

# RIO BLANCO Herald Times



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## Commissioners end Morlan's 17-year career as county road and bridge director in unanimous vote

By LUCAS TURNER  
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**RBC I** "All I can say right now is I'm going to do my best to make things right. Our county is too special a place to be ruined by bad decisions," said Dave Morlan during the Rio Blanco County Board of Commissioners regular meeting Tuesday.

In his public statement, Morlan responded to the board's unanimous decision not to reappoint him as the County Road and Bridge Director, a role he has held for 17 of the 35 years he has worked for the county.

"I believe my success has been because I've always listened to all sides of these issues, I've always had great open communication with the boards I've served, and I've made all of my decisions with the majority of Rio Blanco County constituents in mind," Morlan said.

He also lambasted commissioners Gary Moyer and Jeff Rector for decisions that he called "self-serving and destructive to some really good people" and "not in the best interest of our county." Morlan also accused Moyer and Rector of treating him with "total disrespect" over the last six months, related to an "employee matter" that he says should have been handled with the HR department. Morlan also said the two had lied to him about his future employment status.

"In recent meetings, they've assured me that I would be

allowed to serve my last year until I retired in December, and obviously that's another lie."

All three commissioners voted against Morlan's re-appointment.

"We were instructed by the county attorney not to talk about it, but I think that there's many contributing factors," said newly-elected Commissioner Ty Gates when asked if he wanted to comment on Morlan's statement.

Commissioner Jeff Rector confirmed that he had also been instructed not to comment on the matter "through legal advice."

Commissioner Gary Moyer responded to Morlan's statement, saying "I'm sorry you feel that way," before moving on to the commissioner updates. Moyer was unable to be reached for comment.

The Board of County Commissioners held a special meeting after press time Wednesday to approve advertising for a Road and Bridge Director, and appoint an interim.

Dave Morlan's full statement is as follows:

"I just need to make a couple points here about your decision not to re-appoint me. Rio Blanco County is my home, as we all know it is a special place. I've worked for Rio Blanco County for 35 years and I've proudly served as RBC's Road and Bridge Director for the past 17 years, and I do appreciate everyone I've been blessed to serve.

I believe my success has



Dave Morlan

been because I've always listened to all sides of these issues, I've always had great open communication

with the boards I've served, and I've made all of my decisions with the majority of Rio Blanco County Constituents in mind.

My team and I at Road and Bridge have accomplished some amazing things. Roads are safer and in better condition than most counties in Colorado.

We've all seen Rector and Moyer make decisions that have not been in the best interest of our county. Several decisions have been self-serving and destructive to some really good people.

Throughout the last six months, Rector and Moyer have treated me with total disrespect, and I've been shunned because of an employee matter that should have easily been handled by myself and HR.

In recent meetings, they've assured me that I would be allowed to serve my last year until I retired in December, and obviously that's another lie.

All I can say right now is I'm going to do my best to make things right. Our county is too special a place to be ruined by bad decisions."

## Community spread boosts case counts

By NIKI TURNER  
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**RBC I** With new case counts remaining high, Rio Blanco County recorded its 401st positive COVID-19 case on Monday, Jan. 25, with some of the highest active case counts since the spike in November. As of Monday, there were 42 active cases in Meeker and 34 in Rangely. Six residents were hospitalized in the last 14 days.

As of press time Wednesday, there had been 83 new cases reported in the last 14 days. For the most recent updates, visit <https://rbc.us/606/COVID-19-Updates>

The rollout of vaccines continues to be delayed by supply

shortages. Clinics are available to the following groups this week: health care workers with less direct contact with COVID-19 patients (e.g. home health, hospice, pharmacy, dental, etc.) and EMS; firefighters, police, COVID-19 response personnel, correctional workers and funeral workers; and people who are age 70 and older. For these groups, there will be a walk-in clinic at the Rangely LDS church from 3:30 p.m. or as long as doses are available on Thursday, Jan. 28. Monday, Feb. 1, there will be a drive-through vaccination clinic at the Rio Blanco County Fairgrounds from 3:30 p.m., again, limited by dose availability.

High risk individuals with mobility issues or conditions that limit their ability to stand in line

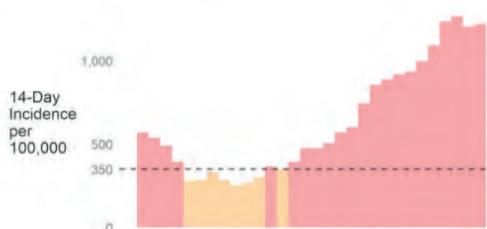
can email public health to find out about limited in-office appointments.

Booster-only (second dose) clinics will be held on Thursday, Feb. 4 at the Fairfield Center in Meeker from 2-6 p.m. and at the LDS Church in Rangely from 2-6 p.m. These clinics are only for booster doses. According to public health, boosters are not required to be given at exactly 28 days from the initial dose.

Testing is available for symptomatic individuals at both public health department offices Monday-Friday from 10-11 a.m. If you have a known exposure but no symptoms, you are advised to wait 5-7 days from your last known exposure or as soon as possible after developing symptoms.

### INCIDENCE

Rio Blanco county's two-week cumulative incidence rate from Jan. 11 through Jan. 24 is 1,220.9 per 100,000. 0 days out of the last 7 are below 350 per 100,000. (Fail)



Incidence excludes outbreak-associated cases among residents of congregate facilities (see "Two-Week Cumulative Incidence" from covid19.colorado.gov/covid-19-dial-dashboard).

### PERCENT POSITIVITY

Rio Blanco county's two-week positivity from Jan. 11 through Jan. 24 is 10%. 7 days out of the last 7 are 15% or lower. (Pass)



Positivity data only includes tests submitted to the state electronically (see "Two-Week Average Positivity" from covid19.colorado.gov/covid-19-dial-dashboard).

Case counts have risen in the last two weeks, driven by community spread. Percent positivity is holding around 10%.

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## Releasing the wolves

### CPW sticks to three-year timeline, for now

By CAITLIN WALKER  
[caitlin@ht1885.com](mailto:caitlin@ht1885.com)

**RBC I** The 11-member Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission hosted two days of virtual meetings Jan. 13 and 14, with approximately eight of 18 total hours allocated to discussing an adaptive management plan for wolf reintroduction.

The passage of Proposition 114 last November, also known as the Gray Wolf Reintroduction Initiative, paved the way for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to bring wolves to the state. Colorado's urban counties drove the measure through by 56,986 votes, 1.82% of the total votes cast.

In Rio Blanco County, 87.82% voters were against the measure.

### TIMELINE

After passage, CPW honed in on a three-year plan to meet a Dec. 31, 2023, due date to begin reintroduction. This deadline was laid out in the legislation.

Governor Jared Polis challenged the commission during the Jan. 13 meeting to "fulfill the effort ahead of schedule ... I think next year is that sweet spot." Polis referenced the federal delisting and the change in federal administration as reasons to speed the process along.

"I've talked to the governor of Wyoming. They're happy to send us some wolves when we're ready, I think other states are as well. So that's the law of Colorado, a clear directive from the voters. We're ready to do it."

Commission Chair Marvin McDaniel, a retired Xcel Energy employee, thanked the governor for his support of CPW and stated they were eager to tackle the topic as "the will of the people."

"We're not going to allow re-litigation of this topic," McDaniel stated. "At the same time, we need a thorough reintroduction and management plan so we know that the ultimate reintroduction will be very successful."

"They don't have the ability to re-litigate it. The voters have decided, but they could have constructive input and we want to make sure that voices are listened to," Polis replied. He outlined a desire for a draft plan by spring/summer of 2021, in-person and virtual listening sessions across the state in the fall, and implementation of the

plan in early 2022.

Development of wolf conservation and management plans in other states have taken three to five years.

Commissioner Carrie Hauser of Glenwood Springs asked for extra outreach efforts on the Western Slope. "I have said a number of times that we want to do this as a state and not to have this be done to the Western Slope and have this be a division of our state."

Hauser is the president and CEO of Colorado Mountain College.

Polis agreed to aim for "sufficient number and geographic diversity of listening sessions for input" but also said the state would want to hear from residents where wolves won't be taking up residence, including the eastern slope and the front range. The Western Slope is considered ideal wolf habitat. (See map below.)

### DELISTING AND RELISTING

The reintroduction could be complicated by the recent delisting of wolves as a federal Endangered Species, according to Lisa Reynolds, First Assistant Attorney General.

As of press time, six environmental groups have filed a lawsuit over the federal delisting of wolves, including Defenders of Wildlife, the Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club, National Parks Conservation Association, Oregon Wild and the Humane Society of the United States.

Reynolds cautioned that any litigation would be "incredibly extensive" and could take "potentially years." Right now, the CPW commission is the lead agency on wolf reintroduction. If environmental groups are successful in re-listing wolves federally, however, control of Colorado's wolf population will be taken away from state wildlife officials and returned to the federal government.

Wolves are still listed as endangered by the state of Colorado, meaning the take of wolves is prohibited except as permitted for scientific (zoological, educational or other scientific) purposes, or to protect human health or alleviate property damage.

According to Reynolds, those types of permits don't currently exist. "You have to

adopt a regulatory program that sets up a structure within which the Division can issue these permits," she told the Commission. "You're going to have to make it up as you go along."

The state listing could be lifted in theory, but it would leave CPW in uncharted legal waters. Generally, species listed as endangered by states are also listed under federal law, making this an unusual situation. "As soon as they are doing well enough in Colorado, it's up to the commission to decide whether or not they need to be taken off the list."

