

Museum TIMES

July/August 2016



Back by Popular Demand...

The King 'n Trio Returns to Cross Orchards Historic Site!

July 29 🎵 7:00 pm

Cross Orchards Historic Site

3073 F Road, Grand Junction

\$25 per person



The King 'n Trio returns to Cross Orchards Historic Site for a benefit performance Friday, July 29, 2016 at 7 pm.

The barn at Cross Orchards Historic Site provides the perfect ambience for a mid-summer night's concert. The traditional folk sounds of string bass, banjo, and harmonica are sure to get your feet tapping and your hands clapping!

The King 'n Trio formed about 15 years ago and is known for its folk, Irish, and Americana tunes. Over the years the band has become a Grand Valley sensation! Band members include our very own Board Member, Merritt Kinsey, who plays the string bass. Joining him are Chris Unfug, an original member of the band (guitar, banjo, and mandolin), Russ Williams (guitar), Ron Koss, (guitar and vocals), and Terry Toner (harmonica).

Doors open at 6:00 pm and music begins at 7 pm.

Tickets are required and seating is limited to 100 – so be sure to get your tickets early! Contact Carla at the Museum 970.242.0971, ext. 212 or purchase online. www.museumofwesternco.com/event/evening-king-n-trio



Calendar

THRU FEB 12			Western Colorado Weaponry Exhibit • Museum of the West
THRU SEPT 18			<i>Tyrannosaurus rex</i> and the End of the "Age of Dinosaurs" • Dinosaur Journey Museum
Thru OCT Wed & Sat		7:30 am-Noon	F.A.R.M. Farmers' Market at Cross Orchards Historic Site
JULY	7	5-8 pm	COOL Summer Nights at Museum of the West
	11-15	9 am-3 pm	Pioneer Kids Camp at Cross Orchards Historic Site
	12		Crag Crest Hike
	14	5-8 pm	COOL Summer Nights at Museum of the West
	15		Red Mountain Ghost Town Tour
	15	10 am	Volunteer Craft Meeting at Cross Orchards Historic Site
	15	Gates open - 5:30 pm	Movies Under the Stars at Glade Park
	21	Noon	Oral History Program at Whitman Educational Center
	21	5-8 pm	COOL Summer Nights at Museum of the West
	22	Gates open - 5:30 pm	Movies Under the Stars at Glade Park
	28	5-8 pm	COOL Summer Nights at Museum of the West
	29		Leadville Day Trip
	29	10 am	Volunteer Craft Meeting at Cross Orchards Historic Site
	29	7 pm	The King 'n Trio Concert at Cross Orchards Historic Site
AUG	4	5-8 pm	COOL Summer Nights at Museum of the West
	5		Canyonlands Jet Boat Tour
	8-17		Galapagos Islands Cruise
	11	5-8 pm	COOL Summer Nights at Museum of the West
	12	10 am	Volunteer Craft Meeting at Cross Orchards Historic Site
	18	Noon	Oral History Program at Whitman Educational Center
	18	5-8 pm	COOL Summer Nights at Museum of the West
	19		Historic Beaumont Hotel Tour and Box Canyon Hike
	22		Natural Beauty, Ethno-Botany, and Ute Heritage Day Trip
	25	5-8 pm	COOL Summer Nights at Museum of the West
	26	10 am	Volunteer Craft Meeting at Cross Orchards Historic Site
	27	5-10:30 pm	Feast of Skulls at Dinosaur Journey Museum

Please note: Dates and times of events, meetings, and programs are subject to change; please call to confirm.

Through strong stewardship and relevant programming, the Museums of Western Colorado strives to inspire the community to preserve its heritage and tell its story.



Dinosaur Journey collects, preserves, interprets and displays evidence of the history of life and environments of western Colorado and geologically related surrounding areas.



The Loyd Files Research Library provides learning and research opportunities for exploring and interpreting western Colorado's past, present and future.

The Museum of the West is dedicated to the collection, preservation, exhibition and interpretation of artifacts that represent the rich heritage and history of western Colorado and the contiguous areas of the American West.

Cross Orchards Historic Site utilizes living history to preserve, interpret and educate the public on agriculture, transportation and the social history of the region.

**Museums of Western Colorado
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www.museumofwesternco.org
Subscribe to e-news and more at
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Museum Times is the bimonthly newsletter of the Museums of Western Colorado informing members and supporters of news, programs, and events.

Museum membership entitles you to free admission to all of our sites, as well as discounts for various programs. Check our website for updated membership fees.

 Find us on
Facebook

Program News

Oral History Program Whitman Educational Center 248 S. Fourth St. Every 3rd Thursday at Noon

Oral History programs are jointly sponsored by the Museums of Western Colorado and the Mesa County Historical Society, and are free to the public. The programs are held on the third Thursday of the month at noon.

