

Mural Volunteers Needed to Get A Little Paint on Their Hands

If you have some time and artistic talent, you can volunteer to help complete the Pedal the Plains mural the rest of this week. The 24 foot long, eight foot tall mural is being completed in panels on West Elm Street in Lamar at the former The Perk coffee shop. Local artist Jeremy Cooper is coordinating volunteers from all artistic backgrounds and age groups to spend some time completing the project in time for the Pedal the Plains bicyclists to arrive in Lamar on September 20. The mural will be erected at the edge of Bi-Centennial Park, south of the Lamar Fire Department.

If your schedule allows, you can contact Cooper at 719-688-5408 and select a time during the hours of operation. They are Monday through Saturday from 9am to Noon and from 1pm to 5pm and Sunday from 1pm to 5pm.

Veterans Will Benefit from Online Info

Use www.myhealth.va.gov and go online at this new Veteran Health Portal and discover what benefits the VA can offer you and your family. My HealtheVet, a Gateway to Optimal Health. Call your local VA representative in Prowers County, Jeremy Miller, at 719-336-2606.

LPD Notice

The Lamar Police Department receives found property on a continual basis that includes bicycles, cell phones, keys, driver's licenses and numerous other items. These items are kept for 6 months in an attempt to locate the owners. We encourage persons with lost property to contact the police department Monday through Friday from 8 am to 3 pm at 336-4341.

The Prowers Journal

Classifieds

Help Wanted

Part Time LPN

Prowers Medical Center is now hiring a part time LPN for the Home Health Department. No nights or weekends. Apply online at www.prowersmedical.com or call 719-336-4343.

Health Coach

Health Coach – Full-time position at High Plains Community Health Center located in Lamar, CO. Salary based on experience and education. Duties will include Health Coach duties as well as additional tracking and monitoring requirements. Must be able to work nights and weekends. Full job description and application at www.highplainschc.net. Applications accepted until September 13, 2013. High Plains is an equal opportunity employer. Veterans are encouraged to apply.

Maintenance Worker

Under supervision, performs a variety of unskilled and semi-skilled manual labor in the construction and maintenance of streets, water and sewer lines, parks, buildings, and other municipal facilities; drives truck and operates light equipment; assists higher skilled craftsmen as a trainee; may occasionally serve as lead worker over seasonal workers. Work tends to be routine and subject to close supervision. Applications and job descriptions may be picked-up at the Human Resources Office, City Complex, 102 East Parmenter, Lamar, CO 81052-3299. Applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Office, at the above address, by 4:00 pm, Friday, September 6, 2013. Contingent upon job offer, the successful applicant will be required to take a pre-employment physical and a drug test and also provide a current motor vehicle record. EOE

Real Estate

ForRent

2 bedroom apartment for \$475 per month plus electricity with \$475 deposit. Call 688-9867.

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE

Excellent Location - 313 South 5th, Lamar - 400 Sq feet, Utilities Included. All Newly Remodeled - Your Own Private Entry - Call Lori Peterson 336-7000

Granada Pride Annual Steak Dinner

The Granada Pride will be holding their annual Steak Supper once again on September 21, 2013 with supper starting at 6:30 pm at the Headquarters Building at Amache, Granada Colorado. Entertainment this year will be Floyd Beard, Cowboy Poet and Musician.

The cost is \$20 per person. Tickets are by RESERVATION ONLY and NO tickets will be held at the door, you must purchase them prior to the supper. Deadline to purchase is September 14th, don't wait, limited seating. You can get your tickets through Norma Dorenkamp, 734-5226 or her cell 688-6302; or any Pride member around Granada and Lamar.

Proceeds will go to help with ongoing projects for the Town of Granada; which includes work around the museum, repairs to the arena, and lighting our welcome sign.

The Pride Committee would like to thank each and every one of you who has supported our fundraisers throughout these many years. The Committee is also very thankful for the many volunteers who also help with each and every fundraiser, not to forget the crews in the background doing repairs, cleaning, making phone calls, setting up and taking down. Thank you everyone!

On March 1, 2014 the Granada Pride Committee will have their 15 year anniversary. If you are looking for something different to volunteer for, the Committee is needing volunteer help to manage the arena area, whether you are a group or individual you would be very welcome. Contact any Pride member for more information and about meeting times.

Wanted!

Volunteer Drivers for the Meals on Wheels Program for Sage Services in Prowers County. For more information, call 336-7115.

