**Upcoming Events**

Sun., May 27, 1:00-4:00 p.m.  
**Opening Day of Elbert County Museum**  
(The Museum is open Thursday - Sunday, 1:00-4:00 p.m. every week through the summer)

Fri., June 8, 6:00 p.m.  
**Pioneer Fourth Planning Meeting**

Fri., June 15  
**History Colorado’s “Tours and Treks”**  
(includes Elbert County Museum)

Sat., June 30, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
**Kiowa Street Fair**  
(Museum open all day)

Wed., July 4, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
**Pioneer Fourth Celebration**

Sun., September 2, 1:00-4:00 p.m.  
**Closing Day of Elbert County Museum**

Sat., September 8, 10:00 a.m.  
**Volunteer Appreciation and Annual Membership Meeting**

Please check our website:  
[www.elbertcountymuseum.org](http://www.elbertcountymuseum.org)  
for any changes or updates to the schedule.

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**Welcome to the 2012 Season!**

**Arc and Spark: The Story of Electricity** - The museum’s main exhibit this year focuses on the advent of electricity to the towns and rural areas of Elbert County. It includes photographs and artifacts from the early days of electricity and stories of people as they adjusted to the electrical inventions and the effects they had on their daily lives. Discover the various power plants that existed in Elbert County at one time. Check out the before-and-after appliances, equipment and home furnishings. Also there is a display demonstrating the early wiring of electricity. There is something for all ages to recognize, reminisce about and enjoy.

**Centennial Celebration** - Since this is the 100th anniversary of the county courthouse building, view a part of its history in the judge’s bench and courtroom furniture on permanent display in the museum’s East Room. Legend has it that the bench, witness stand and jury box were original furnishings in a courthouse at Cripple Creek, Colorado. Following the construction and dedication of Elbert County’s third courthouse in 1912, the furniture was freighted to the new courtroom by Elbert County Under-Sheriff Roy Brown.

Main Street has seen some changes over the winter. See if you can spot some new items that might have appeared in the mercantile and elsewhere after electricity arrived!

Thanks to all who contributed to the writing of this issue of the Smoky Hill Express.
**PIONEER 4TH**

'**A Grand Old Fashioned Celebration**'

**Wednesday - July 4th**

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

at the Elbert County Museum Grounds

By popular request the game of horseshoes is back this year and a costume parade for all ages has been added! Come see what is new or sit back and enjoy the old favorites as you spend July 4th celebrating with family and friends. Once again there will be live music, good food, craft booths and games for all, as well as the traditional pie judging and auction and the watermelon eating contest.

**Costume Parade**

Come as a particular person in history, wear a costume from an historical period, or simply dress in a patriotic costume. The parade line-up will be at 12:30 p.m. near the games area. All ages, including adults, wearing a full costume will receive free tickets to use at the games, cakewalk or snow cone booth.

**Pie Judging and Auction**

If you are interested in entering your pie(s) for the pie judging, please bring them to the museum by 11:30 a.m. (no cream pies please). The auction will start at 1:00 p.m. and is a fundraiser for the museum. We thank all of you who donate your pies and those who bid on them!

**Craft Booths**

10' x 10' craft booth space is available for $15.00. Booths will be set up on the basketball court next to the museum. Crafter Registration forms can be printed from our website under the Pioneer Fourth page at: [www.elbertcountymuseum.org/crafterform.pdf](http://www.elbertcountymuseum.org/crafterform.pdf) or you can contact Carla Martell at 303-621-2229

**Silent Auction**

This is a great way to donate and/or to bid on any items as part of the museum's fundraising. If you would like to donate to the silent auction, please contact Carla Martell at 303-621-2229. Items need to be received by Saturday, June 16th.

**News Briefs from ECHS**

Colorado Department of Transportation recently transferred a collection of prehistoric artifacts to ECHS. The artifacts are the result of CDOT highway construction projects through Elbert County over the years. This new collection is on permanent loan and we look forward to developing a display of Native American artifacts found in the area based on this new acquisition.

Just a reminder: All meetings count as one of your two activities if you have chosen to be a member of ECHS by donating your time. Membership forms are available at the new welcome area in the museum as well as on-line: [www.elbertcountymuseum.org/membershipform.pdf](http://www.elbertcountymuseum.org/membershipform.pdf). Membership follows the calendar year.

