

Golden Gate Fire graduates pinned

JOHN SCARFFE

GOLDEN GATE CANYON - Golden Gate Fire Protection District celebrated six new graduates at an open community brunch on Sunday, October 6, 2024, at the Golden Gate Canyon Grange, 25231 Golden Gate Canyon Rd. The new firefighters have all successfully completed their Firefighter One training. That training required many hours of commitment.

By about 11 a.m., the Grange was packed with community members. The event started with the brunch, which included pancakes, fruit, and sausage. Servers and cooks included DeeDee Ramstetter, and John and Kim Luzeckyj.

Resident Patti Neer said, "You have the core of the Golden Gate Community right here." She and her husband John enjoyed their breakfast, while adding that Fire Chief Kyle Benson and the new District Board have made a big difference in the past two years, including doubling the number of volunteers in the District. "When people see a good leader, they will follow," John Neer said.

Two little girls, Hadley and Madison Costeldia, attended the event and are seventh generation Ramstetters. Their three great-grandfathers started this fire station, they told *TheMountain-Ear*.

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Special awards were given

Above: The new graduates, who passed Fire Fighter one, were presented with a plaque. Right: Firemen receiving the special award of an axe were Dale Ellenson, who received top recruit, Nick Meyer who received Top Instructor, and Brock Costeldia who received Top Grit. Firefighters also received jackets from the Academy.



PHOTOS BY JOHN SCARFFE

Beware the deep! Stay out of Colorado mines and stay alive



Saving lives by closing mines properly

PHOTO COURTESY OF TC WAIT

Steve McCollum and his team use pack horses to haul supplies (polyurethane foam (PUF), concrete, etc.) to the mine sites that are in the backcountry.

SCOUT EDMONDSON

PEAK TO PEAK - Colorado's picturesque mountains, rolling prairies, and pine forests are beautiful. However, underneath all that beauty, they conceal a hidden—and potentially deadly—hazard: abandoned mines.

According to a memo, the Colorado Department of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (<https://drms.colorado.gov/programs/inactive-mine-reclamation-program/stay-out-stay-alive>) notes that there are an estimated 23,000 inactive and abandoned mines throughout the Centennial State. There have been dozens of injuries and fatalities stemming from unsuspecting people entering those mines over the past several decades.

Jeff Graves, Director of the Inactive Mine Reclamation Program, stated that these abandoned mines are extremely

hazardous, a fact that most people are not aware of. Staying out of these mines, Graves said, is the best way to avoid these hazards and stay safe.

"The public is generally unaware of the hazards associated with abandoned mines, which can include things like low oxygen environments, dangerous gasses, roof fall, unseen vertical openings, unstable mine timbers, and getting disoriented [lost], just to name a few," Graves stated. "The unstable nature of abandoned mines can create extremely unsafe conditions. There have been a number of incidents over the years of fatalities or serious injuries of people venturing into inactive mines."

"Stay Out, Stay Alive" is the CDRMS' ongoing campaign to make Coloradans aware of these dangerous conditions and avoid inactive mines for their own health and safety.

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The Mountain-Ear is made up of 50 contributors
per month. Each staff member is one spoke in a
very large wheel. Without one spoke, the wheel
does not turn effectively. We welcome community
journalists and personify homegrown journalism.



Elizabeth "Libby" Stewart Hatch Ellis May 5, 1931 - September 21, 2024

Elizabeth "Libby" Stewart Hatch Ellis was born on May 5, 1931, in New Rochelle, New York, and passed away on September 21, 2024, in Estes Park, Colorado, surrounded by her loving family. She was 93. Libby was a resident of Nederland, Colorado, from 1997-2015.

Libby is survived by her husband of 55 years, Robert "Bob" Ellis, and her three children: Laura MacAlister Brown (Rob Ramey), John Summerhayes Brown (Gervaise) and Tobi Ellis Summerhayes (Kyle Young). She is also survived by four adoring granddaughters: Sarah Brown, Eva Ramey, Anika Ramey, and Elissa Brown. Her close-knit family of nieces, nephews, cousins, grandnieces and grandnephews survive her as well. She was predeceased by her two sisters, Rosamond Hatch Butler and Nancy Hatch Beekman. Libby was previously married (1954-1966) to MacAlister Brown, who died in 2016.

Libby was one of triplets and she and her sisters grew up in Schenectady, New York. The triplets' father, T. Alden Hatch, died in 1945 when the girls were 14. They were subsequently raised by their mother, Rosamond S. Hatch, and their maternal grandparents Marion and Harry Summerhayes Sr.

In the 1930s the triplets' grandparents and relatives had the good fortune to acquire a private island on Lake George, New York. Here they built a rustic summer camp and introduced the girls to the outdoor activities they grew to love. The island was a fundamental part of the triplets' upbringing and remains a touchstone and a haven for successive generations of family that have the privilege to call it home.

Libby attended Radcliffe College (now part of Harvard University) in Cambridge Massachusetts, graduating in 1952 with a BA degree in Art History. She was an active member of the Harvard Mountaineering Club and enjoyed many outings to rock climb, hike and ski, especially Tuckerman's Ravine on Mount Washington. Coming from a family of avid outdoor enthusiasts, Libby was eager to spend a good portion of her free time first in the White Mountains and Adirondacks, and later in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and Wyoming. Cross-country and telemark skiing were her favorite winter pastimes and she continued

to trace the mountainsides with her graceful turns until the age of 87. Every winter for 15 years, she and Bob would ski to one of the 10th Mountain Division huts in Colorado's back-country, making her last hut trip at age 82.

Libby's passion for mountains fed a lifelong devotion to sketching, drawing and painting scenes in nature that inspired her. She was an avid bird-watcher, knew the wildflowers, read natural history books, kept up on environmental issues, and donated to conservation organizations. She enjoyed nothing more than a day outside with her sketchbook and colored pencils, most often on a hike. She took art classes over the years and became quite accomplished, displaying her works in local shows and in her home. She filled numerous sketchbooks over 45 years, and collaborated with Bob in producing a printed version of her best Colorado work in 2022. For many years she designed the annual Rocky Mountain Orienteering Club t-shirts, as well as greeting cards of mountain scenes. Libby's art was never for sale, it was always very personal, an expression of her skills at observation and her deep love of nature.

In all the places she lived – Hanover, New Hampshire, Washington DC, Williamstown, Massachusetts, Schenectady, New York, Sudbury, Massachusetts, Woodland Park, Nederland, and Estes Park, Colorado – Libby devoted herself not only to her family and her art, but also to her dogs, of which she had many (10 over 60 years.) She worked for a time at the Woodland Park Veterinary Clinic, and adopted several rescue dogs. She is survived by Niko, her devoted samoyed/husky mix.

Along with visits to national parks in the lower 48, Libby's travels also included the Galapagos, Svalbard, Costa Rica, Alaska, Baja, and Arizona. The Arizona trip, with her sisters and a cousin, traced the legacy of their great-grandmother, Martha Summerhayes, whose memoir *Vanished Arizona* describes Army life in the Arizona Territory in the late 1800s.

Music, books, gardening, crossword puzzles and games were some of Libby's other joys. She took up the mandolin at age 75, learning to play and sing alongside her husband Bob at their annual music camps. While living in Nederland, Colorado, she volunteered



at the local library and joined a book club. She was also a member of a couple of creative writing groups in Nederland and Boulder. Board games like Scrabble and Azul were a given at any social gathering in the Ellis house, with Libby often winning, even in her very senior years.

Libby was a private person, quiet and thoughtful. Although her first marriage to Mac Brown didn't last, Libby later found Bob, the mate she was meant for. When they met, Libby was a 38-year-old divorcee with two children, and Bob was a 23-year-old math and engineering geek and Conscientious Objector (during the Vietnam War.) They were a very unlikely couple, but they hit it off, and the 15 year age difference didn't stop them from marrying in 1969 in a Quaker ceremony. Their daughter Tobi (born Mary Elizabeth Ellis) arrived three years later. None of Libby's family or friends thought such a marriage would last, but they proved everyone wrong. Libby taught Bob how to ski and backpack, they ventured up mountain trails together as often as they could, and their loving and devoted marriage lasted 55 years, until death did them part.

Libby was a much beloved matriarch of her large family, and will be dearly missed.

A private memorial will be held by the family on October 12, 2024.

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Peak Perspectives

Election watch: Political disinformation

LYNN HIRSHMAN

PEAK TO PEAK – As we seem to dash down the final stretch to the November election, we must, in our haste to tell the world our particular choices for elected offices, bear in mind that this election, like those in the U.S. since 2016, is rife with disinformation pushed into our faces from all directions.

According to The American Security Project, “Disinformation is intentionally false information spread with the purpose of deceiving its recipients.

“This differs from **misinformation**, which is false information that is spread without the intention to deceive its recipients. Though the intent is different, the results are often similar.

“...[T]he large number of information outlets available, including cable/satellite channels, websites, and social platforms, allows for greater access to and easier dissemination of false information than in decades past.”

And, yes, heaven knows disinformation is the bread and butter of social media, where lies and scandals about celebrities feed the empty imagination of followers.

But when the lies become part of the political makeup of an election, they may have serious consequences.

The American Security Project continues, in its discussion of disinformation, with this vital bit of understanding: “Sound decision making relies on the ability of an individual to analyze the facts at hand and come to a rational conclusion about the best course of action based on those facts. If the

individual is making decisions based on information that is false or otherwise unreliable, then those decisions may not be in the interest of that individual, or the institution for which they work.” Or the government that individual opts to elect.

We know, thanks to the quick involvement of fact checkers (now becoming valued members of newsgathering operations), that there is one huge item of disinformation being circulated in relation to this current election: that FEMA is cutting (or eliminating, depending on which story you hear) benefits to victims of Hurricane Helene because too much of FEMA’s funds are going to undocumented immigrants.

Leaving aside the mountain of disinformation spread about “illegal immigrants,” this story is easily disproven by looking at the actual components of FEMA funding: One fund for assisting undocumented immigrants with the necessities of life until their legal standing is ascertained; and a much larger fund (recently replenished by Congress), for FEMA’s better known function of assisting at national emergencies.

Further, the governors of the states involved -- all but one, Republican -- have acknowledged the help they have received from FEMA and from the administration.

But the average consumer of social media doesn’t have time (or doesn’t make time) to fact-check the assertion, and, in too many cases, distrusts the fact checking of the mainstream media exactly because of the gusher of disinformation that has drowned us all over the past eight years. Look up *gaslighting* if you want a clearer understanding of this phenomenon.

The American Security Project adds these foreboding words to its description of the danger of disinformation: “The public can be deceived through disinformation ... resulting in action that is contrary to public health and safety, or even action against the government itself. A misinformed public can place pressure on policy makers to undertake decisions based on false information as well.

“Disinformation is exacerbating partisan divides and eroding public faith

in American institutions, threatening the core of American democracy. If this disinformation is successful in severely eroding that faith, the American system of government risks failure.”

The American people are standing at a crossroads where they must choose the direction the country will take. Will we choose based on unverified assertions, or rationally checked data?

Once again, it’s up to us to choose our fate.

Information on disinformation is from <https://www.americansecurityproject.org/public-diplomacy-and-strategic-communication/disinformation/>. The essay goes on a bit longer, and is well worth reading.

Peak to Peak 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 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.

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.

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.

October 25

Trunk-or-Treat: Nederland Elementary School presents the Trunk-or-Treat, a fun event for kids to collect Halloween candy. Don’t forget to wear a costume and bring the whole family out! Trunk-or-Treating goes from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at Nederland Elementary School located at #1 North Sundance Trail in Nederland. Contact the NES PTA if you are interested in decorating a truck, call the school at 720-561-4800.

October 26

Halloween Costume Ball: Elks Lodge Central City is holding its annual Halloween Costume Ball Saturday, October 26, 7 p.m. - 2 a.m. Live music and Spooky Halloween specialty drinks will be available. Fun for all! Located at 113 Main Street in Central City.

Halloween Ned: Come check out a haunted house, carnival games and a photo corner from 12 to 2 p.m. and then a magic show from 2 - 2:30 p.m. hosted by Teens, Inc. \$4 for kids, \$2 for each additional kid and \$1 for game tickets. Adults are free. Located at 151 East Street in Nederland.

Halloween Movie Night: CCCIA hosts a spooky event with a movie and popcorn. Bring your little ghouls, goblins, and ghosts for a treat. Free event located at 31528 Highway 72.

October 30

Halloween Storytime: Children are warmly invited to our Halloween Storytime. Join Miss B. for some not-too-scary stories, songs and a Halloween “parade” around the library. Children are encouraged to wear their costumes. Starts at 10 a.m. and 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



Redd and the Paper Flowers

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADISON BROWN

JAMIE LAMMERS

GOLD HILL - Christina "Redd" Daugherty focused on open mics for a large part of her performing history, but stopped performing as frequently during her approximately decade-long position as a high school English teacher at L&N STEM Academy in Knoxville, Tennessee. After the COVID-19 pandemic, however, she started performing at open mics again.

At these open mics, she met and became friends with Katie Adams and Colleen d'Alelio, who had moved to Knoxville together after the pandemic and after performing in a group called Quality Code Names. A mutual friend, bassist Will Ross, introduced Daugherty to Gavin Gregg. Ross ultimately performed with both in a trio formation called Redd the Band, but Ross and Daugherty have stopped performing together due to creative differences.

Soon after this new group of four met, though, they collectively realized they had similar musical goals and started playing together almost instantly.

Daugherty had already started focusing on music full-time. After taking a music marketing class taught by Adam Ivy, she worked more closely with him and took much of his advice. Her students submitted on her behalf a video of her performing to the team of *American Idol*, and Daugherty ultimately received a confidence boost after placing in the Top 40 of Season 19.

She also released various singles under her nickname Redd that she later compiled into the physical release *Monsters & Mothers*, and by the time of the release of that album, she had quit teaching entirely to pursue music.

Now, with a group of people that gelled together quickly, Daugherty (lead singer and rhythm guitarist), Gregg (mandolin player and lead/backup vocalist), Adams (bassist, upright bassist, and backup vocalist), and d'Alelio (cellist and lead/backup vocalist) decided to form the group now known as Redd and the Paper Flowers.

Daugherty grew up listening to Norah Jones, initially leaning toward jazz music. She also grew up on folk rock from the '60s and '70s, including Janis Joplin, and bluegrass, including Doc Watson and The Punch Brothers. Gregg grew up playing bluegrass on bass before eventually falling in love with the mandolin, and he's listened to everything from the Dave Matthews Band and The Avett Brothers to Radiohead and D'Angelo.

Adams initially focused on the classical realm, starting piano lessons at the age of seven before eventually switching to the upright bass and prioritizing it when her family could only afford to pick one instrument for her. She studied bass as an undergraduate at Ithaca College, where she and d'Alelio met. Initially, she aspired to be an orchestra teacher, but now focuses on performing.

d'Alelio grew up with music directors as parents, her dad a band director and her mom teaching elementary school music. Much like Adams, she initially took piano lessons before switching over to her instrument of choice, the cello. However, she is a multi-instrumentalist, choosing to play a wide variety instead of sticking to one completely, and has also focused on songwriting, releasing her own music under the name Stranger May.

Over the last two to three years, the band has not only connected musically but also

as close friends. D'Alelio's biography on the band's website states that she and Daugherty tend to keep the band together during practice once Adams and Gregg start trading dad jokes between them. They have a band car they've named Bertha and a band RV they've named Gertha, "Gertie" for short.

Initially, Daugherty served as the primary songwriter but has started trying to split writing duties among the other members as evenly as possible, citing Adams's strengths in composition and framework and d'Alelio's unique writing style in particular.

One moment serves as a massive testament as to how quickly the band has connected both musically and emotionally. The backstory leading up to that moment involves 69 years of local history.

In 1955, a man named Bob Rush came to work at the Knoxville location of Cherokee Music, and after three years, he felt confident in his ability to manage his own music store. In 1958, he founded Rush's Music, which has flourished ever since.

After Rush passed away in November 1977, his wife Willene took over and incorporated Rush's in 1979 (the store is still a corporation to this day). In June 1998, employee and manager Steve Boyce purchased Rush's from Willene Rush, and in 2021, Boyce transitioned ownership to employee Jason Cooper.

