



Sedalia View

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FINDING MY SANCTUARY—IN SEDALIA

By Terri Mongait, Author, Speaker, Coach

Another day, another marathon of ranch shopping. Our house in California was under contract and we had this one Memorial Day long weekend to find our new dream ranch. The perfect place to enjoy our next life chapter and to grow my Equine Coaching business.

After watching my real estate agent literally sprint away from the barn on the property we were currently exploring, I was beginning to lose the optimism that started my day. The sprinting agent was because of the thousands of Miller moths that had flown out at her when we opened the barn doors. Obviously, this property was not our ideal home. So, on to the next. I was hoping it would be the final viewing for the day.

We drove through Sedalia as Bud's Bar, Gabriel's Fine Dining and the Sedalia Museum were pointed out to us. How lovely I thought. Making a left onto Perry Park Road (RT 105) heading south for about five miles. Wide open spaces, cow herds and wait, were those bison? The smile in my heart grew wider.



As we pulled into the driveway of our final address for the day, I felt an energy shift. I didn't say anything out loud, but I saw the shift happen to my husband, Peter, as well. We explored the house, and I knew this might be the one.

We walked casually through the pasture to the barn. I could feel a peaceful, calming energy envelop me. I felt as if

I could see for miles. Yes, I could see the neighbor's homes, but I could also see the acres between us. I was told the land behind us was over 100 acres and the best thing to hear was that zoning laws meant it could not be subdivided.

The barn had room for four horses, there was a full-sized arena for riding and, in my case, team building sessions and workshops and a round pen for individual client coaching sessions.

I stood in the green pasture (after all it was late May) and I knew I had found my sanctuary....in Sedalia. I was ready to share it with my horse partners and my clients.

There's A Change In Sedalia

By IdaLynn Gedde

There's a change coming in Sedalia. The sign above the door of the Farmer's Insurance Company office will no longer have Deby William's name on it. Now Deby is retiring and Jaime Lessar will be the new Farmer's Insurance agent in town.

Deby Williams grew up in Nebraska. She has been in Sedalia for 35 years. She and her husband, Tom, moved here with her job at Texaco. When the company wanted her to move to Houston, she turned them down and began working in insurance at the Farmer's Insurance District Office.

Deby decided to start her own agency. During one of our huge Colorado snow storms, Deby studied for, and took, her insurance exams in between helping her neighbors plow out their driveway. Once her exams were done, Deby started her own insurance agency and has been the local Farmer's Insurance agent for 24 years.

Deby has been an active volunteer in the Sedalia Museum, the West Douglas Fire Department, the Sacred Heart Retreat House, and with different programs at Sedalia Elementary. She and Tom live in the home they moved into when first coming to Sedalia in 1992. "I am looking forward to being released from the phone and other obligations, but I will miss my clients," Deby said. "I was picky about who I would sell my business to. I was not just selling a business, I was selling me. I think Jaime is a good fit."

Jaime Lessar is now the Sedalia's Farmer's Insurance Agent at 5406 N Highway 67, where Deby had her office. Jaime also grew up in Nebraska. She and her family currently live in Elizabeth. She has a background in law, working as a paralegal and other positions in the legal field, some of them here in Douglas County.



Before her career in the legal community, Jaime had worked in the insurance field. When the opportunity to purchase the Farmer's Insurance agency in Sedalia came up, Jaime decided she was interested. She wanted to work for herself. Jaime renewed her insurance license and purchased Deby's agency.

Jaime looks forward to working for herself and her clients.

Jaime says, "Growing up in a small town, Sedalia feels comfortable to me. It is always a pleasure to meet people and help them. I want to build face to face trust and personal relationships with my clients and continue Deby's legacy. You'll find me here for the long haul. I am excited to be a part of the community here in Sedalia and look forward to establishing friendships with the people in this area."

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Fall Is Around The Corner

By Ursula Rogers, Colorado Master Gardener and Keeper of the Gardens

Have you walked around the museum and gardens lately? It's been hot and the plants are looking a little tired. Even the grasshoppers seem too tired to wreak their usual havoc on the garden.

But have you seen the miniature houses in their new home? For some time now they have been living on the north side of the building and will be available to view until late fall. At that time, we will bring them inside to protect them from the weather, only to move them back out in spring.



