

ARPA funds allocated to nonprofits



John Scarffe
Gilpin County

The Gilpin County Commissioners allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to local nonprofit organizations during a regular meeting on May 9, 2023, at 9 a.m. at the Courthouse in Central City. The Board also approved local historic designation for the Russell Gulch cemetery, a behavioral health contract for the Sheriff's Department, and a proclamation for mental health month.

County Manager Ray Rears presented a resolution awarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds to local nonprofit organizations. He said the County received \$1.2 million, which has been allocated over the last two years.

The Board agreed to set aside \$300,000 for nonprofit organizations. The deadline to apply was March 31. The County received applications and the Board had a work session with applicants, each giving a 10-minute presentation.

The Board agreed to award \$211,000. The organizations and amounts awarded are: Gilpin

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Career Week celebrated at NES



PHOTO BY SARA SANDSTROM

Sara Sandstrom
Nederland

Nederland Elementary School (NES) had a special week learning about many different jobs and career opportunities from community members. All week the students heard from a variety of people and what they are an expert in.

The week started off with an all school assembly with a librarian, firefighter, scientist, artist, lawyer, and journalist each giving a short presentation about what they do on the job. They also shared something they learned in school that now helps them with their work today.

Throughout the week different community members came to NES

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Exploring careers

Heather Pietrykowski came to the fourth grade career fair to talk about her work as a beekeeper during Nederland Elementary School's Career Week.

Gilpin Track sets another record



PHOTO BY DAVE GIBSON

Dave Gibson
Longmont

With three meets remaining on their schedule this year, the Gilpin Track and Field Team traveled to Longmont on May 5 & 6 to face 12 other rival programs in the always fun and ever exciting Mile High League Meet. Longs Peak and NCAC Leagues would also be there. Times tend to be faster and distances farther this time of year as student-athletes hone their skills with an eye toward qualifying for the Colorado State Championships held May 18-20 in Lakewood.

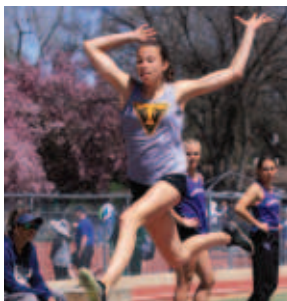
Ryan Hanssen shaved 2.3 seconds off his previous best in the 200m. Not to be outdone by his teammate, Maximus Tanner ran his fastest-ever 800m by bettering his old mark by a full 16 seconds. Avery Ramsey, Makenzie Marr, Alison Antill, and Jiselle Osteboe of the Girls 4x200m relay team had set a Gilpin school record merely three days before at the Highland Twilight Invitational. That new mark figured to be in jeopardy again.

A sixth-place finisher in the 300m hurdles at last year's state championships,

Twice in one week

Avery Ramsey in the first leg of the fastest Girls 4x200m Relay in school history.

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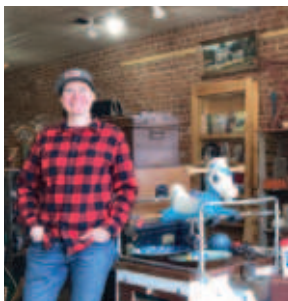
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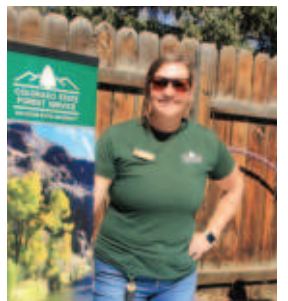
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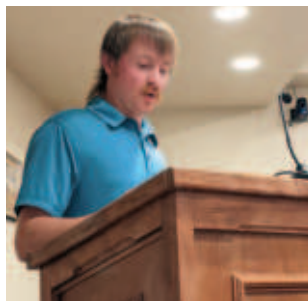
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- QUOTE OF THE WEEK -

"To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance." ~Oscar Wilde

Music of the Mountains: Adam Hunt

Jamie Lammers
Nederland

When Adam Hunt was a kid, his father would wake him and his siblings up on weekend mornings by putting a vinyl record on his turntable and turning it up as loud as he could. The music could have been anything, from classical to jazz to rock to country. It always played throughout the house while Hunt would chase his brother around the dining room table or while they would nap in the sun. These became some of Hunt's most formative memories.

This wasn't Hunt's only experience with music. His grandparents took him to orchestra performances constantly, and his father played the piano. He tried learning piano himself for a while and even played saxophone in junior high band (despite being his third choice after the drums and the French horn). Eventually, while a teenager, he started playing the guitar. He played his first gig at a house party shortly after he started guitar, and during these gigs, he tries to play as varied of a show as he can in regard to musical styles.

Partly because he doesn't know how to read music and partly because he likes experimenting, Hunt basically lets the songs he writes go where they take him. They don't usually follow a verse-chorus structure, and he's recently taken to classifying his music as acoustic Prague or progressive acoustic music. He says that despite a slight aversion to playing live, he's currently looking for more shows outside of his gigs at Very Nice Brewing Company.

Music is a compulsion for him, and he wants people to have a good time at his shows, whether he blends more into the background as people talk amongst themselves in a bar environment or whether he ends up playing music that people are able to connect to.

You can see Adam Hunt (RedHed) playing at Very Nice Brewing Company, 20 East Lakeview Drive #112 in Nederland, on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at 5 p.m.

Busey Brews

Sunday, May 14 at 2 p.m. - Ella Wren
Sunday, May 21 at 2 p.m. - Troy Yanel
Sunday, May 28 at 2 p.m. - Eric Stone

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BuseyBrews/>
Website: <https://buseybrews.com/>

Email: contact@buseybrews.com
Location: 70 E. 1st Street, Nederland.
Phone: 1-855-633-2739

Canyon Tavern

Saturday, May 13 at 6 p.m. - JJ Fraser
Friday, May 19 at 6 p.m. - Karaoke Night
Saturday, May 20 at 6 p.m. - Neil Z
Friday, May 26 at 6 p.m. - Will Whelan
Saturday, May 27 at 6 p.m. - Gregg Green

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Coalcreekcanyontavern>
Location: 32138 Highway 72, Coal Creek Canyon.
Phone: 303-642-3180

Caribou Room

Friday, May 19 at 8 p.m. - Rootz N Kultcha Tour
Friday, May 26 at 8 p.m. - Donna the Buffalo

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thecaribouroom/>
Website: <https://www.thecaribouroom.com/>
Location: 55 Indian Peaks Drive, Nederland.
Phone: 303-258-3637

Covered Wagon

Every Sunday at 8 p.m. - Karaoke

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/coveredwagonrestaurantsaloon/>
Website: <https://www.coveredwagonrestaurant.com/>
Location: 15 East 1st Street, Nederland.
Phone: 303-258-7578

Gold Hill Inn

Friday, May 12 at 8 p.m. - Chain Station
Saturday, May 13 at 7 p.m. - Lisa Lestander and Jon Sousa
Sunday, May 14 at 6 p.m. - Kate Farmer Duo
Friday, May 19 at 8 p.m. - The Fretliners
Saturday, May 20 at 7 p.m. - Dan McCorison
Sunday, May 21 at 6 p.m. - Montana Sand
Friday, May 26 at 7 p.m. - Chatham Rabbits
Saturday, May 27 at 6 p.m. - Damn Tall Buildings
Sunday, May 28 at 6 p.m. - Danny Shafer



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM HUNT

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GoldHillInn/>
Website: goldhillinn.com
Email: cfinn@goldhillinn.com; bfinn@goldhillinn.com
Location: 401 Main Street, Gold Hill.
Phone: 303-443-6461

Howlin Wind Brewing

Sunday May 14 at 4 p.m. - Open Bluegrass Jam
Sunday May 28 at 4 p.m. - Open Bluegrass Jam

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/howlinwindbrewing>
Website: <https://www.howlinwindbrewing.com/>
Location: 51 A Main Street, Rollinsville.
Phone: 309-825-5245

Jamestown Mercantile

Thursday, May 11 at 7 p.m. - Cosmic Charlies Duo
Friday, May 12 at 7 p.m. - Jay Silence Band
Wednesday, May 17 at 5 p.m. - Open Mic Night
Thursday, May 18 at 7 p.m. - Zizania Music
Friday, May 19 at 7 p.m. - Stellar J Jazz
Sunday, May 21 at 12:15 p.m. - Jackson Maloney
Thursday, May 25 at 7 p.m. - Micki Balder and Taylor Sharpe
Friday, May 26 at 7 p.m. - Intergalactic Peace Jelly
Sunday, May 28 at 12 p.m. - Matty G

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jamestownmercantile/>
Website: <https://www.jamestownmercantile.com/>
Location: 108 Main Street, Jamestown.
Phone: 303-442-5847

Knotted Root Brewing

Every Sunday at 4 p.m. - Jazz Sundays with Black Dog & Friends
Friday, May 19 at 5 p.m. - PJ Moon
Saturday, May 27 at 5 p.m. - DeadPhish Orchestra Chamber Ensemble (Duo)

Website: <https://www.knottedrootbrewing.com/home>
Location: 250 N. Caribou Street, Nederland.
Phone: 720-248-7129

Millsite Inn

Every Saturday at 6 p.m. - Open Jam
Friday, May 12 at 8 p.m. - High Lonesome
Saturday, May 13 at 8 p.m. - Derek Dames Ohl
Friday, May 19 at 8 p.m. - Mike from Ward
Saturday, May 20 at 8 p.m. - Many Mountains
Friday, May 26 at 8 p.m. - Jon "Black Dog" Ridnell
Sunday, May 28 at 8 p.m. - Mike and Zalen from Ward
Monday, May 29 at 8 p.m. - John McKay

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/millsiteinn.moyer>
Website: <https://millsiteinn.wixsite.com/millsiteinn>
Email: millsiteinn@gmail.com
Location: 44365 Highway 72, Ward
Phone: 720-547-9438

Nederland Farmer's Market

Sunday, May 14 at 10:30 a.m. - The Alphonates
Sunday, May 28 at 10:30 a.m. - Reservoir Fog/Rachel Schaub

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NederlandFarmersMarket/>
Website: <https://www.nederlandfarmersmarket.org/>

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COUNT the FLOWERS AND WIN

Count the flowers throughout the paper and submit your guess to info@themountaineear.com for a chance to win cool local prizes!



Music of the Mountains

Continued from page 2

Email: nederlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com
Location: 85 E. 1st Street, Nederland

Sweet Sue's

Friday, June 2 at 5 p.m. - Open Mic Night hosted by Sarah and Kirk

Website: <https://www.sweetsuesmercantile.com>
Location: 35 E. 1st Street, Nederland.

Train Cars Coffee and Kava

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Thetraincars/>
Location: 101 S. Peak to Peak Highway, Nederland
Phone: 303-258-2455

Very Nice Brewing Company

Friday, May 12 at 6 p.m. - Mountain ReVerb

Saturday, May 13 at 5 p.m. - David Cole

Thursday, May 18 at 6 p.m. - Celtic Music with The Gael

Friday, May 19 at 6 p.m. - Stone-Hall
Saturday, May 20 at 5 p.m. - Adam Hunt

Friday, May 26 at 6 p.m. - C.P. Meyer
Saturday, May 27 at 5 p.m. - Ravin' Wolf

Sunday, May 28 at 5 p.m. - FastFloyd

Facebook: www.facebook.com/verynicebeer

Website: www.verynicebrewing.com/
Location: 20 E. Lakeview Drive, #112, Nederland.

Phone: 303-258-3770

Did we miss you?

Want to submit your music listing in the Peak to Peak area? Do you have updates to your business? Please call 303-810-5409 or email info@themountaineear.com to be included in the next edition.



Local Discounts
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23922 Peak to Peak MLS#985293 \$775,000

3-bd, 3-bath home with views of Eldora Ski Resort and the back range. Inviting home with lots of room for your hobbies. Warm and cozy with new insulation, new windows on the west side, EPA-certified fireplace inserts. The solar panels (leased) produce more electricity than is needed for the house. Relax on the 600+ sq. ft decks. Lower level could have mother-in-law quarters with separate entrance. This 4.3 acre property abuts National Forest.



Cell: 303-898-2795

jimmykeith@boulderco.com

www.jimmykeithrealestate.com



Taste of the Peaks is a print and online guide featuring restaurants, breweries, wineries and distilleries across the Peak to Peak region. The guide starts in northwest Boulder County and winds down to the southern edge of Gilpin County. It includes the communities of Allenspark, Ferncliffe, Jamestown, Ward, Gold Hill, Nederland, Coal Creek Canyon, Gilpin County, Black Hawk and Central City.

Scan to read it online



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Listen in this week for a special Mother's Day tribute. We talked to Bruce Goodwin about this weekend's Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Coal Creek Canyon Improvement Association. We also get the scoop on the best place to find a great gift for your mountain mama at the Rustic Moose in Nederland.

Dango interviews local musician Patrick Latella about his upcoming album. We hear this week's music mentions from Jamie Lammers and correspondent Maryann Rosen shares the origins and history behind Mother's Day.

Find out more about the Pancake Breakfast here: <https://www.coalcreekcanyon.org/>

You can listen hear more music from Patrick Latella here: <https://patricklatella.com/>



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 We welcome thoughtful, local letters to

the editor. You can submit online on our website or by email to info@themountainear.com. Letters may be edited for length (less than 500 words) and content (rude, vulgar or obscene). Letters must include local name and address, to be considered for publication in the next available edition. We reserve the right to refuse to print letters.

Ownership:
 The Mountain-Ear is the ONLY Independently owned newspaper covering all of western Boulder County and all of Gilpin County. We also cover western Jefferson County and north Clear Creek County.

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Staff:
 The Mountain-Ear is made up of close to 40 contributors per month. Each staff member is one spoke in a very large wheel. Without one spoke, the wheel does not turn effectively. We welcome community journalists and homegrown journalism.

Community notices of government closures, community meetings, schedule changes and school events are run free of charge. Send your information in to be considered for an upcoming edition to info@themountainear.com

Gilpin County Seniors

- May 11 - Grocery Shopping at Bergen Park King Soopers
- May 12 - Free Senior Fit Class 11 a.m., Lunch at 12:15 p.m. Jefferson Center for Mental Health Program
- May 15 - Free Senior Fit Class 11 a.m.
- May 16 - Field Trip to Botanic Gardens RSVP by May 10, 2023, Call for Information
- May 16 - Grocery Shopping at Bergen Park WalMart
- May 17 - Lunch at 12:15 a.m. Birthday Party
- May 18 - Grocery Shopping at Bergen Park WalMart
- May 19 - Free Senior Fit Class 11 a.m., Lunch at 12:15 p.m. Social Time
- May 22 - Free Senior Fit Class 11 a.m.
- May 24 - Blood Pressure Clinic Lunch at 12:15 p.m., Med Alerts Program
- May 25 - Grocery Shopping at Bergen Park WalMart
- May 26 - Lunch at 12:15 p.m., Free Bingo
- May 29 - Closed for Memorial Day
- May 31 - Lunch at 12:15 p.m., Social Time

Please RSVP for the lunches at least two business days ahead. We ask for a \$2.50 donation for the lunches. All transportation is \$2.50 each one-way trip. We are doing door-to-door medical transportation at this time. Please call for details. We accept donations for the Senior Fit exercise classes. Contact us at 303-515-4292.

Peak Perspectives: Mom



June 5, 2021. Almost the whole family, home for Matt & Marti's wedding.



Barbara Hardt
 Managing Editor

What is a mom? That's a huge question for a lot of us. We all see life from different perspectives. I'd like to think I have been a good mom, but man, have I messed up a lot of things. I have amazing kids, which helps. But I have not often reacted to questions with a thoughtful ear. I have not always answered with a kind voice. I get hectic. A lot. I mean really hectic. In the last few years I have focused on all I have messed up, in hopes of somehow making it up to them. I don't know if it will ever happen, but I'm willing to give it my best try and keep trying to be a better person tomorrow and the next day, to answer for the times when I was not at my best. Right now, I feel like I am at my best. That's something, at least.

That brings me to my own mom. Mine, thankfully, is still alive and I get to see her in a few weeks. I also get to see my sister and brother, as well as my dad. All at once. A few of my kids will be there,

as well as my niece and her kids. I will also see my brother and his wife. A mini family reunion that some of us can make it to.

Growing up, my mom was busy. There were four of us until I was 13, then there were three. Then my family went through grief for many years. And I'm not really sure if we ever came out of it completely. But I know my mom (and dad) did an absolutely amazing job, despite the pain we lived through together. And my mom has always been a good listener (far better than I am). And she has worked hard all of her life. While she is retired, she really is as busy as ever. She is active in her community (we all got that call to service). My mom gardens, loves to cook, loves to walk in her neighborhood, loves spending time with her kids and grandkids and especially with my stepdad Bruce and their dog Arthur.

My mom supported everything I did. She would show up at the horse shows and gymkhanas. She made sure we had everything we needed. She drove us all

over the place. She participated in school functions, kept me going to church when I could, was on the Nederland Area Chamber of Commerce for years and always had a thumb on what we were doing. She didn't react with anger, only kindness, when we did something stupid. And we did some pretty stupid things. Yet, through it all, she was there to support us and help us find ways to make better decisions.

It's hard sometimes to have most of my family so far away, but I am thankful for the time they lived here and were part of our daily lives. I'm thankful I got an amazing mom.

As always, The Mountain-Ear is YOUR community source for news. We welcome your thoughtful letters, stories, phone calls and emails. We cover the news YOU want to read, in the communities you love. Peak to Peak.

Reach us at info@themountainear.com or by phone at 303-810-5409.



Nederland Area Seniors

- May 17 - Cod with white wine tomato sauce, quinoa, spinach salad with balsamic dressing, pineapple
- May 24 - Greek chicken, broccoli,

lemon and herb potatoes, oranges and cake to celebrate May birthdays!

May 31 - NO SENIOR LUNCH due to the Mountain Forum for Peace event.

Mountain Peak Life is a program that connects our community and builds friendships through meals together,

outings and fun activities.

Couples and singles of all ages living in the mountains and along the Peak to Peak Highway, are welcome to join us for social meals, hiking, pickleball, fitness, live music, books, writing, games, and more.

We serve lunch on Wednesday at noon

and we can usually accommodate walk-ins, although RSVPs are always helpful! Please, do give us a call at 303-258-0799 if you are planning to join us with a big party. Yoga stretches 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Proudly sponsored by Nederland Area Seniors. Checkout our website at https://mountainpeaklife.org/

Gilpin County School Calendar

Thursday, May 11

All day - Middle School Track at Clear Creek TBA
6:30 p.m. - Secondary Fine Arts & Music Concert

Friday, May 12

9:30 a.m. - High School Track Joe Shield Meet at Kremmling

Saturday, May 13

7 p.m. - Middle/Senior High School Band and Choir Music Elitches Festival

Tuesday, May 16

5:30 p.m. - District Accountability Committee (DAC)
6:30 p.m. - Board of Education (BOE) Public Forum/Proposed 23/24 Adopted Budget
7 p.m. - BOE Meeting

Wednesday, May 17

6 p.m. - Senior Scholarship Dinner

Thursday, May 18

All day - High School Track State Championship Meet TBA

Friday, May 19

All day - High School Track State Championship Meet TBA
11 a.m. - Class of 2023 Graduation

Monday, May 22

5:30 p.m. - Middle/Senior High School Arts Banquet and Middle School Performance

Thursday, May 25

6:30 p.m. - Elementary Fine Arts & Music Concert

Thursday, June 1

Last Day of School for students/ Early Release at 1 p.m.

Tuesday, June 6

7 p.m. - BOE Meeting



Wild Life

May 12 and 13
Friday and Saturday Evenings at 7 p.m.
Saturday Matinee at 2 p.m.

A sweeping portrait of conservationists Kris and Doug Tompkins chronicling their fight to preserve one of the last truly wild places on earth. Directors: Jimmy Chin, Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi. Stars: Kristine Tompkins, Yvon Chouinard, Rick Ridgeway. Rated: PG-13. Time: 1 hour and 33 minutes. Genre: Documentary.

