

## A ranch reborn



COURTESY C LAZY U

Longtime C Lazy U employee Jude Dwyer cuts the ribbon on reopening day, April 1. The ranch was closed for 168 days following the East Troublesome Fire.

### C Lazy U welcomes guests again after fire

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Lining the winding gravel road into C Lazy U, the scorched patches of landscape dotted with blackened trees, from where the East Troublesome Fire burned in October, are now starting to show new signs of life just in time for guests.

After 168 days closed, Granby's guest ranch welcomed its first visitors on April 1 since the fire.

"It's been a really nice start," C Lazy U General Manager David Craig said. "I think that phrase coming out of the ashes does apply

here."

C Lazy U closed on Oct. 15, before the East Troublesome Fire caused the ranch to evacuate, and, shortly after, moved their herd of over 200 horses to safety. Then, on Oct. 21, the fire exploded across roughly 16 miles of Grand County, including through the heart of C Lazy U.

The ranch lost a number of buildings, including eight member homes, a workforce housing unit and its historic 99-year-old barn, while several others were damaged.

**C LAZY U, 7**



C Lazy U's iconic 99-year-old barn burned in the East Troublesome Fire, but the ranch is working to rebuild. In the meantime, a temporary barn structure has been set up.

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### WHAT'S INSIDE



#### Summer surge

Recreation trends have Grand County preparing for what could be its busiest season ever

**Page 5**

**POW camp** that may have sat in path of proposed Fraser Valley Parkway could mean end of project

**Page 4**

#### WEATHER



**HIGH: 49**  
LOW: 24  
RAIN &  
SNOW

11-14: **Classifieds**  
2: **Calendar**  
2: **Contact Us**  
8: **Library Corner**  
3: **Stay Updated**  
15: **Weather**



# “Mamma Mia!” comes to Middle Park

Sky-Hi News staff report  
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Just a week after finishing “Les Miserables” in January, Middle Park High School theater students were off and running with “Mamma Mia!”

The production includes extensive singing and choreography. Students had the opportunity to work with Hannah Lehman, a senior dance major at Columbia College Chicago who has choreographed several MPHS shows and also performed in “Mamma Mia!” at Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre in 2017.

Lehman said that the group has been terrific to work with even as many in the cast lack formal dance training.

“They have the work ethic of professional dancers,” Lehman said in a statement. “They’re learning quickly and

doing a great job of keeping dances clean and tight.”

This will be the final high school show for many seniors in the cast. These seniors include Madeline Ruttenberg leading as Donna Sheridan, Emma Lane as Tanya, Tobi Elerick as Rosie, Cesar Arreguin as Sam Carmichael, Bryce Gantt as Bill Austin, and AJ Knorr as Harry Bright. Other seniors in the cast and crew include Sierra Merrell as Lisa, Matt Tenney as Pepper, Zoe Bole as stage manager, and Rowan White is the technical director.

Rounding out the cast are juniors Collette Mace (Ali) and Ellie Gagnon (ensemble) and sophomores Paddy Aither (Edie), Olivia Kendzioriski (Sophie), Sarah Lantermans (lead vocalist and swing), and Connor Murdoch (Sky). Freshman Abilene Yurich,

eighth-grader Tyler Maurais and seventh-grader Vallie Mace are also in the ensemble.

The tech crew includes juniors Holly Cormier (wardrobe manager), Chance Hein (sound engineer), Erik Lawrence (lighting designer), sophomores Brayden Webb (tech assistant) and Major Powell (spot operator) and freshman Adam Zeleznikar (spot operator).

“Mamma Mia!” will play 7 p.m. April 22, 23 and 24 at Middle Park High School. Tickets are available at the door at \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth and free for East Grand students and staff. Masks, distancing between parties and reservations are required at bit.ly/3se73GE.

Dress rehearsals are also open to the public 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Reservations are required at bit.ly/3se73GE.



SKY-HI NEWS FILE PHOTO

Middle Park High School sophomore Connor Murdoch and senior Madeline Ruttenberg rehearse “Les Miserables School Edition” in January. Ruttenberg leads as Donna Sheridan in the school’s upcoming performance of “Mamma Mia!”

## C LAZY U

From page 1

Currently, Craig said there are plans to build a bigger barn in place of where the old one stood that will be updated to include more space and amenities for guests. Construction is set to begin in the fall.

“Truthfully, we were bursting at the seams in that barn,” Craig said. “We’re designing it to fit the needs over the next 100 years.”

Aside from replacing the barn, C Lazy U enlisted its

staff and others to deep clean every guest building on the property, apply fresh paint and clean up smoke and burn damages before reopening.

Some buildings, including the check-in lodge, got remodels as well as the repairs.

With the hard work, the only noticeable differences are the void where the iconic barn once stood and some charred shingles on the roof of the ranch’s lodge building.

So far, those details don’t seem to be impacting guest experience, Craig said, noting that feedback from recent

guests has been positive. Summer bookings are already filling up as well.

“People come here because they enjoy the spirit and culture of the ranch and that’s what they want to continue doing,” Craig said. “The most important asset of our ranch is the people.”

The fire also provides the unique opportunity to educate guests about land stewardship and natural cycles that keep the forest healthy. Craig said the ranch is planning to compile an archive of information about how the

ranch survived.

In addition, a historic metal plaque from the barn featuring the name of C Lazy U’s founder and the American flag that flew over the ranch in 2020 will likely be showcased on the property.

“The way that we’re looking at it is, last year the ranch was 101 years old. It had been through world wars, famine, disease, depression and this is just one more thing that the ranch has been through that will quickly look like a blip on the radar,” Craig said. “The ranch will endure.”



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C Lazy U General Manager David Craig holds the metal plaque from the ranch’s historic barn, which will likely get a prominent home in the new building.

# STANDING

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