

***City Council
Economic Vitality Committee
Meeting Agenda
Thursday, July 24, 2025
City Hall
749 Main Street
3:00 P.M.***

Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comments remotely; however, the in-person meeting may continue even if technology issues prevent remote participation.

- You can call in to **+1 346 248 7799 or 833 548 0282 (toll free)**
Webinar ID **#838 1396 0621**
- You can log in via your computer. Please visit the City's website here to link to the meeting: www.louisvilleco.gov/council.

The Board will accommodate public comments during the meeting. Anyone may also email comments to the Board prior to the meeting at VZarate@LouisvilleCO.gov.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of June 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda
6. Business Matters
 - a. City Sponsored Events Policy Discussion
 - b. Business Beat Update
 - c. Staff Updates
 - d. Development Updates

Persons planning to attend the meeting who need sign language interpretation, translation services, assisted listening systems, Braille, taped material, or special transportation, should contact the City Clerk's Office at 303 335-4536 or MeredythM@LouisvilleCO.gov. A forty-eight-hour notice is requested.

Si requiere una copia en español de esta publicación o necesita un intérprete durante la reunión, por favor llame a la Ciudad al 303.335.4536 o 303.335.4574.

7. Committee Member Comments
8. Potential Future Agenda Items
 - a. Main Street Designation
 - b. Sundance Update
 - c. Business Satisfaction Survey Results
9. Adjourn

City Council Economic Vitality Committee

Minutes

**June 12, 2025
Regular Meeting
3:00 PM**

Call to Order – Mayor Leh called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Roll Call was taken and the following members were present:

Committee Members: ***Mayor Chris Leh - Chair***
Councilmember Deb Fahey
Councilmember Judi Kern

Staff Present: ***Diana Langley, City Manager***
Vanessa Zarate, Economic Vitality Manager
Mindy Olkjer, Senior Administrative Assistant

Others Present: ***Five members of the public***

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Leh called for changes to the agenda and hearing none asked for a motion.

Motion: Councilmember Fahey moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kern. **Vote:** All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Leh called for changes to the agenda and hearing none asked for a motion.

Motion: Councilmember Fahey moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kern. **Vote:** All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

BUSINESS SATISFACTION SURVEY DISCUSSION

Manager Zarate gave an overview of past Business Satisfaction Survey efforts and plans for implementation of a new survey in 2025. She asked the Committee for

feedback regarding whether they would like to move forward with a survey for 2025, and if so, what questions and methodology the Committee would like to see.

Mayor Leh asked for public comment.

Public comment from Mark Oberholzer: Mr. Oberholzer stated that he appreciated the business satisfaction survey when it was originally implemented in previous years and that he looks forward to its return. He added that ability to see previous versions and to compare how answers or feelings may have changed over time will be helpful.

Councilmember Fahey asked whether the survey was sent to the business owner or the property owner. Manager Zarate responded that she wasn't 100% sure of the previous methodology, but guessed that it was likely sent to both business owners and property owners. She added that, based on questions included in the previous surveys, she feels that business owners and/or operators are more likely to respond.

Councilmember Fahey asked if there was a way to better incorporate property owners in the next survey. Councilmember Kern agreed that she would like to see property owners better represented in the next survey. She also wondered if there was additional information that could be included in the survey. Manager Zarate responded that staff will explore the possibility, but noted that she does not want to take focus off the survey itself.

Manager Zarate added that the demographic questions can include identifying information such as property owner, business owner, business operator, etc. She also asked if the Committee would like to continue to collect demographic information such as identifying women or minority-owned businesses.

Mayor Leh asked how that sort of information may be used. Manager Zarate responded that she would like to publish the survey results without the demographic information. She added that the demographic information could be used to connect certain businesses with appropriate resources, awards or opportunities that may be catered to certain demographics.

Councilmember Fahey asked if the survey also includes geographic location. Manager Zarate confirmed that it will and added that the results should be able to identify trends based on how businesses in certain parts of the City respond.

Councilmember Kern stated that she would like to see more opportunity for business to leave comments, including a "why" for the first couple of questions rather than just "yes" or "no".

Mayor Leh stated that it's important to identify what the City is hoping to get out of the survey, and added that "actionable" items may be "actionable" to different groups. He also stated that he would like to solicit questions from the business community. He

emphasized that the EVC is a group of policymakers and needs to gather information in order to inform their decisions.

City Manager Langley wondered how the survey could capture information from businesses or individuals that may not currently be in Louisville, but have considered Louisville at one point and ultimately decided against Louisville.

Mayor Leh noted that there is an existing question asking whether respondents would recommend Louisville as a place to do business. He commented that this may not fulfill City Manager Langley's request but it may lead to further discussion in that area. Manager Zarate wondered if adding a section for brokers could potentially fill this gap, by either filling out the survey themselves or forwarding it to their clients who did not choose Louisville.

Councilmember Kern asked if members of surrounding communities might be interested in filling out the survey. Manager Zarate responded that she can send the survey to her EV counterparts in the area, but cautioned that the other communities may not be as diligent in pushing the survey out in their own community.

Mayor Leh asked whether the Committee would like to run through the survey itself and comment on the existing questions. Councilmember Kern noted that she would like to remove the questions relating to COVID and the Marshall Fire. Mayor Leh wondered if there could still be a question regarding any lingering effects. Manager Zarate responded that many business owners have indicated that there are still lingering effects and confirmed that she will change the question to be more general.

Councilmember Kern commented that it's already known that businesses are struggling from lingering effects, and wondered if it would be possible to figure out more of the "how" or "why" with a goal of identifying a solution.

Mayor Leh cautioned against having the "business friendly" question at number one, and stated that he would prefer to ask what about Louisville is "recommendable" rather than whether or not someone would recommend Louisville. He also wondered whether childcare or housing could be captured somewhere in the survey.

Mayor Leh continued, asking whether there's a way to identify why businesses choose to stay in Louisville or expand in Louisville. He added that this question could also be expanded to include barriers. Councilmember Fahey agreed and added that she would like to see comments lines added for several questions.

City Manager Langley commented that, in her experience, the longer a survey is the less likely someone is to complete it. She asked if it might be more helpful for the Committee to identify a couple of key questions for staff to work on. Manager Zarate responded that past participation seems to have been good, but agreed that staff can explore options of removing questions and otherwise slimming down the survey.

Manager Zarate also recommended that the “business friendly” questions remain in the survey, but acknowledged that it does not need to be at the beginning.

Mayor Leh asked whether there should be questions around impacts, specifically citing broadband, Front & Center, and Highway 42. He also recommended that there be a question regarding levels of City services. He concluded with a request that the survey identify which questions will be published and which questions will remain confidential.

Councilmember Kern encouraged Manager Zarate to trust her instincts around what she thinks the business community would like to see in a survey. She also wondered whether the “business friendly” question can also include an “improving response”, or some other way to identify whether there has been progress made since the last survey.

Manager Zarate concluded that she will review Committee feedback and begin working on a draft survey. She added that she will send the draft to certain counterparts to help identify any confusing questions or issues with semantics. She noted that she will then plan to meet with the Committee individually to discuss the draft survey during the Councilmembers’ meetings with City Manager Langley.

Councilmember Fahey asked whether businesses are more likely to answer yes/no questions or questions that allow for additional comment. Manager Zarate responded that she feels businesses are more likely to respond to yes/no questions, but added that the survey can include additional comment around bigger questions that can potentially lead to policy change.

Mayor Leh urged the Committee to consider what future conversations around the survey might look like once the results are available. He noted that he heard from businesses that the last Committee response to the survey was not helpful and hoped that there could be more opportunities for listening to the businesses that took the time to respond to the survey. Councilmember Kern agreed and hoped that there can be something a little more concrete following the survey results.

BUSINESS BEAT UPDATE

Manager Zarate gave an overview of the May Business Beat meeting and noted that there will not be a roundtable in June. The Business Beat Roundtable will return in July with a meeting for both commercial brokers and commercial property owners. The July meeting will be held in DeLo.

STAFF UPDATES

Manager Zarate gave an overview on staff updates and asked for questions.

Councilmember Fahey passed along feedback she had heard regarding the Pride flags near McCaslin, noting that some people felt the flags shouldn't be there and some people stating that there should also be American flags there.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Manager Zarate gave an overview on the development updates and asked for questions.

Councilmember Kern asked if there was any additional news around Ironton. Manager Zarate responded that the project is still on pause and that the land is for sale.

Councilmember Kern noted that this is an example of a situation where it would be extremely helpful to know the "why". Manager Zarate added that the market and increasing costs seems to be the primary reason for the pause. Councilmember Kern expressed her concern around the project not moving forward and hoped that it's not the start of a disturbing trend for Louisville.

Public comment from Jeff Sheets: Mr. Sheets commented that construction costs and operating costs have increased across the board. He noted that rents have typically not kept up with inflation and costs to put new tenants in existing spaces are exorbitant.

Mayor Leh commented that he was excited to hear that the former Empire building at 816 Main Street has been relisted.

Councilmember Kern asked whether the Committee could discuss the Chase building. Manager Zarate gave an overview of Trestle Strategy's report to the LRC and noted that she is happy to share the report with the EVC.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Kern thanked all of the businesses that were able to participate in the May Business Beat meeting, and noted her excitement for the July meeting with commercial brokers and property owners.

Mayor Leh recognized the Chamber for their efforts with Dinner on Main and SummerFest and thanked all of the residents and guests for coming out and being a part of these events. He also recognized the DBA and noted that Street Faire starts on Friday.

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Manager Zarate confirmed that she can give a brief overview on Main Street Designation in the future. She stated there is not currently a significant update on

Sundance but noted that the group leading the effort (Visit Boulder) is in the process of forming task groups.

