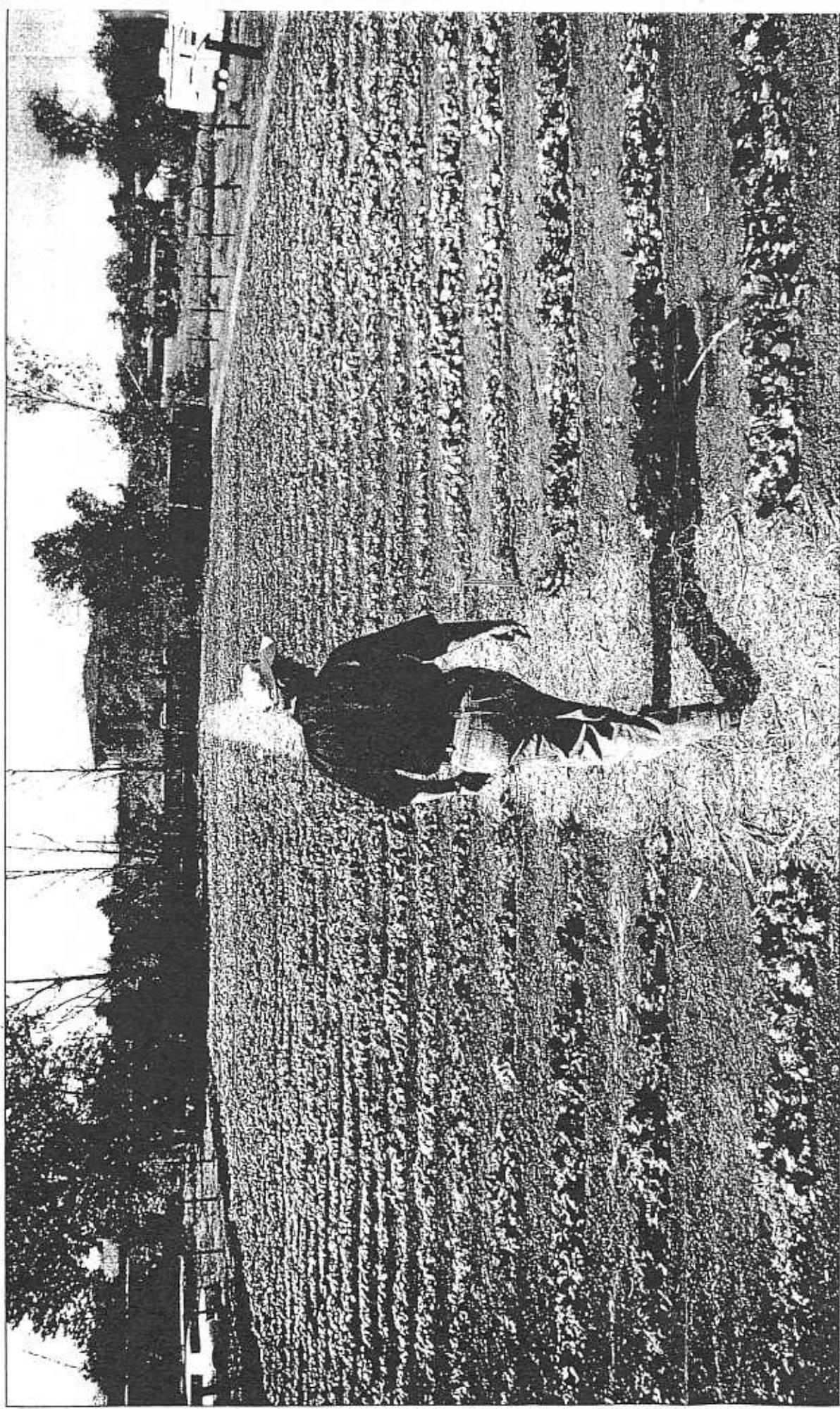


THE SATURDAY POST



CLOUDS, MILD ▲ 63 ▼ 31 » 12B • OCTOBER 24, 2009 • DENVERPOST.COM • © THE DENVER POST • 75 CENTS PRICE MAY VARY OUTSIDE METRO DEN

HARVEST AND HOME, TOGETHER



Matthew "Quint" Redmond walks a lettuce field in Lakewood. Redmond sees a future where homes are engaged by farms that feed them — and make income by also selling to local restaurants. His 944-home project in Milliken is ready to break ground. Photos by Craig F. Walker, The Denver Post

"Agriburbia" blooms

Golden developer sows communities around farm fields to produce food, profit.



