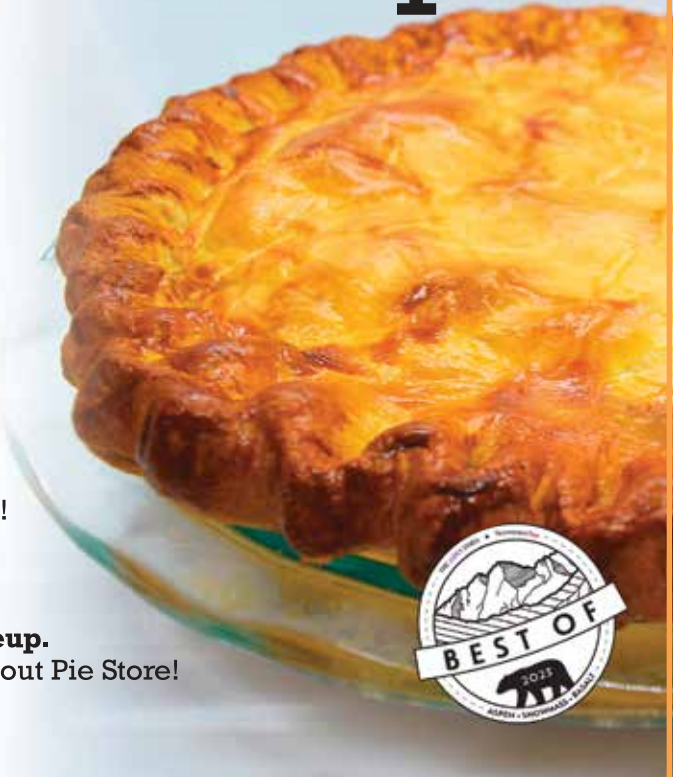


Oh, just come and see what all the ~~hoopla~~ ^{Love} is about!

166 Midland Ave, Basalt, CO 81621 | 970-927-0151



Check out our **full menu & music lineup**.
Now you can **ship a pie** to a friend via out Pie Store!
-
HeatherSavoryPies.com





We aim to provide the best dining experience with a fantastic locals bar and an upbeat energetic atmosphere. Serving fresh fish, meat, past pizza and salad with a simple philosophy - house made whenever possible. Join us as part of your weekly routine.



941 E Valley Road, Basalt, CO | (970) 279-5258
 Serving dinner nightly from 4:30pm | Daily specials
 Bar menu nightly from 4:30pm
 Visit mezzalunawillits.com for current menus

staple offers New York-style pizza by the slice or whole pies, perfect for a quick bite or family-friendly meal in Aspen, Basalt, and Carbondale. They also have salads, subs, and Italian specialties for dine-in, takeout, or delivery. Stop by for a taste of the Big Apple in the heart of the Rockies!

CLAIM TO FAME: Pizza by the slice, great for a busy family on the go.

bagels with cream cheese, alongside more creative options, including specialty sandwiches. Grab a quick bite, or savor a delicious breakfast or lunch. Online ordering is available.

CLAIM TO FAME: French toast bagel with roasted strawberry and thyme cream cheese. The chocolate chip cookies are also a must.

Open Sesame Bagel Shop

20 Sunset Drive, Unit 4 (relocating to 770 E Valley Road later in 2024)
 (970) 340-8525
opensesamebagelshop.com

This local hotspot is the valley's only bagel shop serving amazing locally-made, New York-style boiled bagels and artisan cream cheeses. Open Sesame uses organic ingredients to craft delicious sourdough bagels, sandwiches, and other treats made fresh daily. The menu boasts classics like everything

Woody Creek Distillery

60 Sunset Drive | (970) 279-5110
woodycreekdistillers.com

Sip on handcrafted spirits made with local ingredients at Woody Creek Distillery. Enjoy a tasting of the whiskeys, vodkas, and gins or grab a bottle to go! Explore the seasonal cocktail and mocktail menu. Tours are available on select days.

CLAIM TO FAME: Any of the 100% Colorado rye whiskeys, and the seasonal cocktail menu is full of delicious surprises. 🍷

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 (970) 927-9301 | TheTopsyTrout.com

A NEW CROWNING JEWEL

TWO WHEELS AND LIMITLESS
POSSIBILITIES AT PRINCE CREEK

THE MID-ROARING FORK VALLEY has a veritable cornucopia of options when it comes to the ways one can play on two wheels. Whether on a road, gravel, fixie, hardtail, or full-suspension bike — a scenic adventure awaits. One of the most exhilarating ways to explore the valley is on a mountain bike.

The Roaring Fork Valley holds the rare honor of being an International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) Gold Level Ride Center,



a designation recognizing the pinnacle of mountain biking communities — highlighting large-scale mountain bike trail systems and destinations that offer something for every rider. There are six Gold Level Ride Centers in the world, with only half of them in the United States. Each Ride Center must meet key standards including a variety of trail types, overall trail mileage, quality of trail experiences, destination best practices, and local services.

Basalt is at the epicenter of the valley’s Ride Center, known for big challenging climbs and long rewarding descents. There are over 300 miles of high quality singletrack to explore within the Ride Center boundary (defined by a 30-minute drive time radius), with an additional 100+ more miles of trails existing just beyond the official zone. The singletrack trails

are complemented by the hundreds of miles of high alpine doubletrack roads and paved paths on the valley floors.

Another claim to fame is access to the Aspen/Snowmass IMBA EPIC ride, a loop that includes three big classics in the area: Sunnyside, Rim Trail, and Government Trail, combined with newer trails to allow for mostly continuous singletrack riding. EPIC rides are defined as “immersive rides that are technically and physically challenging, beautiful to behold and worthy of celebration.” As noted on IMBA’s website: “This ride wasn’t possible not too many years ago (at least without a bunch more connecting riding on pavement), so it’s a story of MTB advocacy and

CONTINUED >



CHRISTY CLETTENBERG *Knows Basalt Real Estate*



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- Satisfied Client



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www.christyaspens.com



cooperative land managers to make it possible.” It is that connectivity that allows for even greater riding possibilities, with the ability to DIY your own epic ride, particularly near Basalt.

For those looking to explore local trails near Basalt on a bike, look no further than The Crown and Prince Creek. Officially known as the Crown Special Recreation Management Area, and managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the area is popular due to its dense trail network. While predominately used for mountain biking, the trails are open to hikers, trail runners, equestrians and — in certain areas — motorized use. It is easy to access the area from the Upper and Lower Prince Creek Campgrounds, designated trailhead parking lots, and even directly from the paved Rio Grande Trail, off of Hooks Spur, near Willits.

One of the newest additions to the trail network is Crown Royale, a very challenging (black diamond rated Difficult), fast, feature-filled, directional down-only trail. Mike Pritchard, executive director of the Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association (RFMBA), describes it as “Downhill fast flow and great fun from the Top of the Crown down to the Rio Grande Trail!”

Get out into nature, and explore the views of Mount Sopris, while riding through sage fields, oak brush forests, aspen groves, grassy meadows, pinyon-juniper stands, and steep walled gulleys. 🌲



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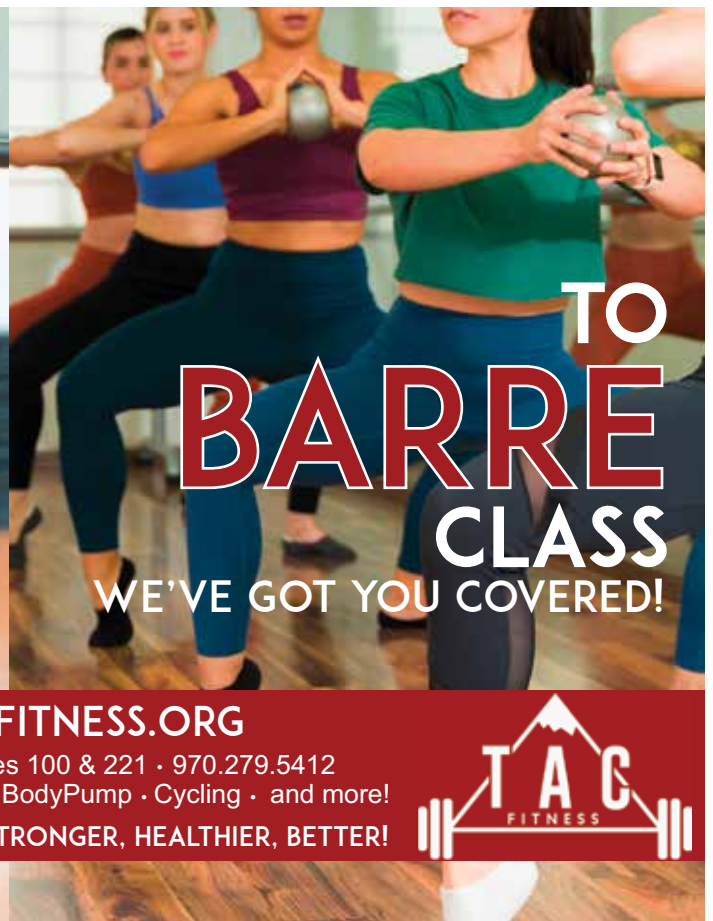


**Don't forget to
Pre-Ride. Re-Ride.
Free-Ride!**

More details about
local trails can be
found at RFMBA.org
and mtbproject.com



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EASY LIKE SUNDAY MORNING

STAY: The **Lodge at River's Edge** is a great getaway on the outskirts of town, with all the conveniences of an upscale cabin, and the ability to walk to dinner.

PLAY: In the summer, try your hand at stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) on Ruedi Reservoir — rent from **Shaboomee**. Or channel your inner yogi at **Vimana Yoga**, which offers six different styles of yoga, (heated and unheated). Explore the Basalt Historical Walking Tour (map insert) to learn more about town and the early days of the West. Be sure to stop by the swinging bridge, a cable-suspended bridge over the Fryingpan River.

EAT: After sleeping in, take a short stroll down Midland Avenue to the **Basalt Sunday Market**. Caffeinated with locally roasted coffee **Rock Canyon Roasters** or **Two Leaves and A Bud** tea at **CC Café**. Then explore the booths at the farmers market during the summer months.