July 21

The July program will feature the history of The Western Colorado Center for the Arts. The Art Center's Board President, Robbie Breaux, has been scouring scrapbooks looking for great pictures to share and lots of information about how The Art Center came to be. It will be a very interesting presentation about how Grand Junction has fostered the arts over the past hundred years in Mesa County. There will be a question and answer session afterward.

August 18 - TBA



Thursdays in July and August
5 - 8 pm

Museum of the West
4th and Ute

FREE admission courtesy of



- | | |
|-----------|--|
| July 7 | Spanish Exploration Exhibit Gallery Talk |
| July 14 | Top of the World
History Talk on Top of the Museum Tower |
| July 21 | Outlaws and the Wild West-Thrailkill Gallery Talk |
| July 28 | Hidden Treasures
Behind the Scenes Tour |
| August 4 | Distant Treasures in the Mist Exhibit Gallery Talk |
| August 11 | Cavalcade of History
Tour of the Museum of the West's Exhibit Galleries |
| August 18 | Outlaws and the Wild West-Thrailkill Gallery Talk |
| August 25 | Spanish Exploration Exhibit Gallery Talk |

Museums of Western Colorado at Glade Park's *Movies Under the Stars*

Join the Museums of Western Colorado at *Movies Under the Stars* in Glade Park on July 15th and July 22nd.

"It's a Grand Junction tradition for families to drive up from Grand Junction to cool off, eat at the grill, and watch a family movie under the bright and plentiful stars," said Peter Booth.

Thanks to museum supporter, Joyce Owens, this is the third summer

that we have had an opportunity to participate.

On both evenings, we will be promoting our events, trips, digs, programs, and the Museums themselves (as well as just having fun).

The gate opens at 5:30 pm, grill and concession starts at 6 pm, entertainment starts at 7 pm, and the show starts at dusk.

Movies Under the Stars is the major fundraiser for the Glade Park Volunteer Fire Department.

For a complete listing of the series, go to <http://www.glade-park.com/movies-under-the-stars.html>. Come enjoy a Grand Junction tradition and visit our table on either July 15th or July 22nd—or both!

July 15th - *Ratatouille*
July 22nd - *Elf*

Passport to Adventure

Leadville: The Two Mile High City

July 29 • Register by July 15

Led by Peter Booth

Experience the highest city in the United States—Leadville. Colorado's destiny was strongly impacted by this mining boom town. Its historic downtown reflects its elegant past, the National Mining Museum Hall of Fame reflects its hard rock mining roots, and the Matchless Mine of Baby Doe Tabor reflects its colorful character. It is quoted that, "There has been but one Leadville. Never will there be another." Also enjoy at a stop at Camp Hale, the training site of the famed 10th Mountain Division.

\$75/Museum member; \$85/Non-member - includes transportation and admission

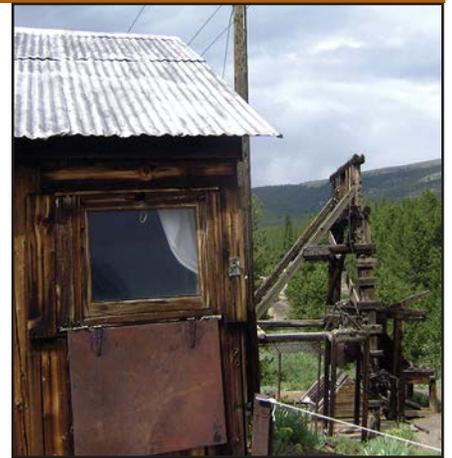


Photo courtesy of Sally Crum

Natural Beauty, Ethno-Botany, and Ute Heritage

August 22 • Register by August 8

Led by Sally Crum

Discover the heritage of the former western Colorado inhabitants. Our journey begins at Shavano Rock Art site. Then we will journey up the Uncompahgre Plateau and experience the landscape of the Ute's ancestral homeland. Former Forest Service Archaeologist Sally Crum will discuss life ways and culture of the Uncompahgre band as we move along the former Ute trails. The journey will return to Grand Junction on the breathtaking Divide Road that runs the length of the Uncompahgre Plateau.

\$80/Museum member; \$90/Non-member - includes transportation and sack lunch

Meeker Classic Sheepdog Championship Trials

September 9 • Register by September 2

You might just think you've been transported to the British Isles as you watch exceptionally talented and willing sheepdogs help their handlers guide bunches of clueless sheep through gates, around obstacles and into a pen. That's just part of the fun at this annual event that combines rural traditions with lots of good food, educational demonstrations, art displays and craft booths. It's an outdoor event with a little walking on uneven pasture ground, and a fun day you won't want to miss!