Jenny Redmond, Matthew's wife, inspects lettuce in the Lakewood plot.

By Jason Blevins *The Denver Post*

Six years ago, Matthew "Quint" Redmond suggested to Milliken planners that a corn farm north of Denver could increase its agricultural value and still anchor nearly a thousand homes.

"I got laughed out of the room," Redmond said.

Today, Milliken's 618-acre Platte River Village is ready for construction, with 944 planned homes surrounded by 108 acres of backyard farms and 152 acres of drip-irrigated community farms. The plan is for the farms to feed local residents and sup-

ply restaurants while paying for community upkeep. And Redmond, a 47-year-old planner-farmer, has 13 other Front Range projects mulling his "agriburbia" concept.

Redmond, co-founder of the Golden-based design firm TSR Group, travels the country preaching his urban farming and development idea. He envisions a future where the nation's 31 million acres of lawn are converted to food production. He sees golf-course greens redefined with herbs; sand traps as "kale traps." He sees retirement homes engulfed by farms and office buildings where workers escape cubicles on farming breaks.

AGRIBURBIA » 11

Outdoors CONNECTION

Wednesday, October 14, 2009 • LovelandConnection.com

Soapstone will lasso you in

MILES BLUMHARDT
Loveland Connection

Coming was on the wind stroked the creaking mountain bike to the top of Cheyenne Ridge. Pumping not-as-young-as-used-to-be lungs and my goal was as clear as the horizon was cloudy. I would pedal as much of the 11.7-mile Cheyenne Ridge Trail at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area that actually lassos you into Cowboy State as I fore- cast the building thunder- storms to the northwest would allow. The weather isn't an exact sci- ence, you know. I huffed and puffed, moving, kind of, through the trees and trail thoughtfully

constructed in and out of dry washes and on the leeward side of ridges buffered from the unwavering Wyoming wind.

Thankfully, three-leaf sumac in fall color resembling burning campfire embers of American Indians who long ago used this area to hunt buffalo and dotting the expansive hillsides of tawny grasses pulled me from my bike seat for photo ops.

Don't quote me, but pedaling up this trail that with each pedal powering me toward better and better scenery, I think I had something like 28 square miles to myself midday last week.

At least, I didn't see anybody.

And that's exactly what I wanted as I left my office

mid-morning, tired of the cubicle curse that plagues those of us who prefer remoteness but are shackled to the man and the mortgage payment he so generously allows us to pay.

I have no particular fear of my guts ending up in the belly of hungry coyotes.

It's a circle-of-life kind of mentality. Dead is dead.

But after reading a recent column, I was prompted to call my wife and tell her to look for my carcass along the Cheyenne Ridge Trail should I not return.

This is country where even agile wind-whipped northern harriers have wing flaps spasmodically levering to adjust for wind gusts.

The remoteness is what draws people like me up here

and what makes some myopic people peeved.

This as close to natural as a natural area has to offer.

I pedaled through a draw then ascended a rise and had time on my soft coast down the trail to feel that remoteness — stiff, brown buffalo grass; waving wands of blonde sideoats grama; caterpillar tents knitted to crooked mountain mahogany branches; sun splashing down sweeping white rock slopes one minute then suddenly disappearing the next, muting the entire landscape.

I could sense the Big Hole before seeing it.

This geologic phenomenon is the reason for pedaling the hour up this trail.

See SOAPSTONE / Page 27

Soapstone

Continued from Page 26

Like the sun, one minute all you see is uninterrupted grassland and the next you pop up on the rim to a magnificent scene framed by your handlebars of granite rock outcroppings falling hundreds of feet to a hole colored by gorgeous redrock, streaked with dry washes whose banks were colored with sumac.

The stretch of trail along the rim is one of the best, if not the best, section of trail to be found in our natural areas and open spaces.

I descended to the Cheyenne Ridge Trail's intersection with the Big Hole Wash Trail and wanted to explore more.