Look for a brief history of each house making an appearance soon in the museum message kiosk in front of the garden. And, did you see the refreshments

In case you are not familiar with our little "Sedalia in miniature," these are houses built by Dr. James O'Hern as part of his "County Town" collection and are replicas of historic local buildings. There's the **Manhart House**, the **Manhart General Store**, the **Victor House**, the **Still** with the Douglas County Sheriff in hot pursuit, **St.**

Philip in the Field Church with the minister giving a serious sermon (if you look carefully, you can see that his face looks indeed worried; maybe because the Still is right next door?) and others. The interior of most can be viewed by lifting up the roof or opening the front door and peeking in.

front porch of the Manhart house? It's always good to take a break and enjoy the garden. Fall will be here soon enough and it'll be too cold to sit out there. We had fun creating this new home for our houses, and we hope that you, young and old, have fun looking at them while visiting the garden!

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The Art Of Bill Duncan: A Community Celebration

By Cherri LaMarr

On Saturday, September 6, the Magpie Art Center will host a special opening reception, The Art of Bill Duncan, beginning at 6 p.m. The



evening offers a rare glimpse into the life and legacy of Bill Duncan, a beloved local artist, along with the opportunity to view a

selection of his artwork — including pieces that have never been publicly shown before.

The event will bring together community members and historians to celebrate Duncan's creative spirit and the history of Sedalia. Guests will be treated to a night of storytelling, history, and connection, as speakers share their knowledge and experiences.

Peggy Cummings and Susan Bell will open the program with personal insights into Bill Duncan's life and art. Their talks will highlight his unique artistic vision and artistic style, offering context for the works on display and honoring the man behind the art.



Adding a layer of local history, Mary O'Pry, of the Sedalia Museum and Gardens, will present on the Duncan Ranch,

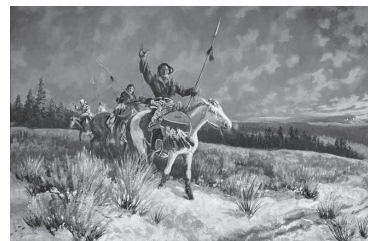
located at the corner of Highway 105 and Highway 67. Her talk will

explore the ranch's role in Sedalia's development and how the Duncan family contributed to the region's cultural and agricultural story.

The evening will conclude with Kevin Hollern who will provide a forward-looking perspective. Hollern will share plans for the Duncan property, providing attendees with an opportunity to see how this historic landmark will be preserved and reimagined for future generations.

The reception is more than an art show—it is a celebration of Sedalia's past, present, and future. By bringing together art, history, and community vision, The Art of Bill Duncan offers residents a meaningful way to honor local heritage.

Want to be involved in telling the story of Sedalia and the surrounding area? In addition to this special event, the Magpie Art Center is also leading a storytelling art project dedicated to capturing the history of the Sedalia area. This collaborative artwork will showcase the stories and voices of the community in a visual form, ensuring they are preserved for generations to come. Storytellers, artists, historians, and community members are encouraged to join this adventure. To follow the project, visit www.magpieartcenter.com and click on the Storytelling tab.



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Celebrate Colorado's 150th Birthday

By Betty Purkey-Huck

In 2026, the United States will mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. At the same time, Colorado will mark the 150th anniversary of our entrance into the Union. As we celebrate this unique Colorado commemoration, we invite you to pause, reflect upon, and honor Colorado's shared history as we imagine our future together through community events, educational opportunities, statewide celebrations and more.

In 2022 the Governor and Colorado Legislature established the American 250-Colorado 150 Commission to ensure that both anniversaries are recognized in ways that bring Coloradans together. Visit Am250CO150.org to learn about engagement opportunities, upcoming initiatives, and ways to participate.

On this website is a Community Toolkit where you will find answers about how to get involved, signature initiatives, funding opportunities, frequently asked questions and help in planning meaningful events and initiatives in your community. Whether

you're organizing a local celebration, an educational program, or a public event, these resources will help ensure that your community's contributions to this historic commemoration are seen, heard and remembered.



There are many ways to be part of this once-in-lifetime opportunity to celebrate Colorado's past, present and future. This milestone isn't just about looking back – it's about coming together to honor our shared history, showcase our communities, and inspire future generations.

Bring your community together by organizing festivals, historical exhibits, educational programs, or public art installations that highlight Colorado. Events can be large or small and what matters most is creating

meaningful connections and engaging your community in this once-in-a-lifetime milestone. Your involvement can help make this celebration truly meaningful. Add your event to the statewide calendar.