### POTENTIAL 10(J)

Another topic discussed by the Commission was a possible "pre-listing 10(j)" rule for wolves. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a 10(j) is a conservation tool used to designate the population of a listed species as "experimental" if it is released into a suitable natural habitat outside the species' current range. Under a "nonessential experimental" 10(j) designation, a different set of rules governs the take of the species and provides flexibility for management. 10(j) rules require formal federal rule-making and NEPA analysis, and are often subject to litigation. A "pre-listing" would be a new concept and would only take effect if gray wolves are relisted as a federally endangered species.

Commissioner Charles Garcia of Denver approved of the idea. "There is a huge concern about putting these wolves on the ground and then they're relisted. A very lengthy, serious 10(j) should almost be a prerequisite," he said.

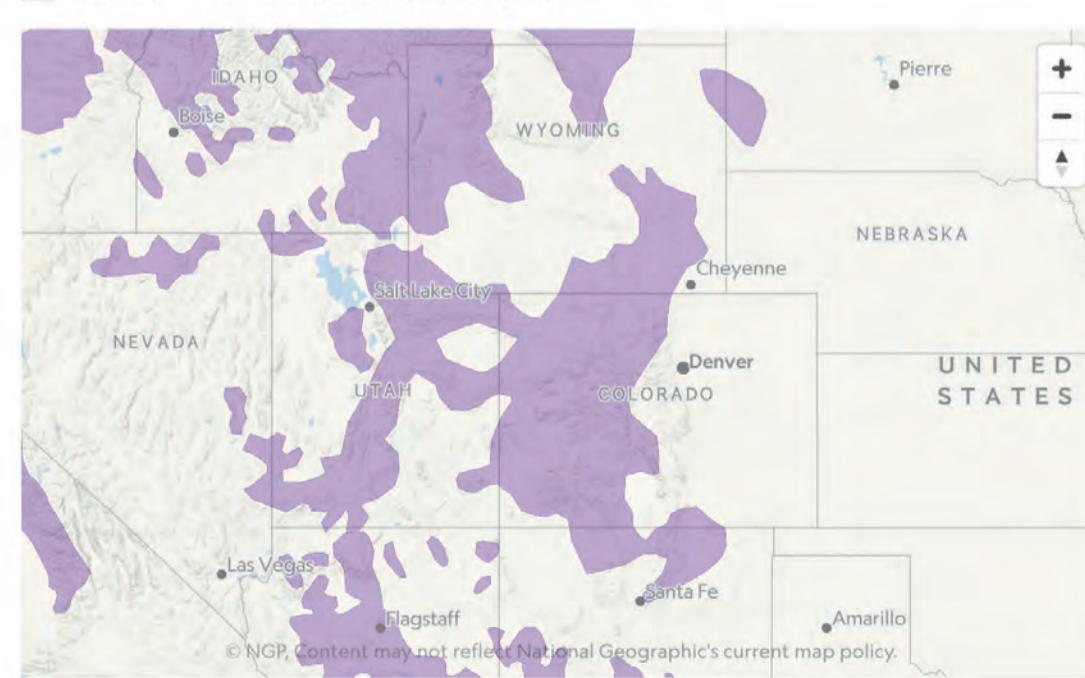
### PROP 114 REQUIREMENTS AND COST

Legal requirements imposed by Prop 114 include:

- holding statewide hearings
- developing a plan to restore and manage wolves that is designed to resolve conflicts with ranching and farming interests (without imposing restrictions on land, water or resource use on private land)
- submittal of a report to the general assembly that includes whether introduction will impair the existing use of private land
- steps to begin reintroduction

► See WOLVES, Page 8A

### Potential core wolf habitat (*Canis lupus*)



A map from the Center for Biological Diversity and Humane Society of the United States identifies the western slope as "potential core wolf habitat."

COURTESY PHOTO



Sat: 30s/10s



Sun: 30s/10s



WOLF MOON 100%

## on edge

By SUSAN GREENE

Colorado News Collaborative

## GRAND JUNCTION

It started about four years ago when Laurel Carpenter and Melissa Humphrey bought matching parkas and then matching comfort shoes.

Soon enough, the nurses-slash-best friends from Grand Junction found themselves with matching chihuahua-print leggings and matching hoodies with fleece-lined pockets in which they carry their matching chihuahuas.

Then came the matching housecoats they exchanged for Christmas last month – the softest they could find, and also the dowdiest.

"They're the zip-up kind, long and baggy for when we're grumpy and cold, and they are ugly and fuzzy and amazing," Carpenter swoons.

She, 38, and Humphrey, 37, have been facing the stresses of the pandemic and family challenges as mothers of school-age children, as nurses, as volunteers, as women overwhelmed at times by their own anxiety and panic attacks. The kitsch of their matching loungewear has become not only a way to bring some levity to an other-

wise heavy time, but also an expression of support when one or the other feels like crawling out of her skin.

In a year when nearly everyone's mental health has been shakier than usual, they feel especially grateful to have built a friendship that is also a safety net.

"We've become comrades in arms with all this scary sh-noboddy could understand but the two of us," Humphrey says. "This would have been so, so much harder without Laurel to go through it with."

The two met about a decade ago and grew closer after the 2017 death of a mutual friend whose children Carpenter has raised along with her two own. Each was already juggling their kids' schedules with a full-time bachelor's-in-nursing program – from which they both graduated last month – and full-time jobs, most recently providing in-home nursing care to former uranium workers.

COVID made things even harder. Both have been tutoring their kids when they've attended school digitally and are volunteering for a new nonprofit, Mutual Aid Partners, that serves unhoused, poor and elderly people hit by the pandemic in Grand

Junction.

They've been offering free nursing services in two motels where Mesa County is housing COVID-positive people who are also homeless. They check on guests' physical and mental health while delivering hot dinners and food for the next day's breakfast and lunch, reminding them it's not safe to leave their motel rooms. Though both have had doors slammed in their faces, they agree the mutual aid work beats waiting around for someone else to fix the world.

They share extra PPE when they can find it. They share updates about motel guests who've been hospitalized for COVID or disappeared to feed their addictions. They share concerns about the elderly patients at their day jobs whose lungs, compromised from years of uranium exposure, are especially vulnerable.

One of Carpenter's patients recently complained about her mask, yelling at her to "get that da-rag off your face." He died of COVID shortly after. Another patient had a surprise visit from relatives who refused to wear masks around him. And 10 months into the pandemic, one of their fellow nurses is still insisting that mask requirements



COURTESY PHOTO

**Lauren Carpenter and Melissa Humphrey work on a needlework project at Carpenter's home in Grand Junction. The pair of nurses and working mothers have found strength and comfort in friendship during the pandemic.**

are useless.

"We, as nurses, are accountable for protecting these fragile patients from danger. It's all on us to keep them safe, and it's freaking scary," Carpenter says. "When I'm having trouble handling it, Melissa offers a second reserve of emotional resilience to draw from."

With help from Carpenter's husband and Humphrey's partner, each family supports the other by offering to cook and care for her children while she is at work, volunteering or needs a few hours to herself – and her chihuahua. The two couples are in constant touch about which kid is behind on homework and which is bouncing off the walls.

Humphrey grew up with an anxiety disorder that leads to panic attacks, which have been extra severe this year. Carpenter doubted the panic attacks were that bad – until she recently started experiencing her own.

"It's horrifying and I'm sorry, so sorry I didn't recognize that," she tells Humphrey.

Because Carpenter's husband and Humphrey's partner do not struggle with anxiety, and because their homes feel especially cramped during the pandemic, the friends say there is little room to panic without freaking out their families. So they turn to each other to push through the attacks.

Humphrey grew anxious a few weeks ago when unable

to reach her partner, who had left his phone in the car while shopping. Her relief shifted to anger and back for a few hours until reaching out to Carpenter, who reminded her of a lesson she knew well from therapy: Others are not responsible for your anxiety.

Carpenter, for her part, says she has intense guilt on long nursing shifts away from her kids and anxiety that her teenage daughter may not admire her. Humphrey will occasionally prop her up by listing her strengths as a mom. Generally, though, she is careful not to try to fix her friend's feelings, but rather acknowledge them and say, "Yep, you're a stress case, that's just true."

"These are things our partners don't understand and... Melissa is part of the system that keeps me afloat – having a whole entire human being beside me who knows what I'm feeling in real time, and seamlessly hands me the tools or words I need to make it," Carpenter says.

"Sometimes, it just helps for one of us to look at the other and say, 'You're not going to die,'" Humphrey adds.

Sometimes it also helps to cry to the other, or to yell, if necessary, or, as is often the case, to cry, yell and laugh all in one conversation. And sometimes their mutual aid entails just sitting together, cross stitching in silence. They sewed their

latest joint creation earlier this month after the mob of insurgents stormed the U.S. Capitol. Humphrey stitched an "F," then two more letters for the one-word design, and Carpenter finished the piece with a "K."

The pair has been wondering lately if they're crazier than most people, or if they're just more open about it. Yes, they agree, to both questions.

They also wonder if and when a time will come when, as they both hope, their loads will be lighter, things will be easier and there's not so much to kick themselves for and worry about. Until then, they assure themselves that they have each other – and their new housecoats.

If you're struggling, help is available on Colorado's crisis hotline. Call 1-844-493-TALK(8255)

This story is part of a statewide reporting project from the Colorado News Collaborative called *On Edge*. This project is supported in part by the Rosalynn Carter Fellowship for Mental Health Reporting and a grant honoring the memory of the late Benjamin von Sternenfels Rosenthal. Our intent is to foster conversation about mental health in a state where stigma runs high.

Contact Susan Greene at [susan@colabnews.co](mailto:susan@colabnews.co)

## Pioneers Pulse

Thank you

We would like to thank Meeker High School students

Savannah Mendenhall & Ainsley Selle

for their kind hearts and generosity!

**Savannah & Ainsley raised funds to provide lunch for our staff, which they purchased from a local business.**

A heartfelt thank you to our Meeker Elementary students who created cards & sent their well wishes!



