

Armed suspect arrested in Nederland

CHRISTOPHER KELLEY
NEDERLAND

On Monday, January 8, 2024, at 4:45 a.m., a report of shots fired at 28th Street and Baseline Road in Boulder resulted in Boulder County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) issuing an Everbridge emergency alert to the residents of southern Nederland at 8:55 a.m., as it was believed that the armed suspect had fled to that area.

Boulder Police Department (BPD) reported that a vehicle had been hit by gun shots at the original scene of the crime, but no one was reported with any injuries. Baseline Road was reopened by 7 a.m.

The emergency notification sent to residents of Old Town, Big Springs, and to those near the Sundance Lodge, issued a mandatory Shelter In Place order due to a "person of interest, wanted by police, described as a 25 year old black male with

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CENTRAL CITY LIGHTS CONTEST

Holiday sparkle
Holiday lights sparkle and glow at 224 Eureka Street in Central City. For more photos and the story, see page 16.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CENTRAL CITY

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The Mountain-Ear re-appointed Gilpin newspaper of record

MINDY LEARY
GILPIN COUNTY

The Gilpin County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) called their regular meeting to order at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2023. In attendance were Commissioners Marie A. Mornis, Susan Berumen, and Sandy Hollingsworth, County Manager Ray Rears, and County Attorney Brad Benning.

Mornis recused herself from a public liquor license hearing, since she is an officer of the organization requesting the temporary liquor license, though both Benning and Hollingsworth said it was not necessary.

The Public and Press Comment dwelt

Continued on page 26



Changing of Commissioners Chair
On Tuesday, January 9, 2023, Susan Berumen was nominated and selected to be the new Chair for the board. The board chair position changes yearly.

PHOTO BY BARBARA HARDT

Pardon our dust, we are under construction. This week you will find that the paper has shifted a bit with content being moved. The good news is, it's all still there. We are moving things around as part of a redesign. Inside page 3 you will find the directory listing where things have been placed. Love it? Hate it? *Let us know at info@themountaineer.com.*

- QUOTE OF THE WEEK -

"What a newspaper needs in its news, in its headlines, and on its editorial page is terseness, humor, descriptive power, satire, originality, good literary style, clever condensation, and accuracy, accuracy, accuracy!" ~Joseph Pulitzer

THE MOUNTAIN-EAR

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Advertising

Classifieds, Display and Public Notices are due by Friday at 5 p.m. for the following weeks edition.
DISPLAY ADS can be placed by emailing info@themountainear.com or online at themtnear.com and click on advertise.
CLASSIFIEDS are placed online at themtnear.com and click on classifieds.
ONLINE BUSINESS DIRECTORY or Banner ads are placed online at themtnear.com and click on Business Directory.
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Letters

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 42 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 personify homegrown journalism.



PHOTOS BY BARBARA HARDT

Manhunt in the mountains

On Monday, January 8, an armed suspect was tracked down above Nederland.

Armed suspect arrested in Nederland

Continued from page 1

dreadlocks last known to be wearing a light colored brown bomber jacket, a designer cross-shoulder bag, jeans, with only one shoe on. The party is believed to be armed.”

BCSO reported seeing the suspect flee in his Mercedes on the Peak to Peak Highway before crashing the vehicle at the 22000 block of the highway and then running on foot to the Sundance.

Nederland stores in the Caribou

Village Shopping Center, and across the town, shut their doors and notified their customers through social media that they would remain closed until the Shelter In Place order was lifted. BCSO and SWAT officers used the shopping center parking lot as a staging ground for their search for the suspect.

The “All Clear” message was sent at 11:50 a.m. once the suspect was apprehended and taken into custody.

In addition to BCSO and the BPD, the Boulder County SWAT Team,

BPD K9 Team, the Boulder County K9 team, the Gilpin County Sheriff’s Office, the Boulder Emergency Squad, the Nederland Fire Protection District, the Timberline Fire Protection District and the High Country Fire Protection District all assisted.

For more information on the Everbridge alert system, and to receive emergency notifications from BCSO concerning your area, go to: <https://member.everbridge.net/453003085612231/new>.

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Correction

There were errors in the report of the PROSAB meeting published on January 4. We regret these errors, and have published a corrected version of the story online at <https://www.themtnear.com/articles/prosab-looks-at-2024-budget-programs/>

THE BACKDOOR THEATRE

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 Color Purple

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

A woman faces many hardships in her life, but ultimately finds extraordinary strength and hope in the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood. Director: Blitz Bazawule. Writers: Marcus Gardley, Alice Walker, Marsha Norman. Stars: Fantasia Barrino, Taraji P. Henson, Danielle Brook. Rated: PG-13. Time: 2 hours and 21 minutes. Genre: Drama, Musical.

750 Highway 72 North inside Nederland Community Center

Peak Perspectives: Newspaper of Record



PHOTO BY HAYDEN HARDT-ZEMAN

**BARBARA HARDT
MANAGING EDITOR**

On Tuesday, January 9, 2024, the Gilpin County Commissioners again selected *The Mountain-Ear* as newspaper of record for 2024.

This is an honor that we accept with gratitude. The commissioners spoke kind words about both *The Mountain-Ear* and the *Weekly Register Call (WRC)*. The WRC had also applied to be Newspaper of Record.

So here's where I want to say a few very kind words about WRC. While it was not selected to be the Newspaper of Record, I do believe the WRC has a very important role in Gilpin County. They do reach readers that we don't reach, whether it's readers that don't like our "more extensive" coverage of the Peak to Peak region, or perhaps readers that simply don't want to read two newspapers that have "some of" the same coverage. Either way, I personally want to recognize WRC and their continued devotion to covering the news of this region. As well, their historical archive is invaluable to the community for over 160 years of life in Gilpin County.

Now I want to clarify a few things mentioned in their editorial a few weeks ago. And clarify why we can be a Newspaper of Record.

The Mountain-Ear is owned by a limited liability company. *The Mountain-Ear* has 3 offices. We have a leased space at 430 Lawrence Street, unit C, in Central City. I maintain my home office at 245 Apollo Drive, in Black Hawk. And we have our office at 98 W. 1st Street, in Nederland. Our Nederland office is listed as our "principal" with the Colorado Secretary of State, which allows an entity to list only one "principal" office. The very use of the word "principal" in the LLC statute implies an entity may have other offices that are not

listed as its "principal" office. The statute that governs registration of LLC's has nothing to do with where a newspaper is "published." They are two separate things. They are not even located in the same title of the statutes.

Section 24-7-101, C.R.S. provides "Published" means a newspaper that maintains an office in the county to gather news, sell advertising, or conduct business of newspaper publications." (Emphasis added). The statute does NOT say, "maintains its sole office," "maintains its only office," or "maintains its principal office." *The Mountain-Ear* maintains "an office" in both

counties and is therefore published in both Boulder and Gilpin counties. The statute is clear. We are PROUD to be YOUR community source for news, since 1977. Thank you for your continued support.

As always, if you have a question about anything to do with The Mountain-Ear, please feel free to reach out to me. I will answer them to the best of my ability. If I don't know the answer, I'll find it. I can be reached at the office at 303-810-5409, on my personal cell at 303-881-0365 or by email at info@themountainear.com.

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Lorena DeSanta
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Move-in ready 5-bdrm custom home with views! The home was recently updated and has a bright and open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, main floor master bedroom, loft that makes a perfect office. Spacious kitchen with SS appliances and living room with cozy wood stove. End-of-the-road location with no through traffic. Easy access on well-maintained roads, just 30 minutes to N Boulder.

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- QUOTE OF THE WEEK -
"What a newspaper needs in its news, in its headlines, and on its editorial page is terseness, humor, descriptive power, satire, originality, good literary style, clever condensation, and accuracy, accuracy, accuracy!" ~Joseph Pulitzer



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1988

January brings blizzards and a boycott

Bill Allen was an opinion columnist for The Mountain-Ear from 1987 to 1991. Allen's columns were a popular addition to the paper each week, sometimes causing controversy and always raising debate.

CYNTHIA DAVIS
PEAK TO PEAK

It's 1988 in Nederland, Colorado, and barely three weeks into the new year. So far, people have endured back-to-back blizzards and *The Mountain-Ear* is facing a boycott by a growing number of advertisers. Some of the merchants in Nederland have stopped selling the paper. Letter after letter from angry readers have been flooding the mailbox as crank calls flood the answering machine.

So, how does the staff at the paper choose to deal with such a dilemma? Exactly as they should: report the news of the uprising to the community and run it on the front page.

During this period, *The Mountain-Ear* carried a weekly opinion column written by Nederland resident Bill Allen. In a column printed the week before the boycott, Allen raised the question of why mountain prices were so high. He titled it with, "Why pay high altitude prices?" with the first sentence being, "Can anyone tell me why everything costs more here in the mountains?"

Allen believed price hikes for mountain living to be unfair to locals, especially for everyday items and necessary services, and he had no trouble talking about things that "bugged" him. Yes, his opinions were direct and unapologetic, but even he refers to his words that week as a "rant." Readers were warned.

At one point he stated, "Sometimes

it seems like local prices are set for tourists, who are used to being gouged wherever they go. I'll continue to shop locally, but that doesn't mean I have to like being treated like a Texan."

From the cost of sewer lines to the price of a six pack, in less than 300 words, Allen pointed out there was an average 30% or more increase for the same goods and services in Nederland as in Boulder. That week, he also managed to call out everyone in town he believed to be price gouging. Still, the column is very clearly presented as an opinion piece and understandably, in such a piece, opinions are given. However, no one, not even Allen, could have predicted the enormous fallout that would follow.

One of the loudest voices in opposition to Allen came from Drew Marschhausen. Maybe he felt there was some underlying, double-whammy insult directed solely at him. Either way, he was rather extreme when responding to the column.

At that time, Marschhausen owned the Dam Liquor Store, was president of the Nederland Area Chamber of Commerce, and was also seemingly very proud to be a Texan.

In a letter to *The Mountain-Ear* that week he wrote, "If Mr. Allen would like to come into my store I would be happy to educate him on purchasing and pricing. If he would like to repeat his 'Texan' comment to my face, I

Continued on page 5

PLANNING AN EVENT?

List it online AND in our weekly Cracker Barrel

Go to www.themtneer.com to submit your event details or email info@themountaineer.com

1988

Continued from page 4

will be happy to introduce my fist to his mouth.”

In addition to threatening Allen with violence, Marschhausen announced that he would be spearheading all efforts to remove *The Mountain-Ear* from every establishment in Nederland.

For weeks the letters kept coming as more and more people joined the debate. On behalf of the paper that week, George Blevins wrote, “This week’s Mountain-Ear is a little short on news. It’s not that news didn’t happen, but that our mail persons worked overtime stuffing letters into our box. We received so much opinion that we dropped some of the news from our pages to make room for it. We hope our readers will enjoy reading the varied and lively letters as much as we did. Our readers write some of the most creative, thoughtful, provocative and interesting letters we’ve ever read, and we are pleased to be able to share them with you.”

This also comes as the original question of “Why the high prices in the mountains?” morphed into “What about freedom of the press?”

Walter B. Smith, a veteran living in Rollinsville, wrote to say, “Such an uproar over one man exercising his rights under the Constitution! Whatever happened to ‘I disagree with your opinion, but I will defend to the death your right to express it’?”

He continued by reminding people, “The constitutionally guaranteed rights of free speech and a free press are vital to the very life of our nation, and are at risk whenever a special interest group seeks to stifle the voice of a citizen.”

Another response came in from Randy Lee of Nederland. In his letter he stated, “Well, here we go again. Yet another individual has had the temerity to voice sentiments critical of the holy community of Nederland, and our local knee-jerk brigade has surged forth to defend her slighted honor, spouting the usual twattle.”

Offering further perspective on the subject, Lee wrote, “Many of us don’t mind paying a bit more in order to support our local businesses, but we do object to trading with blustering censors. Lighten up, Marschhausen. No harm was done to your honor either as a local store owner or as a Texan that you didn’t engender yourself with your disproportionate reaction to a petty columnist’s



musings.”

Others in the community found the exchange of commentary amusing. Nederland resident Eric Monde wrote, “I’ve really enjoyed the past couple of issues of *The Mountain-Ear*. The verbal snowball fight Allen and Marschhausen are having is fun reading, and something you only get in a small local paper.”

He also mentioned, “Yes, prices are higher up here, but it’s just one of the prices we all willingly pay to live up here. No big deal. I buy *The Mountain-Ear* because it is a forum for local opinion, and as such, I’ll keep buying it. Just don’t raise the price.”

Letters continued to arrive in support of both Allen’s right to freedom of speech and the need to defend the freedom of press.

One letter sent in by David and Barbara Farwell said it best: “A newspaper should not only inform, but also raise questions. It should present a variety of opinions to stimulate discussion. It should provide a forum for more than one viewpoint. And it should ‘belong’ to no one individual or to no one group in town. We don’t always agree with Bill Allen, but we trust *The Mountain-Ear* will refuse to buckle under pressure and threats of boycotts from those who disagree.”

In Allen’s only printed response to the community’s reaction to that now infamous column he wrote, “Well, last week’s column sure caused an

uproar, which doesn’t surprise me at all. I thought I’d jump-start the dialogue, stir the stew a little. Nice to know that somebody reads this thing, at least.”

He also said, “Whether people are getting together to agree with my opinions or to sit around and talk about what a jerk this guy Bill Allen is, dialogue is my goal. By that criteria, last week’s column was a huge success. I think people need to talk to each other, and I don’t mind becoming a persona non grata in some corners to promote this. Anyway, the stage is now set for a lively debate on the way business works in the mountain area. People can step forward and defend local businesses and their prices, merchants can explain why many things must cost significantly more here, the whole topic can be widely discussed and hopefully better understood by everyone, myself included.”

In all, Bill Allen contributed some 250 columns to *The Mountain-Ear* during his time with the paper. He wrote his first column on August 6, 1987; his last was printed on May 31, 1991. During those years he continued to ruffle feathers time and again but never again to that degree.

Allen never claimed to be some great reporter. He reminded readers time and again they were reading only one man’s opinion. That opinion, however, was often very

easy to relate to.

Bill Allen passed away on December 2, 2016. During his life in Nederland he was a school bus driver, worked in transportation, ran his own business, volunteered countless hours around the community, and left a legacy of hard work, honesty and determination to the town and his five sons.

Recently, in an interview with Allen’s youngest son, Bob Allen, he had this to say about his dad: “He was very opinionated, obviously, and he was very firm in his own beliefs, but he loved this town.”

In Allen’s last column in *The Mountain-Ear*, he signed off with the following call to action for his replacement: “I want to take the opportunity to encourage any takers to step forward, give it a shot. It isn’t easy; as a friend of mine said, ‘It must be tough having an opinion a week.’ It is, but it has been my experience that it can also be a whole lot of fun. Little, local newspapers such as the one in your hands, fill one of the nicer niches in journalism. In them a writer’s contact with his readership is very close. If the people buying your stuff like it, you’ll hear about it everywhere you go.”

“The opposite, of course, is also true, but in any case being a small town columnist assures one of many opportunities for debate and conversation. If you’re into that sort of thing, it can be a great little avocation. I know you’re out there, people more skilled and qualified for the job than I’ve ever been. Try it for a while, really, it can be gas.”

