



# Events Program



**CELEBRATING RIDGWAY'S RANCHING, MOVIE AND RAILROAD HISTORY**

**Ridgway Old West Fest**  
Sept. 24-26, 2021  
[ridgwayoldwestfest.org](http://ridgwayoldwestfest.org)

**Ouray County Railroad Days**  
Sept. 23-26, 2021  
[ridgwayrailroadmuseum.org](http://ridgwayrailroadmuseum.org)

# “ All Aboard the Galloping Goose! ”

Those words rang out in the late 1940s, encouraging passengers to ride on a series of ungainly automobile-based railbuses built in Ridgway. Although the railroad went out of business late in 1951, these unusual, but charismatic railcars have become world famous. Rail fans come from all over the world to see and ride these historic vehicles and follow the route they travelled. Just why were these contraptions built, and what purpose did they serve?

Ridgway was founded as a railroad town. Otto Mears selected the location in 1889 when he incorporated his Rio Grande Southern Railroad. The town was built in 1890 to be the headquarters of the RGS, which would connect Ridgway with Durango via Placerville, Telluride, Rico and Dolores across 10,022-foot Lizard Head Pass. The railroad was completed in 1891 and was an engineering marvel, 162 miles long with 145 major bridges and trestles.

After an initial boom, the RGS fell on hard times in 1893 when a crash in silver prices plunged the entire nation into a deep depression, and most of the mines in the West closed. This area recovered gradually with a shift to gold and lead mining and the growth of agriculture and ranching. The RGS was back on a survivable, but shaky, footing. Periodic downturns in the local economy kept the railroad on the ragged edge.

In the Great Depression of the 1930s, the RGS was in trouble again. Mining was down, with irregular shipments. Passenger service was down. Livestock and agricultural produce mostly shipped in the fall. The railroad's main source of dependable, regular income was a contract to deliver the U.S. mail.

Unfortunately, doing this with a steam passenger train was very expensive. A steam train required a great deal of expensive, skilled maintenance and a train crew of at least four men. But the RGS's management had an idea – to build a series of rail buses from used automobiles to carry the mail and passengers, reserving the steam trains for freight.

These Motors, as they would be called, would have much lower maintenance costs and would be operated by one man. The first was built in 1931 from a 1925 Buick. It was so successful that



it paid for itself in three weeks. By 1936, the RGS had built seven motors, four of which were large: 45 feet long, weighing 16,000 pounds. The fleet saved the RGS enough money that it remained in business until late 1951.

Somewhere in the early 1940s, the Motors acquired the nickname “Galloping Geese.” There are many stories about the name, but no one knows the origin for certain. Their horns certainly honked, they waddled down the uneven track, and they often ran with their hoods open to the side like wings to help eliminate overheating at extreme altitude. The RGS officially adopted the name in 1950 when they attempted to improve business by offering tourists rides.

Unfortunately, the days of Southwestern Colorado's narrow-gauge railroads were numbered after the end of World War II. The convenience of automobiles and trucks cut into their business, and the rest of the country was converting from steam to Diesel-electric power. The RGS closed its doors in late 1951.

The Ouray Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande from Ridgway to Ouray ceased operations in 1953. But the Geese managed to survive. Six of the original seven are in museums today, fully restored to operating condition, and the prototype, Motor 1, which was scrapped by the RGS in 1933 because it was too small to fill the railroad's needs, has been lovingly recreated by the Ridgway Railroad Museum. You can ride it and Goose #4 free Saturday and Sunday during Railroad Days, in conjunction with Ridgway's Old West Fest!

*Story by Jim Pettengill, Vice-President, Ridgway Railroad Museum Board. For more information on the Ridgway Railroad Museum and its activities, see [ridgwayrailroadmuseum.org](http://ridgwayrailroadmuseum.org).*



Photo courtesy Ridgway CO Railroad Museum/Doris Gregory Collection



Published by the Ridgway Western Heritage Society  
PO Box 1435  
Ridgway, Colorado 81432

Design / Edward Bovy

**Photos: (upper and lower right) Galloping Goose No. 4, (center) RGS Motor 1.**

Cover images: Heroes and Villains Look-Alike Contest; Galloping Goose; Suffolk Draft Horses; Colorado Top Hands rider.