Did you know that if you volunteer for movies, you get free admission to the movie, and free popcorn or candy and a soft drink? **Volunteer today!** The Backdoor Theatre is a 501(c)(3) Not-For-Profit group of locals who volunteer to make these shows happen.

POLICY REMINDERS: Seating is limited to first come first serve. All children under the age of 12 **MUST** be accompanied by a responsible adult for the duration of the movie. The Backdoor Theatre is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit group of locals who volunteer to make these shows happen.

750 Highway 72 North inside Nederland Community Center.

Nederland Middle Senior High School Calendar

Thursday, May 11

1:45 p.m. - 5th Grade Fun and Field Day

5:30 p.m. - High School Track & Field Banquet at NMSHS Cafeteria

Friday, May 12

All day - Loquations FTM Studios Recording
9:30 a.m. - Track & Field at St Vrain Invite, Montgomery Field, Longmont
5:15 p.m. - 6th grade Track & Field at Centaurus High School

Tuesday, May 16

5:15 p.m. - 7th/8th grade Boys Track & Field at Broomfield

Wednesday, May 17

5:15 p.m. - 7th/8th grade Girls Track & Field at Peak to Peak Charter School
5:30 p.m. - Senior Banquet

Thursday, May 18

All day - Track & Field Championships TBA

4:30 p.m. - Art at Altitude Reception

Friday, May 19

All day - Track & Field Championships TBA
7:30 a.m. - Senior Breakfast and Rehearsal

Saturday, May 20

Track & Field Championships TBA
10 a.m. - Class of 2023 Graduation

Thursday, May 25

Last Day of School for Students
2:30 p.m. - 8th Grade Promotion

Friday, May 26

Last Day of School for Teachers



What's Happening at Gilpin Parks & Rec

250 Norton Drive, Black Hawk 303-582-1453

Pool Hours

WINTER - call to confirm prior to coming
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday:

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
(closed 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Building Hours

Monday/Wednesday/Thursday:
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Friends of the Gilpin County Community Center's "Heart of the Community" Fund supports residents in need with family punch cards for daily admissions, as well as scholarships for youth who need help to cover youth sports and classes. Visit <https://gilpincommunitycenter.org/heart-of-the-community-fund/> for more info and to apply.

Youth Baseball Season: Games on Saturdays, May 22 - July 8. Registration April 18 - May 17, T-ball: Ages 5-7: Residents \$40/Non-Residents \$48, Minors: Ages 8-10: Residents \$65. Non-Residents \$78, Majors: Ages 11-13: Residents \$65. Non-Residents \$78.

Outdoor Rental Gear, Starting May 1. We are so excited to partner with Always Choose Adventures. We can't wait to show you all the great things in store for the future! Make sure you check out the NEW gear library at the Community Center. For details about our membership program please visit: <https://www.alwayschooseadventures.org/join>.

Community Center's 20th Anniversary, June 1, 1 p.m. - 8 p.m. We are celebrating 20 years of fun at the Community Center! With tons of outside events, such as obstacle courses, outdoor volleyball, cornhole, food trucks and so much more. DM us on Facebook or Instagram your photos at the Community Center over the last

20 years, so we can display them during this FREE memorable event.

Sports & Specialty Summer Day Camps for Kids. Outdoor Adventure, Soccer, and Football, K-6 grades, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., \$80 Residents/\$96 Non-Residents, Check our website for specific dates. Space is limited, register now!

30th Annual Gilpin County Fair, July 14 - 16. Join us for a fun filled weekend at the 30th Annual Gilpin County Fair! Vendor booth space available for arts & crafts, exhibition of products, games, information and education, food sales. Applications due by June 30, 5 p.m.

Personal Training with Emily. Expert Instruction, Efficient Exercise, Achieve Fitness Goals! Beginner to Advanced, Individual \$75/hour, Small Group \$120/hour, Call 303-582-1453 to schedule a session

Chess Club: Thursday 6:15 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Hatha Yoga: Monday and Friday 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Senior Fit: Monday and Friday 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Taekwondo: Monday and Wednesday 6 - 7 p.m.

Taekwondo & Kinder Kicks: Monday and Wednesday 6 - 7 p.m.

Body Movement: Wednesday 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

Pickleball: Monday/Wednesday 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. and Thursday 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. and Friday 2 - 4 p.m.

Aquafit: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Family Gym Time: Thursday 12:30 - 3 p.m.

Gilpin Stitches Club: 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Master Swim: Monday and Wednesday 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Lap Swim: Monday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 8 - 9:30 a.m.

Adult Pickup Basketball: Monday 6 - 8 p.m.

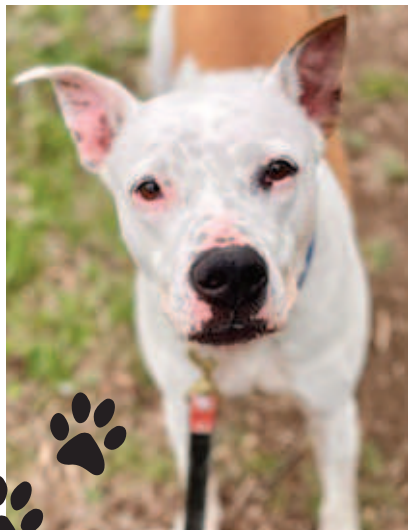
Pet of the Week

Feeling lonely on those afternoon strolls around the neighborhood? Please come take me along! They're preparing for my 2-month anniversary here at HSBV, and I'd really like to leave before then.

Come and meet me -- ask for *Finnlay*, "Rescue Mutt Extraordinaire -- a 6-year-old boy looking for my pack of dog & human friends alike!"



I'll nestle by your side on cool mountain evenings and give you unconditional love. I need a little help learning where the potty is, but don't we all?



Humane Society of Boulder Valley 2323 55th Street Boulder, CO 80301
303.442.4030 <https://www.boulderhumane.org/>

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD:
AT THE AIRPORT**

ACROSS

1. Foundation
6. Dashboard acronym
9. Bonny one
13. Pleasant smell
14. Metal-bearing mineral
15. Salk's nemesis
16. Kidney-related
17. Christopher Lloyd's _____ Brown
18. Investigative report
19. *Something to claim
21. *Declaration station
23. Argonaut's propeller
24. C in TLC
25. Scot's woolen cap
28. Sushi restaurant soup
30. *Exclusive accommodation
35. Was in the hole
37. Highest volcano in Europe
39. Angry growl
40. Dry riverbed
41. "____ go!"
43. Adored one
44. *Jong of "Fear of Flying" fame
46. Lowly laborer
47. Cone-shaped quarters
48. Time between classes
50. Dirty air
52. Hi-_____
53. Skiers' ride
55. Scheduled to arrive
57. *"____ for takeoff"
61. *Frost removal
65. Luxurious sheet fabric
66. It would
68. Synagogue scroll
69. Barely sufficient
70. General Services Administration
71. Movie "Home _____"
72. Reason to cram
73. Negative vote
74. Washer setting

DOWN

1. Prickle on a fence
2. Equal to pi times r squared
3. Cheap form of payment?
4. Insect in adult stage
5. Dar es _____, Tanzania
6. Traveled on a horse
7. Not amateur
8. Hajj destination
9. Like kittens' mittens
10. "The Sun _____ Rises" by Hemingway
11. Thailand, once
12. Tofu bean, pl.
15. Walkways
20. "Peer Gynt" composer Edvard _____
22. Dot-com address
24. Wrestling match, e.g.
25. *Air traffic control feature
26. Fully informed
27. Army doctor
29. Traffic sign
31. _____ of measurement
32. Rock bottom
33. Search blindly
34. Island off Manhattan
36. Vegas cube
38. H or O in H₂O, e.g.
42. Opposite of cathode
45. Obliquely
49. Knightly title
51. Slash's instrument
54. Make believe
56. Cause for food recall
57. Attention-getting sound
58. Gym class test?
59. *Captain's announcement, plural acronym
60. Porter order
61. June 6, 1944
62. Type of #14 Across
63. Grannies, in UK
64. Clarified butter
67. *PreCheck org.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION: MAY 4

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3	5	8	6	1	9	7	4	2
8	7	6	9	3	1	2	5	4
5	2	9	8	4	6	3	7	1
4	1	3	7	2	5	8	9	6

SUDOKU SOLUTION: MAY 4

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Letter to the Editor 

Clarence Thomas, arrogance of the true believers

Dear Editor,

The Supreme Court has lost credibility, and rightly so. Unlike elected government officials, the court has no ethics rules. They are considered above the fray, not subject to political influence. It would be good if that were true. Instead, conservatives on the court have manufactured a far-right swing that is far outside the mainstream of public opinion. How did we get here? First came the affront when Mitch McConnell, Senate majority leader at the time, held up Obama's right to nominate a supreme court justice with 11 months to go before the election, saying "the people should decide." Later, within weeks of the 2020 election, he rammed through Trump's nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, when Trump was well behind in the polls. Let the people decide? Only when it suits them. Democracy with a small "d" was the loser.

Then newly appointed justices Gorsuch, Kavanaugh and Barrett all testified that *Roe v. Wade* was settled law, "stare decisis." They then overturned *Roe*, taking reproductive decisions away from individuals and sending them back to the states for each to decide. This has led to massive changes, and multiple state bans on abortion after six weeks, an extreme position. Few women would even know they were pregnant by that time. States are competing to have more restrictive abortion regulations, several not permitting exceptions even for rape or incest. Much more extreme than the voting public, where large percentages of the population feel that abortion should be legal with some restrictions. *Roe* used viability outside the womb as its standard, which in 1963 was about 27 or 28 weeks, the beginning of the 3rd trimester of pregnancy. It was at that time that abortion was permitted, but only for serious health reasons to the fetus or mother. Today, with medical advancements, viability is closer to 22 weeks. But viability was their standard.

Now it is a fetal heartbeat or the whim of a very anti-abortion legislature.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court vote last month, or the proposed Iowa state amendment restricting abortion last summer, both countered this trend, as women of all ages voted to keep their rights over their own bodies and those of their children and grandchildren. This extreme position on *Roe* has caused more erosion of trust in the Court.

Finally, we have Clarence Thomas. Accused of sexual misconduct at his nomination, but "blackwashed" by the Senate, who really wanted a black man to replace the icon Thurgood Marshall, who won the case *Brown v. Board of Ed*, ending legal segregation in schools, and was a civil rights activist and Supreme Court Justice for nearly 40 years. That Thomas would replace Marshall alone is an affront to anyone who knows anything about black history. Thomas has consistently written opinions insisting that judges should overturn all rules that require transparency. In the famous *Citizens United* case that opened the floodgates to unlimited dark money in our elections, Thomas wrote, "This court should invalidate mandatory disclosure and reporting requirements." One would have presumed that Thomas recuse himself in that case, since, according to David Sirota and Julia Rock from the Lever, a progressive blog, Thomas' own nomination to the court had been boosted by "six figure spending from the Citizens United Foundation- the group that brought the case."

Other financial improprieties by Thomas have recently been revealed by *ProPublica*, listing his lavish trips on super yachts and private planes thanks to arch conservative billionaire Harlan Crow, who has his own agenda. Crow bought Thomas's mother's home while his mom continues to live there rent free. Is there a hint of impropriety or influence? That used to be the standard.

Joshua Kaplan, Justin Elliott, and Alex Mierjeski, also of *ProPublica*, reported that Harlan Crow paid the private school tuition for Thomas's grandnephew, "to the tune of more than \$6,000 a month, ultimately adding up to an amount that may have been more than \$150,000. Thomas did not report the payments."

Emma Brown, Shawn Boburg, and Jonathan O'Connell of the *Washington Post* broke the story that "right-wing judicial activist Leonard Leo, who as a leader of the Federalist Society that backs originalist judges has been key to transforming the federal judiciary, a decade ago arranged for payments of tens of thousands of dollars to Thomas's wife Ginni." Leo and Thomas are supposedly close friends.

The quote continues: "In January 2012, Leo told Kellyanne Conway, who was then a Republican pollster, to bill the Judicial Education Project, a nonprofit organization with which he was associated, and then pass the money on to Ginni Thomas. He told Conway to 'give' Thomas 'another \$25K,' and emphasized that she should include 'No mention of Ginni, of course,' in the paperwork. She did so. Later that year, the Judicial Education Project filed a brief before the court in the landmark *Shelby County v. Holder* case, in which the court, by a vote of 5-4, gutted the 1965 Voting Rights Act," which had been a hard-fought victory where millions had marched for equal voting rights.

The Voting Rights Act had required certain states with a history of racial discrimination in their voting procedures to get "preclearance" for any changes in voting laws. It was a great irritant to white Republican voters. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, just this year, lawmakers in 32 states across the US have introduced or pre-filed at least 150 bills aimed at making it harder to vote, based on accusations of widespread voter fraud that have never been proven. How else

could Trump have lost? It had to be fraud. Regrettably, Thomas voted on the side of the Judicial Education Project and was the swing vote. What a loss for small "d" democracy.

What's more? Ginni Thomas didn't disclose her income for years, which was at least \$120,000 per year and was funded by the Koch-backed Heritage Foundation. More recently, her new startup lobbying group, Liberty Central, received \$500,000 from Harlan Crow. Her lobbying group seeks clients who want to influence the outcome of Supreme Court cases. Peddling her influence.

And of course, her role in the January 6 attempt to overthrow the 2020 election was highlighted in the House investigation, where she sent multiple text messages to Mark Meadows, Trump's spineless Chief of Staff, asking him to do something to stop the election of Joe Biden, despite losing the popular vote by over 7 million and the Electoral College vote by 306 to 232, the same margin as Trump's victory in 2016.

There is the profound national crisis at the heart of the stories emerging about Thomas. His votes were decisive not only in *Shelby County v. Holder*, but also in the 2010 *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* decision, also decided by a vote of 5-4, which allowed unlimited anonymous dark money to flow into political campaigns. Those decisions dramatically undermine our democracy on a daily basis. It now seems highly likely that Clarence Thomas was not ever, and is not now, an impartial jurist, but instead one with a judicial agenda, who has been compromised by the high life he has been shown by his wealthy benefactors. Clarence Thomas has turned toxic, not just to himself, but to the entire Supreme Court and to our democracy. He needs to go.

Bill Thibedeau,
Gilpin County

Coal Creek residents fight for the school

John Scarffe
Jefferson County

About 140 residents attended a meeting with Jefferson County School District regarding a potential closure of the elementary school on May 8, 2023, at 6 p.m. at the school. Principal Kevin Carroll said he was hired in December last year and will be here next year.

"This is a good example of the community coming together, because the school can help at a different level for all kids and all families. We are creating a place where kids can thrive," Carroll said.

Jefferson County School Board president Stephanie Schooley and Lisa Rolov chief of strategy and communications for the district, attended the meeting. Relov said

Jefferson County has been working on consolidating schools.

Since 2001, enrollment has declined and they closed 16 elementary schools last year. On next Thursday, the Board will be looking at Phase 2, and the Board will give direction on Phase 2.

Schooley said it is quite clear this is a beloved place. Rolov said "We are in the process, and we will get back to you when we have answers. It was a monumental process closing 16 schools with thousands of students and hundreds of teachers."

The Board has a moratorium on closing high schools. Coal Creek elementary is the smallest school in the district.

They don't have a recommendation and haven't started to dig into details. Schooley said they have had conversations about how they make

decisions and don't pit one community against the other. Schooley wondered how they build communities, and asks which schools should stay open and which should be closed.

"We are working on creating a consistent criterion. We know this is the minimum of what we need with the lessons we learned as parents and now as board members." She said she wanted to hear the stories of the community. "The current board is very committed to providing positive experiences and understanding this community," she added.

Rolov said the district staff provides a recommendation to the school board. Timeline is a recommendation in August for a decision in November. "We don't have a recommendation on phase two."

Dorland has until August 2023 to submit her recommendations for school closures next year. After that, the school board has until November to make its final decision.

About 16 attendees addressed Jefferson County and addressed concerns of travel times for students if the school should close. Residents are also concerned that many parents may consider leaving Coal Creek Canyon

if the school closes.

Closing the school will have economic impacts to our community. People are making huge lifestyle decisions. It will impact property values and we have a lot of businesses in the area. Tell us what to do, and people in this room will go forth and do it.

One man said he chose to purchase a home with the intention that his kids will go to this school. He is considering putting an addition on his house, but that is on hold until the decision is made.

The school ties the community together with sports activities and artists. All of the speakers addressed the historic memories of the school and those who have achieved from the school.

You can send letters to the superintendent at supt@jeffco.k12.co.us, and to the board at board@jeffco.k12.co.us.

For more information about the school closure and community efforts to save it, reach out to Kendra Long, secretary of CCK-8 (kendra.long@jeffco.k12.co.us, 303-982-3409) or Tami Lawson, PTSA president (tamikrislawson@hotmail.com).

- QUOTE OF THE WEEK -

"To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance." ~Oscar Wilde

Gilpin Senior Spotlight: Lucion Amaya-Church



Omayra Acevedo
Gilpin County

Lucion Amaya-Church has been attending Gilpin County School since the seventh grade. Some of his fondest memories from middle school are “getting ready for football practice, listening to music, and messing around with all my friends in the locker room. But the bus rides to games were the best. We all would have so much fun getting ready to play.”

In the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades, Lucion participated in football and basketball. In the 10th and eleventh grades, he joined track, and in the tenth and twelfth grades, he became part of the baseball team.

Lucion has been working at the Century Casino as a waiter at the Mid City Grill. Lucion shares, “I’m passionate about succeeding in everything I do.” What he has loved most about

high school are the connections he’s made with his friends.

Lucion confesses, “Gilpin is the only school that has fit my needs and liking.” It’s what has kept him attending Gilpin. His favorite class was geometry with Mrs. Blake, one of his favorite teachers, aside from Coach Chamberlain.

Another student who has made life better during his time at school is his sister, Aaliyah Amaya-Bear. Advice Lucion would like to leave future students of Gilpin is “Don’t take time for granted. It’s all over so quickly.”

After graduation, Lucion is planning to attend the Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU), followed by Wyotech after graduating from MSU. He will miss all the people he has come to love over the years.

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation, Lucion!

Education Board faces public concern over EaglesMart

Eliza DuBose
Gilpin County

During the public participation portion of the meeting of the Gilpin County Board of Education on April 18, 2023, the Board heard a donor’s concern over the closure and perceived mismanagement of the EaglesMart.

Carrie Ihme spoke to the board about her “disappointment in the lack of school district and the Gilpin County Education Foundation and the EaglesMart program.” The EaglesMart program was conceived of as a vocational program

that would give students work experience while also allowing the school to raise funds from the sale of products. As previously reported by *The Mountain-Ear*, the project, however, struggled from its launch and was permanently shut down in February of this year. At the time of its closure, the EaglesMart owed the district close to \$160,000.

Ihme told the board that she and her husband stopped attending donor fundraisers to the school in 2019 due to their concern of perceived mismanagement of their funds when it came to EaglesMart. She called the

program “a failure,” pointing out that few students had ever taken advantage of the work-study program. She specifically expressed her concern over the “perceived conflict of interest” of Board Vice President Sarah Swanson who is also President of the Gilpin County Education Foundation and who ran the program. She demanded that there be more transparency in the future. “This was a gross oversight and shouldn’t have happened. That’s a hundred and sixty thousand dollars that the kids don’t have to use,” she told the Board. Ihme also spoke of her concerns about the program in August of 2019.

At the end of her allotted time, Ihme emphasized that she wasn’t there to “hang anyone out to dry,” called the Board members her “friends,” and said she wanted to be part of a future solution that would prevent this from happening again. Board President Marr responded, saying that they could put policies in place but there was no guarantee that future Boards wouldn’t undo them.

Swanson, who was absent from the meeting, didn’t respond to *The Mountain-Ear*’s request to comment in time for this article.

