

RUSTLERS EDITION

The Colorado STATESMAN

Denver Rustlers set records on annual ride to State Fair to support Jr. Livestock Sale

BY ERNEST LUNING

PUEBLO — The Denver Rustlers set record after record on the group's 31st annual trip to the Colorado State Fair on Sept. 1.

This year saw a bigger crowd of business, community and civic leaders than ever gathered to raise record funds to support youth who raise livestock. Wearing matching straw cowboy hats and embroidered western shirts, both from Denver's legendary Rockmount Ranch Wear, the group assembled for a light luncheon at Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steak House in Greenwood Village before boarding buses to Pueblo to bid on the Champion Junior Livestock Sale.

"This is our best year ever," said attorney and Denver Rustlers organizer Frances Koncilja, whose law firm donates the cowboy hats.

In all, 299 Rustlers participated this year, including 92 for the first time, also a record — about 200 took the trip to the State Fair — and contributed roughly \$158,000 to the livestock sale. The sale raised a record \$531,000. The money goes to 4-H youth and Future Farmers of America kids from across the state who raise livestock, show their animals at local fairs and then compete for honors at the State Fair.

Larry Mizel, chairman and CEO of MDC Holdings, the parent company of Richmond American Homes, and one of the founders of the Rustlers — and the supplier

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Bernard Grant/Courtesy of Denver Rustlers

Left: Denver Rustlers cheer after winning the reserve grand champion steer at auction during the Junior Livestock Sale at the State Fair on Sept. 1 in Pueblo. Handling the bidding is former state Agriculture Commissioner Tim Schultz, of the Boettcher Foundation, and those bidding include Jake Jabs, owner of American Furniture Warehouse, Rick Sapkin, president of Edgemark Development, Norm Franke, regional president of Alpine Bank, Larry Mizel, chairman and CEO of MDC Holdings, and Craig Walker, owner of Walker Component Group. The winning bid was \$22,000.



Kayla Becker shakes hands with Denver Rustler Tripp Keber, CEO of Dixie Brands, as she was encouraging bids on her second-place market lamb named Pretty Boy with a honed presentation about wanting to pursue a career in the veterinary field. All the money she earns from raising livestock goes straight to her college fund, she said.



Photographs by Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

Denver Rustlers Larry Mizel, Rick Sapkin, and Roger Hutson are all smiles after winning the Reserve Grand Champion Steer at the Junior Livestock Auction.

Lawmakers vow State Fair will stay in Pueblo

BY ERNEST LUNING

PUEBLO — Hundreds of local and state officials thronged the annual Legislative Barbecue on Aug. 28 at the Colorado State Fair, and if the sentiment inside the WeatherPort Tent is any indication, there could be some dead bodies lying around if the fair ever moves out of Pueblo.

"I have a personal message from the governor," said state Sen. Larry Crowder, R-Alamosa. "The only way the State Fair will be moved out of Pueblo is over his dead body."

The remark brought cheers and whoops of support from the bipartisan crowd, which included two dozen legislators, both of Colorado's U.S. senators, two members of Congress and the majority of Gov.

John Hickenlooper's Cabinet.

"I want to make one thing very, very clear. The State Fair is important to the entire state of Colorado, and keeping it in Pueblo is important to the entire state of Colorado," said Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia.

"With over \$40 million impact, this is something we cannot afford to change. We do not want to see it changed. We believe in the fair, we believe in Pueblo. That is not just me saying it, that's Gov. Hickenlooper saying it. We support keeping the fair in Pueblo."

During its 11-day run, the State Fair, operated under the umbrella of the state Department of Agriculture, sends an estimated \$29 million coursing through the economy of Pueblo and the surrounding area, fair officials say. The fair, in its

143rd year, topped 500,000 in attendance this year, up several thousand from last year.

Arthur Bosworth II, who chairs the Colorado State Fair's Board of Authority, has heard the arguments about moving the fair — perhaps to Denver, some have suggested — but says the arguments don't hold water.

"The State Fair makes money. The state fairgrounds loses money, and the two have to be distinguished," Bosworth told *The Colorado Statesman*.

He enumerated a short list of the reasons he believes the fair belongs in Pueblo: "It really means something down here, but \$30 million in Denver isn't anything, it's the same

See BBQ on page R2

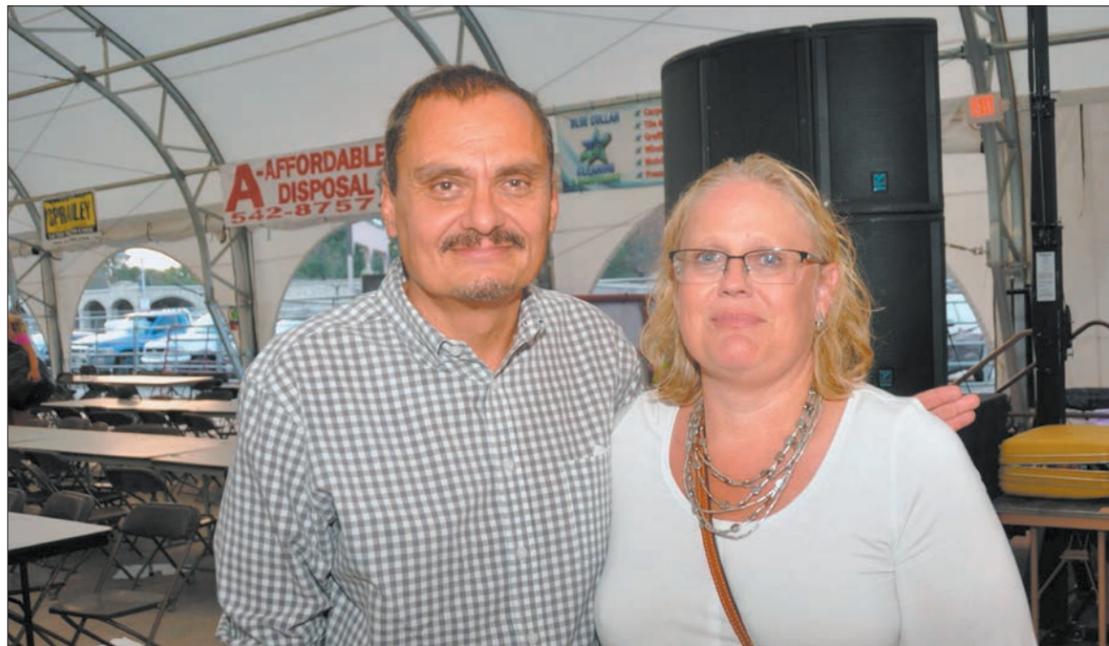


Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner and House Majority Leader Crisanta Duran share a bipartisan smile at the annual Legislative Barbecue on Aug. 28 at the State Fair as Pueblo activist Lori Winner waves a fan behind them.

