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## Olive Ridley's Coffee & Tea - Another Northwest Loan Fund Success!



For 15 years, Natalie Wilson, currently of Rifle, CO, had a dream to open her own Coffee Shop - but life just got in the way. With 6 children, the timing was never quite right, until a few months ago. After her youngest finished high school, she and her husband took time off to travel and surf. Having spent almost a year living in Costa Rica, she fell in love with the simple, laid-back lifestyle. On a surfing trip to Nicaragua, she and her husband went into an eclectic coffee shop that created exactly the kind of great vibe she'd dreamed of with her own coffee shop.

"It was like the universe was telling me, now is the time," she said. She described the coffee shop as being warm, inviting, and exactly the kind of place people went to just spend time. Returning to Rifle, Natalie searched for just the right spot, and found it in the basement of 228 Railroad Avenue. Natalie was able to see past the deterioration to the potential for the amazing vibe she wanted.

Natalie worked with the Economic Development Committee who were very excited with her plans. With seed money from the EDC, Wilson still needed additional funds to finish creating her dream.

She was then introduced to Anita Cameron, Director of Business Lending of the Northwest Loan Fund (NLF). Anita encouraged Natalie to put the finishing touches on a loan application package.

"Anita made me think really hard and asked so many questions, that by the time we were finished, I had a much more solid plan," Wilson remarked. "She inspired me to keep going. She is driven to make sure everything is going to work." Wilson thinks Cameron is one of the most business-savvy women she's worked with.

The emphasis of the shop is on fresh, locally sourced ingredients and unique blends. You won't find mass-produced coffee at Olive Ridley's. In fact, Cameron says, "Natalie's signature coffee is well worth the 3 hour drive to Rifle."

Asked how she came up with the name, Wilson explained that Olive Ridley is a species of easy going sea turtle that nests off Costa Rica - thus the distinctive logo.



Next month we'll have another story about how the loan fund has helped other business owners. Until then, if you need additional information please contact Anita Cameron at [anita@northwestloanfund.org](mailto:anita@northwestloanfund.org).

## **Board Member Spotlight John Hoffman**

Like many NWCCOG Board members, Carbondale Trustee, John Hoffman wears many hats. He's the town liaison for the NWCCOG, CDOT, and Senior Matters. He's on the Early Child Board, the Crystal Valley Environmental Protection Association, he is an alternate for the Roaring Forks Transit Association (RFTA) Board, and Chair of the West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway Steering Committee. He's been associated with the NWCCOG since taking office in April of 2008. During the past 6 years he's served on the executive board, the director search board, and is the vice-president of the Rural Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC).



While both John's parents were from Altoona, PA, they met each other in Germany after the war where they were married and where John was born. When he was 5 they moved to the Park Hill neighborhood of Denver near the zoo, City Park and the Museum of Natural History. During the summers he spent his time with his Bavarian Grandparents who had relocated to Aspen. He grew up loving the Roaring Fork Valley, went to school at Colorado Mountain College at the Spring Valley campus, and hasn't left the area for more than two years since.

When asked what he thought people might be surprised to learn about the NWCCOG he replied, "Elevator inspection is not on the radar for most people. The stealth weatherization program quietly improving the energy efficiency of the region is a surprise for many too. Also how many understand the vital dynamic that QQ (Water Quality and Quantity) brings to the water resources in this vast mountain region. In fact I think the incredible variety and range of programs the COG offers would be a revelation to just about everyone."

He thinks the best thing about the NWCCOG is the people. "The people are amazing, generous, funny and kind. They care about the region and work hard to represent it by obtaining services and infrastructure that will see us into a healthy future. The country we get to travel in to meetings is some of the prettiest in the world with the seasons bringing as much dimensionality as does the diversity of socio-economic and cultural settings. It makes me realize how satisfying it is to be here."

In his spare time, John loves walking mountain trails in the summer, winter, and fall. He's also an avid rafter, boater, diver, and sailor. He and his wife enjoy traveling and backpacking. Tai Chi and meditation help to keep them grounded. An unconfirmed rumor has it, that John is also an Eagle Scout.

## **Staff Member Spotlight**

### **Mike Bugielski**



Mike has been with the NWCCOG since 2004. Starting as an installer in the Weatherization group, he added the title of Auditor in 2009. As an auditor his responsibilities include going out to inspect homes that are being considered for weatherization efforts to determine what should be done to the home to improve energy efficiency. Once the audit process has been completed, the installers can get to work to make the planned improvements.

Having grown up on the East coast about 25 miles from Manhattan, Mike had always been drawn to the mountains. On his first visit to Colorado, he knew then it was just a matter of time before he would come to live here. In 1987, he moved to New Castle, Colorado, and has been there ever since with no plan of ever leaving.

He's definitely an "outdoor kind of guy" who loves fishing. He also loves music and spends much of his free time refurbishing old guitars. He says of his collection of more than 150 instruments, "These will someday be part of my retirement plan."

The best thing about working with NWCCOG Mike says, "Is the great satisfaction I get from helping people who need help. For every person we help, we help everyone else too." When you can help one person's home be more energy efficient, everyone benefits. He also thinks it's great to be part of a team where people are committed to what they do.