But the clouds to the northwest warned of rain so I pedaled back up to the rim for one last look before returning to my cubicle.

A red-tailed hawk with sun intermittently illuminating its red tail soared on thermals, the sun smiled and frowned on the Big Hole, mixing its moods, rain fell from darkening clouds on the distant horizon and the wind — unseasonably warm on this, the last



Fall is an ideal time to mountain bike, hike or horseback ride at Soapstone Natural Area and Red Mountain Open Space.

warmest day of the year — actually held its breath for a split second.

My cubicle never felt so small, yet thankfully so far away.

SOAPSTONE RED MOUNTAIN TRAILS

All trails open to hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding unless otherwise indicated:

Soapstone

- Cheyenne Rim Trail: 11 miles with connection to Canyon Trail and Red Mountain Open Space.
- Pronghorn Loop: 7.5 miles loop with connection to Trail and Sand Wash Trail
- Plover Trail: 7 miles, closed April 1- July 15 for grass birds, connects to Pronghorn Loop and Sandwash Trail
- Lindenmeier Overlook: 1 mile paved trail

to pavilion with interpretive signs and seating. Horses allowed.

- Mahogany Trail: 5 miles with connection to Canyon Trail and Pronghorn Loop. Horses not allowed.
- Towhee Trail: 3-mile loop, hiking only with connection to Mahogany Trail and Canyon Trail
- Canyon Trail: 5 miles, north edge of property with connection to Plover Trail and Red Mountain Open Space. Horses not allowed.
- Sand Wash Trail: 1.5 miles connects Canyon Trail and Pronghorn Loop. Horses allowed.

Red Mountain

- Bent Rock Trail: 2.3 miles, easy, hiking only
- Sinking Sun Trail: 1.2 miles, easy
- Big Hole Wash Trail: 1.5 miles, easy, connects to Soapstone Natural Area
- Ruby Wash Trail: 2.5 miles, easy
- Cheyenne Rim Trail: 11 miles, moderate to difficult, connects to Soapstone Natural Area

From office space to open space



Stunning Soapstone/Red Mtn. cure cubicle blues

BY MILES BLUMHARDT

milesblumhardt@coloradoan.com

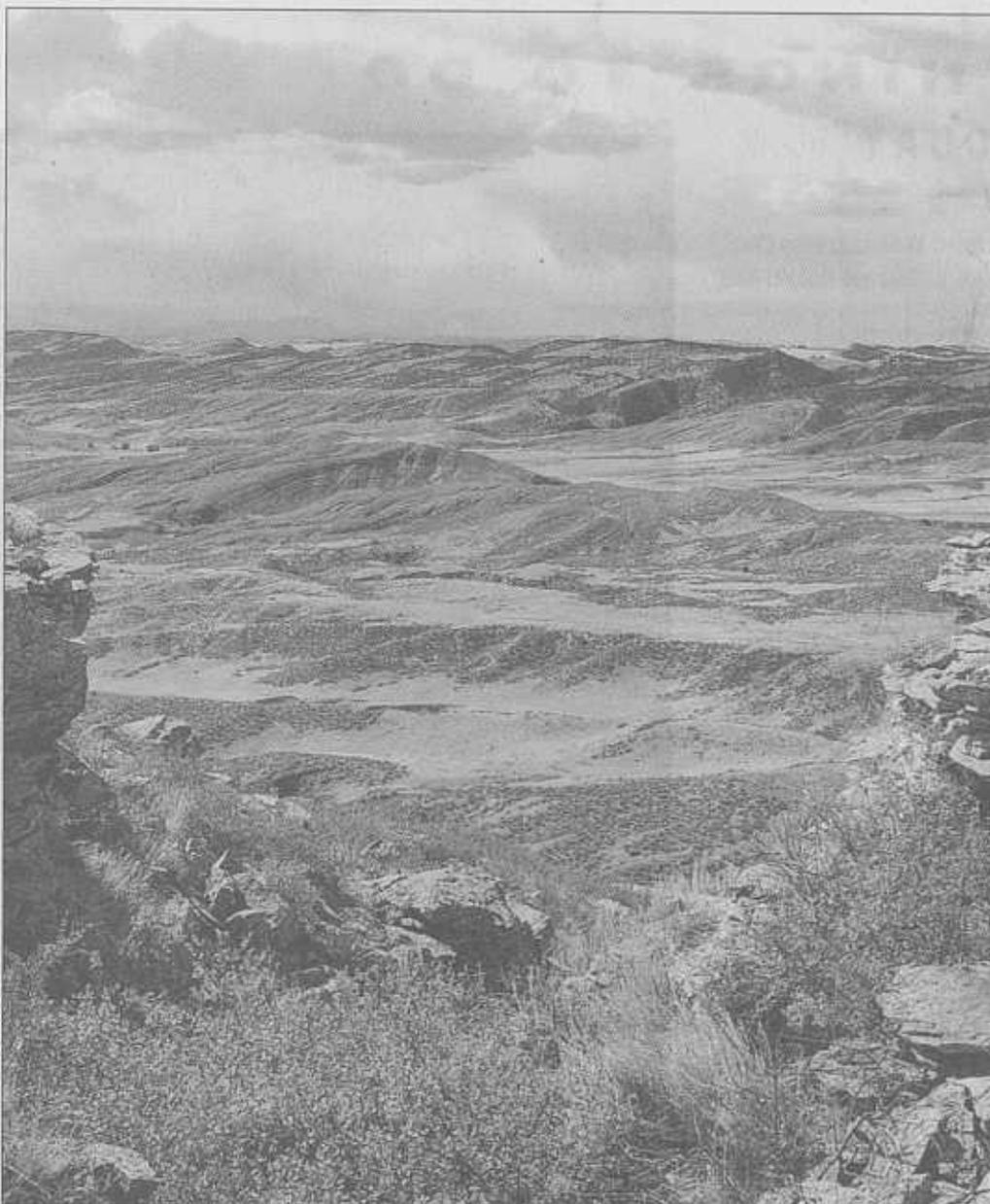
Wyoming was on the wind as I stroked the creaking mountain bike to the top of Cheyenne Ridge.

