

THE SAGE PAGE

Newsletter of the Boulder Community Alliance, a nonprofit serving Boulder, Utah

Volume 4, Issue 2

Spring 2010

Boulder Elementary: Saved Now; Future Uncertain

By Bobbie Cleave and Dianne Oberhansly

The last two months have been uncertain and anxiety-filled for Boulder Elementary students, staff, parents, and townspeople. The possibility of the school being closed by the Garfield School Board was initially reported to concerned Boulderites by Gladys LeFevre, one of the five School Board members, at a Boulder meeting in early April. Because the school has only 10 students in grades K-6—and few more on the horizon—the Board was considering closing the school and busing the students to Escalante as a cost-saving measure.

The overwhelming response from parents and locals was to keep the school open. Sentiments affirmed that closing the school would take the soul out of Boulder. Furthermore, for any people with children to consider moving here, one of the first questions asked would be about the school. Most parents have also expressed the view that they do not feel good about busing young children such a long distance to Escalante. Some said they intend to home school if Boulder Elementary were to close.

A group of parents immediately formed to campaign against Boulder Elementary's closure and to be present at the Board's April 15 meeting when a decision would likely be made. About 15 people from Boulder attended that meeting held two and a half hours away in Antimony, with parent Scott Brodie as their spokesperson. The group also presented the Board with letters of support for keeping the school open from the Boulder Town Council and the Boulder Community Foundation.

Tightening the budget belt is not new for Boulder Elementary. The school's busing was cut last January, leaving bus driver David Heaton unemployed, and the school's maintenance position, filled by Vard Coombs, was cut to half time. One of the Boulder aides was cut last year, but parents raised over \$2,000 through fundraisers in order to retain the other two aides. In addition, the school's breakfast program was discontinued, downsizing cook Mary Behunin's position.

Like so many school districts nationwide, Garfield is currently faced with slashing their budget in light of losing some state and federal funding. Janice Hatch, Garfield School Superintendent, said that the School Board, "is looking at multiple options in order to reach a balanced budget . . ." The Board's decision that night was to keep the school open, at least for the near fu-

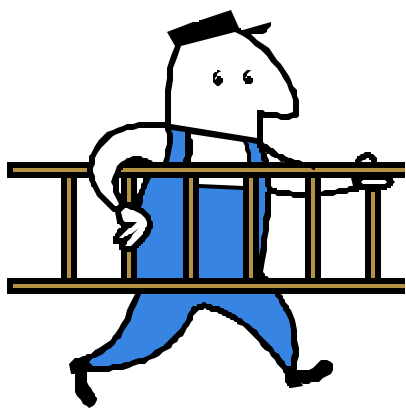
ture. The Board will make a final decision in June when their budget is due.



Mr. Roy, with Lars Gardner and Oakley Haws.

Inside This Issue:

<i>Saving Seed for Better, Boulder Gardens</i>	3
<i>High Flyers Count Cool</i>	4-5
<i>Town News, Recycling</i>	6
<i>Smithsonian Exhibits "New Harmonies"</i>	7



Toolshare Tools Now Available

Red House Farm is now making available several Ridgid and Milwaukee tools received through a 2009 grant.

The intent of Toolshare is to enable the community to share commonly-needed, but infrequently-used tools. Some tools can be loaned for offsite use, and some are only available to use on-site at the Red House Community workshop. A small fee covers blade replacement and maintenance. Participants are asked to follow some basic rules and safety issues in the workshop and also must sign a Release Form

The following tools are available for offsite use:

Kill-A-Watt Electric use meter, scaffolding, ladders, roof shingle removing tool, tile saw, shrub puller, water transfer pump, pressure washer, folding chairs/tables, Shop Vac, surveyors pole, stove pipe cleaning kit, stud finder, air compressor, finish nailer, framing nailer, cordless screwdriver

The Red House website (<http://redhousecollective.webs.com/toolsharegrant.htm>) contains additional information on Toolshare policies. Also, if you have any tools that you no longer use or would like to make available, check with Scott Brodie.