The school board also heard and approved the 2023-2024 budget in the amount of \$16,566,035 on first reading. They also approved a supplemental budget for June in the amounts of \$5,224,377, a Food Service Budget of \$19,145, and several other budget lines

that can be found in the minutes on the School Board’s Agenda folder for May 2 found on their website.

Elementary School principal Heather Huntoon and Secondary Principal Alexis Donaldson also presented reports on their schools and programs. Huntoon announced that 49% of students identified at the beginning of the year with Severe Learning Deficits (SDL) at the beginning of the year have improved beyond having SDL. Donaldson commented on the success of prom and recognized two students, Skyley Ramsey and Abigail Smith, who received an Academic Honorable Mention for Class 2A in Basketball.

Patrick Linnehan presented the work done by his 5th Grade class in their technology class with two of his students, who brought their final products to the meeting. Given the option to re-create a historical artifact or create a future product, the students chose to 3D print mythical creatures that may one day be remote-controlled. The students showed the Board the various growth stages of their phoenix and wyvern, respectively, and shared their experience in making the creatures in class. The Board also saw presentations by two other elementary students.

The Gilpin County School Board meets bi-monthly on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Board meetings are held in the Gilpin County School Boardroom at 7 p.m. and are open to the public.

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Friends and family of Mike Hughes invite you to come to **Chipeta Park**
Saturday, May 13 between 2 and 4 PM
 help us celebrate a beautiful, sweet, quiet, funny, local life that was cut far too short.

Lions Club Peace Poster winner



PHOTOS BY ANN MARIE MORGAN

Ann Marie Morgan
Nederland

Back in the fall, Nederland Lions held our annual Peace Poster contest for middle school students. Our local first place winning poster by Lucy Budde then advanced to the District and State competitions where it again took first place! Her District win was announced

at the District Lions Convention in Lakewood on April 29, 2023.

Lucy received a check and a beautiful plaque brought to school by Ann Marie Morgan so that art teacher Theresa Redmond could present it to Lucy.

The State Convention will be held in Steamboat Springs on May 19-20, where her achievement will again be recognized.




Congratulations

Lucy Budde

1st Place Winner

Lions District

6C Colorado

Peace Poster

Contest




April 29, 2023

Sponsor: Nederland Lions Club

Lion Robert Storrs
6C District Governor




Our Moms had nicknames for us...




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...when we were younger – and still do!



Kids: color stuff in!



I'm **Mother Nature** and I love to celebrate Mother's Day. I make an extra effort to have the most beautiful flowers pop open right before the big day – to delight Moms everywhere!

Maybe you can think up a small surprise for your Mom or Grandmother. Help cook and serve a fancy breakfast or make a fun card.

Happy Mother's Day

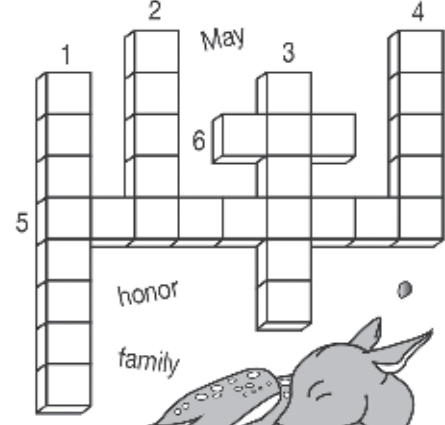
Motherly Sayings

Moms love us, care for us and protect us just because we are *theirs*. Mothers are so important that we often use the word "Mother" in our language to mean a thing that is *like* a "Mother" – the **first** thing we know, the **beginning** or even the **best** of something.

Match these "Motherly" sayings to their meanings:

On Mother's Day:

- _____ are shared in cards, letters or phone calls.
- we _____ Moms, Grandmothers or even special aunts.
- a _____ may go to church services, on picnics or on walks.
- we may give Mom flowers, a necklace or other small _____.
- we can show we care by making breakfast, framing family photos or by thinking up other _____.
- the second Sunday in _____, we celebrate all that our Moms mean to us.



1. Mother lode
2. Motherland
3. Queen Mother
4. Mother Tongue
5. Motherboard
6. Mother Nature
7. Necessity is the mother of invention
8. Mother of all

- A. connects all parts of a computer
- B. spirit of outdoors, takes care of lands, weather and living things
- C. idea that, when people need things, they design something to help; ex. a washing machine to do laundry
- D. title given to mother of king
- E. home to a group of people who share ways of life; ex. China for the Chinese people
- F. main supply; when miners found gold or silver they would use these two words to talk about the place where gold or silver first came from
- G. the first language someone learns from birth
- H. the biggest and best

Nederland Senior Spotlight: Mackenzie Weber

Sara Sandstrom
Nederland

Mackenzie Weber will be graduating with Nederland's Class of 2023. She has attended Nederland schools since Kindergarten.

While at Nederland Elementary Mackenzie fondly remembers track and field days and outdoor education. While in middle school she remembers how much fun it was going to High Trails Outdoor Education Center and being in the Nordic club.

While at Nederland High Mackenzie has been part of the Nordic ski team during her ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade years. She has been involved in Student Council every year in high school. She has been in the Executive Student Council in eleventh and twelfth grades. Mackenzie has been a part of the National Honor Society in eleventh and twelfth grades.

Mackenzie is grateful for the small community at Nederland Middle Senior High School (NMSHS). She is appreciative of the amazing teachers and the close connections that can be made. The teachers she felt who made her high school especially meaningful were Kelly Strong, Scott Geels, Alberto Real and

Rovenna Yakubov. The classes she loved the most were math, science, and history.

Being on the Nordic ski team was also a huge part of Mackenzie's time at NMSHS. She says that one of her friends from the ski team, Megan Hess, helped make her time in high school special. Two other good friends Mackenzie would like to acknowledge are Ande Hammers and Skylar Abookire.

After graduation Mackenzie will be attending CU Boulder. She will be majoring in biomedical engineering and is intending to minor in computer science. From CU Boulder she has received three scholarships, the Regent Scholarship, the Society of Women Engineers Scholarship, and the Esteemed Scholars Hale Scholarship.

Mackenzie is passionate about education, being outdoors and horses.



She is so passionate about horses she has been awarded a Arabian Horse Foundation Scholarship. She has also been a member of the Boulder County 4-H for six years in the horse project. She has competed at county and state fairs. Mackenzie has been treasurer, vice president, and president of the Easy Riders 4-H Club. She has also competed

and won on the state and national level in horse bowl and hippology.

Mackenzie's advice to students at Nederland Middle Senior High School is to "get involved and have fun!" The years always seem to have gone fast when graduation is only a few weeks away.

Congratulations Mackenzie!

Nederland Senior Spotlight: Megan Hess



Omayra Acevedo
Nederland

Megan Hess has been attending Nederland schools since the fourth grade. She is passionate about art, environmental activism, Nordic skiing, music, and dance.

In the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades, she participated in Nordic skiing and the Student Council. By the eleventh and twelfth grades, Megan became part of the 360 Peer Leaders and President of Nederland High School, adding cross country in the twelfth grade to round out her involvement at Nederland Middle Senior High School (NMSHS).

Megan has been working as the social media manager at the Backdoor Theatre, at the City of Boulder Youth Rangers, and at Head in the Clouds

Cotton Candy, which she co-owns with her friend Ande Hammers.

Her favorite class in high school was the Science Research Seminar with Mr. Real. Her favorite NMSHS teachers and staff include Alberto Real, Theresa Redmon, Scott Sanders, Scott Geels, and coaches Dan and Elaine Vardamis.

Megan has received a Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) scholarship and achievement award. She plans to attend Montana State University to study architecture. She hopes to become a sustainable urban architect and one day start a firm.

Megan will miss all the teachers and friends she's had over the past nine years. She would like to say, "Thank you to BTS!"

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation, Megan!

Nederland Senior Spotlight: Hayden Camp

Omayra Acevedo
Nederland

Hayden Camp is a senior at Nederland Middle-Senior High School and has been part of the Nederland school community since Kindergarten. He was part of the High School Mountain Biking during the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades and a member of the National Honor Society as a senior.

While in school, Hayden started working at Busey Brews in the tenth grade as a host. He has also had employment as a patrol at Eldora.

Some of Hayden's fondest memories include growing up with friends through elementary and middle school. He has also loved the "amazing teachers in Ned and being part of such a tight-knit community."

Hayden really enjoyed social studies classes with Ms. Strong, his favorite teacher. He says she made high school far more fun for him. Hayden also confesses that he appreciates the numerous students who made high school life better for him.

"The community and being able to have such great relationships with everybody," is what has motivated Hayden to continue attending and enjoying school. He's passionate about skiing and anything to do with the outdoors and has also found passion in emergency medicine.

Hayden has received a Merit Scholarship from Western Colorado University in Gunnison, where he plans to go to college. He will miss his friends and many of the teachers.

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation, Hayden!



Chinook Senior Spotlight: Lily Svensallen

Lily Svensallen was born in Coal Creek Canyon. She moved to Gilpin County when she was four. She attended Nederland Elementary School through fourth grade when she then transferred to home school. She was a member of the of Girl Scout Troop #3031. During these years, she earned her badge as top cookie seller three times. Her fondest memories are of gym class with Ms. Mary where she learned to dance the Thriller and try new things during the circus. She was known for her kindness and being a good friend.

Lily rejoined her classmates at Nederland Middle Senior High School (NMSHS) for seventh and eighth grade where she played basketball, ran track, and sang in the choir. During the summers she spent hours riding bikes and jumping on the trampoline with her best friend. She supported incoming students as a 360 Leader her eighth grade year. Lily started her freshman year at NMSHS and played varsity volleyball and started the basketball season before the pandemic hit.

She transferred to Chinook West at the start of the pandemic where classes were being held in-person. At Chinook West, Lily found supportive relationships with students and

staff that created a learning community that she thrived in. Mel, Sandy, and Bill helped to make her years here awesome. When things returned to normal her junior year, Lily started exploring her interest and took a position as a teacher’s assistant at New Explorers Learning Center. At New Explores Lily provided support for the teachers and found joy spending time with the children.

Lily and a small group of students represented Chinook West at the Annual Shared Risks and Protective Factors Conference last June in Keystone. Lily’s senior year went by fast as she attended classes in the morning and worked in the afternoon. With all of her hard work she was able to graduate in December.

After graduating Lily continued to work at New Explorers until April when she said goodbye to her community there and took a barista position at the Train Cars Coffee and Kava. She has been accepted into the psychology department at Naropa University. Lily plans to work, see shows, and travel for a year before attending college.

Congratulations Lily and good luck on your adventures!



Chinook Senior Spotlight: Seraph Brooks Kelly



Omayra Acevedo
Nederland

Seraph Brooks Kelly attended Nederland Elementary School and has been a student at Chinook West High School since 2021. Her fondest memories from elementary school include going ice skating with Ms. Mary, track and field days with friends, and building a dream house with Ms. Forrest.

While focusing vehemently on her academics, Seraph has also been working at Crosscut Pizzeria in Nederland, as well as the Eldora Mountain Resort. She’s passionate about music, art, and traveling.

What Seraph has loved about high school is the “effort that Chinook puts into helping students succeed. I feel supported and driven to become my best self and reach my full potential.”

For Seraph, Chinook West is the best high school she’s had the pleasure of attending. “The school actually cares about the student’s well-being and their education,” shares Seraph. Her favorite classes include math, language arts, and film class.

It was challenging for Seraph to choose a favorite teacher. She says, “I appreciate all of the staff and teachers who have helped me throughout my high school career.” The advice she offers future Chinook students is “keep your head up and persevere.”

After graduation, Seraph plans to travel through Europe and potentially attend college after traveling. She is going to miss the field trips, friends, and fun she had in high school. She also enjoyed spending a year of high school with her two younger brothers.

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation and good luck!

SHRED Mountain Biking begins at NES



PHOTOS BY SARA SANDSTROM

Sara Sandstrom
Nederland

The third graders at Nederland Elementary School (NES) are the first students to participate in the SHRED Mountain Biking program. The program’s goal this year is to get all third through fifth grade students out on a mountain bike with certified Singletrack Mountain Bike Association (SMBA) coaches, regardless of ability or previous

biking experience.

Third grader Dominick, who was part of the beginner group, said, “This is awesome!” Not only did Dominick and the other beginners get to use brand new bikes provided by Peak to Peak Endurance, but he also had a very patient instructor who taught them skills all day. There was gentle encouragement to always keep trying.

NES and its partners in this program want kids to get outside and get moving!



Ned soccer wraps up season



PHOTOS BY SARA SANDSTROM



Nederland girls play soccer

Top, left; Coach Gonzalez honors Senior Annabel Ivey and her parents at the last home game. Right; Kendall Zotti runs to get control of the ball. Bottom, left; Polina Savich works against a defender on the Nederland soccer field.

Sara Sandstrom Nederland

The young women who play on Nederland High School's soccer team wrapped up their 2023 season on Saturday. They had to play in every type of weather this season from snowy days when volunteers had to keep shoveling to see the lines to warm sunny days.

At their year end banquet Coach Gonzalez thanked the team for working hard this season. In his ever positive message he reminded his players to always believe in themselves. He thanked the managers for supporting the team this year. Coach Gonzalez then paused and gave a heartfelt thank you to the parents and families of the players. "Families, thank you for always being there, with the victories and in the losses. This season is full of successes thanks to you, too. Thank you for being great parents."

Team awards were presented to Kyleigh McLaughlin (Panther

Award), Annabel Ivey (Most Improved), Lauren Dirr (Most Valuable).

Gonzalez recognized Annabel Ivey as the senior on the team. He praised her for her warm heart and told her no matter where she goes she should remember where she is from. He said, "Always be proud that you are from Nederland."

Gonzalez always stresses that the team is first. When a player or coach wins, the whole team wins. "In Ned we are a team."

He continued, "This year I enjoyed every moment during every practice and every game with all of you. I learned a lot from you. Thank you so much. It is never too late to continue learning, and this year I tried my best to learn from you. I appreciate all you teach me."

The soccer banquet ended with the players thanking their coach for his complete dedication he has for this team and to the entire soccer program at Nederland Middle Senior High School.

The Giant Annual

Sugarloaf Garage Sale

May 26th-28th!

Fundraiser for the Sugarloaf Fire Department Memorial Day Weekend (Fri-Sun)

An entire fire station gets transformed into a department store of bargains. Massive selection!

Fri-Sun, May 26-28th 9am-4PM
(Last day of sale is SUNDAY)

Location: Sugarloaf Fire Station 2 - 1360 Sugarloaf Road 80302

Clothing for all seasons, power tools, snowblowers, hand tools and benches, furniture for every room and outside, collectibles, bikes and toys, gorgeous plants and flowers, bedding sets, books and records, sporting and outdoors gear
And a LOT MORE!

Thanks for shopping – and for your support!

Community Conversation

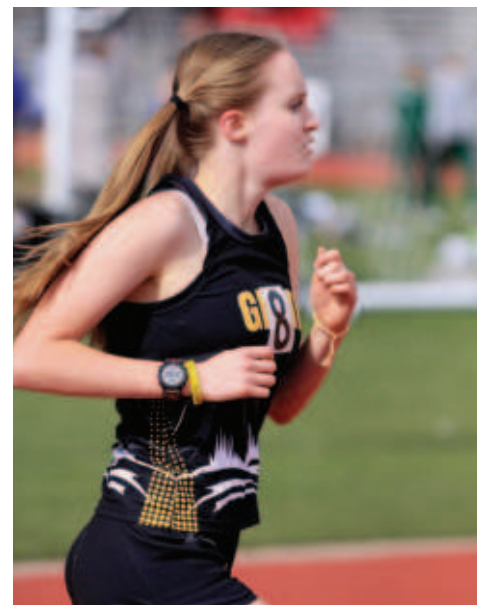
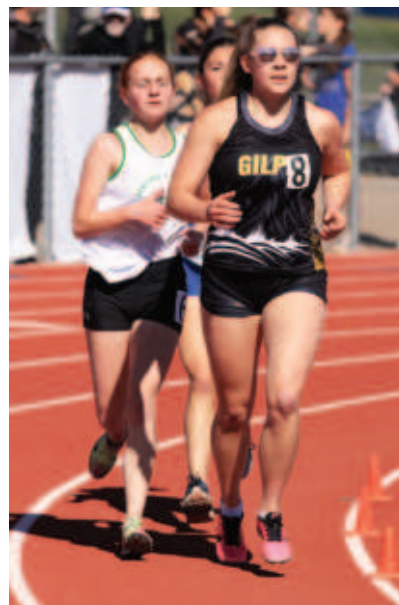
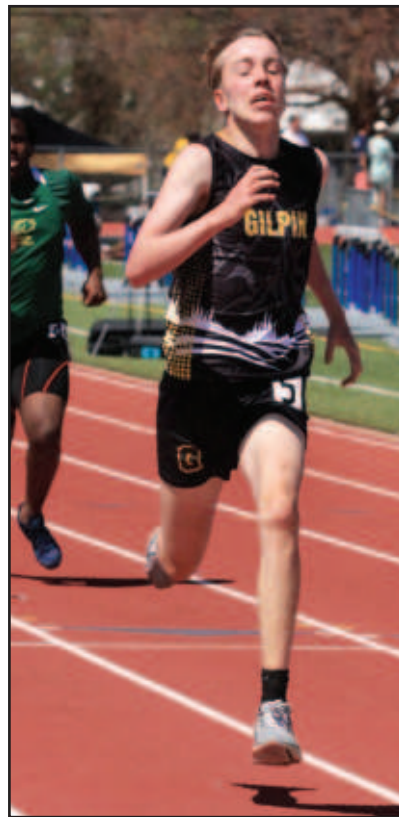
The community is invited to sit down for a conversation with mental health, addiction, and harm reduction folks to talk about mental health first aid, recognizing and understanding addiction, and how to build meaningful Mental Health / Social Resiliency programs for the Mountain Community.

Nederland Community Library

Every 4th Tuesday, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

For more information call 303-578-8033 www.p2phhs.org

Gilpin Track sets another record



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

Three leagues converge on Longmont

Top, left; Jiselle Osteboe finishing strong. Top, right; Maximus Tanner in the 800m. Middle, left; Lizzie Westbrook clears the bar with room to spare in the high jump. Middle; Ryan Hanssen had a personal best in the Boys 200m. Middle, right; Lili Cope sends the discus for a ride. Bottom, right; Freshman Adele Fisher competing in the 1600m. Bottom, left; Faith Ramsey rounds the turn in 1600m.

Continued from page 1

Avery Ramsey shot out of the starting blocks like a cannon giving Makenzie Marr and Alison Antill a leg up for the middle portion of the race. Anchor Jiselle

Osteboe took the seamless handoff of the baton and blazed across the finish line, bettering their record by an astonishing 2.4 seconds! At the moment anyway, the Gilpin High School record in the Girls 4x200m stands at 2:08.00.

Local parents support each other all year long



PHOTOS BY ANN SHERMAN

Mountain strength

Mountain Strong Families build social emotional skills and put smiles on faces across the Peak to Peak region!

Ann Sherman
Nederland

For the last eight months, local parents of toddlers to 10-year-olds have gathered to discuss parenting techniques that will develop their child's social emotional skills. When asked what they gleaned from the Mountain Strong Families Series, parents rippled forth with a variety of responses:

- I love being offered a different approach to parenting than the one I received. I was conditioned to stuff my feelings, "or I'll give you something to cry about."
- I like trying out new approaches and seeing how the outcome for my child drastically changes.
- I appreciate developing a community of like-minded parents. This is the first time I've felt validation for how hard a job parenting is.
- I've retaken this series several times as my children have aged. Each time I take away new tools to use with them.
- This series has made my life significantly easier. I need these tools to get through each day. I'm a happier parent now.
- I appreciate how each session offers a new idea or practice to use with my children.

Parents also indicated that their friends around the country are amazed

that we have this free parenting series in our community. Mountain Strong Families has been hosted by TEENS, Inc. (and held at Nederland Elementary School) for the last several years. The classes support the social emotional learning that PreK - 5th graders receive in school. Mountain Strong Families Facebook Group also offers support all year long.