CARPE DIEM

YOUR PERFECT ADVENTURE AWAITS

BASALT HAS IT ALL. Whether you are looking for an adrenaline-fueled adventure, a romantic getaway or a family-friendly excursion, you can find it here. Here are a few favorite ways to discover Basalt in any season:



SOLO TRAVELER MOUNTAIN GETAWAY

STAY: The dog-friendly **Taylor Creek Cabins** is five miles up the Fryingpan River, and the studio cabin is perfect for a solo traveler or couple looking for the ideal getaway. The spacious one-room cabin offers a fully stocked kitchen, outdoor barbeque, and a fire pit.

PLAY: Make your own Grand Fondo and explore the scenic area on two wheels. Road cyclists can take an easy spin to Willits for lunch or for a bigger challenge, take on the steady climb to Ruedi Reservoir, then head to Missouri Heights for more climbing. **Copper Cog** and **Beespoke Cycling** are great if your bike needs some love afterwards. Then indulge in a massage, salt yoga or float therapy at **Fahrenheit Body Spas**. Keep an eye on **Mezcla**

Socials Dance's calendar for opportunities to dance and practice your Salsa and Bachata moves after taking a class.

EAT: For community vibes and making friends, stop by **Stubbies Sports Bar** for dinner, a drink, and maybe even some karaoke. If the weather is warm enough, savor chips and salsa with a margarita on the outdoor patio at **Jalisco Grill** and people watch.

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER

STAY: **The Cabin at Ruedi Shores** is a diamond in the rough with space for everyone. Its location provides easy access to Ruedi Reservoir and the nearby hiking trails.

PLAY: In the summer, kids can burn off energy at the town pool or explore **Crown Mountain Park**, which has a



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playground, open fields, dog park, and a free bike park suitable for every skill level. A short drive away is **Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park**, a year-round, mountaintop theme park featuring cave tours, thrill rides, dining, and more. On Thursday nights in the summer, the **Carbondale Wild West Rodeo Association** showcases local talent at the Gus Darien Arena outside of Carbondale. While downtown, visit the **Basalt Regional Library** for story time, then venture to find the Story Fort and build fairy houses. **ACES at Rock Bottom Ranch** also has outdoor-focused educational programs for kids interested in nature and science (more on page 58).

EAT: **New York Pizza** has great kid-friendly options. **Whole Foods** has easy ready-



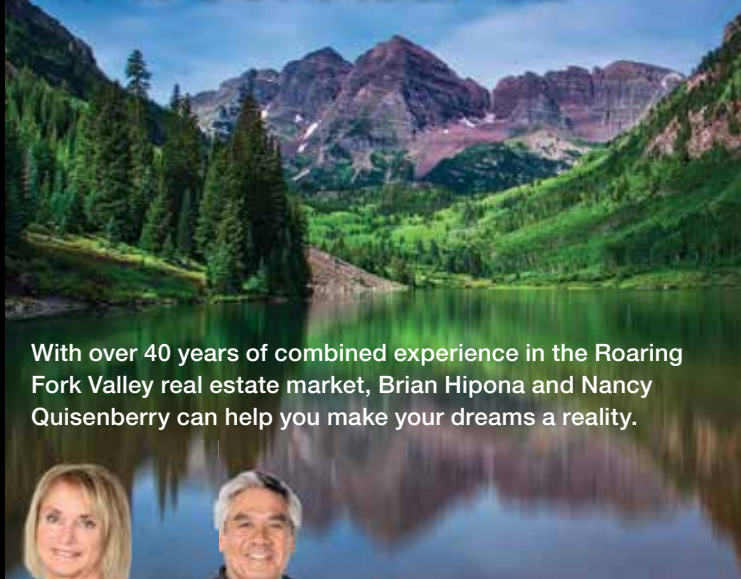
to-eat options, or grocery shop if you plan to cook at your home away from home.

A SINGLE-TRACK MIND

STAY: Right in the center of downtown is the **Aspenalt Lodge** with easy access to all Basalt has to offer.

PLAY: Mountain bikers can explore the network of **IMBA Gold Level** trails, including the new challenging Upper Crown Royale, which opened in 2023. If you need a quick fix or repair, **Basalt Bike and Ski** has what you need. **Hill Climb Acupuncture & Bike Fit** has both your body and bike covered with its services. Don't forget to check the schedule at **TACAW** for all sorts of entertainment, including amazing concerts and comedy shows.

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BRIAN HIPONA 970.618.5447
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CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

“ Brian has helped me throughout the years with land purchase, selling my land, purchasing multiple offices, selling an office and purchasing my home. I will always select Brian for all future purchases /selling property. He is a very kind person and definitely patient with me. He has shown me so many properties in past and never got frustrated with me. When I find the right property he is always there to make sure I make all the deadlines. Overall, where ever Brian goes, I will always select him! Thanks so much Brian!”

Janelle Duhon

“ As a knowledgeable broker, Nancy Quisenberry stays on top of the real estate market in the Roaring Fork Valley paying attention to great opportunities for her clients. She knew I had been looking to purchase property in the valley for sometime and when she came across that right property, she guided me through the entire process with my best interest being the top priority. In addition to being a professional, she is very personal, outgoing and a pleasure to work with. I would recommend her to anyone looking to buy or sell property here in the Roaring Fork Valley.”

Tim Foulk



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cbmasonmorse.com

EAT: **Open Sesame Bagel Shop** is a great place for delicious grab-and-go food, whether it is for breakfast or a post-ride lunch. For those wanting to take a culinary vacation, there is **Kyoto Japanese Cuisine** in Willits. Wind down with a beer or nice bottle of wine from **Jimbo's Liquors** located within walking distance of the lodge.

GOLD MEDAL FUN

STAY: Escape into the turning leaves with your van, camper or tent. Set up a base camp at one of the many White River National Forest campgrounds, such as the **Ruedi Marina Campground**.

PLAY: If conditions allow, float the upper Roaring Fork River on a rafting trip. Or book a guided fishing trip with **Frying**

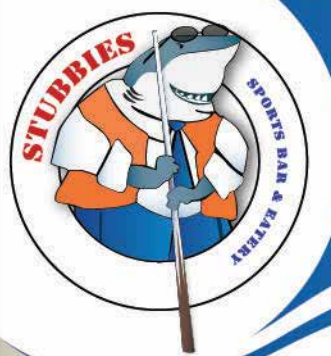
Pan Anglers, Taylor Creek Fly Shop or **Sopris Fishing Outfitters** for hands-on instruction on a wade trip. Younger children will have fun fishing for monster trout in the kids-only pond at **Old Pond Park** in downtown, next to the **Roaring Fork Conservancy River Center**.

EAT: Riverside dining is possible at **The Tippy Trout**, where you can eat alongside the Fryingpan River on the outdoor patio. Make your own happy hour by visiting **El Jebeverage**.

BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

STAY: **The Hoffmann Hotel** is centrally located and has easy access to the **RFTA** bus system which can whisk you to the mountains (more on page 84).

CONTINUED >




BASALT'S FUN AND GAMES HEADQUARTERS

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Pool Tables, Ping Pong, Foosball

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BASALT LIFE YEAR ROUND ADVENTURES

PLAY: In addition to skiing and snowboarding at the four **Aspen Snowmass** resorts, enjoy the snow in Basalt. Basalt High School is a popular spot for fast-paced sledding or as a starting point for cross-country skiing. Start at the Basalt High School Rio Grande trailhead parking lot and trek west toward Willits. When the smooth grade ends, head back past your car and toward the **Roaring Fork Club** golf course with views of snow-capped peaks. After a day playing in the snow, indulge in a massage with Inner **Awareness Bodywork** or **Beyond Massage & Acupuncture** and get a B12 injection while you are there.

EAT: **Heather’s Savory Pies and Tapas** is the place for comfort food and live music. If you prefer to stay in after après, explore the menu at the



Hoffmann House Restaurant & Bar, then hang out by the fireplace.

WELLNESS WELCOMED

STAY: **The Element Basalt-Aspen** hotel provides easy access to all the offerings in Willits. Hop on the **Basalt Connect** shuttle or a **WE-**

cycle blue e-bike to easily get to Historic Downtown (more on page 86).

PLAY: Start your day off right with a group class at **TAC Fitness and Wellness Center**, a workout at **Jean Robert’s Gym** or a pilates session at **Just Breathe**. Or take it outside with a hike up **Arboney Kittle** or **Light Hill**

for amazing views of the valley. Really relax at **Iron Mountain Hot Springs**, just a short drive away in Glenwood Springs, where 32 soaking pools await. The **Space Between** specializes in Ortho-Bionomy and massage.

EAT: For a farm-to-table dining experience, enjoy dinner and a glass of wine at **Free Range Kitchen**. 🍷

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www.taniadibbs.com

ART IN BASALT

BASALT'S ART WORLD IS THRIVING



BASALT REGIONAL LIBRARY
14 Midland Avenue • Downtown
basallibrary.org

The Basalt Regional Library is the hub of the community, offering a wide array of programs and

activities for all ages. The library is the place to go for free concerts, outdoor movies, community-wide conversations, writer's workshops, author talks, game nights, date nights, crafts, storytimes, legal clinics, and much more. And don't

forget about the books, movies, music, telescopes, laptops, hotspots, and all the other amazing items available. The library works with many local organizations to bring great events and programs to the community. *Habla español.*

THE ART BASE

174 Midland Avenue •
Downtown
theartbase.org

Founded in 1996, The Art Base is a gathering place for creativity, community and art, located in the Three Bears Building, in Historic Downtown Basalt. The ground floor has a large gallery space, with dedicated youth and adult classrooms upstairs. Visitors are welcome, and tours can be scheduled upon request.

The Art Base fosters creative expression in the visual arts for all ages and abilities through art education and exhibits. Classes are designed to encourage creative expression and lifelong learning through visual-arts workshops and outreach programs in partnership with local nonprofits and schools.



Exhibitions focus on opportunities for solo, group and curated exhibitions for Colorado-based artists, with an emphasis on those living in the Roaring Fork Valley. Visit the website for a schedule of classes and exhibits, as well as free and family community events.

ANN KOROLOGOS GALLERY

211 Midland Avenue • Downtown
korologosgalleries.com

Ann Korologos Gallery is the premier gallery to discover contemporary art of the modern West. With each visit, enjoy the opportunity to discover more than forty local and national painters,

printmakers, photographers, mixed-media artists, and sculptors. Explore Colorado landmarks, ranch life, still lifes, abstract art, as well as whimsical and representational depictions of beloved wildlife. Spark your creativity through virtual installations, and visit Basalt’s Ann Korologos Gallery to discover art you love to live with.

