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Historic Courthouse
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PRESS RELEASE

31-year old small business Spotlight on Local Business recipient

Pueblo's oldest custom-framing company recognized by County Commissioners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

PUEBLO – A 31-year-old creative industry business was selected as the December recipient of the Spotlight on Local Business Award. Classic Corner was recognized at a Pueblo Board of County Commissioners' meeting on Wednesday, December 20, 2017. Classic Corner is currently located at 909 N. Elizabeth Street in Pueblo.

Mary Ann Miklich established Classic Corner in 1986 and says she is now the oldest custom framing small business in Pueblo. "We use to say if it's not moving, we'll frame it, now we say, if it's not alive, we'll frame it," the self-proclaimed friendly-framer said as she described her business to the County Commissioners.

Miklich said that she is growing her business to print on metal, glass and other non-traditional media to help local artists and to offer a unique service to locals.

Classic Corner actively works to help new and established artists promote their work and helps non-profits in their framing needs, Miklich said in the award nomination form.

The Spotlight on Local Business Award program was launched in July 2017 by the Pueblo County Buy Local Advisory Board with the goal of bringing awareness of the diverse retail and service companies that the community has to choose from when making buying decisions.

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Roughly 82.8 percent of businesses in Pueblo have ten or fewer employees, according to Pueblo County's Economic Development & Geographical Information Systems Department.

Increasing purchases from locally owned and operated businesses strengthens the local economy in these top three ways:

1. Each local dollar spent at an independent business returns an average of three-times more money to the local community than one dollar spent at a national chain.
2. Independent businesses employ more people per dollar of revenue.
3. Small independent businesses create greater per capita income growth. For instance, in Pueblo County, if there is only a 1-percent shift in purchasing from local independents there would be a retention of an additional \$4.8 million in our community.

All of Classic Corner's employees reside in Pueblo County and Classic Corner has sales to at least 75 percent of Pueblo County.

The Buy Local Advisory Board randomly chose the December Spotlight on Local Business winner. Names of the previous nominees were also included in December's drawing.

The Buy Local Advisory Board has a continual nomination process. Applications will be accepted at any time. Nominations can be made by independent businesses themselves or on behalf of an independent business at www.pueblocounty.us/buy-local.

CONTACT: Business owners, and the general public may contact Pueblo County Economic Development Specialist Susan Fries for more information at 719-583-6321 or friess@pueblocounty.us.

Media seeking additional information are asked to contact Pueblo County Community Information Manager Paris Elliott at 719-252-8550 or elliottp@pueblocounty.us.

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