# Colorado Top Hands Brings Its Wild West Show to Town

The First Colorado Top Hands Rodeo Drill Team comes to Ridgway for the first time and promises to be the highlight of the Old West Fest. Ginger Patrick, the founder, captain, coach, choreographer and self-described “ramrod” says, “I don’t do shows, I show off.”

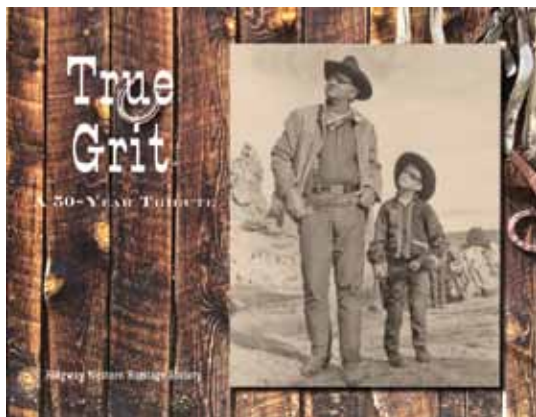
Ginger is bringing a troupe of more than 20 riders and their horses to entertain, thrill and delight the audience with a variety of pagentry, mounted drill, trick riding, skits, mounted shooting, “and a lot of surprises.” Ginger says, “Under my holler, it’s a rollicking, running ride. When the Top Hands come and the sun hits their rhinestones, well... goosebumps. It won’t be boring—nobody will leave this show early.”

The Top Hands provides an outlet for parents with “horse crazy kids” to perform in a multi-faceted drill team that travels throughout Colorado and the United States. Some of the Top Hands’ prior appearances include participating in the 150th anniversary reenactment of the battle of Gettysburg, the John Wayne 100th birthday celebration in Iowa, and the West Cliff (Col.) Stampede.

The Top Hands will parade around Hartwell Park at 4 pm Friday and also be at a photo-op station on Saturday morning to pose for photos and let you see their horses up close.



## True Grit tribute book honors the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the legendary movie and a whole lot more



The Ridgway Western Heritage Society developed an ambitious plan to commemorate the release of the original *True Grit* movie with a keepsake book for local residents and Western movie fans everywhere.

*True Grit: A 50-year Tribute* includes excerpts from the original newspaper stories detailing

the day-by-day progress of the movie filming as described in the *Ouray County Herald*. Other stories were obtained from national publications that contain some insightful analysis of the two *True Grit* movies and the career of John Wayne.

Brian Downs, the Executive Director of the John Wayne Birthplace and Museum, said the book “...is a marvelous document on the making of the film and is filled with rare photographs and delightful anecdotes from the lucky people who were there.”

As an added bonus, the book includes a complete list of John Wayne movies and other movies made in Western Colorado, believe it or not, dating back to 1904.

Copies of the book will be available at the West Fest Headquarters and the Ouray County Ranch History Museum. A book signing with editor Edward Bovy is scheduled at the Headquarters Tent 12:00 - 12:30 pm on Saturday.

## Wanted

Be as good-or bad-as you can be and enter our Western Heroes and Villains Look-Alike Contest.

Dress authentically and be prepared to tell us about your character.

**\$100** first prize as judged by the audience in one of our most popular and fun events.

Showdown 12:30 pm  
Saturday at the  
Hartwell Park Stage.

Be there or be nowhere!!

## FESTIVAL REGISTRATION

Admission to festival events is covered by a color-coded wristband. This means that for one purchase you can see two movies, a Western music concert, a Wild West Show, all the presentations, wagon rides, and tours—basically everything except the separate admission to the OC Ranch History Museum.

Price is \$25 for adults, \$5 for children when purchased in advance on line at [www.ridgwayoldwestfest.org](http://www.ridgwayoldwestfest.org) or by cash or check at Ridgway Alpine Bank or True Grit Cafe (before Sept. 24). Tickets purchased at the festival are \$30 for adults and \$5 for children age 12 and under. Wristbands are not available at the door at individual events. Note: *Most events indoors have space limits so latecomers are not guaranteed seating.*

## FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS

If you didn't receive your wristband in advance or pre-ordered merchandise, pick your order up at the **West Fest Headquarters Tent**. The booth also sells official West Fest souvenir merchandise including hats and t-shirts as well as snacks, beer and Slalom Fox cocktails. Check here for lost or found items. Open Friday 10:00 am - 8:00 pm, Saturday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, and Sunday 9:00 am - 11:00 am in Hartwell Park near the west side of the Town Hall.