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AS SEEN IN THE SCOUT GUIDE ASPEN

TACAW (THE ARTS CAMPUS AT WILLITS)

400 Robinson Street • Willits • tacaw.org

TACAW is the place where arts, culture, and ideas take center stage. Its all-electric home is the first net-zero performing arts center in the country, which welcomed more than 24,000 patrons in 2023. Located in the heart of Willits, the nonprofit presents exceptional performing arts and cultural events, as well as thought-provoking programming that sustains a connected, engaged and inspired community. When you are done adventuring outside, come to TACAW for an inspiring night of Grammy-winning music, as-seen-on-TV comedians or a surprising artistic adventure. Visit tacaw.org for a complete list of events, including music, comedy, film, theater, dance, lectures, arts education events, Spanish-language programming and more.

KEATING GALLERY

842 E Valley Road • Willits • keatinggallery.com

With a combination of passion and refinement in a relaxed atmosphere, the family-owned and operated Keating Gallery in Willits is not to be missed. Casual browsers and serious collectors alike will find reason to stay awhile and explore the collection, featuring artists



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from the American West, as well as vintage estate and Native American jewelry. Private showings are available by request.

STAY HUMAN

*Created by Gail Folwell
Downtown
folwellstudios.com*

Gail Folwell is more than an internationally collected monument and sport sculptor; she’s the Basalt resident and accomplished artist behind the bronze sculpture installation “Stay Human” in the Basalt River Park. The piece depicts people in movement, and the sculptures are designed to spin – either by wind or hand. Folwell Studios is located in the Midvalley Design + Industrial Center.

SPIRIT NEST CREATION

*Created by Jayson Fann
Downtown
spiritnestcreations.com*

Big Sur artist Jayson Fann interweaves architecture and spirit with seamless grace and beauty. Located just behind the Basalt Regional Library, take the bridgeway to discover an amazing life-size, fairy-like fort placed in picturesque surroundings. Admire the “Story Fort” from the ground or take your favorite book and climb inside — this natural sculpture is a masterpiece to enjoy for all ages.

HARMONY PARK

Downtown

In Ponderosa Park, nestled between the Roaring Fork River and the roundabout at the entry to downtown Basalt, is a park with six oversized and sculpted outdoor musical instruments. It is a great detour while walking around town, allowing kids of all ages to make a bit of music. 🎵



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Keating Gallery
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KeatingGallery.com
GordonMKeating@gmail.com Call or text 970.925.7042



Jim Rey, Old Pawn, Oleg Stavrowsky, Antique Wood Carving, William Leigh, Richard Murray
Old Pawn, Gordon Brown, 38 Star Flag (circa 1890)

The New West meets the Old West with art works from the early 20th century to present. Thanks for 26 great years.

Uniquely Basalt

MIDLAND DRY GOODS

Nestled inside the Golden Bough in Historic Downtown Basalt, is a treasure trove of unique fine gifts curated with care from local artisans. You will find collections from fine home goods to yard and garden to personal care products. A blending of the beauty of nature and elegance inviting you to embrace the art of elegant adventurous living.

You will find them in the Midland Building at 214 Midland Avenue or at thegoldenbough.net



BEYOND MASSAGE

Erica Boulangee has made many stops on her journey to be a natural medicine provider. From a 2-year apprenticeship with a Native Elder at the age of 19 who taught her the power of acupressure, iridology, herbology, micronutrients and cleansing to learning massage from an Aikido Master who taught healing touch, hers has been a lifetime of learning wellness solutions for age-old problems. Now, she has a thriving Chinese herbal medicine practice where she makes custom herb blends for her patients, and they get better. She is a board-certified acupuncturist and practitioner of functional medicine and designs wellness programs for patients here and all over the country. She is an NCBTMB continuing education provider and owned a massage school her in the Roaring Fork Valley for 12 years with emphasis on advanced and continuing education. She is committed to only hiring exceptional massage therapist in both her Aspen and Basalt clinics. Beyond Massage is exactly that, more than massage.

After 20 years in Aspen you can now find her additionally on historic Midland Avenue in downtown Basalt or visit her website at beyondmassageaspen.com



RESPONSE

Dedicated to supporting survivors of domestic and sexual abuse, stalking, and human trafficking across the upper Roaring Fork Valley, Response is a vital local nonprofit. In the past year, Response’s team worked tirelessly, aiding 184 survivors, and extending essential healthy relationships classes to every middle and high school from Basalt to Aspen. In January 2025, Response will open the Halle Center for Hope and Healing in Basalt offering a temporary haven for up to 9 survivors and 15 children and office space to serve all survivors in our community.

Visit www.responsehelps.org/campaign and find out how you can help.

MEZZALUNA



Mondays at Mezzaluna Willits are something to look forward to with Oyster Night! Happening every Monday, you can enjoy a half dozen oysters- for just \$18. The full menu, including delicious salads, hand crafted pasta, wood-fired pizzas, and creative fish dishes, is also available. Come for the oysters and a glass of rosé and stay for dinner!

Mezzaluna on Market Street by Whole Foods or visit mezzalunawillits.com for current menus.



MYSTIQUE

It’s hard to tell why Mystique was voted best Hair AND Best Nail salon in 2023. Is it their skilled technicians? Their quality products? The fact that you are their main center of attention as they pamper you from head to toe? Or...maybe it’s because they bring the fun to the process.

It’s pretty hard to leave these ladies without a smile.

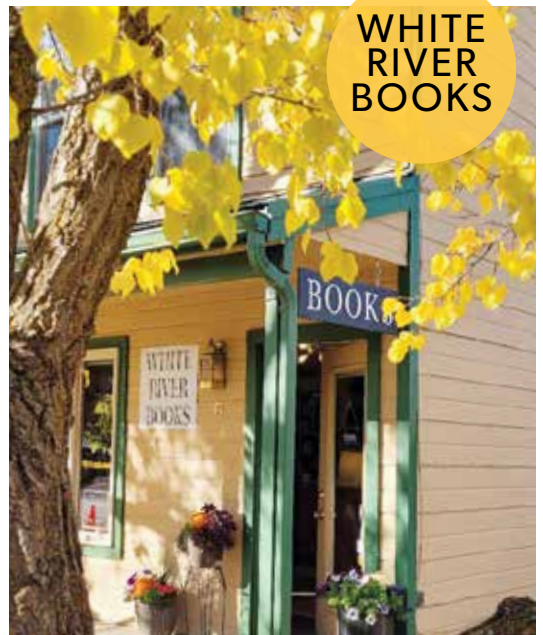
***Come see for yourself at 235 Reed Street in the heart of Willits.
Or visit them at mystiquebeautysalon.com***

Uniquely Carbondale

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Not only will Leslie Buettner of Botany Houseplants Shop help you select the perfect plants, she has the supplies needed to ensure those plants thrive. Buettner specializes in sharing her deep knowledge and appreciation of the natural world, gardening, and personal gardening with her clients. And, if your large or hard-to-transport plants need some TLC, she'll make a house call to maintain them, including repotting. From lush tropical to cacti and succulents, with customer service you can depend on, Botany Houseplant Shop is a one-stop oasis for plant lovers.

586 Highway 133, Carbondale • 970.340.4528
botanyhouseplantshop.com



WHITE
RIVER
BOOKS

Sometimes a hard deadline can be a good thing.

When owner Izzy Stringham saw the space currently occupied by White River Books, she had 24 hours to decide whether or not to take it. Rather than wait and see, she jumped in with both feet. A few months later, Carbondale's cozy bookstore was a reality. Now in its third year, White River Books is the go-to spot for all things literary in the midvalley. Stop by and browse the large selection of new and used books, journals, cards, and art supplies. Join the shop's local book club or attend author and community events as well.

65B N. 2nd Street, Carbondale • 970.340.4503



JALISCO
GRILL

If you know Jalisco Grill, you know they know the Perfect Margarita. After all, Armando Vidrio has been making his from scratch for years. He may have 10 different kinds, but they all start with the same thing... fresh lime juice. Then, add the 100% Blue Agave Tequila. Try the Skinny Margarita with fresh orange juice and then stay for the authentic Mexican cuisine.

*Visit them at their third location in the
La Fontana Plaza on Highway 133 • 970.504.3015*



PLOSKY'S DELI

There's a sandwich on the Menu Board at Plosky's Deli called the Detention. Sliced Roast Turkey, Swiss Cheese, shrettuce, tomato...so named because it's inspired by the sandwich Dave Eisenson used to get at his hometown deli and the trouble he got into for leaving his high school campus to get it. It's safe to say that Dave knows great sandwiches and bagels and his deli is a homage to his great grandfather Harry Plosky who operated and lived above a deli/grocery his whole life. Plosky's prides itself on their lox and bagels and potato latkes. Their Reubens and pastrami rivals any, anywhere. *Come see why restaurant industry folks eat here on their day off. 1201 Main Street, Carbondale or www.ploskysdeli.com*

CARBONDALE BEER WORKS



Women run the show at Carbondale Beer Works, with Patrice Fuller as the owner and Kelly Snyder as head brewer. Considering only about 2% of breweries in the country are 100% female owned, that's nothing to shake your hops at. In addition to producing delicious and locally loved beer, Carbondale Beer Works supports small craft distilleries with a Colorado focus. Come for the beer, the fantastic food and local vibes, and stay for distiller dinners and community involvement at the place affectionately known as "Carbondale's living room" at 647 Main Street. *See their menu at Carbondalebeerworks.com*



HAZY OAK INTERIORS

Hazy Oak Interiors is a new must-visit furniture and gift store by Carbondale local Kim Velasquez. Velasquez began refinishing furniture with her dad when she was growing up, and developed a passion, and a knack, for turning discarded pieces into treasures. Those talents, combined with her eye for unique and rare furniture means you'll find one-of-a-kind furniture, lighting, gifts, and home décor when you visit Hazy Oak. *Stop by, under the green stairs at the corner of Weant and Main in Carbondale, to discover something out of the ordinary.*

DAYS OF

wonder

BY MEGAN WEBBER



In the Roaring Fork Valley the outdoors are always calling and opportunities for kids of all ages to get outside in a meaningful way are abundant in and around Basalt.

Many local nonprofits and organizations offer summer-season and year-round outdoor educational opportunities and activities for youth. It is never too early to start looking for summer activities.

