

# THE MOUNTAIN EAR

Volume 47, Issue 50

32 Pages

Thursday, October 3, 2024

\$1.50

Nederland, Colorado

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

## 2024 Homecoming for the Panthers



SARA SANDSTROM

**NEDERLAND** - Nederland Middle-Senior High School (NMSHS) celebrated homecoming during the week of September 23 - 28, 2024. This most exciting week of the school year was celebrated each day as students and staff dressed up and honored the Panther spirit.

Thursday the activities intensified with a Powder Puff Game. It was the freshmen/seniors vs. sophomores/juniors, and the game ended in a 28-28 tie. Eva Wrobel kicked a tie-breaking field goal for the sophomore/junior team.

On Friday, the Nederland High School Cross Country team traveled to Estes Park for the Longs Peak XC Invitational. With two meets down, Coach Gavin Coombs says that the runners are off to a great start and have established some "some really big personal records already."

He added, "The team put in a lot of work over the summer and it is really showing! Our captains, senior Lukey Mahorski-Bodley and junior Abby Hess, are doing a great job leading the team and making sure we are continuing in the right direction."

Sophomore Amika Begin and junior

PHOTO BY SARA SANDSTROM

*continued on page 11*

### The junior class float

The junior class at Nederland High School took us to a ski hill in Mario Kart with their Homecoming float.

## Keep It Local: Indian Peaks Ace Hardware

LYNN HIRSHMAN

**NEDERLAND** - If you spend the rest of your life always doing your DIY shopping at an Ace Hardware, it's probably because of the superb product quality and customer service you are used to receiving at Nederland's Indian Peaks Ace Hardware.

A family business since 1987, it began as a Coast to Coast Hardware when the first owners opened the store because of the great need in Nederland. Steve Culver, manager at the time, bought the business with his wife Lisa in 1994. Current owner, daughter Kalina Culver, "grew up in the business," she tells *The Mountain-Ear*, going on to get a degree in Business Administration before taking over the store in 2023. She is proud that her mother, Lisa, remains as Operations Manager.

To the surprise of no one who has

*continued on page 17*



PHOTO COURTESY OF ACE HARDWARE

### Still the same

Hanging in there for years, Indian Peaks Ace Hardware has been a vital part of the Nederland community since 1987.

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THE MOUNTAIN-EAR

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office: 303-810-5409  
website: www.themtnear.com  
email: info@themountainear.com

(usps 548530) is publishing weekly for \$75 per year by Mountain Vale Media, llc, P.O. Box 99, Nederland, CO 80466

Print ISSN: 1543-6071  
Website ISSN: 2834-099X

Postmaster

Send address changes to:  
The Mountain-Ear  
P.O. Box 99, Nederland, CO 80466

Hours

Nederland: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.  
Central City: By appointment Monday to Friday.  
Call or text us at 303-810-5409 or email info@themountainear.com.

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Letters

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

Ownership

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

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Staff

The Mountain-Ear is made up of 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.



# Alfred Arias

## May 25, 1940 - September 20, 2024



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARIAS FAMILY

Alfred H. Arias, 84, passed away at home on September 20, 2024. He was born in San Antonio, Texas, on May 25, 1940, the 7th child of Antonia and Benito Arias. He was united in marriage to his wife, Deborah (Juscik) Arias on September 27, 1984.

He grew up in an extremely close and loving family, and learned values that he carried and shared throughout his life. The Arias family moved to Colorado and Al told many stories of working on the family farm in Sterling.

He went to East High School in Denver and then pursued a career in the culinary arts. He was skilled in several cuisines, and worked at the Ridgeway Inn and Swiss Bells in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. His career took him to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he worked at La Fonda's, a Japanese restaurant, and owned a fish and chip shop.

He made his way back to Colorado and became the Head Chef at the Black Forest Inn in Black Hawk. He mastered German cooking, and created exceptional dishes, as his friends and family can attest! It was here that he met his wife Debby, and in 1985 they had their daughter, Elena. In 1999, Al and Deb went into partnership with Bill and Kay Lorenz to move the Black Forest Restaurant to Nederland, Colorado. He loved being a chef, met countless lifelong friends and would joke that he was a Mexican cooking German food.

Al loved living in the mountains and after retirement he focused on his other passions in the outdoors and creative arts. He loved spending time outside, skiing, working with flowers and landscaping, as well as painting and woodworking. He enjoyed watching game shows, old movies, and all sports. His greatest joy was spending time with his family and friends, playing pool, and watching Denver Broncos football.

Alfred was preceded in death by his parents, siblings Ben Arias, Rachel Lira, Albert Arias, Aurora Correa, Ernest Arias, and Adam Arias. He is survived by wife Deborah Arias and daughter Elena Logan (Aden), of Gilpin County, sisters-in-law, Toni Arias (Adam) of Deatsville, Alabama, and Della Arias (Ernest) of Trinidad, Colorado, as well as numerous beloved nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Al radiated love, joy, and happiness which he spread to everyone he met and will be cherished by his family and friends forever. Remember him in the garden of memories where he will be forever treasured.

Flowers are welcome, as Al loved them very much, but if you would want to make a donation in his memory, please make it to the Foothills Animal Shelter in Golden, Colorado.

*Family and friends are invited to attend a service at Olinger Crown Hill Mortuary & Cemetery in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, on Friday, October 4, 2024. Visitation and viewing will begin at 11 a.m. Service at 1 p.m., interment to follow at 2 p.m. and reception beginning at 2:45 p.m.*

**SOMETHING FOR EVERY PET!**



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**10am - 6pm**

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**10am - 4pm**

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**SUNDAY & MONDAY**

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# Peak Perspectives

## Moving Forward

BARBARA HARDT

**BLACK HAWK** - Today, Wednesday morning, I am sitting here in the office, thinking about the past week and looking forward to the next one.

A few weeks ago, we had a bunch of training on-site for our new website and news management software. This week, we are launching the new site. Hang on friends, it's gonna take a little bit of time for a full transition.

The good news is, our site will be FREE for a few weeks, while we sort out the details. Spend time checking it out and send us your feedback, so we know what

you like or don't like. The website is located at [www.themtnear.com](http://www.themtnear.com).

Beyond that, we are working hard with both of our designers on quite a few projects. At this time, I'd like to personally thank Cynthia Davis for her ideas for many years that have pushed us forward with several publications that enhance what we do here at *The Mountain-Ear*. Cynthia was part of the paper for over 18 years and it's time to recognize her efforts, even though she has moved on to a job closer to her home in Oklahoma.

Many years ago, we had a cool publication called *Mountain Music*. It was a monthly that featured music of the Peak to Peak region. That publication

was sold and eventually closed down. But we still offer our music listing every week with a featured artist and list of shows. The list will be expanded and there will be even more online soon.

Cynthia was also the creative brain behind our *Studio Tour* (we just had our second one). We are continually learning how to improve what we do and this year we learned a lot. Next year will be even bigger and better!

As well as the *Body Mind Spirit* guide, which we are just starting to work on for a January print date. This year it will be glossy instead of newsprint!

We also created and maintained the *Taste of the Peaks* publication. That one is now combined into our *Visitor's Guide*, which was also a Cynthia creation. It was her final project at the paper this spring. It's absolutely gorgeous and still on stands across the Peak to Peak region.

The largest impact, however, was Cynthia's idea to start a podcast. She

had been running one of her own and shared the idea with me. She rounded up a few people to help with it and she got it going. We went from a few times a month, to weekly. Now we have podcasts every few days. The podcast is unique because it brings in listeners who may not be print readers, and it connects the music and stories of the mountains to the print publications we do. It also won first and second place this year at the Colorado Press Association Better News Contest.

I am so proud to be part of this amazing TEAM of people. And exceptionally proud of all we have all come through to get to this point.

And grateful to say thank you to Cynthia, who made a huge difference at this publication, for a very long time.

For the rest of this year, I'll be adding some small gratitudes for the many people who have made this publication possible, for decades.

*Until next time, if you need to reach us, email me at [info@themountainear.com](mailto:info@themountainear.com) or call 303-810-5409. The Mountain-Ear is YOUR community source for news, covering the Peak to Peak region since 1977.*



## A Gilpin Halloween

### October 1 - October 27

**Pumpkin Decorating Contest:** The 2024 Pumpkin Decorating Contest begins October 1. This event is open to all ages, so get creative! No carved pumpkins, only exterior decoration. Pumpkins must represent a book or movie character. Voting by the staff and public will begin October 28. Winners announced at noon on October 31. This contest is being hosted by the Gilpin Public County Library located at 15131 Highway 119.

### October 5

**Fall-O-Ween:** Gilpin Grateful Acres invites you to enjoy fun activities including a scavenger hunt, caramel apple and cookie decorating, pizza skulls, a haunted trail through the woods, and more! This is an all-ages event hosted from 4 to 8 p.m. at 32 Elk Meadow Lane in Black Hawk.

### October 5 and 6

**Pumpkin Patch:** Children will enjoy a Pumpkin Patch at 300 Gregory Street, Central City. designed especially for them with games, Trunk or Treat, pumpkin decorating, and snacks. Pumpkins will be for sale. This year's event features a scarecrow decorating contest with cash prizes. Simply register your scarecrow at the Pumpkin Patch on October 5 between 10 a.m. and noon. Judging takes place at 2:30 p.m. on October 6 for your opportunity to win up to \$100 for first place. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 5 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 6.

### October 12

**Halloween Movie Night:** Join us for popcorn and a movie as we watch "The Nightmare Before Christmas." Rated PG. 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Gilpin County Public Library located at 15131 Highway 119.

### October 11, 12, 18 and 19

**Central City's 15th Annual Creepy Crawl:** These 60+ minute walking tours are led by guides from the Gilpin Historical Society and feature live, terrifying reenactments of murders, bone chilling ghostly encounters, and other creepy happenings at various haunted hot spots throughout town. All of the stories are based on factual events from Gilpin County's past. Tours start at 6:30 p.m. and depart every 30 minutes until 8:30 p.m. For tickets, go to [www.gilpinhistory.org](http://www.gilpinhistory.org).

### October 18, 19, 25, 26 and November 1 and 2

**Haunted Stage Stop:** Spookygrass Presents Haunted Stage Stop is an immersive walk-through haunted house in an actually haunted historic venue in Rollinsville, Colorado. The walking path includes three levels, both indoors and outdoors. Come on the early side for hot chocolate and refreshments from Timberline Fire Protection District. Haunted Stage Stop is fundraising for the Timberline Volunteer Firefighters. Tickets are available at [www.hauntedstagestop.com](http://www.hauntedstagestop.com).

### October 19, 26 and 31

**Central City Halloween Spooktacular:** This first time event will be sure to entertain all ages! Central City's Main Street will be brilliantly transformed into a Victorian haunted village. There will be a performance of "Thriller" in the streets as well as delicious witchy concoctions being served. The adults can enjoy pop-up bars and Halloween-themed cocktails while the kids trick or treat. 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is free.

### October 25

**Spooky Stroll:** Hayride, pumpkin chunkin', prizes, treats, and more! Bring food pantry donations if you are able. \$5 for a school carnival wristband. Bring cash for a cake walk and jail. Free trick or treat and haunted trail! 5 to 8 p.m. at the Gilpin Community Center and Trail located at 250 Norton Drive in Black Hawk.

**Halloween Double Feature:** Bring the kids for free popcorn and a movie as we watch a family-friendly film in the meeting room. This year we are featuring two kid-friendly Halloween-themed mini-movies based on well-loved children's films: "Scared Shrekless" and "Toy Story of Terror!" 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Gilpin County Public Library located at 15131 Highway 119

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# Music of the Mountains Where to be and what to see



**Brandywine and the Mighty Fines**

**JAMIE LAMMERS**

ROLLINSVILLE - Brandy Ray vividly remembers the date on which her current primary project, Brandywine and the Mighty Fines, performed live for the first time: March 6, 2020. This is because, a week later, COVID-19 caused the world to shut down. The band could finally kick themselves into gear once regulations were lifted, starting with a handful of gigs and booking more and more as they cemented the lineup.

The core lineup of the band consists of Brandy on mandolin and vocals, her husband Joshua Ray on guitar and vocals, and Matthew Schexnyder on guitar and vocals, with all three serving as the primary songwriters as well.

Early in the band's run, Emerson Lamm contributed banjo and Lena Dow contributed bass and vocals. Currently, Maya Fabrikant will often contribute vocals and fiddle, Joe Gibb will often contribute bass, and Neil Mitchell will often contribute drums. However, the Rays and Schexnyder are the consistent core members.

The name started as an in-joke from Brandy, or "Brandywine" herself. Due

to her extroverted personality and excitement for interacting with others, as well as her consistent role in behind-the-scenes management, the band has crafted themselves around her being a central role. She jokingly called the other members the "Mighty Fines" because they have ultimately had longer experiences performing music. Gibb studied bass, and Joshua and Schexnyder have played guitar for most of their lives.

However, Brandy had only started playing the mandolin a year before the band formed, having dabbled in music only occasionally throughout her life before then. Joshua knew Brandy loved to sing, so he bought her a mandolin and encouraged her to explore a new avenue of her musicality. She hasn't looked back since.

Even before Brandy started playing the mandolin, though, she had enjoyed writing songs. She has a vast background in writing, earning her undergraduate degree in journalism and teaching various forms of creative writing for eight years. Since she has exposed herself to many different styles and genres of writing, she has found

inspiration in many places. Now, with the Mighty Fines, she and the other songwriters are able to contribute their own ideas freely.

Often, one of the primary songwriters will work on a song independently, then bring it to the group and collaborate with everyone else to refine it and create arrangements. All three primary songwriters contribute in unique ways. Brandy has called Matthew the band's "poet laureate" because of his particular composition style. Joshua often writes nostalgic songs based on his life experiences, and Brandy focuses on more traditional themes present in country, folk, and bluegrass. She has found herself often drawn to murder ballads, a particular tradition of folk songs that focus on exactly that gruesome occurrence.

Along with the Mighty Fines, Brandy also co-leads the Colorado Estro-Jam, a monthly picking event that teaches women how to enter the jam scene in the state. She co-produces the Boulder County Jingle Jam with her friend Tom Buswell, which celebrates its third year in December 2024, and a spin-off group of the Mighty Fines, called Mighty Holler, consists of her, Joshua, Gibb, and Gibb's wife Elle Michelle on vocals and banjo and as a songwriter.

Brandy loves the connection that forms and the exchange of energy that occurs between herself, the other band members, and the audience, and she hopes that the audience will end up being moved by at least one of the songs that they play, whether it's through a deep connection or simply feeling joy hearing the material.

*You can see Brandywine and the Mighty Fines performing live at Howlin Wind Brewing and Blending, located at 51 A Main Street in Rollinsville, on Saturday, October 12, 2024, starting at 5 p.m. If you want to learn more about the band, be sure to check out their website at themightyfines.com, find them on Facebook and Instagram, and see live performances on their YouTube channel. Three songs from their early days, "Wanderin' of My Dreams," "Ball n' Chain," and "Where the Willow Never Weeps," are available wherever you get your music.*

## Music Events

**Busey Brews**

Friday, October 4 at 4 p.m. - Lost Penny (Oktoberfest and 5th Anniversary)  
Saturday, October 5 at 3:30 p.m. - S'moreGrass (Oktoberfest and 5th Anniversary)  
Sunday, October 6 at 4 p.m. - PJ Moon (Oktoberfest and 5th Anniversary)

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

**Gold Hill Inn**

Thursday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m. - Jeffrey Foucault  
Friday, October 4 at 8 p.m. - Deer Creek Sharpshooters  
Sunday, October 6 at 7 p.m. - The Wildwoods  
Friday, October 11 at 8 p.m. - Tonewood String Band  
Sunday, October 13 at 7 p.m. - Mollie O'Brien and Rich Moore  
Friday, October 18 at 8 p.m. - Hunter Stone Band  
Sunday, October 20 at 7 p.m. - Lily Talmers Trio  
Friday, October 25 at 8 p.m. - Bear Hat  
Saturday, October 26 at 7 p.m. - Covenhoven  
Sunday, October 27 at 8 p.m. - Drunken Hearts

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

**Gold Hill Store**

Thursday, October 3 at 7 p.m. - Nat Lefkoff  
Saturday, October 19 at 7:30 p.m. - Last Mile Country Club  
Thursday, October 24 at 7 p.m. - Redd and the Paper Flowers  
Friday, October 25 at 6:30 p.m. -

*Continued on page 5*

**Music Events**

*Continued from page 4*

How About No  
Saturday, October 26 at 7 p.m. -  
Hundred Pound House Cat  
Sunday, October 27 at 2 p.m. - Ella Wren

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

**Howlin Wind Brewing**  
Saturday, October 5 at 4 p.m. -  
Tyler Ballantyne and Bridgette Spinney  
Saturday, October 12 at 5 p.m. -  
Brandywine and the Mighty Fines

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

**Jamestown Mercantile**  
Thursday, October 3 at 7 p.m. -  
Mercy Clxub  
Friday, October 4 at 7 p.m. - Free  
Range Marmot  
Sunday, October 6 at noon - Lara  
Ruggles  
Wednesday, October 9 at 5 p.m. -  
Open Mic  
Thursday, October 10 at 7 p.m.  
- Paul DeHaven and the Patrick  
Dethlefs Duo  
Friday, October 11 at 7 p.m. - Derek  
Dames Ohl  
Wednesday, October 16 at 5 p.m. -  
Open Mic  
Thursday, October 17 at 7 p.m. -  
Andy Mann  
Friday, October 18 at 7 p.m. -  
DAVELLIE Band  
Wednesday, October 23 at 5 p.m. -  
Open Mic  
Thursday, October 24 at 7 p.m. -  
Ethan J. Perry  
Friday, October 25 at 7 p.m. -  
Rachie and the Tramps  
Thursday, October 31 at 7 p.m. -  
The Rampart Street Stompers

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

**Knotted Root Brewing**  
Saturday, October 5 at 4 p.m. - Ben  
Sproul Trio  
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.knottedroot-brewing.com/home>  
Location: 250 N. Caribou Street,  
Nederland  
Phone: 720-248-7129

**Nederland Farmers Market**  
Saturday, October 6 at 11 a.m. -  
Melt and the Family Band  
Saturday, October 6 at 1:30 p.m. -  
The Pamlico Sound

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NederlandFarmersMarket/>  
Website: <https://www.nederland-farmersmarket.org/>  
Email: [nederlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:nederlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com)  
Location: 85 E. 1st Street, Nederland  
and 80 E. 2nd Street, Nederland

**The Caribou Room**  
Friday, October 11 at 7 p.m. -  
Wookiefoot with A-Mac and the  
Height Night 1  
Saturday, October 12 at 7 p.m. -  
Wookiefoot with A-Mac and the  
Height Night 2  
Saturday, October 19 at 7 p.m. -  
Dave Abear's A Very Jerry Band  
with The Desert Furs  
Saturday, October 26 at 7 p.m. -  
Masquerade Ball feat. Banshee  
Tree w/ High Step Society

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

**Very Nice Brewing Co. (Gilpin County)**  
Saturday, October 5 at 5 p.m. -  
Strangebyrds  
Saturday, October 12 at 5 p.m. -  
Kirk Larson Trio  
Friday, October 18 at 6 p.m. -  
Jesse Maclaine  
Saturday, October 19 at 5 p.m. -  
David Tilmon  
Saturday, October 26 at 5 p.m. -  
Reservoir Fog

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

**Very Nice Brewing Co. (Nederland)**  
Friday, October 4 at 6 p.m. - Ravin'  
Wolf  
Saturday, October 5 at 5 p.m. -  
Reservoir Fog  
Friday, October 11 at 6 p.m. - David  
Tilmon  
Saturday, October 12 at 5 p.m. -  
Jesse Maclaine  
Friday, October 18 at 5 p.m. - Poorfree  
Saturday, October 19 at 5 p.m. -  
d'Lovelies  
Saturday, October 26 at 5 p.m. -  
Mountain Duo

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/verynicebeer>  
Website: <https://www.verynice-brewing.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](mailto:info@themountaineer.com) to be included in the next edition.*

**Everybody's Reading It!**



**The Mountain-Ear is read beyond the Peak to Peak**

Jess catches up on things to do around town this weekend!