RUSTLERS EDITION

Officials trek to Pueblo for legislative BBQ



Top: State Rep. Dominick Moreno embraces state Rep. Clarice Navarro and Zoey DeWolf of Colorado Legislative Services at the Legislative Barbecue on Aug. 28 on the state fairgrounds in Pueblo. "Having my fellow legislators come down is a great opportunity for them to see how successful we are and why we have to keep the State Fair here," said Navarro.

Above: Alan Salazar, the chief strategy officer for Gov. John Hickenlooper, chats with Angie Binder, the government relations advisor for Encana Oil & Gas USA, at the Legislative Barbecue on Aug. 28 in Pueblo.



Above: U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet and Charlie Ehler, one of his Republican challengers, smile moments after meeting for the first time on Aug. 28 at the Legislative Barbecue in Pueblo.

Right: State Sen. Pat Steadman leans in for a snapshot with State Board of Education member Joyce Rankin and her husband, state Rep. Bob Rankin, at the Legislative Barbecue on Aug. 28 in Pueblo. "That much plaid could be dangerous," cracked Senate President Bill Cadman, who was sitting across the table.



Above: Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers and former Pueblo City Councilwoman Vera Ortegon catch up at the Legislative Barbecue on Aug. 28 in Pueblo. Ortegon, who was GOP gubernatorial candidate Mike Kopp's pick for lieutenant governor last year, said she's running for Republican National Committeewoman in 2016.

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thing as a Broncos playoff game. We get the same attendance as the National Western Stock Show. If we move it, there's no reason to believe we'd get any better attendance, especially on a weekend when we'd be competing with the Rockies, the Broncos and the Taste of Colorado. It's necessary down here."

It was a message echoed by the barbecue's chief sponsor.

"We want people to know we are an important part of the state, and we have good things going on," said Rod Slyhoff, director of the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce.

Other sponsors of the event included the State Fair, Black Hills Energy, Board of Water Works of Pueblo, Colorado Springs Utilities, Comcast of Colorado, Kaiser Permanente, Waste Management of Colorado and Xcel Energy.

Pueblo County Commissioner Buffy McFadden, a former state lawmaker, said the barbecue was a good way to communicate the importance of the fair to Pueblo's economy and its role fostering a key industry in Colorado.

"We love our fair, and the fair is all about the third largest part of the economy in Colorado, which is

agriculture," she said. "And why not have the fair in the middle of all our agriculture. We can't say enough about the work that goes on in rural Colorado — we celebrate it every year."

Another main topic of conversation at the barbecue was the massive traffic snarl that bedeviled attendees driving down from the Denver area. A mid-afternoon crash on the downhill side of Monument Hill pinched southbound traffic on I-25, leading to waits of up to three hours for some who made the journey.

Noting that plenty of officials had braved the traffic jam to attend, McFadden said that underscored how seriously officials take the fair.

"The commitment legislators have to the tradition of the legislative barbecue is amazing, and we're honored to host them," she said.

Puebloan Barb Clementi agreed that the occasion was important.

"The legislative barbecue is always a wonderful opportunity to see the movers and shakers in the state. Pueblo oftentimes feels like we don't get the attention we deserve — from Pueblo south, really, because we don't have the numbers," said Clementi, who is running for the Board

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State Fair should stay in Pueblo, leaders say

BBQ from page R2

of Education in School District 60. “We have tremendous community here, people who pull together. We need work here on our economic development, but who doesn’t?” Senate President Bill Cadman, R-Colorado Springs, had strong words in support of the fair and said it belongs in Pueblo.

out from people who have made the trek from all corners of the state, it epitomizes the support and the legacy that is evident by the State Fair being in Pueblo,” Cadman said. “There’s a history here — the blood of Colorado flows through this event in this town, and we’d be hard-pressed to ever change that.”

—ernest@coloradostatesman.com



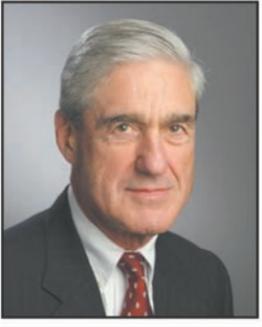
Photos by Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

Top: Pueblo County Clerk and Recorder Gilbert Ortiz joins Secretary of State Wayne Williams and his wife, Holly, at the Legislative Barbecue on Aug. 28 at the State Fair.

Left: Wearing the distinctive Denver Rustlers hat and embroidered shirt, attorney Frances Koncilja and Pueblo County Commissioner Buffy McFadden, a former state legislator, talk about the importance of keeping the State Fair in Pueblo at the annual Legislative Barbecue on Aug. 28.

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Denver Rustlers ride Front Range to Jr. Livestock Sale



Bernard Grant/Courtesy of Denver Rustlers

Above: Denver Rustler Steven Kruse gets some serious air in the skillet-toss at the Colorado State Fair on Sept. 1 in Pueblo. Another Rustlers team of Mike Imhoff, Robin Wise, Steve Weil and Adams County Commissioner Chaz Tedesco won the competition, with Imhoff throwing the winning toss.

Right: U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet, Edgemark Development's Rick Sapkin, Gov. John Hickenlooper, attorney Steve Farber of Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber Schreck and Eddie Robinson, formerly of Robinson Dairy, smile for the camera at the start of a full day of activity for the Denver Rustlers.



Photos by Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

State Rep. Lois Landgraf and Jane Rawlings, assistant publisher of *The Pueblo Chieftain*, catch up as Denver Rustlers assemble for their annual trip to the State Fair.



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of the embroidered shirts — welcomed the crowd to the Tech Center steakhouse and introduced some of the dignitaries present, although he noted there were so many present that the group would miss the buses if he named them all.

Among those chowing down on gourmet sliders, salmon and Del Frisco favorite jalapeño-bacon-mac-and-cheese were Gov. John Hickenlooper, Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, U.S. Sens. Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner, U.S. Reps. Diana DeGette, Jared Polis, Scott Tipton, Ken Buck, Mike Coffman and Ed Perlmutter, State Treasurer Walker Stapleton, Secretary of State Wayne Williams and Denver Mayor Michael Hancock. But those were just the most prominent names among dozens and dozens of state lawmakers, mayors, council members and others who make the annual pilgrimage to Pueblo a priority.