One opportunity is the summer Adventure Stewards program for middle school students offered by **Roaring**

Fork Outdoor Volunteers (RFOV). Each five-day session begins with students ages 11-14 participating in team-building exercises and stewardship projects like working on trails or maintaining forests. The week closes with adventure activities like rock climbing or kayaking down one of the local rivers.

“I think for most of the students, this is a great introduction to stewardship and to doing work that might traditionally be for older students or even adults. We show students how to use hand tools and do some really cool projects,” said Ben Sherman, education director at RFOV. “Our hope

is this is an introduction that will keep students coming back as they get older and that they'll bring back to their families and their siblings. We hope it's that opening-the-door moment that helps them to give back and participate."

RFOV also offers family-friendly activities for all ages. Through its Little Explorers program, parents can drop off their young kids ages 4-8 for scavenger hunts and day camp activities while the adults spend the day volunteering on a project. Sherman said it's a way for parents who couldn't otherwise find the time to get out and volunteer to do so. Financial assistance is also available.

During the school year, students have a lot of outdoor opportunities to look forward to. Desiree Pimentel spends her



YEAR-ROUND ADVENTURES AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ARE PLENTIFUL FOR KIDS IN BASALT.



days working with Basalt school administrators to plan outdoor and experiential educational trips and experiences for kids from Kindergarten through 12th grade. As the Experiential/Outdoor Education Coordinator for the **Basalt Education Foundation** (BEF), Pimentel works in the local public schools to plan activities that teachers and administrators don't have the time or bandwidth to do.

"It takes at least five phone calls to plan a trip, if not more," Pimentel said. "Each principal has said to us, 'We would not be able to make this happen without you.'"

The activities range from all-grade ski days and camping trips, to art days where local nonprofits are invited to spend the day teaching kids about different art mediums. For Basalt High School juniors, Pimentel also plans trips to the Front Range where students can visit colleges like Colorado State University and the University

CONTINUED >



of Colorado. Pimentel said that the most important thing is making these programs accessible to all students who would otherwise not have the opportunity to learn how to ice skate, ski or pitch a tent.

“As far as having public schools, we always focus on making the outdoors equitable,” she said. “With my position, we’re able to keep that going and increase it.”

In addition to BEF’s offerings, students at **Basalt Middle School** also have the opportunity to learn about water use through the **Roaring Fork Conservancy’s** Watershed PenPal Program. Education Director Megan Dean started the program in 2022. Students are connected with middle school students in Aurora, Colorado

and trade old-fashioned letters with one another detailing their hobbies, interests and personal connection to water. This helps them understand what their shared headwaters look like, how water travels to their cities and why it is important to conserve, value and protect local rivers, Dean said.

“Many Aurora students and residents do not know where their water comes from and do not have access to riparian areas and rivers,” Dean noted. “This project will guide them through experiences that illuminate why healthy rivers and headwaters are important. The personal relationship that they make with their pen pal will create a concrete and real-world experience with someone else that depends on the same water they do.”

RFC has also received grant support from the Colorado Water Conservation Board to extend the pen pal experience to a group of Aurora students so that they can travel and experience their headwaters in the Roaring Fork Valley this summer. The three-day program will incorporate rafting, exploring the headwaters, a short film, presentations to city councils and a large traveling visual display.

The **Aspen Center for Environmental Studies** (ACES) also offers spring break camps for Basalt-area students. During March, kids from Kindergarten through 4th grade can register to spend a day or more at **Rock Bottom Ranch** learning about life on the ranch and agriculture. 🌲

LEARN MORE

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OUTDOOR
VOLUNTEERS

rfov.org

ACES AT ROCK
BOTTOM

aspennature.org

BASALT EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

basaltedu.org

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– WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

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Basalt Buzzy

by Mitzi Rapkin

WHAT'S NEW AROUND TOWN

A New Playground is Spawning at Arbaney Park

Adjacent to downtown Basalt is Arbaney Park - a beloved destination for children of all ages and those who are eternally young at heart. The park includes the town pool, a picnic pavilion, and playing fields. Soon it will boast a more picturesque and

imaginative playground with the renovation of all the play structures. The centerpiece of the upgraded playground is a 29-foot-long rainbow trout featuring agility nets, a slide, balancing posts, and climbing features. In addition, the site will include play areas for children ages 2-5 and 5-12 and areas that are ADA compliant.



The overall goal is to create something lively and dynamic, representing Basalt’s character, community, and environment. Along with the trout, the play space continues the colorful riparian theme with a blue surface representing the river, along with wooden natural play features including swings, a play hut, and a spinning carousel. No matter your age; the playground’s captivating design appeals to all, no fishing license needed!

Midland Streetscape Project

More than a dozen years in the making, the Midland Avenue Streetscape project is underway this summer. This is a visionary and forward thinking project for the Town of Basalt, based on years of community input.

The design ethic for the project is to create comfortable and safe access for persons of all ages and backgrounds to experience, shop, and dine in the historic downtown while also slowing down traffic. The new Midland Streetscape is pedestrian focused and includes various places for people to linger and enjoy the mix of classic Victorian architecture and modern buildings with mountain views.

The flexible design allows for Midland Avenue to seamlessly transform into a town plaza for hosting incredible community events such as celebrations of local Olympians,

art walks, a race finish line, and winter festivals.

Responsible governance is also a leading value of the Midland Streetscape project as infrastructure improvements, like a new water line, increase resiliency and mitigate the impacts of emergencies while a new stormwater system and landscaped rain gardens provide more environmental protections for the Roaring Fork River.

The project is slated for completion at the end of 2024.



To learn more about the history of the project, scan the QR code.

Amplifying Art in Basalt

The Town and the Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC) are working on a 10-year capital improvement plan that includes prioritizing locations and opportunities for displaying public art throughout the community and establishing guidelines for accepting donations, consignment, and purchased pieces.

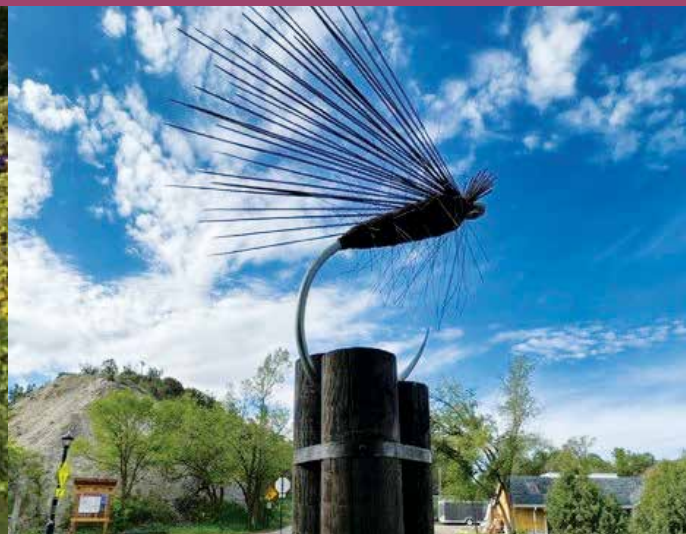
If you haven’t already seen *Stay Human* at the new Basalt River Park, the piece is by local artist Gail Folwell and celebrates life, community, health, dancing, and music. The sculpture features three rotating dancers that Folwell says are meant to “captivate imaginations to engage, delight, inspire, teach, and heal.” *Stay Human* was selected by a 2022 call to artists by BPAC.

The Town also recently leased *Elk Hair Caddis Fly* by artist Paul Reimer for one year with an option to purchase. The large-scale representation of a fly-fishing lure brings to mind the serenity and tradition of this age-old activity and the beautiful natural places it is practiced.

Reimer is a Canadian-based artist who says that all of his public art begins with the question: How can this art generate a greater sense of community in this place? According to Reimer “Art is about forging connections; connections between places, cultures, ideas, between the past, present, and future and, most importantly, between people.”

LEFT: Rendering of Midland Avenue and Midland Spur intersection.
RIGHT: Elk Hair Caddis Fly by artist Paul Reimer.

To Donate: For more information on donating art to the Town of Basalt, contact michelle.thibeault@basalt.net





fly girls

**Three local ladies taking to
Basalt's Gold Medal waters**

by Todd Hartley



The correct word, in case you're wondering, is angler. Fisherwoman just doesn't sound right, and female fly fisher is too alliterative, so if you want to know how best to describe a woman pursuing fish, "we've come up with angler or fly angler," says the Roaring Fork Conservancy's Christina Medved. "It helps with the mouthful of words."

The director of community outreach for RFC, Medved is part of a trio of local female anglers bringing a welcome woman's touch to the male-dominated world of fly fishing. Whether it's through store ownership, teaching clinics, or passing on traditions to the next generation, these three fly girls are hoping to inspire a new wave of female anglers with their passion for fly fishing and stewardship of Basalt's two Gold Medal rivers.



TAYLOR THACKSTON, OWNER, FRYING PAN ANGLERS

Some people may have been surprised in 2023 when, after just two years of guiding locally, Taylor Thackston bought Basalt's Frying Pan Anglers fly shop and guide service, but for Thackston, that outcome was practically inevitable.

"I grew up with fly fishing parents who consider me a successful brainwash," she jokes. "My mom ties flies. My dad travels all over and builds fly rods. I grew up with that kind of passion for fly fishing. I didn't want to go to the corporate world, so I moved out here to fish for three months and, like everybody else, stayed for a lot longer. Then one thing led to another, and next thing I knew, I was a fly shop owner."

Given her position and gender, Thackston views her role as providing a more welcoming atmosphere for women who might be trying to get into the sport.

"They may be intimidated to come in and talk to a bunch of guys, and they may feel more comfortable with a female presence," says Thackston. "And knowing that I'm a female shop owner, they know that the people working for me and with me respect me, and they're going to respect them, as well, as clients."

A Virginia native, Thackston sees a higher percentage of female anglers in Basalt than in her home state, but she's still not sure why both numbers aren't even higher. After all, there's nothing gender-specific about the joys of fly fishing.

"It's so therapeutic," says Thackston. "It's an art form. It's beautiful. Even if you're not catching fish, if you're having a bad day on the river, you're doing it wrong."



CHRISTINA MEDVED, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH, ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY

All anglers love wading in a mountain river and trying to make a perfect cast, but that *A River Runs Through It* ideal is just one part of the story. Fly fishing relies on a healthy fishery, and healthy fisheries rely on responsible anglers. It's an important point that the Roaring Fork Conservancy stresses during its fly fishing clinics.

