

Museum TIMES

May/June 2017



TITANOBOA MONSTER SNAKE

Slithering in at 48 feet long and weighing more than a ton, the world's largest snake has returned.

May 19-August 5

550 Jurassic Ct. | Fruita, CO

We would like to thank our local sponsors.

Titanoboa is a collaboration of the Smithsonian Institution, the Florida Museum of Natural History, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

© 2012 SNI/SI Network, LLC. All rights reserved.

This summer, Dinosaur Journey in Fruita will host the Smithsonian travelling exhibit, “*Titanoboa: Monster Snake*.” Slithering in at 48 feet long and weighing an estimated one-and-a-half tons, a realistic replica of the world’s largest snake is sure to send chills down any visitor’s spine.

Sixty million years ago, in the era after the mass extinction of the non-avian dinosaurs, scientists believe that a colossal snake related to modern boa constrictors thrived in a hot tropical climate.

“*Titanoboa: Monster Snake*” includes the snake replica and two vertebrae casts made from the original fossils: a 17-foot-long modern green anaconda and the vertebra from *Titanoboa*, as the giant snake is called. The exhibition is a collaboration between the Florida Museum of Natural History, the University of Nebraska, and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

“*Titanoboa: Monster Snake*” opens to the public on May 19, with a special member’s reception on the evening of May 18 at 5:30 pm at Dinosaur Journey in Fruita. The exhibit will slither away August 5. Don’t miss your opportunity to see this amazing exhibit!

Cross Orchards' Summer Concert Series

May 19 at 7 pm
Cross Orchards Historic Site
in the Historic Packing Shed/Barn

Opera Colorado's
2016-17 Young Artists
present
an evening of arias & ensembles
as well as a performance of
Donizetti's comic opera
The Elixir of Love.



GRAND JUNCTION
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Tickets: \$25 | Limited seating available
Reserve online: museumofwesternco.org

Discover Together

It's our birthday!

Celebrate with us!

DINOSAUR DAY

is turning
30!

Are you ready for a jungle party, dinosaur-style?

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Museums of Western Colorado's family festival:
Dinosaur Day, presented by Alpine Bank.



Come out to Dinosaur Journey on Saturday, June 10 from 9 to 4 pm for fun, kid-friendly educational activities, face painting at the *T. rex* styling salon, bump & jumps, and refreshments by 5M Ice Cream and Pablo's Pizza Fruita.

After 30 years of prehistoric fun, we can't wait to share this special day with the Grand Valley again! We're excited to have so many of our community partners back again this year to help with the festival, including Alpine Bank, Home Loan, Family Health West, the

Math & Science Center, Utah Friends of Paleontology, Colorado Canyons Association, Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office, Girl Scouts of Colorado, Clifton Elementary PTO, Chatfield Elementary PTO, and so many more.

Also, don't forget to stop by the Museum Store, Swag Table, PaleoBOND and Ron's Rocks for all of your prehistoric gear! We will see you at Dinosaur Journey in Fruita on June 10!

Adults/\$6 • Kids/\$4 • Family of Four/\$20.



Trips and Tours 2017

Land's End/Whitewater Basin: Ute Legends

June 22 • Register by June 8

Travel with Curator David Bailey up the magnificent Land's End Road to Grand Mesa and learn about Ute legends and lifeways. We will stop at the Land's End Observatory, six thousand feet above the Gunnison River Valley. Bailey will talk about the legends of Grand Mesa; we will view the legendary nesting sites of the mythical Thunderbirds and the dwelling place of the giant serpent Batiqtuba. We will also visit the Grand Mesa Visitor Center, stop at Island Lake and discuss Uto-Aztec language and legends, and return to Grand Junction through historic Cedaredge and visit the Pioneer Town Museum.

