

On the Trail (in memory of Tim Watkins)

Forest Health Restoration Project update

By Steve Pate

In last month's *On the Trail* column, we mentioned the Forest Health Restoration Project near the Upper Reservoir and Ice Cave Creek west of Palmer Lake. On Oct. 25, I hiked that same loop and did not see any such activity along the Ice Cave Creek trail. However, extensive tree removal has been done west and north of the Upper Reservoir. In a brief discussion with one of the employees of the Miller company, which is doing the logging operation, I learned that the primary focus is on wildfire mitigation,

and it is sponsored by Palmer Lake, not the Pike National Forest or National Forest Service. Palmer Lake Fire Chief John Vincent noted in a phone conversation that the project is mostly complete and that the contractor who did the logging operation was not capable of removing the logs from where they are now stacked. He suggested burning the wood is one option being considered. *Photos by Steve Pate.*

Steve Pate can be contacted at stevepate@ocn.me



Art Matters

What is the value of art—and who decides?



By Janet Sellers

"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."—Pablo Picasso
"That is art!" exclaimed Damien Hirst, who is arguably the UK's richest artist (and entrepreneur and more) and has begun burning thousands of his own paintings. Hirst said recently that burning his art was intended not only to interrogate the value of NFTs (non-fungible tokens) but to explore the idea that market value, like money itself, is underpinned by confidence, an "experiment in belief." "The whole thing is the artwork," he explained at the time. "It's almost like the behavior of the human beings that are all involved in it ... it just will have a life of its own."

Speaking of a life of its own, we have

been creating and sharing art in our area for many decades via artists' events, studio visits, Art Hop, and other special events. Art is important to our lives for many reasons. For some, it is a reflection of society. For others it is a respite from daily life.

Art has a power to influence our lives through imagination, and affects physical, emotional, and mental well-being. It also has the power to affect and possibly influence our local and national culture and politics. And as evidenced by Hirst, art even influences the economy.

As we look at our lives and creativity as a factor of thriving, we see that problem-solving and quality of life go together. Being able to see art for most people who don't make it themselves has been fairly recent

for Europe, the 18th century (British Museum, Louvre, Uffizi), and by the 19th century public access to the formerly private collections was common.

The word "museum" comes from the "nine muses" of classic Greek for the goddesses of inspiration. Where does inspiration come from? The word activates in-spirit-ization of creating. Yet, publicly displayed art sculptures were the earliest on view, the statuary and war booty of ancient Rome displayed on public squares. Medieval church treasuries of sacred objects—in Japan at shrines, sacred "ema" paintings, traditionally of horses, were hung to draw good favor, from a tradition of a gift horse to a temple in hopes of help from the gods.

We have art connections in our area

ranging from public art, artist groups, and galleries to a developing arts district. The Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region, COPPeR, is dedicated to promoting the arts for artists, patrons, art lovers in general. It is our nonprofit local arts agency serving the Pikes Peak Region, looking to ensure cultural opportunities reach all people and create a thriving community that is united by creativity.

Janet Sellers is an artist, writer, speaker, and educator for all ages. She exhibits her artworks in cities and museums in Colorado and other places around the world. She can be reached at JanetSellers@ocn.me.

Snapshots of Our Community

Focusing on the Fight, Sept. 4



Above: Lori Brown (second from the left), a Monument resident, a member of the Colorado State Patrol (CSP), and a breast cancer victim advocate, was honored by the CSP Sept. 4. This specially marked cruiser with her name on it salutes those in the fight, the survivors, and those that have gone on before their time. Watch for these special vehicles all around Colorado and find out more about how to reduce the risk of breast cancer. *Photos courtesy of Phil Brown.*

Chamber at Searle Ranch, Sept. 20



Above: Members of the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, including representatives of Our Community News (OCN), visited the Searle Ranch on Sept. 20 as part of the chamber's Business After Hours program. The event featured a tour of the ranch including close contact with Searle's prize-winning Texas Longhorns. Some chamber members, like Tia M. Mayer of OCN, were brave enough to pet and hand-feed the cattle. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld.*

NASTaP celebration, Sept. 24



Above: The Seven Falls Indian Dancers came to help celebrate Dr. James Jefferson's 89th birthday at the NASTaP (Native American Sacred Trees and Places) annual meeting Sept. 24 at LaForet, Black Forest. Dr. Jefferson (shown at right), president and co-founder of NASTaP, comes from the Four Corners area to help teach local people about CMT's (Culturally Modified Trees) that were modified by Native Americans before settlers came to the Monument and Palmer Lake area. For more information about NASTaP and CMTS, go to nastap.org. *Photo by Marlene Brown.*