

Museum Times

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Annual Giving



What can we say about this year that hasn't already been said? It has been a tough year for everyone in different ways. Here at Museums of Western Colorado we haven't been spared from the hardships of 2020. If you are in a position to give, we would be grateful for your support. That support can happen in many ways, all throughout the year. Renewing your membership, visiting the museum, or buying a gift at a Museum Store are a just a few of the

ways you can help us continue our work.

On this Colorado Gives Day we are thinking back on all of the exciting things our team was able to accomplish in spite of the difficulties of this year. Dr. Julia McHugh co-authored research on the cannibalistic tendencies of Jurassic age dinosaurs. Our Education Department pivoted in a meaningful way to ensure D51 students still had access to school tours virtually. Cross Orchards began offering docent guided hayrides during Fall Season Days, and began laying ground work to host adult educational workshops at Cross. The collections staff continued their work to prepare our collections and archives for re-accreditation, and also made significant moves toward digitizing the collections for online access. We developed geocache trails on the back side of Riggs Hill, and made many improvements to our facilities across the valley. We have continued to press forward in this difficult year and need support now more than ever. We have so much to look forward to, and so much more we hope to accomplish. With your help, we can continue our work of preserving the scientific and cultural heritage of Western Colorado.

Will you join us?

Donate Today!



N o v e m b e r / D e c e m b e r

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Native American Heritage Month



National Native American Heritage Month is a celebration of the rich cultural history of the many tribal nations of the past and present in the United States. In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November as National Native American Heritage Month. Pictured here is a black and white beaded necklace worn by Chipeta, wife of Ute Chief, Ouray. On the right is a Ute basket, commonly used as a wedding gift. The necklace was recently donated to the museum, by a donor whose grandmother was friends with Chipeta.

Cross Train Show to End a Memorable Year



Cross Orchards is hosting an altered version of the annual Christmas Train Show. This year while still being held in conjunction with the Grand Valley Model Railroad Club, the event is outside only this year. Saturdays December 5th, 12th, & 19th visitors will be able to go watch the outdoor model trains and visit the outdoor exhibits. Cross Orchards will be running our beloved ride-on-train and a special guest will be handing out treats at the end of the ride!

Don't miss out on these special weekends to celebrate the holidays at Cross Orchards. While the indoor exhibits are closed, visitors

can enjoy a warm up by the fire at the outdoor firepit. This cozy addition is new this year so don't miss it!

Cross Orchards will be closing for the season after December 19th, so be sure to stop by and enjoy the charm before we close down for the season. Cross is set to reopen in May 2021 in time for us all to enjoy some apple blossoms and warm spring days.



New Murals at Dinosaur Journey & Museum of the West

Over the last couple of months two of the Museum sites have received new artwork on their walls. Both projects were made possible by community partnerships, and significantly enhanced the sides of the buildings they adorn. At Dinosaur Journey the mural was a joint project between the City of Fruita's Youth Action Council and Rise Above Colorado, and in consultation with the Museums of Western Colorado. The mural was about a year in planning and was painted by Fruita



students and Rise Above artist Bimmer Torres as part of a drug prevention program and a way to get students invested in their community. We gave input on the overall concept of the mural and approved the final design to make sure it was fitting with the paleontological story of our area. The mural features Devil's Canyon as a backdrop with a dramatic *Allosaurus* and two *Fruitadens* coming out of the mural in the foreground.

The mural on the east wing of the Whitman building was made possible through the generosity of the Rocky Mountain Wolf Project. We now have a beautiful mural showing some of Colorado's historic wildlife. The wolf and bison artwork was painted by local artist Lindsay Falsone. She described the artwork concept as



a "showcase of the historical and ecological bond between wolves and bison... they are two key-stone animals in the prairie ecosystem and I'm fascinated with their partnership to keep the land healthy." - Lindsay Falsone

If you haven't already, plan a trip down to the Museums to see the new permanent artwork. You can enjoy the sites from the comfort of your vehicle, or on your way in to enjoy an afternoon at the museum.



Museums of Western Colorado

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The First Annual Members Magazine is set to hit mailboxes by the first part of 2021. The Members Magazine is a new benefit to Museum Members; it includes exclusive content, stories, and insights from our Curatorial Staff. Topics range from the goings on at the Museums, to the Uranium Boom in Grand Junction.

Museum Members who are current on their membership as of the 31st of December 2020 will be receiving the magazine in their mailboxes. So, if you have been contemplating renewing, or purchasing for the first time, now is better than ever! For those who are not yet members, but would still like a copy, issues will be for sale at the Museum Stores in Dinosaur Journey and Museum of the West.

Our 2021 Trips & Tours guide will be in the magazine as well, so if you are itching to see where we can travel together in 2021, make sure you are up to date on your membership!

Donate Today!

Check the Museum's website for the most up to date information

www.mowc.co