You can find Bill’s full obituary by going to <https://www.themtnear.com/articles/bill-allen-102255-12216/>.

Listen in for more of our interview with Bob Allen as we talk about his dad, by going to *The Mountain-Ear* podcast, Season 4, episode 7, streaming across every major player.

Information for this article has been taken directly from *The Mountain-Ear* historical archives. To read more on this story and take a deep dive into Bill’s other works full of wise words, visit <https://www.coloradahistoricnewspapers.org/> and search, *The Mountain-Ear* between the years of 1987 and 1991.

You will also have a chance to see what else was going on that week in the headlines.

SPOILER ALERT: Ice fishermen finally admit they’re crazy, and someone accidentally loses a bag of cocaine at the bank.

But that’s another story.

Photo courtesy of the Allen Family

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Thank you for standing up

Dear Ms. Mornis,

I am writing in response to the Mindy Leary piece in *The Mountain-*

Ear Newspaper 12/28/2023 "BOCC not always unanimous in 2023".

I fully support your vote of "no" on all the matters represented in the

article. You seem to understand your constituents are under siege from every direction. City, county, state and federal taxes are all on the rise.

Increased regulations coupled with the misnamed "fees", the horrendous inflation we have felt the past few years and you have a financially challenged tax base. It will be interesting to see the property tax windfall the county residents will pay as a result of increased valuations.

You seem to understand that gaming revenue depends on disposable income. When times are tough gaming revenue goes down. In those times, times are tough for your constituents as well. Thank you for understanding this and speaking out on our behalf.

No one on the current board garnered 40% of the votes from the registered voters in Gilpin County. Yes the election was won but by very small margins. Proposition 1A failed to garner 40% support as well.

I registered as an unaffiliated voter in Gilpin County in 1972. Despite increased taxes, fees, regulations and a massively increased size of county government I have witnessed little improvement to my quality of life.

Thank you for standing up for me.

Sincerely,
Dan Adler
Rollinsville

The breakdown of votes

Year	Active Voters	Inactive Voters	Total Registered Voters
2020	4,815	826	5,641

Year	Commissioner	Total Votes	Percentage Split Votes For / Against	Percent Residents For	Percent Residents Not Endorsing
2020	Hollingsworth	1,840	44.69 / 42.63 / 522	32.60%	67.4
2020	Sill / Mornis	2,101	51.27 / 48.73	37.2	62.8
2022	Berumen	1,801	53.2 / 46.8	31.9	68.1
2023	Proposition 1A	2568	36.3 / 63.9	16.6	83.4

Source: Gilpin County
This data has not been verified by *The Mountain-Ear* staff.

Nederland Area Seniors

January 17 - Citrus fish, rice pilaf, broccoli, apple, Purple Art event (art class for seniors, suggested donation \$5)

January 22 - Chair massage with Bonnie Albrecht from 9 to 11 a.m. (30 minute sessions, suggested donation \$5)

January 24 - Stuffed chicken, brown and wild rice blend, salad with balsamic dressing, apricots

January 31 - Cheese enchiladas, Mexican rice, chopped salad, sour cream, peaches & cake, Birthday Celebration

*Our Senior Lounge is open! Feel free to drop-in on Mondays and Wednesdays 1 - 3 p.m. and play board games, enjoy a ping pong match, comfortably read a book or catch up with friends. **Except on the third Wednesday of the month due to Purple Art Class. Check our website calendar for the latest up dates www.mountainpeaklife.org.*

Gilpin County Seniors

January 11 - Grocery shopping at Bergen Park King Soopers

January 12 - Free Senior Fit exercise class 11 a.m., Lunch 12:15 p.m.

January 15 - Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 17 - Free Senior Fit exercise class 11 a.m., Lunch 12:15 p.m., Birthday Party!

January 18 - Grocery shopping at Bergen Park Walmart

January 19 - Free Senior Fit exercise class 11 a.m., Lunch 12:15 p.m., Free Bingo

January 22 - Free Senior Fit exercise class 11 a.m., No lunch

January 24 - Free Senior Fit exercise class 11 a.m., Lunch 12:15 p.m., Free Bingo

January 25 - Grocery shopping at Bergen Park Walmart

January 26 - Free Senior Fit exercise class 11 a.m., Lunch 12:15 p.m., Social time

January 29 - Free Senior Fit exercise Class 11 a.m., No lunch

January 31 - Free Senior Fit exercise class 11 a.m., Lunch 12:15 p.m., Blood Pressure Clinic

Please RSVP for lunch at least two business days ahead. We ask for a \$2.50 donation for lunch. 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. Call 303-582-5444 or email gilpinse-niors@gilpincounty.org.

It helps to know all the facts

Dear Editor,

This is in response to a Letter to the Editor in *The Mountain-Ear* on 12/21/2023 from Kathleen Balfour about the election process.

I have been a poll worker (pre-mail in ballot system) and election judge in Gilpin County since at least 2004. I was disturbed but not really surprised by Ms. Balfour's letter. Ms. Balfour has minimal experience as an election judge and her language appears to be influenced by the repeatedly and credibly debunked "Big Lie" of her party's Dear Leader. I experienced how rudimentary the election system was before mail-in ballots were activated in 2012 and feel safe in saying that Colorado's election system is one of the best and safest in the country.

The first four issues she raised were minor and caught easily because of designed fail-safes in the system, though she made them sound like serious flaws. The fifth issue that she made much of, that the same software vendor does the Election Risk

Limiting Audit and the Election, is untrue. Dominion does the Election, then in-house software developed by the Colorado Department Of State's office processes the Risk Limiting Audit data generated by the bipartisan Election Judge teams.

Here is more information about this from the RLA FAQ page: "Q4. How does Colorado perform the audit? A4. During a comparison audit, counties are given a list of specific ballots to examine and then replicate the voter markings in an open source software application created by the Colorado Department of State specifically to facilitate the audit. The source code for the software can be found following this link (<https://github.com/cdos-rla/colorado-rla>). Further details about the audit can be found in the next few questions."

The link to the RLA FAQ page: (<https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/RLA/faqs.html>).

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Douglas
Gilpin County

Letter to the Editor

Submit your letter to the editor by emailing the newspaper at info@themountaineear.com or online at <https://www.themtnear.com/submit-letter-or-guest-opinion/>. Letters are the opinion of the author and do not reflect the opinion of *The Mountain-Ear*.

Thursday, January 11

Virtual Legal Self-Help Clinic: A free legal clinic for parties who have no attorney. Volunteer attorneys will answer questions, help fill out forms, and explain the process and procedure for civil legal issues, including family law, civil litigation, property law, probate law, collections, appeals, landlord-tenant law, veteran's benefits, and civil protection orders. Second Thursday of every month from 2 until 5 p.m. Volunteer attorneys will assist one-on-one, via computer link at the Gilpin County Public Library, 15131 Highway 119, Black Hawk. Please call the library at 303-582-0161 to be added to the sign-up sheet.

Peak to Peak Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting: The January meeting of the Peak to Peak Chamber of Commerce Board is scheduled to take place at 6 p.m. in person at the office of *The Mountain Ear*, 98 West First Street, Nederland. To sign up for notifications please visit <https://peaktopeakchamber.org>.

Friday, January 12

Friday Storytime: Read books, sing songs, learn some ASL, and get the wiggles out in the first half hour, followed by free play. The Nederland Community Library hosts story time every Friday morning from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. for ages 0 - 4 years. Visit <https://nederland.libcal.com> for more information.

Saturday, January 13

1st Annual Pretty Chill Rail Jam: This inaugural event will take place at 3 p.m. in the parking lot of Knotted Root Brewing Company, 250 North Caribou Street, Nederland. This is a judged freestyle event. Multiple prizes for different tricks. Equal prize payout for men and women. For additional information visit us online at <https://www.knottedrootbrewing.com>.

Sunday, January 14

The Great Brewery Bake Off: Hosted by Very Nice Brewing Company from 3 until 5 p.m. at 20 Lakeview Drive, Unit 112, Nederland. Join us for a friendly baking battle where passionate amateur baking (and beer) fans share their skills. Over the course of 12 months, experience the creations, and pair them with our beers! We kick off this year with baklava. Prizes will be given to the best in show! For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/794827095788031>.

Tuesday, January 16

Coal Creek Canyon Improvement Association Board Meeting: The CCCIA Board Meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the CCC Community Center, 31528 Highway 72. For questions, please contact President Chris Passarelli at cccia80403@gmail.com. For more information see www.coal-creek-canyon.org.

Gilpin School District Accountability Committee (DAC) Meeting: DAC meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the Gilpin County School Board Room. There is also a live stream accessible through their YouTube channel: Gilpin County School District Re-1. Chairperson Edwards can be reached at toripaladino@gmail.com if parents ever have any concerns or questions.

Self Help Meetings**Tuesday Night Nederland Cross Talk Meeting**

A Big Book meeting at 7 p.m. online via zoom. For more information visit <https://bouldercountyaa.com/meetings/tuesday-night-nederland-cross-talk-meeting>.

The Morning Group

Group meeting every Thursday morning at 8 a.m. online via zoom. For more information visit <https://bouldercountyaa.com/meetings/the-morning-group>.

Nederland Group

A hybrid meeting every Friday night at 7 p.m. at St. Rita's Catholic Church at 326 Highway 119, Nederland, and online via zoom. For more information visit <https://bouldercountyaa.com/meetings/nederland-group>.

Gilpin County H.A.L.T.

An in-person meeting every Sunday at 6 p.m. held at 226 E. First High Street, Central City. https://findrecovery.com/aa_meeting/gilpin-county-h.a.l.t.-central-city/.

Gilpin County H.A.L.T.

A Big Book meeting every Wednesday at 7 p.m. held at 226 E. First High Street, Central City. https://findrecovery.com/aa_meeting/gilpin-county-h.a.l.t.-central-city/.

NA Meeting

This is an open hybrid meeting - anyone can attend - on Sundays from 6 to 7 p.m. at Nederland Presbyterian Community Church, 210 North Jefferson Street, Nederland, or online via Zoom (Meeting ID# 893 7194 1883). We hope to see you there sometime.

For additional meetings in Boulder County visit <https://bouldercountyaa.com/meetings/> and for meetings in Gilpin, Black Hawk, Central City, and nearby areas visit https://findrecovery.com/aa_meetings/colblack-hawk/. For help finding meetings or recovery support for you or a loved one please call: 866-641-9190.

Cracker BARREL

Get involved in your community

Wednesday, January 17

Preschool Storytime: The Gilpin Public Library hosts story time every Wednesday morning from 10 to 11 a.m. for ages 0 - 5 years. Join Children's Librarian Deb Benitez for stories, fingerplays, rhymes, and more. A themed craft will follow every story. Previous week's crafts are available until supplies run out, <https://www.gilpinlibrary.org>.

Saturday, January 20

The 25th Annual Coal Creek Canyon Chilifest, presented by United Power, is right around the corner. Join us and judge as we all enjoy the best chili sampling across the front range from 4 to 8 p.m. at Coal Creek Canyon Community Hall, 31528 Highway 72. Cheer on our contestants in three categories: red chili, green chili, and Texas-style (no beans allowed) chili. Returning this year, kickback with some tunes on vinyl, spinning from 6 to 8 p.m. Still hungry? You can purchase a chili bowl as we raise funds for Coal Creek Canyon Improvement Association. Check online for more info and signups at www.coal-creek-canyon.org. \$20 entry fee per contestant.

Gilpin County Public Library Movie Night: Join us for popcorn and a movie as we watch *The Holdovers* from 5 until 7:30 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room, 15131 Highway 119, Black Hawk from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more information please see <https://www.gilpinlibrary.org>.

Sunday, January 21

Founders and Funders: Supporting Women-Owned Businesses in the Peak to Peak Region. Join us for the first of a series of events designed to connect fellow entrepreneurs, investors, and industry experts. Discover new insights, gain valuable connections, and explore potential collaborations on Sunday, January 21 from 4 until 6 p.m. at Hub Ned, 80 Big Springs Road, Nederland. Co-Hosted by Hub Ned and SmartReg Consulting. Register online now: <https://bit.ly/3vaOPwN>.

Monday, January 22


Nederland Writers: Bring something you are working on to share and get feedback or join the group to listen in and hone your skills. Area writers gather at Nederland Public Library every Monday from 1 to 3 p.m. For details visit <https://nederland.libcal.com>.

The Mountain Meditation Circle is a free and open group that has been meeting every Monday evening for the last four years at the Gilpin County Public Library. New participants are always welcome. New members will need to provide their contact information prior to attending their first meeting. Please contact Alisa Witt at wittalisa@gmail.com or 847-890-5262 to provide your contact information.

Tuesday, January 23

Philosophy Club: Love studying the inner workings of reality? Love waxing philosophically? Love classical thinkers? This is the club for you! Join us for our inaugural meeting and help us decide what this club will be like. If you would like, please come with a favorite philosophy book, author, or excerpt to talk about. First meeting will be January 23 at 5 p.m. at the Nederland Community Library, 200 N Highway 72. Snacks and refreshments will be available. Email Asa, asa@nedlib.org, with any questions and don't forget to register!

Did we miss you? Would you like your event listed in the Cracker Barrel? Please call 303-810-5409 or email info@themountainearear.com to be included in the next edition. Check us out online at www.themtnear.com events for more upcoming events.



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Coal Creek charter school needs more students

JOHN SCARFFE
COAL CREEK CANYON

A letter from Jefferson Academy thanks the many families who have already submitted applications through EnrollJeffco to Jefferson Academy Coal Creek Canyon. Parents were reminded that Round 1 of EnrollJeffco closes on Friday, January 12.

Jefferson Academy (JA) needs to ensure that the school is financially viable. This means that the school needs 87 students and 20 Super Friday homeschooled students in order for the budget to balance. If there are too few students enrolled for the 2024-25 school year, Jefferson Academy might not be able to open even if they are authorized to do so.

The letter continues "We are closely watching applications and have seen that 36 traditional K-8 students have applied so far. If your family plans to attend Jefferson Academy Coal Creek, I strongly encourage you to submit an

If there are too few students enrolled for the 2024-25 school year, Jefferson Academy might not be able to open even if they are authorized to do so.

application as soon as possible."

In order for a family to enroll, they must visit EnrollJeffco and submit a choice enrollment application to "Coal Creek Canyon Charter School." All applications submitted to this school are for Jefferson Academy Coal Creek Canyon. An option for enrolling in PreK and the Super Friday program is available in EnrollJeffco as well.

In late January, families will receive enrollment offers from schools where your application has been accepted. All families who submit an application to "Coal Creek Canyon Charter School" will be accepted at Jefferson Academy Coal Creek Canyon.

Below are instructions for submitting an application in EnrollJeffco for Jefferson County Residents:

When you log in, you might see that your expected school is listed

as "Coal Creek Canyon K-8 – Closing Spring 2024." This is simply because your student is currently attending CCKK8. If you reside in Jefferson County, you will also see "Neighborhood School: Three Creeks K-8," which is an indication that you are guaranteed enrollment in Three Creeks since you are living in the school's new boundary area.

Option 1: Enroll in Three Creeks K-8 only as your new neighborhood school. If you take no action in EnrollJeffco, you will be automatically enrolled at Three Creeks K-8.

