

THE MOUNTAIN EAR

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ALLENSPARK | BLACK HAWK | CENTRAL CITY | COAL CREEK CANYON | FERNCLIFF | GOLD HILL | JAMESTOWN | NEDERLAND | PINECLIFFE | ROLLINSVILLE | WARD

Buck for the Badge helps first responders

DAVE GIBSON
GILPIN COUNTY

In 2016 former paramedic Steve Henry began staging bull riding events to raise money for fallen or seriously injured first responders and their families. Providing assistance during an emotionally and often financially difficult time, to date, over a quarter million dollars have been donated to the cause.

HealthOne AirLife Denver's helicopter touched down in the parking lot at Gilpin County Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 7, an hour and a half before this year's Buck for the Badge bull riding event was set to begin. Besides getting a peek inside the aircraft without being critically afflicted or injured, it offered an opportunity to meet a few of the everyday heroes that save countless lives. Police officers, sheriffs, ambulance drivers, EMTs, and firefighters were also on hand to meet the people and show their support for their comrades that so selflessly served and paid the ultimate price.

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PHOTO BY DAVE GIBSON

Helping families of the fallen

A cowboy in control at the moment atop a raging bull. Riders needed to stay aboard for eight seconds to register a score.

A truly Grand opening



Ward resident Will Shiverick celebrated the grand opening of Mountain Auto Repair.

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BoCC discuss 2025 budget



PHOTO BY MINDY LEARY

Strategizing for success

Finance Director Joe Allaire and Staff Accountant Lyndsey Denton unveil the ambitious 2025 Budget, projecting \$8.8 million in capital projects while keeping Gilpin County proudly debt-free.

MINDY LEARY
CENTRAL CITY

The Gilpin County Commissioners' September 10, 2024, meeting featured

a rare early look at the proposed 2025 budget, presented a full month ahead of schedule.

Commissioners Susan Berumen (Chair), Sandy Hollingsworth, and

Marie Mornis were in attendance.

Finance Director Joe Allaire and Staff Accountant Lyndsey Denton presented a detailed plan to tackle pressing needs in infrastructure and maintenance, emphasizing the urgency of investing now to avoid skyrocketing future costs.

"This year's proposed budget reflects our commitment to taking care of what we have," Allaire said, noting that the budget includes \$8.8 million in capital improvements, road projects, and senior program support.

With gaming revenue projected to bring in \$15 million and a new lodging tax adding \$174,000 to the county's coffers, Allaire argued that now is the time to act. "If we don't spend the money now, inflation and deferred maintenance will only make these costs higher down the road."

With a projected ending fund balance of \$21 million for 2025, the Board felt confident that these investments would set up future boards for success. Budget highlights include South Beaver Creek Road improvements and vehicle

continued on page 23

Colorado Mtn. Ranch 75th Anniversary



A truly Grand celebration

see story page 20

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-QUOTE OF THE WEEK-

Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done.

- W.E.B. DuBois

THE MOUNTAIN-EAR

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western Jefferson County and north Clear Creek
County.

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The Mountain-Ear is made up of 50 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.



Obituary

James (Jim) Robert Miller

January 9, 1946 - September 4, 2024

James (Jim) Robert Miller born 1946, died September 4, in a traffic accident in northern Wyoming. Jim was a Colorado native and three-term mayor of Nederland, Colorado. He grew up in Longmont, Colorado, and graduated from Longmont High School. A long-time resident of Nederland, Jim started the custom jewelry business Master Goldsmiths there with his second wife Doris Miller, now Dvora Kanegis, in 1970. Jim sold Master Goldsmiths in 2006 and retired with his wife Rynn Mar Miller to Salida to be near some of his

grandchildren.

A sometimes controversial figure, his proudest achievements as mayor of Nederland were being a key proponent of the transformation of the old elementary school into the Nederland Community Center and presiding over the first "Frozen Dead Guy Days".

He is survived by his wife Rynn Mar Miller, his son Colin Miller, daughter Nicole Hansen, son-in-law Harry Hansen of Salida, Colorado, grand children Colleen Rook of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Ean Miller of Dallas, Texas, Ethan Hansen of Pueblo, Colorado, Deidre Hansen of Salida, Colorado, great-grand children Eden, Emma Clair, and Ezra Miller of Dallas, Texas, and niece Barbara Miller of Twin Falls, Idaho. He was preceded in death by his mother and father George and Anna Miller née Rauba of Longmont, Colorado, and brother Arther Miller of Knob Noster, Missouri.



Celebration of life to be held at the Salida SteamPlant 5-7 p.m. Friday, September 13. Snacks and beverages will be provided. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Chaffee County Habitat for Humanity and the Ark Valley Voice. The family requests that any attendees come bearing their best Jim Bob story.

The family will hold an additional celebration of life in Nederland sometime in the spring, exact date to be determined.

ARTWALK

Jun 28th Jul 26th Aug 23rd Sep 27th

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Peak Perspectives

Election watch: The importance of local elections

LYNN HIRSHMAN
PEAK TO PEAK

All the emphasis right now is on our national election...chances are, as you read this, you are reflecting on the debate that took place on TV a few nights ago. But it's often the local elections that are closest to our personal experience and needs. Our local candidates have their policy statements in this issue of *The Mountain-Ear*.

In a recent online article, Mayor Randall Woodfin of Birmingham, Alabama, said this about the importance of local elections:

"Think of it this way—federal elections touch big-picture issues, but quality of daily life starts locally. When you open your front door, in many cases, what your eyes meet and where your feet step are shaped by local government. From the roads you travel down to the school systems your children attend, those important necessities of daily life are defined by local leadership.

"Public safety, first responders, libraries, water management—these and so much more have a direct impact on your day-to-day life, and are fueled by your tax dollars.... [I]t's imperative that you have a say in where your dollars are going....Federal elections are critical for the future of our democracy, but day-to-day life literally starts at home, locally."

And it's not just the people we elect

that make a difference. There are state issues on the ballot as well, ranging from abortion to mountain lion hunting to ranked choice voting. Each of these (and some of the others as well) will affect our daily lives. Read your blue book carefully, and vote thoughtfully. Your future and that of your neighbors depend on it.

In keeping with *The Mountain-Ear's* emphasis on the importance of local elections, we are highlighting in this issue the responses of candidates for the office of Gilpin County Commissioner to the questionnaire we sent them based on questions submitted by members of the public.

Because one question seemed too specific for inclusion here, we have deleted their responses to "If you could ask one candidate one question, what would it be?" and added it to the questions we'll be asking the candidates at the Forum, on Friday, September 20.

The responses you will see beginning on page 25 have not been edited in any way; they are exactly how we have received them from the candidates.

What should candidates be talking about as they compete for your vote?



Check out candidate profiles on pages 25 - 32

Meet our team!

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Richard Brandon
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Rick Rudstrom
Amy Skinner
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The Sting (1973)

Two drifters team up to pull off the ultimate con. Director: George Roy Hill. Writer: David S. Ward. Stars: Paul Newman, Robert Redford, Robert Shaw. Rated: PG. Time: 2 hours and 9 minutes. Genre: Capers, Comedy, Crime, Drama.

September 13
Friday Evening at 7 p.m.

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.

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Nederland Community Center

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Music of the Mountains

Where to be and what to see



PHOTO CREDIT JASON MELINO

JAMIE LAMMERS NEDERLAND

Over a decade ago, Eric Halborg and Cole Rudy met as part of the Denver indie music scene. At the time, Halborg played and wrote for the punk band The Swayback (he currently also plays for Wabi), and Rudy played for the groups Barnacle and Varlet. Striking conversations, the two realized they both loved old-school blues.

Halborg had practiced harmonica privately for a few years, finding time in the car after his stereo was stolen. When Rudy realized this, he asked Halborg to play for him, the first time Halborg had played harmonica for anyone else. From there, the two decided to form their own group, with Halborg providing guitar, harmonica, and vocals and Rudy providing guitar, lap steel, mandolin, and additional vocals.

Eventually, the two fleshed out the lineup and thus the group's sound by adding a drummer/percussionist and a bassist – Carl Sorensen serves as the former, with the latter role previously filled by Casey Sidwell and currently by Hunter Roberts. However, Halborg and Rudy are still the core of the group, called Dragondeer, creating the basic structure of the songs that the whole band fleshes out. Halborg loves the

spontaneous back-and-forth among the musicians when he performs with the group on stage, and he loves directly experiencing the energy of the crowd and fellow musicians. He hopes the audience recognizes the group's love of their performances and feels inspired by their energy.

Despite sharing a name and having the same December 31 birthday, Tom Hamilton Jr (born in 1978) is not connected to Aerosmith's bassist (not a junior and born in 1951). However, the younger Tom Hamilton has still had a storied music career. His father (Tom Hamilton Sr., of course) started as a drummer, and by the time Junior and his older brother Jim were born, seinor primarily played bass, performing in Philadelphia with a classic rock/blues band. For Junior, growing up with a band constantly playing in his basement, being a musician was a normal vocation for his family. His father never pressured him to play, but Junior felt it was a way to connect and communicate – he never focused on the idea of being successful.

However, he has constantly worked in music for almost 35 years, initially playing bars with Jim at around 12 years old. As a result, he has organically built success for himself and the material he writes and performs. His first dedicated venture came directly

out of high school in the late 90s, with himself and three other classmates (including Jim) forming Brothers Past, a band that ultimately ended with a completely different lineup. By the late 2000s, Hamilton formed American Babies, which focused on a more acoustically-driven sound, and Electron, a casual jam band that still plays, but only occasionally.

In 2013, another new band was formed by chance. The Dean Ween Group, the side project of Mickey Melchiondo from Ween, was meant to perform at the Brooklyn Bowl but pulled out close to the performance. One of the members, Joe Russo, was asked to assemble a new group to fill the gap. Russo and Hamilton, having already played together in American Babies, considered a Grateful Dead tribute show. Russo toured with Bob Weir and Phil Lesh of The Dead in the group Furthur and Hamilton started performing Dead covers early on, so the two joked about playing Dead tunes without Russo's "bosses." Ultimately, Russo recruited Hamilton and the lineup from the former's band Bustle In Your Hedgerow – experimental jazz musician Marco Benevento, Ween bassist Dave Dreiwitz, and guitarist Scott Metzger (also from American Babies) – to form Joe Russo's Almost Dead as a one-time event. A recording of the show went viral, a second show they decided to perform sold out, and they've been performing ever since.

Hamilton's most recent venture is Ghost Light, although he has many other credits. He has toured with four members of The Dead – Lesh as part of Phil and Friends and Bill Kreutzmann, Bob Weir, and Mickey Hart as part of Billy and the Kids. He even played at Red Rocks as part of Jerry Garcia's 80th Birthday Symphonic Celebration. He produced an independent release for Kurt Vile early in their careers, produced and recorded the Disco Biscuits album *Planet Anthem*, and produced and recorded the Mason Porter album *Thunder in the Valley*.

He has always preferred playing with others, as the musicians can improvise and work off each other's energy. He's focused so much on group performances that it was only in 2024 that he started working on his debut

solo record. He has always loved the sense of adventure that comes with performing and touring, and he hopes in some way, people are moved by the art he creates and the work he dedicates to his music.

You can see Eric Halborg and Cole Rudy of Dragondeer open for Tom Hamilton, Jr. and an accompanying band at The Caribou Room, 55 Indian Peaks Drive in Nederland, on Friday, September 27, 2024. Doors open and dinner starts at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. You can browse the massive catalog of Tom Hamilton, Jr. by going to tomhamiltonjr.com and learn more about Eric and Cole's main project at dragondeer.com.

Music Events

Busey Brews

- Sunday, September 15 at 2 p.m. - Ella Wren
- Sunday, September 22 at 2 p.m. - Pineytops Duo
- Sunday, September 29 at 2 p.m. - Dan Williams Trio

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

Gold Hill Inn

- Friday, September 13 at 8 p.m. - Rolling Harvest
- Sunday, September 15 at 5:30 p.m. - Silent Bear
- Friday, September 20 at 8 p.m. - The NoGo Gilbillies
- Saturday, September 21 at 7 p.m. - Natalie Spears Trio
- Sunday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. - Fly in the Ointment

Continued on page 5

Music Events

Continued from page 4

Friday, September 27 at 8 p.m. - Matt Skinner Band
Saturday, September 28 at 7 p.m. - Greg Schochet Trio
Sunday, September 29 at 7 p.m. - Sturtz

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

Gold Hill Store

Thursday, September 12 at 7 p.m. - Matt Mitchell Music Co.
Friday, September 13 at 8 p.m. - Ollella
Saturday, September 14 at 7 p.m. - Silver Steven
Sunday, September 15 at 3 p.m. - Lottie's Cookout (with live music)
Friday, September 20 at 7 p.m. - Charlie White

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gold-Hill-General-Store/>
Website: <https://www.goldhillstore.com/>
Location: 531 Main Street, Gold Hill

Gregory Plaza

Saturday, September 14 at 5 p.m. - The Sisters of Rock
Saturday, September 28 at noon - Jennifer DeDominici and Jonathon Hayes

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/blackhawksharddistrict/>
Website: <https://blackhawksharddistrict.com/>
Location: 317 Gregory Street, Black Hawk (Mountain Poppy Boutique)
Phone: 720-669-0665

Howlin Wind Brewing

Saturday, September 14 at 4 p.m. - Windy Pines
Sunday, September 15 at 3 p.m. - Matt Mitchell Music Co.
Saturday, September 21 at 4 p.m. - Steepland String Band
Sunday, September 22 all day - Pop up with Justin Rice
Saturday, September 28 at 5 p.m. - NoGo Gilbillies

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

Jamestown Mercantile

Thursday, September 12 at 7 p.m. - Violet Breeze
Friday, September 13 at 7 p.m. - Pass the Snakes
Sunday, September 15 at 12:15 p.m. -

Foggy Tops Bluegrass Band
Wednesday, September 18 at 5 p.m. - Open Mic
Wednesday, September 18 at 6 p.m. - Mike Clark and The Sugar Sounds Duo
Thursday, September 19 at 7 p.m. - Johnny Blueheart
Wednesday, September 25 at 5 p.m. - Open Mic
Thursday, September 26 at 7 p.m. - Unpaid Bills
Friday, September 27 at 7 p.m. - Fast Floyd
Sunday, September 29 at 12:15 p.m. - The Matt Katters

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

JKQ BBQ

Friday, September 13 at 6 p.m. - Jeremy Lewis
Saturday, September 14 at 5 p.m. - Jeremy Lewis
Friday, September 20 at 6 p.m. - Adam Pause
Saturday, September 21 at 5 p.m. - Adam Pause

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

Knotted Root Brewing

Saturday, September 14 at 5 p.m. - New Family Dog
Saturday, September 21 at 5 p.m. - Break Signals
Saturday, September 28 at 5 p.m. - Gratefully Acoustic
Fridays at 7 p.m. - DJ Night
Every Second Friday at 7:30 p.m. - Reggae DJ Night
Sundays at 5 p.m. - Jazz Sundays

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

Nederland Farmers Market

Sunday, September 15 at 10:30 a.m. - Stellar Jays Duo
Sunday, September 29 at noon - Kutandara

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NederlandFarmersMarket/>
Website: <https://www.nederlandfarmersmarket.org/>
Email: nederlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com
Location: 85 E. 1st Street, Nederland and 80 E. 2nd Street, Nederland

Old Gallery at Allenspark

Friday, September 20 at 6:30 p.m. - Open Mic

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheAPOldGallery>
Website: <https://www.theoldgallery.org/>
Location: 14863 Highway 7, Allenspark
Phone: 303-747-2906

The Caribou Room

Friday, September 13 at 7 p.m. - George Porter Jr. & Runnin' Pardners w/ Damon Wood's Harmonious Junk
Saturday, September 21 at 7 p.m. - White Trash Adult Prom
Friday, September 27 at 7 p.m. - Tom Hamilton (guitarist for Joe Russo's Almost Dead & Billy and the Kids) with full band with Cole & Eric from Dragondeer

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

Very Nice Brewing Co. (Gilpin County)

Friday, September 13 at 6 p.m. - Poorfree
Saturday, September 14 at 5 p.m. - Tony Crank

Friday, September 20 at 6 p.m. - David Tilton
Saturday, September 21 at 5 p.m. - Windy Pines
Friday, September 27 at 6 p.m. - Ella Wren

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/verynicebeer>
Website: <https://www.verynicebrewing.com/>
Location: 180 Jankowski Drive, Black Hawk
Phone: 303-582-2015

Very Nice Brewing Co. (Nederland)

Friday, September 13 at 6 p.m. - Mad Dog Blues
Saturday, September 21 at 5 p.m. - Chris Smith
Saturday, September 28 at 5 p.m. - Mountain ReVerb
Sunday, September 29 at 5 p.m. - Rick Lobato

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/verynicebeer>
Website: <https://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@themountaineer.com to be included in the next edition.

Everybody's Reading It!



The Mountain-Ear is read beyond the Peak to Peak
Hayden Hardt-Zeman reads his copy of *The Mountain-Ear* in Pullman, WA. Hayden is one of many college freshmen that took their subscription with them to school, to keep up on what's going on in the Peak to Peak region.

Submit your photo to info@themountaineer.com for inclusion in an upcoming edition. Selected photos receive a free 90 day trial subscription to *The Mountain-Ear*.

Gilpin County budget fiction/ budget fact

Dear Editor,

Conventional wisdom in some quarters has it that Gilpin County government is spending wildly and indiscriminately compared to the “good old days”.

We have done an exhaustive study of the County’s audited financial results from the last 21 years (2003 – 2023). Here are charts that show the results.

Chart 1 shows that both revenue and expenses have indeed grown.

