

THE MOUNTAIN EAR

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Nederland, Colorado

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

Peak Vibes



Christopher Kelley
Nederland

The vibes were just right on Saturday, September 9, 2023, at the Caribou Village Shopping Center. The sun was shining and there was

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Ned Soccer



Sara Sandstrom
Nederland

The Nederland High School Boys' Soccer Team is loaded with players with both experience and talent. They have proven

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Ned*Ned 2023



Christopher Kelley
Nederland

On Saturday, September 9, 2023, at 8 a.m. runners, some costumed, some with excitable dogs by their side, gathered in front of TEENS, Inc. at 151 East Street in Nederland for the annual Ned*Ned. The

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Remembering heroes: 9/11 Stair Climb



PHOTO BY MINDY LEARY

For the fallen

Captain Trent Ingle and Lieutenant Jason Christian deliver speeches at the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at the Ameristar Casino in Black Hawk. See story page 18.

Buck for the Badge aids heroes' families



PHOTO BY DAVE GIBSON

Dave Gibson
Gilpin County

Seven years ago, paramedic Steve Henry began holding bull riding events to raise money for first responders who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. His nonprofit organization, Buck for the Badge, has distributed over \$250,000 to the loved ones left behind to help during a devastating and often financially difficult time.

Held on September 9 in conjunction with First Responders Day at Gilpin County Fairgrounds, the Fight for Life helicopter and emergency response vehicles were on hand for close inspection and their operators available for questions. Kids seemed particularly fascinated by the fire trucks. Some pulled pork barbecue caught my eye and nostrils as I passed through the vendors' stands. I couldn't help but wonder if the placement of the tent between the Democrats' tent and Republicans' tent was intentionally symbolic, a means of keeping the peace, or coincidental.

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Man vs. bull

Eight seconds proves to be an eternity.

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- QUOTE OF THE WEEK -

"I find hope in the darkest of days, and focus in the brightest. I do not judge the universe."

~Dalai Lama

Buck for the Badge aids heroes' families



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

A challenging day for cowboys

Top, left: An irate bull gives a rider flying lessons. Top, right: This bull isn't happy about having his horns trimmed or having someone on its back. Bottom, right: The Shockwave Trick Riders put on a spectacular show. Bottom, left: Rodeo clown Eric Myrick quenches his thirst with a cold one. Middle, left: A spectator rides the rail. Middle, right: The judge's job was made easy with no scores to report.

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Flags of the United States, Colorado, and those representing the fallen heroes from the different sectors of emergency service entered Allen Memorial Arena held by riders on horseback. The "riderless horse" was led around the arena floor to honor those no longer with us.

A dazzling display of horsemanship followed with a performance by Colorado's Shockwave Trick Riders. Standing atop a galloping horse, hanging off the front, side, and back of the animal by one's feet with their hair brushing the ground as they whizzed by thrilled onlookers.

The bulls for Buck for the Badge were supplied by Ford Rodeo Ranch,

Razors Edge Rodeo, Burrier Bucking Bulls, and founder Steve Henry's personal stock at S&S Bucking Bulls. They came with names like Blues Brothers, Jungle Book, Navajo, Parlingua, and Snowball. There would be four rounds that 28 cowboys would have to conquer their beasts. If the riders managed to stay aboard for eight seconds, they received a score.

One by one over a half ton of raging fury bore down on the cowboys, tossing them onto the dirt like so many discarded ragdolls. One of the contestants had the full force of a hoof come down on his lower leg. None of them lasted the full eight seconds to register a score in the first round.

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Buck for the Badge aids heroes' families



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

All for a worthy cause

Top, left: Hats off to all of the riders. Top, right: A quiet moment before the first round of bull riding. Middle, right: The first responders flag. Bottom, right: Flight for Life saves lives. Bottom, left: Don't try this at home.

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Determined to not let the bulls get the best of them, they entered the second, third, and fourth rounds. There were several instances where rodeo clowns diverted the bulls' attention from downed riders. A seething bull's horn brushed a clown's posterior as he streaked past. One of the cowboys was launched twelve feet in the air! Cody Nolte had the longest ride of anyone at 7.87 seconds on an afternoon where the bulls dominated. Final score: Bulls 28, Cowboys 0.

The day of the Buck for the Badge event, Steve Henry learned that two of his comrades had perished in a rollover auto accident that morning. As their supervisor for the last nine years, he enjoyed a close relationship with medics Kelly Brimlonger and Mark Kingline. Choking back tears, Henry noted that, "The list just keeps getting longer." As a small token of our gratitude, assistance will be provided for the Brimlonger and Kingline families.

To receive information about making a donation to Buck for the Badge, go to www.buckforthebadge.org or call 303-589-0682.

The day of the Buck for the Badge