Pumping not-as-young-as-they-used-to-be lungs and legs, my goal was as clear as the horizon was cloudy. I would pedal as much of the 11.7-mile Cheyenne Ridge Trail at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area that eventually lassos you into the Cowboy State as I forecasted the building thunderstorms to the northwest would allow.

Weather isn't an exact science, you know.

So I huffed and puffed, blowing, kind of, through the curves and trail thoughtfully constructed in and out of dry washes and on the lee side of ridges buffered from the unwavering Wyoming wind. Thankfully, three-leaf sumac in fall color resembling burning campfire embers of American Indians who long ago used this area to hunt buffalo and dotting the expansive hillsides of tawny grasses pulled me from my bike seat for photo ops.

Don't quote me, but pedaling up this trail that with each stroke powered me toward better and better scenery, I think I had something like 28 square miles to myself midday last week. At least, I didn't see anybody. And that's exactly what I wanted as I left my office mid-morning, tired of the cubicle curse that plagues those of us who prefer remote-



Photos by Miles Blumhardt/The Coloradoan

The Cheyenne Ridge Trail, above, offers stunning views of Red Mountain Open Space's Big Hole. Pronghorn antelope, such as the ones shown at top, are commonly seen at Soapstone Natural Area near the Wyoming border.

See SOAPSTONE/Page C3

per...
if Area near

SOAPSTONE PRAIRIE NATURAL AREA/RED MOUNTAIN OPEN SPACE

Soapstone Natural Area

> **Directions:** Take Colorado Highway 1/ Terry Lake Road to County Road 15 north, turn north onto Rawhide Flats Road and continue north to the entrance station.

> **Hours:** Dawn to dusk, but better hurry as the site is closed for winter starting Nov. 1

> **Acres:** 18,700

> **Pets:** Not allowed, even in vehicles

> **Information:** www.fcgov.com/naturalareas

Red Mountain Open Space

> **Directions:** Take Colorado Highway 1 (Terry Lake Road) to Larimer County Road 15 (Waverly turnoff). Go left on County Road 15 to County Road 78. Go left on County Road 78 to County Road 17. Go right on County Road 17 to County Road 80. Go left on County Road 80 to County Road 19. Go right on County Road 19 to County Road 21. Go left on County Road 21 for about seven miles to the trailhead parking area.