"It's not just a matter of getting folks out there to fly fish," says Christina Medved. "We also want people to become river stewards and understand that this is an ecosystem that you're standing in to fish. It's a great tool to teach people about our rivers."

RFC, in conjunction with the Roaring Fork Valley Fly Fishing Club, has offered a women-only clinic in addition to its annual co-ed and youth offerings for "the last 12 to 15 years," according to Medved.

"We've had several women take the clinics because their significant others fish, and they thought it would be more enjoyable to learn how to fish from us," says Medved, "but what's endearing is we've had several moms come to our clinics who have told us, 'Well, my kids have taken your clinics, and now they want to go fishing.' Seeing them fish together, it's a beautiful fruit of all the training."

FIND YOUR BEST SELF ON THE WATER

Courtesy of Take Me Fishing™ / Vamos A Pescar™ – a program initiative of the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation

WOMEN WHO FISH HAVE MORE...

happiness

1 in 4 women who fish say it helps them manage their moods and long-term stress.

patience

Almost half of women who fish say fishing teaches them patience.

grit

Women who fish are more likely to say that setbacks don't discourage them.

health

Women who fish are more likely to say their health is very good.

confidence

1 in 5 women who fish feel like they can do anything they set their mind to.

Ipsos (May 2022). Identifying What Gives Female Anglers an 'Edge.'



A NEW PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE OF THE ELK HAIR CADDIS WILL BE ON DISPLAY IN BASALT FOR THE NEXT YEAR

(see page 59)



**AMY SHIPLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BASALT REGIONAL LIBRARY**

Amy Shipley may be a librarian professionally, but spiritually, she's an angler through and through.

"I love that you're in nature, and you're in your body, and you can't be anywhere else," says Basalt Regional Library's executive director. "You just have to be very present in the moment. Being on the water is magical, but there's something additional about fly fishing. For that moment that you're doing it, everything else melts away, and you reconnect with what's important about being."

That passion for fly fishing led Shipley, a Rifle resident (and Colorado River drift-boat angler), to spearhead teen fly tying events at Garfield County libraries. When she took over the head librarian spot in Basalt, she wanted to keep things going, so Shipley and

RFC Executive Director Rick Lofaro organized a kids fly tying club at the library that will be going into its third winter in 2024.

"Rick knows a lot of nymph patterns, and I mostly know dry fly patterns, so we make a good partnership," says Shipley. "In terms of dry flies, we started out with Griffith's Gnat, then the Renegade, which is an old pattern, then the Elk Hair Caddis. Those are the three that come to mind."

Shipley becomes a little cagey at this point, and it's clear that although she loves to share her knowledge with kids, like a true angler, she's not sharing all her knowledge.

"I have a secret fly that I don't want to tell you about," she laughs. "It's my favorite." 🦋

FEMALES REPRESENTED
36 PERCENT OF
total anglers
31% FOR FLY FISHING
SPECIFICALLY.



**FLY SHOPS
AND GUIDES
IN BASALT**

**FRYING PAN
ANGLERS**

**SOPRIS FISHING
OUTFITTERS**

**TAYLOR CREEK
FLY SHOPS**

FLY SELECTION AND THE RIVER REPORT

Local fly shops publish river reports which include important information tied to the current river conditions. Details can include the flow (listed as CFS or cubic feet per second, a unit of measurement that refers to the volume and speed of water flow), water clarity, overall rating, and details on where conditions may vary based on location (referenced by mile markers).

One of the most helpful pieces of information in the reports is the summary of the different food sources that are present (also called hatches), as well as suggestions for fly patterns to use. The river reports can assist an angler with selecting which fly is best to lure in a trout, and consultations with local fly shops and guides are highly recommended. Each angler has their own fishing secrets and special spots; however, some river reports provide hints as to where the fish are biting the most, and what's on the menu.

THERE ARE THREE MAIN TYPES OF TROUT FLY TYING PATTERNS – DRY FLIES, NYMPHS, AND STREAMERS.

DRY FLIES

These flies are intended to stay on the surface and predominantly mimic adult insects, such as waterbugs, grasshoppers, and caddis. There is something exciting about the visual of a trout breaking through the surface of the water trying to catch a dry fly in its mouth.

NYMPHS

Used underwater, nymph imitates the naturally occurring insect larva and nymphal stages of aquatic insects commonly found in the water. These flies are meant to sink, in order to attract fish feeding underwater.

STREAMERS

Larger than the above flies, streamers impersonate non-insect swimming food items that provide meals for trout, such as baitfish, leeches, and even small amphibians. At some point in its life cycle, as it grows, a fish will transition from eating insects to eating other fish.



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MID- VALLEY, BIG ADVENTURE

With plenty of **WORLD-CLASS TRAILS** and tasty eats on offer, here's how to pair adventures with an ideal après – just like a local.

BY ZOË ROM

B

BASALT IS RAPIDLY gaining attention as a trail-running adventure destination. Few places in the world allow you to stand on a 14,000-foot mountain in the morning and end the day with world-class entertainment and award-winning beer for happy hour without ever changing zip codes. Locals and travelers gravitate towards Basalt for its endless adventure opportunities, whether it's the singletrack or single-malt variety. Here's how locals pair their midvalley adventures.

SOPRIS AND SPRITZ

For adventurous runners and eaters alike, try pairing Mt. Sopris, Colorado's most prominent peak at 12,965 feet above sea level, with an Aperol Spritz from **Mezzaluna**, an upscale Italian ristorante specializing in traditional pastas and pizzas. At just under 13,000 feet, Sopris is nothing to sneer at, and many locals consider it a test piece for ambitious trail runners, with over 4,000 feet of climbing to the summit. The 12.9-mile round-trip adventure takes many folks around eight hours, so plan accordingly. If you start early, you can finish with a happy hour aperitivo at Mezzaluna. Big adventures mean big fuel, and it's five o'clock somewhere.

BUCKHORN OLD FASHION TRAVERSE

Basalt is a popular adventure destination because getting out on the trail is so easy. A prime example of this accessibility is the Buckhorn Traverse, an easy-intermediate traverse just above Willits Town Center that offers the perfect dose of adventure that's easy to reach in town.

Ride your mountain bike or hoof it up the Glassier trail, then take the Buckhorn traverse back to the Rio Grande path to connect it back to the trailhead for a prime 11-mile loop that couples world-class singletrack with unreal views of the midvalley, including Basalt Mountain. Pair this perfect morning ride or run with a refreshing beverage from **Woody Creek Distillers**, a classy cocktail joint beloved by locals and out-of-towners alike. While Woody Creek's bespoke and locally-made spirits are sure to delight, we're partial to the Old Fashioned.



CLEAR DAYS AND HAZY IPA

What's better than mountain views and bespoke brews? Another favorite trail is Capitol Creek, the approach for Capitol Peak, and infamously difficult 14-er known for its "Knife's Edge" ridge. Don't worry; the trail that traverses the valley floor is quite tame but offers unbeatable views of the Elk Mountains.



Challenge yourself on the steep ascent of Arbaney Kittle, with an average grade of 7%.

You'll need a hardy vehicle to get to the trailhead (four-wheel-drive with some solid clearance is recommended), but once you do, the trail that



takes you to Capitol Lake is mellow and serene. This is a popular hike for leaf-peeping in the fall and summer sight-seeing. After a gorgeous morning hike, head to **Capitol Creek Brewery** for some of the valley's best beer.

PEAKS AND PIZZA

Arbaney Kittle is another local favorite, beloved for its in-your-face vertical ascent that features over 1,500 feet of climbing in less than two miles to the Arbaney Kittle viewpoint. In just 3.5 miles round-trip, you can get a glimpse of the high life that makes Basalt so special, with breath-taking views of the Elk Mountains as well as the Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness. Folks looking to test their endurance can go past the viewpoint for up to 11 miles (for a 20+ mile round-trip adventure!) features unforgettable views of the surrounding mountains,

CONTINUED >



Photo by Summers Moore

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Mount Sopris is a twin-summit mountain, rising from the valley floor at 12,953 feet.

summer wildflowers, and guaranteed solitude. Pair this adventurous amuse bouche with a pizza at local hot spot, **Brick Pony Pub**, which features made-to-order pizzas and jalapeno poppers that locals rave about.

CHIPS AND ALPINE DIP

The midvalley is home to some of Colorado's most hikeable alpine lakes. One such favorite is Linkins Lake, a short jaunt in the Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness that takes many adventurers just about an hour to complete. While the trailhead is a bit of a drive from downtown Basalt, intrepid travelers are rewarded with unbeatable alpine views and a sure-to-be uncrowded trail that many consider a hidden gem. Linkins Lake is a gorgeous alpine lake that's perfect for a picnic lunch and near-perfect summer wildflower viewing. Pair this epic alpine adventure with a hearty dinner at **El Korita**, a local favorite Mexican joint famous for its queso and giant burritos. 🍴



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A PERFECT LONG WINTER WEEKEND



CHARMING MOUNTAIN TOWN MEETS WEEKEND VIBES

BY LUCY LEA TUCKER

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Settle into your historic cabin at **The Lodge at River's Edge** set on the Gold Medal fly fishing waters of the Fryingpan, located within minutes of downtown Basalt. Originally built in 1896 by Colorado Midland Railroad workers, this slice of history has been updated, restored, and renovated in a chic mountain style to include all the creature comforts of home with a fully equipped kitchen, two sleeping areas, and a living room with a fireplace to refuel and rejuvenate from outdoor adventures.

BUT FIRST, COFFEE

First things first, you will want to start the day off right. Read the local newspapers or magazines and indulge in a pastry while you sip a hot coffee, tea, or chai at **CC Café**. Be sure to order a take-out Cubano sandwich for a mid-hike refuel. Locals swear by this superb sleeper sandwich as a valley favorite.

RECREATE & RELAX

Embrace the Colorado vibe and gear up for winter with cross country gear, new wool socks, a base layer, and a pair of stabilizers (rubber and metal spike crampon-like footwear that slide right over your running shoes or hiking boots) at **Bristlecone Mountain Sports** in Willits Town Center. The stabilizers will give you a good grip as you hike up and down

over packed snow and icy trails. Locals' favorite hikes include the Basalt High School trail, Arbaney Kettle, and Basalt Mountain. Cross country gear can be rented next door at **Basalt Bike & Ski** for gliding along the Rio Grande Trail.