Option 2: Submit an "intent to enroll" in Three Creeks to reserve a spot and submit choice enrollment applications, including "Coal Creek Canyon Charter School (Pending Approval Jan. 2024)."

Option 3: Only submit choice enrollment applications. This could include "Coal Creek Canyon Charter School (Pending Approval Jan 2024)" or any other Jeffco school

of your choice. You must submit a choice enrollment application if you want to attend Jefferson Academy Coal Creek Canyon.

For Gilpin and Boulder County Residents:

When you log in, you might see that your expected school is listed as "Coal Creek Canyon K-8 – Closing Spring 2024." This is simply because your student is currently attending CCKK8.

Option 1: Submit choice enrollment applications. This could include "Coal Creek Canyon Charter School (Pending Approval Jan 2024)" or any other Jeffco school of your choice. You must submit a choice enrollment application if you want to attend Jefferson Academy Coal Creek Canyon.

Option 2 (not in EnrollJeffco): Enroll in your neighborhood school in Boulder Valley School

District (home school district for both Boulder and Gilpin residents). If you take no action in EnrollJeffco, the district will assume you are planning to attend a BVSD school.

As a reminder, Dan Cavaliere is the Enrollment Specialist serving Coal Creek Canyon and he is

Continued on page 9



Gilpin School Calendar

Thursday, January 11
4 p.m. - Middle School Girls' Basketball at Estes Park

Friday, January 12
4 p.m. - High School Boys' Basketball at Skyview

Saturday, January 13
Middle School Girls' Basketball at Summit Tournament
9 a.m. - Varsity Wrestling at Wiggins

Monday, January 15
No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Tuesday, January 16
5:30 p.m. - District Accountability Committee (DAC) Meeting
7 p.m. - Board of Education Meeting

Wednesday, January 17
9 a.m. - Late Start, School Begins
4 p.m. - High School Girls' Basketball at Kiowa

Friday, January 19
4:15 p.m. - Middle School Girls' Basketball Home vs Summit

Saturday, January 20
9 a.m. - Varsity Wrestling at Chatfield Workhorse Invitational
11 a.m. - High School Boys' Basketball at Clear Creek



NMSHS Calendar

Friday, January 12
High School Alpine Slalom
High School Nordic at Tennessee Pass Nordic Center
4:30 p.m. - JV Boys' Basketball vs. Weldon Valley
5:30 p.m. - Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. Weldon Valley

Monday, January 15
No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Tuesday, January 16
4 p.m. - JV Boys' Basketball at Windsor Charter
5:30 p.m. - Varsity Boys' Basketball at Windsor Charter

Thursday, January 18
4 p.m. - JV Boys' Basketball at Loveland Classical
5 p.m. - Varsity Boys' Basketball at Loveland Classical

Friday, January 19
High School Alpine Slalom
Middle School Alpine at Ski Cooper

Saturday, January 20
High School Nordic at Snow Mountain Ranch Nordic Center

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Charter school

Continued from page 8

available to answer any enrollment questions Coal Creek families might have. His contact information is ccck8enrollment@jeffco.k12.co.us, or 303-982-6100.

If parents have any questions about Jefferson Academy, they may feel free to reach out to Tim Matlick directly at tmatlick@jajags.com.

Regarding Coal Creek Canyon Homeschool Families, Jefferson Academy is "very excited about what this program will provide for all students as they learn and grow together. Families who would like to participate in Super Friday for homeschoolers will need to register and enroll through EnrollJeffco."

If a student recently attended a Jeffco school, the process should be fairly straightforward. If students have never attended a Jeffco school, they will be asked to set up a family account so they can register for the program.

The Super Friday program is currently designed to serve students in grades K - 8.

As a reminder, this will include a one day per week enrichment program for homeschooled students.

On Fridays they will join with the traditional school students at Coal Creek

Canyon School for a full day of special and elective classes. To supplement the more traditional art, music, and PE, JA is looking into ways to develop courses that will be

appealing to and helpful for families living in mountain communities.

There are two ways to choice enroll in the JACCC Super Friday program:

If you have already submitted a Letter of Intent to Homeschool for next year,

Go to Applying for a Part Time/ Secondary Program (Warren Tech, Jeffco Virtual, or Home Based Enrichment) (Public Enrollment & Registration: Public: EnrollJeffco) : JeffcoHelp Support Portal (freshservice.com).

If you have NOT submitted a Letter of Intent to Homeschool next year, go to

Submitting a Letter of Intent to Home Based Education (Home School) [Español, Русский, and Việt] : JeffcoHelp Support Portal (freshservice.com).

Remember, students who recently attended a Jeffco school may not need to complete all the steps that are shown in the guide. They can match that webpage seen in EnrollJeffco with the picture in the guide for steps on how to move forward, bypassing all the previous steps.

For Homeschooled High School Students, JA is looking into developing a program for homeschooled high school students held at the CCC campus. They are not yet able to enroll high school students at JACCC's Super Friday since it is a K-8 school. However, they are working to provide the option for these students to attend on site in CCC as a registered student through one of our other homeschool campuses. This would qualify them for free access to Concurrent Enrollment classes at Red Rocks Community College or Front Range Community College.



January

RECIPES



High Altitude Chocolate Cake

Baking at high elevations can prove challenging for even the most experienced baker. But don't fret because this chocolate cake is baked perfectly at both 8600 and 9100 feet. The recipe will need adjusting if baking below 5000 feet.

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1-1/2 cup hot coffee
- 1-3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoon vanilla
- 3/4 cup olive oil
- 2 cup flour (cup-for-cup gluten-free works fine)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder

- 2 9-inch round pans
- Softened butter for greasing pans

Directions:

Heat oven to 350°F.
Butter and flour cake pans.

In a small bowl, mix:

- 3/4 cup of cocoa powder
- Pour 1.5 cups of hot coffee over the cocoa.

Stir well and allow to cool.

In a large bowl, combine:

- 1-3/4 cups of sugar
- 1/2 cup of milk
- 1/2 cup of yogurt
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons of vanilla

Recipe courtesy of Julia Ziobro. Julia Ziobro owns and operates Dory's Dozen Delights at 430 Lawrence Street in Central City. The store is currently on winter hours and open by appointment. She can be reached at info@dorydozens.com or 303-260-9351.

Beat until smooth and creamy. Add 3/4 cup of olive oil and beat until mixed in.

In another bowl, whisk:

- 2 cups of flour
- 1-3/4 cups of sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon of baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda

Pour dry into wet and beat until just combined.

Stir in the cooked cocoa/coffee mixture, then pour into the cake pans.

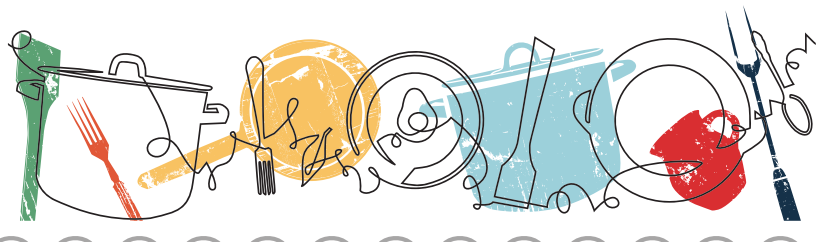
Bake for 25 - 35 minutes, and do a toothpick test to check for doneness.

Don't overbake.

Cool pans on wire racks for 15 minutes.

Run a butter knife around the edge of the pan, then invert the cake onto wire racks to finish cooling.

When completely cool, frost and decorate.



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A message from Sheriff Kevin Armstrong

On January 2, 2024, Deputy Hameed went above and beyond the call of duty to help a struggling citizen, who because of circumstances, was in dire straits, and in need of basic necessities. Deputy Hameed not only transported the citizen to a safe location, and made sure they were safe, but he also bought the person groceries from his personal funds so they would be able to eat for a few days until they could get help.

In today's society, we often only hear the negative stories of law enforcement activities. I want to shed light on the wonderful work that our deputies do day in and day out that never really gets recognized. I am honored to have such generous, kind, dedicated, and caring men and women serving this county and this office.

Thank you, Deputy Hameed! You were a beacon of light in an otherwise dark situation. Well done!



PHOTO COURTESY OF GILPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER KELLEY

The Great Brewery Bake-Off

CHRISTOPHER KELLEY
NEDERLAND

This Sunday, January 14, 2024, a new baking event begins in the Very Nice Brewing Company (VNBC) taproom; a friendly “competition” called The Great Brewery Bake Off, which will feature a different baking challenge every month for the entire year of 2024.

“I started to model it after The Great British Bake Off, but they’re pretty hardcore and I didn’t want to make it too competitive,” VNBC owner Susan Green told *The Mountain-Ear*, before adding that, though she was still refining the rules and process for the competition, the winner of each challenge will be determined by people’s choice vote. Her hope is to host something special at the end of the year with all of the Bake Off’s winners.

The first Bake Off challenge is to make a baklava. Green was already excitedly brainstorming her own recipe for a baklava entry when speaking with *The Mountain-Ear*.

“So many people are already planning their baklavas, so I guess it was a good choice,” Green laughed.

Contestants can bring their entries to VNBC any time on Sunday, January 14, before the competition is open to public vote from 3 to 5 p.m. Bakers are encouraged to use VNBC beers in their creations. Entries must be homemade, and contestants are expected to provide a list of ingredients for their entries.

Prizes for the people’s choice winner will be awarded at the end of the event, after the votes are tallied.

So far, Green has planned baking challenges for most of the year, including a focus on chocolate desserts for February 11, and a baked Italian dish challenge for March 10.



“Whatever people make for that one, whether it’s lasagna or baked ziti, that is going to be a delicious day!”

There will be a cheesecake challenge on April 14, a special Mother’s Day brunch challenge planned for May 12, and a meat-focused challenge for Father’s Day on June 16. Green has also planned challenges to feature citrus desserts and peach-based desserts for the summer, and breads, cookies, and shepherd’s pie challenges for the fall, with dates to be determined.

Be sure to check the Cracker Barrel in *The Mountain-Ear*, as well as the chalkboard at VNBC, or their social media, for updates on upcoming baking challenges.

Very Nice Brewing Company is located in the Caribou Village Shopping Center at 20 Lakeview Drive, Suite 112, and is open from 2 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 2 to 9 p.m. on Fridays, from noon to 9 p.m. on Saturdays, and from noon to 7 p.m. on Sundays.

For more information call 303-258-3770 or go to: <https://www.verynicebrewing.com>.

Getting ready for the contest

Top, left: a local baker perfects their baklava recipe. Right: Very Nice is more than just beer. Bottom, left: A cornucopia of goodies will be available to be judged on January 14. Center, left: From traditional to a baklava-inspired cheesecake, contestants are getting creative.

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PEAK TO PEAK

“I have to make changes this year, Amy,” Troy began. “I know that I’ve been hanging on to my grief and not letting it pass through, or move on, or transform, or whatever. I know if I keep living this way my life will continue to shrink and soon. My wife was everything to me, but I just can’t live like this anymore. I have to change.”

“Do you have an idea where you’d like to start?” I gently asked.

“I already started. I sold my house, donated all the big things, and put a few personal boxes in storage. I bought a camper van and I’m headed out to explore the US. I’ve always wanted to do that.”

“Wait, what?” I asked, startled. “We talked about not taking huge steps; these sound like big, life-altering choices Troy.”

“I know,” he said. “That’s what my kids, grandkids and friends all said. They are actually really mad at me. Some of them are no longer speaking to me.”

“I am making no progress. It’s time for me to quit counseling.” Tina looked at me dejectedly and sighed.

“What do you mean?” I asked, confused. Over the past year



PHOTO BY RICHARD BRANDON

Setting healthy goals

The Mile High United Way Turkey Trot in Denver. After setting the goal of running more than walking this race, we increased our exercise throughout 2023, followed a specific run/walk plan, and met our goal!

Tina had lost 65 pounds, started a daily exercise routine, been taken off her cholesterol medication, dumped an unhealthy partner, and started remodeling her house using YouTube videos.

“Tina, your friends and family all say you are their model for how to

make and sustain healthy changes! What happened?”

“I just have so far to go,” Tina shared with tears rolling down her face.

“I want to lose a little more weight, I still have the goal of running a 10K, I haven’t found a healthy partner and my house is a disaster. I’m a mess.”

The new year can bring out the extremes in people. For some, it feels like a fresh start and a chance to begin anew. For others, it’s a reminder of unaccomplished goals and unrealized dreams. So what are some questions to ask yourself to create positive, healthy, sustainable change?

- 1) Why do I want to change?
- 2) What is a realistic goal that I am able to commit to in the long term?
- 3) How can I break down the goal into small, measurable steps?
- 4) What are my resources to help hold me accountable?
- 5) How will I track my progress, adjust as needed, and reward myself?

Tina and I talked through where she started, the slow and steady progress she made, and where she is now a year later with her goals. We adjusted her 2024 goals, and added in working on her self-esteem and self-concept. With Troy it was time to do damage control, as his recent changes hurt both himself and the people around him. He immediately set up times to talk with his closest family and friends, and began the process of repairing his relationships. Additionally, he made professional appointments with his financial advisor and lawyer to understand and work through his short and long-term financial and estate goals.

What is something you’ve been wanting to change in your life? Take the time to put together a thoughtful plan so, in December 2024, you are feeling accomplished and ready for your next challenge!

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

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Pet of the Week

Ask for Diesel

Had a family and some people in Shawnee, Jack I went out for a run and I never went back Like a dog who don't know where he's running I took a wrong turn and I just kept going

*Everybody's got a hungry heart
Everybody's got a hungry heart
Lay down your money and I'll play my part
Everybody's got a hungry heart*

*Everybody needs a place to rest
Everybody wants to have a home
Don't make no difference what nobody says
Ain't nobody like to be alone...*

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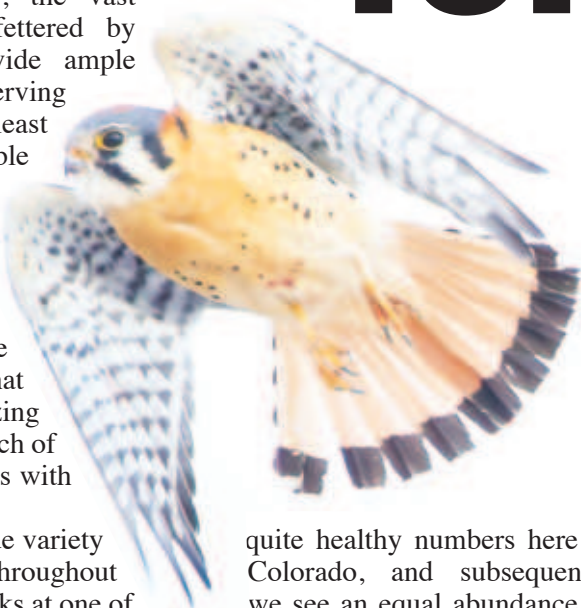
JAMES DEWALT
WELD COUNTY

Settling into the heart of winter, I find myself once again heading eastward to take in nature's abundance out on the plains. With much of our own local wildlife hunkered down and enduring more challenging conditions, the vast grasslands below, unfettered by lingering snows, provide ample opportunities for observing our natural world in (at least slightly) more amiable conditions. With summer conditions hearkening my soul to return to its home in the high country, winter brings me another equal joy, that of observing the amazing raptors that inspired much of my own early endeavors with wildlife photography.

