

THE RED ROCK RAG

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News and Views on Red Rock Canyon

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Zydeco withdraws golf course application

On Monday, January 7, just a week into the new year, Zydeco withdrew the Special Use Permit application which it had filed with El Paso County Planning for the Red Rock Reserve golf course.

The application had requested a Special Use Permit for 346 acres of the Red Rock Canyon property to be used for an 18 hole golf course and driving range, with the Bock residence as a club house. This application had been strongly criticized by both citizens and public entities, as we reported in the January Red Rock Rag.

Zydeco indicated to the El Paso County Planning Department that its reason for withdrawing the application was that the County might require a modification to the Special Use Permit if residential uses are added to the golf course area at a later date.

In a January 11 *Gazette* article, Ed Sealover reported that a local consultant to the project said that Zydeco would not consider submitting a new application for the golf course until its lawsuit seeking water from Colorado Springs has been decided. The City believes that final resolution of the suit could take several years.

Ed Sealover also quoted Zydeco attorney Bruce Wright as saying that, "County staff is attempting to impose conditions depriving the property owners of the express rights granted to .. them." However, Mr. Wright seemingly did not elaborate on which specific rights he was referring to by this statement

Our Thanks

The Red Rock Canyon Committee wishes to express its appreciation to the Village at Skyline for providing our meeting room.

EDITORIAL

So what's the deal?

And speaking of money and power, the Red Rocks saga continues, with many a curious twist. You all know the plot line: Santa Fe developer Richard Yates wants to develop Red Rocks Canyon, while open space/parks advocates want to preserve the land; and Yates is fighting with them, Colorado Springs, Manitou, Utilities and the County.

If you've got a dog in this fight, it's an all-absorbing one; if not, it's an interesting exercise in how not to be a developer. Apologies to Messrs. Steve Schuck, Jeff Smith, David Jenkins and Fred Veitch, but land development is not prohibitively difficult.

You buy/option some land, you apply for annexation, you meet with neighbors/concerned citizens, you put together reasonable and appropriate development plans that, in a sensitive piece of ground like Red Rocks, balance the concerns of preservationists with your need to make a buck, and you move ahead.

You emphatically do not do what Yates has done: infuriate the preservationists, treat the folks in government like know-nothing hicks, submit incomplete plans full of apparent misstatements, and sue the entities whose assent you need to annex/develop.

You'd think that anybody who has developed property in a place like Santa Fe would know better. Apparently not. Indeed, thanks to Yates' maneuvers, the property has been effectively sterilized for the foreseeable future. How so? By suing the City to obtain water service without annexation, Yates has gained nothing - other than delay.

As city attorney Pat Kelly recently wrote, "Final resolution of this litigation may take several years .."

Meanwhile, no water equals no development. So what's the deal? Is Yates simply a bumbling novice, an unbelievably arrogant rich guy, or a cunning operator playing a deeper game? Beats me; if you know send, me an e-mail -- jhazlehurst@csindy.com

By John Hazlehurst, re-printed with permission of the *Colorado Springs Independent*.

CALENDAR**Meetings of Possible Interest:**

- February 5 Manitou Springs City council
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- February 6 **TOPS Working Committee**
4:00 P.M. Colorado Springs
Parks and Recreation Building
1401 Recreation Way
(East of I-25, 2 blocks north of Uintah)
- February 7 **Red Rock Canyon Committee**
7:00 P.M. Village at Skyline (off Lower Gold
Camp Road), Activities Room, Building No. 4
(The Easternmost Building - enter north door)
- February 12 Colorado Springs City Council
9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa
- February 19 El Paso County Planning Commission
9:00 A.M. Hearing Room, 3rd Floor
County Office Building, 27 East Vermija
- February 19 Manitou Springs City council
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- February 20 **TOPS Working Committee**
7:30 A.M. Colorado Springs
Parks and Recreation Building
1401 Recreation Way
(East of I-25, 2 blocks north of Uintah)
- February 20 **Manitou Springs Open Space
Advisory Committee**
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- February 26 Colorado Springs City Council
9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa
- March 5 Manitou Springs City Council
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- March 7 **Red Rock Canyon Committee**
7:00 P.M. Village at Skyline (off Lower Gold
Camp Road), Activities Room, Building No. 4
(The Easternmost Building - enter north door)

NOTE: Scheduled meetings can be subject to change or cancellation.

Check these web pages within a week of scheduled meeting for items of interest:

Colorado Springs City government: www.springsgov.com

El Paso County government: www.elpasoco.com

Also, check the CONO web site for related announcements and links: www.CS.CONO.org

TIDBITS**Coyote tales**

About a month ago I was driving down the street a mile from Red Rock Canyon when a coyote walked across the street in front of me. What a beautiful animal! And, I remembered growing up south of Old Colorado City hearing the howl of *Canis latrans* in the night.

Coyote is a very important character in Native stories. Most often, coyote is the trickster, the devious, perhaps malicious character, either very clever or very foolish, who is the best teacher.

The Utes have many stories of Yobovits, the coyote.

