

Letters to the Editor, Aug. 8-11, 2015

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Local entrepreneur thanks county for start-up support

Editor:

In July 2012, I decided to take advantage of an opportunity to put all of my belongings in storage and travel for almost two months. My first stop was Park City. The day after I arrived I found myself running 18 miles along the Mid-Mountain Trail through glades of towering aspens. Within three days I made my first offer on a home with the help of local Realtor Greg Miner and by November, I finally owned a home again after losing my house in the Santa Barbara Tea Fire four years prior. I also filed the LLC for my start-up company, then Lucky Penny Press, in Utah that same month in 2012. As a single parent with one son off to college and another son who chose to spend his last two years at Park City High, I was intent on building my book publishing business, while at the same time being as present as possible for my teenage sons.

I have been fortunate to meet authors and illustrators here in Summit County, as well as a mentor, Jeff Jones, head of Economic Development. Jeff happened to be at a County Council meeting I attended. Since that meeting almost a year ago, Jeff has taken time to assist and inform me about the County's Ice House Entrepreneurship program in partnership with the Kauffman Foundation. I applied and am now one of nine students in the program.

It has been such an incredible experience at exactly the right time in the development of Lucky Penny Publishing. This is a thank-you to the County Council for offering this program, and a thank-you to Jeff Jones for facilitating it. We have learned so much about the entrepreneurial mindset rather than the nuts and bolts of building a business, and we also gained new friends and new mentors thanks to the Ice House Entrepreneurship program. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in starting or expanding his or her own business and sincerely hope that Summit County will continue to fund it in the future.

Melissa Marsted

County wants residents to find the entrepreneurial spirit

Bubba Brown, The Park Record

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It is hosting an entrepreneurship program this summer

It doesn't have to be the next Facebook or turn into a multi million-dollar company.

But Jeff Jones, economic development director for Summit County, claims those with an entrepreneurial spirit should dive in and start their own businesses. That's why the county is piloting an Ice House Entrepreneurship Program this summer. The program, created by the Kansas City-based Kauffman Foundation, is designed to teach participants about business and foster entrepreneurial mindsets in them.

"Entrepreneurship isn't just about starting a business," Jones said. "It's also about how to manage aspects of your life. going through the Ice House process, I think people are going to have a better understanding of what they would need to do if they wish to start a business, or if they currently have a business, it may give them tools to help them pivot the business in a new direction."

Jones said the program will delve into several topics, including: recognizing opportunities, turning ideas into action, the pursuit of knowledge, creating wealth, building a brand and the power of persistence. Local entrepreneurs and business leaders will be invited to share their stories with participants, as well.

The program, which will meet weekly from May 14 through August, will be held at the Summit County Courthouse in Coalville.

Jones said the location was chosen because Summit County is focusing on developing economic diversity on the East Side of the county.

"We felt like there are a number of folks out here with entrepreneurial ideas, and maybe they need some help with how to better formalize their business plan and approach," Jones said.

There are 10 spots available for the program. To apply, visit the economic development section of the Summit County website, summitcounty.org.