

# Snapdragons bloom in woman's gravel drive

By Chad Hunt  
Staff Writer

AURORA — Even though the gravel driveway leading to the shed in Judy Christensen's backyard in Aurora is covered in a thick bed of colorful snapdragon flowers, she insists they aren't there because of something she did.

"I didn't do it," Christensen said. "I just don't get it, I really don't. People ask me how I did it, and I tell them I didn't do it."

According to Christensen, a few years back she planted some snapdragons in her backyard flower bed, just as she had done for three or four years before, and the following spring they appeared at the top end of the gravel pathway near the shed door.

Last year, Christensen said they spread up the driveway, and this year, they extended even farther to the end of the driveway, growing "thick as hair on a dog's back."

As to how they got started in that area, Christensen said when she cut the flowers from her flower bed in the fall, the seeds from the plants must have spread across the drive and taken root.

"I just let them go, because I can't kill flowers," Christensen said. Since they started about three years ago, the snapdrag-



CHAD HUNT/RICHFIELD REAPER

The evening sun illuminates a sea of colorful snapdragons Aug. 16 in the gravel driveway leading to Judy Christensen's backyard shed at her home in Aurora. Christensen said she originally had the flowers in a bed in her backyard a few years ago, and when she took the dead flowers out to the trash, the seeds spread, and have continued to spread until they've overtaken the gravel path.

ons have continued to spread, keeping primarily to the gravel driveway and moving out toward the road.

Over the years, as the wild flower patch has grown, Christensen said new colors have sprung up, mixing with others and creating new varieties all the time.

"The funny thing is that I only had orange and yellow

ones in my backyard," Christensen said. "I have no idea where all the colors came from, I really don't."

Christensen said she has had to spray weed killer to keep the snapdragons back off the roadway, but other than that, she lets them do their thing.

"I spray them with a hose every once in a while, but I never deep water them," Christensen

said. "There are always new ones coming. I'm not sure what to do with them."

For people who have a hard time getting anything to grow in their flower beds, Christensen said she recommends pouring a layer of gravel and tossing some snapdragon seeds on it.

"I still can't get them to grow in my flower bed in the backyard," Christensen said.



COURTESY/STAN POULSON

Utah Highway Patrol Sgt. Wayne Gifford holds a Patriot Award, which was presented to him Aug. 8. The award was given for Gifford's support of the Utah National Guard.

## Gifford given Patriot Award

A Utah Highway Patrol officer was selected to receive a Patriot Award for his support of soldiers in the Utah National Guard.

UHP Sgt. Wayne Gifford was presented the award Aug. 8. He was nominated for the honor by James Curtis, Washington City, a member of the Utah Air National Guard 151 Maintenance Group and UHP trooper.

"I have been deployed overseas two times in the last three years," Curtis said. "This places a burden on my family, as well as my fellow crew members who have to pick up my work load while deployed. Wayne is very supportive of

my deployments." Curtis said Gifford makes sure the shifts are covered and also checks on his family while he is deployed.

Curtis said the support he receives from Gifford has made it possible for him to make it past the 20-year mark in the Air National Guard.

The Patriot Award is given by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to supervisors and employers who go the extra mile in supporting military reservists.

For more information, or to nominate an employer, contact Stan Poulson, ESGR representative, at (435) 896-4897.



CHAD HUNT/RICHFIELD REAPER

Steven Phillips, 58, rides his bicycle on Main Street in Richfield Aug. 16, as he makes his way on a 1,600-mile pilgrimage from his home in Balboa Island, Calif., to Omaha, Neb., where he said he hopes to gain a meeting with billionaire investor Warren Buffett to pitch what he said is a revolutionary philanthropic idea. He said his goal is to make it to Omaha on Buffett's 81st birthday, Tuesday, Aug. 30, after *Reaper* press time.

## California man passes through area on 1,600-mile 'pilgrimage'

By Chad Hunt  
Staff Writer

When Steven Phillips pedaled into Richfield at approximately 9 p.m., Aug. 15, he had finished a 97-mile day, and approximately 40 percent of a 1,600-mile trek that would take him from his home in Balboa Island, Calif., to Omaha, Neb., to meet billionaire investor Warren Buffett.

The Warren Buffett Pilgrimage, as Phillips has dubbed his traverse, is an effort to try to gain the attention of the philanthropist with the end goal to try to get a meeting with him on his 81st birthday, which is Tuesday, Aug. 30, after *Reaper* press time.

"It's extremely hard to get a meeting with him, but it looks like I'm going to get it," Phillips said. He said he has been in contact with a reporter named Steven Jordan from the Omaha World-Herald since before the journey began.

As Phillips' travels have progressed, he said Jordan, whose reports follow Buffett, has been in contact with the billionaire's offices about the likelihood of Phillips scoring his Aug. 30 meeting.

"They haven't said yes, but they're sort of leaning that way," Phillips said. "I think they're waiting to see if I actually make it."

In order to make it by the birthday deadline, Phillips must average approximately 73 miles per day, with many of the days broken up into different length increments.