\$70/Museum member; \$80/Non-member - includes transportation, admission, and event program



Photo courtesy of © shaunmccullough

Crystal River Heritage / West Elk Fall Foliage

September 12 – 13 cRegister by August 12

Led by Peter Booth

The aspen grove in the West Elk Mountains is considered the largest living organism in the world, with the trees all sharing a common root system. This results in an amazing display of fall colors. This journey will also experience the heritage and beauty of the Crystal River valley with stops in Redstone and Marble. We will enjoy an evening in historic downtown Crested Butte.

\$225/Museum member; \$265/Non-member - includes transportation and lodging

Passport to Adventure

Geology of Colorado National Monument

September 19 • Register by September 5

Led by Julia McHugh, Ph.D.

This trip will showcase the geology and history of Colorado National Monument. Join us for a guided tour of Rimrock Drive, as well as a geologist-led hike along Canyon Rim Trail. We'll see monoclines, windows and monoliths, the Redlands Fault, and even the Great Unconformity line in the rocks where over a billion years of Earth's history is missing. Many stops will be roadside or at the visitor's center; however, we will hike the Canyon Rim Trail that is about 1 mile roundtrip and is rated easy.

\$70/Museum member; \$80/Non-member - includes transportation, sack lunch, and admission



Photo courtesy of McHugh Photography

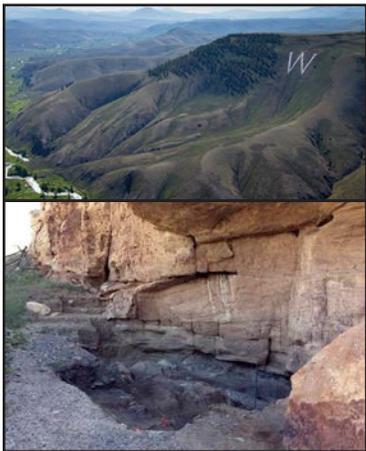
In the Footsteps of the Paleoamericans

October 13 – 16 • Register by September 11

Led by John Seebach, Ph.D.

Long before the settlers, before the Ancestral Pueblo, before the Basketmakers and even the Archaic peoples, there came the Paleoamericans. On this journey, you will discover those who lived here between 8,000 to 13,000 years ago. Join Colorado Mesa University professor of Archaeology, Dr. John Seebach, as he leads this tour to Paleoamerican sites in Colorado and New Mexico. This experience will include the recently discovered site near Delta and the Mountaineer Site in Colorado, and the famous Folsom and Clovis sites in New Mexico. Our journey will conclude with a relaxing evening in Old Town Albuquerque.

\$775/Museum member; \$850/Non/member - includes transportation, admission, and lodging



Glenwood Canyon Geology Bike Ride

October 14 • Register by September 5

Led by Julia McHugh, Ph.D.

Tour beautiful Glenwood Canyon by bicycle. This geologist-led trip will feature stops along the easy bicycle tour through the carved canyons between Bair Ranch and Glenwood Springs. We will bring a picnic lunch and even hike up to Hanging Lake. Don't forget your camera on this scenic tour (bicycles are equipped with handlebar bags for personal belongs). The bike ride is rated as easy, with only a single small hill. Most stops will be roadside; however, we will also plan to do the short hike to Hanging Lake that is rated as strenuous.

\$90/Museum member; \$100/Non-member - includes bicycle rental, lunch, and shuttle service to Bair Ranch



Photo courtesy of McHugh Photography

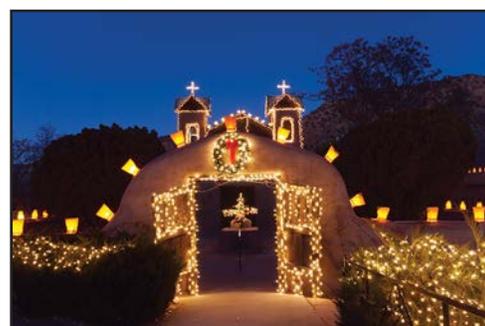


Photo courtesy of © Sumikophoto

High Road to Taos in the Holidays

December 9 – 13 • Register by November 9

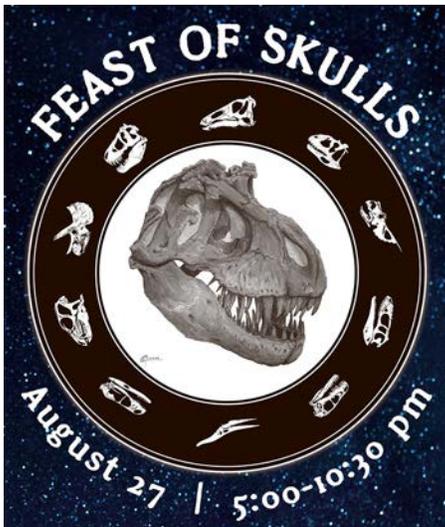
Led by Peter Booth

Experience the charm of northern New Mexico traveling along the High Road to Taos, a winding and historic journey through the picturesque Land of Enchantment. We will visit the renowned Millicent Rogers Museum; the Fort Burgwin/Pot Creek ruins; and the Taos Pueblo, a World Heritage Site continuously inhabited for over 1000 years. We will also visit Chimayo, home of a wonderful weaving tradition; the legendary Santuario; the Rancho de Chimayo; and enjoy the feast day dances at the Pojoaque Pueblo.