Stroll or Nordic ski through town along the Rio Grande Trail (one of Colorado's old railway paths that runs all the way from Aspen to Glenwood Springs, groomed in winter for cross country skiing from Basalt to Aspen) past the rushing Roaring Fork River, on the lookout for wildlife and rising rainbow trout. As you make your way toward Willits, stop by **Woody Creek Distillers** in the Design Center, and you will be greeted with fortifying cocktails.

Another stop on the trail is **ACES' Rock Bottom Ranch** with fun family-friendly farm activities and tours. Winter hours are 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Wednesday through Friday. Be sure to pick up some farm fresh eggs when you visit.

ARTS, BOOKS & SHOPPING CULTURE

When you are ready to warm up, head inside and for a dose of culture in downtown Basalt at **The Art Base**. Sign up for an art class, check out the current local exhibition and the gift shop, or meet one of the artists at an opening. Cozy up with a borrowed book — or work remotely, enjoying riverfront views at the **Basalt Regional Library**.

For a fun night out, check out what is happening at **TACAW** (The Arts Center at Willits) for excellent live music, comedians, speakers, and other cultural activities.

DINE AROUND FOR DINNER

Bundle up, and stroll through downtown Basalt on a “dine around appetizer tour” for dinner. With friendly banter from the bartenders, special wine and chef-driven dinners throughout the season, and a river flowing as the backdrop, make your first stop at **Free Range Kitchen**. You feel like a real Coloradan when you saddle up to the bar at the **Brick Pony Pub**. This friendly, fun saloon is complete with comfort food like fried pickles, buffalo popcorn shrimp, and bean burgers. Well-known for its savory pot pies, rumor has it that **Heather's** pastry case — and specifically the cheesecake — is otherworldly. Stock up on mid-work out snacks or prepared foods at **Whole Foods** in Willits for a cozy dinner in by the fire. ❄️



BE PROACTIVE. **BE PREPARED.** BE SAFE.

**PSA: HIGH ALTITUDE AND
BACKCOUNTRY SAFETY**

Basalt has many opportunities for fun. In order to have fun, it is important to stay safe. Here are important safety tips that you may find helpful:

HIGH ALTITUDE TIPS

Basalt is at 6,611 feet above sea level. When you first arrive, acclimate yourself for a period of time with light activity. At high elevations, the atmosphere is thinner; there is less oxygen and less humidity available to you than at sea level. Throbbing headaches, feeling weak, lazy, dizzy, and/or nauseous are all symptoms warning you to decrease your activity level and increase your water intake.

STAY WARM

At this elevation, the weather can change quickly. It is wise to layer your clothes, no matter what the season. Even if the forecast calls for warmer weather, it is important to have clothing for cooler circumstances in case there is a sudden drop in temperature while you are out or when the sun sets. A T-shirt, wool sweater, nylon windbreaker with a hood, and a bottle of water are basic equipment for just about any summer activity. Winter sports enthusiasts should wear warm, waterproof gloves, a hat, socks, plenty of warm, water-resistant clothing, and goggles or sunglasses with adequate UV protection.



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The Derron Cloud team is proud to serve all of the Roaring Fork Valley and anywhere in Colorado! We look forward to hearing from you!



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Derron Cloud, Agent

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Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

State Farm, Bloomington, IL





THE 10 ESSENTIALS: A CHECKLIST FROM MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASPEN



NAVIGATION

Map, compass and GPS system



SUN PROTECTION

Sunglasses, sunscreen and hat



INSULATION

Jacket, hat, gloves, rain shell and thermal underwear



ILLUMINATION

Flashlight, lanterns and headlamp



FIRST-AID SUPPLIES

First-aid kit



FIRE

Matches, lighter and fire starters



GEAR

Knife or multipurpose tool and a repair kit



NUTRITION

Extra food



HYDRATION

Water (and water treatment supplies)



EMERGENCY SHELTER

Tent, space blanket, tarp or bivy



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASPEN'S WEBSITE
MOUNTAINRESCUEASPEN.ORG

ALTITUDE SICKNESS

Acute mountain sickness occurs within a few hours to a few days after arrival at altitudes above 8,000 feet. The symptoms are characterized by headaches, insomnia, loss of appetite, nausea, fatigue, and breathlessness. It can also be accelerated by drinking alcohol upon arrival to high altitudes without proper acclimatization.

TO HELP PREVENT

ALTITUDE SICKNESS:

Avoid alcohol, drink plenty of liquids and avoid over-exertion.

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WEATHER AND SEASONAL HAZARDS

Summer days in the Colorado mountains are notorious for beautiful cloudless mornings and intensely thunderous afternoons. Storms move in rapidly, and temperatures drop suddenly. It's not unusual for it to be 70-80 degrees in the morning and 50-60 degrees in the afternoon, depending on the altitude. Along with the cold temperatures and stormy skies comes the threat of lightning. When hiking or mountain biking, it's best to plan for an early-morning start, especially if your route takes you above tree line.

BACKCOUNTRY SAFETY

Tell someone where you are going, when you expect to return, and where to call if you don't return when you planned.

RIVER SAFETY

Tips to help you stay safe while you are on the river:

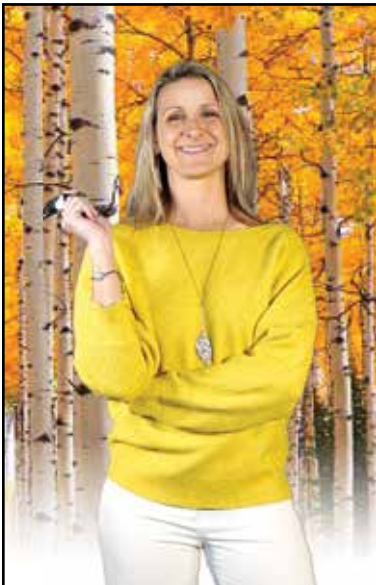
- Never boat or fish alone.
- Wear a properly fitted Personal Flotation Device (PFD) at all times when you are in or near the river.
- Know about the dangers of hypothermia and how to deal with it. Know early signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and dehydration in hot weather.
- Carry a first-aid kit, and know how to use it.
- Wear wading shoes or boot-foot waders with soles that grip the type of river bed you're on.

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE: BE BEAR-AWARE

Do not allow food to sit outside unattended, and keep trash cleaned up. When camping, store food in a closed, bear-proof container, and sleep well away from food. Keep pets close by; it is best to keep pets on a leash to avoid wandering. Have a watchful eye on children; do not allow them to play outside after dusk or before dawn without close supervision. If you will be outside during dawn or dusk, be sure to make lots of noise and make your presence known. If you encounter wildlife, keep your distance, stay calm, and back away slowly. If the animal approaches you in an aggressive manner, fight back.

COLORADO OUTDOOR RECREATION SEARCH AND RESCUE CARD (CORSAR)

Colorado residents and visitors are served by dedicated volunteer search-and-rescue teams, including Mountain Rescue Aspen. Sheriffs and search-and-rescue teams do not charge for search and rescue in Colorado, so never hesitate to call for help. However, by purchasing a Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue (CORSAR) card, you are contributing to the Search and Rescue Fund, which reimburses these organizations for costs incurred during search-and-rescues across the state. 🐾



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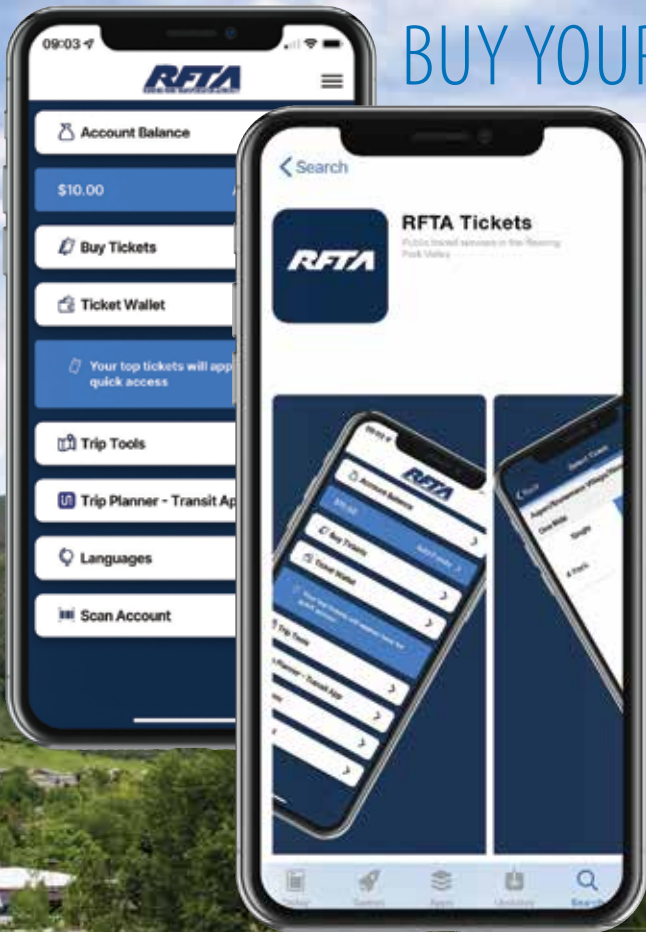
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[RFTA.COM](https://www.rfta.com)



DO COLORADO RIGHT WITH THE CARE FOR COLORADO LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



Almost half of Colorado is public land. Learn about the area you plan to visit before adventuring out so you can enjoy and help protect the spaces we all share.

Colorado's weather and scenic terrain are stunning but can change drastically. Check conditions before you depart, pack layers, sun protection and rain gear, wear appropriate footwear ... and enjoy your trip.

Journey to places with minimal crowds to maximize your connection with the great outdoors. Have a backup plan in case the parking lot at your original destination is full.

Pack reusable water bottles to stay hydrated, limit waste and save money.

LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT



Enjoy discovering plants? Rocks? Historical and cultural items? Be sure to leave them as you found them so everyone can experience the joy of discovery.

Colorado has more than 2,000 different species of wildflowers, all with their own unique part to play in our ecosystem. Admire their beauty by taking a photo, not a flower.

Cleaning boots, bike tires and water crafts before and after every outing not only makes your gear last longer, it prevents the spread of harmful invasive species.