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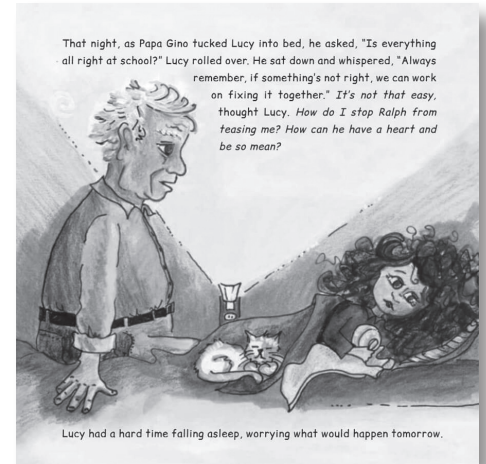


The new school year is off to a great start! Students returned to school on August 13 and began their 176-day school journey for the year. The many returning students, shining their bright smiles, helped some of the more trepidation students new to our school quickly

find their way into the school. By the end of the first day of school, old friends reconnected with each other and brought in new friends who are just joining our school.

I kicked off the year visiting each classroom and reading the book, *Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun* (Maria Dismondy). This book is about a little girl, Lucy, who encounters some tough situations with a boy in her class. In the end, Lucy's determination to be a kind person helped her troubled classmate understand the importance of kindness. Every group of students was able to connect with the situation

Lucy was experiencing. My hope for this year is that our students will show their kindness to others even when things are tough. It is our perseverance that makes us stronger, and students will be faced with a lot of challenges this year that will require some extra grit and determination.



If you are interested in learning more about Sedalia Elementary or are interested in volunteering at our school, please reach out to our front office staff or to me.

All the best,
Jeff Johnson, Principal | Jeff.Johnson@dcsdk12.org

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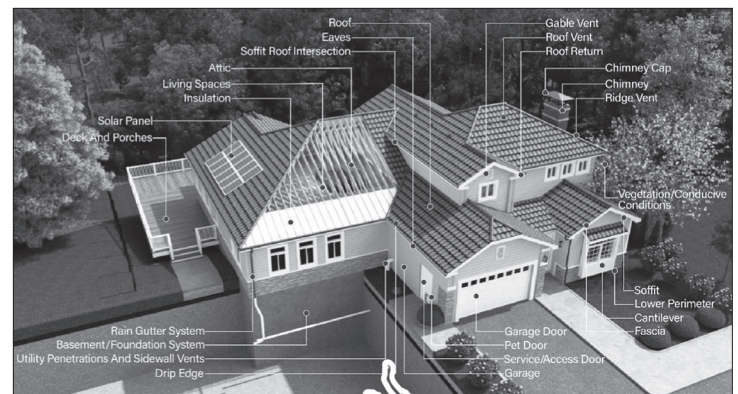
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Douglas County Fair and Rodeo 2025: The Last Big Event of the Summer

By Mary O'Pry

The Douglas County Fair and Rodeo offered a whole line-up of exciting events and experiences for everyone: Kick-off Concert by Dustin Lynch, Farm-to-Table brunch, The Hometown Rodeo, Unbridled Rodeo, Pro Rodeo, live entertainment by local bands, a carnival, 4-H exhibits, the annual Junior Livestock Sale, and The Market place.

Historic Douglas County, Inc. shared their booth space in The Market Place with Sedalia Museum and Gardens on July 27 and August 3. We had a fun time displaying the historic pictures of Sedalia and talking to newcomers as well as longtime residents about the history of the Sedalia area.

The Museum Master Gardeners had twenty-seven entries in the Open Class Division – Agriculture and Floriculture Dept. They brought home a total of seventeen ribbons: Seven 1st place blue ribbons, four 2nd place red ribbons, three 3rd place white ribbons, two 4th place, and one 5th place. Kudos to our master gardeners for all they do to keep our gardens beautiful.

Susan Bell won a 1st place blue ribbon for her oil painting depicting a herd of longhorn cattle, a 1st place blue ribbon for her wildlife painting of a buffalo and a 1st place blue ribbon for her etching of chickens.

Christine Hooks won two 1st place blue ribbons, two 2nd place red ribbons, two 4th place, and one 5th place for photographs, a 3rd place white ribbon for a watercolor, and a 4th and 5th place for hand-built ceramics.

Shanna O'Pry won a 1st place blue ribbon for her decorative berries/choke cherries and 2nd and 3rd place for her plated choke cherries, and a 2nd place red ribbon for her outdoor potted succulent.