When asked what he thought people might be most surprised to know about the contribution to the community by the NWCCOG, he remarked, "The quality of work being done by the weatherization team is excellent - we look at things others don't and are constantly making things better."

## New Faces At NWCCOG

### Elevator Inspection Team Additions

The Elevator Inspection Program has seen many changes lately - with Steve Allen having recently been named the new Director, and Gene Morse agreeing to help with the transition, the NWCCOG has hired three new technicians who are currently undergoing training and orientation.



Mark Miller, Chris Vasquez, David Pickett-Heaps

Mark Miller, who has worked as an electrician for many years, has been living in Summit County for almost a quarter of a century. Originally from Platteville, Wisconsin, Mark is excited to be learning a new trade and a new career. When he's not working you can find him enjoying autocross, skiing, and most importantly, raising a teenage daughter.

Chris Vasquez is originally from Albuquerque, NM, and most recently from Arvada, CO. He's been in Summit County for just a few weeks. He had his own electrical company, then worked for the State of Colorado in facilities maintenance before being hired by NWCCOG. He's looking forward to performing top quality inspections, as well as experiencing the beautiful mountains and people living in them. When he's not working you can find Chris making "home brew", smoking meats, riding ATVs, skiing, biking and just generally enjoying outside activities.

David Pickett-Heaps was originally from Canberra, Australia, but has lived more than 30 years in Summit County. His previous work experience of being an electrician, working as a heating, ventilation and air conditioner (HVAC) technician, and being a carpenter uniquely qualify him for being an elevator inspector. David looks forward to learning new skills, and having a good job working with good people, and having good benefits. When he's not at work you can find him back-country skiing and snowboarding, mountain and road biking, rafting, mountaineering and hiking, kayaking, surfing (not in Summit) and stand-up-paddle boarding!

### Regional Transportation Coordination Council Team Addition



The Rural Transportation Coordinating Council has been so successful of late, they are having difficulty keeping up with demand for their services. Molly Tomkins, the newest RTCC Transportation Specialist, has been hired to help fill in the gaps.

Molly will be working part time with the Mountain Ride Transportation Resource Center for the near future providing call center support.

She is originally from New Jersey where she worked at Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory in Telecommunications for 18 years before moving to Summit County nearly 15 years ago.

Once in Summit, she worked for Keystone Resort Lodging and Guest Services until she was hired by the NWCCOG in April. She is looking forward to helping people in our community and working together as part of this team.

**May 20th - Senior Awards Ceremony**

If you were lucky enough to attend the 27th Annual Senior Awards Ceremony at the Summit County Community and Senior Center on May 20th, you were treated to heart-warming and humorous stories of truly amazing people in our community.

We were honored to celebrate Seniors who have selflessly volunteered their time and talents to make a difference in the lives of others in our communities. We also honored Friends Of Seniors, who serve older adults in many capacities.



For a complete list of winners [click here](#):

## In Other News:

### Care-giver Conference

In May, the Alpine Area Agency on Aging collaborated with Easter Seals of Colorado and CarePartners Resource to lead two Caregiver Wellness Trainings in Frisco and Granby.

The trainings focused on helping caregivers manage the challenges of providing care and Lori Lemasters of CarePartners Resource taught several interactive journaling techniques.

Both events were at capacity!



## Mini-Grand Deadline Extended

The Regional Advisory Council's mini-grant fund program has been extended! Mini-grant applications will be **accepted until 5:00 pm on Monday, June 1st**. There is approximately \$5,360 in funds available. Mini-grant applications may request up to \$2,500. Please contact Jean Hammes for a mini-grant application: 970-468-0295 x.107 or [aaa12@nwccog.org](mailto:aaa12@nwccog.org)

## ColoradoBiz Magazine Highlight Businesses in Our Community



Two NWCCOG region businesses were mentioned in the latest issue of ColoradoBiz Magazine. Both of these companies are models for growth and development in our community.

**Aircraft Technical Book Company** was the recipient of a loan from the Northwest Loan Fund and produces technical books for world-wide distribution.

**Tensproducts Inc.**, manufacturing physical therapy medical supplies, was a recent client of the Small Business Development Center. [Click here for the complete story.](#)

**Finally** -- The Governor spent time in Summit County where he "conferred" with NWCCOG employees Rachel Lunney (l) and Erin Fisher -- who knows what was discussed!? Maybe more

money for funding? We can always hope!



## **2015 NWCCOG Meeting Schedule**

### **Thursday, May 28, 2015**

Full Council & EDD Board Meeting

Location: Gypsum Town Hall

Time: 10:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### **Thursday, July 23, 2015**

Full Council Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00a.m. - noon

### **Thursday, August 27, 2015**

Full Council & EDD Board Annual Planning Meeting

Location: Garden Level Classroom, Eagle County Administration Building, Eagle  
(tentative)



Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00p.m.

**Thursday, October 22, 2015**

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00a.m. - noon

**Thursday, December 3, 2015**

Full Council & Foundation Board Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00a.m. - noon

**Northwest Colorado Council of Governments**

[www.nwccog.org](http://www.nwccog.org)

970.468.0295

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