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

**The Ghosts Are Having a Party  
And You're invited**

**Something Simply  
Spooktacular  
Is Coming To  
Central City.**

**Central City Halloween Spooktacular**  
Three nights: **October 19, 26 & 31**  
**6:00PM-9:00 PM**  
**Admission is FREE.**

**See Main Street Transformed into a  
Victorian Haunted Village.**

Halloween Pop-Up Bars, Trick or Treat Street for the Kids,  
Dancing in the Street including Thriller, Witches' Cauldron,  
Haunted Happenings.

**[VisitCentralCity.com/blog/Halloween](http://VisitCentralCity.com/blog/Halloween)**

**Presented by Main Street Central City  
and MIX 100**

**-QUOTE OF THE WEEK-**

*Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished  
without passion.*

*-- Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel*

# You can trust Aiken as Gilpin County Commissioner

Dear Editor,

I have known Gilpin County Commissioner candidate for District 1, Jeff Aiken, for 40 years. I can attest to his integrity, dedication to the needs of our community, and intelligent discernment of issues concerning business, housing, childcare, and efficient use of resources.

Jeff is a man of selflessness and sensible judgment. Having been involved in Central City Council for 9 years, on the board of the Black Hawk/Central City Sanitation district for 20 years, and home owner he knows from experience that compromise, in-depth research, creative

problem solving are key to contributing to the community as a whole.

I have personally witnessed Jeff's expansive knowledge of not only the Gilpin County government processes, but our place in this beautiful and fast growing State of Colorado. He offers openness and hard-work, always with a dose of humor.

Always willing to bring truth and facts to every issue, I know I can trust him with the responsibilities he will face as Commissioner.

Mary Laffey  
Central City



PHOTO COURTESY OF GILPIN COUNTY DEMOCRATS

# Thanks to Gilpin County!

Dear Editor,

The Gilpin County Democrats held their Annual Picnic on September 29, and it was a terrific event! Many gratuities need mentioning. First of all, thank you to Jeff and Susan Green at Very Nice Brewing Company for allowing us to hold our event at your Very Nice Taproom. Being the non-partisan business owners they are, there was also an event there the week before. Thanks to you both for supporting the entire community! You are so appreciated here!

We also want to thank The Los Burros Band for their incredible music that kept us tapping and dancing throughout the entire picnic. These guys are so fun and talented! If you haven't seen them, yet, look for them to perform.

We especially want to thank all the people, families, friends, canines, and our neighbors - whether they be Democrats, Republicans, Unaffiliated, or unregistered, for showing up. It was just a beautiful day to hang out and enjoy each other in majestic autumn surroundings. There is just nothing better than hanging out with your community on a fall day, eating food and listening to music.

Finally, I want to thank Eric Douglas, Chair of the Gilpin County Democrats, Won Cho, Treasurer, as well as the Gilpin County Central Committee for letting this happen like it did.

We hope to see y'all again next year. Don't forget to vote!!!

With Unending Gratitude,  
Celia Wilson  
Secretary, Gilpin County Democrats



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# Hollingsworth for commissioner, she speaks the truth

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the thoughtful coverage of the Gilpin County Commissioner Candidate Forum held on September 20, 2024, at the County Courthouse. Marie Mornis is NOT a voter-endorsed incumbent as implied by your coverage. She was never elected by the vote of the People of Gilpin County. Rather, she was appointed in December 2022 to fill out the term of Web Sill after he died in late November 2022.

She has publicly made many misrepresentations that negatively impugn the character and motives of the citizens she claims to want to represent, including that the 2020 election is still being litigated, that mail-in voting in this county is "full of fraud," and that

taxes in this county are "too high." Our taxes are literally the lowest in the state, our elections are run with integrity and precision, and the 2020 election has been shown to be one of the most accurate in American history, with over 60 lawsuits decided against the losing party, including many heard by judges they put in place.

I can't vote for liars. Sandy Hollingsworth has worked hard for our county as a commissioner and a volunteer for many organizations, listens to everyone who speaks to her with an open mind, and tells the truth. She has my vote and my gratitude.

Julia Ziobro  
Black Hawk

To my fellow Gilpinites,

My name is Bruce Hartman, a 45+ year Gilpin resident. I have seen and lived many elections in Gilpin County. During my activity in "politics" I'VE ALWAYS looked at candidates first and foremost. What can/will they do for US, the residents and taxpayers? I'd suggest it should be. I've been criticized when I supported a Democrat, Dave Thomas for DA because he wasn't a Republican. BUT, DA Thomas demonstrated many times his commitment to serving OUR needs. Isn't that what we want in an elected official? Someone who looks out for OUR (the residents and taxpayers) interests? If not, it SHOULD BE!

Corey Marshall, whom I've known for 30+ years, has ALWAYS shown integrity, honesty and his commitment

to Gilpin County. Our children are similar ages so I've had many interactions with the Marshall family which have always been positive. I know Corey as a man who looks forward, thinks things through and does what's RIGHT, ALWAYS! Isn't this the type of person we want for County Commissioner? I've heard it said his business experience isn't relevant, isn't the county a business? It has a budget, collects revenues, approves budgets.

I'd ask you to review Corey's resume and see if he doesn't have the qualities we NEED in a County Commissioner. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,  
Bruce W. Hartman  
40 year county employee and 27 years as your elected County Sheriff

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## CO Proposition 131, one primary for all candidates and voters

Dear Editor,

In the 2020 General Election, there was record turnout of 87% of Colorado's registered voters. In the 2020 Colorado Primaries, 39.96% of Colorado's registered voters turned out to vote, less than half the turnout in the General Election. This is a HUGE and significant difference. It raises an important concern if, as the Executive Director of Unite America observed, "Not only do few voters participate in [Primary] elections, but those who do tend to be the most partisan and ideological—skewing election outcomes and governing incentives" (<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/03/party-primaries-must-go/618428/>).

I attended my first Party caucus almost 20 years ago. Frankly, I was disturbed seeing democracy in action. The process seemed anything but democratic; it felt as though I was being steered to decisions that had already been made. It would take me 12 years to give the process another chance and to attend caucus and assembly again.

The point is: whether the problem is

a stagnant primary system or fringe voters in a gerrymandered world, Proposition 131 provides an alternative. It provides one Primary open to all registered voters and to all candidates regardless of party affiliation with the top four vote-getters advancing to the General Election and with final-four ranked choice voting used to determine who has the majority vote. This process would affect the races for U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, governor, attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer, Colorado University board of regents, state board of education, and state legislature. The presidential race is not included.

Information is available at <https://yeson131.com/>, sponsored by Fair Vote, as well as at <https://www.uniteamerica.org/>. For the more motivated, there is also the book, "The Primary Solution" (2024). We Coloradans are smart. Isn't it time for us to be able to vote for the best qualified person, rather than for a party?

Denise Fazio, Ed.D.,  
LongmontArei facciam oc rei tu

## Supporter of humankindness

Dear Editor,

I have been casually following the banter between our county commissioner candidates and their supporters during this election season, and I am beginning to notice an unfortunate trend. Letters in the paper and posts on social media are often met with public doubt about our candidate's authentic kindness and charitable spirit. It has left me wondering: Why are people so cynical about kindness?

I feel for each local candidate as they experience this criticism of their character. However, I am especially sympathetic to Marie Mornis for

the unwarranted remarks about her sincerity. For over 30 years, I have witnessed her exude genuine kindness without expecting anything in return. Kindness isn't an action; it's a quality. When someone has this quality, you don't question the intent of their generous actions. As commissioner, I am confident that Marie will continue to perform genuine acts of kindness and advocate for the greater good in our community, just as she has done for decades before serving as commissioner.

Rebecca Blondo  
Unaffiliated Central City resident

## Here we go again, NO on Proposition 127

Dear Editor,

Here we go again, another attempt to manage wildlife by the ballot. Proposition 127 would ban hunting of mountain lions, bobcats and lynx, and criminalize killing of those species except in self-defense or to protect livestock, but not pets. It would still be ok to run over them with your car.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is a leader in science-based population management of wildlife. They've been doing an outstanding job for many decades. Mountain lion (cougar) populations have increased since the species has been managed as a valuable big game species. Our cougar population is healthy and thriving, as are the populations of deer and elk that are the big cats' primary prey. Science-based wildlife management by wildlife scientists works - maintaining the balance of nature in ecosystems increasingly impacted by humans in myriad ways, while also balancing the desires of diverse Coloradans who love, enjoy and utilize wildlife in diverse ways.

Colorado hunters harvest around 500 cougars annually. The hunt is highly regulated, with quotas in each hunting unit. Cougar hunters take a special education course, including sex identification to minimize harvest of adult females. Cougars are big game, and the same rules apply as they do for ungulates - all edible meat must be taken from harvested animals. If you want to be an educated voter on this, read the mountain lion hunting regulations on the CPW website, or google-up the January 2024 report to the CPW Commission.

The history of wildlife management by ballot, instead of science, is not a great story. In bygone days, voters wanted predator bounties and eradication programs. That's how we lost our wolves in the first place. Colorado voters banned the most effective methods of bear hunting in 1992, and by taking those tools from science-based management we now have excessive bear conflicts on the urban/wildland interface. CPW is encouraging deer and elk hunters to buy a bear tag - "in case you see one." We'll

see how the voter approved (by less than 1%) wolf reintroduction program works out - the first year hasn't been pretty. Science issues should not be determined by ballot. Should we abolish FDA and vote on what vaccines are approved for humans?

What is truly egregious about Prop. 127 is that a lot of mostly urban people - who will never see (or be seen) by a cougar in the wild, are hoping to tell a smaller number of mostly rural Coloradans what they should eat, and how they can recreate or make a living. Prop. 127 is an attempt to impose "Tyranny by the Majority" - "we don't like what you do - so we'll make it illegal."

Prop 127 will destroy the livelihoods for those few rugged souls who love, feed, train, and condition those packs of big Plott and Walker hounds, true working dogs that hunters follow in extreme terrain. It will harm rural counties that rely on hunting season sales tax revenue to provide basic public services, and further alienate rural Coloradans who produce the food and energy the urban masses consume.

## Letter to the Editor

Submit your letter to the editor by emailing the newspaper at [info@themountaineear.com](mailto:info@themountaineear.com), scanning the QR code here, or on our website at <https://www.themtneear.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](mailto: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](mailto:info@themountaineear.com).

## Thank you Sandy Hollingsworth and all contributors

Dear Editor,

Last week I posted a letter describing how the relationship between the Rudolph Ranch and Axe & Snax evolved, and the benefits Axe & Snax derives from the use of the property. I also thanked Cory Marshall for the donation. In order to provide a balanced public perspective, I would also like to acknowledge the extensive contribution Sandy Hollingsworth, Cory's opponent for District Three Commissioner, has made to Axe & Snax.

Sandy is one of our most dedicated and hard working volunteers and has been with our organization since its inception. She is often the first to sign up for new events and is very generous

with her time despite a very busy schedule. We all appreciate her years of hard work, creativity, contagious smile and dedication to our mission of helping fellow Gilpin residents.

Axe & Snax is not political and does not support any candidate in this or any other election. We do, however, appreciate all the donations we have received from Gilpin County residents either of time, money, food, wood, equipment or property use. Gilpin County is our home, and it is an honor for all Axe & Snax contributors to give back to this community that we love.

Steve Mornis  
Axe & Snax Chair



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It will do nothing for the conservation of wild cats.

The word "trophy" is absent in the ballot initiative. Proponents advertise 127 as a ban on "trophy hunting". I hunt for meat, or to make my spaniel happy. Other hunters seek both meat and a "trophy." There is nothing wrong with that. What's next? Will we have to remove the elk mount from Ace Hardware? Will display of "stuffed" elk heads, in public buildings, lodges, restaurants and resorts across Colorado be banned? We purport to value art in all forms. Taxidermy is art. Millions of visitors to the Smithsonian and Denver Museum of Nature and Science appreciate wildlife through the art of taxidermy. A "trophy" to memorialize a lifetime outdoor experience or accomplishment could be a photo, a painting, or taxidermy - leave each to their own preference.

So, let's leave wildlife science to the wildlife scientists, and value diversity of values, ideas and lifestyle as much as we value physical diversity of all people.

Dean Rundle  
Nederland

## Bring commonsense, vote Marshall

Dear Editor,

I have known Corey Marshall for almost thirty years. I used to be his neighbor and my older daughters used to babysit his lovely children. Corey was the best neighbor that anyone could ask for, as he is personable, friendly, and always showed my family kindness and acceptance.

As a law enforcement family, my husband and I always felt supported by the Marshall family and we have always seen Corey, who is a long-term local and possesses leadership qualities as an upstanding citizen in our community. Corey is not one who dwells in problems, but rather, he is a solution seeker as he considers hearing all points of views.

You've seen letters and Facebook posts trying to pigeon hole Corey as some big conservative just following the national rhetoric. That's not Corey! Corey is a local citizen with a mission and a vision to return our county to what it should be. National politics play no role in his agenda, just concern for the wellbeing of Gilpin County.

The current majority in our county leadership is and has been so poor. Instead of being the close knit community we used to have that was free of government overreach. Except for one Commissioner, we now have bureaucrats who are never close to their constituents, in fact avoid them and pushing an agenda that is everything Gilpin never wanted to be (Boulder).

As an independent voter and critical thinker, I have observed Democrats trying to stereotype Corey as just following the MAGA agenda. MAGA is a huge negative for a lot of Independent voters, who will make or break this election. After the past almost four years of paying more than double and getting less for our hard earned money just for groceries, I personally cannot continue to afford another four more years under the current policies just as most others regardless of what side of the fence people are on. I will be voting with my community's current struggles in mind in hopes of a brighter future for all.

We need the return of commonsense policies from a local level and federal level. We need leaders who are not thinking about themselves, but also consider the financial struggles and so much more of those known and unknown to them.

Elections have consequences. Fairly research all candidates, and use critical thinking when casting your votes in consideration for our community and beyond. And when you do, I believe you will reach the same conclusion I have, Corey Marshall is the long-term local, business minded leader, who will bring commonsense back to our county. Reach out to Corey Marshall with any questions or concerns you might have. He is a great listener, who cares and has solutions.

Thank you kindly and sincerely,

Becky Anderle

Gilpin County unaffiliated voter



### Gilpin County Seniors

**October 3** - Grocery shopping at Bergen Park Walmart

**October 4** - Free Senior Fit class 11 a.m., Lunch 12:15 p.m., Vaccine clinic 2 - 6 p.m.

**October 7** - Closed

**October 9** - Free Senior Fit class 11 a.m., Lunch 12:15 p.m., Free Bingo

**October 10** - Grocery shopping at Walmart

**October 11** - Free Senior Fit class 11 a.m., Lunch 12:15 p.m., Social time

**October 14** - Free Senior Fit class 11 a.m.

**October 16** - Free Senior Fit class 11 a.m., Lunch 12:15 p.m., Birthday Party!

**October 17** - Grocery shopping at Bergen Park King Soopers

**October 18** - Free Senior Fit class 11 a.m., Lunch 12:15 p.m., Free Bingo

**October 21** - Free Senior Fit class 11 a.m.

**October 23** - Free Senior Fit class 11 a.m., Lunch 12:15 p.m., Free Bingo

**October 24** - Grocery shopping at Bergen Park Walmart

**October 25** - Free Senior Fit class 11 a.m., Lunch 12:15 p.m., Social time

**October 28** - Free Senior Fit class 11 a.m.

**October 30** - Free Senior fit class 11 a.m., Lunch 12:15 p.m., Halloween Party! Foot Clinic, please RSVP

**October 31** - Grocery shopping at Bergen Park King Soopers

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

**October 2** - Sit and Stretch Yoga, 11 -11:30 a.m. in the Senior Lounge located at the Nederland Community Center.

**October 2** - Lunch: Breaded pork chop with gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli, broiled half tomato, apple

**October 9** - Sit and Stretch Yoga, 11 - 11:30 a.m., in the Senior Lounge.

**October 9** - Lunch: Sesame ginger beef, brown rice, pineapple chunks

**October 16** - Sit and Stretch Yoga, 11 - 11:30 a.m., in the Senior Lounge.

**October 16** - Lunch: Quinoa stuffed pepper casserole, mixed greens with balsamic dressing, pineapple

**October 16** - 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!

**October 23** - Sit and Stretch Yoga, 11 - 11:30 a.m., in the Senior Lounge.

**October 23** - Lunch: White chicken caprese lasagna, Spinach salad with balsamic dressing, banana

**October 30** - Lunch: Cheese enchiladas, Mexican rice, Mexican chopped salad, black beans, sour cream, plum

**October 30** - Halloween costume contest! Join us for lunch and participate in our annual costume contest. Prizes will be awarded for best dressed!

**October 30** - October 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.



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## What's Happening at Gilpin County Parks & Recreation

250 Norton Drive  
bit.ly/gilpinparksandrec, 303-582-1453  
http://www.facebook.com/gilpincounty.org/

### Pool Hours

please call to confirm prior to coming  
Monday and Wednesday: 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday - CLOSED

### Building Hours

**Closed on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday**  
Monday and Wednesday: 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Community Center Pool MAINTENANCE CLOSURE

**Pool Closed:** Monday, September 9 - Tentatively Friday, October 4

### 2024 Vaccine Clinics

Friday, October 4: 2 to 6 p.m.  
Saturday, October 19: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Friday, November 1: 2 to 6 p.m.

### Fly Rod Building Class

Saturdays October 5, 12 and 19, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Class is open to everyone over the age of 12. Veterans attending the class will be sponsored by the VFW. Learn the functions of the fly rod, how to spine the rod blank, measure for guide placement, prep the guide for feet, thread wraps, attach the tip top, reel seats and grip and how to apply the epoxy finish.

