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The Chaffee County Times

\$1 Buena Vista, Colorado chaffeecountytimes.com February 4, 2021 Volume 141, No. 43 USPS 099-240

Charlie Forster

Banker helped build Buena Vista, county while 'setting the bar' for nurturing the community, arts

By Max R. Smith
Times reporter

Charles Forster, the former president of Buena Vista's Collegiate Peaks Bank, was a Salida resident, but his commitment to the town's businesses and community outreach affected the Buena Vista area as well.

"He certainly had his eye out for the community up here," said Joel Benson, who worked with Forster while he was Buena Vista's mayor. "He was just a brainstormer. He was always trying to come up with a way to help contribute economically to the northern end (of Chaffee County), and the whole county. He was always trying to think of ways to make things work for the good of town."

As a member of the Chaffee County Economic Development Corporation, Forster's "big signature project is the Collegiate Commons, but he was responsible for a lot of other things that happened throughout the county," said Wendell Pryor, the EDC's executive director. "I think the

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Salida, Chaffee remember contributions

From the county fair to the hospital to music and the arts, Charlie Forster impacted valley

By Mountain Mail staff

The passing of Charles "Charlie" Forster, 72, on Jan. 28 left a void that is being felt not just in the community, but throughout the region.

Probably best known as president of Collegiate Peaks Bank, he wore many hats with his involvement with the Chaffee County Fair, Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center, Salida Aspen Concerts, Salida SteamPlant and numerous other organizations and causes.

Dan Downing, former HRRMC board chairman and friend, had the pleasure of introducing Forster as the fifth mem-

ber of the HRRMC Hall of Fame in 2016.

Downing said, "We've been friends for 30 years and have gotten to the point where we were like brothers. We've served on boards, fished and traveled together, had meals in each other's homes nearly weekly for years – all the things friends do that keep relationships thriving.

"Men like Charlie are rare. He will be sorely missed, not just by those close to him but by the community he served so faithfully.

"I've never known anyone so dedicated to making life better for everyone. I know this not just for my experience but because that has been the common theme from those I've spoken with since his passing.

"Everyone talks about how Charlie helped them become a better person. He

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THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
Charlie Forster and his wife Connie, review the schedule of the 12th annual Jewel Ball before Charlie was inducted into the Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center Hall of Fame in September 2016. Forster said at the time having his family in attendance for the honor was "a highlight of my life."



Chocolate Lovers offers home schooling with chefs.

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Inside this week



Cottonwood Pass drew plenty of vehicles in its first year paved all the way over.

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STB delays decision on Tennessee Pass Line.

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Basketball Demons thwart Gunnison rally at the buzzer.

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BV drug bust nets 7.

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Car club, Lettuce-head contribute to BV Heritage.

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Quote of the Week

"I think people have always looked to bankers as role models and leaders in the community, but not a lot of bankers over the years have really stepped up into those roles. And Charlie certainly did. He set the bar. That's the bottom line."

– Scott Erchul, president of High Country Bank in Buena Vista, on Charlie Forster's contributions. P13

Thank you

To valued subscriber Diane Kirkwood of Allen, Texas.

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