The presentation by Lee Whiteley last November on the Cherokee Trail, co-hosted by ECHS and the Elbert County Library District, was so well attended that the Board is looking at possible future programs to expand the community outreach and educational goals. Scheduled activities will always be listed on the website, [www.elbertcountymuseum.org](http://www.elbertcountymuseum.org).

ECHS stocks a booth at the Carriage Shoppes on Main Street in Elizabeth all year with books on local history and other books of historical interest. Feel free to check it out when the museum is not open or whenever you’re in Elizabeth.

**Central Plains Tour**

History Colorado’s Tours and Treks for 2012 include the “Colorado’s Central Plains” tour on Friday, June 15th. The tour begins at the Comanche Crossing Museum in Strasburg and then comes to the Elbert County Museum. For more information on this or other History Colorado activities, visit [www.HistoryColorado.org](http://www.HistoryColorado.org).

For additional information, volunteer opportunities and schedule of events, check out our website: [www.elbertcountymuseum.org](http://www.elbertcountymuseum.org)
**Centennial Celebrations**

**Simla:** The town of Simla was named after the hill town of Simla in India by the daughter of a Rock Island Railroad superintendent, who was reading a book on India at the time. Simla was incorporated in 1912. During the 1930's, the town was a leading shipping point for pinto beans in the Pikes Peak area.

**Kiowa:** Unlike other towns in Elbert County which were built along the railroad lines, the town of Kiowa had its start in 1859 as a stage station on a branch of the Smoky Hill stage route. In the 1860's, the community was known as Middle Kiowa, and the town was incorporated in 1912 as Kiowa. It was designated the county seat when Elbert County was formed in 1874.

**County Courthouse Building:** Elbert County’s third courthouse building was completed in 1912 and celebrated with a bear barbeque on the east lawn. The building was designed by Denver architect John J. Huddart and was built by M. J. Kenney, a Denver contractor.

**Enjoy Volunteering This Summer**

If you were unable to attend the Volunteer Orientation on May 12th, you’re still able to enjoy the museum as a volunteer host and at the Pioneer Fourth. Please contact Carla Martell at 303-621-2229 as she has the calendar for the hosts. Also, there will be a Pioneer Fourth planning meeting on Friday, June 8th at 6:00 pm at the museum office if you would like to volunteer and help with the Pioneer Fourth activities.

**Gift Shop**

Whenever you find yourself needing a gift, remember the museum’s Gift Shop is open Thursday through Sunday from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. We are happy to have you browse as you look for something for yourself or for a special occasion.

This year you will find a wider range of books for adults and children. The crafts continue to expand in variety as well, including handmade items for infants and children. So if you are looking for a unique handcrafted gift or a book about the west or the Elbert County area, please check out the Gift Shop.

Take advantage of our 2-day Father's Day Special on Friday, June 15th and Saturday, June 16th. Save 15-20% off on selected books and craft items, including leatherwork and woodworking.

**Word Search Unscramble Electrical Terms**

Unscramble each of the clue words.

- RAYTETB
- DOCROCTUN
- TERNURC
- NURGOD
- SFLEROENUTC
- SULTOARIN
- TAIKOLWT
- MLA
- TIHCSW
- RORNFARMEST
- GLTAVOE

Take the letters that appear in □ and unscramble them for the final message

□□□□□□□

Answers on page 4
Thank you for your commitment to the educational and historical importance of the Elbert County Museum to the communities and residents of Elbert County!

The Elbert County Museum is owned and operated by the Elbert County Historical Society, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

It’s not too late to be a sponsor for the 2012 Season. You may still be listed on the summer fliers and signage as well as the fall Smoky Hill Express newsletter depending upon when you send your sponsorship form in.

For more information on the levels and benefits of seasonal sponsorships, please visit our website at www.elbertcountymuseum.org. Thank you for your interest and your willingness to support ECHS as we honor Elbert County’s history.

The museum OPENS Sunday - May 27th!

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Elbert County Historical Society & Museum
518 Comanche Street • PO Box 43 • Kiowa, Colorado 80117

Be sure to check out our website at www.elbertcountymuseum.org