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Share storefront, split rent

The idea could be a solution for small businesses struggling to stay put in pricey downtown Boulder

By Alex Burness
Staff Writer

Small, independent businesses continue struggling to survive amid soaring rents on the Pearl Street Mall and along its surrounding blocks.

But what if the problem, for some of these businesses, is that

they're paying too much for space they don't need?

Sean Maher, CEO of the Downtown Boulder Partnership, says certain small retail operations may perform better in shared spaces. Instead of having to worry about paying rent on a 3,000-square-foot storefront on the mall

and then filling it with product, what if businesses could chop that area into three or four parcels, and share the cost burden?

"They often only need 800 or 1,000 square feet," Maher said. "The spaces available now are just too big."

See SPACE, 10A



James Potter, owner of Vecchio's Bicerletteria, does a tuneup and repair work in his Boulder shop on Friday.

Paul Aiken
Staff Photographer

Fighting for a fresh start



Matthew Jonas / Staff Photographer

Glenn Tefft, who is currently homeless in Longmont, rides the bus Tuesday to King Soopers on Hover Street to look for his lost cellphone. Tefft, a three-time felon, is one of many who struggle with gaining employment and housing after serving time in prison. See more photos at dailycamera.com.

I don't see how you can get from nothing to something

Felons wanting to start over struggle with Boulder County housing, employment obstacles

By Amelia Arvesen
Staff Writer

On paper, Glenn Allan Tefft was sure he qualified for an open position at a Longmont printing plant even with his criminal background. But his spirits were low after he believed he was judged on his appearance during what he thought was a suspiciously brief interview Wednesday.

"People won't even look at you," he said a week before the opportunity arose. "You can tell I'm homeless."

Almost 39, a three-time felon who's been to jail but not prison, Tefft is struggling to defy the odds also faced by 95 percent of the prison population that the Congressional Research Service expects will reintegrate back into the greater community at some point.

The roof under which he rests his head at night — that is, when he feels comfortable enough to drift to sleep — is the concrete of a Longmont underpass.

"I don't see how you can get from nothing to something," said

Tefft, an on-and-off drug user and father of two young daughters. "You'd have to work nonstop for three months and not spend any of that money just to have a deposit. And I don't see how it's possible without help."

With staunch policies limiting employers from hiring felons and property managers from renting to them — two of the most competitive markets in Boulder County — those with criminal backgrounds wrestle with putting their

See FELONS, 11A

Conference on World Affairs

CU event features plenty of panels about Trump

However, finding supporters of the president to speak was a challenge

By Elizabeth Hernandez
Staff Writer

Organizers for the University of Colorado's 69th annual Conference on World Affairs had no shortage of material to work with when devising panels.

"How the Media Covers the Commander in Tweet," "It's Just 'Locker Room Talk'" and "Trump's Approach to Cuba: A Bigly Deal or a Bigly Mess" are just a few events that directly reference President Donald Trump and the new federal administration.

A more difficult task? Recruiting pro-Trump speakers to the conference — a five-day mixed bag of about 200 free, public panels and performances at CU featuring about 100 speakers from all over the world.

If you go

What: CU's Conference on World Affairs

When: Monday through Friday

Where: Various venues, University of Colorado campus, Boulder

Cost: Free

More info: colorado.edu/cwa/

"It was, indeed, hard to find political spokespeople and all who had actually voted for Trump," said Betsy Hand, community chair of the volunteer program committee at the CWA. "We certainly had a good group of conservatives, but only one of those speakers that we know of was a real supporter of Trump, and that was Stephen Moore."

Jane Meagher, CWA transportation coordinator, said organizers "really went after him hard."

"We felt it wouldn't be a complete conference without that voice," she said.

See CONFERENCE, 10A



Paul Aiken / Staff Photographer

Tess Rose, volunteer coordinator for the Conference on World Affairs, packs up country flags that will be on display in the Norlin Quad on the University of Colorado campus next week. The student volunteers were transporting the flags to campus Friday.

Weather

High: 54 | Low: 31

Mostly cloudy, cooler
Complete details on Page 6C

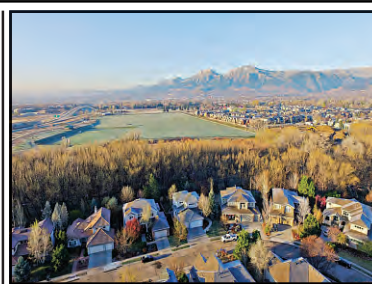
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