We truly appreciate you!

**HopeWest**

We are grateful for your generous donations honoring loved ones and friends.

It is only because of your support, we have been able to sustain the work of HopeWest during these challenging times.

## Expressions of Love &amp; Appreciation

Honoree Donations Given December 1 - 31

## Kris Borchard

Solveig Olson and Darold Nay

## Anne K. Ryan

Stephen and Cindy Balloga

## Thoughtful Tributes in Sympathy

Memorial Donations Given December 1 - 31

## Richard Barnes

Loretta McCoy

## Troy Lindquist

Christine and Gus Halandras

## Nettie F. Modlin

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## Connie M. Theos

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## Leslie and Jeanne McPherson

Renae and Paul Neilson



The Circle of Hope Society – HopeWest's monthly giving program – is an opportunity for you to support and sustain the future of HopeWest programs in your community. A monthly donation of any size adds up quickly and makes a significant impact.

Joining is easy! Visit [HopeWestCO.org](http://HopeWestCO.org).

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# NEWS BRIEFS

## Free legal clinic Weds., Feb. 10

**MEEKER** | The next free legal clinic for individuals without an attorney will be held Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021 from 2-5 p.m.—contact your local library at 970-878-5911 to be added to the sign-up sheet. As a COVID work-around, instead of clinic patrons coming to your local public library (which has limited access), your local library staff will schedule all appointments. It is especially important to provide a reliable phone number, so the volunteer attorney can call the clinic patron's telephone directly, during scheduled clinic hours.

## Stockgrowers annual banquet postponed

**RBC** | The Rio Blanco Stockgrowers' 2021 annual business meeting and banquet has been postponed due to COVID restrictions. The officers will reconsider later this spring. Please stay tuned.

## CNCC classes in Meeker and Rangely

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER

Earn your certification as an Emergency Medical Responder in a few short weekends. This class acts as a prerequisite to the Search and Rescue I and II. All classes will be held in person, in Rangely. Contact us for housing options. Class meets 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday Feb. 13 to Feb. 28 and costs \$520. Meeker residents 62 or older may qualify for 50 percent off. Learn more and sign-up by calling 970-824-1109 or by visiting <https://cncc.edu/community-programming-registration>

### HISTORY OF ETHICS

Enrich your personal and private life by learning how ethics impacts you daily. Join instructor Gregory LaPoint online from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Feb. 2 through March 11. The cost is \$126. Meeker residents 62 or older may qualify for 50 percent off. Learn more and sign-up by calling 970-824-1109 or by visiting <https://cncc.edu/community-programming-registration>

## CORRECTION

In the print edition and original online post titled "\$37K keeps Hopewest hopeful", we inadvertently omitted Dan Conrado as co-owner of Meeker Sand & Gravel with his sister, Katie Conrado. The HT regrets the oversight.

## Vitalant and CSP team up for virtual blood drive

### PRESS RELEASE

Special to the Herald Times

**MEEKER** | Donations of blood often see a sharp decline in the winter months and the COVID-19 epidemic has complicated things further, canceling many blood donation events across our state. But the need for donations is still there. That is why the Colorado State Patrol is teaming up with Vitalant to hold a virtual blood drive throughout February. But: how can you donate blood virtually?

It's simple. Sign up to receive an invitation by visiting: [https://learn.vitalant.org/LP=148?drive\\_code=DEN10347&division=MOUNTAIN%26region=DEN](https://learn.vitalant.org/LP=148?drive_code=DEN10347&division=MOUNTAIN%26region=DEN).

The best part, you get to pick the location and time that works best for you. Using the same email address, you can "schedule now" to book an appointment at any convenient blood donation location. Remember your photo ID and eat a healthy meal before donating.

By participating this way, the donation is recorded as part of this special Colorado State Patrol drive. Vitalant will test all successful donations for COVID-19 antibodies. A single donation has the ability to save up to three lives. On behalf of the Colorado State Patrol: we thank you for your willingness to help in this life-saving cause.

A single blood donation can save up to three lives!



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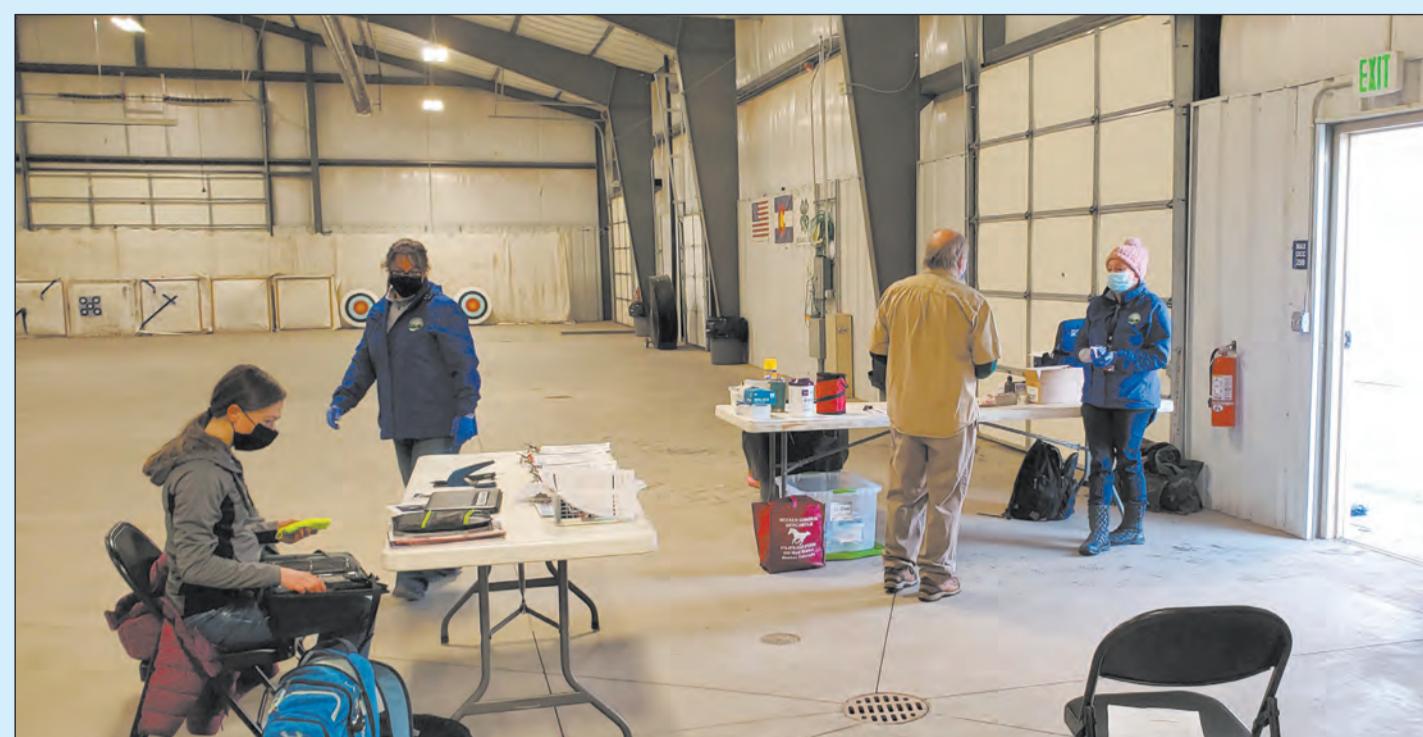
csc.edu/online

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## INOCULATIONS UNDERWAY ...



COURTESY PHOTO

Public health prepped for another vaccine clinic last week as part of their tireless effort to protect as many Rio Blanco County residents in tiers 1A and 1B as possible against COVID-19. Efforts have been complicated by state and national shortages of vaccines. More info on scheduled clinics in the ad on PAGE 4A.

## GROUNDHOG DEALS



15.5-16 oz. Food Club Picante Sauce or  
Salsa

\$1 39



32 oz. Food Club  
Block Cheese

\$6 99



4 qt. Food Club  
Ice Cream  
\$4 99

## GROCERY

10 oz. RoTel	DICED TOMATOES	99¢
14.5 oz. Hunt's	TOMATOES	99¢
15-16 oz. Hunt's	MANWICH SAUCE	99¢
15 oz. Hunt's	TOMATO SAUCE	99¢
18-19 oz. Progresso	SOUP	\$1 29
10-12 ct. Quaker Instant	OATMEAL	2 for \$6
12 oz. Food Club	HONEY MUSTARD	
	HORSERADISH MUSTARD OR	
	DIJON MUSTARD	4 for \$5
16 oz. Bush's	CANNED BEANS	5 for \$5
16 oz. La Victoria	SALSA	\$2 49
2.25-5.25 oz. David Sunflower Seeds or	PUMPKIN SEEDS	\$1 49
36-40 oz. All Laundry	LIQUID DETERGENT	\$3 49
19 ct. All 4 in 1	DUO PACKS	\$3 49

## DAIRY

1 lb. Tillamook	BUTTER	\$3 99
11.5 oz. Simply	JUICE	\$1 19
16 oz. Daisy	COTTAGE CHEESE	\$2 29
8 oz. Noosa	YOGURT	\$1 79

## MEAT

Boneless	RIBEYE STEAK	\$8 99 lb.
12 oz. Farmland	BACON	\$3 99
16 oz. Swaggerty's Mild	SAUSAGE ROLL	\$2 99

## FROZEN

19-32.7 oz. Crav'n Flavor	PIZZA	\$3 99
9.5 oz. Healthy Choice	FROZEN MEALS	2 for \$6

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## EDITOR'S COLUMN

## Bad apples, and what to do about them

By NIKI TURNER  
[editor@ht1885.com](mailto:editor@ht1885.com)

We've all heard the phrase, "one bad apple ruins the whole bunch." It's an old school idiom. (Like, really old school ... Shakespearean, maybe even earlier.) Benjamin Franklin's "Poor Richard's Almanack" (circa 1736) put it this way: "The rotten apple spoils his companion."