## FOOD

See the back page for a listing of nearby places to eat. Ridgway has many fine establishments eager to serve you. Also, the Ouray County Ranch History Museum is holding a BBQ luncheon Saturday from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm or until the food runs out. Snacks and drinks will be available at the Wild West Show and the concert Saturday.

## PARKING

Street parking is on the periphery of the downtown and the park. There are small parking lots east of the park and a larger parking lot on the north side of the library. Overflow parking is near the Ridgway Visitor Center.



## SPECIAL EVENT PRODUCTS

### Souvenir commemorative photos of *True Grit* actors

Specially selected photos from the personal collection of Joe Zuckschwerdt, president of the John Wayne Birthplace Museum, are available at the Headquarters Tent. These are a limited edition, 11 x 14 inches, printed on metal and ready to hang.

## MULTI-DAY EVENTS

### Galloping Goose rides

Take a ride into history on this unique form of regional transportation. RGS Motor Car No. 1 will be joined by Goose No. 4 from Telluride. The tracks are located on Railroad Street across from the new fire station. Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm and Sunday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Train yard tours available on Saturday and Sunday.

### Mattie Ross/ *True Grit* Homestead

Tour the grounds of the recently restored Mattie Ross/ True Grit homestead. This is private property and usually closed to public entry, so don't miss this rare opportunity to see where John Wayne jumped the fence and said, "Come and see a fat old man some time." Drive west past Dallas Divide. Turn south on the Last Dollar Road (watch for the brown sign) and continue 2.5 miles. Friday 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Be sure to wear your festival wristband. *(See story on page 7.)*

### Ouray County Courthouse Courtroom

A \$1-million multi-year restoration of the historic courthouse was completed last year. The famous scenes in *True Grit* where John Wayne banter with a lawyer and meets Mattie Ross were filmed here. The courtroom looks much as it was seen in the movie. Open to those with festival wristbands Friday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. The courthouse is located on the corner of 6th Ave and 4th Street in Ouray, about 11 miles south of Ridgway.

### Ouray County Ranch History Museum

Two exceptional exhibits will be shown Sept 24 - Oct 13th: A Regional Craftsmen Leather Show, and, How an Iron Lung found its home in Ridgway: Polio, Survivors, and the End of an Epidemic. For the West Fest, there will be a demonstration "How to pack a mule" with free mule rides. The original *True Grit* jail wagon is on the museum grounds for photos. Also, **100 original *True Grit* pre-test shot movie photos** are on display inside the museum. Open Friday and Saturday 10:00 am - 4:30 pm, Sunday 11:00 - 4:00 pm. *(Museum admission rates \$3, \$4, and \$5 are applicable.)*

### *True Grit* Guided Walking Tours

Guides will take you to the various locations in downtown Ridgway where *True Grit* was filmed in 1968 and share interesting background information about the movie and its stars. Offered once on Friday, and four times on Saturday and Sunday. Meet at the gazebo in Hartwell Park. Note: *The group size will be limited to the first 20 people so you may want to avoid the mid-day times.*

### Ridgway Visitor Center

Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Located south of Highway 62 and east of Hartwell Park across the bridge.

**Friday** 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. **Ridgway Roundup.** Many of downtown Ridgway's shops, boutiques, and galleries are open for extended hours. Browse their wares while enjoying live performances by our local talented musicians. Sponsored by Ridgway Creative Main Street.



Ouray County Courthouse Courtroom interior

## FRIDAY

10:00 am - 8:00 pm

### West Fest Headquarters Tent open

See details under Festival Registration. Souvenir products are available in limited quantities so shop early!

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

### Ridgway Visitor Center open

Free exhibits and information. See Multi-Day Events.

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Ridgway Farmers' Market.** Numerous booths offering fresh produce and a variety of wares from regional artisans. Hartwell Park, south side.