In the final session, parents looked at how to create a sense of security in children. Dr. Dan Siegal reminds us that a sense of security comes from knowing that conflicts will be addressed and relationships will be repaired when feelings have been hurt. A variety of problem-solving steps and restorative techniques were offered for developing children with a felt sense of security.

To raise competent problem-solvers, we want to focus on generating mutual solutions that we have created together. It may be quicker to impose our adult solution in conflict situations, but that doesn't help develop a child's ability to solve problems for themselves. We want to engage children's brains in the process of resolving and repairing.

Adults must be relatively calm and curious in order to facilitate a child's problem-solving skills. Mountain Strong parents shared how they are intentionally finding ways to care for themselves so they will show up as emotionally generous when their children quarrel. One mom regularly takes time to have a long bath,

another makes time to dance or play a sport. One dad schedules time to go on a motorcycle ride while another remembers "this breath is just for me."

Parents reflected on the steps they will coach a child to use when there are conflicts. We can't listen or problem-solve when we're emotionally charged. So, first and foremost, emotions need to be addressed. We can acknowledge how everyone is feeling and then pause to de-escalate big emotions. We might say, "It seems like everyone is really upset. Let's take a moment to prepare ourselves for a Do-Over." We can help children know which calming strategies work best to help them integrate their brain. Practicing these strategies alongside our child helps them to co-regulate.

Once we sense that everyone is calmer, we can slowly take the time to coach children to mindfully speak and listen to everyone's perspective. We might say, "Let's take turns using this talking piece to share what each of us is feeling and needing in this situation." If someone doesn't feel heard, they will tend to get louder and repeat themselves over and over. We can ask children to summarize what feelings and needs they heard the other person expressing before defending their own position. We can either coach children to use an I-message to express themselves, or we can reframe any blaming statements into an articulation of feelings and needs.

Once everyone has shared their perspective, it is helpful to state the problem to work on in a neutral way. This assists our brains in entering a problem-solving mode rather than a defensive posture. For instance, "It looks like the problem is there is only one toy and you both want to use it."

It becomes easier for everyone to generate and then evaluate various

solutions that respect everyone, if we state the mutual problem and ask for the child's ideas to solve it, i.e. "What ideas do you have for solving this problem?" Adults can get the creative juices flowing by offering a silly solution. After several ideas have been offered, we'll want to ask, "How does everyone feel about these ideas?" Evaluating solutions from everyone's perspective helps to narrow in on which one to try.

Children who know how to utilize these steps have typically had practice using the regular routine of holding family meetings. Children need us to coach them through these processes or the more powerful family member may dominate the outcome.

Even if following these steps helps solve the problem at hand, we may need to do something more to repair hurt feelings and make amends that will restore the relationship. We'll want to coach a child to create a genuine apology by discussing these aspects: Say what you are sorry for, indicate you know how the other person is feeling, share how you would do things differently next time, and offer ways to make things right again (i.e. a bandaid, a hug, an invitation to do something fun together, etc.).

One family shared that they post the components of a genuine apology on the refrigerator. When needed, they face each other and hold hands, then take turns being accountable for what they said or did. They often end with a hug. Every time we model how to repair and resolve conflict, we are teaching trust and creating a sense of security in our children.

The next Mountain Strong Families Series will begin in September. Please contact ann@teensinc.org for more information. We'd love to share a meal, childcare, tons of ideas, and a warm group of parents with you!

Career Week celebrated at NES



PHOTOS BY SARA SANDSTROM

Career Week fun!

Top, left; Jeramy Meyers of Meyers Services shows a preschooler some of the equipment he and his crew brought to Career Week at NES. Top, right; Third grader Stinson Lee came dressed as a zookeeper on Dress Like Your Favorite Career day. Middle, top, right; Kindergartener Scarlett Coykendall gets a turn sitting in the big dump truck. Middle, bottom, right; Second grader John Voshell-Anderson came to school dressed as an artist. Bottom, right; A panel of six local community members (all of whom have children in Nederland schools) presented at the all school assembly. Bottom, left; Morgan Ruskey tells fifth graders about her work as a physician's assistant.

Continued from page 1

to share what they do for a living. Preschool and Kindergarten students got to meet Jeramy Meyers and his crew. The kids were delighted to get into some of the equipment they brought. The third through fifth graders had separate career fairs where they could meet and have conversations with people.

At the career fairs there was a beekeeper, physician's assistant, nurse, senior manager of data science, a student who attends Boulder TEC, and an excavator to

name a few. The younger classes had presentations with a doctor, social worker, an artist, a software engineer and an arborist.

The goal of the week was to expose the students to a number of different jobs and careers that are available to them. Some of these jobs require trade school, some apprenticeships, some a university degree and some people learned on the job. The pathways look different for each of us.

Organizing the event were NES school counselor Kristen Kron and NES parent Ashley Kardos.



Kindergarteners show love to mom



Nederland Elementary Kindergarten Class

Teachers: Mary and Rick Waddell

Pema Ackil-Hay
 Soli Benthall
 Emerson Bowen
 Scarlett Coykendall
 Ivy Cutter
 Sage Decaria
 Felix Fagan
 Jupiter Heart
 Caden Heiliger
 Adelaide Hynek
 Thorin Jaffe

Ethan Koehler
 Rook Koupal
 Vienna Langeteig
 Brielle Merz
 Froja Rainey
 Aria Redmon
 Wyatt Scott
 Arlo Spandl
 Isabella Tye
 Mani Wood
 Abbey Yoh

Sara Sandstrom
Nederland

When the Kindergarteners at Nederland Elementary School heard that they would be writing a tribute to their moms and it would be going into *The Mountain-Ear* they were very excited. Their

teacher Mary Waddell gave them the prompt. Then they all finished the sentence with their own personal experience and opinion.

The results are nothing short of adorable. The students made works of art and writing that their moms will be proud of. Kindergarten is a year of great growth in reading, letter formation and writing. This class has made great strides in those areas and their teachers are very proud of them.

On this Mother's Day we hope these Kindergarten moms and all moms know how much you are loved.



Happy Mother's Day



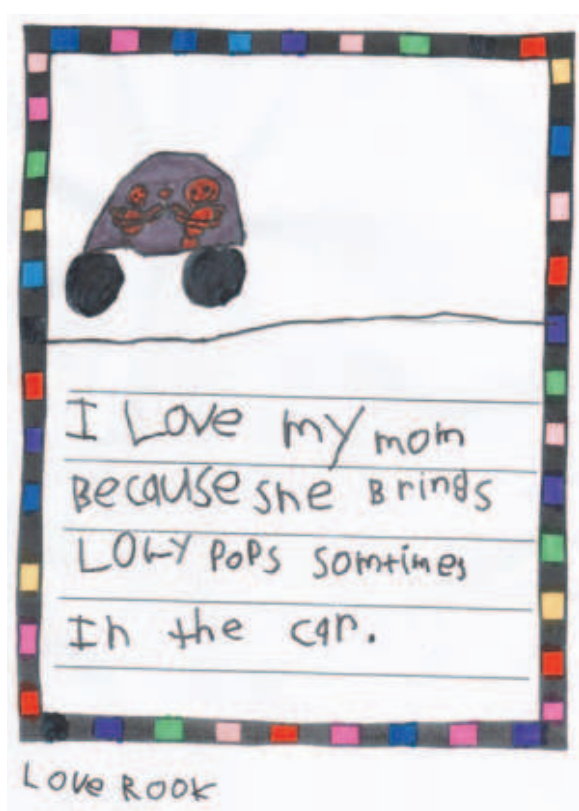
Kindergarteners show love to mom



Happy Mother's Day



Kindergarteners show love to mom



Happy
Mother's
Day



Mother's Day in Ned



Christopher Kelley
Nederland

Mother's Day is right around the corner and many Nederland businesses are providing the perfect opportunities to celebrate those who shower us with unconditional love, who protect us always, those who we affectionately call "Mom." So whether you're last-minute shopping or looking for the perfect brunch spot or mom-centric activity, here is a list of what's happening in Nederland the weekend of Mother's Day.

Start off your day of motherly celebration by heading over to local favorite New Moon for a hot coffee and some delicious coconut macaroons, or head on over to Train Cars Coffee & Kava where moms get 10% off any beverage on Sunday.

Salto will be serving a special brunch on Mother's Day, which will include a cocktail and bacon-wrapped dates served atop a pearl sugar waffle with butter and blueberry chia jam. Salto will also be rolling out their summer brunch menu, which features a smoked turkey, bacon, and brie sandwich served with blackberry serrano jam.

Sweet Sue's will be launching their new handmade ice cream on Sunday, and will also be featuring a pop-up by LINK x LOU from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., where a one-of-a-kind permanent jewelry experience will be provided, which involves the safe application of jewelry "permanently" to the skin.

Tres Gringos is hosting their annual Dia de

la Madre brunch on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., which will feature amazing specials like bacon avocado eggs benedict, breakfast burritos, loaded breakfast papas, a grilled stuffed jalapeño appetizer, and strawberry shortcake. Reservations are encouraged!

After breakfast or brunch perhaps take mom on a day hike to nearby Mud Lake or West Magnolia; Wild Bear Nature Center (WBNC) has great suggestions for day hikes, as well as offers sign ups for their Adult Summer Camp series, which includes a Women's Hiking Group that meets every Wednesday from June 7 to August 9, 2023.

WBNC is also one of Nederland's many great retail stores that are not only exceptional

talented painters. Lolo's Atelier at 25 East 1st Street features striking paintings by artist Laurence Delaunay, and artist Carol Kozlowski has her surrealist paintings on display at the Nederland Community Library.

Artsy and crafty moms may also love to stop by Kaleidoscope Fine Arts Gallery and O'Neil Rocky Mountain Art to peruse the fine works on display, and those looking for last minute gifts may want to inquire about special classes offered at both galleries. Spinning Silica is also offering sign ups for an upcoming Mala making workshop to be held on Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 12 to 5 p.m.

For those searching for a gift for those mothers who are most interested in self-care, try booking an appointment with an expert hair stylist at Wild Poppy Salon, or check out Forget Me Not Skin Care for great skincare products as well as services. And of course be sure to stop by Augustina's Winery to pick up a bottle of the ultimate self-care gift.

Don't forget that Mother's Day is also the first day of the Nederland Farmer's Market, which is the perfect Mother's Day activity featuring a ton of local vendors who will be offering a wide variety of food, crafts, and specialty items.

To complete the perfect Mother's Day treat mom to dinner at one of Nederland's many restaurants, each featuring their own unique specialties and environments. Busey Brews for that down-home country feeling, Crosscut for that upper-crust setting, or Kathmandu for a more intimate dining experience.

Happy Mother's Day from *The Mountain-Ear!*



places to bring mom shopping, but also ideal for those looking for any last minute gifts. The Shop carries a variety of women's clothing, while Mountain Man Outdoor Store has gear for the more adventurous moms, and Mountain Goat Tees has great options for the Ned-centric mom with a sense of humor.

Any mother that loves jewelry is offered a plethora of choices down East 1st Street, as One Brown Mouse sells intricate and creative locally crafted jewelry, Nature's Own offers jewelry for the nature enthusiast, and Rustic Moose offers jewelry as well as awesome Nederland themed gifts. Wings of Lace is having a 20% off jewelry sale leading up to Mother's Day, and also features elegant international threads for mothers with impeccable tastes.

Be sure to take a break from shopping and treat mom to a relaxing beverage at one of Nederland's amazing breweries, including Very Nice Brewing Company and Knotted Root Brewing Company.

While spending the afternoon with mom why not admire art created by some of Nederland's incredibly



Mother's Day above 8,000 feet



PHOTO BY EMMA SHAPPLEY UNSPLASH

Omayra Acevedo
Peak to Peak

Why did the kid chop the joke book in half? Mom said to cut the comedy. Continue the laughter and fun with Mom this Mother's Day weekend across the Peak to Peak and beyond!

If you're thinking of heading to one or more of our glorious mountain towns, make one of your stops at the Wine Bar at Mountain Poppy Boutique & Gifts. All mothers, 21 and older, receive a free glass of wine or beer. A great way to enjoy the brisk mountain weather.

For fans of Coal Creek Canyon, the wonderful Wondervu Cafe is hosting a full buffet from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy mountain hospitality unlike any other, while enjoying remarkable

views of the Rockies. Call ahead and make your reservations so Mom doesn't miss out.

The Canyon Tavern will also be offering some surprise specials and special surprises. Visit them all day Sunday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Enjoy \$7 burgers through Sunday!

Canyon Coffee will feature some special treats in the bakery case, that you and Mom can relish while you enjoy a pop-up jewelry sale with Sarah Schneider Silversmith on Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Coal Creek Canyon Improvement Association will also host a Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, May 13, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., with proceeds going toward the scholarship fund.



Mountain Folk Tales: Natalie Duplessy



Christopher Kelley
Nederland

“Do you think Darius is going to come help you today?” I asked as Natalie flittered nervously about the kitchen.

“He f***ing better!” She says matter-of-factly, as if Darius, Natalie’s oldest child at 22 years old, had any other option but to help his mother.

It was 10 a.m. and Darius still wasn’t awake, as is typical, however on this day Natalie is preparing for the Nederland Farmer’s Market, and she asked for Darius’s assistance days ago.

Wrangling an absent-minded 20-something while feverishly preparing delicious delectables is certainly nerve wracking, however Natalie Duplessy, Owner and Head Baker of Peace, Love, and Cake, is not just used to the chaos, she succeeds despite it.

“Being a single mom definitely helped me to learn how to strive in the chaos; I did NOT do well with chaos before I became a mom. And then being a chef just kind of solidified it all,” Natalie said, speaking to how the restaurant industry runs on stress and chaos, as is running after two toddler siblings that are just barely a year apart in age.

Darius Ramos was born on February 18, 2001, and Jhonan Ramos (Jho) was born on September 11, 2002, both born while Natalie attended Job Corps in Bangor, Maine, beginning her formal education in the culinary world that she fell in love with.

As a newborn Darius was an instant hit with all the other students in the Job Corps culinary program, as Natalie had no other choice but to bring Darius with her to school while she attended classes and ran the school’s cafeteria.

“Darius was an instant celebrity on campus, and not just in the culinary department,” Natalie said. “People that I didn’t even know knew Darius; literally everybody on campus knew Darius.”

As Natalie hypnotically whips up a pineapple coconut pastry cream she recounts returning to school after a maternity leave and enrolling Darius in the campus daycare so she could return to class.

“It was convenient to have him right there on campus with me all day, it made it a lot easier to breastfeed, and if he was being fussy I could run over there and calm him down.”

“Every once in a while the daycare would let me roll a crib over into the bakery and we would post him in the dry storage room in between the flour and the sugar and he would just hang out with us while we were decorating cakes,” Natalie smiled, remembering the awkward early

years as a young new mom.

“By the time I had Jho I was done with school. I had been through the savory cooking program, the pastry cooking program, I had joined cooking competitions, I had catered; I had done almost everything in culinary service, let alone the program,” Natalie spoke of how she desired at this time to be a stay-at-home mother, though it didn’t turn out as she pictured it.

“I wanted to get the full mom experience. I wanted to make all the meals and bake all the birthday cakes, if somebody fell and skinned their knees I wanted to be the one to take care of them. But after a couple of months of only having interaction with my two very young nonverbal children I started to go a little crazy,” Natalie admitted. “I wanted adult humans who could converse with me and commiserate with me.”

Natalie continued about how the time spent at home with newborn Jho and toddler Darius made it that much harder when it came time for Natalie to return to work and attempt to enroll them into daycare.

“Jho and I were attached at the hip, literally!” Natalie recalled. “They would not let me go. They wouldn’t let anybody pick them up, feed them, hold them, put them to bed, change their diaper. That kid had trust issues from day one.”

“At daycare because of their ages they were put in different rooms, Jho was in the infant room and Darius was in the toddler room, and when I would go to drop them off Jho would hold onto me for dear life and scream bloody murder. Jho would not calm down until Darius came into the room to hold his hand.”

“It was like an hour-long process every day. I have so much respect and admiration and straight love for the women that took care of my kids at that daycare center, because they put up with a lot of sh**.”

As it goes, life threw some hurdles at Natalie that changed her life and the fabric of her family that she had built in Maine. Natalie’s relationship with Darius and Jho’s father deteriorated to the point of them all being forced through an ugly and personal custody battle. Natalie’s already fragile life in Maine was shattered.

“Maine was a totally different environment than I was used to, and I didn’t have my family support system because they were all back in Connecticut,” Natalie said.

“I’ve always felt like I was on the outskirts of my family anyway. I’ve always been the black sheep. So as a teenager I learned to build my own family. When I left to go to school in Maine I was already feeling like my ‘real’ family was abandoning me and that I was in turn



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NATALIE DUPLESSY

abandoning my self-made family.”

“Then in Maine when I had the kids I felt very alone, like I didn’t have many people to lean on, and those I did lean on weren’t exactly trustworthy. I learned that lesson the hard way, and that made it all that much harder when I had to go back to work.”

“I had to work two jobs to be able to afford daycare and our apartment and the car that I needed to be able to take them to daycare and go to work,” Natalie said, beginning to get stressed and agitated just thinking about it.

“In Maine public transportation stops at 6 p.m., and I worked until 9, and my work was four miles from the daycare and another five miles from there to get home, which on foot pushing a double stroller with one child refusing to sit in it AT ALL, it makes for a really, really long walk home!” Natalie’s movements in the kitchen have become more erratic and drawers are beginning to be slammed shut.

Natalie, having come to Maine saddled with trust issues, put her faith in a lot of the wrong people and unfortunately paid a dire price. The ensuing custody battle with her ex had destroyed friendships, put a halt to any of Natalie’s career aspirations, and nearly separated her completely from her children.

“I stayed in Maine for another year trying to survive and trying to make sure I could see my kids every moment that I possibly could, and then it got to the point when I couldn’t anymore. I was homeless. I was living in hotel rooms, and if I couldn’t get a hotel room I was sleeping in my car, I just couldn’t sustain,” Natalie’s only choice was to return to Connecticut and to spend several months sleeping on her father’s couch.

“I was immediately reminded why I left his house at 15 years old in the first place.”

Natalie sits to take a break from all her prep work. It’s nearly 11:30 in the morning and still no word from Darius. As Natalie

gets five words into talking about leaving Maine for Connecticut she breaks down into tears.

“Leaving my kids in Maine is still to this day the absolutely hardest thing I’ve ever done in my life,” She says in between sobs.

“Summers were never long enough,” As the two and half months of summer was the only time Natalie had with Darius and Jho for several years, as their father refused to adhere to the specifications of their custody agreement.

As she became more stable she wasn’t just able to sustain, but thrive. Her culinary career was taking off, as her work in five-star restaurants was gaining attention and earning shoutouts in the *New York Times*, and she was able to afford her own apartment and transportation again.

There were many uneasy years but eventually she was able to provide a place for herself and for Darius and Jho to grow as teenagers. Though they spent those teenage years processing the anguish of what happened in their formative years, Natalie gave them the comfortable and safe space needed for them to express their turmoil and to learn to be better adults, as far as how they think, how they act, and how they treat others.

“Someone once said to me that good adults try to be the adult that they needed when they were young but didn’t have or couldn’t have,” Natalie said. “I’ve always tried to be that person for them that I needed and didn’t have. I’ve always wanted them to feel like they have a home to go to, even if I didn’t have a house... even if I didn’t physically have a home to go to.”

Natalie no longer cries and regains her focus and starts cutting perfect circles of delicious sponge cake to make individual little cakes. After all their ups and downs, Natalie’s relationship with both Darius and Jho is stronger than ever before. As

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Mountain Folk Tales: The Travel Book



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMÉLIE PONTOISE

John MacKay Nederland

If you live in Eldora or spend time in Nederland, you've probably met Amélie Pontoise. She is confident, independent, and charismatic, with outlandish dreads and a beautiful French accent.