"Everybody ready to roll?" asked Hancock, who arrived at Del Frisco's wearing a green plaid Rustlers shirt from years gone by and had to change into this year's model in the parking lot. ("Y'all remember the green ones? I had the green one. It is much more fashionable," he said with a tongue-in-cheek grin.)

"We know, ultimately, what the end of this day means, and that is the opportunity for young people in this state to attend college, based on their own investment but also on your generosity," Hancock said.

Mizel got together in the mid 1980s with several other business leaders to form Rustlers at the urging of the late Tom Farley, noted Pueblo resident who served on the board of Colorado State University, the state's premier agricultural school. Others involved in the original outing included dairymen Dick and Eddie Robinson and former Colorado Agriculture Commissioner Tim Schultz, who handles bidding for the group during the livestock auction.

The idea for Rustlers was born during an economic downturn as a way to support Colorado youth who raised animals as a way to pay for their college education. When it began, some of the founders reminisced, the Junior Livestock Auction was in danger of being cancelled because there was little interest and fewer bidders, but since Rustlers took the reins, numerous similar groups have emerged, including Pueblo's Fair Ladies, the Pikes Peak Posse from the Colorado Springs area and various companies that have banded together to boost the livestock sales.

Since the early days, the ranks of key Rustlers has grown to include Koncilja and Craig Walker, as well as major companies that make donations. This year, Koncilja noted, that included FirstBank, which contributes banking services, Del Frisco's, Noble Energy sponsoring the buses, and Gray Line, which offers the buses at a discount.

"So all this money goes to the kids," Koncilja said. Also this year, she said, Colorado Lottery offi-

RUSTLERS EDITION

'It's all about buying animals from the young folk'

cialists were going to distribute free "scratch and sniff" lottery tickets — the theme was bacon, and they indeed carried the scent — on the buses, though she noted that since she chairs the Lottery Commission she can't play. Any Rustlers who win more than \$50, she added, would have to split their winnings with the group.

Schultz briefed the Rustlers on the auction procedure and spelled out an important aim of the group, which isn't necessarily to buy the champion steer at the highest price but to make sure that the kids who placed further down the ranking also sell their animals for fair sums.

"It is all about the kids, it is all about buying animals from the young folks," Schultz said, adding, "We have just had an incredible run with this."

Once aboard the buses, Rustlers mingled with politicians and business leaders — there were two stops on the way, a chance for Hickenlooper and other luminaries to switch buses — and picked up an escort by Pueblo County sheriff's deputies once they crossed the county line. Then it was on to the State Fair, though the buses took the long route through Pueblo and riders were treated to a tour of the city and information about economic development efforts. Arriving at the fair, Rustlers were greeted by the Pueblo Sun City Marching Band and got the chance to shake hands with the youth whose livestock would be up for auction. After a western barbecue sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperative, the auction began and moved quickly.

With the help of veteran bidders Schultz and Walker, the Rustlers' money is allocated throughout the sale, making sure that all the youth get good prices for their cows, hogs, lambs, goats, rabbits and chickens.

For the third year in a row, Sam Brown and his family — the Puebloan is the owner of Mountain State Sheet Metal and has been participating in the auction for more than a decade — outbid the Rustlers for the Grand Champion steer, showed by Dalton Lind of Eaton, which went for a record \$60,000. But the Rustlers won the bidding on the Reserve Champion beef, paying \$22,000 to Julia Frye of Johnstown.

Schultz explained after the auction what happens to the animals after the Rustlers — or other successful bidders — make the purchase.

"Anyone who buys an animal has an option," he said. "You can keep the animal and pay for a slaughterhouse to butcher the animal, package it up and eat it. The other option is the buy-back option, meaning you can turn around and resell your animal to a meat processing plant that has offered to pay the market price for beef or lamb or hogs that sell at the fair."

While Rustlers uses the buy-back option with plenty of the group's purchases, a good deal of the animals are processed by the Rustlers and the meat is contributed to Capitol Hill Community Services, an organization that feeds

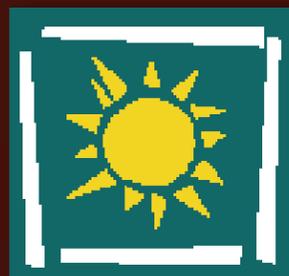
the homeless. The meat donated by Rustlers provides some six-eight months worth of food for the meals the group serves.

"Part of the thought is, we're benefiting kids all over the state and benefiting Pueblo by going to the fair, but this is a way to give back to the Denver community by the contributions made by the Rustlers," Schultz said.

—ernest@coloradostatesman.com



Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman
Former Senate President John Morse and former Senate Minority Leader Mike Kopp engage in a lengthy conversation amid the bidding at the Junior Livestock Sale at the State Fair.



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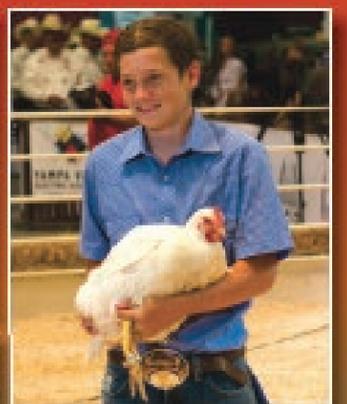
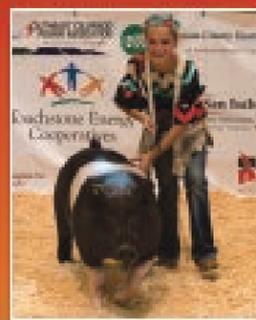
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RUSTLERS EDITION

Wiseman ends 11-year run as State Fair general manager

BY MARIANNE GOODLAND

After 18 years on the job, Chris Wiseman is getting ready to move on.

Wiseman is general manager of the Colorado State Fair, a job he's held since 2004. He's been affiliated with the fair since 1997, when he helped coordinate its return to a state government operation after several years as a privately run event.

A Pueblo native, Wiseman said the fair has been in his blood all his life. "I remember my parents buying boots here every year," he said.

Wiseman graduated from Colorado State University-Pueblo and spent six years working for Sen. Tim Wirth. That led to a job in the administration of Gov. Roy Romer, where he worked with Grand Junction businessman Bernie Buescher to bring the Fair back under the umbrella of state government. Wiseman said he was offered the job of assistant manager for the fair in 1998 because the chair, Bob Jackson, wanted someone in state government who understood the fair.

Wiseman started work at the fair just as the Internet was emerging as a consumer technology. It's affected everything that happens at the fair, from the musical acts to the way fair officials communicate with exhibitors and the public. When he first started, for instance, musical acts toured as a way to sell CDs, but now music is sold a song at a time and bands charge more for performances to make up for the lack of CD sales, he said.



Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

Chris Wiseman, deputy commissioner of the Colorado Department of Agriculture after serving 11 years as general manager of the Colorado State Fair, addresses the crowd before the start of the Junior Livestock Sale on Sept. 1 in Pueblo.

The fair has stayed true to its agricultural roots during Wiseman's tenure, but fair organizers have tried to keep up with the times. That means exhibits from both organic and traditional farms and ranches, as well as added competitions for craft microbrew beer and wine.

One of the changes that Wiseman cheers is an increase in the number of kids participating in the fair. Many come from 4-H, which used to be mostly rural. But 4-Hers engage in plenty of urban and suburban activities, such as dog training and shooting sports, and he's

proud to say that's reflected at the fair, too.

Retirement isn't in Wiseman's future. After the fair closes this week, he will be at the Department of Agriculture, where he has been deputy commissioner since April. "I'm looking forward to that," he

said. "I'll have more interaction with the Legislature than I've ever had," adding that it gives him a chance to work on issues he's been interested in since his days with Wirth.

—marianne@coloradostatesman.com

Robinson brothers help boost junior livestock shows

BY MARIANNE GOODLAND

The Colorado State Fair was in trouble. Attendance was down, but just as alarming, the number of kids who would come to exhibit their livestock also was decreasing.

That's where the Denver Rustlers came from.

Former state legislator and attorney Tom Farley of Pueblo and former Ag Commissioner Tim Schultz, now CEO of the Boettcher Foundation, decided there had to be a way to raise money to support the State Fair. They turned to Dick Robinson — along with his brother Eddie, the two ran Robinson Dairy in Lakewood but have since retired — who enlisted Larry Mizel of Richmond Homes. And it took off from there.

Robinson talked last week about the roots of the Rustlers and the group's impact on the fair over three decades. He gives much of the credit to his three founding partners in Rustlers, particularly Mizel. "He fell in love with it," Robinson said. "You don't get in Larry's way" — not when the homebuilder gets passionate about something, Robinson added.

At the time Rustlers started, in the late 1980s, the fair was nearly down for the count. "It looked like we were going to lose it," Robinson recalled.



Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

Retired dairyman Eddie Robinson of Robinson Management LLC and his aide Christina Cooper arrive at Del Frisco's for the annual Denver Rustlers gathering on Sept. 1. Robinson's brother, Dick, was one of the founding members of the charitable organization, but was unable to attend this year's event.

That first year, the four Rustlers flew 20 people down to Pueblo on an airplane. The next year, 50 Rustlers went to the fair. And it took off

from there.

Robinson is modest about his involvement in the growth of Rustlers. It's a worthwhile endeavor,

since all the money raised goes to the kids, he said. He pointed with pride to the record-setting prices for some of the livestock this year.

The Rustlers bought five of the 12 junior livestock grand and reserve champions, including the grand champion hog and goat, and reserve champion steer.

As for Eddie Robinson, Dick jokes that his brother participated in the cow-milking contests at the fair, showing off the prowess learned in four generations running the family dairy.

"We just didn't want to see the State Fair fold," Dick Robinson said. Best of all, more kids are participating than ever. "When you can get \$60,000 [for the grand champion steer], that will take care of a kid's college education. And that's very worthwhile."

He also points out that the Rustlers help bring Pueblo and Denver closer together. Pueblo rolls out the red carpet for the group, with a sheriff's escort to the fairgrounds and an actual red-carpet welcome at the Fair.

"If you can get 300 people to go down there, have a good time, it's a good thing," he said.

—marianne@coloradostatesman.com

RUSTLERS EDITION

Navarro, Hill take Grand Champion honors

By RACHEL ALEXANDER

Agriculture is one of the Colorado's major economic drivers, and the annual State Fair in Pueblo is a chance for the state to celebrate the industry. Each year the Colorado Farm Bureau sets up the Governor's Beef Show at the fair, allowing distinguished members of the community to join kids in the show ring with their steers and heifers.

This year, state Rep. Clarice Navarro, R-Pueblo, was named Grand Champion at the show with 4-H'er Bryce Hill, 14, and his heifer.

Navarro participated in the show in 2014, but this was her first championship year. She had never shown animals prior to participating in the show.

"It's very exciting," she said. "You learn a lot about the time and dedication, not only the kid's but the parents'."

The Sterling youth told Navarro all about the routine he goes through with his animal each day, from feeding to working on how they walk and stand in the ring.

"It's just a lot of work, a lot of dedication," Navarro said.

After spending a half hour with Hill prior to the show, the two families became fast friends, Navarro said, adding that she stopped to visit Hill and his heifer daily at the State Fair.

"Each (animal) has their own personality," she said.



Photo courtesy of Clarice Navarro

The 4-H and State Fair programs are beneficial to the state and the agricultural community, she said. Participants show their animals to earn money and scholarships for college. The Governor's Beef

Show gives community leaders and state officials a chance to get involved in the industry, Navarro noted, adding that Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia also took part in the program this year.



Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

Above: Midori Clark, president of the Fair Ladies, and state Rep. Clarice Navarro, a member of the group, note that the bidding organization from Pueblo was formed 25 years ago by friends to honor the memory of Diane Hanson, a local 4H volunteer who died of breast cancer.

Left: State Rep. Clarice Navarro poses for a snapshot with 4-H'er Bryce Hill, 14, and his champion heifer at the Colorado State Fair. The cow was named grand champion at the Governor's Beef Show, sponsored by the Colorado Farm Bureau, a competition that pairs civic leaders in the show ring with livestock.

"I was speechless. I was thrilled," Navarro said after learning she was part of a winning team. "Bryce was excited and said it was his first belt buckle."

belt buckle with her to the Capitol in January. "I will probably wear it on jeans day, if I'm allowed," she said.

Navarro said she'll bring the —rachel@coloradostatesman.com

Rustler Rosado got start with livestock in New York City

By RACHEL ALEXANDER

When you hear someone was a member of Future Farmers of America in high school, you don't expect to hear him add that he attended school in Queens, New York. But that's exactly what Denver Rustler Ray Rosado did in the 1980s, when he was a student at John Bowne High School smack in the middle of Flushing Queens.

The school has an agriculture program, complete with four acres of farmland on site, where students raise crops and small animals. Rosado graduated in 1988.

"I was very interested when I was a child in being a veterinarian," Rosado said. After some research, he found John Bowne, near Queens College and near where the Mets play at Shay Stadium.

"I would imagine that school is the only one of its kind in the whole city," he said.

