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BANNINGLEWIS RANCH

MAGAZINE



"BEST OF" CONTEST

DEVELOPER'S UPDATE

ROADS LESS TRAVELED

The Retreat

Banning Lewis Ranch



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BANNING LEWIS RANCH

DEVELOPER'S UPDATE

A heartfelt thank you...

Words are hard to find to adequately express our thank you and sincere appreciation for all that you have endured with the COVID-19 Virus closures and event cancellations in our neighborhood. We know that it has not been easy working from home or possible loss of jobs, home schooling and taking care of ourselves and families without the support of friends, schools, teachers, and the use of our community facilities.

We are hopeful that things will continue to improve as we move forward over the summer months. Thank you for abiding by the Rules and Guidelines we send out as they are updated per Governor Polis's orders.

Our Parks, Trails and Open Spaces are all open for use, but please use the recommended distancing and with no more than ten people assembling in groups. Wearing face masks is encouraged.



Tennis Courts and Pickleball Courts are also open. Come out and enjoy!



The Picnic Pavilion is under construction at Vista Water Park and it should be operational by mid-summer.



Construction of The Retreat at Banning Lewis Ranch, our new 55+ active adult, gated community located just south of Dublin Road, is moving along right



By Thomas Garmong,
Executive Vice President, Oakwood Homes
and Banning Lewis Ranch

on schedule. As the first of its kind in Colorado Springs, the project will feature ranch-style floorplans and moderate to luxury-priced single-family homes offered by our Banning Lewis Ranch Builders, Oakwood Homes and Classic Homes. Low maintenance yards and exteriors are also planned.

The Retreat features its own private clubhouse, beach-entry swimming pool, pickleball and bocce ball Courts, a fitness center and a Community Lifestyle Director offering daily activities, an entertaining kitchen, outdoor amphitheater and raised community gardening beds.



Thanks to all who participated in the recent Banning Lewis Ranch "Best Of" Stay at Home Contest and congratulations to our winners!

BEST OF STAY AT HOME CONTEST WINNERS.

Best of Cooking



First Place:
Sylvia Mcgrath - Tortilla soup

Best of Home School



First Place:
Amanda Rigby - Magical

Best of Workout



First Place:
Amanda Rigby



Second Place:
Deanna Voss - Stew



Second Place:
Asher Duboc - Globe



Third Place:
Aaliyah Torrey- Nachos



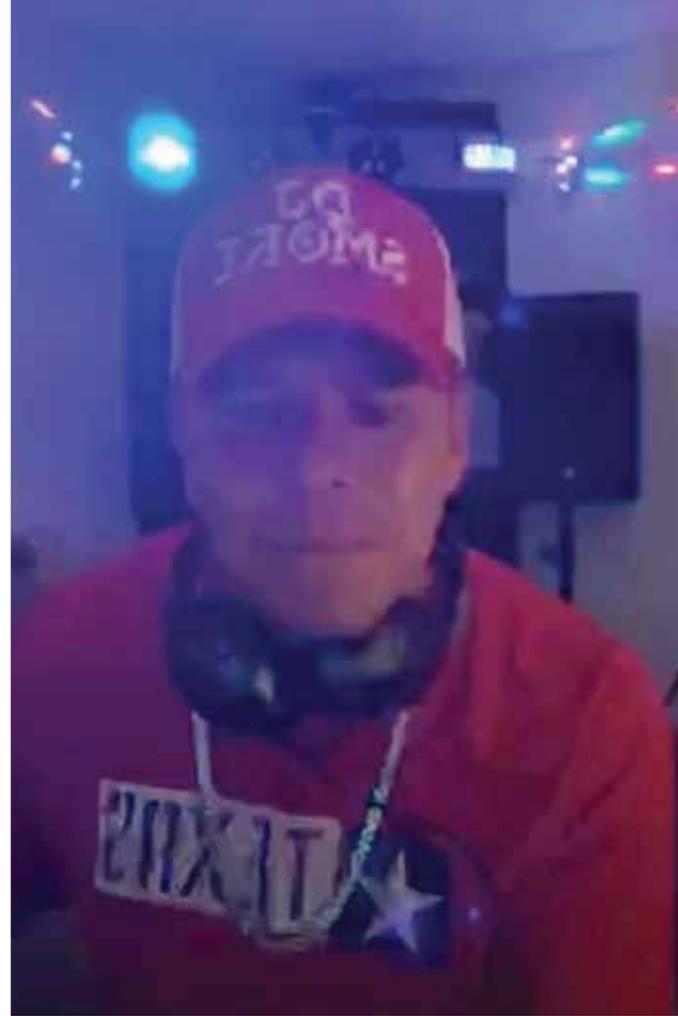
Third Place:
Grace & Naomi Melton - Beads



COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY BLR RESIDENTS





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WHAT DO THE COVID-19 STAY-AT-HOME ORDER AND A MILITARY DEPLOYMENT HAVE IN COMMON?

By Kevin Bolke, Lieutenant Colonel (retired) and BLR neighbor

Well you wouldn't think much, but there is one key part that is about to affect us all; it is called reintegration.

This is the process of rejoining loved ones, coworkers, friends, or just going back to a routine that you knew before but have not done for some time. Let me say that I am not an expert here and I know that there is a lot more to take into consideration and even different options to consider. However, after two deployments; multiple 30 days plus field exercises; and numerous military

1. Be Patient
2. Know that routines are no longer the same as they were before, and that
3. Communication is going to be important

BE PATIENT. Nothing ever happens at the speed that we want it to. Whether too fast or too slow, we are never happy when things are happening around us which ultimately, we cannot control. A little bit of patience with your family, coworkers, or even that person driving in front of you will go a long way.

KNOW THAT ROUTINES ARE NO LONGER THE SAME AS THE WERE BEFORE. Some of us have been sent home, some got to go into work on occasion, and some were deemed essential workers and have not ever stopped working. This of course, means that the way in which each of us have been doing business has changed. It is natural to want to jump right back into how things used to be and to pick up from there. However, it is not that easy. Maybe you will need to ease back into being at work; maybe you need time away from work; or maybe you do not want to go back to work at all. And consider also that maybe it is not you, but your loved one, who must make these choices and they may no longer be there as you have grown accustomed to. These situations all highlight the fact that every person is



going to approach getting back to the old routine differently, which typically means creating new or at least modifying previous routines.

COMMUNICATION IS GOING TO BE IMPORTANT. This goes beyond just the fact that we will be talking to people we have not seen face to face in a while. Everyone has different feelings about our current environment, and everyone has dealt with it in different ways. You may want to openly talk about what you have experienced or conversely, you may want to just put it behind you and move on. This drives the importance of communicating on how you are handling all this change, as well as asking other people around you how they are coping with these times. Let people know or find out from them if they want to talk or not.

Reintegration is a walk, so do not try and make it a sprint. Life will move forward, we will make it work and we will all be OK.



courses lasting for several months, each of my family members and I have had to work through reintegration often. We share this information to both assist everyone in being prepared and to

have a heightened sense of awareness, because this process is going to be unique for each of us.

There are three basic points that we feel will serve us all well, as we see more and more of a return to the full functionality of our lives.

Roads Less Traveled

*“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.”*

- Robert Frost

By Linda DuVal

In this age of social distancing, it can be a challenge to get outdoors and enjoy nature without running into lots of other people trying to do the same thing. But several local experts have some advice on where to go to hike, fish, bike or just enjoy nature without encountering crowds.

City sites

Scott Abbott, the regional parks, trails and open space manager for the city of Colorado Springs, says many locals already know when and where to get the most solitude, but for those who don't, he suggests early mornings on weekdays for the lightest usage.

“All our parks open at 5 a.m., so between 5 and 9 a.m., most parks can be quieter and it's easier to find parking if you choose weekdays rather than weekends. Many residents flock to the west-side parks, from Blodgett Peak down to North Cheyenne Canon, “However, there are some great hidden gems in the central and eastern part of the city,” he says. “This is the time to explore some of those less popular parks. A great recreational experience can be a new find.”

He suggests trying High Chaparral Open Space on Stetson Hills Boulevard, just east of Austin Bluffs Parkway. “It's really a hidden gem. It has some wonderful high points with 360-degree views – you can even see the Spanish Peaks near Trinidad on a clear day.”