\$875/Museum member; \$940/Non-member - includes transportation, lodging, and admission

Alpine Bank Presents Feast of Skulls 2016

Saturday, August 27th, Dinosaur Journey will be transformed into a spectacular venue designed to ignite your senses. Family Health West's *Flavors Grille* will present a spectacular dinner buffet featuring two succulent roasted pigs, accompanied by savory sides, and delectable desserts. The evening will include a silent and live auction, musical entertainment, and dancing to the classic rock sounds of *Vintage Voltage!* Check-out the band's website at: www.vintagevoltageband.com

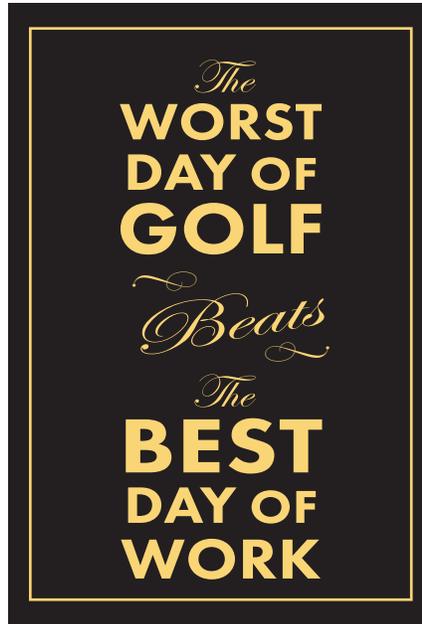


Feast of Skulls is a unique and exciting fundraising event held in celebration of the Grand Valley's treasured paleontological heritage. Tickets are on sale now!

Show your support and join the Museums of Western Colorado for an exciting evening of friend making and fundraising!

Get your tickets online:

www.museumofwesternco.org
Individual/\$100; Couple/\$175.00
Table of 8/\$700



2016 Old Fossil Classic Golf Tournament

The Museums of Western Colorado's Dinosaur Journey and Family Health West in Fruita are proud to host the 2016 Old Fossil Classic Golf Tournament at Adobe Creek National Golf Course on September 23rd. Play begins with a shotgun start at 9:00 am.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to partner with the museums and ensure that both entities can continue to provide their services to the community," said Mark J. Francis, CEO and President of Family Health

West. "Collaboration between organizations is what makes this valley such an awesome place to live, work, and play."

Registration is \$100 per golfer and \$400 for a team of four. The registration fee includes 18 holes of golf, the use of golf cart, drink tickets, a delicious lunch provided by *Flavors Grille* (a service of Family Health West), and the chance to win some great prizes including a new Subaru.

A big thank you to our Title Sponsor, Mountain West Insurance & Financial Services; our Major Sponsors, Bank of the West and FCI Constructors; and our Media Sponsors, *The Daily Sentinel* and News Channel 5. We would also like to thank Coldwell Banker for sponsoring the Closest to the Hole contest and Grand Junction Subaru for sponsoring the Hole-in-One contest.

"Even if you don't play golf, you will love this event," said Peter Booth, Executive Director, Museums of Western Colorado.

For more information and to register, please visit our event page: www.museumofwesternco.com/event/old-fossil-classic-golf-tournament

It is not too late to become a sponsor! Several exciting opportunities remain, so please contact us for information. pbooth@westcomuseum.org 970.242.0971, ext. 204

Live~Laugh~Golf

Chautauq...What???? History and Family Fun -- Rolled Into One!

Two Rivers Chautauqua, "Character Forged in Conflict" aims to bring history to life in the most fun and enjoyable way! Join us on Friday, September 16th and Saturday, September 17th for this unique event that provides attendees with the opportunity to interact with Chautauquans. Chautauq...what?????

A Chautauquan is a scholar who portrays a significant figure in our history by delivering an unscripted dramatic monologue in costume and in character. Following the presentation and while still in character, the Chautauquan answers audience questions about the life and time of his or her character as the character. This allows the audience to have a conversation with, say, Abraham Lincoln or Eleanor Roosevelt. Then the Chautauquan steps out of character to take additional questions from the audience. (Colorado Humanities)

This year's historical guests will be Abraham Lincoln (George Frein, Ph.D), Jefferson Davis (Doug Mishler, Ph.D), Eleanor Roosevelt (Susan Marie Frontczak) and Nikita Khrushchev (also Doug Mishler). Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis will present separately, and then be invited back on stage to engage in a lively discussion and share their perspectives.