ADJOURN

Members adjourned at 4:24 pm.

Mayor Chris Leh

Austin Brown, Economic Vitality Specialist

SUBJECT: CITY SPONSORED EVENT POLICY

DATE: JULY 24, 2025

PRESENTED BY: VANESSA ZARATE, CECD, ECONOMIC VITALITY MANAGER

SUMMARY:

The City of Louisville has prepared a draft policy relating to City Sponsored events. There are some legacy events, such as Street Faire and Taste of Louisville, that have individual contracts and have been working with the City for many years. There is not a current policy that outlines how other events can get involved with and support from the City of Louisville.

This draft policy was created by a cross-section of City teams to create an application and review process for events that would like to engage with City support. City support can be monetary or in-kind such as marketing and promotional assistance. Staff is looking for EVC feedback on the draft policy. Once this feedback is gathered, staff will present the draft proposal to the full Council for feedback and a vote.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal impact would be determined by feedback and adopted budget by the City Council. At this time, staff is recommending \$10,000 for this first round of event engagement.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends EVC review and provide feedback.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Draft City Sponsored Event Policy

Community Event Sponsorship Policy DRAFT

Overview

The City of Louisville appreciates the value that local events provide our community by:

- supporting cultural, artistic, and athletic enrichment
- creating opportunities for connection
- bolstering Louisville's unique traditions and identity

We provide limited monetary and in-kind sponsorships to eligible organizations hosting events that are consistent with the above.

What We Offer

- **Monetary Support:** Financial contributions to approved community events, subject to availability of funds. Please note in the application what the funds will be specifically used for. The City will not authorize the use of funds for anything related to liquor.
- **In-Kind Sponsorships:** Non-cash contribution such as waivers of facility rental fees or City services (for instance road closures)
- **Marketing:** Events that are approved for sponsorship shall be promoted through one or more of the City's communication channels, and will be listed on the City calendar on the City's website.

Eligibility Criteria

We consider events that:

- Provide direct benefits to Louisville residents
- Are open to the general public
- Positively promote the City's recognition and image
- Are organized by non-profit organizations
- Have proper permitting documentation and liability coverage
- Majority located in the City of Louisville

Ineligible events include, but are not limited to:

- Events serving religious or political purposes
- For-profit events without clear community benefit

Requirements for Approved Events

- All necessary permits and insurance must be obtained
- City sponsorship must be acknowledged in all event marketing by inclusion of official City Logo (provided by City), mention of City of Louisville as a sponsor (if video or interview), and/or listing the City of Louisville as a sponsor.

Application Process

1. **Apply:** Fill out the online form, providing key details about your organization, event, and sponsorship type needed. Applications must be submitted at least 60 days prior to the date of the event. Applications open on January 1 of each calendar year. We recommend that event organizers submit their events as early as possible.
2. **Review and Approval:** The City will review and approve your application and provide recommendations to City Council
3. **City Council Consideration:** Monetary requests will be reviewed by City Council
4. **Notification:** Applicants will be informed of their application status within days of submission

Remaining questions:

- Which months will we receive applications?
 - o Applications should be submitted within 30 days of the deadline for review. Staff recommends reviewing applications twice a year but the timing needs to be determined.
- How long will City Council take to review the applications?
- Finalize eligibility criteria
- Do we want to limit how many times an organization can apply for sponsorship within a certain period of time? Once per year? Once per term?

SUBJECT: BUSINESS BEAT UPDATE

DATE: JULY 24, 2025

**PRESENTED BY: VANESSA ZARATE, CECD, ECONOMIC VITALITY MANAGER
AUSTIN BROWN, ECONOMIC VITALITY SPECIALIST**

SUMMARY:

Economic Vitality staff, in partnership with the Economic Vitality Committee has been hosting business roundtables known as Business Beats.

The most recent Business Beat was focused on property owners and the commercial real estate community and was held on Thursday, July 17th.

The event was very well attended with about 20 commercial real estate partners and four city council members in attendance. Major themes that arose included a need for more housing, high costs of construction and taxes and the need/hope for an ease of process to get projects to fruition.

SUBJECT: STAFF UPDATES

DATE: JULY 24, 2025

**PRESENTED BY: VANESSA ZARATE, CECD, ECONOMIC VITALITY MANAGER
AUSTIN BROWN, ECONOMIC VITALITY SPECIALIST**

SUMMARY:

In the following, staff provides updates on recent activity related to economic vitality functions.

Downtown Colorado Inc Metro Mobile Tour

Louisville is one of the highlighted communities on this year's Metro Mobile Tour. Participants will tour Superior, Louisville, Lafayette and Erie where economic development staff will highlight projects and investments being made in downtowns and urban renewal areas. If you are interested in attending, please let Vanessa know.

Small Business Development Center

The City of Louisville has a partnership agreement with the Small Business Development Center to provide one-on-one counseling, webinars, training events and knowledge series to Louisville businesses. Their main location is located at the City of Boulder offices but they bring classes into the Louisville community and participate with us in events and things such as Economic Vitality Day.

U.S 36 Collaborative Update

The U.S 36 Collaborative is in the middle of their second campaign with the Colorado Bioscience Association, a national campaign to recruit bioscience companies to the state of Colorado. The collaborative is exploring options for similar campaigns with other industry partners.

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

DATE: JULY 24, 2025

PRESENTED BY: VANESSA ZARATE, CECD, ECONOMIC VITALITY MANAGER

SUMMARY: UPDATE

In the following, Staff provides updates on recent activity related to construction and development. These updates are for the most frequently asked about sites and not for every site in a review process or under construction. All updates and timeframes are subject to change.

Site	Update
800-804 Main Street (former Wildwood Guitars)	The building is under contract and they have submitted plans to the City for reuse of the building.
809 Main Street (old Waterloo)	Project is continuing construction for the build-out of the restaurant space. There has been interest in the site, with multiple tours, but no LOI or leases signed to date.
816 Main Street (former Empire)	Staff is working with ownership and interested parties towards a sale. Site has been relisted on line for sale.
833 Main Street (former Chase)	Staff is working with ownership to assist with reinvestment on site. Staff is exploring an additional lease with the property owner for public parking on site.
1301 Courtesy Road (Delo Boom)	Delo Boom is working through City processes to construct 140 units of housing. The project will consist of studios through three-bedrooms and 13.5% affordable units.
950 Spruce Street	Construction has completed with the retail and office spaces currently being marketed for rent.
947 Pine Street (former gas station)	Birdie Bar, an eatertainment use with a bar/restaurant and simulated (virtual) golf games is under construction with a planned summer/fall opening.
1303 Empire Road (Ironton)	Ironton has approved plans for a new distillery and event center.

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT UPDATES**DATE: JUNE 12, 2025****PAGE 2 OF 2**

540 County Road (Louisville Grain Elevator)	The Grain Elevator has new owners that have engaged the City to turn the building into an activated space. Their TIF review has been started with Pioneer Development Company.
1171 W Dillon Road (former Lowe's)	The New King Soopers Marketplace plans were approved by City Council and they continue working through the process. They are planning to start construction back half of 2025, with an opening in early 2026.
1164 W Dillon Road (Cinebarre)	University of Colorado has purchased the site and is currently working on public engagement for their plans for the site.
550 McCaslin Boulevard (former Sam's Club)	Relish has opened to the public!
575 McCaslin Boulevard (former Carrabba's)	Staff is working with the broker representation to market and attract a new user to the building. No lease signed to date.

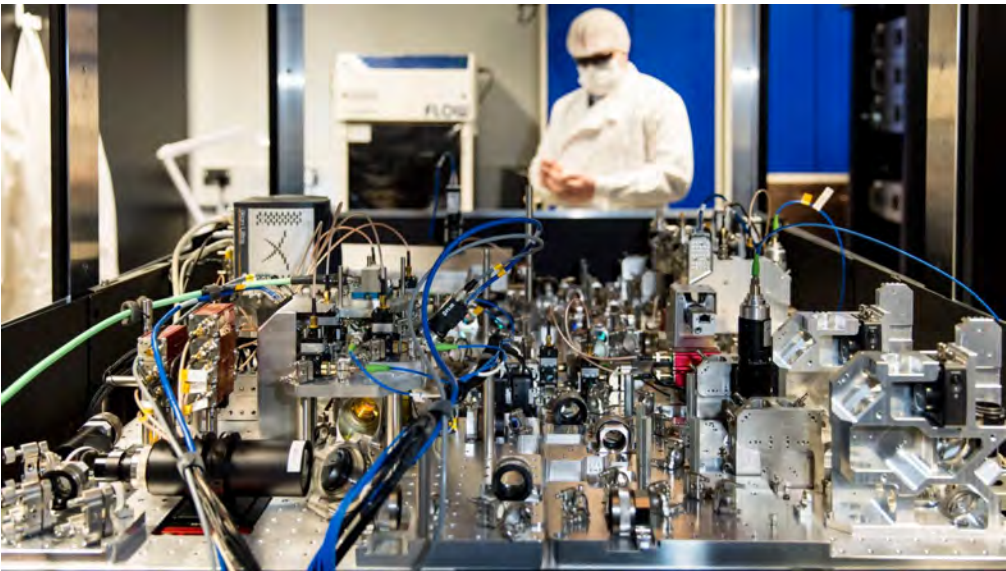
If you would like to add a site to these updates, please let me know.

ATTACHMENT(S):

None.

Infleqtion solidifies status as one of Boulder’s biggest quantum players with \$100M raise

Firm partnering with contracting giant SAIC to win more government business



A quantum computer testbed at the UK’s National Quantum Computing Centre. Courtesy Infleqtion.

