

# Fiber optics comes to Ned

**BARBARA LAWLOR  
NEDERLAND**

Neither snow, rain or steep dirt roads kept the cable guys from working on bringing technology upgrades to the Nederland area. In spite of cold temperatures and snow, the workers climbed telephone poles and hiked up mountainous terrain, traveled by snowmobile and four wheelers, happy to be earning the pay-by-the-foot salary.

Over the past few weeks a team of technicians has been laying cable from the Boulder Valley School District to the power line that runs from the bottom of Magnolia Road to the Nederland Middle/Senior High School.

The cable will split and also head into the town of Nederland where it is being

buried under the sidewalk that is being constructed along the highway.

Voters approved the 2006 bond issue that is funding the Internet Technology, the fourth phase of the upgrade on our schools. In return for receiving the fiber optic option, the town is granting easements and right of ways for the land used in the project.

Joe Gierlach, a Nederland resident who works for the school district, says the \$32 million venture will bring a fiber network all through Nederland allowing the switch from regular telephone lines to Voice Over Internet protocol.

The original plan was for Boulder schools to be wired with fiber optics, but it wouldn't stretch to the mountain schools. BVSD collaborated with the County, the City of

Boulder, CDOT and Nederland to make the deal and the school district found the funds. The line will be run up Magnolia Road to the high school and the split will head to Barker Reservoir and run up Sinky Gulch. The line will connect with the RTD bus terminal, the future town shop, the police station and other government entities in Ned,

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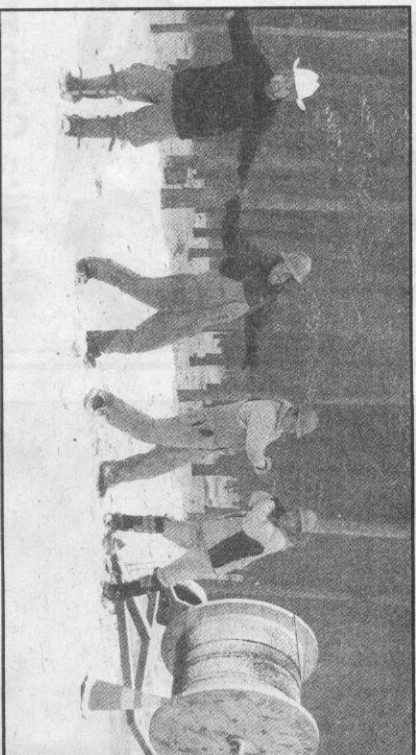
such as the Town Hall, the community center, the Nederland Elementary School and the Nederland library.

"This is huge," says Gierlach. "We are getting some highly sophisticated equipment." Gierlach says the conduit will be in place by Jan. 1 and the connection of the system will go into place during spring break at the school.

"The district is excited about servicing Nederland. The schools will now have a phone system connected to BVSD."

That phone system will allow for classroom teachers to have instant access to the warehouse supply of videos. No ordering and driving down to Boulder to pick up visual materials. Teachers will be able to pull them up online. Gold Hill and Jamestown

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## Heave ho

Altech Construction workers from Paonia stretch the fiber optic cable up a power line access road. Shaun Boyle, James Agill, Kyle Albert Altribby and Jesse Zastrer connected the line from Boulder to Magnolia Road.

will not be included in the fiber optic hook up but will have increased internet capacity. Having wireless technology in the Nederland schools will offer reliability when the power goes out.

The fiber optics piece is just one part of the other bond issue updates coming to NMSHS. Included in the plans are lockers, a new science room and a counseling room. Gierlach says it was fortunate that the sidewalk was going in when the district started work on bringing the fiber optic conduit to town. "The sidewalk makes for a perfect route across the creek where they are rebuilding the bridge. It worked out well."