In addition to the professional Chautauquans, Young

Chautauquans will also be presenting historic characters in the first-person. Student ages range from elementary school through high school.

This year, Two Rivers Chautauqua is partnering with community organizations to honor veterans throughout Mesa County. Various programs and activities are being designed to highlight the contributions of our Nation's veterans.

Friday, September 16

We will kick off the event with a veteran's forum. Veterans will share their experiences and stories.

Saturday, September 17

Bring your whole family for a fun-filled day of Young Chautauquans, scholar presentations, and many family focused educational activities. Enjoy the veterans' artwork display, ooh and ahh at the military car show, and learn

how and why military uniforms have changed throughout the years!

This year's 2016 Two Rivers Chautauqua event is sure to be a weekend of **History and Family Fun--Rolled Into One!**

Save the Date - Friday, September 16th and Saturday, September 17th. The full event schedule and weekend passes will be available on our website soon. Look for more event information in our next newsletter.

The 2016 Two Rivers Chautauqua has been made possible by Lois and Edward Gardner, Whitewater Building Materials, Colorado Humanities, St. Mary's Hospital, Wells Fargo Bank, and the Museums of Western Colorado.

A special thank you to the committee who is currently hard at work planning this event!

MUSEUMS of WESTERN COLORADO

Two Rivers Chautauqua

Character
FORGED
in Conflict

CROSS ORCHARDS HISTORIC SITE
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO
WWW.MUSEUMOFWESTERNCO.ORG

SEPTEMBER
16 & 17

Three hundred dinosaur lovers get "down and nerdy" with Julia McHugh at Denver ComicCon!

Comic Conventions (or ComicCons) are a Mecca for comic enthusiasts, but in the last 10 years or so, they have transformed beyond the world of just comics. Today, ComicCons encompass traditional comics, manga and anime (Japanese comics and animations), movies, books, art, card/board/video games, and almost every other branch of science fiction. This includes the science behind what inspires science fiction movies/books/comics.

This year was the second year that the Museums of Western Colorado was invited to participate in a Q/A panel at Denver's ComicCon. These panels include 4-5 experts, a moderator, and a room of enthusiasts firing away questions related to an established topic. This year, the topic of our panel was "What Scientists have Learned since Jurassic Park." When it comes to paleontology in the movies, Jurassic Park is probably one of the most influential pieces of paleo science fiction ever to grace the silver screen. Dinosaurs have fascinated the public imagination since their first discoveries almost 200 years ago. Since then, public interest in dinosaurs and their ancient world has only increased as science has progressed. This has created a golden opportunity for scientific outreach and promotion of paleontological programs, like ours at the Museums of Western Colorado.

It has been 23 years since Jurassic Park was first released in theaters, and the public enthusiasm has yet to wane. Sequels like last year's release of Jurassic World continue to be blockbusters and the exhibit halls at Dinosaur Journey continue to be filled by dinosaur lovers of all ages. This was particularly evident at the 2016 Denver ComicCon.



Our panel room seated 300 in the audience, and this was filled quickly. The line to get into the panel stretched down the hallway before the doors even opened. After the 300 seats were filled, convention workers had still to turn away 50-100 more people. The fact that our panel was late in the day on Saturday, June 18th (5:15-6:05PM), when many convention-goers were already headed out for dinner or home for the evening, made this showing even more impressive. The love of dinosaurs is real.

Panelists included our curator of paleontology, Julia McHugh, as well as preparator Jacob Jet and curator Anthony Maltese from the Dinosaur Resource Center,

and Matthew Mossbrucker, Director & Chief Curator of the Morrison Museum. Our moderator and panel organizer was Kyle Sanders, comic artist and producer of Peer Revue. Together we fielded questions that ranged from anatomical details of dinosaurs that were incorrect in the Jurassic Park movies to more advanced questions on how we know what we know, different types of technology used in paleontology, and feathers on dinosaurs. We were all very impressed with the level of questions from our crowd. The one type of question we were expecting, but did not surface, were the "who would win in a fight" type of questions. We usually get one or two of those, partly due to the recent television show: Jurassic Fight Club, but not this year. We certainly didn't mind getting a little "down and nerdy" with the group! The panel was a great success and we are already brainstorming for next year. With such a hungry and captive audience, how can we pass up the opportunity to share some knowledge and promote our programs? See you next year, Denver ComicCon!



