



GOODNIGHT BARN HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
104 W. Adams Avenue
Pueblo, CO 81004



February 25, 2022

Mayor Nicholas Gradisar
Pueblo City Courthouse
Pueblo, CO 81003

Via email: aparga@pueblo.us

Dear Mayor Gradisar:

I visited with Alyssa yesterday. It gave me a chance to tell her details about our upcoming Charles Goodnight Barn Chuck Wagon Rendezvous set for May 20th and 21st, 2022. I asked her about forwarding a letter to you, and she agreed.

There will be at least 15 wagons from the American Chuck Wagon Association (ACWA) out of Texas. They are excited to be here because Goodnight (and his mother) invented the chuck wagon. They were here in 2019 for their annual meeting and loved the Barn in its then sad shape. Now it has been restored and we are ready to roll!

This event is our inaugural chuck wagon event, but we are making plans to make it an annual event in the spring of each year. We expect 350-500 visitors the first year. Friday will be **western heritage day**. As the wagons set up, we will treat the public to living history (trappers, Kit Carson, Pike, Buffalo Soldiers, etc.), seminars on chuck wagons and more. That evening we hope to have western music around a campfire, food trucks and some western vendors. Saturday will be the wagons cooking and serving their fare at 1:00 pm.

I believe this will begin a tradition for a yearly western heritage event. The costs for this are high. Our budget is running around \$30,000. We are truly excited that you might be able to help us financially. All our fundraising has gone into the restoration so far. This inaugural event will put Pueblo City/County in the limelight where it belongs. After all Goodnight and the Thatchers were the first men to bring ranching to our area. I also believe that southern and southeastern Colorado has more history than anything north of our fair city. This coming from a person whose family were here in 1859.

We have been working with the Chamber of Commerce and History Connections of Pueblo. The Chamber is on board (not financially, but backing us and assisting with licenses and volunteers). HCP will also be helping with volunteers and worker bees.

Whatever funds from ticket sales that are over and above costs (small for the first time I'm sure) will be going to restrooms and an interpretive center. We are not done yet!

We are hoping you will be able to help us with a sponsorship of \$15,000.00 (to match what the County is giving us), I thank you in advance for honoring this request and should you be so inclined, please make your check out to Goodnight Barn and mail it to Laurel Campbell, 104 W. Adams Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004.

Happy Trails!

Laurel Campbell
President