In his days as a big-city agriculture student, Rosado recalled learning to drive a tractor and spending his summers raising crops and caring for the school's chickens.

"The program really kept me out of trouble," Rosado said. "We had an interest, an interest in agriculture and small animals." And in a city known for fashion, he added, "Here we have these teachers wearing plaid shirts and boots."

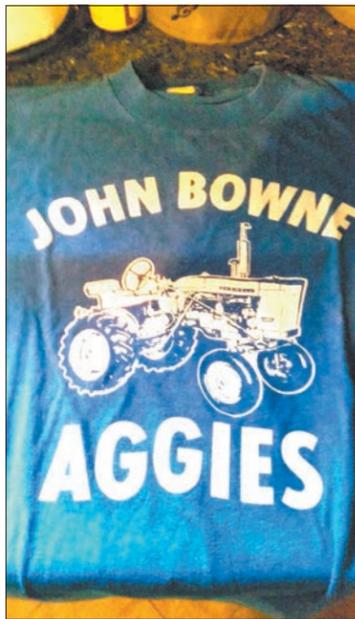


Photo courtesy Ray Rosado

Rosado, who ultimately didn't go into veterinary medicine — he works as a commercial real estate broker with Cushman and Wakefield — said the program gave him a deeper appreciation for rural America.

It's a pleasure to participate in the Denver Rustlers' annual trip to the Colorado State Fair, Rosado said, because it brings business leaders and public officials out to support the agricultural community of the state.

He said it was a reward to step off the bus and be greeted by the

Left: A vintage T-shirt from John Bowne High School in Queens, N.Y., belonging to Denver Rustler Ray Rosado depicts the urban school's agricultural program.

Below: Denver Rustlers Ray Rosado of Cushman and Wakefield, House District 6 candidate Chris Hansen and Melanie Pearlman, executive director of The CELL, visit as the group assembles on Sept. 1 in Greenwood Village.



Bernard Grant/Courtesy of Denver Rustlers

4-H kids with their champion animals and know how much work and dedication they put into raising them.

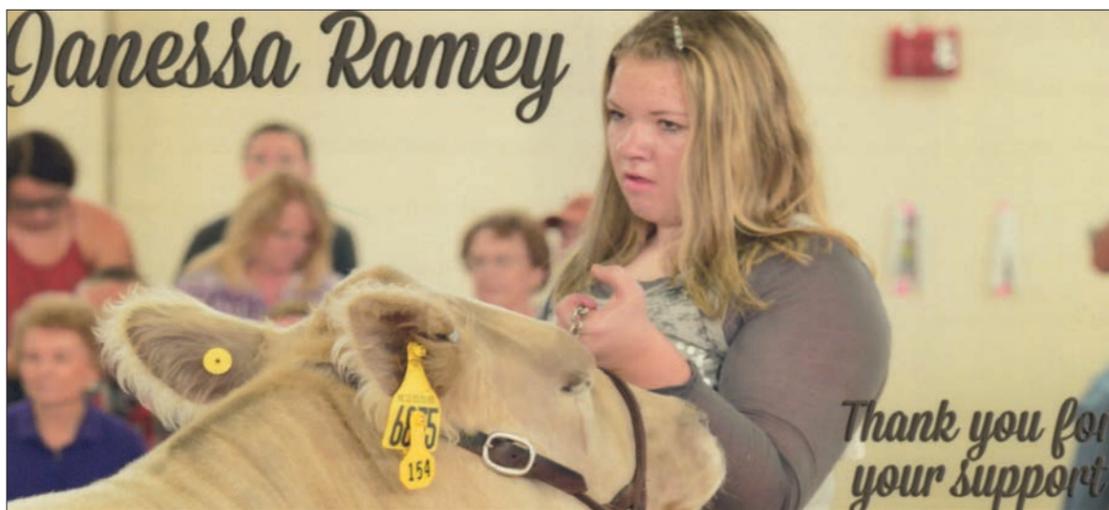
"What those organizations (4-H and FFA) do for rural America is nothing short of amazing," Rosado said.

—rachel@coloradostatesman.com

RUSTLERS EDITION



Kayla Becker
 Thank you for your support
 Colorado State Fair 2015



Photos Ernest Luning/Colorado Statesman
 Above: Founding Denver Rustler Larry Mizel, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock and Rustlers organizer Frances Koncilja pose for a picture as the charitable group arrives at Del Frisco's in Greenwood Village.



Left: Micah Crane of Pritchett in Baca County pauses for a moment with his prize-winning 280-pound hog just after she was purchased by *The Colorado Statesman* at the Junior Livestock Sale at the State Fair in Pueblo. The 8-month-old — “She doesn’t have a name, I just call her ‘Bacon,’” smiled Crane, whose uncle raises hogs — placed first in her class of heavyweights at the fair.

Above: Fliers distributed by young participants at the Junior Livestock Sale.

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SALE RESULTS

Grand & Reserve Champion	Exhibitor Name & Hometown	Buyer	Bid
Grand Beef	Dalton Lind, Eaton	Sam Brown & Family	\$60,000
Reserve Beef	Julia Frye, Johnstown	Denver Rustlers	\$22,000
Grand Hog	Ridge Kayser, Eaton	Denver Rustlers	\$32,000
Reserve Hog	Alli Stromberger, Iliff	Sam Brown & Family	\$31,000
Grand Lamb	Alyssa Deporter, Eaton	Crabtree Amusements	\$15,000
Reserve Lamb	Kayla Frink, Eaton	Sam Brown & Family	\$11,000
Grand Goat	Jakob Juul, Manzanola	Denver Rustlers	\$6,000
Reserve Goat	Cameron Shepherd, Silt	Denver Rustlers	\$3,500
Grand Rabbits	Chloe Smith, Yuma	Friends of the Fair	\$3,500
Reserve Rabbits	Chloe Smith, Yuma	Denver Rustlers	\$2,700
Grand Chickens	Cole Hooker, Fort Collins	Fair Ladies	\$3,000
Reserve Chickens	Ryan Gruntorad, Ordway	Legacy Bank	\$2,500

RUSTLERS EDITION



Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

State Sen. Larry Crowder and Debbie Brown, director of the Colorado Women's Alliance, observe the auction at the Junior Livestock Sale in Pueblo. On the bus ride to the State Fair, Brown reminisced about raising lambs as a youth in Arizona and said she felt for the children because after every lamb Brown raised was sold she would go backstage, overcome with emotion.



Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

Don Bailey, founder and CEO of the Triton Group of Companies, U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner, Blair Richardson, managing partner of Bow River Capital, and Dean Singleton, co-founder and former CEO of Denver-based newspaper chain MediaNews Group, prepare to embark on the Denver Rustlers' annual trip to Pueblo.