Those Darn Dinosaur Bones Take Up so Much Room! BLM and the City of Fruita Fund Collections Space at Dinosaur Journey Museum

Summertime is always busy at Dinosaur Journey. This year, we are kicking things into Ultra-High Gear, since High Gear is now in the rear-view mirror. This spring, the Museums of Western Colorado received a ~\$50,000 grant from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to enhance our physical capabilities in specimen and artifact preservation. We are thrilled to be given this opportunity to upgrade our collections spaces. This grant will provide new artifact shelving to accommodate additional materials in our BLM archaeology collections at Museum of the West. At Dinosaur Journey, we will be supplementing this grant with matching funds from the City of Fruita to embark on a larger project: creating a new collections space.

The paleontological collections at Dinosaur Journey have been full or near full for a few years now, especially the oversized collections. (Those darn dinosaur bones just take up so much room!) And while an expansion of the Dinosaur Journey Museum is still a goal, we need to create an immediate solution to our lack of space for large fossils. We are so thankful to our partners at the BLM and the City of Fruita for making this solution possible.

But since we are not expanding the building itself, where are we going to come up with the space for additional collections? We had to get a little crafty. Currently, on the southwest corner of the building is a raised platform that serves as a snack area and birthday party



area. We will be removing this raised platform and converting the space into a collections annex. This room will be approximately 300 square feet in area and run behind the existing stream table, with an entrance behind the dig pit area. Our current collections room is approximately 1100 square feet in area—this is almost a 30% increase in storage space. Wow!

It is not an easy process to build this room, though. Building the collections annex is not like framing out a closet. For starters, according to national and international museum collections standards, windows are not allowed into collections spaces – for security, temperature, and UV light reasons. Therefore, when we build this room, we will be removing the large windows on the west wall. We will also be removing the exit door next to the window, stairs to the snack area (which will no longer exist), and the walkway behind Alice the *Allosaurus* skeleton (as it will lead to nowhere). We have been working with an architect, Michael E. Oney, to draw up plans for the addition, as well as performing an exiting study, to ensure escape routes from the building in case of fire are up to code.

We should begin construction soon, Agape Construction Inc. will be performing the work. The Museums of Western Colorado has worked with them in the past with wonderful results. We are anticipating a smooth project. We hope to work quickly through the summer and have construction complete by early-mid August. After construction is complete, we will be moving in the shelving and cabinets. By September, we hope to be moving in the dino bones!

But what about the snack area and birthday parties? Don't worry, we are not losing them. The vending machine/snack area will be moving into the hallway between the exhibit hall and the gift store, near the restrooms. And the birthday parties will be relocated into the auditorium, where guests can have a quieter spot for cake and presents, while still having access to the museum and exhibit hall for the party. We promise—birthday parties and Dinosaur Journey will never go extinct.

It is going to be a crazy, whirlwind summer, but we are excited to be moving forward and expanding our collections! Building new collections spaces doesn't happen very often in museums, but they are always needed. We are excited to be able to have this opportunity to better care for our BLM collections and preserve them for future generations of scientists, students, and the world. So please excuse our mess this summer, we're doing it for SCIENCE!

Farmers Market now at Cross Orchards



Cross Orchards Historic Site at 3073 F Road is hosting the F.A.R.M farm and ranch market for the 2016 summer season.

**Wednesday and Saturday
7:30 am to Noon
June 15th - the end of October**

Join us in supporting both the history and the future of the agricultural industry of the Grand Valley!

Check out photos taken at F.A.R.M. by local photographer Dave Wadsworth!
https://www.flickr.com/photos/dave_wadsworth/sets/72157669140020500



Pioneer Kids Camp 2016

The kids at Cross Orchards Historic Site enjoyed presentations from Garry Brewer with the Sons of Union Veterans and Sons of American Revolution on the history of uniforms, hats, and helmets of the American Army during our 240 year nation's history. They also enjoyed seeing one of the many flags and other items from the Patriotic boxes.



Digging up the past at Cross Orchards Historic Site

For the first time since the 1983 CAS (Colorado Archaeological Society) excavation of the bunkhouse, archaeological work is currently underway at Cross Orchards. With the help of CMU's Assistant Professor of Archaeology, John Seebach, Ph.D., and his students, surveys are being done on two very intriguing areas on the site.



The first part of the project was to investigate a mysterious structure on the far western side of the property. Historic aerial photographs of Cross Orchards revealed there was once a building on the property that no longer exists. Documentation that might help to identify the purpose of the building has been difficult to locate. Therefore, it was decided that archaeology was our best bet to get to the bottom of this mystery.

During the course of the week the students, eager to discover the building's foundation, dug a series of test pits along a set path. After a day and a half of hard work the results were less than ideal. The students had to fight for every centimeter in this incredibly tough, rocky soil, and, unfortunately, very few specimens emerged. However, after returning to the historic photographs it was

determined that the field school was just a few feet south of where the building once stood. With this information in mind

the students began setting a new datum point with a series of shovel tests. This strategy paid off! Soon fragments of broken glass, rusty nails, large chunks of asphalt, and metal began to emerge at a rapid pace.