### Spooky Trick or Treat Stroll

Friday, October 25, 5 to 8 p.m. at the Gilpin County Community Center. School Carnival, Haunted Trail, JKQ BBQ, and more. A fundraiser for school clubs.

### Cardio Dance Class

Saturdays, October 12, 19 and 26 and Saturday, November 2, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Ages 14 and up. \$42 for adults and \$33 for seniors or adults can drop in for \$11 and \$9 for seniors. Cardio Dance combines high-energy music with fun, easy-to-follow moves that will get you sweating and smiling in no time. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or looking to shake up your fitness regimen, Cardio Dance is for everyone!

### Now Hiring

Part Time Guest Services Representative. For more information and other job

opportunities, visit our website <https://gilpincounty.colorado.gov/careers>.

### Eagles Teen Program - After School Monday-Thursday 4:15-7:15 p.m.

We'll be providing transportation from Gilpin County school and will be running an after-school program from 4 to 7:15 p.m., Mondays - Thursdays! Daily program is free after \$25/annual registration fee.

### Outdoor gear rentals NOW AVAILABLE at the Community Center made possible by our partnership with ACA!

Outdoor gear can be rented Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Prices vary for gear rentals. For more information please visit <https://www.alwayschooseadventures.org/gearlibrary>.

### Friends of the Gilpin County Community Center's "Heart of the Community" Fund

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

### Youth Camp (Licensed Child Care):

Monday - Thursday, 4 to 6 p.m. and

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

**Eagles Teen Program:** Monday - Thursday, 4:15 to 7 p.m.

**Soo Bahk Do:** Monday and Wednesday, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Advanced classes from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

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

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

**Senior Fit:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

**Pickleball:** (First 30 minutes is for instruction/practice; no games at this time)

Monday and Wednesday, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Friday 1 to 4 p.m.

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

**Gilpin Stitches Club:** second and fourth Mondays of each month 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Master Swim:** Monday and Wednesday, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

**Lap Swim:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8 to 9:30 a.m.



**Thursday, October 3**

Art at the Center Fall Reception: Celebrate the beauty of fall with art, music and refreshments. Enjoy stunning local pieces, and meet the artists behind them. Don't forget to vote for your favorite artwork! 5 to 7 p.m. at the Nederland Community Center located at 200 Highway 72.

**Friday, October 4**

CCCIA Open Mic: On the first Friday of every month from 7-9 p.m., the Coal Creek Canyon Improvement Association puts on an Open Mic event to showcase the talent of the canyon. Folks are welcome to perform through music, song, poetry, comedy, stories, and more! Sign up at <https://www.coalcreekcanyon.org>. Takes place at 31528 Highway 72.

Nederland Community Library -- Children's Storytime: Stories! Song! Movement! Music! Play! Every Friday morning from 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. we hold storytimes for ages 0 to 4 year olds. From 10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. we read books, sing songs, learn some ASL, and get the wiggles out! From 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. we have free play, bring out the toys and bubbles and get to know other kids, parents and caregivers.

**Saturday, October 5**

Gilpin County Farmers Market: Enjoy local vendors and live music! From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Gilpin County Community Center located at 250 Norton Drive in Black Hawk.

Calvary Chapel Harvest Festival: Join us for harvest games, prizes, and candy, as well as Navajo tacos and jewelry! Fun for the whole family. 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 275 Highway 72 in Nederland.

**Sunday, October 6**

Harvest Fest: Come out for the last Nederland Farmers Market of the year! Enjoy more than 60 different vendors including art, beer and spirits, foods, and crafts. There will also be live music from Atomga and Melt & the Family Band. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 80 East Second Street.

**Monday, October 7**

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 at [wittalisa@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:davis.eric.alan@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Tuesday, October 8**

Wild Bear Story Time: We will read books, sing songs, play, and move together, all while fostering early ecological literacy. Join us for fun, friends and community! 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at 20 Lakeview Drive in Nederland.

STEAM Club: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math activities hosted for kids grades 1-4 at the Nederland Community Library. Club meets 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>.

Non-Fiction Book Club: Introducing a new nonfiction book club that meets every other month in the evenings starting in October. Copies of Atomic Habits will be available at the Circulation desk. Please contact Jen Matthews at [jmatthews@gilpincounty.org](mailto:jmatthews@gilpincounty.org) with any questions about this book club. 6 p.m. at the Gilpin County Public Library located at 15131 Highway 119.

**Wednesday, October 9**

Children's Story Time: Join us every Wednesday morning for our Children's story time. 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 located at 15131 Highway 119.

*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](https://www.themtneer.com/events) for more upcoming events.*



# School Calendars

**Nederland Middle-Senior High School**

- Thursday, October 3 at 5:30 p.m. - SAC Meeting
- Friday, October 4 at 5:30 p.m. - JV Volleyball at STEM Highland Ranch
- Friday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m. - V Volleyball at STEM Highland Ranch
- Saturday, October 5 All Day - Cross Country at Foothill League Championship
- Sunday, October 6 All Day - Mountain Bike Race at Fruita
- Monday, October 7 All Day - Picture Retake and Staff Photo
- Monday, October 7 at 4:30 p.m. - V Boys' Soccer vs Banning Lewis Prep
- Monday, October 7 at 5 p.m. - MS Girls' Volleyball vs Eldorado
- Monday, October 7 at 5 p.m. - V Girls' Volleyball vs Poudre Community Academy at Nederland
- Tuesday, October 8 at 11:45 a.m. - Pop-Up Library at Lunch
- Tuesday, October 8 at 11:45 a.m. - Yearbook Meeting at Lunch
- Tuesday, October 8 at 5 p.m. - MS Girls' Volleyball at BHMS
- Tuesday, October 8 at 7 p.m. - Band and Orchestra Concert Grades 7-12
- Wednesday, October 9 at 8:15 a.m. - High School Academic Awards
- Wednesday, October 9 at 12:45 p.m. - CU Boulder Admissions
- Wednesday, October 9 at 4 p.m. - V Boys' Soccer at William Smith
- Wednesday, October 9 at 5:30 p.m. - V Girls' Volleyball vs William Smith at Aurora Quest K-8
- Thursday, October 10 at 4 p.m. - V Boys' Soccer at Aurora West

- Thursday, October 10 at 5 p.m. - MS Girls' Volleyball at Centennial
- Thursday, October 10 at 5:30 p.m. - JV Girls' Volleyball at Aurora West
- Thursday, October 10 at 6:30 p.m. - V Volleyball at Aurora West
- Thursday, October 10 at 7 p.m. - Choir Concert Grades 6-12
- Friday, October 11 All Day - All State Choir Auditions
- Saturday, October 12 All Day - All State Choir Auditions

**Gilpin County School**

- Thursday, October 3 at 4 p.m. - MS Volleyball at Fitzsimmons MS
- Saturday, October 5 All Day - HS Volleyball at Strasburg C Tournament TBA
- Saturday, October 5 at 9 a.m. - MS Football 8 Man Jamboree
- Saturday, October 5 at 1 p.m. - HS Football vs Clear Creek
- Monday, October 7 at 4 p.m. - PMHS Girls' Volleyball Home vs Dawson
- Tuesday, October 8 at 4 p.m. - PMHS Girls' Volleyball Home vs Denver Academy
- Wednesday, October 9 at 9 a.m. - Late Start Wednesday
- Thursday, October 10 at 4 p.m. - PMHS Girls' Volleyball at Daysprings Christian Academy
- Friday, October 11 at 3:30 p.m. - PMHS Boys' Football at Front Range Christian
- Friday, October 11 at 4 p.m. - PMMS Girls' Volleyball at Strasburg Hemphill MS
- Saturday, October 12 at 10 a.m. - PMMS Girls' Volleyball Home vs South Park



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**-QUOTE OF THE WEEK-**

*Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without passion.*  
-- Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel

# Statepoint Crossword

## THEME: FAMOUS WORLD SITES

**ACROSS**

1. To grab meat off a grill
5. Tire meas.
8. Flock member
11. Hollywood sidewalk mark
12. Architect's drawing
13. Muhammad's teachings
15. \*Leaning Tower city
16. Co-eds' military org.
17. a.k.a. Pleasant Island
18. \*Angkor Wat country
20. Like some Christmas sweaters
21. Walt's Mickey
22. Blunder
23. Emerge
26. "Midsommar" flower arrangements
30. \*Avenue des Champs-Élysées, technically
31. Plural of stria
34. Prescribed food selection
35. On pins and needles
37. Knee-related acronym
38. Fur of the marten
39. Hissy fit
40. Political "shelter"
42. The night before Christmas
43. Eyewash vessel
45. Food tester
47. King Kong, e.g.

48. Milk quantity
50. \*\_\_\_ Verde National Park
52. \*Black Hills' Mount \_\_\_ National Memorial
55. Short-trunked ungulate
56. Geometric calculation
57. Barbequed anatomy
59. Not upright
60. Mountain lake
61. \*Easter Island statues
62. Short for detective
63. Follow ems
64. "Mr. Roboto" band

**DOWN**

1. Recipe amt.
2. Related to ear
3. U.S. space agency, acr.
4. Gram, in Great Britain
5. Walks weary
6. Composer of "Gymnopédies" fame Erik \_\_\_
7. \*Machu Picchu empire
8. Twelfth month of Jewish civil year
9. On one's guard
10. Ostrich-like bird
12. Marcel of "Remembrance of Things Past" fame

13. Harden
14. \*\_\_\_ Familia, Spain
19. Autocratic
22. Earlier in time, archaic
23. Use blunt end of pencil
24. Sack fabric
25. Change shoelace knot, e.g.
26. \*China's Great attraction
27. \*Mt. Everest's northern slope location
28. Tool handle
29. Ranch grazer
32. Poison ivy woe
33. \*\_\_\_ Strait, Alaskan cruise destination
36. \*Famous onion-domed cathedral's namesake in Russia
38. Ingratiating behavior
40. Gobbled up
41. Relating to Utah
44. Like exes
46. Violent weather, pl.
48. #13 Across' sacred writings
49. Site frequenters
50. First one on a ship
51. Long narrative poem
52. Loan attribute
53. Heavy metal's Quiet \_\_\_
54. E-commerce website
55. Sylvester, to Tweety
58. Broadway musical about wives of Henry VIII

### Sudoku Solution

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

Sudoku solution September 26

### Puzzle Solution

O	S	A	K	A	B	B	S	L	A	P	P		
V	A	N	E	D	A	S	H	V	E	N	U	E	
E	V	E	N	S	L	E	I	A	N	T	R	A	
N	E	W	Y	O	R	K	R	U	S	S	E	L	
			A	R	E	A	R	M	S				
A	P	E	B	A	W	L	P	A	R	S	E	C	
V	A	N	S	D	I	G	S	L	O	C	A	L	
O	N	T	O	S	L	E	P	T	S	O	S	O	
W	I	E	L	D	T	B	A	R	S	P	E	C	
S	C	R	E	E	N	R	Y	A	S	E	L	K	
			C	O	C	A	C	H	A				
F	O	R	W	A	R	D	C	E	L	T	I	C	S
U	N	A	R	M	R	N	A	O	S	T	I	A	
S	C	R	A	P	O	B	I	C	E	L	T	S	
S	E	E	P	M	A	N	K	A	L	E	S		

Crossword solution September 26

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11					12				13	14	
15					16				17		
	18			19					20		
			21					22			
23	24	25				26			27	28	29
30			31		32	33			34		
35			36		37				38		
39				40				41			42
43				44				45		46	
			47			48	49				
	50	51			52				53	54	
55					56				57		58
59					60				61		
62					63				64		

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

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



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# Sweet 2024 Homecoming



PHOTO BY SARA SANDSTROM

### Fast on offense

Nederland freshman Issac Levy wasted no time getting to the ball despite the Twin Peaks players nearby.

*continued from page 1*

Ben Weber are off to great starts this season and leading the team. Coombs said, "We have our league meet on October 5, and we are ready for a really strong performance."

While the cross country team was running in Estes Park, the middle schoolers at NMSHS were playing Capture the Chicken, and the high schoolers were celebrating with the annual homecoming pep rally.

This is a pep rally filled with activities, where both students and staff participate. There is always the highly anticipated pie eating contest. There's "which class can yell the loudest"; there's "spike ball"; and there are other games that are fun to watch and be a

part of. The joyful roar of school spirit rattled the beams and could be heard outside the gymnasium as the classes cheered each other on.

The JV and varsity volleyball teams played Twin Peaks Charter Academy on Friday night for their homecoming game. The teams are coached by Nicole Zotti and Nancy Bodnar.

The undefeated JV team took to the court first. They remain undefeated after their match with Twin Peaks.

And if that game wasn't exciting enough, then came the varsity game! Two well-matched teams faced each other across the net. The first game went to Twin Peaks. The Panthers clawed their way back to win the second game.

With six seniors on the team this season, the Panthers have a depth of experience on

the court. Before the game, Coach Zotti said of the seniors, "Their experience and leadership are what will propel this team forward this season."

On that night both teams showed grit and determination. Every point was hard fought with Zotti telling her team during the game when they were down by a few points, "Keep swinging, one point at a time!"

The Panthers have been working hard during the off season, and, according to Zotti, their "skill level improved vastly." They had good control of the net and their serving was solid.

"We have a strong mental game, which is something we have been really working hard on over the past few years. One of our biggest challenges is believing in ourselves."

The Panthers' volleyball team has every reason to believe in themselves and their team. They came back from behind to win game 4 and then they won game 5. They won the match by a score of 3-2. It was an exciting evening of volleyball.

The team's overall record is now 4-6.

On Saturday, September 28, the NMSHS Homecoming parade was the center of attention. Each high school class decorated a float with the theme of "Mario Kart." The students tossed out candy as they proceeded, and waved to all the spectators.

The Nederland Fire Protection District led the way with one of their trucks. Because of our gorgeous Fall colors and the annual "invasion" of leaf peepers, the parade weaved its way through a very busy town of Nederland. The parade ended at NMSHS, where the Panther Parents/PTA hosted their annual barbeque before the homecoming soccer game.

Nederland High School's boys' soccer team has 26 players and for the first time, both a JV and a varsity team. This is thanks to the consistent and enthusiastic coaching of Luis Gonzalez, the support of parents and the schools, and Peak to Peak Soccer, who teaches the youngest Panthers to play soccer.

Coach Gonzalez and his team played

the Twin Peaks Charter Timberwolves for the Homecoming soccer game. Before the game, Gonzalez said, "These kids believe in what they do. It is great to work with them every day because they are a great group."

The team has had to deal with some injuries early in the season. Gonzalez sees the team improving with every game and has the goal of reaching the playoffs.

With nine seniors on the team there is immense experience on the field. Starting goalkeeper senior Eli Weiner has been tending the net for four years. Freshman goalkeeper Tad Collins comes in later in the games to complete a solid goaltending team for the Panthers.

Senior Cedar Shupe made an early goal for the Panthers. Later in the game seniors Jayden Abookire and Jesse Siegel Gane added a point each to the score. All were assisted by their teammates on this well-balanced team.

When the whistle blew to mark the end of the game, the Nederland Panthers had won 3 - 0.

During half time the Homecoming Court was announced. Freshmen Court, Penny Bodnar and Naima Bullings; Sophomore Court, Amika Begin and River Lemaster; Junior Court, Sierra Tomlinson and Abby Hess. Senior Royalty included Eli Weiner (king) and Payton Kutscher (queen).

After all the sporting events were finished, it was time for the Homecoming Dance. Students and parents gathered at Chipeta Park for a photo opportunity with the beautiful Fall foliage. Everyone was in high spirits as they moved on to the community center for the last, most memorable of the 2024 Nederland Homecoming events.

Homecoming is always one of the most exciting weeks of the school year. There is a change of pace as the school celebrates who they are. All the hard work and dedication of students, athletes, coaches, and staff could be seen. Congratulations on an excellent 2024 Homecoming, Nederland Panthers!

*continued on page 12*

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# Sweet 2024 Homecoming

continued from page 11



**Senior float**  
The senior float goes by. Do you know the Mario characters?



**Panther pride**  
The sophomore class float in the parade in Nederland.

PHOTOS BY SARA SANDSTROM



**Homecoming win**  
Nederland High School Boys' Soccer team after their homecoming victory.



**Halftime shoot out**  
Nederland's Peak to Peak Soccer coaches young Panthers how to play soccer.



**Defending the goal**  
Nederland junior Drew Hertzfeld defends the goal by heading the ball.



**Nederland High School's Homecoming Court and Royalty**  
From left to right; Penny Bodnar, Naima Bullings, Amika Begin, River Lemaster, Sierra Tomlinson, Abby Hess, Payton Kutscher, and Eli Weiner.

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# Sweet 2024 Homecoming



PHOTOS BY SARA SANDSTROM

### Panther runners

Nederland High School's Cross Country team in Estes Park, from left to right, Coach Gavin Coombs, Libby Chandler, Nitzana Harkness, Ben Weber, Lukey Mahorski-Bodley, Amika Begin, Eliza Brundege, and Coach Kathy Butler.



### Fun during Homecoming

The middle school students played Catch the Chicken during Homecoming festivities.



### Homecoming pep rally

Students and staff had fun at the pep rally.



### Power at the net

Nederland sophomore River Lemaster is aggressive at the net.



### Yum, pie!

NMSHS physical education teacher John Mitrano participated in the pie eating contest.



### Pep rally games

Students had a spike ball tournament at the pep rally.



### Point Panthers

Senior Amelie Bodnar celebrates a point. She is sixth in the Foothills League for Kills.



### Power and skill

Nederland senior Kendall Zotti serves the ball during the Homecoming match. Zotti is third in the Foothills League for Aces and second in the Foothills League for Digs.

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# Colors are everywhere at Gilpin Elementary School Fundraiser



PHOTOS BY CURT HALSTED

### Ready, set, go!

Gilpin Elementary students raced and raised nearly \$7000 in donations for participating in the first annual Color Run. Along with funds from a bake sale and grants, they raised the full amount needed for the 100 Elk Outdoor Education Retreat for 4th and 5th grade students this year. Attendees were not sure who had more fun, the students or Elementary Principal Mr. Linnehan. He hopes this can be a yearly event.



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### COMMONSENSE BUSINESS APPROACH

Running the county like a successful business means we'll have a vision and a detailed plan of where we are going. We'll continually monitor a forecast of how we are doing against our plan, and the decisions we make will successfully support and execute our plan. We will know how each decision we make impacts our ability to achieve the plan of a well run county.

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# Discover Colorado

## Finding balance amid life's fragile realities



PHOTOS BY OMAIRA ACEVEDO

### Catching curve balls

Above: Rocky Mountain National Park creates a serene background at the YMCA in Estes Park. Right: A baby hummingbird's resting place serves as a reminder of the beauty and darkness of life.

### OMAIRA ACEVEDO

**ESTES PARK** - As the hummingbirds made their way south a few weeks ago, I watched a momma and two babies feed from my garden. I could tell one of

the babies was out of sorts. It struggled to fly, constantly landing to rest, sometimes, on its back.

