

News & Success Stories from Around the Region

April 2019



Town of Silverthorne grants \$55,100 in funds to startup and existing businesses

source: Summit Daily News 4/1/19 by Eli Pace



A woman who's opening an arts and crafts supply store across the street from the Silverthorne Recreation Center knows starting a new business in Summit County can be hard. As the owner and operator, Rachel Sachs expects to open in the next few weeks, and she recently found out she'll be getting a \$2,500 business grant through the town's latest round of grants to help get her up and running. "In the beginning, expenses can be overwhelming, so anything that helps offset the cost is greatly appreciated," Sachs said after being revealed as one of this year's grant recipients.

And the new arts supply store, Summit Arts & Crafts Headquarters, isn't the only business to benefit from the town's [Business Improvement Grant Program](#), which has doled out grants worth \$55,100 combined this year. Eight years into the program, the town has now awarded these grants to 26 local businesses. The grants all run on one of two tracks, either helping a business undertake capital investments that produce economic developments in town, like the creation of new jobs, or going to businesses looking to make site enhancements, thus improving Silverthorne's sense of place. [Read full story here.](#)

Vail Health goes all in on behavioral health in Eagle County

Local hospital pledges \$60 million over 10 years for behavioral health efforts

source: Vail Daily, by Pam Boyd, 4/5/19

Confronted with the enormity of Eagle County's behavioral health needs, local residents and agencies knew what they needed. Months of discussion revealed they needed just about everything - programs, professionals, beds and resources. Most of all, they needed a champion - an entity that was willing to lead the charge both organizationally and financially to make meaningful inroads in the effort to improve behavioral health services for local residents.



Pictured, from left, are project partners, Eagle County Commissioner Matt Scherr, Vail Health President and CEO Will Cook, Vail Health Executive Director of Special Projects Doris Kirchner, Eagle County Public Health and Environment Director Chris Lindley, Commissioner Jeanne McQueeney, Vail Health Board of Directors Chair Mike Shannon and Commissioner Kathy Chandler-Henry.
Dominique Taylor Photography

Vail Health has recently announced it would be that champion.

The local hospital and health care provider says it will commit \$60 million in funding over the next 10 years to transform behavioral health services in the Eagle River Valley. In partnership with Eagle County and other community groups, a new nonprofit collaborative will be created to build needed facilities, improve access to providers and lower barriers to accessing behavioral

health care across the valley.

The official announcement from Vail Health said the hospital relishes the opportunity to take on behavioral health issues - terminology that reflects both mental health and substance-abuse needs. In its announcement, Vail Health noted local statistics plainly show the need for increased behavioral health services. Vail Health stated that currently, mountain towns across the west are being labeled as part of the "suicide belt" in the United States. Vail Health emergency room visits for anxiety and depression rose 360% (from 63 to 290) between 2013 and 2018. Eagle County lost 17 people to suicide in 2018, up 183% from 2016. While the \$1.3 million contributed by Eagle County to support behavioral health initiatives, including funds raised from marijuana sales and excise tax, is a start, more needs to be done. [Read full story here.](#)

SBDC, NWCCOG, and Summit Chamber team up for Social Media Marketing + SEO workshop at Colorado Mountain College

On April 11, Over 30 people, including entrepreneurs, small business owners, and those working in the government and non-profit worlds attended this interactive workshop on digital marketing strategies.

Leah Rybak, Owner of [LMR Consulting LLC](#), lead this workshop which explored trends in digital marketing techniques, including social media and SEO/SEM basics and best practices. This workshop was a partnership between the Northwest Colorado SBDC, NWCCOG, Summit Chamber and Colorado Mountain College.



Leah Rybak of
[LMR Consulting, LLC](#)

Summit Chamber honors best businesses at awards ceremony

source: Summit Daily News, Eli Pace, 4/9/19

The achievements of local businesses were front and center for the 2019 Kaiser Permanente Business Excellence Awards, presented on Thursday, April 4th by the Summit Chamber of Commerce at the Silverthorne Pavilion.

Coming into the awards ceremony, the chamber had received a record number of nominations for its annual effort to recognize the imagination, innovation and achievements of companies across Summit County.

As such, the field was the most diverse group yet with 146 nominees in 10 categories, including a number for women and minority-owned businesses, according to the chamber.

During the awards gala, the town of Frisco was named the Best Place to Work, an award that recognizes a business or organization for employee satisfaction in the workplace.



Employees from The Pinnacle Companies pose for a group photo after the company was named the Best Large Business during the 2019 Kaiser Permanente Business Excellence Awards on Thursday at the Silverthorne Pavilion.

Photo credit: And Two Were Tamed Photography

The complete list of awards presented during the 2019 Business Excellence Awards is as follows:

- Best Place to Work: Town of Frisco
- Workplace Wellness Champion: Howard Head Sports Medicine
- Customer Service Champ: Sunshine Café
- Ben Fogle Award: Miranda Fisher, general manager of Always Mountain Time, for her

volunteerism

- Marketing Champ (tie): Majestic Mountain Movers and Lodge at Breckenridge
- Environmental Camp: Mountain Roots Garden Care
- Best New Business: Sunny Side Up
- Best Business, Small: EVO3 Workspace
- Best Business, Medium: Sauce on the Blue
- Best Business, Large: Pinnacle Companies

Colorado Mountain College to expand bachelor's degree offerings after state approval

source: [Summit Daily News, 4/11/19](#) by Deepan Dutta

Colorado Mountain College has received state approval to expand its bachelor's degree offerings, which will give Summit County and Western Slope residents more four-year degree options and opportunities to live, learn and work in the High Country. Gov. Polis signed HB 19-1153 into law Friday, April 5. The bill was sponsored by a bipartisan mountain delegation, including Summit's own Rep. Julie McCluskie (D-Dillon) and Sen. Bob Rankin (R-Carbondale), and passed both houses of the state Legislature unanimously.

The act authorizes CMC, a public institution, to expand the number of bachelor's degree programs from the five offered there since 2010 to a "limited" number of bachelor's programs. A definite number of additional offerings will be decided by the school's board of trustees after consultation with Western Slope communities and the state department of higher education. The college will take into account community and regional needs when finalizing new program offerings. CMC communications director Debbie Crawford said that while more discussion is needed with various official agencies and stakeholders, secondary education is definitely an area the school is looking at for a bachelor's degree. Others may be in high-growth fields such as health care and local government. [Read full story here.](#)

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