What these specimens have to tell us about the nature of this mystery building is still unknown at this time, but it appears the students are on the right track. Every fragment and artifact found is another clue that will one day reveal new and exciting information about Cross Orchards!

The field school resumed June 20th to fulfill the second half of their mission: investigating the foundation of the old silo.

Check out the article in *The Daily Sentinel*.

<http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/archeology-students-in-the-field>



Thank You to our Sponsors From the First Half of 2016

The Museums of Western Colorado has been working very hard to bring the Western Slope an exciting array of educational, entertaining and family focused programming. Our hope is that you have attended and enjoyed one or more of our programs. The generosity of sponsors makes many of our programming efforts possible. The Museums of Western Colorado would like to thank the following sponsors for their continued generosity and for enabling us to fulfill our mission to Discover, Preserve, and Share the Rich History of the Grand Valley for generations to come!

If you get a chance, please say thank you to these great companies, organizations and people. We are looking forward to seeing you and our sponsors at our upcoming programs and events.

Fun and Games on the Western Slope: 2016 Heritage Rendezvous Exhibition

- U.S. Bank—Title Sponsor
- NewsChannel 5
- Brent & Dana Prosser
- Palisade Historical Society

Native American Arts Auction

- Burnham Trading Company
—Title Sponsor
- Horizon Drive Business Improvement District
- Grand Vista Hotel

50th Anniversary Open House

- Chadwick, Steinkirchner, Davis & Co., P.C.
—Title Sponsor

Western Colorado Weaponry: Tools of Survival and Conflict

- Whitewater Building Materials
—Title Sponsor
- Whitewater Hill Vineyard & Winery
- NewsChannel 5
- Lois & Edward Gardner

***Tyrannosaurus rex* and the End of the 'Age of Dinosaurs'**

- US Bank—Title Sponsor
- Chevron
- FCI Constructors Inc.

- Whitewater Hill Vineyard & Winery
- NewsChannel 5
- City of Fruita
- Teresa & Dean Christian Unfug
- Your Sign Company

Dinosaur Day

- Alpine Bank—Title Sponsor
- FCI Constructors Inc.
- Chevron
- HomeLoan Insurance partnering Nationwide
- City of Fruita
- NewsChannel 5
- Jerry Hamilton
- Pablos Pizza
- 5M Ice Cream

Explore It!

Spring Break Enrichment Camp

- Bureau of Land Management, Grand Junction Office
- Mesa County Valley School District #51

MWC Educational Outreach Kits

- Bureau of Land Management, Grand Junction Office
- Mesa County Valley School District #51
- Grand Junction Rotary Club
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Cross Orchards Apple Trees

- Martha Counts
- Mildred & Clayton Dause
- Sandy Knapp
- Anamae & John Richmond
- Judy Shelp

Cross Orchards Parking Lot Resurfacing

- Mesa County Highway Department

AEDs

- Family Health West
- St. Mary's Hospital

Lloyd Files Research Library

- Barbara & Garry Brewer
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Marie Tipping

Dinosaur Journey

- City of Fruita
- Chuck Safris

The MWC's Anthropological and Paleontological Collection

- Bureau of Land Management

The Museums of Western Colorado

- Mesa County

From the Director

Thanking Our Mesa County Commissioners

Year in and year out, Mesa County citizens have been the largest supporters of the Museums of Western Colorado (MWC). Thanks to a 1974 ballot initiative, Mesa County voters expressed their desire by a 5 to 1 margin that the county should help fund what is now the Museums of Western Colorado. While a specific amount of money was not designated, for the most part the County Commissioners have honored this vote. Despite the County's ongoing economic struggles, our current commissioners have been very supportive of the MWC. We are pleased that the Commissioners understand the invaluable role that the Museums of Western Colorado plays in Discovering, Preserving, and Sharing our unique local heritage!

Please send a thank you note to each of our commissioners—Commissioner John Justman, Commissioner Scott McInnis, and Commissioner Rose Pugliese—telling them how much you appreciate their ongoing support of the MWC. While you are at it, let them know what you value most about the Museums.

Address:

County Commissioners
Department 5010
P.O. Box 20,000
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5001

Email address:

john.justman@mesacounty.us
scott.mcinnis@mesacounty.us
Rose.Pugliese@mesacounty.us

Thank
you!



For more information -- <http://www.mesacounty.us/commissioners/>

From the Collections

One of the largest artifacts in the Museum of the West's history collections is the Placerville Post Office. The post office was acquired by the museum from the town of Placerville, Colorado, in 1986. The first Placerville post office opened in 1878, and Elizabeth Benson was the first postmaster. Postmasters in those days often opened up post offices in their own homes. In 1934, the new post office opened in a separate building in Placerville. As other post offices closed, postmasters in different towns would make postal fixtures available to new post offices.