One of these stories tells of a cold winter when Yobovits and his clan were hungry. Yobovits sent a spy to the camp of the crows who were happy and well fed to find out their secret. Weasel, the spy learns that the crows have a magic rock. Every time they lift the rock, a buffalo comes from under it. So, weasel lets out a herd of buffalo and then tells Yobovits' clan. The first day hunting the buffalo, Yobovits is confident of his hunting ability and tells the clan that each should keep his own kill and not share. But, Yobovits kills nothing and is hungry. One of the other hunters shares his meat with Yobovits. The next day, Yobovits says everyone should share his kill. Yobovits is the only successful hunter that day and shares meat with everyone.

In a story where Yobovits is very foolish, he learns from the Chickadees how to take out his eyes and toss them into the air to so that berries would fall down for him to eat. But, the Chickadees warned him never to do this among yellow willows. After he left the Chickadees, Yobovits tossed his eyes in the air in a grove of yellow willows; and, cry out as he might, his eyes would not come back.

In one Ute origin story, Sinawaf, the creator, began cutting sticks and placing them in a bag. When Sinawaf was away, Yobovits opened the bag, and out came many people speaking different languages and scattering in all directions. When Sinawaf returned, he found only a few people left in the bag and was very angry. Sinawaf had planned to distribute the people equally in the land, but because Yobovits had distributed them unevenly they fought each other trying to get land from their neighbors. Sinawaf made the few people left in the bag the Utes, and made them strong and brave.

For the Shoshone, who are related to the Utes, Coyote is the father of the tribe, having married a sorceress who gave birth to their ancestors. These Shoshone considered their neighbors the Bannock to have been fathered by Wolf.

In the stories of some tribes, Coyote has the role of Prometheus and steals fire from the fire beings.

Don Ellis

The Ballad of Red Rock Canyon - Secret Garden of the Gods

By **Buth Obee** --- (first published in the Summer 2001 *Cheyenne Mountain Kiya*
and reprinted with permission of the author)

*History is so fickle as to where she buries her treasures -
or whether, on any given day, a Columbian mammoth might decide to immigrate,
dropping its tusk off along the way at a rusty, red mesa
to mark its arrival from the continent of Africa aboard a tectonic plate*

*The Ancestral Rockies swept up its leftover sediment
into Fountain sandstone formations 300 million years ago - giving birth in epoch stages
to steeples and tepees, monoliths and dunes of salmon pinks and old rose gold -
elements of rain and wind working to configure the shapes over millennia and ages.*

*These dramatic fingers pointing up became for early man, in time, a landmark
on the landscape, Laoporas-foot-printed, sun-gilded, cloud-blown,
glowing blood-red-orange at sunset... while below them,
Niobrara ridges showcase fossil claims in bands of dazzling white limestone.*

*Here the bones of Camptosaurus rests, if not in peace, at least in perpetual warmth
beneath the city's 20th century dump, the negative archeology from its urban life
of nearly two decades filling up the valley to a depth of one-hundred feet -
its stewing, bubbling, belching methane waiting for a careless match to light*

*Circling walls of native stone along the ridges may prove to be defenses or eagle traps,
experts speculate, white metate grinding sites are either archaic or early Ute
Here among the litter of "bird point" arrowheads, where the Canyon Wren sings,
the ancient, history-bearing stones remain as witnesses forever mute.*

*Up the ladder of progress and human history, out of the innocent garden -
from a sandstone quarry, stair-stepping up like a great Mayan ruin in the sun,
to the ghosts of a 19th century cemetery with caskets
splintering on the pebbled shores of a gravel pit, like shipwrecked galleons...*

*...a modern motel is also buried (in its entirety) on the site, with its seedy and forgotten
graffiti nights, recalling sagas of Frankie and Johnny,
of instant justice, at the end of a rifle point -
the dangle and the stretch of a bit of hemp, up the ladder in human history..*

*.. from prehistoric hearths to quarry and dump and on to mega hotel-resort-trophy home
complex proposed in the midst of nature's unique and ancient formations, a sensational
Architectural Digest backdrop for games of golf progress in the name of an out-of-state
developer's dreams to take the best and leave a bit of the rest for future generations.*

*Geology shapes human history. Water and rock configure fate - while man buries it all
by re-visioning. But, said the Ute elder, lifting his eyes beyond the purely commercial
to some larger vision - found at the apogee in flight of a peregrine falcon:
This is a cathedral. And you don't live in a cathedral!*

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT RED ROCK CANYON OPEN SPACE!

- Enclosed is my contribution to the Red Rock Canyon Committee for operating expenses
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____ Do ____ Don't acknowledge my contribution in the Red Rock Rag.
- I want to be involved
My efforts could best be used for: _____
- Keep me informed with the **RED ROCK RAG**.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

For more information, contact **Linda Hodges** at the **Trails and Open Space Coalition**: 633-6884,
or e-mail: fskeeter@juno.com

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of the Red Rock Canyon Committee.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Letters, articles, comments (and glossy photos) may be sent to:
Rag Editor
Red Rock Canyon Committee
P. O. Box 2352
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2352

Electronic submissions may be sent to:
help@saveredrockcanyon.com
Please send electronic text in plain ASCII (txt) format.
Digital images are welcome and should be 200 dpi or better
at the size the image will be reproduced.

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