As I observed its mom attempt to encourage it to fly and feed, something in my gut told me it wouldn't make

it. According to the American Bird Conservancy, 31 percent of adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and 42 percent of females survive any given year.

The average hummingbird lives five years, and babies only have a 59% chance of survival, and the chance of survival can drastically reduce the more babies a mom has to care for. Unfortunately, anything can claim a baby hummingbird, including sudden severe weather.

Mom stopped coming around. I felt more helpless than I had in a long time. I watched the baby slowly take its last few breaths. My heart sank. This is a challenge for any empath-you can't help but feel someone else's pain or emotions as if they were yours.

I waited to compose myself before digging a tiny grave and making a gravestone. I thanked it for making the world more beautiful, and all I could do was sit next to its resting place, under a tree, self-reflecting.

Two days later, I found joy at the YMCA of the Rockies. It was Saturday, August 31. The annual John Denver tribute concert was underway, with Random and True as the opening band,

which you can read about in the May 4, 2023, edition of *The Mountain-Ear* or by clicking here: <https://www.themtnear.com/articles/an-accidental-meeting-of-musical-proportions/>.

The YMCA of the Rockies is the largest camp and conference center in the area, boasting endless activities from archery and yoga to hiking and crafts, serving well over 200,000 guests every year.

For families with four-legged members, the off-leash Murphy's Mountain Dog Park is perfect for canines. There's always something exciting happening at the YMCA. If you're seeking an adventurous holiday, a romantic getaway, or bonding time with the family, the YMCA of the Rockies can cater to your needs.

After the concert, I drove home, thinking about my baby hummingbird. I sat under the tree, reflecting on the week. Then, a squirrel pooped on my head.

*The YMCA of the Rockies is located at 2515 Tunnel Road, Estes Park. You can find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ymcarockies/> or call them at 970-887-2152.*



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# Keep It Local: Indian Peaks Ace Hardware



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ACE HARDWARE

### Nearly 40 years of service

Scenes from the community's longtime family-run hardware store.

*continued from page 1*

done business with the 20+ employees at Ace, Culver is most proud of the fact that for them, they are “focused on service first.” She adds that “We want to make sure you get exactly what you need to get the job done. We carry a little bit of everything and we provide a variety of in-store services ...”

Culver continues to stress that “Unlike the big box hardware stores, we put an emphasis on the customer first because our customers are our neighbors and we want to see them succeed in whatever they are trying to do. We know what mountain living is like, including all of its challenges, and we seek to have products and services that are specifically catered to the needs of locals and visitors alike.” If they

don't have what you need, they will try to get it to the store within three to five days.

The Covid pandemic drove the store into “the next level” of providing products and service, leading them to “using our time and our space more efficiently so that we have the ability to meet our customers’ needs.” Culver adds, “We love to be a part of the local community by giving back, not only through our register round-up program and donations that benefit local nonprofits, but we also work with various groups that plan community events.”

Now they are adding, as a goal for the coming year, “to increase our service to our business customers.” Culver continues. “We have created and filled a position for a Business to Business

Coordinator... to interface with our business customers to ensure that we are not only meeting their needs, but also providing the best services and prices to help them succeed.”

*Indian Peaks Ace Hardware is located at 74 Highway 119 South in Nederland. You can call them with all your hardware questions at 303-258-3132, or email them at office@indianpeaksace.com. They have a website, at <https://www.IndianPeaksAce.com> and an active Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/IndianPeaksAce>.*



This article is sponsored by the Nederland Downtown Development Authority (NDDA). The NDDA encourages the community to Keep It Local. Shop local, spend local and keep economic vitality alive in the Peak to Peak region.



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# Keep it local: Peak to Peak Endurance



## HOPE MUNOZ

**NEDERLAND** - Gavin Coombs was a professional runner when he moved himself and his family to Nederland. The small-town feel and towering mountains of the area led them to stick around. About six years later, Coombs

owns and operates a non-profit, the Peak to Peak Endurance Foundation.

In the past, Coombs has worked with plenty of nonprofits, such as one for after-school programming. Naturally, he keeps an eye out for community needs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Coombs enrolled his son in hockey and other sports. As he became acquainted with local families, he noticed the lack of focused youth sports programming in Nederland. From these concerns, Peak to Peak Endurance was born and launched in 2023.

Peak to Peak Endurance is centered on Nederland, but also serves youth in the greater region. Youth from Estes Park to Central City are encouraged to join in on the fun. The organization solely concentrates on developing high-quality and affordable youth sports programs. They target all youth, but focus on ages 14 and under.

“Because we’re able to focus specifically on youth sports, we are a little bit better situated than maybe some others to be able to run some of these programs,” Coombs said.

Peak to Peak Endurance’s first project was the launch of Ned Shred MTB, a free program that provides mountain biking opportunities to youth in Nederland. They partnered with Nederland Elementary PTA and Single

Track Mountain Biking Adventures. As part of the program, elementary school students can borrow a bike and receive professional instruction.

Coombs feels that affordable and high quality programming should not be mutually exclusive. In addition to Ned Shred MTB, Peak to Peak Endurance runs three other inexpensive programs: basketball, soccer, and hockey. Scholarships are available -- no questions asked -- for those who wish to enroll. All prospective players must do is click a button, get a code, and receive free entry.

Unquestioned scholarships and free mountain bike access beg the question: How are these programs so affordable? According to Coombs, it is a community effort. A good amount of support comes from fundraising, grants, and volunteers for the program.

“We don’t make really any money on any of these programs that we run,” Coombs said. “We keep the pricing as affordable as we can.”

Peak to Peak Endurance now operates programs, like the Nederland Youth Hockey Association, that have been around for decades. Coombs acknowledges the great work they have done, and hopes only to improve upon the foundation previously built. Before Peak to Peak Endurance, Coombs

feels, the programs were disjointed and did not work well together. Having all the programs under one umbrella organization makes it easier for funding and registration processes.

For now, Coombs is happy growing and improving current programs. There are no plans for expansion, but the organization is always open to new ideas. Their development is determined by whether there is a need and an ability to make it happen.

With new change comes new improvement. Programs now run more smoothly and foster longevity. Coombs enjoys helping create a vibrant and thriving community.

“When I get to go watch my kids play soccer and see 120 Ned kids playing soccer on a Saturday, it’s just really cool to see,” Coombs said. “I’m just really proud that we are able to make sure that these programs keep going. I think it’s just been a cool thing to be a part of.”

This article is sponsored by the Nederland Downtown Development Authority (NDDA). The NDDA encourages the community to Keep It Local. Shop local, spend local and keep economic vitality alive in the Peak to Peak region.

## POETRY

*Some words for the week*

## CORNER

I drive on a road  
I used to drive down  
multiple times a day  
some stretch of asphalt  
with a mountain view  
in the time I've been gone  
this place has not changed much  
but I have  
the aspens are gold now  
when they were once green  
and soon they will be bare  
and the snows will come  
the mountains rise up  
to jaggedly meet the sky  
some giant puzzle pieces  
fitting perfectly into place  
I see three deer and a blackbird  
in the aspen grove  
as I pass through  
and the air through my windows  
smells of fall  
yes it has been a while  
since I took these curves  
and the seasons  
color the landscape  
with weather and life  
but this place is still  
what it always was  
as I passed by it in the car  
over decades  
in the backseat  
when I was young  
when I could finally drive my own car  
when I drove here for work  
or was going home in the dark  
this place is still beautiful  
even though I have left it  
and I think that's one thing  
we all can dream together  
that all these places  
we have found gorgeous  
can stay so in our absence  
so that we can one day return  
and remember  
all the beauty we have seen  
and which may live forever  
before and beyond us

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



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PEAK TO PEAK ENDURANCE

### Building skills and confidence

Peak to Peak Endurance supports Nederland's youth through mountain biking and soccer.

Have you received a letter from your internet service provider telling you they would be terminating your service? If so, please share a copy of those letters with Gilpin County by October 21. You can send a copy of those letters in any of the following ways:

- via email to [mbleyler@gilpincounty.org](mailto:mbleyler@gilpincounty.org)
- mail to Gilpin County, PO Box 366, Central City, CO 80427, Attn: Melanie Bleyler
- deliver in person to the Historic Courthouse in Central City c/o Melanie Bleyler

We would also welcome denial letters from internet service providers you may have received while seeking service. These letters are important for Gilpin County to provide evidence that our residents are not receiving the level of broadband service that is listed on state and federal mapping.



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





# Gilpin County dance keeps the Community Center thriving!



PHOTOS BY MINDY LEARY

## Fun and fundraising at Gilpin Community Center

Left: Channeling her inner hippie, Commissioner Marie Mornis grooves with her partner at the Friends of Gilpin County Community Center's lively fundraiser dance. Top, right: A young boy in a cowboy hat hits the dance floor. Bottom, right: Jim and Sharon Peyrouse strike a pose in front of festive decorations at the fundraiser. The event's proceeds will fund an on-demand video exercise program, reducing the need for live instructors.

## MINDY LEARY

**GILPIN COUNTY** - Last Saturday, September 28, 2024, the Gilpin County Community Center was buzzing with energy as about 50 locals came together for a festive fundraiser/dance party hosted by the Friends of Gilpin County Community Center (FGCCC).

From 5:30 to 9 p.m. at 250 Norton Drive, this colorful event featured music that spanned generations, bringing everyone to their feet for a night of fun and celebration.

The idea for the event came from

volunteer Marilyn Ashmore, who, back in January, dreamed of throwing a celebration to show off the lively support for the community center. The dance party delivered on her vision, showcasing music from the 1920s to the present, and featuring everything from classic jazz to modern hits. Attendees enjoyed dancing the night away to 55 carefully curated songs that told the story of music's evolution through the decades.

Decorations added to the party's charm, with old sheet music and over 40 vinyl records hanging from the ceiling, including some from Ashmore's father's own collection. Wall murals of

dancers added a nostalgic touch, and anonymous judges crowned the best-dressed guests in a costume contest.

For just \$30 per ticket (with discounts for teens, seniors, and children), guests also enjoyed a variety of light refreshments – lemonade, apple juice, fruits, pretzels, nuts, chips, and candy. Children under five attended free, making the event an all-ages affair.

One of the evening's highlights was a freestyle dance group from Boulder, performing contemporary hip hop moves. "We wanted to teach the older generations some of the newer styles of dancing," said Ashmore with a smile.

While the party was certainly about having fun, it also had a greater purpose: raising funds for an on-demand video exercise program at the Community Center. This innovative subscription service will allow residents to access fitness classes – like yoga and Zumba – on their own schedules, expanding the Center's offerings without requiring instructors. "Tonight was about raising funds to 'raise the fun' at the Center," Ashmore explained.

The dance was also a way to celebrate the Community Center's recent reopening after undergoing much-needed improvements, including updates to the roof, HVAC system, flooring, and pool filters.

The pool itself is set to reopen on October 4. Carolyn Petersen of FGCCC emphasized the importance of keeping the Center "front and center" in the minds of both the community and County commissioners, ensuring that it remains a hub for residents.

Dedicated volunteers, including Carolyn Petersen, Karen Eye, Greg Petty, Sherry Locton, Lynn Gibbs, Mary Lorenz, John Bryan, Roxy Goss, Krystal Meyer, and Gabrielle Chisholm, worked hard to make the night a success. Sponsors like United Power, Hi-Heat & Sweets, *The Mountain-Ear*, *The Weekly Register-Call*, and private donors helped bring the event to life.

The FGCCC continues to grow, and they need your support! Whether it's volunteering your time, donating, or just spreading the word, every little bit helps keep the Gilpin County Community Center thriving. As Ashmore so aptly put it, "We finally got capital improvements!" and with the community's help, the fun is just getting started.

*For more information or to get involved, visit FGCCC on Facebook or check out their website at [gilpincommunitycenter.org](http://gilpincommunitycenter.org). And as the dance party proved, this community isn't going to stop believing in their Community Center anytime soon!*




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**Jimmy Keith**

RE/MAX  
of Boulder INC.

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# What is Nederland's CWPP?: Part 3

CHRISTOPHER KELLEY

**NEDERLAND** - In *The Mountain-Ear's* final coverage of the Nederland and Timberline Fire Protection District's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), the focus is on the many wildfire resilience-based programs and initiatives that have been implemented to support the plan.

The CWPP has been in development for two years, in tandem with both Boulder County's and Gilpin County's protection plans and includes recommendations, curated from public engagement, for creating a fire-adapted community, safe and effective wildfire response, and resilient landscapes.

Previous coverage of the CWPP detailed the community engagement efforts and the many collaborative partners, including The Town of Nederland, Boulder County, City of Boulder, Colorado and U.S. Forest Services, Nederland and Timberline Fire Protection Districts, Boulder Watershed Collective (BWC), United Power, The Ember Alliance, and Coalitions and Collaborations Inc., who contributed to the drafting of the plan.

On August 20, 2024, representatives of BWC presented to the Nederland Board of Trustees an update on the status of the CWPP, and a synopsis of the recommendations within. The presentation led Trustees, and Town Administrator Jonathan Cain, to recognize the need to mitigate Town-owned roads, and to reach out to CDOT about mitigating the highway.

On September 17, Emergency

Services Manager Troy Hendricks provided an update in his staff report regarding the Town's Emergency Operations Plan, which has been drafted and been submitted for approval. Hendricks described the plan as outlining the "roles, responsibilities, and procedures for responding to major incidents and disasters."

The Nederland Emergency Management webpage, at <https://townofnederland.colorado.gov/Emergency-Management> has been updated to provide residents with ease of access to information on creating a personal evacuation plan, packing an emergency kit, and signing up for alerts from Boulder County.

Additionally, the Town has allocated funds to not just draft the Emergency Operations Plan, but also create an educational curriculum for the public on wildfire and emergency preparedness.

Residents should soon see an informative pamphlet in their mail titled "Wildfire and Emergency Preparedness Planning." The pamphlet details how to identify and prepare for the hazards of wildfire, flood, and severe weather, including invaluable resources for emergency preparedness, wildfire mitigation, smoke readiness, and insurance issues.

The Nederland Fire Protection District (NFPD) is also working to provide mitigation services to homeowners through Fire Chief Charlie Schmidtman's proposal to create a joint Mitigation Authority with the Timberline Fire Protection District (TFPD).

The proposal was discussed by the NFPD during their meeting of the Board of Directors on August 21.

For full coverage of that meeting please read "Tensions Rise During Fire Restrictions" here: <https://www.themtnear.com/articles/tensions-rise-during-fire-restrictions/>

"We don't train our volunteers for fire mitigation," Schmidtman explained in an interview with *The Mountain-Ear*. "They are there for the immediate emergency and whatever that looks like, whether it be the broken foot, the house that's on fire, or the basement that's flooding. The mitigation stuff really comes to the Fire Marshal and me."

"We make recommendations to the home owners about what's required in the code, on what historically or scientifically has been proven to cause a fire or help prevent one or the spread of one."

The Mitigation Authority proposed by Schmidtman would support the tenets on which the CWPP was built upon, and would fulfill the NFPD's goal of ensuring that the recommendations found in the CWPP are actionable.

The Authority's Board would consist of members from both Districts and would offer mitigation services for a fee. The fee is to cover the cost of the Authority's insurance and the salaries of the mitigation staff, who would only be paid when deployed.

Schmidtman also assured the NFPD Board of Directors that the Authority would not stretch the District's resources too thin, and that mitigation efforts will only be prioritized when the fire risk in the area is low.

"The portion that's closest to your home is the most impactful," Fire Marshal Andrew Joslin told *The Mountain-Ear*. "But there needs to be a community effort of folks thinking

about their neighbors and considering the connective fuels."

Joslin described how a tree may not directly endanger the property owners home, but may encroach onto a neighbor's property and create a fire danger.

"Think about a flame front coming in towards your home and how you're going to slow it down by eradicating unnecessary fuels. And of course conflagrations are a thing, and in that scenario building materials are extremely important, especially your roof."

Joslin also explained the additional measures being taken by himself and other members of the NFPD to help enforce fire restrictions when they are enacted.

According to the Chief's staff report delivered during the August 21 meeting, more than 11 calls of illegal campfires were responded to that month after Stage 2 Fire Restrictions had been enacted. Firefighters responded with increased patrols of popular camping areas and by posting signs at those locations.

"Within the last 20 years we've gone from most of the fires being naturally caused to now about 95% of them being human caused," Joslin said in his interview with *The Mountain-Ear*.

"As a community we have a problem and my hope is to create awareness about it. I do intend to do something about it and I do intend to have more of a process in engaging with the general public."

Joslin, along with Captain Nick Faes and others, circulated information on the fire restrictions to local businesses, as well as requested of them to stop selling firewood.

"I reached out to B&F and Ace hardware when we entered Stage 2 restrictions and they were very receptive to ceasing the selling of firewood, and big props to them for doing that," Joslin said.

*continued on page 21*

**Vote 2024**  
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For Gilpin County Commissioner

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- Listen to all constituents with an open door policy.
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- Fund the Sheriffs department at levels required and supports funding community based services such as the Community Center, senior housing, and childcare.
- Preserve the integrity of Gilpin County independence by carefully considering the relationships with Black Hawk and Central City.

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continued from page 20

“They do take a hit on their profits and that shows their commitment to the community, and I think that’s really great,” Schmidtman agreed.

Additionally, Joslin is hoping to receive funds to purchase more educational signage to post throughout the district when fire restrictions are imposed. He also noted that the CWPP process has opened up communications between himself and the Town of Nederland concerning mitigation concerns.

“I brought up a couple areas of concern that are owned by Town because I view those as low hanging fruit, and the Town was very receptive about the problem areas,” Joslin said. “I feel like all this came through during the CWPP program. We’re collectively coming up with ways of ensuring mitigation is happening.”

Nederland’s Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Board (PROSAB) has also been working on organizing eager volunteers to mitigate other public assets and Town-owned properties.

On Saturday, September 14, PROSAB Board Member CT Hutt, with assistance from fellow PROSAB members, Town staff, BWC, former organizers of Saws and Slaws, and Wildfire Partners, organized up to 30 volunteers and mitigated a significant portion of Nederland’s newest open space, Moose Meadows.

For full coverage of Hutt’s report on the success of this mitigation effort, please read “Moose Meadows Mitigation a Successful Symphony,” found here: <https://www.themtnear.com/articles/moose-meadows-mitigation-a-successful-symphony/> “Some people like to shake their fist

and say nothing ever gets done in this town; well, they’re dead wrong and the community really proved that,” Hutt said at PROSAB’s meeting on September 19.

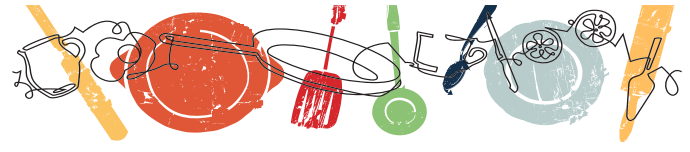
Also during that meeting, it was discussed that there is still more mitigation work to be done at Moose Meadows, as well as on other parcels owned by the Town of Nederland, including the Wingate Property, indicated by Fire Marshal Joslin as a high priority for future mitigation effort.