Cooper had worked at the store since 2002, meeting Daugherty when she started working there in 2011. Ultimately, Daugherty left Rush's to pursue teaching after earning a master's degree in secondary education. However, she would be pulled back to the store she loved after tragedy struck.

On February 22, 2023, police found Cooper dead in his home. Cooper's roommate would turn herself in for the crime in May of that year. With no immediate family, Cooper had willed the majority of his possessions, including the house, his dog, and the ownership of Rush's, to his close friend Daugherty. She embraced the new ownership, with a drive to keep the beloved music store going for herself and the community. But after a while, she felt overwhelmed.

During band practice one day, she broke down, worried about a lack of staff and whether she could keep

moving forward with this leadership position. In response, Gregg and Adams quickly quit their jobs in solidarity with their fellow band member and friend, joining the staff at Rush's to help. Gregg works as an apprentice woodwind repair technician, and Adams works as a sales associate for the West store located in Cedar Bluff (there is now also a South location on Chapman Highway).

The band has grown even closer because of this, as now 75% of the band members can see each other more frequently and the band as a whole can find more time to practice together. Despite times of increased struggle (in a sad coincidence, two ties to Rush's legacy, Cooper's dog and previous store owner Willene Rush, both passed away in April of 2024), Daugherty has overall found peace with her grief, and clearly, her bandmates and friends are there for support.

The band has evolved quickly over the last three years, and all of them, in particular Gregg, love creating music together and watching people enjoy what they make. They find it surreal that they get to do what they love every day as a group that has essentially become a close-knit family.

Ultimately, Daugherty hopes that the energy they bring to the audience and themselves as a group is palpable and contagious, and the whole band hopes that people feel loved during their shows and understand that everything they do is for the audience.

You can see Redd and the Paper Flowers performing live at the Gold Hill General Store, located at 531 Main Street in Gold Hill, on Thursday, October 24, 2024, starting at 7 p.m. The band has released three singles in 2024, "Regrets of Mine," "Heavy Weight," and "Ijams," and are gearing up to release their debut album Appalachian Belljar by spring of 2025.

Be sure to check out the band's music on various platforms, learn more about them and find each member's individual social media by going to reddandthepaperflowers.com; follow their Instagram @redd.music, as well as their Facebook and YouTube as Redd & The Paper Flowers; and learn more about Rush's Music by visiting rushsmusic.com.

Business Spotlight

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Music Events

Gold Hill Inn

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
 Location: 401 Main Street, Gold Hill
 Phone: 303-443-6461

Gold Hill Store

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. - 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 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 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

Fridays at 7 p.m. - DJ Night

Every Second Friday at 7:30 p.m. - Reggae DJ Night
 Sundays at 5 p.m. - Jazz Sundays

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

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 with High Step Society

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

Very Nice Brewing Co. (Gilpin County)

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.verynicebrewing.com/>
 Location: 180 Jankowski Drive, Black Hawk
 Phone: 303-582-2015

Very Nice Brewing Co. (Nederland)

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.verynicebrewing.com/>
 Location: 20 E. Lakeview Drive, #112, Nederland
 Phone: 303-258-3770

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

Everybody's Reading It!



The Mountain-Ear is read beyond the Peak to Peak

Susan and Patti at B & F Mountain Market checking out the latest news.

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



Visit Gilpin County in October

15TH ANNUAL CREEPY CRAWL
 Friday, October 11, Saturday, October 12, Friday, October 18, and Saturday, October 19

CENTRAL CITY'S HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR
 Saturday, October 19 & 26 and Halloween, Thursday, October 31

SPOOKY STROLL
 Friday, October 25

Paid for by the Gilpin Advertising Panel (GAP).
 Interested in having your event listed?
 Email mbleyler@gilpincounty.org
 Scan the QR code for more information.

Business Spotlight


Mark Cohen
 J.D., LL.M.
 ATTORNEY AT LAW
 303-638-3410
 Business, Real Estate,
 Land Use, Trials,
 Intellectual Property,
 and Litigation

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 Hair by Tracy

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- Low Lights • Perms • Style •

Tracy Tyrer
 720.966.7676

Distant Star Astrology



For readings, call Karen Anderson
303-258-7258

Peak to Peak Chamber of Commerce to host workshops

Dear Editor,

The Peak to Peak Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a small business workshop series. These workshops are free and open to the public and focuses on marketing strategies for small businesses in the Peak to Peak area.

The workshop, *How to Build a Marketing Plan*, will be held on October

24 with John Jantsch from Duct Tape Marketing. The workshop will be at Hub Ned #202 in Nederland from 6 - 8 p.m.

More workshops will be planned in the future. For information and to register, contact director@peaktopeak-chamber.org or call 720-310-5161.

Patrice LeBlanc
Peak to Peak Chamber of Commerce



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Vote yes on Proposition 127

Dear Editor,

Please vote "yes" on Proposition 127, the Prohibit Hunting of Mountain Lion, Bobcat, and Lynx Initiative, in November. The common method of using dogs with GPS trackers to chase the lion till s/he is exhausted and often climbs into a tree, where it is shot by a hunter from only yards away, is not sporting and is inhumane. The slaughter is not for meat but for the lion's head and skin.

If hunting big cats in Colorado is prohibited, their populations will stay about the same. California banned mountain lion trophy hunting in 1972 and its mountain lion density is about

the same as Colorado's and that of other western states. California's average deer density is about the same as other western states, and so is its rate of cattle depredation.

Prohibiting big cat trophy hunting will have a negligible effect on the budget of the Colorado Parks & Wildlife department. In 2023, hunting licenses for mountain lions and bobcats brought in \$425,000 revenue to CPW, which is less than one-half of one percent of CPW's annual revenue.

Hunting big cats is cruel and should be prohibited. Vote "yes" on Proposition 127.

Melinda Marquis, Ph.D.
Nederland

A warning to your readers

Dear Editor,

You said my last letter was too long, so I will make this one shorter.

Secretary Marokis [Mayorkas] just stated that FEMA is running out of money. Gee, I wonder why!? Could it be because of all the freebies given to the illegal immigrants like credit cards, phones, free health care at our overwhelmed hospitals, food, etc. etc?

There have been more than 13,000 convicted criminals allowed into our country ILLEGALLY!

Why do you think Iran, China and Russia want Kamala Harris to win the election? Its because Biden and Kamala Harris are weak leaders, easily manipulated by the progressive socialist left.

Please get your heads out of the sand

and do not vote for the democratic party that is slowly destroying our country. The U.S.A is no longer the respected country it once was!

Trump may not be perfect but he is a strong, tough leader and a smart business man who truly loves our country. Do not believe all of the lies that have been written by the far left media and fellow contributors to the *Mountain-Ear*.

This is a simple warning for your readers. If you vote for the Harris-Walz party, you, your children, and your grandchildren will regret it for the rest of your lives.

Thank you,
Linda Maurer
Nederland

Support for Jeff Aiken's bid for County Commissioner

Dear Editor and fellow residents,

I would like to share with you my support of Jeff Aiken for Gilpin County Commissioner from District 1. Jeff is a sincere intelligent public servant as demonstrated through his involvement as a Central City Councilman for 8 years and his 20 years of being on the Black Hawk/Central City Sanitation District board.

He has lived in Gilpin County for over 40 years and helps many people behind the scenes such as providing transportation to those in need and even shoveling the sidewalks in front of the art gallery and St. James church. Jeff is a dedicated counselor at our Gilpin County Jail as he works with inmates who suffer from substance abuse addictions.

Among the many current issues our

county government faces, Jeff supports the county's current funding of the community center, supports a modern food pantry, and is interested in exploring senior housing options. He is comfortable working with representatives from all levels of government and brings a genuine fresh approach to these conversations.

Jeff Aiken is out in the county, meeting people where they live and having meaningful conversations with folks. He will be a hardworking commissioner for ALL Gilpin County residents and work collaboratively with Central City and Black Hawk as the county ushers in a new era of respect and caring for our people and lands.

Sincerely,
Linda Isenhardt
Black Hawk

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Re-elect Sandy Hollingsworth!

Dear Editor,

Sandy embodies exactly what we need in our communities today - as a fair, compassionate and decisive public servant!

I am delighted and grateful to have Sandy Hollingsworth as a close, longtime friend since 1993 and former colleague, working together at city Senior Services for over 10 years. As a friend she has been by my side through ups and downs of life, always asking how my adult children were doing and talking about my current life over her own.

When designing programs which serve the community, managing the team of coworkers, or interacting with an individual client, colleague, external provider or internal staff member, Sandy always shows compassion and professionalism. She has capacities to deeply listen, bring diverse people and perspectives together, and discern and carry through with the course of action based on the collective information.

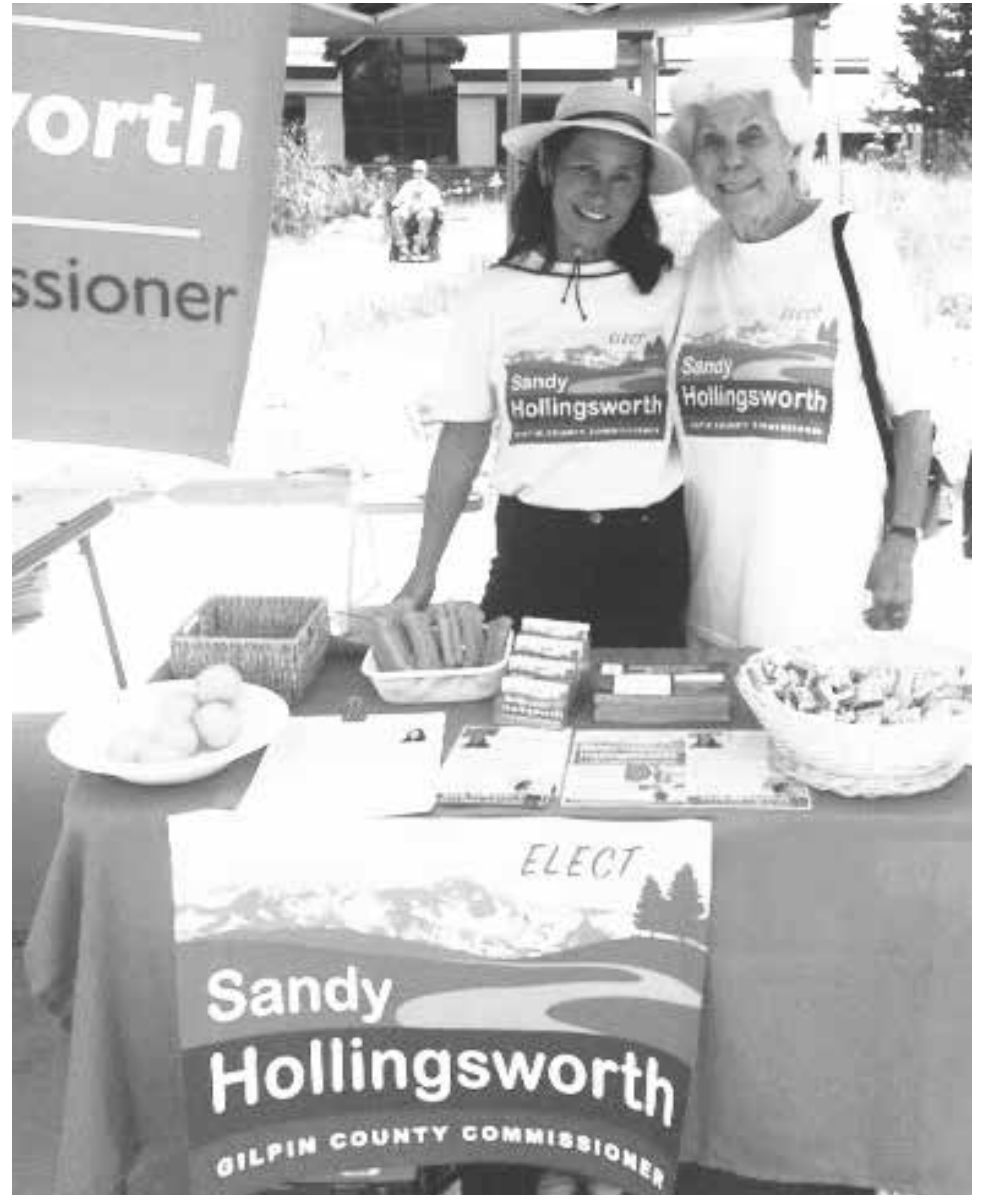
As a commissioner, I see that Sandy is impartial to politically diverse sensitivities and can get things done

through collaboration. Working with Sandy at the Senior Center, I have always experienced her deep commitment to people as humans deserving of respect and dignity. This is exactly what our complex society requires today.

As a leader and manager, Sandy has modeled leadership qualities in consistency and strong values when confronting challenges of any kind. While she works hard in whatever job she is undertaking, she also has a sense of humor and supported the success of my work by showing up to the events I created in a themed costume and to pitch in, as a colleague over manager.

Gilpin County has the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from having Sandy Hollingsworth as County Commissioner for another term in office. Please vote for Sandy who is a proven leader.

*With deep friendship,
Sandy Hale,
Co-founder VIVA Theater Group, Society for Creative Aging
Former Activities Coordinator, Boulder Senior Center*



Gratitude for our quiet hero

Dear Editor,

I'm writing on my behalf and for the Board of the Nederland Food Pantry to express our profound gratitude for the incredible generosity of our "quiet hero," Christian Vanek, who enabled the creation of a brand new campus for the Nederland Food Pantry, Community Gardens & Clothing Closet at 196 W 1st Street in downtown Nederland, near the RTD lot.

We have been operating out of the west wing of the Ned Community Center since 2013 and two community churches before that, all the way back to our founding in 1986. NFP has supported thousands in our community, especially the 1 in 5 of us who experience food security in any given year. Nederland was generous in providing us the space. But over time, the fire department has encouraged us to work harder to find a new home to make room for a rebuild of the west wing.

The generosity and quiet community spirit of Christian Vanek made this dream into a reality, faster than any of us could have dreamed.

Our 3-building campus was built, kitted and transported in flat-packs to our site beside the river by Studio Shed of Louisville, Colorado, to speed up construction to fit Nederland's short building season. An added benefit is we will get a good test of how this type of construction weathers the years up here. The Planning Commission will keep an eye on this. Building 1 is our Food Pantry, which has been blessed the past few months with a cornucopia of fresh food that we grew and harvested ourselves. Building 2 is our community services center, to take care of other needs, including housing and transportation. Building 3 is our Clothing Closet.

Who uses our services? We serve around 500 clients per month, and 1350 households per year, across Boulder and Gilpin counties. The need for our services is accelerating in a softening

job market, with 66 new clients in August and September.

What is the impact? Here's one recent example... a local single mom, even as she was facing homelessness, reached out for help with food, clothing, and other essential support. With focused assistance, she was able to find stable housing and land a steady job. This helped her create a better future for herself and her child. Our services leverage the strength and determination of people in our community. When we show up for each other and help those in need, we can make some really positive changes happen that support all of us. We use our resources with great care, earning a 97% score (4 star rating) from Charity Navigator (more on that later).

Christian Vanek helps our community in other ways you may not know about. As publisher of *The Mountain-Ear*, Christian helped evolve our paper to recently win 18 Colorado Press Association awards, including "Excellence in Mixed Media," General Excellence for having more awards than any other publication in its class, and (rightfully) Christian was awarded the Innovation Award for his continued belief and support of community journalism.

As a business entrepreneur, Christian understands the necessity for our businesses to thrive to provide services we need and sales taxes to pay our bills.

Nederland's sales tax revenues are down 5% year-to-date from last year. If uncorrected, our town services will have to scale back. Christian is retrofitting our old bank building to house new businesses we're going to enjoy having and to help plug the sales tax shortfall.

Nederland can have "nice things," from families in need of essential support to those of us who dine out often.

Thank you Christian Vanek for all you do to make Nederland a great place to live, for all of us! Your contributions are deeply appreciated - bravo!

*Tom Mahowald
Nederland resident and NFP Chair*

Letter to the Editor

Submit your letter to the editor by emailing the newspaper at info@themountainear.com, scanning the QR code here, or on our website at <https://www.themtnear.com/submit-letter-or-guest-opinion/>. Letters are the opinion of the author and do not reflect the opinion of *The Mountain-Ear*.

