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Eldora skiers and riders rejoice



PHOTO BY DAVE GIBSON

Opening Day 2023

Cris Miller of Golden celebrates every year with a bottle of bubbly. See story page 16.

Town reviews new fees and revenue sources

CHRISTOPHER KELLEY
NEDERLAND

The Board of Trustees (BOT) met on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 7 p.m. for their second work session on the Town of Nederland's 2024 Budget. Trustees discussed the revenue and expenditures for each fund, and revenue-building initiatives such as speed cameras, paid parking, EV charging fees, and a Short Term Rental (STR) regulatory fee.

The BOT ensured that their assessment of the draft budget would be in compliance with the priorities established within the 2023 - 2024 Strategic Plan.

Trustees first discussed potential new revenue streams and expenditures:

Speed Cameras and Speeding Tickets

Town Administrator Miranda Fisher presented information regarding the potential of adopting an ordinance to implement speed cameras, either fixed cameras or mobile camera trailers, in specific areas of Town to collect a projected \$30,000 in revenue per month. Such a plan could include hiring a third party agency to handle the installation, maintenance, and monitoring at the cost of \$20,000 a month.

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Gilpin elections 2023

WES ISENHART
GILPIN COUNTY

Election returns for 2023 saw a number of state and local ballot issues decided and school board elections for both Gilpin RE-1 and RE-2 school districts. Voter turnout for an off-year election was 45.71% with 2,558 ballots cast out of 5,596 eligible voters.

At the local level, Ballot Issue 1A, which would have established a permanent mill levy for the Community Center, was defeated by a 63.88 to 36.12 percent margin. The vote totals were 915 Yes votes versus 1,618 No votes.

Unofficial results at the state level showed Proposition HH being defeated by a 60.63-39.37 margin. Proposition II was passing by a 66.36-33.64 margin.

In the RE-1 school board races, Tami Velasquez (682), Joe Marr (676) and Joseph L. Stranally (565) were the top vote getters and elected to the RE-1 Board of Education.

Gilpin County results for the Boulder County RE-2 school board followed the unofficial overall results for the districts. In District A, Jason Unger had 57% of the county votes and 60% for the district. Alex Medler had 50% of the county vote against two other challengers and 59%

for District C. With 52% of the county vote and 59% at the district level, Lalenia Quinlan Aweida was leading in District D. Jorge Chavez was ahead in District G with 46% of the county vote against two other challengers and 56% at the district level.

Official results will be posted on the Gilpin Clerk and Recorder website (gilpincounty.colorado.gov/elected-officials/clerk-and-recorder/elections) when the results have been verified. Click on the November 7, 2023, Coordinated Election Results link.

State results can be viewed at the Colorado Secretary of State website (sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/main.html) while Boulder Valley School District results are on their website (bvsvd.org).

Ned wins significant electricity infrastructure upgrade

TOM MAHOWALD
NEDERLAND

You may have seen some construction just north of the Nederland Community Center over the past few months – here's what it is: Nederland won a competition with 20 other communities for Xcel to build one of seven new community microgrids as part of a \$24 million investment in "community resilience" that Xcel got approval for in May 2020. "Resilience" means that the power stays on when the grid goes down.

What is a microgrid, you may ask?

"By providing increased energy resilience, reducing carbon emissions, and improving energy affordability, community microgrids can help communities to build a more sustainable and equitable energy future – and Nederland has the first one in our region."

A microgrid is a hyper-local energy grid with clearly defined electrical boundaries (our Community Center, in this case) that acts as a single controllable system, while tied into the electrical grid we all use. It can connect and disconnect from the main grid in order to enable it to operate in grid-

connected mode or in "island mode."

Microgrids typically include a variety of energy sources, such as solar panels, wind turbines, battery storage, and diesel generators. Ours uses battery storage.

When the "big grid" goes down, the microgrid continues to provide

local power, backing up critical town infrastructure such as Ned's Community Center. Our microgrid can operate completely independently of our main electrical grid when it needs to.