By Lucas High

LATEST NEWS

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S&W Seed abandoning Nasdaq amid tailspin

Lafayette’s Last Mile Education Fund gifted \$750K to help students in South

Boulder’s Caruso Ventures leads \$2.5M investment in quantum startup

Colorado poet laureate Andrea Gibson dies

CALENDAR

17 JUL	Amazing Race – Downtown Greeley
26 JUL	NOCOVA Monthly Meet at St. Julien in Boulder (Hotel Lobby)

BOULDER — Infleqtion, a quantum information company, recently drummed up \$100 million from investors as part of its **Series C fundraiser**, further emphasizing the role of the company — along with the Boulder ecosystem in which it operates — as major players in the world’s quantum future.

“Luckily this (Series C round) funds us for many years,” Kinsella told BizWest. And while Infleqtion, which claims to have generated nearly \$30 million in revenue last year, expects to be able to reach a financial breakeven point along the runway that the Series C provides, “it would be far too speculative to say that if 12 months from now there was some opportunistic ability to raise capital on good terms whether we would explore that. But it’s not something we’re proactively doing right at the moment.”

Kinsella declined to provide any forward-looking financial projections for Infleqtion.

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AUG

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First Thursday of
Every Month!

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SPONSORED CONTENT

Centerra: inspired by a love of Loveland

In Northern Colorado, most people know Centerra as a place to shop, grab a bite or go to a movie. It’s also a favorite location for corporate offices. And it has gained recognition as one of the region’s top-selling new-home communities. What

Glynn Capital, Counterpoint Global, S32 and Science Applications International Corp. Inc. (Nasdaq: SAIC) were among the Series C investors.



Inflection CEO Matthew Kinsella. Courtesy Inflection.

Inflection, the trade name used by ColdQuanta Inc., **hired Kinsella** early last year, a few months prior to **raising more than \$10 million** from investors. The company, which has local operations in Louisville and Boulder, had previously raised a **\$110 million Series B round** in 2022 to jumpstart commercialization of its technology.

Quantum theory attempts to explain the behavior of matter at atomic and subatomic levels. Because quantum computers take advantage of special properties of quantum systems such as superposition, their computing power and speed are exponentially greater than a traditional computer.

Applications of quantum science could revolutionize the way humans discover new drug therapies, map the cosmos, navigate the sea, protect sensitive data, combat

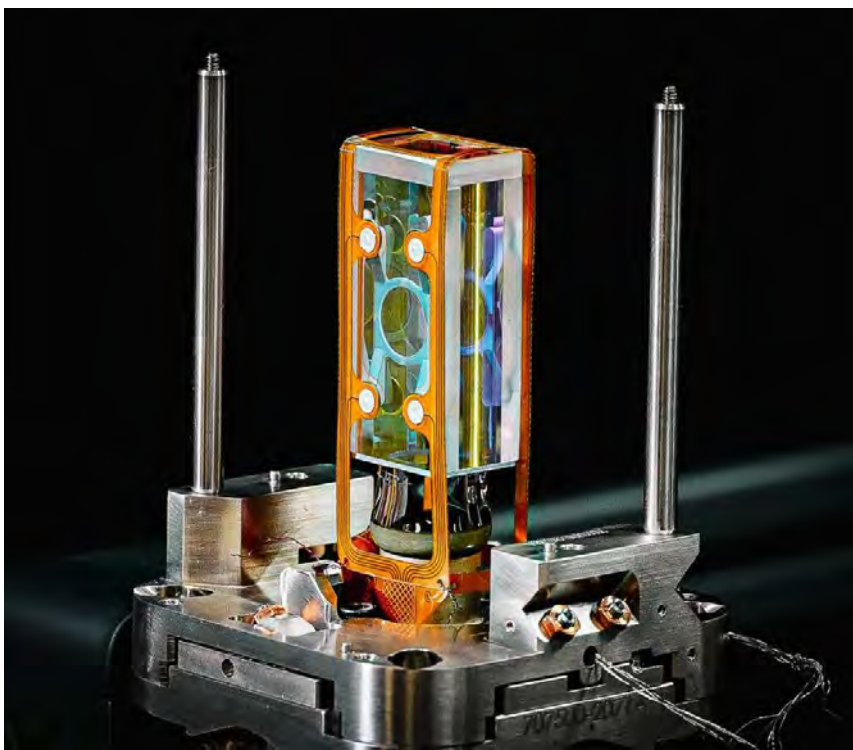
climate change and maybe even discover new forms of life in deep space.

In conjunction with the Series C fundraiser, Infleqtion said it is partnering with SAIC, a giant northern Virginia-based government information-technology contractor, on go-to-market efforts and “deployment of quantum sensing technologies, including atomic clocks, quantum RF communication, and inertial sensing, into defense and aerospace applications.”

The partnership will provide Infleqtion with access to SAIC’s “full range of national defense and government customers,” SAIC managing director of venture Lauren Knausenberger said in a statement. “Infleqtion’s visionary advancements in atomic clocks, inertial navigation, and quantum communication directly align with our mission to integrate emerging technologies into active and critical operations to enhance resilience, precision, and ultimately keeping warfighters safe in the most demanding environments.”

While Infleqtion was awarded **\$11 million from the U.S. Department of Defense** late last year to support the development of quantum-timekeeping technology, “SAIC is really a force multiplier on our go-to-market efforts,” Kinsella said. “What they understand is the government doesn’t buy technologies — they buy capabilities. SAIC has a great understanding of what the capability needs are for the relevant government customers, not just in defense but in national security more holistically, which can include areas like critical infrastructure.”

A robust roster of government clients beyond the military is important for Infleqtion “because our products aren’t really kinetic defense products like bombs or missiles. They’re sensors, they’re timekeeping devices (that keep) critical technologies running” during disruptions to systems such as the GPS satellite network, he said. “So I think that (SAIC is) kind of like the translator of our tech to the government’s needs.”



The glass cell is the heart of Infleqtion's neutral atom quantum computers. Courtesy Infleqtion.

While President Donald Trump’s slash-and-burn approach to federal funding for technology research and innovation has the leaders of many companies, agencies and laboratories sounding panic alarms, Kinsella said that the new administration hasn’t put the brakes on the

quantum sector, particularly for companies like Infleqtion that are moving beyond R&D and into commercialization.

“While there have been a lot of headwinds for basic research funding, whether that’s at (the National Science Foundation) or (U.S. Department of Energy) — and obviously that’s impacted a lot of people’s jobs in our area — quantum has been labeled as one of the critical technologies that this administration wants to continue to support,” Kinsella said. “And while we’ve had some headwinds and cross currents, it’s been mostly a tailwind for quantum.”

But, he acknowledged, the Trump government’s approach to federal funding “is definitely impacting some of the fundamental research dollars that are allocated” for a range of technologies, quantum included.

Still, Kinsella said, “if you look to the beginning of many of the cutting-edge technologies that we’ve experienced in the last 70 years, oftentimes the government has been a leading buyer of those technologies, whether it’s semiconductors or even developing the internet. That’s changed a bit with mobile (telecommunications) and smartphones and AI. But I do still think that the government is often the tip of the spear for some of these new breakthrough technologies.”

He continued: “From a pure ‘follow where the dollars are coming from’ perspective, as a commercial entity, we will be well-suited to focus our efforts on the government because I think they’ll be some of the most motivated buyers of this technology for the next few years.”

That's not to say that Infleqtion, even with its closer ties to SAIC, plans to ignore the private-sector applications of its technology. With spoofing and cybersecurity threats to global communications and geopositioning networks on the rise, "our clock technology will be very important in commercial, non-government sectors," Kinsella said.

And as quantum computers continue to pack on processing muscle in the form of logical qubits, they will "start to do more commercially useful things in the realms of material science and drug discovery," he added.

Qubits are the basic unit of information for quantum computers, similar to the role bits play in classical computers. In recent years, quantum companies have begun to develop platforms that move beyond the utilization of physical qubits and toward the incorporation of the more powerful and less error-prone logical qubit.

The commonly held wisdom within the industry, Kinsella said, is that "the minimum threshold for when quantum computers will start to do commercially useful things that classical computers can't do is about 100 logical qubits, and I think we'll get there in the next three years. ... Quantum computers do things that classical computers can't do today in the realms of physics and experimentation, it's just not a commercially useful thing yet."

Infleqtion has about 180 employees across the organization, roughly 100 of which are in Colorado, working at a pair of facilities in Boulder and Louisville,

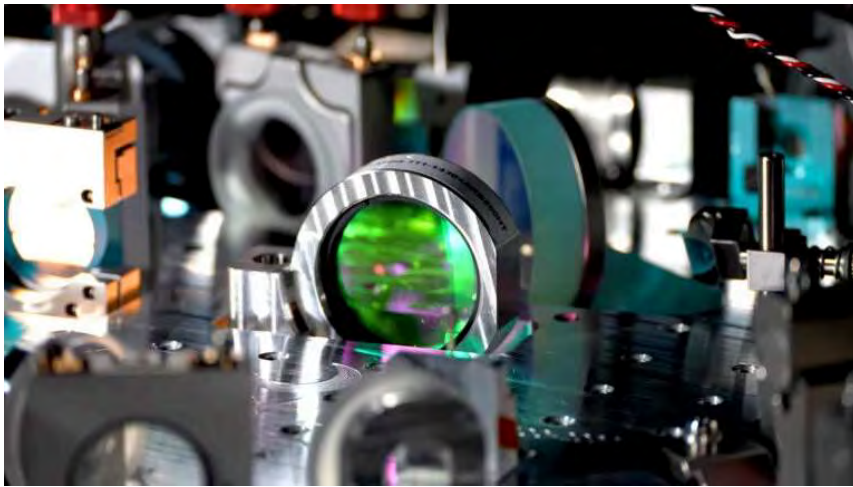
which are about 20,000 square feet each. The Boulder facility houses the company's quantum computer, while the Louisville office is the primary home of Infleqtion's Tiqker quantum-timekeeping technology. The company also has outposts in Chicago; Madison, Wisconsin; Australia; and the United Kingdom.

