

# Weekly Register-Call

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**& GILPIN COUNTY NEWS**

Established 1862

**COLORADO: BLACK HAWK • CENTRAL CITY • ROLLINSVILLE • NEDERLAND • THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2009 • 75 CENTS**

- The first Hollywood was our own American City in 1911. **HISTORIC p2**
- Stimulus money for Gilpin County seen in highway projects. **COUNTY p3**
- Black Hawk business area streets too busy for bicyclists. **CITY p6**
- Gilpin Community Center complex opens new hiking trails. **HEALTH p7**
- CSFPD honors firefighters with award presentation ceremony. **HONORS p10**
- Rotary's Annual Duck Races to provide student scholarships. **EDUCATION p28**



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**Nederland Miners' Day** contest events this past weekend included Jack Leg Drilling as in this photo above. **p14-15**



# Nederland's Miners' Day 2009 event

## Mining skills competitions

by Dave Gibson

One hundred forty years ago silver was discovered west of today's Nederland in the Caribou District. By 1872 Nederland (then named Middle Boulder) was home to the largest silver processing mill in the area. Gold followed in 1899 with deposits found around the town of Eldora. From 1900 until 1918 Nederland was by far the United States leading producer of tungsten which is used mainly in the hardening of steel. Local miner, Tom Hendricks, still mines gold and silver at the nearby Cross Mine in an environmentally responsible manner. Nederland has survived many booms and busts throughout the years. Last Saturday and Sunday the city celebrated some of those times in the way of Miners' Days.

In honor of Nederland's heritage, Miners' Days is an exciting two day event comprised of competitions testing professional and amateur miners' practical mining skills. The contests (complete with prize money) included: Spike Driving, Hand Mucking, Jack Leg Drilling, Single Jack Drilling (hand drilling), Team Jack Leg Drilling, and Bow Sawing.

In the Jack Leg events, competitors had to bore two lengthy holes into solid granite using a hydraulic drill. Lifting the tool into place looked difficult enough before the men began jarringly drilling deeper into their target. Along with the heavy machinery came high deci-

bels and I noticed that not a single "Jack Legger" went without earplugs.

A quieter event, but in my opinion just as strenuous, was the Hand Mucking. With a flat-nosed shovel, contestants scooped ore into a cart as quickly as possible without bursting their hearts! When filled to the prescribed level they pushed the ore cart a short distance for the best time. Grady Colby, last year and this year's overall champion,

won the Men's Mucking with a lightning fast time of one minute and twelve point three eight seconds. In the Women's Mucking where the cart is filled halfway, Carrie Jo Saunders edged out Tina Robinson by a mere 15 hundredth of a second with a time of 57.47 seconds.

Truly a test of strength and endurance, the Single Jack (short-handled hammer) entrants drove hand steel as far into the rock as

they could during the allotted time. By rotating the steel bit an eighth of an inch (shaking the steel) after each hammer blow, they prevented the steel from jamming. Emmet Hoyle with his 4th place finish at last year's World Championships in Carson City, Nevada blew the competition away here by penetrating the steel a total of 6-7/32" into the stone.

Bow Sawing is another event that Hoyle excels in, as he took top

honors in that competition as well.

A giant inflatable slide and trampoline kept children merrily occupied during the day, as did an impressive climbing wall. A watermelon-eating contest, sawdust pile containing treasures, parade, water balloon fight, and face painting rounded out the fun and Kid's Mucking was a highlight with ribbons awarded to all the participants.



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**2009 Miners' Days Results:**

**Men's Spike Driving**

- 1st 15:39 \$200 Grady Colby
- 2nd 16:32 \$150 Marvin Blackmore
- 3rd 16:72 \$100 Jesse Pattridge

**Women's Spike Driving**

- 1st 28.44 \$120 Sherry Graham
- 2nd 31.78 \$100 Melody Loar
- 3rd 31.94 \$80 Carrie Jo Saunders

**Men's Mucking**

- 1st 1.12:38 \$220 Grady Colby
- 2nd 1.17:32 \$170 Emmit Hoyl
- 3rd 1.21:38 \$120 Jesse Pattridge

**Women's Mucking**

- 1st 57.47 \$126 Carrie Jo Saunders
- 2nd 57.62 \$106 Tina Robinson
- 3rd 1.07:20 \$86 Sherry Graham

**Men's Jack Leg**

- 1st 2.55:06 \$280 Rick Thomas
- 2nd 3.05:43 \$180 Cliff Jaramillo
- 3rd 3.18:47 \$155 Grady Colby