And if you visit Hessian Trail, you've probably seen Kiki, her Chow Chow and travel buddy. Kiki spends her days at the side of Eldorado Avenue, checking out the people who drive by.

Amélie has a passion for travel. "I think my dad gave me this fever for traveling. He had it too, he'd take us all over." The family home was directly in front of a Paris train station, and he worked for the train company – so the whole family got free, first class Eurail Passes.

"We could hear the track announcements at our house, and if a destination enticed us, my brother Max and I would shout 'Let's go!'" And go they did.

Although Amélie had three siblings, she was closest to Max. He was only 11 months younger than her. When she left home in 2002, she took Max with her.

She was 16 and fearless.

They moved to Saint-Nazaire in the west of France. It was the home of Lycée Autogéré, a self-discovery school. There were no teachers, and the students all took turns cooking, cleaning, and making repairs. Amélie and Max enrolled.

It was good for her. "The school was very nice. It opened my eyes to independence, to opportunities. It opened my world. I realized I could travel more, I could be who I wanted to be."

After two years, though, it was time to move on. "I realized I don't need this anymore, I'm ready, I can travel." Amélie went to Brittany and Max to Paris, but they remained close. And then she got the call from Paris.

Max was dead. At 18.

The news was unexpected, devastating. "I was all over the place with grief, I couldn't stay in France." She bought a bus and lived in it before deciding to go to Southeast Asia. "People there taught me about dealing with grief, and how to deal with death in a different way."

She explored Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Malaysia. When her money ran out, she returned to France,

retrieved her bus, and lived as a nomad. "The only purpose of my life was to make money so I could travel more." With Kiki, who went everywhere with her.

Amélie worked at a ski rental in the Alps, she got a job in a cafe in the south of France, and she learned to farm her favorite crop from a family in Morocco. "Travel was always a good way to meet nice people from all around the world."

Eventually, she turned her sights to California. She found a cheap flight to Cancun, and then hitchhiked into the States. Amélie stopped in Tucson for a few days; that's where she met a French-speaking American, who promptly did what any good American would do – he taught her how to shoot a gun.

When she heard of a place to stay in Boulder, she made her way there. Just passing through, with no intention of settling there, much less in some tiny mountain town 20 miles up – way up – the road.

On December 27, 2013, Amélie stopped at the Boulder Liquor Mart. She was on her way to a Christmas party; longtime Ned resident Jae Gormley was on his way to the same party. They met, for the first time, in the parking lot. "He had a little bottle of booze in his boots and he spoke French. I thought 'this is cool,' I followed him all night, we got engaged an hour after we met. I knew that he was the one."

She still made it to California, with Jae,

where they were married on a black sand beach. Amélie made a quick trip back to France, "to tell my parents that I met a man, married him, was pregnant, and I'm moving to US to be with him," while Jae set up a home for his new family, in Eldora.

The family has grown to include son Max, 8, named to honor Amélie's brother, daughter Zalie, 7, Huskies Kelly and Haku, cat Mitcho, and Xtina Egguilera, the dove. Kiki keeps everyone in line.

Amélie freelances, doing digital work and graphic design, but those are not her only talents. Besides French, she speaks English, Spanish, and Russian. She plays drums, piano, and clarinet. She draws murals and dry erase drawings, some of which you can find inside local businesses.

When she offered to show me pictures from her travels, I expected a photo album. Instead, she handed me a bound collection of watercolor drawings she made along her travels. There were vistas she had seen, people she had met, even the gun she shot in Tucson. She calls it her Travel Book.

The last drawing, on the very last page of the Travel Book, looked like a small bean. I didn't know what it was, until Amélie explained. It was baby Max, she said, in her womb.

The end of the old book, the beginning of something new.



Mountain Folk Tales: Natalie Duplessy



Continued from page 20

both Darius and Jho shakily navigate early adulthood, they each look to their mother for advice and guidance.

Jho currently lives in a suburb of Chicago and is working in restaurant management; they also have dreams of pursuing voice acting and improv.

Darius lives in Nederland and works as a line cook at both Tres Gringos and the Gold Hill Inn. Both Darius and Jho are amazing graphic artists, each with their own unique style and skills, and both hope to follow their artistic passions and turn them into careers.

Natalie, after working in elegant (and some not-so elegant) kitchens all across

Maine and Connecticut, has elevated her culinary career since moving to Nederland. After expertly navigating the pitfalls of baking at elevation, she has started her own baking and catering business Peace, Love, and Cake.

Natalie is beyond proud of her children, though she still can't help but to be a stereotypical "Mom" sometimes.

"I wish Darius was a little more open about his life with me...but he doesn't talk to anyone about his life, so I'm trying not to take it personally," Natalie laughs. "But still, I'm like, 'I'm your mommy, TALK TO ME!'"

"My favorite Darius moment is this one year for Mother's Day, in first or second grade every kid in the class made cards for their moms and Darius' card had this line

that always sticks out to me. He wrote 'I love you so much that when I look at you I smile and my teeth shatter into hearts'. It's the cutest, most sweetest thing he's ever done," Natalie smiled from ear to ear.

"Jho will call me and talk to me for hours about anything and everything in their life, and we have three hour conversations every time that we talk."

"So, my favorite Jho moment...we were at a circus and it was our second or third time at the circus so Jho was feeling like an old pro, that nervousness that he usually keeps in his shoulders wasn't there."

"We were waiting in line and these clowns were entertaining the kids, and this one clown came up and was doing tricks and made a balloon animal for Darius,

and when the clown gets to Jho he says 'you're a handsome young man, what's your name?', and with his hands on his hips and with all the sass in the world Jho stated 'my name is Jhonan and I look like Obama', and then just turned and walked away from the clown."

As Natalie puts the finishing touches on her desserts she gives one final reflection on the trials and tribulations of being a mother.

"Being their mother is the most important thing that I've ever done in my life," she says, delicately piping pineapple coconut pastry cream onto circles of soft sponge cake, tears welling up again but of an entirely different, happier variety.

And by the way, Darius did eventually show up to help his mother... after 2 p.m.

Seasonal parasites, diseases, and ticks, oh my!

Omayra Acevedo
Peak to Peak

Ticks are parasites that feed on warm-blooded hosts. They are related to mites and spiders because they have eight legs, also known as arthropods. With numerous ticks roaming the natural world, let's focus on the Colorado tick season.

Aside from mosquitoes, ticks are the largest disease-causing species in humans. Two diseases contracted from these tiny creepy crawlers include Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection caused by the bite of a black-legged tick, also called a deer tick. If the tick is removed within 48 hours of the first bite, contracting an infection can be avoided.

Should infection take hold of a human, the bacteria travels through the bloodstream and affects various tissues in the body. If left untreated, Lyme disease can turn into an inflammatory condition, affecting multiple systems, including skin, joints, the nervous system, and, inevitably, organs. It's best to treat Lyme disease as soon as it's detected.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) is a bacterial disease that spreads through the bite of an infected tick. The most common symptoms of RMSF include

fever, headache, and rash. This disease is only treatable with antibiotics and can be deadly if not treated early.

In elevations higher than 4,000 feet, the Rocky Mountain wood tick bite triggers fever intervals that can come and go for days or weeks. Luckily, for most people, the illness is mild.

Ticks are generally the size of an apple seed, swelling up after feeding. Ticks live in wooded areas, shrubs, tall grasses, weeds, leaf litter, woodpiles, and bird feeders. Your pets can also be victims of a tick attack.

While your furry family member is playing outside, a tick can hitch a ride on them, not only biting your fur baby but dropping off as your pet passes through your yard or home.

The brown dog tick is a "one-host" tick that feeds on the blood of dogs. This tick is common inside Colorado homes and is often a problem in kennels. You can treat your dog using flea and tick powder, dip, or collar.

It's also a good idea to treat places the dog frequents, such as bedding, outdoor dog houses, and playing areas. Regularly washing dog bedding is also advised to avoid attracting ticks or getting rid of them.

To protect your home from ticks, use an insecticide and spot-treat cracks along baseboards and walls where ticks may



PHOTO BY ERIK KARITS, UNSPLASH

hide. Vacuum room corners where ticks and nymphs can crawl up, and be sure to dispose of vacuum bags or thoroughly rinse vacuum containers that are exposed to ticks.

Depending on the degree of infestation, it may take several weeks and multiple treatments of areas in the home to finally eliminate ticks from a home.

To reduce the chances of encountering these parasites, consider using insect repellents such as DEET or permethrin

anytime you're outdoors hiking, gardening, or walking your dog or cat.

Should you spot a tick on your pet or yourself, pull it out slowly and carefully using a pair of tweezers. The tick season in Colorado begins in March and peaks in May, but this doesn't mean we're in the clear for the rest of the season or the year.

To learn more about ticks in Colorado, visit <https://www.uhealth.org/today/the-truth-about-ticks/>.

Slow Cooker Southwestern Butternut Squash Soup

Arwen Ek
Gilpin County

Don't be intimidated by the time - slow cookers give you the ability to "set it and forget it" and then when you've almost forgotten about it, your timer goes off with a ding! Suddenly, you have a savory, satisfying warm bowl of this Butternut Squash Soup.

The other great thing about slow cookers and soups - they are VERY forgiving. Use ingredients that are in season! Don't have onions? We used shallots. Don't have butternut squash? You can use any hard winter squash like kabocha, acorn, or delicata depending on seasonal availability. To give it a southwestern kick, we added 1/4 teaspoon of ground cumin. Served with handmade masa flour tortillas (just add water to the masa, knead, flatten, fry in a skillet et voila!) and your choice of condiments (fresh avocado, sour cream, cilantro, salsa) and this recipe is a sure winner on cold winter days.

You will need a 5 quart slow cooker and an immersion blender (or regular blender or food processor).

(You can find all these healthy organic ingredients at the Homestead Market!)

Ingredients:

6 cups diced butternut squash (or any winter squash)
2 cups diced sweet potatoes (or Japanese yams)
1 small sweet yellow onion (or 2 shallots)
1 clove garlic, minced
1 Tbsp. paprika
1 tsp. oregano
1 tsp. thyme
32 oz vegetable broth
3/4 tsp. sea salt
1/4 tsp. freshly ground pepper

Instructions:

Place ALL INGREDIENTS in a crockpot and stir well (see, told ya this would be easy!)

Cover and cook on high for 3-4 hours, until squash and yams are soft enough to pierce with a fork.

Blend until creamy and silky smooth. Add additional broth or water to adjust thickness.

Serve warm with condiments of your choice!



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLISTIC HOMESTEAD

The Holistic Homestead is located at 972 Golden Gate Canyon Rd. Black Hawk. You can reach them at 303-582-3001 or by email at connect@theholistichomestead.org.

Check out their website at <https://theholistichomestead.org/> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/theholistichomestead> for the latest updates.

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Gold Hill hosts Wildfire Community Preparedness Day



PHOTOS BY Omayra Acevedo

Preparing and gaining awareness

Above, left; Gold Hill community members unite to learn what they can do to better prepare for an unexpected wildfire. Above, right; Staff of the Colorado State Forest Service provide reports on the health of Colorado's forests. Bottom, right; One of two tours gets underway, detailing and explaining safety actions and procedures to keep mountain homes safe.

Omayra Acevedo Gold Hill

On Saturday, May 6, 2023, the Gold Hill community gathered from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. for National Wildfire Community Awareness Day.

The event offered several tables with information from local partners, including the following organizations:

- Boulder Office of Emergency Management
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Cyclists 4 Community
- Gold Hill Town Meeting
- Gold Hill Fire Protection District
- Gold Hill Mountain Stewards
- Gold Hill for Safe Switzerland Trail
- Longmont and Boulder Valley Conservation Districts

- The Neighborhood Angels Foundation
- Sugarloaf Mountain Works
- Wildfire Partners

A home hardening tour at 10 a.m. provided details on how local home mitigation efforts can help save your home from a wildfire, including the best siding materials to use, creating defensible space, and the small things one can do to protect a home from being destroyed.

Some of the most devastating damage caused during wildfires is not caused by the actual flames but by falling embers. Something as simple as a straw broom under your deck can be the fuel an ember needs to ignite and, inevitably, destroy an entire home or community.

At 11 a.m., a forest project tour



offered insight into the Boulder Watershed Collective's mitigation project, which addresses forested watershed health, resiliency, and stewardship.

Both tours were led by some of the best wildfire professionals in Boulder County and discussed the many actions mountain homeowners can make for a more resilient Gold Hill and beyond.

The free burritos, offered by the Gold Hill General Store and Pub, were not the only benefit of this event. Neighbors collaborated with one another about how to leverage impacts for the greater good and make their mountain community a safer and more prepared place.

Look for the upcoming series of wildfire preparedness articles brought to you by *The Mountain-Ear*.

Come and Worship

ALLENSPARK:

Allenspark Community Church
16 Washington Street
303-747-2821
Worship 10 a.m.

New Covenant Church
1423 County Road 84 W
303-747-1114
Worship 10 a.m.

St. Catherine of Siena Chapel
10758-CO 7
303-747-2786
Worship, Fridays 8:30 a.m.

COAL CREEK CANYON:

Chapel in the Hills
29579 State Highway 72
303-642-3130
Worship 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Whispering Pines Church
73 Gross Dam Road
303-642-3201
Worship 10:30 a.m.

GILPIN COUNTY:

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church
135 Pine Street, Central City
303-567-4662
Mass 11 a.m.

Christ the King Church
971 Highway 46
Across from the fairgrounds
303-582-3301
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Rocky Mountain Evangelical Free Church
337 Gregory Street, Black Hawk
303-582-3325
Worship 9:30 a.m.

St. James Church
123 Eureka Street, Central City
303-582-5882
Worship 10 a.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
226 E. High Street, Central City
720-441-3447
Worship 10 a.m.

JAMESTOWN:

Jamestown Community Church
120 Main Street
303-258-7768
Worship 11 a.m.

NEDERLAND:

Calvary Chapel
PO Box 6
275 Highway 72
303-258-3502
Worship 11 a.m.

Nederland Community Presbyterian Church
210 N. Jefferson Street
303-258-3579
Worship 10 a.m.

St. Rita's Catholic Church
326 Highway 119
303-258-3060
Mass 9:30 a.m.

WARD:

Union Congregational Church of Ward
41 Modoc Street



Did we miss you? Send in your information to be included in the next edition. We cover the Peak to Peak region from Allenspark to Central City, with all the communities and canyons in between!

Life in Nature: Welcome home



James DeWalt
Nederland

The buzz is growing around our newest seasonal arrivals, and that oh-so-familiar sound is beginning to fill the mountain air! Nearly a month ago saw our first report of a sighting in the Peak to Peak region of the broad-tailed hummingbird and the feeders are starting to pop up everywhere. The report came in on April 12 from local resident Barb Panneton on the Nederland Area Nature group on Facebook (a GREAT group for sharing photos and information regarding all things nature in the Peak to Peak region, hosted by Jill Dreves of the Wild Bear Nature Center).

Those who know me well know that

my own feeders came out of storage immediately. They were washed and filled with the first small batch of that sweet delight the birds love so well (I have often been titled Slave to the Birds). It took a couple weeks at my location but I finally caught the buzz of some townies, and I am looking forward to a great season. For many of you who have been enjoying these Life in Nature articles, this may be a bit redundant of last year's similar article, but the information bears repeating for those new to reading as well as new to an area with an abundant number of the winged delights. If you happen to enjoy feeding these birds, here are a few tips necessary for healthy and responsible enjoyment of their aerial antics.

First and foremost is the cleanliness of the feeders themselves. Prior to the first batch, one should thoroughly clean out the feeder after a long winter in storage to remove any dirt as well as possible mold from old syrup. Cleanings should be repeated when any new batch of syrup is put out (ideally once every five - seven days), as otherwise small patches of a black mold will begin to grow in the feeders. This mold causes a fungal infection on the bird's tongue, making it swell up to a degree that the bird will no longer be able to retract it, ending up with their demise, not being able to eat or drink.

Of equal importance to the bird's health is the syrup itself. This should be made with a 4:1 ratio of four parts water to one part refined sugar. I say refined specifically, as other sugars and sweeteners may either not be enjoyed or may even be harmful to the birds. Sugar in a natural state tends to have a high iron content which is largely removed in the refining process. This high content can build up in the liver of such a small bird and cause illness and death. As mentioned above, the syrup should also be changed every five - seven days, not only to clean the feeders, but also to avoid fermentation in the sun. Also, never use packaged food products, as most are harmful to the birds.

If you prefer to add hummingbird attractants, or don't like the idea of feeding the birds sugar syrup and prefer a more natural approach, there are a number of flowers one can purchase to help bring them to your home. I recently put together a few hanging pots with a mixed variety of Bee Balm, Petunias, Salvias and Nasturtiums in hopes they are

drawn in by the color and natural food, especially when we are still a bit far out from an abundance of natural blooms.

They also enjoy Columbines and many other native wildflowers, as one key aspect of a flower attractant is their enjoyment of blossoms that have a longer "tube" shape. They have adapted to enjoyment of these flowers because they winter in places that have a lot of feeding competitors, and tubular flowers provide them access to nectar with their elongated bills and tongues that other competitors can't reach. Being early season, flowers should be brought in at night to avoid lingering frosts.

Speaking of nighttime care, the feeders should also be brought inside nightly to prevent attracting other animals looking for a tasty treat. All manner of animals will enjoy the sweet syrup, and it is helpful to not "call them in" as well. Bears are your largest concern, literally and figuratively, but raccoons are also a nighttime threat. If you wake up to an empty feeder and a sticky ground or deck underneath, it is likely these masked bandits came by to tip out the ambrosia and lap it up from below.

I've also enjoyed watching Downy woodpeckers come to feed, one in particular who found great enjoyment in swooping in and latching on to a feeder perch upside down, sending it spinning around as the bird craned its neck up and around to the feeding hole. Whether you actively feed, or simply enjoy their presence around your home and garden, welcome to a safe and healthy humming-season 2023!

For additional information about James DeWalt Photography, check out <https://jamesdewaltphotography.com>.

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Poetry Corner

“Some Words for the Week”

I switch on the faucet
after a day in the sun and soil
and I cherish the drops
that fall onto white porcelain
although I probably
use more than I should
and am not grateful enough
for what I wash with and drink
for in my lifetime
maybe even in a matter of
a few dry years
a bath could be a luxury
afforded only to the ultra rich
and bottle of water
will be worth more than wine
but for now the sprinklers spray
in the wrong direction

spilling out into the street
there is a line at the car wash
and there is no worry
in the world
and I put my head
below the rush
and I am grateful
and I am scared
and I am grateful

Alexander Shalom Joseph is a writer from Gilpin County. He has two published books and one more forthcoming in the Fall of 2022. For more information and to subscribe to Alexander's Newsletter go to alexandershalomjoseph.com

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Central City Opera negotiates contracts



CCO OPENING NIGHT 2022 PHOTO BY BY MONICA LASALLE

John Scarffe
Central City

Central City Opera has presented a complete four-year contract to the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) for signature. According to a statement last week, Central City Opera (CCO) remains engaged in negotiations in good faith with AGMA toward a new collective bargaining agreement. These negotiations have been ongoing for the last five months.

In a video, Sam Wheeler, national executive director of AGMA, said “We have been negotiating with Central City for the past six months. We have been working tirelessly with Central City.”

On May 8, the opera released a statement that AGMA actively allowed its contract with Central City Opera to expire in August of 2022, refusing to negotiate until October, thereby leaving its members without an agreement. The company said that if AGMA chooses not to sign the contract, the two organizations will engage in Federal mediation to reach a resolution before the Summer Festival.

“Given these facts, there is no basis for AGMA’s threat of a work stoppage that would effectively deny CCO’s artists the opportunity to earn a living through the creation of live performances this summer,” the CCO spokesperson said.

Audiences can look at the collective bargaining agreement that

Central City Opera has proposed at the following website: (https://centralcityopera.org/central-city-opera-presents-four-year-contract-to-agma/?mc_cid=db92a52312&mc_eid=218fc0f112).

