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# Aspen Daily News

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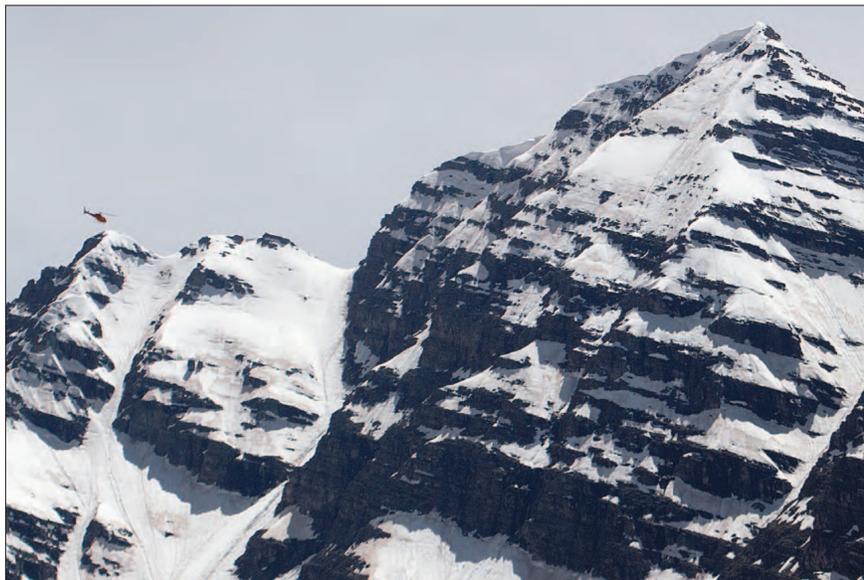
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## RESCUE ON THE BELLS



Jordan Curet/Aspen Daily News

A search and rescue helicopter sweeps past South Maroon Peak looking for a group of skiers that sent out a GPS emergency alert around 1 p.m. on Monday, June 2. One skier with a leg injury was airlifted out of the field by 8 p.m. and was in stable condition at Aspen Valley Hospital Monday night, according to Pitkin County sheriff's deputy Jason Kasper. The party of two skiers, who were not identified, were technically in Gunnison County when they activated their emergency locator, but Mountain Rescue Aspen and the local sheriff's office coordinated the rescue.

## Explore Booksellers is for sale

Wyls list property for \$6.5 million

By Curtis Wackerle

Aspen Daily News Staff Writer

Sam and Cheryl Wyl, the second-homeowner couple who in 2007 purchased Aspen's Explore Booksellers, have listed the Main Street property and business for sale for \$6.5 million, according to a local real estate broker.

The Wyls bought the bookstore and the 6,000-square-foot lot it sits on for \$4.4 million in March 2007, at a time of great community angst over the potential loss of the treasured business. In January 2006, longtime owner and operator Katherine Thalberg, who opened the bookstore in 1975, passed away, leaving the asset to her daughters, who sold to the Wyls after listing the property and business for \$5.2 million.

Real estate broker Karen Setterfield said Monday that she is Explore's listing agent. While "the value we are selling is in the property," the hope is to find a buyer who wants to keep the bookstore running, she said.

"Obviously everyone loves the bookstore and the history and the ambiance — it's a part of Aspen," Setterfield said. "We're hoping to find a way for that to continue."

The front portion of the property dates to the 1890s and is designated historic, so its exterior can't be demolished. But much of the rest of the building, which has been expanded and altered over the years, could be redeveloped into residential or other commercial.

In May, a jury in a case brought by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission found Sam Wyl and his late brother Charles Wyl guilty of civil fraud. The SEC accused them, after a six-year investigation, of illegally using offshore trusts to trade interest in companies they controlled without disclosing those trades, reaping the Dallas-based brothers \$550 million in alleged "ill-gotten gains." A judge is deciding what damages the brothers are liable to pay in the case, while lawyers representing the Wyls have vowed to continue fighting the charges.

The Wyls are self-made billionaires whose business interests have touched on everything from information technology to arts and crafts stores. They are also known for giving nearly \$10 million over the years to conservative political causes.

Setterfield said the sale is not related to any of the Wyls' other business matters. The bookstore is a time-consuming endeavor, and Wyl is 79 and focused on other things, she said.

## Community mourns loss of beloved Aspen Times publisher Gunilla Asher

By Dorothy M. Atkins

Special to the Aspen Daily News

Aspen lost a cherished community member Monday when Gunilla Asher, 42, passed away following complications from cancer.

Asher was born and raised in Aspen and was the publisher of The Aspen Times. She is survived by her two sons, David, 5, and Charlie, 6, her husband Mark Asher, three dogs and a cat.

Asher believed that a positive attitude could help her do anything and that sentiment was infectious, said longtime friend Christian Henrichon.

Henrichon met Asher about

18 years ago in Aspen, but they became close when Asher heard he was quitting his gig in the restaurant industry and looking for a new job. Asher insisted that Henrichon work for her at The Aspen Times, he said.

"At the time I had a feeling I was the worst accounts manager ever," Henrichon said with a laugh. "So she would try to give me some of the confidence she had in me."

That tenacious encouragement and positive attitude was typical in everything she did, even as she was fighting cancer.

Asher was first diagnosed with

ASHER ON PAGE 5



Courtesy Photo

Gunilla Asher, right, with husband Mark Asher.

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