10:00 am - 4:30 pm

### OC Ranch History Museum open

See description under Multi-Day Events.

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

### Mattie Ross/ *True Grit* Homestead open

See description under Multi-Day Events.

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

### Ouray County Courthouse Courtroom open.

See description under Multi-Day Events.

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**Making Movies in Colorado.** Colorado Film Commissioner Donald Zuckerman will discuss movie-making in Colorado. Sponsor: Denver Post Community Foundation. At the United Church of the San Juans.

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**True Grit walking tour.** See Multi-Day Events.

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

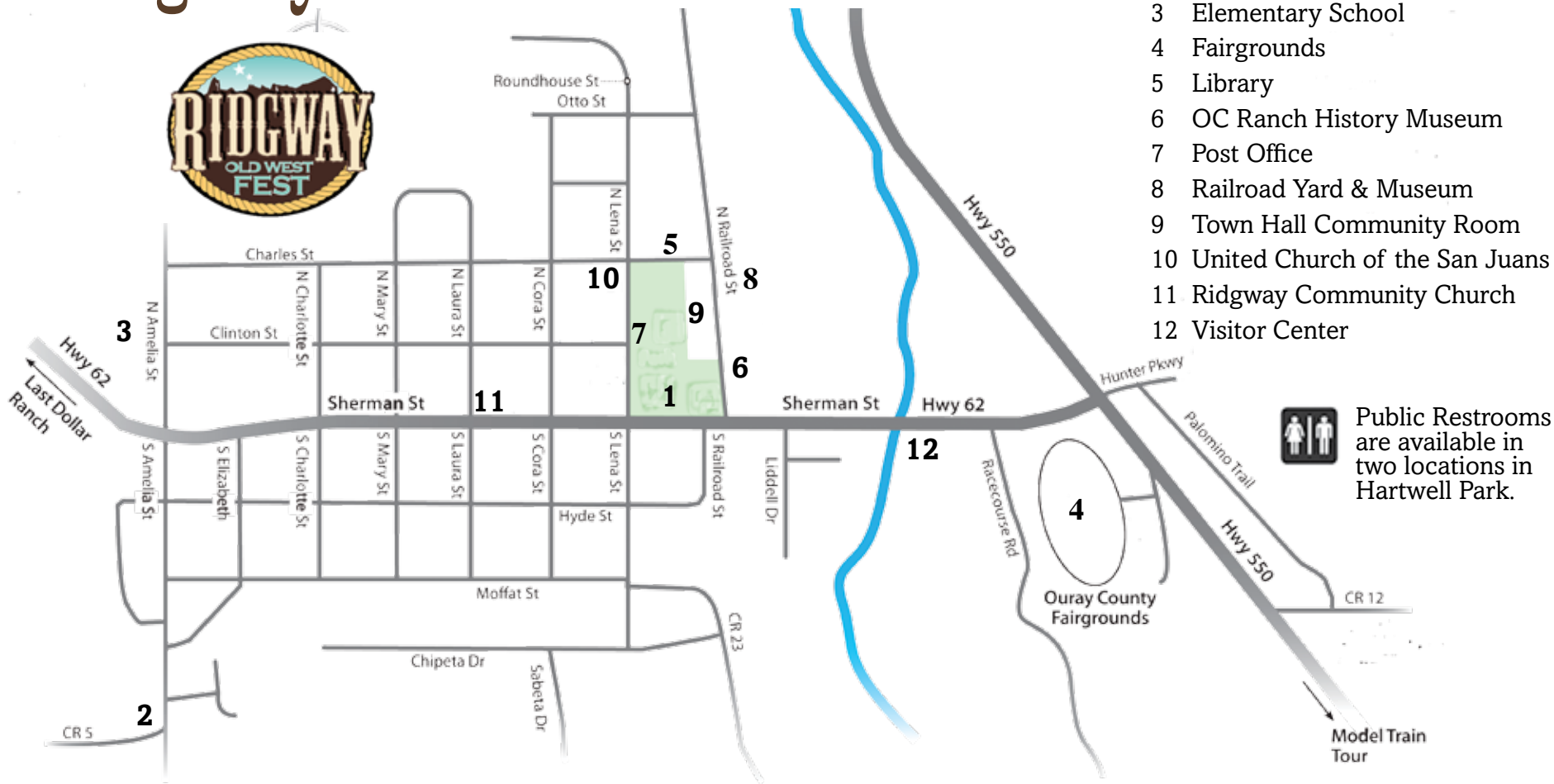
**Horses on Parade.** The First Colorado Top Hands Rodeo Team enters Ridgway with its amazing riders and horses for a welcoming parade around Hartwell Park. Don't miss this great preview for tomorrow's Wild West Show. *(See story on page 3.)*