> **Hours:** Dawn to dusk, but better hurry as the sites is closed for winter starting Nov. 1

> **Acres:** 15,000

> **Pets:** Not allowed

> **Information:** www.larimer.org/naturalresources/laramie_foothills.htm

Soapstone/Red Mountain trails

All trails open to hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding unless otherwise indicated:

Soapstone

> **Cheyenne Rim Trail:** 11.7 miles with connection to Canyon Trail and Red Mountain Open Space.

> **Pronghorn Loop:** 7.5 mile loop with connection to Plover Trail and Sand Wash Trail

> **Plover Trail:** 7 miles, closed April 1- July 15 for grassland birds; connects to Pronghorn Loop and Sandwash Trail

> **Lindenmeier Overlook:** 1/4 mile paved trail to pavilion with interpretive signs and seating. Horses not allowed.

> **Mahogany Trail:** 5 mile trail with connection to Canyon Trail and Pronghorn Loop. Horses not allowed.

> **Towhee Trail:** 3-mile loop for hiking only with connection to Mahogany Trail and Canyon Trail

> **Canyon Trail:** 5 mile trail on north edge of property with connection to Plover Trail and Red Mountain Open Space. Horses not allowed.

> **Sand Wash Trail:** 1.5 miles connects Canyon Trail and Pronghorn Loop. Horses not allowed.

Red Mountain

> **Bent Rock Trail:** 2.3 miles, easy, hiking only

> **Sinking Sun Trail:** 1.2 miles, easy

> **Big Hole Wash Trail:** 2.8 miles, easy, connects to Soapstone Natural Area

> **Ruby Wash Trail:** 2.5 miles, easy

> **Cheyenne Rim Trail:** 3.6 miles, moderate to difficult; connects to Soapstone Natural Area

Oct. 29, 2009 www.BerthoudRecorder.com

LARIMER COUNTY OUTDOORS

Guided Hikes and Programs

Saturday, Nov. 21

"What Would the Pilgrims Eat?" 9 a.m. Join naturalists Caroline and Jay for a holiday walk around the Wild Loop at the Devil's Backbone in search of wild edibles worthy of the pilgrims' table. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring water for the trail. Approximately three-hour program. For questions please call Rob at 970-679-4561.

009 Bald Eagle Watches:

Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 21, at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 4:30 p.m.

To learn more about Larimer County's parks and open spaces, visit our Web site at www.Larimer.org/NaturalResources.

Thursday Reporter-Herald October 22, 2009

Time slots are filled for county's firewood program

FORT COLLINS — Reserved time slots for the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources' free

firewood program have been filled.

People can check for canceled time slots at www.larimer.org/firewood. Click "Sign up for one of the time slots"; click the drop-down for "Time Slot"; select a time slot that is not full, and reserve that time slot by filling in your name and e-mail address, and then clicking "Reserve Collection Time."

Tuesday Reporter-Herald November 3, 2009

Voters choose Findley art

LARIMER COUNTY — Online voters have chosen a painting titled "The Poudre River" to represent the 2009 Open Lands Visual Artist of the Year Diane Findley.

The vibrant landscape piece is based on the area where the Pleasant Valley

Trail parallels the river corridor in the LaPorte area.

It was chosen from a dozen pieces created by Findley during her tenure as this year's Open Lands Visual Artist of the Year.

Findley wanted the public to choose which of her paintings would hang in the County Courthouse for the next year.

Voting took place online during October and at a reception, and more than 500 votes were cast.

The painting will be displayed at a reception with county commissioners in January.

Berthoud Recorder 10-1-09

LARIMER COUNTY OUTDOORS

Guided Hikes and Programs

Friday, Oct. 2

Unveiling of Art Inspired by Larimer County Open Spaces, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Cache Bank & Trust at 100 S. College Ave. Fort Collins. Larimer County Open Lands 2009 Visual Artist of the Year, Diane Findley, will unveil several paintings inspired by Larimer County Open Spaces at a show entitled "Open Landscape Paintings." To learn more about the Open Lands Visual Artist Program, please visit the website at www.Larimer.org/openlands/artist.htm

Saturday, Oct. 3

"Red Mountain's Golden Eagles," 9 a.m. to noon. Join naturalist and former veterinarian Bob for a wildlife hike highlighting Red Mountain's highflying majestic resident, the Golden Eagle. The Open Space trailhead is located 25 miles north of Fort Collins off of CR15. Program lasts approximately 3 hours. Sign up is required. Contact: Justin Scharton at 970-679-4489 or jscharton@larimer.org.