While we enjoy a wide variety of birds of prey throughout Colorado, this week looks at one of the smallest, but no less fierce than their larger cousins: the American Kestrel. The kestrel is the smallest member of the falcon family, at 8-12 inches in length, a 20-24 inch wing span, and weighing in at a whopping 3-6 ounces. As a rough comparison, they fall at a size somewhere between a robin and a crow.

Kestrels enjoy a wide variety of prey to feed on, which explains their widespread abundance throughout much of North America all year long. A mainstay of their diet is small rodents, which the plains provide a steady diet of.

It is said about their European relatives that a lack of voles generally displays an equal lack of kestrels. As we know well, the vole is found in



quite healthy numbers here in Colorado, and subsequently we see an equal abundance of these tiny yet mighty lords of the air. Along with the abundant vole and small rodents, other prey includes lizards and insects, as well as small birds.

These stunning and vibrantly colored falcons can usually be found perched on power lines lining the highways and byways of the prairie, as these prominences provide a high view from which to rest while seeking prey in the tall grasses below. While trees also suffice, their lack of abundance in the plains explains the kestrels' choice of the man-made perch from which to plan an attack. Fences are often another common roost, and due to the birds' diminutive size, they also may be seen atop mullein stalks: these stalks are also

ample enough in height to distance them from their prey during a hunt.

Once prey on the ground is spotted, the bird will launch, but will often take advantage of breezes if available and hover above their prey. Facing into the wind, they will flap their wings and use their spread tail to maintain their place over the target until ready to dive into an attack.

As mentioned above, other prey are smaller birds, and with these targets they take a different approach more like their larger falcon cousins, relying on incredible speed. Reaching vertical speeds of up to 40 mph, they can quickly overtake a passerine, using its tiny, curved beak to sever a spinal column in mid-flight.

This hunting of birds has historically placed them among the ranks of other raptors used in falconry - the use of aerial predators to hunt. Their size and speed make them quite an enjoyable addition to a falconer's arsenal. While

their prey may not serve for human consumption, their ferocity and agility provide ample "sustenance" to the sport: hunting sparrows, starlings, and other smaller birds.

The Kestrel in this week's image was found atop a power line while out and about on a morning "raptor ride" through the plains. A cloudy day made for a "high key" approach to the photography (over-exposed to capture the details and color, making for the white background). And while a slower shutter speed was needed, it was just fast enough to capture the details of the head, body, and feet, the last of which are the strongest talons for its size of any raptor used in falconry. Quite a beautiful display to behold as it headed off to find its next meal, leaving me to bid farewell and give thanks before continuing on my own hunt for exquisite (birds of) prey.

Sources for this article include: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Kestrel/id, <https://www.themodernapprentice.com/AMkestrel.htm>, and https://www.nhnature.org/visit/animal_info_sheets/kestrel.php#:~:text=American%20Kestrels%20can%20fly%20at,clocked%20at%20over%20200%20mph!

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

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MUSIC OF THE MOUNTAINS: Where to be and what to see



Tierro Band

JAMIE LAMMERS
NEDERLAND

Tierro Band consists of a wide-ranging group of individuals, including Tierro Lee, Bridget Law, Lee Gabriel, Larry Thompson, Charlie Parker Mertens, Jonny Jyemo, Nabin Shrestha, and Kym Breanne. According to the band's website, Lee has been working in the music industry for over 30 years, founding and producing the rock band Kan'Nal and touring as lead guitarist with Otis Taylor. He founded

the band as a trio, and Lee later met Law, a founding member of Elephant Revival. They started playing music together and fell in love, and she joined the band soon afterward.

Their self-titled debut album was released in 2019, and their sophomore album *Everlasting Dance* was released in 2023. Throughout that time, the band expanded to include more members, including Nepalese tabla player Shrestha. Law claims she is influenced by Western fiddle, bluegrass, and Celtic music, and she adds that Lee is influenced

by Arabian and Latin music scales. Mertens says that he loves to bring in whatever cultural nuances he can to his playing. Shrestha is classically influenced, and Thompson has a wide background in blues.

The band primarily plays original instrumental music, although they occasionally add vocals with Gabriel and movement with Breanne. Law loves being a part of a group as versatile as Tierro is, with such an expansive repertoire of musical backgrounds. She loves that any person could take the lead at any

time and captivate the audience just as much as any other member of the band. She feels liberated playing with such high-quality musicians, and she hopes that audience members can find a way to meditate and lose themselves in the moment with their music.

You can see Tierro Band performing live with River Mann at The Caribou Room, 55 Indian Peaks Drive in Nederland, on Saturday, January 20, 2024. Doors open and dinner starts at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m.

Continued on page 15

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Music Events

Continued from page 14

Busey Brews

Sunday, January 14 at 2 p.m. - The Pineytops
 Sunday, January 21 at 2 p.m. - Gratefully Acoustic Solo
 Sunday, January 28 at 2 p.m. - Eric Richard Stone

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BuseyBrews/>
 Website: <https://buseybrews.com/>
 Location: 70 E. First Street, Nederland.
 Phone: 1-855-633-2739

Diner Bar Ned

Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. - Karaoke
 Sundays at 6 p.m. - Open Mic Night

Jan 12: DJ Reggae Night with Well Chuned

Jan 19: DJ Robonix (Tencho)

Jan 26: DJ Facemelt Fridays with GODLAZER

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100095276740341>
 Location: 121 N. Jefferson Street, Nederland

Eldora Mountain Resort

Friday, January 12 at 12 p.m. - Beats at the Base: Zubnotic
 Saturday, January 13 at 9 a.m. - Beats at the Base: Terry Donovan
 Saturday, January 13 at 1 p.m. - Apres Music Series: PJ Moon
 Sunday, January 14 at 9 a.m. - Beats at the Base: Robert Nichols
 Sunday, January 14 at 1 p.m. - Apres Music Series: Bill Kopper
 Friday, January 19 at 12 p.m. - Beats at the Base: Pomegranate Sounds

Saturday, January 20 at 1 p.m. - Apres Music Series: Rattletrap Andy Reiner and Brett Kretzer

Saturday, January 20 at 9 a.m. - Beats at the Base: DJ B-times

Sunday, January 21 at 9 a.m. - Beats at the Base: DJ Stein

Sunday, January 21 at 1 p.m. - Apres Music Series: Robby Wicks

Friday, January 26 at 12 p.m. - Beats at the Base: KHU

Saturday, January 27 at 1 p.m. - Apres Music Series: Stellar Jays Duo

Saturday, January 27 at 9 a.m. - Beats at the Base: Deeprawk Dave

Sunday, January 28 at 9 a.m. - Beats at the Base: JJ Rademaekers

Sunday, January 28 at 1 p.m. - Apres Music Series: Hunter Stone Band

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eldoramountainresort>
 Website: <https://www.eldora.com/>
 Location: 2861 Eldora Ski Road, Nederland

Howlin Wind Brewing

Saturday, January 13 at 4 p.m. - High Lonesome Trio

Sunday, January 14 at 4 p.m. - Open Bluegrass Jam

Saturday, January 20 at 5 p.m. - Burle and Andrew Gordon

Saturday, January 27 at 4 p.m. - Ben Sproul Duo

Sunday, January 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, January 11 at 7 p.m. - Salome Songbird

Friday, January 12 at 7 p.m. - Intergalactic Peace Jelly

Sunday, January 14 at 12 p.m. - Steve Hoffman

Wednesday, January 17 at 5 p.m. - Open Mic

Thursday, January 18 at 7 p.m. - Carlos Barata Music

Friday, January 19 at 7 p.m. - Karaoke
 Thursday, January 25 at 7 p.m. - Kate Farmer

Saturday, January 27 at 2 p.m. - Cosmic Winter Wonderfest

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

JKQ BBQ

Friday, January 12 at 6 p.m. - Dan Williams

Saturday, January 13 at 5 p.m. - Dan Williams

Friday, January 19 at 6 p.m. - Mark Kuban

Saturday, January 20 at 5 p.m. - Mark Kuban

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JkqBbq/>
 Location: 200 Gregory Street, Black Hawk
 Phone: 720-316-1361

Knotted Root Brewing

Sundays at 5 p.m. - Jazz Sundays

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

The Caribou Room

Saturday, January 20 at 7 p.m. - Tierro Band with River Mann

Friday, January 26 at 7 p.m. - Toubab Krewe with opener TBA

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

Very Nice Brewing Co.

Friday, January 12 at 6 p.m. - Rick Lobato

Saturday, January 13 at 5 p.m. - Dr. Jim's One Man Band

Thursday, January 18 at 6 p.m. - The Gael

Friday, January 19 at 6 p.m. - Reservoir Fog


Saturday, January 20 at 5 p.m. - Windy Pines

Friday, January 26 at 6 p.m. - David Gilman

Saturday, January 27 at 5 p.m. - Mountain ReVerb

Facebook: www.facebook.com/very-nicebeer
 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@themountainear.com to be included in the next edition.



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PHOTOS COURTESY OF CENTRAL CITY

Central City Holiday Lights Contest winners announced

OMAYRA ACEVEDO
CENTRAL CITY

Some experts in psychology claim holiday decorations, especially those with lights, can bring on feelings of joy for many people. Therapists say holiday lights and decorations help some people connect with the past and create memories for the future.

Not only are holiday lights beautiful and create a fun ambiance, but many people find them mesmerizing,

influencing happy thoughts. Elevated moods and emotions make it easier for people to get through day-to-day challenges.

During the 2023 holidays, Main Street Central City hosted a friendly contest of holiday lights, inspiring a festive environment and helping evoke an inviting mood throughout the town. In early 2024, Main Street Central City announced its prize winners in the 2023 Central City Holiday Lights Contest.

In the business category, Hawley Mercantile took first place, with Golden Rose Antiques in second place and Dostal Alley in third place. Residential winners are Donald Barvinski of 207 West 1st High in first place, Jane Wonzy of 205 West 1st High in second place, and third place Steven Vairna of 224 Lawrence Street.

Residential honorable mentions are Jenny Learnest of 420 Bobtail Hill

Continued on page 17



Lighting up the city

Top: Dostal Alley lights up the streets of Central City. Bottom: Hawley Mercantile shows off a window display.



Gifts galore

Golden Rose Antiques shows a beautiful display of toys.



The glow of the lights

The patrons at Dostal Alley enjoy the ambiance of the holidays.



Honorable mention
A snowman waves to all who pass by 224 Eureka Street in Central City.

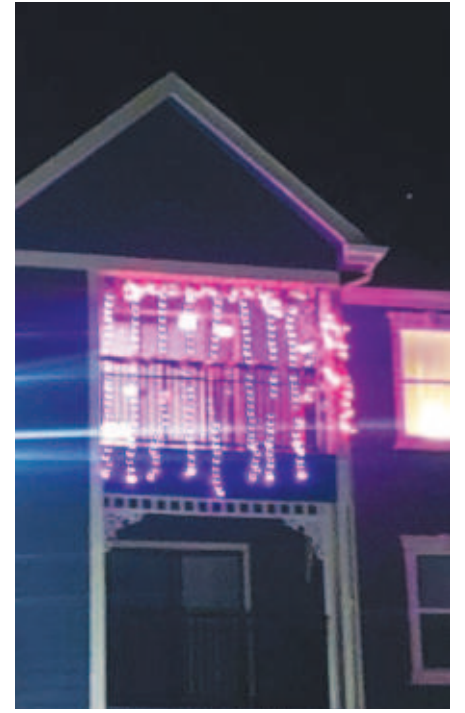
Lights Contest

Continued from page 16

and Chelby Shefner of 224 Eureka Street. Winners are picked according to specific rules and regulations and receive a \$500 reward.

If you missed Central City's 2023 holiday lights contest, no worries. Before you know it, the 2024 holidays will be upon us. In the meantime, you have plenty of time to put on your thinking cap and decide how you will be 2024's winner!

The Central City Holiday Lights Contest is brought to you by the Main Street Central City Commission, a part of the Colorado Main Street® Program, dedicated to revitalizing traditional downtown districts within the context of historic preservation.



Honorable mention
Beautiful strings of lights light up the December nights.



Second place
Candy cane lights twinkle throughout the night.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CENTRAL CITY



First place
The holiday lights display at 207 W 1st High Street took first place in Central City. The lights in Central City were a joy to see during this festive season.

Lump Gulch fire sparks emergency response



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE US FOREST SERVICE

MINDY LEARY
GILPIN COUNTY

On Saturday, January 6, 2024, at 4:30 p.m., the U.S. Forest Service, in collaboration with Timberline Fire Protection District and Nederland Fire Protection District, swiftly responded to reports of smoke in Gilpin County, Boulder Ranger District. The incident occurred near the intersection of Gilpin Road and

Highway 119, raising concerns within the community.

Upon arrival, crews discovered a machine pile measuring 60 feet by 60 feet ablaze in a landing on Forest Service land. Immediate action was taken to suppress the fire, with crews utilizing water to contain the spreading flames.

As of January 7, the Lump Gulch Fire remained a cause for concern as it was at that point only 50%

contained. The origin of the fire is under investigation, and authorities from the Gilpin County Sheriff's Office, Nederland Fire Protection District, and Timberline Fire Protection District are actively working to determine its cause.

Crews are using a skid steer to open the pile and dump snow on it. Smoke dispersal is currently poor, and smoke will be visible along Highway 119 as they work the pile. Two to four

inches of snow were expected in the area January 8, which may assist with operations. Crews from The Nature Conservancy will be assisting along with the Forest Service, Timberline, and Nederland. A water tender truck from Timberline will be standing by to assist as needed.

It's important to note that the Lump Gulch Fire is not associated with the ongoing pile burning operations in the area. While adjacent piles remain unignited, the low snow cover in the immediate surroundings poses a potential risk of further spread.

Residents and concerned individuals are encouraged to stay informed about the Lump Gulch Fire by subscribing to email updates. Those interested can visit Constant Contact - Forest Health & Fire and select "Forest Health & Fire: North of I-70 to Highway 72 Coal Creek Canyon (Central City and Rollinsville)." Stay tuned for updates as authorities work diligently to contain and investigate the Lump Gulch Fire.

Reid Armstrong, Public Affairs Representative with the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest, responded to questions about the incident on January 8.

She reported that the cause is still under investigation and that crews worked 24 hours a day to contain it. Three inches of snow overnight on January 8, helped to squelch the fire.

As of this writing, the fire is 100% contained, meaning it will remain within a perimeter. According to crews from USDA Forest Service, Nederland Fire, the Nature Conservancy, and Timberline firefighters have used 6,000 gallons of water to fight the fire and will continue to patrol the area to ensure safety.

Government Meetings

Black Hawk City Council meetings occur at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10 and 24 in Council Chambers located upstairs at 211 Church Street, Black Hawk. For more information check online at <https://www.cityofblackhawk.org/calendar/upcoming>.

Central City Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Join the next meeting, Tuesday, January 16 at 7 p.m., in person at City Hall, 141 Nevada Street or online at <https://centralcity.colorado.gov/meetings>.