“Myths and Magic” to Kick Off Summer Reading

Friends of the Boulder Community Library will again sponsor a Kids’ Summer Reading Program, with “Myths and Magic” as this year’s theme. Good books not only provide children with a fun, engaging pastime during those long summer days, but research indicates that school-aged children often lose reading skills during summer vacation if reading is not frequently practiced.

The “Myths and Magic” Reading Program will begin on Saturday, June 5 with a Myth and Magic Party at the library from 1-2:30 p.m. There will be entertainment and snacks, and kids will have a chance to sign up for and start the program with their first book check-out.

Completion of the program requires kids to visit the library and check-out books six times during the summer, with prizes available to those who stay in the program. Kids will be able to choose prizes such as Star Wars light sabers, stuffed dragons, and Avatar movie posters. Toddlers through high school aged students are encouraged to participate.

It’s a fact that children who read do better in school, so it’s important to help make sure your child is a reader! Here are a few other ideas:

1. Take sure your child visits the library on a regular basis—and accompany him or her.
2. Take a basket of books with you for breaks from the sun, water, camp, or while traveling.
3. Talk with your child about what he or she is reading.
4. Read! Modeling is a powerful parenting tool.



The piles of shredded compost and cut logs along Hwy 12 are the remains of BCA and the State Wildlands Fire Division teaming up to cut Russian olive along Hwy 12 ditches. This is part of a larger effort to control the invasive Russian olives in the entire Escalante watershed.

Both logs and shredded material are available to anyone who wants to pick it up.

The Sage Page is published four times a year by Boulder Community Alliance (BCA), a subsidiary of Boulder Community Foundation, serving the greater Boulder area. Boulder Community Foundation is a non-profit corporation organized in the State of Utah; it is duly authorized by the IRS as a qualified 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

BCA comprises groups and individuals who actively promote an array of community-oriented projects and initiatives. Our mission is 1) to initiate or partner on appropriate projects dealing with local and sustainable agriculture, the arts, preservation of local heritage, education and well-being, and responsible land stewardship; 2) to enhance communication among all community stakeholders; 3) to provide tangible resources and support through fundraising and grant-seeking.

Co-editors: Dianne Oberhansly and Peg Smith
Please email comments, questions, or article contributions and photos to:

diane@bouldercommunityalliance.org or peg@bouldercommunityalliance.org

Seed Savers Exchange To Help Secure Seed Source

By Constance Lynn and Brynn Brodie

Imagine never again having to buy seeds to start your garden. This is the vision behind the Boulder Seed Savers Exchange. In addition to reducing or eliminating our dependence on outside sources for seeds, saving and exchanging seed from the vegetables we grow gives us all the following benefits:

- Develops a seed source adapted over time to our specific climate, water availability, soil conditions, as well as resistances to local diseases and insects
- Preserves biodiversity and heirloom varieties (as opposed to genetically engineered or hybrid varieties that produce seeds that are useless for replanting)
- Creates a genuinely regenerative garden which is truly sustainable

All around Boulder, people are signing up to commit to saving the seeds of at least one variety of vegetable. Next fall, all those collectors will gather to exchange their seeds with others who have signed up as well. Volunteers so far include:

- ◆ Mary Feiler saving chives and parsnips, * Joe Parker numex green chile and early jalepeno;
- ◆ Peg Smith saving Armenian cucumber, Turban squash, Butternut squash and Weinlandin beans;
- ◆ Garin Apperson saving New Mexican Big Jim Anaheim pepper;

- ◆ Marry Koppes and Curtis Pattison saving Hungarian Black Pepper;
- ◆ Constance Lynn saving Anasazi sweet corn, Hopi Blue Dent corn, scallions, Scarlet Nantes carrot and Jerusalem artichokes (tubers);
- ◆ Ana Sanders saving Black Valentine bush bean;
- ◆ Donna Owen saving cucumber and red pepper;
- ◆ Brynn Brodie saving lettuce, beets, cucumbers, Hubbard squash, pinto beans, jalapenos and carrots;
- ◆ Sue Fearon saving tomato and pepper;
- ◆ Colleen Thompson saving broccoli and Pink Banana squash;
- ◆ Alyssa Thompson saving various herbs.