Also, he says, “there's a wonderful open space called Blue Stem Prairie just south of the city airport, with wildlife (like prong-horns) and hiking trails, including a brand new trail that's almost 7 miles long if



State Park

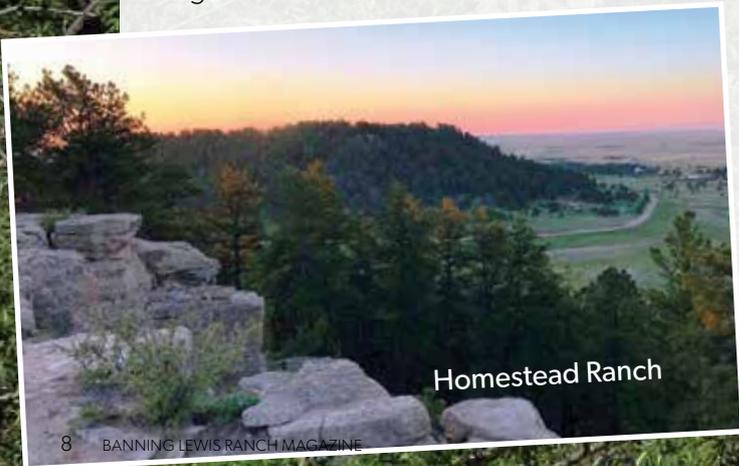
you do the whole thing. It also has viewing access to a reservoir with lots of bird species,” including tiny burrowing owls, if you're lucky enough to see one, he adds. Both parks allow multi-use – running, hiking, and biking.

Another hidden gem is the Sand Creek Trail. This urban trail system runs along Sand Creek with several places to park with easy access to the riparian creek system. Good access is from a small parking lot at Peterson Road and Dublin Boulevard, next to fire Station 21, or from Stetson Park.

County venues

Dana Nordstrom, community outreach coordinator for El Paso County Community Services Department, has some ideas, too.

“I would suggest Fountain Creek Regional park,” (2010 Duckwood Road, in Fountain). It's spacious, with



Homestead Ranch



Blue Stem Prairie



10 miles of trails and a lot of room to spread out, she says. "It doesn't get as much use as some of the area's parks, but it's really accessible."

munity provide a great opportunity since they are typically 8 feet wide and allow room for physical distancing while also practicing trail courtesy.

cial distancing is more naturally built in and fishing is also allowed "if you keep your distance," but swimming likely will not be allowed this summer. "We just don't know yet."

Parks, trails, and open spaces are the main outlet for people during these unprecedented times," he says. "Now, more than ever, these areas are a key part of everyone's physical and mental health."

And most picnic areas and pavilions are still closed, Mount says. The tougher hiking trails are less used than the easy ones, and some parks are now making trails one way, if feasible. Dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet long.



Fountain Creek Pavilion

State facilities

Colorado state parks are experiencing

Also, Clear Spring Ranch Park on Loren Lane in Fountain, has great hiking trails and good parking and restroom facilities. And Homestead Ranch Regional Park in Peyton doesn't get much traffic at any time. This 450-acre regional park on Gollihar Road has tons of trails, a scenic pond and restrooms.

record numbers of visitors, says Darcy Mount, park manager at Eleven Mile and Spinney Mountain state parks. State parks are open, but not the visitor's centers or offices, so buy your parks pass online in advance, if you can, she suggests.



Homestead Ranch Fishing Dock

Trails are ideal for these contagious times, says Brian Bobeck, Park Operations Division Manager for the county. "Regional trails throughout the com-