Colorado's trees give us beautiful leaf peeping photos, shade on summer days, unmatched ski runs and of course, oxygen (which at this altitude, is a big help). But the smallest carving can kill or disfigure them.

STICK TO TRAILS



Embrace the adventure as intended by only walking on designated trails — even if it's wet, muddy, slushy or icy. This will help avoid erosion and protect the homes of local wildlife.

Shortcuts and that perfect selfie can be tempting, but staying on the path will decrease your risk of injury and protect trailside plants.

Camping? Set up in one of thousands of designated campsites in Colorado. They boast some of the most scenic views and protect the landscapes. And remember to camp at least 200 feet from waterways to leave space for wildlife.

TRASH THE TRASH



Pack in the beautiful views by packing out the trash and leaving a place better than you found it. And make sure not to forget the peels and cores. Just because it's good for you, doesn't mean it's good for the wildlife.

No bathroom around? No worries. Be prepared with a disposable WAG bag (found in most outdoor stores), and conveniently pack out your waste. Alternatively, find privacy 70 steps from water and the trail, dig a 6" hole and then bury your business.



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BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE



Build the perfect Colorado campfire (and avoid sparking a wildfire) by first making sure campfires are allowed in the area. Then, keep them small, manageable and attended. When it's time to extinguish, make sure the embers are cold to the touch to avoid reigniting a flame.

Buy or gather firewood locally; it'll save you space in your car, plus it prevents the introduction of any invasive species like the destructive pine beetle.

Use care when smoking anything (and we do mean anything) in Colorado's dry climate. One of the biggest causes of fires are discarded butts.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD



Colorado is home to tens of thousands of furry, scaly and feathered creatures. To keep them — and you — safe, make sure to keep your and your dog's distance. And if you're ever unsure, follow the rule of thumb: If you can cover the entire animal with your thumb, you're at a safe distance.

Everyone loves the smell of bacon (not just humans). So always store food, trash and anything with a scent in bear proof lockers, canisters or secured vehicles. This will protect you and prevent wildlife from being exposed to behavior changes, predators or even euthanasia.

SHARE OUR TRAILS AND PARKS



Everyone experiences and enjoys the outdoors in different ways. Be mindful of your group's noise level so everyone can appreciate our shared spaces.

Yield to the uphill hiker and biker — they need the momentum. Wheelchair users and equestrians always have the right of way.

TEN WAYS TO MAXIMIZE YOUR TRIP TO COLORADO

PACK A FIRST-AID KIT

You never know if you or someone in your crew might get hurt on a hike. Plan ahead and bring a first-aid kit that includes foot care and insect repellent. Be sure you know how to use everything inside it.

DON'T SKIMP ON THE WATER

Bring more than you think you'll need, typically carrying at least 2 liters per person. Hydration packs, like the ones sold by Osprey, are especially handy because they can carry lots of water and fit in your backpack.

HAVE A FEW NAVIGATION OPTIONS

It's always good to know where you're going ahead of time and let people know your route. Be sure to pack a paper map, compass, altimeter, personal locator beacon (PLB) and/or GPS device, in addition to your cell phone — depending on your location, you may not have service.

BE READY FOR EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTIONS

Bring along a multi-tool or pocket knife, and duct tape for quick repairs for unexpected trail mishaps like broken shoe laces, flat bike tires or a leaky water bottle.

PREPARE FOR SUN

Colorado's sun can certainly shine bright, especially at higher elevations (you're closer to the sun!). Bring a hat, neck buff, sunscreen, protective clothing and sunglasses to make sure you're keeping things cool.

LIGHT YOUR WAY AFTER DARK

Light up the night sky by bringing a headlamp or two, and be sure to pack some extra batteries so you don't get caught off guard.

COZY UP WITH A CAMPFIRE

When the night falls, Colorado's mountains can get pretty chilly. Bring a lighter or waterproof matches and an emergency tinder so the fire can keep you warm. Learn about fire safety.

BYO EMERGENCY SHELTER

In case of an emergency, be sure you can take cover. Bring an emergency bivy, blanket, small tarp or even a large, heavy-duty lawn/leaf bag so you're not battling the elements when you could be snug instead.

PACK A SNACK (OR MORE!)

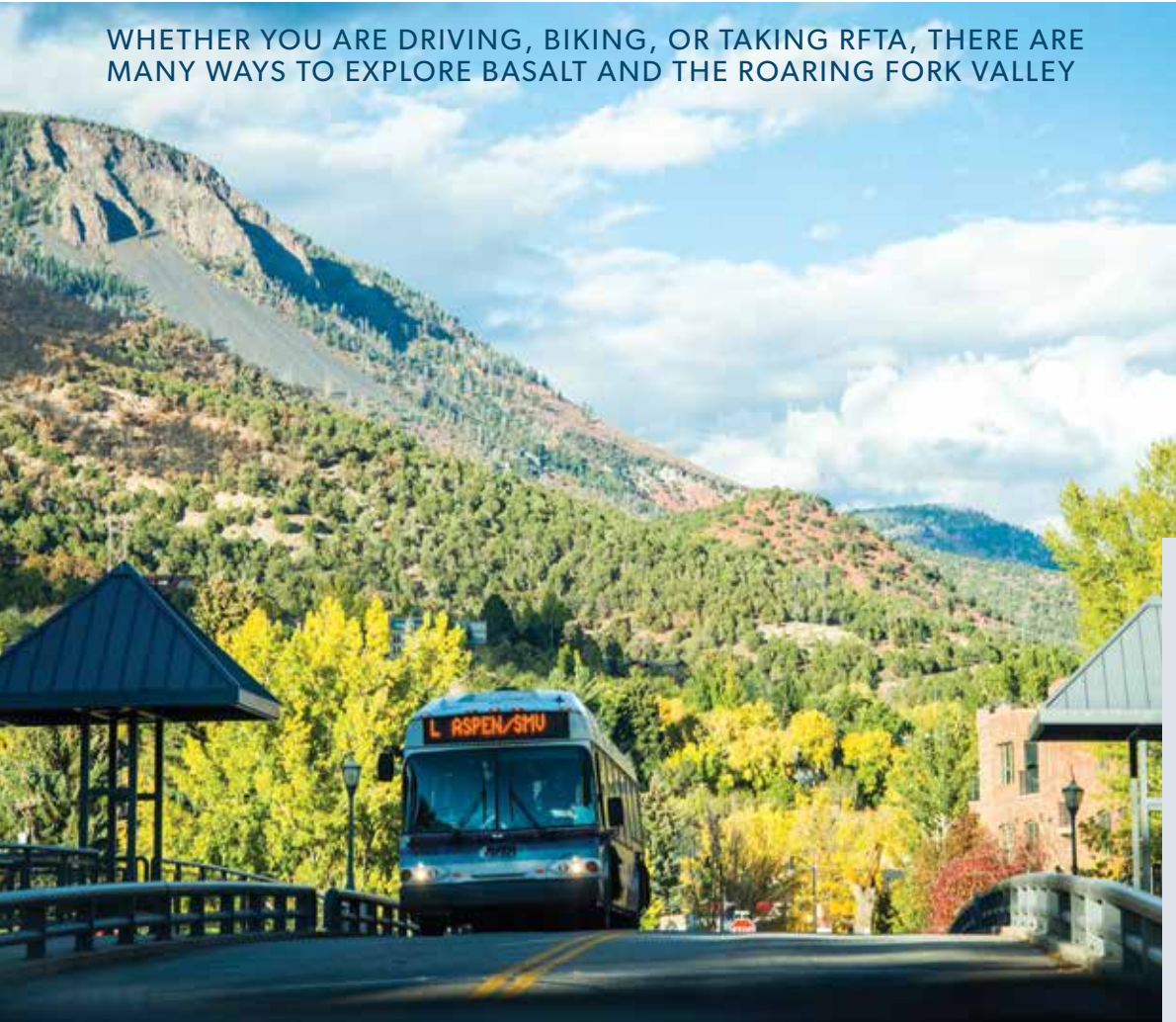
Pack enough for how long you plan to be out, and then bring a little extra just in case — you never know when hunger strikes.

THROW IN SOME EXTRA LAYERS

Colorado's weather is known to change on a dime, especially on the mountain. Be prepared and pack for the chilliest weather possible on your trek so you can stay warm.

TRANSPORTATION

WHETHER YOU ARE DRIVING, BIKING, OR TAKING RFTA, THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO EXPLORE BASALT AND THE ROARING FORK VALLEY



PARKING

When you want to explore a neighborhood of Basalt, it is best to park and walk around. Parking is free; however, certain areas may have time limits or overnight parking restrictions. Be sure to read the posted signs for details.

BIKES

Biking is a great way to see Basalt by road, bike path, or dirt trail. The Rio Grande Trail — a 42-mile, rails-to-trails, paved, multi-use path — runs from Glenwood Springs to Aspen, offering connections to the Emma, Willits, and Basalt/Old Snowmass trails and into Basalt neighborhoods.

The Rio Grande Trail is also a great way to access many mountain bike trailheads, which may not have parking located close by. Several of these trails are noted in the map insert.

In addition to the paved paths, Basalt is a great town for both road cycling and mountain biking. One popular road ride starts in Historic Downtown along Frying Pan Road to Ruedi Reservoir. There are also several singletrack trails to choose from, including Basalt Mountain Road and Buckhorn Trail.

You can explore the whole Roaring Fork Valley by bike. When you are ready to head

back to Basalt, take advantage of the front-loading racks on many of RFTA's buses.

BASALT CONNECT

The Town of Basalt has a free, on-demand ride service named Basalt Connect. Rides are provided by a 12-rider transit van and an eight-passenger van that can accommodate a wheelchair. Service is available between Willits and downtown, as well as the neighborhoods within the town boundaries. Basalt Connect operates between 7-10 a.m. and 3-10 p.m. daily, with extended hours on Saturdays

HOW TO GET HERE

Shuttles, buses, and rental cars are available from these airports:

Aspen-Pitkin County Airport (ASE)
25 minutes

Denver International Airport (DIA) 3.5 hours

Vail/Eagle County Airport (EGE) 1 hour

Grand Junction (GJT)
2 hours

free community bikeshare **we CYCLE**

FREE BIKESHARE

30-Minute Rides

Pedal bikes and e-bikes await at stations located throughout the midvalley, including near:

- RFTA BRT stations
- Shopping
- Local businesses
- Hotels
- Neighborhoods
- Parks and bike paths
- *And more!*

Sign up in minutes at we-cycle.org, and see stations and live-time bike availability. Find a station near you on the map insert.

and Sundays, from June through September. For more information, including hours of operation, download the Basalt Connect app. Request a ride with a tap of a button! More on page 86.