In these days when we buy a half dozen carefully selected apples out of a frequently refreshed produce bin, that idiom loses some meaning. Those of us who have bought our food in bulk to feed hungry households of teenagers have some modern insight. Among the fruits one can buy, apples have one of the longest storage times. Even the wrinkliest old apple can usually be turned into an apple pie or a cobbler or a batch of tasty apple-



sauce. That is unless there's a real bad apple in the bunch. Who hasn't sorted through a bag of apples only to find that one near the bottom has gone bad and turned all the surrounding apples into mushy blobs of goo?

The same is true of people. Examine any toxic workplace or relational situation and you'll probably find a bad apple in the mix.

Is there a cure for those bad apples? The Bible puts it this way in the Book of Proverbs: "Cast out the scoffer and contention will leave." (Prov 22:10)

## YOUR ANNUAL SUNSHINE LAW REMINDER

It seems like every year or two we have to remind everyone (elected officials and boards) that Colorado has a set of laws on the books euphemistically referred to as "Sunshine Laws." We have booklets available for anyone who is interested, or you can visit [tiny.cc/cosunshine](http://tiny.cc/cosunshine) for a PDF copy.

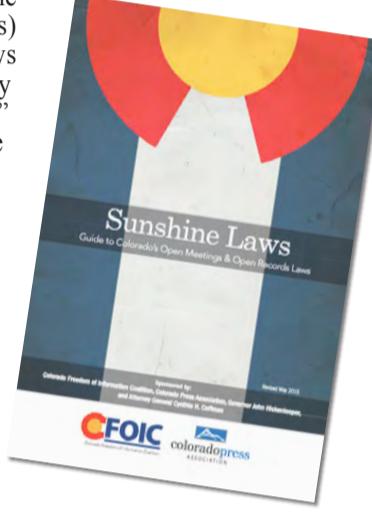
Sunshine Laws were established in Colorado in 1972 as the Colorado Open Meetings Law, to ensure that public business—meetings of boards that represent taxpayers, government communications, access to public records,

etc. — stays public. Sunshine Laws were enacted to get rid of so-called "Good Ol' Boy" politics and bring everything our elected officials are doing into the light, hence, "sunshine."

As with all things legal, there are as many interpretations of the laws as there are lawyers, but the general purpose and premise stands: public business should be conducted in such a way that the public isn't left scratching their heads about the decisions that are made.

**Read the guide to Colorado's Sunshine Laws at [tiny.cc/cosunshine](http://tiny.cc/cosunshine) or pick up a booklet at the HT office.**

You can also call 970-878-4017 if you'd like us to mail you a copy.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Colorado Wild Public Lands on Buffalo Horn

Dear Editor:

Do you or any community members have questions about the recently published decision by the BLM (see the Jan. 21 *Herald Times*) to approve a land exchange with Buffalo Horn Properties, LLC? It conveys 14 parcels of Federal lands aggregating 2,652 acres in Rio Blanco and Moffat Counties, to Buffalo Horn Properties, and in exchange acquires one parcel of non-Federal lands of 1,327 acres.

Colorado Wild Public Lands

(COWPL) is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve the integrity, size and quality of our public lands, with a focus on monitoring land exchanges between the federal government and private entities. COWPL works on land exchanges throughout Colorado. COWPL has been following the Buffalo Horn Land Exchange process, and submitted comments on the 2018 Environmental Assessment for the proposed Buffalo Horn land the exchange and on the land appraisals that were released later. At the heart of this proposal is whether the BLM is gaining hunting grounds that are equal in quality and access to those they are

trading away. This exchange would reduce the grazing rights of several local family ranches.

Following publication of the decision, the BLM provides 45 days to file a protest, see more about the exchange and the process at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/69551/510>. If you have any questions about the exchange or would like to learn more about Colorado Wild Public Lands, please contact COWPL at [coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com](mailto:coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com)

Yours sincerely,  
The Board of Directors  
Colorado Wild Public Lands  
[coloradowildpubliclands.org](http://coloradowildpubliclands.org)

## GUEST COLUMN

## Conservative Republican has a personal mission

By RON KEINE

Special to the Herald Times

**MEEKER** I am a lifelong conservative Republican whose faith in the criminal justice system was shattered by my near-death experience with it. I came within nine days of being sent to the gas chamber for a crime I did not commit.

You could say I'm living proof of why people should not trust their government with the death penalty.

My nightmare started in 1974 when three friends and I

were falsely accused of sexually mutilating and killing a student at the University of New Mexico. We were all sentenced to death in 1974.

The state had no proof -- no weapon, no forensic evidence -- just poorly run lie detector tests on all four of us and an alleged witness. Even when that witness later recanted, the judge refused to grant us a new trial.

It was only after the real killer confessed that we were exonerated, and that happened in the nick of time. My execution had been scheduled, and the

► See GOP, Page 5A

## RIO BLANCO COUNTY COVID UPDATE

## VACCINE CLINICS

Rio Blanco County has limited supply of vaccines. Community clinics are limited to Rio Blanco County residents\* in the following groups:

- Individuals 70 and older
- Frontline healthcare workers and emergency responders not already vaccinated

\*Proof of residency required may include utility bills, lease, photo id, pay stubs or similar documentation.

## Clinic Dates and Locations:

## Meeker Drive-Up Clinic:

Monday, Feb. 1, 4 to 6 p.m.

(Subject to cancellation; please check hotline or website Monday at noon for updates)

Meeker Fairgrounds

## Rangely Walk-in Clinic:

Thursday, Jan. 28, 3 to 5:30 p.m.

(duration based on dose availability)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

125 Eagle Crest St.

\*Limited scheduled in-office appointments will be available for high-risk individuals who have mobility issues or severe conditions that limit their ability to stand in line.

Please email Public Health for more information  
[publichealth@rbc.us](mailto:publichealth@rbc.us)

**TESTING:** In Rio Blanco County, testing with a 1-3 day turnaround is available at both Meeker and Rangely Public Health Mon. through Fri. from 10 to 11 a.m. Please do not call for an appointment.  
Vehicles will be served in order of arrival.

## BOOSTER CLINICS

## Booster Clinic Dates and Locations:

Thursday, Feb. 4, 2 to 6 p.m.

Meeker Fairfield Center & Rangely LDS Church

\*Boosters are NOT REQUIRED to be given at exactly 28 days. Boosters may be given after 28 days, but not before. If you received your first dose at an organization-specific clinic, public health is still planning to return for scheduled booster clinics (i.e. hospitals, Meeker Fire House, etc.).

## DATA &amp; UPDATES

## Rio Blanco County Alerts Hotline:

**970.878.7121**

## Community Vaccine Information:

[www.rbc.us/629/COVID-19-Vaccinations](http://www.rbc.us/629/COVID-19-Vaccinations)

## COVID-19 Data and Updates:

[www.rbc.us/606/COVID-19-Updates](http://www.rbc.us/606/COVID-19-Updates)

## RBC Department of Public Health

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/RioBlancoPublicHealth>



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GUEST COLUMN

# Returning to sports after COVID

By PIONEERS MEDICAL CENTER PROVIDERS  
Special to the Herald Times

**MEEKER** I *Scientia est potentia.*

A division I NCAA basketball player collapses suddenly, is rushed to the emergency room, and is admitted to the hospital in critical condition. Physicians diagnose heart failure and an abnormal heart rhythm - complications of viral myocarditis (viral infection of the heart muscle). The year is 2006, and 2 weeks prior to this event, the athlete recovered from a mild cold. Fast forward to December 2020 and watch a similar scenario unfold, only this time the athlete was diagnosed with COVID-19 several weeks before.

As we begin ramping back into athletics, a looming question remains...when is it safe for athletes to return after infection? In short, we (the medical community) do not yet know, and it may be years until we firmly grasp the situation. As information rolls in, expert opinions evolve rapidly. In April of 2020, some cardiologists and expert panels recommended that no athlete return to sport for a minimum of three months after infection, without exception. In October of 2020, an article published in the Journal of the American Medical Association: Cardiology (JAMA: Cardiology) recommended a more individualized approach to timelines, screenings, and return to play progressions. At the time of this writing, there are no established guidelines rooted in large studies to guide how organizations proceed. Consequently, there is a large diversity in approach to this risk.

For example, some NCAA conferences require a comprehensive cardiac evaluation for every athlete following a positive COVID test before returning to sport; and other NCAA conferences take a more individualized approach. Some cardiology opinion articles recommend a comprehensive work up for all athletes, and others recommend no work up unless the athlete had severe enough symptoms to require hospitalization. Some of these recommendations hedge closer to mitigating all risk regardless of the cost, others lean closer to no additional risk mitigation, and still others attempt to mitigate risk without the expense of unnecessary testing that can increase anxiety, unnecessarily lose playing time, and lead to more unnecessary testing.

After reviewing evidence and reviewing multiple sources of opinion, the providers at Pioneers Medical Center have decided to take the latter approach. To do so, we have chosen to follow the guidelines set forth by JAMA: Cardiology in October of 2020. Here is why. In the medical community, this is what we know so far. COVID can infect the heart muscle leading to myocarditis, and myocarditis is a cause of sudden cardiac death (SCD) in athletes.

Sudden cardiac death in

athletes is itself very rare, occurring in 1 out of 40,000 to 80,000 athletes per year. It also has multiple causes including heart structural abnormalities, heart conduction abnormalities, medication side effects, and others, aside from myocarditis. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HOCM) is the leading cause of SCD, and it is the primary reason physicians listen to your heart during pre-participation sports physicals.

