



By Savannah Nelson

50 YEARS OF HIGH COUNTRY GEMS

Change is inevitable, and perhaps no one is more aware of the ebbs and flows of time than a small Colorado mountain town; Glenwood Springs has seen countless evolutions over the years through steady growth and modernization. It's nothing short of a miracle, then, that High Country Gems and Minerals has remained pretty much the same since 1971. It's the community's go-to place for both geological interests and general merriment.

The local rock shop has remained a downtown staple in Glenwood Springs for 51 years amid a continuously developing landscape. "It's a multi-generational good time," current owner Patti Rock Star said.

Patti is the third owner of the store, which sits on 8th street and is home to an eclectic and expansive collection of rock specimens, mineral specimens, fossils, crystals, metaphysical supplies, and jewelry. Whether you're interested in dinosaurs or quartz-fueled singing bowls, kid's toys or Pakistan onyx dinnerware, there's something for everyone.

Even if you're not sure what you're looking for, chances are likely that you'll find something that piques your interest and ignites an intuitive curiosity. You're guided by Patti and her staff, who are knowledgeable and enthusiastic. One of Patti's mantras is, "I've never met a rock I didn't like," and it seems to extend to her customers, too.

High Country Gems is a place of exploration and education; there are opportunities to learn about historical formations, geological insights, and metaphysical concepts relating to the universe and spirituality. "We don't know everything, but we know a lot," Patti said. "We are here to help and guide."

For Patti, her connection with High Country Gems was manifested in a curiously fateful way—in 2000, she asked the universe for a change. A day later, she met former owner Matt MacQueen, who bought High Country Gems in 1998. Patti was in a Carbondale store when Matt offered her a job on the spot. This chance encounter changed the trajectory of her life, propelling Patti into a new world of fascination, learning, and, of course, rocks. She'd eventually change her name, too. Why 'Rock Star'? "Well, I own a rock shop," Patti said.

In 2008, Patti took over ownership of High Country Gems and has poured her heart into the store ever since. She's continued the ongoing tradition of providing an authentic experience for anyone who visits and offers an open-door policy for everyone and anyone who enters.

A few definitive things set High Country Gems apart and might very well be responsible for its historic run. First, the merchandise. Second, the experience.

Collectors, scientists, and tourists all marvel over the variety of rocks and the incredible selection available to admire and

purchase. While they're at the shop, guests are treated to first-class customer service, including plenty of laughter, a free gratitude rock for every person, and an uplifting interaction to determine their needs. "It's all about the connections," Patti said.

One of High Country Gems' centerpieces is the Star Geode: its outer crust opens up to reveal a seven-pointed star inside, a rare and gorgeous piece that specifically brings guests into the shop.

"One day, a friend and I decided to paint a seven-pointed star on the sidewalk outside of the shop," Patti said. The art remains an iconic symbol that visually summarizes the shop inside: colorful, fun, and mystic. "The very next day," Patti continued, "I went to a rock show and saw the Star Geode for the first time. I knew it belonged with us."

Since then, Patti has delighted in the visible reactions that guests have when they see the geode for the first time, from gasps and squeals to goosebumps. It's an astonishing find and, just like the store, has found its forever home.

Glenwood Springs is a nourishing spot for the mind, body, and soul—it's also been an ideal host for High Country Gems to thrive and uplift each visitor. "A huge thank you to the community for your support for 51 years," Patti said. "We love you! Come on down."



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

GLENWOOD'S ORIGINAL & BEST ROCK SHOP

HIGH COUNTRY GEMS AND MINERALS

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Our wide variety of goodies includes:

- Rock, mineral & fossil specimens
 - Geology & rock books
- Rock tumbling kits & supplies
- Gold pans & rock hammers
 - Wide variety of jewelry
 - LOTS of kid stuff
 - Crystal singing bowls
 - Metaphysical items
 - Fairy garden supplies

FREE Gratitude Rocks!