Chart 2 shows the relative expense rates for different categories of expenses. Note the increasing expense for Public Safety, i.e. the Sheriff and Jail and other expenses related to crime generated primarily by the gaming industry. As gaming has grown and mandates from the State have made law enforcement more expensive, this expense has grown. Other expense categories have remained relatively stable on a percentage basis (General Government grew and returned to 2003 levels)

The problem with Chart 1 is that it



Chart 1: County Revenues & Expenses 2003-2023

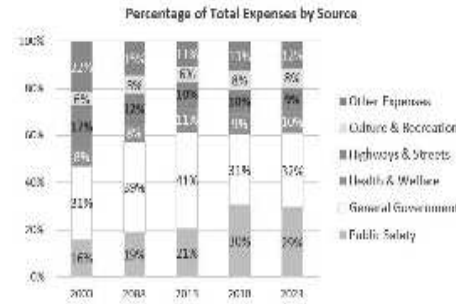


Chart 2: County Expense by Source

doesn't take into account that prices increase over time

Inflation was less than 4% for all but three years in the period 2003-2023 and yet, prices increased 66% overall during this period!

The population also grew by over 1,000 residents (22%) from 4,757 to 5,808 from 2000 to 2020.

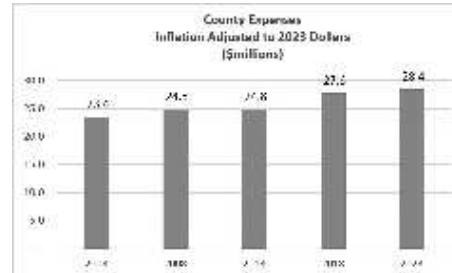


Chart 3: Total County Expenses

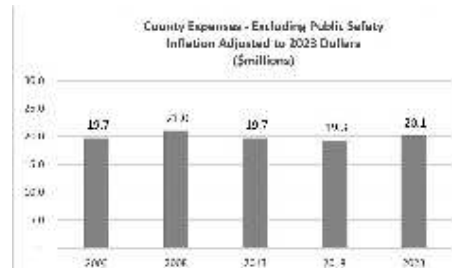


Chart 4: County Expenses less: Public Safety

After adjusting for inflation to 2023 values:

1. **Chart 3** shows that total County spending increased from \$23.4 million to \$28.4 million, a 21% increase.

2. **Chart 4** shows that if **Public Safety** is **excluded** from total expenses, **all other County spending is essentially flat**.

Population Growth

22% population growth over 20 years has also clearly increased demand for County services and has had an impact on County governmental expenses. Given that fact, it is remarkable that inflation-indexed expenses (other than Public Safety) have remained almost flat

Other interesting facts

- Property Tax revenue has consistently been near 20% for 21 years.

- Gaming Tax revenue has steadily declined from 59% to 45% over 21 years.

- Since 2022 Gilpin County has been debt-free. One of only three counties in the State.

- Gilpin County has an emergency fund of \$4 million for wildfire mitigation and response.

- Gilpin County has the lowest combined sales and property tax rate in the State.

In conclusion, Gilpin County has managed its finances in a consistent and responsible manner over the last 21 years.

*Phil Gibbs
Vice Chair, Gilpin County Democratic Party
Sources: Gilpin County Financial Statements (audited), Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, US Census, Avalara tax rates*

The MAGAfication of the Gilpin County GOP

Dear Editor,

Though the Gilpin County Commissioner electoral contests are supposed to be about local issues, it's hard to miss how the County GOP has become a reflection of the national MAGA movement. Here are some parallels:

- A split in the party between moderate Republicans and MAGA Republicans: Marie Mornis vs Jessica Kays was mostly about the extreme MAGA positions of Mornis versus

the moderate positions of Ms Kays. Of course, Ms Kays and her supporters are called RINOs by the MAGA faction.

- Election denial: In the May 30, 2024, issue of *The Mountain-Ear*, Mornis was asked if she thought the 2020 election was free and fair. Her response: “Lawsuits on this issue are still working their way through courts across the country”. A MAGA talking point that is a patent falsehood determined by Trump’s Attorney General Barr. She also stated she had little confidence in Gilpin County’s

election system and that mail-in voting is “fraught with fraud”.

- Tax cuts for the rich: The Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Black Hawk that the Republican candidates are pushing is a tax avoidance scheme for the Black Hawk casinos. Both Mornis and Marshall strongly support this takeover of County tax policy by the City. Ironically raising taxes collected by the City is the method proposed to pay for the IGA,

- Disenfranchisement of voters: Both Mornis and Marshall have stated that as Commissioners they will never ask for a tax increase, even though the voters of the County decide on tax increases, not the Commissioners. One of the jobs of a Commissioner is to protect the County from unforeseen circumstances. If something happens that clearly calls for additional taxes, what will they do?

- Denigration of the less fortunate: You may have seen in various Facebook posts, op-eds and Letters to the Editor key MAGA Republicans questioning why after-school programs for teens are needed, opposing free lunch for school children, and minimizing the needs of people in the County who can't afford to pay for food.

- Negativity and disinformation

a. The MAGA Republicans complain about Gilpin County government spending being out of control.

i. The truth: The County has been debt free since 2022, one of three counties in the State.

ii. The truth: The County has \$20 Million in operating reserves

iii. The truth: The County has dedicated \$4 million for emergencies and \$2 million for water rights.

iv. The truth: The County is putting an additional \$7 million into long neglected maintenance projects including new roofs on the Justice and Community Centers.

b. The MAGA Republicans complain that taxes are too high.

The truth: Gilpin County has the lowest combined sales tax and property tax rate in the State.

I implore the voters of the County to reject the negativity and divisiveness of this group and vote for Sandy Hollingsworth and Jeff Aiken to be our next County Commissioners for their pragmatism and experience.

*Sincerely,
Eric Douglas
Chair, Gilpin County Democrats*

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Letter to the Editor

Submit your letter to the editor by emailing the newspaper at info@themountaineear.com, scanning the QR code here, or on our website 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*.



Here is our Letter Policy: We welcome thoughtful, local letters to the editor. You can submit online on our website or by email to info@themountaineear.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.

From the Editors: We will not publish letters that are part of a local smear campaign or contain unsubstantiated information. Letters will be sent back to the author with an option to rewrite following our letter policy. Questions? Email info@themountaineear.com.

Support Marie Mornis in November

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to express my support for our current County Commissioner Marie Mornis in the upcoming election on November 5th.

As a citizen of Gilpin County I believe that it is important to elect leaders that "hold themselves" accountable and to the highest standards!

For several years now I have had the pleasure of working with Marie in several capacities. I have also gotten to know her as a friend and a neighbor. I have witnessed a very mature and humble woman who lives and works with the utmost integrity in everything she does!

Marie Mornis has proven herself to be totally trustworthy while she works for the greater good of our community. Protecting our rural lifestyle here in Gilpin...AND...being financially

responsible with our tax dollars has been at the forefront of Marie's time as Commissioner.

I can confidently say that Marie Mornis possesses the necessary qualities and experience to continue as our County Commissioner. She brings an unwavering allegiance to her job currently and her honesty and credibility can only impact our county and its citizens in a positive way!

I can honestly say Marie Mornis has a passion for Gilpin County as she raised her family here and that passion is certainly unmatched. I actually want a Commissioner that has a commitment to the people and a passion for the job!

If you want to see honest, ethical and hardworking people in our local government then join me in supporting Marie Mornis in November!

*Kathleen Balfour
Gilpin County*

Re-elect Commissioner Sandy Hollingsworth

Dear Editor,

I support the re-election of Sandy Hollingsworth as Gilpin County Commissioner for District 3. She works diligently on behalf of all Gilpinites and has done so since her election in 2020. Sandy and commissioners Isenhardt and Sill faced many challenges during the pandemic and its immediate aftermath when they had to make difficult decisions. Throughout that time and as much as I can, I've watched her at BOCC meetings. She is always well-prepared, and ready to tackle what needs to be done. She listens to all opinions, even from those who disagree.

Gilpin County is special. Its rich history is rooted in the memories of a time long past. Yet, its social conditions have changed and evolved. We cherish the memories because they help make Gilpin so unique. However, we are 21st-century people, living in a 21st-century county with modern problems and challenges. Sandy recognizes that and works very hard to enable 21st-century solutions -- such as increasing broadband access, enabling a healthy populace, expanding access to county services and facilities, supporting improved infrastructure, and much more -- all while respecting the county's heritage.

Commissioners are expected to ingest information on a huge array of laws and questions facing county government. For example, I attended a BOCC meeting last year that focused on building codes. That's a complex (and often controversial) subject and it really impressed me that Sandy was so well-prepared. It was clear she'd read

the materials and codes and knew how to ask and answer questions about them. I could cite many others from my time watching and participating in meetings over the past few years. I know that sometimes she has to vote for or against something that is controversial -- and she's prepared for the feedback and/or fallout. I've not always agreed with every decision she and the BOCC make, but I've always appreciated Sandy's taking the time to explain why they took the actions they did.

I've worked in both business and academia and have always known that experience and talent are keys to success. In Sandy Hollingsworth, we have both. Her long history of working with government and government entities is a plus. She volunteers for many organizations in the county, including HCA, Peak to Peak Rotary, and Axe & Snax. Through her work and volunteer activities, she really gets to know people and what the county needs.

From the beginning of her term as Commissioner, Sandy has shown a great grasp of the issues and what it takes to solve them. If I were presented with such an experienced job candidate today, I'd hire her in an instant because of that expertise -- and because she cares for the county and its people.

That's how valuable she is and that's why I as a Gilpin resident will be voting for Sandy Hollingsworth to continue her work on our behalf as County Commissioner.

*Carolyn Collins Petersen
Black Hawk*



SEPTEMBER RECIPES



Skillet Mexican Street Corn

Skillet Mexican Street Corn is a quick and easy side dish to add to just about any dinner. Everything you love about Mexican Street Corn on the Cob but much easier to serve and enjoy! Buttery corn with a creamy sauce, a splash of lime and cotija cheese.

Prep time - 5 minutes
Cook time - 10 minutes
Total time - 15 minutes

Ingredients -

2 tablespoons butter
4 cups frozen corn – fresh off the cob is perfect; even canned corn will do
1/4 cup mayonnaise
1/4 cup sour cream
juice of 1 lime
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon chili powder
1/2 cup cotija cheese
1/4 cup cilantro or green onions

Melt butter in a skillet over medium-high heat. Stir in corn. Cook just until corn is heated through, stirring often. Stir in mayonnaise, sour cream, lime juice, cumin and chili powder.

Add half of cotija cheese, stirring until melted.

Sprinkle the top with remaining cheese and garnish with a dash of chili powder and cilantro or green onions.

Local grants available from Alan Green Memorial Foundation

The Alan Green Memorial Foundation (AGMF) is accepting grant applications from Gilpin County organizations and groups that benefit Gilpin County residents. This non-profit organization was created by the family and friends in memory of Alan Green.

Ken and Lela Green lost their son and his wife in a commercial plane crash. AGMF has given out grants since 1983 to benefit our Gilpin residents.

*Grant applications are available on the website:
alangreenmemorialfoundation.org.*

**RETURN COMPLETED GRANT APPLICATION AS A PDF DOCUMENT
TO: alangreenfdg@gmail.com. The deadline is September 30.**

Be a part of the NES time capsule committee

Dear Nederland Community,

It's time to open the 30+ year old time capsule at Nederland Elementary!

NES is putting together a time capsule committee to organize the event, which will take place on Friday, November 8.

Former NES staff, students, and Nederland community members, please contact Kristen Kron at Kristen.Kron@bvsd.org (School Counselor) to be part of this exciting opportunity!

*Kristen Kron
Nederland*

Honoring the fallen: Ameristar's 9/11 Stair Climb



PHOTO BY MINDY LEARY

Honoring the call of duty

A solemn moment as a Black Hawk Fire Department member rings the bell, marking the start and end of every firefighter's journey.

MINDY LEARY
BLACK HAWK

Under a clear September sky, more than 150 participants gathered at

the Ameristar Casino Resort Spa on Wednesday morning, turning the hotel tower's stairwells into a powerful symbol of remembrance and resilience.

The 16th Annual Black Hawk 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb brought together first responders, community members, and supporters to honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost on September 11, 2001, while climbing a staggering 116 floors in tribute to the fallen.

What started in 2009 with a small group of local firefighters and EMTs has grown into a significant event, attracting climbers from across the region. The climb challenges participants physically, but it is the emotional journey that resonates most.

As they ascend the Ameristar tower – each step echoing the heroic journey of those who ran into the World Trade Center more than two decades ago – participants are reminded of the courage, sacrifice, and unbreakable spirit that defined that day.

The morning began with a check-in at 9 a.m., followed by an opening ceremony on Richman Street. The ceremony included a powerful speech

from an Ameristar representative that resonated with many in attendance.

“Today, we gather to honor and remember all the lives we lost on September 11, 2001. It's been over two decades since that tragic event, but the memories remain vivid in our hearts and minds.

“As we stand here today, let us also honor the resilience of our nation. In the aftermath of the attacks, we came together as a community, united in our grief. Today, we show the world that even in the darkest hours, we remain unbreakable.”

Jason Christian, a lieutenant with Black Hawk Fire Department, introduced several traditions that have been part of the stair climb since its inception. He explained the significance of the PASS devices: personal alert safety systems that sound when a firefighter is motionless.

“On 9/11, after the towers collapsed, hundreds of these alarms went off at the same time. Today, we sound the PASS device in memory of the fallen.”

Following the PASS device tone, the bell ceremony added another layer to

the event. Christian narrated the history of the bell in firefighting tradition, a symbol of the beginning and end of a firefighter's duty.

“A special signal of three rings, three times each, represents the end of a comrade's duty and their return to quarters. To our comrades, their last alarm, they are going home.”

Participants then embarked on the four-lap climb of the Ameristar's hotel tower, totaling 116 floors – six more than the World Trade Center.

The climb, which began at 8,042 feet above sea level and included a 192-foot elevation gain, is considered the highest stair climb in the world.

Participants ranged from seasoned first responders in full gear to first-time climbers like Justin Kresh, who said, “I'm excited. This is my first year. I didn't do any pre-training, just gonna run it and gun it.”

Kresh works at the Lodge Casino and recalled that his first day of basic training was also, ironically, on September 11, 2001.

The climb is not a race but a symbolic act of remembrance. Participants wore

Historic water-sharing agreement for Jasper Reservoir



PHOTO BY WES ISENHART

Jasper Reservoir

South side of Jasper Reservoir looking up at the Continental Divide. Jasper Reservoir was built over 80 years before the area was designated as national wilderness.

WES ISENHART BOULDER COUNTY

Colorado Water Trust (coloradowatertrust.org) has announced a water-sharing agreement with 37-Mile LLC that will supply water from Jasper Reservoir to downstream customers in perpetuity.

Jasper Reservoir is located in the Indian Peaks Wilderness west of the town of Eldora. The reservoir was built in 1896, with private water rights superseding the creation of the wilderness area. It is situated just below Jasper Peak.

Colorado Water Trust's press release states that “The strategic release of water from Jasper Reservoir promises substantial environmental and community benefits for the Boulder Creek watershed and its residents and highlights the potential for collaborative multi-benefit solutions to enhance water resources and protect vital ecosystems in the face of climate change and ongoing development pressures.”

Colorado Water Trust (CWT) Executive Director Kate Ryan wrote that the agreement was the result of several years of careful planning. The Trust received a donation that allowed them to purchase Jasper Reservoir.

They then conveyed the reservoir to Doug Tiefel of 37-Mile LLC to operate with provisions for insuring that the water would be used for environmental benefit in perpetuity.

The historic nature of the agreement is that Jasper Reservoir had been used exclusively to supply irrigation networks during the summer. The Colorado Water Trust purchase will see the water used for environmental improvements and public benefit. The releases will be later in the summer, when water flows are low and aquatic ecosystems can benefit from the additional released water.

In the press release, Ryan stated: “The last twenty-five years of my life have been ever so special, with countless hiking and fishing trips up to Jasper and in Boulder Canyon. Colorado Water Trust's work will ensure that my loved-ones and our growing community continue to enjoy Jasper's epic summer views and that we can save streamflow in the Boulder Creek watershed, all the way from the mountains to the City of Boulder.”

Tiefel wrote that “Our stewardship of Jasper Reservoir aligns with our broader vision of environmental conservation and community enrichment. The family is honored to partner with the Colorado Water Trust to ensure that the reservoir's water continues to benefit the local ecosystems and communities, reinforcing our legacy of environmental responsibility.”

Colorado Water Trust maintains a Facebook page with the same name and has a sign-up for email notifications at coloradowatertrust.org/sign-up.



PUBLIC NOTICE: COMMUNITY MEETING FOR CENTRAL-CITY CLEAR CREEK SUPERFUND SITE

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency will be hosting a public meeting on **Thursday, October 3 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.** at the **Gilpin County CourtHouse in Central City** to provide an update on the status of the Central City-Clear Creek Superfund Site. The meeting will also provide a forum for community members to ask questions about the Site.

There are several ways to participate:

- Join community members in-person at the Gilpin County Court House (203 Eureka St, Central City, CO 80427).
- Join via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82749556178?pwd=kgnM6kImllyjRu005LBjplQenEQB9Dx.1> (password: 480706)
 - To participate by phone (no video): 1-719-359-4580, pin 88639942552#, password 480706#

General information about the Site and access to resources related to health safety can be found at: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/central-city-clear-creek>.

To sign up for email notifications about the Site, including public notices and upcoming public meetings, go to <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/sign-up-hm-updates> and select “Remediation - Superfund - Clear Creek” at the bottom of the page.

If you have technical issues connecting to Zoom or prefer not to ask your questions publicly, please contact Branden Ingersoll at 720.810.7912 or Branden.Ingersoll@state.co.us.

September is Suicide Prevention Month
~The world is more beautiful
with you in it.~

Nederland Community Presbyterian Church

Online sermons are
available at

<https://www.nederlandpres.org/>

210 N Jefferson St, Nederland
303-258-3579



In-person worship is happening
every Sunday at 10 a.m.

Friday, September 13

Open Mic hosted by the Coal Creek Canyon Improvement Association. First Friday of every month at the CCCIA Community Hall. Sign up in advance at <https://www.coalcreekcanyon.org/>. Music from 7 - 9 p.m. at 31528 Highway 72.