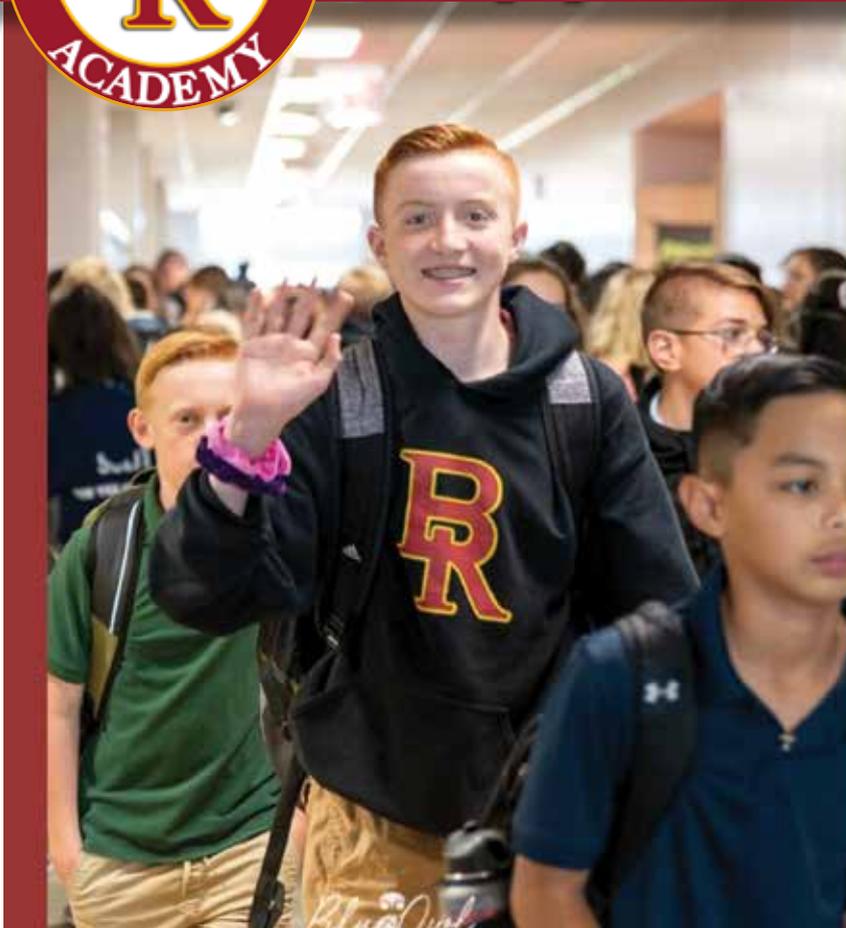
Campsites are reopening gradually, but campers are encouraged to bring their own water, soap, toilet paper and hand sanitizer.

Most parks with water features are open for boating activities where so-

"My big message would be to be patient with each other and the staff. We're all still trying to figure it out. Just observe some common courtesy. Be mindful and keep your distance. Get out and enjoy the parks, but be smart about it."



BANNING LEWIS ACADEMY



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BANNING TOGETHER DURING CO-VID 19

In Colorado and around the nation, K-12 schools and universities began to close in mid-March and remained closed through the end of the school year. As details were delivered in March with regards to the pandemic and its associated risks, the students, families and staff of Banning Lewis Academy began preparing for what school was going to look like in the upcoming weeks and months.

It was important for our administration to stay current through collaboration efforts as news evolved daily with new expectations, changing guidelines, and in depth regulations to consider. Working swiftly, the administration of BLA utilized technology to begin planning and commu-

nicating with the staff and community. It was critical that our teachers and students ever trying time in our history. Our staff and families confidently moved onto a full time e-learning platform, using some of our existing methods paired with new technology. It was absolutely amazing to witness the dedication to education of our staff and the resiliency of our students.

Banning Lewis Academy cares about the whole student and we understand that our staff play a critical role in the lives of so many kids in our community. Knowing how important our staff and routine are to the children of BLA, we navigated meetings and school via video conferencing,

e-learning and virtual instruction and most importantly regular check-ins. Many teachers held office hours daily so that anyone from our school community could reach out with concerns. Communication was more important now, than ever before. Families that needed additional resources or support were encouraged to reach out. From technology access, to lunches and even morale boosting fun through a virtual spirit week, the goal was to "ban together" during this very difficult time.

We appreciate our Banning Lewis Academy Stallion family and thank our supporters during this unique time for our community.

BANNING LEWIS ACADEMY



NEW ADMINISTRATION TITLES



Rick Dahlman
BLPA Middle School Principal



Shannon Molnar
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GET YOUR HEALTH AND WELLNESS BACK ON TRACK!

by Alicia Nolan NASM-CPT

Hi Neighbors!

Quarantine has been rough on many of us for a variety of reasons. Times are rough and health and wellness are more important now than ever. We don't know what the future holds for us or when things will be back to normal, but we do have some control over self-care.