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



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 option to rewrite following our letter policy. Questions? Email info@themountainear.com.

Respect and value the mountains

Dear Editor,

For those who want to chop down pine, spruce and juniper trees, please research the value of these trees as wildlife food and shelter. Consider how the shade they provide keeps our mountains cool and how they break the wind and hold the soil in place.

For those who enjoy killing coyotes, foxes, bobcats and cougars and stacking them up like firewood for trophy contests, or hanging their heads grotesquely on barren walls, please understand that many of us enjoy and value their presence in this ecosystem

where they belong.

And finally for those who speed through our mountain ecosystem in cars, trucks and on motorcycles as if there is nothing of beauty to be seen, killing birds and wildlife that dare to cross a road, please go back to your concrete, steel and glass jungle in the city where you can merrily speed down the interstate.

Stop feeling so entitled and show some respect and empathy toward mountain people, pets, forests and wildlife.

*Diane Brown
Eldora*



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Research your candidates before voting

Dear Editor,

I can't seem to look at the newspaper without seeing some sympathetic personal testament about Corey Marshall. Since I'd never heard of him before this election, as a Gilpin County voter, I set out to perform some due diligence. I navigated to his campaign website. Although sparse on detail, the phrases "small business" and "low taxes" seem to dominate. My first thought was Gilpin County isn't a small business, it's a government entity created to assist all of the citizens of and visitors to Gilpin County, but maybe the skills translate.

I set out to see what I could learn about Corey Marshall, the small businessman. I checked up on Tivoli

Brewing, a small business he started in 2012. Nothing in business ever seems clear, but for some reason, in 2018 Corey Marshall was replaced as that small business leader. He no longer appears to have an active leadership role with the company, but if he does, the company doesn't seem to be doing well at all. Ouch!

Aside from all the personal testaments, I was curious what kind of citizen Corey Marshall is, so I figured I would check the Gilpin County Court records. I found that he sued two sets of neighbors over a gate with a ridiculous claim for \$100,000! Really? I understand that neighbors sometimes disagree, but I don't think I want a county commissioner who can't even

settle an argument with his neighbors short of dragging everyone to court and making a bunch of lawyers more wealthy! Ouch!

The short of it is, a county commissioner is not the same as a small business leader. Even if the skills were to transfer, Corey Marshall doesn't appear to be a good small business leader. As a citizen and neighbor, he doesn't seem to be good at those either.

Robert Tischer
Black Hawk

****Editor's note: Information used to write this letter can be found in these links:**

<https://www.marshall4gilpin.com/>

platform

<https://medium.com/project-redesign/transitioning-from-private-to-public-sector-lessons-learned-from-those-who-experienced-it-5991c7c870f2>

<https://www.westword.com/restaurants/tivoli-brewing-shuts-down-distributorship-brewery-founder-exits-10393524>

<https://www.denverpost.com/2024/04/24/denver-international-airport-tivoli-brewing/>

<https://www.westword.com/restaurants/tivoli-brewing-outlaw-mile-hi-18668531>

Marshall et al v. Schultz et al, 2020CV030013

Gilpin Republicans' Family Fun Fest

Dear editor,

Gilpin County voters got valuable information and face time with their Republican candidates, Marie Mornis and Corey Marshall, at their Fall Family Fun Fest on Saturday.

The children who attended were thrilled to have their first horse rides! One 6-year-old boy said, "This is my BEST BIRTHDAY EVER!" (Corey and Debbie Marshall brought horses to the fairgrounds for the occasion.) Some folks tried the hula hoop, including candidate Marshall (emphasis on "tried"), and others played Corn Hole in the wind!

Nobody went away hungry, as there was a full buffet...hot and cold apple cider, coffee, every kind of doughnut you can imagine, hot dogs, chili, and chips.

Congressional candidate Marshall Dawson dropped in to meet Gilpinites as well.

It was a beautiful day in Gilpin County!

Donna Okray Parman



PHOTO BY MINDY LEARY

Free horse rides

Corey Marshall, candidate for Gilpin County commissioner, and his wife, Debbie, lend a hand as two young girls get ready to ride horses at the Republican Fall Family Fun Fest at the Gilpin County Fairgrounds. Their parents look on while the wind whips through the lively afternoon event on Saturday, October 5, 2024.

What's Happening at Gilpin County Parks & Recreation

250 Norton Drive
<http://www.facebook.com/gilpincounty.org/>
<http://www.facebook.com/gilpincounty.org/>

Now Hiring:

Part-Time Guest Services Representative. For more information and other job opportunities, visit our website <https://gilpincounty.colorado.gov/careers>.

2024 Vaccine Clinics

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

Spooky Trick or Treat Stroll

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

Cardio Dance Class

Saturdays October 12, 19, 26, and November 2, 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Ages 14 and up. \$42 for adults and \$33 for Seniors, or drop in at \$11 for adults 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!

Parents Night Out

Friday, November 1 from 4:30 - 8 p.m. Ages 5 through 12. \$25 a child or \$15 if the child is already enrolled in camp on November 1. Leave the kids with us for a fun-filled evening while you enjoy a well-deserved break. The kids will get to enjoy a spaghetti dinner provided by us, along with spooky themed crafts & activities.

2024 Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run & Walk

Saturday, November 30 from 1 - 12 p.m. Open to all ages and pets, too! \$25 per person for ages 11 and up. Shirts are included. Located at the Community Center Trail.

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 - 7:15 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays! Daily program is free after a \$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. - 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 - 6 p.m. and Friday, at 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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

Soo Bahk Do: Monday and Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Advanced classes are 6:30 - 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Pickleball: First 30 minutes is for instruction and practice. No games at this time.

Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Friday from 1 - 4 p.m.

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

Gilpin Stitchers Club: Second & fourth Mondays of each month from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

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

Friday, October 11

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. Meet in the Community Room at the Nederland Community Library located at 200 Highway 72.

Saturday, October 12

Gilpin Football Club: All are welcome to join us Saturdays and Sundays during the football season. Don's Gilpin Football Club will be showing all Colorado Football College games as well as particularly popular games on Saturdays with Bronco Football parties on Sundays and any football game available upon request. Come One, Come All to the Elks Lodge in Central City! Saturday 12 p.m. - close, Sunday 11 a.m. - close.

Monday, October 14

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 located at 200 Highway 72 every Monday from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information, visit <https://nederland.libcal.com>.

Meditation and Mindfulness: Practice meditation, explore readings and join discussions in this free program at Nederland Community Library located at 200 Highway 72 every Monday at 5:30 p.m. No meditation experience necessary! Please email Eric at davis.eric.alan@gmail.com with any questions.

Tuesday, October 15

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>.

Sci Fi Book Club: Second Tuesdays of the month. Newcomers welcome! Open to readers ages 17 and up. Our book this month is *The City & The City* by China Miéville. You can participate in-person in the Community Room or online. 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Nederland Community Library located at 200 Highway 72.

Wednesday, October 16

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. Starts at 10 a.m. at the Gilpin County Public Library located at 15131 Highway 119.

Thursday, October 17

Friends of the Library Meeting: Come join us in the meeting room at 6:30 p.m. to learn about ways you can contribute to the library. This month we will be discussing upcoming fundraising opportunities during the holiday season. All proceeds from book and bake sales help to pay for programs at the library. Meet at the Gilpin County Public Library located at 15131 Highway 119.

Saturday, October 19

CCCIA Oktoberfest: Join the Coal Creek Canyon Improvement Association for a celebration of Oktoberfest. Dinner includes bratwurst, sauerkraut, German potato salad, pickles and strudel. Hot dogs for kids. \$12 for members, \$18 for non-members and \$8 for kids. 5 to 7 p.m. at the CCCIA hall located at 31528 Highway 72.

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

**Gilpin County Seniors**

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 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.

School Calendars

Nederland Middle and High School

Thursday, October 10 at 4 p.m. - MS Girls' Volleyball at Centennial
 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
 Monday, October 14 All Day - No School (Teacher PD Day)
 Monday, October 14 - V Boys' Soccer vs Loveland Classical
 Monday, October 14 at 4:30 p.m. - JV Girls' Volleyball vs Loveland Classical
 Monday, October 14 at 5:30 p.m. - V Girls' Volleyball
 Tuesday, Oct 15 All Day - Book Fair
 Tuesday, October 15 at 5 p.m. - MS Girls' Volleyball vs SHMS
 Tuesday, October 15 at 5:30 p.m. - High Trails Parent Meeting
 Tuesday, October 15 at 6 p.m. - Boys' Soccer at Campion
 Wednesday, October 16 All Day - Book Fair
 Wednesday, October 16 at 8:15 a.m. - Middle School Academic Awards
 Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m. - National Honor Society Induction
 Thursday, October 17 All Day - Book Fair
 Thursday, October 17 at 4:30 p.m. - PT Conferences In Person

Gilpin High School

Thursday, October 10 at 4 p.m. - PMHS Girls' Volleyball
 Friday, October 11 at 3:30 p.m. - PMHS Boys' Football
 Friday, October 11 at 4 p.m. - PMMS Girls' Volleyball
 Saturday, October 12 at 10 a.m. - PMMS Girls' Volleyball
 Monday, October 14 at 4:30 p.m. - PMHS Girls' Volleyball
 Monday, October 14 at 6 p.m. - PMHS Boys' Football Home vs Front Range Christian (JV)
 Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m. - PM Secondary Vocal and Instrumental Concert
 Thursday, October 17 at 4 p.m. - PMHS Girls' Volleyball Home

Statepoint Crossword

THEME: WORLD SERIES

ACROSS

- 1. End of WW2 conference location
- 6. No longer is
- 9. Cake with rum
- 13. * ___ Asinoff, author of "Eight Men Out"
- 14. Invoice qty.
- 15. Fox crime drama, 2005-2017
- 16. *Baseball player's representative
- 17. Pastrami's partner
- 18. With irregular edge
- 19. *Last year's World Series winners
- 21. *Brave contender
- 23. Certain tray content
- 24. Fail to mention
- 25. Nocturnal flyer
- 28. Team homophone
- 30. *Last year's MVP Corey ___
- 35. Iranian monarch
- 37. Proactiv target
- 39. "Superman" star
- 40. Head of family
- 41. Button-up or button-down
- 43. Singles
- 44. Graduates
- 46. Symphony member
- 47. *Number in a baseball lineup
- 48. Say again
- 50. Brezhnev's country

- 52. PST plus three
- 53. Mouth off
- 55. Brewed beverage
- 57. *Fall ___
- 61. *Two-time World Series MVP winner in 1970s
- 65. Two under on one hole in golf
- 66. Brewed alcoholic beverage
- 68. Grind down
- 69. #72 Across, in the olden days
- 70. *2003 World Series winner or Marvel leader, Stan
- 71. Plural of #62 Down
- 72. Eject
- 73. ___ excellence
- 74. Noise of contempt

DOWN

- 1. 1984, e.g.
- 2. Pond plant
- 3. Right to a property
- 4. Polynesian kingdom
- 5. Affirm to be true
- 6. TV's "Storage ___"
- 7. Comedian Schumer
- 8. Iron setting
- 9. Bora ___
- 10. Any day now, formerly

- 11. Superlative of better
- 12. Not in port
- 15. Loud singer
- 20. Actress ___ Perlman, pl.
- 22. ___ the season!
- 24. Double-decker
- 25. Wilde of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" fame
- 26. Blue or gray swimmer
- 27. Drink like a cat (2 words)
- 29. Reply from a tunnel
- 31. Eon, alt. sp.
- 32. Robin Williams in "Aladdin"
- 33. 0 and 2, e.g.
- 34. Set to zero
- 36. *Touch to score
- 38. Son of Aphrodite
- 42. T in Ferrari TR
- 45. Uses #53 Across
- 49. ___ Chi
- 51. Break for Congress
- 54. Dandruff manufacturer
- 56. Ohio city
- 57. ___ pit
- 58. Nordic native
- 59. Malaria symptom
- 60. A whole bunch
- 61. Crowd's derision
- 62. Performer's time to shine
- 63. Aroma
- 64. Egg holder
- 67. Grazing field

Sudoku Solution

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

Sudoku solution October 3

Puzzle Solution

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

Crossword solution October 3

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
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				



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

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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.

Gilpin schools report mixed results



PHOTO BY WES ISENHART

Full house

The Gilpin RE-1 boardroom was full for the Meet and Confer meeting with staff at the October 1, 2024, board of education meeting

WES ISENHART

GILPIN COUNTY – There was both good and bad news presented at the Gilpin RE-1 Board of Education meeting on October 1, 2024. The good news was that students were meeting state academic expectations based on the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) testing last year. The bad news is that reading and writing skills need improvement, and that district finances will be stretched in the coming years.

Tami Velasquez was the only board member absent from the meeting, which was presided over by Board Chair Sarah Swanson. Superintendent David MacKenzie and staff members were all present for the first Meet and Confer meeting of the 2024/2025 school year.

The Meet and Confer portion of the meeting involved some disagreements over what was appropriate for staff to discuss with the Board. Operational and personnel issues were rejected as items of discussion. MacKenzie

reiterated several times that Meet and Confer meetings should focus on policy issues such as the school year calendar or improving exit interviews.

Board member Kirsten Goodlett, in a passionate plea for cooperation, said: “We are all colleagues. We are all a team for the same building with the same goals intended and that in my opinion is to be a school of excellence, where everybody feels comfortable and recognized.”

Elementary School Principal Patrick Linnehan reported that elementary school students had Academic Achievement of 73% overall on last spring’s CMAS tests, which earned the school a “Meets Expectations” designation. The measure for Academic Growth for the elementary school students was 50%, which earned an “Approaching Expectations” designation.

The elementary school students scored highest in science and math. English language arts scores were the lowest. The Medium Growth Percentile (MGP) for English Language Arts was 25% which does not meet expectations. The mathematics MGP was 52%, which does meet expectations.

To address the gap in reading and writing, Linnehan is implementing a series of practices to help students catch up, including after-school tutoring using the Orton Gillingham phonics curriculum; identifying students with scores below the 40th percentile; creating a Multi-Tier Support System (MTSS) profile; and reaching out to parents.

Goodlett asked about support for high achieving students. Linnehan replied that there are programs in place to help them accelerate their learning.

Secondary School Principal Sarah Reich reported that overall performance

on CMAS testing was 78% for Academic Achievement, which meets expectations; and 55% for Academic Growth, which is approaching expectations. Reich said that staff were working to strengthen core instruction, and to streamline the MTSS system to help with reading and math interventions in order to help students who are not meeting standards.

Reich was also working to use supportive systems to build a positive school culture and create a sense of belonging and purpose for all members of the learning community.

The last segment of the board meeting was a review by MacKenzie of the 2025/2026 Salary Schedule Draft Proposals. The projected salary schedules contained A and B schedules for Licensed Educators.

MacKenzie said that the sewer project was now estimated to cost around \$9 million with interest. With increases in operating costs and benefits, MacKenzie warned, finances going forward would be tight and there might come a time when the District wouldn’t be able to pay 100% of staff health insurance benefits.

The next RE-1 Board of Education meeting will be on October 15, 2024, at 7 p.m., in the school boardroom. The agenda and documents for this meeting are on the RE-1 website (gilpin.k12.co.us) under the Board of Education Agendas for October 1, 2024. There is a video of the October 1, 2024, meeting on the GCS D YouTube channel. Click on the link on the agenda to access the video.

-QUOTE OF THE WEEK-

“Words - so innocent and powerless as they are, as standing in a dictionary, how potent for good and evil they become in the hands of one who knows how to combine them.”
—Nathaniel Hawthorne



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Warriors battle on the gridiron



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

While proudly serving our country

Top, 30 percent of Air Force cadets are women. Page 13, Top, left: Scanning the field for an open receiver. Top, right: A Falcon running back breaks a tackle to gain extra yardage during a matchup between Air Force and Navy. Right, middle: The Navy ground game was unstoppable. Bottom, right: An Air Force cheerleader. Bottom, left: Jet fighter pilots aren't the only ones who know how to fly. Middle, left: The mascot is hooded during games to keep it calm during all the action. Middle, right: A blocker clears the way for a Falcons runner.