Saturday, September 14

Ned Ned Race: Half Marathon, 5k and 10k races. A 42 year old tradition hosted by TEENS, Inc. in Nederland. Starts and ends at TEENS, Inc. located at 151 East Street. First race starts at 8 a.m. Register at <https://www.nednedtrailfest.com>.

Public Lands Today and Tomorrow: A Field Tour of Forestry and Fire Resilience in the St. Vrain Watershed. Explore upcoming forestry treatments in the U.S. Forest Service lands around Gold Lake and learn about the exciting work happening on Boulder County Parks and Open Space. See firsthand how public land managers are strengthening the resilience of our communities and ecosystems to wildfire. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Gold Lake. Transportation provided from Lyons Middle Senior High School. Lunch included! This is a free event. Register by September 12 at tinyurl.com/ForestryFieldTour.

Sunday, September 15

Nederland Farmers Market: Enjoy a multitude of different arts, craft, and food vendors along with live music in the heart of town from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Located at 80 East First Street.

Monday, September 16

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

The Mountain Meditation Circle: A free and open group that has been meeting every Monday evening at 6 p.m. for the last four years at 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 email Alisa Witt at wittalisa@gmail.com or call her 847-890-5262.

Meditation and Mindfulness: Practice meditation, explore readings and join discussions in this free program at Nederland Community Library every Monday at 5:30 p.m. No meditation experience necessary! Please email Eric at davis.eric.alan@gmail.com with any questions.

Tuesday, September 17

STEAM Club: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math activities hosted for kids grades 1-4 at the Nederland Community Library. Club meets will be every Tuesday through the end of October. There will be a shuttle running directly from Nederland Elementary to the Library after school, and the meeting ends at 5 p.m. Register at <https://nederland.libcal.com>.

Philosophy Club: Love studying the inner workings of reality? Love waxing philosophically? Love classical thinkers? This is the club for you! 5 - 7 p.m. at the Nederland Community Library. Register at <https://nederland.libcal.com>.

Wednesday, September 18

Children's Storytime: Join us every Wednesday morning for our Children's Storytime. Most of our children range from 0-5 years of age but all children are welcome. Enjoy stories, fingerplays, rhymes, and more. A themed craft will follow every storytime. The previous week's crafts are available while supplies last. Start at 10 a.m. at the Gilpin County Public Library.

Game Night: Bring a game, bring a friend and meet new ones! 6 to 9 p.m. every Wednesday at Very Nice Brewery, 20 Lakeview Drive, Unit 112, Nederland.

Saturday, September 21

CCCIA Pancake Breakfast: \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members. All proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund. Contact Bruce Goodwin to volunteer at 303-642-0529. 7 to 11 a.m. at 31528 Highway 72.

Did we miss you? Would you like your event listed in the Cracker Barrel? Please submit your event online at <https://www.themtneer.com/events-submission/> to be included in the next edition. Check us out online at www.themtneer.com/events for more upcoming events.



School Calendars

Nederland Middle-Senior High School

September 14 - Cross Country at NedNed Race
 September 16 at 4 p.m. - V Boys' Soccer at STEM Highlands Ranch
 September 16 at 4:30 p.m. - JV and 5:30 p.m. V Volleyball at STEM Highlands Ranch
 September 17 from 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Pop-Up Library at Lunch
 September 17 at 5:30 p.m. - Mt Bike Team Photos
 September 18 at 4 p.m. - V Boys' Soccer at Vanguard Classical East
 September 18 at 4:30 p.m. - JV Volleyball at Vanguard Classical East
 September 19 at 4 p.m. - 1st Day IS Girls' Volleyball
 September 21 - Cross Country at St Vrain Invite at Lyons Middle-Senior High School
 September 21 - Mt Bike Race at Eagle
 September 23-27 - Homecoming Week

Gilpin County Schools

September 12 at 4 p.m. - HS Volleyball Home vs Lyons
 September 13 at 7 p.m. - HS Football Home vs. Lake County (Homecoming)
 September 14 at 10 a.m. - MS Volleyball at South Park
 September 16 at 4:30 p.m. - MS Volleyball at West Grande MS
 September 17 at 7 p.m. - Board of Education Meeting
 September 18 at 4 p.m. - HS Volleyball Home vs Bishop Machebeuf
 September 19 TBA - HS Volleyball at Union Colony Preparatory
 September 19 4:15 p.m. - MS Volleyball Home vs Front Range Christian
 September 20 at 4 p.m. - MS Volleyball at Summit MS
 September 21 at 3 p.m. - MS Football Home vs South Park
 September 21 at 6 p.m. - Varsity Football Home vs South Park



Gilpin County Seniors

September 12 - Grocery shopping at Bergen Park King Soopers
September 13 - Lunch at Justice Center at 12:15 p.m., Social time
September 18 - Lunch at Justice Center at 12:15 p.m., Birthday Party!
September 19 - Grocery shopping at Bergen Park King Soopers
September 20 - Lunch at Justice Center at 12:15 p.m.
September 25 - Lunch at Justice Center at 12:15 p.m., Free Bingo
September 26 - Grocery shopping at Bergen Park Walmart
September 27 - Lunch at Justice Center at 12:15 p.m.

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 303-515-4292 for details. We accept donations for the Senior Fit exercise classes.

Nederland area Seniors

September 18 - Sit and Stretch Yoga, 11 - 11:30 a.m. in the Senior Lounge located at the Nederland Community Center.
September 18 - Lunch: Baked tilapia with tartar sauce, brown rice, tossed salad with balsamic dressing, and an orange
September 18 - Purple Art- Art Class for Seniors! From 1 - 2:30 p.m. in the Senior Lounge. Suggested donation \$5. Email info@mountainpeaklife.org for more information and to RSVP!
September 19 - Busey Brews Live Trivia Night benefitting Nederland Area Seniors, starting at 6:30 p.m. at Busey Brews!
September 25 - Sit and Stretch Yoga, 11 - 11:30 a.m. in the Senior Lounge.
September 25 - Lunch: Breakfast casserole, blueberry muffin, broccoli, and a banana
September 25 - September Birthday Celebrations! Delicious treats provided by Bright Heart Catering!

Lunch is served from 12 - 1 p.m. at the Nederland Community Center. Suggested donation for senior lunch is \$5 for guests 60+ and \$12 for all other guests (Sliding scale available!). RSVP by calling 303-258-0799 or at info@mountainpeaklife.org. Check out our website calendar for the latest activities and updates www.mountainpeaklife.org.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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Statepoint Crossword

THEME: FALL IS IN THE AIR

ACROSS

1. Furry bamboo consumer
6. Cuban dance syllable
9. 100-meter race, e.g.
13. S-shaped moldings
14. Excessively theatrical actor
15. Chap
16. Will alternative
17. Sailor's affirmative
18. At full speed
19. *Cause for fall celebration
21. *Apple-related game
23. European Union, acr.
24. Hawaiian tuber
25. Pen on a farm
28. Color of a bruise
30. *Pumpkins and squash, e.g.
35. "Give me your tired, your _____"
37. "____ Free," movie about lions
39. Disdain
40. Caribbean color
41. Shiny suit
43. Spaghetti aglio and ____
44. Peevish
46. Half a round, in golf
47. ____-do-well
48. Battles royale
50. Change for a twenty
52. Banned insecticide, acr.
53. *Back-to-School event

55. Hermy the Dentist
57. *Apple sauce
61. *____ weather
65. Cell phone bill item
66. Bar association
68. Wombs
69. Begin, began, ____
70. Cut grass
71. Romanov rulers
72. Command with "at"
73. Stiff grass bristle
74. "Hobby" animal

DOWN

1. Beckham of "Spice Girls"
2. Turkish honorific
3. Not far
4. Look into
5. In the Land of Nod
6. Online conversation
7. *Cushion for certain seasonal ride
8. Naked protozoa
9. Obtuse, as in person
10. ____ bowl, frozen dish
11. Largest human organ
12. Precedes Kong
15. Hindi courtesy title, pl.
20. Modern-day aqua-lung, acr.
22. Domain

Statepoint Sudoku

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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.

Puzzle Solution

A	L	O	F	T		L	M	T		G	O	B	I							
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Crossword solution September 5

24. Wood-eating house hazard
25. Involuntary contraction
26. Chef's headgear
27. Phil Collins' "____ Be in My Heart"
29. *Maze plant
31. Upward and onto
32. Wide-____ notebook
33. *Like leaves in fall
34. Stall call
36. *Much-used fall garden tool
38. Not any
42. Extend subscription
45. Unquestioning ones
49. Fraternity house

Sudoku Solution

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

Sudoku solution September 5

51. Miss Marple, e.g.
54. "Is Your Mama a ____?"
56. Dom DeLuise in 1980 role
57. Rubik's puzzle
58. Away from port
59. The state before riches?
60. Malaria symptom
61. Saw, sawed, ____
62. Drop of sorrow
63. Makes a mistake
64. Precedes shine
67. Gift topper

Gilpin School Board: Getting down to business

WES ISENHART
GILPIN COUNTY

Approving policy revisions and updates was the main topic of business at the Gilpin County School District Board of Education meeting on September 3, 2024, in the school boardroom.

The Board also met with District Accountability Committee (DAC) Chairperson Victoria Edwards and discussed progress on a number of Board initiatives.

Kristen Goodlet was the only member absent from the meeting, which was presided over by President Sarah Swanson.

Edwards gave the first presentation,

a review of draft 2024/2025 changes. She also discussed the need to recruit volunteers for the DAC, as the terms of most of the parent members are expiring. The Board and Edwards discussed ways to encourage participation, including opportunities for parents to get involved with the school.

Superintendent David MacKenzie reported that his big push at the moment was rolling out the new student information system (Powerschool) and connecting students and parents to it so it can be fully functional.

MacKenzie stated that the two capital improvement projects (ADA and sewer) are progressing, and the

contractors are providing weekly updates on their progress. The school was having trouble with the heating and air conditioning when school started but MacKenzie said that an HVAC vendor has been working on resolving these issues.

The key issues for the night were the revisions and updates to school policies. Revisions to both sets of policies were unanimously approved.

The final discussion of the evening involved previous Board initiatives. The consensus was that there had been progress on Strategic Communications and Board/Student Engagement. The Board will continue to produce a newsletter and have student recognition and participation at future meetings.

Student and Staff Mental Health Supports and District Climate and

Culture were two initiatives that the Board felt needed the involvement of the two school principals.

The next Board meeting will be on September 17 in the school boardroom at 7 p.m. A DAC meeting will be held the same night at 5:30 p.m. The Board will engage in recruiting parents to take over the DAC committee positions. The DAC meeting is a public meeting and open to all parents.

The agenda and documents for this meeting are on the RE-1 website (gilpin.k12.co.us) under the Board of Education Agendas for September 3, 2024. There is a video of the September 3 meeting on the GCSB YouTube channel. Click on the link on the agenda to access the video.

Ned Mountain Biking battles heat in Steamboat

JOELLE WISLER
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

The Nederland High School Mountain Bike team battled the heat, dust, and 52 switchbacks per lap (yes, they counted!) in Steamboat this past weekend to grab a third place team finish in Division Two at the Showdown in the Boat.

Freshman Jonathan Moss had an exciting race, passing 21 other riders in his second-ever high school race. Freshman Codi Waldron came in 10th for Freshman girls and despite a rough crash in the first lap, sophomore Amika Begin still managed to grab 7th.

Coach Alison Powers said that she's noticing the positive effects of the team's mindfulness practices, "We start each practice and race with a

Reboot Mindfulness session and the riders are showing an improved ability to talk about their goals and emotions. This is really important on a day like this on a tough race course where the kids had to dig deep and find their inner grit."

Reboot is a Nederland-owned mindfulness company and many Nederland kids have grown up doing Reboot for Schools at Nederland Elementary. Last year they launched Reboot for Athletes, a young athlete program that's being used by youth sports teams across the country

A huge shout out to Eldora, Justin's, Rudi's, Peak to Peak Endurance, and Reboot Mindfulness for their support in sponsoring the mountain bike team. The Panthers' next race is in Eagle on September 21.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEDERLAND MOUNTAIN BIKING TEAM

Showdown in the Boat

Nederland High School freshman Jonathan Moss is ready to go at the start of his race.



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Coal Creek charter school cuts the ribbon

JOHN SCARFFE
COAL CREEK CANYON

The JA Coal Creek Canyon K-8 School celebrated its opening as a Jefferson Academy Charter School with a ribbon cutting ceremony and barbecue starting at 5 p.m. on September 4, 2024, at the school, 11719 Ranch Elsie Road. Classes at the new school had started on August 14.

The Jefferson County School Board voted to close the Coal Creek Canyon K-8 school during a board meeting on October 12, 2023. CCCK8 remained open for the duration of the 2023-24 school year.

Following the vote by the Jefferson County School Board to close CCCK8, the district facilitated an expedited charter authorization process, whereby a charter school could open to serve students in grades PK-8 in this community as soon as the 2024-25 school year. Jefferson Academy applied immediately to use the school building in the next school year.

On January 10, 2024, JA wrote to the Coal Creek Canyon Community, that "It is with great pride that we celebrate an amazing accomplishment: the Jeffco Board of Education authorized Jefferson Academy to open a charter school in Coal Creek Canyon.... This achievement is a testament to the unwavering dedication, collective

efforts and spirited collaboration of the entire Coal Creek Canyon community.

"The school's boundary will merge with that of Three Creeks K-8 on July 31 marking a new chapter in our district's history. We understand that change can bring a mix of emotions, and we are committed to supporting our students, staff and families through this transition."

The JA contract began on July 2024, and in August 2024, the school opened.

New Principal Carrie Mott said she has 57 full-time students and 11 homeschoolers who attend on Mondays. She has students in all grades but one – no one in eighth grade yet.

School hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and they offer a free breakfast at 8:10 a.m.

This is Mott's first time as principal but she was an elementary teacher with Jefferson Academy for 23 years. She earned her master's degree in educational leadership from Argosy University.

JA hopes to start a Pre-K program, but needs to add one more teacher in order to begin that program. Mott already has a director.

"We want to make sure we have solid people," Mott said. For the school, she has six full-time teachers and two part time. Her secretary is Stephanie Daniels, a parent of a student at the school. With her lengthy experience, she knows the JA culture and brings it into the new school.

Mott said they are adopting the

Jefferson Academy curriculum. JA is a big organization that has people knowledgeable in all the aspects of education. It is one of the strongest charter schools in the state.

They delayed the ribbon cutting in order to get the school year started and give the community a chance to learn about it before coming out to enjoy it.

School Board members, staff, and the Westminster Chamber of Commerce gathered outside the school's front entrance for the ribbon cutting. Mott and Jamie Chavez of the Chamber each

made a few comments thanking those who attended, stretched out the ribbon, and then cut it.

Attendees then walked to a nearby shelter on school grounds for the barbecue. The barbecue menu included hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and dessert.

For more information about the community's first charter school, Go to <https://www.jajags.com/ccck8-information>.



PHOTO BY JOHN SCARFEE

Ribbon Cutting ceremony

The JA Coal Creek Canyon K-8 School celebrated the school's opening as a Jefferson Academy Charter School with a ribbon cutting ceremony and barbecue starting at 5 p.m. on September 4, 2024, at the school. Principal Carrie Mott cuts the ribbon.

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Self Help Meetings

Tuesday Night Nederland Cross TalkMeeting 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>.

Coal Creek Canyon AA meeting held every Wednesday evening from 7 to 8 p.m. Sponsored by Ed at 303-589-5056. For more information please visit <https://www.coalcreekcanyon.org/calendar>.

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/.

Narcotics Anonymous 12 Step 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/co/black-hawk/. For help finding meetings or recovery support for you or a loved one please call: 866-641-9190.



DAVE GIBSON
GILPIN COUNTY

On the nicest patch of grass in Gilpin County, six teams of four players apiece set up their volleyball nets on Pete Gones Memorial Park on Saturday, September 7. They had gathered in honor of Shelby Allen who was an avid volleyball player and spent many years coaching the sport at Nederland High School. The entry fees of \$40 per team were donated to the Shelby Allen Memorial Scholarship fund which awards \$1,500 or \$500 to

two graduating female athletes from either Nederland High School or Gilpin County High School each year.

The Penrose Players, Hits and Giggles, Gillbillies, The Girls, Oldies and Goldies, and Damn it, Kyle! were the teams that participated in the double elimination event. At the tournament's conclusion with nary a curse word uttered, it was Heidi Gieck, Lindsey Crossman, Deb Ottomeyer, and Kyle Crossman of Damn it, Kyle! taking home first place. The Girls team bumped, set, and spiked their way to second place.

Shelby Allen Memorial Volleyball Tournament



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

Six teams competing

Top, left: Kenzie Marr receiving the serve. Top, right: Sydney Nation reaches high for the volleyball. Bottom, right: Kelsey Starkey bumps to a teammate. Bottom, left: Debbie Ottomeyer makes contact.



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HCA Flea Market: supporting Gilpin's first responders



PHOTO BY MINDY LEARY

Deals, steals, and heroes

The High Country Auxiliary's flea market at the Gilpin County Fairgrounds Barn on September 6 and 7 offered great finds, with proceeds supporting local first responders like Timberline Fire, GCART, and other vital emergency services.

MINDY LEARY
GILPIN COUNTY

If you like helping out a good cause while bargain shopping, the High Country Auxiliary (HCA) Flea Market is the perfect event for you.

Held on September 6 and 7 at the Gilpin County Fairgrounds barn, this annual tradition has been a cornerstone of community support for over 35 years.

By shopping at the Flea Market, you're not just scoring great deals;

you're directly supporting local first responders, including the Timberline Fire Protection District, Gilpin County Animal Rescue Team (G-CART), and other emergency services in need.

Terri Miller, chair of HCA, shared insights into the organization's mission and the significant role the Flea Market plays in supporting local first responders.

"This is our second largest fundraiser," Miller explained. "We used to have a silent auction as our biggest, but now it's the pancake

breakfast that's held during the fair." The HCA also sponsors the pancake breakfast at the Gilpin County Fair and hosts chili drive-bys, where members of the community can grab a container of homemade chili.