Soapstone

Continued from Page C4

ness but are shackled to the man and the mortgage payment he so generously allows us to pay.

I have no particular fear of my guts ending up in the belly of hungry coyotes. It's a circle-of-life kind of mentality. Dead is dead. But after reading Rich Bachand's column in last week's *Xplore* Open space column, it prompted me to call my wife and tell her to look for my carcass along the Cheyenne

Miles Blumhardt/The Coloradoan

Fall is an ideal time to mountain bike, hike or horseback ride at Soapstone Natural Area and Red Mountain Open Space.

Ridge Trail should I not return.

I mean, up here, we're not in Fort Collins, anymore Dorothy. A rain shower in Fort Collins can mean snow up here. A breeze in Fort Collins can mean a real blow up here. This is country where even agile wind-whipped northern barriers have wing flaps spasmodically levering to adjust for wind gusts. But the remoteness is what draws people like me up here but what makes some myopic people peeved.

This as close to natural as a city of Fort Collins natural area has to offer.

I pedaled through a draw then ascended a rise and had time on my soft coast down the trail to feel that remoteness - stiff, brown buffalo grass; waving wands of blonde sideoats grama; caterpillar tents knitted to crooked mountain mahogany branches; sun splashing down sweeping white rock slopes one minute then suddenly disappearing the next, muting the entire landscape.

I could sense the Big Hole before seeing it. This geologic phenomenon is the reason for pedaling the hour up this trail. Like the sun, one minute all you see is uninter-

rupted grassland and the next you pop up on the rim to a magnificent scene framed by your handlebars of granite rock outcroppings falling hundreds of feet to a hole colored by gorgeous redrock, streaked with dry washes whose banks were colored with sumac.

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to the northwest warned of rain so I pedaled back up to the rim for one last look before returning to my cubicle.

A red-tailed hawk with sun intermittently illuminating its red tail soared on thermals, the sun smiled and frowned on the Big Hole, mixing its moods, rain fell from darkening clouds on the distant horizon and the wind - unseasonably warm on this, the last warmest day of the year - actually held its breath for a split-second.

My cubicle never felt so small, yet thankfully so far away.

Coloradoan 10-7-07

Hermit Park stewards earn Starburst Conservation Award

By PAMELA DRICKMAN
REPORTER-HERALD STAFF WRITER

FORT COLLINS — Fifteen people lined the chairs in the Larimer County commissioners office Tuesday — only a fraction of those involved in preserving Hermit Park.

They applauded loudly when Matt Robbins, spokesman for the Colorado Lottery, handed over the Starburst Conservation Award recognizing the open space.

"We earned it," said Commissioner Kathy Rennels, referring to the many cities, towns, conservation agencies and individuals that

worked together to pay for the \$8.7 million project.

"This county earned this award, all the work, all the partners. All these people came together and said, 'This land needs this,'" Hermit Park, located just outside Estes Park, was a private playground for Hewlett-Packard and Agilent employees from 1967 to 2006, when the company decided to sell the property.

Trying to keep the forests, meadows and wetlands free from development, the company first offered the land to the county.

The county and other area agencies moved quickly, gathering the money, including \$700,000 from the Estes Valley Land Trust and \$420,000 from the city of Loveland. Even with a \$700,000 Great Outdoors Colorado grant, \$4 million from Larimer County and contributions from city of Fort Collins, town of Berthoud and others, the effort was \$1.2 million short.

A team, including private residents, raised that amount in six months, and the county owned Hermit Park by Feb. 14, 2007.

Since then, crews have maintained the cabins and revamped camping areas.

Robbins said, "The project is a crown jewel not only of this region but the state."

The widespread cooperation to preserve the land as well as the diverse habitat led to the award.

ON THE NET: For more information, go to www.larimer.org.

By the numbers

15,000 people have visited Hermit Park so far this year.