Anyone interested in joining the collective or having questions answered, contact Brynn (459-1699) or Constance (constancelynn@gmail.com). We can email you a veggie sign-up sheet which shows the vegetable families and also indicates which veggies are biennial and which plant families have little, if any crossing. For some vegetables, such as corn or squash, cross-pollinating happens easily and therefore certain techniques must be adhered to to guarantee seed purity. Refer to a good book like *Seed to Seed*, by Suzanne Ashworth, or contact one of us for advice. Maintaining a collection of open pollinated, local seeds is a vital and exciting part of developing food security as well as honoring the gift of what nature freely

"The Women" Publication

By Cheryl Cox, Boulder Heritage Foundation

As part of the 2010 Boulder Heritage Festival, we are creating a publication with stories about the women of Boulder, past and present.

We would like stories about as many women as possible, and written by as many people as possible. Assistance is available for editing or proofing each entry. Deadline for all entries is June 1. Please submit entries to Cheryl Cox either by mail at P.O. Box 1448, Boulder; electronically at email ccox@boulderheritage.org; or call her at 335-7550 to make arrangements for entries or for more information.

The publications will be available for purchase during the Boulder Heritage Festival on July 15, 16, and 17, 2010.

Dates to Note:

- ◆ May 29, Plant Sale/Farmer's Market, 9-noon
- ◆ Jun 1, Grand Opening, *New Harmonies* Smithsonian exhibit, Anasazi State Park
- ◆ Jun 5, Kids' Library Program, Town Hall, 1--2:30pm
- ◆ Jul 3, Clayte Durfey 5K run, 7am, Escalante
- ◆ Jul 3, Town Independence Day Celebration
- ◆ Jul 4, Ice Cream Social, Talent Show; Boulder Mountain Lodge
- ◆ Jul 15-17, Boulder Heritage Festival, Anasazi State Park
- ◆ Jul 23, 5K fun run/walk for McKinlee Mitchell, 5:30pm, Escalante High

High Flyers Raise Homing Pigeons

By Curtis Oberhansly

You may have seen a flock of pigeons wheeling overhead and wondered if they were wild, like the city flocks, or if someone was actually inclined to feed and house them. It's the latter; they are all homing pigeons flown by Mike Nelson, Pete and Cookie Schaus or me. We call our small group the "Boulder High Flyers." Our birds, however, have only a distant relationship to the wild city pigeons (the rock dove from whom all pigeons evolved); in fact, they are as different as a racehorse and a burro.

The pigeon has been domesticated since the beginning of recorded history and was, in fact, the world's first domesticated fowl, long before chickens, ducks or geese. Much like dogs and cats, they found ways to be useful and were thus fed and protected as part of the clan. Pigeons had several advantages for partnering with humans: they mate for life, establish a nest as a permanent home in any shelter offered, don't migrate, raise up to a dozen youngsters a year, fly big distances to forage off the land, and the young grow fast (at 4 to 5 weeks they are a mature and tender squab) producing a free and easily harvested source of protein. The earliest records of the Egyptians (even slaves) show that they kept dove-cotes, the common name for a pigeon loft.

Add to this other useful discoveries made about this lowly bird. Five thousand years ago, Mediterranean seafarers carried a basket of pigeons as navigational aids – pigeons hate flying over large bodies of water and would quickly sense, orient, and fly toward the closest possible land mass. But the big advancement in the use of pigeons was tied to communication, which has been always been vital to commerce, governments and armies. Royalty began selectively breeding pigeons for their homing instincts, capitalizing on swift flight and the dedication to a single home and nest site. When they sent a basket of pigeons out with a caravan, the bird that found its way home with a message tied to its leg was pampered and selectively bred. In fact, it was a pigeon that delivered the results of the first Olympics in 776 B.C. By the time of the Roman Empire, homing pigeons evolved enough to find their way home from substantial distances.

By 500 B.C, the Emperor of China had homing pigeon lofts in all the provinces and could get reports of trouble or good news delivered in five hours

where it took a horseman five days. Genghis Khan and Kublai Khan dominated in part because they established pigeon posts that spanned one-sixth of the globe, a virtual flying telegraph system across all of Asia.