Getting active and having a healthy diet has countless benefits, both physically and mentally. There are many resources available to help you with a workout routine or with finding healthy recipes.

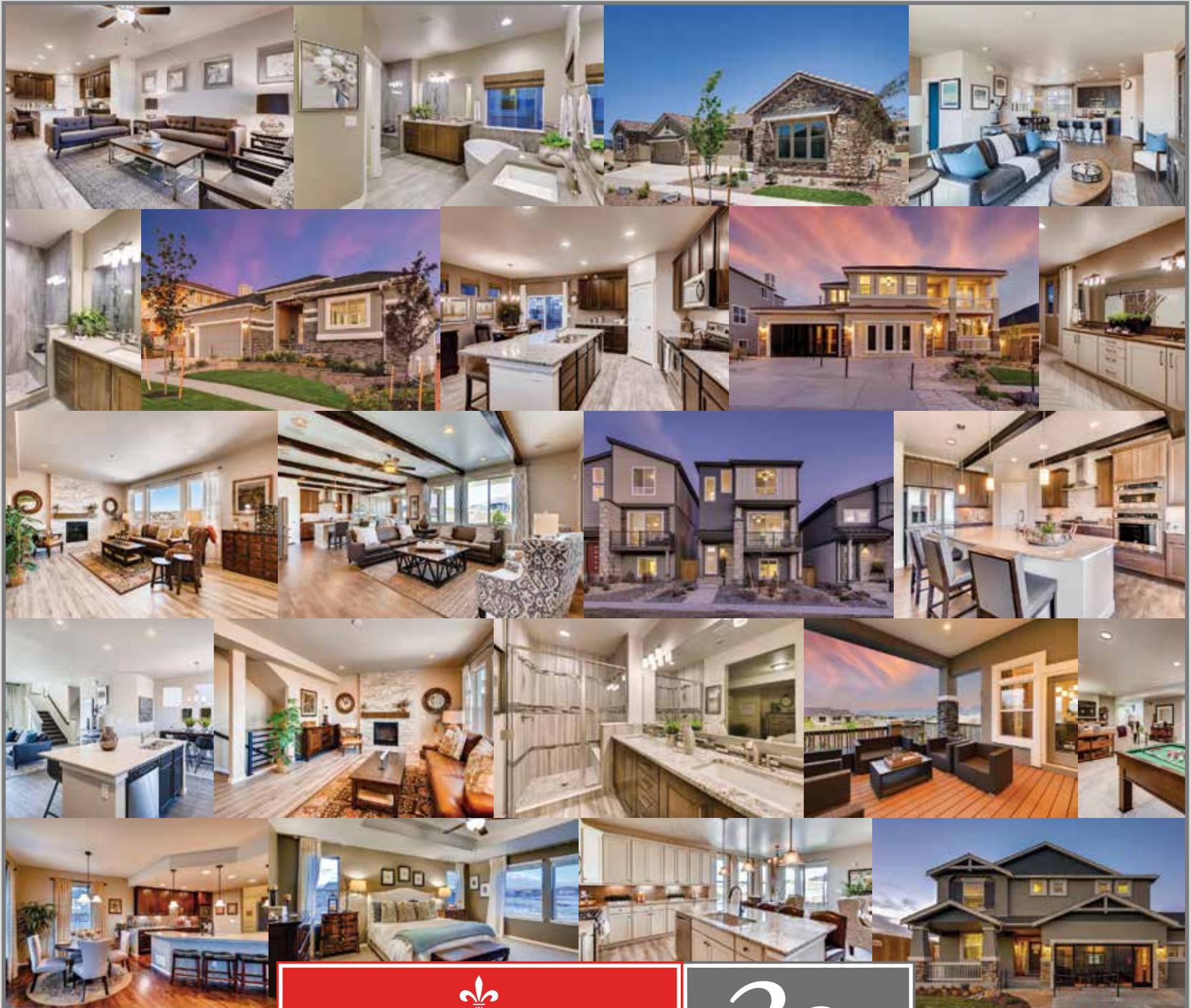
Taking just 30 minutes a day doing something physical can reduce stress and bump up your endorphins - the "feel-good" neurotransmitters. Partaking in any physical activity assists

in reducing anxiety and releasing tension, resulting in an overall better mood.

