

GO

OUTDOORS | TRAVEL | ENTERTAINMENT | ARTS

INSIDE THIS EDITION

FEATURE SECTION CHANGES

THE NORTH FACE RENEWED

THIS WEEKEND'S EVENTS



Wild I-70

Learn
about the
wilderness
as you
watch it
pass by
your car
windows



TOP: VISITGLENWOOD.COM
RIGHT: BEN LIZGAR

A new project from Denver-based nonprofit Rocky Mountain Wild explores the wilderness along I-70 through conversation, music and poetry. Aurora emeritus poet laureate Jovan Mays, right, wrote and performed a poem about Glenwood Canyon, above, for the effort.



the WORLD outside your WINDOW

Learn about the wilderness along the I-70 corridor through a new audio project.

Carla Jean Whitley | cj@postindependent.com

*Hey There
Did you feel that?
Probably pretty hard to know
But just a minute ago
You drove through Colorado's youngest volcano*

Those words spill out of Jovan Mays as he launches into "Something New." He continues at a thoughtful, measured pace, as he describes the geological and historic significance of Glenwood Canyon.

Aurora emeritus poet laureate Mays wrote the poem at the behest of Rocky Mountain Wild. The Denver-based organization works to protect and restore wildlife in the region, and its latest efforts use a perhaps unexpected tactic. The Wild I-70 audio tour draws listeners into wildlife conservation through a combination of music, poetry and science.

Producer and Writer Erica Prather saw the project as an opportunity to meld two of the worlds she often operates in: art and science.

"If they talk to each other and elevate each other, I think they both have

audiences who are kind of similar: curious people who want to explore the world and express that," she said.

The series is triggered by GPS as listeners travel along the I-70 corridor, with segments that entertain and educate listeners as they travel from Golden to Glenwood.

Each segment is accompanied by music from a Colorado artist; Carbondale's Let Them Roar play on a piece to be released this week. Prather and cohost Stephen Brackett of hip-hop band The Flobots discuss wilderness and science, and they have fun as they do. They break down sometimes-complicated concepts, like migration, and help listeners understand how human development affects wildlife.

"It's an educational tool to remind people that when they're driving on I-70, they're driving through habitat," Prather said. "It's not just a boring trip from A to B. Both people who live in this state and tourists need to be reminded of that. You're entering another being's home.

The Glenwood Canyon segment is the



WILDERNESS, B8

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WILDERNESS

From page B3

most obviously emotional of the 13 released thus far. And while Mays' passion for poetry is a driving force, he also pored research and analysis into the work.

*Observe its spires and steeples
This hallowed homage
Excavated eminence
Striated tenement
The genetics of geology*

Mays examined the canyon's geological creation and uses the Colorado River as a metaphor for the Utes who once populated the land. "Something New" is imbued with appreciation for those Native Americans, and it's also quick to acknowledge the spiritual awe the canyon creates.

"It's clear that this is kissed by something very special that has created its environment," Mays said. But he cautions that the canyon's beauty doesn't belong to any single religious point of view. "There are several different people



ON THE WEB

Hear Mays' poem and the rest of the Wild I-70 audio tour by downloading the izi.TRAVEL app and searching for Wild I-70.

with great ideologies who loves this place and see it differently."

Prather said "Schoolhouse Rock" and its ability to teach via catchy jingles inspire her. As the organization continues to add segments, it will learn from the reaction to those that came before. If people take away a nugget or two about the world beyond their windshields, Prather said, that will be a success.

In this land admiration is the only currency

*So leave everything intact
And leave nothing behind*

The italicized breaks within the story are lines from "Something New" by Jovan Mays.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Be part of the art

Carbondale Arts seeks volunteers for Mountain Fair, which will take place July 27-29 at Sopris Park. More than 300 volunteers make the festival happen each year. Sign up at carbondalearts.com.

("Constellations"), Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Play for Bob Moore ("The Price") and Outstanding Lighting Design Tier 2 for Sean Jeffries ("Constellations"). The awards ceremony is scheduled for July 23 in Denver.

Theatre awards

Thunder River Theatre Company received four nominations for the Colorado Theatre Guild's Henry Awards. The annual awards ceremony honors outstanding achievements during the past season. Thunder River is nominated for Outstanding Production of a Play ("Constellations," directed by Mike Monroney), Outstanding Direction of a Play for Mike Monroney

Make art that will last

Join artist Shannon Muse to create a mosaic table that will be part of the Rio Grande ARTWay's Latino Folk Art Garden. Community art days will take place Thursdays from 2-4 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-noon at Paradise Art Glass at 289 Sopris Ave. in Carbondale. All sessions are free, and you can sign up at paradiseartglass@sopris.net.

Thank you!

We would like to send a huge thank you to Angie, Joe, and the wonderful customers of TRAFFIC for supporting Lucky Day during their Spring shopping event!

We continue to be humbled by the support of our local businesses who are making a difference for animals in need! Woof!

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