



[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

From the Director's desk...

Reporting "Live" today, January 17, 2018 from Red Cliff Town Hall, and emailing in over Wi-Fi. A small click for me, a giant one, a long time coming for Red Cliff.

Today, Anuschka Bales, Mayor of Red Cliff is hosting a Thank You Party-plates of cookies, urns of coffee and many cold-cut sandwiches - the works. She thanks visitors from the curtain on the old school stage. Instead of cutting a ribbon, Bales ties a bow in yellow ribbon to represent a new "connection."

Nate Walowitz, our Broadband Program Director, and I represent NWCCOG alongside dignitaries from agencies including: DOLA, USFS, Forethought, Broadband Deployment Board, Battle 1 Developers, Town of Vail, Eagle County, and Senator Bennett's office, as well as the town's two full time employees, Barb and Floyd. Everyone there knows their way around Red Cliff by now.

While debriefing, a text comes in. I'm impressed. Then my cell phone buzzes on the desk. Caller ID identifies it. Nate and Anushka prod me: "answer." Predictably, there isn't enough signal for a connection. "Typical Red Cliff call," says Bales, and "it's the best service along the eighteen miles of Highway 24 with no 911 or any other service. We are really isolated."

Thanks to a town wireless broadband project that really did take a village, today marks progress. Those in attendance agree, determination of town leadership, especially Mayor Bales' tenacity, won this day.



By the numbers, 150 households plus a handful of hardscrabble businesses now have internet access for \$75/month (25 Mbps down, 5 up). That is nearly three times the speed I get from Century Link in Eagle. The new communications tower high above town is fed from another at the top of the lift at Ski Cooper, and also supports a new two-way radio system. Don't get Nate started on what complicated permissions those two locations require to unravel. NWCCOG doesn't meter Nate's technical assistance to the project, but it is over \$30,000 in value. Public monies from DOLA, the Colorado Broadband Deployment Board and town have come together in roughly equal thirds adding up to just over \$300,000 to clear red-tape and build infrastructure that enables the market to pencil, and Red Cliff to enter the 21st Century. Much of what exists in Red Cliff echoes a time when ore from nearby mines won wars. Aromas of wood burning stoves hover in the air. This is the Colorado that attracts many of us here-rough, remote, gorgeous, maybe a little dangerous--inviting of individual innovation while confirming why we gather

Broadband to Red Cliff is the poster project of a 5-year program at NWCCOG. We are excited, though not as excited as the 45 children who no longer must seek a friend's house on the other side of Battle Mountain Pass to access the internet for homework before returning after school.

Speaking of it taking a village, Willa, 15, and Bristol, 6, have birthdays this week. I don't know them, but I know this because Mayor Bales has a spreadsheet with names and birth dates of each child in town. She has just started a Community Fund in 2017 from donations and proceeds from a \$340 bake sale for the children of Red Cliff, thirty-eight of whom are on free & reduced lunch program.

This year, Bales personally delivers a book selected and purchased from the Bookworm in Edwards to each child on their birthday. When a resident asks if the town fund could also purchase a Christmas Gift for each child in 2017, the fund doesn't have enough money, so Bales goes to 'Larry the Plumber,' who from the Mayors' description, is a bit gruff and curmudgeonly. She says to Larry, "hey, this was your idea." He promptly writes a check to the fund to cover the cost of a gift for every kid in town.

That is Red Cliff, embodying the Colorado spirit of the past, with suddenly, access to today's technology.

Oh, and the plate of leftover sandwiches from the Thank You party, Barb and Floyd whisper while my phone buzzes on the table. Quietly, decisively, they decide exactly which home addresses could most use a meal today, so Floyd makes the deliveries.

Jon Stavney

To contact Jon directly about your workplace story: jstavney@nwccog.org

Killdozer by Patrick Brower... A Book Report

By Jon



The "Killdozer"

No one was killed on June 4, 2004 in Granby, Colorado though a significant portion of the Town of Granby was destroyed utterly by a pre-meditated act. The motives of the business owner were relatively clear upon reflection. He felt wronged by a series of local land use decisions on and around his property that didn't go his way. He planned alone for months and wreaked vengeance upon the local officials who took part in those

decisions by steering his bulldozer all over town to destroy their private property and most civic buildings in town.

That fateful day, what led to it and how it became conveniently interpreted by outsiders, are the topics of Killdozer: The True Story of the Colorado Bulldozer Rampage, by Patrick Brower.

Fourteen years later, the Town of Granby has little interest in revisiting or remembering that day Killdozer does not provide a "smoking gun" lessons for Granby leaders today who are moving forward with bold endeavors.