Led by David Bailey

\$90/Museum member; \$100/Non-member - Includes transportation, museum admissions, and box lunch



Rivers, Tracks, and Dinosaurs

July 25-27 • Register by July 11

Experience the Western Slope's 'Jurassic Park'. Raft the black water (= calm water) of the Colorado River to see canyons and dinosaur tracks, then dig into Mygatt-Moore Quarry where you can spend a day as a paleontologist digging for dinosaur bones. On day three, we travel west via van to Moab to find dinosaur trackways from the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. This is the Dinosaur Trifecta: rocks, bones, and tracks! Bring your hiking shoes, a water bottle, wide-brimmed hat, sunscreen, and bug spray.

Led by Dr. Julia McHugh

\$375/person - Includes transportation, lunch, raft rental/guide, instruction, and tools



Rocky Mountain National Park

August 14-16 • Register by July 1

Join us for a true Colorado Rocky Mountain high over Loveland Pass and then onto Estes Park. We will visit the Estes Park Museum and enjoy an evening in one of Colorado's most scenic mountain towns. The next day we will tour the historic Stanley Hotel, stroll beautiful downtown Estes Park, and finish our day at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center — headquarters of Rocky Mountain National Park. The highlight of our tour will be a drive over Trail Ridge Road, where the vast Rocky Mountains lie before you, a view that has inspired all who visit.

Led by Mike Perry

\$600/Museum member; \$660/Non-member - Includes transportation, lodging, and admission



NPS photo

Looking into the fall...
Grand Junction Cemetery Tour
Civil War in New Mexico

Opening a Dinosaur Quarry

At the end of spring, on the eve of summer, each year the Museums of Western Colorado prepares to open the Mygatt-Moore Quarry in Rabbit Valley for dig season. It's not as easy as just unlocking a gate and digging with a shovel... We first have to remove the excess dirt and rock we put over the quarry every fall. We do this to protect the site from fossil poaching, vandalism, and to keep winter and spring rain and melt from ponding in the quarry – causing damage to the fossils still waiting to be excavating. Using a small backhoe and front loader, we carefully remove the excess fill dirt within a few inches of the quarry layer. The final layers of dirt we remove by hand shoveling.

We then park our equipment trailer, with burlap, straps, buckets and of course picks and shovels at the quarry. Shade tarps and picnic tables are unloaded from the trailer and set up on the site. And finally, we re-survey the grid reference points for our quarry maps, making sure the old maps

will match with new ones from the 2017 season. Areas of the quarry are prioritized for work by the curator of paleontology, to make sure we make the most of every expedition day in the quarry.

It takes only a couple of days, with a lot of help from Don Kerven (Head of Maintenance), volunteers, and field crew, but when we're done, we are ready to go to work – looking for dinosaurs in the original *Jurassic Park* of the American West. The best part about our field work,

is that we get to take the public with us – dinosaur enthusiasts as young as 5 years old, help us make the discoveries that push science forward and keep us all young at heart. The 2017 *Paleontology Expeditions* schedule is now available on the Museums of Western Colorado's website (<https://museumofwesternco.com/things-to-do/category/dinosaur-journey-expeditions/>) and at www.dinodigs.org. We are excited to open the quarry and see what new discoveries the 2017 season will bring!



Leave a Legacy

Your ongoing gift to the community!

Help to ensure the preservation of heritage for those who survive us through a planned gift.

Contact us for information on Museums of Western Colorado's Legacy Society:
Illene Roggensack • thirdsec@earthlink.net or 970.314.3970

Loyd Files Research Library News

Thousands of Local Oral History Files Saved for Posterity

Erin Schmitz, Curator Collections and Archives at Museums of Western Colorado, is looking forward to the time when she can hear the stories of the Grand Valley, actually told by the people who lived them. Through a partnership with the Mesa County Libraries, the Museums of Western Colorado is in the process of digitally saving more than 3,000 local oral history files originally recorded via cassette tape.

“These tapes hold the history of this community – sheep and cattle wars, the Uranium Boom, archaeological and paleontological excavations, military service, the story of St. Mary's Hospital, and so much more,” says Schmitz. “It will feel like I'm actually getting to know these people when I hear their words with the clarity and quality of digital recording.”