The Flea Market's success hinges on community involvement, with more than 50 individuals contributing a diverse range of items. From furniture and appliances to jewelry, toys, and household goods, the variety ensures something for everyone. Donations can be made throughout the year.

"We had donations from over 50 people and hundreds of items, including lots of kids' stuff, which was very popular," Miller said.

Each year, volunteers set up rows of tables filled with treasures waiting to find new homes. This year's event saw a significant turnout, with many eager early birds making purchases as soon as the doors opened. Despite the rush, plenty of items were still available for the second day, making it an exciting shopping opportunity for the entire community.

The funds raised are used to support emergency services across Gilpin County. "Whoever asks us for money, we usually try to help," Miller noted. The HCA's support is crucial, especially when unexpected needs arise.

For instance, Timberline recently

needed specialized fire blankets designed to extinguish vehicle fires, a request outside their regular budget. Thanks to HCA's fundraising efforts, they were able to fulfill this need, ensuring firefighters are equipped with the necessary tools to keep the community safe.

Additionally, the HCA provides direct support to firefighters during emergencies. "If there's an emergency, and the firefighters can't respond, we step in," Miller explained.

Volunteers from HCA are on a call-out list, ready to provide food and other support to first responders at the scene of a crisis. Local casinos, as well as JKQ, Basecamp, and the KOA, have partnered with HCA, donating food that volunteers then deliver to emergency sites.

"I've been to places in the county I didn't even know existed," Miller said, highlighting the vast and often remote areas they cover in support of the Timberline Fire District.

While the Flea Market and other fundraisers are essential, Miller stressed the ongoing need for volunteers. "We have a five-member board and about 52 volunteers on our roster, but we're always looking for more people," she said.

Volunteering can involve everything from helping set up fundraisers to responding to emergencies alongside the HCA team. To volunteer, email HCA80422@gmail.com.

As HCA continues its work, the call for more volunteers remains open. Whether donating items or money, shopping at the event, or joining the team, every contribution helps ensure that those who serve are never without the resources they need.

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Buck for the Badge helps first responders



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

continued from page 1

Many of this year’s bull riders knew each other from having competed at previous rodeos. Their comradery equaled that of emergency responders or soldiers that had been through war together. On this day, they would be battling disgruntled bulls with names such as Huckleberry, Snowball, Dirty White Boy, Paleface, Red Dog, Flipper, Rip, and War Dog. If they managed to stay aboard for eight seconds, they received a score from the judges.

The first bull out of the chute was ridden for a score of 73 which landed the cowboy in the money at the end of the day. Much of rodeo clown Eric Myrick’s afternoon was spent tucked inside his metal barrel as the irate bovines took exception to his presence and battered the barrel with their horns. Even equipped with helmets and flak jackets, the riders (or non-riders as the case may be) took their lumps with

their presumably incurred medical bills exceeding potential prize money. Bullfighters did their best to distract bulls away from cowboys once they hit the dirt.

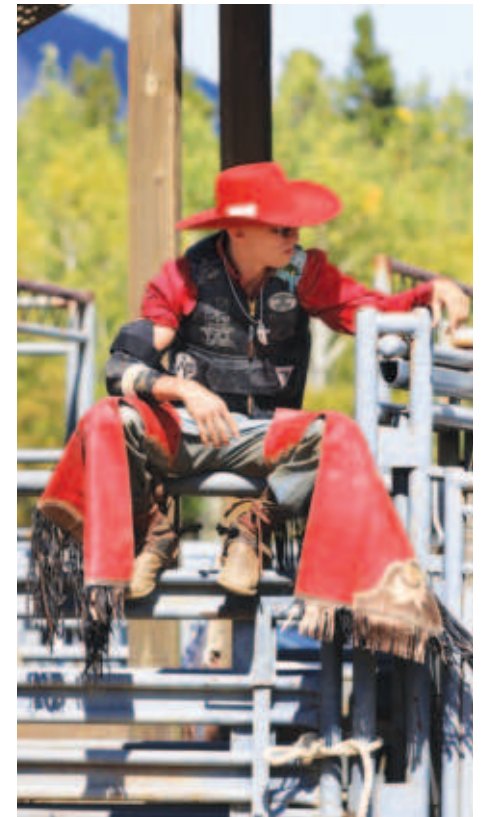
Two rounds of bull riding challenged riders and entertained spectators. From there, 11 cowboys qualified for the final round. James Lee Brown demonstrated impeccable form during his ride that scored 81.5 points – good for first place and \$954. Iskandar Ocampo wasn’t far behind, registering 77.5 points that earned him second place and \$636. Third place finisher Homero Martinez took home \$503 with a score of 74.5. Isaac Gutierrez and Blaine Kallsen tied for fourth place with their scores of 73. Each of them received \$278 in prize money.

If you’d like to make a contribution, go to www.buckforthefallen.org or call 303-589-0682.

continued on page 17

An exciting competition

Top, left: a cowboy about to hit the dirt. Bottom, right: An entrant takes a break between rounds of the bull riding. Bottom, left: Blakely proudly displayed the Colorado colors before the competition.



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Buck for the badge



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

Caption



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CCCIA canyon cleanup



PHOTOS BY JOHN SCARFFE



JOHN SCARFFE COAL CREEK CANYON

Coal Creek Canyon residents showed up to clean the canyon at 8 a.m. on Saturday, September 7, 2024. Kyle West organized the event and took registration for volunteers in advance online and at the Coal Creek Canyon Improvement Association that day. When volunteers arrived, they signed in and selected an area to cover on Highway 72 from Wondervu to Pinecliffe.

Volunteers wore orange vests and were given bags to collect trash and leave by the highway to be picked up later. West stressed safety, walking against traffic and staying away from items that might be related to methamphetamine.

Left: Jenny Schumaker registers with Kyle West to clean up. Top, left: Resident Tom Mulvaney and Board Member Janice Batt provide support. Top, right: More people sign up to clean up. Bottom: Registrations continue with the help of Derek Clinger.



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Life in Nature: Golden roads

JAMES DEWALT
CARIBOU RANCH OPEN SPACE

Alas, we are now in September and once again sauntering into a season of change. While summer brings an abundance of great walks in nature, some of my all-time favorites have come from autumn evening strolls through the aspens.

Alone with my thoughts, or with friends in conversation, there is a special sense of peace as I wend my way among the white and black columns beneath the golden canopy of what is one great, single tree.

We don't quite get the variance of colors that places like New England see, but the colors we enjoy are abundant and strikingly beautiful if the season allows. Typically, the display begins with the leaves turning into brilliant yellows, oranges, and sometimes reds. As the season progresses, the lower plants add to the grand show with deeper colors...reds and oranges to accompany the gold, often carpeting the ground as the aspen leaves fall.

This is, of course, if the season allows, as it takes just the right conditions for the iconic and longer lasting brilliance seen in representative fall images of the west. Aspens prefer three main "ingredients" to produce the brilliance we enjoy so very much: sunlight, temperature, and moisture.

As the daily sunlight diminishes, the trees begin to stop producing chlorophyll, the pigment that gives the leaves their green coloring and helps with photosynthesis. The yellows and reds of autumn exist in the leaves all summer, but are minimal and greatly overpowered by the green needed to give the trees energy to grow. As daylight fades, so does chlorophyll, leaving the other colors to finally emerge.

The transitioning temperatures also play an important role in the process. As mentioned above, the yellows and reds



PHOTO BY JAMES DEWALT

are always present in the leaves, but it takes a bit of sugar to help bring out their very best. Glucose is stored in the leaves as the chlorophyll diminishes, and warm days followed by chilly (not freezing) nights help the glucose itself to change color, "feeding" the existing reds and yellows. Nighttime freezing tends to speed up the process, causing the leaves to drop before much change has occurred.

The third factor is moisture, or rather a lack thereof. Too much of it causes the tree to flush out the essential glucose, causing a wan and pale yellow that doesn't last. Exceptional amounts of rain can also aid in the proliferation of fungal blights that cause black spots on the leaves as well as early defoliation. Various fungi affect aspens all year long, but effects of some can be exacerbated by abundant moisture.

As I write this article, a few trees are beginning to show their change,

and by the date of publication I would imagine the transition will have begun in earnest. So far, the conditions seem to be shaping up for a beautiful turn. Outside of a recent late-night storm that brought accumulations of icy sleet, we haven't seen much in the way of temperature drops below freezing. The days are still gloriously warm as summer maintains its hold, and while we've had some rain, this year pales in comparison to last year's near-record moisture levels.

As long-timers know well, conditions can turn rapidly, and we could still see a worst-case scenario, but for now I hold great hope for a long and beautiful fall. Whether it be photographing the wondrous spectacle of nature's glory,

or simply utilizing the colorful display as a backdrop for portraiture of our community, this time of the year is held very closely in my heart.

I really look forward to meandering through the groves, deep in thoughtful repose as I once again walk those golden roads of autumn accompanied by the distant bugle of elk and the hoot of the evening owls.

Some information for this article came from <https://www.fs.usda.gov/visit/fall-colors/science-of-fall-colors>.

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



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Colorado Mountain Ranch 75th anniversary



PHOTOS BY ELIZA DOBOSE

It's about the kids

At Colorado Mountain Ranch it is about connecting with kids and nature.

ELIZA DOBOSE
GOLD HILL

When Dean Jackson walks the grounds of the Colorado Mountain Ranch, where he's spent over a decade of his life, he often looks to the ponderosa pine at the center of the campus. It's the mature tree in the middle of the field, standing proudly, shading the red picnic tables clustered beneath it. Jackson proudly declares it to be (unofficially) one of the best trees for climbing in Boulder County.

Jackson calls it the "family tree," a symbol for the thousands of children who came through the ranch gates over the past seven decades of the

operation. It is a symbol of resilience. The tree survived the Fourmile Canyon fire, even as the ranch's original barn, family home, and picnic tables were destroyed. Its survival mirrors the legacy of the Walker family, who have owned the ranch for three generations and not only guided it through one of the most expensive fires in Colorado history but a global pandemic as well.

Now, after two years of delays, the Colorado Mountain Ranch (CMR) celebrated its 75th anniversary on September 7.

Family, alumni, and current campers joined for three days of festivities that began Friday, September 6, and continued throughout Saturday, ending

Sunday morning. The Mountain-Ear attended the field day on Saturday.

Most of the proceeds from the weekend's events will be dedicated to digitizing the camp's nearly seven decades of photographs, including pictures taken and cherished by the camp's founders, Coach and Norma Walker. The rest will go to maintaining, repairing, and revitalizing the campus.

CMR is a three-generation family business owned and managed by siblings Gail and Mike Walker, whose parents owned the ranch. Mike Walker's wife, Lynn, and their Walker daughters, Rosie, Josie, and Kate, also work in various roles on the ranch. The Walker family has shaped generations of children and cultivated a space that is breathtaking in its impact.

On weekends, the ranch operates as a wedding venue and corporate retreat, but its main focus remains on serving Colorado kids as a day camp throughout the summer for children 7-17 years old. They offer activities including horseback riding, archery, gymnastics, art, and a fascinating sport called mountain boarding which seems to be like off-road skateboarding. The campers are encouraged to connect with nature and, most importantly, to have fun. Many of the campers stay on after they "age out," to become counselors for the next generation.

The anniversary also doubled as a reunion for former campers and counselors. The whole event felt more like a family reunion than a fundraiser.

"Coming together for a reunion allows people to touch into who they used to be and who they've become,"

Camp Program Director Jojo Morrison said. "And I think a lot of people attribute a lot of who they are, and their success to who they are, because of the experiences they had here at the Colorado Mountain Ranch."

"This place is very much like a microcosm," Josie Walker said, "You've got terrible cell service, and you're up here for 12 weeks at a time, and for the summer, at least, it's its own little world."

It's genuinely striking how deeply this little microcosm has impacted its campers' lives. For everyone here, the ranch is the "real world." Or at least, the world as it really should be. A world that is perhaps a little kinder and more forgiving.

"I've never experienced the authenticity that I've felt here," said former camper and counselor Cassidy Gillaard, "And giving kids access to nature and connection with each other and disconnection from the rest of the world that they're gonna have plenty of time to battle in their lives."

Each conversation with the dozens of former campers and counselors is laced with metaphors. They call CMR a touchstone, an eagle's perch, a second home, a family tree. This is where they decided they wanted to be teachers and where they found sanctuary in the best and worst times of their lives. Campers met their spouses and partners here. Some of them even got married on the ranch grounds, and others are now hoping to send their own children here for the summer.

"My parents always raised everyone like they were family," Rosie Walker

continued on page 21

NEDERLAND FARMERS MARKET

UPCOMING MARKETS

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music ▶ Stellar Jays duo

Sept 29
music ▶ Kutandara youth

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continued from page 20

said of her parents, Mike and Lynn. In no other person is this more clearly evident than in Jackson. A former counselor, Jackson now uses his paid time off to work on the ranch. As today's self-appointed tour guide, Jackson often pauses to hug former campers, telling The Mountain-Ear each of their names and what years they attended the camp.

"This place has meant the world to me," Jackson said, "And every single minute will have been worth it if one other person can experience the magic of this place that I did."

Jackson began working as a camp counselor in 2013 while attending college. He continued to return every summer until 2018, when he was deployed to Afghanistan as an intelligence officer with the U.S. Army. One day, after his first firefight, Jackson was sitting with a friend, trying to come down from the adrenaline. Sitting against the concrete wall, looking out over a mountain range halfway across the world, all Jackson could think about was the friends he'd made at the camp.

"On one of the worst days of my life all I could think of was my little sanctuary here," Jackson said. He said that he has since felt compelled to dedicate his time back to the ranch.

This is a sentiment that Drew McDermott understands. McDermott spent several summers as a counselor at CMR. He helped build and pioneer the mountain boarding course in 2005 but says he regrets that he didn't give more to the ranch while he was here. When he heard there was a chance to volunteer at the anniversary fundraiser he flew from North Carolina to attend.

"Not that I could ever repay them for the value they've given me, but I wanted to give back," McDermott said. Even after decades away, McDermott says

CMR is his favorite place in the world.

Today, the next generation is being welcomed into CMR by the Walker family and making fresh memories that will define the rest of their lives.

When current camper Parker Kaminsky told his mom at dinner that he'd ridden a horse at summer camp that day, she cried tears of joy. Kaminsky was described by his father, Jay Kaminsky, as shy and always hesitant to try new things. "He will sit on the sidelines if he doesn't feel like there's a chance he'll be successful," Kaminsky said.

So when Parker Kaminsky offhandedly told his parents he'd not only tried something new but something many might find intimidating, his parents were overwhelmed. But this is exactly what the Walkers and CMR do for kids.

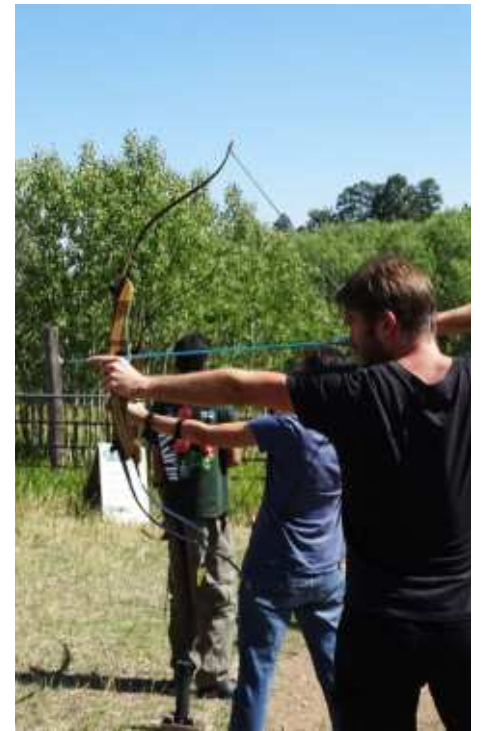
They teach kids to cheer when they fall and treat failure as a stepping stone rather than a dead end. When one kid falls so hard that he begins to cry while mountain boarding, the counselors supervising the course run up to give him high fives and encouragement, welcoming him to the "sandy butt club." Scraped knees and dusty clothes are welcomed.

Morrison told The Mountain-Ear that she's often encouraged to rebrand the ranch as a digital detox retreat for kids, creating a trendy, flashy marketing tool for the camp. However, Morrison dismisses the idea that the camp needs a brand, believing that the simple attraction of allowing kids to enjoy the outdoors and connect with their peers is all they need to attract campers.

"[It's hard to imagine] what the world would be like in 2047 and yet I still believe getting kids outside [and] having fun, will still hold value," Morrison said "That's all people really need. They don't need a specialty to fix them. They just need a space where they can contribute, belong, and have fun."



PHOTO BY ELIZA DOBUSE



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New beginnings: Town Administrator Jonathan Cain

CHRISTOPHER KELLEY
NEDERLAND

On July 8, 2024, Jonathan Cain, having been chosen from a list of 19 applicants, officially began his role as Nederland's Town Administrator.

Upon starting the position he immediately took up the reins of several big capital projects and was required to determine which should be decelerated and which projects have been on the back burner for too long.

When Nederland's Board of Trustees and Planning Commission interviewed the applicants for the position back in May, a major concern of theirs was ensuring that they choose someone with the ability and expertise to jump into the deep end of all that the Town has going on.

With a list ranging from the Comprehensive Plan update, the Multimodal Transportation Plan, the Safer Main Streets project, and the regional broadband initiative, to the paid parking implementation, the Nederland Reservoir water rights application, the Big Spring Emergency Egress project, and compliance with Proposition 123, the new Town Administrator needed to be capable of handling a really full plate.

But just as crucial as the skills required to spin multiple plates, the new Town Administrator needed to be able to lead Nederland's municipal staff in the right way. Not to be an imposing force set on interrupting Town Hall's current flow, but to enter the scene as a member of the team, allowing each department the opportunity to flourish.

"They've had to build relationships really quickly to keep things moving, or keep things from ending or dying out, and every single one of them really stepped up," Cain told The Mountain-Ear, praising how Town staff was handling the transition, losing one boss and gaining a new one.

