

Business Monday

A16 | Monday, December 17, 2018 | The Aspen Times

BUSINESS BRIEFS

RETT collections up in November, down for the year

The city of Aspen's real estate transfer tax collections in November showed an 11 percent spike over November 2017.

That's according to the city Finance Department's latest consumption tax report, which was released Dec. 6.

November was just the fourth month of the year to post gains over 2017, a year in which all of Pitkin County topped \$1.9 billion in property transactions.

The city collected \$590,210 in RETT taxes supporting its affordable-housing coffers, topping the \$531,365 it claimed in November 2017. The Wheeler Opera Housing portion of the RETT accounted for \$311,183 in collections, besting the \$275,769 the city made in November 2017.

From January through November, the city's RETT collections for the affordable-housing portion of the fund stood at \$7.9 million, 15 percent lower than the \$9.9 million the city hauled in during the same period last year, according to the report.

The Wheeler Opera House portion of the RETT rang up \$4.1 million in collections from January through November, also 15 percent lower than the \$4.9 million the city generated in the same period in 2017, according to the report.

Building Department relocates to City Hall

The city's Building Department has relocated from its North Mill Street location to the third floor of Aspen City Hall, 130 S. Galena St. The Building Department is now located in the same space as Community Development.

Rowland+Broughton lands another award

Rowland+Broughton Architecture / Urban Design / Interior Design's Art Barn Aspen residence recently was selected as an honoree in the Country House category at the 2018 Interior Design Best of Year (BoY) Awards, held Nov. 30 in New York City.

The 2018 Best of Year Awards included 2,000 entries and 586 finalists in 133 design project and product categories. R+B's Art Barn project was one of four finalists in the Country House category. Led by R+B Principal John Rowland, the Art Barn project team included Amanda Christianson, Bryan May and Katie Roberts. Atelier AM was the interior designer on the project.

Popular midvalley biscuit truck hits the road, eyes trial in Aspen

The Biscuit will serve up vittles from Grey Lady kitchen on weekends

Scott Condon
The Aspen Times

Aspen can have its biscuits and eat them, too. The Biscuit food truck that's been a hit in the Movieland parking lot in El Jebel-Basalt for the past four months is taking its concept on the road. It will hold a trial in Aspen, sans the truck.

Owner Matthew Campbell said a customer made introductions that led to The Biscuit getting recruited to supply food during the second annual Aspen Winter Market, which is held on weekends in a heated tent on the patio of the Grey Lady restaurant in Aspen.

Campbell spoke to the owners of the Grey Lady and made arrangements to use the kitchen during the morning and early afternoon, before the restaurant starts preparing dinners.

The Biscuit will make its Aspen debut from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Grey Lady, 305 S. Mill St.

"We're kind of doing it as an impromptu pop-up, if you will," Campbell said. "If it goes well, we'll do it every weekend through March."

The Biscuit has honed its menu since opening its food truck in El Jebel in August. Fried chicken was added by popular demand.

"People like fried-chicken biscuits," said Drew Scott, a veteran restaurateur who Campbell recruited to launch the business.

"We've been doing trial and error. If (a new menu item) sells, we keep it. If not, we take it off," Scott said.

The menu will be condensed in Aspen, but it will include favorites such as Son of a Biscuit, a sandwich that features fried chicken, bacon and avocado, and Little Happenin', which



SCOTT CONDON/THE ASPEN TIMES

Drew Scott prepares a dish at The Biscuit, a food truck in El Jebel, on Friday morning. The breakfast eatery resolves around, you guessed, their homemade biscuits. They will make a trial run in Aspen this winter.

features fried chicken sauce gravy on a biscuit.

The food truck is open weekday mornings along East Valley Road. It attracts a mix of construction workers and office workers. The only surprise, Campbell said, is there's usually a surge with people going to work at 8 a.m. They figured they might have an earlier crowd.

The Biscuit erects a heated tent outside of its truck for patrons to take the sting out of waiting in the cold morning chill. Scott said he aims to serve the breakfasts within five minutes so nobody waits too long.

Large orders for offices or gatherings are becoming popular. Campbell said they typically

get an order for 15 or more. The truck also gets recruited to provide food during special events.

Campbell said The Biscuit's direction is largely in the hands of Aspen residents and visitors. If the weekend morning gig at the Grey Lady proves popular, they will go that direction throughout the winter, and then explore upper-valley options after the Aspen Winter Market ends.

If the Aspen trial flops or is mediocre, they will continue looking for special events on weekends.

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Nearly \$9M for West End townhome

"What's the Big Deal?" runs Mondays and is based on the most expensive property transaction recorded in Pitkin County through 3 p.m. each Friday.

Price: \$8.995 million

Date recorded: Dec. 13

Address:

203 N.

Monarch St.

Neighborhood:

West End

Buyer:

MC2 Partners LLC



Seller: 232 Bleeker LLC

Property type:

Townhome

Year built: 2018

Total heated area: 3,411

square feet



RICK CARROLL/THE ASPEN TIMES

203 N. Monarch St.