Ann Remy won 5th place for her watercolor of flowers.

Misty Tapp won a 3rd place white ribbon for her dill leaves in agriculture.

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our friends and neighbors who entered projects and are not mentioned above. You are all winners!



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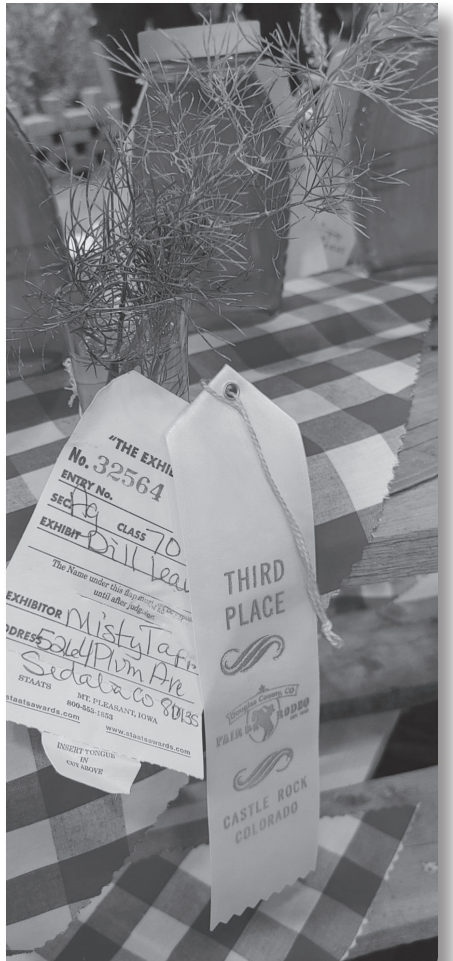
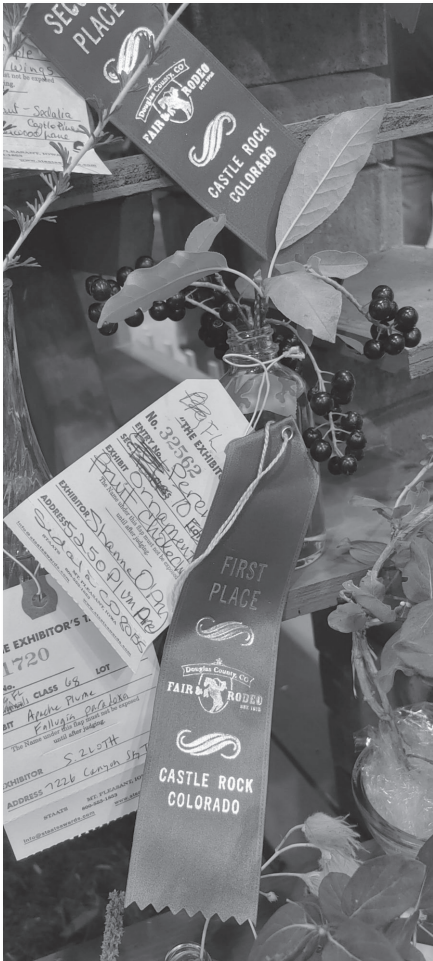
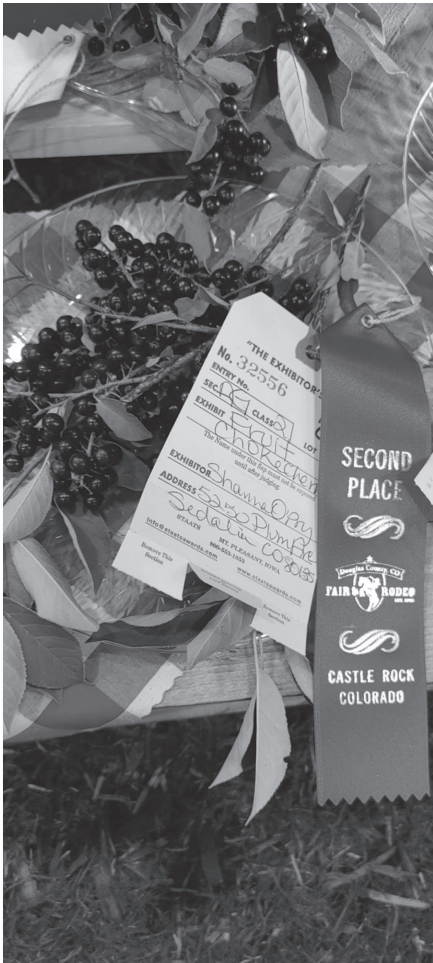




Susan Bell 1st Place



Susan Bell Painting Live



House Talk - Protect Your Family and Your Home From A Fire

By Amy Lee Hoffman / REMAX Alliance

A few weeks ago, a good friend of mine in Louviers texted me about an evacuation in town due to a fire. A week later, a fire about a mile from our home in Sedalia was also quickly contained. We're fortunate to have an incredible fire dept with 4X4 fire trucks, trained crews and a helicopter!