[To read the entire 3 part article – click here.](#)

Patrick Brower is scheduled to attend the upcoming NWCCOG Council meeting to compare and contrast this civil destruction to similar issues in today's political landscape and the lessons we can all contemplate.

Certified Public Manage Course Accessible on Western Slop

The Vail Centre is hosting a mountain cohort of the University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs Certified Public Manager Course in 2018. Registration is open now. Two of our colleagues– Jon Peacock, Pitkin County manager, and Clint Kinney, Town of Snowmass Village Manager are long-time course instructors. Angelo Fernandez, a local HR guru at the VC is also teaching a class.

If you have mid-level managers or internal leaders who are considering next steps in public management, including an MPA, this course is 6 credits towards that goal. It is well worth the investment of time and money as a stand-alone Certificate. This important program, in partnership with CU Denver and the Vail Centre, is being brought to the mountains.

The CPM in the Mountains coursework will run from March 2018 - January 2019 with Capstone projects completed between January and July 20. The sessions will be held in Vail and Glenwood Springs enabling a cohort of participants from the region to complete the program together.

Angelo Fernandez will be speaking at our upcoming Council Meeting on January 25th.

[For more information click here](#)



NWCCOG Arranges 10,555 Trips to Essential Appointments



Through November 28, 2017, The NWCCOG Mountain Ride Program has been able to successfully arrange 10,555 one-way trips for essential appointments for veterans, older adults, low income and people with disabilities in seven western slope Counties. With funding provided in part by the FTA Veterans Transportation and Community Living

Initiative grant from CDOT, thousands of people were able to get to and from essential medical appointments. Additionally, many of the appointments for Non-Emergent Medical Transportation (NEMT) were eligible for reimbursement through Medicaid payments made to the Mountain Ride Call Center.

Being able to serve Individuals in our NWCCOG Region and beyond, has had a significant impact on our communities' well-being. If access to transportation

assistance were not available, families would have had added hardships, potentially resulting in risk to their physical and mental health and financial well-being. The Mountain Ride Call Center arranges one-way trips for a variety of qualified clients and arranges for Medicaid to reimburse eligible trips. An average one-way trip approximately 100 miles.

Details of the trip count by county follow:

2017*	One-Way Trips	Medicaid \$ processed
Eagle	1088	\$ 26,162
Grand	4,502	\$ 134,627
Jackson	33	\$ 1,063
Park	2,911	\$ 180,729
Pitkin	434	\$ 8,867
Routt	894	\$ 31,073
Summit	693	\$ 23,279
Trip by County Total:	10,555	\$ 405,800

* Medicaid trips numbers are subject to change due to Medicaid billing policy. The numbers will increase because clients can submit claims up to 90 days of appointment.

We are proud to have played a critical role in helping our citizens get the transportation assistance they need.



On taking breaks....

Daniel Pink talking about his new book *When* with Mary Louise Kelly on NPR on January 17th. Talking about America's puritanical tradition of powering through which runs counter to the science on performance he said:


Daniel H. Pink



NEW YORK TIMES-bestselling author of
 DRIVE and TO SELL IS HUMAN

"It could be short naps, a short lunch break. Take 10 minutes. Go out for a walk without your phone. We're talking about those kinds of breaks - end up being enormously important. And one of the things that I've discovered, and in fact changed my own behavior on, is that my view always was amateurs take breaks; professionals don't. And it's the exact opposite. Professionals take breaks. Amateurs don't. Breaks are part of performance. They're not a deviation from performance."

From Daniel Pink author
When: The Scientific Secrets of Perfect Timing

NWCCOG Receives Certified Healthy Business Leader Designation



We're proud to announce that NWCCOG has been recognized as a Health Links Certified Healthy Business Partner due to our holistic approach to creating a culture of health and safety in the workplace.

Health Links TM, is a signature program of the Center for Health, Work and Environment at the Colorado School of Public Health that recognizes businesses around the state for their excellence in workplace health and safety. Health Links assesses businesses via an online assessment tool that benchmarks their health and safety efforts. Health Links also provide businesses with expert advising by a local Lead Advisor and connects them with community resources to help them bring health to work.

As a Certified Healthy Business Leader, NWCCOG has been recognized for holding manager and supervisors accountable for supporting health and safety, integrating health and safety efforts, actively preventing workplace injuries, and extending health and safety services to employee spouses, domestic partners, dependents, and the greater community.

2018 NWCCOG COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 25, 2018

Time: 10am - 2pm

Location: CMC Vail Valley Room #230 in Edwards, CO

Topics for Discussion:

The NWCCOG Executive Committee will be meeting at 9:45 a.m.

The NLF Board is the NWCCOG Council

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

www.nwccog.org

970.468.0295

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN NWCCOG!