A portion of the Series C funding is expected to be deployed to grow Infleqtion's local workforce.

"We are definitely hiring, and this capital helps fund that hiring plan. We've been executing against the hiring plan already and that will continue," Kinsella said. "We're growing rapidly, so that will mean we will need to continue to scale up the workforce."

Infleqtion is looking to add workers in various roles such as physicists, engineers, technicians and sales professionals.

The Boulder Valley — with the University of Colorado Boulder physics department, the National Institute of Standards and Technology and JILA (formerly known as the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics) — has become one of the world's epicenters of quantum research over the past few decades.



Precision optics inside Infleqtion's neutral atom quantum computer. Courtesy Infleqtion.

"I do think that it feels like the beginnings of Silicon Valley here for quantum," Kinsella said.

The local quantum ecosystem got a major shot in the arm last year when the U.S. Department of Commerce's **Tech Hub program** granted Elevate Quantum, a nonprofit consortium of about 100 stakeholders who represent industry, academia, capital and laboratories in Colorado and New Mexico, a Phase 2 Tech Hub designation that unlocked \$127 million in state and federal funds, which are expected to generate several billion more dollars of private investment in the region's quantum industry.

"I think Elevate Quantum has just done a great job, well, 'elevating' Boulder as the place to be for quantum, and getting the Tech Hub designation here was a game changer," said Kinsella, who serves on an Elevate Quantum advisory board.

The Boulder Valley has "a world class academic institution (in CU) that's churning out both (atomic, molecular, and

optical, or AMO,) physicists and engineering talent, and we have a force like Elevate Quantum that is helping to organize and push forward the commercialization (of quantum technology). So I think we've got all of the ingredients — from the workforce, from the educational side of things, and now government funding coming into this area to help Boulder continue to be the leader in quantum.”

Kinsella said that it's meaningful to him, as an advisory board member and an industry leader, “to make sure I do my part to help Elevate Quantum achieve its goal.”

Infleqtion, boosted by the recent injection of \$100 million in capital, is “one of the larger — maybe one of the largest — quantum companies in the Elevate Quantum constituency, and so we think it's really important for us to do what we can” to continue solidifying the foundation of the broader the regional quantum ecosystem.

“We feel very blessed to be in Boulder and at the heart of what is going to be a really exciting next few years in quantum,” he said. “It's going to be a great generator of jobs and exciting economic activity in the Front Range region for a long time.”

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Related Posts

Infleqtion awarded 6M+ by DOE



A Maryland native, Lucas has worked at news agencies from Wyoming to South Carolina before putting roots down in Colorado.



Categories: BizWest Cover Story Boulder Industry News Quantum Computing Technology ColdQuanta Inc. Inflection

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SUBMIT

Sierra Space launches defense division, Centennial factory



Sierra Space has established a 60,000-square-foot manufacturing facility — dubbed Victory Works — in Centennial. Courtesy SSC.

By Lucas High

LATEST NEWS

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S&W Seed abandoning Nasdaq amid tailspin

Lafayette’s Last Mile Education Fund gifted \$750K to help students in South

Boulder’s Caruso Ventures leads \$2.5M investment in quantum startup

Colorado poet laureate Andrea Gibson dies

CALENDAR

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LOUISVILLE — Sierra Space Corp. recently formalized Sierra Space Defense, a business unit devoted to bolstering the Louisville-based firm’s position as prime military contractor for satellite systems and other aerospace technology.

In support of the new division, which will be led by SSC vice president Erik Daehler, Sierra Space has established a 60,000-square-foot manufacturing facility — dubbed Victory Works — in Centennial. Victory Works will be one of the primary production centers for the Sierra Space Eclipse satellite bus line. The Sierra Space Defense division will also be responsible for products such as Sierra Space Ghost, a delivery system engineered to return objects from space to precise locations on Earth; Sierra Space Spectre: a satellite designed for precision rendezvous proximity operations; and an operating system called Sierra Black OS.

The company, which already had 24,000 square feet of space dedicated to national security projects, said its facilities footprint now exceeds 1 million square feet across seven states.

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“The launch of Sierra Space Defense and related infrastructure expansion plans are driven by a palpable sense of urgency: the United States is facing new threats and near-peer adversaries at unprecedented levels in the space domain,” the company said in a news release “In response to the evolving threat environment, Sierra Space is retooling its commercial capacity to focus on revitalizing the U.S. defense industrial base through innovative satellite and spacecraft systems technology.”

Spun out of Sierra Nevada Corp. in 2021, Sierra Space began as a developer of aerospace technology with largely civilian applications. But SSC has increasingly shifted its focus to military clients of late.

For example, the company in April successfully demonstrated a satellite-navigation platform built for **the U.S. Space Force**. And last year Sierra **inked a \$740 million contract** from the U.S. Space Development Agency to design and build 18 missile warning and tracking satellites. The company claims to have won about \$1.5 billion in defense contracts over the past two years.

“We are mission-focused and dedicated to supporting our national security customers and the revitalization of the U.S. defense industrial base. Commercial space companies now have a profound responsibility to help lead an entirely new era for national defense,” Daehler said in the release. “The creation of Sierra Space Defense enables stronger partnerships — such as our steadfast partnership with SNC — to tackle the hardest mission problems like Golden Dome. Our new Sierra Space

problems like cyber defense. Our new Sierra Space Defense organization is a testament to our dedication to innovation at speed and excellence in satellite and spacecraft systems production, which will shape the future of defense technology.”

Outside of the military-aligned aerospace sphere, Sierra Space’s projects include the Dream Chaser space plane, which is expected to be used to resupply the International Space Station starting next year; and the Large Integrated Flexible Environment (LIFE) Habitat, a modular, three-story commercial habitation, business and science platform.

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A Maryland native, Lucas has worked at news agencies from Wyoming to South Carolina before putting roots down in Colorado.



Categories: Aerospace Government & Politics Sunday Weekly Today's News Sierra Nevada Corp. Sierra Space Corp.

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BizWest names region’s innovative, fastest-growing firms



By BizWest Staff

BERTHOUD — BizWest held its annual IQ Awards and Mercury 100 celebration Thursday in Berthoud. The IQ Awards portion of the event recognized innovative products and services developed in the Boulder Valley and Northern Colorado, while Mercury 100 honored the region’s fastest-growing private companies.

IQ Awards

For the 2025 program, BizWest accepted nominations both from the public and from the publication’s editorial team, with the editorial team making the selections in the

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categories of aerospace, brewing, consumer products, life sciences, robotics and natural products.

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- Louisville's **Tendeg LLC** won in the aerospace category for its Perimeter Truss Reflector, a high-accuracy, deployable antenna system used for communication, science, and radar applications. These reflectors are designed to be lightweight and compact, enabling their use on smaller spacecraft and supporting rapid pointing maneuvers.
- Longmont's **Left Hand Brewing Co.** Inc. won in the brewing category for its independent craft platform. As the brewing sector faces multiple challenges, Left Hand has embarked upon a strategy of expanding its ownership into the wider community, while integrating other breweries to create economies of scale.
- Boulder's **Rain Technology** won in the consumer product category for its switchable privacy embedded directional display, a technology that allows displays — including laptops, mobile phones, ATMs, tablets, kiosks and other devices — to switch

between a normal viewing mode and a narrow viewing angle mode, effectively preventing onlookers from seeing what's on the screen.

- Fort Collins-based **Armis Biopharma Inc.** won in the life-sciences category for its VerCyn wound wash, an aqueous solution designed for wound irrigation to remove debris, including microorganisms, from wounds. It is intended for use on various wounds, including post-surgical wounds, pressure ulcers, and diabetic foot ulcers.
- Erie-headquartered **Pattern Labs Inc.** won in the robotics category for its robotic system for airport baggage and cargo handling, designed to improve the efficiency, safety, and quality of ground operations by using robotics and automation.
- Broomfield's **Lentiful LLC** won in the natural products category for its Lentil-based instant meals, which are plant-based, high in protein and fiber, and designed to be quick and easy to prepare, eliminating the need for traditional lentil cooking.

Mercury 100

BizWest surveyed private companies in the Boulder Valley and Northern Colorado on two-year revenue growth between 2022 and 2024, and divided the firms into five flights based on their 2022 sales totals.

- Flight I, companies with 2022 revenue of \$12 million and up: **Baker Constructors LLC**, 213% revenue growth.

- Flight II, companies with 2022 revenue of \$2.71 million to \$11.99 million: **TCC Corp.**, 369% revenue growth.
- Flight III, companies with 2022 revenue of \$1,344,991 to \$2.7 million: **Harris Dewart LLC**, 127% revenue growth.
- Flight IV, companies with 2022 revenue of \$644,000 to \$1,344,990: **Retirement Planning Center of the Rockies**, 204% revenue growth.
- Flight V, companies with 2022 revenue of \$35,000 to \$643,999: **Cultivate Kitchen Co. LLC**, 829% revenue growth.

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Danone launches \$65M coffee, creamer production line in Florida



Danone's plant in Jacksonville, Florida, produces coffee and creamers. Courtesy Danone US.

By BizWest Staff

LOUISVILLE — Danone, a French food and beverage umbrella company with its North American operations headquartered in Louisville, recently invested \$65 million to expand its now-115,025-square-foot manufacturing facility in Jacksonville, Florida, to include a new

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production line for its coffee and creamer portfolio, which includes brands such as International Delight creamers and STōK Cold Brew Coffee.