Myocarditis is also very rare, occurring in 1 to 2 out of 100,000 children per year. Its symptoms range from asymptomatic to overt heart failure requiring hospitalization. Consequently, it is plausible for athletes to return to sport without knowing they have myocarditis. The most common causes of viral myocarditis are some of the same viruses leading to the stomach bug, the common cold, influenza, and infectious mononucleosis. Knowing this helps us put the rarity of myocarditis leading to SCD into perspective. The question is, will COVID significantly lift this from rarity to scary regularity? Time will tell, but so far, this is what sports cardiologists have to say:

■ "At present, the prevalence and clinical implications of COVID-19 cardiac pathology in athletes are unknown." -JAMA Cardiology (October 2020).

■ "Early experience within the sports cardiology community suggests that nearly all athletes, particularly those who have completely recovered from mild COVID-19 infection, do not develop clinically significant COVID-19 CV pathology." -JAMA Cardiology (October, 2020)

Subsequently, athletes who have recovered from asymptomatic or mild infection will be recommended to proceed through a multiple stage, individualized progression back into full unrestricted sports participation under either physician or certified athletic trainer supervision. Athletes who have recovered from moderate or severe illness, or who have known underlying heart problems, are recommended to undergo a more comprehensive medical clearance prior to starting the return to play progression.

More importantly, Pioneers Medical Center and the Meeker schools are working together to help mitigate as much risk as possible in effort to keep our athletes safe. Our plans include a screening process, updating and reviewing emergency action plans, and ensuring AED's are in working condition and accessible for all athletic activity, including both practices and competitive events. The PMC providers have also corroborated with the pediatric cardiologists at Children's Hospital in Denver, and we now have a streamlined process for obtaining answers for athletes requiring cardiac clearance. By combining screening, emergency action plans, AED availability, continually reviewing updated evidence, and maintaining streamlined access to needed

specialists, we can better move forward as a team, mitigating as much risk as possible.

Knowledge is power.  
#MeekerTeam  
#MeekerReviewed  
#MeekerFamily

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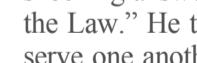
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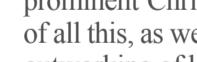
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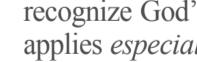
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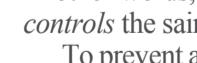
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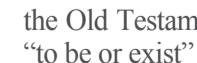
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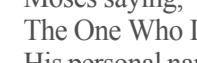
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# CNCC awarded RISE Education Grant

## PRESS RELEASE

Special to the Herald Times

**RBC I** Yesterday, Governor Polis announced the second round of Response, Innovation, and Student Equity (RISE) Fund awardees to innovate and transform public education. The RISE fund was created to support innovation in high-needs school districts, charter schools, and public institutions of higher education to address the learning challenges related to the economic, social, and health impacts of COVID-19 in a manner that creates sustainable innovations that improve student learning, close equity gaps, and enhance operational efficiency for pre-K-12 through higher education.

Among the recipients was a joint proposal from Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) and Colorado Mountain College (CMC) for \$2.9 million.

"Every Colorado student should have access to a quality education and these amazing ideas and innovative programs from improving early childhood education to increasing apprenticeship opportunities for high-schoolers will help improve our schools and build back stronger than before the pandemic," said Governor Jared Polis. "I've spent the majority of my life pushing for innovation and excellence in education and these focused investments will make a transformative positive impact on the lives of Colorado's kids and families today and for the future."

The \$2.9 million RISE grant is the largest grant awarded in this cycle and focuses on expanding concurrent enrollment offerings to the 10,500 high school students in the schools' combined service area.

"We are excited and grateful to the state of Colorado and the organizations that fund these grants," expressed Ron

Granger, President of Colorado Northwestern Community College. "This money will help dramatically strengthen and formalize connections with our high schools and our two colleges here in central and northwestern Colorado. We will be able to provide students more opportunities to earn college credit while in high school, accelerate their post-high school education, and save each family thousands of dollars in tuition cost."

For CNCC's portion of the grant, they will significantly rethink the student experience in higher education, and provide new student-focused models of learning in concurrent enrollment and higher education delivery.

The RISE funds will allow CNCC to upgrade and improve equipment at partner high schools," said Keith Peterson, Vice President of Instruction at Colorado Northwestern Community College. "These improvements along with a new mobile STEM lab will enable CNCC to offer a higher quality and broader range of college level classes to concurrent enrollment students in our local high schools."

Thanks to the generous support of funders, including the Gates Family Foundation and Gary Community Investments, almost half of the grantees received resources and strategic design support for the RISE award winners represent a wide range of eligible applicants, including small and mid-size school districts,

fund earlier this year. This planning and design support opportunity helped potential grantees conduct strong community engagement efforts and strategic design processes. This opportunity allowed the RISE fund to reach grantees from every geographic region in the state.

The central mountains and far northwest region of Colorado are incredibly beautiful and attract visitors from

across the globe," stated Dr. Carrie Benett Hauser, President & CEO of Colorado Mountain College. "These same communities are also particularly susceptible to economic downturns and natural disasters such as the devastating wildfires of this past summer," she added. "With funding from RISE, CMC is pleased to aid in the region's economic recovery

by partnering with Colorado Northwestern Community College, 17 school districts and 54 rural high schools to restore concurrent enrollment programs toppled by the pandemic, build the state's most extensive network of technology-enabled classrooms, and dramatically expand access to college courses for students in western Colorado."

RISE award winners represent a wide range of eligible applicants, including small and mid-size school districts,

BOCES, charter schools, and mid- and large-size public institutions of higher education.

The state has partnered with the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab, to conduct rigorous evaluations of the RISE grantees so the rest of the state and country can learn from what works. The goal of this process is to ensure that school districts, schools, institutions of higher education, can learn from the best practices developed through these innovative projects.

As with the previous awards, all of the recipients were chosen by a group of parents, students, and education leaders.

The second-round recipients of the RISE Fund are poised to deliver the promise and innovation our students and communities need now more than ever," said Mike Johnston, chair of the RISE grant selection committee and CEO of Gary Community Investments. "These local leaders have developed innovative approaches to address the deep educational inequalities that have been exacerbated by COVID. As we start to build our way out of the pandemic, their ingenuity, backed with critical state resources, will pioneer a set of solutions to ensure Colorado emerges on better education footing than before this crisis started."

\*Due to additional resources for GEER from the federal government, grant amounts are subject to additional negotiation with the Governor's office with an updated end date of September 2023.

RISE Committee members include Mike Johnston, Dr. Tara Raines, Josh Scott, David Oguin, Maurice Robinson, Marty Guitierrez, Elizabeth Thompson-Barrett, Ernest House, Nina Lopez, Pat Chlouber, Dan Baer, Kelly Litterman, Jill Anschutz, Jeff Durbin, and Allie Kimmel.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Rangely Rural Fire Protection District donated a Hydro-Tek pressure washer to the town's public works department.

## Natural gas usage up over 2019 and 10-year average in Rangely

By LUCAS TURNER

lucas@ht1885.com

**RANGELY I** Town of Rangely trustees held a brief but informative meeting Tuesday, starting with an update from gas department supervisor Kelli Neiberger, who reported that natural gas usage in 2020 had increased from 2019 and when compared to the 10-year average.

Neiberger said new meter reading software was implemented last year because the department was able to get it for free. She said they plan to install \$22,000 worth of new meter reading equipment this year, because old equipment will become obsolete.

Town Manager Lisa Piering shared updates with the town board including information about MindSprings Zoom meetings for law enforcement officers to get mental health support, and a letter from Associated Northwest Governments of Colorado advocating to keep the Bureau of Land Management headquarters in Grand Junction.

Piering also informed trustees about a sewer line collapse at White River Village in one of the apartments. She said there was concern that might lead to other lines collapsing. According to Piering, the apartments were built on slabs back in the 1980s, which she called "really silly." She stated that the utilities department would be taking a look at the situation to determine a course of action if more problems arise.

"We may have to start kind of picking and choosing when someone's not in an apartment and see if we can get that replaced because I think there's movement under there, we're kind of worried about the sewer lines having other issues," said Piering.

Trustees approved the December 2020 financial state-

ment after getting a rundown from Piering. She said all departments came in under budget expense-wise in 2020, but the general fund reserves will still be reduced, mainly due to decreases in revenues.

"The largest part of that was our federal mineral lease and severance, and everybody in the state was hit pretty hard with that," said Piering.

The revenue shortfall in the general fund will reduce reserves by \$406,691, leaving approximately \$8.1 million in reserves.

Piering thanked the Rangely Rural Fire protection district for donating a Hydro-Tek pressure washer to the town's public works department.

The town's planning and zoning board is seeking to fill a vacancy for 2021. Piering said the board, which doesn't meet often, would likely have a meeting soon, due to some recent zoning change requests from residents.

Trustee Rich Garner volunteered to serve on the 911 board, with Trustee Alisa Granger designated as the alternate.

Piering said she would attend an upcoming water users association meeting that would cover first steps for the Wolf Creek Reservoir and drought management. Expecting drought this year, Piering stated "when we get down to lower water we can always do water restrictions but we still have to drink, so I think the water storage is huge, but they need to also let us be part of that plan about how we manage our drought."

The town has renamed part of Jones Avenue in front of the high school to "Panther Way," they're planning to do a dedication of the street at some point in the future.

## White River Alliance sets planning goals for 2021

Special to the Herald Times

**RBC I** Members of the local White River Alliance met this past Wednesday to chart the course of their work for the coming year. The board was re-elected by unanimous consent with area fishing and hunting outfitter Shawn Welder taking the helm again as president.