**Women's Bow Sawing**

- 1st 51.19 \$106 Melody Loar
- 2nd 1.00:69 \$86 Belinda Binette
- 3rd 1.04:16 \$66 Carrie Jo Saunders

**Men's Single Jack**

- 1st 6 7/32" \$250 Emmit Hoyl
- 2nd 4 29/32" \$150 Grady Colby
- 3rd 4 7/32" \$124 Eric Clifford

**Women's All Around**

Carrie Jo Saunders \$200

**Men's Bow Sawing**

- 1st 22:16 \$205 Emmit Hoyl
- 2nd 28.78 \$155 Rich Tedesco
- 3rd 29.16 \$105 Grady Colby

**Men's Team Jack Leg**

- 1st 2.47:75 \$340 Clifford Jaramillo & Clint Rhodes
- 2nd 2.50:47 \$290 Grady Colby & Rich Tedesco
- 3rd 3.00:97 \$240 Rich Tedesco & Grady Colby

**Men's All Around**

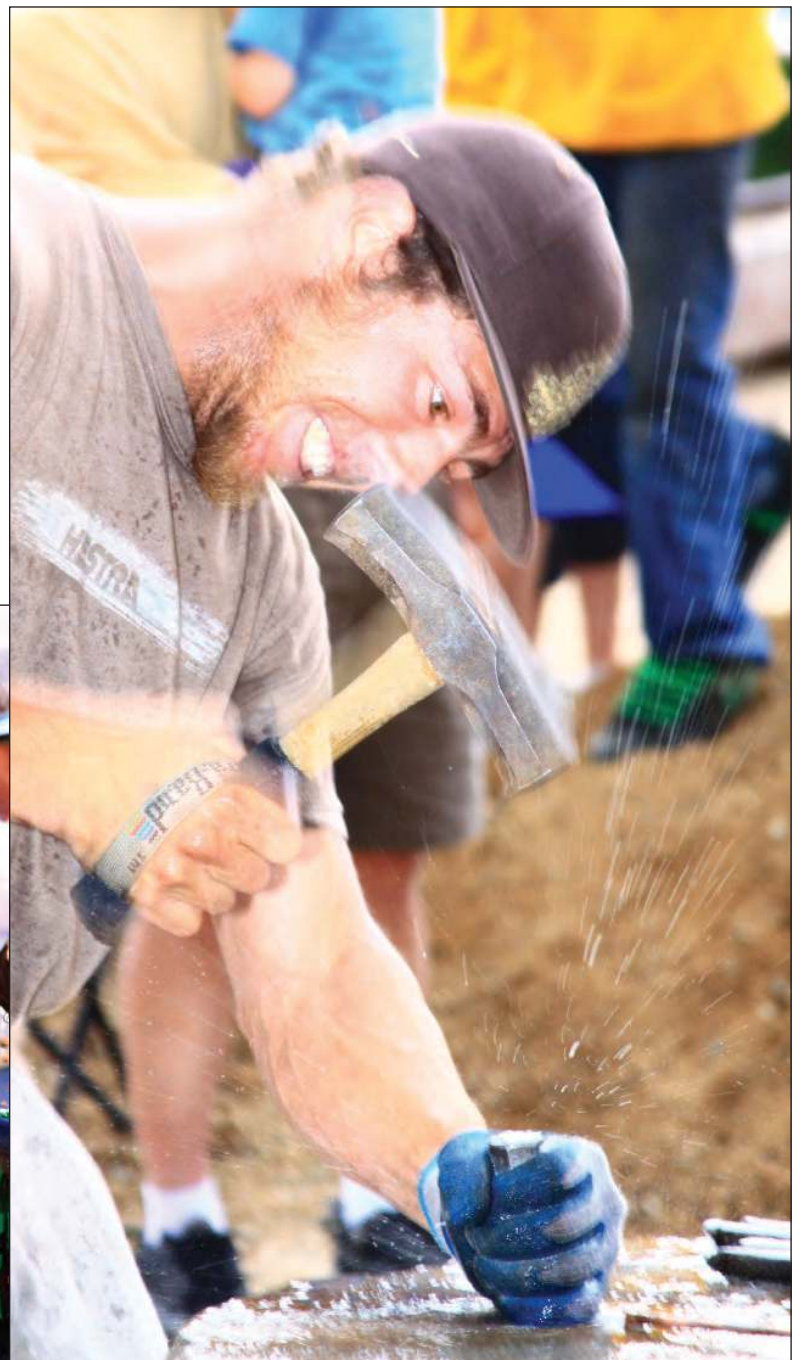
Grady Colby \$400



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