Bernard Grant/Courtesy of Denver Rustlers



Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

Above: CU Regent Michael Carrigan and state Sen. Owen Hill chat as the Denver Rustlers eat a light luncheon before heading to Pueblo to bid on livestock.

Left: Gov. John Hickenlooper visits with Denver Rustlers on the bus ride to the State Fair in Pueblo.

Fair officials protect livestock from spread of VS infection

BY MARIANNE GOODLAND

Colorado State Fair officials are optimistic that they've taken the precautions necessary to protect thousands of livestock from a painful virus that has so far spread to 17 counties in Colorado.

Vesicular stomatitis, a fly-spread illness in livestock, continues to move around the state this summer. As of last week, 65 locations in 15 counties were under three-week quarantines to prevent the virus from taking hold in more places. At least one horse show was canceled last month as a result of VS, in Mesa County.

The Colorado State Fair sees livestock from every corner of the state, including the counties where VS has so far been identified. That includes several cases in counties close to the fair: one in Pueblo and

three in Rio Grande County, in the San Luis Valley.

But State Fair Manager Chris Wiseman told *The Colorado Statesman* last week that every animal brought to the fair during its 12-day run is required to show proof of a veterinarian's inspection for VS within two days of the animal coming to Pueblo.

That's around 4,000 animals, Wiseman estimated. No animal that could carry VS is allowed on the grounds without that vet's inspection, he said. Livestock are constantly moving in and out of the fair, including for 4-H shows and exhibits, the rodeo and the junior livestock sale, which took place last Tuesday.

VS is carried by flies that bite horses, mules, cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, llamas and alpacas. The outbreaks so far this year have hit only

horses, mules and cattle. Fortunately, the virus is difficult to transmit from animal to animal, and while people can also catch VS through contact with an infected animal, that's pretty rare, according to the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

It's a painful virus for the infected animal. The bite causes blisters and sores in the animal's mouth, making it difficult for the animal to eat and drink. Excessive salivation is usually the first sign that an animal has contracted VS, according to an advisory from Dr. Keith Roehr, the state veterinarian. Symptoms in humans are similar to flu symptoms. A positive diagnosis comes only through blood tests.

Colorado has a livestock confidentiality law that protects a producer's operations and animal disease information. As a result, the

exact location of the 65 places that have been quarantined for VS isn't known. "While we cannot disclose the exact location of the infected livestock," Dr. Roehr said in an advisory at the end of August, "it is not very contagious from animal to animal." He reminded producers to take proactive steps to reduce fly populations near livestock.

VS is a problem primarily in western states. According to the US Department of Agriculture, seven states have had VS outbreaks this summer: Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Texas, South Dakota, New Mexico and Arizona. That heightens the importance of vet inspections for VS, because the summer show season means horses and livestock, particularly for rodeos and fairs, travel from state to state.

According to the USDA, Colorado has had the worst problem

with it this year. Of the seven states, Colorado has the highest number of identified and suspected outbreaks, with 179 out of the 334 quarantined locations. In the metro Denver area, a handful of VS infections have shown up in Boulder, Jefferson and Larimer counties. It's also been a problem in southwestern Colorado, in Las Animas, Archuleta and Conejos counties.

The USDA says VS has become more of a problem in the past decade. It's especially of concern for producers who export their livestock to other countries; some countries may ban exports of U.S. livestock when a VS outbreak is reported.

— marianne@coloradostatesman.com

RUSTLERS EDITION

YESTERYEAR

Denver Rustlers saddle up, raise ‘moo-lah,’ compete at tricky task of pig-penning

By ERNEST LUNING

Five Years Ago in *The Colorado Statesman* ... “Local long-horns” donned custom shirts, cowboy hats and many an oversized, shiny belt buckle to make a party out of the annual **Denver Rustlers** trip to Pueblo. “It’s a hell raisin’ fun time, always accompanied by great grub, liquid refreshments and more than a fair amount of camaraderie among fellow cowpokes,” wrote Rustler **Jody Hope Strogoff** about the annual event, in its 26th year. While there weren’t any official speeches or legislative business conducted, nearly every elected official in the state was either there or sent regrets, along with plenty who hoped to win office in the future. In 2010, that included Senate candidate **Ken Buck**, gubernatorial candidate **Dan Maes** and legislator **Cory Gardner**, who was running for Congress. What makes the event a “must” on the political calendar? Former cowboy **Larry Mizel**, who moseyed his way — or, rather, rode a motorcycle — from Oklahoma as a young man and “earned his spurs” as a homebuilder before making his name synonymous with charitable giving. “When Mizel digs in his boots, he can accomplish quite a lot,” Strogoff wrote, adding, “Getting new members in the saddle has been one of his major callings.”

Ten Years Ago in *The Colorado Statesman* ... “Denver Rustlers raise lots of moolah” — emphasis on the “moo” — read the headline of *The Statesman’s* Rustlers section, fashioned in the manner of a Wanted poster. The Rustlers helped boost Junior Livestock



Colorado Statesman archives

Larry Mizel leads the Denver Rustlers off the chartered plane that transported the group to the State Fair in Pueblo in this September 2004 photo.

Sale totals to \$313,000, marking yet another year the sale had topped \$300,000. “For almost 40 years, the Colorado State Fair has established a tradition of hosting the premier event for agricultural youth,” said **Chris Wiseman**, the fair’s general manager. All 150 Rustlers stood out among the 500 buyers attending the auction in Pueblo, each wearing embroidered **Rockmount Ranch Wear** shirts. The grand champion market goat, raised by **Lacy Jo Ritchey** of Hudson, went to Rustlers **Walt** and **Mike Imhoff** for \$8,000. Media News Group CEO **Dean Singleton**, American Furniture Warehouse’s **Jake Jabs**, **Rick**

Sapkin of Edgemark Development and **Larry Mizel** of MDC Richmond Homes together won the bidding for “**Bulletproof**,” the grand champion market beef, raised by **Sarah Stover** of Weld County for a cool \$45,000.

Fifteen Years Ago in *The Colorado Statesman* ... More than 150 business and political leaders once again made the trek to Pueblo to bid on prize-winning steer, lambs, hogs and, for the first year, goats at the annual Junior Livestock auction. The field trip to the State Fair had previously been aboard a jet airliner, but this year there were so many Rustlers that the group

chartered luxury buses for the trip. The matching denim western shirts made it easy to spot the Rustlers at the auction and at carnival games, including a special shooting contest set up for the Rustlers. In the spirited bidding for the grand champion steer, Pueblo’s **Sam Brown** outbid the Rustlers for the second year in a row, waving at \$41,000, ahead of the \$40,000 final bid offered by leading Rustlers. ...