The Placerville Post Office woodwork came from Montrose, the metal post boxes from Nucla, and other items from Redvale, Naturita, and Ridgway. The original building was a combination of a Denver & Rio Grande Western Railway Depot, church, and a home. The Placerville Post Office will be installed in the Museum of the West's exhibit gallery as part of our remodel plans in 2016.



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T. rex Selfie Contest at Dinosaur Journey

Our #TrexSelfie Contest is in full swing at Dinosaur Journey! From May 19 to Sept 18, we are holding weekly drawings of Facebook and Twitter visitor posts – folks who snap a selfie with our big guy, *T. rex*, and either tag the museum or use the hashtag, #TrexSelfie are automatically entered to win a fun, mystery prize from the gift store. Have YOU selfie-ed with the *T. rex* yet?



Intern Conducts Collection Research At "Body Farm"

Few people may be aware that Grand Junction is home to one of six "body farms" in the United States. Known as the Forensic Investigation Research Stations (FIRS), it is operated as part of Colorado Mesa University under the direction Dr. Melissa Connor. FIRS consists of an outdoor space on an acre of land surrounded by privacy fencing and an indoor facility that includes a classroom, wet lab/morgue, walk-in cooler, in-take area, office, and secure storage areas.

Its location outside of Whitewater Colorado has one of the highest altitudes, the most arid environment, and is the furthest west of the six. The majority of the remains desiccate – or mummify – quickly due to the dry conditions. Dr.

Connor's current research focus is on the mummification process and determining post-mortem interval, or the stage of decomposition.

The focus at FIRS is on education and students include Colorado Mesa students, as well as practitioners, law enforcement, coroners, coroner deputies, and forensic scientists. The Museum of the West has partnered with FIRS to provide students the opportunity to work with prehistoric and historic skeletal

remains. Hannah Moschetti, a student at Colorado Mesa University, has been helping Erin Schmitz, Curator of Collections and Archives, catalog, inventory, and photograph several of the skeletons in the Museum of the West's Archaeology collection.

The majority of the skeletons that Hannah is working on are Fremont and date from 2,000 to 700 years ago. They were excavated by Hannah Marie Wormington and Al Look at the Turner-



Look site in 1939, 1940, 1941, 1947, and 1948. There are several notes about some of the skeletal material being vastly different from the others and Hannah will verify that the perceived differences are in fact present. We will then try to determine if it is a simple variation, or if there is a pathological reason for the difference. In the publication, *A Reappraisal of the Fremont Culture*, they describe how they determined the likely age of the skeletons. For burial #1, they determined

“the advanced degree of sutural obliteration would indicate an age of perhaps 50 or somewhat more, but, owing to the unreliability of this method (Singer, 1953), the general assignment "middle aged is preferred.” Technology, however, has changed to the point where a better estimate is likely possible. Hannah and Dr. Connor will also scan the skeletal materials with ForDisc software. The software is able to estimate the sex, ancestry, and stature from a skeleton of unknown identity.

It creates a biological profile based on measurements from various areas of bones, along with information about the person's age, height, race, and illnesses.

The publication *A Reappraisal of the Fremont Culture* is available in the Loyd

Files Research Library and on the Denver Museum of Nature and Science website.

This is just one of the many unique and exciting projects that we are working on at the Loyd Files Research Files Library! If you are interested in learning more about our collection, please feel free to contact Erin at 970.242.0971, ext. 210.



Museums of Western Colorado
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Grand Junction, CO 81502-5020

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e-mail: museumofwesternco@gmail.com

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Dinosaur Journey Museum

550 Jurassic Court, Fruita • (970) 858-7282
May 1-September 30
7 days a week • 9 am-5 pm

Museum of the West

462 Ute (5th & Ute) • (970) 242-0971
May 1-September 30
Monday - Saturday • 9 am-5 pm
Sunday • Noon-4 pm

Loyd Files Research Library

Monday • 10 am-1 pm
Tuesday - Thursday • 10 am-4 pm
Friday • 10 am-1 pm
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Trip News



New date!

Historic Beaumont Hotel Tour and Box Canyon Hike August 19

Register by August 5

Led by David Bailey

Travel with Curator of History David Bailey to Ouray and tour the historic Beaumont Hotel, hike beautiful Box Canyon, visit the Ouray Museum, and see other natural wonders in the area, including the Amphitheater overlook, and an amazing waterfall on the Million Dollar Highway. The group will have lunch on their own and have time to visit Ouray's unique stores.

\$75/Museum member; \$85/Non-member - includes transportation and admission. Lunch is on your own