15 cabins can be rented year round, including for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays this year.

80 campsites are available.

1,362 acres are preserved at Hermit Park.

The open space also has two trails and a group picnic area, open for gatherings and weddings.

The widespread cooperation to preserve the land as well as the diverse habitat led to the award.

Reporter Herald 10-28-07

County earns accolades for open space work

BY BOBBY MAGILL
For Loveland Connection

With Longs Peak shrouded in clouds and Kruger Rock looming over a broad meadow, **Kerry Rollins** bounced her Chevy Suburban along a gravel road last week to show off one of Larimer County's newest open space parks.

Soon to be the recipient of the Colorado Lottery's Starburst Director's Choice award, Hermit Park Open Space, a former Agilent Technologies and Hewlett-Packard private employee resort southeast of Estes Park, opened to the public in 2007 after the county purchased it. Rollins, Larimer County

Department of Natural Resources outreach specialist, is nothing if not proud of the 1,362-acre property, full of secluded campsites, hiking trails and pastoral views.

"It's just a family place," Rollins said while taking two Larimer County Open Space Advisory Board members on a tour of Hermit Park.

The Starburst award, which will be presented to the county this week, honors the county's use of a \$700,000 Great Outdoors Colorado grant, which helped purchase the property. The county launched a major capital campaign to buy Hermit Park for \$6.5 million in 2007.

Larimer County Department of Natural Resources District Manager **Chris Fleming** said Hermit Park opened to the public in phases, with many more improvements to come.

One of the open space's biggest attractions is Kruger Rock, a towering promontory in Roosevelt National Forest

looking over the property. The county plans to construct a formal trailhead for Kruger Rock within Hermit Park, she said.

Hermit Park's extensive campgrounds offer sites widely spread apart, some nestled beneath gnarled trees and boulders near prime moose and elk habitat.

The campgrounds are so nice and offer so much seclusion to campers, they're better than the campsites nearby Rocky Mountain National Park offers, advisory board member **Frank Gillespie** said.

Most of the campsites are scheduled to be refurbished and upgraded, however.

The ultimate goal for Hermit Park, Fleming said, is for it to be financially self-sustaining.

Currently, it is partially funded by the county's Help Preserve Open Space sales tax, but eventually, entrance, camping and lodging fees will fully fund the park, she said.

Saturday Reporter-Herald October 24, 2009

Larimer County awarded for Hermit Park

FORT COLLINS — The Colorado Lottery has awarded a 2009 Starburst Director's Choice Award to Larimer County for using lottery dollars to help purchase the Hermit Park Open Space.

The award will be presented to the Larimer County commissioners at their regular meeting Tuesday.

The Larimer County Department of Natural Resources used a \$700,000 Great Outdoors Colorado grant to help purchase and preserve the 1,300-acre parcel near Estes Park formerly owned by Agilent Technologies.

The county now manages the park's 80 campsites, 15 rustic log cabins and trails that connect to existing Forest Service trails on adjacent property.

"This is a great use of lottery funds to preserve a large area of open space, allowing wildlife to survive and thrive without the loss of habitat," said Colorado Lottery Director Jack Boehm.

Agilent Technologies sold the land to the county for \$2.2 million less than its appraised value of \$8.7 million.

A campaign by the Friends of Larimer County Parks and Open Lands raised \$1.2 million to help with the purchase.

Other funding came from grants and open space sales tax revenue.

Reporter-Herald October 12, 2009
FORT COLLINS

Learn about Red Mountain

Larimer County Parks and Open Space will offer a program on the culture of Red Mountain Open Space at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Red Mountain Open Space is located 25 miles north of Fort Collins, between Interstate 25 and U.S. 287.

The easy hike will last about three hours and will focus on the land's ancient and contemporary uses.

Community CONNECTION

Saturday, October 10, 2009 • 21

Photogs wanted to capture nature scene

Larimer County Department of Natural Resources is recruiting people interested in photography. People are needed to be in the field to capture pictures of visitors recreating in the county's parks and open spaces.

If you have an interest in photography, contact **CJ Cullins** at 679-4552.

For more information, visit www.larimer.org/naturalresources.