DAVE GIBSON

COLORADO SPRINGS - When Navy arrived at Falcon Stadium on Saturday, October 5, Air Force knew that they had their work cut out for them. Even though the Falcons had won the previous four meetings between the academies, they have struggled this year on their way to a 1-3 record. The Midshipmen, on the other hand, entered the game with a perfect 4-0 mark that includes a 56-44 upset victory over #23 ranked Memphis. Oddsmakers figured the Falcons as a 10-point underdog.

A flyover before the game and at halftime ended up being Air Force's two biggest highlights of the contest. Falcon quarterback Quentin Hays' 45-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter to Tre Roberson was the other. Hoping that it will become a trend in the future, it was Air Force's first receiving touchdown of the season.

Ranked the third best rushing team in

the country, Navy's formidable ground attack dominated, registering 6.9 yards per carry for 329 yards on the day. Eli Heidenreich ran for 100 yards and caught five passes for a total of 101 yards. He is the first Midshipman since 2000 to achieve at least 100 yards rushing and receiving in the same game. Quarterback Blake Horvath ran for 115 yards and contributed two rushing touchdowns. Not since 2003 has Navy had two 100-yard rushers and a 100-yard receiver in a single outing. Alex Tecza ran the football into the endzone twice and Nathan Kent once on a 34-yard scamper. Final score: Navy 34, Air Force 7.

Next on tap, the Air Force Falcons play the New Mexico Lobos in a winnable game on October 12 in Albuquerque. Still in the running for the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy and a prestigious bowl appearance, the Navy Midshipmen's next game should be a cakewalk for their Homecoming against Charlotte in Annapolis on October 19.

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Life in Nature: Fall harvest

JAMES DEWALT

BARKER RESERVOIR - Autumn is the season of gathering and reaping the rewards of a summer of growth and prosperity. As humans many thousands of years ago transitioned from a nomadic life of hunting to the more sedentary existence of agriculture, we settled more and more into this seasonal celebration as crops ripened for the picking.

The revelry that evolved from this tradition brings to light our own connections to nature, as while wildlife might not be throwing parties, there is a feeling of busy contentment as creatures enjoy their own variations of this season of gathering.

While much of summer life in the wild is spent enjoying the “salad days” of lush growth following spring’s budding of the new, fall marks a time of enjoying the fruits of that growth. Whether the harvest is eaten on the spot to aid in “fattening up” for the long winter ahead, or stored away for later feasts, every creature takes part in this annual tradition.

As we live amid the wildlife here on the edge of the wilderness, we can enjoy observing this in so many ways. One of our more notorious neighbors in this season is our ursine contingent. Bears go into what is called *Hyperphagia*. They are literally in a feeding frenzy as they try to eat anything and everything they find that might aid in their fattening up.

They tend to be seen more frequently

around now as their wandering often brings them to human dwellings in search of “easy pickings.” While it is always necessary to be vigilant with bear-proofing around the home, it is important in the fall to be even more observant of these practices as this frenzy overtakes their own “common sense,” and their need to feed becomes more aggressive.

Another commonly allegorical creature is the squirrel, storing away nuts and seeds for winter consumption. It has long been humorously remarked that they often forget where they put all their bounty, but scientists are starting to find that they do remember, and that there is a solid method to their madness of caching.

Some rodent species tend to hoard, storing their prized food in one easy-to-access location near a nest. Others tend to scatter their findings around their territories. Tactics vary based on terrain, predation, and general convenience. Here in the Rockies, it is common to see piles of pine cones at the base of a tree. These were likely gathered by one or more squirrels in an effort to keep a stash of food near their nesting community.

Birds’ practice also varies, determined by their species. Woodpeckers famously pack seeds and nuts into holes drilled into trees. Other species don’t enjoy that evolutionarily acquired expertise for such a practice, and resort to everyday foraging. Fall provides a feast for these creatures as flowering plants transform their summer blooms to ripened seed



PHOTO BY JAMES DEWALT

pods ready for release into the soil for a winter of hibernation before their own spring renewal.

Favorites of our Pine Siskins (seen in this week’s photo) are our abundant thistles. From late August into early October the flowers literally burst with fluffy white seed pods, and these petite charmers are often found in small flocks perched among the stems and atop the fluffy stalks, eagerly feasting to their hearts’ content.

While we humans also like to enjoy this seasonal wild harvest by way of foraging, it is important to be mindful of our impacts on the land. When foraging, it is best to gather only what one might need or consume in one meal, maybe two. With more and more humans who enjoy this practice moving into areas such as ours, so near to wilderness, our impact can be devastating to the inhabitants who rely on the same foods

for their own survival during the long and harsh winter.

While gathering what might seem like a small, simply enjoyable amount for humans – not truly necessary for survival – the very same amount could spell life or death for those who truly need it if taken from the land.

Whatever your practice might be in this season of harvest and celebration, do get out there and enjoy the abundance that nature provides. From the brilliant golds and deep reds of the foliage to the hustle and bustle of the woodland critters, the zestful life of autumn is incredibly rewarding to take in before the white and chilly days settle over the land like a comforter on a cozy bed of winter slumber.

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

VOTE MARSHALL

I'VE BEEN ENJOYING CONVERSATIONS OUT IN THE COMMUNITY AND HERE IS WHAT I'M HEARING:

Residents want to return this county back to being a service organization whose sole purpose is to provide “Outstanding” service to its residents

HERE'S WHAT I'LL DO:

- Initiate a continuous service improvement process
- Work with residents to define what an “**Outstanding**” service goal looks like
- Get on-going official and measurable feedback from residents on how the county is doing against the goal
- Use the resident feedback to identify critical improvements in county services
- Deliver “**Outstanding**” service to the residents vs. the residents answering to the county
- “**STOP**” the county’s current practices of overreaching and over controlling



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Holistic Homestead Farmers Market rounds out another season



Fire on the mountain

Pam Dumont is brewing up some magic to fight off the seasonal flu season. Known as "fire cider," the concoction is intended to be taken as a health shot and will be ready in mid-November.

MINDY LEARY

GILPIN COUNTY - The wind was at odds with vendors' tents, but that did not stop the fun at the final Gilpin County Holistic Homestead Farmers Market on Saturday, October 5, 2024.

Held at the Gilpin County Community Center, the Homestead Farmers Market featured an array of fresh fruits and



Crystal Soaps

Imagine bathing and then unlodging a rock from your soap; getting a mystical gift while in your birthday suit. And now imagine that soap is handmade by local vendor Earth Star Minerals and Botanicals!

vegetables, like Asian pears and acorn squash, just in time for those Fall recipes.

Skeen Acres was on site selling their free-range chickens, turkeys, and duck eggs. There's nothing like eating mountain-raised fowl to get ready for winter!

Speaking of winter, warm tea samples were offered from Earth Star Minerals and Botanicals, pioneered at the beginning of this year by local resident Pam Dumont.

Dumont has combined the healing properties of herbs with the power of crystals in her soaps and teas. Crystals

juttied out of her handmade soaps and some of the teas were even geared toward aligning specific chakras.

What was more enticing (but not available until mid-November) was Dumont's "Fire Cider," containing oranges, lemon, jalapeno, rosemary, thyme, elderberry, horseradish, burdock, ginger, and onion. Once it is finished brewing, a shot can be taken for quick relief from the seasonal ick.

Also on site, a community favorite, Dory's Dozens offered a rainbow assortment of jams, jellies, salsas, and mustards.

A jazz trio named Blue Moose played



Veggies and fruits for everyone

The blustery day did not stop locals from seeking out the best organic produce at the Holistic Homestead Farmers Market on October 5, 2024.

some fun, easygoing tunes and the smell of quesadillas rocketed through the air.

If you missed the event, you can still get in on the healthy goodness that is the Holistic Homestead at 972 Golden Gate Canyon Road, just up the street from the Community Center in Gilpin County.

Stay tuned for next year's events!

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Beware the deep! Stay out of Colorado mines and stay alive



Equipment must be hauled in
Left: Preparing a shaft for a cable net closure by drilling anchor bolts into the stable rock around the side of the mine opening. Right: Pack animals are the only way to get to some of the remote mines.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TC WAIT

continued from page 1

Back in 1980, CDRMS created the Inactive Mine Reclamation Program (<https://drms.colorado.gov/programs/inactive-mine-reclamation-program>), which, in addition to helping educate the general public of the hazards of abandoned mines, aims to close them, ensuring that people don't endanger themselves in them. The program is also aimed at solving the environmental problems that stem from the mines, like acid mine runoff, underground coal seam fires, and water quality issues.

than half of the abandoned mines throughout Colorado, a new challenge has arisen: the abandoned mines that are left are becoming harder to get to. That's where Steve McCollum comes in.

McCollum owns McCollum's Excavation, a business based out of Black Hawk that, among other earth-moving-related enterprises, has been helping the state close mines for 28 years. Since many of the remaining mines are in remote corners of the mountains or protected wilderness areas, he can't use heavy machinery to close them. His answer: use pack horses.

"The State has safeguarded approximately 13,500 mines since the Program's inception in 1980," Graves noted. "The State safeguards approximately 300 mines each year."

"A lot of times, some of the sites that we work on, you can drive an ATV to them, and a lot of it's machine work," McCollum said. "But a lot of these mines,

Now that CDRMS has closed more

continued on page 17

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Beware the deep!

continued from page 16

they're getting to be pretty remote. And two years ago, we were actually up in close to the Fourth of July Mine with the state, and that was all a horse deal. A lot of the mines are in wilderness areas where you can't use helicopters, and you can't use power tools."

McCullum's family have lived in the Nederland area for generations, and were some of the people who mined in the area as far back as the 1800s, he added. He also grew up raising horses, and combined with his mine-sealing expertise, McCullum has found a solution to closing these otherwise hard-to-reach mines.

McCullum and his team will pack polyurethane foam—like the product you buy at ACE Hardware to seal around your house's windows and doors—in with them, then pour it around the entrance to a mine, sealing it off.

But, McCullum pointed out, that's only a viable solution if there aren't bats living in the mines. Since bats are protected under federal and state law, McCullum and the state have to determine if they live in a mine, and if they do, they have to find a way to remove the animals without harming them.

"If there are bats in the hole, then we have to use what are called bat grates, which are steel, and that's a little bit more difficult to tackle with the horses. So a lot of times when you're doing those, you'll end up with helicopters mainly flying them to it," McCullum said.

McCullum stated that the state sends biologists to each mine to determine if bats live there. If they do, and if the workers can't fly in a bat grate,

McCullum and his team will hang bat exclusion fences over the opening of the mine, which are designed to let the animals out when they leave at night, but prevent them from re-entering the mine. Once all the bats are out, McCullum added, they seal the entrance off.

But McCullum's work goes beyond just sealing these dangerous mines. Since his family has such strong ties to the area through mining, he reminds people that this problem was accidental, and that if done responsibly, mining can create economic income in an area where other opportunities aren't always there.

"I'm full mining if it's in a responsible manner," McCullum said. "So for me, I just think it's important that people see that there are people and companies in the state trying to remedy some of these mining-related issues. So I always tell people, you can't really blame what we did in 1890 and ruined a stream or something. You can't really blame that on what we're doing today, because today that would never happen. So I just think it's important that people know that there are people out there that make a living trying to fix these mining-related problems."

McCullum also indicated that the most important thing to stay safe around mines is to remember the state's motto: stay out, stay alive.

For more information on McCollum's Excavating, call 303-582-1500, and to find out more information about Colorado's Inactive Mine Reclamation Program, head to drms.colorado.gov/programs/inactive-mine-reclamation-program.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TC WAIT

Closing the mines is important work

Top, right: A lot of the work involves backfilling since the creek crossing and steep slope made access by construction equipment too difficult. Bottom, right: A team of horses and equipment make their way to a mine. Bottom: Horses heading to a mine in the backcountry like they would have more than 100 years ago. This time the purpose is different.



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Calvary Chapel channels community spirit



Family fun on a breezy day

Calvary Chapel's Annual Harvest Festival offered games and the chance to win prizes.

CHRISTOPHER KELLEY

NEDERLAND - The Calvary Chapel Annual Harvest Festival took place on a breezy Saturday afternoon in the midst of a busy leaf peeping season. The event, organized by members of the contemporary church, included kids' games, baked goods, local art and crafts, antiques, and much more.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER KELLEY

Suz-Q-Z was at the festival, providing her expert face-painting to young attendees as they bounced between games that tested their strength and their dexterity, and a delicious build-your-own caramel apple bar.

Peace, Love, and Cake was selling a variety of pies and cookies, while Simply Sourdough sold whole loaves of bread and baking supplies. Harry



Inspiring hope and joy

Guitarist Tony Crank and flautist Earl Correy filled the market with beautiful music.

and Mary Begay of Arizona returned to delight the crowd with their famous and delicious Navajo Tacos.

Beatrice Sullivan, Bradley Townsend, and Nina Zychlinski were just three of the local artists displaying their paintings, each with their own distinctive style. Alice Running Hawk sold traditional handmade Navajo jewelry, as did Kisha, who showcased jewelry made from juniper berries, hollowed and discarded by squirrels.

Local gardener Linda Engel highlighted her cookbook *Garden to Table Cooking*, and Alice Ames brought many of her unique and cherished antiques, including a set of military figurines fashioned out of lead.

The entire festival was accompanied by the soothing sounds of local guitar legend Tony Crank and flautist Earl Correy, whose music reflected the open and welcoming atmosphere that Calvary Chapel had cultivated.



Games for goodies

Tommy Olive hosted the many games of skill and chance that kids of all ages enjoyed.



Local art a highlight

The bright and beautiful work of Beatrice Sullivan was on display.

The Calvary Chapel offers contemporary worship on Sundays at 11 a.m. at 275 West 2nd Street (Highway 72) in Nederland. For more information call 303-258-3502.



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Market season ends with a party



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER KELLEY

Harvest Fest gets spooooky

Undertakers, zombies, and killer clowns offered discounts on Haunted Stage Stop tickets.

CHRISTOPHER KELLEY

NEDERLAND - The Nederland Farmers Market (NFM) season wrapped up on Sunday, October 6, 2024, with the biggest party yet, the annual Harvest Festival. Nederland residents and leaf peepers alike were treated to beer and liquor vendors, more food options, live music, and a special appearance from Murray the yak.

In addition to the great number of local vendors that the NFM always highlights, local breweries and distilleries such as Augustina's Winery, Busey Brews, Gold Dirt Distillery, Howlin' Wind, Knotted Root, and Very Nice Brewing Company were present to sling some suds.

Market staples like Esmeralda's Tamale House, Kaleidoscope Kitchen, and Susan's Samosas delivered their always-exciting menus, while FED (Farm Eats Direct), Temaki Tornado, and Washoku joined the party.

Local organizations offered special treats to raise money for good causes, including the Nederland Parent Teacher Association, who roasted chiles and held a bake sale; Grateful Acres, who supplied a build-your-own caramel apple station with Peace, Love, and

Cake; and the Nederland Food Pantry (NFP), who pressed fresh apple cider.

Funds were also raised for the NFP with help from Kitchen Mouse bakery, which donated one dollar for each snickerdoodle sold to accompany the fresh cider. All pulp from the pressed apples was bagged and passed onward to local celebrity Murray the yak, who was also present at the festival to give rides and receive scratches behind his ears.

The Harvest Festival also brought the funk with two of the biggest and most energizing performances to ever hit the local stage. Melt & the Family Band got the crowd to start moving and grooving, and powerhouse ATOMGA followed up with an infectious eclectic set.

A very special thanks to Kipp Nash and Kate Yzquierdo and all of the NFM volunteers who contributed to such a successful market season. Thanks as well go to the market's sponsors, including Backcountry Pizza, The Caribou Room, Crosscut, Diner Bar, Dino Moves, Eldora, Elevated Impressions, realtor Jessica Fitzner, Gold Dirt Distillery, High Performance Earthworks, Hub Ned, Knotted Root Brewing Company, *The Mountain-Ear*, Mountain Peoples Co-Op, Salto, Tadasana Mountain Yoga, and more.



Bringing the vibes

Nine-member musical powerhouse ATOMGA rocked the Harvest Fest stage.



Fun for all ages

The Carousel of Happiness hosted pumpkin decorating, which was a huge hit.



