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Nederland, Colorado

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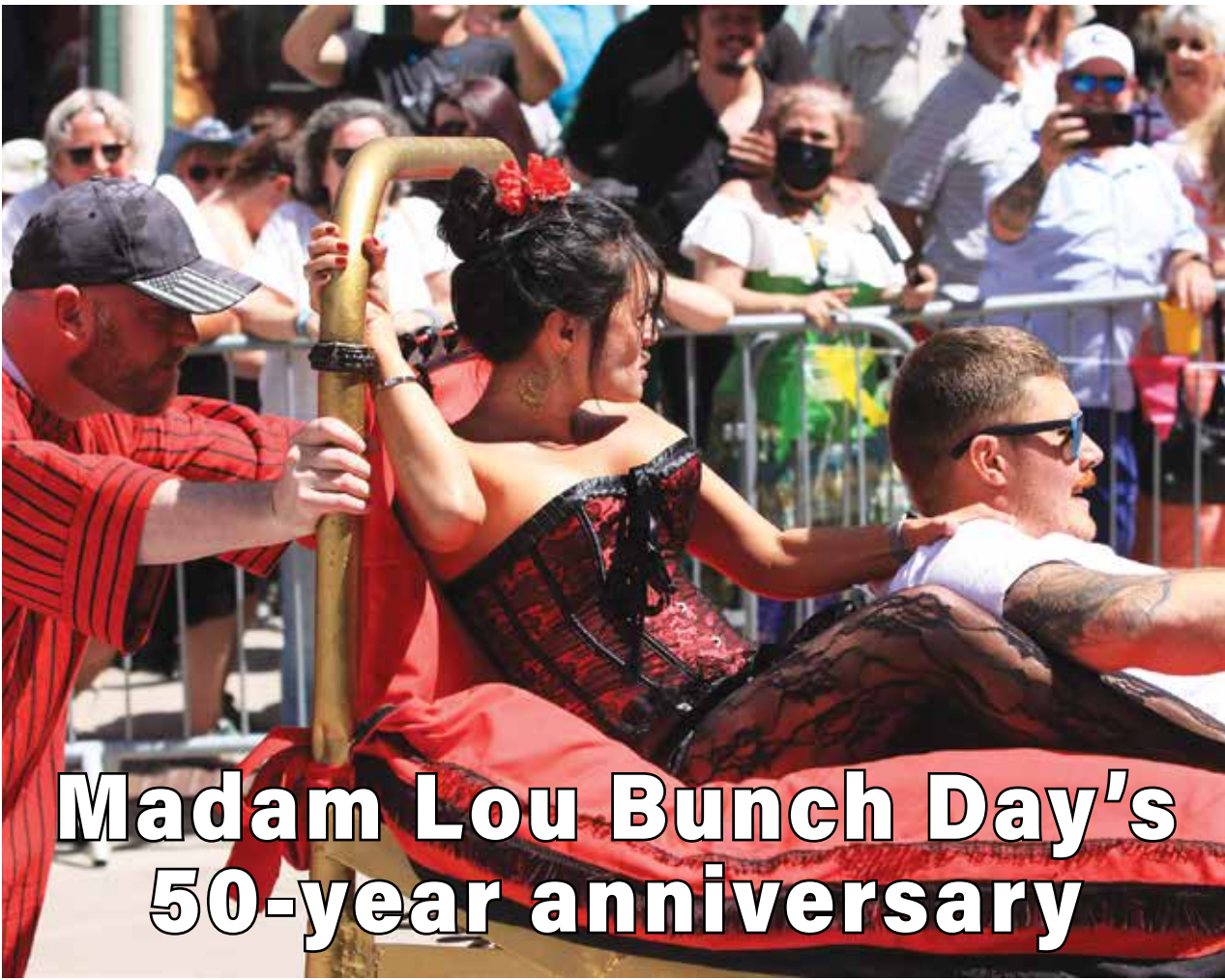


PHOTO BY DAVE GIBSON

Madam Lou Bunch Day's 50-year anniversary

A rollicking good time

Maverick Gaming bed racers test their mettle on the challenging course. See story page 16.

Gilpin County awards contract for SOB Study

MINDY LEARY
GILPIN COUNTY

On June 25, 2024, Dr. Tanya Settles of Paradigm Public Affairs LLC presented a proposal to the Gilpin County Board of County Commissioners, outlining what an impact study on Sexually-Oriented Businesses (SOBs) would entail. Dr. Settles would serve as the project manager for this study.

She said her family-owned business, based out of Denver, will be gathering information from leadership and local government officials with a goal of ultimate transparency. Project launch and preliminaries include an analysis of similarly situated governments (Cripple Creek/Teller County; Mead/Weld County), initial preliminary interviews with county leaders to finalize scope and purpose, and initial discovery.

Settles has been following the SOB story from the local media. She said her company can perform a double-blind, peer-reviewed impact study that can be finished by November 1, 2024 and is estimated to take 178 hours.

She assured the Board that the deadline and scope will not change without prior direction from them.

The proposed scope of the project will focus on the potential impacts to Gilpin County government. These include public safety, human services, and possibly public health. There will also be a preliminary assessment of impacts on revenue generation that may be associated with changes in commercial and residential property valuation.

Manager Ray Rears introduced **Resolution 24-99**, Awarding a Contract to Paradigm Public Affairs for the Commission of an SOB Impact Study. This resolution approves the contract and authorizes the County Manager to execute it.

