

HISTORY IN DENVER

5280

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SPECIAL ISSUE

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Our comprehensive guide to the players, the protests, the traffic, the nightlife, and much more

plus

Ken Salazar's Unlikely Ascent by MAXIMILLIAN POTTER
Greeley's New America by ROBERT SANCHEZ



ORANGE (AND BLUE) CRUSH
In Praise of
Bronco Nation's
Craziest Fans

HEAD FOR THE HILLS
10 Perfect Day
Trips Along the
Front Range

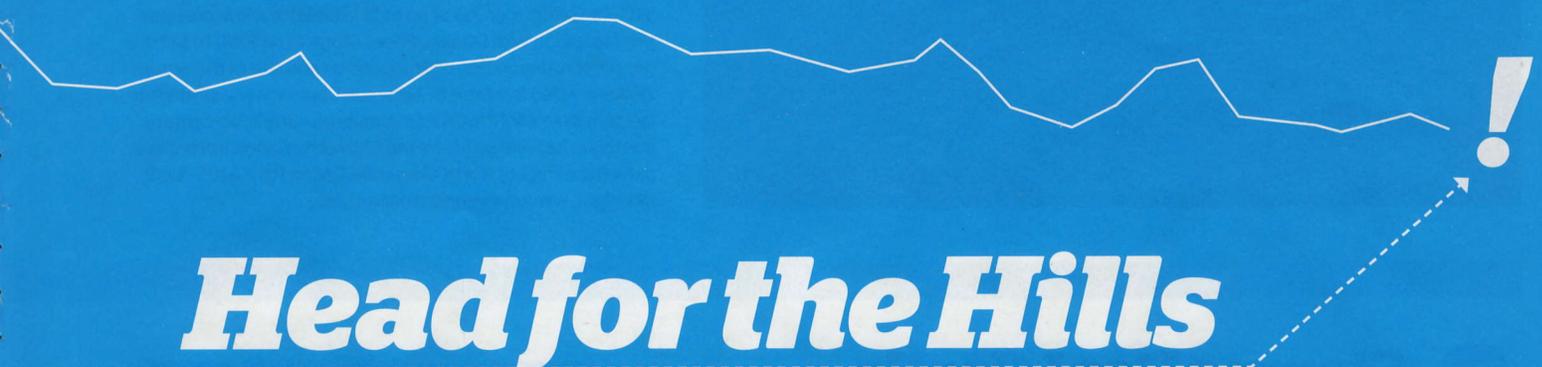
BOUND FOR BEIJING
An Inside Look
at Colorado's
Olympic Hopefuls

"From the snow-capped
Rockies of Colorado...
Let freedom ring!"
—August 28, 1963

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Head for the Hills

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DRIVE FAR TO GET AWAY. HERE, OUR 10 PICKS FOR OFF-THE-BEATEN-PATH ADVENTURES IN THE FOOTHILLS.

EDITED BY CHERYL MEYERS | PHOTOGRAPH BY CELIN SERBO

1

LIKE A PRO One of Alison Dunlap's students shows off her skills in Colorado Springs.



Conquer the Buckhorn Trail

ENHANCE YOUR MOUNTAIN BIKE SKILLS WITH LOCAL PRO ALISON DUNLAP.

GOLD CAMPRoad, COLORADO SPRINGS If your bunny hop isn't hopping and your brakes are always smoking, maybe it's time for a skills tune-up. Former World Champion Alison Dunlap offers private clinics throughout the summer and fall in the hills near Gold Camp Road, above her Colorado Springs home. After some flatland drills, you'll practice technical climbing on the Buckhorn Trail, followed by fearless downhill on Capt. Jack's bumps and chutes, bolstered by tips from Dunlap and her pro instructors. "There's a very difficult switchback halfway up Buckhorn that's in a lot of loose gravel," says Dunlap. "We'll talk about this section, demonstrate, and then have the riders practice till they get it." Intimidated by riding with a two-time Olympian? Dunlap swears her clinics can be tailored to any ability level—even first-timers.

DOUGALD MACDONALD

VITALS: Gather a group of up to 15 friends for a low-pressure private lesson with Dunlap. Prices range from \$250 to \$350 per person, depending on the location and size of the group; clinics are also available in Jefferson County. www.alisondunlap.com **STAY OVERNIGHT:** Originally an early 20th-century gambling hall and bordello, the Cheyenne Cañon Inn is close to the bike trails of North Cheyenne Cañon Park. \$105-\$235 per night. www.cheyennecanoninn.com

2 Storm a Real Castle

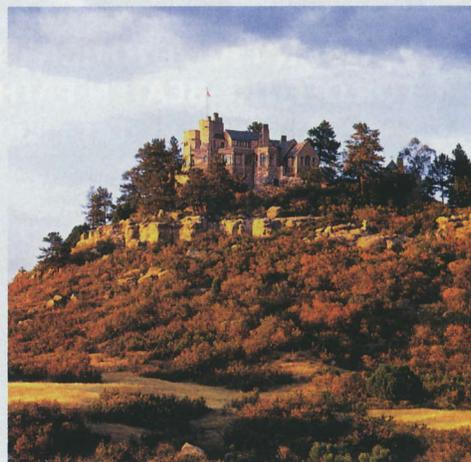
LIVE IT UP AT THIS MANSION-CUM-CULTURAL CENTER.

CHEROKEE RANCH AND CASTLE, SEDALIA

Built in 1926, the Cherokee Ranch and Castle's original purpose was to serve as the summer home and hunting retreat for Denver real estate magnate Charles Alfred Johnson and his cronies. While it has been open for tours and teas for 12 years, since 2006 it has also hosted a summer per-

forming arts series that showcases some of the Front Range's best talent (think: Colorado Symphony Orchestra and the Denver Center Theatre Company). Preconcert festivities include a wine tasting and dinner, but the highlight is a tour that explains the castle's hodge-podge of architectural styles. **NATASHA GARDNER**

VITALS: This month see Lynn Baker and the Lamont School of Music (Aug. 16) or "Shakespeare's Women: Lovers, Mothers, Queens, and Courtesans," presented by the Denver Center Theatre Company (Aug. 24). 303-688-5555, www.cherokeeranch.org **STAY OVERNIGHT:** Make a rezzie to stay in one of the 55 historic rooms at the renowned Cliff House in Manitou Springs. www.thecliffhouse.com



COURTESY ALISON DUNLAP; CASTLE: COURTESY CHEROKEE RANCH & CASTLE