According to the contract, the employer (CCO) recognizes AGMA as the exclusive collective bargaining agent for all solo singers, developing artists, apprentices, speaking performers and narrators, mute performers, stage directors and assistant stage directors, stage managers and assistant stage managers, choreographers, ballet masters, ballet mistresses, and dance captains, and solo dancers, corps dancers and all chorus singers and of all the preceding hereinafter referred to collectively as “artists,” employed by the employer during the period defined as the festival dates, from about May to August of each year, while any such artist is performing on Main Stage, at the Martin Foundry located at 212 Eureka Street, Central City, CO 80427, or any other venue with at least 127 seats. All other employees or artists affiliated with the employer in any way and by any title are excluded from the unit and are not covered by the terms of the Agreement.

The Central City Opera is set to present Gounod’s *Romeo & Juliet*, Cole Porter’s *Kiss Me, Kate*, and Rossini’s *Otello* this summer.

For more information, go to centralcityopera.org.

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The Gilpin County Democrat meetings are the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Gilpin County Library. Email gilpindem-schair@gmail.com with questions.

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Historic Gold Hill Inn opens for the season



Omayra Acevedo
Gold Hill

The year was 1859 when prospectors panned and dug their way through Four Mile Creek in search of gold. What they found was the modern-day site of Gold Hill. Upon the forming of Mountain District #1 Nebraska Territory, the town began to grow.

The first settlement of log structures was built by miners in 1872, followed by service buildings, stores, boarding houses, and the Gold Hill School. Wanting to attract tourists to Gold Hill, the three-story Wentworth Hotel was constructed.

Attract indeed it did. Clarence Darrow, known as one of America's most famous

and controversial defense attorneys, and Eugene Field, an American writer of children's poetry and humorous essays, were two famous persons who visited the Wentworth.

The hotel became the private vacation spot for women nurses, teachers, etc., from the Chicago area, renamed the Blue Bird Lodge in 1920. Its popularity inspired the 1924 construction of a dining hall adjacent to the lodge.

With women gaining more rights in the 50s, they began owning cabins in Gold Hill, making the lodge nearly unnecessary. Fast forward to 1962, Barbara and Frank Finn purchased the hotel and dining hall, turning the dining hall into the Gold Hill Inn.

PHOTOS BY Omayra Acevedo

History, music, and fine dining

Above, left; A sign pays tribute to Wentworth Hotel, renamed the Blue Bird Lodge in 1920. Above, right; Preparations get underway for the seasonal grand opening of the Gold Hill Inn.

The Gold Hill Inn is open seasonally, from May through December. During the off-season, much of its music lineup is booked, and menu selections are fine-tuned, creating the unique experience found at the Inn.

On May 5, 2023, the Gold Hill Inn hosted its opening night, featuring a Bluegrass/Zydeco band, That Damn Sasquatch, and it didn't take long for the dining room to fill with reservations.

Aside from fine dining and live music,

visitors can enjoy a beer garden, which will be up and running, hopefully, by Mother's Day or as soon as the weather warms up. The Gold Hill Inn is looking forward to welcoming back its loyal clientele and meeting new folks for the first time.

The Gold Hill Inn is located at 401 Main Street. You can find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GoldHillInn> or give them a call at 303-443-6461.




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Angels helping people meet basic needs



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TNAF

Helping neighbors in need

Gold Hill town is home of The Neighborhood Angels Foundation. Above, left; Elizabeth Vanek and her husband, Steven Vanek, when they first lived in Gold Hill in the 70s. Above, right; Executive Director and Founder Elizabeth Vanek shares a joyous smile.

Omayra Acevedo Gold Hill

Meet Elizabeth Vanek, Executive Director and Founder of The Neighborhood Angels Foundation (TNAF). The 501(C)(3) was founded in 2019 and received nonprofit status in January 2020, a couple of months before the COVID Pandemic shut the world down.

Inspiration for starting the organization came to Vanek during the 47 years she lived in Gold Hill. She saw people who did not have as many blessings as she did. Something she wished for them to have.

She began dreaming of a way to help people unable to meet basic needs. "It sparked something in me. Life happens, I had a son, and my life got very busy. We were not able to follow through on my dream of starting a non-profit foundation."

Well, that all changed in 2019 when Vanek's son, Hawk Vanek, now the Secretary of TNAF, said to his mother, "Mom, why don't you start the non-profit Foundation you've been dreaming about all these years?"

By 2020, the rest was history. After three decades of running a house cleaning business, managing three Airbnbs in Boulder, working at the Gold Hill School for five years, and helping raise five kids, whom she is delighted to say continue to stay in touch, Vanek was ready to embark on another life-changing profession.

The Neighborhood Angels Foundation also comprises a Treasurer, Steven Vanek, and an IT Angel Volunteer, Pavel Goldstein. The organization depends on volunteers to help with its success.

The organization's mission is to provide short-term assistance for less fortunate neighbors. TNAF assistance includes providing wood for home heating, winter

clothing, snow removal, fire mitigation, yard cleanup, home repairs, home safety modifications, grocery pickups, medication pickups, and "other basic life needs associated with mountain living."

Vanek shares, "We work closely in Gold Hill with The Gold Hill Town Meeting. We are a historically zoned town because of the fact that Gold Hill was the first place gold was discovered in Colorado.

TNAF identifies who is available to

lend assistance in an Angels mountain neighborhood. Through a network of Volunteer Angels partnered with TNAF, each neighborhood would connect those in need of help with those volunteering their services.

Vanek's favorite part is "Taking Care of Our Mountain Neighbors with Life's Basic Needs." Currently, TNAF is reaching out to the elderly, families, and individuals living in the Peak to Peak mountain communities of Boulder County.

The neighborhoods include Gold Hill, Ward, Jamestown, Four-Mile, Lefthand Canyon, Sunshine, and the neighborhoods in between. Thus far, TNAF has assisted four families in Gold Hill.

The nonprofit is looking for Donor Angels who can donate money of any amount to help them provide services to those in need. "I hope this spring will be busy raising money and in the coming months and year ahead of us."

On October 7, 2023, TNAF is hosting a Fall Funesta Fundraiser at the Elks Lodge in Boulder. Entertainment during the fundraising event includes live music, a VIP cocktail hour, and a silent auction, to name a few.

To donate, offer mountain living services, volunteer, or donate silent auction items, contact The Neighborhood Angels Foundation.

The Neighborhood Angels Foundation is located at 998 Dixon Road, Boulder. You can email them at neighborhoodangelsfoundation23@gmail.com or you can give them a call at 303-961-4503.

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Where: The Netherlands, Nederland's namesake.

How long: Students collaborate with their Netherlands' student counterparts on a project that promotes the value of global cooperation and learning. The program culminates in a 10-day homestay exchange the summer of 2024.

Cost: Students fundraise \$1,000 matched by funding from the NCL Foundation and their partners.

When: Student applications are due July 1, 2023. Interviews held August 2023. Student Exchange cohort chosen September 2023.

Students entering 11th and 12th grades in Fall 2023

For more information email egreer@nedlib.org

A more convenient way to shop secondhand

Omayra Acevedo
Central City

On April 1, 2023, Central City became home to Greyson and Leigh Reclaimed Goods. After unexpectedly losing a long-term job a year ago, owner Alexis Leigh Sohlden had time to think about what she wanted.

As a long-time vintage, antique, and repurposing enthusiast, living a secondhand life for decades, Sohlden turned her dream of sustainable secondhand shopping into more than just a hobby. “I decided to take the leap to work for myself and teach myself about small business.”

Without a business background, Sohlden began a journey filled with education, training, and business consultations through Colorado’s Small Business Development Center, Small Business Administration, Startup Colorado, and SCORE, to name a few.

Sohlden’s concern about “detrimental environmental impacts” was part of the inspiration behind Greyson and Leigh Reclaimed Goods. With most retailers more concerned about profit than the environment, Sohlden realized it wasn’t a world she wanted to live in.

Hence, the birth of Greyson and Leigh Reclaimed Goods, a store created as part of a dream to “contribute to a world she and future generations would like to live in.”

Aside from selling sustainable and discontinued products, the business



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREYSON AND LEIGH RECLAIMED GOODS

Eco-friendly consciousness

Owner, Alexis Leigh Sohlden expresses the joys of running a small local Gilpin County business.

aims to raise awareness of the negative aspects of consumer culture while proposing solutions, including reclaiming, repurposing, upcycling, and purchasing secondhand items.

The secondhand, hand-picked, high-quality products purchased at Greyson and Leigh Reclaimed Goods help keep items out of landfills, allowing them to “remain for generations

to come.”

Sohlden shares, “Oftentimes, there will be a story or associated history of that item that the new owner will be able to share with others.” Collections at Greyson and Leigh are curated, saving customers time and energy when searching for their items. It’s part of what makes Greyson and Leigh stand out from their competitors.

Sohlden loves connecting with people and learning about their passions, history, and life. Her favorite thing is watching faces light up when they see an item at the shop and it sparks a memory.

Sohlden looks forward to “getting to know the Central City/Gilpin Community better!” She’s also hoping to develop additional partnerships with other small businesses to better serve the community. “I’m also

looking forward to getting more involved in the Central City special events throughout the year.”

After a 15-month period with The Central City Start-up Space, which expires in July 2024, Sohlden hopes to transition into a building of her own in Central City.

From the old west to recreation, every item at the store is centered around Colorado. For your home or office, online or in person, with cash, credit card, and digital options, for any budget. At Greyson and Leigh Reclaimed Goods, it’s easy to make a purchase at just about any time.

Greyson and Leigh Reclaimed Goods is located at 103 Eureka Street, Central City. You can find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/greysonandleigh> or give them a call at 920-860-6638.

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townofnederland.colorado.gov/town-clean-up-day

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Good People, great service



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOD PEOPLE TREE SERVICE

Growing a mountain business

Above, left; Loading them up and moving them out. Above, right; One of Good People Tree Service's arborists suspended on a tree during service. Their skilled arborists can cater to the needs of any type of tree.

Jane Thompson Peak to Peak

Good People Tree Service has provided the Colorado community with sustainable and holistic approaches to tree care since 2009. Their services include tree removals, fire mitigation, pruning, soil restoration, and tree health consultations. Good People Tree Service prides itself on being good people, being good to the trees, its community, and their customers. Founders Eric Kennedy and Ivan Clusin's simple standard is "Be Good People."

Kennedy and Clusin provide prime services that are beneficial to the environment and are done in the safest way possible. Their tree removals include hazardous and emergency removals, lot-clearing, and utility line clearance. Good People Tree Service guarantees that these removals are done safely and efficiently in any environment. With fires becoming a growing threat in the Front Range and Rocky Mountain regions, Good People Tree Service also provides quality fire mitigation and takes a

balanced approach to fire mitigation. They are also conscious of maintaining standards from government agencies and help customers navigate specific requirements set by insurance companies, HOA, and government entities.

When approaching soil restoration, Good People Tree Service uses a unique tree blend and believes that building healthy soil is one of the best ways to promote tree health and they take a more holistic approach to the service. You can set up a consultation with a soil restoration specialist in regard to this service. There are also free consultations for pruning. Their pruning service gives trees a clean appearance while also mitigating the potential for storm damage.

Kennedy and Clusin founded Good People Tree Service in 2009. Kennedy has been a climbing arborist in Colorado since 2009 and has experience in all fields of tree work and is an expert in hazardous tree removal. Clusin joined Good People Tree Service in 2017 and is an ISA-certified arborist. Clusin and Kennedy have a strong working partnership and work together to co-

create a sustainable future for the community, the environment, and the greater good.

Good People Tree Service is located in Gilpin County. For any of your future tree needs, you can contact Good People Tree Service through their phone

number 303-847-5221 or their email at goodpeopletreeservice@gmail.com. For additional information, you can also check out their website at <https://www.goodpeopletreeservice.com/> or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Goodpeopletreeservicecolorado>.

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Let's face it, life moves fast these days. Some days, or weeks, it's impossible to get the news to you as quickly as you want to consume it. The good news is, we're always updating our website with "new" news, for you. We add more every week. Looking for the latest Police reports? They're online here <https://www.themtnear.com/category/police-reports/> or scan the QR code to the right. *The Mountain-Ear* is YOUR community source for news, since 1977.



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Online sermons are available at www.nederlandcpc.org/sermons

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Nederland Community Presbyterian Church

Home improvements and environmentalism

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

MATERIALES PELIGROSOS

Please take these materials to the Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management Facility (HMMF). Residential appointments are recommended at boco.org/HMMFappointment. The HMMF accepts hazardous materials from businesses by appointment only at boco.org/HMMFbizappt.
Note: These items are not accepted at the Eco-Cycle Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM) located at 6400 Arapahoe Road, Boulder.

HAZARDOUS LIQUIDS / LIQUIDOS PELIGROSOS

Cleaning solvents Solventes de limpieza
Antifreeze Anticongelante
Motor oil Aceite para motores
Bleach Detergente líquido blanqueador
Gasoline Gasolina

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS ITEMS / ARTICULOS PELIGROSOS PARA EL HOGAR

Light bulbs: Fluorescent, CFL, grow lights
 Bombillas: Fluorescentes, CFL, luces de crecimiento para plantas

Spray paint Pintura en aerosol
Paint Pintura
Stain Tinte de color

Fertilizer Fertilizador
Weed spray Fumigador de maleza
Plant food Comida para plantas
Pool cleaner Limpiador de piscinas
Syringes, needles, and sharps Jeringas, agujas, productos sanitarios cortantes

Hazardous Materials Management Facility
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PUT THESE ITEMS IN THE TRASH:

Incandescent Bombillas incandescentes
LED Bombillas LED
Smoke & carbon monoxide detector Detectores de humo y monóxido de carbono
Grout Selladores
Paint brushes Brochas para pintar
Used plastic paint cans Tarras plásticas de pintura usadas

Hazardous Materials Management Facility
 1901c 63rd St., Boulder, CO 80301
 Located behind, west, of the Boulder County Recycling Center /
 Ubicado al oeste, del Centro de Reciclaje del Condado de Boulder
Business waste appointments on Tuesdays / Citas para desechos comerciales los martes. Residential waste on Wed-Sat, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Residuos residenciales de miércoles a sábado, de 8:30 a.m. a 4 p.m.

Emma Quartman
Peak to Peak

Kitchen and bathroom remodels, home systems upgrades, decluttering, and other home improvements will not only up the value of your home and improve your living experience but will also provide a competitive edge of desirability should you choose to sell. This year, take your improvements one step further and prioritize keeping reusable, recyclable, and toxic materials out of the landfill. This article supports three Boulder facilities dedicated to helping you do just that.

Resource Central - Located on the edge of town (6400 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder), Resource Central

is essentially a gigantic thrift store of reclaimed building materials priced 75% lower than retail. Not only can you shop here for your next home project but you can also donate your unwanted materials. Door knobs, single pane vintage windows, double pane windows (no broken seals), five feet long de-nailed pieces of unstained/unpainted lumber, low flow toilets, uncracked sinks, tubs, and kitchen cabinets (doors attached, in good condition) are just a few of the items you may consider donating to Resource Central. Additionally, they offer tool rentals, donation pickup, and free Sustainable Deconstruction Assessments.

Ecocycle CHaRM - Connected to Resource Central is CHaRM, Center

for Hard to Recycle Materials. CHaRM collects consumer discards that are commonly difficult to divert from the landfill. Because the cost to recycle many of these materials exceeds their value on the secondary materials market, CHaRM requires a fee to recycle select items. CHaRM can accept a growing list of materials from books, scrap metal, printer cartridges, mattresses, electronics, freon devices such as refrigerators, certain types of styrofoam and plastic bags, ceramics and concrete, bikes, fire extinguishers, bagged textiles, pairs of shoes, and much more. If Resource Central won't accept it, chances are CHaRM will.

Boulder County's hazardous waste drop off - Ever wondered what to do with unwanted cans of stain and lacquer, fluorescent light bulbs, batteries, gasoline, cleaning chemicals, lawn fertilizers, etc.? Luckily, in Boulder County we have the Hazardous Waste Management Facility (HWMF) where you can schedule an appointment and simply drop off your unwanted hazardous

materials. HWMF, located across the street from Resource and CHaRM, has an extensive list of hazardous waste that they collect far beyond what I've mentioned here.

Resource Central, CHaRM, and the Hazardous Waste Management Facility offer invaluable services to our community. With Spring inching nearer, use the energy of new beginnings and a fresh start to cleanse your home and dispose of unwanted items and chemicals properly. For each of these facilities, make sure to check the website and call ahead before making the trip to ensure your items will be accepted and what fee may be associated.

EcoCycle's CHaRM and Resource Central- [Ecocycle.org](https://ecocycle.org), 303-444-6634
 Hazardous Waste Management Facility - <https://bouldercounty.gov/environment/hazardous-waste/>, 720-564-2251.

Emma Quarterman can be reached at 303-506-5218 or by email at emma@livewestrealty.com. Check out her website at emmaskcolorado.com.

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Is it fortune-telling or catastrophizing?



PHOTO BY RICHARD BRANDON

Enjoying the serenity

Contemplative sunrise at Red Rocks Amphitheater during a chilly winter morning.

Amy Skinner, MA, LPC, NCC, ACS, RPT-S
Nederland

“My son doesn’t want to talk to me. All he cares about is Snapgram or Instachat or whatever. I ask him about his day and he just shrugs, or totally ignores me. I make his favorite foods, ask if he wants to watch an action film and pick him up

late at night from his friend’s house, but it doesn’t matter. He acts like I don’t exist.” Natalie looks heartbroken. “Part of me is terrified he’ll never speak to me again, and another part of me is scared that he’s never going to leave our house.”

It’s all on my shoulders,” explains Paul. “I’m the only one taking care of my grandparents; well, now just my grandpa. I don’t get it. I text and email

the rest of the family because they should be helping, but they don’t answer, or tell me they’re busy. I quit my job and moved my family closer so we can take care of him. It’s what I have to do. But between the doctors, specialists, and other care professionals, I just can’t keep up. I’m not really sleeping anymore. I’ve gained a bunch of weight and when I went out to walk the dogs the other day, I was winded. I’ve been in excellent health my whole life; I just can’t win!”

“Everyone seems to have money. Friends are going to Mexico and Hawaii, posting pictures of these idyllic beaches and beautiful Airbnb’s. My best friend and her husband always have pictures of themselves looking fabulous, enjoying concerts or hanging out backstage with local musicians. It seems like my cousins all have the beautiful, perfect kiddos winning medals and setting school records, while my kids (whom I love to death) have a hard time not putting their fingers in their noses as I’m trying to get the millionth picture.” Haley sighed. “I’m never the lucky one. It’s just my life.”

Natalie, Paul, and Haley are all struggling with cognitive distortions, a concept from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (the #1 researched psychotherapy theory). Can you identify which ones fit their experiences? (Some overlap!)

- Catastrophizing: fortune-telling plus all-or-nothing thinking; blowing things out of proportion
- Should/must/have to: self-critical language that puts pressure on me
- Labeling/mental filter: a negative belief about myself that I use to filter all information
- Personalization: It’s all about me!
- Magnification (the negative) and minimization (the positive)
- Comparison: everyone else cast in a positive light, me in a negative light
- Disqualifying the positive: it’s luck or fate; it had nothing to do with me

Often we take cognitive distortions and turn them into emotional reasoning where we begin to believe our cognitive distortions are facts, thereby damaging relationships and making decisions that hurt us in the long run. Haley might begin to cut off her friendships because she thinks they have “perfect” lives, Paul could lash out at his family instead of taking the time to come up with a solid communication plan, and Natalie may miss what’s actually happening in her son’s life. Which of these cognitive distortions do you depend on? Self-awareness is the first step to change!

I’d love to hear about your experiences at amy@peaktopeakcounseling.com, 303-258-7454, and you can always find past articles at www.peaktopeakcounseling.com or find us at www.facebook.com/peaktopeakcounselingservices.

