

Welcome to Yappy Hour

Well-behaved, leashed dogs invited to rooftop bar in Ridgway on April 16

BY LESLIE VREELAND
Contributing Editor

A rooftop view of the Cimarron Range, framed by alpenglow, beverage in hand.

What could top it?

The answer: That same, famous, late-afternoon vista with a beloved canine companion by your side, savoring the moment along with you.

Indeed, your furry best friend may even be savoring a nibble or two along with you. A selection of canine treats — a frozen, bone-broth popsicle with chunks of chicken or a roasted chicken “sundae” in a sweet potato base, topped by a swirl of canine-friendly, unsweetened yogurt — are on the menu for well-behaved, leashed dogs who accompany their owners to Yappy Hour.

The event takes place Thursday, April 16, 4-6 p.m. at the White Buffalo Restaurant and Bar in Ridgway. The rooftop setting at Chipeta Lodge Resort and Spa is a prime spot for two-legged guests. At Yappy House, pets get to enjoy this place right along with their humans — and the proceeds will support the Second Chance Humane Society.

Hosting this gathering “was a no-brainer,” said Brittany Quiring, the resort’s group sales and brand manager, who shares her life with a husky/border collie mix named Zion, “a bundle of joy and my adventure buddy.”

“We all love dogs here,” Quiring said. Nearly every room at the recently refurbished Chipeta is pet-friendly, she noted.

On Thursday, “We’ll have a big, community coming-together, where people can show off their dogs. We’ll have shade and fresh water available for pets,” she added.

There will be a best-dressed pet contest; the winner receives a free night’s stay at the Chipeta and a gift basket worth over \$100 from Chow Down Pet Supplies.

“We’ve got a lot of great stuff happening” at the Chipeta, said Shari Mez-



GABI WHITE, SECOND CHANCE HUMANE SOCIETY / COURTESY PHOTO
Echo welcomes guests to the White Buffalo Bar at Chipeta Lodge.



CHIPETA LODGE RESORT AND SPA / COURTESY PHOTO
Husky mix Zion howling his approval of Yappy Hour.

rah, who purchased the place with her husband, Todd, in September of 2022. “We’ve done a lot (to refurbish it). It’s been a journey.”

The Mezrahs, who divide their time between Telluride and Florida, had never owned a lodge before — but they had traveled widely, and knew what they liked, and didn’t.

“Every time we would go to a hotel, we’d say to ourselves, ‘We can do this better,’” Shari recalled. “And so we began doing some research. We started to look at, ‘What is the perfect stay?’ We came into

this with four-star thinking. Our vision is to provide a welcoming getaway in the mountains that is memorable and lasting. We wanted to create a destination: We’ll be your base while you visit Telluride, or Ouray, or the Black Canyon. You’re not just going to Ridgway; you’re going to Chipeta Lodge.”

Accordingly, the refurbished Chipeta has gotten cozier, befitting a spot you would enjoy snuggling into for a few days. Guest rooms have been refurbished; new carpeting and furniture has been added. Fluffy bathrobes are provided in each

room. Cookies for humans (and biscuits for dogs) are available upon arrival.

“We have eight wonderful hot tubs in the LoCha Suites. We gutted and renovated the Spa, and partnered with ISUN,” an organic skincare line made in Ridgway and found in high-end spas in Telluride, Shari said.

“That’s what we want: community stuff,” she added, right down to the restaurant’s new, Colorado-focused menu emphasizing simple, bold, Southwestern flavors (think Birria tacos, pork green chili, elote corn-and-kale salad, “and a killer smashburger”).

Guests who visit on April 16 can stay and dine at the restaurant (open daily from 5-9 p.m.), and those proceeds will also benefit Second Chance. Dogs are welcome on the patio.

“We’re hoping this is the first of many events we can do,” Shari added of Yappy Hour.

She’s the proud owner of Cash Pup, a French bulldog “who’s at my side right now,” she added. “We love our community, and giving back is really important to us,” and there is no more fitting place to practice that this time of year than the White Buffalo rooftop bar, “a special place,” as Shari put it. “We’re creating a lookout a little bit higher,” which might provide “a private dining experience in the future,” she added. “You hear oohs and ahs from guests when they catch the alpenglow. Have you ever seen the full moon up there?” she asked this reporter. “It’s magical.” ■



CHIPETA LODGE RESORT AND SPA / COURTESY PHOTO
The view from the White Buffalo Bar, the setting for Yappy Hour, Thursday, April 16, 4-6 p.m.



CHIPETA LODGE RESORT AND SPA / COURTESY PHOTO
Cash Pup, Shari Mezrah’s French bulldog, in his tipi.

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