

Commissioner Isenhardt retires



PHOTO BY John Scarffe

John Scarffe
Gilpin County

Gilpin County Commissioner Linda Isenhardt is retiring as the District 2 Commissioner. She was elected to the Board in November 2014, and was sworn in on January 2015. Her current term ends on January 10, 2023, when Susan Berumen will be sworn in as the new County Commissioner for District 2.

The County hosted a reception for Commissioner Isenhardt and Assessor Anne Schafer, who also is retiring after nineteen years, on Tuesday, January 3, at 10:45 a.m. as the last item on the regular meeting agenda.

Isenhardt served as Chair of the Board three times in 2016, 2019 and 2021. She served with six different commissioners during her time on the Board.

She has been living in Gilpin County for 38 years in March and has been married to Wes Isenhardt for 45 years. They raised their two children in Gilpin County. Linda attended South High School in Denver and the University of Colorado, Boulder. She graduated with a degree in Education, K-12.

Over the past eight years, Linda has served on the Gilpin Ambulance Authority board of directors, the Gilpin 911 Authority board, Jefferson Center for Mental Health board and Gateway to the Rockies

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Skating into a new year



PHOTO BY DAVE GIBSON

At the Nederland Ice Rink
Mary Joyce glides gracefully across the ice.

NedRINK passes the torch to Nederland

Dave Gibson
Nederland

Tucked away in a thick pine forest on the edge of town, the Nederland Ice Rink, located at 500 Indian Peaks Drive, Nederland, Colorado, has provided countless hours of winter recreation to skaters since its inception in 2005. We extend a profuse thank you to its creator, the nonprofit NedRINK (Nederland Racquets and Ice for Nederland Kids), and its devoted volunteers that brought enjoyment to so many for so long.

Assuming the day-to-day operations, on Sunday, January 1, the torch was passed to the Town of Nederland. Nederland has always dutifully plowed the parking lot for its guests, but now helping in clearing snow from the rink between mountain snow storms is a huge

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Broncos fire Head Coach Nathaniel Hackett



PHOTO BY DAVE GIBSON

Hackett told to pack it
Nathaniel Hackett is shown during the preseason before another disappointing season unfolded.

Dave Gibson
Denver

The future seemed bright entering the 2022-23 NFL football season for the Denver Broncos. Deep-pocketed ownership bought the team, a new head coach was hired, and future Hall of Fame quarterback Russell Wilson was signed to bolster offensive production in a blockbuster trade with Seattle. Many so-called experts were predicting the Broncos to improve from a 7-10 record under Vic Fangio in 2021 to being a playoff contender this year. Fans once again had reason to be optimistic.

On December 25 after a blowout loss against the lowly Rams, in which Wilson threw three interceptions in a game marred by poor performances and bickering, it was painfully obvious that all Broncos Country received this season and for Christmas was a lump of coal.

Now with a 4-11 record, someone had to pay. That someone was Head Coach Nathaniel Hackett who was unceremoniously fired the next day. As a one-and-done coach, Hackett is the fifth NFL head coach to be dismissed before the end of his first season. CEO Greg Penner thanked Hackett for his time in the Mile High City and stated that, "We determined a new direction would ultimately be in the best interest of the Broncos."

Hackett was brought in from Green Bay as an up-and-coming offensive coordinator who was partially credited with Aaron Rodgers' 2020 and 2021 MVP trophies. When Wilson was landed, it was thought Hackett would be a good fit with the new quarterback, but it was not to be. The coach's game clock management and play calling came into question early. The

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- QUOTE OF THE WEEK -

"A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what seemed hopeless failure may turn to glorious success."
~Elbert Hubbard

Broncos fire Head Coach Nathaniel Hackett

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new quick pass shotgun offense never clicked the way it was supposed to. Most of Wilson's career was built on deep-drop play-action passing and scrambling.

At times showing flashes of his old self, Wilson seemed to be holding on to the football too long, resulting in sacks. At 34 years old, he also appears to have lost a half step while running for his life trying to make something happen. To be fair, the offensive line was decimated by injuries. This year and they lost receivers along with their number one running back. While the third-ranked defense held up its end of the bargain, allowing an average of 17.1 points per game through fourteen games, the offense registered a league worst 14.3 points per contest. The math is easy – a change was needed. Expect more in the coming months.

Jerry Rosburg will act as Interim Head Coach for the remainder of the season. For whoever is hired to lead the Broncos in 2023-24, their job will be challenging with just a single first-round

pick acquired in the Bradley Chubb deal and none in the second round to choose from. The Broncos' woes run deeper than Wilson although their fortunes are unequivocally tied to a fortune with the five-year, \$245 million (\$124 million guaranteed) contract they signed with him.

No team would want to trade for Wilson coming off his least productive year at that price. If Denver cuts him, it would count \$107 million against their salary cap in 2023, writing off and swallowing hard on a \$231 million dollar mistake with no money to rebuild. Financially and practically, most likely the Broncos will "ride" it out with Wilson for at least another year. They will pray their athletes stay healthy, and try through trades and free agency to bring in players and personnel that will make Wilson a better quarterback and them a better team. Through it all, the Broncos faithful will be there hoping that they find something other than a lump of coal in their stockings next year.

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MOUNTAIN RIDES

A NEW RIDE SERVICE THROUGH VIA

Mountain Rides, operated by Via, provides wheelchair-accessible rides along the Peak to Peak and to destinations in the Boulder area. This is a shared-ride service with fixed events and open times to accommodate appointments.

PICK-UP/DROP-OFF LOCATIONS will be in Ward, Nederland, Rollinsville, and Mid-Gilpin. Home pick-up can be scheduled as available.

Available for almost any purpose, including medical and therapy trips, employment, shopping, personal, and more.

The service is FREE! A \$5 contribution per ride is suggested.

TO REGISTER: Call our Mobility Specialists at 303-444-3043 or on-line: www.viacolorado.org. Once registered, a trip can be scheduled through Via's Call Center on weekdays from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Schedule rides from one to seven days before your ride is needed.



MORE INFO: Mountain Transportation Coordinator, Betty Abel, p2pvia@gmail.com or 720-514-9633 • p2phhs.org



Taste of the Peaks

Brought to you by The Mountain-Ear Newspaper



Photo by Omayra Acevedo

WELCOME TO THE MOUNTAINS

LOCALS OFFER UNIQUE EXPERIENCE WITH CULTURE AND CUISINE

Another beautiful Fall has come and gone. Colorful leaves have been replaced by sparkling white snow. Visitors arrive to our winter wonderland hungry and ready to eat.

Our area has a lot to enjoy and the dining experiences the local restaurants provide are a big part of the appeal. We are proud

to offer a variety of establishments with unique menus aimed to please any palate. Browse through this seasons list of places to find all the eats and drinks across the Peak to Peak.

Locations are provided, in addition to types of services offered. Take a look at some of the finest dine-in and to-go

because great food isn't just for locals.

We all know living in the mountains has its perks beyond just the beautiful landscapes and undeniable experiences. Find your favorites and pass them along.

You can find more information on dining, music, and mountain living by visiting our website at www.themountaineer.com.

Everything you need to know about eating and drinking during your stay in the Peak to Peak region.



Questions or comments? Email us at info@themountaineer.com.

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Gilpin County has a NEW WEBSITE!

Check it out here <https://gilpincounty.colorado.gov/>
And take a look at our Parks & Recreation page here
<https://gilpincounty.colorado.gov/explore-gilpin/parks-and-recreation>

New stuff is always happening at your Gilpin County Community Center. Be sure to bookmark these sites to keep up-to-date!