RFTA

The valley's public transit is run by the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority, better known as RFTA ("raft-a"). It is a great alternative to driving. Riding RFTA between Basalt, Willits, and El Jebel is free for all passengers. Enjoy bus stops conveniently located near shopping, dining, and outdoor recreation. Two bus routes run through Basalt: the VelociRFTA BRT and the Roaring Fork Valley Local. The BRT route has stops at major destinations and is the faster option for traveling longer distances, such as from Basalt to Aspen. Buses are designated with a "BRT ASPEN" headsign for buses traveling upvalley or "BRT GLENWOOD" headsign for buses traveling downvalley. The Local bus stops more frequently due to the greater number of bus stops along the route. Mobile ticketing is now available.

RFTA racks

Public transit is made easier for adventurers with RFTA's seasonally-based gear racks. Between April and November, buses are equipped with bike racks. Bike loading/unloading is allowed at designated stops during daylight hours. Between November and April, the buses switch over to winter with racks ready to hold skis and snowboards. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride to the mountains.

WE-CYCLE

WE-cycle is a community-supported bikeshare offering unlimited free 30-minute rides. It is a fast and convenient way of getting around town. Visit we-cycle.org on a smartphone to sign up and get rolling. Looking for a little extra boost? Find the blue e-bikes for an accelerated ride. Leave your car parked at your home or hotel, and enjoy flexible, one-way trips to local restaurants, shopping, and RFTA bus services. Invigorate your summer with something fast, healthy, and fun! The bikeshare is meant for short trips; fees apply for any ride exceeding 30 minutes. 🚲

UPVALLEY VS. DOWNVALLEY – A PRIMER

While in the Roaring Fork Valley, you are more likely to hear the phrases "upvalley" and "downvalley" to either indicate relative location or direction of travel than compass points. Both are references based relative to Aspen and centered around Highway 82. "Upvalley" is always toward Aspen, where "downvalley" is always away from Aspen (and implied towards Glenwood Springs). This can be confusing as it is the opposite of using compass directions; however, it makes how the rivers flow downstream. For example: If you are in Willits, you need to head upvalley to visit downtown Basalt.

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StephanieWilliamsProperties.com

APPS TO HELP YOU EXPLORE

Navigating Basalt and beyond is made easier with a smartphone



BASALT CONNECT **(APP ONLY)**

The Basalt Connect app is used to request the free, on-demand ride service provided by the town of Basalt, in partnership with RFTA. Ride anywhere within the Basalt service area.

Great for getting a free ride around Basalt.



Scan the code to watch a video on how to use RFTA Mobile Tickets.



RFTA MOBILE TICKETS **(APP ONLY)**

The RFTA Mobile Tickets app enables riders to purchase tickets on a smartphone anytime, anywhere — making it more convenient for riders. Tickets can be purchased at a discounted rate of 25% off across all RFTA regional routes, 30-day zone and Seasonal Zone passes. Pre-purchase tickets, and activate when needed, or purchase a ticket just prior to travel. When waiting for the bus, riders should activate their tickets or passes and then scan the activated ticket on the validation machines aboard the buses. When the light turns green, it's time to find a seat.

Great for paying bus fare with a smartphone.



TRANSIT **(APP ONLY)**

The Transit app aggregates and maps real-time public transit data in the Roaring Fork Valley and in over 175 cities worldwide. Locally, the app is best for getting RFTA (see page 84) bus information, including accurate real-time predictions, paying bus fare, simple trip planning, step-by-step navigation, service notifications, and departure and stop reminders. While only available during select major events in Aspen, ride-sharing requests can also be done via Transit.

Great for determining how much time until the next bus.



ASPEN TRAIL FINDER **(WEB AND APP - \$)**

Aspen Trail Finder helps users find walking, running, hiking, and biking trails in the Roaring Fork Valley, from Aspen to Glenwood Springs. The comprehensive trail index allows users to search by activity, difficulty, and distance. If that is too many options, you can also select a random trail, random park, or random site to explore. It also lists trail conditions with information on seasonal closures, weather, and much more.

Great for finding a new trail based on a specific set of criteria.



**MTB PROJECT /
HIKING PROJECT /
TRAILRUN PROJECT**
(APP AND WEB)

While there are additional versions within the “Project” family, these three apps are ideal resources for any type of trail in the Roaring Fork Valley, based on the activity. Each app showcases routes and trails with crowd-sourced information, where locals share knowledge of the places they love the most. Roaring Fork

Mountain Bike Association (RFMBA) is a top contributor to MTB Project, making it a great way to learn more about the trails within the area’s Gold Level Ride Center. Available as apps and online, information is accessible when you need it. Each works offline, so if you find yourself deep in the backcountry without a signal, you can still navigate back to the trailhead.

Great for getting beta to plan the next great adventure, whether by bike or on foot.



COTREX
(APP AND WEB)

The Colorado Trail Explorer (COTREX) is a project of Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources. COTREX offers the most comprehensive trail map available for the state and is built atop data from over 230 trail managers. Trails can be viewed by allowed uses on the map, browse featured routes, and download offline maps. Users can record trips

and report field notes, which not only help other outdoor enthusiasts, but also help to inform trail managers about current conditions.

Great for learning about trail conditions, which agency manages a trail and users can contribute to crowdsourced details. Offline caching is supported.

DREAMING OF YOUR PERFECT BASALT HOME?

LET OUR LOCAL EXPERTS GUIDE YOU.



Ashley Eberly

Brian Hipona

Patrick Listermann

Leslie Newbury

Nancy Quisenberry

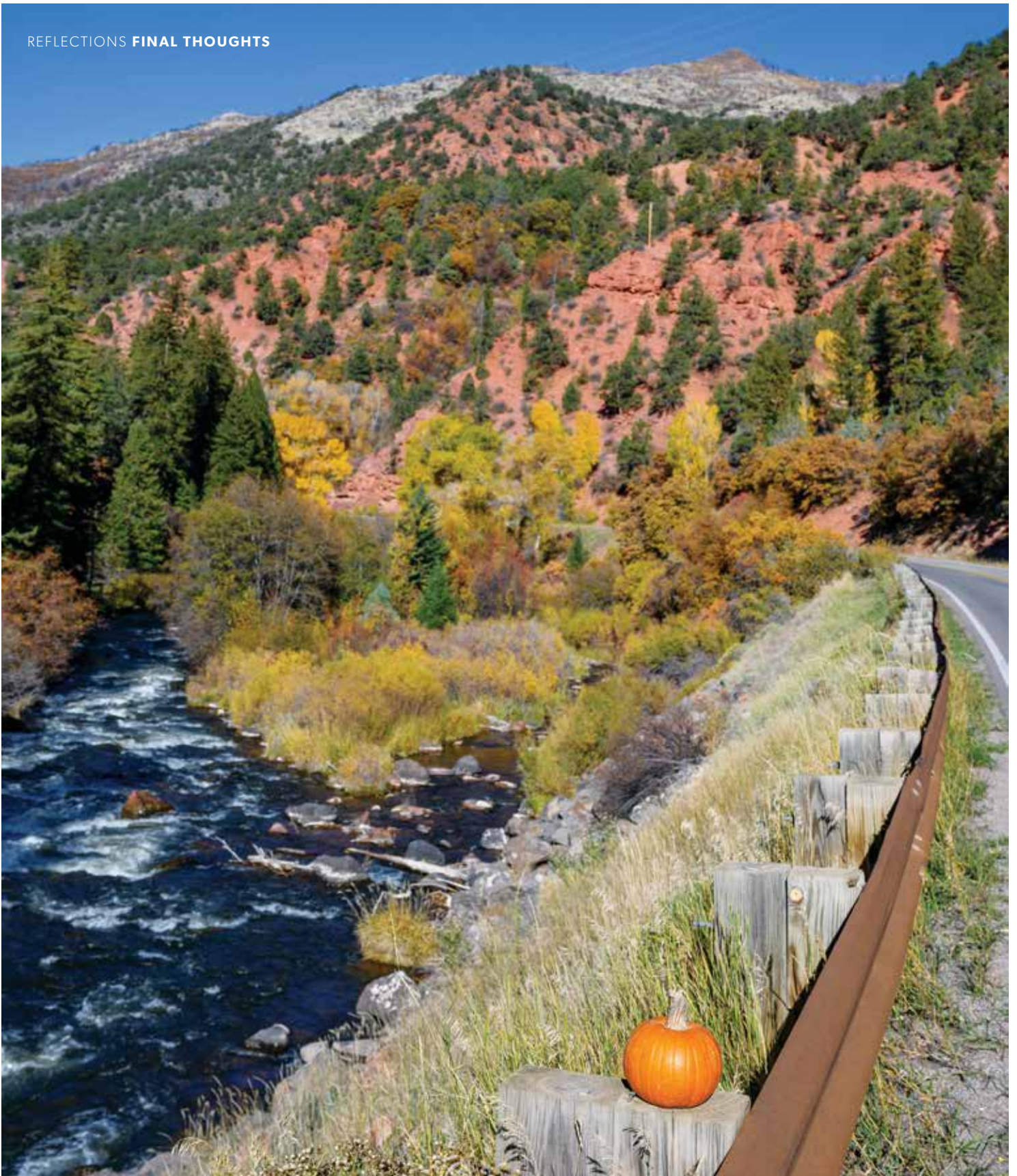
Roshni Slali

Chris Wyckoff

727 E Valley Road, Basalt
970.927.3000
cbmasonmorse.com



**COLDWELL BANKER
MASON MORSE**



Fall is the perfect season for fly fishing, mountain biking, hiking, and leaf peeping. But the favorite Basalt fall tradition locals look forward to most is the annual October return of the “Pumpkin Fairy.” When the leaves turn and the air gets crisp, pumpkins magically appear all along Frying Pan Road towards Ruedi. It seems that each morning new ones appear overnight. Count up the total number of gourds along the scenic drive way in your very own pumpkin scavenger hunt!

CARING TOGETHER

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Willits
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Steadman Phillippon Surgery Center | Studio 360-Pilates | Tan Bar | Timothy Kruse, M.D.

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