

# Museum Times

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**CROSS ORCHARDS** **DINOSAUR JOURNEY** **MUSEUM of the WEST**

**We want to hear from you!**

Why do you support MWC? Have you been a volunteer? Are you a member? Visited one of our museums while traveling through town? We want to hear from you! We are currently seeking brief explanations of why you support Museums of Western Colorado to be featured on our social media channels. The posts along with a photo will be posted throughout the month of November. If you are interested, send a 150-200 word explanation of why you support the Museums of Western Colorado to [info@westcomuseum.org](mailto:info@westcomuseum.org)



## **Dig Season 2021: The Summer of the Allosaurus**



What a summer! We were so excited for the return of our popular Dinosaur Dig Program for 2021. Masks and boxed lunches made things a little different this year, but we kept everyone COVID-safe and unearthed some amazing fossils. This felt like the summer of Allosaurus! While we always find lots of Apatosaurus bones, this year we were up to our knees in fossils of the meat-eater Allosaurus at both of our quarries, including tail bones, back bones, parts of a skull, and of course lots of teeth. Despite the record heat this year, we hosted 247 people at our quarries and lab this summer (with another 180+ on our waitlists) provided learning opportunities to teachers, celebrated two birthdays, and excavated over a hundred new fossils. Our dig season was made possible thanks to all the help from our volunteers, field crew, museum staff, and students from Colorado Mesa University. We are thrilled to have such huge support for our signature program. We cannot wait to get back out there again in 2022.

A U G U S T / S E P T E M B E R

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## 457 Colorado Ave.



Meet new friends and learn about the spooky history in some of Downtown Grand Junction's current pubs during our Spooky Pub Crawl series in October.

What is now known as 457 Colorado Avenue, was originally divided into three lots. Documentation starting in 1890 reveals that these three lots hosted a multitude of buildings. The corner lot on 5th and Colorado, the current home of a food truck and the patio of Ramblebine Brewing Company, hosted the most well known of these, being the city's first Fire Department. The Fire Department shared the building with City Hall and neighbored the city jail for a number of years. The other two lots also housed their share of businesses. In many early photos, McCary Blacksmith and Mitchell Wagons (a wagon repository) are often depicted. Later on, in the late 1910's, all three of these lots would be replaced by an agricultural store.

Now, all three lots are home to the Ramblebine Brew Company. They started the renovation of their building in 2020 and are currently quite the popular destination for Grand Junction locals and tourists alike.

**Want to learn more about Downtown History with some spooky stories mixed in? Join Dave Bailey on one of our Spooky Pub Crawls going on October 2nd, 16th & 30th. Sign up today!**

[Learn More](#)

## Seeking Fall/Winter Intern for Museum of the West!

Ever wondered what makes a museum tick? Here is your chance to find out! The Museum of the West is looking for a Fall/Winter Intern! The position is grant funded by the Colorado Historic Records Advisory Board, and is well suited for someone pursuing a career in museums, history, or other related fields. Interns accepted onto this project will gain experience working with collections database software and become familiar with AAM standard museum practices. Sound like your cup of tea? Check out the link below for more information about the posting and the application process!

[Learn More](#)





## ■ The History of the Handy Chapel

The Handy Chapel has been the center of Black History in Western Colorado since its construction in the late 1890s. It remains one of the longest standing buildings in the town, and also continues on as a place of worship and community center for Black citizens of Grand Junction.

MWC Volunteer Christine Westermire brings a unique perspective to the telling of Handy Chapel's history in the latest blogpost on our website. As a granddaughter of Pastor Harry Butler, she is able to weave historical details with personal memories to paint a wonderful picture of the place the Handy Chapel has in the history of Grand Junction. In the blogpost there are recent photographs of the Handy Chapel showing the 2013 restoration, as well as, historical photos both from the Museum's archives & the Butler Family Collection.



**Read Now!**

## ■ Join us in celebrating the fall harvest. Fall Day on the Farm is seeking volunteers, and vendors!



Museums of Western Colorado at Cross Orchards Historic Site will be hosting our annual Fall Day on the Farm this year on October 9, 2021. We hope you will consider joining us as a volunteer during our largest event at Cross Orchards, which averages approximately 1,000 visitors. We are in need of over 50 volunteers to make this day a success and hope you will join us.

Fall Day on the Farm is a chance for us to make and sell cider from the apples grown on site as well as a day for us to celebrate the fall season. Some of the other activities that will be happening at Fall Day on the Farm: train rides, docent guided hay rides, historic games, a fall photo area, and various non profit and for profit vendors. All exhibits will be open including the model trains running and our woodshop open with

demonstrations throughout the day. This event will be held from 9:00am-3:00pm on October 9.

We will have a wide variety of volunteer positions available from parking attendant to cider pressing and beyond. If you are interested in having a volunteer role on October 9, please let us know via email at [info@westcomuseum.org](mailto:info@westcomuseum.org). McKenzie Kimball will add you to our list of folks interested so you are able to choose the role that best suits you.

## Museums of Western Colorado

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JUNE/JULY

Museum Times



### *Chautauqua: 19th Amendment & All that Jazz*

The two day Chautauqua event is set to take place in late October. Be prepared to step back in time on the heels of historical figures from the 1920s. Becky Stone (pictured left) will be portraying Josephine Baker, who was an entertainment star in Europe during the jazz age; and a well known Civil Rights advocate. Look out for ticket sales beginning this month!

**Friday October 22<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

### *Western Slope Cowboy Gathering*



Discover with Us!

Check the Museum's website to learn more about the scientific and cultural past of this valley.

[www.mowc.co](http://www.mowc.co)