Talent in action

Local artist Danielle Crouse of Kaleidoscope Fine Arts Gallery painted live at Harvest Fest.



Arts, crafts, and activities

Young attendees browsed the market with bright and colorful, freshly-painted faces.

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Gilpin Arts members gather for creative celebration

MINDY LEARY

CENTRAL CITY - Located in Central City, the Gilpin Arts Association offers a refreshing cultural experience for families and art lovers.

Housed in Washington Hall, Colorado's oldest continuously used building, this historic space serves as a creative retreat, showcasing art and fostering community. For those seeking something beyond the hustle of the busy days, Gilpin Arts provides a chance to explore a vibrant world of talent and imagination.

On Friday, October 4, 2024, the Gilpin Arts Association held a special reception to celebrate its 137 members and the Annual Members' Show. The exhibition showcased a wide range of artistic mediums, from watercolors and oil paintings to sculptures, jewelry, and photography.

Open to artists from across the globe, the show gives members the opportunity to display and sell their work in one of the most distinctive gallery spaces in the state.

The Annual Members' Exhibition, which began on August 19, will run through the end of the year, offering visitors a chance to experience the diverse creativity on display at Washington Hall, Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Trustee Mike Zecchino expressed his admiration for the variety of styles featured in this year's show, saying, "Every room you go into has such different extremes," showing the exhibition's eclectic nature.

One of the artists, Micki Moss,

explained her unique "cold wax" painting method, a technique related to encaustic painting but requiring less heat. Cold wax, mixed with oil paint, allows Moss to create textured matte finishes using tools like sponges, knives, and bubble wrap instead of traditional brushes.

"It mattifies the oil and extends the amount of paint you can use, allowing for all sorts of textural effects," Moss explained.

The reception also revealed exciting historical connections between the association and Central City's rich artistic past.

Association President Eric Miller shared news of a recent trip to Pagosa Springs, where he met with an 84-year-old gentleman who owned early artwork from Central City, dating from the mid-1930s to the late 1940s.

Among these works were watercolors by Margaret Kerfoot Jennison, one of the founding members of the association.

Jennison, who studied under "American Gothic" painter Grant Wood, captured local scenes of Black Hawk and Central City, and Miller was able to acquire six or seven of her original pieces.

Additionally, Miller brought back works by Frank "Pancho" Gates, the first artist and set designer for the Central City Opera. These rare pieces will be revealed in the spring of 2025, offering a glimpse into the town's early artistic heritage.

Since its founding in 1947, the Gilpin Arts Association has been dedicated to providing a platform for artists to share their work and a creative space for the

community to enjoy.

Their mission, "To expand the appreciation and understanding for art and to provide Rocky Mountain artists with the opportunity to present, display, and sell their works," remains central to their efforts. The association also supports the RE-1 Gilpin County School art program, ensuring that young artists have the resources they need to grow and thrive.

To support Gilpin Arts, consider

becoming a member, making a donation, or stopping by the gallery to purchase a piece of art.

With the Members' Show running through the end of 2024, now is the perfect time to visit Washington Hall and immerse yourself in the art and history that define this unique Central City institution.

For more information, visit <https://www.gilpinarts.org/donate>.



PHOTOS BY MINDY LEARY

Gen Alpha priorities

The National Park Service reports that Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve was a recent case study for research on water balance, which clarifies climate impact on the environment. The results can be used to sustain local wildlife and vegetation, as well as inform wildfire preparedness.

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Jeff Aiken
For Gilpin County Commissioner

POSITIONS

- Protect quality of life of residents of our county over short-term economic gain.
- Listen to all constituents with an open door policy.
- Successfully opposed ATV's and stands in opposition to Sexually Oriented Businesses (SOB) in Central City.
- 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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GilpinCountyDems.Org/Candidates



Artists and trustees at the Gilpin Arts reception

Above Left: Members of the Gilpin Arts Association gather at Washington Hall to celebrate the Members' Show. The camaraderie of local and regional artists shines through in this photo, as they take a moment to connect and share their passion for art. Above Right: This painting of a bear by Csilla Florida showcases soft brushstrokes and a dreamlike quality that captivates viewers. Set against the rustic stone backdrop of Washington Hall, the piece is part of the Gilpin Arts Association's Members' Show.

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The Alphas are coming



PHOTO BY RICHARD BRANDON

Gen Alpha priorities

The National Park Service reports that Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve was a recent case study for research on water balance, which clarifies climate impact on the environment. The results can be used to sustain local wildlife and vegetation, as well as inform wildfire preparedness.

AMY SKINNER, MA, LPC, NCC, ACS, RPT-S

PEAK TO PEAK - "I'm scared we're all gonna die," Emma whispered. The five year old was creating an elaborate scene in the play room with two doll houses, numerous pieces of furniture, a variety of trees, people of all shapes and sizes, cars ("a fast one like my dad's"), and animals big and small.

At the moment I couldn't tell if she was talking to me, to the characters in her story, or if she was acting like she was one of the dolls.

"Who's going to die?" I tentatively asked, hoping I was going in the right therapeutic direction.

"All of us." Emma looked up from arranging the toys and stared straight at me. "Don't you know? The world's getting hot and making big storms and it's going to get all of us."

With that proclamation Emma looked over the world she had taken the last 35 minutes to create, brought out the fire-breathing dragon puppet and proceeded to destroy everything. In the end nothing was standing upright, not even the small puppy in his dog house.

"I'm done," she said, and we spent the next five minutes cleaning everything up.

Emma, a member of Generation Alpha (generally considered to be born 2010-2024, but it hasn't been decided yet), came to counseling for help with anxiety. Although in a recent poll by Gallup and Walton Family Foundation Generation Z (born between 1997-2012) reports the poorest mental health of any generation, it's predicted that Gen Alpha will likely experience higher levels of depression and anxiety (therapist.com).

It used to be when a young child brought up fears concerning the environment, I could assume it was a topic of conversation in their home. Especially in our community, environmental awareness and stewardship is a core value and often discussed while families are out on hikes or mountain bike rides.

However YPulse, a research team that focuses on the younger generations, reports that 87% of 13- to 15-year-olds believe it is up to their generation to stop climate change. Now, it's a regular topic in the play therapy room.

"I don't know what to do," proclaims Donna. "All my kid's friends have phones and I just don't want my son to have one yet. But all he does, all he talks about, is how he needs a phone. He's 10. 10! I'm so tired of fighting with him."

Common Sense Media's recent report shows 42% of U.S. kids have a phone by age 10, and 91% of 14 year olds.

Interestingly, Gen Alpha kids are the first generation to be immersed in technology since birth. It's estimated that 65% of Gen Alphas will work in technology jobs that do not exist today.

So how do we address these issues? In the therapy room, we go back to the basics.

Over the following sessions Emma and I work to resource the people, animals, trees and houses to face the dragon. Conversations about architecture, family habits, animal behaviors, the resiliency of nature, and learning what we can and cannot control filled the play room as we played out the different outcomes.

She ended counseling feeling empowered and ready to take on the environmental issues of her world.

Donna's initial conversation turned into a few parent coaching sessions. I sat down with her and her husband to learn the values and habits of their family. We then put together a technology plan for everyone (not just their 10 year old), which included conversations about phones, tablets, computers, and tv/streaming at home, school, work, in the car, on vacation, and at other people's homes.

With some trial and error the family was soon committed to the plan and feeling successful with the process and result.

Mark McCrindle, who coined the term Generation Alpha, estimates that it will be the largest generation in the history of the world with almost two billion by the end of 2025. Their passion for the environment and expertise in technology has the potential to change the world in incredible ways.

Who are the Gen Alphas in your life and how might they benefit from your support? I'd love to hear your experiences at amy@peaktopeakcounseling.com, 303-258-7454, and you can always find past articles at www.peaktopeakcounseling.com or find us at www.facebook.com/peaktopeakcounselingservices.



OCTOBER RECIPES



Carnitas Tamale Pie

For those snappy fall days, a dinner that will warm you up. It takes a while, but it's worth it! (Suggestion: the carnitas are so good, I would make twice as much, starting with a good-sized pork shoulder you can cut up into chunks. Then you have carnitas for tacos or burritos during the week.)

- For the Carnitas:
- 2 lbs pork shoulder, cut into chunks
 - 1 onion, chopped
 - 4 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1 tsp cumin
 - 1 tsp dried oregano
 - 1 tsp chili powder
 - 1 tsp salt
 - 1/2 tsp black pepper
 - 1/2 cup orange juice
 - 1/4 cup lime juice
 - 1/4 cup chicken broth

For the Cornbread Topping:
Prepare your favorite cornbread mix. I would use 2-8.5 oz packages of Jiffy. Others are available,

but you'd want roughly the same weight. Or use your favorite cornbread recipe.

- Add to batter:
- 1/2 cup corn kernels (fresh, frozen, or canned)
 - 1/2 cup shredded cheese (Monterey Jack, cheddar, "4 Cheese" - optional)
 - 1 small jalapeño, finely chopped (optional)

Prepare the carnitas: In a slow cooker or Dutch oven, combine the pork chunks, onion, garlic, cumin, oregano, chili powder, salt, pepper, orange juice, lime juice, and chicken broth. Cook on low for 6-8 hours in a slow cooker, or 3-4 hours on low on the stove, until the pork is tender and easily shredded.

Shred the pork: Once cooked, remove the pork from the pot and shred it. Set aside. This can be done up to 2 days before preparing the pie.

Preheat oven: Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C).

Prepare the cornbread batter, then fold in the corn kernels, shredded cheese, and jalapeño if using.

Assemble the pie: In a greased 9x13-inch baking dish, spread the shredded pork in an even layer. Pour the cornbread batter over the pork and smooth it out with a spatula.

Bake: Bake in the preheated oven for 25-30 minutes, or until the cornbread topping is golden brown and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

Serve: Let the tamale pie rest for a few minutes before slicing and serving. Garnish with sour cream, fresh cilantro, or salsa if desired.



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Pumpkin patch delight in Central City



PHOTOS BY MINDY LEARY

Art Juyay adds cultural flair to pumpkin patch

Denver-based vendor, Art by Juyay, brought vibrant Ecuadorian-style sweaters, ponchos, and handcrafted toys to the Central City Pumpkin Patch, offering attendees a chance to shop for unique, colorful garments while enjoying the fall festivities.



Central City pumpkin patch brings fall fun to life

A festive display of pumpkins and Halloween decorations invites visitors to the annual Pumpkin Patch on Levit Street. Families enjoyed picking pumpkins, decorating them, and participating in the fun fall activities surrounded by the beauty of Central City's autumn landscape.

MINDY LEARY

CENTRAL CITY - On October 5 and 6, 2024, Main Street Central City hosted some fall fun with its annual Pumpkin Patch event on Levit Street, located between Gregory and Lawrence Streets. The event transformed an old stone building front into a spooky, pumpkin-filled wonderland, drawing families and visitors to Central City.

The main attraction was an impressive collection of pumpkins, some weighing between 30 and 40 pounds, brought in from a farm near Denver. Kids eagerly selected their pumpkins and got creative, decorating them with colorful stickers, googly eyes, and fun accessories.

Adding to the excitement, children participated in a scavenger hunt, searching for hidden items like a witch, broom, and scarecrow. Those who completed the hunt were rewarded with fun prizes.

A standout feature of the day was the scarecrow decorating contest, where participants showcased their creativity with a wide variety of scarecrow designs. The contest added a playful and competitive edge to the event, with cash prizes awarded to the most inventive creations.

In addition to the festive activities, the event also welcomed a unique vendor from Denver, Art Juyay, who showcased a beautiful collection of Ecuadorian-style sweaters and ponchos. Their vibrant designs and cozy fabrics added a touch of cultural flair to the Pumpkin Patch, offering visitors the chance to shop for handcrafted toys and clothing.

Snacks were available, with The Waffle Company serving up their signature waffles on a stick, offering tasty options like the "Bam-Bam"

(white chocolate and fruity pebbles) and the "Cinister" (milk chocolate and cinnamon toast crunch). These sweet treats were a crowd favorite, making the event even more enjoyable.

Overall, the Pumpkin Patch event was a success, offering a family-friendly atmosphere filled with festive activities, games, and delicious food. With free admission and a sense of community, it was the perfect way to celebrate the fall season. Look forward to next year's Pumpkin Patch for more seasonal fun!



Spooky treats await at the pumpkin patch

Halloween-themed goodies, including candy and fun pumpkin toys, brought smiles to the faces of kids and families at the Central City Pumpkin Patch, making the event even sweeter for all the young scavenger hunters.

★ ★

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Marie Mornis

As your Incumbent Commissioner, I will continue my focus to:

- Reduce cost of the \$1.85 MM Food Pantry
- Expand Rec Center Hours to 7 Days a Week
- Assess County Employee Staffing Levels
- Keep listening to you!

ElectMarieMornis.org

I have a proven record of supporting open dialogue, low taxes and focusing on community priorities. I am ready to serve and move Gilpin County toward a brighter future!

★ ★

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To Our Hummingbirds

Again this Early Autumn
A sense of loss settles in
Feeders hang barely touched
Few hummingbirds appear
For leave as they must

Gone the acrobatic shows
Lunch with wings soaring high
Then swooping down - we flinch
lively dinner guests feeding
With hues of nightly sunsets

The Joy of they're coming with
Their numbers bursting forth
And sweets set out each morning
Pounds of sugar bought in bulk
Felt like it would always be

But -

In days of later dawn light
A Half-filled feeder is hung
No throng of birds that greet
No watching till night's retreat
As our day now grows brief

Gently clean each feeder
Tuck them away with love
They will return as they must
Those little harbingers
Of spring and life to come

-Jim Reid



POETRY CORNER

Some words for the week

to the potted plant
that we accidentally
left in the car
the only casualty
of our move to a new house
which now sits on the porch
brown and dead
I'm sorry it was because of us
that you ever existed like this
I don't remember
what you were
but I know I bought you
years ago
and watered you on thursdays
and that you bloomed
once when I had you
by the bathroom
and you were often
engulfed in steam
I don't know
where you would have
naturally grown
if it is even in this country
but you died here
because we left you in the car
in the summer heat
I'll scatter your soil
by the backyard juniper
and I'll put your dead leaves
in the compost can
this will be your burial
and this was your life
like us all
you searched for what light
you could find
and ate it up
hoping to survive
and to make flowers
or something somewhat
beautiful
at least
and you did
I think the bloom was yellow
and it smelled so sweet

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

Mind the Gap

BY JIM DREVE SCRAFT

By this point, the Covid Pandemic, or at least the part of it that befell us from 2019-2023, has had some profound impacts--not least on this writer.

The sign and oral announcement on London's "Tube," or subway, more or less sums it up: "Mind the Gap." While intended to keep the uninitiated or oblivious from stepping into the void between the platform and the train at some of the tube stops, I view it as the way Covid impacted me.

Thus far, I am lucky in not having had the virus, although friends have, and some did not make it unscathed. Yet there is still a space in my now elderly life that the pandemic caused. If you will, it produced a "gap" in my life experience which still affects me today.

Where did the time go? What experiences were foregone in order to shelter here in the forests of the Front Range that now are lost to time? Is my life now less than it might have

been because of it? Of course, many other choices made have also added or deducted more or less to my experiences, but something about living through a pandemic adds a layer that never occurs for many. You had to be there.

I still tried to be useful, producing writings for the Oglala Lakota of Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota (where the abject poverty made the pandemic far worse), but somehow the isolation, the "shelter in place" wearing a mask, seemed like a step away from anything I had ever experienced. I know I am not alone in this feeling, but want others to reflect and consider what the pandemic did to them. Hopefully, it will help us appreciate one another more, albeit that the current political milieu in this country might make one feel differently. We are in it together, as we were during the "gap."

Did I mind the gap, or did the gap mind me?

Ask yourself the same question as we careen into the future, and more gaps!