“With 90 percent of Danone products already made domestically, the company is committed to having a strong, self-reliant domestic supply chain,” Danone US said in a news release. “Through this investment, Danone’s aim is to increase product availability on shelves nationwide and shorten the path from production to customer delivery.”

In addition to the new production line, Danone said that it is “also investing in a new regional distribution center in the Jacksonville area, as part of a streamlined, high-capacity distribution network rooted in regional infrastructure. This investment will allow the company to enhance its supply chain efficiency and deliver products at peak freshness across the Southeastern U.S.”

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LOCAL NEWS

Louisville pickleball center owners hope to create community



Players fill pickleball courts at Relish Food Hall and Pickleball in Louisville during the grand opening event June 20. (Matthew Jonas/Staff Photographer)



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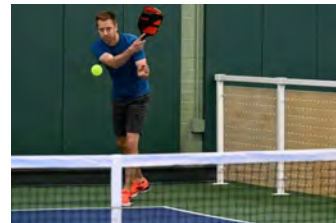
Whether people are connecting over a coffee, beer or on the court, [Relish Food Hall and Pickleball](#) owners hope the center serves as a place to build community,

Relish, 550 McCaslin Blvd. in Louisville, celebrated its grand opening June 20 and invited people to explore the 80,000-square-foot pickleball center featuring 19 indoor courts, two outdoor courts, local food spots, conference rooms and plenty of places for people to sit down and work or connect with friends.

[Relish co-owner Tory Leggat said they set out to create a place that encourages community building](#), and found that pickleball was a great way to accomplish that. Pickleball is a paddle sport that can be played as singles or doubles, similar to tennis but on a smaller court.

Whether a pickleball aficionado or just someone looking for a coffee and a spot to get some work done, Leggat anyone and everyone is welcome at Relish,

“Above all else, we want everyone to feel like they belong here,” Leggat said.



Jeff Youngstrom, Relish Hood Hall and Pickleball center co-owner, serves the ball during a match. (Matthew Jonas/Staff Photographer)

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Leggat said it can be hard to build community as an adult, especially moving into a new area. She hopes Relish is an easy, casual space for people to come and work, eat, play and socialize.

There is not always an outlet for adults to continue playing sports after high school and college, and Leggat said that pickleball scratches that itch.

“You don’t really meet former pickleball players, once they’re into it, they are into it,” Leggat said.

“The addiction is real,” Relish Pickleball Director Ben Lampert said.

The proximity of the players during a game allows people to talk, laugh and interact with each other, which Lampert said is not always the case on a larger tennis court. Between the underhand serve, lower net and small court, Lampert said pickleball is an easy sport to pick up.

While there are many people who live and breathe pickleball, Leggat and Lampert agree they don’t want people to feel intimidated. To that end, Relish hosts free pickleball introduction classes and people can receive coaching to improve their game.

Seasoned players can also book a court with their friends or play with other experienced players during open play. Leggat said people can take the game as playfully or as serious as they would like. Relish also offers warm-up and

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Restaurants and seating areas in the food hall are seen at Relish Food Hall and Pickleball in Louisville. The pickleball center features eight kitchens filled with a variety of foods from local vendors. (Matthew Jonas/Staff Photographer)

Leggat said that when her and co-owner Jeff Youngstrom came up with the idea for Relish, they knew they wanted to feature local food spots in the food hall. Salt and Vinegar, Soupsmith, Sabor y Salsa, and Magic Food Bus are based out of Louisville and Lafayette. The food hall also features a cafe, bar, pizza, ice cream, Venezuelan food and Asian cuisine.

“We didn’t want this to feel like the cafe of a pickleball place, we want the food hall to stand alone and be its own thing,” Leggat said, “We wanted to make it so that if you don’t care about pickleball, this is still a cool place to hang out.”

Relish owners were aware people were concerned about the noise from the courts, and they wanted to be respectful to their next door neighbors, Ascent Church. They took measures to ensure noise is blocked from the food hall and outside. An extra wall was built on the adjoining wall to Ascent, Leggat said, with five layers of drywall and insulation between Relish and Ascent.

A thick wall also divides the courts from the food hall, and co-owners Leggat and Youngstrom wanted to ensure that anyone at Relish who is not playing pickleball is not affected by the noise.

Leggat said that while you can easily see pickleball players through the glass wall, patrons cannot actually hear them.

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CU eyes '27 or '28 for Louisville housing project groundbreaking



The University of Colorado intends to build housing on an 8.85-acre property at 1164 W. Dillon Road, near the interchange of U.S. Highway 36 and McCaslin Boulevard.

By Lucas High

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LOUISVILLE — The University of Colorado hopes to break ground in 2027 or 2028 on a **housing development** for faculty, staff and students at the site of the shuttered Regal Cinebarre theater in Louisville.

But several key steps must be taken in the coming months to meet that timeline, CU officials told Louisville City Council members during the board’s meeting last week.

The university hopes to begin negotiations with the city this year on a development agreement — an “agreement (that) will reflect the values of Louisville” — for the residential project on a 8.85-acre property at 1164 W. Dillon Road, near the interchange of U.S. Highway 36 and McCaslin Boulevard, CU associate vice chancellor Derek Silva said.

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“Once we have a development agreement that’s gone through the entitlements process and is approved, we’ll have (a request for proposals) that we can go out to developers with,” he said. The hope is to put out an RFP and have selected a developer in 2026, with design work

Photo: University of Colorado

and construction following soon after.

CU bought the Regal Cinebarre theater site last year for \$10 million for the purpose of building housing, which has become unattainable for many CU workers and students within Boulder city limits.

“Housing is becoming a challenge,” CU associate vice chancellor Lori Call told Louisville officials. “It isn’t a new phenomenon, but it is increasing at CU.”

Louisville, she said, “has been home to CU affiliates for generations. Today, we have about 800 faculty, staff and students living in Louisville.”

Call said that CU does not plan “to have 18-year-olds living at this site. ...This is not going to be a residence hall” for undergraduate students. Rather, the typical resident is likely to be “younger professionals” who work at the university or graduate students.

The ex-theater site boasts a “great asset” in its proximity to a Regional Transportation District bus stop where CU affiliates can get to the main campus in about 14 minutes, Call said.

The university hopes to work with Louisville city officials and development partners during the planning process to ensure that the housing project helps “reinvigorate the McCaslin (Boulevard) corridor” and “bring a little more energy to the area.”

CU officials “want some mixed-use” elements included in the project, such as a restaurant or coffee shop, Silva said, which would be open to the public.

“This isn’t going to be a gated community, this is a place where we want people to congregate,” Call said.

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A Maryland native, Lucas has worked at news agencies from Wyoming to South Carolina before putting roots down in Colorado.



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NEWS

RTD board gives tentative yes to pursuing Front Range passenger rail between Denver, Fort Collins

RTD joins CDOT, Front Range Passenger Rail District in developing a plan for the new line



By **KATIE LANGFORD** | The Denver Post

PUBLISHED: June 25, 2025 at 6:00 AM MDT

The Regional Transportation District's Board of Directors voted unanimously — if tentatively — on Tuesday to explore building a [Front Range passenger rail line](#) connecting Denver and Fort Collins through Boulder County.

RTD directors approved an intergovernmental agreement during a special meeting Tuesday afternoon, with several hedging their votes with hesitation



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The agreement will create a committee of RTD, Colorado Department of Transportation and [Front Range Passenger Rail District](#) officials and task them with developing a plan for a [passenger rail line](#) from Denver's Union Station through Westminster, Broomfield, Louisville, Boulder, Longmont, Loveland and Fort Collins. The rail district is set to meet about the agreement this week,

It would also complete the long-promised, never-realized [Northwest Rail](#) approved by voters in 2004 as part of the FasTracks project, according to RTD documents. The project is still a point of contention for Coloradans north of Denver, and those grievances resurfaced Tuesday,

The Northwest Rail has been "an albatross around our neck," RTD Director Lynn Guissinger said before the vote,

"...This gives us a way to move forward," she said, "It needs to happen. It gives us the power to go back and really know the numbers,"

AD



Transportation officials say that at current funding levels, RTD's line between Denver and Boulder County will not be ready until the 2040s — but the Front Range line could be ready as soon as 2029,

Other directors agreed that their future support will hinge on the finances — specifically how much it will cost to use BNSF Railway's freight line. The new

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“If we do not have the funding to keep it in a state of good repair and operational, then why are we doing it?” he said.

Potential funding sources for the new line include [fees on rental cars](#) and oil and gas production recently approved by the Colorado legislature, which bring in about \$72 million a year. RTD has amassed another \$190 million for future FasTracks projects, and because the line would connect several cities, it could unlock additional federal transportation funds.