"My role is to make sure that I'm supporting the work that they need to be doing so that we're all aligned as a team on what the Board and the community want. It's not a process that happens overnight but I think everyone has been pulling the same wagon, which is really helpful.

"Ultimately, they're here because they want to be here," Cain said of his team. "And we're going to evolve together. There are changes that are starting but I'm making sure that we do it

collectively because I want to be respectful of the work they're already doing."

Parks Department Manager Nicki Dunn served as Interim Town Administrator from late May to Cain's starting date in early July. Dunn expressed that she was glad to have been able to serve the Town when needed, but was happier to be a department head again.

Dunn's foray into town management from a Parks department background slightly echoes the same trajectory as Cain's career, as Parks and Recreation was his gateway into municipal government.

"Parks and Rec is this little microcosm of how government works in general, because they have a lot of things that they manage on their own, and it's a lot of the things that you deal with at a town level," Cain said. "I think she was well positioned for that work. It's certainly harder to be a department head and an interim person at the same time than it is just to be either one."

Cain grew up in North Denver, attended George Washington High School, and all through his youth, adolescence, and into adulthood he was a swimmer. As a child he would tell people that he wanted to be a lifeguard when he grew up, which, to some, may seem like a far throw from government work.

Swimming and government are in a lot of ways the same," Cain explained. "It's a lot of eating broccoli and then you get ten seconds of chocolate at the end of it."

While attending Ripon College, a small liberal arts school in Wisconsin, Cain continued swimming, but was soon persuaded to pursue the school's politics and government programs, partly due to his love of debating.

"I learned a lot about feedback loops in government, about these public engagement loops and how you talk to people and how you build policy that's contextually sensitive."

After earning his Bachelors in Politics and Government, Cain moved back to Denver and began working for the City of Denver Parks and Recreation Department, while also starting SwimLabs Swim School, a progressive program which has become one of the biggest franchised swim schools in the world.

"I was working with Olympic athletes doing motion analysis and looking at how swimmers generate power and I



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER KELLEY

Preparing for what's ahead

Jonathan Cain meeting with Nederland Trustees and Commissioners during the Administrator interview process.

was writing a lot then," Cain said. "I realized that what I really liked about the work was the community part. I liked working with people and I liked helping, so I had an opportunity to work in Gilpin County right after that."

While working for Gilpin County Parks and Recreation, Cain's peers suggested that he go back and earn his Masters through the Best and Brightest fellowship program instituted by the Department of Local Affairs. Cain was accepted and found a municipal job in Idaho Springs where he would work while finishing up grad school.

"I told myself when I went that I was just going to say yes to everything, and that's not always a great play in government. But this was the time where I was going to figure it out if this career could work...and it worked."

For Cain, living and working in the Peak to Peak region is extremely important, as his family's roots can be traced back to the early pioneering days of Idaho Springs. He also grew up hearing about the deep and storied history of the area, and grew to have a reverence for the mechanical wonders of the old mining days.

"There's so many different pieces of really cool cultural history here that is one of the things that makes Nederland exciting," Cain noted.

"I love that part of being around here, because there still are those old timers who have all this information, and anytime I get to meet them is really cool," Cain continued, showing his excitement at seeing Nederland's 100-year-old steam shovel in action during the Town's Sesquicentennial celebration back in August.

His love for such mechanical wonders was given a chance to be expressed during his work as Assistant City Administrator in Idaho Springs from 2018 to 2024, as an old train passenger car and caboose owned by the town are currently being restored and soon to be operable again: a result that Cain helped bring to fruition.

"The directive in Idaho Springs was to make it so people could continue to live there, so it didn't become a hollowed-out community," Cain said, when asked about his successes and challenges during his time with Idaho Springs. Cain also reflected on how many of those challenges Nederland faces currently, such as the challenge of implementing paid parking.

"The point of (Idaho Springs') parking program was to build something that was community driven, so that people could park next to their houses, because for a long time people were just prisoners during tourist season," Cain said.

"It did generate revenue, but the point wasn't necessarily the money, it was to build something that made it easier to live there."

Cain also reflected on his dedication to affordable housing initiatives, having previously worked for Urban Land Conservancy in Denver, where he focused on community land trusts for affordable housing and commercial real estate for small businesses.

He also stated his work as Director of Community Relations and Engagement for Clear Creek County as another strength that he brings to the table – specifically, his work in forming Clear Path Home, a program dedicated to community engagement – as he tackles Nederland's many challenges.

"As residents here we don't necessarily want density, we want to live in this natural beauty that we have; but we also want to make sure that the people who work here can live here," Cain said, as he explained how the program was devised to form a pathway to agreements among the community.

"The question becomes, 'what do we say yes to as a community? Do we say yes to living where we work? Do we say yes to our teachers living in the county and staying here and having kids that can populate our schools?' And it's a complicated conversation, but I think if we bring everybody to the table and we have those conversations that's what will make it work."

Cain also saw success in community engagement efforts with his Vitality Task Force program for Idaho Springs during the COVID-19 lockdown. The program was for business owners, residents, and other community stakeholders to voice their concerns about reopening businesses and the town post-lockdown.

"That resulted in a lot of really good things for the community, and that's what I'm proud of. We were able to find a way to engage all the members of our community and have this collaborative conversation that our council trusted and was able to act on in a meaningful way.

"It's not an easy thing to accomplish but it's cool when it works because you can start moving very quickly on certain things when everybody is in alignment," Cain said, thinking again of that chocolate treat at the end of a hard day's work.

But in the case of Nederland, Cain still has a lot of broccoli to swallow, though he has already begun to implement small but vital administrative improvements to help the flow of government run more smoothly.

"Our public engagement and communication is going to be critical, and it's about having the tools, the access, and the time," Cain said, adding that he is actively working to streamline the Town of Nederland's website and make it more informative; to have Town documents

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New Sergeant Jennifer E. Mendez joins NPD

MINDY LEARY
NEDERLAND

Nederland residents can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that the town's safety is in capable hands, thanks to the arrival of Sergeant Jennifer E. Mendez in July 2024. The Town of Nederland has contracted with Boulder County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services, and Mendez' arrival is part of the deal.

With 18 years of law enforcement



PHOTO BY MINDY LEARY

Welcome, Sergeant Mendez

Nederland fills a crucial role with Jennifer E. Mendez joining as Sergeant, thanks to a Boulder County contract. Mendez is excited to connect with residents and understand the community's law enforcement needs.

experience and a background in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Mendez brings both expertise and a unique skill set to her new role.

For those unfamiliar with law enforcement hierarchy, a sergeant is a supervisory position just above the rank of a deputy.

In her previous role, Mendez was responsible for managing and supporting deputies on the street, coordinating necessary resources like K-9 searches, detective assistance, and search and rescue teams. Now, in Nederland, she continues to oversee deputies, providing both guidance and hands-on support in the field.

Mendez's journey to Nederland began in Southwest Denver, where she was born and raised. Before joining the Boulder County Sheriff's Office eight years ago, she spent a decade with the Adams County Sheriff's Office, gaining diverse experience in various law enforcement roles.

One constant in her career has been her passion for training and teaching; Mendez is also responsible for managing the Boulder County Sheriff's Office field training program, ensuring new recruits and lateral hires are well-prepared for their duties.

Mendez commutes from her home near Boulder, where she lives with her wife and their three rescued pit bulls. Despite the hour-long drive, she remains dedicated to her role in Nederland, working closely with Town officials, the Board of Trustees, and other Town employees to assess the

proposed routes are complete.

Through all the active listening, engaging, discussing, and planning, Cain admits that, as rewarding as it may be to live and work in what he considers to be the Heart of Colorado, the job does sometimes take its toll. But Cain's wife of 18 years, Diane, and their two daughters, Harper, 11, and Charlotte, 7, help to bring him respite.

Cain met his wife back in 2003 when they were both lifeguarding; they married in 2006 and now live in Coal Creek, though they hope to move a little closer to Nederland some day.

Diane also works in a stressful job, reporting on medical devices for the FDA. Cain notes that she is always helping him with his work when appropriate, just as he's always available to help her.

"But we're really trying lately to do more active things together instead of always sitting at home reading work stuff," Cain said.

Cain's home life recharges his batteries, allowing him to feel energized for the tasks ahead, and it's clear that being a family man suits him, as they anchor him even after a long week in the often topsy-turvy world of municipal government.

"I've been spending any downtime with my kids because this job takes a lot. Sometimes we just hang out; we make pancakes on Saturday mornings, little stuff like that." Cain shared that he'll sometimes unwind by playing video games, though he added that his younger daughter, Charlotte, completely wipes the floor with him at Smash Bros.

community's needs and collaborate on how best to meet them.

"The Sheriff's Office isn't here to take over," Mendez emphasizes. "We're here to work with the town, offering our resources and collaborating on what best serves Nederland."

Mendez is focusing on coordinating with the town on local laws, such as the model traffic code, which guides enforcement on issues like illegal camping and animal control.

Nederland residents can expect Mendez and her team to address everyday issues, from off-leash dogs to mental health welfare checks, often with the help of the co-responder program led by mental health clinician Lynette Anderson.

When asked about her favorite part of the job, she says, "It's the opportunity to do something bigger than myself – leaving the world a better place than when I found it."

Looking ahead, Mendez plans to increase community engagement, with events like Halloween Trunk or Treat at the elementary school already on the calendar. She's also eager to participate in the National Night Out, an annual event promoting police-community partnerships, which she hopes to bring to Nederland next year.

Nederland's new sergeant is committed to ensuring the town's safety while building strong, positive connections with the community. And with her professional background in Jiu Jitsu, the residents of Nederland can indeed sleep easy knowing that their new sergeant is as skilled on the mat as she is on the beat.

More information can be found by visiting: <https://townofnederland.colorado.gov/police>.

BoCC discuss 2025 budget

continued from page 1

purchases.

Work sessions to fine-tune the budget will be scheduled soon, with the goal of passing it before Thanksgiving.

There will be position reductions for the County Attorney and paralegal positions. When asked of the changes, Attorney Brad Benning said that a private firm will be taking over, although when and who has yet to be disclosed. He also cannot disclose his plans but said he has greatly enjoyed his time working with the people of Gilpin County.

Human Resources Director Chanda Johnson introduced new hires, including Paul Bannister in Motor Vehicle, and Facilities employees Darin Noles and Daniel Mabie.

Michael Carlson announced that Richard Brandon, a small business owner and active community member, had been appointed to the Gilpin County Board of Trustees, filling a recent vacancy. The Board unanimously approved his appointment.

Gilpin County Undersheriff Greg Demo introduced Resolution 24-128, which rescinds the Stage 2 Fire Ban and reverts the county to Stage 1 fire restrictions. This means that shooting in designated areas with proper backdrop is permissible again. Smoking is still prohibited unless in a vehicle or building. Chainsaws must have an arrestor, and open welding is permissible with the observance of a 30-foot diameter.

IT Specialist David DeHerrera presented Resolution 24-123, which authorizes a new IT Service Agreement with Silicon Plains, LLC.

This contract aims to overhaul the County's technology infrastructure, enhancing service quality and ensuring an efficient, secure, and streamlined IT environment.

Silicon Plains, LLC was selected following a competitive bidding process, with an annual contract cap of \$159,000. All were in favor.

A public hearing focused on

Resolution 24-127, which designates certain areas in Gilpin County as having state interest due to their critical wildlife habitats and proximity to highway interchanges.

Community Development Director Rob Gutierrez and attorney Torie Jarvis outlined the increased development pressures on these sensitive areas and the need for new permitting regulations to protect wildlife and manage traffic safety.

After discussion, the Board adopted the resolution, marking a decisive step toward preserving the county's natural environment.

Benning provided brief updates on legal matters, including a case involving road dust complaints and the finalization of the Mountain Kids Early Learning Center lease.

County Manager Ray Rears wrapped up the meeting by informing everyone of an upcoming work session on September 17 that will cover topics like GIS/Surveyor updates, conservation and recreation initiatives, recruitment and retention incentives, and Public Works and Solid Waste budget discussions.

The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Gilpin County Board of County Commissioners is scheduled for September 24, 2024, at 9 a.m. and will be held in person at the Historic Courthouse, 203 Eureka Street, Central City and online via Zoom.

continued from page 22

be more organized and accessible; to completely audit Nederland Municipal Code; to have Town meeting agendas and informational packets completed earlier for resident review before the scheduled meeting; and to update the Nederland Community Center's audio/visual equipment.

"We're identifying these things and working together to address them. We're being more open to the fact that if there is a better way to do things, then let's look at it and let's do it.

"We just need to make sure that when there's an issue that affects people, they understand that it's coming, because you do want to hear the problems, and you want to turn that into the first conversation you're having." Cain concluded by pointing out that, in many circumstances, the Town's actions will have to speak louder than their words.

One such circumstance occurred when scheduling a meeting regarding the Big Springs Emergency Egress project, a discussion spanning over two decades. Cain learned after scheduling a public work session with engineers and land and fire experts that additional outreach needs to be done to ensure that residents of the impacted neighborhoods are also invited to the discussion.

"In the Big Springs instance, where we did have people express concern that they weren't there, we are going to have a community forum meeting and bring everyone back together," Cain said, noting that he hopes the project can continue expediently now that engineering feasibility studies on the

Gilpin County Board of Health tests for lead

WES ISENHART
GILPIN COUNTY

The Gilpin County Board of Health met on September 5, 2024, at the Gilpin County Courthouse to discuss a number of public health issues with the Gilpin County Public Health Director Alisa Witt. The Board is composed of the three county commissioners, who were all in attendance.

The first item of business was the new lead testing instruments that will be delivered this fall. The instrument involves a finger stick, which then measures the level of lead in the blood. Lead poisoning is a health danger in Gilpin County because of the mine tailings and waste.

Witt enlisted the help of the commissioners to see if Clinica Family Health would do the actual testing. In the meantime, Gilpin residents can get tested through the Clear Creek County Public Health department (co.clear-creek.co.us/275/Public-Health).

Gilpin County has contracted for a vaccination van to be in Gilpin County on four occasions this fall – September 27, October 4 and 9, and November 1. The van will be offering flu, RSV, and COVID-19 shots at the library parking lot. The commissioners also requested a fifth event at the County Courthouse during the evening.

Witt has been working with the Director of Emergency Management, Melissa Lewis, to identify public health emergencies that could occur in the county. They have identified wildfires, a communicable disease outbreak, a major snowstorm, and

a prolonged power outage as public health emergencies that need planning and coordination to deal with.

Once the plans have been developed, Witt hoped to conduct some tabletop exercises annually with outside observers to critique, in order to see how well the plans can be implemented.

The water lab continues to test residences for nitrates and E. coli. The lab test can only test for the presence of these chemicals or bacteria. Witt reported that about ten percent of the samples tested had some level of nitrates. Shallow wells are usually cited as the cause of contamination.

The Department has sent out 268 radon test kits and had 97 returned. Two of the returned samples tested positive for radon gas. Witt told the Board that she is trying to line up some meetings with realtors to educate them about the dangers of radon gasses in a home and how to test for it.

The County health department is also working with both school districts to host some tobacco and vaping prevention programs. They received a \$50,000 grant from the State Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (STEPP), then received an additional grant for \$30,000. Witt has been in contact with both school districts and is planning on presentations to elementary and secondary school students.

The final topic of discussion was updates to the regulations regarding Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems. These updates involve notifications of violations for home inspectors and contractors. The final regulation

updates will be presented to the Board at a future meeting for review and approval.

The next Gilpin County Board of Health meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2024, at the County Courthouse.

The agenda for this Gilpin County Board of Health meeting is at the Gilpin County Public Meetings webpage (gilpincounty.colorado.gov/public-meetings/board-of-health-meetings). Gilpin County Public Health has

more detailed information about these public health issues on their home webpage (gilpincounty.colorado.gov/departments-offices/public-health-agency).

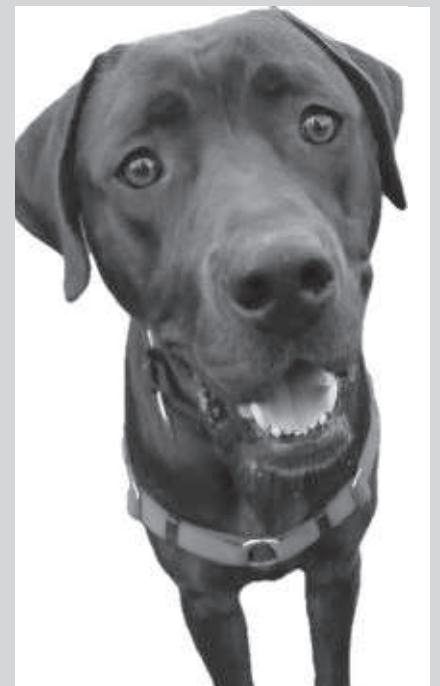
Contact Gilpin County Public Health Director Alisa Witt at awitt@gilpincounty.org or call the public health department office at 303-582-5803 with questions regarding these public health issues.

Pet of the week

Just the two of us
We can play fetch if we try
Just the two of us
(Just the two of us)
Just the two of us
Playin' fetch and frisbee in the park
Just the two of us
You and I

We look for balls, no time for baths
Wasted water's all that is
And it don't make no doggies smile
Good things might come to those who wait
Not for those who wait too late
We gotta play now, for all we know...

Come play and fetch and frisbee in the park with Jacky, waiting now in the kennels of the Humane Society of Boulder Valley:
<https://boulderhumane.org/animals/?animalid=56446424>



Dennis Denson running for Central City Council



PHOTO BY MINDY LEARY

New voice for Central City

Dennis Denson steps into the November race for Central City Council, ready to listen and engage with residents on the tough issues that matter most.

MINDY LEARY CENTRAL CITY

Dennis Denson, who describes himself as “the voice of reason,” is running for a seat on the Central City Council in the upcoming November 2024 election.

He will be competing against Chuck Spencer and Zane Plsek, both prominent community members, for the two seats that will become available in January 2025.

