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Weatherization Day - Update



Last month we announced that Weatherization Day was October 30th. After that article, we received a letter from a gentleman in Leadville who was the recipient of recent weatherization efforts on his home. It's such a wonderful testimony for the service we asked him if we could share it:

Dear Sir or Madam:

I had my apartment weatherized a few months ago and I wanted to let you know that I am thrilled and thankful for the services NWCCOG provided.

I live in Leadville and have been wondering when am I going to have to start shelling out money for the heating season. I woke up this morning to a very toasty home--without the heater running. I thought to myself, "Wow, I think I'm gonna go for a walk since it must be so nice out." My heat hadn't kicked on, as

usual, around this time of the year, so I was confident that the temperature outside couldn't possibly be below 30. Its not my habit of looking at the daily weather or the thermometer, it is what it is.

Imagine my surprise, when I opened my door and a chill like none other blasted me in the face. I checked the temperature. Today Leadville has been hovering between 4 and 6 degrees and my apartment is has an ambient temperature of about 69 degrees.

As a result of the excellent work your technicians did, I may not have to turn on my heat for much of the winter and that is a true blessing. Thank you for your work and I'll tell everybody I know that this is real savings in energy usage and in the wallet!

*Thank You
Vic Christian*

Thanks for the letter Vic, we appreciate it and hope you stay nice and warm!

Regional Advisory Council - Mini-Grant Program

The Region 12 Regional Advisory Council of the NWCCOG Alpine Area Agency on Aging, has announced the Mini-Grant Program for funding year 2014-2015 is now accepting applications. The mini-grant application may be accessed on the NWCCOG's website or by contacting Jean Hammes. The mini-grant application deadline is 5:00 pm, May 8, 2015.

Website: [Click Here](#)
Contact :JEAN HAMMES

Northwest Loan Fund - New Loans!

Anita Cameron, Director of Business Lending, has been super busy this past month. The Northwest Loan Fund Committee has approved three new loans, two of them have closed, and several more are in the pipeline. The business recipients of the most recent loans were happy to share their stories:

The Vail Brewing Company



The Vail Brewing Company is among recent businesses to receive a loan from the Northwest Loan Fund. The independent craft brewery based in Eagle-Vail, credits the loan they received with helping the start-up to keep the momentum going. VBC is also working with the Small Business Administration for a loan, but they needed an infusion of capital quickly for critical working equipment purchases.

Scott Harrison, Managing Partner, was referred to the NLF by his contact at US Bank. He was told that with all the documentation he'd already prepared for the SBA application, he may be able to work with the NLF to jump-start a loan.

"From the time we contacted Anita, to the time we got the loan, it was about three weeks." Said Harrison in reference to the NLF Director of Business Lending, Anita Cameron. "I know she stayed up late at night and worked weekends to make this happen - she went above and beyond what we expected. We cannot thank her enough!"



Brewhouse nears completion



Garrett Scahill,
Head Brewer
and

Harrison, both say that the loan could not have come at a better time. This loan helped to create the micro brews and helped them stay on track for a January 2015 opening. The VBC plans to brew fresh and creative artisanal ales in the Upper Eagle River Valley area using crystal clear mountain water and ingredients sourced locally as much as possible. Their plan is to hire locally as well and create a real community atmosphere.

Along with the SBA funding, and the NLF loan, they also plan to use an Indigogo fundraising campaign which will encourage people to get involved with crowd-funding for such things as a

"mug-of- the-month", unique t-shirts, and other special offers. They will keep people updated on their Facebook page. If you're interested in becoming involved with this hip group, be sure the check them out here: <https://www.facebook.com/vailbrewingco>

The Lumberyard - Skate and Snow



One might think the Lumberyard is where you would go to buy wood and tools, but this hip new store in Breckenridge is all about cool clothes, skiing, snowboarding, and skateboarding.

John Brossman, originally from Arvada, and Jessie Unruh, originally from Wichita, have a passion for skiing and snowboarding. When they thought about moving to Breckenridge and opening a retail store, it was only natural that it would be focused on doing what they love. High-end "boards", coupled with a unique brand and style of apparel, they opened the **Lumber Yard - Skate and Snow** just about a year ago.

Looking to expand, they were referred to the Northwest Loan Fund by their contact at 1st Bank. They spoke to Anita, filled out the application, and within 6 weeks they had a capital infusion that Brossman says will help them to "grow into the company we want to be." They are using the loan to expand the online retail presence, improve the shop, and bring in new product lines. Eventually, they hope to add additional employees.

"Without Anita, this would not have happened," said Brossman. "She was able to guide us through so much and she was always so positive. Words cannot describe how amazing she is."

When asked what sets this business apart from other stores in the resort community, John described the unique products and brands that are



exclusive to the Lumberyard. In fact, some of the brands are exclusive in the United States! Brands like Love Apparel, Colourwear, and LiveAgape Companies have only been available buy paying Euros -- and hefty shipping costs. Now those brands are available in the US -- and once the online store gets up and running, people will be

able to order from the Lumberyard and pay with US Dollars! Until then, those visiting Breckenridge, can buy those exclusive lines right here.

