

# Museum Times

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CROSS ORCHARDS DINOSAUR JOURNEY MUSEUM of the WEST

## Trips & Tours Coming Up!



Join Geologist Rex Cole and Railroad Historian Matt Darling on a day trip to Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Take a trip to Cimarron, CO and learn the history of the once busy helper station and cattle loading operation of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad (1881-1949). Travel up Cimarron creek to where you can enter the upper reaches of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and learn more railroad and geologic history on the Mesa Creek trail.

Saturday, June 25th



Join Museums of Western Colorado on a guided walk of some of Colorado high country's most beautiful wildflower site. Have you ever wondered what the flowers that make up the sea of color on the Grand Mesa are? Escape the valley's heat and travel to the Grand Mesa to explore wildflower sites right here in our back yard. 1:30pm – 5:30pm

Friday, July 8th



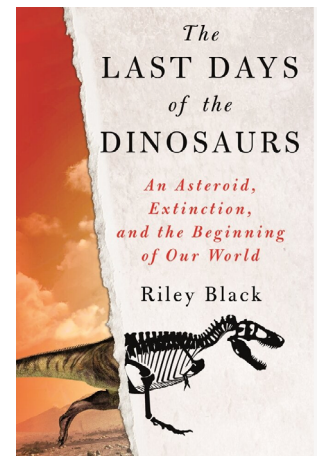
Museums of Western Colorado Director and art historian, Kaia Michaelis, will be leading a 4 day excursion to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Explore the thriving art scene of the southwest, with visits to Santa Fe area galleries and museums. Spend an evening enjoying the Santa Fe Opera at their stunning outdoor venue.

Trip Begins: August 11th

## Author Lecture & Book Signing with Riley Black

*Author of "Last Days of the Dinosaurs" & "Skeleton Keys" Returns to Dinosaur Journey*

This popscience book shares the end of The Age of the Dinosaurs while reading like a detailed fantasy novel. Author Riley Black weaves detailed facts with beautiful descriptions of the world during the late Cretaceous period. You can pick up a copy of "The Last Days of the Dinosaurs" from the Museum Store at Dinosaur Journey or loan a copy from a Mesa County Libraries location. The Museum will play host to Riley Black for a lecture, Q&A, and book signing on Thursday, July 14th at 3:00pm. This event will be held in the Dinosaur Journey Auditorium, and is free for all to attend. We hope many of you will join us, so we can show Riley just how much we love Dinosaurs in this valley!



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## Archaeology in Colorado National Monument



Adam Brinkman from Colorado National Monument in KAFM Community Radio's Studio.

Adam Brinkman, an archaeologist with Colorado National Monument joined the Museum on their monthly community affairs segment on KAFM Community Radio last month. He shared with us what an archaeologist is, and what their role on public lands are, as well as how visitors on public lands can help preserve important archaeological information when they are out hiking. Adam also shared an amazing link between an archaeological site he worked in the Eastern States and another site years later in Alaska! Adam wants you to know that the best course of action when you find something on public land is to take a picture, leave it exactly where you saw it first, and take note of your GPS coordinates. You can share that information with the public land office you are nearby, and they can go out and assess the site. If you even pick up the item you find, very important spatial data can be lost. Tune into Museum Meet Up the third Thursday of every month from 12:15pm-12:30pm || 88.1 & 96.9 || [www.kafmcommunityradio.org](http://www.kafmcommunityradio.org)

## New EV Charging Station to offer power soon!

The Dinosaur Diamond byway board of directors partnered with Museums of Western Colorado and the City of Fruita to secure a Charge Ahead Colorado grant from the Colorado Tourism Office to fund the installation of this new charging station at the Dinosaur Journey Museum in Fruita. The Level 2 Charging Station has two ports and can services two vehicles at a time. Most vehicles will take 1-2 hours to charge, giving visitors ample time to patronize local restaurants, shopping, parks, and the museum, all of which are within immediate walking distance of the unit. "We are so happy to be able to provide this service and security for our EV travelers. Our byway is long, and we want people with different forms of travel to feel comfortable when experiencing all the Diamond has to offer," said Kelli Hepler of the Dinosaur Diamond National Scenic Byway board of directors.



Installation of the EV Charging Station. The Station will be fully operational in the very near future.



## Juneteenth and Early Black Settlers in Colorado



Dearfield, Colorado

*Excerpt from a blogpost by Christine Westermire || read the complete post at [www.mowc.co/blog](http://www.mowc.co/blog)*

Even though Juneteenth was made a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, by President Biden, it has been an important holiday to African Americans since 1865. When most people think of the end of slavery, they think about the emancipation proclamation signed by Abraham Lincoln in 1863, freeing millions of black slaves in the South. However, not all slaves were freed that year, it would be another couple of years before over 250,000 African Americans still enslaved in Texas were freed. The holiday signifies the end of slavery and the beginning of a new life for previous enslaved people.

### A Safe Haven

The movement of African Americans from the South to the Northern and Western states began after the Civil War with the Exodus of 1879, and then again around 1910 with “The Great Migration.” A few factors led to the migration of around six million previous slaves from their home in the South: Job opportunities created during World War I and World War II, discrimination, lynching, and lack of education and economic opportunities in the South. Unfortunately, the West was not free from discrimination and other problems African Americans faced in the South, but they were able to grow and create their own opportunities. In fact, in 1909 the Enlarged Homestead Act was an opportunity for African Americans to own property for farmland. However, the Enlarged Homestead Act was for dryland farming, which would present to be a difficult task because the ground and climate were not ideal for growing crops. Those who took advantage of this Homestead Act took the opportunity to create or be a part of all black towns in the west to escape racial violence and discrimination. Many people do not know that Colorado had quite a few all-black towns. One of the well-known successful towns was called Dearfield. Dearfield, located in Weld County northeast of the city of Denver; now vacant, was the largest all-black town in Colorado and is the only historical all-black town that still has intact buildings. The 320-acre plot of land was established in 1910 by Oliver Toussaint Jackson, a successful black man who was known for being an entrepreneur and a messenger for governor of Colorado John Shaforth.

## Museums of Western Colorado

462 Ute Ave.

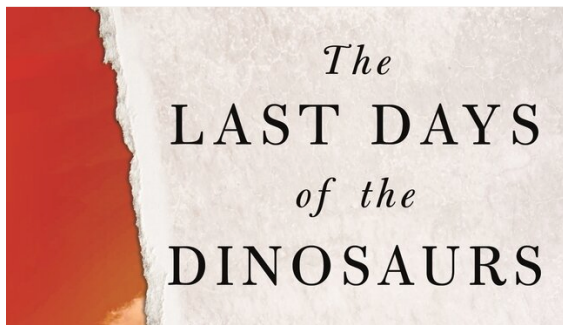
Grand Junction, CO 81501

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### Riley Black Author's Visit!

Author of “Last Days of the Dinosaurs” & “Skeleton Keys” Riley Black will be lecturing at Dinosaur Journey Museum on Thursday, July 14th at 3:00pm. Hear her lecture, and stay after for a Q&A and book signing. Riley will be selling copies of all her published works. You can purchase a copy before the lecture at the Museum Store at Dinosaur Journey or borrow a copy from Mesa County Libraries.

**Thursday, July 14th || Free for All!**



### Members Only Event at Museum of the West!

Join our Curator and Collections Manager as they show you some of the more obscure objects in our collections. With only 5% of our collections on display, what kind of things are in the basement of Museum of the West? Come see at the end of July for a members only event that will surely both entertain and educate.

**Thursday, July 21st || 6:00pm**

**Explore 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)