The group will continue their focus on educating and shar-

ing information to area ranchers and landowners about some of the possible contributors to the algae bloom, reach out to towns of Meeker and Rangely and the County to encourage a healthier and more effective approach to summer mosquito control and continue to educate the community — and take action — to reduce the expansion of exotic thirsty invasive plants like Russian olive and Tamarisk.

Board director Luke Trout has been researching Ute place names in the White River Valley. When John Wesley Powell wintered in what later became known as Powell Park in 1868 with the Tabeguache band of the Utes, he documented that the White River got its name from the Ute language, "A-vwim'-pa." His research is ongoing.

The group is seeking to line up regular speakers during the year,

and the first scheduled speaker for 2021 is Professor Nathan Perry of Mesa University whose specialty is population growth in Colorado and economic development. He is scheduled to speak Monday, Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. via a Zoom link which will be advertised in the *Rio Blanco Herald Times*.

To join the White River Alliance, visit [whiteriveralliance.net](http://whiteriveralliance.net)

Membership is \$25.



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# COUNTY BEAT



By LUCAS TURNER  
[lucas@ht1885.com](mailto:lucas@ht1885.com)

**RBC I** Commissioners held work sessions and had a regular meeting Tuesday, Jan. 26. Here's what happened.

## COUNTY ROAD 8 FIBER

County commissioners met with representatives of Cimarron Communications, Visionary Broadband and White River Electric Association during Tuesday's work session to discuss a special fiber project on County Road 8.

According to local service providers, a resident on CR8 has inquired about getting fiber service to their property. Since the location is too far upriver to connect to existing county-owned fiber, the resident is seeking an agreement with WREA, who owns private fiber in the area.

The resident would install their own private fiber to connect to WREA's upriver, which would

then interface with county broadband infrastructure at a point closer to town. Keeping consistent with existing fiber service in RBC, neither the county nor WREA would act as the service provider to the resident and the responsibility would fall on one of the local private service providers.

Tuesday's discussions mostly revolved around which entity would act as the point of contact for the resident in the event of an internet outage.

The county, WREA and local ISPs plan to hash out the specific details of such an arrangement at a future date.

## COMMUNITY COUNTS

The board heard from Nita Smith, who shared an update on Community Counts Colorado 2020 activities. Smith noted efforts to keep operators and officials on the same page during the Pine Gulch fire and thanked the board for their continued support in 2021. The board commended Smith's efforts, and commissioner Moyer

## Commissioners discuss County Road 8 fiber project, approve some appointments

described it as a "vital service." Commissioner Ty Gates also commented on the value of CCC's efforts in emergency management especially relating to fires.

## APPOINTMENTS

Commissioners approved the RBC Fair Board amended bylaws, and tabled an appointment of fair board members until more interest could be drummed up for the positions. Other appointments included Dorothy Chappell and Commissioner Jeff Rector for the Services Block Grant Advisory Committee, Commissioner Gary Moyer as the board's representative to the Yampa White Green River Basin Roundtable, Tod Gould to the Fairgrounds Board, Clint Chappell to the Planning Commission, and others to the Council on Aging and Rangely Library Boards.

The board of commissioners approved 2021 appointments for Todd Starr as County Attorney and Janae Stanworth as Budget and Finance

Director. They voted unanimously against the reappointment of Dave Morlan as Road and Bridge Director (see story on PAGE 1A) and chose to table the appointment of Barbara Bofinger as Director of Human Services. They also approved wage increases for employees Mark Litzelman and Boyd Richardson.

## MOUS, CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

The board approved a contract not to exceed \$20,500 with Visual Lease Services, Inc. for oil and gas property evaluation services and an agreement with Value West, Inc. not to exceed \$24,720 for commercial reappraisal services. They then approved an agreement for services with Lance Coulter to provide independent contractor services as the Rio Blanco County Meeker Airport Manager, in an amount not to exceed \$36,000 per year.



Members of the It's Showtime 4-H club met Jan. 12 with 47 enrolled.

## It's Showtime livestock report

By MONTEY FRANKLIN  
*Special to the Herald Times*

**RBC I** The first meeting of the It's Showtime 4-H Community Club was called to order by outgoing president Marryn Shults at 6 p.m. on Jan. 12. All the members gave a big welcome to the new leaders of the club: Jamie Rogers, Brittney Chintala and Trina Kennedy. There are currently 47 members enrolled in the club with the possibility of gaining more before enrollment closes on Feb. 1.

Marryn Shults did a great job of leading the meeting, starting off with a fun icebreaker where attendees divided into different groups based on what type of projects they are doing this year. This was followed by a discussion of old business and the treasurer's report. The older members were asked to be leaders of groups to come up with a list of essential details to include in demonstrations.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Montey Franklin is the current reporter for the It's Showtime 4-H Community Club.

adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Montey Franklin, club reporter.

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## It's a Way of Life Community Club report

By SAMUEL MERZ  
*Special to the Herald Times*

**RBC I** It's a Way of Life Community Club met Jan. 19, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. Old business discussed was 4-H enrollment ending Feb. 1 for returning members and also leaders handed out 4-H Achievement Night awards.

For the club's new business we had officer elections. The results are as follows: President Sierra Gomez, Vice President Neveah LeBlanc, Secretary Hayden Garcia, Treasurer Sophia Moody, Reporter Samuel Merz, Historian Joslin Spieth, Pledge Leader Jayda Gould. For recreation: All officers will rotate planning an activity every month.

Council representatives will be voted on at the February meeting. The club then had each member sign up for a demonstration month. The club voted that the February activity was going to be a bird suet feeder. Members voted that we can spend up to \$50 on the supplies and Sierra Gomez, president, is going to plan the activity. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Members of the It's a Way of Life Community Club met in January. Back row: Hayden Garcia, Neveah LeBlanc, Sierra Gomez. Front row: Samuel Merz, Joslin Spieth, Jayda Gould.



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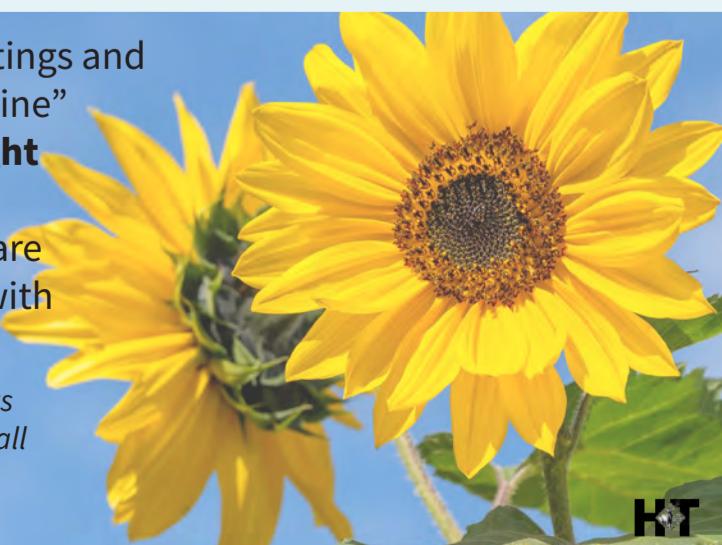
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HT

## OBITUARIES

## Phyllis Jean (Evans) Fairchild

April 16, 1931 ~ Jan. 15, 2021



Phyllis Fairchild

Phyllis Jean (Evans) Fairchild's journey began on April 16, 1931 in Lyons, Kansas.

Phyllis grew up with two older sisters, Lois and Betty that preceded her in death and her younger sister Rose that still lives in Kansas.

She met the love of her life, Bob Fairchild, in Lyons, Kansas, on a blind date and two years later married him on Sept. 17, 1947. Their

love was that of a fairytale and they were married for an amazing 70 years before Bob passed away in 2018. They had three sons together: Rob born in 1951, Randy in 1954 who passed away at birth, and Bryan in 1956 who passed away in 2008. In 1959 destiny brought them from Great Bend, Kansas, to Rangely, Colorado, where they would spend their happily ever after, and it was exactly that. During that time their family grew, Rob married Brenda Halcomb and Bryan married Alisa Warren. She had five grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

She found her true identity working at The Bronco (the college snack bar), she was no

longer just a wife and mom, but her own person doing something that she loved. Rangely and the people that live in it have always held a special place in her heart, if there was a heaven on Earth to her it was Rangely.

Phyllis was called home to be with God and all those that have gone before her on Jan. 15, 2021. She was laid to rest with Bob on Jan. 20, 2021, in the Rangely Cemetery. Her life was a blessing, her memory a treasure. She is loved beyond words, and missed beyond measure. She had a beautiful heart, a cheerful soul, and as she always said in parting: "Make it a GREAT day, it's a gift from God."

## Emory Vanoy 'Sam' Mobley

Aug. 26, 1928 ~ Jan. 17, 2021



use a rifle at a very early age. Hunting was an integral part of dad's entire life. Sam was an excellent marksman, once winning

second place in the military marksman competition. Sam's love of hunting and guns spanned his entire life. He had a large collection of guns and books. He was a member of the Eagle Rock Muzzle Loaders in the '70s and taught himself to build both flintlock and cap and ball muzzle loaders, gifting some to family, with hand tooled metal engraving. We remember with fondness how dad would say that when he "goes," it would be to the Happy Hunting Grounds for that 40-inch buck.

Sam's love of the great outdoors included a love of fishing. During those years he gifted many incredible fishing trips to Alaska, and other places like the Bahamas to catch bonefish, to his family. He built a great many fly rods and embellished them himself with ornamental fly tying patterns.

Sam and Eleonore both had a love of history and there were few historical events in Idaho and Colorado that Sam had not learned about. Dad loved anything to do with forts and early settlements, mines, mountain men, guns, swords and battles of Idaho and Colorado, and the world. Every summer vacation we took camping trips, including some centered on Idaho's incredibly rich history. A few years even included going to old mining towns and searching for bottles and relics. Sam had a small antique bottle collection along with the guns, books, tools, and matchbooks.