Nederland’s Parks Department Manager Nicki Dunn informed PROSAB that mitigation projects around NedRINK and the Old Town neighborhood are planned to be funded by grants. Additionally, the Mile High Youth Corps was scheduled to assist in clear-cutting three feet around every fire hydrant in Old Town, and mitigating some of Town’s smaller parcels.

BWC has been assisting with educating Old Town residents on home hardening and wildlife resiliency, worked with PROSAB on building a volunteer mitigation event, and also collaborated with Hendricks on the creation of the informative “Wildfire and Emergency Preparedness Planning” mailers.

Efforts are continuing to be made by BWC to mitigate a parcel of land known as the Tucker property, which will include community engagement pertaining to the use of the land. BWC will also be focusing on ensuring Nederland’s water infrastructure is protected and capable of meeting the Town’s needs in case of wildfire.

To view the full 263 page CWPP, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/CWPP2024>.



## OCTOBER RECIPES



### Mediterranean Chicken Couscous

This lovely, light Greek-tasting dish is a perfect lunch or light dinner. I find that it has more “body” if made with pearl couscous, but the choice is yours.

**Serves four**

**Ingredients**

**For the chicken:**

- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, flattened if too plump
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Juice of 1 lemon

**For the couscous:**

- 1 cup couscous
- 1 1/4 cups chicken broth or vegetable broth
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1/2 tsp salt

**For the toppings:**

- 1/2 cup cherry tomatoes, cut in half
- 1/4 cup diced cucumber

- 1/4 cup pitted Kalamata olives, cut in pieces
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 2 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- lemon wedges for serving

**Instructions**

• **Marinate the chicken:** If your chicken breasts are more than 1/2 inch thick, place between pieces of waxed paper or plastic wrap, and bash with a small saucepan until thin enough.

• In a small bowl, mix the olive oil, cumin, paprika, garlic powder, oregano, salt, pepper, and lemon juice. Rub this mixture on the chicken breasts and let them marinate for at least 20 minutes, or up to 2 hours in the fridge.

• **Cook the couscous:** Bring the broth to a boil in a medium saucepan. Stir in the couscous, olive oil, and salt, then remove from heat. Cover the saucepan and let the couscous sit for 5 minutes. Fluff with a fork and set aside.

• (If you use Israeli-style pearl couscous, follow directions for cooking 1 cup. It will take a few more minutes than the “regular” North African type.)

• **Cook the chicken:** Heat a skillet over medium-high heat and cook the marinated chicken breasts for 5-6 minutes per side, or until fully cooked and browned. Remove from the heat and let the chicken rest for a few minutes before slicing.

• **Assemble the dish:** In a large bowl, combine the cooked couscous with the cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, olives, feta cheese, and fresh parsley. Toss gently to combine.

• **Serve:** Serve the couscous topped with the sliced chicken, more parsley, and a squeeze of fresh lemon.

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# Golden Gate Fire bickers again



## Golden Gate Fire Protection District

The Golden Gate Fire Protection District Board met on September 6, 2024, at 7 p.m. at the Grange. From left, Steve Green, Marith Reheis, Secretary; Nifty Ovuworie, Vice-President and Treasurer; Deb Curlee, President, Dave Primmer and Fire Chief Kyle Benson.

PHOTO BY JOHN SCARFFE

### JOHN SCARFFE

**GOLDEN GATE CANYON** - The Golden Gate Fire Protection District Board approved a pest control contract during a regular meeting on September 6, 2024. All Board members were present: Deb Curlee, President; Nifty Ovuworie, Vice-President and Treasurer; Marith Reheis, Secretary; Steve Green, and Dave Primmer. About seven members of the public attended.

Under conflicts of interest, Ovuworie said that Green would have to declare a conflict of interest regarding the agenda item on Station 83 because he is a neighbor to the property. Primmer said his motion on that item will address not wasting money.

Regarding pest control at fire stations, Chief Kyle Benson said during his report that there has been a lot of investment in the district including new bunker gear. However, that gear has seen damage

from mice, and there also have been problems with mice in bunker gear and trucks even though the buildings are sealed.

The trucks can't go out, he said, if they have mice. So Benson would like to approve a contract for all stations. "We are the custodian of tax dollars. We should protect it the best we can."

Ovuworie moved to approve the pest control contract, which was quickly seconded. Primmer said the mice will disappear if you put out what he uses and put bunker gear where mice can't get to it.

Green said all the mice are gone at his house since he did what Primmer suggested. Benson responded that the fire department has tried everything and even had a cat at one point. The problem occurs at all stations.

Ovuworie said the price quotes are posted online. Using a home remedy, he added, may set up the district for damages.

Secretary Reheis said professional pest control would cost \$1,000 for a set-up fee and \$330 a month for a total of about \$4,000 per year.

Ovuworie asked if we want our firefighters setting traps and putting down poison. "We should pay a professional to do it," he suggested. Reheis said we could try that for a year. Primmer said it takes five minutes to put out the poison.

Ovuworie reworded the motion to include approving a contract with Orkin, and the Board approved, with Green and Primmer voting against it.

Primmer asked to see 12 months of credit card statements. Curlee said to do so must be in response to a CORA request. Primmer cited an expense for cast iron and one for a beer at a tavern. He moved to look at this a lot more closely, and Green seconded.

Benson responded that he was providing lunch at the Tavern, and that they can't buy alcohol with the credit card. Primmer suggested that they are trying to hide something. Curlee said the credit card statement has credit card numbers and is not part of the public record. It's a CORA request.

During his treasurer's report, he said they are not hiding expenses. It had been a request to produce credit card statement, which are available in the transactions list.

"I've taken an oath of office," he said. "My job is to record. To have all the credit card statements reviewed, it would take four hours to produce the credit card statement. It will cost \$90 to produce."

After the motion, Ovuworie said to look at the transaction list. He pointed out earlier in his report that the transaction list is our transparency. The transaction list has been satisfactory for

years. Since 2017 it has been posted regularly. It has much more available online, but never included credit card transactions. It is not a good use of time to pull individual receipts, he added.

Three Board members voted nay, and Primmer and Green voted yes.

Ovuworie proposed a motion to amend meeting rules for Board efficiency. In order to encourage efficient use of time, if the Board votes on something, it can't be discussed again until a new board is elected. Curlee seconded the motion.

Green said that this is another attempt to take board members out of the loop. "Dave [Primmer] and I won't be able to speak."

Curlee said that "you have the opportunity to talk about it when the motion is made." Primmer said that there is a free speech amendment in this country.

Reheis said the concern is that once a decision has been made and a motion approved, it comes up again and is revisited. "We're going around in circles," he noted. The proposal, he added, does not limit free speech.

The Board approved the motion, with Green and Primmer voting Nay.

Primmer moved to resolve Station 83 drainage and just discuss it. At that point, Green left the meeting.

Reheis said they should just go out to the station and talk about it. Remedial work could be done with the County. The problem was created when the owner of the neighboring land put in the culvert. The previous board went through all of this, and looked at how to deal with the situation. Green didn't create the problem. It would be a very minor fix, he said. "I don't understand why it is such a big deal."

Ovuworie said they have the Station 83 drainage engineer's report. The critical issue is when the culvert was installed. "Mr. Green wants us to take taxpayer dollars to fix it," he said.

Primmer said not to waste money on lawyers. Ovuworie said that "we haven't spent money on lawyers. We are not suing anyone." There is no resolution from the County. We all voted to get an engineer, he added. "That's all we've done so far."

The motion was to stop legal proceedings and work among themselves, and Reheis said to work together with the County. The Board approved the motion.

Primmer moved to be allowed to ask the Chief questions, and the Board agreed.

During his treasurer's report, Ovuworie said financials are on the website. Right now, the District has \$523,000 in savings.

The budget committee met and will

*continued on page 23*

## Vote

# Marie Mornis

As your Incumbent Commissioner, I will continue to:

- Keep money in your pocket
- Protect our rural county
- Keep listening to you

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# Black Hawk stands firm on IGA deal

MINDY LEARY

**BLACK HAWK** - The Black Hawk City Council convened on September 25, 2024, addressing several key resolutions and City matters, most importantly their proposed IGA with Gilpin County. They also dealt with insurance renewals, commercial leases, and equipment contracts.

Present at the meeting were Mayor David Spellman and Aldermen Linda Armbright,

Paul Bennett, Jim Johnson, Hal Midcap, Greg Moates, and Benito Torres.

A new addition to the business community, Ted Garcia, was recognized for the imminent opening of his art gallery at Gregory Plaza. As the town's newest retailer, Garcia also took on the ceremonial role of bell ringer for the meeting.

During the Aldermen Comments section of the meeting, Mayor Spellman suggested that newsletters be mailed to residents to inform them of the City's use and sales tax reimbursement policy,

noting that new residents may not be aware of the benefit. "I think we have some new residents that are not aware of the policy," Spellman stated.

The Mayor then strongly addressed recent Letters to the Editor written by Eric Douglas of Gilpin County, who had criticized the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Black Hawk and Gilpin County.

Douglas alleged that the IGA, which involves Black Hawk contributing \$1 million per year to the County, which must then agree not to raise local taxes, would disproportionately benefit casinos and wealthier citizens.

Spellman refuted these claims, stating, "I was the one that came up with this idea, and the casinos were not top of mind when I had this idea...It's misinformation. It's deceitful. It's an outright lie. He has no idea what we had in mind."

Spellman emphasized that the IGA would help keep property taxes low, benefiting all Gilpin County residents. He also dismissed calls to amend the agreement from Gilpin County Commissioner Sandy Hollingsworth and candidates like Jeff Aiken and Jeremy Fey.

In his words, "Commissioner Hollingsworth's mouth is outpacing her perceived power of persuasion and negotiation," adding that no aldermen expressed interest in meeting with the County Commissioners to discuss altering the IGA.

Aldermen unanimously rejected any further discussion on amending the agreement, echoing Spellman's assertion that continuing to suggest

the possibility of such changes would mislead voters. The current offer, as part of the IGA, remains in place until the end of March.

Additionally, the council passed several resolutions, including:

Resolution 81-2024: Approval of the 2025 Property Casualty Insurance proposal with the Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA). The city secured a favorable quote, with a total cost of \$446,645.60 after credits, representing a 2.49% decrease from 2024.

Resolution 82-2024: Approval of a commercial lease with Ted Garcia Fine Art, LLC, for the property at 327 Gregory Street, with the term extending through December 31, 2028.

Resolution 83-2024: Approval of a copier lease contract with Pacific Office Automation, replacing copiers in City use that are over six years old.

Resolution 84-2024: Approval of a trade contractor agreement with Brannan Sand and Gravel for the paving of Chase Street and Plant Road, with the cost of the project not exceeding \$124,974.65.

Last, City Attorney Corey Hoffman noted a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding a ban on public camping, which aligns with Black Hawk's existing policy. This decision allows the City to continue enforcing its ban on public camping without needing to offer shelter availability.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

*The next regular meeting of the Black Hawk City Council is scheduled for October 11, 2024, at 3 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 211 Church Street, Black Hawk, Colorado.*



PHOTO BY MINDY LEARY

## Artist rings in new beginnings

Artist Ted Garcia, a longtime visitor of the area, is officially welcomed at the Black Hawk City Council meeting on September 25, 2024. Garcia hopes to have a soft opening of his much-anticipated art gallery in Gregory Plaza just in time for the holiday season.

## Golden Gate Fire

*continued from page 22*

have the 2005 budget to the Board on October 15 for presentation at the October 24 meeting and then approval on November 21. They will file it in January.

Chief Benson reported that Golden Gate Fire District was awarded a \$155,000 grant for full replacement through the DFPC direct distribution grant. They also received their allocation of funds to update the website.

Benson met with the district's contractor, Cob-Web Designs, for initial project kick off in mid-September. These grant awards bring total grants received to \$212,000 between September 2023 and September 2024. This figure does not include the value of durable operational equipment given to the district at no cost during this period.

The bunker gear awarded in the 2024 Firefighter Safety and Disease grant was delivered to the district. This marks the complete replacement of all structural PPE for GGFPD firefighters.

Benson reported that the district was on track for seasonal averages, with 82 calls to date. Of particular importance is the Goltra fire, which was discussed verbally during the last board meeting, but occurred after the August Chief's report was submitted.

Goltra Fire Statistics: 205 acres burned, 0 structures lost, 0 injuries or casualties, 15 emergency response agencies in attendance over three days, including air support from two helicopters.

This fire was in very challenging terrain and was further complicated by unexpected erratic weather on the first night of operations.

"I am exceptionally proud," he stated, "of our GGFPD firefighters, and very thankful to our partners in emergency response who assisted us in achieving a favorable outcome. In no particular order, I would like to thank: Golden Fire, Fairmount Fire, Foothills Fire, Arvada Fire, West Metro Fire, Genesee Fire, Evergreen Fire, South Metro Fire, Elk Creek Fire, all of the DFPC assets (James Peak Module, Overland Module, Lone Pine Module, Flatirons Helitak, and the regional Battalion Chiefs), Douglas County Helitak, Jeffco Open Space (OSWFT and Ops), Stadium Medical, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, and Jefferson County OEM/Fire management."

*The next regular Board meeting will be on October 24 at 7 p.m. at the Grange, 25231 Golden Gate Canyon Road, Golden CO, 80403. For more information, go to [https:// MAIN - Golden Gate Fire Protection District](https://MAIN-Golden Gate Fire Protection District).*

# Draft Comprehensive Plan public presentation

PETER CACEK  
NEDERLAND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

**NEDERLAND**-The Town of Nederland invites all community members to attend a public presentation of the draft Comprehensive Plan, a policy document that will shape the future of the town for the next decade. This updated plan will guide decisions on key issues such as land use, economic development, housing, and environmental resilience— recalibrating the town's goals and priorities to reflect current needs.

The presentation will be held on October 10 from 5-7 p.m. at the Nederland Community Center (upstairs in the

Community Room). During the event, attendees will have the opportunity to hear about the organizational structure and key policies of the draft plan.

If you cannot attend, the draft plan will be available for review on the Engage Nederland website. Public feedback is encouraged, and community members can submit their comments via email by contacting the project team through the website.

*We hope you will join us in shaping the future of our town. Learn more and review the draft plan on the Engage Nederland site, <https://engagenederland.us.engagementhq.com/comp-plan>.*

*Speak your mind, even if your voice shakes.*  
- Dame Maggie Smith

## 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.**



## Public Notice

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to C.R.S. §30-15-405 please find below the publication of Gilpin County Ordinance 24-01 as it was first read on September 24, 2024:

**Ordinance No. 24-01  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF GILPIN  
AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE  
ENFORCEMENT OF NOXIOUS WEEDS AND  
ADOPTING THE GILPIN COUNTY WEED  
MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to C.R.S. §35-5-5-101 et seq., (known as the Colorado Noxious Weed Management Act) the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gilpin by Ordinance 06-02, adopted April 4, 2006, adopted a Noxious Weed Management Plan for all of the unincorporated lands within the County of Gilpin; and

**WHEREAS**, an updated Gilpin County Weed Management Plan for 2024 is herein incorporated into this Ordinance as Attachment A and Attachment B; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to enforce the provisions of said weed management plan, pursuant to the statutory authority vested in the County under C.R.S. §35-5-5-101 et seq., the Board of County Commissioners has enacted by Ordinance 06-02, procedures for enforcement of the County Weed Management Plan, including, but not limited to, entry upon private lands for the purpose of inspecting for and securing the removal of noxious weeds; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to C.R.S. §30-15-401(1)(a)(1.5)(A) the Board of County Commissioners has the authority to enact ordinances for the purpose of compelling the removal of weeds from properties within the County, which authority is supplemental to the grant of authority under C.R.S. §35-5-5-101 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 24-031 passed and became law on March 12, 2024, which provides allowances for additional penalties under the Colorado Noxious Weed Management Act; and

**WHEREAS**, it is found that the 2024 Weed Management Plan is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 Weed Management Plan is recommended for adoption by the Gilpin County Noxious Weed Advisory Board; and

**WHEREAS**, nothing set forth in this Ordinance shall be construed to be in derogation of the powers vested in the Board of County Commissioners under C.R.S. §30-15-401(1)(a)(1.5)(A) and, the enforcement procedure set forth in the Ordinance shall be in addition to authority vested in the County under said statute; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gilpin, State of Colorado that the following Ordinance shall be enacted:

#### ORDINANCE REGULATIONS

1. Ordinance No. 06-02 is hereby repealed immediately upon final adoption of this Ordinance.

2. The Gilpin County Weed Management Plan, as set forth in Attachment A and Attachment B attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference, is hereby approved and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, pursuant to C.R.S. §35-5-5-105(1).

#### 3. DEFINITIONS.

3.1. "Noxious weed" means a plant species that is not indigenous to the state of Colorado.

3.2. "Noxious weed management" means planning and implementation of an integrated program to manage noxious weed species.

3.3. "Management plan" means the noxious weed management plan developed by any person or the local advisory board using integrated management.

3.4. "Landowner" or "occupant" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or federal, state, or local government or agency thereof owning, occupying, or controlling any land, easement, or right-of-way, including any city, county, state, or federally owned and controlled highway, drainage or irrigation ditch, spoil bank, borrow pit, gas and oil pipeline, high voltage electrical transmission line, or right-of-way for a canal or lateral.

4. **ENTRY UPON PRIVATE LAND.** The County of Gilpin, acting through its delegates, agents, and employees, shall have the right to enter upon any premises, lands, or places, public or private, within the unincorporated portions of the County of Gilpin, during reasonable business hours, between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of inspecting for the existence of noxious weed infestations, when at least one of the following circumstances has occurred:

4.1. A landowner or occupant has requested

such inspection;

4.2. A neighboring landowner or occupant has reported suspected noxious weed infestation and requested such inspection and infestation is visible from the property line; or

4.3. An authorized agent of the County of Gilpin has made visual observation from a generally utilized public right-of-way, easement (whether platted or prescribed), or area, and has reason to believe that a noxious weed infestation exists.

#### 5. NOTIFICATION OF PRIVATE LANDOWNERS.

5.1. **Notice of Inspection.** No entry upon any premises, land, or places shall be permitted until the landowner or occupant has been notified by certified mail that such an inspection is pending. Whenever possible, inspections shall be scheduled and conducted with the concurrence of the landowner or occupant.

5.2. **Notice of management requirements and controls.** The County of Gilpin shall have authority, acting directly or indirectly through agents or staff, to notify the landowner or occupant of such lands, advising the landowner or occupant of the presence of noxious weeds. The notice shall specify the noxious weeds, advising the landowner or occupant to manage the noxious weeds, and shall specify the best available control methods of integrated management. Whenever possible, the County through its designated agent, shall consult with the affected landowner or its occupant in the development of a plan for the management of noxious weeds on the premises or lands.