Central City Historic Preservation Commission meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. Join the next meeting on Wednesday, January 10, at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 141 Nevada Street, or online at <https://centralcity.colorado.gov/meetings>.

Central City Main Street Commission meetings are held every third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. Join the next meeting on Wednesday, January 17, at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 141 Nevada Street, or online at <https://centralcity.colorado.gov/meetings>.

Central City Planning Commission will meet at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, as needed. Join the next meeting on Wednesday, February 7, at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 141 Nevada Street. Visit online, <https://centralcity.colorado.gov/meetings> for the upcoming 2024 schedule.

Gilpin County Board of County Commissioner (BoCC) meetings are typically held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Attend in person at the Old Courthouse, 203 Eureka Street, Central City, or online via Zoom at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 9 and 23. Please check online for the next scheduled meeting, <https://gilpincounty.colorado.gov/public-meetings/board-of-county-commissioners-bocc-meeting>.

Gilpin County Historic Preservation Commission meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. online via Microsoft Teams. To listen on Thursday, January 18, visit <https://gilpincounty.colorado.gov/public-meetings/historical-preservation-commission-meetings>.

Gilpin County Planning Commission meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Old Gilpin Courthouse at 203 Eureka Street, Central City. To listen online, check out <https://gilpincounty.colorado.gov/public-meetings/planning-commission-meetings> on Tuesday, January 9.

Gilpin County Board of Health meetings are held quarterly on the second Thursday of the month in person at the Commissioners' Meeting Hall, 203 Eureka Street, Central City, 2nd floor, and online via Microsoft Teams. Visit online at <https://gilpincounty.colorado.gov/board-of-health-meetings>, for the upcoming 2024 schedule.

Nederland Board of Trustees (BOT) meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 7 to 11 p.m. Attend on Tuesday, January 2 and 16, in person at the Nederland Community Center, 750 Highway 72, or virtually via WebEx, <https://townofnederland.colorado.gov/board-of-trustees>.

Nederland Downtown Development Authority (DDA) meets on the second Wednesday of the month. Attend in person at the Nederland Community Center or online via WebEx, <https://townofnederland.colorado.gov/downtown-development-authority/>, on Wednesday, January 10, at 6 p.m.

Nederland Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) meets as needed on the second Thursday of the quarter (January, April, July, October). Join in person at the Nederland Community Center or online via WebEx, <https://townofnederland.colorado.gov/board-of-zoning-adjustment>, on Thursday, January 11, at 7 p.m.

Nederland Parks, Recreation & Open Space Advisory Board (PROS-AB) meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. Join in person at the Nederland Community Center or online via WebEx, on Thursday, January 18, <https://townofnederland.colorado.gov/parks-recreation-open-space-advisory-board>.

Nederland Planning Commission (PC) will meet on Wednesday, January 24 at 7 p.m. Join in person at the Nederland Community Center or via WebEx, <https://townofnederland.colorado.gov/planning-commission>.

Nederland Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, January 25, in person at the Nederland Community Center or via WebEx, <https://townofnederland.colorado.gov/sustainability-advisory-board>.

Stay updated with The Mountain-Ear online government events calendar at <https://www.themtnear.com/events/category/government>.

Slash pile burning scheduled

WES ISENHART
GILPIN COUNTY

Colder weather and snow on the ground is allowing fire managers from Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests to start burning slash piles on national forest land in Gilpin and Boulder counties. The goal of burning slash piles is to reduce the risk of uncontrolled wildfires and improve forest health. Burning slash piles left over after a wildfire mitigation project are considered prescribed burns because they are scheduled and occur when wind and weather conditions are favorable.

This year the US Forest Service has already conducted prescribed burns in Gilpin County on January 5. They burned slash piles at Highway 46 and 119 and east of South Beaver Creek Road and Lincoln Hills. Slash piles in the Lump Gulch area are scheduled to be burned starting January 8, weather permitting. As the winter progresses, slash piles from the Forsythe Fuel Reduction Project north of Rollinsville and south of Pinecliffe are also scheduled to be burned.

The ideal weather to burn slash piles involves cold temperatures, forecasts of snow, and winds coming from the right direction. A little wind is needed to disperse the smoke. Residents near prescribed burns are advised to stay inside or leave the area until the smoke has dissipated. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) maintains a webpage (cdphe.colorado.gov/wood-smoke-and-your-health) on wood smoke and health. The webpage also shows real time maps of area conditions.

Prescribed burns always contain an element of risk. Always. The US Forest Service endeavors to reduce that risk with careful decisions and the presence of adequate resources on hand, but sometimes bad things happen with devastating consequences. The Hermit Peak wildfire in New Mexico was a prescribed burn in 2022 that got out of control and burned over 300,000 acres. A Forest Service inquiry into the fire made 19 recommendations



Hand piles off Lump Gulch

Slash pile on Forest Service land off Gilpin Road. If conditions are right the ground between piles is also burned to clean up forest debris.

to improve safety around prescribed burns which are in effect today.

Every precaution is taken to make a prescribed burn safe but there are no guarantees. During prescribed burn events, residents should keep their grab-n-go boxes on hand and be ready to evacuate if needed. It is recommended that residents also sign up for the Gilpin County Hyper-Reach program which will generate reverse 911 calls in an emergency. For more information on Gilpin County's Hyper-Reach program to go https://signup.hyper-reach.com/hyper-reach/sign_up_page_2/?id=84582.

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest website (fs.usda.gov/arp) maintains an email list for residents who want to get notices of prescribed burns. The link to sign up is at the bottom of the home page. Emails are sent a few days before a scheduled burn takes place. Every email contains a map of the status of prescribed burns and active wildfires (inciweb.nwcg.gov). The Forest Service sent email notifications regarding the recent Lump Gulch Fire, described in this edition of *The Mountain-Ear*. Facebook and Twitter/X accounts are also maintained by the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest agency.

Burning slash piles is one way that the US Forest Service is engaging in proactive wildfire mitigation practices on public lands. The goal is to use the regenerative aspects of fire to create healthier forests and safer lands for residents and visitors.



PHOTOS BY WES ISENHART

Lump Gulch slash pile off Gilpin Road

Slash pile on Forest Service land off Gilpin Road. Slash piles often need to sit for a few years before they are dry enough to burn. It's a kind of curing.



Lump Gulch 1993 mitigation stand

Stand of forest along Lump Gulch that was mitigated in 1993 by the Little Kingdom Forest citizen group.

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Golden Gate Fire Protection District approves budget, fees

JOHN SCARFFE
GOLDEN GATE GRANGE

The Golden Gate Fire Protection District Board approved the 2024 budget and fees during a special meeting on Friday, January 5, at 7 p.m. at the Grange, 25231 Golden Gate Canyon Road, Golden.

The Board approved a resolution to adopt the 2024 budget, to set mill levies, and to appropriate funds. According to the resolution, the proposed budget was open for inspection by the public at a designated place. A public hearing was held on October 19, 2023, and interested electors were given the

opportunity to file or register any objections to the proposed budget.

Estimated expenditures for each fund are as follows: Operating Expenditures \$271,316, Capital Expenditures \$170,000. Estimated revenues are as follows: from transfer from reserves \$170,000, from sources other than general property tax \$ 32,048, from general property tax \$259,174 3.

To set mill levies, the amount of money from property taxes necessary to balance the budget for general operating expenses is \$259,174 and the 2023 net valuation for assessment of the District as certified by the County Assessor is \$28,745,829. A

property tax is levied of 9.016 mills per each dollar of the total valuation for assessment of all taxable property within the District raises \$259,174.

The following sums are hereby appropriated from the revenues of each fund, for the purposes stated in the budget: General Fund \$441,316.

According to the treasurer, the total operating budget went down \$1,000. The mill levy stays the same.

There is a reduction in fees this year. The District has the fee schedule on site.

- Comprehensive Planning Review Partnership: \$300 per year.
- Residential Rezone and

subdivision Review: \$100 per lot

- Secondary Driveway Permit Inspection: \$150 per review
- Burn Permit, suggested donation of \$50
- Insurance will serve letter: donation \$50
- Cistern re-inspection: donation \$100
- Defensible Space Inspection: donation \$75.

The next regular Board meeting will be on January 25 at 7 p.m., at the Grange, 25231 Golden Gate Canyon Road, Golden, Colorado, 80403.

Maverix Broadband secures grant to expand fiber optic broadband

MIRANDA FISHER, JAMIE BOYLE,
RAY REARS
PEAK TO PEAK

The Town of Nederland and Gilpin County are thrilled to announce the successful approval of our Capital Project Fund (CPF) grant application, in collaboration with Maverix Broadband, Inc., to extend fiber optic broadband services to Nederland, Gilpin County, and parts of Unincorporated Boulder County. The Colorado Broadband Office has awarded our project a total amount

of \$8,667,692, marking a significant stride toward bridging the digital divide in the region.

The Advance-CPF application process, initiated in June and concluded in September 2023, saw an overwhelming response with 112 applications requesting over \$642 million across 47 counties. The selection process, guided by various criteria, including the percentage of eligible unserved locations, cost efficiency, community engagement, and alignment with Executive Order 2022-023, reflects the commitment to

equitable broadband access.

The Town of Nederland and Gilpin County acknowledge the pivotal role played by Maverix Broadband, Inc. and thank them as the grant recipient, leading the charge in expanding high-speed internet infrastructure. The grant funding will empower us to reach 2,725 addresses in areas classified as unserved or underserved, fostering educational, economic, and healthcare access while promoting digital inclusion.

“We are delighted with the approval of the CPF grant, which

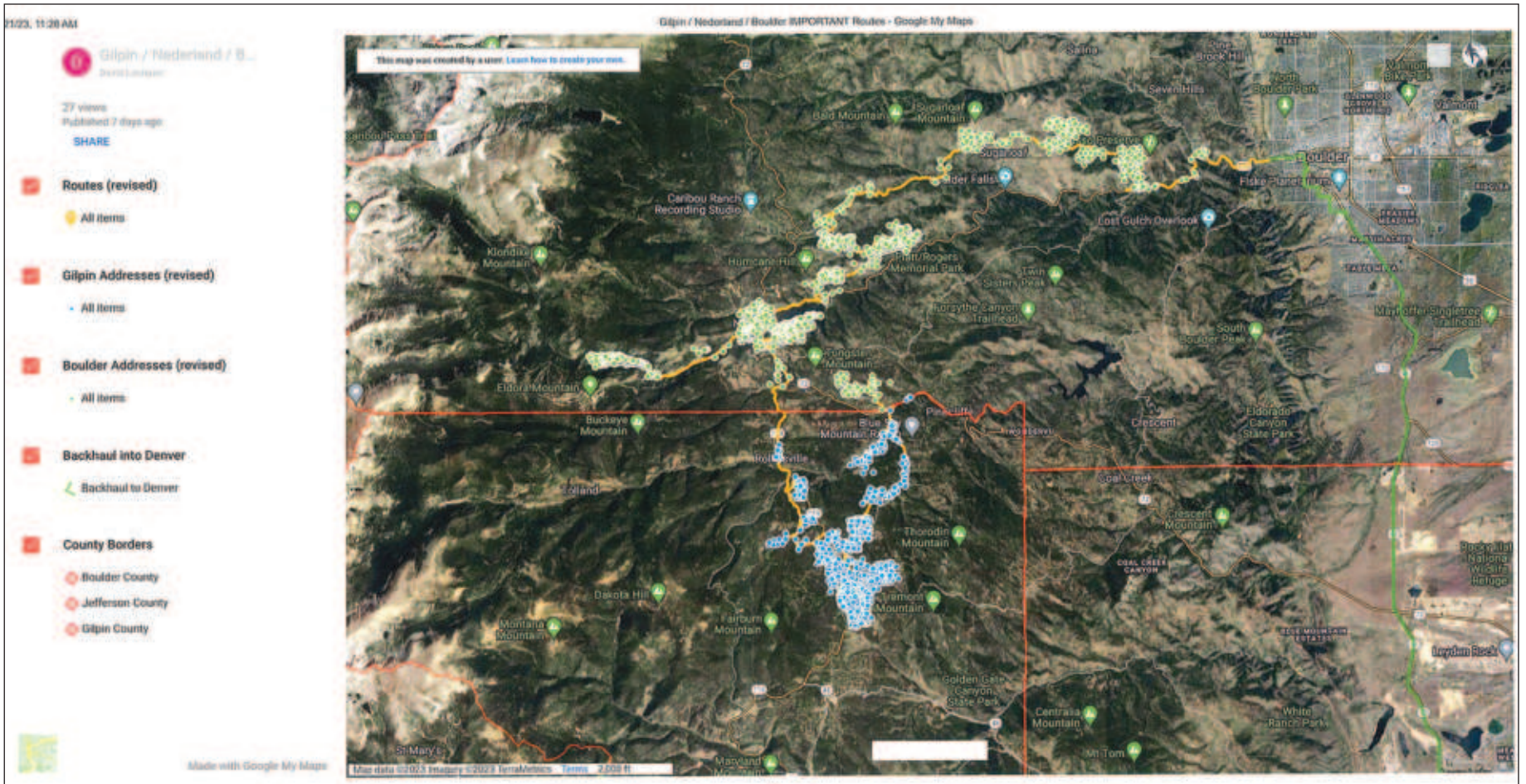
will significantly enhance the digital landscape in Nederland, Gilpin County, and Unincorporated Boulder County. This aligns with our broader mission of advancing community well-being through accessible and reliable broadband services,” said Miranda Fisher, Nederland Town Administrator.

“This announcement is an amazing recognition of the strong leadership of the BoCC [Board of County Commissioners] and the commitment of County staff and our partners to make

Continued on page 21

BUSINESS

 Alexandra Armitage Broker 254 Bergren Rd. P.O. Box 1346 Nederland, CO 80466 (303) 517-9658 <small>www.nederlandproperty.com</small>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Installation ▪ Repair ▪ Maintenance Rich Frank 720-237-9652	 Mark Cohen, J.D., LL.M. Attorney at Law 303-638-3410 Business, Real Estate, Land Use, Trials, Intellectual Property and Litigation.
 Karen Anderson is available for readings at 303-258-7258	 HERITAGE WEST REALTY Roy Varela • 720-308-2744 Royheritagewest@aol.com	 Melissa Kluck Phone: 720-388-0457 Website: www.melissasellsco.net Email: melissasellsco@gmail.com
 Perry's carries full lines of hiking boots and shoes, slippers, fashion boots, winter boots, socks, apparel, sunglasses and more! 114 E. 2nd Street, Nederland 303-443-4580 www.perrysshoe.com	James DeWalt Photography Family Portraits • Professional Headshots School Photos • Event Photography jamesdewaltphotography.com james@8500lightlab.com • 303-898-7206	Forget Me Not Skin Care A NATURAL BEAUTY BOUTIQUE Gift Certificates Available Pattie Sabel Licensed Esthetician Licensed Nail Technician 720-899-8992 forgetmenotskincare.com
 Pam Harrington (303) 748-0289 Website: https://www.goodlifepilates.com/ Get a taste of the "Good Life" today!	SUBMIT YOUR INFO FOR OUR NEW SERIES "From one neighbor to another" BY EMAILING YOUR PHOTO AND PARAGRAPH TO INFO@THEMOUNTAINEAR.COM	 Fixing chips and cracks in windshields since 2009. Professional, insured, affiliated. Mindy Leary 720-891-8926



Maverix Broadband secures grant

Continued from page 20

reliable broadband access a reality, which became our highest priority goal after the school swatting incident in February 2023 exposed weaknesses in this area. This is just the start of a long overdue effort to increase access to the 4th utility across rural Gilpin County and our neighbors,” said Ray Rears, Gilpin County Manager.