Lost Within the Wild

These knotted passions
exhumed indelicately
each gasp becomes a hurricane
as I stumble through the light of my own being
tripping wires to my soul
I did not know it would explode
in that moment when all laughter dies
panic blossoms to surprise
silence undefined by sound
buried under sacred ground
it is that simple ideal
so painfully revealed
that final truth come to bear
who's burden no one else can share
conceived of my desire
lost within the wild
-by Melissa Saltness



We're hiring! The Mountain-Ear is looking for high school interns in the Peak to Peak region. This is a paid position at \$20 per hour or paid by story (your choice). Want to find out more? Fill out our application online: <https://forms.gle/bXp4pjnEcVk38wks6> or email us at info@themountaineer.com

Central City Council candidates: “On the same page”



PHOTO BY MINDY LEARY

Candidates share common goals

Barbara Hardt, managing editor of The Mountain-Ear, leads the Central City Council candidate forum at the Central City Elks Lodge, as candidates (from the left) Chuck Spencer, Dennis Denson, and Zane Plsek discuss their visions for the future of the city.

MINDY LEARY

CENTRAL CITY - On Wednesday, October 2, 2024, *The Mountain-Ear* hosted a lively candidate forum at the Central City Elks Lodge #557 on Main Street, bringing together the three candidates running for two open seats on Central City Council.

The event had a friendly atmosphere that felt more like a community gathering than a political showdown. With Alderman Jeff Aiken reaching his term limit and the Mayor Pro-tem Kara Tinucci stepping down, the race isn't about who wins but who will be the unlucky candidate left out.

The three candidates – Zane Plsek, Chuck Spencer, and Dennis Denson – proved they aren't just focused on their campaigns but are genuinely invested in the future of Central City. In fact, the evening was marked by how much they agreed with each other, leading Chuck Spencer to jokingly remark, “We're all pretty much on the same page.”

Zane Plsek kicked off by sharing a bit of

his story, having retired in July 2023 and quickly jumping headfirst into community involvement. “I love this place. It's our forever home,” he said proudly.

Not one to sit still, Plsek has attended every city and county meeting he could find – City Council, Planning Commission, URA, DDA – you name it, he's been there.

Plsek's platform revolves around improving life for residents and ensuring businesses thrive. He's particularly focused on responsible development, making sure that Main Street stays a family-friendly area. “No sexually-oriented businesses on Main Street,” he declared, drawing a line between historical charm and unwanted businesses.

Plsek also supports promoting Central City's history as a tourist draw, but only if it's paired with much-needed infrastructure upgrades. “The sidewalks need work,” he added, a sentiment shared by many.

One unique idea Plsek brought to the table was holding weekend open

forums, where residents can directly talk to their council members. “No handshake deals behind closed doors,” he said, adding that more transparency would likely help calm down the rumor mill that sometimes swirls around small towns like Central City.

Chuck Spencer, the owner of the Denver West/Central City KOA Holiday campground, brought his business acumen to the forum, offering a practical perspective on how to grow Central City, making it clear that he values local input over outside opinions.

Having lived here for over 15 years, Spencer is a firm believer that the community should drive decisions. He's no stranger to challenges either; running a business has taught him a thing or two about working within a budget while expanding, having added new sites to his campground.

Spencer touched on everything from sidewalks (they need improvement) to the challenge of attracting new businesses like grocery stores and banks to Central City. “We don't have the population to support those kinds of businesses,” he explained, adding that growth is key to solving that problem.

He even brought up the 60-foot height limit on new buildings, suggesting it might need to be adjusted to attract more development – but not too much development. “I'm not saying we need an Ameristar here,” he laughed, referencing the towering hotel in Black Hawk.

Spencer, who sits on the DDA board, also mentioned that they have \$70,000 to spend on lighting improvements, although he doesn't think that will stretch very far. He's practical, solution-oriented, and ready to engage with the city's issues head-on.

Dennis Denson, the most recent arrival in Central City, has lived in the area for about two years. He's no stranger to mountain life, though, having previously lived in Coal Creek Canyon and Golden. “I love small towns, especially this one – the history, the location, the beauty, and the people,” he said, grinning.

Denson's outdoor enthusiasm shone through as he spoke of his love for hiking, rafting, and exploring. “I'm about 50/50 on the snow, though,” he joked.

Denson brings a down-to-earth approach, stating that he's here to listen and learn. He's had conversations with many locals and believes in creating more opportunities for them to work locally rather than commuting. His

background in construction has given him a deep appreciation for the town's historic buildings, and he stressed the importance of maintaining them.

Like his fellow candidates, Denson is committed to transparency and collaboration. He's eager to get more people involved in local government and stressed that every resident should have their say in the future of the city.

One of the major topics of the evening was the issue of growth and preservation. Spencer, Plsek, and Denson all agreed that Central City needs responsible growth, but not at the expense of its unique character.

Spencer pointed out that taxes from businesses can help fund much-needed improvements. Denson and Plsek both stressed the importance of preserving Central City's historic charm while fostering growth.

Affordable housing came up, too, with all candidates recognizing it as a tough issue.

“It's a national crisis,” Denson said, while Plsek highlighted the challenges residents face with rising rent and insurance costs.

Spencer, ever the pragmatist, pointed out that while new affordable housing units are slated for construction, the demand doesn't seem to be there right now and the costs of construction are too high for developers.

When it came to the controversial issue of off-highway vehicles (OHVs), all three candidates were on the same page again – against it.

“No,” Spencer said simply, while Plsek and Denson echoed concerns about safety and the lack of economic benefit.

The forum wrapped up with some great audience questions, including a thoughtful inquiry from Commissioner Sandy Hollingsworth about how the city might collaborate better with Gilpin County.

Plsek humorously vowed to be an active participant, “You have my word – you may come to regret that.” Denson mirrored Plsek's commitment, and Spencer spoke of the importance of engaging fully with county officials.

Commissioner candidate Corey Marshall asked what to do with the historic Belvidere Theatre. Spencer suggested a souvenir shop and restaurant could do well, while Plsek imagined it as a museum entryway with a possible dinner theater. Denson agreed with the need to attract more people to town through the Belvidere's renovation.

In the end, the candidates parted with handshakes and friendly banter, proving that even in the midst of an election, Central City's future leaders can share a common vision for growth, preservation, and making sure everyone has a voice. It's clear that, no matter who wins, Central City is in good hands.

Self Help Meetings

Tuesday Night Nederland Cross Talk Meeting A Big Book meeting at 7 p.m. online via Zoom. For more information visit <https://bouldercountyaa.com/meetings/tuesday-night-nederland-cross-talk-meeting>.

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

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

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

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

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

Narcotics Anonymous 12 Step Meeting This is an open hybrid meeting - anyone can attend - on Sundays from 6 to 7 p.m. at Nederland Presbyterian Community Church, 210 North Jefferson Street, Nederland, or online via Zoom (Meeting ID# 893 7194 1883). We hope to see you there sometime.

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

The test of a government is not how popular it is with the powerful and privileged few, but how honestly and fairly it deals with the many who must depend on it.

- President Jimmy Carter

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.



Gilpin County resident charged with election violations

JOHN SCARFFE

DENVER - The Elections Division of the Colorado Secretary of State office conducted an Administrative Hearing in the matter of Elections Division of the Secretary of State, Complainant, v. Donna Okray-Parman, Respondent, at their office in Denver. Hearing Officer Macon Cowles led the hearing in the traditional trial format in the Secretary of State's hearing room on October 2, 2024, at 10 a.m. To foster transparency and assist voters in assessing the sources of campaign communications, Colorado law requires most persons making electioneering communications to report those communications to the Secretary of State and include a "paid for by" disclaimer on the communication.

According to the complaint, Okray-Parman distributed more than \$1,000 worth of postcards that met the definition of "electioneering communications" under Colorado law, but none of the postcards identified the person who paid for them, and the Respondent failed to report these communications to the Secretary of State.

The complaint indicates that Jessica Kays - who also goes by Jessica Kays Lovingier - was a candidate for Gilpin County Commissioner, District 1, in 2024. She appeared on the June 25, 2024, Republican Primary ballot in Gilpin County.

On June 1, 2024, Donna Okray-Parman mailed 2,700 postcards to persons in Gilpin County, including eligible voters in the June 25, 2024, Republican primary. The total cost to print and mail the postcards was \$1,581.44. The postcards unambiguously referred to Kays, were distributed to members of the Republican primary electorate in Gilpin County, and were distributed within 30 days of the June 25 Republican primary election.

The postcards include electoral advocacy, plainly referencing Kays's candidacy for commissioner, and would tend to influence the outcome of the commissioner election. On June 6, 2024, Kays filed a campaign finance complaint with the Division.

The Kays complaint alleged that Okray-Parman had violated Colorado

campaign finance law by failing to register an independent expenditure committee, failing to report an electioneering communication, and failing to include a "paid for by" disclaimer on the postcards.

The Division reviewed and investigated the Kays Complaint. The Division corresponded with the Respondent during its investigation. According to the Respondent, the postcards were "supposed to go to almost all residential addresses in Gilpin County."

After the investigation, the Division filed Claim One: Failure to Include Compliant Disclaimer. Donna Okray-Parman distributed over \$1,000 worth of postcards Those postcards unambiguously referred to Jessica Kays, a candidate in the June 25, 2024, Republican Primary

Election, were distributed within 30 days of June 25, 2024, and were distributed to members of the Republican Primary electorate in Gilpin County. Those postcards did not include a "paid for by" disclaimer. Claim Two: Failure to Report Electioneering Communication. Okray-Parman did not report these electioneering communications to the Secretary of State.

During the hearing, both parties gave an opening statement. Kyle Holter spoke for the Elections Division. He said mailings were sent to residents of Gilpin County less than 30 days before an election, and were intended to influence the election.

The mailings are required to have a disclaimer, "paid for by," and the mailer must give notice to the Secretary of State. He said he is prepared to present a case. He suggested the hearing officer fine the Respondent and order the Respondent to notify the Secretary of State's office.

Okray-Parman said that, as an individual, she sent a statement to local newspapers, who wouldn't print it. Cowles, the hearing officer, said that she spent a great deal of money and did not notify the Secretary of State. The issue is how much money, and whether or not it had a disclaimer on it, he said. Okray-Parman asked to give her some grace. The statement contained no

personal comments and was just a link to newspapers.

She complained that she "couldn't get the word out" and that "she hadn't written anything and didn't know she had rules to follow." Okray-Parman added that she has freedom of speech. "These letters were not being published. I was being censored. I had to get the information out," she said.

Holter called his first and only witness, Timothy Gephart, finance manager. He said he leads a team of analysts with the Election Division. When they receive a complaint, they conduct an

initial review to determine whether a complaint was filed and is a violation of law. In this case, Jessica Kays filed a complete complaint on June 6, 2024, Gephart said.

The Elections Division looked at the allegations and the complaint form. They received a copy of the postcard. After the investigation, they alleged a violation of law. They sent a request to Okray-Parman to see if it was a violation of law. Responding, she said she was responsible for the mailing and paid for it. The investigation concluded

continued on page 26

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 DEVEISEES 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

Attorney for Aaron R. Hancock

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

Case Number:
2024 CV 30016

Division:

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

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

Public Notice

**NOTICE OF ELECTION (C.R.S. 1-5-205)
Gilpin County General Election, November 5, 2024**

ALL MAIL BALLOT ELECTION

Gilpin County Clerk and Recorder, Sahari McCormick, will be conducting a Mail Ballot General Election on November 5, 2024. The Clerk will begin mailing ballots on October 11, 2024. Ballots must be returned on or before Election Day by mail to the Gilpin County Clerk and Recorder, Sahari McCormick, PO Box 429, Central City, CO 80427-0429 or dropped off at the following 24-hour drop box locations starting October 15, 2024:

OLD COURTHOUSE, 203 Eureka St., Central City
GILPIN COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER, 250 Norton Dr., Black Hawk
GILPIN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS SHOP, 135 Tolland Rd., Rollinsville

A new voter can register to vote at GoVoteColorado.gov. A voter can make changes to their registration online until October 28, 2024. From October 29 to November 5, 2024, a voter must appear at the VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTER for these services.

VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTER (VSPC):

Old Courthouse, 203 Eureka St., Central City, CO 80427

VSPC HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday - Friday October 21 to November 4, 2024, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Saturday, November 2, 2024 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Closed Sunday

ELECTION DAY, November 5, 2024, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

FUNCTIONS OF THE VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTER:

- A voter can surrender their mail ballot and vote in person either electronically or by paper.
- A new voter can register to vote and may vote the same day. (Must live in Colorado at least 22 days before the election).
- Drop-off location for Mail Ballots.
- Update your name or address on the voter rolls.

Ballots MUST be received by the Clerk and Recorder's Office by 7:00 PM on Election Day, November 5, 2024 to be counted. **POSTMARKS DO NOT COUNT.** If you have any questions, please call the Clerk and Recorder's office at 303-582-5321 or e-mail elections@gilpincounty.org

Sample ballots can be found on the Gilpin County website: gilpincounty.colorado.gov

Gilpin County buys property, hires new staff

MINDY LEARY

GILPIN COUNTY - The Gilpin County Commissioners met for their regular session on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, with all commissioners—Susan Berumen (Chair), Marie Mornis, and Sandy Hollingsworth—present, along with key officials like County Attorney Jack Reutzler, County Clerk Kimberly Kaufman, and County Manager Ray Rears.

During the meeting, Human Resources Director Chanda Johnson introduced two new hires. Jessie Hartman joins the Assessor's Office, and Nancy Santagata will be working part-time as an office assistant at the CSU Extension Office, adding more hands to support local operations.

The Timberline Fire Protection District brought forward a request for a 50% funding match to secure three new positions focused on fire mitigation over the next four years. With wildfires becoming a growing threat, this initiative aims to improve fire prevention and safety in the region. The Board approved the request.

Additionally, a Letter of Support was approved for the Clear Creek Watershed and Forest Health Partnership's (CCWFHP) Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) Grant. This grant would focus on increasing forestry and engagement capacity in Clear Creek, Gilpin, and Jefferson counties, which will play a crucial role in wildfire risk reduction and forest health management. The County's support for the grant aligns with ongoing efforts to mitigate wildfire danger in the region.

In a major move, the County purchased 39 acres of land, known as Rudolph Ranch, located at 14874

Highway 119, for \$1.25 million. This is a Lorenz property, next door to what is known as Rudolph Ranch, Inc.

The reason behind this purchase, according to County Manager Ray Rears, is to secure long-term water rights, a critical need for the future of the county.

Several important resolutions passed unanimously during the session. Among them was the approval of a new Transfer Station Equipment Operator position for Public Works. This position is already in the budget, with an annual salary ranging from \$65,521 to \$78,717, including benefits.

John Combs, Director of Public Works, mentioned that the Transfer Station is currently operating at only 68% of their 2024 wages. He also explained that the department plans to increase the fee on trash bags, and this will cover the salary of the new employee.

The commissioners also extended their contract with Summit Foods, which handles meal services for the jail and the Gilpin County Seniors Program. For another year, Summit Foods will continue providing reliable, safe, and quality food services, with a 5% inflation-based price increase, bringing the cost of senior meals to \$8.095 per meal.

In another resolution, the Board approved extending the Jail Based Behavioral Health Services (JBBS) program, designed to support inmates dealing with mental health and substance abuse issues. This program, funded by a grant from the Colorado Department of Behavioral Health, will continue through 2025, with a budget of \$75,660 for the upcoming fiscal year.

The commissioners signed off on a \$15,000 agreement with the Colorado

Natural Heritage Program to conduct field surveys in support of outdoor recreation and conservation planning as part of the NOCO Places 2050 initiative.

Lastly, Special Counsel Leslie Schluter was reappointed to handle an ongoing legal matter for the County, with the Board authorizing up to \$10,000 for her services.

On the digital front, the County is gearing up to meet new federal standards for digital accessibility, with a deadline of April 2027. Approximately 152 public-facing web pages will need to be updated to comply with the Department of Justice's regulations.

The Mountain Rail Project is receiving mixed reactions from local towns, with Nederland expressing interest, Black Hawk declining support, and no response yet from Central City.

The meeting concluded at 10:31 a.m., with all motions passing unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Gilpin County Board of County Commissioners is scheduled for October 22, 2024, at 9 a.m. and will be held in person at the Historic Courthouse, 203 Eureka Street, Central City and online via Zoom.



PHOTO BY MINDY LEARY

Team work

New office assistant brings chemistry background to CSU extension office Nancy Santagata (left) and Jennifer Cook (right) smile for a photo. Santagata, a chemist, was recently hired as a part-time office assistant at the CSU Extension Office. She expressed her excitement and happiness about the role, noting that it does involve some chemistry. Her position is funded by the County.