The company was chosen following the County's established procurement process.

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NederDay of Art

CHRISTOPHER KELLEY
NEDERLAND

The second annual NederDay of Art took place over a hot and busy weekend in Nederland. Local artists and their creations were celebrated at more than 12 different events and activities spread throughout the town, providing the community and visitors with over 16 hours of live demonstrations, music, and the opportunity to appreciate the uniqueness of Peak to Peak artists.

Starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 22, 2024, the NederDay of Art kicked off with the Fine Art & Craft Fair at the Nederland Community Center. Evan Cantor played live music as art enthusiasts perused the work of over 20 vendors, each with their own style and preferred medium.

The Mountain People's Co-op was well represented at the entryway to the art fair, selling delicious foods,

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PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER KELLEY

Tasty treats and art abound

The Mountain People's Co-op was well represented, selling delicious baked goods at the entryway to the art fair.

-QUOTE OF THE WEEK-

Fiction gives us empathy: it puts us inside the minds of other people, gives us the gifts of seeing the world through their eyes. Fiction is a lie that tells us true things, over and over. – Neil Gaiman

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Madam Lou Bunch Day's 50-year anniversary



A wink at the past

Left, from left to right: Margaret Keller, LA Dysart, Starr Bella, Scarlett Conrad, and Stephanie Siegrist performing the cancan. Bottom, right: Mayor Jeremy Fey takes one for the team. Bottom, left: Face-painting delighted kids.

"Fever" is always a favorite. Borrowing a page from the Moulin Rouge, the audience roared to the dancers' leg kicks of their lively cancan.

In between the dancing the Colorado Wild Bunch staged gunfights in the middle of the street. Marshal Curly and Sheriff Chicken Creek had finally caught up to an outlaw they'd been doggedly pursuing. As the lawmen bickered about who would collect the reward, gunfire broke out and all three of them were hit and dropped dead. In another gunbattle, old lady Gracie confronted Big Mike about the deed to a mine he had sold her that turned out to be worthless. Demanding her money back, when he refused, she pumped him full of lead and recouped her cash from his pocket – justice served up Old West style.

Following a parade, the marquee Bed Races commenced at 3 p.m. Fourteen teams, each comprised of two men and a sporting house girl, would wheel down Main Street. The male rider and male bed pusher changed positions after rounding a barrel at the course's halfway point before heading back uphill. The obligatory changing of a nightshirt between them cost quite a few teams valuable seconds. The beds could at times be unwieldy, with several of the unusual transports crashing into the barriers along the side.

Dostal Alley has dominated the contest in recent years. Taking first place in 2021, 2022, and 2023, their trio of Blake Boulter, Austin Boulter, and Maclaine Drysdale were clearly the class of the field. Blistering down Main Street without veering far from their intended path, they kept

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DAVE GIBSON
CENTRAL CITY

Beginning in the late 1800s until 1914, Pine Street in Central City was home to a red-light district. Although prostitution was never legal in Central City, it was tolerated. With single miners making up a large portion of the population, apparently business was brisk. Madam Lou Bunch became a wealthy woman catering to those miners and even presumably some of

the married ones.

While Bunch's financial donations to local causes and suspected bribes to authorities kept her in good stead, it was her philanthropy during a tuberculosis epidemic that made her a heroine. Shutting down operations, her brothel was transformed into a makeshift hospital, providing succor for the sick and dying. Many have credited her with saving the city.

For fifty years now, Central City has celebrated her legacy in the form of

Madam Lou Bunch Day. On Saturday, June 22, Jimmy Lewis and his band kicked off the festivities at noon with rockin' numbers such as "Route 66" and Elmore James' theme-appropriate "Shake Your Moneymaker." Ex-Sporting House Girl Candace Davis Giunta sang "Ride Sally Ride."

Throughout the afternoon the Infamous Backroom Cabaret entertained spectators with somewhat risqué routines. The women's performance accompanied by Peggy Lee's steamy

PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON





Lou Bunch Day



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their momentum going until the end, registering a time of 49.3 seconds – a new Madam Lou Bunch Day record.

After the conclusion of the races Central City Mayor Jeremy Fey was bombarded with pies. Anyone who had made a contribution to the Gilpin Arts Association got a crack at him. All in good fun, at the end of the all-out assault, all you could see of his head was the openings of his eyes and mouth. \$400 was raised for the cause.

To wrap up an enjoyable day of festivities, attendees danced away the rest of the afternoon and early evening to live music at the Madams' and Miners' Ball.

2024 Madam Lou Bunch Day Final Results

Bed Races:

1st Place – Dostal Alley (Team Two) for \$500

2nd Place – Dostal Alley (Team One) for \$300

3rd Place – The Famous Bonanza Casino (\$200)

Best Bed Race Costumes: Century Casino (\$100)

Worst in Bed: Gilpin Arts Association

Best Madam: Deb Wightman

Best Dandy Dan: Chuck Fullen

Best Sporting House Girl: Starr Bella



Presented tastefully

Top, left, from left to right: Dostal Alley's Blake Boulter, Austin Boulter, and Maclaine Drysdale won the Bed Races in a four-peat. Top, right: Sierra Rodd of the Infamous Backroom Cabaret. Bottom, right: Old lady Gracie gets even. Bottom, left: Mike Keller (left) and Chuck Fullen of the Colorado Wild Bunch. Middle, left: A pretty makeover.