I thought, "How can we protect our family and home before and during a fire?" Living on a dead-end street off Hwy 67, I saw how fast traffic backed up during the Louviers fire. If you live in remote areas, it's vital you know the back roads and have multiple evacuation routes.

We're fortunate that my friend and a neighbor called us about the fires, but what if they couldn't? That's why registering with the Sheriff Department's community alert system, "Code Red," is so important. You can sign up at <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/84B13CCD6B4> or download the free "Watch Duty" app, which is highly recommended for immediate alerts. The app can be found here: <https://app.watchduty.org>.

Sometimes, during a fire, you only have minutes to evacuate, so it's vital to know what to take. After talking with Chief John Oravez from West Douglas Fire Dept, he advised bringing your pets, medications & truly irreplaceable items. Photos are important, but you may start converting them to online storage now, so they're safe if a fire occurs.

You can also reduce the risk of a fire and help your community by joining the Community Risk Reduction Group by emailing crr@westdouglasfire.org. If requested, the fire department will visit your property to identify fire hazards and suggest ways to mitigate them—completely confidentially. They also provide free "File of Life" folders & offer CPR classes.

Finally, clean your chimneys, avoid stacking wood near your fireplace, dispose of old batteries & electronics, and check your smoke detectors. These steps can help protect your home and loved ones. For any questions, please call Amy Lee (303) 975-7740.

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Author Unknown



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Save the Date

A special opening reception for

The Art of Bill Duncan

Saturday, September 6 at 6 p.m.

At the Magpie Art Center

The evening offers a rare glimpse into the life and legacy of Bill Duncan, a beloved local artist, along with the opportunity to view a selection of his artwork — including pieces that have never been shown publicly before.



Sedalia Fall Festival/Grange Tomato-Tasting

Saturday, September 13 from 1-6 p.m.

At the Sedalia Firehouse

Awards • Contests • Tomato Tasting • Poetry • Prizes

Individuals and groups are invited to participate.

Contact Diana Bates at dianahornerbates@gmail.com

Regular Meetings in Sedalia:

- ⊙ **Second Monday: 6 p.m. (note new time) — Together Women Rise**
Indian Creek Clubhouse. Contact: Betty Purkey-Huck, bphck2@gmail.com or (303) 688-4983
- ⊙ **Second Saturday: 11 a.m.–1 p.m. — Sedalia Grower's**
Meets at various locations. Master Gardeners and total newbies, join us to be inspired to grow things. Contact: Nena Robbins, nenarob@aol.com or call (303) 250-2361.
- ⊙ **Second Saturday: 3–5 p.m. — Sunflower Grange #162**
West Douglas Fire Department Training Room. Contact: Cherry Ellis at sunflowergrange162@yahoo.com.
- ⊙ **Third Monday: 7–8 p.m. — Sedalia Water Board Meeting**
West Douglas Fire Department Training Room. Contact: bryan. green54@gmail.com. *Sedalia property owners welcome.*
- ⊙ **Fourth Wednesday: 10 a.m.–12 p.m. — Great Books Club**
Meets at Various Locations. Contact: Cherry Ellis at cherryellis5@yahoo.com or (303) 688-1997.
- ⊙ **Fourth Friday: 10 a.m. — Sedalia Museum and Gardens Meeting**
West Douglas Fire Department Training Room. Contact: Betty Purkey-Huck at bettyp@sedaliamuseum.org or (720) 823-2999 for more information.

The Sedalia View is published quarterly by the volunteers of the Sedalia Museum and Gardens and other citizens of Sedalia.

Questions on the View ads/articles: sedaliamuseum@gmail.com

Ad Inquiries: Meghan Watts | meghan.watts@gmail.com • Design/Layout: Mandy Ullerich | mandy@squashblossomdesign.com

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