Kaylie Hall art show at Gilpin Library



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAYLIE HALL

Art at Gilpin County Library

Watercolor artist Kaylie Hall will be exhibiting her paintings in a show titled Vision of Beauty at the Gilpin County Library from October 12 through December 7. A reception will be held for the artist on October 26 from 12 - 2 p.m.

HARV MASTALIR

GILPIN COUNTY - Kaylie Hall gains inspiration in what Mother Nature wants to provide. She is creative. She is an artist. She has been a professional graphic designer for over 37 years. She has also taught graphic design at universities and colleges since 2003. Ever since the age of five, anything art has been a driving force.

While she dabbles in acrylics, pastels and upcycled furniture, her favorite

medium is watercolor. Her images are meant to create a connection that will be unique to each viewer. Her paintings will be exhibited at the Gilpin County Library in a show titled Vision of Beauty from October 12, to December 7. Reception with the artist will be Saturday, October 26, from 12 - 2 p.m.

For more information go to www.GilpinLibrary.org or call 303-582-5777.

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Election violation charge

continued from page 25

that it was indeed a violation of law. She had spent more than \$1,000 and that triggers a reporting duty.

Holter asked if it costs anything to report, and Gephart said, "No." Okray-Parman said that she admitted her actions on the phone. She said she didn't know she had to seek out laws to send the mailing.

During Closing Statements, Holter said it is not a defense to say you were not aware of the regulations, which are constitutional. Parman spent over \$1,000 and must report it to the Secretary of State. Holter said they find her liable, and that she should be fined.

Okray-Parman said it should be dismissed. She is not a campaign committee, but she is a U.S. citizen. How are people to know the facts of the situation? She said she just put codes on the postcard for what was written in local newspapers and what Kays did when she was County Clerk.

The Hearing Officer said people want to know where the information comes from, and it has been voted on twice. The Administrative Hearing Officer said he will write a decision and send a copy to both Okray-Parman and Kays. As of October 4, the decision has not been posted.

Public Notice

SEEKING APPLICANTS TO THE GILPIN ADVERTISING PANEL

Gilpin County will accept applications from individuals wishing to serve on the Gilpin Advertising Panel (GAP) until **October 31, 2024**. Applicants must be Gilpin County residents with a background in tourism or marketing. Priority will be given to those residing in the unincorporated portions of the county. The GAP is responsible for administering a portion of the lodging tax revenue fund for advertising and marketing

tourism in Gilpin County. The appointed individual will serve a term of three (3) years starting in January 2025. The GAP hosts regular meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 3 p.m. at the Historic Gilpin County Courthouse, 203 Eureka St., Central City, or as needed.

If interested, email a letter of interest, including relevant qualifications/resume, to mbleyler@gilpincounty.org. You can also submit materials in-person to the County Manager's Office, 203 Eureka Street, Central City, CO 80427.

October Superfund meeting offers history lesson

WES ISENHART

GILPIN AND CLEAR CREEK COUNTIES - The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held a fourth meeting on October 3, 2024, on the status of cleaning up the Central City-Clear Creek Superfund site, at the Gilpin County Courthouse in Central City.

CDPHE Communication Specialist Branden Ingersoll acted as the moderator for the meeting, which included representatives and presentations from both CDPHE and the EPA.

The agencies are still evaluating the data from testing mining waste piles in 2022 and 2023, and they continue to work through technical issues before finalizing their Feasibility Study and proposed plan. The CDPHE project lead for this phase, Kyle Sandor, continued to express optimism that remediation projects on residential properties would start in the summer of 2025.

Ingersoll spoke about how the superfund site was established and the different methods that can be used to remediate a mining waste pile. There was an extended question and answer session after Ingersoll's presentation.

The first designated superfund site was the Love Canal in Niagara Falls, New York, after the discovery in the late 1970s that 22,000 tons of hazardous waste had seeped into basements and backyards causing birth defects and cancer.

The massive cleanup and investment required for the project led to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), which was signed into law in December of 1980. CERCLA provided federal funding to clean up toxic sites, which subsequently became known as Superfund sites.

In 1983, the EPA recognized that the drainage of contaminated water from five mining tunnels (Argo, Big Five, National, Gregory Incline, Quartz Hill) flowing into Clear Creek posed a risk to the environment and human health, so the entire Clear Creek drainage was designated as a superfund site that year. The Argo mine also had part of a mine tailing waste pile actually in Clear Creek.

The Gold King mine spill in 2015 exemplifies the dangers of mine tunnel discharge. About three million gallons of contaminated water was released into the Animas River in Silverton, turning the river yellow, killing fish, and

endangering drinking water for Durango.

Early remediation efforts here focused on stopping the discharge of contaminated water from the tunnels, building water filtration plants, and excavating the Argo mill tailings in Clear Creek. The water filtration plant on North Clear Creek below Black Hawk handles tunnel discharge that gets piped to North Clear Creek.

Ingersoll finished his presentation by providing a review of the different remediation methods that are used to clean up contaminated sites. Any or all of these methods can be used for remediating a mining waste pile on residential property, depending on the engineering interventions required.

The first method is called *Capping*. The area above the Triangle Lot in Central City is an example of capping. This is the process of covering contaminated material with a variety of materials in order to prevent the contaminants from being spread into the environment via rainwater, snowmelt, or other forms of transport. Caps can include concrete, clay, asphalt, and vegetation.

Excavation is the physical removal of contaminated materials and relocating them to another site, called a repository. Excavation is required when there are significantly elevated contaminant concentrations and immediate action is needed. Clean material is then brought in and replaces the contaminated material that has been removed.

Repositories are places that are purchased for the sole purpose of storing contaminated material. The Church Placer Repository is centrally located in Gilpin County north of Idaho Springs. Contaminated material is placed in trenches or cells which are designed to prevent leakage or dispersal and are then capped and revegetated.

The third method that Ingersoll described is called *In-Situ Treatment*, which is an in-place treatment. This method involves the addition of amendments to the soil, like limestone, to neutralize soil acidity and promote vegetative growth that limits contact with mine waste. The In-Situ method is used when excavation near a building could risk undermining its foundation.

Sandor reiterated that CDPHE was working to get real estate experts to attend future meetings to answer questions about buying and selling properties which have been designated for cleanup.

A recording of the meeting, including the PowerPoint slides, can be found at the CDPHE website (cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/central-city-clear-creek). It is the October 3, 2024 meeting recording under Presentations.

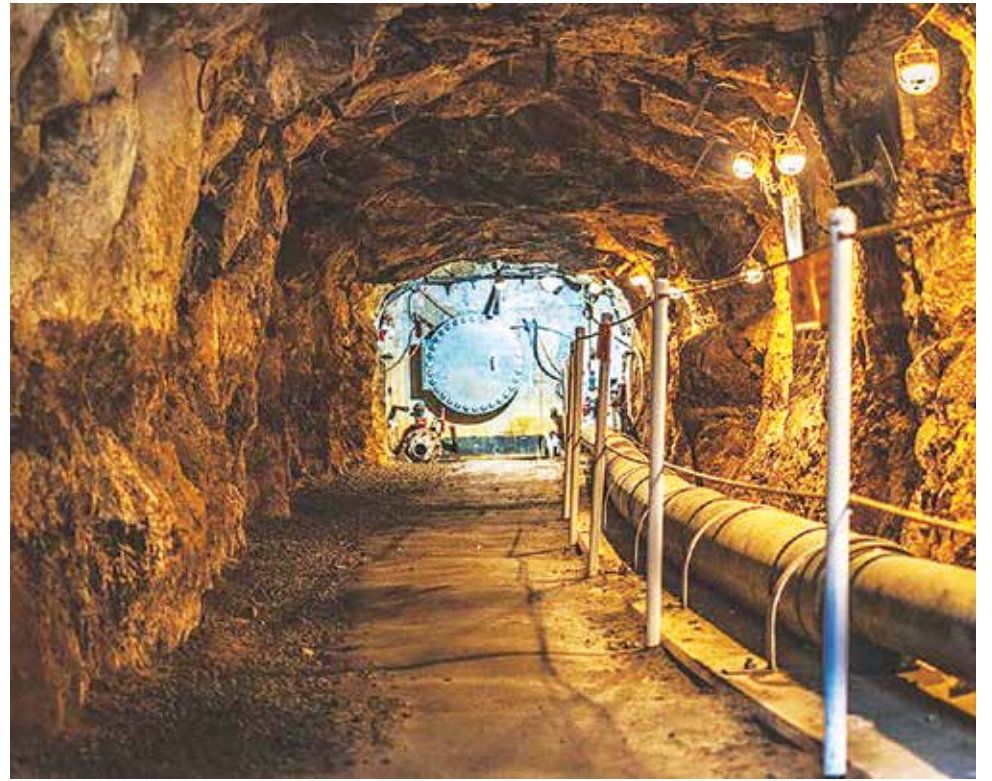


PHOTO COURTESY OF CDPHE

Holding back contaminated water

This bulkhead inside the Argo mine in Idaho Springs was one of the first Central City/Clear Creek Superfund projects. It stops water contaminated with heavy metals from spilling out of the mine. Instead, the water is piped to a water filtration plant to be filtered before being released into Clear Creek.

For more information about the Central City-Clear Creek Superfund OU5 project, contact Branden Ingersoll (Branden.Ingersoll@cdphe.colorado.gov).

It is the October 3, 2024 meeting recording under Presentations. *state.co.us*), or Valerie Doornbos (720-786-7292 or Doornbos.Valerie@epa.gov). Gilpin County Public Health Director Alisa Witt (303-582-5803 or awitt@gilpincounty.org) can also answer questions about lead and heavy metal contamination.

For more information about the Central City-Clear Creek Superfund OU5 project, contact Branden Ingersoll (720-810-7912 or Branden.Ingersoll@cdphe.colorado.gov).

Be a sponsor of *The Mountain-Ear's* 2024 Pet of the Year Contest



Chinchilla \$50
Name is included in all media.



Rabbit \$100
Logo is included in all media.



Cat \$250
Logo is included in all media and a podcast about your business or you (why you sponsor).



Dog \$500
Logo is included in all media, a podcast about your business or you (why you sponsor) & 1/32 page ad in each paper during contest (8 weeks).



Horse \$1000
Logo is included in all media, a podcast about your business or you (why you sponsor), a 1/8 page ad in each paper during contest (8 weeks) & social media blasts during contest (8 weeks).


Need more contest information?
Call us at 303-810-5409 or email info@themountaineear.com.



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
- 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.



Golden Gate Fire graduates pinned



Young fire fighters
Hadley and Madison Costeldia, held by Terri Costeldia, attended the ceremony.

story continued from page 1

Effie Bachman, a former fire fighter in the District for 10 years, also attended.

Lori Brill, Battalion Chief with the Fire District, brought in the U.S. Flag to open the ceremony. Terri Costeldia, president of the Grange and Community Center, said the Grange has 180 members and is the largest Grange in the state. She has been president of the Grange for five years and is also a State Grange Officer. Benson said the District has six firefighters who are graduating today. "This is the important part. They do all the work," Benson stated. Six people started in the academy, and six people are graduating, he noted. He added that everyone who started, finished. "They are strong and pulled each other up," Benson said, thanking the graduates and their families. It took 250 to 300 hours of work. "I'm super proud of them," he said.

Graduates were Alaina Clar, pinned by Carolyn Carpenter; Dale Ellenson, pinned by his wife Caitlin; Tyler Cockerham, pinned by Araddie Geurts; Brock Costeldia, pinned by his wife, Christina; Collin Sager, pinned by Jill Weston; and Nick Walker, pinned by Tyler Bassett.

Brill and Assistant Chief Chris Enright presented special awards. Dale Ellenson received top recruit, Nick Meyer received Top Instructor, and Brock Costeldia received Top Grit. Firefighters also received jackets from the Academy.

Benson closed the ceremony with remarks. He pointed out that this has been a long process – putting on a Fire Academy in the District was a big deal on December 20, 2023. He added that when Moses was at the burning bush, he said, "I'm here. Send me." That quote is the embodiment of what it means to be a firefighter or first responder. The keys to success are: do your job, treat people right, give all out effort, and have an all-in attitude."

Benson encouraged everyone to go back for more food. Visitors and the firefighters mingled over coffee.

The Grange will host its annual fair on October 19. For more information, go to [https:// MAIN - Golden Gate Fire Protection District](https://MAIN-GoldenGateFireProtectionDistrict.com).



Pinning for Brock
Brock Costeldia was pinned by his wife, Christina.



PHOTOS BY JOHN SCARFFE

Flag ceremony
Battalion Chief Lori Brill brought in the U.S. flag to begin the ceremony.



Fireman pinning
Golden Gate Fire Protection District chief Kyle Benson helped lead a ceremony recognizing new graduates at an open community brunch.



Cooking pancakes
John Luzeckyj cooked the pancakes for the brunch, which were declared great.



Serving the community
Those helping to serve lunch included DeeDee Ramstetter, Kim Luzeckgj, and Terri Costeldia.

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Our mountains hold unbelievable talent



Natural drama captured
Annie Thayer's "Within the Moment" won her second place.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER KELLEY

CHRISTOPHER KELLEY

NEDERLAND- On Thursday, October 3, 2024, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Nederland Community Center, the pure talent that can be found here in the mountains was put on display for the Arts at the Center Fall Exhibition. Up to 20 artists of all ages and backgrounds toiled in pastels, acrylic, oil, watercolor, and other mediums to express emotional reverence for the world around us.

With the hard work of event coordinator Annie Thayer, in collaboration with arts committee members and community center staff and volunteers, the Opening Reception welcomed art enthusiasts to view, interpret, and to be pulled into each artist's mind and soul.

Attendees received drink tickets for a selection of white and red wines and a ballot for voting and commenting on their top three favorite pieces – all with a suggested donation of \$10.

The sound of John Meerts' raspy yet wispy singing and of his delicate yet impactful playing of acoustic guitar wafted through the halls to reinforce the elegant and sublime energy that exhibition cultivated.

With glasses of wine and ballots in hand, attendees drifted through the community center, poring over each displayed piece, contemplating them, interpreting their meaning or allowing themselves to feel what the piece is evoking within them.

On display were the whimsical watercolor works by Wolfy Wolf, the excitingly colorful landscape oil paintings of Evan Cantor, the expansive and expressive landscapes by Dennis Quinn, and the stunning pastel pastorals of everyday life by Gretchen Acharya, who was the third place winner of the exhibition with her painting "This Time I Stopped To Look."

Claudia Sheehan was one of the "People's Choice" honorable mentions with her quilt and fabric collage titled "Sallying Forth Salamanders," as was Kathy Bremers with her watercolors capturing Colorado nature and wildlife, including the crowd favorite "Fall Color."

Lyle Perry, the youngest to enter her work in the exhibition, displayed a bright and engaging acrylic portrait on acetate. Her older sister, Maddie Perry, won first place with her original watercolor piece "Puddles the Duck," which exhibition attendees described as evoking "happiness and a feeling of going on an adventure."

Also on display were the striking and resonant watercolor paintings of Courtney Crockett, the sleek snapshots of the nature around us done in oil on canvas by Christine M. Springer, the blind contour drawings in colored pencil of Jeanne Benson, and the picture-perfect foliage photography of Serene Karplus.

Thayer won second place with her watercolor landscape that jumps off the canvas, "Within the Moment," which was described by an attendee as "a real moment



Runs in the family
Sisters in life and in art, Maddie Perry poses with Lyla, who entered her art for the first time.



