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Sew Good



Kind of lost during the Sky's the Limit balloon fest on the weekend of Aug. 10-12 was a pretty successful quilt show in Walden at the Jackson County Public Library. More than 50 quilts were on display, including a few that have been in local families for generations. By 1 p.m. on Aug. 11, about 100 people had checked in, and the event had two hours to go. Those people got a chance to vote on their favorite quilt, and there was a tie for first. Both quilts were made by Verna Bourbeau, pictured above talking to Sue Bloss (r). At left is one of the winning quilts entitled "Out of Darkness." The organizers of the show - Wendy Allnutt, Pat Drinkwine and Toni Neri - announced that they will be doing it again next year with an added category, the doll quilt challenge. Contact any of the three ladies mentioned above if you need further information.

Unique Set Of Partners Preserves Local Ranch

The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT), in partnership with the state Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPW), Great Outdoors Colorado and the Gates Family Foundation, has protected 2,240 acres of the historic Coyte Ranch in North Park.

The property - part of what is now known as the Spicer Ranch - is located in southwestern Jackson County on Mexican Ridge and is adjacent to the Rabbit Ears State Trust Land.

The conservation easement will preserve the wildlife habitat and the long-standing ranch uses while prohibiting subdivision and development of the property in perpetuity.

The project represents a landmark agreement between agricultural and wildlife interests. "It's no secret that wildlife interests and ranchers don't always see eye to eye on things, but we are finding that conservation efforts like this, which protect both incredible wildlife habitat and productive ranchland, are one way to bridge that gap," said Chris West, CCALT executive director.

Although all parties recognize the natural resource values of North Park, CCALT and DPW had never partnered on a conservation effort like this before. Project planning and negotiations took nearly five years, overcoming numerous obstacles to secure funding.

The process tragically was interrupted by the death of Dave Meyring, one of the ranch owners. The property is owned by the Dave Meyring family, who are direct descendants of an early homesteader, Ralph Coyte, who arrived in North Park in the 1890s.

The process of protecting the ranch was
See Coyte Ranch Page 5

Timber Crews To Hit The Highway

The U.S. Forest Service and Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) are removing beetle-killed trees along major highways. Motorists can expect to see crews working along US Highway 40 over Berthoud Pass, I-70, and along State Hwy 125. These trees pose a threat to public safety as they weaken over time and may fall along these popular transportation

routes.
"Public safety is our top priority, in addition to reducing the risk of falling trees that may damage critical infrastructure," said Cal Wetstein, Incident Commander of Bark Beetle for the U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. "Ensuring these
See Tree Removal Page 5

North Park Weather

Walden				King's Canyon				State Forest State Park			
Date	H	L	Prec.	Date	H	L	Prec.	Date	H	L	Prec.
8-13	78	37	0	8-13	81	41	0	8-13	74	35	0
8-14	68	36	0	8-14	76	43	0.02	8-14	67	36	0
8-15	78	38	0	8-15	78	44	0	8-15	75	38	0
8-16	78	36	0	8-16	81	42	0	8-16	74	40	0
8-17	80	34	0	8-17	83	43	0	8-17	75	35	0
8-18	80	35	0	8-18	84	47	0	8-18	77	35	0
8-19	75	29	0	8-19	79	28	0	8-19	73	33	0

Coyte Ranch from page one

initiated in 2007 by Dave Meyring who had the vision to seek alternatives such as conservation easements to keep the ranch intact and allow his family to stay in the ranch business. Meyring was killed in 2009 in a horse accident. In keeping with Dave's wishes, negotiations for the ranch conservation efforts were completed by his family.

"Dave Meyring needs to be recognized for this project. He represents one of the first traditional agricultural landowners in North Park who had the vision to seek out a conservation alternative and to be willing to work with wildlife interests to see the ranch stay intact for future generations," said CCALT Project Director Carolyn Aspelin. "Although Dave isn't here to enjoy it, I feel that this conservation effort is a great way to honor his vision and 40 years of stewardship of this ranch." Aspelin worked with the Meyrings since 2007 to see this effort through.

Ranching and wildlife have coexisted in North Park for more than a century, and much of the highest quality habitat in this mountain valley is found on the private ranchlands of the area.

The Coyte Ranch is a mix of aspen and spruce woodlands and sagebrush rangeland, with small wetlands along tributaries of Mexican Creek. The owners promote the management of the property to benefit both the cattle operation and wildlife habitat for species including the greater sage grouse, elk, moose, mule deer and black bear.

"The agricultural management of this property is and has been beneficial to the wildlife on the property," said C.J. Mucklow, the CSU extension agent who worked with the landowners and the two conservation groups to develop a management plan for the property. That plan respects the traditional ranching uses and the property's wildlife habitat. "This is a win-win situation, and it shows that wildlife and agriculture can benefit from each other.

"The Coyte Ranch property provides important migratory corridors and range for wildlife, as do many of the private lands in the area," said Josh Dille, district wildlife manager for DPW in North Park. "Managing wildlife can't be accomplished without the cooperation of private land owners."