#### 6. LANDOWNER/OCCUPANT COMPLIANCE.

Within a reasonable time after receipt of notification of management requirement and controls which shall not exceed 10 days, a landowner or occupant shall either:

6.1. Comply with the terms of the notification;

6.2. Acknowledge terms of the notification and submit an acceptable plan and schedule for completion of the plan for compliance; or

6.3. Request an arbitration panel established pursuant to Section 7 below, to determine the final management plan.

7. **ARBITRATION PANEL.** Any arbitration panel selected by the County shall be comprised of one (1) weed management specialist, one (1) landowner of similar land in the County of Gilpin, and a third member chosen by agreement of the first two (2) panel members. The landowner shall be entitled to challenge any one (1) member of the panel and the County shall name a new panel member from the same category. Within ninety (90) days of the request for arbitration a panel will be selected and a hearing will be scheduled. The decision of the arbitration panel shall be final and binding.

#### 8. LANDOWNER/OCCUPANT NON-COMPLIANCE.

In the event the landowner or occupant fails to comply with the notice of management requirements and controls or to otherwise implement the plan developed by the arbitration panel, the County shall have the following authority:

8.1. To provide for and compel the integrated management of such noxious weeds by use of County forces or third-party contractors hired by the County, upon the giving of ten (10) days' written notice by certified mail to the landowner/occupant. Such notice shall be given no less than ten (10) days prior to the date upon which County shall undertake the action described in this subparagraph (8.1). The management work can be performed after the ten (10) day notice has passed, beginning no sooner than a half an hour after sunrise and concluded a half an hour before sunset, for each day of management required.

8.2. Pursuant to C.R.S. §35-5-5-118 et seq., a person who violates this Ordinance commits a civil infraction. The County Attorney shall enforce civil infractions by prosecution. The Gilpin County District Court upon a finding by a preponderance of the evidence that a violation occurred or is occurring shall order the violator to pay a civil penalty based on the following graduated fine schedule:

8.2.1. First Offense: mandatory fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

8.2.2. Second Offense: mandatory fine of seven hundred dollars (\$750.00).

8.2.3. Third Offense: mandatory fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

8.3. Each day that a violation continues is a separate offense and any violator is subject to a continuing civil penalty of no more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) each day that the violation continues.

8.4. The civil penalty issued by the Gilpin County District Court must be paid within thirty (30) days of its issuance.

8.5. If the events described in the above Section 8.4 herein do not occur, the action continues. If a County Attorney files a motion with the Gilpin County District Court and presents proof that the violation has not been cured, removed, or corrected, the Gilpin County Court shall order

an additional civil penalty in an amount consistent with Section 8.2 of this Ordinance.

8.6. The County Attorney may petition the Gilpin County District Court to institute an injunction, mandamus, abatement, or other appropriate action or proceeding to prevent, enjoin, abate, or remove an ongoing violation.

8.7. To declare the noxious weeds a public nuisance, subject to all laws and remedies relating to the prevention and abatement of nuisances. The County may in summary manner or otherwise, take such action including removal or destruction with reference to such nuisance as the Board of County Commissioners in their discretion deem necessary and appropriate.

#### 9. LIEN FOR UNPAID WEED REMOVAL COSTS AND EXPENSES.

9.1. Until receipt issued by the Gilpin County Treasurer's Department showing payment in full of a civil penalty ordered pursuant to Section 8.2 and 8.3 of this Ordinance, the civil penalty, as of the date of the recording of the civil penalty with the Gilpin County Clerk and Recorder is a lien against the property where the violation occurred or is occurring. Any state laws applicable to the assessment and collection of general taxes, including the laws for the sale and redemption of property taxes, apply to the collection of civil penalties.

9.2. If the civil penalty is not paid within thirty (30) days after the order of the Gilpin County District Court is issued, the Board of County Commissioners may certify the civil penalty to the Gilpin County Treasurer, who shall collect the civil penalty and a ten percent (10%) additional penalty for the cost of collection in the same manner as other taxes are collected.

9.3. In the event the County shall compel removal of noxious weeds in accordance with Section 8.6 above, the whole cost of such enforcement, including twenty percent (20%) for inspection and other incidental costs in connection therewith, shall be assessed to the lot or tract of the land where the noxious weeds are located, provided however, that the County shall not levy any tax lien against land administered by the County as a part of any public right-of-way. The assessment so made shall constitute a lien against each lot or tract of land until paid and shall have priority over all other liens except general taxes and prior special assessments. The assessment may be certified to the Gilpin County Treasurer, and collected and paid over in the same manner as provided for the collection of general property taxes. Any funds collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the County's general fund.

#### 10. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO ENFORCEMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.

10.1. The County shall make no effort to provide for or compel the management of noxious weeds in accordance with Sections 8 or 9 hereof, without first applying the same or greater management measures to any land or rights-of-way owned or administered by the County, which are adjacent to the private property.

10.2. The County shall not assess the cost of providing for or compelling the management of noxious weeds on private property until the level of management called for in the notice described in Section 4 hereof, or the management plan developed by the arbitration panel for the specific property, has been achieved.

11. **SEVERABILITY.** In the event any portion of this Ordinance shall be declared null and void or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such offending provision(s) shall be deemed to be deleted from this Ordinance provided, however that the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect and fully enforceable as written.

12. **PUBLIC NUISANCE.** All such noxious weeds, at any stages, their carriers, and any and all premises, plants, and things infested are hereby declared to be a public nuisance.

13. **MANDATORY REVIEW.** In accordance with C.R.S. §35-5-5-107(4)(a), the Gilpin County Noxious Weed Advisory Board shall review the Plan no less often than once every three (3) years, and shall make recommendations to the Board concerning the continued appropriateness of the Plan.

14. **EMERGENCY CLAUSE.** The Board hereby finds, determines, and declares that this Ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Gilpin County, and is hereby declared an emergency ordinance and shall take effect immediately after adoption.

#### Attachment "A" GILPIN COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024

##### I. INTRODUCTION.

Several species of non-native plants have become a threat to the economic and environmental value of land in Gilpin County, Colorado. These

plants are not indigenous to the United States and have no natural predators or diseases to keep them in check. They are rapidly displacing native vegetation, causing a loss of native ecosystem stability and diversity, while affecting recreational resources. Pursuant to § 35-5-5-101, et seq., C.R.S., The Colorado Noxious Weed Act, the state of Colorado has mandated that "a countywide plan must be implemented by every county to prevent further damage by these noxious weed species." The County has appointed the Gilpin County Noxious Weed Advisory Board, contracted with Colorado State University Extension for a noxious weed program coordinator, and has resolved to adopt a Gilpin County Noxious Weed Management Plan, for the purposes of fulfilling its responsibilities with respect to the Act and managing all of the unincorporated lands in the County with respect to noxious weeds.

##### II. DEFINITIONS.

A. All language definitions used within this plan shall be consistent with the "Colorado Noxious Weed Act" C.R.S. § 35-5-5-101 et seq., and the "Permanent Rules Pertaining to the Administration and Enforcement of the Colorado Weed Management Act" 8 C.C.R. 1203-19.

B. "Act" shall refer to C.R.S. §§35-5-5-101 et seq., the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, as amended.

C. "BMPs" shall refer to "best management practices," which are techniques or policies that are recognized by science as the most efficient means of limiting or eliminating species of noxious weeds. BMPs will change over time as more scientific information has been tested on those noxious weed species.

D. "BOCC" shall refer to the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County Colorado.

E. "Commissioner" shall mean the commissioner of the Colorado Department of Agriculture or his or her designee.

F. "Control" shall mean to manage the populations of noxious weed species so that the population is maintained or reduced in size.

G. "County" shall refer to the unincorporated areas of Gilpin County, Colorado.

H. "Elimination" shall refer to the removal of seed source.

I. "Eradication" shall mean removing the reproductive successes of noxious weed species or specified noxious weed populations in largely un-infested areas to zero and permanently or eliminating the species or populations within a specified period of time.

J. "IPM" shall refer to Integrated Pest Management, meaning the planning and implementation of a coordinated program utilizing a variety of methods for managing noxious weeds, the purpose of which is to achieve specified management objectives and promote desirable plant communities. Such methods may include but are not limited to education, preventive measures, good stewardship, and the following techniques:

1. "Biological management," which means the use of an organism to disrupt the growth of noxious weeds.

2. "Chemical management," which means the use of herbicides or plant growth regulators to disrupt the growth of noxious weeds.

3. "Cultural management," which means methodologies or management practices that favor the growth of desirable plants over noxious weeds, including maintaining an optimum fertility and plant moisture status in an area, planting at optimum density and spatial arrangement in an area, and planting species most suited to an area.

4. "Mechanical management," which means methodologies or management practices that physically disrupt plant growth, including tilling, mowing, burning, flooding, mulching, hand-pulling, hoeing, and grazing.

K. "Plan" shall refer to the Gilpin County Noxious Weed Management Plan.

L. "Program Coordinator" shall refer to the Gilpin County Noxious Weed Program Coordinator.

M. "Rules" shall refer to §§ 8 C.C.R. 1203-19 the Permanent Rules Pertaining to the Administration and Enforcement of the Colorado Weed Management Act, as amended.

##### III. STATEMENT OF GILPIN COUNTY'S NOXIOUS WEED PLAN.

A. Many acres of land in the County are already infested with weed species listed in this document. Experts in weed science estimate that current populations could increase at fifteen percent (15%) annually if no control measures are imposed. Such an increase in weed population poses a serious threat to the economic value and environmental stability of the land and water in the County.

B. Gilpin County is still relatively weed-free compared to neighboring counties. The most frequent way that weeds are introduced to the County is during construction. Weed seeds are brought in on equipment or by contaminated fill. After establishing in these sites, the weeds spread to neighboring land.

C. The weed problem in the County is of



Public Notice

concern to the recreational, agricultural, and small landowner communities, as well as to native plant and wildlife species. Problem areas include roadsides, open space, housing subdivisions, municipal areas, private property, state, and federal lands.

**D.** The BOCC has declared all noxious weeds listed below and all noxious weeds identified in the Rules to be subject to integrated management in accordance with the requirements of the regulations, the Act and the Rules. The specific noxious weed species listed below have been identified by the BOCC to be present in the County, to be undesirable and are hereby designated to be managed in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Rules:

**1. List A Noxious Weeds:** All 'List A' noxious weed species listed below, and any newly discovered infestation of other List A noxious weed species, shall be eliminated or eradicated in accordance with applicable provisions of the Act and Rules.

- a. Myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinintes*)
- b. Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)

**2. List B Noxious Weeds:** All 'List B' noxious weed species listed below, and any newly discovered infestation of other List B noxious weed species, shall be managed in accordance with applicable provisions of the Act and Rules, and the acceptable IPMs listed in Appendix "B."

- a. Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
- b. Chinese clematis (*Clematis orientalis*)
- c. Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
- d. Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*) and Yellow Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)
- e. Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)
- f. Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*) and Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*)
- g. Hoary cress (*Cardaria draba*)
- h. Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)

- i. Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
- j. Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*) and Scotch thistle (*Onopardum acanthium*)
- k. Oxeye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)
- l. Scentless chamomile (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*)
- m. Wild caraway (*Carum carvi*)

**3. List C Noxious Weeds:** The 'List C' noxious weed species listed below shall be controlled at a level in accordance with the minimum standards of List A and List B species, using the acceptable IPMs listed in Appendix "B."

a. Downy brome, Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) Control of List C noxious weed species below will not be required, but control is recommended. Education on control methods shall be provided.

- a. Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)
- b. Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

**4. Watch List Species:** The Watch List is intended to serve advisory and educational purposes only. These species are suspected to exhibit noxious weed characteristics and are of concern in the County. Control may be required at a future date.

- a. Hoary Alyssum (*Berteroa incana* L.)

**IV. GILPIN COUNTY WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN GOALS.**

**A.** Management and Prevention. The primary goals of the Gilpin County Weed Management Plan are to prevent establishment of new invasive species and manage existing populations of State Rules List A, B, C, and County specific noxious weeds species to prevent spread to previously un-infested areas in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Rules. In order to accomplish these goals, Gilpin County, through the Program Coordinator, will:

1. Identify areas requiring management.
2. Establish BMPs for all environmental situations.
3. Assist Homeowners Associations and individual property owners in managing their noxious weeds.
4. Provide technical assistance and educational support to residents of Gilpin County, municipalities, state, and local organizations.
5. Manage existing noxious weed infestations to prevent spread and reduce weed density.
6. Undertake management of any new noxious weed infestations through weed awareness education and rapid response.
7. Comply with the provisions of the Act and Rules.
8. Manage noxious weeds on County-owned properties and County rights-of-way.
9. Initiate and maintain communications with landowners who are affected by List A and B species, and populations of List C species designated for control, and carry-out all oversight necessary to ensure compliance with the Rules.
10. Provide technical assistance to landowners with List A, B, and C species directed toward eliminating those noxious weeds.

**B.** Public Education. Education is essential to

the sustainable success of the Plan. The Program Coordinator will reach out to County residents through educational workshops, private consultations, newspaper articles, social media, homeowners association meetings, and local and school events. Education will include:

1. Noxious weed identification.
  2. Compliance with the Act and Rules.
  3. Best management practices.
- C.** County Departmental Cooperation. Certain departments of Gilpin County government are in a strategic position to make positive impacts on the noxious weed problem in Gilpin County. The Program Coordinator will identify and work with these departments to institute management practices that stress the importance of preventing the spread of and damage by noxious weeds. Examples of possible cooperative interdepartmental efforts include:

1. Working with the Public Health Department to provide information on revegetation of newly installed leach fields and other disturbed areas.
2. Working with the Community Development Department to assist in enforcement of the Act and Rules.
3. Working with the Community Development Department to require clean equipment and fill for construction operations.
4. Working with the Public Works Department to educate staff on cleaning equipment before and after grading County roads.

**D.** Intergovernmental Cooperation. Gilpin County, through its Program Coordinator, will establish working relationships with federal, state, and local governments to manage noxious weeds across property lines and jurisdictional boundaries. The Program Coordinator will provide education and technical assistance to staff if needed.

**V. MANAGEMENT METHODS.**

The management techniques prescribed in the existing Rules will be utilized in Gilpin County Government's management of List A noxious weeds. In addition to these requirements, Gilpin County Government will determine which IPMs are best suited to manage each List B and C species. Refer to Appendix "B" for accepted IPMs for individual species.

**A.** IPM techniques include, but are not limited to prevention, cultural management, chemical management, biological management, and mechanical management. It is to be understood that these methods may be inadequate for control as a stand-alone solution, and the use of two (2) or more techniques may be utilized, and may be needed, to achieve control of noxious weeds.

**B.** Construction Equipment used in the county shall be free of noxious weed seed to prevent transporting seeds to newly disturbed construction sites. Gravel and fill dirt shall be obtained from a relatively weed-free source. Revegetation of disturbed areas is to be encouraged, as this is one of the most important steps in noxious weed control. If mulch is needed, it shall come from a certified weed-free source.

**VI. ENFORCEMENT.**

Enforcement of the Gilpin County Noxious Weed Management Plan is authorized and conducted pursuant to the Noxious Weed Act. The Act states that local governments are directed to take the necessary steps to manage the noxious weeds within their jurisdiction, and provides specific authorization for local enforcement of the County Noxious Weed Management Plan. The County's enforcement provisions are codified in Gilpin County Ordinance No. 24-01.

Each noxious complaint is investigated if an infestation is reported to be within unincorporated Gilpin County, is a noxious weed species identified on Gilpin Noxious Weed Management Plan, and is viewable from a public road or with landowner permission.

Any persons or County staff can report a noxious weed complaint by calling Gilpin CSU Extension office. Sending photos electronically to the Gilpin CSU Extension office will expedite the process. The State of Colorado has determined that specific noxious weed species are detrimental to the environment, economy, or human health. Gilpin County is mandated to seek compliance with the Colorado Noxious Weed Act.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture has designated all noxious weed species as one of three designations that determine priority: List A, List B, and List C. Proactive investigation applies to state List A species and B species that are mandated for eradication, or are in infestations larger than 1 acre with greater than 80% canopy cover. County staff will pursue investigations of noxious weeds without a formal complaint in the following circumstances:

- If there has been a formal complaint made and the neighboring property has the same noxious weed species as named in the complaint.
- If staff identifies an infestation of 1 or more acres.

Gilpin County has developed a noxious weed compliance process to be fair and consistent with landowners. At any time during the process, if a landowner conducts appropriate noxious weed

control techniques that meet species-specific goals, then they are considered to be in compliance.

1. Noxious weeds are reported by citizens or staff to Gilpin CSU Extension.
2. Complaint verified by staff within 10 days.
3. If no previous contact has been made to the landowner or manager, a courtesy letter is sent to the responsible party with a list of available resources for how to manage the specific weed species. Landowners have 10 business days to notify Gilpin CSU Extension of their management plan to address the specific species. If courtesy letters have been sent to the responsible party in previous years, or a high priority noxious weed is near seeding stage, staff can choose to skip this step and move to a certified enforcement letter.
4. Staff verifies if management has been conducted. If no actions have taken place and the responsible party has not communicated their intentions to County staff, a certified enforcement letter is sent to the responsible landowner stating that a certain management action is mandatory within 10 business days. If the certified letter is returned to sender, then an enforcement action can take place without further notice.
5. After 10 days if staff has not heard from responsible party and no action is taken, a Notice of Violation (NOV) is recorded against the property and the County will pursue all other enforcement available to Gilpin County pursuant to Ordinance 24-01.

**VII. CONCLUSION.**

Noxious weeds are a serious threat to our native ecosystems and must be managed. If left unchecked, these plants crowd out native vegetation, reduce wildlife forage, and threaten our water supplies and agricultural lands. With continued education and cooperative weed management efforts, it is possible to eradicate many of these noxious weed species, but everyone must do their part. For more information about the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, visit [www.colorado.gov](http://www.colorado.gov).

**Attachment "B"**  
**State Listed Noxious Weeds in Gilpin County – Accepted Integrated Pest Management for Individual Noxious Weed Species.**

**I. LIST A NOXIOUS WEEDS – MUST BE ERADICATED.**

**A. Myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinintes*):** A low-growing perennial that spreads by seed. This plant can rapidly expand into sensitive ecosystems, displacing native vegetation, and reducing forage for wildlife.

- Management methods:
1. Cultural: Keep desirable vegetation healthy. Prevent the establishment of new infestations by minimizing disturbance and seed dispersal. Survey your land regularly to detect new invaders and eradicate any new populations quickly.
  2. Chemical: Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use. Best time to spray is May/June. Bag and dispose of any seed heads present during treatment.
  3. Biological: No bio-controls are recommended.
  4. Mechanical: Pulling or digging is effective. Bag and dispose of any seed heads. Wear gloves and eye protection to prevent contact with the plant's caustic latex sap. Make certain to pull all the roots. Treatment follow up is important to check root fragment respouts that will occur when the tap root is severed too shallow.

**B. Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*):** A perennial forb that spreads by seeds, creeping roots, runners, and sporadic root buds. It can be found in mountain meadows and clearings, and prefers well-drained coarse-textured soils.