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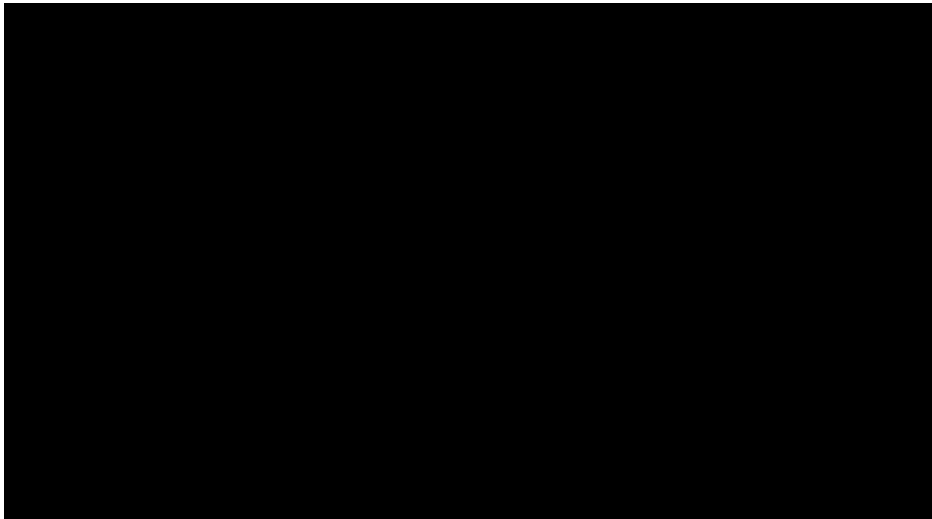
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LOCAL NEWS

Leaders talk Sundance Film Festival at CU Night

Sundance seeks to partner with CU Boulder as the festival gets ready to move to Boulder in 2027

 Sundance Film Festival programmer Sudeep Sharma speaks to the crowd at the Boulder Theater during CU Night on Wednesday. (Cliff Grassmick/Staff Photographer)

Sundance Film Festival programmer Sudeep Sharma speaks to the crowd at the Boulder Theater during CU Night on Wednesday. (Cliff Grassmick/Staff Photographer)



By **OLIVIA DOAK** | odoak@prairiemountainmedia.com | Boulder Daily Camera

UPDATED: June 26, 2025 at 9:53 AM MDT

As the [Sundance Film Festival](#) gets ready to move to Boulder in 2027, its leadership is looking to partner with the University of Colorado Boulder to bolster the festival's success.

The Sundance Film Festival, one of the most iconic independent film festivals in the world, [announced in March](#) that it would make Boulder its new home in 2027 after multiple cities competed for the honor.

Leaders at CU Boulder, Boulder, Boulder County and the Sundance Film Festival delivered remarks regarding the film festival during a CU Night event on Wednesday at the Boulder Theater. CU Night is an annual event where the university and Boulder showcase partnership and share updates with citizens.

“We’re all very excited to be here (in Boulder),” Sundance Film Festival programmer Sudeep Sharma said during CU Night, adding, “We’re looking forward to what’s going to be happening in the next few years in Boulder.”

Sharma said the university was a major factor in the decision to move Sundance to Boulder, adding that the university was the first stop the Sundance team made in Boulder when it was visiting sites in 2024. He said the Sundance team holds many shared values with the university, including around independent thought and artistic expression.

CU Boulder Chancellor Justin Schwartz said he's "overjoyed to celebrate" the arrival of the Sundance Film Festival to Boulder.

"Music, art, film, storytelling, creativity, innovation — these are core values in Boulder and they are the connective tissues that unite and uplift us as people," Schwartz said.



CU Boulder Chancellor Justin Schwartz talks to guests at the Boulder Theater during CU Night on Wednesday. (Cliff Grassmick/Staff Photographer)

Sharma said the festival hopes to see a young and diverse audience come to the festival from CU Boulder and to collaborate with faculty, staff, and the film departments at the university on festival talks and programming.

Sharma also said there will be many volunteer opportunities for anyone interested and encouraged people to consider it. There will also be an event this summer, and he told the audience to watch for more information.

“We are looking not just to drop in for 10 days for the festival but to be part of the community as our relationship grows,” Sharma said.

Sharma said Boulder is “a place we feel the festival and city can grow together,” and that it’s for the public to come.

“It’s really open for everyone — it isn’t just an exclusive party of fancy people,” Sharma said, adding, “It’s meant for people to come see films, meet filmmakers and see exhibitions.”

Schwartz said the festival will add a new dimension to a campus where the arts are already thriving — and to the existing film festivals, museums and art galleries throughout Boulder.

“We are truly eager to support this flourishing partnership as the festival prepares to move to Boulder in 2027,” Schwartz said.

Boulder County Commissioner Claire Levy highlighted the county’s vibrant and strong art community. She referenced the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, or SCFD, which is the only cultural funding model in the nation that serves a region of seven counties, including Boulder County, according [to its website](#). The program encourages the arts and a diversity of cultural programming.

“Together I think the three entities (Boulder, CU Boulder and the county), plus the other towns we have in the county, really make it one of the most special places to live in the country with our open space, our trails and the arts community,” Levy said.

Boulder Mayor Aaron Brockett said the strength of the relationship between CU and the city is what made it possible to recruit Sundance to Boulder.

“The partnership between CU and the city could not be stronger,” he said.

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Schwartz also shared several updates on the university. He cited how [enrollment is set](#) to increase modestly, largely due to student retention, and said the university is looking to continue to expand campus housing with [new residence hall](#) space and through properties at the former [Regal Cinebarre theater](#) in Louisville and at CU South.

Schwartz said he's continuing to build his leadership team with new hires and that the university continues to monitor changes and potential changes happening at the federal level.

He emphasized CU Boulder's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, sustainability, the quantum industry and its relationship with the city,

"CU Boulder cannot thrive without the city of Boulder, and Boulder cannot thrive without CU," Schwartz said, "I hope in all we do we can let that fundamental principle guide our partnership."

For more information on the Sundance Film Festival and ways to get involved, visit sundance.org/boulder and bouldercountyfilmcommission.com/sundance.

Keep track of our Sundance coverage at dailycamera.com/sundance. Bookmark it. That's where you can get all of your Sundance-meets-Boulder news.

Originally Published: June 25, 2025 at 7:54 PM MDT



MOST POPULAR

SPORTS

Denver Iconics host celebrity pickleball event ahead of National Pickleball League tournament in Louisville

 Denver Iconics player Danny Wuerffel keeps the ball in play during a match with clinic participants at Relish Food Hall and Pickleball in Louisville on Thursday, June 26, 2025. (Matthew Jonas/Staff Photographer)

Denver Iconics player Danny Wuerffel keeps the ball in play during a match with clinic participants at Relish Food Hall and Pickleball in Louisville on Thursday, June 26, 2025. (Matthew Jonas/Staff Photographer)



By **ALISSA NOE** | anoe@prairiemountainmedia.com

PUBLISHED June 27, 2025 at 3:52 PM MDT

One can hardly bring up the word “pickleball” without hearing how it’s the fastest-growing sport in America, and Thursday’s gathering at the new Relish Food Hall and Pickleball facility in Louisville proved just why.

The Denver Iconics, a member of the National Pickleball League which began in 2023, welcomed professional players, fans and local icons alike in what was billed as a “celebrity event.”

Local celebrities included former CU women’s basketball coaches Ceal Barry, Linda Lappe and current head coach JR Payne, as well as executive director for Sportswomen of Colorado Jennifer Anderson-Ehrlich and director/portfolio manager at Trailhead Wealth Management Kristy Tochiara, who’s also the corporate sponsor of the Iconics — among others,

Jen Hamann co-owns the Iconics with husband Mario Boschi, and she was thrilled by the level of excitement shown by all in attendance,

“We wanted to honor this new business coming, and it’s great for the NPL, the National Pickleball League; it fits their qualifications for a tournament,” Hamann said. “There are 12 teams in the league, and of course we were the third or fourth team to come on into the league. This is our third season.”

The NPL and Iconics feature both men and women over 50 years old, and Colorado’s home team — which Hamann said is 65% Coloradans — houses a celebrity in its own right, Danny Wuerffel, 51, won the Heisman Trophy as a quarterback for Florida in 1996, and he put on a dominant performance against every opponent who dared cross his path Thursday.

He never imagined that nearly 30 years after being drafted by the New Orleans Saints, he’d join another professional league.

“I’d never even heard of pickleball back (during my football career),” Wuerffel said. “I just loved to compete in everything, I grew up playing tennis, racquetball, ping pong, I loved that stuff, I got into it during COVID and I’ve never looked back.



Denver Iconics player Danny Wuerffel keeps the ball in play during a match with clinic participants at Relish Food Hall and Pickleball, Louisville on Thursday, June 26, 2025. (Matthew Jonas/Staff Photographer)



“It’s just really fun to have something to train for, to get better at, Pickleball is a game that anyone can play, but also, there’s a million levels. To just be able to continue to improve and get better, I always loved that. Whatever I was doing, I wanted to work really hard to get better, Pickleball is that. It’s tons of fun.”

Barry was inducted into the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame in 2018 following 22 seasons with the Buffs. She normally plays the sport recreationally at rec centers in Boulder. Gail Hook, who’s coming on as a part-time owner of the Iconics, invited her to attend as a local celebrity.

“I think it’s great to have the Iconics here because I hear about them through Gail, but to meet them, to meet the owner, to see how good they are — men and women — it’s fun to be on the same court with a pro,” Barry said. “I think it’s great exposure for the Iconics. In my experience as a coach, we get our team out in the community and do clinics and things like that and expose the community to the team, and I think that’s important for the Iconics.”

Throughout the rest of the weekend, the Iconics will welcome other professional teams for a full NPL tournament, Hook — who’s had stints coaching Monarch’s girls basketball, Erie’s boys basketball and in the WNBA — hopes it will springboard even greater interest in the new league,

“Pickleball is such a social sport,” Hook said, “Anybody can kind of grab a paddle and kind of play and at least have some fun with it. It’s the one sport, I also think, where men and women are comparable, so they can play with each other and against each other. It’s the fastest growing sport. The facilities are popping up everywhere, particularly in Colorado. It’s a very exciting time to be involved in pickleball right now.”



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Sierra Space building solar-power systems in new Broomfield factory



The production floor of Sierra Space's Power Station factory in Broomfield. Courtesy Sierra Space.

By Lucas High

LOUISVILLE — Just weeks after Sierra Space Corp. publicly launched operations at a **manufacturing facility in Centennial**, the aerospace company says it is opening another plant in Broomfield, this factory specializing in building Surface Mount Technology, or SMT, solar power systems for defense clients.