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

### VIP Reception

This catered reception will be attended by our celebrities and invited VIPs and held in a nearby luxurious home. Your \$100 donation benefits the West Fest. Details provided when you register in advance on line.

# Ridgway Old West Fest Venues



- 1 Hartwell Park
- 2 Billings Barn Classroom
- 3 Elementary School
- 4 Fairgrounds
- 5 Library
- 6 OC Ranch History Museum
- 7 Post Office
- 8 Railroad Yard & Museum
- 9 Town Hall Community Room
- 10 United Church of the San Juans
- 11 Ridgway Community Church
- 12 Visitor Center



Public Restrooms are available in two locations in Hartwell Park.

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Presentation: **The REAL Sons of Katie Elder.**

Join author and historian Jim Pettengill to learn the fascinating story of the brothers who lived in Ridgway and whose amazing exploits served as inspiration for the John Wayne movie of the same name. At the Town Hall Community Room, followed by the movie.



7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Movie: **The Sons of Katie Elder** (1965) Starring John Wayne, Dean Martin, George Kennedy, Dennis Hopper, Strother Martin and others. Directed by Henry Hathaway. Snacks will be available at the nearby

Headquarters Tent. Sponsored by the Basin Power Electric Cooperative. At the Town Hall Community Room.

## SATURDAY

8:00 am - 8:00 pm

**Headquarters Tent open**

Wristbands and merchandise available. Hartwell Park.

9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, & 12:00 pm

**True Grit walking tours**

See description under Multi-Day Events.

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Model train open house**

View the impressive model train collection of Railroad Museum board member Don Paulson. Don's HO/HO<sub>N</sub>3 model railroad is set in early 1950s in Southwestern Colorado. The layout covers an area of 30 x 40 feet. Both steam and diesel engines are featured with sound. 17 Whitehouse Vista Lane in Ridgway.

*Directions:* The house is located in Ponderosa Village, 5 miles south of Ridgway just off Hwy. 550. After crossing the Cutler Creek Bridge on Hwy. 550, turn left onto Whitehouse Vista Lane, then immediately turn right into Don's driveway.

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Mini-horse exhibit and photo-op**

Check out these tiny horses up close and get some photos. Located across from the Post Office.

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Galloping Goose rides and train yard tours**

See description under Multi-Day Events.

10:00 am - 11:00 am

**Decorate a hat kid's workshop**

Decorate and keep a paper-mache Western hat. For kids ages 4 to 11. At the Library. Sign up in advance at the Headquarters Tent.

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**True Grit** (1969)

See the movie that made Ridgway famous. The film will be preceded by a short talk by film Prof. Ken Stofferahn on the life and writing of Charles Portis, the author who wrote the book. At the Town Hall Community Room.

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Horse photo-op**

Meet some of the Top Hands riders and their horses before this afternoon's Wild West Show. On the corner northwest of the Post Office.

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Ouray Courthouse Courtroom open**

See description under Multi-Day Events.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**True Grit Homestead open**

See description under Multi-Day Events.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Ridgway Visitor Center open**

Free exhibits and information. See Multi-Day Events.

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Hot cowboy/cowgirl photo op**

Get your picture taken with these Wild West cut-out displays located near the Headquarters Tent.

10:00 am - 4:30 pm

### **OC Ranch History Museum open**

See description under Multi-Day Events.

10:00 am - 11:00 pm

### **“I Was There”**

Meet some of the people who were present during the filming of the original *True Grit*. Sponsor: San Miguel Power Assoc. At the United Church of the San Juans.

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

### **How to pack a mule**

Local Tom Heffernan will demonstrate how to pack a mule for Cow Camp. Rides available. At the OC Ranch History Museum.