- Management methods:
1. Cultural: When native forbs and grasses are already present, assisting plant competitiveness by using supplemental fertilizers can be an effective cultural control method. This proves to be most successful on pasture and rangelands where soil nitrogen levels may be depleted.
  2. Chemical: Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.
  3. Biological: No bio-controls are recommended.
  4. Mechanical: NOT recommended because of the weed's ability to reproduce by stolons, rhizomes, and root fragments.

**II. LIST B NOXIOUS WEEDS – MUST BE MANAGED.**

**A. Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*):** A perennial weed with an extensive root system. Canada thistle reproduces both by seed and by vegetative buds on the roots. This weed requires a much more extensive management plan than the biennial thistles. Successful management of Canada thistle can be achieved with chemical control or by combining two or more of the control methods listed below.

- Management methods:
1. Cultural: Competitive grasses may be used to control Canada thistle infestations. Choose an array of aggressive adapted grasses with early, mid- and late season vigor to plant in areas where Canada thistle is present. Do not fertilize with nitrogen.

**2. Biological:** *Ceutorhynchus litura*, a stem weevil and *Urophora cardui*, a stem galfly can reduce stands in some areas, but it is not clear if effective in Gilpin County. It is essential that both of these insects be combined with other methods of control for adequate management of Canada thistle.

**3. Chemical:** Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.

**4. Mechanical:** Mowing, before seed production, can be an effective tool when combined with herbicide treatment. Mowing alone is not effective unless conducted at two

**5. (2) week intervals over several growing seasons.** Mowing should always be combined with cultural and chemical control.

**B. Chinese clematis (*Clematis orientalis*):** A climbing perennial herbaceous plant with a woody vine. Flowers are solitary with four yellow petals, often nodding. This species is very difficult to control once it has become established.

Management methods:

1. Cultural: Recognize and treat infestations of this plant early in the life cycle.
2. Biological: None known at this time.
3. Chemical: Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.
4. Mechanical: Dig from moist soil, being certain to get all the roots. Bag specimens carefully so as to not scatter seeds if flowering. You may have to pull a few times over the season if it comes back from the root. Wear gloves because sap may cause blisters.

**C. Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*):** An escaped ornamental, which reproduces mainly by seed. It has the ability to competitively outgrow many of our native plants. This weed is toxic to horses and cattle.

- Management methods:
1. Cultural: Keep existing native vegetation healthy. Common tansy may still be available from some out-of-state vendors. Please check all seed packets to be sure they do not contain this species.
  2. Biological: None known at this time.
  3. Chemical: Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.
  4. Mechanical: Mow before flower will prevent spread but needs to be combined with another control method to be eradicated. Wear gloves if hand cutting as this plant can cause skin irritation.

**D. Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*) and Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*):** Introduced creeping perennials that have proven to be aggressive and difficult to manage. They reproduce by seeds and vegetatively. Yellow and Dalmatian toadflax is toxic to livestock.

- Management methods:
1. Cultural: Keep desirable vegetation healthy. Prevent the establishment of new infestations by minimizing disturbance and seed dispersal. Survey your land regularly to detect new invaders and eradicate any new populations quickly.

**2. Biological:** None known to work in Gilpin County.

**3. Chemical:** Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.

**4. Mechanical:** Hand pulling of small infestations, multiple times per year for several years, bagging any flowers or seeds that are present. Mowing before flower will prevent seed production but must be combined with another control measure for eradication.

**E. Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*):** Introduced as an ornamental. This plant is a biennial or short-lived perennial which reproduces by seed.

- Management methods:
1. Cultural: Keep existing native vegetation healthy. This plant may still be available from some out-of-state vendors. Please check all seed packets to be sure they do not contain this species.
  2. Biological: None known at this time.
  3. Chemical: Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.
  4. Mechanical: Hand pulling or cultivation prior to seed production will reduce the stand density of this plant. Revegetation should follow any control option.

**F. Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*) and Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*):** Biennial or short-lived perennials, which reproduce only by seed.

- Management methods:
1. Cultural: Early detection and management of invading plants is the key to managing knapweed.
  2. Biological: None known to work in Gilpin County.
  3. Chemical: Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for

## Public Notice

specific recommendations for herbicide use.

**4. Mechanical:** Pulling or digging is effective in small infestations. Bag any flowers or seeds. Wear gloves, the plant can cause a rash. Mowing before flower, multiple times per year, can reduce seed production and dispersal.

**G. Hoary cress (*Cardaria draba*):** A perennial plant that is very competitive with native vegetation. Its early seeding habits make it difficult to effectively control in a timely manner. Hoary cress reproduces by seed and creeping roots. Management methods:

**1. Cultural:** Promptly revegetate all disturbed areas with an adapted grass to prevent establishment of this species.

**2. Biological:** Grazing with sheep or goats can suppress infestation. It is toxic to cattle. No insects are known to be effective for controlling this weed.

**3. Chemical:** Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.

**4. Mechanical:** Mowing just prior to seed set may reduce overall seed production, but must be repeated several times during the growing season.

**H. Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*):** A biennial weed, toxic to herbivores, and reproduces by seed only. The seeds, contained in pods, are covered with barbs, enabling them to stick to clothing or animal hair and making them easily transported.

Management methods:

**1. Cultural:** Check boots, socks, clothing, and pets after hiking, especially in lower elevations where houndstongue is more prevalent, to prevent seed spread.

**2. Biological:** None known at this time.

**3. Chemical:** Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.

**4. Mechanical:** Pulling or digging can be effective. Severing the taproot below the root crown will kill houndstongue. Bag and dispose of any flowers or seeds.

**I. Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*):** A deep rooted creeping perennial that spreads by seed and rootstocks. An extensive root system with vast nutrient reserves makes this plant extremely difficult to control. A combination of insects, grazing, and chemical methods will be necessary to stress the plant sufficiently to attain acceptable control.

Management methods:

**1. Cultural:** Early detection and management will reduce large infestations. Seeding with adapted perennial grasses can be an effective management tool. Early emerging plant species that utilize early season moisture have reduced Leafy spurge density and limited the spread and establishment of new infestations.

**2. Chemical:** Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.

**3. Biological:** Grazing with sheep or goats can

stress leafy spurge making it more susceptible to other control methods. Cattle will avoid eating it as it is poisonous to them. The insect bio-control flea beetle (*Apthona* spp.) can reduce stands in some areas but has not shown to be effective in Gilpin County. These insects alone will not eliminate leafy spurge, but they can weaken the plant making it more susceptible to herbicide treatments or other control methods.

Mechanical: Mowing, pulling, and digging can reduce root reserves, but plants will readily grow back. Wear gloves as the plant sap is toxic.

**J. Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*) and Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*):** These biennial weeds reproduce by seed only. Biennials are best controlled in their first year of growth, called the rosette stage.

Management options:

**1. Cultural:** The best way to prevent or reduce the amount of biennial thistle is to manage areas that are susceptible to invasion by promoting vigorous stands of competing vegetation. Reseed any disturbed area. Contact Gilpin CSU Extension office for grass seed recommendations.

**2. Biological:** Rhinocyllus conicus is a seed head weevil, which is present in Gilpin County. This weevil consumes most of the seeds in the terminal flower heads, but has no effect on buds which form later in the season. The conicus weevil can be an effective control method only if it is combined with chemical or mechanical controls.

**3. Chemical:** Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.

**4. Mechanical:** Cut and bag seed heads. These biennial thistles are easy to dig up in the first-year rosette stage. Sever the taproot below the root crown of the plant. Mowing is effective only if done when the first flowers are in bud stage. A second mowing may be necessary because the plants may recover and produce viable seed later in the growing season. Mowing is not effective if the plant is already flowering.

**K. Oxeye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*):** A shallow-rooted perennial forb, which spreads by seed and rhizomes. Wildlife and livestock do not like to graze or walk through an area of oxeye daisy since the plants irritate their legs and faces.

Management method:

**1. Cultural:** Because oxeye daisy is such a showy, pretty plant, proper management is often neglected. Monitor land for early detection and management, as oxeye daisy spreads very rapidly.

**2. Biological:** None known at this time.

**3. Chemical:** Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.

**4. Mechanical:** Mowing will not affect stand density, but can reduce seed spread if done prior to flowering. Hand pulling can result in good control as long as the plants are pulled prior to seeding. Bag and dispose of flowers and seeds. Repeated cultivation twice a year for two (2) years will slow the

spread and reduce seed population. Reseed any disturbed areas with competitive grasses following any of these treatments.

**L. Scentless chamomile (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*):** An escaped ornamental plant. An annual that only reproduces by seed only. Scentless chamomile is a threat to native plant communities. Management methods:

**1. Cultural:** Learn to identify the plant and physically remove them when they first appear. Revegetate any disturbed areas with appropriate grass seeds. Contact Gilpin CSU Extension for grass seed recommendations.

**2. Biological:** None known at this time.

**3. Chemical:** Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.

**4. Mechanical:** Hand pull and bag any flowers or seeds. Cultivation, or any type of physical disturbance can control scentless chamomile. Reseed areas with appropriate seed mix following treatment.

**M. Wild caraway (*Carum carvi*):** A biennial or sometimes perennial forb is found in mountain meadows.

Management methods:

**1. Cultural:** Best preventative practices include the elimination of seed production, and maintaining healthy native communities. Early detection and management will reduce large infestations.

**2. Biological:** None known at this time.

**3. Chemical:** Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.

**4. Mechanical:** Wild caraway plants can be dug up prior to seed set. Bag and dispose of any flowers or seeds.

### III. LIST C NOXIOUS WEEDS – MUST BE MANAGED.

**A. Downy brome, Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*):** A winter annual grass that only reproduces by seed. Cheatgrass takes over native habitat and is highly flammable, posing a wildfire risk.

Management methods:

**1. Cultural:** Prevent the establishment of new infestations by minimizing disturbance, seed dispersal, and maintaining healthy native communities.

**2. Biological:** Livestock grazing prior to seed-set, can provide suppression, but cheatgrass will readily regrow and produce seed from a reduced height.

**3. Chemical:** Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.

**4. Mechanical:** Pulling or digging is effective in small infestations, and needs to be repeated for multiple years. Bag and dispose of any seeds.

### IV. LIST C NOXIOUS WEEDS – CONTROL IS RECOMMENDED.

**A. Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*):** A biennial forb that is found throughout Colorado in pastures, meadows, roadsides, and backyards. Common mullein reproduces by seed only. Management methods:

**1. Cultural:** Prevent the establishment of new infestations by minimizing disturbance and seed dispersal, eliminating seed production and maintaining healthy native communities.

**2. Biological:** None known to work in Gilpin County.

**3. Chemical:** Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.

**4. Mechanical:** Target first-year rosette to dig or pull easily. Second-year stalks can be mowed or cut prior to seed-set. During late flowering stage, use pruners to cut the flowerhead off. Bag and dispose of flowers and seeds.

**B. Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*):** A biennial that is poisonous to livestock, wildlife and humans. Found in moist areas.

Management methods:

**1. Cultural:** Prevent the establishment of new infestations by minimizing disturbance and seed dispersal, eliminating seed production and maintaining healthy native communities.

**2. Biological:** No bio-control known to work in Gilpin County.

**3. Chemical:** Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.

**4. Mechanical:** Mow hemlock plants to keep them short will suppress but not eliminate. Pull or dig, making sure to remove the entire taproot. Bag and dispose of any flowers or seeds. Wear gloves as this plant is poisonous to humans.

### IV. WATCH LIST SPECIES – ADVISORY PURPOSES ONLY.

**A. Hoary alyssum (*Berteroa incana* L.):** An annual to perennial short-lived forb which reproduces by seed. Can be toxic to horses if eaten in large amounts or if hay is contaminated.

Management methods:

**1. Cultural:** Prevent the establishment of new infestations by minimizing disturbance and seed dispersal, eliminating seed production and maintaining healthy native communities.

**2. Biological:** None known to work in Gilpin County.

**3. Chemical:** Contact the Gilpin County CSU Extension, or a licensed commercial applicator, for specific recommendations for herbicide use.

**4. Mechanical:** Hand-pulling can be effective on small infestations. Bag and dispose of plants with seedpods.

Pursuant to C.R.S. §30-35-403 the above matter is scheduled for a Public Hearing on October 22, 2024 at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Gilpin County Board of County Commissioners. This Public Hearing is scheduled to start at 9:30am or later. The second reading of the above Ordinance shall take place at the same meeting on October 22, 2024.

## Floyd Hill rock scaling will cause I-70 delays

WES ISENHART

Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties - The Colorado Department of Transportation and their contractor partner, Kraemer North America, will begin rock scaling operations in early October 2024 near Idaho Springs as part of the I-70 Floyd Hill Project. The impact of these activities will be traffic delays on I-70 for the next two months.

Traffic holds will take place Monday through Thursday, between 9 a.m. and

3 p.m. Traffic will be held as long as 20 minutes during each traffic hold; motorists can expect 45-minute delays as each traffic queue clears.

Motorists can expect up to six traffic holds per day, approximately every 60 to 75 minutes. For rock scaling operations, westbound I-70 traffic will be held east of the Hidden Valley interchange (Exit 243). Eastbound I-70 traffic will be held west of the Veterans Memorial Tunnels. County Road 314 and Central City Parkway will remain open during

scaling operations.

Since eastbound traffic will be held west of the Veterans Memorial Tunnels, it will impede traffic trying to get to the Central City Parkway. Gilpin County residents with business in Idaho Springs during these construction periods might

consider taking the Virginia Canyon Road (aka "Oh My God Road") to avoid the I-70 delays.

*For the most current information on this work, please sign up for Project text alerts by texting 'floydhill' to 21000.*



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## Public Notice

### NOTICE OF BUDGET (Pursuant to 29-1-106, C.R.S.)

NOTICE is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Timberline Fire Protection District Board of Directors for the ensuing year of 2025; a copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the office of Timberline Fire Protection District, where the same is open for public inspection; such proposed budget will be considered at a

public hearing prior to the regular meeting of the Timberline Fire Protection District Board of Directors to be held at 19126 Highway 119, Black Hawk on December 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM. Any interested elector of the Timberline Fire Protection District may inspect the proposed budget at our Headquarters located at 19126 Highway 119, Black Hawk by appointment (call 303-582-5768 x701) and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget.

## Public Notice

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Nederland Planning Commission shall have a Public Hearing on Wednesday, October 23rd, at 7:00 p.m. at the Nederland Community Center, 750 Highway 72 North, Multi-purpose Room and also virtually via Microsoft Teams, for consideration of a lot line adjustment for 705

& 709 McMillen Way, Legal Description: LOT 8 MCMILLEN MEADOW SECOND CORRECTION PLAT & LOT 9 MCMILLEN MEADOW SECOND CORRECTION PLAT)

For meeting access information, please visit: <https://townofnederland.colorado.gov/>  
All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

# Trustees sniff at secondhand pot smoke

CHRISTOPHER KELLEY

**NEDERLAND** - The Nederland Board of Trustees (BOT) discussed two major issues during their meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, both regarding public health and safety. These include continuing the Boulder County Co-Responder program, and the proposal for a Secondhand Marijuana Smoke ordinance.

Trustees discussed budgetary considerations and alternatives concerning funding the Boulder County Co-Responder program through 2025, which would cost the Town an estimated \$145,000.

The program is currently supported by the Peace Officer Behavioral Support and Community Partnership grant from the Department of Local Affairs, which is scheduled to end this November.

Lynette Anderson of the Co-Responder program provided data that detailed the operations and showcased the benefits of the program. The data also indicated that the program's services were being utilized beyond Nederland's borders in many areas of unincorporated Boulder County.

Anderson, who previously served in Lyons, stated that she has made connections with people in the community and with the Nederland Fire Department, Nederland Community Library, Nederland Food Pantry, and the Emergency Family Assistance Association.

Trustee Tania Corvalan asked Anderson about the logistics of her position as a Co-Responder. Anderson responded that she is posted at the former Nederland Police Department substation in the Caribou Village Shopping Center, where she answers calls in tandem with a badged first responder, though she is not dispatched by the same radio communications as Boulder County deputies.

Town Administrator Jonathan Cain indicated in the Agenda Information Memorandum (AIM) that the Town is "budgeting from a difficult fiscal position for 2025." Therefore, several alternatives to funding the Co-Responder program were presented.

These alternatives include reallocating American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds away from affordable housing initiatives, raising the Public Safety Tax, and pursuing a cost-share arrangement with Boulder County. Cain noted that he had inquired of BCSO if there were any cost-share opportunities available, but there were none.

Trustees approved having Cain return at a future meeting with a request for the estimated \$20,000 to fund the Co-Responder position through the remainder of 2024. The BOT also permitted the reallocation of the ARPA funds in the event that the Town cannot afford on its own to fund the position.

The Board discussed a proposal from Mayor Billy Giblin and Trustee Luke Miller to adopt a Secondhand Marijuana Smoke Ordinance, to prevent "smoke and odor trespass" from impacting the "comfortable use and enjoyment" of one's property.

The ordinance would be aimed at classifying secondhand smoke and related odors as a nuisance in residential areas. It is supported by data from the Colorado Department of Health and the City of Boulder Municipal Code indicating the issue as one of public health and safety.

The AIM includes a statement from the CDC that reads, "there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke." The statement continues to note secondhand marijuana smoke as hazardous, due to its containing cancer-causing toxins and the psychoactive compound THC.

Miller spoke about this matter from a personal standpoint, having reached out to BCSO, as well as to Co-Responder Anderson, to attempt to mediate his neighborly dispute. This personal matter led Miller to research what courses of action exist to protect against unwanted exposure to secondhand smoke.

He noted that there were people in the community who have experienced similar problems with secondhand smoke, including one who suffers from a cannabis allergy. Miller added that, though three letters of support were submitted from the public, others in favor of such an ordinance may not want to speak out in fear of receiving backlash from the community.

Trustee Tierney Maris asked how the secondhand smoke ordinance reflects any of the Board's Strategic Goals for 2025, to which Miller responded that it is a matter of general public health and safety.

Maris also questioned whether BCSO or Town staff have received numerous complaints regarding secondhand smoke and/or odor. Cain remarked that the issue has been raised by the community. Also, response to odor complaints are marked on the reports that BCSO supplies to the Board, though the type of odor is not specified in those reports.

Corvalan asked several questions regarding the precedent the ordinance may set on banning odors. Miller clarified

that the focus of the proposed ordinance is only on marijuana, tobacco, and vape smoke. Corvalan asked if there was a quantitative measurement of secondhand smoke and odor to be used to assure that the ordinance is not abused.

Miller agreed that all of Corvalan's points should be considered and specified that he is looking for approval from the Board to approve Town staff researching the City of Boulder's code and other similar ordinances from neighboring municipalities, before moving forward into drafting an ordinance.

Miller's request failed to pass. Mayor Pro Tem Nichole Sterling adamantly stated that Town staff does not have the capacity to dedicate further research into the ordinance at this time. She did propose continuing the discussion in the first quarter of 2025, when the BOT will be considering becoming a Home Rule municipality.