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“Sierra Space’s Power Station is a brand-new production facility that will house world-class manufacturing capabilities to produce Surface Mount Technology (SMT) defense-hardened solar arrays, which provide best-in-class power density, resiliency, and production lead times. Located in Broomfield, Colorado, the Power Station spans approximately 70,000 square feet, including office space,” SSC said in a news release Thursday.

Precisely where in Broomfield the new Sierra Space plant is located remains undisclosed — a company representative told BizWest only that the facility is “located near Hoyt Street.” SSC leases roughly 70,000 square feet in Broomfield at 800 Hoyt St.

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“In addition to the SMT production lines, the \$45 million facility also houses new tooling and an integrated test center that includes thermal vacuum/thermal air chambers, and a dynamics lab for vibration and pyroshock testing,” Sierra Space said this week. “These solar arrays have diverse applications, including for use on satellites.”

SSC this month formalized Sierra Space Defense, a business unit devoted to bolstering the Louisville-based firm's position as prime military contractor for satellite systems and other aerospace technology. In support of the new division, which will be led by SSC vice president Erik Daehler, Sierra Space has established a 60,000-square-foot manufacturing facility — dubbed Victory Works — in Centennial.

Victory Works will be one of the primary production centers for the Sierra Space Eclipse satellite bus line. The Sierra Space Defense division will also be responsible for products such as Sierra Space Ghost, a delivery system engineered to return objects from space to precise locations on Earth; Sierra Space Spectre: a satellite designed for precision rendezvous proximity operations; and an operating system called Sierra Black OS.

"Sierra Space is re-industrializing the space-defense technology sector," Daehler said in a prepared statement Thursday. "We have the ability to build a solar panel a day, and a wing a week. We plan to deliver 40 satellite wings in the first phase of production and are scaling up to a 100 satellites wings per year by our full rate of production. Additionally, because of our unique architecture, our solar arrays are more resilient. The Power Station is a proof point in our dedication to support national security."

The company, which previously had 24,000 square feet of space dedicated to national security projects, said in early June that its facilities footprint now exceeds 1 million square feet across seven states.

Spun out of Sierra Nevada Corp. in 2021, Sierra Space began as a developer of aerospace technology with largely civilian applications. But SSC has increasingly shifted its focus to military clients of late.

The company in April successfully demonstrated a satellite-navigation platform built for **the U.S. Space Force**, and last year, Sierra **inked a \$740 million contract** from the U.S. Space Development Agency to design and build 18 missile warning and tracking satellites. The company claims to have won about \$1.5 billion in defense contracts over the past two years.

Outside of the military-aligned aerospace sphere, Sierra Space's projects include the Dream Chaser space plane, which is expected to be used to resupply the International Space Station starting next year; and the Large Integrated Flexible Environment (LIFE) Habitat, a modular, three-story commercial habitation, business and science platform.

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A Maryland native, Lucas has worked at news agencies from Wyoming to South Carolina before putting roots down in Colorado.



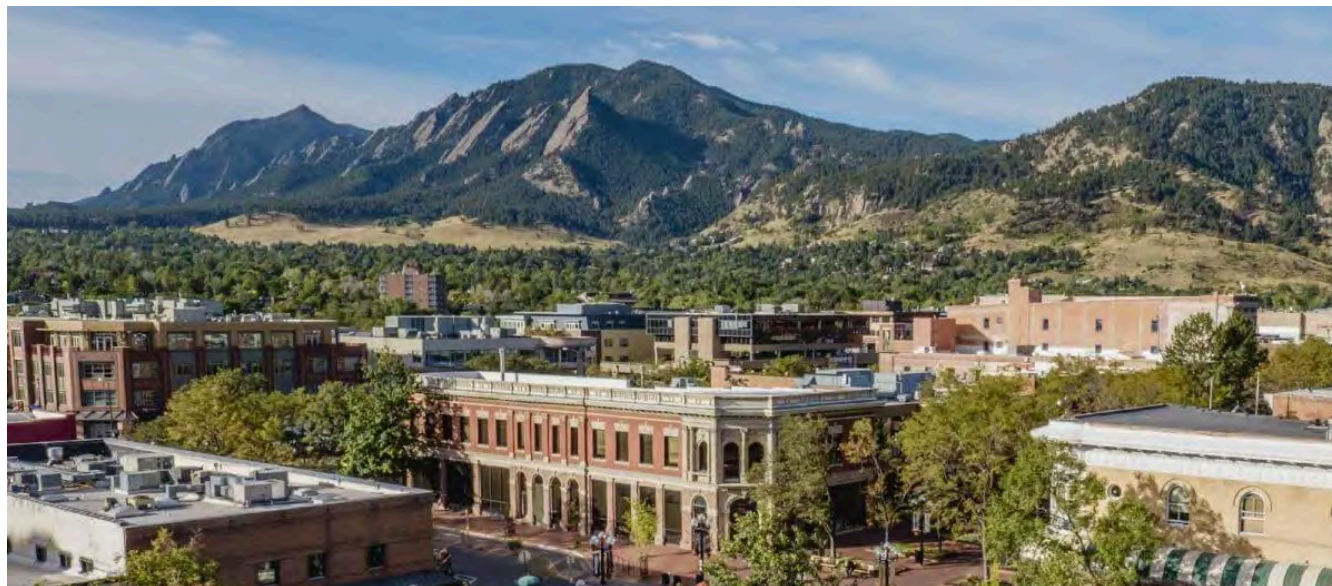
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Boulder's Emerging Powerhouse — The Rise of a Bioscience Economy



June 30, 2025

Originally published by the Daily Camera, June 28, 2025.



What if Boulder's next billion-dollar breakthrough is not in aerospace or quantum, but in biotechnology?

That question is no longer hypothetical. CNBC recently spotlighted Boulder as one of the fastest-growing life sciences hubs in the country, driven by record investment, surging lab demand, and a collaborative innovation ecosystem. Every business leader, regardless of sector, should be paying attention.

Boulder is steadily charting its course as a premier bioscience center. With more than 300 life sciences companies and nearly 8,000 professionals across drug development, diagnostics and biomanufacturing, bioscience is now a core part of the region's economic landscape. Anchoring this growth is CU Boulder and its BioFrontiers Institute, a translational research hub where discovery turns into real-world applications.

Boulder's innovation ecosystem is expanding. Startups like Watchmaker Genomics are developing technologies to accelerate genomic diagnostics over the next decade. These ventures represent a new wave of science where artificial intelligence (AI), automation, and biology converge.

Enveda Biosciences uses AI to explore nature's chemical libraries and recently secured \$130 million to scale its work. Medtronic is growing its footprint with a new Lafayette campus. Biodesix is advancing lung disease and oncology diagnostics. Bioproduction leaders like KBI Biopharma and Corden Pharma are delivering therapies that serve global markets.

This is not future potential. This is present-day impact.

And it is no coincidence. It reflects the strength of Boulder's innovation culture and the coordinated efforts of local and state partners.

The momentum is backed by data. Colorado's life sciences sector raised \$2.15 billion in 2024. The region now employs more than 41,000 bioscience professionals and ranks among the highest nationally for bachelor's degree attainment. Nearly 3.5 million square feet of lab space is under development across the state.

CBRE ranks the Denver-Boulder region among the top 20 global hubs for life sciences research and development and among the top 25 for venture capital. BioMed Realty's \$625 million acquisition of Boulder's Flatiron Park, a 23-building campus now being retrofitted for life sciences, signals global confidence in our biotech ecosystem. Boulder now stands alongside innovation titans like Boston, San Diego, and Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

As Matt Wiggins, associate vice president of economic vitality and special projects at the Boulder Chamber, observes: "Boulder's bioscience ecosystem is maturing rapidly, and global investors are not just noticing. They are investing. Our talent, research and infrastructure are positioning us at the forefront of health innovation."

The Colorado Bioscience Association, the state's leading voice for the sector, has helped shape this trajectory. In 2025, it relaunched its "Colorado Hub for Health Impact" campaign to promote the state as a national leader in health innovation. The campaign highlights key assets, including a skilled and inclusive workforce, scalable lab space, competitive business costs, world-class research institutions and top-ranked quality of life.

As Elyse Blazeovich, president and CEO of the association, notes: "Our ecosystem has raised in excess of a billion dollars for seven consecutive years, and early-stage funding in Colorado in 2023 grew faster than in other life sciences markets across the country."

At the regional level, the U.S. 36 Life Sciences Collaborative, led by the Boulder Chamber, is aligning public and private partners to accelerate infrastructure, expand workforce pipelines, and elevate national visibility for the corridor's bioscience sector. Partners include the Boulder Economic Council and the cities of Broomfield, Lafayette, Louisville, Westminster and the town of Superior.

With a deep bench of life sciences and advanced industries, ample commercial space, and direct access to Denver International Airport, the U.S. 36 corridor is ideally positioned for innovative, fast-growing companies, from startups to Fortune 500 firms.

Bioscience is not a specialized sector operating in isolation. It is an economic multiplier. These companies rely on legal counsel, lab builders, information technology platforms, human resources firms and a broader professional services network. In this way, their impact extends across the economy, while also improving lives through better therapies, diagnostics and public health tools.

To Boulder's business community: now is the time to lean in. Partner with a biotech startup. Sponsor a local innovation event. Add your voice to Boulder's bioscience momentum. Policymakers should prioritize land use planning, permitting and incentives that support lab development. And Boulder residents: take pride. The innovation happening in your backyard is changing lives around the world.

Bioscience is Boulder's emerging powerhouse. Let us keep cultivating, collaborating and competing together.

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Video streamer Gaia elevates ex-Sony producer to CEO



Gaia CEO Kiersten Medvedich. Courtesy Gaia.