11:00 am - 12:00 am

### **The Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918**

Our recent pandemic is not the first time our residents have had to deal with widespread illness. Find out how things were dealt with a hundred years ago with Dr. Kevin Chismire. At the United Church of the San Juans.

11:00 am - 12:15 pm

### **Open mic Western music and poetry**

Come one, come all. Bring your best game to the Hartwell Park stage. Sign up in advance at the Headquarters Tent.

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

### **Western BBQ**

Grab a quick tasty lunch featuring beef brisket sandwiches with chips and drink (\$8). Follow your nose over to the OC Ranch History Museum.

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

### **True Grit: A 50-Year Tribute book signing**

Get your book signed by editor Edward Bovy at the Headquarters Tent. *(See story on page 3.)*

12:30 pm - 1:15 pm

### **Wild West heroes and villains look-alike contest**

If you are a Western genre look-aliker, whether it's the Duke or Annie Oakley, come join the fun and participate in one of our most popular events. The winner will receive \$100 cash. At the Hartwell Park stage.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

### **Wild West Show**

The Colorado Top Hands Rodeo Drill Team rides into the Ouray County Fairgrounds to delight and thrill you with a variety of acts featuring trick riding and horse mounted shooting. Be sure to purchase your wristband at the Headquarters Tent before attending. Parking available at the Fairgrounds. *(See story on page 3.)*

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

### **Western karaoke**

Don't be shy... get up on stage and sing your favorite Western song. Sign up with emcee Rey Navarro at the Hartwell Park stage beforehand.

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

### **The Western Myth in Film**

Film Prof. Ken Stofferahn will examine the character-



On location: the *True Grit* Walking Tour

istics of Western movie heroes and how they have been portrayed to film audiences over time. Sponsored by Alpine Bank. At the Town Hall Community Center.

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

### **Motors and Galloping Geese**

Don Paulson from the Ridgway Railroad Museum will speak about these popular and interesting rail cars that carried passengers and mail on the Rio Grande Southern Railroad. Sponsored by the Ridgway Railroad Museum. At the Town Hall Community Room. *(See story on p. 2.)*

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

### **Western music concert**

Starring award-winning singer/songwriter Carin Mari. Be sure to purchase your West Fest Wristband in advance at the Headquarters Tent. At the Ridgway Elementary School. *(See story on page 7.)*

## SUNDAY

7:30 am - 9:00 am

### **Cowboy breakfast**

Enjoy a traditional cowboy breakfast. Everyone is welcome! At the Ridgway Community Church, corner of Laura and Sherman. Donations appreciated.

9:00 am - 11:00 am

### **West Fest Headquarters Tent open**

Last chance to get your West Fest souvenirs.

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

### **Galloping Goose rides and train yard tours**

See description under Multi-Day Events.

10:00 am - 11:00 am

### **Cowboy worship**

This special, casual old-time service will celebrate our Western heritage and God's creation through toe-tapping songs, Scripture, and a Bible-based sermon. Your spirits will be lifted and you will leave with a smile on your face. At the United Church of the San Juans.

10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 pm, & 1:00 pm

### **True Grit walking tours**

See description under Multi-Day Events.

10:00 am - 11:00 am

### **Cowboy poetry writing workshop**

Learn the secrets of writing this popular genre of poetry. At the Alice Billings barn classroom, corner of Amelia and CR5 *(see map)*. Sponsored by True Grit Cafe. Note: no restroom facilities, so go easy on the coffee!

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

### **Mini-horse exhibit and photo-op**

Across from the Post Office.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

### **True Grit Homestead access**

See description under Multi-Day Events.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

### **Ridgway Visitor Center open**

See description under Multi-Day Events.

11:00 am - 11:15 am

### **Suffolk Draft Horse Demonstration**

Attend a short presentation to learn about these amazing animals. Wagon rides afterwards at the Post Office.

11:15 am - 2:00 pm

### **Suffolk Draft Horse wagon rides**

Take a short wagon ride around town. Rides begin and end in front of the Post Office.

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

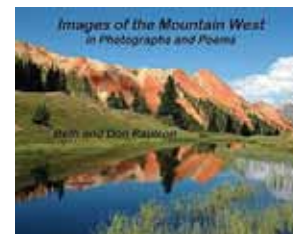
### **OC Ranch History Museum open**

See description under Multi-Day Events.