... The annual **Community Colleges of Colorado** VIP Barbecue, sponsored by **Microsoft**, the **Coors Brewing Co.**, and **Pueblo Community College**, drew two members of Congress

and 25 legislators to the State Fair for hobnobbing and noshing. **Dorothy Horrell**, president of the Community Colleges of Colorado, pointed out that more than a quarter of a million people each year “find success through the state’s community college system,” while a Coors representative handed out coveted “Hey, Beer Man” baseball caps. U.S. Sen. **Ben Nighthorse Campbell** and U.S. Rep. **Scott McInnis** mingled in the crowd of more than 900, including three Medal of Honor winners from Pueblo. **Drew Dix**, **Raymond (Jerry) Murphy** and H.C. “**Barney**” **Barnum** were all special guests of Pueblo Community College president **Joe May**.

Twenty Years Ago in *The Colorado Statesman* ... The pig-penning contest replaced cow milking this year as the Denver Rustlers spent a fun-filled day in Pueblo supporting youth who raise livestock. “Instead of negotiating business deals, as many of them customarily do in their normal course of a day, the Rustlers this year were observed negotiating swine from one end of the corral to the other with a board.” **United Airlines** provided the charter service to Pueblo, with airline executive **John Philp** personally demonstrating safety procedures aboard the plane. The winning team of pig-penners included **Ted Gill**, Attorney General **Gale Norton** and bank executives **Linda Collins** of Norwest and **Gary Levine** and **Robert Pappenheim** of Key Bank.

—ernest@coloradostatesman.com



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Above: Former House Speaker **Andrew Romanoff** talks with U.S. Sens. **Michael Bennet** and **Mark Udall** in the parking lot of **Del Frisco’s** restaurant, where the Denver Rustlers convened for a pre-event lunch in this September 2009 photo. Shortly after the photo was taken, Romanoff announced he was challenging Bennet for the 2010 Democratic nomination for the Senate seat.

Left: State Sen. **Nancy Spence**, **Landon Gates** of Colorado Concern and state Sen. **Mark Scheffel** proudly display a souvenir from the cow-chip throwing contest in this photo from September 2010.

RUSTLERS EDITION



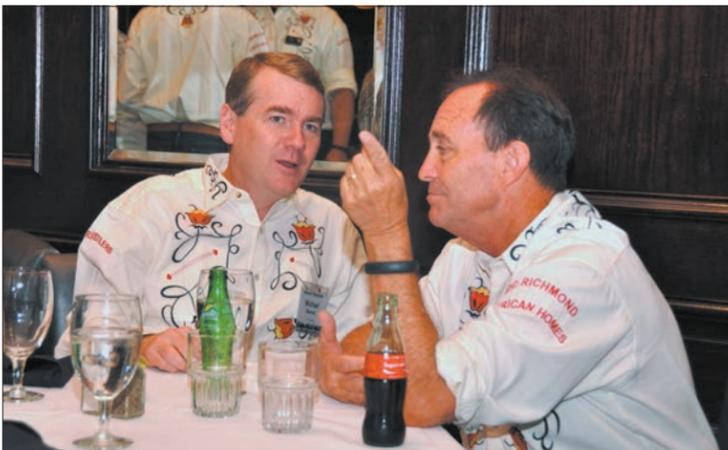
Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

Canadian Consul General Marcy Grossman, Miss Rodeo Colorado Mari Kidd of Pueblo and Wendy Weil of Rockmount Ranch Wear await the start of the Junior Livestock Sale at the State Fair.



Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

"This is a culmination of a year's hard work for a lot of these young people," says Agriculture Commissioner Don Brown, introducing the auctioneers at the Junior Livestock Sale at the State Fair in Pueblo.



Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet and U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter have a heart-to-heart amid the frenzy as Denver Rustlers prepare for the annual trip on Sept. 1 to the State Fair in Pueblo.



Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

Monica Owens Beauprez and Hillary Shoun, owners of the WestBrooke Group, enjoy the lunch at Del Frisco's as Denver Rustlers gather for the annual trip to the State Fair.



Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

Norm Franke, regional president of Alpine Bank, and Colorado Republican Party chairman Steve House talk at the Junior Livestock Sale on Sept. 1 in Pueblo.



Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman and attorneys John Zakhem and Kristin White visit at Del Frisco's as the Denver Rustlers gather.

Rustlers organizer Koncilja working to 'raise floor' for kids

BY MARIANNE GOODLAND

The annual trek by the Denver Rustlers, a group dedicated to supporting the kids who show livestock at the Colorado State Fair, wouldn't make it very far without the steady hand of Frances Koncilja.

Denver Attorney Koncilja has been involved with the Rustlers for more than half of its 31-year existence — this year's trip was her 17th outing. For the past decade she has coordinated the annual trip between the Rustlers and the fair, with the help of Laura Teal chief of staff to homebuilder and Denver Rustlers' founder Larry Mizel of Richmond Homes. "She is terrific," Koncilja says of Teal. "I keep trying to get her to become a Democrat because she is so smart and hard-working and organized."

Koncilja, a Pueblo native, got interested in Rustlers after being appointed to the fair's board of directors in 1998, by then-Gov. Roy Romer. She came in at a tumultuous time. The fair was having financial problems, and things weren't sailing so smoothly with the management. "The governor wanted both Republicans and Democrats [on the board] with strong financial backgrounds," Koncilja said.



Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

Larry Mizel, chairman and CEO of MDC Holdings, the parent company of Richmond American Homes, attorney Frances Koncilja and political consultant Mike Stratton greet Denver Rustlers as they arrive at Del Frisco's on Sept. 1 in Greenwood Village.

That's when she took her first Rustlers trip.

Being with Rustlers gives Koncilja lots of opportunity, whether it's talking up business in Pueblo, supporting the State Fair or helping some of the kids who work so hard to get there.

The main event of the day: the livestock sale. Koncilja says the group's purpose isn't to drive up the price for the grand champion or reserve champion animals. "We pool our money for the kids who bring in the market animals," she said. These are the animals that are exhibited but aren't designat-

ed grand or reserve champions. The exhibitor for the grand champion steer, for instance, gets more than \$60,000 in the auction, Koncilja noted, while the exhibitor for a market animal gets around \$3,500. "We want to raise the floor for the market kids," Koncilja said, adding that \$3,500 for the amount of work the kids put into raising their livestock is not a lot of money.

"Everyone has a good time, and it's all about kids," she added.