By BizWest Staff

LOUISVILLE — Gaia Inc. (Nasdaq: GAIA) has elevated its president, making Kiersten Medvedich the streaming video provider’s first woman CEO.

Medvedich, who has held several leadership roles with Gaia since joining the company in 2016, replaces James Colquhoun, who took a new role as chief business

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development officer last week, Gaia disclosed in a recent filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Prior to joining Gaia, Medvedich, according to her LinkedIn profile, was a line producer at Sony Pictures Television.

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“Kiersten’s vast experience in television production and business operations have been vital to our mission and I am proud that she will serve as our first female CEO,” Gaia founder and executive chairman Jirka Rysavy said in a prepared statement. “Gaia is joining a global trend as women are redefining leadership positions all over the world, and considering 70% of our audience is female, it is perfectly aligned for Kiersten to lead Gaia into the future.”

In May, the conscious-media company **reported first-quarter revenue** of \$23.8 million, compared with \$21.3 million in the same period last year 2024. Total members increased 3% year-over-year to 867,000.

Gaia in February closed an underwritten common stock offering, raising \$7 million in net proceeds to build out the company's AI capabilities.

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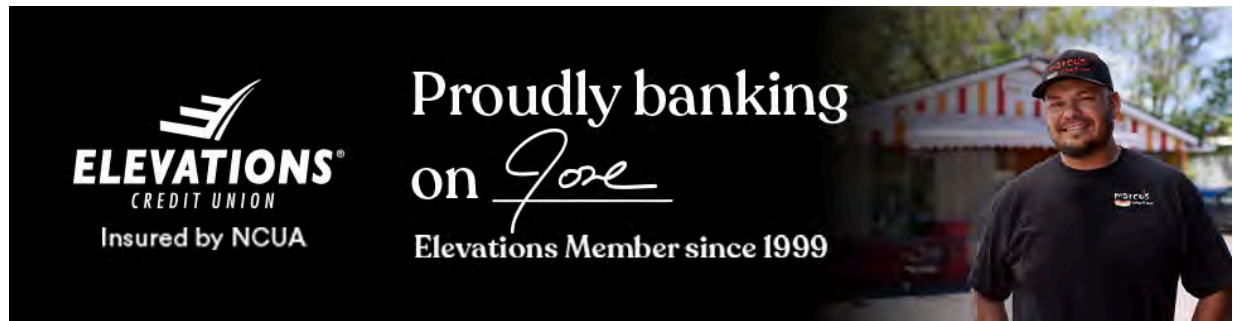
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BizWest names region's innovative, fastest-growing firms



By BizWest Staff

BERTHOUD — BizWest held its annual IQ Awards and Mercury 100 celebration last month in Berthoud. The IQ Awards portion of the event recognized innovative products and services developed in the Boulder Valley and Northern Colorado, while Mercury 100 honored the region's fastest-growing private companies.

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IQ Awards

For the 2025 program, BizWest accepted nominations both from the public and from the publication’s editorial team, with the editorial team making the selections in the categories of aerospace, brewing, consumer products, life sciences, robotics and natural products.

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Centerra: inspired by a love of Loveland

In Northern Colorado, most people know Centerra as a place to shop, grab a bite or go to a movie. It’s also a favorite location for corporate offices. And it has gained recognition as one of the region’s top-selling new-home communities. What most people don’t know is why Centerra has become all these things. Click to read more.

- **Louisville’s Tendeg LLC** won in the aerospace category for its Perimeter Truss Reflector, a high-accuracy, deployable antenna system used for communication, science, and radar applications. These reflectors are designed to be lightweight and compact, enabling their use on smaller spacecraft and supporting rapid pointing maneuvers.
- Longmont’s **Left Hand Brewing Co. Inc.** won in the brewing category for its independent craft platform. As the brewing sector faces multiple challenges, Left Hand has embarked upon a strategy of expanding its ownership into the wider community, while integrating other breweries to create economies of scale.
- Boulder’s **Rain Technology** won in the consumer product category for its switchable privacy embedded directional display, a technology that allows displays — including laptops, mobile phones, ATMs, tablets, kiosks and other devices — to switch between a normal viewing mode and a narrow viewing angle mode, effectively preventing onlookers from seeing what’s on the screen.
- Fort Collins-based **Armis Biopharma Inc.** won in the life-sciences category for its VerCyn wound wash, an aqueous solution designed for wound irrigation to remove debris, including microorganisms, from wounds. It is intended for use on various wounds, including post-surgical wounds, pressure ulcers, and diabetic foot ulcers.
- Erie-headquartered **Pattern Labs Inc.** won in the robotics category for its robotic system for airport baggage and cargo handling, designed to improve the efficiency, safety, and quality of ground operations by using robotics and automation.
- Broomfield’s **Lentiful LLC** won in the natural products category for its Lentil-based instant meals, which are plant-based, high in protein and fiber, and designed to be quick and easy to prepare, eliminating the need for traditional lentil cooking.

Mercury 100

BizWest surveyed private companies in the Boulder Valley and Northern Colorado on two-year revenue growth between 2022 and 2024, and divided the firms into five flights based on their 2022 sales totals.



- Flight I, companies with 2022 revenue of \$12 million and up: **Baker Constructors LLC**, 213% revenue growth.
- Flight II, companies with 2022 revenue of \$2.71 million to \$11.99 million: **TCC Corp.**, 369% revenue growth.
- Flight III, companies with 2022 revenue of \$1,344,991 to \$2.7 million: **Harris Dewart LLC**, 127% revenue growth.
- Flight IV, companies with 2022 revenue of \$644,000 to \$1,344,990: **Retirement Planning Center of the Rockies**, 204% revenue growth.
- Flight V, companies with 2022 revenue of \$35,000 to \$643,999: **Cultivate Kitchen Co. LLC**, 829% revenue growth.

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LOCAL NEWS

Moxie Bread settles into new Longmont production facility



Moxie Bread Co. owner Phillippa Clark, mixes up some grain at Moxie Bread's new bakery space in Longmont. (Cliff Grassmick/Staff Photographer)



By **DANA CADEY** | dcadey@prairiemountainmedia.com | Longmont

Times-Call

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Longmont fans of freshly baked bread and sugary treats will be glad to hear that Moxie Bread Co. has found a new home in the city.

A provider of organic food to Boulder County residents for years, [Moxie Bread Co.](#), recently established a production facility in Longmont. The company used to split its bread and pastry production between its Louisville and Boulder locations, respectively. Those locations are still open, but now, Longmont is the sole place where both bread and pastries are baked and sent off to hungry customers.

“It felt like a natural fit,” said Moxie owner Phillippa Clark, “We’re really happy to be a part of Longmont.”



Harra Conticelli makes croissants at Moxie Bread's new bakery space in Longmont. (Cliff Grassmick/Staff Photographer)

Inside the Longmont production space on Industrial Circle, just east of the Village at the Peaks shopping center, nearly 20 Moxie chefs make croissants, muffins, cookies, premade meals, and loaf after loaf of bread. Laura Fessenden, Moxie Bread Co. director of operations, said roughly 400 loaves

Staff members arrive at the kitchen as early as 4 a.m. to start baking. Bread is usually shipped off by 6:30 a.m. daily, ensuring the fresh loaves get to Moxie retail stores by 7 a.m.

The Longmont facility, which was previously home to CBD company Restorative Botanicals, is 5,000 square feet. That's more than double the size of the Louisville facility, meaning staff members have a lot more room for baking.

It also allows Moxie to bake more bread for its retail locations. According to Fessenden, the acquisition has increased the company's production of baked goods by 20%.

Moxie has retail stores in Lyons, north Boulder and Louisville. Unlike the Longmont production site, people can stop by the retail bakeries to buy bread, drink espresso, purchase flour or just hang out with friends.

"We intentionally chose Longmont as our production space because it was so equidistant to the three retail locations," Fessenden said. "It just felt like that was the natural choice for us."



Zil Masanoga loads bread for delivery at Moxie Bread's new bakery space in Longmont. (Cliff Grassmick/Staff Photographer)

While the Moxie team moved into the Longmont space in January, there are still a few touches needed to make the facility complete. One major task is transporting the mill from the north Boulder store to Longmont this fall. That transition will allow the entire baking process to happen under one roof, including milling the flour.

Fessenden said the company has taken on a few wholesale accounts since the move, including new Longmont coffee shop Wild Bloom Coffee Collective on Francis Street. Wild Bloom sells Moxie pastries and uses Moxie bread for its toast.

Moxie products aren't sold in many coffee shops, Fessenden explained, mostly because the company hasn't had the necessary production capacity until now. January Coffee in Boulder sells Moxie bread, and Salto Coffee in Nederland carries Moxie flour.

In lieu of a Longmont retail location, Moxie started selling its bread at the Longmont Farmers Market this year. Bread baked early in the morning makes it to the Boulder County Fairgrounds within minutes.

This year marks an important anniversary for Moxie, as the company is celebrating a decade in operation. The Louisville bakery opened in 2015, followed by the north Boulder area in 2020 and Lyons in 2021.



The Lyons location has also seen a change this year with the introduction of a summer farmers market, held in the parking lot outside the shop. Local farmers and artisans sell vegetables, jewelry and artwork from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays.

Clark said she's proud that her bread uses heirloom grains and flour that doesn't come from an industrial mill. Aspen Moon Farm in the Hygiene area also provides fresh greens and produce for Moxie's sandwiches and other food offerings.

"Everything is done by hand, the bread is shaped by hand," Clark said.

"That's the kind of art that we're looking to just keep alive."

For Clark, it's an honor to be consistently told by customers that Moxie is one of the best bakeries in the Boulder area.

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"That's a bigger achievement, really, than reaching 10 years," Clark said,

"The community really likes us,"

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