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

### **Images of the Mountain West in Photographs and Poems**

Join local authors Beth and Don Paulson to explore the beauty of Colorado in their unique collection of images and poetry. Autographed copies of their book will be available for purchase. At the Library.



1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

### **The “Duke It Out” Western Trivia Contest**

Come and show off your knowledge of all things John Wayne. Teams of up to six individuals may enter. You may come as a team or you may come alone and join others to make up a team. Rick Weaver, son of actor and longtime Ridgway resident Dennis Weaver will serve as quiz master. At the United Church of the San Juans.

# Award-winning country singer Carin Mari in concert Saturday night



Inspired by the mountains of Colorado where she was born and raised (Buena Vista), Carin Mari is a songwriter who is passionate about sharing her stories and playing her unique brand of music. “Queen of the Mountains” is Carin’s third solo album and she is now working on a fourth.

Carin toured for nine years with her brothers. Their band, “Carin Mari and the Pony Express,” released five albums that have received world-wide airplay.

Michael Martin Murphey recognized Carin’s talent early on. In 2001, when her friend and mentor suggested Carin learn “I Want to be a Cowboy’s Sweetheart,” she was hooked and country music quickly became her passion. Carin was featured as a guest artist in 2011 on Michael Martin Murphey’s album, “Tall Grass and Cool Water.” Parcbench.com wrote this about their duet, “Springtime in the Rockies,” the final song on the album: “Carin Mari sings this duet with clarity, matching Murphey’s authenticity with every yearning note. This song brings the formidable album to a stunning close.”

While still pursuing her own career, Carin also plays lead guitar in Michael Martin Murphey’s Rio Grande Band.

The guitarist/singer/songwriter has won eight Colorado country music awards. She was named North American Country Music Associations 2009 Entertainer and Songwriter of the Year and 2011 Female Vocalist/Female Entertainer of the Year by South Plains College. Carin entered the 2010 Texaco Country Showdown and won the Southwest regional final and a trip to Nashville. She performed one of her original songs at the historic Ryman Auditorium during the televised Showdown finals, taking second place.

Carin has a bachelors degree in commercial music specializing in voice and guitar from South Plains College in Levelland, Texas. Her masters degree from Texas Tech is in Mass Communication, Leadership and English.

Carin is currently working on a new album to be released later this year. She looks forward to performing in Ridgway and has said in an interview that her favorite Western movie is *True Grit*.

For a preview of her music, check out her website: [carinmarimusic.com](http://carinmarimusic.com).

Be sure to purchase your West Fest wristband in advance at the festival Headquarter Tent in Hartwell Park before heading for the concert venue at the Ridgway Elementary School, 1115 Clinton St.



## “*True Grit* homestead” opens for rare public viewing by West Fest attendees

Portions of the *True Grit* homestead, sometimes called the Mattie Ross Ranch or Last Dollar ranch, will be open to West Fest attendees Friday, Saturday and Sunday (*see schedule for exact times*).

The 400-acre historic ranch dates back to the late 1880s and has been known as the Cal Lewis-Louis Massarotti ranch.

Time took its toll on the buildings and they gradually fell into disrepair. According to ranch manager Amanda Gabrielson, Rod Lewis, the current owner was inspired by the recent 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original *True Grit* movie. As a result, a stabilization effort was launched to preserve this historic property.

So far, the exterior siding of the two-story home has received a complete facelift, the roof has been repaired and the two porches reconstructed. Nothing has been done yet to the interior or adjacent barn due to a variety of factors, but visitors will be able to photograph the exterior and walk the grounds.

The ranch appears at the start and finish of the movie. In the iconic ending, John Wayne rides a horse over a fence with the freshly snowcapped Last Dollar Mountain in the background.

To reach the ranch, drive west on Hwy. 62 past Dallas Divide. Turn at the brown sign marking the Last Dollar Road (also shown on maps as County Road 58P or Forest Road 638). The ranch is about 2.5 miles up the road.

Be sure to wear your West Fest wristband.