- Black-and-white/all-or-nothing thinking/overgeneralization: “never” “always”
- Fortune-telling: predicting the future without any factual basis

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Seeking Local Artist for Picnic table project

Nederland Public Art Committee N.P.A.C. (a part of Nederland Downtown Development Authority) has been offered 6-8 picnic tables for artful decoration during the summer of 2023. The tables are located in front of Nederland’s newest mural in the garden area behind Busey Brews and the Deli enjoyed by gardeners at the Community Garden. The concept behind the project is a community based, all ages invited, collaborative event for ages 11-99. This project is intended as an opportunity for local youth to work together with adult artists in the spirit of community.

Job Description: The project is seeking a Lead Artist who has interest and ability to carry out the following duties:

- Enjoy working with multi age groups in the spirit of Mountain Community collaboration. Enjoy working with people, especially our local youth.
- Help guide the design process for artist groups. You will help this be a learning experience for newer/ less experienced artists with design, composition, uniqueness, color palette, painting technique and application. There are also some preferred themes with the Art Committee that have been identified for other works of public art around town. We would like these picnic tables to be consistent with the mission of the Committee.
- Manage pacing and progress as we all work together during Paint Out week of July 10-17.
- Keep it fun and interesting and welcoming

to the community while achieving our completion goal.

- Serve as a point of contact for any trouble shooting, interesting moments, documentation for the NPAC.
- Organize and manage all needed materials for the project within a budget of \$1200 prior to painting start date.
- Meet with all registered Table Artists on June 3 at Teens Inc. for an organizational meeting 9-11 a.m.
- Stipend for all duties: \$1500 upon completion of tables.

Submit your info here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfaBUW3ZhsjvVwaGY2XSy_UlIXWQyRTjVDP_1aKHinprZ_A/viewform

Application due date: May 19 at 5 p.m.

Thank you for your interest. We will be contacting candidates weekend of May 20.



Nederland Public Art Committee and Mountain Coalition for Youth invite you to join:



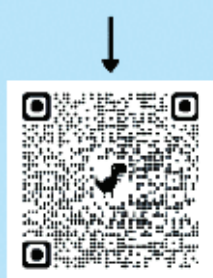
NEDERLAND PICNIC TABLE PROJECT

Adult Artists and Youth come together to continue the beautification of Nederland!

July 10th - 17th

Join us at TEENS, Inc., on Saturday June 3rd for a planning meeting
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Sign up here!



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CPW teaches about avoiding conflicts with black bears

Christopher Kelley
Nederland

On Wednesday, May 3, 2023, Wild Bear Nature Center (WBNC) hosted Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to talk with the community about black bears and about how to best avoid human/bear conflicts in the Peak to Peak area. CPW District Wildlife Manager for Nederland Tyler Anscar delivered facts about the species and provided helpful suggestions on how to prevent conflicts while out on trail and at home.

Asnicar has been with CPW since 2017 and has also worked for the Bureau of Land Management and National Parks Service. As a District Wildlife Manager, Asnicar specializes in the enforcement of animal safety laws, providing education to the public on animal biology and safety, and overseeing the natural progression of local wildlife as well as their habitats.

Anscar gave an informative presentation which focused on bear biology and diet, as well as aimed to describe several examples of typical human/bear conflicts and suggest ways to avoid such conflicts entirely.

Colorado is home to the black bear species, which despite the name can come in different colors and different shades, including reddish brown and even blonde. Anscar notes that there has not been a confirmed grizzly bear sighting in Colorado since 1979.

In the summertime situations involving black bears take up most of CPW's time as they are just awakening from hibernation and moving up into the mountains from Boulder, appearing more on trails and at campgrounds. Bears typically hibernate from October or December to April or May, though bears have been known to awake from hibernation early, fooled by warmer weather in February and March.

Bears emerge from hibernation under weight and traditionally take several weeks of interspersing periods of food gathering and sleep before returning to a normal active schedule. Male black bears can weigh anywhere from 125 to 600 pounds, with 250 pounds being the average. Females range from 90 to 300 pounds, with 150 pounds being the average. Their size depends on their gender, the season of the year, and food supply within their roaming range. The largest black bear in Colorado history was reported in 2010 at 880 pounds.

Black bears can measure as high as two and half to three feet in height when on all fours, and four to six feet in height from nose to tail when standing on their hind legs. They can live up to 25 years in the wild, with the oldest female black bear documented at over 47 years old.

A black bear's movement range is anywhere from ten to 25 square miles and depends greatly on food availability. Black bears will aggressively defend their range, or territory, due to the scarcity of their food source and/or due to mating.

Black bears can begin breeding from the age of three and their gestation period is just two to three months long and can produce up to three cubs. Cubs are born blind with no teeth or fur and typically weigh less than a pound; cubs do not leave the den until they weigh closer to 15 pounds. Female black bears will choose to raise their on the fringes of human populations in order to deter male black bears from feasting on the young cubs.

Anscar noted that the black bear's sense of smell is seven times greater than that of a bloodhound, and 100 times greater than that of a human. A black bear can smell anywhere from three to 20 miles upwind, with downwind being even more. Bears are omnivorous and their diet consists of 85% vegetation, though in the springtime when gaining weight after hibernation a bear will prey on fawns and adult calves.

Though black bears can chase down a full grown deer or elk, they much rather be lazy and opportunistic, and will scavenge on carcasses left by mountain lions or other predators. Their opportunistic behavior is why outdoor recreationalists and those living within a bear's territory must be diligent in preventing negative behavior from bears.

Anscar stated that humans are typically the initiating factor when it comes to human/bear conflicts, and that residents and visitors to the mountains must always be aware of their actions and should be sure to mitigate factors that can cause a conflict. The proper disposal of any attractants, which includes food as well as items with a strong order such as toothpaste, deodorant, and air fresheners, can prevent a bear from becoming inquisitive about human occupied areas.

BBQ grills, trash cans, trash compactors, and bird feeders, especially hummingbird feeders, were labeled as potential attractants for bears to properties, especially outlying properties further away from populated areas. Camping cabins and vacation homes are definitely high risk areas for human/bear conflicts, as are locals who reside on these outlying properties. Any livestock or small pets that are enclosed, as well as any apiaries on the property, can also attract a bear.

Leaving doors and windows to either a house or vehicle open may result in attracting a bear, especially if there are any lingering food smells or other



PHOTO BY DAVE GIBSON

attractants that a bear may catch a whiff of. Trash cans should be either bear proof or kept out of reach from a bear and should only be put out on the day of trash pickup, not the night before.

Electric fencing works best against a bear as being shocked is a novel experience that the bear won't want to feel again. Spiked boards or electrified mats placed outside and underneath windows will definitely prevent bears from attempting to enter the home, though they are extremely hazardous to any pets or children.

When hiking or recreating be sure to bring bear spray and/or an air horn, to avoid wearing headphones, and to either leave dogs at home or keep them on a leash at all times. If confronted by a bear do not run away as the bear may perceive that as a reason to hunt; instead stand your ground, yell and scream, and attempt to appear bigger by using a jacket or backpack and by standing close together with others.

Anscar added that when a bear is standing on its hind legs it is not doing so as an aggressive measure but it is actually trying to see you and smell you better.

CPW desires for greater community involvement in order to prevent the worst case scenario of a District Wildlife Manager, or law enforcement, having to euthanize a bear. Anscar stated the utmost importance of community reporting as it allows CPW to track the movements of the bear and to act accordingly before the bear becomes too fearless of humans and therefore too dangerous.

Reporting bear sightings through email, and calling in any instance of a bear being a "nuisance" (meaning it has encroached too far into human space; i.e. going through trash or feeding from a bird feeder), can result in CPW either

helping to haze the bear away from the area, or in them relocating the animal entirely.

Anscar noted that from January 1 to December 31, 2022, there were only 20 reports of a bear sighting from Nederland citizens. Anscar said that by residents being unwilling to report bear sightings the chances of a bear being continually attracted to a residence until it no longer perceives humans as a threat grows to the point where the bear is deemed dangerous. Once a bear breaks into a home, CPW have no other recourse but to euthanize the animal.

The public can deter bears from being attracted to their property by hazing the animal by yelling, using an air horn, banging pots and pans together, or by shooting the animal with a slingshot or with non-lethal rubber buckshot from a shotgun. Motion lights, a radio playing unsteady sounds, such as sports commentary, and placing ammonia-soaked rags around the property were also listed as suggested deterrents.

Anscar concluded the presentation by reiterating the importance of residents taking the responsibility to make their homes bear proof, and by urging the community to get involved by speaking with neighbors who are not taking the proper precautions to avoid a potential human/bear conflict in your neighborhood, and even report neighbors to CPW if need be.

Please contact CPW if you witness any issues or aggressive behavior from local wildlife. CPW can be reached at 303-291-7227 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For other emergency needs, you can contact Colorado State Patrol at 303-239-4501 at any time of the day or week. To anonymously report any illegal wildlife activity, call Operation Game Thief at 1-877-COLO-OGT.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given for a public hearing before the Gilpin County Board of County Commissioners to receive public input and testimony regarding Resolution 23-24 a resolution amending the Gilpin County Building Code to add the 2020 National Electrical Code with no amendments to the Building Code. The public hearing will take place at 9:30 a.m. or later on June 13th, 2023 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Second Floor of the Old Gilpin County Courthouse at 203 Eureka Street Central City, Colorado 80427.

Any and all documents pertaining to this matter may

be viewed between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday at the Old Gilpin County Court House; second floor; 203 Eureka Street; Central City, Colorado. This meeting will be held in person and broadcast live via Microsoft Teams. The link to the live broadcast will be available on the Gilpin County Website under the Public Meetings tab. All interested persons wishing to be heard are invited to said public hearing. Written comments or questions can be emailed to rgutierrez@gilpincounty.org. The meeting may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary. Those individuals requiring special accommodation to participate, please contact Rob Gutierrez at (303)582-5831.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given for a public hearing before the Gilpin County Board of County Commissioners—sitting as the Local Liquor Licensing Authority—on May 23, 2023, at 9:30 A.M., at 203 Eureka Street, Central City, Colorado. The Authority will receive public input regarding an application for a Colorado Retail Fermented Malt Beverage and Wine Liquor License for Toss: Wood Fired Eatery,

LLC, 63 Main Street, Rollinsville, CO 80474, Gilpin County, Colorado. Said application was filed on April 17, 2023 in the Authority's office by Cole Johnson, Owner. Public comment may be submitted in person at the hearing or in writing to: Gilpin County Commissioners, Attn: Clerk and Recorder Sahari McCormick, PO Box 429, Central City, CO, 80427, or via email to smccormick@gilpincounty.org. Written comments must be received by May 22, 2023, in order to be considered.

Fuel reduction begins in Gilpin County

Brenda Ramirez Romero
US Forest Service

Starting in early May, vegetation cutting and hand piling activities will begin as part of the Lump Gulch Fuels Reduction Project. In partnership with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC), the project is part of a long-term approach to confronting the wildfire crisis by sharing resources to reduce hazardous fuels in and around the wildland-urban interface on both public and private lands. The Lump Gulch Fuels Reduction project helps mitigate wildfire risk through thinning and prescribed burning

that will utilize U.S. Forest Service fire and fuel resource crews on the Boulder Ranger District near Rollinsville.

The joint wildland fuels module is part of a new first-of-its-kind agreement to proactively confront the wildfire crisis along Colorado's northern Front Range as part of the USDA Forest Service's 10-year strategy to address the wildfire risk to infrastructure and communities. The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests & Pawnee National Grassland is making a multi-million-dollar investment in shared resources with DFPC to implement a preventative, cross-boundary

approach to wildfire mitigation.

This type of work is designed to reduce forest density and increase the diversity of vegetation across the landscape, encouraging a healthier, more resilient forest. Diversity in the age, size, and species of trees across the landscape helps make forests more resilient to disease and insect infestations and helps reduce the spread and intensity of wildfires. For these treatments, a variety of lodgepole pine, mixed conifer, and aspen stands have been selected to promote landscape diversity, forest health, and wildlife habitat.

The crews will apply patch cut and clearcut prescriptions across 30%

of Unit 27 and Unit 37. Removal of conifer trees adjacent to aspen stands will reduce competition, encourage aspen growth, and promote biodiversity. Fuels gathered from this project will be piled and burned after curing for at least one year. Larger material will be made into smaller pieces and scattered. Once work begins, crews are expected to be on-site periodically throughout the summer, depending on their availability from fire assignments.

For more information visit the Lump Gulch Fuel Reduction Project (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=22315>).

Motorcycle fatalities: Sadly reaching record highs



PHOTO BY Omayra Acevedo

Hitting the road

A motorcyclist prepares to head out on the open roads through the Colorado Rocky Mountains.

Omayra Acevedo
Peak to Peak

Summer in the Rocky Mountains attracts seasonal dwellers, tourists, and more road activity than one can keep up with. Whether it's open car windows, a convertible scenic drive, or a motorcycle ride on the open road, one thing that's often forgotten is how easy it is to get distracted.

Last year alone, 149 motorcyclists were killed in Colorado. That's 20% of the state's total traffic fatalities,

according to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). Only 3% of the 20% were registered vehicles.

So far this year, 21 motorcycle riders have lost their lives. A study from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) shows that not wearing a helmet, speed, and alcohol were contributing factors in motorcycle crashes.

The NHTSA states, "34% of all motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes in 2020 were speeding." Speeding doesn't only affect

motorcyclists. Alcohol impairment also plays a significant role in motorcycle-involved crash fatalities, as well as automobiles.

Forty-one percent of the 2,158 motorcycle riders who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2020 nationwide were alcohol-impaired. Research conducted by the NHTSA concluded that motorcycle riders involved (killed or survived) in fatal crashes had higher percentages of alcohol impairment than any other type of motor vehicle driver.

CDOT shares, "Drivers also need to use caution around motorcycles. Intersections are particularly dangerous since drivers of passenger vehicles often fail to see oncoming motorcycles."

Oftentimes, people neglect to come to a complete stop at a stop sign, assuming there's no one coming. This decision has proven to be fatal in many cases. Is it truly that difficult to obey traffic laws? Is it worth it?

No one's judging or placing blame, but everything we do as drivers, does not only affect ourselves but everyone sharing the road, motorcycles and wildlife included. Every decision we make behind the wheel has a consequence.

To help save a life, CDOT urges


riders to keep speeds down and motorists to look twice. Remember, all it takes is one second of distraction to take a life on the road. Is checking social media updates worth the risk of losing your life or taking someone else's?

The second it takes you to look down to see who's calling can cost a life and having road rage only affects one person. You! Always ask yourself, "Is what I'm doing worth the risk?"

Here is some advice from CDOT:

- Observe all traffic laws and always obey the speed limit.
- Drive and ride alcohol- and drug-free.
- Avoid distractions such as phones or anything else that takes your eyes off the road
- Yield to motorcyclists, especially while turning at intersections.
- Wear high-visibility personal protective gear and DOT-compliant motorcycle helmets.

To learn more about road safety and sharing the road with motorcycles, visit <https://www.codot.gov/safety/motorcycle/motorcycle-laws.html> or <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety>.



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Central City approves new utility terrain vehicle



PHOTOS BY MINDY LEARY

Looking ahead

Left; Public Utilities Director Beard explains the need for a new utility vehicle to access intake structures, reservoirs, and side streets. Right; The Central City Council analyzes and thinks about the issues that they must make decisions about.

Mindy Leary
Central City

Mayor Jeremy Fey called the Central City Council regular meeting to order at exactly 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. In attendance were Mayor Jeremy Fey, Alderman Jeff Aiken, Alderman Marcia Enloe, Alderman Todd Williams, and Mayor Pro-tem Kara Tinucci. Staff present included City Manager Daniel R. Miera, City Attorney Marcus McCaskin, City Clerk Reba Bechtel, Utility Director Jack Beard, and Community Development Director Lisa Roemhildt.

There were no amendments or conflicts with the agenda.

The Consent Agenda included the Regular Bill lists through April 25; the City Council minutes from April 18;

and Resolution No. 23-17, approving a Memorandum of Agreement with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Division of Oil and Public Safety, related to the Regulation of Conveyances.

Tinucci made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and all were in favor.

There was no public comment.

The first action item of new business was Resolution No. 23-16, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Central, Colorado, authorizing the acquisition of a utility terrain vehicle (UTV) for the Central City Public Utilities Department.

Beard approached the stand and explained that this resolution, if authorized, would allow the acquisition of a new UTV, the primary use of which

would be to access intake structures, storage reservoirs, and side streets.

He said, "Think of it like a mini truck, equipped with a six-foot bed."

He received three quotes and visited dealerships.

Williams moved to adopt the resolution.

Tinucci asked what the department is currently using. Beard replied the current vehicle has very high miles and is getting less serviceable.

This vehicle is also occasionally outfitted with a snow plow for snow removal as well.

Williams inquired on whether or not this expense was foreseen in the budget.

Beard replied in the affirmative that they budgeted \$40,000 for the purchase

of this vehicle.

All were in favor of the resolution.

During Staff Updates, Mayor Fey mentioned that he and Miera will be attending a meeting with their equals in Black Hawk to discuss housing in their joint communities, which he hopes bears fruit.

There were no council comments or public comments.

At 7:14 p.m. Fey adjourned the meeting.

The next Central City Council meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on May 16, 2023, at Central City Hall, 141 Nevada Street, second floor; or online via Zoom. Information can be found on the City website, centralcity.colorado.gov/ meetings.

BUSINESS Spotlight

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Beautification comes to Gilpin



PHOTOS BY ERIC DOUGLAS

Planting flowers in Gilpin County

Above, left; The group poses at the Veteran's Memorial at the Community Center, left - right in front row: Sandy Hollingsworth, Roxy Goss, Linda Isenhart, left - right back row: Linza Douglas, Melanie Bleyler, Lynn Gibbs, Won Cho and April Nielsen. Above, right; Planting at the food pantry, left - right: Sandy Hollingsworth, Roxy Goss, Won Cho, Linda Isenhart. Bottom, right; Beautification at the Gilpin County Human Resources Center, left - right, Linza Douglas and Lynn Gibbs.

Lynn Hirshman Gilpin County

The Gilpin Democrats celebrated Earth Day a little late, according to Chair Eric Douglas, by holding "a flower planting blitz" on Sunday, April 30. Nine members of the group added to landscaping by planting flowers at the Veteran's Memorial, the Food Pantry, the Library,

and the Human Services building, all in mid-County.

According to Douglas, the nine Democrats planted "about 300 plants" altogether. They had been donated by two members of the group. Given that at least one Gilpin Dem is a Master Gardener, this generous act does not surprise the community.

BUSINESS

Spotlight



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HELP WANTED

Hardt's backhoe is hiring a **laborer** (\$20 per hour) and experienced **operator** (\$35 per hour). Must have drivers license, vehicle and be reliable. Call 303.589.9354 for details.

POLICE OFFICER (Lateral or POST Certified), City of Black Hawk. **Salary Range:** \$74,056 - \$120,021/Annual (paid hourly), DOQ/E. Unbelievable benefit package and exceptional opportunity to serve in Colorado's premier gaming community located 18 miles west of Golden. Requirements: high school diploma or GED, valid Colorado driver's license with a safe driving record, must be at least 21 years of age, and must be Colorado POST certified. **Benefits:** The City's generous benefits package is available to full-time employees and eligible dependents and includes medical/dental/vision coverage. Employees cost-share 10% of the medical premium with the City's cost-share of 90%, and the City provides 100% of coverage cost for dental, vision, group life, and short/long term disability. The City provides an excellent retirement package with guaranteed 8% match of base earnings and up to a 12% match based on employee's retirement election. Newly hired employees enjoy over seven weeks combined

annual leave (PTO and Sick), which increases with tenure. **Apply Now:** visit <https://www.cityofblackhawk.org/police> and click on the Job Openings link to apply online. Please upload a cover letter and resume with your application. **EOE**

Looking for a part-time **maintenance person** to help with rentals and other properties in the Gilpin County and the Arvada areas. We're very flexible, pick your own hours. Contact Mike at 303-324-5949.