The attached map illustrates the areas earmarked for coverage under

this grant funding, emphasizing the expansion’s reach and impact. Maverix Broadband will spearhead the implementation, and the Town has allocated \$40,000 in matching funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support direct installations in Nederland residents’ homes. Gilpin County has allocated \$500,000 in 2024 toward efforts to further expand high-speed internet infrastructure, redundancy, and resiliency.

This milestone reinforces the Town

of Nederland and Gilpin County’s commitment to collaborative regional partnerships and to spearheading transformative initiatives, positioning our communities and the region for a connected and prosperous future. We express gratitude to all stakeholders involved in this collaborative effort and look forward to the positive outcomes this project will bring to the residents of Nederland, Gilpin, and the surrounding areas.

For further information about the

project in the Town of Nederland and Unincorporated Boulder County, please contact: Miranda Fisher, Town Administrator - townadmin@nederlandco.org.

For further information about the project in Gilpin County, please contact: Jamie Boyle, Grant Manager and Broadband Project Lead - jboyle@gilpincounty.org.

BUSINESS Spotlight

<p style="text-align: center;">Will Hackett Chimneys 303-440-0828</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NEDERLAND CHIROPRACTIC & WELLNESS CENTER</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">303-258-7730</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">HUB NED</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">COWORKING</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">80 Big Springs Dr. Nederland, CO www.hubned.com</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">Murphy & Associates</p> <p style="font-size: 0.9em;">Funeral Directors • Boulder, Colorado Call 303-530-4111 • Pager 303-878-0967 or email services@murphyfuneraldirectors.com</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Dignified • Personalized • Affordable • Professional</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">RE/MAX ELEVATE The Kalinski Team</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Nederland - Boulder - Mountains</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">TIMMY DUGGAN</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">REALTOR®</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">303.441.5611 timmy@kalinskiteam.com www.boulderpropertynetwork.com</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">CROCKER REALTY</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-weight: bold;">TONY THORPE</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Your Trusted Mountain Real Estate Specialist</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">720.552.2127 tony@buydenvernow.com www.BuyDenverNow.com</p> </div>
<p style="font-weight: bold;">We Can Do It!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Mountain Maidz</p> <p style="font-size: 0.9em;">House Cleaning, Moveouts & Construction Cleanouts</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Nancy Reynolds (720) 369-4733</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">A SIGNPOST IN THE WILDERNESS</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Peak to Peak counseling</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Downtown Ned</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: 0.8em;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaching • Adults • Families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teens • Play Therapy® • Couples </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Amy Skinner, MA, LPC, NCC, ACS, RPT-5 303.258.7454 peaktopeakcounseling.com</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">haiR sTuDio</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Hair By Tracy</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Tracy Tyrer - 720.966.7676</p> <p style="font-size: 0.9em;">Cuts, Color, Hi-Lights Low Lights, Perms and Style</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">VERY NICE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Brewing Company</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">LOCATED IN THE CARIBOU VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER IN NEDERLAND</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">303.258-3770</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">WWW.VERYNICEBREWING.COM</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">TAMRA K. WALTEMATH PC</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Attorney at Law</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Specializing in Wills, Trusts, Living Wills, Power of Attorney, Elder Law and Probate</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">(303) 657-0360 tamra@waltemathlawoffice.com WaltemathLawOffice.com</p> <div style="text-align: right;"> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Bin There DUMP That</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">RESIDENTIAL FRIENDLY DUMPSTERS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">www.dumpsterrentaldenver.org 720.524.3727</p>

CROSSWORD

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

Geography 101

ACROSS

1. Village People's " ____ Man"
6. Certain tray content
9. Little bit, in Mexico
13. Ammo in a quiver, sing.
14. Geological Society of America
15. Young eel
16. Song of praise
17. Snowy ____ or great horned ____
18. Must-haves
19. *Strait between Russia and Alaska
21. *Smallest of the Great Lakes
23. Crime scene evidence
24. Peter the Great, e.g.
25. Consumer-protecting org.
28. Skiing helmet manufacturer
30. Mother-of-pearl, pl.
35. Type of sail, pl.
37. #29 Down anagram
39. Like Raphael's cherubs
40. Face shape
41. Tie with a morning coat
43. Dwarf buffalo
44. Short version
46. "At ____, soldier"
47. Supposed giant Himalayan
48. Drool
50. Swimming hole
52. D.C. V.I.P.
53. Jim Acosta's announcement
55. *Baltic ____
57. *Of latitude
61. *Bay east of India
64. Cuban dance
65. John Keats' "To Autumn," e.g.
67. Fortune teller's card
69. Jeered
70. China's drinkable export
71. Bird-related
72. Dick and Jane's dog
73. "Slippery" tree
74. Lean, past tense

DOWN

1. *Atlas page
2. Speedy steed
3. First Nation nation
4. Squirrel away
5. Possessing
6. Full of excitement
7. *Opposite of NNE
8. Sainly rings
9. Guilty, e.g.
10. Last word on walkie-talkie
11. Ghana money
12. Guesstimate phrase (2 words)
15. Catch in a snare
20. Nigerian money
22. A Bobbsey twin
24. Steel on boots, pl.
25. *Inlet in Norway
26. Abalone seeker
27. Olden day calculators
29. *Compass ____
31. TV personality Aiken
32. Ancient Scandinavian characters
33. What actors do
34. *Iberian Peninsula country
36. Serb or Croat
38. Comme ci, comme Áa
42. Past or present
45. Group of five
49. Actor DiCaprio
51. Like floss
54. "That's all she ____"
56. Tequila source
57. Work units
58. Wisecrack
59. Rounded protuberance
60. Aid in crime
61. Show pleasure
62. Cantatrice's offering
63. Student aid
66. *Tierra ____ Fuego
68. Big bang maker, acr.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION: JANUARY 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.

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The logo that rocked Nederland

CHRISTOPHER KELLEY
NEDERLAND

“It’s teetering on obliqueness.”

“The perfect symbol of gentrification run amok.”

“God forbid they fix the roads, this is far more important.”

This is just a sample of the Nederland community’s reaction to a Facebook post on the Nedheads page on Wednesday, January 3, 2024. The post contained a single image, a presentation of the Town of Nederland’s potential new branding identity, which included a logo, a font, and a tagline.

Within one day that post garnered more than 400 comments; as of the writing of this article the post has a total of 190 individual “reacts” and 630 comments, and not a single positive response among them. On average, posts of popular or controversial content on Nedheads will yield up to 150 comments.

With members of Town staff, the Board of Trustees (BOT), and the firm responsible for the designs, Godot Communications Inc., all feeling the pressure of an incensed community, further progress on the project has been halted so Godot can go back to the drawing board.

Why are we “rebranding”?

“So, we paid for a re-branding? This is what happens when you get rid of everything that gave the town “character” and “brand” and convert it into a soulless, bland, boring bedroom community.”

“There goes the heart and soul of Ned.”

The Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) selected Nederland for their tourism management initiative, the Reimagine Destinations Program, in July, 2022. After a community workshop held in November, 2022, Town staff developed



a workshop summary report and ascertained that Nederland residents desired a focus on “community-based tourism.”

The summary report included suggestions for short and long term action items related to tourism management, which also involved a request for a brand identity to be created that would coincide with continued tourism initiatives and promote “responsible and respectful” tourist visitation.

The next steps in the Reimagine Destinations Program involved entering

into the Destination Blueprint Program to help the Town form medium- to long-term initiatives for its tourism structure.

A branding and marketing campaign was also suggested by CTO, to form a creative visual identity for Nederland as well as marketing materials that would protect and uphold Nederland’s defined values by educating visitors in important stewardship topics, from fire prevention to backcountry safety.

CTO offered Nederland the opportunity to be enveloped into a variation of their “Do Colorado Right” branding

campaign, which was tentatively named “Do Nederland Right.”

In the interest of protecting and enhancing Nederland’s unique identity, and to separate from the “Do Nederland Right” campaign’s focus on marketing, Town staff opted instead to use \$20,000 from the Tourism Management Grant awarded to the Town in April, 2023, to contract with a consulting firm to develop the branding campaign.

The Money

“Goodness, I hope we didn’t pay someone to come up with this?!”

“Grants come from taxes collected. Taxpayers pay those taxes. So we are paying for it.”

The Town of Nederland provided a \$5,000 match to the \$20,000 Tourism Management Grant offered through the CTO, which is funded by the federal government and therefore funded by taxpayers across the country.

The grant is eligible to those applicants who can be considered “Colorado destination organizations,” or “government entities in Colorado engaged in tourism promotion, development, and management.”

Projects eligible for the grant include anything that “advances the development, enhancement, or management of visitor experience in Colorado,” and can be completed in a 12-month period.

The funds from the Tourism Management Grant may be used for tourism product development, visitor education programs, tourism workforce development, tourism-related strategic planning, tourism research, and infrastructure that directly enhances the visitor experience.

In addition to the branding campaign contract awarded to Godot, Nederland’s

Continued on page 24

What’s happening at Gilpin Parks & Rec

250 Norton Drive, Black Hawk
gilpincounty.colorado.gov

303-582-1453

Pool Hours - WINTER

*please call to confirm prior to coming

Now Closed on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday

Monday and Wednesday:

7:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

(closed 12 - 4:30 p.m.)

4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Building Hours

Now Closed on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday

Monday and Wednesday:

7:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Zoombonis Ice Skating Camp

Register by Thursday, February 1 for Session 2 (February): Friday, February 2 through February 23, 10 a.m.

- 2 p.m. \$80 total. Ages 9-13. Camp hoodie and rentals included.

Youth Basketball League

Register by Monday, January 15.

Ages 5-14. Resident \$60, Non-Resident \$72. Six-week session. Practice starts Monday, January 15. Games start Saturday, January 20.

Saturday Clay with Steve: Making Teapots

Saturdays January 20 through March 9, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. \$180. Eight-week session. Construct traditional teapots for the first 4 weeks, following with free form teapots.

Dad and Daughter Dance

Saturday February 10, 5:30 - 8 p.m. Registration coming soon: \$30/pair, \$10/additional child. Join us for a 50s sock hop dance with food and crafts!

Outdoor gear rentals NOW AVAIL-

ABLE at the Community Center made possible by our partnership with ACA! Outdoor gear can be rented Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Prices vary for gear

rentals. For more information please visit <https://www.alwayschooseadventures.org/gearlibrary>.

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 information and to apply.

Youth Camp (Licensed Child Care): Monday - Thursday 4 - 6 p.m., Friday 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Eagles Teen Program:

Monday - Thursday, 4:15 - 7:15 p.m.

Pilates Mat Class: Saturday, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

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

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

Senior Lunch: Wednesday and Friday, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

Taekwondo: Monday and Wednesday, 6 - 7 p.m. Monday 7 - 7:30 p.m. for advanced training

Pickleball: (First 30 minutes is for instruction/practice - no games at this time). Monday/Wednesday, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.; Friday, 1- 4 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (family time, all ages can play)

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

Gilpin Stitchers Club: 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

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

The logo that rocked Nederland

Continued from page 23

inclusion in CTO's programs has also helped Town staff create the Public Engagement Manager position, as well as a Tourism Advisory Board, soon to be developed.

The full \$25,000 amount of the grant was awarded to Godot on September 5, 2023, after their fixed bid was approved by the BOT.

According to Godot's "scope of work" listed in their original proposal, the \$25,000 covers educational outreach, 80 hours of community engagement, online outreach, 80 hours of design and creation, 40 hours for a "marketing plan," and 40 hours for education and further outreach.

The work for the "marketing plan" involves the creation of an actionable six-month plan, with guidelines, as well as the conducting of area market research. The work for "education and outreach" involves the production of a short documentary film, which will highlight their community engagement process.

The financial breakdown included in Godot's original proposal also stated that they accepted the job despite being at a reduced cost.

"It's work we want to be doing, but also the structure of community engagement leading into practical creation lends itself to streamlined output. The mini-documentary, for example, would not be possible in this scope without the community engagement baked into the process," the proposal reads.

According to a Forbes report published in 2017, the cost of contracting with branding agencies can range from \$1,000 to \$50,000. The cost for the design of a "visual brand," which typically includes a logo and/or website, was stated to range from \$1,000 to \$3,000. The cost of designing a full brand, however, was stated to range from \$15,000 to \$50,000, and involves the creation of visual elements to represent an entity's identity.

The Request for Proposal

"This project should not have left the Ned Community. There are amazing artists here in the mountains, some of them in this thread."

"Taking into consideration all the artistic, creative folks who call Nederland home and create the most amazing art, this is absolutely unacceptable."

"I don't envy any designer trying to please Nederland residents. Getting any kind of majority to agree on anything is laughable."

Before Godot was ever considered for what Town staff was calling the "Branding and Marketing Strategy Plan" project, the Town of Nederland released a Request for Proposal (RFP) on July 12, 2023, with a deadline of August 3.

A few posts were made in July on the Town's official Facebook page "Nederland Colorado Town Hall" concerning the release of the RFP, though the Housing Needs Assessment survey was heavily promoted during the same timeframe. The posts did not garner much feedback from the public, with the exception of one commenter who asked, "Wise expense?"

The RFP states: "The Town of Nederland is seeking branding and marketing design services which, when

complete, will illustrate and communicate the unique character and qualities of the town.

"The Town seeks to contract with brand and marketing professionals to assist with developing a brand identity and a creative campaign that showcases Nederland's community values and to produce print, digital, and social content that highlights what it means to be a Nederland resident and visitor.

"The successful firm in this project will be required to work with the Town and stakeholders to capture and convey a new brand and marketing strategy."

Those considering submitting a proposal or bid were required to provide a detailed scope of work that addressed the Town's requested "deliverables." Such deliverables included brand development based on the input from Town stakeholders, a brand logo, and a marketing strategy.

Applicants were also required to provide such details as the number of expected public engagement meetings, the total amount of time and services expected from Town staff, and a detailed schedule and cost breakdown for each deliverable.

A total of 15 proposals were submitted by the August 3 deadline. All of the proposals were received from design firms, and none of them were from Nederland.

"Having that many felt good, like we had the opportunity to find the best consultant for the job without being locked in with a design group that didn't meet our goals," Nederland's Public Engagement Manager Peter Cacek told *The Mountain-Ear*, regarding the total number of proposals the Town received.

"We did see some talk through social media from locals interested in the RFP, but ultimately, of the 15 we received, nine were from in state, with six being from out of state. Of the nine from Colorado, four were from Boulder," Cacek said.

Local artists and designers spoke with *The Mountain-Ear* about the RFP, the Branding and Marketing Strategy Plan, and the aftermath over Godot's offered design.

"I appreciate how it is bringing people out to discuss this and to all agree for once. It shows local artists that the community does care and sees our efforts," a local artist with a bachelor's degree in graphic design said.

"I don't remember seeing any call for artists about this project," Heather Taylor-Lande said. "There are so many artists in Nederland. I think it would have been cool if all the artists had a chance and then the people would vote."