While many of the tapes are in good condition, “We are cautious to play them in their current form,” says Schmitz. “Digitization is important because these tapes are an obsolete form of media that cannot be effectively distributed and used for research. The interviews they contain were conducted and recorded as far back as 40 years ago, so there is concern regarding the delicacy of the tapes. If flaking occurs on these magnetic cassettes, content can be lost. In some cases we have transcripts as well, but of course the goal is to preserve the oral history in audio format. In some cases, it is likely that the conversion process will, essentially be a “one and done” opportunity to preserve these recordings.”

Digitization has the added benefit of eliminating background noise

associated with magnetic tape recording, resulting in a better experience for the listener. “Of course, the most important consideration is to capture and make available the valuable content these tapes contain,” says Schmitz.

The project is being facilitated through the Mesa County Libraries. Digital conversion is done in “real time” (one hour for every hour of tape) at the Library's recording studio, then uploaded to the Marmot search system for ease of location and research.

For further information or to locate a specific oral history record, contact Erin Schmitz at 970.242.0971, ext. 2210.

Program News

Oral History Program

Every 3rd Thursday at Noon

Whitman Educational Center • 248 S. Fourth St.

May 18

Solving Archaeological Mysteries Of Colorado's Western Slope: Some Accomplishments of the Uncompahgre Valley Ute Project

The program will be presented by Steven G. Baker, founder of Centuries Research, Inc. of Montrose, Colorado.

June 15

Check our website for details as we get closer to the date!

Oral History Programs are jointly sponsored by the Museums of Western Colorado and the Mesa County Historical Society and are free to the public.

Museum of the West Exhibit News

revolutionaries
humanitarians
inspirations
visionaries
teachers
pioneers
leaders

WOMEN *of* EXCELLENCE:

THE COLORADO WOMEN'S
HALL OF FAME
COLLECTION

spirit
passion
courage
integrity
commitment

Inductee portraits and profiles on exhibition at Museum of the West
June 2-September 4

Brought to Western Colorado by:



HERITAGE RENDEZVOUS 2017



On exhibition through
October 18

Seven western Colorado
museums and institutions tell
the stories of their denizens who
contributed to the color and flair
of their communities.

Executive Director News

Forced Cuts at the Museums of Western Colorado

Recently, the Mesa County Commissioners had to reduce the budgets of all County departments and community partners by 5%; this included the annual County investment in Museums of Western Colorado (MWC). The County contribution to MWC is based on a 1974 election by the Mesa County voters who, by a 4-to-1 margin, agreed that the community should have a financially-supported museum dedicated to persevering local heritage.

The MWC acknowledges that Mesa County departments are taking equal “hits” of five percent, and understands and appreciates that the Commissioners are doing their best to ensure that no one department or partner is negatively impacted more than others. MWC is reassured that it is not singled out in suffering these reductions, and has fully cooperated with Mesa County in addressing this budget shortage.

At the same time, it is important for citizen and voters to know how this reduction hurts MWC’s educational and other programming, as well as facility maintenance and volunteer development. The loss in revenues has forced MWC to:

- Cancel its summer camp series. This includes the **Pioneer Camps** at Cross Orchards that have been hosting elementary through

middle school-aged children for years.

- Delay further recruitment and training of volunteers.
- Reduce support maintenance at Cross Orchards Historic Site.
- Reduce weekly free Wednesday evenings at *Dinosaur Journey* and free Thursday evenings at *Museum of the West*, both of which will cease in mid-May. We will bring back the free Thursday evenings at *Museum of the West* in July, but we will have to delay reinstating them at *Dinosaur Journey*.

At MWC, we fully believe that the growth of Mesa County’s visitor economy is part of the long-term solution to a financially stable and vibrant community. For every dollar spent developing a place that is appealing to visitors, nationwide statistics show a seven-fold return. MWC continues its commitment to cooperate with Mesa County and its citizens in nurturing the growth of the local visitor industry and our community’s overall economic recovery.