For decades, the Coyte Ranch has been utilized for private big game hunting and fishing. The neighboring state trust land provides public hunting opportunities. "Hunting has always been a big part of our ranch operation," said Dave's son, Coy Meyring. "We have continuously looked for ways to improve the balance between wildlife habitat and cattle production."

The conservation easement was made pos-

sible by funding from Colorado Parks and Wildlife through the Habitat Stamp program, lottery-funded Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and a contribution from the Gates Family Foundation.

The Meyring family also made a generous donation to a portion of the conservation easement's value. This 2,240-acre easement adds to 2,000 acres of the ranch previously protected through conservation easements held by CCALT and paid for in part by GOCO.

Due to CCALT's work with the Meyring family on the completion of the Coyte Ranch project, there has been continuing interest from other traditional agricultural families to work with CCALT on protecting other important multi-generational ranches in the area.

North Park is now a priority area for CCALT's conservation efforts in the state. Currently CCALT holds conservation easement on ten ranches in Jackson County representing more than 15,000 acres. CCALT is actively working with several more North Park ranch families on conservation easements that will close in 2012 and 2013.

North Park is a unique area in Colorado in that it consists mainly of traditional, privately owned ranches that are highly agriculturally productive. These private lands are intermixed with publicly owned lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as extensive state-owned property.

North Park has been repeatedly identified in statewide surveys as having high natural resource values, based primarily upon its lack of development and impressive water and wildlife resources.

There are very few places like North Park left in the West, and it is the largest and most intact mountain valley in Colorado. The intact working-ranch landscape is the result of the stewardship and management of the ranchers who have worked there for more than 100 years.

The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust was the first land trust in the nation to be created by a group of mainstream agricultural producers. The land trust maintains a close relationship with the Colorado Cattlemen's Association.

CCALT focuses solely on the protection of agricultural lands.

The Coyte Ranch easement is the trust's 260th conservation easement. CCALT protects more than 20 percent of all conservation easement acreage in Colorado — more than 389,000 acres.

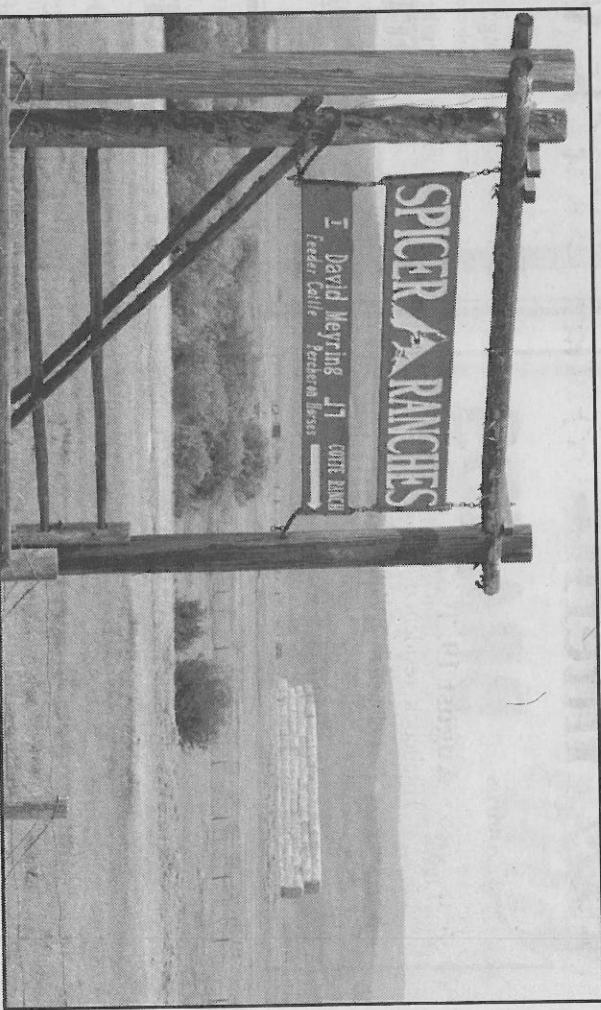
Tree Removal from page one

major transportation corridors are clear of dead trees is certainly critical to keeping people safe and traffic flowing."

Most work will take place on National Forest System lands within the CDOT right-of-way in the counties of Jackson, Grand, Clear Creek, Eagle, and Summit which are located on the Routt, Arapahoe, Roosevelt and White River National Forests, respectively. No roads will be closed to the public, but lane closures and

temporary delays during tree cutting operations are a possibility along routes.

"With so many dead trees near highways, crews will be working in the rights-of-way but will try to keep road closures to a minimum," said CDOT Regional Transportation Director David Eiler. "We ask motorists to drive slowly and carefully through the work zones, and thank them for their patience since this work is essential to keeping the public safe."

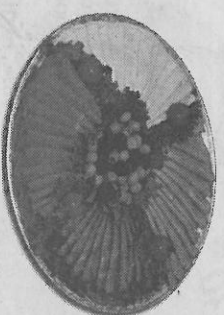


A singular sign marks the entrance to the Spicer and Coyte ranches as one trademark of high-altitude ranching, a haystack, sits in the background. The owners have taken steps to preserve the ranch with a conservation easement.

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