The Board was presented with information concerning the Town's requirement to comply with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Plan regulations. In order to be in compliance, certain floodplain management measures must be drafted and adopted by October 24, 2024.

Emergency Ordinance 867 is being drafted to make changes to Nederland Municipal Code pertaining to the addition of "statutory authority language and missing definitions."

The Board is expected to adopt this emergency ordinance during their

meeting on October 15. It was clarified that quorum is required in order for the emergency ordinance to pass. Failure to comply would result in the community losing access to flood insurance.

The BOT voted to appoint Caroline Gezon to the Alternate position on the Parks, Recreation, Open Space Advisory Board (PROSAB). Gezon's interests include running, biking, and skiing, and she currently works as a public sector consultant; PROSAB voted to recommend Gezon for the position on September 19.

Trustees also approved the use of \$24,000 to pave the entirety of West Spring Street. Streets Department Manager Joshua Davis stated that the funds could be reallocated from the department's budgets for dust suppressant and road base.

The project is being expedited to address concerns of drainage and runoff from heavy rains that affects Blue Owl bookshop's driveway, causing issues for their customers.

*The Nederland Board of Trustees meets on the first and third Tuesday of every month. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 7 p.m. and can be attended either online or in person at the Nederland Community Center.*

*For more information go to: <https://townofnederland.colorado.gov/board-of-trustees>.*

## Two new Gilpin County ballot drop boxes installed



PHOTO COURTESY OF COUNTY CLERK MCCORMICK

**Remember to vote!**  
Clerk McCormick with Chief Deputy Clerk Joe Self at the Courthouse in Central City.

**SAHARI MCCORMICK**  
GILPIN COUNTY CLERK &  
RECORDER

**GILPIN COUNTY** - The Courthouse in Central City now has a larger drop box, located near the flagpole in front of the building, that will be ready to receive ballots for this November's election. Paid for with a HAVA (Help America Vote Act) grant, this box was needed to ensure that all voters had the

opportunity to drop their ballot in the box without concern that the box had become too full. The old ballot box will be repurposed as a drop box for the Motor Vehicle, Recording, Treasurer and Assessor Offices around the first of the year.

The Community Center also had a new drop box installed. The old drop box was too small for the usage it gets and a new, much bigger, ballot box was needed. This will allow the county to save time and money on having election workers make special trips to empty the drop box, and ensure that voters can safely deposit their ballot and have it drop into the box where reaching hands cannot touch it through the drop slot.

All drop boxes in the county are under 24/7 surveillance and are the most safe, secure and efficient way to return your voted ballot. Bipartisan teams of workers pick up ballots for processing on a regular schedule. While it is the quickest to drop your ballot in one of Gilpin County's three drop boxes, you can also utilize any of the 418 official drop boxes in the state to drop your ballot in.

All ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Night, Tuesday, November 5. Postmarks do not count, so be sure to use the drop box most convenient for you!

*Questions? Please reach out to the Clerk's office at 303-582-5321 or [elections@gilpincounty.org](mailto:elections@gilpincounty.org).*



# Bringing the Belvidere back to life



PHOTOS BY MINDY LEARY

## Restoring Central's historic heartbeat

Above: The interior of the Belvidere awaits major renovation, though asbestos removal is now complete. Right: Palace Construction Project Manager Brady Wilson leads the tour, explaining the essential work done so far, including sealing the bedrock to prevent water seepage and laying the foundation for new floors. Far Right: Belvidere Foundation Events Chairman Eric Chinn points out the fire-scorched bricks on the Shoofly, still standing after surviving the 1874 blaze.

MINDY LEARY

**CENTRAL CITY** - On Wednesday, September 25, 2024, Central City reached an important milestone in the restoration of its historic Belvidere Theatre.

Officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and city leaders gathered to celebrate the progress of this major cleanup and redevelopment

project aimed at bringing new life to one of Colorado's oldest buildings.

The Belvidere Theatre and the Shoofly buildings have been at the center of community activity since Central City's early days. Though originally built as two independent structures, they have become inextricably linked throughout history and are physically connected inside.

The Shoofly, initially constructed as a saloon and dance hall, and the Belvidere, added later, have together served the



town in various capacities over the years. The Shoofly was one of the few buildings to survive the fire of 1874, with scorched bricks on its facade purposely preserved as a reminder of the past.

Eric Chinn, Events Chairman of the Belvidere Foundation, noted that the goal of the restoration is to make the Belvidere a gathering place once again, where weddings, holiday parties, and community events can be held.

The restoration hasn't been easy, with asbestos abatement alone costing over \$200,000, but progress is being made. To date, \$3 million has been raised toward the \$9 million that will ultimately be needed to restore the historic Belvidere to its former glory.

Peter Droege, president of the Belvidere Foundation and a Central City native, fondly recalled watching movies in the theater as a kid. "One of our board members was the projectionist in the 1970s," Droege recalled. "He remembered smelling smoke in the theater once and calling the fire chief, but they couldn't find the fire."

It wasn't a ghostly reminder of the building's history. Once Palace Construction began the asbestos removal and took down the lowered ceiling, the fire damage was discovered. That fire had burned above the lowered ceiling and went out on its own, Droege explained.

Despite the unexpected discovery, the team is committed to preserving the building's historical integrity. Droege indicated that they will be recreating the original hand railings, using materials that match the theater's period, ensuring that the restoration is both authentic and respectful of its history.

The Belvidere's location, built into the bedrock of the mountain, has presented challenges as well. Water leakage has been a persistent issue due to the building's unique construction.

Brady Wilson, Project Manager for Palace Construction, said they used smoke canisters along the walls to trace the sources of water penetration.

KC Becker, the EPA's Regional Administrator, praised the various groups for collaborating in the restoration.

"The funding from the EPA is just one piece of the puzzle, and it's amazing how many different groups and partners have stepped up to help this structure," Becker said.

She also announced that the EPA has recently made \$230 million available for additional brownfield projects, which Droege said was "music to his ears."

Phase 1 of the restoration, focused on converting the Shoofly into tenant space and possibly a restaurant, is moving forward with a budget of \$4.5 million.

Droege noted that Phase 2 will focus on the theater itself and the space below, but they may need to pause work at some point to raise more funds.

Ensuring that the Belvidere is economically sustainable remains a top priority. There are even discussions about making it a Welcome Center for Central City.

During the tour of the building, visitors had to wear hard hats and reflective vests, as work is still ongoing.

Betty Mahaffey, Treasurer of the Belvidere Foundation, emphasized the importance of private donations. While grants are essential, leveraging those funds with private donations is critical to keeping the project moving forward, she pointed out.

Mahaffey also mentioned that there has been strong community interest in bringing movies back to the Belvidere once the restoration is complete. This would be a strong nod to the theater's past, as it had, as Droege remembered, once served as the town's movie house.

With plans to use historically accurate materials and to recreate original details like the hand railings, the theater is set to become a unique blend of its rich history and future possibilities.

The Belvidere Theatre is more than just a building - it's a symbol of Central City's past and a beacon for its future. The restoration project relies on continued support from the community and generous donors who want to see this iconic space come back to life.

*If you'd like to be part of this historic restoration and help the Belvidere Theatre thrive once again, consider making a donation to the Belvidere's Capital Campaign through GoFundMe at <https://gofund.me/ee1c1341>. For more information as to how you can support the project, visit <https://www.visitcentralcity.com/belviderefoundation>.*

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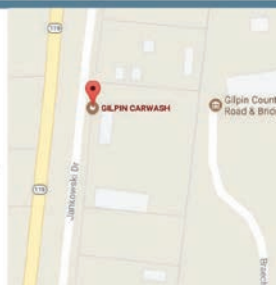


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# Election watch: The big picture

LYNN HIRSHMAN

**PEAK TO PEAK** - The big one. And yes, we know it's probably the most important election of the century (so far). Whichever side you are on, you are undoubtedly convinced that the other side is ruining the country and only your party has the solution to a better life and a better U.S.

What if you are one of the few people left who are still undecided? On what will you make your choice? Please don't say that you might just not vote. In 2020, out of about 240 million eligible

voters, only about 158 million voted.

In other words, not voting is a vote for letting others make the decision for you. 82 million people just let others decide their fate for them.

Over 2,500 years ago, Plato wrote "One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors." Of course, that was the same society that killed Socrates for being a wiseass. And a lover of young men.

And both of those qualities are being challenged in this year's presidential election. One side is critical of the

other's ability to have a sense of humor. And that same side is suspected of having plans to roll back protections for America's LGBTQ+ community.

At the same time, each side accuses the other of violence: one side accuses the other of murdering babies, while the other claims that it is the mothers of those fetuses who are dying because of new restrictions.

Right now, the U.S. is supporting two small, new but ancient countries fighting for their lives against much larger and more powerful enemies. One of our parties is all for helping one of these while abandoning the other to

subjugation by its powerful neighbor. The other is helping both underdogs as they fight for their lives.

There are many other ways in which our two major political parties differ – this has been but a taste – and unless you are living off the grid (and yes, I know that's possible up here, and possibly even desirable right now), you are hearing these arguments over and over again from our mainstream media. Either way, you must see that we are at a turning point in the life of our country. Will you vote to affect the direction in which we turn? Or let others choose for you?

## Public Notice

DISTRICT COURT, GILPIN COUNTY, COLORADO 2960 Dory Hill Road, Suite 200 Black Hawk, CO 80422	
Aaron R. Hancock, Plaintiff,  v.  ADELE PALLARO AND HERMAN PALLARO, EDNA RENLAND, PERSONS CLAIMING AS DEVICES OF JAMES E. LIGHTBOURN and JOHN C. JENKINS, INCLUDING THROUGH DEEDS FROM JOHN MELLOW WILLIAM TAMBLYN, OR WILLIAM MANIRE, and the heirs, successors, devisees, personal representatives, and estates of any of the persons above-named who may be deceased, and ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS who claim any interest in real property which is the subject of this action.	COURT USE ONLY  Case Number:  2024 CV 30016  Division:
<b>Attorney for Aaron R. Hancock</b> Eric D. Wollard, Esq., #29934 The Wollard Law Firm, PC 4251 Kipling Street, Suite 300 Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 Telephone: (303) 355-1141 E-mail: ewollard@303law.com	
<b>SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION</b>	

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS Adele Pallaro, Herman Pallaro, Edna Renland, Persons Claiming as Devises of James E. Lightbourn And John C. Jenkins, including through deeds from John Mellow, William Tamblyn, or William Manire, and the heirs, successors, devisees, personal representatives, and estates of any of the persons above-named who may be deceased, and ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS who claim any interest in real property which is the subject of this action.**

You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court. If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.

**This action concerns the Complaint Under Rule 105 to quiet title to the real property described as:**

That portion of the SUCCESS LODGE Mining Claim, U.S. Mineral Survey No. 13799, situated in the unincorporated and abandoned townsite known as Russell Gulch, which is in the County of Gilpin, State of Colorado, and more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at Corner No. 1 of said Success Lode;  
 Thence S 88°30'00" W, a distance of 195.85 feet to the True Point of Beginning;  
 Thence S 03°09'00" E, a distance of 88.72 feet to the Northerly right of way line for Main Street;  
 Thence along said right of way line for the following three (3) courses:  
 S 83°40'00" W, a distance of 127.78 feet;  
 N 87°09'00" W, a distance of 39.26 feet;  
 N 66°44'00" W, a distance of 33.48 feet to a point at the intersection of the Easterly right of way line for County Road No. 279;  
 Thence along said right of way, on the arc of a curve to the right, with a radius of 68.22 feet and a central angle of 33°51'07", for an arc distance of 39.90 feet (the chord of this arc bears N 30°28'12" E, a distance of 39.33 feet;  
 Thence continuing along said right of way, N 57°18'36" E, for a distance of 94.76 feet to a point at the intersection on Line 1-4 of said Success Lode;

Dated September 30, 2024

The Wollard Law Firm, PC  
 /s/ Eric D. Wollard  
 Eric D. Wollard, #29934  
 Attorneys for Plaintiff

Publish in The Mountain-Ear  
 Date of First Publication: October 3, 2024  
 Date of Last Publication: October 31, 2024



Business  
Spotlight



**Mark Cohen**  
 J.D., LL.M.  
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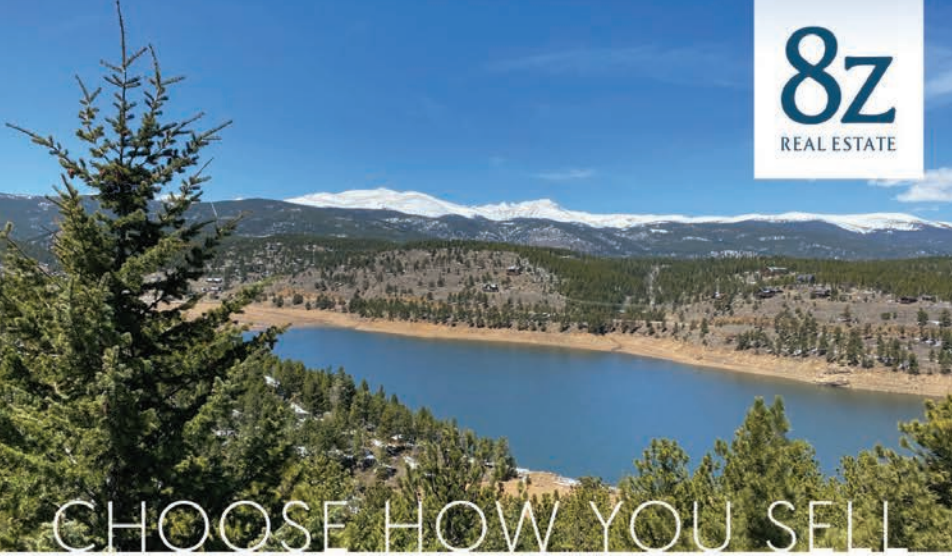
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# Nederland October Night Skies



PHOTOS BY FRANK SANDERS

### What do you see?

Use a polarizer-filter (bottom photo) to add contrast, enrich colors, darken the sky, and kill reflections in your photos. Plus, see the world more like bees do. There's no digital filter for this.

### FRANK SANDERS

**TUNGSTEN VALLEY** - So, there's this kid standing under a bright sky here in Nederland. They look up at you with wonder in their adorable little eyes and ask, innocently, "What makes the sky blue?"

Thoroughly annoyed, because you always knew this day would come and

yet, somehow, you're still completely unprepared, you fumblingly answer, "I don't know. Now get out of the fresh air and go to your room and play a video game, please."

Want to prep for that dreaded moment? I'm here to help.

First, physics. The sun's rays hit our atmosphere with all visible colors, from

red to blue. The longest-wave color, red, tends to penetrate straight-on through. So does green, to some extent. But the shortest-wave color, blue, gets bounced around when it runs into oxygen and nitrogen, the two gases that make up pretty much all the air we breathe. (Penetration of reds, and loss of blues, is what makes orangish sunsets and sunrises.)

Where does the blue go? Blue-color waves bouncing off oxygen and nitrogen molecules is called scattering. It's like when a water balloon bursts, and the water goes every which way. Blue light goes every which way when it hits air molecules. Some of it randomly bounces toward wherever we happen to be standing.

Scattering occurs through all air, so we see it everywhere we look across the sky. This was all mathematically described in the 1800s by a British physicist, Lord Rayleigh (RAY-lee); it's called Rayleigh scattering after him.

Noting that oxygen and nitrogen molecules are pairs of atoms (O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>), which we call diatomic, you now know what to say when that child asks you the dreaded question:

"The sky is blue, [enter child's name here, with a dripping-sarcastic tone], because of Rayleigh scattering of short-wavelength blue light from the atmosphere's diatomic oxygen and nitrogen. Now get out of the fresh air and go to your room and play a video game, please."

There's an aspect of Rayleigh scattering, for getting better photographs. Blue-sky light that bounces leftward or rightward of the sun gets its electromagnetic vibrations sorted into a single direction. This preferred vibrational orientation is called polarization.

The practical upshot being, if you put a polarizing filter (called circularly polarizing, or "CPL" in marketed filters) on your camera lens and rotate it correctly on sunny days, you can get better contrast; enriched colors; a more beautiful, darker-blue sky; brighter-white clouds, and fewer reflections.

You like your smart phone camera? That's OK. Get a CPL filter that clamps onto, or magnetically sticks to, your phone body, and swings over your phone's lens. (Again, rotate the filter until the sky darkens to where you like the effect.)

There is no digital-processing filter that replicates CPL glass. This one is all-analog.

Final note: Bees' eyes are tiny polarizers; they see in polarized light, to help navigate by the sun. With a CPL filter, you see the world a little bit more like a bee does.

### In October Skies:

**The sun** begins the month in Virgo, entering Libra on October 30. At mid-month, days and nights are 10.5 and 13.5 hours long, respectively.

**The moon's** dates are: New October 2; First Quarter October 10; Full (Hunter's Moon) October 17; Last Quarter October 24.

**October Meteors:** Camelopardalids October 6; Draconids, southern Taurids and delta Aurigids October 9-11; epsilon Geminids October 18; Orionids October 22; and Leonis Monorids October 25.

**Best Sky Viewing Nights (Minimal Moon):** October 1-9 and 25-31.

**Sunset (Mid-Month):** Pegasus is low in the east; the Navigator's Triangle of Vega, Deneb and Altair is high overhead; and Arcturus is setting in the west.

**Midnight (Mid-Month):** Capella is high in the northeast in Auriga. Just above it is brilliant Perseus with Algol. Andromeda is directly overhead. Cetus, the Whale, is in the south. Orion is rising in the east.

**Sunrise (Mid-Month):** Leo is high in the southeast. Orion is in the southwest. Sirius, in Canis Major, is low in the south.

**Mercury**, in Libra, is lost in the sunset.

**Venus**, in Libra, is very low and hard-to-spot in the southwest at sunset.

**Mars**, in Gemini, rises at midnight. It is high in the southeast at sunrise to the left of, and below, Jupiter.

**Jupiter**, in Taurus, is super-bright as it approaches its December opposition. It rises at 9:20 p.m. and is high in the south at sunrise.

**Saturn**, in Aquarius, is low in the east-southeast sunset; high in the south at 10:30 p.m.; and sets at 4 a.m.

**Notable Space Missions:** The European Space Agency's BepiColombo planet Mercury exploration probe is performing a series of new thruster firings to adjust its course after experiencing earlier problems with its solar-electric propulsion system. The orbital adjustments will bring it to Mercury later than originally planned, but a recent mid-trip Mercury flyby returned excellent images.

*Frank Sanders, a spectrum scientist at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Boulder, takes astronomy-related inquiries at backyardastronomy1@gmail.com.*

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 Road and Bridge Worker (seasonal culvert crew): \$17.36 - \$23.46

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

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 Oh Papa, don't drive me half the way...

*Who am I? I'm Minka, appearing exclusively at the Humane Society of Boulder Valley: <https://www.boulder-humane.org/animals/?animalid=56932591>*



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## Transformers One

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### 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.

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