

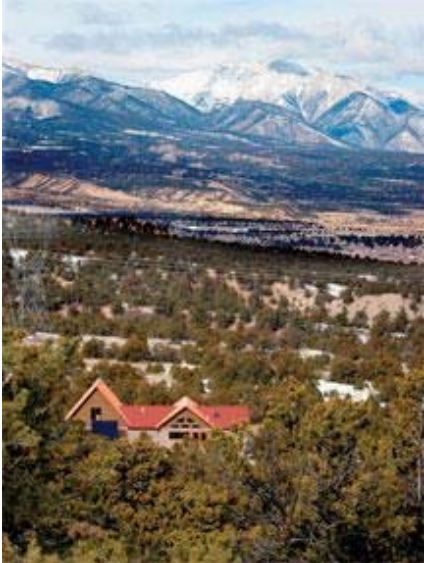
# The Pueblo Chieftain

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**Salida subdivision emphasizes green**

Print Page



CHIEFTAIN PHOTOS/TRACY HARMON -- Boot Hill, positioned on Methodist Mountain, affords great views of the Collegiate Peaks.



Laura Bussing, of Bussing Construction, built the first environmentally friendly home in Boot Hill Subdivision in Salida.

*The developer is offering land deals and the builder will make homes environmentally friendly.*

By TRACY HARMON  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

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Bussing (right) describes how the solar panels work to (from left) Brock Oyler, Kort Oyler and Martin Epp.

**SALIDA** - Owners of a local subdivision are trying their own form of economic stimulus package to generate some interest among buyers during tough economic times.

The owners of the Boot Hill Subdivision on Methodist Mountain, George Oyler and his sons Brock and Kort, are offering, for a limited time, owner financing, \$1,000 in credit to use at area businesses and \$500 toward well drilling.

"We want to get things rolling because we didn't want to see Chaffee County going the way other spots are going," said Kort Oyler, vice president of Boot Hill Subdivision.

Boot Hill sits on more than 1,000 acres of Methodist Mountain property that visionary former Mountain Mail newspaper publisher George Oyler, now 92, bought more than 30 years ago. It is the first subdivision he has done with the help of his sons.

Boot Hill has 67.6 acres and the lots range from 2 acres to 4 acres in size with a cost of between \$69,900 to \$199,900. There are 21 lots in the subdivision and most have not been sold.

"Just when there is an economic slowdown we want to bring people's attention to this. It (real estate market) is pretty slow in general, but there are still people trying to get out of the city and have a new way of life." said Martin Epp, real estate broker with First Colorado Land Office in Salida. "When you are investing in something like land it is always going to go up again someday," Kort Oyler said.

The marketing emphasis for Boot Hill is on environmentally friendly concepts. For example, the subdivision uses rain gardens for stormwater management. That uses native plants to soak up rainwater, avoid erosion and help recharge groundwater.

Boot Hill covenants restrict water-wasting landscaping such as bluegrass lawns.

Homes can't have wood exteriors, so they are wildfire resistant.

The first home built in Boot Hill is Laura and Tony Bussing's green home. The two own Bussing

Construction and are certified green professionals who plan to use their home as a model for showing environmental-friendly construction.

The Bussings rely on solar panels to supply heat and electricity, passive solar amenities, energy-efficient appliances and environmentally friendly materials.

They have used materials like worm-hole maple and beetle-kill pine for cabinets and panelling. Concrete floors soak up the sun's warmth in winter and stay cool in the summer.

She said green homes can range from Built-Green-Colorado-certified, which cost a little more than regular built-to-code homes, or ultimate green like her own home.

"We don't mandate strictly green building because it ought to be the buyer's choice, so we are a little more flexible," Brock Oyler said.

For information about green construction, call the Bussings at 719-539-5373 or log onto [www.BussingConstruction.com](http://www.BussingConstruction.com) . A free seminar on Green Building and Sustainable Living is slated for 1 p.m. Feb. 21 at Bongo Billy's in Salida and will culminate with a tour of the Bussing home.

For information about Boothill, call Epp at 719-539-6682 or log onto [www.firstcolorado.com](http://www.firstcolorado.com) .