

On the Trail (in memory of Tim Watkins)
Santa Fe Open Space update

By Steve Pate

Last March, we mentioned that the 65-acre parcel purchased by El Paso County would become a new open space for trail users—hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians—with plans for public access by late summer/early fall. See <https://www.ocn.me/v21n3.htm#trail>. The county hired a contractor, Performance Recreation, and the Santa Fe Open Space (SFOS) is coming along well, according to Ross Williams, park planner.

The contractor hired to build the trails and prepare the area for public use has cleared “corridors through the scrub (Gambel) oaks and is building “benches” for single-track trails. The corridors are wide enough to allow access by park staff on ATVs but the trails will generally be about 2 feet wide. The trail corridors will also allow access in case of wildfire, and some trees have been “limbed” or skirted to reduce “laddering” in case of fire.

As one proceeds into the open space up toward Elephant Rock/Ben Lomond, the views are quite nice,

as shown in the accompanying photo. The SFOS is still expected to open to the public before year’s end, but no firm date has been set. As described in our March column, this area has historical, cultural, and conservation value. The only known inhabitants were Native American tribes that date to the Folsom period 10,000 years ago; more recently the Mountain Ute, Arapahoe, Kiowa, Sioux, Cheyenne and others have been present.

In 1812, an Army expedition led by Maj. Stephen H. Long camped at the base of what is now known as Elephant Rock—at that time it was called Castle Rock, then Phoebe’s Arch, and so on. Located just east of the New Santa Fe Regional trail, the SFOS allows hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians easy access to a less-traveled area. Look for the official opening of the SFOS in an upcoming issue of OCN.

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Above: View from the SFOS on Oct. 10 looking southwest toward Mount Herman showing the fall colors of Gambel oak. *Photo by Steve Pate.*

Art Matters

National artists Sunday



By Janet Sellers

“Art is the highest form of hope.”—Gerhard Richter

Since ancient times, people have understood the importance of the arts in their daily life and, in fact, it was a requirement in ancient Greece, for Greek culture. The Greco Roman underpinnings of our education system has forgotten that part and alludes only to the fact that they existed, looking at technology and the sciences as contemporary muses.

But daily life in ancient Greece included the imagination born of the muses. As a dedication to them, music and the arts were practiced if not worshiped as a way to live life to the fullest and optimize a person even in death.

The ancient Greeks considered art an important

part of the human life force, an important daily connection to the heavens from birth until death, and even after death. They lived by the idea that art and the muses help keep our imagination alive, and it supports our cherished memories to remain alive as well. Perhaps we all would benefit in thinking this way.

Local and national artists have a day of their own

Beginning last year, the Sunday after Thanksgiving is known nationwide as Artists Sunday. It is the world’s largest art event, dedicated to supporting artists and recognizing the impact they have in enriching our lives, communities, and the economy.

In person or online, it’s an opportunity for artists to share their works and for people to buy the artwork.

Positioned during the year’s busiest holiday shopping weekend, Artists Sunday falls between Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday, and unites artists and communities across the country, all promoting purchases from local artists.

For convenience, I have created a Facebook page, and people can connect with our local artists to enjoy and purchase works of art by going to Facebook.com using the search box: Artists Sunday, November 28, 2021. There will be more and more information there as the month goes along.

Janet sellers is an artist, writer, and speaker, and she looks to foster a love for the arts for all ages locally and globally. JanetSellers@ocn.me.

Snapshots of Our Community

Correction: Demolished building was Elliott’s store, not Henry Station



Above: In the October issue of *Our Community News*, a September 21 photo taken of the structural demolition on Front Street, Monument was identified as the original building and site of the 1872 Rio Grande railway station known as Henry’s Station, named after early homesteader and postmaster, “Dutch” Henry. Although Henry’s Station was established after the railroad came through in 1869, it was not in this specific location, but located nearby. The actual structural demolition as seen in the published September photo was that of the Elliott’s General Store, seen in this photo, opening in 1879. It was established by Robert C. Elliott, a prominent man in Monument, and his partner, J. W. Mudge. Elliott married Mudge’s daughter, Fanny. They were a hardworking couple who ran the store, a cheese factory, and the Carriage and Wagon Repository. Elliott was appointed town trustee, served as town clerk May 1887-April 1896, and one of town committee members to purchase Monument’s three coal oil lantern streetlights on posts for \$19.35. The demolition of this structure was the last of Monument’s original, commercial building sites. *Photo provided and copyrighted by Palmer Lake Historical Society/Lucretia Vaile Museum from Images of America: Communities of the Palmer Divide, Arcadia Publishing. Caption by Sharon Williams.*



Above: This is one of the last photos taken of Elliott’s General Store structure on Front Street, Monument as it existed as a long-time residence in recent decades. *Photo by Jim Sawatski, Palmer Divide Productions. Caption by Sharon Williams.*

Below: The photo that ran on page 27 of the October issue of OCN. *Photo by Steve Pate.*