Because of this ability, homing pigeons have been enlisted in every war we know of up to and including WW II, when the Army still had 54,000 homing pigeons and 3,000 men responsible for their training and care. Stories of pigeons saving lives of fighting men abound. French homer named Cher Amie saved an American battalion in WW I by flying through a hail of bullets to arrive half blown to pieces, but with its written message of desperation still intact. The bird died shortly thereafter, but was preserved and today is on display in the Smithsonian in Washington DC. A similar story in WWII, where a pigeon named GI Joe saved a hundred American lives by flying through enemy lines, and continuing though severely wounded.

As breeding and training techniques improved, the homing pigeon evolved yet again into the racing homer. By the 18th century, pigeon racing became a huge sport in Europe. In the 1900s, it was the biggest sport in Belgium; about one in five homes maintained a pigeon loft. This sport, and the communications aspect, evolved because of one singularly unique feature of this specialized pigeon – its ability to be released from any compass point, north or south or wherever, and to fly back to its home at the whim of its owner. No other migratory species on earth can do this.

The modern racing homer will fly over 500 miles in a single day. Racing clubs register and basket their entries, then they are trucked all night to a release point that the birds have never seen or been within several hundred miles of. A specially rigged door system opens all the baskets at the same moment, right at first light, and up to 3,000 birds rush into the air at the same moment. They flock up and circle ever higher, then begin to drift in the general direction of home and suddenly, within minutes of release, are setting off in a beeline toward home base.

Racing Homers have huge breast muscles and hollow bones that store oxygen. They do not soar for more than a moment. They are designed for speed and endurance, can sustain a million wing beats in a

day with a sustained heart rate of 600 beats a minute, triple the resting rate, from dawn to dusk in hopes of arriving back at their cherished loft and mate. From there it comes down to training and motivation. The bird that is willing to fly almost 60 miles an hour all day, never landing for food or water, with a blind faith that it is going in the right direction, is the bird that gets home first and wins the race. There are all kinds of technology – air miles to the different lofts, special bands that read and record the exact moment the birds “traps” at its own loft – employed to determine the winner. There are some good purses and side bets involved.

Pigeon racing in North America and Europe is somewhat down now, but it is growing fast in Asia. A Taiwan businessman paid over \$100,000 for a single racing homer. (The winning lofts in Taiwan, Europe and other places use all kinds of security to prevent the theft of valuable breeding stock.)

However, you will find no security measures at the lofts of the “Boulder High Flyers” (pictured). We fly because we enjoy watching them in the air and hearing them cooing in the back yard. (I have taken them as far as Powell Point and released them just for the heck of it.) Between watching them flock up and dot the sky on a cool morning, and hearing the gentle cooing from the loft while working around the place, keeping a few pair of homers around is a very inexpensive and pleasant hobby. If anyone has an extra nest box in a coop and wants a pair of young to “home” to their place, we’ll be happy to set you up.



High Flyers Cookie Schaus, Pete Schaus, Curtis Oberhansly, and Mike Nelson (l. to r.) holding some of Curtis's best homers. (Photos by Dianne Oberhansly)



Zach Nelson, youngest member of the High Flyers, arrives at the inception of a flight.

Boulder Sets Sight on Refurbishing Town Hall

By Judi Davis, Town Clerk

On a lot donated by Sam Sheffield, the first residents of Boulder built a schoolhouse in the 1890s. That first schoolhouse was replaced with a new building made of lumber supplied locally by the Lyman sawmill. This building was used for all community parties, dances, and church, as well as for school. Sadly, on February 21, 1935, this school burned to the ground, but with the efforts of the community, it was quickly replaced with the current building in November, 1935, and classes resumed.

Although this building served Boulder well for many years, it was closed in 1967 when the children began going to school in Escalante. In that year the School District deeded the building to Boulder Town, and it has been used as a community center since then. In spite of some upgrades, 75 years of use have taken a toll on the Town Hall, and for several years the Town Council has had a desire to refurbish it.

The Town has applied for and is optimistic it will receive two loan/grants to renovate the original portion of the building and replace the addition that was built in 1994. A grant from Rural Development for \$50,000 has

met all the requirements for approval, pending the completion of an Environmental Assessment, which is in progress. An application to the Community Impact Board for a \$200,000, 30-year interest-free loan and a \$330,000 grant has been advanced to the Board's Prioritization List for funding consideration at their June 10 meeting. In addition, the Town has received a \$20,000 donation and will match that with \$20,000 from its own funds to use for this project.