Mayor pro-tem Kara Tinucci has announced she will not seek a second term, and Councilman Jeff Aiken has reached his term limit, creating a pivotal moment for new leadership in Central City.

A relative newcomer to the area, Denson has lived in Central City for a little over a year and a half but has quickly grown passionate about the community and its future.

“I love this town. I love where I live,” Denson said. “I’ve always been a problem solver. I like to make things work amongst people. I strive to make other people happy, and it’s just what I want to do.”

Denson’s background includes years of experience in the construction industry as a business owner before transitioning to his current role as an RV technician.

“I was in business for myself in

construction for many years, and I got burnt out. I decided to kind of quit doing that, and now I’m an RV technician,” he explained.

During an impromptu interview, Denson reflected on the September 3 City Council meeting, where council members passed new regulations restricting sexually oriented businesses to the industrial zone and introduced stage requirements and tip boxes.

“I think it went pretty good,” Denson said. “They all came to conclusions. It’s a hard, hard job out there. I still have other questions that I’m sure other people do as well.”

Denson added, “We’re all just in a tar pit up to our necks at this point.” He stressed the need for reasonable decision-making in navigating the complex issues facing the city.

His Facebook page from September 5 states, “It’s been an interesting and fun journey. I’m all in and my heart’s in it,” referring to his candidacy for the council seat.

When asked about his position, he replied, “My position is to listen. The needs of the city and the citizens are what it’s all about. It’s not about me at all.”

As he campaigns for a seat on the council, Denson aims to be a steady, thoughtful voice – and ear – advocating for the residents of Central City.

Candidate Jeff Aiken

Jeff Aiken
Central City

How long, and where have you lived in Gilpin County?

I have lived in Gilpin County for 46 years. 9 years in Russell Gulch and 35 years in Central City.

What schools have you attended?

I attended Montgomery County Community College, majoring in Political Science, after graduating High School.

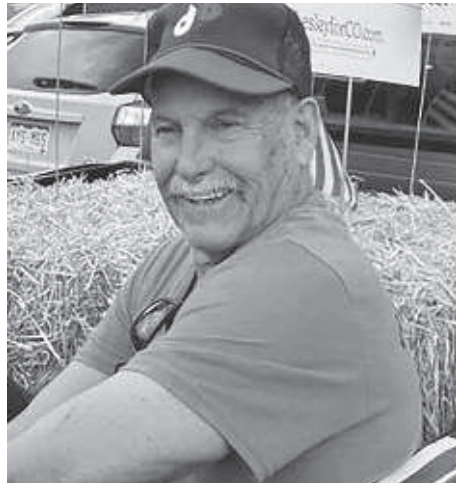
Briefly describe your current career and home life.

List the Gilpin County boards, civic, or volunteer activities in which you have been involved and the dates of service.

I have been a stonemason in Central City running my own business for thirty years.

I live alone with my dog. I have two daughters ages 35 and 31. Parents, two brothers and ex wife deceased.

Currently working in the gaming industry. I have also been on the Central City Council for the past nine years. Gilpin County Detention Center for the last fifteen years providing drug and alcohol



counseling to the inmates.

Have you attended BoCC meetings?

I have attended BOCC meetings in the past.

How would you support the County staff? Do you think they are fairly compensated?

I have always supported the staff in Central City and will continue to support them. I believe the county employees need to be fairly compensated and will look into their pay and compensation package if I am elected.

As an elected official, what would be your top 3 goals for the county in the next year? Next four years?

My three goals will be to 1) To strongly support the Gilpin County Community Center to ensure it is on a sound economic basis for years to come. 2) Childcare needs to be provided for every family who needs it. 3) Affordable housing for the workforce and seniors in the county.

How do you view coalition or compromise as effective ways to govern?

Being able to compromise is an essential ingredient to govern. Building a consensus and finding the best solutions for the problems at hand with the other commissioners and staff is the best way to meet the needs of the entire community.

What do you see as the greatest issues facing Gilpin County? How would you begin to address them?

Aside from the three mentioned above we need to plan for fire mitigation, fund the food pantry after school care and the fire and rescue and maintaining a healthy environment, we need to be creative in finding ways to fund these by getting as much grant money as possible.

How would you encourage residents to get involved in their government?

Keeping residents informed county by meeting and talking to them being in person, having great accessibility.

Why do you want to hold the office for which you are running?

I said earlier that a dream job comes along once or twice and this would be that job. To be able to work full time serving the residents in finding ways to enhance their lives.

Have you run for / held political office before? Where? When?

I have served on the sanitation district for 20 years and Central City Council the last of nine years.

Will you be able to meet the time requirements of the office? Do you, or will you, have another job as well as that of Commissioner?

If elected I plan to spend all of my time doing the job of commissioner and will not have any other job but to serve the people of this county.

How have you, and/or how will you, operate with transparency and honesty in your role as County Commissioner?

I believe in being open, transparent and ethical and will answer any questions that are put to me honestly.

Please disclose any current personal and/or professional relationships with the City of Black Hawk, City of Central or Gilpin County.

Currently on central city council and my meetings in the jail.

What is your position on the idea of sexually oriented businesses coming to Central City?

Two years ago I ran for mayor of Central and part of my platform was no strip clubs on Main Street. I still hold that position.

What is your position on Black Hawk's offer of \$1 million for the Rec Center with all its restrictions?

I like the money but not the current structure of the deal and don't think the county should be handcuffed by one municipality.

What experience do you have with budgets?

I have experience in passing budgets on the sanitation district and Central City.

What kind of growth do you want to see in Gilpin County?

Would like to see small business growth where practical while welcoming larger possible growth along the parkway.

What is affordable housing? Senior housing? What steps will you take to implement them in Gilpin County?

Housing has always been on our 'honey do' list. Central City seems to be the only solution as Black Hawk, which has created the biggest need for housing but has always refused to address this issue. That leaves the county and Central city to solve this problem. Senior housing should be first as a good majority of casino workers do not want to live up here. Starting out with ten units should be the place to start but will require creative planning. Affordable housing means should be able to live in a space and not have to use a large percentage of their income for rent and utilities.

How would you promote economic diversity in the county?

Having lived here as long as I have seen a lot of economic diversity the last five years, We have a quarry in Central, Black Hawk has some nice shops and an amazing trail system. Rollinsville has great things going on. Of course the arts, the opera and our museum are great. I think our county with its history and beauty promote itself.

Planning commission approves updates

ELIZA DUBOSE
CENTRAL CITY

The Central City Planning Commission (CCPC) approved updates to Chapter 3 of the Comprehensive City Plan at their monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 4.

The third chapter of the Central City Comprehensive City Plan (Comp Plan) is dedicated to issues of revenue, core services, and infrastructure. The chapter outlines broad goals and policy suggestions for the city's future and the current state of City revenue and infrastructure.

Much of the chapter is dedicated to the need for expanding Outdoor and Indoor recreation spaces, which includes selecting a traffic circulation model, expanding both shuttles and bus services, and expanding bike and foot traffic options within the city. The Board was especially interested in the prospect of increasing the accessibility of walkways and transportation in residential areas, especially considering the city's "growing and aging population." The suggestions outlined in the chapter as of the Wednesday meeting included increasing signage and constructing more accessible stairways for residents.

Much of the meeting was dedicated to discussing the language of proposals, whether the plan could be condensed at certain points, and whether statistics and numbers from the previous years' report could be updated with more recent data. Several sections, like Fire and Law Enforcement and the subhead dedicated to water infrastructure, still needed to be proofed by other agencies before the chapter could be approved.

The CCPC released a Comprehensive

City Plan every 2-4 years, according to documents available on the Commission's website. The purpose of the plans is to provide a vision for the City's future with specific broad and specific goals as well as various policy objectives, according to the 2020 Comprehensive City Plan. The City Planning Commission, being an advisory body, does not change or set regulations, but rather outlines recommendations for the City's decision-makers.

An artist who identified herself as Lauren briefly addressed the board during public comment to inquire about plans for the Belvedere Theater, which she hoped could be turned into an artists' space. The Belvedere Theater, a historic landmark in Central City, was acquired by Gilpin County in 2015 and is undergoing restorations to become a community center.

The Board assured her that the theater will be reserved for community use and that previous conversations included discussion of creating an artist space in the basement of the theater, although there were no evident set plans yet.

The document is still being revised and updated with more specific statistics and language considerations before it is published.

The CCPC meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. (unless otherwise indicated on their website). They meet in the City Council Chambers - 141 Nevada Street, Central City. Go to <https://centralcity.colorado.gov/meetings> for more information on their meetings and to join online.

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Candidate Jeremy Fey

Name: Jeremy Fey
E-Mail: jeremyfey@yahoo.com

How long, and where have you lived in Gilpin County?

I have lived in Central City, Gilpin County, for over 8 years.

What schools have you attended?

University of Colorado, University of San Diego, Cherry Creek High School.

What additional training or education have you received relevant to the position of Gilpin County Commissioner?

I have completed various governance and leadership training programs, focusing on public administration, economic development, and community engagement. As Mayor of Central City, I have received hands-on experience managing government affairs and leading initiatives for economic growth and sustainability. Most valuable are my efforts to bring together government, business, non-profits, and residents for open forums over the past 7 years. I pride myself on being the most transparent and accountable public servant in our community. Just look at my 6 years of meeting records—everyone has had the chance to speak and meet with me, both in formal settings and one-on-one.

Briefly describe your current career and home life.

Currently, I serve as Mayor of Central City, focusing on economic revitalization and community engagement. I also deliver the Gilpin County newspaper, a job that gives me a unique view of the county from a fresh perspective that has actually inspired my desire to further my public service. At home, I am a father of four daughters and strive to balance my responsibilities between family and the community, a balance I take great pride in achieving. After I drop my daughters at school, I dedicate myself to full-time public service and will continue to serve 60+ hours a week for Gilpin County once elected.

List the Gilpin County boards, civic, or volunteer activities in which you have been involved and the dates of service.

- Mayor of Central City: January 2019–Present
- Gilpin Arts Association Board of Directors: 2018–Present
- Clean-Up Days: Central City, Gilpin Rec, others: 2017–Present
- Food Bank of the Rockies: 2017–2020
- I also regularly contribute to various charities and one-on-one actions in the community, but I prefer to keep these private. “When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.”

“The highest level of charity is giving anonymously to an unknown recipient.”

Have you attended BoCC meetings?

Yes, I have attended several BoCC meetings to stay informed and understand the concerns of residents. I have also been the primary catalyst for multi-jurisdictional conversations, bringing Gilpin County, Central City, and sometimes Black Hawk to the table for intergovernmental discussions.



How would you support the County staff? Do you think they are fairly compensated?

I support recognizing the hard work of our County staff by advocating for competitive salaries, professional development, and providing resources to perform their duties effectively. While staff work under the County Manager, it is the Commissioners' responsibility to ensure staffing levels and performance meet taxpayer expectations. Periodic staffing reviews will help ensure resilience and efficiency.

As an elected official, what would be your top 3 goals for the county in the next year? Next four years?

Next Year:

1. Improve transparency and accountability between the county government and residents.
2. Develop a strategic plan for comprehensive safety and health services.
3. Create a sustainable development plan for infrastructure improvements.

Next Four Years:

1. Achieve economic growth in Black Hawk and Central City, ensuring full funding for county services such as first responders and cultural institutions. If both cities reach full economic capacity, we may be able to fully rebate residential property taxes within the next 6–8 years.
2. Expand affordable and senior housing, particularly for teachers, first responders, and local workforce.
3. Implement proactive health and wellness initiatives to make Gilpin County the healthiest in Colorado, emphasizing community resilience and well-being.

How do you view coalition or compromise as effective ways to govern?

Coalition and compromise are essential for effective governance, allowing diverse viewpoints to be considered and building consensus on policies that benefit the entire community. Finding common ground is key to achieving positive outcomes for Gilpin County.

What do you see as the greatest issues facing Gilpin County? How would you begin to address them?

Economic disparity and a need for a diversified local economy are among the greatest challenges. I would promote balanced growth, including small businesses, tourism, entertainment, and technology, while also addressing the need for affordable housing and infrastructure improvements. Another significant issue is community health. I am developing a comprehensive plan aimed at making Gilpin the healthiest

county in Colorado by focusing on preventative health care and community well-being, all supported by economic growth.

How would you encourage residents to get involved in their government?

I would encourage involvement through regular town hall meetings, online forums, and transparent communication about decisions and policies. My transparency and accountability plan will be unprecedented, making government more accessible and responsive to residents' needs. I will also work to encourage other elected officials and staff to adopt these practices.

Why do you want to hold the office for which you are running?

Serving as Mayor of Central City has been the greatest professional experience of my life. I'm proud of what we've accomplished, but I want to expand my focus to include county-wide health and wellness initiatives. Having a voice at the county level will allow me to encourage economic development that prioritizes the health and safety of our community.

Have you run for / held political office before? Where? When?

Yes, I am currently serving as Mayor of Central City, a position I've held since January 2019. I was reelected in 2021 against one of my current opponents for Commissioner.

Will you be able to meet the time requirements of the office? Do you, or will you, have another job as well as that of Commissioner?

Yes, I am fully committed to meeting and exceeding the time requirements. I have already shown as Mayor that I go well beyond the necessary time and effort. I will be releasing a public calendar to ensure transparency and accountability. In total, I will dedicate 60+ hours per week to public service in my role as County Commissioner.

How have you, and/or how will you, operate with transparency and honesty in your role as County Commissioner?

Transparency and accountability are at the core of my platform. I will hold virtual town halls every Monday before Commissioners' meetings to discuss agenda items and allow residents to voice their opinions. Additionally, I will hold monthly in-person outreach sessions in each of the three districts, ensuring every resident has access to their government. I will fully disclose all meetings and publish monthly summaries in local newspapers and on social media. Please see my full Transparency and Accountability program online, no other public servant offers this level of transparency and accountability.

Please disclose any current personal and/or professional relationships with the City of Black Hawk, City of Central, or Gilpin County.

I have many professional relationships within the local jurisdictions, but none that would conflict with my duties as County Commissioner. I pride myself on maintaining healthy, respectful relationships with officials in Black Hawk, Central City, and Gilpin County.

What is your position on the idea of sexually oriented businesses coming

to Central City?

Due to ongoing legal issues, I must be cautious in my response. That said, my priority remains addressing Central City's near \$1 million deficit and encouraging responsible economic development.

What is your position on Black Hawk's offer of \$1 million for the Rec Center with all its restrictions?

I am open to considering all options that benefit Gilpin County. While Black Hawk's offer has restrictions, I believe it needs to be explored fully. My GUARANTEE is that the Rec Center is fully operational by 2026, no matter how the funding is structured. Just as important, is my desire to see an large uptick in usage and thus viability of sustained hours.

What experience do you have with budgets?

As Mayor of Central City, I have managed the city's budget, ensuring fiscal responsibility while investing in infrastructure, public services, and economic development. I also have experience managing small business budgets, focusing on growing revenues rather than cutting expenses. As a County Commissioner I will be focused on expanding the economy and thus the facilities and services, not on cutting these essentials.

What kind of growth do you want to see in Gilpin County?

Gilpin County's future depends on economic activity. I will support initiatives that grow our economy, especially in Black Hawk and Central City, to fully fund county services and potentially eliminate residential property taxes. This concentrated growth will benefit the entire county while maintaining its semi-rural character.

What is affordable housing? Senior housing? What steps will you take to implement them in Gilpin County?

Affordable and senior housing means providing financially accessible options for those in our community, including teachers, first responders, and seniors. I am already working with developers who are planning to build attainable housing in Central City, which is critical for our workforce and community services.

How would you promote economic diversity in the county?

I will primarily work on understanding the needs of existing small businesses throughout the county. I will also encourage the growth of various industries, including tourism, technology, and creative industries. Providing incentives for startups and supporting workforce development programs will ensure economic sustainability.



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Candidate Sandy Hollingsworth

Name: **Sandy Hollingsworth**
 Address: Rollinsville, CO
 Cell Phone: regarding County work
 720-646-8301
 E-Mail: sandyforgilpin@gmail.com



How long, and where have you lived in Gilpin County? 26 years in Rollinsville (1998)

What schools have you attended? University of Iowa with some later classes at CU, Washington HS, Wilson and Franklin Jr. High in Cedar Rapids, IA, grade schools include OK, NM, and IA (we moved often due to military family life)

What additional training or education have you received relevant to the position of Gilpin County Commissioner?

- NASW Social Worker in Gerontology credential
- Priority Based Budgeting, Strategic planning and Administrative Policies
- Manager and Supervisor trainings for local government
- Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) 2020-21 New Commissioner Training followed by County department specific trainings through 4-21 (Public Works & Facilities, Roads, Land Use, Human Services, State Statutes, Board Parliamentary Procedures, County Finance, Sheriff's Department, Legislative Advocacy)
- CCI and Counties and Commissioners Acting Together conferences (12/20 -24)
- Colorado Technical Services Inc. re: County liabilities, property and casualty insurances, Board relations and legal responsibilities, workers compensation
- Secretary of State Elected Officials Campaign Finance
- Wildfire Summit & Watershed Protections
- Colorado Build Back Stronger Resiliency and Recovery series
- Opioid Settlement, Colorado Behavioral Health conferences
- Housing Colorado Elected Officials training
- NOCO Places Public Lands Coalition Core Topics series
- Jefferson Center for Mental Health board training, QPR (question, persuade, refer), Mental Health First Aid Suicide awareness
- Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Local Government Coordination
- FEMA 100, 700, Hazard Mitigation, Continuity of Operations, Elected Officials
- Board of Health annual trainings

Briefly describe your current career and home life. Current Gilpin County Commissioner, married 26 years

List the Gilpin County boards, civic, or volunteer activities in which you have been involved and the dates of service. Current Boards for County include Gateway to the Rockies Opioid Council, Jefferson Center for Mental Health, NOCO Places with 8 land management agencies, Colorado Technical Services Inc. County Workers Compensation Board, Colorado Counties Inc. Tourism, Resorts, Economic Development, Wildfire, Justice and Public Safety, and Natural Resources committees, Recreational Sport Shooting Coalition, Mountain Rail Coalition

2021-22 was on Regional Resiliency

Roadmap to Recovery and Universal Pre-K coalitions, Gilpin Water Company Board Greater Rollinsville Community Association 2000 - 10/2021 (dissolved) CSU Extension Master Gardener 1998 – present, Advisory board 2002-2004 Forest Service Forest Watch 2003-2007 Gilpin food bank garden 2017- present High Country Auxiliary 3/2019 - present Axe & Snax 6/2019 to present Colorado Pet Pantry monthly for Gilpin 8/2020 to present Peak to Peak Rotary 9/2020 to present Friends of Community Center 2020 Mountain Health Clinic task force 2020-2022 Gilpin County Animal Response 4/2020 - 4/2023 Senior Living Board 3/2019-3/2021

Have you attended BoCC meetings? Yes, since summer of 2019

How would you support the County staff? By supporting job skills training to maximize their success in their jobs for the County, being responsive to staff feedback and invite internal ideas, providing a wage based on comparable salaries in the area, offering longevity incentives or merit increases plus health benefits. Offer flexible schedules where practical for family-work life balance. Budget for necessary operating costs. Consider unique recommendations for on-call staff like take home vehicles.