We turn to you, our friends, to help us bridge the temporary financial shortfall caused by County cuts. The economy will come back, but we need your help now so that MWC can sustain its mission to “inspire the community to preserve its heritage and tell its story through strong stewardship and relevant programming.”

To contribute, please visit:

www.museumofwesternco.com/support-us or become a monthly sustaining member by visiting Colorado Gives at www.coloradogives.org/

Coming to Cross Orchards

2017 Auto Fest



Presented by



SPEED SHOP

May 20 • 9 am-4 pm
\$5 per person

Quote from the organizer, Chad Horton: “I have been going to car shows in the Grand Valley for over 20 years and for many years my favorite was at Cross Orchards. Many car enthusiasts have missed the shows at Cross Orchards and would love to see it return. I am proud to be working with the Museums of Western Colorado to bring back a great show that kicks off the summer. My goal is to see this become another wonderful Grand Valley tradition. See you at Auto Fest 2017 at Cross Orchards.”
For more information and to register, call Chad Horton at 970.208.2780.



Starting June 14
Wednesday & Saturday mornings
7:30 am-Noon

A farm and ranch market run by farmers and ranchers to bring high quality, local produce to the Grand Valley community. FARM works with the Museums of Western Colorado to celebrate the heritage of the past, while enjoying today’s delicious harvest.

Calendar of Events

Thru Oct 16		<i>Heritage Rendezvous Exhibit: Colorful Characters of the Sunset Slope</i>	Museum of the West
May 10	5-7pm	MWC For FREE	Dinosaur Journey
11	5-7pm	MWC For FREE	Museum of the West
13	10 am	Museum Discovery Days For FREE!	Museum of the West
17	10 am	Volunteer Meeting	Cross Orchards
18	Noon	Oral History Program	Whitman Ed. Ctr.
19	9 am	<i>Titanoboa: Monster Snake</i> exhibition opens to the public	Dinosaur Journey
19	9 am-5 pm	Museum Discovery Days For FREE!	Dinosaur Journey
19	7-9 pm	Cross Orchards Summer Concert Series	Cross Orchards
20	9 am-4 pm	2017 Auto Fest	Cross Orchards
26		Wild West Forensic Tour	
JUNE 2	9 am	<i>Women of Excellence</i> exhibition open to the public	Museum of the West
5-9		Highlights of the Black Hills trip - FULL	
10	9 am-4 pm	30th Annual Dinosaur Day	Dinosaur Journey
14	7:30 am-Noon	Grand Junction F.A.R.M.	Cross Orchards
15	Noon	Oral History Program	Whitman Ed. Ctr.
17	7:30 am-Noon	Grand Junction F.A.R.M.	Cross Orchards
17		Rock Art of Canyon Pintado trip - FULL	
21	7:30 am-Noon	Grand Junction F.A.R.M.	Cross Orchards
22		Land's End/Whitewater Basin: Ute Legends trip	
24	7:30 am-Noon	Grand Junction F.A.R.M.	Cross Orchards
28	7:30 am-Noon	Grand Junction F.A.R.M.	Cross Orchards

Please note:

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



Museums of Western Colorado
 P.O. Box 20,000
 Grand Junction, CO 81502-5020
 www.museumofwesternco.org
 museumofwesternco@gmail.com

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Grand Junction, CO
 Permit No. 194

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Cross Orchards Historic Site

3073 F Road • 970.434.9814
 Thursday-Saturday • 9 am-4 pm
 Closed for rentals and special events.
 Please call to verify hours.

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

Lloyd Files Research Library

Second floor of Museum of the West
 462 Ute (5th & Ute) • 970.242.0971
 Tuesday-Thursday • 10 am-4 pm
 Monday and Friday by appointment only

May is Museum Month! Celebrate with us!



Alpine Bank
 Member FDIC

presents



MAY 13 • 9 am-5 pm
Museum of the West

MAY 19 • 9 am-5 pm
Dinosaur Journey Museum