"Not all 'artists' are trained graphic designers who understand logo design and branding. So even though we have a lot of artists up here, many may not have felt qualified in areas of branding and logo design," Kristen Conrad told *The Mountain-Ear*.

"The whole project of designing a Nederland identity was a part of a larger and controversial project to brand Nederland for purposes of increasing tourism," Conrad continued, expressing that such a focus on tourism revenue is creating a rift between the community and their representatives, which causes a lack of participation for town-sponsored projects.

"Residents feel forgotten as their



simple and repeated requests for better roads and other residential amenities have been ignored for years in favor of catering to tourists and their dollars," Conrad said before expressing how facing the community's perceivable inevitable ire acted as another deterrent from entering a proposal with the Town.

"Social media tends to bring out some of the snarkest and meanest voices in any town, and there were designers I know that simply did not want their names drug through the mud."

Conrad added that the poor communication of the true intention of the Branding and Marketing Strategy Plan project may have left some local artists and designers feeling disenfranchised.

"The Town board has not communicated a strong reason for this identity program. In fact, it was posted on local social media at about the same time as a half-dozen other Town surveys and requests for feedback from residents on wildly different topics. There seems to be no overarching plan behind the plethora of grants and surveys coming from leadership, and chasing so many of them at once simply dilutes attention spans from residents and comes off feeling like we have leaders who are throwing spaghetti at a wall to see what sticks.

"If our leaders are not even on the same page about why we need a new Nederland brand/identity and what they intend to do with it, then many feel it is another example of the Town wasting our money on ill-defined, feel-good projects that will soon be forgotten," Conrad concluded.

The selection process

"This is what you get when you hire an outside group to do your design."

"The company hired to produce this was having a huge laugh at Nederland's expense."

"It looks like there is much more involved in the creative identity campaign

than a logo for the town."

Town Administrator Miranda Fisher, Public Engagement Manager Cacek, and Trustee Nichole Sterling presided over the selection process of the 15 design firms who bid for the project.

The RFP stipulated how the proposals would be reviewed and judged, stating that the Town will "review and approve the most cost-competitive proposal," ensure the applicant's compliance with the RFP, and select two to three proposals for a final review, while reserving the right to reject any proposals for failing to meet the requirements of the RFP.

The proposals were rated by how well they adhered to the RFP instructions in relation to timeliness, completeness, overall quality and level of professionalism, and overall response. Design firms were also rated on their understanding of the project and demonstration of competency, with firms having to provide examples of successful branding campaigns they have completed and of how they have met client requirements in past projects.

The overall scope of work, fee summary, and the applicant's plan for an education campaign were also factors in the selection process.

"We compared notes during our scoring process, and came to the realization that we all had the same two proposals in our top three: Godot and CivicBrand out of Salida," Cacek told *The Mountain-Ear*.

"We also had a potential third candidate that was high on all of our lists, HUB Collective. We were impressed with their work and approach, but ultimately felt it would be hard to coordinate a proper engagement strategy with a group that was based in Portland, Oregon."

Godot's original proposal states: "People fetishize travel. We visit places convincing ourselves that we will return

Continued on page 25

Continued from page 24

changed. There is a certain entitlement to it. Meanwhile those communities are the ones fundamentally changed by our visits through sheer numbers.”

“One person’s wandering becomes thousands upon hundreds of thousands of visitors. Businesses can no longer afford to cater to their own neighbors. Communities change.”

“As Nederland looks inward with this rebranding and messaging initiative, the town should not give in for a moment to the whims of tourism. This is about your identity. It’s not about trying to become something else.

“Our role as an agency is to facilitate those conversations, uncovering and articulating not just the features of Nederland but the values... the things that the community defines itself by and takes genuine pride in. The illustration of those values becomes Nederland’s visual identity.”

During their meeting on September 5, 2023, within the consent agenda, the BOT voted to approve contracting with Godot Communications Inc.

“It was a very tough call between CivicBrand and Godot,” Cacek explained. “Both showcased a diverse amount of work, but it ultimately came

down to the interview.

“Godot brought an excitement towards this project that none of the other proposals had. The variety of work they showed off, the most intimate knowledge of Nederland of any of the firms, and a desire to help our community explore its identity, were important factors in our final decision.

“It also helped that they already did work in the Peak to Peak area, and had someone on their team that lives in Gold Hill. Out of all the firms, they had the best understanding of our needs, our history, and our present,” Cacek said.

The conversation between Town staff, Trustees, and Godot on September 5 was centered on changing the language of the project and moving away from the marketing aspect of the initial ask.

“Everyone on the team fully and completely understands that the goal of this project is not more,” Beckett Taylor, Creative Director for Godot, said to the BOT in reference to concerns, mostly raised by the public, of the branding project acting as a gateway to increased tourism and tourism revenue.

“We’re removing language around marketing and advertising because the goal of this is not to reach 2,000,000 people so 50,000 more people can flick

a cigarette butt out their car window as they drive by.

“We’re approaching this as a banner that the people of Nederland can stand behind, we’re coming into this with the understanding that the goal is not to sell everyone and their brother into coming to this small town,” Taylor said.

“Godot blew us out of the water,” Fisher said during the meeting. “They truly understand the uniqueness that Nederland is navigating; the importance of that resident-first communication, and that it’s not about transforming the community into one that’s striving to bring in more tourism, but rather one that wants to honor and recognize the value that is Nederland.”

“I think that the work they’ve already done up here has given them a great foundation and I appreciate that they take a creative approach. It’s really about who

The logo that rocked Nederland

Nederland is and they’re going to work to get to the heart of that,” Fisher continued.

“I couldn’t be more excited to work alongside them and the final product is going to be something I know this whole community will be proud to really rally behind.”

Please look for the conclusion of this story in the upcoming January 18 edition of *The Mountain-Ear*, which covers Godot’s engagement with the public throughout the Fall and the creative process that led to the design that inspired so much disapproval from the Nederland community. Members of Godot Communications Inc. address the unanimous feedback, and detail their plans to reassess and redesign.

POETRY

Some words for the week

CORNER

the canyon drive
 my sisyphian uphill crawl
 that I’ve been doing
 since I had my own car
 and in the passenger seat
 or the booster before that
 almost thirty years
 of these 88 curves
 and 18 miles
 stuck behind Texas plates
 or a foot deep in snow
 way before dawn
 headed to the airport
 or after a night shift
 shooting through the dark
 turning off the brights
 for deer and other things
 awake at odd hours
 up and down and up and
 down
 and up
 away from the world
 and the jobs
 and the cheap gas
 and the one I love
 into the wind off the lake
 past where the cops hide
 between the slow
 and the welcome signs
 into the glimmer of First
 Street
 into the unfurled unfettered
 forever
 of forest
 of fresh air
 of sky strung stars

Alexander Shalom Joseph is a writer from Gilpin County. He is a published author. For more information and to subscribe to Alexander’s Newsletter go to alexandershalomjoseph.com



BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONSIDERATION FOR VACANCY APPOINTMENT



DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION
FOR APPOINTMENT AT



[nederlandco.civicweb.net/document/
109835](https://nederlandco.civicweb.net/document/109835)

The Board of Trustees is considering filling their current vacancy through appointment. Those interested in serving on the BOT should complete the application for appointment and submit it to Town Hall.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
5PM ON JANUARY 12, 2024

Applications can be submitted in the following ways:

In-Person at Town Hall:
45 W 1st St, Nederland, CO 80466
(Please use the drop-box after hours)

By Mail:
PO Box 396
Nederland, CO 80466

By Email:
Miranda Fisher, Town Administrator
townadmin@nederlandco.org

HOW LONG DOES AN APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER SIT ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES?

The appointed board member will sit until the regular April 2024 election.

It is the Board of Trustees expectation that anyone seeking appointment will also circulate a nomination petition to run during the April 2024 election.

The Mountain-Ear re-appointed Gilpin newspaper of record

Continued from page 1

almost exclusively on the issue as to which local paper was to become the newspaper of record for the County. Jim Crawford spoke to the history of the *Weekly Register Call* (WRC). He said though mistakes were made in the past, he would like not to read two papers every week, and would like to see the WRC as the County's only newspaper of record.

Donna Okray-Parman also commented on the newspaper of record, giving both papers compliments. She said that *The Mountain-Ear* seems to cover more of the north part of Gilpin County according to her research. She said she wished the people of the community had more input into the decision of the newspaper of record. She also asked the commissioners to comply with ADA concerning their entrances and parking, and that she and others have had trouble accessing the building due to the stairs and lack of parking.

Phil Gibbs also addressed the issue of the newspaper of record, pointing out that the WRC has had repeated errors in addition to a higher cost than *The Mountain-Ear*. He asked that the WRC review its business practices, both in terms of operations and expense.

Bob Sweeney of Parker introduced

himself as the custodian of the WRC. He said that to be a newspaper in the county you have to have a license in the county. He asked that Barb Hardt present her postal permit in Gilpin County. He said the Board is ignoring the law and their decision to choose *The Mountain-Ear* goes against statute. He asked the Board not to hide their expenses and be transparent to the taxpayers.

Eric Douglas noted that the editor and most of the staff of *The Mountain-Ear* actually live in Gilpin County, unlike the WRC staff. He said that because of incompetence, empty legal threats, and personal insults issued from the WRC, he recommends *The Mountain-Ear* as the paper of record.

Barbara Hardt, Managing Editor of *The Mountain-Ear*, read from her letter to the commissioners: she said that although their pricing is lower than WRC's, it comes down to services provided to Gilpin County. *The Mountain-Ear* has three offices, two in Gilpin and one in Nederland. She said the law considers *The Mountain-Ear* published in Gilpin County as well as Boulder County under 24-7-101 C.R.S., and *The Mountain-Ear* remains locally owned and operated since October of 1977. Fourteen of their paid contributors live in Gilpin County and she respectfully asked that Gilpin

County keep *The Mountain-Ear* as the paper of record since they meet all the qualifications.

Public comment was closed at 9:21 a.m. after which the Board heard the next item on the agenda.

Resolution 24-01, Adopting the List of Official Appointments for 2024 – Ray Rears, County Manager

Rears explained the given chart and how it delineated who was appointed in the previous year and who is recommended for appointment in the current year. He said the Board can make whatever changes they like and the suggested appointments were only made to streamline the process.

Mornis noted that she has been reminded several times that there is no special power or authority as the chair of the board and that she believes every commissioner should have the opportunity of chairmanship. She recommended Berumen as the next chair.

Hollingsworth thanked Mornis for her work as the chair and co-nominated Berumen. There was some discussion as to when the office and seat of the chair are physically changed. Mornis seconded the motion to nominate Berumen as chair and the motion passed 3-0.

Taking the chair, Berumen thanked Mornis and Hollingsworth for their hard work and then opened the floor for nomination of Chair Pro-tem. Mornis nominated herself, Hollingsworth seconded, and all were in favor.

Rears presented the two requests to be the newspaper of record. He said *The Mountain-Ear* as the current newspaper

of record has received no negative comments in 2023. He said the staff recommendation is to continue with *The Mountain-Ear*, and though cost savings is an incentive, it should not be the only determining factor.

He passed the floor to Benning to address any legal questions as to *The Mountain-Ear*'s eligibility to serve as the paper of record. Benning noted that the law has not changed. He said that the definition of a legal newspaper of record means maintaining an office in the county to gather news, sell advertising, or to conduct general business in addition to consecutively publishing papers each week. He said that the County has looked into many factors as to which paper should be the paper of the record, and both qualify. He said that this is a business decision.

Hollingsworth said that there were three reasons why she chose *The Mountain-Ear* last year. She cited WRC errors that delayed public hearings, government-submitted materials that were rewritten, and feedback from staff that working with two papers was challenging. Finally, she mentioned the cost difference, with the WRC's cost being nearly four times the cost of *The Mountain-Ear* that year. She said the same reasons still exist to support *The Mountain-Ear*.

Hollingsworth said she appreciated the WRC but that it seems to report more in Clear Creek County.

Mornis cited that the WRC is the paper of record for the two municipalities in the county and that the County should support the WRC because of its historical

Continued on page 27

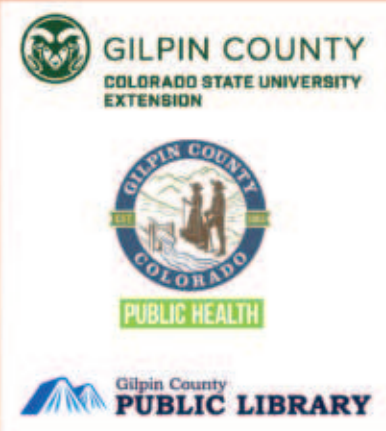
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- Gilpin County CSU Extension Office
230 Norton Dr., Black Hawk, CO 80422
- Gilpin County Public Health
15193 CO-119, Black Hawk, CO 80422



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The Mountain-Ear re-appointed Gilpin newspaper of record

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importance.

Berumen cited staff comments on working with each paper, stating that *The Mountain-Ear* was easier to work with, easily corrected any mistakes, and that the budget was easier to keep in line.

Hollingsworth acknowledged WRC as a historical entity and that staff are welcome to put ads or articles in that paper and often do.

Hollingsworth moved to approve *The Mountain-Ear* as the official newspaper of record for Gilpin County and that it does meet statute. Berumen seconded the motion after hearing no second. Mornis voted nay. Motion passed two to one.

The appointments were accepted as edited, with Sheriff Armstrong filling in as the Emergency Manager. Mornis then read the official appointments and moved to accept them.

Hollingsworth seconded, and all were in favor of Resolution 24-01.

Proclamation for National Radon Action Month – Alisa Witt, Public Health Director

Witt reported that the EPA and the US Federal Government have proclaimed January as National Radon Action Month. The purpose here is to highlight to the public the importance of testing their home for radon and to get their home mitigated if necessary. Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer deaths in the United States and can only be detected through testing. Roughly sixty percent of Gilpin homes have tested above the recommended levels since 2005.

Hollingsworth moved to accept the Proclamation, Mornis seconded, and all were in favor. Witt mentioned that free radon test kits can be mailed to residents through a website that is listed as a QR code in an ad in *The Mountain-Ear*. Kits can also be picked up at the Public Health Office, the Gilpin Library, or the CSU Extension Office.

New Employee Introductions –



PHOTO BY BARBARA HARDT

Welcome to the team

New Gilpin County Public Health Director Alisa Witt was introduced to the County Commissioners.

Chanda Johnson, Human Resources Director

Johnson announced Alisa Witt as the new official Public Health Director. A new employee to Solid Waste was also introduced.

Resolution 24-17, Adopting the List of Committee & Board Appointments for 2024 – Samuel Bower, Administrative Analyst

The Board discussed the various appointments of government officials to certain committees and boards, such as Colorado County Incorporated (CCI) and Counties and Commissioners Acting Together (CCAT). Berumen asked if the commissioners had suggestions and

the commissioners decided on the best appointments.

Hollingsworth moved to accept the resolution as discussed and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board then recessed as the Board of County Commissioners and convened as the Local Liquor Licensing Authority.