For example, the day after Phillips reached Richfield, his next day of travels were only to make it 20 miles to Salina. From Salina, however, he had two planned days each consisting of more than 100 miles — Salina to Green River and Green River to Grand Junction, Colo. — in mountainous terrain.

The end goal of meeting Buffett isn't just for a meet and greet, however. Phillips said he has some serious business he wants to lay out before the philanthropist with the hopes of getting some backing from the octogenarian.

"I admire [Buffett], but I wouldn't ride 1,600 miles just to shake his hand," Phillips said. "I'm going there because I want him to get behind my idea."

Though Phillips said he couldn't reveal the details of his

concept, as it would negate the purpose of his bicycle sojourn, he did say that it was a philanthropic venture that had the possibility to turn how nonprofits raise funds upside down.

"It's something I think could help charities get off the treadmill of constant fundraising," Phillips said. "It would make it so they wouldn't have to do that all year every year."

The inspiration for the concept came from his friendship with renowned British primatologist and philanthropist Jane Goodall, who Phillips said now spends nearly 11 months of the year on the road raising awareness and funds for her nonprofit institute.

Phillips said his idea is designed to help people like Goodall not have to spend so much time raising money, so they can focus on the causes they are trying to support.

"I've been in business for nearly 35 years, so I look at fundraising a little differently," Phillips said. He said in order to get the attention of Buffett in an effort to get the billionaire to back his proposal, he said he has had to look at his attempt to score the meeting differently as well.

"I never intended to do this," Phillips said. He said he met with an acquaintance in Canada, who is also close to Buffett, to discuss the concept and the possibility of getting Buffett behind it.

According to Phillips, the man said it was a good idea, but when Phillips said he was planning to fly down to try to meet with Buffett, the man told him it would never work.

"He said, 'No, that's not good enough — you have to walk there,'" Phillips said.

Because of the time it would take to walk, Phillips said his plan to make it on Buffett's birthday would be impossible. It was then that he came up with the idea to make the journey on a bike.

"I haven't owned a bike in 30 years," Phillips said. He said a couple of years ago he rented a bicycle and took a 100-mile ride, which didn't go as well as he'd hoped.

"It nearly killed me," Phillips said.

To prepare for his Warren Buffett Pilgrimage, Phillips said he purchased a brand new bike, and took it on a 50-mile test run to help him gear up for the chal-

lenge. Now, he has pushed the bike another 900-plus miles en route to Omaha.

Along the way, in another concerted effort to try to gain the attention of the Omaha billionaire with whom he hopes to score a sit down, Phillips is stopping in at some of the cities through which he is passing, including Richfield, and asking them to send Buffett a birthday card and a small gift representing their city to Omaha for the philanthropist's birthday.

As Phillips presented the idea to Janie Maughn at the city offices in Richfield Aug. 16, he explained from where the idea had come as he jotted down some instructions to leave for Mayor Brad Ramsay regarding

his mission.

"I just thought it would be interesting," Phillips said. "Warren Buffett is a simple guy, ... and he likes people."

Phillips said he was pretty sure his gift idea, as well as his bicycle pilgrimage, was something no one had ever attempted, at least to try to reach Buffett.

"They say it's hard to buy something for a rich person because they already have everything, but they don't get things like this," Phillips said. "I just thought he'd like a little hello from each city I had passed through wishing him a happy birthday."

For more information, log onto [www.warrenbuffettpilgrimage.com](http://www.warrenbuffettpilgrimage.com).

**THIS IS NOT A GOOD COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**  
Ignoring a hearing problem won't make it go away

Take control of your hearing!

YOU MAKE THE CALL. WE'LL DO THE REST.

**\$500 OFF**  
AN AGX5, 7, or 9  
TWO-DEVICE HEARING SYSTEM

Free Demonstration & Test Drive Available  
\*Expires 10/31/11. Offer cannot be combined with any other promotional discount.

**AUDIOLOGY ASSOCIATES OF HOLLADAY**  
1100 North Main St  
RICHFIELD, UT 84701  
**800.244.9001**  
a member of HOLLADAY GROUP

View our educational video on hearing at [www.hearholladay.com](http://www.hearholladay.com)

**christensen's clothing**  
RICHFIELD

**LABOR DAY**  
WEEKEND SALE

We will be open Labor Day, Mon., Sept. 5, Noon - 5 p.m.

**30% OFF**  
Valid Thurs-Fri-Sat-Mon Sept. 1-2-3-5 Only

**ONE REGULAR PRICE ITEM OF YOUR CHOICE**  
(Excludes Levi & Wrangler products, quilting batts, candy & gift cards)

**30% OFF**  
Valid Thurs-Fri-Sat-Mon Sept. 1-2-3-5 Only

**ONE REGULAR PRICE ITEM OF YOUR CHOICE**  
(Excludes Levi & Wrangler products, quilting batts, candy & gift cards)

**SUPER COUPONS** **CLIP & SAVE**