Another way to combat this difficult time is to take advantage of our trail systems. Go on a walk with your family. We can all use some extra vitamin D! Do stress relieving work such as gardening, which is both rewarding and productive. Breakaway from the electronics, sit outside, and read a book. Now that the weather is warming up, now is the perfect time to enjoy that Colorado sunshine!

Coming out of quarantine/isolation can be just as tough as going in. Get back on track! I challenge you to get outside this week and go for a walk. Say hi to your neighbors (from a distance) or do something kind for them. Even with social distance restrictions, I encourage you to please take care of yourself. Your mind and body will thank you later!






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INSPIRATION VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At the time of this publishing, school will be out for the 2019 - 2020 school year. What a school year it has been!



Inspiration View Elementary School essentially opened twice, once at the brick and mortar location on Vista del Pico Boulevard, and then online during fourth quarter for what District 49 calls E-Learning. Both had its challenges and celebrations! Students, families, and staff showed an incredible amount of perseverance, flexibility, grace, and joy. The IVES community is now enjoying a bit of respite from school responsibilities. Way to go Flyers!



IVES E-Learning Site



KRISTY RIGDON, IVES PRINCIPAL

The quickly changing pandemic situation required IVES to develop a plan overnight. Then leadership spent most of spring break building the infrastructure for students to learn online. Author of The Innovator's Mindset, George Couros terms this time in education as "Emergency Remote Learning" teachers have had to be "Instructional McGyvers having to improvise quick solutions in less than ideal circumstances." The IVES community learned a lot since spring break. "Technology was key to our ability to provide a learning environment students and families could easily navigate", says Assistant Principal Pam Holloman.

"We created the IVES E-Learning Google site (<https://sites.google.com/d49.org/ivese-learning/>) which housed all lessons and some fun opportunities, like virtual Fun Friday Family Field Trips. It also housed videos, and pictures to create connections with the families we missed so much." Students with their teachers learned together through Google Classroom, and video conferencing as well as learned independently with the support of people in their homes. It was not easy. As one second grade student put it, "I didn't sign up for this." Neither did parents or teachers, but in partnership, all were determined to provide some sense of normalcy and continuity



IVES Flyer Theatre Troupe production of The Emperor's New Clothes with the Missoula Children's Theatre



Celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week!



Arts Integration in Action- Collaborating on science and visual arts

of learning for kids. "We are so grateful for the families who continued to engage in E-Learning with us. Those students will be in a better place for the start of next year," says Kristy Rigdon, IVES principal.

District 49 is about continuous improvement. The lessons learned through E-Learning this year will contribute to preparing for multiple scenarios for the 2020-2021 school year. Despite a dismal budget forecast, IVES is in a good position to match the continued growth in the area.

Registration continues too. Families can enroll online through District 49 at <https://www.d49.org/domain/33> and if you have questions, live registration support is available via live chat through the website or just a call away at 719-210-9942 or 719-213-0335.



Students slimed teachers as a reward for the American Heart Association Heart Challenge fund raiser.

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BLR EASY BREADS

Bread in a Jiffy

Everybody's baking bread these stay-at-home days – when they can find the ingredients!

Yeast is as rare as toilet paper and sometimes even flour is hard to find. Besides, baking bread at high altitude can be tricky, even if you have the time and patience for making a loaf of fresh yeast bread.

But there are some quick and easy alternatives that don't require yeast – and some don't even require flour. Here are a few quick breads to try next time you want a warm bun with your dinner.

The first one may seem familiar to you when you bit into it. It tastes just like those drop biscuits you get with your meal at Red Lobster.

Cheesy Garlic Biscuits

2 cups Bisquick-type baking mix
2/3 cup milk
1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese (2 ounces)
2 tablespoons butter or margarine
1/8 teaspoon garlic powder

Directions: Heat oven to 450°F. Stir baking mix, milk and cheese until soft dough forms. Drop dough by 9 spoonsful onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until golden brown. Stir together butter and garlic powder; brush over warm biscuits.

The next recipe actually uses no flour – best to eat them warm right out of the oven. Like a soufflé they will collapse after a bit. But they are light and airy, gluten-free and good for paleo-diets.