PUBLIC HEARING - Local Liquor Licensing Authority (LLLA) Approving a Special Event Liquor Permit for the Gilpin County Republican Central Committee – Sahari McCormick, Clerk & Recorder

Mornis excused herself from the hearing. The public hearing opened at 10:20 a.m. Staff recommended approval of the permit for the event to be held on February 10. There was no public

comment. Hollingsworth asked if only beer would be served and the applicant replied in the affirmative. Motion passed 2-0. Public hearing was closed at 10:23 a.m.

Local Liquor Licensing Authority (LLLA) Approving a Liquor License Renewal for Z Stop Gas Station – Sahari McCormick, Clerk & Recorder

McCormick recommended approval for the license. Mornis moved to approve, Hollingsworth seconded, and all were in favor.

The Board adjourned as the Local Liquor Licensing Authority and reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners.

Clear Creek Economic Development Council (CCEDC) Updates and Rural Resilience Event Discussion – Lindsey Valdez, President CCEDC

Valdez was absent but Rears filled in. He explained that this event will be an opportunity for the County to have a voice in local economic development strategy and the opportunity for grants. The CCEDC is hosting a rural resilience mixer and leadership breakfast on February 8 and 9. Event presentations and discussions will include Gilpin County.

Hollingsworth plans to attend February 9. Berumen plans to attend on February 8.

Resolution 24-07, Authorizing the Gilpin County Sheriff to Submit a Grant Application to the Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Grant-Local Emergency Management Support Program, and a Commitment to Accept Funds if Awarded by the Same – Sheriff Kevin Armstrong

Armstrong sought approval and needed a signature from the Chair to

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210 N Jefferson St,
Nederland
303-258-3579

Nederland Community Presbyterian Church

The Mountain-Ear re-appointed

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accept grant funding from Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) upon approval of the grant application. The grant can be used to offset personnel costs. The grant has been ongoing and Armstrong will prioritize local hires.

Rears suggested the board amend the figure of \$30,602 to \$55,000 and not to exceed a total fifty percent match of \$110,000.

Mornis moved to adopt the resolution, Hollingsworth seconded, and all were in favor.

Resolution 24-18, Authorizing the Gilpin County Sheriff to Submit a Grant Application to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for the Peace Officer Behavioral Health Support and Community Partnership Program, and a Commitment to Accept Funds if Awarded by the Same – Sheriff Kevin Armstrong

There was little discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 24-06, Accepting the American Rescue Plan Act 6.1, State and Local

Federal Recovery Funds Grant for Gilpin County Public Health Core Services – Alisa Witt, Public Health Director

The award stands to compensate for a shortfall in the general task order. She said that the funds are not restricted as long as they are used for Public Health.

Mornis moved to adopt the resolution, Hollingsworth seconded, and all were in favor.

Resolution 24-05, Awarding a Contract for a Medical Director for Gilpin County Public Health – Alisa Witt, Public Health Director

Witt said state statute requires that if the Director of Public Health is not a physician then a physician must be appointed as Medical Director. The purpose of this role is to advise the Director on public health issues from a clinical perspective. She said she has several candidates and has spoken to Dr. Mark Johnson who is somewhat retired but has agreed to fill in until a permanent medical director is found.

Rears said the Board would need to amend a line item in the budget not to exceed \$8,000 per year for payment to the Medical Director in place. Hollingsworth asked what if Dr. Johnson has to serve for longer than the 1 to 3 months as projected and Witt assured her she would have a plan to allocate more funds.

Mornis moved to accept, Hollingsworth seconded, and all were in favor.

Resolution 24-08, Accepting the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Limiting Gaming Impact Funds – Joe Allaire, Finance Director

Allaire said the grant funds are available to county governments to help with the negative impacts of gaming, like gambling addiction and law enforcement costs. He said it is easy for Gilpin to document these negative impacts.

Hollingsworth moved to adopt the resolution in the amount of \$2,233,783.30. Mornis seconded and all were in favor.

Resolution 24-09, Approving the Annual List of Take Home Vehicles for On-Call Employees and Positions– Joe Allaire, Finance Director

Per the employee handbook, pages 22-23, the Board of County Commissioners is required to annually review the employees and positions

designated as being on-call and who, as a result, commutes in a County vehicle to/from home on a regular basis. An on-call employee is required to be available when contacted and is required to be called in to safely provide an urgent, professional service at a specific incident within 60 minutes or less, while not formally on duty.

Mornis moved to adopt the resolution with an intention of having a work session later this year. All were in favor.

Resolution 24-10, Appointing a Trustee to the Board of Trustees of the Gilpin County Public Library District – Michael Carlson, Library Director

Carlson asked the Board to approve the Library Board's recommendation to reappoint Harv Mastalir to a new 5-year term.

All were in favor.

Resolution 24-11, Amending the Memorandum of Understanding

with the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program – Janey Barker, Human Resources Director

Barker was absent but David Josselyn spoke on the matter saying that this MOU must be re-affirmed annually. He said each county gets an allocation of money to help low-income families pay their childcare needs. He emphasized that these funds are not limited to childcare within Gilpin County but to help residents with childcare costs wherever they can find child care.

Mornis moved to approve the resolution. All were in favor.

Resolution 24-12, Approving the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF) Annual Certification Report for 2023 – John Combs, Public Works Director & Craig Connell, Right-of-Way Specialist

Hollingsworth said that she noticed the fund has increased significantly since she has been on the Board and

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PHOTO BY BARBARA HARDT

Public Works employees

Gilpin Public Works Director John Combs shakes hands with Gilpin Right-of-Way Specialist Craig Connell.

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Contact us
The Mountain-Ear is located at 98 W. 1st Street, Nederland. And at 430 Lawrence Street, Central City. Questions? You can always reach us by email at info@themountaineear.com or phone at 303-810-5409.

THE MOUNTAIN EAR

IN PRINT AND ONLINE AT WWW.THEMTNEAR.COM

The Mountain-Ear re-appointed Gilpin newspaper of record

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that she is appreciative of any funding to offset the costs for roads.

Hollingsworth moved to approve and all were in favor.

Resolution 24-13, Canceling Taxes Determined to be Uncollectible – Mary Lorenz, Treasurer

Lorenz said there were two taxes that were not collectible. The property owners could not be reached.

Mornis moved to adopt the resolution and all were in favor.

Resolution 24-15, Authorizing the Execution of Agreement for Consulting Services with R. Jortberg Associates, LLC – April Nielsen, Assessor

Nielsen requested to approve the agreement for consulting services in the amount of \$43,921.20 for one year of service.

Hollingsworth moved to approve and all were in favor.

Resolution 24-14, Appointing a Member to the Gilpin County Planning Commission – Rob Gutierrez, Community Development Director

Advertisement for a vacancy on the Gilpin County Planning Commission was conducted throughout October 2023 by Community Development staff. The Commission is recommending Sean Dow for appointment to the vacancy. In addition, the Commission is recommending re-appointment of three current members: Won Cho, Rea Wrobel Orthner, and Roxy Goss.

Hollingsworth said she was fine with the recommendation. Mornis moved to approve the resolution. All were in favor.

Resolution 24-04, Appointing a Voting Member to the Gilpin Advertising Panel (GAP) – Lyndsey Denton, Deputy Clerk to the Board / GAP Secretary

Denton presented the resolution as the GAP Secretary. The BoCC needs to appoint a member to a three-year term. The current member, John Bryan, has submitted his letter of interest to serve the GAP for another three years, term ending January 2027.

Hollingsworth moved to approve the resolution, specifically re-appointing John Bryan. All were in favor.

Colorado State Registrar of Historic Properties Designation for Russell Gulch Cemetery Discussion – James ShROUT, Historic Preservation Liaison

Russell Gulch Cemetery will be considered by the Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board for nomination to the Colorado State Register of Historic Places on January 19, and ShROUT asked for a letter of support from the BoCC.

The commissioners were all in

agreement to submit a letter of support.

Resolution 24-02, Authorizing the Execution of Contingent Ground Lease Agreement with Gilpin County Senior Living – Brad Benning, County Attorney

Senator Jeanne Nicholson spoke about the offered lease and said their attorney and board will review it.

Mornis said things could change over a hundred years and did not want to restrict the lease terms to exclusively “senior living.” Benning assured her that the property can be used for other purposes dependent on the lease.

Mornis also noted that with the possibility of legal euthanasia for seniors that statistics could change for demand in the future.

Nicholson shared that many of the seniors in the area are very hardy and would not look to ending their own lives.

Hollingsworth moved to approve and motion was adopted 3-0.

Resolution 24-03, Imposing a Temporary Stay on the Processing of 1041 Permit Applications – Brad Benning, County Attorney

Mornis shared that she believes the County would have had more say in development in Central City if they had 1041 applications. Benning recommended a six-month stay.

Resolution was adopted 3-0.

Resolution 24-16, Awarding a Contract for Outside Legal Counsel for 1041 Regulations – Brad Benning, County Attorney

Benning recommended consultants



PHOTO BY BARBARA HARDT

Senior housing moves forward

Former Senator Jeanne Nicholson speaks to the Gilpin County Commissioners about senior living housing in the county.

who specialize in 1041 areas. All were in favor.

Rears said a special meeting is needed next Tuesday because they had to wait on the other taxing districts to set their mill levy, among other things.

The Board of County Commissioners Report and Notice of Public Meetings included dates for the next regular meeting and a special meeting on Tuesday, January 16 at 9 a.m.

Most County offices will be closed Monday, January 15, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

During Public Comment, Barbara Hardt thanked the board for putting their faith in The Mountain-Ear again.

Donna Okray-Parman thanked Mornis for her service on the board and congratulated Berumen on her chair

appointment. She brought up the lack of parking and how she was currently illegally parked due to lack of access. Rears replied that if any accommodation is needed, to give the clerk 24 hours notice so they can provide it, as the Agenda points out.

Public comment was closed and Hollingsworth moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Gilpin County Board of County Commissioners is scheduled for January 23, 2024, at 9 a.m. and will be held in person at the Historic Courthouse located at 203 Eureka Street in Central City and online via Zoom.



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Applicants must have five (5) years of
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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
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Child Camp Leader: \$16.69 - \$22.53
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\$59,400 - \$83,200
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Deputy - Court Security: \$30.77 - \$43.77
Deputy - Detentions - POST Certified:
\$30.77 - \$43.77
Deputy - Patrol: \$30.77 - \$43.77
Detentions Officer - Non-Certified:
\$27.88 - \$39.66
Detentions Specialist: \$19.13 - \$25.87
Director of Emergency Management:
\$99,000 - \$118,900
Emergency Communications Dispatcher I:
\$22.69 - \$31.78
Equipment Operator: \$22.69 - \$31.78
Facilities Maintenance Tech I: \$20.63 - \$28.89
Head Lifeguard: \$14.66 - \$19.09
Transfer Station Equipment Operator:
\$22.69 - \$31.78
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Volunteer - Meals on Wheels Program:
Unpaid volunteer position

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NO phone calls or walk-ins please. Pay can
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live in care for the kids? It would likely allow
you to maintain your current employment and
provide housing & meals for 7 days including
all day Fri-Sun of live-in, transport to school
or camp, return them home and helping them
preparing meals each evening. The need is
for remainder of November and full month of
December & could extend. We have a new king-
size guest bedroom. \$500 weekly. For info call
Rachel (720) 779-7198 or email rachelpirkle@
ymail.com.

Public Works Maintenance Worker for the
City of Central. FT Hourly range from \$19.91+
per hour DOQ/E. Requirements: High
School diploma/GED + 1 year experience
as a construction laborer, Class B Colorado
Driver's License or be capable of obtaining
one within three months of the date of hire.
The position is required to perform a wide
variety of unskilled and semi-skilled work in
maintenance, construction and repair of the
City's infrastructure and facilities including but
not limited to highways, roads, bridges, streets,
curbs, sidewalks, buildings and other city-owned
properties; operates trucks and light equipment
incidental to the work. The City provides a
comprehensive benefit package that includes
medical, dental and vision insurance coverage.
100% of the employee's premiums are paid by
the City and approximately 98% of dependent
premiums are paid by the City. Paid vacation and
sick leave, 401(a) and 457b employer retirement
contributions. 15 paid holidays annually. City
paid long term disability and Life Insurance.
Apply now: A detailed job description can be
found on the City's website
www.centralcity.colorado.gov. Qualified applicants should submit
an employment application which can be found
at www.centralcity.colorado.gov to the Finance/
Human Resources Director at
arobbins@cityofcentral.co or mail to P.O. Box 249 Central
City, CO 80427. The position is open until filled;
however, applications will be reviewed on a
weekly basis. EOE

Administrative Assistant. City of Central
FTE Hourly Range from \$20.40 - \$23.98 per
hour DOQ/DOE. Requirements: High School
diploma and associate degree or similar
certification in business administration, finance,
human resources, or office management. A
bachelor's degree in accounting, public or
business administration, finance, or related
field is preferred. This position requires two
(2) years of progressively responsible work
experience in business administration, finance,
human resources, or office management, and
a minimum of two (2) years of related administrative
support experience for a high-ranking official in
any office setting OR an equivalent combination
of education, training, and experience. Under
administrative direction, the administrative
assistant performs a variety of working level,
para-professional duties as needed to expedite
various day-to-day functions of the Finance/

HR department, including customer service,
handling correspondence, maintaining records
while adhering to the City's records retention
policy, and assisting with procurement of
supplies. This position will assist with other
department duties, such as accounts payable,
cash receipting, utility billing, and coordination
of meetings, trainings, interviews, etc. The City
provides a comprehensive benefit package
that includes medical, dental and vision
insurance coverage; 100% of the employee's
premiums are paid by the City and approximately
98% of dependent premiums are paid by the
City. Paid vacation and sick leave, 401(a) and
457b employer retirement contributions; fifteen
(15) paid holidays annually. City paid Long-
Term Disability and Life Insurance. Apply now:
A detailed job description can be found on the
City's website
www.centralcity.colorado.gov. Qualified applicants should submit a resume,
a list of three job references and a cover letter to
the Finance/Human Resources Director at
arobbins@cityofcentral.co or mail to P.O. Box
249 Central City, CO 80427. This position is
open until 1/11/2024. EOE.

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PUBLIC NOTICE


<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Court <input type="checkbox"/> District Court <input type="checkbox"/> Denver Juvenile Court Court Address: <u>2960 COUNTY HILL ROAD SUITE 200</u> <u>BOULDER MOUNTAIN, CO 80422</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult: <u>MICHELLE KRISTEN BAUMPH</u> or <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Petitioner: for Minor Child: For a Change of Name to: <u>MICHELLE KRISTEN BAUMPH-THIES</u>
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME	

▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲
 Case Number: 23c26
 Division 1 Courtroom

Public Notice is given on 12-22-2023 (date) that a Petition for a Change of Name of a Minor Child or Adult has been filed with the 9th Dist Court.

The Petition requests that the name of
MICHELLE KRISTEN BAUMPH
 First Name Middle Name Last Name
 be changed to
MICHELLE KRISTEN BAUMPH-THIES
 First Name Middle Name Last Name

By Wendy J. Smith
 Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk



New Year, New *Safety* Resolutions!

Kick off the New Year by adding these resolutions to your list:

- Apply** for the Wildfire Partners program
- Schedule** a free home assessment with a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist
- Mitigate** your mountain home and property
- Secure** a certificate and added peace of mind



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