

SKY-HI NEWS

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Winter arrives in Grand County



PENNY HAMILTON/COURTESY PHOTO

A weekend winter storm produced significant snowfall across Grand County. As of Monday, the National Weather Service reported these snowfall totals from various locations, 13 inches of snow on Berthoud Pass, 6 inches in Fraser, 4 inches in Grand Lake and 5 inches in Kremmling. Granby Ranch reported approximately 8 inches. Send us your snow pictures and snowfall totals by emailing news@skyhinews.com.

Lodgepole pines get new life at C Lazy U Ranch as part of East Troublesome Fire restoration

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On Oct. 1, a hillside at C Lazy U Ranch was filled with volunteers planting trees. Above the hillside, bare blackened pines stretched on the horizon, with young aspens growing beneath them. The aspens filled the burn scar left by the East Troublesome Fire, proof that life can bounce back after a disaster.

Nature does a great job of healing itself, as shown

by the sprouting vegetation in the scorched landscape. But nature often needs a helping hand from humans. C Lazy U staff and volunteers teamed up with OneCanopy to plant 1,600 new lodgepole pines in the burn scar. OneCanopy is a conservation nursery in Northern Colorado. Also on hand were volunteers from Ecoculture, a reforestation group that plants trees around the globe.

PINES, 4



MEG SOYARS/SKY-HI NEWS

On Oct. 1, OneCanopy and Ecoculture helped C Lazy U guest ranch in Granby plant lodgepole pine trees throughout a burn scar. In 2020, the East Troublesome Fire destroyed parts of the ranch, but new growth is returning.

Grand County deputy receives charges stemming from August incident

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The Grand County Sheriff's Office announced Oct. 30 that one of its deputies is being charged with Assault in the Third Degree, False Imprisonment, Official Oppression and First Degree Official Misconduct, all which are misdemeanors. These charges are in regards to a misconduct case stemming from an incident that took place on Aug. 20, 2023.

There is a second sheriff deputy involved in the investigation, which is still ongoing and a decision is expected in November, according to the 14th Judicial District Attorney's Office. Dustin Barbee is the deputy being charged and the second deputy's name has not been released.

The sheriff's office says that Barbee is on unpaid administrative leave, pending further termination proceedings.

The details about the August incident have not been released at this time due to pending judicial proceedings, according to a press release from the sheriff's office.

"It is imperative for all involved that the integrity of our judicial process be maintained," the press release stated.

Sheriff Brett Schroetlin thanked the



SKY-HI NEWS FILE PHOTO

The Grand County Sheriff's Office in Hot Sulphur Springs.

Colorado Bureau of Investigations, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and the district attorney's office for their assistance, so the case could be impartially investigated.

"These findings are very troubling for our entire Grand County community as we all collectively put our trust in our law enforcement officers," Schroetlin stated in the press release.

"While these allegations are extremely serious, they are reflective of a single event; will not be tolerated and are not consistent with the culture and expectations set here at the Grand County Sheriff's Office."

Sky-Hi News will continue to report on this story as details are released.

Tara Alatorre is the editor of Sky-Hi News. You can reach her at 970-557-6031 or talatorre@skyhinews.com.

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THANK YOU GRAND COUNTY



PINES

From page 1

Trees created to thrive in the mountains

Katelynn Martinez, OneCanopy's director of operations and business development, explained that the young trees are especially adapted for the Rocky Mountain region. At their nursery, OneCanopy raises the trees from seeds harvested right here in the region.

"You could buy some trees at Home Depot, lodgepole pine probably, and plant them out here," she said. "But the parents of that

lodgepole are from the Pacific Northwest."

Martinez said that genetically, trees from the Pacific Northwest are adapted to cooler temperatures, cloudy days, and more moisture and oxygen. In contrast, Rocky Mountain trees have learned to thrive in harsher conditions at high elevations.

"Trees here have it in their bones to be hustlers," she said. "Just like when you bring a Texan up here to go hiking, a hike that's easy for you is a lot harder for them. That's the same idea."

Martinez added that the nursery also puts the young

trees through additional stressors "so that way they're really tough when they go out."

There are lots of forces of nature trees must contend with, especially lack of water, which can be deadly.

"We deprive them of water or do deep watering methods," she said.

Once the trees have toughened up to drought conditions, they are ready to graduate from the nursery. OneCanopy teams up with organizations like Ecoculture to get the trees in the ground. Ecoculture's professional planters can plant thousands of trees in a single day. In Colorado, there's only a 30-day window in the fall with the best weather conditions for planting. Planters sometimes work 17-hour days to get the job finished.

"Their bread and butter is large-scale plantings," Martinez said of Ecoculture's mission. "That's why we brought them out today. They're our largest buyer; they've bought almost 200,000 trees this year. And they'll plant those in 30 days."

At C Lazy U, the Ecoculture planters spread out along a hillside with the tree seedlings and shovels. The ranch chose the north-facing side of Willow Creek reservoir for the planting project. Johnson explained that the north-facing side is a natural home for trees. It receives less direct sunlight, allowing for snow to melt slower and moisture to stay in the soil.