Do you think they are fairly compensated? Overall based on the latest salary study, but I am aware not all comparables fit.

As an elected official, what would be your top 3 goals for the County in the next year?

- Complete projects incorporating grants for South Beaver Creek Road and Human Services Annex including its \$650,000 grant awarded
- Finish the Housing Needs Study underway with Central City and Black Hawk to plan for workforce and senior housing partnerships
- Landowners fire mitigation grants and first responder bills working with state legislators

Next four years?

- Continue funding capital improvements priorities in the 2022 20-year plan
- Improve infrastructure for unincorporated broadband, water, septic, rail
- Implement public lands conservation and recreation vision strategies
- Community Center and Human Services programs sustainability

How do you view coalition or

compromise as effective ways to govern? Coalitions build strong partnerships and compromise is necessary to reach shared goals within the County and the region.

What do you see as the greatest issues facing Gilpin County? How would you begin to address them?

Wildfire risk – continue working with agency partners on strategies and funding available for Gilpin County to obtain to expand mitigation and preparedness

Managed growth – focus on community desires for pace and locations for businesses and housing while creating implementable plans with water, sanitation, density, parking, outdated zoning

Incomplete or mis-information adding to division of philosophies in the community – use PIO staff, social and print media, and public meetings to answer questions and distribute accurate County-led information

Lack of childcare, workforce and senior housing, and senior supportive services – these are in varied levels of assessment and planning now, each are efforts to fully work toward implementing with community partners

Community Center sustainable funding – request to fund five days with general funds, user fees and grants. As prioritized capital improvements are completed it could lead to more discretionary general funds IF County revenue stays steady and County operating costs flatten. Consider benefactor bequests or a grassroots group may wish to pursue a funding mechanism as the long-term solution

How would you encourage residents to get involved in their government?

- Attend and engage at community meetings and town halls
- Attend County and city advisory committees or commissions
- Apply to be an Advisory Board member to share your expertise and ideas
- Attend special district board of directors' meetings, run for a seat on these
- Read materials, attend, and, if inspired, speak at public comment at city council and County board meetings
- Ask questions by emails or phone to elected officials and staff
- Read and ask questions on county Facebook,
- Experience services and give feedback on ideas for improvements
- Compliment staff who offer good programs or give you good service
- Vote in elections
- Testify or submit written comments on proposed state legislation

Why do you want to hold the office for which you are running?

It is an honor to be serving residents and working with skilled County staff and County partners now. There are yet to be completed initiatives and projects underway for the community, moving ahead due in part to my work to collaborate with local and regional partners on shared goals of fire mitigation, human services, workforce housing, infrastructure improvements, watershed protections, conservation-recreation planning, and mountain rail, plus supporting the return of childcare.

Have you run for / held political office before? Where? When? 2020 Current Elected Gilpin County Commissioner

Will you be able to meet the time requirements of the office? Yes

Do you, or will you, have another job as well as that of Commissioner? No

How have you, and/or how will you, operate with transparency and honesty in your role as County Commissioner?

These are values I hold and I am available to explain how decisions are reached if the discussion in public meetings is insufficient for a person. Currently the County live-streams, records, and posts minutes of regular Board meetings. County budget drafts and related Board work sessions are open to the public. Appointed Advisory Boards and Commission meetings are open to the public with agendas and minutes and I attend them periodically if no matters are headed for board consideration and vote. I am open to streaming work sessions if there is consensus of the participants. I have asked each year for roaming “coffee with commissioner” meetings but have been in the minority for these to occur. Although we have had several in recent years, I would like to see added community meetings with department staff or project leads to hear residents' thoughts and answer questions to give accurate information and receive ideas for improving processes.

Please disclose any current personal and/or professional relationships with the City of Black Hawk, City of Central or Gilpin County.

I have professional relationships with some city officials and staff in the course of my work as County Commissioner. I interact with County staff on a varied level of frequency and some are fellow volunteers in groups or casual friends in the community especially given that Gilpin County is small.

What is your position on the idea of sexually oriented businesses coming to Central City?

Central City Council voted to not allow them in the city outside of Industrial Zones after they listened to city residents' concerns, adhered to city codes, and considered the recommendation of their Planning Commission. I support that decision. I have attended their meetings and heard public comments including opposed positions from our County Sheriff and Black Hawk Police Chief from the law enforcement perspectives.

What is your position on Black Hawk's offer of \$1 million for the Rec Center with all its restrictions?

As proposed, there are items which the County cannot agree to such as asking the County to impose restrictions on other taxing jurisdictions with their own governing boards not under County control. Since tax changes must be voter approved, as proposed it impinges on the will of the voters. It would be funded by raising taxes collected in the City giving the County a share of the tax revenue received and would be a benefit to the City if the tax increase measure passes. As proposed it falls short of the actual cost to implement the requested change to the County-run community center. Due to the non-negotiable nature of the proposal, there was not an opportunity to meet Board to Board to negotiate a win-win offer. My position is that a compromise may perhaps be possible if discussed full Board to full Board.

What experience do you have with

continued on page 29

Candidate Corey Marshall

Name: Corey Marshall
Address: 70 Rudolph Ranch Rd
Cell Phone: 720-8771453
E-Mail: coreym@marshall4gilpin.com

How long, and where have you lived in Gilpin County?

27 years

What schools have you attended?

Columbine High School, Colorado State University (BA), Regis University (MBA), University of Detroit Mercy (MBA)

What additional training or education have you received relevant to the position of Gilpin County Commissioner?

Thirty years of Executive Leadership combined with 30 years of leading major corporations in the areas of Strategic Planning and Finance. Undergraduate degree in Public Relations and MBA studies in Finance and Accounting. Direct experience leading Historic Preservation projects and working with the State and Federal Government on these projects.

Briefly describe your current career and home life.

I'm a retired corporate business executive who currently runs and operates our successful local ranch and horse boarding facility, which I have operated for 24 years alongside highly demanding corporate executive positions.

When we are not working on the ranch, we are enjoying our family time with our kids, grandkids, and ranch dogs.

List the Gilpin County boards, civic, or volunteer activities in which you have been involved and the dates of service.

First, I don't believe volunteering should be promoted for political purposes, so I very much hesitate to lower myself to this type of self-promotion. Some entities I'm involved with have specifically asked to not be politicized, so I will not mention their names here. Secondly, volunteering is not a consideration or prerequisite for a County Commissioner and should not be a topic in this discussion. While community involvement is extremely important and I continue to do my part, volunteering is something that anyone



can do. Not everyone will serve as a County Commissioner and those that do, need to focus their time on items that only a County Commissioner can deliver. As a commissioner with limited spare time, carving out excessive volunteer time could be a disservice to our residents. This county requires a lot of focus to get things back on the rails and if that focus is not there, it's no wonder we are operating at a deficit and looking to increase taxes. Contrary to what I feel is appropriate, I reluctantly list some of my community involvement that was volunteered purely out of love for this county and its people and not for any political aspirations:

- Belvidere Foundation Board Member** – Was asked to be on the Board based on my love for history and historic preservation and involvement with past historic preservation construction projects. Involvement not related to politics in any way.
- Roundup Riders of The Rockies and its Heritage & Trails Foundation** – Horsemen Dedicated to Creating and Maintaining Public Trails for all citizens to enjoy.
- Gilpin County Cub Scout Master** – Built confidence, independence, acceptance, and love of the outdoors to 50 Gilpin County youths over 5 years.
- Gilpin County Little League President and Coach** – Built confidence, sportsmanship, and teamwork in 60 Gilpin County youths over 7 years.
- Gilpin County School Board**
- Finance Committee Chair Board Member** – University of Colorado
- Center for Women's Health Research**

Sandy Hollingsworth

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budgets? I have over 25 years of experience with local government budgeting parameters and revenue sources including the past 3 Gilpin County cycles. In 2021 I initiated setting aside 8% of gaming revenue for a dedicated emergency fund which is now at \$4 million dollars. The County ended 2022 debt free by paying off existing indebtedness and purchasing heavy equipment in cash. In 2023 I promoted an acquisition fund for water rights or land with water rights, it is \$2 million. A floor was set for operating expenses funding between receipt of gaming revenues to prevent interruption to County services. I have Priority Based Budgeting training and know that compromise is involved in decisions.

What kind of growth do you want to see in Gilpin County? Economic growth of independent businesses and workforce housing compatible with our small Gilpin mountain community, which enhance services and amenities, while creating jobs for local residents. Using caution to not attract industries and development more focused on profit than quality of life of mountain residents. Managed growth focused on overall community desires for pace and locations of businesses and housing while creating implementable plans to address water use, sanitation, density, parking and public safety. Planned outdoor recreation would open up business opportunities for shuttles, equipment and gear sales, guided historic and trail tours, and more.

What is affordable housing? Senior housing?

Affordable and Attainable housing are

- Colorado Fallen Hero Foundation** – Sponsor and Partner
- Food for Thought** – Sponsor and Partner. Providing food on weekends to children facing food insecurity.
- Multiple 501c3 Fire Wood Supply Organizations** – Supplier of fire wood

Have you attended BoCC meetings? Yes - I regularly attend BoCC meetings.

How would you support the County staff? Do you think they are fairly compensated?

Staff needs to be supported with a clear vision of the service we need to provide, a clear definition of what their position is responsible for, the leadership to inspire their passion to deliver, recognition for delivering results and a complete compensation package that supports their efforts.

Compensation is position specific, so it is not reasonable to answer whether all the staff are compensated fairly. It is clear that some positions are under compensated and others are over compensated. To maintain satisfied, happy, dedicated employees, the county compensations needs to be competitive for the position.

As an elected official, what would be your top 3 goals for the county in the next year? Next four years?

1. Get our budget / results to a surplus position without increasing taxes – This includes all maintenance cost (These costs should be in our budget and not pulled out separately). Provide transparency and visibility to these budgets and to forecasted budget.
2. Increase county revenue through increasing existing industry and adding new industry.
3. Increase our county services to excellent levels and prioritize new services as surplus results allow.

How do you view coalition or compromise as effective ways to govern? Both are effective and necessary methods needed in a 3 Commissioner system with commissioners from multiple parties.

What do you see as the greatest issues facing Gilpin County? How would you begin to address them?

The current financial path of the county is not sustainable. The greatest issue comes down to managing the county well so that we are no longer operating

on a deficit and can begin rebuilding the services the county provides to excellent levels, without increasing taxes. Many of our county citizens are hurting and cannot afford increases in taxes. We need to help our citizens by not increasing taxes and deliver great service.

How would you encourage residents to get involved in their government?

First and foremost – Please vote. Please research your candidates, stay in tune to the issues and understand the financial information and lack of information and....Vote.

Get involved with your political party if you have one, but also attend as many city and county meetings as you can. You too will begin to feel the passion when you see the improvements we need to make.

Why do you want to hold the office for which you are running?

I have a passion for this county and to ensure the future of this county is secure and sustainable, which is not the case today. I have a vision for this county that I believe our residents share: A small, rural county, run like a successful, well managed business, that funds itself fully by increasing economic development and smart cost management, not through increasing taxes.

Have you run for / held political office before? Where? When?

No.

Will you be able to meet the time requirements of the office? Do you, or will you, have another job as well as that of Commissioner?

Yes, I am retired from the out of County business world. I do have our local ranch business, Rudolph Ranch, Inc., but I have maintained that business alongside large corporate jobs for 24 years. I have the ability to add more staff as needed to run the ranch depending on my other commitments.

How have you, and/or how will you, operate with transparency and honesty in your role as County Commissioner?

We know that transparency has been and continues to be an issue.

•While we are operating in a deficit and our deferred maintenance is out of control, the county is sending out celebration messages.

•While we know the county has been

both terms used. Expanding housing which renters and buyers can attain is in part based on affordability for different income and family compositions.

Senior housing is envisioned as independent apartments so that adults over a set age (55,60,65) can live with fewer demands of a single-family home especially as they face life changes and be near other seniors. Priority to current County residents would insure they get first chance to stay in their community. Services such as cleaning, care, food delivery, and transportation could be arranged individually or contracted for multiple residents.

What steps will you take to implement them in Gilpin County?

Complete the city-county housing needs study to determine projected need and locations in the cities or County then work with partnering

organizations who develop and oversee housing. The County may adopt newer zoning regulations, plan development areas, and discuss funding options with the nonprofit or developer.

How would you promote economic diversity in the County?

I asked the County to apply for a Rural Economic Development Initiative grant which was received in 2021 and led to a new Economic Development Plan. I served on the Regional Resiliency Recovery coalition 2021-22 which led to prioritizing broadband expansion and workforce housing efforts. The proposed feasibility assessment and resulting implementation plan for the north County is to identify infrastructure and safety needs leading to sustainable solutions to pursue between property owners and the County. Tax Incentives to businesses and homeowners to provide long-term rentals are worth considering.

Candidate Marie Mornis

Name: Marie Mornis
E-Mail: Contactmeat:ElectMarieMornis.org

How long, and where have you lived in Gilpin County?

My husband and I, along with two toddlers, moved to our home in Aspen Springs during the summer of 1982. We still live in the same house where we raised our three children who all attended the Gilpin RE-1 school.

What schools have you attended?

I graduated from a western Michigan high school and from Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering. I also attended Colorado School of Mines and graduated with a Master's Degree in Applied Mechanics. My thesis was based on research for the U.S. Navy in welding robotics.

What additional training or education have you received relevant to the position of Gilpin County Commissioner?

As a project engineer for approximately 15 years with Xcel Energy, I was responsible for managing multimillion dollar maintenance and capital projects including design, procurement, construction and start up. County Commissioners have an expansive range of responsibilities from community health to road maintenance. Being able to read, understand, question and evaluate detailed policies, proposals, reports, contracts, intergovernmental agreements, memorandums of understanding, etc. is critical to the office of County Commissioner. Having experience in business and managing budgets within a monthly 10% tolerance transfers very well to setting priorities and managing the county budget.

Briefly describe your current career and home life.

I am currently the Gilpin County Commissioner from District One. District One includes Black Hawk and the City of Central. I am living the American Dream! As a middle child from a family of ten children raised in Western Michigan, I had little knowledge that we were quite poor. I had loving parents who valued education and siblings as playmates. We worked all summer picking fruit from local farms to pay for our school clothes and supplies, while our father worked as a laborer in a large foundry. Here I am now, living in Gilpin County with my husband of 45 years, we have three adult children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild! I am truly blessed.

List the Gilpin County boards, civic, or volunteer activities in which you have been involved and the dates of service.

While my children were of school age, I was on the Accountability Committee, participated in the school Booster Club and was also a Daisy Scout leader. I served on the RE-1 School board and worked hard to help pass the mill levy to construct the high school addition.

Have you attended BoCC meetings?

Yes, I have attended all of them while a commissioner.

How would you support the



County staff? Do you think they are fairly compensated?

The Gilpin County full-time employees are compensated well. A large percentage work four days a week, have health, eye and dental insurance. They also can participate in a 401K program.

As an elected official, what would be your top 3 goals for the county in the next year?

I would:
1) stop all spending toward the \$1.85 million dollar food pantry and refocus on significantly lesser funds on repairing or replacing the modular at its present location,
2) accept the annual \$1 million dollar donation from Black Hawk for the Gilpin Recreation Center,
3) and re-evaluate the need for the number of administrative positions.

Next four years?

I would:
1) stay focused on redundancy and resiliency of broadband service through mid-county to support our first responders,
2) work toward a 7-day a week operation of the Recreation Center for our citizens,
3) and find funding or methods to maintain quality service for the county transfer station and our county roads.

How do you view coalition or compromise as effective ways to govern?

Collaborating with local jurisdictions on issues that are of benefit to each other is essential. Issues such as, broadband, affordable housing and recreation are some topics for collaboration.

What do you see as the greatest issues facing Gilpin County? How would you begin to address them?

The greatest issue today is how and where the county government is spending the revenue from gaming and property taxes. A serious assessment of the State required services and citizen desires must be balanced to obtain long term sustainability. Obtaining and sustaining water rights for county use now and for future growth.

How would you encourage residents to get involved in their government?

I would encourage the commissioners to have their work sessions available online so that the citizens can listen to the discussion without the need to attend in person.

Why do you want to hold the office for which you are running?

I believe that the citizens of Gilpin County should have someone in office who supports fiscal restraint and

minimal government. I have been that person and that voice while in office and will continue that approach for the next four years.

Have you run for / held political office before? Where? When?

Yes, former Gilpin County RE-1 School Board member.

Will you be able to meet the time requirements of the office? Do you, or will you, have another job as well as that of Commissioner?

I am serving as a County Commissioner and I do not and will not have other employment while Commissioner.

How have you, and/or how will you, operate with transparency and honesty in your role as County Commissioner?