Sam was a member of the Taylor Mountain ski patrol in the 1960s and took his kids to all the great ski areas in Idaho, including local ski areas: Taylor Mountain, Bear Gulch, Pine Basin, and Kelly Canyon.

Sam was an active participant in the Boy Scouts Troop 380 in the '70s. His son Keith was an Eagle Scout and they both went on several "50 miler" hikes. Lifelong friends and true adventures were made.

Sam learned to play bridge from his father-in-law who taught them both early on in their marriage. Our folks played bridge with people they enjoyed for over 50 years.

Sam had a flair for the lavish at times. He and his wife Eleonore bought a classic car, a 1966 Delta 88 Oldsmobile convertible, and once drove it to Colorado, for a family get-together. They enjoyed that Ruby red beauty for years.

Both Sam and Eleonore loved traveling to interesting

and even exotic places in the world including Scotland, Aleutian Islands, Yukon Territory, Africa, Canada, all over the western United States, Switzerland, New Zealand, Panama Canal, Marshall Islands, Midway Island, Aruba, North slope of Alaska, England. Often the trips were a combination of both hunting trips and seeing the sights. The place they did visit the most, more than 20 times, was Alaska, where their son lived. Halibut and salmon fishing, moose and caribou hunts, bird and animal sightings, were always thoroughly enjoyed. Once Sam even did a float trip down the Mulchatna river in Alaska in 1996, on a caribou hunt.

In Sam's mid and later life, he bought some acreage just outside Rigby, Idaho. He farmed this acreage, planted a great many fruit and pine trees and fondly named it "The Skunk Ranch." He and mom would go up and care for the trees, have a cup or two of coffee and enjoy the place.

Perhaps now is the time to mention our dad's love of coffee. To him, enjoying a cup of coffee with family or friend, was a trademark characteristic, one he kept faithfully his entire adult life. To our delight as kids, after a great cup of coffee, he would chortle out "smoooooth and delicious!" Our dad loved our mother's cooking and he especially liked a homemade pie.

Of all the things our father did and all the places he ever went, none could hold a candle to Sam's love of family gatherings around a Dutch oven feast hosted by his nephew Terry Mobley in Meeker, Colorado. To him, a good time nearly always included a "big feed," coffee and his family.

Sam is survived by his son, Keith (Beth) Mobley; daughters, Willow Arlenea and Marsha (James Marshall) Mobley; two grandchildren, Forrest Jack (Geena) Mobley, and Samantha (Brian Helms) Mobley; and two great-grandchildren Maximillian and Jane Helms.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers John, Charles (Zandy) and Jasper (Mick) Mobley.

Sam has been laid to rest beside his wife, in the Highland Cemetery in Meeker, Colorado.

The care and kindness provided by the Life Care staff, who knew Sam for over four years, is deeply appreciated and our heartfelt thanks go out to each person that made our father's last years as good as possible. Sam's wit and spectacular way of putting words, or thoughts together, the way he would tell a story, before and after his stroke, endeared him forever to more than a few people.

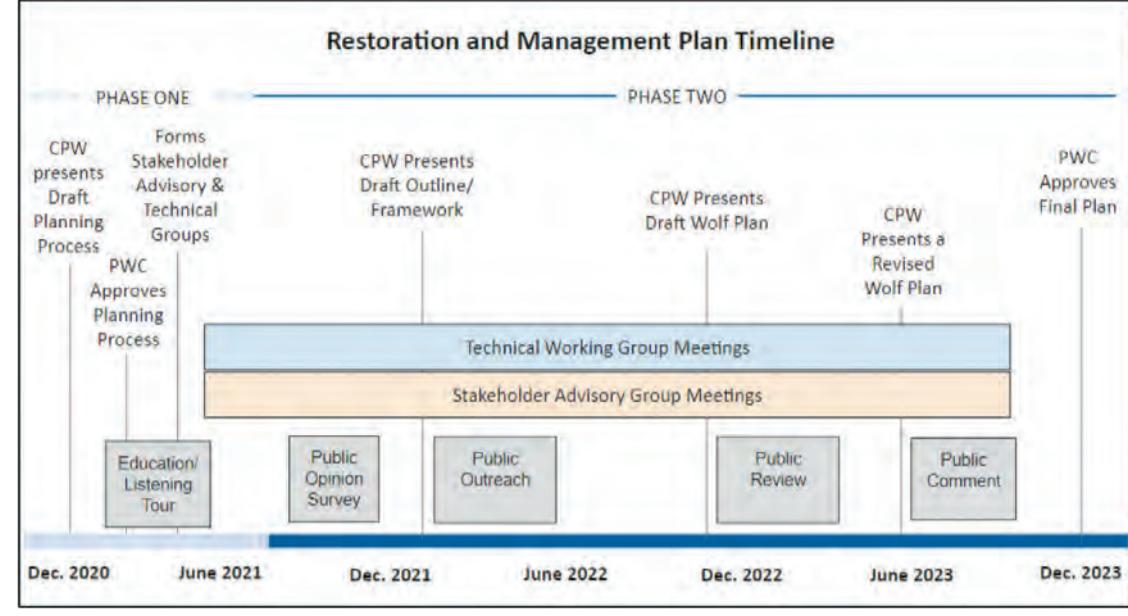
Condolences may be sent to the family online at [www.woodfuneralhome.com](http://www.woodfuneralhome.com)

## OBITUARY POLICY

The Rio Blanco Herald Times chooses not to charge a publication fee for obituaries or death notices with a local connection to the county. It is our opinion that publishing obituaries is a matter of public record and part of our responsibility as a newspaper to maintain a living record of our local history. If you need to submit an obituary or death notice, please stop by the office or email [editor@ht1885.com](mailto:editor@ht1885.com)

## WOLVES: two phases, three years to plan

Figure 1. Proposed timeline for the development of the Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan.



COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE PHOTO

The timeline for wolf reintroduction sets a target date of Dec. 31, 2023, to begin to "get wolves on the ground" in Colorado. Over the next three years, CPW will host a variety of meetings to create a restoration and management plan with both a technical working group and stakeholder advisory group, as well as conduct public opinion surveys and outreach efforts statewide. The three-year timeline is flexible and may be sped up or slowed down by the 11-member CPW commission at their discretion.

► Continued from Page 1A

tion of wolves by Dec. 31, 2023

■ overseeing wolf restoration and management

The final requirement includes specific language about obtaining periodic public input to update the plan as well as distributing state funds to address wolf-livestock conflicts. Just where those funds will come from is still speculative.

As far as immediate costs, Prop 114 increases state funding by approximately \$300,000 for the 2021-22 budget and \$500,000 for the 2022-23 budget. Spending then increases to about \$800,000 a year for the implementation of the reintroduction plan. "Costs will be paid primarily from hunting and fishing license fees or appropriations made by the state legislature," the proposition's fiscal impact statement reads, adding that actual costs will depend on finalized plan details and the amount of livestock losses caused by wolves.

## ABOUT WOLVES

After Reynold's legal discussion, Eric Odell, Species Conservation Program Manager, presented facts about wolves to the commission. Discussion included the elimination of wolves from the landscape in the 1940s, expected effect of wolves on chronic wasting disease (neutral, according to Odell), the specific subspecies of wolf to be introduced, concerns about intermingling with the Mexican wolf population and depredation.

Commissioner Marie Haskett of Meeker, owner and operator of JML Outfitters and Horse Crazy camp for kids, asked Odell about lower reproductive rates in elk herds where wolves are present, but Odell could not give specifics. "What we hear from the Northern Rockies states is they maintain robust game populations and there are also expected to be direct and indirect impacts," he said.

Commissioner Jay Tuchton of Hasty (Bent County) asked if wolves kill recreationally. Odell stated he did not have experience in the matter, but that he thought it was less likely with ungulate populations and more likely with livestock. Odell mentioned looking for wolves that have not been widely exposed to livestock. "We don't want to start off with a problem."

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Mike Quartuch, CPW's Human Dimensions/Specialist Researcher, gave a presentation to help guide the stakeholder engagement process.

Haskett stated, "There are 64 counties, with only 13 voting for this issue and all of those metropolitan. We need to proceed carefully and not divide rural and urban Colorado. Colorado has over 50% private land and wildlife rely on that. Stakeholders need to be heard and we need to work many in-person meetings to do this."

A CPW press release outlines plans for public meetings to be held across the state to collect public input, as well as formation of a Technical

Working Group (TWG) and a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG). According to the press release, the TWG will propose objectives and strategies for CPW to incorporate into their draft plan, as well as develop details of damage prevention and compensation.

CPW Director Dan Prenzlow, in consultation with the Commission, will approve members of both the TWG and SAG.

Member representation on the TWG may include:

- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
- USDA U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA)
- Tribal representation
- Other state or federal agency representation as deemed appropriate
- Parks and Wildlife Commissioner; as ex-officio/non-voting

The SAG will consist of a "diverse and inclusive membership that is balanced between interest areas" and will make contributions for consideration to the TWG.

The SAG group will consist of:

- Stakeholders representing wolf advocacy groups
- Livestock producers
- Representatives of local/county government
- Members at-large/representatives of general citizens
- Representatives of environmental interests
- Sportspersons
- Academic institutions/Cooperative Extension

Ex-officio/non-voting members on the SAG committee may also include CPW commissioner(s), the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources or a designee, the director of CPW or a designee, and the commissioner of agriculture or a designee.

Decisions will ultimately be made by the CPW commission. Contact information and meeting schedules are available at <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/Commission.aspx>

To participate in the Stakeholder Advisory Group, check CPW's Wolf Management Page (<https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/CON-Wolf-Management.aspx>) or CPW's social media feeds for further information.