Cloud Biscuits

2 tablespoons cream cheese
2 eggs, separated
1/4 teaspoon baking powder

Directions: Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Place cream cheese in microwave-safe bowl and gently warm it, stirring at 10-second intervals. Let cool 5 minutes. Mix in egg yolks till smooth. Whip egg whites in a separate bowl until stiff peaks form. Gently fold into egg yolk mixture till fully blended. Spread batter into four-inch rounds on the baking sheet, smoothing tops with back of a spoon. Bake in preheated oven 17-20 minutes or till golden. Makes eight rounds. Note: store leftovers overnight in a plastic bag and they will become more bread-like.

The next recipe is a lazy cook's favorite and a quicker, easier bread you will not find. It only requires two ingredients and can be made last-minute.

Yogurt Breadsticks

Combine equal parts of nonfat regular or Greek yogurt and self-rising flour. Say 1/2 cup each for four breadsticks. It makes

a stiff dough. Divide into four pieces and roll each one into a breadstick – about the size of a long hot dog. Place on a baking sheet that has been lightly sprayed with oil. Bake in preheated oven at 375 degrees for about 20 minutes, till lightly golden.

If desired, you may brush them with melted butter and sprinkle with garlic salt and/or Italian herbs when they come out of the oven. Best eaten warm. Can be doubled or tripled.

If you're looking to add some authenticity to a Southern-themed meal, try this with your fried catfish and collard greens. This is a basic recipe, so feel free to add minced chives or green onions, crumbled cooked bacon or even some chopped green chilies to it.

Spoon bread

3/4 cup cornmeal
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup boiling water
3 tablespoons melted butter
2 large eggs
1 cup milk
2 teaspoons baking powder

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 1 1/2-quart casserole or baking dish or 8-inch square baking pan. Combine cornmeal and salt only in a mixing bowl. Gradually pour in boiling water, whisking to remove any lumps. Whisk in melted butter and allow to cool for about five minutes. Whisk milk into cornmeal mixture. In a separate bowl, whisk eggs. Add to cornmeal mixture, along with baking powder. Whisk thoroughly to combine all. Pour into prepared baking dish and bake for 35-40 minutes or until lightly browned on top. Serve warm with butter. Serves 6.

Now go bake some bread!

SWITCHBACKS NEW DOWNTOWN STADIUM!



The Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC, a United Soccer League franchise, will be the primary tenant of this dynamic new stadium in downtown Colorado Springs.



The rings were specifically designed as a subtle nod to the pride of Colorado Springs, the numerous US Olympic National Governing Bodies that are located here, while also affirming our community as Olympic City, USA. The sphere represents the universal pursuit of human endeavor, and emphasizes Colorado Springs enduring role in the global world of sport.

The facility will be a mixed-use development featuring a rectangular field of play and serving as the permanent home of the Colorado Springs Switchbacks Football Club (FC) soccer team.

SWITCHBACKS ACTS OF KINDNESS



Switchbacks staff and Ziggy volunteering at Care & Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado in April.



It is anticipated to have 8,000 seats, expandable to 15,000 for concerts and other special events. It will encompass an artificial turf field for competition and an approximately 145,500-square-foot stadium overall. Olympic related events, tournaments, and camps will create a synergy between the U.S. Olympic Museum, outdoor stadium, indoor arena, and the U.S. Olympic Training Center that will set Colorado Springs apart nationally as a destination for amateur sporting events.

Anticipated Opening: Spring 2021



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Fax: 719-522-2433

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Districts 1-7

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banninglewisranch@msiho.com
Email: CPilato@msiho.com

Design Review Committee

Please submit plans to:
Banning Lewis Ranch
Metropolitan District #1
8390 E. Crescent Parkway, Suite 600
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

COMMUNITY CONTACTS & GUIDES

Got a question, suggestion or just need to talk? Here's who to contact...

RANCH HOUSE ACCESS CARD:

Pick up your access card for the Ranch House Recreation Center at the Ranch House Call (719) 522-2432 for more information.

Northtree Ranch House Recreation Center amenities are included as part of the Banning Lewis Ranch Metro District Operating Fee.

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On Your Porch