

# THE MOUNTAIN EAR

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

## Buck for the Badge helps first responders

DAVE GIBSON  
GILPIN COUNTY

In 2016 former paramedic Steve Henry began staging bull riding events to raise money for fallen or seriously injured first responders and their families. Providing assistance during an emotionally and often financially difficult time, to date, over a quarter million dollars have been donated to the cause.

HealthOne AirLife Denver's helicopter touched down in the parking lot at Gilpin County Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 7, an hour and a half before this year's Buck for the Badge bull riding event was set to begin. Besides getting a peek inside the aircraft without being critically afflicted or injured, it offered an opportunity to meet a few of the everyday heroes that save countless lives. Police officers, sheriffs, ambulance drivers, EMTs, and firefighters were also on hand to meet the people and show their support for their comrades that so selflessly served and paid the ultimate price.

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PHOTO BY DAVE GIBSON

### Assisting families of the fallen

A cowboy in control at the moment atop a raging bull. Riders needed to stay aboard for eight seconds to register a score.

### A truly Grand opening



Ward resident Will Shiverick celebrated the grand opening of Mountain Auto Repair.

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## BoCC discuss 2025 budget



PHOTO BY MINDY LEARY

### Strategizing for success

Finance Director Joe Allaire and Staff Accountant Lyndsey Denton unveil the ambitious 2025 Budget, projecting \$8.8 million in capital projects while keeping Gilpin County proudly debt-free.

MINDY LEARY  
CENTRAL CITY

The Gilpin County Commissioners' September 10, 2024, meeting featured

a rare early look at the proposed 2025 budget, presented a full month ahead of schedule.

Commissioners Susan Berumen (Chair), Sandy Hollingsworth, and

Marie Mornis were in attendance.

Finance Director Joe Allaire and Staff Accountant Lyndsey Denton presented a detailed plan to tackle pressing needs in infrastructure and maintenance, emphasizing the urgency of investing now to avoid skyrocketing future costs.

"This year's proposed budget reflects our commitment to taking care of what we have," Allaire said, noting that the budget includes \$8.8 million in capital improvements, road projects, and senior program support.

With gaming revenue projected to bring in \$15 million and a new lodging tax adding \$174,000 to the county's coffers, Allaire argued that now is the time to act. "If we don't spend the money now, inflation and deferred maintenance will only make these costs higher down the road."

With a projected ending fund balance of \$21 million for 2025, the Board felt confident that these investments would set up future boards for success. Budget highlights include South Beaver Creek Road improvements and vehicle

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### Colorado Mtn. Ranch 75th Anniversary



A truly Grand celebration

*see story page 20*

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### **-QUOTE OF THE WEEK-**

*Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done.*

– W.E.B. DuBois

# Buck for the Badge helps first responders



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

### An exciting competition

Top, left: a cowboy about to hit the dirt. Bottom, right: An entrant takes a break between rounds of the bull riding. Bottom, left: Blakely proudly displayed the Colorado colors before the competition.

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Many of this year’s bull riders knew each other from having competed at previous rodeos. Their comradery equaled that of emergency responders or soldiers that had been through war together. On this day, they would be battling disgruntled bulls with names such as Huckleberry, Snowball, Dirty White Boy, Paleface, Red Dog, Flipper, Rip, and War Dog. If they managed to stay aboard for eight seconds, they received a score from the judges.

The first bull out of the chute was ridden for a score of 73 which landed the cowboy in the money at the end of the day. Much of rodeo clown Eric Myrick’s afternoon was spent tucked inside his metal barrel as the irate bovines took exception to his presence and battered the barrel with their horns. Even equipped with helmets and flak jackets, the riders (or non-riders as the case may be) took their lumps with

their presumably incurred medical bills exceeding potential prize money. Bullfighters did their best to distract bulls away from cowboys once they hit the dirt.

Two rounds of bull riding challenged riders and entertained spectators. From there, 11 cowboys qualified for the final round. James Lee Brown demonstrated impeccable form during his ride that scored 81.5 points – good for first place and \$954. Iskandar Ocampo wasn’t far behind, registering 77.5 points that earned him second place and \$636. Third place finisher Homero Martinez took home \$503 with a score of 74.5. Isaac Gutierrez and Blaine Kallsen tied for fourth place with their scores of 73. Each of them received \$278 in prize money.

If you’d like to make a contribution, go to [www.buckforthefallen.org](http://www.buckforthefallen.org) or call 303-589-0682.

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Let's talk **trash**

Understanding where your waste can go not only protects the environment, it keeps you and your community healthy. Boulder County has facilities that make sure materials are handled properly to prevent harmful waste from getting into our air, soil, and water.

- Recycle:** Nederland or Allenspark transfer stations
- Food scraps:** Nederland transfer station
- Household hazardous waste:** Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management Facility accepts these for FREE:
  - Batteries
  - Household cleaners
  - Mercury containing bulbs
  - Motor oil
  - Antifreeze/ Gasoline/ Automotive fluids
  - Paints and Stain

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No experience needed. All training provided.

# Buck for the Badge



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

### With thrills and spills

Top, left, from left to right: RN Trevor Meeks, Pilot Jesse Castens, RN Rick Wold. Top, right: First responders. Middle: A bull rides itself of its rider. Bottom, right: A cowboy and nearby Gilpin ambulance. Bottom, left: A ringside view.



Jefferson (Seller)  
1159 Wells Fargo Cir  
3 acres  
Panoramic Views  
**\$399.9K**



Ward (Seller)  
1333 County Road 100  
**\$235K**



Coal Creek Canyon  
11123 Twin Spruce Rd  
920sf, 1.6 acre  
**\$480K**



Morrison (Buyer)  
7302 Sourdough Dr  
**\$1.55M**



Arvada (Seller)  
8015-C Holland Court  
**\$400K**

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