# Memorable History and Activities to Experience at the Ouray County Ranch History Museum\*

Ranching began in our Uncompahgre region around 1877, with more homesteads proved-up after 1881. Many individuals migrated to this land by wagon, foot, and later by rail to carve out their lives, their livelihoods, and their family legacies. Visit an outstanding collection of Historical Ranch Equipment, Artifacts, and Local Memorabilia in our 11-room ranch museum.

OCRHM is participating in the 2nd Annual Ridgway Old West Fest by offering:

Friday, Sept 24: (10-4:30pm)

- Two exhibits begin (Sept. 24-Oct. 13):



– Regional Craftsman Leather Show  
Highlighting the talents of local Artisans.

– How an Iron Lung Found its Home in Ridgway: Polio, Survivors, and the End of an Epidemic



Displaying a 1938 Drinker-Collin's Iron Lung, videos, history of this era, and visiting with local polio survivors.

- Polio survivors and guests (2-4pm)

Saturday, Sept 25 (10-4:30pm):

- Demonstration on packing mules and rides on from 10-12noon.
- Lunch: local beef brisket sandwiches and meal from 11-2pm at the museum.

Sunday, Sept 26 (10-4pm):

- Exhibits, museum & grounds open

\*OCRHM is a 501c3, all-volunteer, non-profit museum and a Region 10 tax-credit project.  
ocrhm.org



321 Sherman St. (PO Box 190), Ridgway, CO 81432 • 970-316-1085



## Local Restaurants

Adobe Inn, 251 Liddell Dr.  
Beth's Sandwiches, 140 Palomino Trail  
Bruno's BBQ and Burritos, 150 Palomino Trail  
Cafe Ridgway a La Mode, 380 Sherman  
Cimarron Coffee and Books, 380 Sherman  
Colorado Boy Pub and Brewery, 602 Clinton  
El Agave Azul, 565 Sherman  
Four Corners Restaurant (in Chipeta Lodge),  
304 S. Lena  
Happy Trails Sandwich Shop, 250 Palomino Tr.  
Kate's Place, 615 Clinton  
Land and Ocean Costa Rican Restaurant,  
185 Sherman  
Lazy Dog Saloon, 153 West US 550  
Panny's Pizza, 160 Palomino Trail  
Provisions Cafe, 616 Clinton  
Ridgway Lodge, 373 Palomino Trail  
Ridgway Natural Foods, 618 Clinton St.  
Thai Paradise, 146 N. Cora  
True Grit Cafe, 123 N. Lena

## Other Nearby Events

**Plein Air Competition.** Dennis Weaver Memorial Park. Sept. 25, dawn -2:30 pm with winners announced at 3:00 pm. Free.

**Ridgway Roundup.** Ridgway's galleries, boutiques and shops will have extended evening hours. with live musicians serenading. Sept. 24, 5:00-7:00 pm. Free.

**Weehawken's Sneffles Fiber Arts Festival.** Sept. 25-26. Ouray County 4-H Events Center. Admission.

## Festival Partners

The **Ridgway Western Heritage Society** organizes the Ridgway Old West Fest. The festival highlights Ridgway's film, ranch and railroad heritage and celebrates Western arts and culture. [ridgwayoldwestfest.org](http://ridgwayoldwestfest.org)

The **Ouray County Ranch History Museum** obtains, preserves and exhibits items and artifacts related to educate the public about the ranch heritage of Ouray County, Colorado, and surrounding areas. [ocrhm.org](http://ocrhm.org).

The **Ridgway Railroad Museum** focuses on education and preservation of narrow gauge railroad history. It restores railcars and promotes the role and significance of railroads in Ouray County and the San Juan Mountains of Colorado. [ridgwayrailroadmuseum.org](http://ridgwayrailroadmuseum.org).

This event would not have been possible without the help of our many sponsors.

### GOLD LEVEL

Alpine Bank  
Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
Denver Post Community Foundation  
Ridgway Railroad Museum  
San Miguel Power Association  
True Grit Café

### SILVER LEVEL

Turner Toyota  
Town of Ridgway

### BRONZE LEVEL

Montrose Ford - Nissan  
United Country Sneffles Realty

**Mark your calendars for the next  
Old West Fest, September 23-25, 2022**  
Y'all come back now!