

and talked about everything.”

From that day in February until a week ago, Robert and crew worked around guests, also installed a compost toilet and instant hot water heater for the shower and built a raised floor to protect the

well head.

A spot above some stairs was initially thought to be a good storage location, but turned into a kids loft bedroom above the bathroom.

“Robert Hewett and his team from Stars and Bars has been wonderful to work with, and really made my dream come alive,” praised Blanton.

Blanton intends to have

Mountain View Retreat in Glamping Hub soon, the Airbnb of camping. You can also reach their website craftsmanlodge@gmail.com or call (719) 989-0853.

“Even though we are going to be in Idaho for a little while,” Blanton summarized. “We love our place and it is still our home.”



The Colorado State Fair received about \$10 million in state and local funds for renovations and improvements. Newly remodeled areas near the main entrance to the Colorado State Fairgrounds, Gate 5, and the Palace of Agriculture, are near completion. The area includes new walkways, grass, trees and lighting.

A record number of Pueblo County property owners filed protests on assessed valuations by the July 15 deadline. It's a trend that is hitting assessor's offices statewide. “This year broke records for everybody,” said Frank Beltran, Pueblo County assessor. “In Pueblo County, we had 5,002 protests and we normally have 900 to 1,100, somewhere in there.”

Former Colorado high school state wrestling champion Jonathan Andreatta will be hosting an open wrestling camp at Pueblo West High School on July 26-27. The camp is free and is for anyone in 6th to 12th grade. Andreatta is a three-time state champion and two-time NCAA All-American wrestler with an NCAA Division II National Championship under his belt. He is currently an assistant wrestling coach at Glenville State University in West Virginia.

The U.S. Department of Labor said initial filings for unemployment benefits in Colorado rose last week compared with the week prior. New jobless claims increased to 2,529 in the week ending July 15, up from 2,244 the week before.

The Colorado Department of Human Services will open 39 beds at the Colorado Mental Health Institute in Pueblo to help treat more “competency patients,” CDHS announced Thursday. In a news release, the state human services department

said the bed openings make-up one coed unit and will help serve patients who “require treatment because they are unable to function meaningfully and knowingly in a legal proceeding.” The hospital serves people facing criminal charges who require evaluations of mental competency, but those individuals can't participate in their criminal case until they're treated. CDHS expects that the move will help CMHIP serve about 117 additional people per year.

Renovations at Pueblo City-County Library District's Barkman branch located at 1300 Jerry Murphy Road, will start August 1. The library will be closed during renovations, which are estimated to end around late spring or early summer of 2024. Updates to the facility include the construction of a pedestrian bridge that would connect an access point of the library to Belmont Park, two study rooms, an expanded meeting room, and a Makerspace area where visitors can engage in crafts or other creative programming.

Travelers on Hwy 50 can expect minor delays when construction kicks off July 28 on the four-and-a-half-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 50 between Purcell Boulevard and Pueblo Boulevard. The Colorado Department of Transportation will oversee a \$33 million project being conducted by Kirkland Construction.

The Pueblo County elections department has moved into a new office on the seventh floor of the Wells Fargo building in downtown Pueblo. The county will be able to hire additional election workers and install new equipment that could make it faster for ballots to be counted.

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7pm-11pm on Saturday, September 23rd

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- ♦ A 50/50 Raffle
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