Assistant Cook (AM) - Breakfast and Lunch. The Mountain Research Station is seeking an Assistant Cook! The Assistant will help to prepare, cook, serve, and clean-up meals for guests. Meals are typically for 20-50 guests. The pay rate is \$17-\$24/hr. Requires 6 months of professional experience. Core hours are Mon-Fri 5:30am-11am & Sat-Sun 6am-11am from June 10th - September 2023, about 20-30 hours per week. Apply at [jobs.colorado.edu!](https://jobs.colorado.edu/)

FLEET TECHNICIAN I, City of Black Hawk **Salary Range:** \$56,860 - \$79,604 / Annual (paid hourly) DOQ/E. ALL REQUIRED TOOLS ARE PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF BLACK HAWK. **Unbelievable benefit package** and exceptional opportunity to work in Colorado's premier gaming community. Under the direction of the Fleet Supervisor and Lead Fleet Technician, skilled work in the maintenance and repair of City Equipment, including light, medium, and heavy-duty automobiles, trucks, and other City equipment. **Requirements:** Minimum of three (3) years of experience in automotive or heavy equipment repair, preferably in a municipal setting, formal training in either automotive or heavy equipment, High school diploma or GED, Class B CDL with air brakes and P Endorsement within one (1) year of hire. **Benefits:** The City pays 90% of the medical premium and 100% coverage for dental, vision, group life, and short/long-term disability. The City offers an excellent retirement package with a guaranteed 8% match of base earnings and up to a 12% match based on employees' retirement election. Newly hired employees enjoy over seven weeks combined annual leave (PTO and Sick), which increases with tenure. **Apply Now:** visit www.cityofblackhawk.org and click on the Job Openings link to apply online. Please upload a cover letter and resume with your application. **EOE**

SEASONAL MAINTENANCE WORKER, City of Black Hawk. **Salary Range:** \$19-\$21/HOUR. The City of Black Hawk is accepting applications for four (4) part-time, non-benefited Seasonal Maintenance Workers for outdoor horticulture work with specific responsibility for the care and maintenance of annual floral displays on City properties and street lights. Requirements: Applicants must be at least 16 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, and have a valid Colorado Driver's License with a good driving record. Experience in greenhouse and/or landscape maintenance preferred. Schedule: Mon/Wed/Fri or Tues/Thurs/Sat (including holidays), 7:00 am - 4:00 pm June

– October 2023. The City of Black Hawk conducts background investigations and post-offer physical exams/drug tests as conditions of employment. Applicants must apply online at www.cityofblackhawk.org, then click on Job Openings on the homepage. **EOE**

Painter/Laborer needed for projects in Black Hawk/Central City area. Experience preferred but will train. 20+ per hr. Must have transportation. Call 720-938-5398

Gilpin County is Hiring!

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The City of Black Hawk is accepting applications for a full-time **Automotive Heavy Duty Mechanic** to fill our Fleet Technician II position. **Salary Range:** \$59,703 - \$83,584 / Annual (paid hourly) DOQ/E. ALL REQUIRED TOOLS ARE PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF BLACK HAWK. Under the direction of the Fleet Supervisor, Skilled work in the maintenance and repair of City equipment, including light, medium, and heavy-duty automobiles, trucks, and equipment. Work includes maintenance and repair of emergency equipment, including fire, police, and ambulance, as well as transit buses. Minimum qualifications include Minimum of seven (7) years of experience in automotive or heavy equipment repair, preferably in a municipal setting. High School diploma or GED. Class B CDL with air brakes and P Endorsement, and good driving record. Formal training in either automotive or heavy equipment. Must have current ASE Ambulance Technician Level I EVT certification. **Benefits:** employees cost-share 10% of the medical premium with the City's cost-share of 90%, and the City provides 100% coverage cost for dental, vision, group life, and short/long term disability. The City offers an excellent retirement package with a guaranteed 8% match of base earnings and up to a 12% match based on an employee's retirement election. Newly hired employees enjoy over seven weeks of combined annual leave (PTO and Sick), which increases with tenure. **Apply Now:** visit www.cityofblackhawk.org and click the Job Openings link to apply online. Please upload a cover letter and resume with your application. **EOE**

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER I (Emergency 911 Dispatcher), City of Black Hawk **Salary Range:** \$56,891 - \$79,647 / Annual (paid hourly), DOQ/E. Unbelievable benefit package and exceptional opportunity to serve in Colorado's premier gaming community 18 miles west of Golden. Under the direction of the Communications Supervisor, responsible for the operation of the emergency communications console, including the receipt of calls and proper dispatch of appropriate equipment and personnel to assist the citizens and visitors of Black Hawk in the areas of Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services. Requirements: high school diploma or GED; valid Colorado driver's license with a safe driving record; ability to work various shifts, including days, evenings, graves, weekends, and holidays. Applicant must successfully complete several pre-employment tests, including but not limited to typing, mathematical and multi-tasking skills, psychological exam, physical exam, drug testing,

and background investigation as conditions of employment. **Benefits:** The City pays 90% of the medical premium and 100% coverage for dental, vision, group life, and short/long-term disability. The City offers an excellent retirement package with a guaranteed 8% match of base earnings and up to a 12% match based on employees' retirement election. Newly hired employees enjoy over seven weeks combined annual leave (PTO and Sick), which increases with tenure. **Apply Now:** visit www.cityofblackhawk.org and click on the Job Openings link to apply online. Please upload a cover letter and resume with your application. **EOE**


WATER UTILITY OPERATOR (I, II, III, OR IV) City of Black Hawk. **Salary Range:** \$52,056 - \$84,366 (paid hourly) DOQ/E. Unbelievable benefit package and exceptional opportunity to serve in Colorado's premier gaming community 18 miles west of Golden. **Requirements:** Must be 21 years of age or older; high school diploma or GED; water certification requirements vary depending on position level, must have a valid Colorado driver's license with a safe driving record; previous computer experience; the ability to effectively communicate both verbally and in writing; the ability to lift and/or move up to 80 pounds; and the ability to work on-call and various shifts, including weekends and holidays. Outside experience will be evaluated to determine the extent of equivalency to Black Hawk's duties and appropriate level. Equivalent combinations of education and experience may be considered. **Benefits:** 4-day work weeks! Employees cost-share 10% of the medical premium with the City's cost-share of 90%, and the City provides 100% coverage cost for dental, vision, group life, and short/long term disability. The City offers an excellent retirement package with a guaranteed 8% match of base earnings and up to a 12% match based on an employee's retirement election. Newly hired employees enjoy over seven weeks of combined annual leave (PTO and Sick), which increases with tenure. **Apply Now:** visit www.cityofblackhawk.org and click the Job Openings link to apply online. Please upload a cover letter and resume with your application. **EOE**

Eagles' Nest Early Learning Center is a nonprofit early childhood education center located in Black Hawk, CO. Eagles' Nest has been a large part of the community since 1996 and continues to provide education to children 8 weeks to 5 years old. Our mission is to provide high-quality, safe, and affordable childcare to children from families of all income levels, without regard to race, mental or physical handicap, sexual orientation, or religious preference and we strive to serve all families regardless of economic and societal background. Eagles' Nest is currently offering a **sign on bonus** of \$250 after 90 days of initial employment. Eagles' Nest is actively seeking multiple qualified **Early Childhood Teachers**. Qualifications for this position must meet the requirements set forth by the Office of Early Childhood. Eagles' Nest offers great benefits for full time employees and competitive wages. Benefits include health, dental, vision, life insurance, PTO, and paid holidays. We also maintain pride in the fun and loving work environment that this center has to offer. Early Childhood Lead Teachers: **\$17.00-19.00 per hour** - wages based on level of experience and education. **Hours of Operation:** Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday-CLOSED. **General Requirements:** First Aid/CPR Certified, Colorado Shines Mandatory Courses, FEMA- Childcare Centers, Background Check, Fingerprints. *Assistance will be provided to all new hires with completing the list above. Please contact Salina Gomez at Salinag@eaglesnestelc.org or call 303-582-0895 to receive more information and submit a resume.

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ARPA funds allocated

Continued from page 1

County Senior Living, \$2,500; Belvidere Foundation, \$50,000; Timberline Fire District, \$100,000; TEENS, Inc., \$8,670; Gilpin Historical Society, \$5,335; Eagles' Nest Early Learning Center, \$40,000; Peak to Peak Rotary, \$2,135; High Country Auxiliary, \$2,400.

Board Chair Marie Mornis said they used a broad definition of nonprofits. She had a concern about one of the applicants, Timberline Fire District, which can collect taxes. She said the remaining funds should be used for concerns of the County Sheriff's department.

Commissioner Sandy Hollingsworth said leaving Timberline as a nonprofit is fine. They need a chipper and equipment. The Board approved the resolution.

Gilpin County Planner James Shroul introduced a resolution for Landmark Designation of the Russell Gulch Cemetery. On October 27, 2022, the Gilpin County Department of Community Development received an application to designate Russell Gulch Cemetery as a Local Landmark from the Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 41, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The sign for the cemetery identifies Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 2 as the current owner of the property.

The oldest known records for the cemetery are Gilpin County records dated to 1885. Applicant Ed DeCicco is the owner of the Independent Order of Oddfellows Lodge No. 2 in Russell Gulch, which was designated as a Local Landmark in August 2009.

DeCicco is seeking the designation of the cemetery to complement that of the lodge. DeCicco has received support from the local lodge in Arvada, which absorbed the membership of the now defunct, I.O.O.F. Rocky Mountain Lodge in Russell Gulch. Many records regarding the cemetery have been lost to time, and in the 1990s, several tombstones were found in the County Courthouse that could not be reclaimed.

Local lore suggests that this is not the original location of the Russell Gulch Cemetery, and that the original cemetery is located south of Russell Hill and east of the cemetery's current location. That location has been left undisclosed for the protection of the cemetery and the unmarked graves that are left.

Most graves in the cemetery are dated from the 1880s or later. The earliest known grave found in the cemetery is in the far southeast corner. It belongs to a 4-year-old girl named Mary Jones, whose headstone shows a death date of October 13, 1878.

Several headstones showing tree stumps and trunks are located within the cemetery, indicative of the "Woodmen of the World." Woodmen of the World was a fraternal organization founded in 1890 by Joseph Cullen Root. The purpose of the organization was to make life insurance affordable to all. From 1890 to 1900, their life insurance policy included a tombstone. Plans for the tombstone would be sent to a

local stonemason near the cemetery where the

Woodman was to be buried.

Russell Gulch was founded by William Greeneberry Russell, a miner from the gold fields of northern Georgia. Russell and his brothers originally founded Auraria on the banks of Cherry Creek in 1858. Russell later discovered placer gold deposits in June 1859 in the valley that was soon named in his honor.

Before the end of that summer, nearly 1,000 prospectors occupied the gulch, and gold production averaged \$35,000 a week. During the winter, when mining and prospecting were limited, residents organized the town and district.

They wrote some of the first mining laws in the territory. Women had the same rights as men, and only children under the age of ten years were prohibited from holding mining claims.

The following year brought more prospectors to the area, soon estimated to be 2,500 citizens. Soon thereafter, a federal hall, a brick schoolhouse, a church, and dozens of businesses and houses were built.

During public comment about the resolution, six people from both Gilpin County and Arvada supported the historic designation but worried about the roads and access to the cemetery. They all have family members in the cemetery, and they visit the cemetery regularly.

The main road, Dakota Ridge, is a public road but those going to the cemetery must cross private land owned by Jack Conway. Conway said that last week 25 motorcycles visited the cemetery, and a group had a scavenger hunt that blocked him late at night. He complained that he now has beer bottles and trash on his property.

Shroul said trash can be an issue, and he will talk to the Oddfellows about putting up a bear-proof trash can. The Board approved the historic landmark designation for the Russell Gulch cemetery.

Sheriff Kevin Armstrong presented a bill to bring the jails into compliance with state laws regarding the treatment of people with addiction in the jail and upon their release. He received funding to support a medical treatment program for \$80,000 and \$20,000 for a cart.

The contract was given to the Sheriff's Department last week; he now needed only a signature. The Board approved the behavioral health services contract for \$180,000.

Laura Solomon, Human Services, and Ginger Low with the Jefferson Center for Mental Health presented a proclamation for May 2023 as Mental Health Month. Low said the Jefferson Center provides wellness services for 30,000 people, hoping and working toward breaking down barriers.

The Board approved the proclamation.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be on May 23, 2023. For more information, go to <https://gilpincounty.colorado.gov/public-meetings/board-of-county-commissioners-bocc-meetings>



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BOT and Commissioners discuss Eldora's summer traffic woes

Christopher Kelley
Nederland

On Monday, May 8, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. Boulder County Commissioners Claire Levy, Marta Loachamin, and Ashley Stolzmann met with Nederland government representatives and Town staff at the Nederland Community Center for a special meeting to discuss the parking situation at Hessie trail, Nederland and Boulder County trail connectivity, and the potential for an intergovernmental agreement (IGA).

Commissioner Levy is the current acting Chair of the Board of County Commissioners; she represents District 1 and was elected in 2020, with her term continuing through January 2025.

Commissioner Loachamin, representing District 2, was elected in 2020 with a term continuing through January 2025.

Commissioner Stolzmann, representing District 3, was elected in January 2023 to a four year term and is the current acting Vice Chair of the Board of County Commissioners.

Lead Admin Tech Marysia Bachman, Public Affairs Specialist Jennifer Churchill, County Administrator Jana Petersen, and Acting Chief of Staff Natalie Springett were also representing Boulder County at the special meeting.

Mayor Billy Giblin, Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Mahowald, and Trustees Tania Corvalan, Eric Coombs-Esmail, Jesse Seavers, and Nichole Sterling were present, as well as Town Administrator Dr. Miranda Fisher.

The agenda for the meeting featured seven items, with ten minutes allotted for discussion on six of the items and

20 minutes allotted for discussion on the IGA. Commissioners and Trustees began with a discussion about the parking situation in Eldora at the Hessie and 4th of July trailheads.

Commissioners, along with Chief Park Ranger for Boulder County Parks and Open Space Bevin Carithers, had discussed this matter with Nederland and Eldora residents during a Town Hall meeting on April 13. Carithers noted during that meeting that there are just over 130 parking spaces total for the trailheads, and detailed that 400 vehicles on average on a typical day in July get turned away at the traffic checkpoint before hitting the town of Eldora.

The Hessie Trail Shuttle transported 42,000 hikers in 2022, with 99% of riders boarding the shuttle from Nederland High School. 77% of shuttle riders stated Lost Lake as their primary hiking destination. Shuttle service on the weekdays, extending the shuttle route to the 4th of July trailhead, and providing more toilet paper at the trailheads were the top requests made according to visitor surveys.

The number one request from Eldora residents was for a timed-entry or a permit-based parking system like the one at Brainard Lake, to alleviate traffic issues through the town. Boulder County hopes to implement a new parking system by 2025.

During the May 8 meeting, Nederland Trustees, though in favor of the Hessie shuttle service, stated a belief that the shuttle had reached the pinnacle of its effectiveness because of the influx of visitors to the area. Commissioners and Trustees discussed options to help alleviate the issue, which included

adding more shuttle stops and allowing recreational parking and shuttle service from the Eldora Mountain Ski Resort during the summer.

Commissioners noted that adding more shuttle stops in Nederland in order to promote more tourist spending in town would require more shuttles, which Boulder County is not ready to fund at this time.

Commissioners were not immediately on board with the concept of summer parking at Eldora and instead asked about the potential of a parking garage to be constructed on the Nederland RTD lot. Fisher mentioned that RTD will allow the construction but will not fund the \$4,000,000-\$5,000,000 project themselves.

The next item on the meeting agenda was the discussion of trail connectivity between Nederland and Boulder County. Trustee Seavers provided Commissioners with updates on projects from Nederland's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Board (PROSAB) to prioritize the board's goals and to draft a new Trails Master Plan.

PROSAB has enlisted University of Colorado college of Architecture and Planning students Sarah Drew and Amanda Ferro to work on Nederland's Trails Master Plan. Drew and Ferro have so far been reviewing case studies and comprehension reports involving Trails Master Plans, and will be providing deeper analysis in the following weeks with the hope of delivering a draft of their findings some time in May.

Seavers, who is the BOT liaison to PROSAB, spoke of branding Nederland as a "town within a park" and of wanting to make the trails through Town better

for walkability and bikeability.

Trustees specified that Nederland's trail system needs to be properly assessed and better maintained, with a lot of trails needing to be made official with the proper signage before the Town can come to the table about how to proceed with trail connectivity between Boulder County, private property owners, and the US Forest Service.

Fisher reminded Commissioners of the proposal for Boulder County to fund and install either a trail or a sidewalk along County Road 130, creating better and safer walkability to the Nederland Middle/Senior High School. The project was gaining momentum before the COVID-19 pandemic and any progress has since been halted.

Commissioners told Fisher and Trustees that they were open to continuing the conversation about the possibility of adding a sidewalk on CR-130, though they were concerned that part of the property in question encroaches on private property and may require an easement. Commissioner Stolzmann also mentioned that there are specific grants that can be applied for through the Safe Routes to School program.

Seavers also asked Commissioners for their thoughts on the prospect of Nederland creating a special recreation district, with the property and sales taxes gathered within the district going directly to the Parks department. Commissioners were intrigued, but unsure of what oversight or funding assistance they would provide, if at all.

Fisher noted that the creation of such a district would isolate the Parks

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BOT and Commissioners

Continued from page 38

department from being a municipal department with the Town of Nederland. Stolzmann suggested that a major corporation or financial entity could subsidize the creation of the recreation district, like the Walmart corporation donating 75 acres of land for a park in Bentonville, Arkansas. Nederland Trustees were generally in favor of this idea.

Though 20 minutes of time was allotted for the discussion on the possibility of a new IGA between Nederland and Boulder County, Commissioners and Trustees only briefly discussed the subject as the Town of Nederland is currently awaiting funding for the drafting of an updated Comprehensive Plan, and therefore Trustees preferred to postpone the IGA discussion.

Trustees also briefly discussed with Commissioners the potential of Boulder County providing financial assistance for much needed updates and improvements to the Nederland Community Center (NCC). Though Trustees made the case that Nederland is a hub for the Peak to Peak area and that NCC provides many services while receiving little financial support in return, Levy stated that Boulder County does not fund improvements to government facilities.

Stolzmann briefly spoke with Trustees about Boulder County's Office of Sustainability, Climate Action, and Resilience and their efforts over the next decade to decrease Boulder County's carbon emissions by educating homeowners on the benefits of changing from gas utilities to electric. Stolzmann mentioned her work with the public on this issue, noting that there is a lot of false information to debunk before homeowners realize the benefits of the

change.

Before the conclusion of the meeting, Seavers returned to the prospect of recreational parking at Eldora Mountain Ski Resort, and asked Commissioners about the possibility of developing a new special use agreement that would allow for summer recreation. Seavers hypothesized that allowing summer recreation and parking at Eldora would potentially alleviate vehicle traffic through the town of Eldora and foot traffic on the Hessie trail.

Levy stated her belief that the US Forest Service was potentially responsible for the current ban on summer recreation at Eldora, and reiterated that Commissioners were concerned about wear and tear on the Shelf Road from increased vehicle traffic, and about the impact summer recreation would have on the local wildlife populations.

Stolzmann warned that Eldora residents may not be in favor of summer recreation, and that the impacts to transportation and the potential for emergency evacuation need to be considered. Loachamin felt that leading vehicles up the Shelf Road was not an ideal solution for the summer traffic issue, and hoped that other solutions could be developed.

For more information on the Board of County Commissioners and/or Boulder County Parks and Open Space go to: <https://bouldercounty.gov>.

The Nederland Board of Trustees meet on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Their next scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 7 p.m. and can now be attended either online or in person at the Nederland Community Center. For more information: <https://townofnederland.colorado.gov/board-of-trustees>.



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