

All in all, we likely found a dozen prime locations for plein air painting and returned to the gallery for me to see Welty's paintings, bronzes, and innovative wire sculptures. A fun addition to the gallery from her New Mexico days is the special collection of cowboy hats (truth be told, I didn't recognize the

famous hat brands) and Native American-made silver and turquoise jewelry. It would seem like a museum, there is so much to see, but it's a classic art gallery tucked away in the great Colorado landscape she calls home.

Art Events

There are so many events (hundreds!)

in October for Arts Month, I will have to refer us all to the official Peak Radar online site (www.peakradar.com) to help choose things to do. My new experience is going to Mary Welty's Ranch Gallery for the grand opening Oct. 12, and I hope to add many more events, too. The ranch address is 11875 County

Line Road at Meridian Road, straddling El Paso and Elbert Counties.

Janet Sellers is an artist, writer, and speaker who enjoys dolce far niente (the sweetness of doing nothing) on any given day and sharing visual culture every day. Contact her at janetsellers@ocn.me.

Snapshots of Our Community

New traffic light on 83, Sep. 5



Above: The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) began operating a traffic light along Highway 83 at County Line Road on Sept. 5. Karen Rowe, Region 2 transportation director for CDOT, said the light is temporary during the I-25 gap project as more drivers access Highway 83. CDOT Traffic Program Engineer Jason Nelson said field analyses indicated drivers were having difficulty making turns at this intersection. Nelson's team reviewed the traffic data and realized the new light could prevent accidents. CDOT created protected turn lanes to improve safety. Rowe said this light was put in over a three-week period, but normally it takes six months to order all the poles and equipment. The light will remain at least until 2022. *Photo by Allison Robenstein.*

Family Day at WMMI, Sep. 7



Above: On Sept. 7, the Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) hosted its annual *Family Day* devoted to history. Visitors were treated to a variety of historical portrayals. Kurt Skinner portrayed Theodore Roosevelt, who began his presidency in 1900. Through the portrayal, the audience learned Roosevelt traveled to Victor, Colo., during his campaign where he was harassed by "hooligan" mine workers and his Rough Riders beat them back. Other historical figures included Jimmy Burns, founder of a gold mine near Victor, and "Legendary Ladies" presented "Unconventional Women of the West." A platoon of soldiers demonstrated the evolution of infantry weapons used in World War II and their evolution from the original 1903 rifle used in WWI to the M1 used extensively in WWII. Reenactors also portrayed life as it might have been in a gold camp. *Photo by Steve Pate.*

Family Freedom Festival, Sep. 14



Above: The Veterans of Foreign Wars 7829 MSgt William J. Crawford post hosted its annual *Family Freedom Festival* on Sept. 14. The festival entertains and educates families about services available to vets that included Victory Service Dogs—a service-dog-matching program to help veterans regain their independence, purpose, and dignity—and Freedom Hunters—a free outdoor adventure program for select active duty families and combat veterans. More information can be found at <https://victorysd.org/> and <https://freedomhunters.org/>, respectively. Retired Air Force Maj. Darby Kelly read the missing soldier tribute, explaining the elements on the table that was positioned prominently before the stage. The band Wild Blue Country, whose members include AIC Julie Keough-Mishler, AIC Dominic Sbrega, SrA Michael Colletti, TSgt Jesse Thompson, TSgt Paul McWhirter, and MSgt Jeff Valentine, energized the crowd. *Photo by Jennifer Kaylor.*

Phil Keaggy at TLCA, Sep. 6



Left: On Sept. 6, renowned and influential guitarist Phil Keaggy returned to the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) stage in front of a sold-out and appreciative audience. Keaggy said, "Playing here (TLCA) is a real treat as it has a wonderful vibe" and he wanted to "celebrate life in the moment" with the audience. And celebrate he did with

songs from his three latest albums and previous recordings. The new albums are *Cappadocia*, containing a dreamlike quality through a myriad of sounds and guitar styles, the Christian rock album *Illumination*, and *Bucket List*, where he was joined by *King Crimson* bassist Tony Levin and Jerry Marotta. Keaggy sampled guitar riffs and other sounds, then played rhythms and lead overtop to deliver a full sound to songs from those albums along with his classics as *Mercy*, *Thank You for Today*, and *What a Day*. *Photo by David Futey.*

D38 bond open house, Sep. 10



Above: Lewis-Palmer District 38 school board Directors Mark Pfoff and Chris Taylor are hosting a series of meetings at Monument Town Hall to discuss the bond for the new elementary school. The first meeting, held on Sept. 10, had 40 attendees. Pfoff did a brief presentation and then Taylor fielded community questions for over an hour. A second meeting on Sept. 26 included Hilltop Securities, the company that created the 4A bond structure. Two final meetings will be held in the same location on Oct. 8 and 17 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. These Town Hall discussions are not school district-sanctioned events nor are they special meetings of the entire Board of Education. Three or more members of the board may be in attendance; however, no official school district business is discussed and no formal action is taken. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

Palmer Lake Wine Festival, Sep. 14



Above: On Sept. 14, the inaugural Palmer Lake Wine Festival provided the sold-out crowd opportunities to sample wines from 17 local and regional wineries. The Monument Jazz Trio provided straight-ahead jazz followed by vocalist/guitarist Miguel Dakota. This first annual event was fully funded by vendors and benefited Tri-Lakes Cares and the Palmer Lake Parks and Recreation Department. The festival was located in the Palmer Lake Recreation Area by the gazebo. Volunteers from Tri-Lakes Cares and others made this event successful. *Photo by Steve Pate.*