Nederland's new Xcel project is one of the nation's first community microgrids – there are only about 400 community microgrids operating or in development in the United States, according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). The trend

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- QUOTE OF THE WEEK -

"You need to have a redesign because familiarity breeds a kind of complacency." ~Timothy White

Pardon our dust, we are under construction. This week you will find that the paper has shifted a bit with content being moved. The good news is, it's all still there. We are moving things around as part of a redesign. Inside page 3 you will find the directory listing where things have been placed. Love it? Hate it? Let us know at info@themountainear.com.

Skiers and riders rejoice Eldora now open!



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

Sooner than expected

Top, left: A happy customer gives the thumbs up. Right: Once again, President and General Manager Brent Tregaskis broke out the champagne to get things rolling. Bottom, left: Lift Operations Manager Dennis Reardon rings the bell signaling all systems go.

DAVE GIBSON
ELDORA MOUNTAIN RESORT

Thanks to an early season snowstorm and the gargantuan efforts of the snowmaking team and the rest of their employees, Eldora Mountain Resort was able to open a full two weeks earlier than originally projected. On Friday, November 3, President and General Manager Brent Tregaskis addressed skiers and snowboarders standing in line at the Alpenglow chairlift champing at the bit to take their first runs of the year. Many of them were diehard enthusiasts who frequent the mountain scores of times each season.

I've noticed over the years that skiers and boarders always know the exact number of days they'd spent recreating on the slopes. Tregaskis quipped that he had skied fewer times last year than a lot of them – he only skied 92 times! It's just a coincidence that his last name ends with "skis."

After welcoming back his loyal patrons, thanking everyone involved, and popping the traditional champagne cork to whoops, hollers, and applause, the ceremonial cowbell clanged heralding

the beginning of what promises to be another great year.

The Hornblower, Klondike, and International trails were all open, amounting to 1,000 vertical feet to schuss or shred upon. A terrain park was also featured for refining tricks and maneuvers in front of West Wing Lodge. More intermediate, expert, and beginner runs along with Nordic trails for cross-country skiing will open in the coming weeks.

Constantly striving to enhance the already superb Eldora experience, a new 12,000-square-foot lodge is being constructed to house Adaptive Sports and their children's ski and ride school. It is slated to open for the 2024/25 season. Major snowmaking upgrades, a solar energy system at the Nordic Center, new carpet in the Indian Peaks Lodge, and restrooms in the parking lots are among the improvements this year.

Lifts at Eldora Mountain Resort are running every day from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information relating to current snow conditions, rentals, pricing, parking, programs, and upcoming events, see www.Eldora.com.

THE B&C

Black Hawk Bean & Cream presents a Family Feast deal!
Take & Bake or Hot to go!

Enjoy our savory 6-piece lasagna tray, A freshly prepared salad with dressing, garlic bread, and 2 pints of our creamy ice cream.



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*No local discounts.



Eldora now open!



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

First day of another season

Top, left: Once you've reached a certain age, it's all downhill from there. Top, right: Tongues wagging and teeth flashing, friends relishing their first chairlift ride. Bottom, left: Executive Operations Administrator Lexi Kagan (left) and Director of Sustainability & Project Development Hunter Wright pose for a picture before heading up the mountain. Middle, left: The much-anticipated opening has arrived.

BEYOND THE HEADLINES

The History and Context of the Israel-Hamas War

Monday, November 13
5:30-7 pm at the Library

Registration Required

This is a hybrid program with an in-person and an online option. Online login will only be sent to those who have registered.

CU Boulder Professor Dr. Kalisman will explore the recent history and context of the current situation in Israel and for Palestinians.

Going beyond the headlines, and "gotcha" social media talking-points, this presentation concentrates on how we got to this point, the implications of the current conflict, and what the future might hold for the region.



Register here or at nederland.colibraries.org



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