— marianne@coloradostatesman.com

RUSTLERS EDITION

Winning the West the cowboy way

THE STATE OF Style



BY LYNNE LOMBARD-HUNT

Whether you're from the farming plains in the east, the mesa plateaus west of the divide, or the big city lights along the Front Range corridor, you'll find one common denominator in the closets of most Colorado politicians: western wear. Exemplars of the style include state Sen. Randy Baumgardner, with his signature cowboy hats (not to mention his "Yosemite Sam" mustache), state Rep. Jim Wilson with his classic western suits, and former House Speaker Terrence Carroll with his cowboy boots and flashy belt buckles. A key to winning the West is connecting to our roots, and there's only one thing as synonymous with Colorado as our snow and mountains: western apparel.

Whether you're a recent transplant or have lived here your entire life, having a little western gear in your closet will make you feel right at home. However, many don't make the leap because they aren't sure how to wear it right. As Clint Eastwood might say, there is *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly* when it comes to western fashion. The last thing you want to do is look like a city slicker cliché or a borderline rodeo clown. Here are some tips to help you become a fashion pioneer.

From head to toe

Let us start from the top — literally. Cowboy hats can make or break your outfit from the gate. But they aren't what John Wayne wore. The

modern cowboy hat is sleeker with a cosmopolitan edge. Newer hats run the spectrum in colors, material and often sport bedazzled bands. A major update to hat design is the brim. Shapeable brims allow you to customize your hat to your face shape, allowing the wearer to bend the brim long and low and shape the sides.

You'll find contemporary styles that stick with traditional colors like black and neutrals but shouldn't be afraid to play around with color, including color blocks and animal prints. Think of your hat like icing on the cake. It's going to be the first thing people see, so you'll want to balance it out with the rest of your outfit. If you choose a subtle hat, you'll have a little more to play with moving down your ensemble. However, if you go with a brighter color, try not to make the entire outfit match. Choose a simple shirt or a vest to compliment the color, but don't match it precisely.

Hats also come in a variety of materials. As we transition into fall, choose lighter materials, such as straw. Straw hats come in different colors, and fashion forward thinkers add embellishments with turquoise or silver studs. Tan hats do very well for fun occasions like picnics and barbecues, while white or black straw works for evening cocktail parties or fundraisers. As cooler weather ushers in, heavier material goes a long way: Fur, wool felt and leather are ideal as the leaves start to fall.

Make your point

Oversized, pointy-collared shirts are a western look that's crossing into other fashion styles this fall. Perfect for corporate looks, the distinctive collars lend a sophisticated appearance. This dramatic look has gotten the attention of designers like Christian Dior, Miu Miu, and Chanel this season. Pairing with a vest, sweater or statement necklace will infuse a little western into your look without going full-out cowgirl.

When choosing a shirt, remember that patterns can be dubious but shouldn't be avoided. The key is minimizing the embellishments. For instance, floral patterns are fine, but combined with lace ruffles, they can give you more "Little House on the Prairie" than you want. Try a solid

with an embroidered upper trim.

Investing in vests also can bring western zest to your look, with the added bonus of seasonal versatility. As cool mornings turn into hot afternoons, a vest allows you to leave the business jacket at home but still says you're ready to work.

Denim is king

Any western look works with a good denim. Whether you're going for casual or business-appropriate, a foundation of denim pulls off both looks. Of course jeans are great for casual occasions, but some might be uncomfortable wearing them to a Monday morning boardroom meeting. Western accessories like cowboy boots and a polished, oversized buckle, along with a business shirt and blazer, transform jeans and dramatically bolster your intended look. Just make sure that they are newer, well-kept jeans.

Denim has long been a favorite with Colorado candidates. As last year's election neared, every top-of-the-ticket candidate — from John Hickenlooper and Bob Beauprez to Mark Udall and Cory Gardner — campaigned wearing denim jeans with a button-down shirt. The look evokes both hard work and relate-ability with the electorate.

Boots made for walking

There is a seemingly unbreakable political rule in Colorado: you need a good speech and a pair of cowboy boots to go far in this state. There's wide variety in boots: Aside from different colors and materials, boots range in heel heights, shaft heights, toe shapes and styles. Understanding these differences is key to dressing for the occasion.

Many differences address use and comfort preferences. For instance, you'll want different heel heights for horseback riding or walking precincts and should determine what works best based on how they feel. However, the toe type tends to say more about the style. The flatter the toe, the more casual the boot, while more pointed toes look more formal. Medium points tend to be both comfortable and can still dress up a work outfit.

Cowboy boots are increasingly gaining popularity in mainstream fashion. The Fall Fashion Preview included many assemblies paired with ankle-high cowboy boots walking the runway. What's more, the cowboy boot is expansively versatile, easily combining with pants, jeans and various skirt lengths. The thick heel provides stability while still delivering height and elongating the leg.

Final Touches

Lastly, before you finish putting together your western look, don't forget accessories. One of the great things about a western look is that



Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

Cowboy boots in a wide variety of styles, colors and materials are for sale at a booth at the Colorado State Fair.

you tend to see jewels like topaz, turquoise and other unique stones. Placing these stones on belt buckles, clothing trim and hatbands adds a special quality to a western look.

Whether you are heading to an important meeting or to the Stampede for a fundraiser, adding simple western touches to your outfit will add to the versatility of your wardrobe and let people know you are Colorado Proud.

The Purple Carpet

Typically the Purple Carpet features two elected officials who display keen senses of style in their everyday looks, but this month's award goes solely to Frances Koncilja, a mainstay of the Denver

Rustlers. One of the state's premier attorneys, the Pueblo native incorporates western influences superbly in her professional sense of style. Whether in a fully embroidered blouse or a traditional business suit with western accessories, Frances carries the Colorado iconic style forward.

Lynne Lombard-Hunt is a political consultant, policy analyst and former Denver City Council staffer, and is married to Rep. Jovan Melton, D-Aurora. She writes a regular column about style and fashion in the Colorado political realm. Send Purple Carpet nominations to Lynne@LynneLombard-hunt.com.



Ernest Luning/The Colorado Statesman

State Sen. Randy Baumgardner, pictured with U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton, is garbed in classic, casual western wear — in Baumgardner's case, including his distinctive mustache — at the annual Legislative Barbecue on Aug. 28 in Pueblo.



Colorado Statesman archives

Wearing a black cowboy hat and a bright yellow embroidered shirt inspired by country singer Porter Wagoner, attorney Frances Koncilja epitomizes western chic. The shirt was a gift from Rockmount Ranch Wear's Steve Weil.