Other name brands like Howl Gloves, Indosoles Shoes, Gnarly Clothing, Switchback Bindings, and Krochet Kids Clothing are available in Summit County only at the Lumberyard. The apparel is dress casual to casual and only available at their location. They strive to keep the merchandise

fresh and they are constantly on the look-out for up-coming trends.

You can find out more about the Lumberyard Snow and Skate on their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/BreckenridgeLumberYard>

Reprinted in part from KUNC.org - see links below for entire stories.

Colorado Towns Vote Overwhelmingly In Favor Of Better Broadband

Town of Red Cliff Takes Big Step Towards Improving Broadband

Several Colorado counties and towns, including the Town of Red Cliff, voted overwhelmingly on Nov. 4 in support of efforts to improve broadband in the state.

The towns of Boulder, Cherry Hills Village, Red Cliff, Wray and Yuma were all seeking to override a 2005 state law that prohibits them from constructing or operating broadband or telecommunications infrastructure or services. That law, SB05-152, which was pushed by large telecommunications companies, can be overridden by a majority of voters.

Many Colorado towns have struggled to get affordable high-speed Internet, a service which has become a necessity almost akin to electricity or water, particularly for rural areas seeking to attract businesses in the service economy.

"There's so many stories of, I would love to move to Red Cliff, but you don't have a good internet connection. And so it is hampering our ability to grow as a town," said Red Cliff mayor Scott Burgess, who is working to provide better broadband in his rural town.



"You can no longer say, 'oh well yeah, I'm living in rural Colorado, so I'm just going to forget about being connected to the rest of the world,'" said Nate Walowitz, the Regional Broadband Coordinator for the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments. Many rural businesses now rely on Internet access, from precision farming to mining to rural hospitals uploading large images for analysis.

In many cases, towns that have hoped to get reliable, affordable broadband from conventional providers have been rebuffed. The cost to bring such high-speed connectivity to rural areas is high, and many providers can make more money, more easily, in urban areas.

All that is changing after the November 4th voting results.

[Read entire KUNC stories here](#) and [also here](#).

How About Saving Some MONEY?

Randy Reznik, Principal and Chief Savings Engineer of Rand Communications might just be able to save your organization a lot of money. Randy's mission is to comb through telecommunications bills looking for areas in which an entity may have been overcharged.

He's so sure most large entities are being overcharged, he's willing to audit invoices for free. If he finds no savings, he just moves on. However, in 100% of the cases so far, his local government clients have been able to reduce their overall telecom expenses between 12 - 36%. His fee is a share of the savings. His business model is a clear win/win proposition for all concerned.



"I discovered, in a past job, that most complex entities overspend for their telecom services for a variety of reasons. I started my business with the goal of helping entities identify this overspend and eliminate it," Rand explains. "I use a proven bill audit process to identify the areas for reduction."

One of the biggest savings he finds is the fact that most governmental entities have not been given the discounts available to government agencies -- but it usually goes much deeper than that. The town of Silverthorne, a recent client of Rand Communications, is now enjoying a savings of between 12 and 15% on telecom services.

Mark DeBonville, Network Administrator for the Town of Silverthorne, says the time spent with Randy was well worth the savings. According to Mark, "It took a bit of time to gather all the information together, but Randy was quick to get it analyzed and come back to us with recommendations that made it very worthwhile."

Even greater savings have been realized by Georgetown (26%) and Leadville (30+%) town governments. If you think your government agency would benefit from a telecom review, you can reach Reznick at rreznik@randcomm.com.

Gore Canyon Whitewater Park Ground Breaking!

**Grand County is excited to invite you to participate in our
Gore Canyon Whitewater Park Groundbreaking Ceremony
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2014 at 12 PM
Upper Colorado River At Pumphouse BLM Recreation Site**



Celebrate with us! The time has arrived to get in the river and build the structures that really will make waves! Grand County has been persistent in our goals to enhance and protect recreational boating opportunities on the Upper Colorado River. It's taken a huge team effort and we are grateful to you and for every person who has been involved in bringing the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park to the point of construction. We could not have done this without the strong support of the Colorado Basin Roundtable members.

At noon on November 21, we'll push some ceremonial shovels in the ground to kick off the construction. We'll say a few words to express our deepest appreciation for each person's role in bringing the project to fruition, and of course, take plenty of group photos to memorialize the occasion. Hot drinks and sandwiches will be served.

The highly experienced and respected west slope firm of Kissner General Contractors, Inc (KGCI) have been awarded the job. They will be staging materials on site, getting the sediment curtains in place and generally ramping up just in time for our celebration. Construction is expected to be completed over the winter.

If you can't make it on 11/21, we'll be sure to invite you back for the ribbon cutting party next summer! For more information contact Caroline Bradford - Project Coordinator.

CarolineBradford@wildblue.net

How to incorporate more walking into your work day



Get a hamster wheel walking desk! Thank you Steve Getz for this photo. You may not have enough room in YOUR office for this type of desk, but what a great idea!! Just a reminder to try to incorporate more walking into your day - standing is better than sitting and that walking is better than standing!

2014 NWCCOG Meeting Schedule

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Full Council & NWCCOG Foundation Board Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office / Conference Call

Time: 10:00a.m.-noon

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

www.nwccog.org

970.468.0295

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN NWCCOG!

STAY CONNECTED