Coloradoan 10-7-09 Open space cabins add holiday dates

Reservations have been expanded for the camper cabins at Hermit Park Open Space, two miles south of Estes Park, to include Thanksgiving eve, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas eve, and New Year's eve.

To make reservations, visit www.larimercamping.com or call (800) 397-7795.

November through March, these cabins are usually reservable only for Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Off-season rates remain at \$50 per night.

For information about Hermit Park Open Space, visit www.larimer.org/naturalresources/hermitpark.htm

Astronomy viewing events open to the public

Area residents have two opportunities for seeing stars.

At 7:30-11 p.m. Friday, the Little Thompson Observatory at 850 Spartan Ave. by Berthoud High School in Berthoud will be open for Public Star Night.

Drs. Irene and Stephen Little of Estes Park will talk about "Time and Calendars," including the calendars of ancient peoples such as the Mayan, Inca and Anasazi, and how these calendars are still of interest today. Visitors will be able to look through the large 18-inch telescope at various celestial objects.

Parking will be available east of Berthoud High School. For details, call 613-7793 or visit www.starkids.org.

At 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, "Astronomy at Fossil Creek" will take place as the Northern Colorado Astronomical Society holds a program at Fossil Creek Reservoir Open Space, one mile west of Interstate 25 on Carpenter Road, Fort Collins.

Participants can enjoy views of the constellations, satellites and meteors. Visitors can try several types of telescopes and get close-up views of the moon's craters, mountains and basins. Bring binoculars for tips on sky targets.

The event may be canceled due to cloudy skies or high winds. Dress for colder evening temperatures and bring along a folding chair.

The three-hour program is free and open to the public. Check www.ncastro.org for event status and visible planets. Contact Rob Novak at 679-4561 for more information.

— Reporter-Herald staff

Guided hikes in Larimer County

Saturday, Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. "The Elk Rut." Join naturalist Bob for a program dedicated to the Rockies' most charismatic four-legged critter — the elk — at Hermit Park Open Space, located just southeast of the town of Estes Park, off of Hwy 36. This stationary program, at the Hermit's Cabin, will describe the rut season, talk about the importance of elk habitat, and give insight into their amazing adaptations. A perfect way to spend the morning before a hike to Homestead Meadows or Kruger Rock.

Saturday Oct. 17 at 9 a.m. "12,000 Years in the Making - Culture of Red Mountain Open Space." Join naturalist Thom for a morning dedicated to the fascinating cultural history of Red Mountain Open Space, located 25 miles north of Fort Collins, off of CR15. Thom will take you through ancient land uses and more contemporary times as you engage in the area's most recent use — hiking. Approxi-

Public input sought on plan to boost park fees

FORT COLLINS — The Larimer County Parks Advisory Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Boyd Lake Room at the Larimer County Courthouse Offices Building, 200 W. Oak St.

The board will consider a final recommendation to the county commissioners on proposed park permit fee increases for 2010. The public is invited to attend and offer comments on the proposed changes.

Other agenda topics include a final contract recommendation for the Estes Valley Campground Partnership, a status update on Big Thompson Canyon public access and the Carter Lake Sail Club license renewal.

For details, call Gary Buffington, Natural Resources director, 679-4560.

— Reporter-Herald staff

mately three-hour program. Hike rating: easy. Please dress appropriately for the weather, and bring plenty of water for the trail. Registration required — please visit www.larimer.org/naturalresources/registration/ to sign up.

Saturday, Oct. 17 at 5 p.m. "Bear Necessities." Naturalist and former veterinarian Bob will give this program about local bears and how they prepare for the wintertime. Meet at the brand new outdoor classroom at the Devil's Backbone Open Space, located west of Loveland off of Hwy 34. Approximately one-hour stationary program. No registration required.

Saturday, Oct. 31 at 5:30 p.m. "Owlween at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space." Join naturalist Bob for a full-moon hike dedicated to some spooky nocturnal critters at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space, located just west of Fort Collins off of CR38E. This short moonlight hike will give you insight into owls, and other nocturnal critters that have long captured people's attention. Approximately two-hour program. Hike rating: Easy. Registration required. Please go to www.larimer.org/naturalresources/registration/ to sign up.

Please direct questions to Rob at 970-679-4561.

To learn more about Larimer County's parks and open spaces, go to www.larimer.org/naturalresources.