

Of mountains, miners, and madams



MIDDLE PHOTO BY ADDY KING, LEFT AND RIGHT PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

Madam Lou Bunch Day

Above, left; A sporting house girl. Above, center; Despite rain, the show went on as scheduled in the Bed Races. Above, right; Kerry Paige belts out notes on the tenor sax. See story page 20.

Gilpin Sheriff investigates social media threat against school



PHOTO BY ALLISON HARDT-ZEMAN

John Scarffe
Gilpin County

A joint investigation is actively ongoing regarding a shooting threat at Gilpin County Schools. As a result, the schools were closed on Monday, August 15, 2022. The juvenile associated with the social media post has been identified, according to a statement from the Sheriff's Office.

The Gilpin County Sheriff's Office is aware of the concerning and threatening social media post that has been circulated today. "I want to assure our residents that the safety of our students and school community is a top priority of the Gilpin County Sheriff's Office," Sheriff Kevin Armstrong said.

According to the School website, Gilpin County Schools were closed to students Monday, August 15. All before school and after school activities were also canceled. All school staff were to report to work on August 15, as scheduled. The first day of school was then scheduled for Tuesday, August 16.

The Gilpin County School District hosted a meeting in the school auditorium at 6:30 p.m. on August 15, in conjunction with the Gilpin County Sheriff's Office. This meeting was for Gilpin County school parents, staff, and students only.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide information to parents, students, and staff about school safety protocols and procedures and to address concerns regarding recent social media activity.

Sheriff Kevin Armstrong reported on the Monday night meeting at the Gilpin County Commission meeting the next day, on Tuesday, August 16. He said about 80 people attended in person and 120 through Zoom.

Armstrong said witnesses of the posting have come forward for the prosecution. "We want to have the integrity maintained within the investigation."

The Sheriff's Office received a text message regarding a post on Facebook

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- QUOTE OF THE WEEK -

"The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next." ~Abraham Lincoln

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PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

Celebrating the past in Central City

Top, left; Jimmy Lewis opened the festivities with a rousing version of "Little Sister." Top, center; Gentleman Jim Voorhies. Top, right; Marshal Jonas Schruck of the Wild Bunch kept the peace. Above, right; Dancing in the rain on Main Street. Bottom, center; An attendee dressed for the occasion. Bottom, left; Backroom Chorus girls strutting their stuff. Middle, left; Tap dancers catching air.

Dave Gibson Central City

Around the turn of the twentieth century in Central City, Colorado, when gold was plentiful and female companionship was scarce, miners turned to Madam Lou Bunch's ladies of the evening for comfort. For the past 48 years, those days have been commemorated in the form of Madam Lou Bunch Day.

The Jimmy Lewis Band rocked Main Street with numbers including a long version of Elvis Presley's "Little Sister," Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Born on the Bayou," and Nat King Cole's "Route 66." Theme appropriate songs "Hot Legs" and "Shake Your Money

Maker" got everyone in the mood. The Infamous Backroom Cabaret and The Backroom Chorus Girls kept things lively, staging three performances throughout the afternoon. Rocky Mountain Rhythm added tap dancing and Angela Delsanter of Nederland Mountain Movers Community Dance debuted a mesmerizing stilt act. Eric Chin on ukulele entertained with his slightly ribald lyrics and *The Mountain-Ear's* own Patrice LeBlanc sang beautifully in a skit by The Belvidere Players.

Undeterred by a steady rain, the ever-popular Bed Races went on as scheduled. The crowd roared as contestants struggled to keep their beds with two riders and

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BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO BY ADDY KING, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

For the 48th time

Top, left; Show me the money. Top, right; Madam Purple celebrates a 2nd place finish in the Bed Races. Middle, right; A dancer rests before her performance. Bottom, right; Plunking on the bass guitar. Bottom, left; Timberline Fire won best costume and \$100.

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a pusher on track. Dostal Alley's team dominated for the second year in a row to claim top honors and \$300.

2022 Madam Lou Bunch Day Results

Bed Races:

- 1st Place – Dostal Alley (1 minute, 10 seconds)
- 2nd Place – Madam Violet (1 minute, 46 seconds)
- 3rd Place – Easy Street Casino (1 minute, 47 seconds)
- Youngest Bed Race Team – Dostal

Alley (62 years)

- Oldest Bed Race Team – Eureka Street Popcorn Shop (157 years)
- Worst in Bed – Gilpin County Arts Association
- Best Costume – Timberline Fire

Madam:

- 1st Place – Hattie Galore
- 2nd Place – Sour Cherry of Central
- 3rd Place – Madam Violet
- Sporting House Girl:
 - 1st Place – Miss Sarah
 - 2nd Place – Kitty Kaleidoscope
 - 3rd Place – Lulu
- Dandy Dan:
 - 1st Place – Gentleman Jeremy
 - 2nd Place – Noah
 - 3rd Place – Trev

