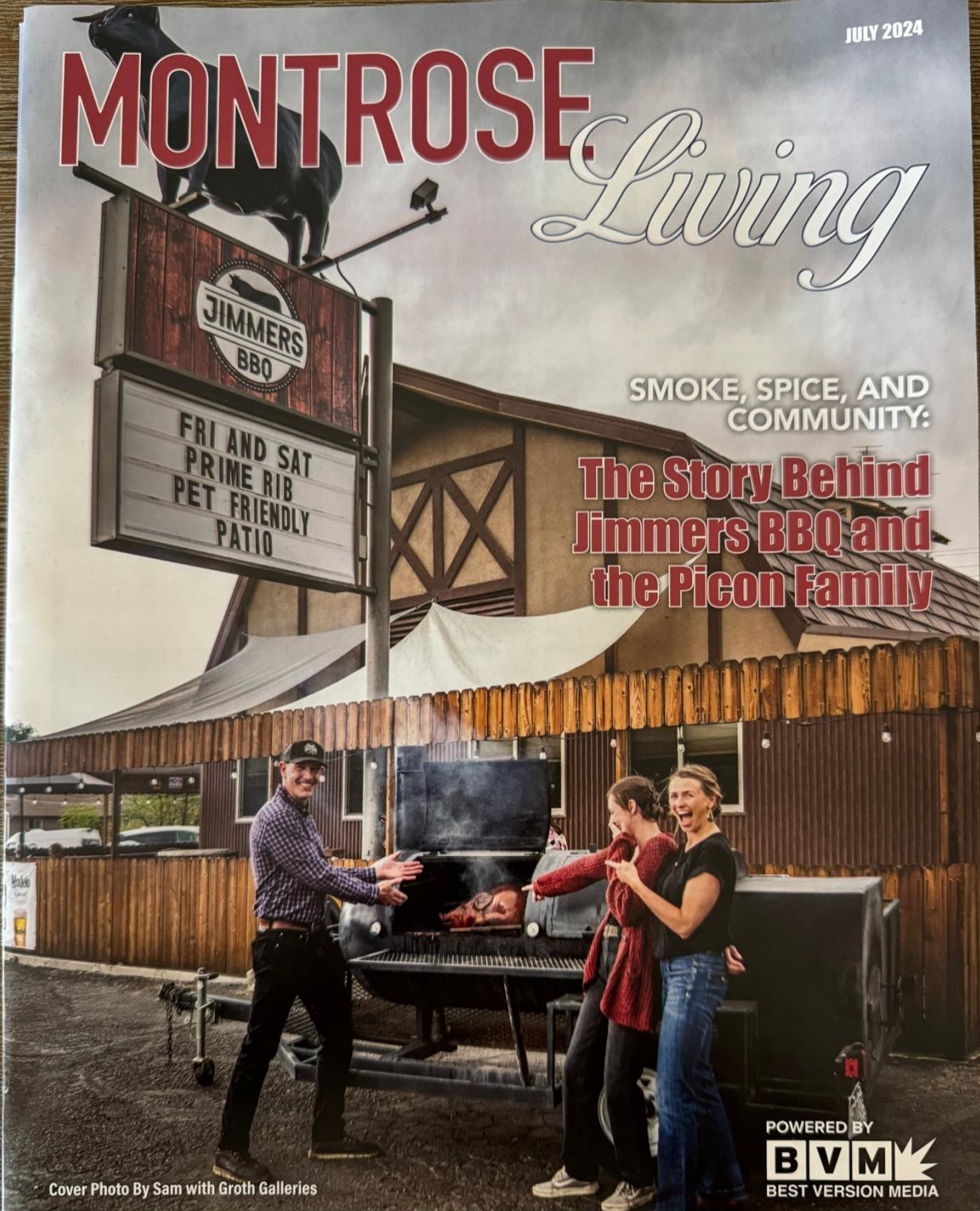


JULY 2024

MONTROSE *Living*

SMOKE, SPICE, AND
COMMUNITY:

The Story Behind Jimmers BBQ and the Picon Family



Cover Photo By Sam with Groth Galleries

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The Western Slope Welcomes Loyal Guardians Service Dog Training

By Mariah Martin
Photos Provided By Loyal Guardian's

Loyal Guardians Service Dog Training has officially opened its doors to community members in and around the Western Slope who are looking to embrace the transformative power of service dogs.

Co-founders Aleisha Largent, founder of Covenant Keeper's K9 Training Facility, and Melanie Wonneberger, founder of R. E. A. L. K9 Training, both developed a passion for dogs in childhood. That passion turned into a dedication to learn all they could about fostering relationships with their furry companions through a combined 20+ years of education and experience. Both Largent and Wonneberger have personally witnessed and experienced the profound positive impacts that a service dog can have, especially when trained with integrity and excellence. "Dogs can be so medically beneficial to humans, their animal is literally a lifeline," explains Largent.

Both women came together to form the non-profit Loyal Guardians Service Dog Training to better assist civilians and veterans on the Western Slope with getting access to service dogs.

"There is a major need out here, and it is an expensive commitment. We want to help our community by making the process affordable because we know the value behind it."

Loyal Guardians Service Dog Training is elevating the game. The organization is devoted to being a "leading provider of highly trained service dogs, promoting the physical and emotional well-being of their clients and contributing to a more inclusive

and supportive community." They seek to provide a sense of empowerment and independence by "helping individuals with disabilities live with greater confidence, freedom, and dignity." Their approach to training service dogs is one centered around positive reinforcement and compassion, further enhancing the bond between humans and their dogs.

Loyal Guardians Service Dog Training is also going beyond service dogs. They look to empower the community and encourage supportive connections through various opportunities of engagement with individuals going through similar experiences. They strive to be a hub for resources, guidance, and training.

On August 19th at 6:00pm, the non-profit will be hosting an event at The Hydrant Doggie Playcare, located at 28 W South 4th St in Montrose. They want to help facilitate a clear understanding of the rights of service dog handlers as well as the rights business owners have when a person enters their establishment with a service dog. This event is open to everyone.

To continue providing these vital services, Loyal Guardians Service Dog Training relies on the generous support and donations from the community. Your contributions enable them to offer affordable training and resources, creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all.

For more information about donating or how to get involved and stay connected, please email loyalgsdt@gmail.com.



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The organization also hopes to connect with local businesses around the Western Slope who are looking to understand more about what it means to have a service dog.

On August 9th at 6:00pm, the non-profit will be hosting an event at The Hydrant Doggie Playcare, located at 28 W South 4th St in Montrose. They want to help facilitate a clear understanding of the rights of service dog handlers as well as the rights business owners have when a person enters their establishment with a service dog. This event is open to everyone.

Donations are always needed and welcome at Loyal Guardians Service Dog Training. For more information about donating or how to get involved and stay connected, please email loyalgsdt@gmail.com.