The new addition will include a community hall and kitchen, as well as new restrooms that will be accessible from both inside and outside. Also included in the new addition will be a small Town office and storage and utility rooms. The existing north and south rooms will be remodeled, made more energy efficient and

will continue to be used as the library and meeting room.

The Town Council is excited at the possibility of beginning work on this project. If all goes as hoped, the paperwork can be done this fall, with the actual work on the building beginning Spring 2011.



For those of us who felt a great loss at the cutting down of the two old Town Hall trees, here's a reason to rejoice: Two, young, cottonless cottonwoods have been planted in their place.

(Photo by Dianne Oberhansly)



Recycling is back for Boulder. Bins are located on the west side of the Fire Station.

Friends of Recycling, Unite!

Through diligent efforts by Constance Lynn and Alyssa Thompson, recycling bins are back. This year, Boulderites are running their own service. Businesses will pay \$50/month, and individuals are asked to subscribe for \$10/month for a twice-monthly collection.

A few rules and requests for recycling will be posted for those participating. Please help keep this service running by complying with those requests and helping keep the area tidy. ?s: 435-616-8857

“New Harmonies” Smithsonian Exhibit Arrives June 1

Boulder is one of five lucky Utah communities that will host the traveling Smithsonian exhibition “*New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music*” at Anasazi State Park Museum this summer. Museum Director Mike Nelson successfully applied for a grant to the Utah Humanities Council, who has partnered with the Smithsonian for the exhibit in our state.

The exhibit is described as “the story of people in a New World, places they have left behind, and ideas they have brought with them. It is the story of people who were already here, but whose world is remade. The distinct cultural identities of all of these people are carried in song -- both sacred and secular. Their music tracks the unique history of many peoples re-shaping each other into one incredibly diverse and complex people -- Americans.”



The grand opening of the exhibit will be Tuesday, June 1. On Friday, June 11 the film “*Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey*” will be screened and on the following night, June 12, musician Matthew Hepworth from Salt Lake City will give a presentation and demonstrate with a live Theremin.

Never heard of a theremin? You’re probably not alone. Originally known as a thereminophone, it is an early electronic musical instrument controlled without contact from the player. It is associated with an eerie sound, which has led to its use in movie soundtracks such as *The Day the Earth Stood Still*.

Mike hopes to have programs on most of the weekends the exhibit is here, such as performances by local musicians, demonstrations, and film showings like *Ghenghis Blues*. (Watch the bulletin board for venue dates and times.) The exhibition itself will run through mid-July.

The music that emerges as American Roots music is known by names like blues, country western, folk



ballads, and gospel. The sounds are as sweet as mountain air, and as sultry as a summer night in Mississippi delta country. The instruments vary from fiddle to banjo to accordion to guitar to drum. But a drum in the hands of an African sounds different than one in the hands of a European. And neither is the drumbeat of an American Indian. Yet all the rhythms merge, as do the melodies and harmonies, producing completely new sounds -- new music. New waves of music ride ashore in the hearts and heads of new immigrants, and they create still new sounds from what they have brought with them and what they find here. And nothing expresses the tensions -- or the triumphs -- of this journey into democracy quite like the music that it spawns.

The main beat of the exhibition is the ongoing cultural process that has made America the birthplace of more types of music than any place on earth. The exhibition provides a fascinating, inspiring, and toe-tapping listen to the American story of multi-cultural exchange. The story is full of surprises about familiar songs, histories of instruments, the roles of religion and technology, and the continuity of musical roots from “Yankee Doodle Dandy” to the latest hip-hop CD.

Note: The exhibit will arrive in Boulder around May 27. The museum staff will need about 12 volunteers to help put the exhibit together for that weekend. Please contact Mike Nelson at the Museum if you can lend a hand for a couple hours.

The Sage Page

Newsletter of the Boulder Community Alliance, a nonprofit
serving Boulder, Utah

Boulder Community Alliance
Phone: 435-335-7405
Email: peg@bouldercommunityalliance.org