Step Aerobics at the Community Building

If you're looking to improve endurance and flexibility or increase your cardiovascular health, come join Mary Minor for Step Aerobics at the Lamar Community Building. Classes are held on Monday and Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:00pm. Cost of the class is the daily visit fee, punch card, or annual pass.

Comedy Night at the Eagles

The Lamar Chamber of Commerce Honkers, Two for the Road Entertainment and the Lamar Eagles are hosting another night of comedy at the Lamar Eagles Aerie in Lamar, CO on September 6. It will start with a Grilled Chicken Breast Salad meal prepared by the Lamar Eagles from 6p to 7p, with the Comedy Show starting at 7:30p featuring Headliner Deacon Gray and feature Steven Young!

The majority of the proceeds from this event go to support two local charities, The Remember Foundation and Southeast Colorado Cancer Initiative. The money they get is used locally for local individuals and families.

Tickets are now available at these locations:

Lamar Chamber of Commerce - 336-4379 • **Lamar Eagles Aerie** - 336-3780 • **Fellowship Credit Union** - Lamar Location, ask for Tera! 336-5511 • **My Wholesale Products** - Shirley Smith - 336-0661 • **Robinson Printing** - Vincent Gearhart - 336-9095 or 688-7720 • **Healing Hands Massage** - Sherry Walls - 719-688-5099

The Dinner will be \$8.00 and will include a complimentary drink for anyone of legal drinking age. The Comedy Entertainment will be \$10.00

Late Addition: Paul Navarette will setup his equipment, and there will be dancing and Karaoke after the comedy show. Be sure to stick around for some more Great Entertainment!

John Ketcham Memorial Scholarship Awarded to Dylan Wahlert

(Lamar, Colorado; August 30, 2013) The second annual John Ketcham Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Dylan Wahlert from Kim, CO. Dylan graduated from La Junta High School in May of 2012. During high school, he was a rodeo team member and a three-time Colorado State High School Rodeo Champion Bareback Rider. Wahlert also qualified for the National High School Rodeo Finals (NHSRF) for four years and competed in bareback riding and steer wrestling and was the reserve champion bareback rider in 2012.

Dylan spent his freshman college year at South Plains College in Levelland, TX, where he was a member of the college's rodeo team. He is currently a sophomore at Lamar Community College, completing an Associate of Science in Renewable Energy Technologies. He will also be competing on the LCC rodeo team.

The scholarship has been funded by generous memorial gifts from friends and family of longtime LCC Horse Training & Management Instructor and Rodeo Coach John Ketcham. Recipients are selected by the Ketcham family. Karen Ketcham commented, "I am pleased that the Fortunaire Foundation associated with Life Investors has agreed to match John Ketcham Memorial Scholarship funds. This will allow us to augment past contributions and give numerous scholarships over the upcoming years."

Eligibility criteria and application instructions for the John Ketcham Memorial Scholarship are available in LCC's annual Ag Scholarship packet each spring at www.lamarcc.edu/scholarships.

Senator Bennet Discusses Farm Bill, Drought and Education

U.S. Senator Michael Bennet fielded questions focusing on the bipartisan immigration and farm bills, as well as how our national school system is not performing up to expectations. The senator was concluding a three day visit to eastern Colorado constituents this past Wednesday, August 28. Bennet and former Colorado Governor Roy Romer made an early morning visit to the new school in Holly before the senator answered questions from a gathering of citizens and representatives at Colorado Equipment in Lamar. Romer, a former Holly resident, introduced Senator Bennet to the group, noting that as well as sharing a political background, both he and Bennet were also former school superintendents.

"The Farm Bill doesn't do everything I want it to do," Bennet said in his opening remarks. He served on the Farm Bill Conference Committee which is negotiating the differences between the House and Senate versions of the Bill. It now goes to the House for action this September. Bennet said some of the Bill's positive notes are that it strengthens crop insurance, conservation titles, cuts the deficit by \$40 billion and makes it easier to apply to Colorado's agriculture community on the local level. He added, "I've spent the last eight months in a room with four Republicans and four Democrats. We're trying to fix the immigration laws and across this state we're facing huge challenges to make this work." He said his focus on that bill was primarily agriculture, including a proposal to move the Ag aspect of the bill out of the Department of Labor and put in into the USDA where it belongs.