Ecoculture also worked along with the ranch's employees - Johnson, Ami Cullen, Mike Cullen, Taylor Swift, and C Lazy U's co-owner, Don Bailey. Numerous other volunteers helped.

Planters used a scraper and shovel wedge to create a hole for the trees pods, working around brush and grass. After burying the trees, they packed all the soil in to make sure there were no air pockets.

"Planting is a skill; you have to practice it," Martinez said. "There's a lot of things we can do at the nursery ... to help them survive in the woods, but a lot of it is the finesse of planting."

When OneCanopy partners with a private landowner or company for planting, the nursery offers support for the first few years, since each tree is meticulously buried in the ground by hand. Martinez explained this method for planting, versus using a machine, is critical for the seedlings' survival in the mountains. Since the holes are being dug along a steep slope, automated drilling isn't possible.

"In Colorado, we have our own unique challenges to reforestation," she said. "... With the backfilling of the hole, if there's an air pocket in the hole, it will dry out the roots and kill them. The human touch is important."

Then nature takes its course. Martinez said it's expected that some trees won't make it. There are lots of risks in the wild - from debris flow and flash flooding in East Troublesome's burn scars, to new fires. When the U.S. Forest Service does plantings, they aim for a survival rate above 30%.

"By and large in the Rockies, that's successful," she said.

While the Forest Service concentrates on extremely large-scale plantings, private companies like C Lazy U can concentrate on quality over quantity.



MEG SOYARS/SKY-HI NEWS

Volunteers Joan and Volcker Orgeldinger helped plant trees throughout the burn scar.

"They often shoot for planting at lower densities with higher survival rates. So they're taking a little bit more time to make sure the tree is planted well," she said of these companies. "They're planting fewer of them and hoping more of them survive."

After everyone's efforts at C Lazy U, the bright green baby trees could be found nestled across the hillside, waiting for a chance to grow and regenerate the forest.

A NEW PATH FOR WILDLIFE

The replanting efforts will assist the land, as well as wildlife like deer and elk. Brady Johnson, director of sales and marketing at C Lazy U, explained how wildlife corridors are connected to forest health.

Before the East Troublesome Fire, the forests in C Lazy U and surrounding areas were covered with fallen beetle-kill timber. The fallen trees prevented deer and elk herds from following their traditional corridors.

"They've always traveled through the ranch, to go to the (Rocky Mountain National) park and back," Johnson said. "They'd go to the park in the summer and down to the Colorado River in the winter. Ever since the fires, they're

still traveling through the ranch, but not in their normal migration patterns."

When East Troublesome burned through the ranch, it destroyed the timber killed by beetles. This was a silver lining; fire does help the landscape by removing dead vegetation. Wildlife found they could go back to their original migration patterns - except another problem arose. Now that all the trees were burned, there was no shade.

"They're finding other spots to bed down and find shelter," Johnson explained, adding that reforestation is important work to ensure wildlife can return to their familiar path.

In many ways, reforestation is about returning to the familiar, trying to bring the land back what it once was - or even better.

The beetle kill timber clogged C Lazy U's forests, and East Troublesome burned so fast that it didn't scorch the soil beyond repair. Fire adaptive trees, like aspens, are starting to flourish again.

Now, thanks to work by C Lazy U, OneCanopy and Ecoculture, more growth is planned, as 1,600 trees have a new chance to thrive in the Rocky Mountains.

Marilyn Mulloy

July 29, 1936 - October 22, 2023

Marilyn Mulloy, 87, of Brazoria, Texas went home to the Lord on October 22, 2023. She was born to the late Roland Sheridan and Matilda Becker on July 29, 1936, in Summit, New Jersey.

She met and fell in love with Darrel Joseph Mulloy, to whom she was married to for over 48 years, until his death on August 5, 2013. Marilyn enjoyed gardening, the rodeo, country music concerts, and most of all spending time at her happy place at the beach and with family. Marilyn never met a stranger that she couldn't make friends with and her door was always open. Marilyn adored her children, all of her grandchildren, and her sidekick, Nugget. A legacy Marilyn was known for was she never missed the opportunity to send a birthday card with \$10 in it.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Roland Sheridan, and Matilda Becker, husband Darrel Joseph Mulloy, and daughter, Betty Scott. She is survived by her children Jeffery Mulloy (Tracy) of Green Cove Springs, Florida, Joann Swenson (Bradley) of Kellogg, Minnesota, Debbie Mulloy of Denver, Colorado, Sharon Patrick of Brazoria, Texas, Mary Burdin of Golden, Colorado, Steve Mulloy (Teresa) of Parker, Colorado, 23 grandchildren, 40+ great grandchildren, and numerous great-great grandchildren.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.ct-bakerfuneral.com



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TOWN OF GRANBY, COLORADO

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DOWNTOWN GRANBY
PARK DESIGNS AND
WAYFINDING

Dated: September 27, 2023

A copy of the RFP and associated documentation may be obtained on the Town of Granby's website at www.townofgranby.com.

This project and any subsequent addenda will be posted to the Town's website.