I take the "Sunshine" laws very seriously and desire that all public discussion by commissioners be open to the public and easily accessible to all by improving ADA and online access.

Please disclose any current personal and/or professional relationships with the City of Black Hawk, City of Central or Gilpin County.

As Gilpin County Commissioner from District One I have cordial, professional relationships with the city officers of Black Hawk and the City of Central.

What is your position on the idea of sexually oriented businesses coming to Central City?

As a County Commissioner, my position is to accept any decision the citizens of Central City, through their elected officials, make on this matter. As a private citizen of Gilpin County, I do not believe that sexually oriented businesses would benefit the City of Central financially or with its quality of life.

What to expect from an adult prom



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER KELLEY

Trash never looked so good

A "Flash Mob" Parade delightfully disrupted the streets of Nederland to promote the Adult Prom III.

CHRISTOPHER KELLEY NEDERLAND

It started in the 1990s, as a way for the workers, the toilers, the blue collar rank and file of Nederland to emerge from behind their dish pits, their grill tops, their registers, their canvases, and to celebrate a little bit of local weirdness. The Adult Prom was born from locals shutting down the bars after the last leaf peeper peeps his last leaf, and letting off some steam before the skiers arrive.

"I used to throw parties, events, and shows when I was younger back in Pittsburgh," said Mike Foster of S3 Productions, who is organizing and managing the prom, as he explained the

What is your position on Black Hawk's offer of \$1 million for the Rec Center with all its restrictions?

The Black Hawk IGA is still an option until March of 2025. I am in favor of the offer and believe the so called "restrictions" are flexible and manageable to address any future needs of the county.

What experience do you have with budgets?

See my comments above on work experience with Xcel Energy.

What kind of growth do you want to see in Gilpin County?

Any growth within the county should maintain the rural atmosphere and culture of Gilpin County.

What is affordable housing? Senior housing? What steps will you take to implement them in Gilpin County?

Senior housing is being addressed by a nonprofit organization. As Commissioner I would search for programs and grants that help our seniors stay safely in their homes as long as possible. As for "affordable" housing I would encourage every voter to elect statewide candidates that have experience and understanding of how capitalism works.

How would you promote economic diversity in the county?

To make a substantial increase in diversified revenue, business like manufacturing and industrial processes should be encouraged to come to Gilpin County. Also, promoting Gilpin County's natural surroundings for outdoor recreation would be a positive benefit.

origins of the event. "So when I first moved here, at the end of every leaf peeping season all the bars would shut down and we would throw a party."

The time between the yellow aspens' final fade to the year's first snowfall and the opening of the ski mountain is indeed a short window, which is why local businesses need to take advantage of this time to recuperate and regenerate.

"The prom idea was reinventing that idea, where all of us can get together, get ridiculous, and have a costume party at a time when no one else is really doing events.

"Everyone's invited, but it's dedicated

continued on page 31

Corey Marshall

continued from page 28

provided new estimates on the cost of the New Food Pantry Building, those costs are not being shared

•While most residents thought the county was capable of funding the Recreation Center, they were surprised that those funds were diverted to other things and the county wanted them to vote in a new tax to fund the Recreation Center.

Once elected, we will make sure that the county financials are clearly understood. We need to share the bare truth and not spin the message for Public Relations purposes. We will have a forecast of the financials (Budgets and forecasts) at least 5 or 10 years out, so the residents can see where things are developing and will not be surprised at our situation. While our goal will be to not increase taxes, we will need to be completely honest with what the financial forecasts are telling us.

Please disclose any current personal and/or professional relationships with the City of Black Hawk, City of Central or Gilpin County.

Other than being a citizen, I have no relationship with the county and my only relationship with any city in Gilpin County is with the people of those cities. Having lived in Gilpin County for 27 years, I know most City Council Members, Aldermen, and Mayors. Some are acquaintances, some are friends. None have any business relationship with me or any other financial or other compromising connection.

What is your position on the idea of sexually oriented businesses coming to Central City?

First, this is a city issue and not a county issue, so we shouldn't spend a lot of time debating issues that we are not going to decide. We need to focus on what's important to the county. But,

to get to the heart of the matter quickly, this about property owner rights and the rights of the neighbors / citizens. I'm for supporting and defending the rights of both. Property owners should be free to use their properties as they see fit within the law, but the use should respect the rights of the citizens to not be adversely impacted. The city has defined what they believe are the rights of the citizens and the property owners is going to challenge those rights. I'm for defending the rights of both parties as provided by our federal and state constitutions and a judge is going to make that decision. I'm not for local government trying to push for personal preferences, morality, religion, or any other influence over the rights of its citizens and property owners as already defined. It is very slippery slope when we believe local government can override the rights afforded all citizens when the local government disagrees with the citizen. We need to be careful...very careful to not allow our local government to intrude on our rights. The county is here to provide us services as defined by the State of Colorado, not to impede on our rights as property owners and citizens. Getting even more to the point of the question...Do I want an SOB in downtown Central City?...NO. But my opinion does not override the rights of others. As a county we need to get back to focusing on the services we need to provide our citizens and do them extremely well, like great roads and snow removal, great sheriff's department to keep us safe, effective, and responsive planning department where citizens can easily get a permit and build their homes. We need to stop trying to control, stifle or impede our citizens rights.

What is your position on Black Hawk's offer of \$1 million for the Rec Center with all its restrictions?

After careful consideration of all facts involved, the county would be wise to take the offer that Black Hawk has provided. There has been a lot of misrepresentation from those opposed

to taking the offer. They argue that by taking the offer, somehow the County would be limited from exercising its rights to increase taxes or take any action the county sees fit to service their citizens appropriately. Nothing could be further from the truth. If you read the IGA proposed by Black Hawk, they simply won't allow the county to collect the \$1M from Black Hawk and Increase taxes. It avoids duplication of taxing. So, under the IGA, the county could continue to decide to exercise any and all options it currently has to raise taxes and manage the county, it would just forego the \$1M from Black Hawk if or when they choose to raise taxes or add new taxes. Although there has been miscommunication that the County budget is doing good, Black Hawk understands the County does not have the money to provide the required services it's responsible for and keep the Recreation Center open as it has been and has historically been promised to be. It's also the reason the county tried to unsuccessfully raise taxes under the 1A Ballot Measure. Black Hawk realizes that the County will be forced to raise taxes if no other alternatives exist.

With that background, the only reason a commissioner would vote "No" on the Black Hawk offer is that they either plan to raise taxes soon, or they have fallen into the belief that Black Hawk is an untrustworthy entity and that working together to solve issues common to both the county and the city is not possible. Both reasons are unacceptable. I would vote "Yes" because I am confident that when this County is managed well and like a business, we will not need to raise taxes to provide the County Services including having the Recreation Center open 7 days a week. When we manage the County well and no new taxes are needed, the IGA is immaterial, and we enjoy the pass-through tax from Black Hawk. I am so confident that the county could be run better with no new taxes, that nothing in the Black Hawk IGA has any impact on the County whatsoever. As it relates to working with Black Hawk, we need to move on and move forward with things. I have been here a long time and have witnessed the historic battles between the entities. Those battles have left some scars that still have not healed and I understand those feelings. However, we need to grow up and move on from the past. Our future depends on our ability to work together as the County and cities to create new business, reduce overall costs and drive citizen wellbeing. As a County, perpetuating the idea that the County should be distrusting of Black Hawk or any of its cities is shameful and destructive to our county's success. In the end, what Black Hawk is pushing with the IGA is a county that is run effectively and efficiently and does not need to burden its citizens and businesses any further to provide the required services. I think we are all looking for the same thing, so we should be able to work together to get there.

What experience do you have with budgets?

My experience with budgets is extensive.

- As CEO of Tivoli Brewing Company I was responsible for creating and delivering the budget for the company
- As the Director of Strategic Finance

at Molson Coors (Corporate Office CFO), I led the planning and budgeting process for Molson Coors Globally and consolidated all business unit budgets around the world.

- I led the planning and budgeting process for many business segments for Coors Brewing Company including:
 - Land & Water Division
 - Capital Planning for Coors Brewing Company Globally
 - South Region of Coors Brewing Company
- At Ford Motor Company I led the budgeting process for all new finance and insurance businesses.

What kind of growth do you want to see in Gilpin County?

1. Growth in wellbeing and the pursuit of happiness.
2. Growth in county revenues.
3. Growth in new jobs due to new industry.
4. Growth in property values due to environmental cleanup and improvement in county services.
5. Industry growth that does not intrude on our small, rural life, improves our environment, moves the needle on county revenues.

What is affordable housing? Senior housing? What steps will you take to implement them in Gilpin County?


Affordable housing is housing cost that can fit within the budget of the pay earned by local employees, usually the housing cost is 30% or less of a resident's pay. To deliver on affordable housing, we will ensure commuting options are available, new local rental options and new local deed restricted properties for purchase. Senior housing is allowing our senior residents to age and with dignity and grace. Most seniors in Gilpin would like the option to age in their own homes. As a county we need to make sure the services we provide allow our Seniors to live comfortable and securely in their mountain homes. Primary to those services are making sure homes are accessible by the elderly and their service providers. Their roads need to be well maintained and plowed immediately so that meals, groceries, medications and in home healthcare can be delivered reliably.

How would you promote economic diversity in the county?

Economic development is more than just diversity. Gilpin county needs industry including addition gaming business that will move the needle on revenue. As I have done in my career for many years, I will persistently pursue the industries that will move the needle, are right for our mountain environment, are not intrusive on our county or life, and fit within our vision to keep the county small and rural. I will look to the industries that have been successful in the surrounding counties to identify the high potential options.

If you could ask one candidate one question, what would it be?

For Sandy Hollingsworth – You were quoted in the news during the first meeting between the County and Central City that "You believe gaming is a net negative to the county". Can you elaborate on how an industry that is supplying 78-79% of the county revenue is a net negative?



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Help Wanted

Gilpin County is Hiring!

- Clerk & Recorder:**
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Deputy Clerk-Motor Vehicle Tech (part time): \$19.13 - \$25.87
- CSU Extension Office:**
CSU Extension - Office Assistant (part time): \$18.36 - \$24.79
- Dispatch:**
Emergency Communications Dispatcher I: \$22.69 - \$31.78
Emergency Communication Supervisor: \$55,100 - \$74,400
- Facilities Maintenance:**
Facilities Maintenance Tech I: \$20.63 - \$28.89
Maintenance Worker - (temporary): \$19.13 - \$25.87
- Parks & Recreation:**
Child Camp Program Leader: \$15.77 - \$21.30
Sports Official: \$20.63 - \$28.89
- Public Works:**
Road and Bridge Worker (seasonal culvert crew): \$17.36 - \$23.46
- Senior Services:**
Senior Services and Transportation Driver (part time): \$15.77 - \$21.30
- Sheriff's Office:**
Deputy - Detentions - POST Certified: \$30.77 - \$43.77
Deputy - Patrol - POST Certified: \$30.77 - \$43.77
Detentions Officer - Non-Certified: \$27.88 - \$39.66
Emergency Preparedness Specialist (Part time): \$31.39 - \$43.99
Investigator: \$36.06 - \$51.29

See website for most up to date job list and details at <https://gilpincounty.colorado.gov/careers>

Need plow operator for local snow removal business with large client list in Nederland area. Base of operations in mid Gilpin County. Early morning starts and 10-13-hour shifts possible, plus shop work & equipment maintenance. Starting pay \$30/hour. Call (303) 819-2118 to apply.

Good People Tree Service is hiring. No experience necessary. \$20/hour. Clean driving record, reliable transportation and a good attitude are required. Must be able to lift 80lbs and work outdoors all day in all weather. Give us a call at 303-847-5221 and/or send your resume to goodpeopletreeservice@gmail.com.

Looking for administrative support for a small business. Must be personally organized, good with follow-up and computer savvy. Several hours a week, flexible schedule. Retired professional ideal. Text (303)-503-3136.

Reasonably priced gutter, drywall and chimney installation needed. Also 4 dead and dried out pines that need removal. Will trade for free firewood. Also need someone to level a shed that's sitting cattywampus on a slope. Text (303)-503-3136.

What to expect from an adult prom

continued from page 29

to the people that are constantly working all the time and never get to do anything," Foster said, shouting out those who work endless hours for Nederland's local businesses.

The theme of each Adult Prom has represented more than the event, not just by suggesting to attendees how to dress and what type of antics to expect, but by reflecting, or invoking, the Nederland spirit in some way.

The first prom was 1980s-themed, harking back to a time of windbreakers, neon, spiked and gelled hair, and rainbow-mirrored sunglasses...all of which can also represent the typical Eldora skier in the 2020s.

The second prom featured a 1920s gothic "carnivale" theme, which evoked Nederland's own mysterious and haunting past, as well as celebrating its uniqueness (with the undeniable opportunity to be dramatic about it).

This year, S3 Productions wants attendees at the prom to embrace their inner "trailer trash," and though this may seem to be a controversial theme, it is simply meant to suggest dressing in shameless comfortability. Think of it as uninhibited-on-a-budget, or as dressing "poverty chic."

"People can spend thousands of dollars on their costumes or they can spend \$15 at the thrift store – it doesn't matter," Foster noted. "We're not throwing a gala with everyone in three-piece suits; the idea is to have a big event, come as you are, and celebrate the locals."

To promote the event, on Sunday, September 1, 2024, at 4 p.m. Foster gathered some dedicated participants and made a call to the community to join him for a Flash Mob Parade throughout the businesses in downtown Nederland.

The traveling brood wore white muscle shirts and track jackets, overalls and short shorts, and elicited stares from unsuspecting locals and tourists as they marched through town, calling back to a time when chaotic weirdness was practically an expected occurrence.

"That's what we used to do, we used to do parades through town in the

middle of the weekend all the time," Foster reminisced. "We moved to the mountains for a reason, because we want to be a little weird."

The Adult Prom III will be held at The Caribou Room on September 21, starting at 7:30 p.m. and will feature the music of Colony Funk with DJ BLUE and many other special guests. This 21-and-over event promises more than just live music, as there are many acts, events, and games planned, all centered around the "trailer trash" theme.

"Last time we had 28 performers, and Vince Herman showed up at the end," Foster said. "This year we built a bunch of games and we've got a lot of weird surprises lined up. It won't just be music – there's going to be a lot of theatrics. It'll be something to see!"

For presale tickets go to: <https://www.thecaribouroom.com/calendar>.



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POETRY CORNER

Some words for the week

there was a town
or at least some houses
some bits of built up lives
in the valley
that was flooded
to make the reservoir
their buried in water
below the ripples and waves
they still stand
old walls broken windows
maybe even some
dishes in a rusted out sink
I drive beside the drowned past
and wonder
maybe if I drive my truck
off the roadside edge
and sink into the water
I'll find a better world down there

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

Current Job Openings for the City of Black Hawk

Go to www.cityofblackhawk.org and click on Job Openings for full Job Descriptions, Requirements, and to apply online.



POLICE OFFICER (LATERAL OR POST-CERTIFIED ONLY), Salary Range: \$78,981 - \$128,003 / Annual (paid hourly), DOQ/E. The City of Black Hawk is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer (POST certified or laterals). The position is responsible for performing public safety functions and for providing for the enforcement of federal, state, and municipal law. Excellent Benefits package (See Benefits). Apply Now: <https://www.cityofblackhawk.org/>

WATER UTILITY OPERATOR I, II, III or IV, Salary Range: \$55,518 - \$89,977 / Annual (paid hourly), DOQ/E. Operator I: Colorado Class "D" Water Plant Operator and Class 1 Distribution Systems Certifications required within one (1) year of employment. Operator II: Colorado Class "C" Water Plant Operator and Class 2 Distribution Systems Certifications required. Operator III: Colorado Class "B" Water Plant Operator and Class 3 Distribution Systems Certifications required.

Operator IV: Colorado Class "A" Water Plant Operator and Class 4 Distribution Systems Certifications required. A Water Utility Operator III will operate and maintain the water treatment plants, distribution system, raw water system, maintain and repair water mains, service lines, valves, pumps, and water-related appurtenances. This is the journey-level class in the Utility Operator series and is expected to perform a full range of all duties with minimal instruction and assistance. Excellent Benefits package (See Benefits). Apply Now: <https://www.cityofblackhawk.org/>

City of Black Hawk Benefits:

The City pays 90% of the medical premium and 100% coverage for dental, vision, group life, and short/long-term disability. The City offers an excellent retirement package with a guaranteed 8% match of base earnings and up to a 12% match based on employees' retirement election. Newly hired employees enjoy over seven weeks of combined annual leave (PTO and Sick), which increases with tenure. Additional benefits include an annual Health and Wellness Reimbursement allowance, an annual Uniform Allowance, a cell phone stipend, and membership to the Gilpin County Recreation Center. The City of Black Hawk conducts post-offer drug/alcohol testing as a condition of employment per the City's Drug and Alcohol Use policy. In addition, post-offer background investigations and physical exams are also required.

Honoring the fallen

continued from page 8

badges with names and photos of the 9/11 victims. They carried the weight, both literal and emotional, of those they honored.

One climber noted, "The point of carrying the gear is to show how much they sacrificed and how much they were stressed."

With Ameristar sponsoring the event, all registration fees went directly to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), at the end of the climb totaling \$6,967.36, with additional donations still coming in.

"Black Hawk and Ameristar help

fund the event so that all proceeds go to the NFFF," said Rebecca Blondo, Executive Administrative Assistant for Black Hawk Fire Department. "Ameristar provides everything; 100% of the registration fees support the foundation."

The event concluded with a post-climb reception, where climbers shared stories, reflected on the morning's events, and enjoyed a well-earned meal. Participants left with gift bags, commemorating another successful climb that honored the heroes of 9/11.

As the community continues to gather year after year, the Black Hawk 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb stands as a powerful testament to the spirit of service, remembrance, and unity.



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER KELLEY

Remembering those who served

Firefighters from the Nederland Fire Protection District marched through the downtown streets in full gear.

ART RECEPTION

with Serene Karplus

&

OUTDOOR CONCERT

with the Boulder Philharmonic

Friday, September 27

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