

THE ASPEN TIMES

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Hunt sells pizza and pot building for \$5M

No word from buyer on future intentions

Rick Carroll
The Aspen Times

Developer Mark Hunt, who's usually on the buying side of commercial property deals in Aspen, flipped a building last week for \$5 million, good enough for a \$250,000 profit.

Hunt sold the two-story, 3,920-square-foot property at 409 E. Hyman Ave., which is home to New York Pizza and the Green Dragon marijuana dispensary, for \$5 million, according to Pitkin County property records. He acquired the building in July 2014 for \$4.75 million.

The buyer, Norton LLC, is controlled by Lisa Leder of Florida. Leder is the ex-wife of private equity executive Marc Leder, who co-founded Sun Capital Partners and is a minority owner of the Philadelphia

76ers and New Jersey Devils. The two divorced in 2009, with Lisa Leder reportedly pocketing hundreds of millions of dollars.

Leder didn't return messages Tuesday requesting her intentions for the downtown building. Hunt, who is campaigning for the passage of his proposed Base2 Lodge on Main Street in the November election, also didn't respond to messages.

The change of ownership, which was recorded Thursday by the Pitkin County Clerk and Recorder's Office, also came a day after the Green Dragon changed ownership.

Denver-based Greenwerkz closed on its reported \$8 million acquisition of the Green Dragon Cannabis Co., which comprised the Aspen shop and two Green Dragon stores in Glenwood. The deal also included a 16,000-square-foot cannabis-cultivation facility in Glenwood Springs. Greenwerkz has no connections to Lisa Leder, said company President Ryan

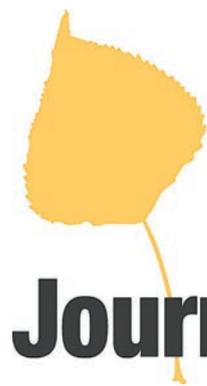


JEREMY WALLACE/THE ASPEN TIMES

Developer Mark Hunt sold his building at 409 E. Hyman Ave., home to New York Pizza and the Green Dragon pot shop, for \$5 million last week.

HUNT, A7

College fair moves to giant outdoor tent



Bob Ward

Aspen Journalism

The Western Slope College Fair will have a new venue for 2015, owing to the equivalent of a summer flash flood in the Aspen High School gymnasium.

The gym typically serves as the main hall for the annual college fair, which attracts some 250 college admissions officers and nearly 3,000 students and parents from western Colorado. But in late July, a student

at the Aspen Basketball Academy accidentally hit a sprinkler with a basketball, triggering a deluge that destroyed the gym floor and subfloor.

The gym is now closed for repairs, and without it the college fair, set for Oct. 4, cannot fit indoors. So organizers decided to relocate the event to the Aspen Middle School parking lot beneath the shelter of a

giant, circus-like tent.

"This will be the greatest show on Earth," said college counselor Kathy Klug, using the famed Ringling Bros. slogan. "We'll have all the colleges in one space."

In past years, Klug said, the fair was divided among several of the large spaces

COLLEGE, A7

Skico decides it could use a Miracle

Michael Miracle hired as company's director of community engagement

Scott Condon
The Aspen Times

Aspen Skiing Co. has hired a respected local resident to serve in a newly created position called director of community engagement.

Michael Miracle, a 10-year Aspen resident and editor-in-chief of Aspen Sojourner magazine, will take the post Oct. 12.

Miracle will "seek to ensure that (Aspen Skiing Co.) is informed about and

understands community issues, listens to diverse voices within the community and can be a productive, engaged participant on issues of public concern in the Roaring Fork Valley," Skico said in a statement.

Skico Vice President of Sustainability Auden Schendler will supervise Miracle. Schendler said Miracle will act as a sort of "air-traffic controller" who helps track important meetings that Skico must monitor or attend and situations where Skico must make its positions known. For example, he said, Skico didn't weigh in on the debate over the Highway 82 bridge in Glenwood Springs even though the issue has a huge effect on the upper Roaring Fork Valley.

Schendler said Miracle also will make sure Skico executives understand

community sentiments. There is "room for improvement" in Skico's relations with the community, he said.



Michael Miracle

"I don't think we've done a good job of saying, 'Here's what we think; what do you think about that?'" Schendler said.

"Part of his job is to bring an outside viewpoint to us." Miracle said he was told that one of the reasons he got the job is he told

"brutal truths" that he sees in Skico's relations with the community during one of his interviews. As an example, he said he noted

MIRACLE, A5

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