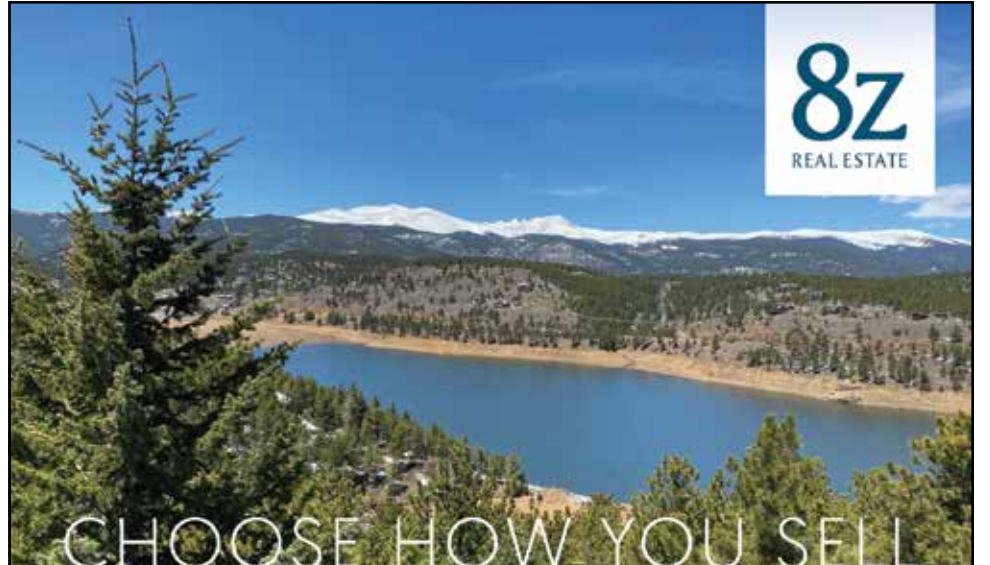
An elegant affair
John Meerts provided the perfect acoustic accompaniment to an evening of wine, art, and conversation.

in time we all hold," as it depicted a serene seaside scene.

Marc McClish displayed his innovative long-exposure, slow-panning photography, called "chromascapes"; Lorelei Stumbo showed her distinct and textural "found object" pieces of painted salvaged wood; Melissa Getz showed her unique and exciting bronze and mixed media statuettes;

and Lee Kennedy displayed her eclectic and kaleidoscopic floral paintings.

A very special thanks to Thayer, the volunteers, the arts committee, and to the artists who all contributed to the success of this year's exhibition. Arts at the Center continues to showcase the wonderful and unique expressions of artistic talent and soul that these mountains hold.



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Central City's 1st Spooktacular event promises fun!

MINDY LEARY

CENTRAL CITY - With eleven 19th-century cemeteries and a reputation as one of Colorado's most haunted towns, it's no surprise that Central City is embracing its ghostly heritage with the first-ever Halloween Spooktacular.

On October 19, 26, and 31, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Main Street will be transformed into a haunted Victorian village, offering a spirited celebration of all things eerie and fun for the whole family.

"This will really showcase Central City as the quintessential Victorian mountain town that it is," says Mary-Ann Yuthas, spokesperson for Main Street Central City, which is organizing the event.

Steeped in ghost stories and legends, Central City's authentic Victorian architecture and haunted landmarks will provide the perfect setting for this unique Halloween celebration.

They are going to transform the town into a haunted village, and they have many exciting elements coming together, from fire pits and s'mores to a "Thriller" dance lesson and performance.

The Halloween Spooktacular is shaping up to be a stellar affair, with festive décor designed by renowned scenic artist Sarah Talaba, known for her work on Denver's Camp Christmas, which has drawn thousands of visitors in past holiday seasons.

Event Highlights:

Dance the Night Away: A live DJ will

spin Halloween tunes on Main Street. At 7 p.m. each night, The Infamous Backroom Cabaret will teach Michael Jackson's iconic "Thriller" dance, followed by a group performance at 8 p.m.

Halloween Pop-Up Bars: Adults (21+) can enjoy themed cocktails at Dostal Alley Brewery and Easy Street Casino's Gold Coin Saloon, including a special pumpkin porter and three Halloween-themed cocktails. These pop-up bars, fully decked out for Halloween, will remain open from October 19 through November 2.

Trick or Treat Street: Children can trick-or-treat along the west side of Main Street, collecting candy from various stations.

S'mores and Fire Pits: The Central City Volunteer Firefighters Foundation and KOA Campground are teaming up to sell s'mores kits, giving families the chance to make their own treats at fire pits set up along the street.

Candy Apples: Pastry chef Natalie Duplessy from Peace, Love and Cake will help guests dip and decorate their own caramel apples (fees apply).

The event will take place along the south end of Main Street, from Gregory to Spring Street, with the T-Lot or Century Casino available for parking. Though some decorations will be moved between event nights, most of the festive embellishments will stay in place, allowing visitors to enjoy the spooky atmosphere even on non-event days.

Costumes are encouraged, though there is no official contest. Volunteers are needed to help with candy stations and other activities, and anyone interested in lending a hand can reach out via email for more details.

Main Street Central City is looking for volunteers to assist with the Central City Halloween Spooktacular! You can volunteer for any or all of the nights

and can choose what you would like to do: hand out candy at Trick or Treat Street, assist with set-up (arrive at 5 p.m.) or assist with breakdown (stay until 10 p.m.). If you are interested, please email CentralCityCO141@gmail.com. Visit <https://www.visitcentrality.com/blog/halloween> for more information about the event.

Check out TEENS, Inc. for Halloween activities

MASON NOVAK

NEDERLAND – TEENS, Inc. is a non profit organization located near the reservoir and the skatepark in Nederland, Colorado. TEENS, Inc. is empowering local teens to make a difference in the community. They are open from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday – open for the youth (6th through 12th grade) to have a space to relax in or to hang out with their friends.

During the month of October there will be a lot of fun activities at TEENS, Inc. These activities include a Nerf battle on October 18, starting at 4:30 and lasting until 7 p.m. This will be an adrenaline-packed event!

Gather your friends – everyone is allowed whether you are a seasoned Nerf warrior or a first timer. This event promises tons of laughter and thrilling moments. Don't forget your favorite blaster and tons of ammo!

On October 21, you can choose your game: whether you want to shoot some hoops or dodge and weave in a game of dodgeball. Starting at 4:30 and going on until 7 p.m., teens can enjoy a night of sports and teamwork. Remember to bring your friends!

It will be a cozy movie night from 4:30 - 7 p.m., on October 25. Teens can enjoy a variety of fan-favorite films. Perfect for a chill evening with friends! Bring your favorite snacks and settle in. It's a perfect way to unwind and kick

back before Halloween.

On October 26, TEENS, Inc. is running Halloween Ned. This is a fun filled Halloween event – don't be afraid to come check out this spooky event. There will be a haunted house and carnival games from 12:30 to 2 p.m. This haunted house is planned, set up, and acted by peer supervisors of TEENS, Inc. This thrilling experience will give you a good scare as you navigate the hauntingly fun maze.

If haunted houses aren't your thing, you can test your luck at the carnival games, with Halloween-themed games offering exciting prizes such as candy and trinkets.

After the thrilling haunted house and carnival games, the amazing Doc Murdock will perform magic from 2 - 2:30 p.m.

Brent Warren, who goes under the alias "Doc Murdock," is a well known magician around the Nederland area. He is known for his comedic and amazing magic acts. Be prepared to be dazzled by his incredible tricks and illusions that will leave you spellbound. It is a fantastic way to end a day of festive fun.

If you are a teen, TEENS, Inc. is the place to be. You can find TEENS, Inc. at 151 East Street, in Nederland. And look up more information about all their programs and opportunities at <https://teensinc.org/>.

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 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.

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.

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



HALLOWEEN NED



Saturday, October 26th, 2024

12-2pm: Haunted House, Carnival Games, & Photo Corner
2-2:30pm: Magic Show (Doc Murdock)



\$4 admission for kids walking age & up
(\$2 for each additional kid, adults free)
\$1 for 4 game tickets



151 East Street, Nederland - (303)258-3821 x22 stazi@teensinc.org

Next Week at the Teen Center

14 Teen Center Closed	15 Teen Center Closed	16 Teen Center Hours 4-7pm	17 Teen Center Hours 4-7pm	18 Nerf Battle! 4:30pm Teen Center Hours 4-7pm
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Public Notice
MINI STORAGE SALE
 Pursuant of Colorado State Statues, Rollinsville Mini Storage will sell at public auction on October 14, 2024 Personal property of Michael Mcgee to the highest bidder. The sale will be held online at www.lockerfox.com commencing at 10:00 AM October 14, 2024 . Items to be sold: furniture, clothing and other household items. Contact Manager@rollinsvilleministorage.com All sales are subject to change.

Public Notice
MINI STORAGE SALE
 Pursuant of Colorado State Statues, Rollinsville Mini Storage will sell at public auction on October 14, 2024 Personal property of Aaron Esserman to the highest bidder. The sale will be held online at www.lockerfox.com commencing at 10:00 AM October 14, 2024 . Items to be sold: Restaurant furniture, clothing and other household and restaurant business items. Contact Manager@rollinsvilleministorage.com All sales are subject to change.

Help Wanted

Gilpin County is Hiring!

Clerk & Recorder:
 Deputy Clerk-Motor Vehicle Tech (part time): \$19.13 - \$25.87

Dispatch:
 Emergency Communications Dispatcher I: \$22.69 - \$31.78 - Hiring Incentive \$3,500!
 Emergency Communication Supervisor: \$55,100 - \$74,400 - Hiring Incentive \$3,500!

Facilities Maintenance:
 Facilities Maintenance Tech I: \$20.63 - \$28.89 Hiring Incentive \$3,500!
 Facilities Maintenance Tech II: \$25.00 - \$35.00 Hiring Incentive \$3,500!
 Maintenance Worker - (temporary): \$19.13 - \$25.87

Parks & Recreation:
 Child Camp Program Leader: \$15.77 - \$21.30
 Guest Services Representative (part time): \$17.36 - \$23.46
 Sports Official: \$ 20.63 - \$28.89

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

Sheriff's Office
 Deputy - Detentions - POST Certified: \$30.77 - \$43.77 - Hiring Incentive \$3,500!
 Deputy - Patrol - POST Certified: \$30.77 - \$43.77 - Hiring Incentive \$3,500!
 Detentions Officer - Non-Certified: \$27.88 - \$39.66 - Hiring Incentive \$3,500!
 Division Chief - Detentions: \$108,700 - \$157,700
 Emergency Preparedness Specialist (Part time): \$31.39 - \$43.99
 Investigator: \$36.06 - \$51.29

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

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

Looking for administrative support for a small business. Must be personally organized, good with follow-up and computer savvy. Several hours a week, flexible schedule. Retired professional ideal. \$15 to \$20 an hour based on experience. Text (303)-503-3136.

For Sale

YOUR AD HERE!
 Looking to sell or buy?
 Have things you want to give away for free? You can place your classified here: <https://www.themtneer.com/classifieds-submission/> for just \$10 per week.

Pet of the week

Too many broken hearts have landed in the shelter
 Too many lonely souls have wandered down the halls
 You walk your dogs and then you pay the fees
 The things we do for love, the things we do for love

Adopting me is the problem to the answer
 You've got my number and your hand is on your smartphone
 The wifi's on yet all connections are down
 The things we do for love, the things we do for love



Who am I? I'm QTip...exclusively waiting to make up with you, only at the Humane Society of Boulder Valley: <https://www.boulderhumane.org/animals/?animalid=56536145>
 DeniseBoehler,M.A.,
 Writer, Ecopsychologist
 Nederland, Colorado



Like walking in the rain and the snow
 When there's nowhere to go
 And you're feelin' like a part of you is longing
 And you're looking for the answer in my eyes
 You think you're gonna back up
 Then I bark, Wait, I want to make up...

Public Notice
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 Pursuant of Colorado State Statues, Rollinsville Mini Storage will sell at public auction on October 14, 2024 Personal property of Nicole Fanelli to the highest bidder. The sale will be held online at www.lockerfox.com commencing at 10:00 AM October 14, 2024 . Items to be sold: furniture, clothing and other household items. Contact Manager@rollinsvilleministorage.com All sales are subject to change.

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The Wild Robot

After a shipwreck, an intelligent robot called Roz is stranded on an uninhabited island. To survive the harsh environment, Roz bonds with the island's animals and cares for an orphaned baby goose. Director: Chris Sanders. Writers: Chris Sanders, Peter Brown. Stars: Lupita Nyong'o, Pedro Pascal. Rated: PG. Time: 1 hour and 24 minutes. Genre: Animation, Adventure, Sci-Fi.

October 10th and 11th
 Friday and Saturday Evening at 7 p.m.
 Saturday Matinee at 2 p.m.

POLICY REMINDERS: Seating is limited to first come first serve. All children under the age of 12 MUST be accompanied by a responsible adult for the duration of the movie.

750 Highway 72 North,
 Nederland Community Center

Current Job Openings for the City of Black Hawk
 Go to www.cityofblackhawk.org and click on Job Openings for full Job Descriptions, Requirements, and to apply online.



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

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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.

10,000 meals packaged at Rise Against Hunger event



PHOTO COURTESY OF WAYNE GIPP

Making noise to fight hunger

Nederland Community Presbyterian Church Minister the Rev. Zach Hancock and his daughter Frances sound the gong to signify 10,000 nutritious meals packaged at the Rise Against Hunger event on Thursday, October 3, at TEENS, Inc. This is the ninth year the church has organized the event, with sponsors and volunteers throughout the Peak to Peak region coming together to make it a success again this year.

MARGIE YANSURA

NEDERLAND - Residents from throughout the Peak to Peak community came together Thursday, October 3 to help feed the hungry around the world.

More than 50 adults, kids, teenagers,

and seniors worked together in the TEENS, Inc. gym to package 10,000 nutritious and easy-to-prepare meals to be distributed around the world by Rise Against Hunger to those experiencing hunger.

“To think our small but dedicated community in the Rocky Mountains

can come together to make a difference in places of need around the world is wonderful” said Paula Gipp, mission elder for the Nederland Community Presbyterian Church, which organized the event for the ninth year. “It’s gives everyone so much joy to know they are helping others.”

The 10,000 meals were packaged in less than two hours, with teams working in a production-line style. Each food item was weighed and packaged. The meals were then packed into boxes. Each time another 1,000 meals were packaged, one of the volunteers banged a huge gong to signify the progress through the evening.

Nederland Community Presbyterian Church Minister the Rev. Zach Hancock was joined by his daughter Frances in banging the final gong to signify reaching the 10,000-meal goal. “Thanks to everyone who supported this effort both financially and by coming out to the event to help package the meals,” Hancock said. “I especially love that the children got to participate and see how they can help others across the world. It is an important lesson for us all at any age.”

Rise Against Hunger notified the church that the meals packaged at Nederland events during the past eight years have been provided to folks suffering from hunger in South Sudan,

El Salvador, Haiti (twice), Cambodia (three times) and Nicaragua.

Local businesses, organizations, community and church members made the event possible through sponsorships and donations. In addition to the volunteer labor, the local organizers pay for the food that is packaged. Seventeen local businesses and organizations sponsored the event.

Sponsors for this year’s Rise Against Hunger event include the Nederland Community Presbyterian Church, TEENS, Inc., Peak to Peak Rotary, Nederland Lions Club, Calvary Chapel, Mountain Forum for Peace, *The Mountain-Ear*, Gaskill Family, Kolterman Family, The Covered Wagon Restaurant, Crosscut Pizzeria and Taphouse, The Deli at 8326, E1 Design Build Excavation, Homes by Jackie Jones Team/REMAX Alliance Realty, Hub Ned Co-Working, Indian Peaks Ace Hardware, Nederland Feed & Pet, Tres Gringos, Kathmandu Restaurant and B&F Mountain Market. Local businesses buying holiday wreaths to support the event include Blue Owl, Brightwood Music, Hub Ned, Homes by Jackie Jones Team/REMAX Alliance Realty, New Moon Bakery & Cafe, The Shop and Very Nice Brewing.

Beginning the event, the Nederland Community Presbyterian Church began selling fresh 22-inch mixed evergreen wreaths with a red bow for \$35, to raise the rest of the funds to pay for the packaged food. These beautiful wreaths must be ordered by November 1 and will be delivered beginning November 21. To order a wreath, email gipp-paula@gmail.com.

THE GHOSTS CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO

Central City's Halloween Spooktacular

See Main Street Central City transformed into a
Victorian Haunted Village.

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

Three Nights:
Saturday, October 19 & 26
Halloween, October 31st
6:00PM-9:00PM

Admission is FREE.

Visit CentralCity.com/blog/Halloween

Sponsored by Main Street Central City



Fees for some activities may apply.
Must be 21 years of age or older to consume alcoholic beverages.