Jillane Hixson, Prowers County landowner asked if some outdated CRP land use required policies, such as disk stripping land during a drought, could be altered and if the state's conservation easement debacle for southeast Colorado land owners could be addressed outside at a federal level. Bennet said he will determine who is accountable and responsible for some of the regulations that are being applied at the local level. He added that with regard to habitat measures, issues of the soil should outweigh habitat regulations.

Peter Dawson, Baca County Commissioner, asked about the Senate's feelings on separating the food assistance funds from the Farm Bill. Senator Bennet responded, "We're at the point in our political system where if one person or group doesn't like a single aspect of a bill, they're more inclined to try to kill the bill rather than work towards a compromise." Bennet said he just doesn't

think it's a practical way of running the legislative process. He stated that the lack of getting anything done is affecting the agriculture and business sections of the nation.

The senator said he would check into another aspect of the Farm Bill regarding how quickly disaster relief payments are made to farmers. Hixson noted that it can take as much as two years for any form of reimbursement, which could be only the option to apply for another loan, when your compensation is needed at least in the same growing season when possible. She added that if the forms are not exactly correct, you can be mired in red tape attempting to correct the paperwork while you're struggling to prepare for your next crop.

Bennet discussed the educational system in the nation, adding that it needs to change to a more common sense approach of developing teachers who are not bound to teaching students to simply pass a test each year to monitor their academic progress. "It's ridiculous to test fourth graders one year and compare how much progress they've made against the next year of fourth graders who come through the system," he told the audience.

Senator Bennet's visits included Drought tours with Scherler Farms and Sand Creek, Incorporated, plus the Stulp and Hefley Farms in Lamar. Other towns included Holly, Cheraw, Haxtun, Limon and La Junta. *By Russ Baldwin*

New Water for Baca County at Two Buttes Dam

Volunteers in Baca County are providing traffic control while some road work and grading is being done at the Two Buttes Dam. The Dam has had an unprecedented amount of water this past summer, due to several monsoonal rains which swept through sections of southeast Colorado. A town hall meeting was called in August due to safety concerns should the dam fail to hold the increase in water. A proposal to release the water was met with numerous voiced concerns, such that the Division of Parks and Wildlife decided to open a spillway to maintain a water level of 32 feet, an increase from the proposed 20 feet that coincided with the level set in 1983. The dam is about 100 years old and there were concerns that a breach could threaten life downstream, even though the impact would have encompassed one household. The current water level as of August 30 is 30'4" and is holding steady according to DPW officials.

The next step to satisfy safety concerns on the spillway is to widen its width from 80 to about 120 feet. Volunteers stepped forward with earth moving equipment and citizens who would assist as flaggers for vehicle control. Prior, it was estimated that it would take two years to begin moving dirt. State engineers opened the floodgate at the spillway, but because of the age of the equipment, were able to get a six inch opening while provided some relief. Plans call for a diver to seal up a crack this fall, using a special polymer coating. Long range plans, if funding is available, is to replace the manually operated spillway with a push-button hydraulic system.

The increase in water levels brought out many boating enthusiasts. The first summer storm brought the waters up to 14 feet and boaters were noted out on the water, navigating around debris that developed from the first water swell. A second storm added 19' 17" and for a while, water was over CR10, or Highway 101, flowing toward Las Animas, estimated at 29,000 cubic feet per second and almost a mile wide. It took about six hours for the water to reach highway 287, adding another 1.5 feet per hour to a final depth at the dam of 33.5 feet. It was at that point that the spillway was opened. The current dam was built to withhold waters similar to the 1965 flood.

Plans call for 60,000 cubic yards of material to be removed and install a new floodgate in front of the current two in place. The lake, however, will need to dry out considerable before this can be accomplished. This will take place on its own, as the Department of Parks and Wildlife decided not to drain the lake. As a safety concern, the Black Hole has been closed to the public. Fast moving water has undercut some of the banks at a 30 foot level and there is fear it could collapse. There were also some blowouts noted along the canal which are being repaired.

Aaron Bartleson of the DPW for Southeast Colorado said there has been an increase in the numbers of fish and other aquatic life since the flooding. "Two types of fresh water shrimp have been noted and the water is rich in nutrients which mean a lot of future growth," he explained. He expected some types could add an inch a month to their length. Plans call for stocking with large and small mouth bass, crappies, bluegill and wipers, plus some forage fish such as shad and trout this fall and catfish and walleye in the spring. Bartleson noted that if the water levels hold, the lake will act as a fishery for decades. *By Russ Baldwin*