



Cody Marks, left, and his father Steve contemplate the next move in resurrecting the 127-year-old railway water tower at Elkhorn.



Right, Cody moves a ladder into place to advance on the restoration work. Clearly visible on the outside of the tank are lighter bands of color where metal bands had been in place. Those were painstakingly removed earlier this summer as part of the effort to stabilize the old tower to save it for future generations to appreciate. (Photos by Bruce Bell and Dr. John Smith)

What came down must go up: Saving the old railway water tower above Elkhorn

by Jan Anderson, editor
The 'ghost town' of Elkhorn east of Boulder has been abuzz with activity this summer as volunteers and contracted help strive

to stabilize a 127-year-old railway water tank. Earlier this summer, the *Monitor* shared photos with readers as the tank was dismantled. The

conical roof was taken down. Heavy metal bands were removed from around the tank after a temporary frame was placed inside to assure that the large vertical planks on the exterior did not collapse before they could be carefully removed.

In the past couple of weeks, project supporters have been working hard to get the tank rebuilt in a way they hope will preserve it for tourists, students, railroad lovers and others, perhaps for another 127 years.

Instrumental in the rebuilding process have been three generations of the Marks family of Clancy.

Friends of the Elkhorn Water Tank formed in 2012 to begin saving the historic tank. It was

listing badly, and an engineering report found "the potential for stabilizing and restoring the tank in a state of arrested decay is high if action is taken soon to stabilize

the structure to prevent total collapse." Temporary support beams were added to brace the tower until more permanent action could be taken.



Cody Marks finishes the frame that will strengthen the tower.



Three generations of the Marks family – from left, Cody, Steve and Bob – have been "very instrumental in the progress and have donated an invaluable amount of both time and materials" for the completion of the Elkhorn water tank restoration project, says Bruce Bell, one of the project organizers. (Photo courtesy of Bruce Bell)




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August Happenings at Boulder Community Library

16 - Tai Chi 9 am, Kid Crafters 3:30, 6:30 Movie "Tora, Tora, Tora"
18 - Tai Chi 9 am
21 - Solar eclipse
22 - Story Hour 11 am, 3-D Origami class 6:30 pm



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