## PROPOSED PROCESS

Reid Dewalt, Assistant Director, outlined the proposed process, which includes hiring an external facilitator to manage stakeholder and technical advisory groups, statewide hearings and public comment opportunities. Hauser asked who would pay for the facilitator, and CPW Director Dan Prenzlow stated the cost could fall onto CPW if no alternative funding source could be found. "The big elephant in the room is who is paying for all of this," Hauser

said. "I think the costs related to this are going to be greater than anybody anticipated."

The process consists of a two-phase, three-year timeline (see above graphic).

Commissioner Taishya Adams of Boulder requested that language around specific years be changed to something more flexible.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

The amount of public comment received was "overwhelming" according to comments by several commissioners, and 31 people signed up for two minutes each to provide oral comments.

Rio Blanco County Commissioner Gary Moyer advocated for a full NEPA process and urged the CPW commission to "do the right thing."

"I think it's naive to think that the introduction of an apex predator is not going to affect federal lands and I really strongly encourage you to do the right thing and that includes having the federal government go through the NEPA process. This is a very serious issue and this affects the livelihood of our citizens."

White River Conservation District Manager Callie Hendrickson urged the commission to hold in-person sessions in communities most affected, and to use the opportunity to improve trust and reduce division in the state by following a well thought out and specific plan instead of rushing through the process.

Other local speakers included area rancher and outfitter Lenny Klingsmith and Elk Creek Ranch outfitter Colton Brown, Moffat County commissioner Donald Broom and Garfield County Commissioner John Martin.

After public comments, the Commission ultimately decided to stick with the proposed three-year timeline by a vote of 10-1, with Commissioner Adams voting no after her request for more flexible verbiage was not agreed to.

The potential for a faster or slower timeline remains as the plan evolves. "It is within the purview of the Commission to either speed up or slow down the planning process," a CPW press release reads.

Virtual meetings will be held from February to May 2021 "to share information with the public and stakeholders and to provide opportunities for public input." Also watch for opportunities to comment in the summer of 2022 and 2023 as draft plans are released.

The full proposed blueprint for public involvement can be viewed at [https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Commission/January/Item\\_29-3\\_Year\\_Memo\\_1-7-2020.pdf](https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Commission/January/Item_29-3_Year_Memo_1-7-2020.pdf)

Full videos of the meetings are available on the CPW YouTube channel. Watch the Jan. 13 meeting at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKTUrazgi-Y0&t=24025s>

Watch the Jan. 14 meeting at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKTUrazgi-Y0&t=24025s>

# SPORTS & REC

1B

RIO BLANCO HERALD TIMES | Thursday, January 28, 2021



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## SCHEDULES

### MEEKER

■ 1/29  
Basketball at home vs Rangely JV 4P, GV 6P, BV 8P  
Wrestling at Rifle vs Rifle, Delta, Eagle Valley 6P

■ 1/30  
Wrestling at Paonia vs Paonia, Mancos, Coal Ridge, 1P  
Basketball at home vs Cedaredge JV 1P, GV 3P

**STATE-MANDATED RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT. YOU MUST HAVE A TICKET TO ATTEND EVENTS IN PERSON.**

## SENIORS ...



Panther seniors Dixie Rhea and Maya Mercado are geared up for the beginning of basketball season this weekend.

MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO

## Rangely basketball compliance rules

Special to the Herald Times

**RANGELY I** Rangely High School Basketball games begin this weekend. To maintain compliance with State mandated spectator restriction of 50 under level "Orange," Rangely School District is enacting the following measures:

■ Capacity restrictions only allow for the immediate family of participants to attend in person.

■ Spectators must have a ticket issued by the Rangely School District to attend games in person.

■ Students who participate in activities will be given tickets to share with their parents.

■ Unique tickets will be issued for each contest (i.e., JV Boys, Varsity Girls, etc...).

■ The gym(s) will be cleared between games for cleaning, and spectators will be readmitted for subsequent contests. CDPHE requires a minimum of 30 minutes of empty gym time between games to air the facility out.

Rangely High School will be broadcasting games on YouTube with links shared via our Facebook page.

The Colorado Mask mandate is in effect. All spectators must be masked, and social distancing between spectators should be greater than 6'.

**WATCH GAMES LIVE ON RANGELY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S YOUTUBE PAGE (LINKS WILL ALSO BE SHARED ON RSD'S FACEBOOK PAGE.)**

## Cowboy basketball gets underway with first game this week

### Meeker High School b-ball requirements

Meeker High School Basketball games begin this weekend. In order to maintain compliance with capacity restrictions, the Meeker School District is enacting the following measures:

■ Capacity restrictions only allow for parents of participants to attend in person.

■ Spectators must have a ticket issued by the Meeker School District to attend games in person.

■ Students who participate in activities will be given tickets to share with their parents.

■ Unique tickets will be issued for each individual contest (i.e. JV Boys, Varsity Girls, etc...).

■ The gym(s) will be cleared between games for cleaning, and spectators will be readmitted for subsequent contests.

Meeker High School will be broadcasting games on the NFHS network. A schedule of MHS events can be found at the following link: <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/schools/meeker-high-school-meeker-co>

By TIFFANY JEHOREK  
Special to the Herald Times

**MEEKER I** Cowboy basketball is finally in full swing. The winter sports seasons were delayed from the beginning of the school year, delayed again, and finally the first official practices were set for Jan. 18, but both teams were unable to make it to the court that week. The boys, delayed by COVID-19 quarantine, took to the court Saturday, five days after the beginning of the season, only the girls had a full week of practice.

Monday found both gyms full of ballers ready to play. This year the boys have 22 members on the team.

"We are ready to play," said head coach Klark Kindler, "It is nice to finally get the boys on the court."

Kindler's coaching staff, for the second year, are assistants Greg Cravens and Dylan

Mobley.

Returning seniors are Braden Garcia, Ryan Phelan, Spud White, Junior Gaeta and Ethan Drake.

There will be 14 regular season games, which is down from a normal of 19, and in order for a player to be able to play in a game they must have participated in three official practices. The first games of the year will be Friday, where our local county rival, the Rangely Panthers, come to Meeker. JV will begin at 4 p.m. and boys varsity at 6 pm. So any player that can return to the court by Tuesday, should be able to play.

Saturday's games will also be at home against Cedaredge, JV at 1 p.m., and boys' varsity at 5 p.m.

Girls varsity, which began its second week of practices Jan. 25, has 17 members this year.

"We are down a few players this year from our normal

numbers, with no seniors on the team that is expected," said head coach Jamie Rogers. "The girls are ready to be back on the court and we are looking forward to the season."

Rogers is once again joined by Ivy Coryell and Marki Grant as assistant coaches.

The games this weekend will begin on Friday at 4 p.m. for JV and girls' varsity will be at 6 p.m. against the Panthers. Saturday they take on the Bruins, with JV at 1 p.m. and girls' varsity at 3 p.m.

There will be no fans admitted into any basketball game without a ticket. The Colorado Department of Public Health Environment has issued capacity restrictions for spectators which for counties in orange is 50 people, yellow is 100, and blue 175; no fans allowed in red or purple tiers.

Each player will get two tickets to share with family and they are game specific. JV play-

ers will only have tickets for JV and varsity only for varsity. Only 50 spectators are allowed into the gym at this time as Rio Blanco County is at the orange level.

"If you do not have a ticket you will not be allowed into the gym," said Kindler.

After each game the gym will be cleared and the spectators holding tickets for the next game will be allowed to enter.

Spectator expectations as outlined in the Winter Activity Spectator Guidelines from the Meeker School District:

■ Wear a face mask at all times

■ Sit only with those in your personal family or cohort

■ Maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times with those not in your personal family or cohort

■ Leave the facility once the game/event is complete and do not congregate in the common spaces

■ Engage in proper hand-washing and respiratory etiquette practices

■ Attempt to stagger arrival and departure so there are not large groups of people entering/exiting at the same time.

Spectators shall not attend a Meeker School District event if in the last 14 days:

■ Tested positive for COVID-19

■ Have a known exposure to a positive COVID-19 individual

■ Experienced major symptoms of COVID-19

■ Contracted any other unknown illness recently and are not fully recovered

The primary goal of the Meeker School District this year is to keep the students in the classroom.

For fans unable to attend, the school district has joined the NFHS Network, the link is: <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/schools/meeker-high-school-meeker-co>

According to Principal Amy Chinn, "Once a viewer has set up an account and "followed" Meeker High School, it will list all of the events on their homepage. If the viewer chooses this link they will notice at the bottom of the page it allows them to search by sport."

Viewers can set up alerts on NFHS for Meeker events, Athletic Director Klark Kindler enters all schedules into NFHS so it is "pretty user friendly," says Chinn.

According to the NFHS website the monthly pass, which can be cancelled at any time, is \$10.99 and an annual pass is \$69.99. There is an app available on Apple, Apple TV, Android, ROKU, Amazon Fire TV, and you can watch from any browser.



The Cowboys are ready to play their first games in the new gymnasium at MHS.

TIFFANY JEHOREK PHOTOS



MHS wrestlers will head to Rifle Friday and Paonia Saturday for their first matches of a delayed and shortened season.

TIFFANY JEHOREK PHOTO

## Wrestlers somersault into season

**By TIFFANY JEHOREK**  
*Special to the Herald Times*

**MEEKER** | Monday, Jan. 18 came and went without wrestling practice in Meeker; the entire team had entered quarantine the day before.

The following Monday dawned a new day; it still wasn't a full wrestling room, but the kids were there and ready to practice.

This year's returning seniors are Colby Clatterbaugh at 195 lbs and Dax Sheridan at 182 pounds, both returning state qualifiers and Clatterbaugh placed second last year at 182 pounds.

"We are really looking forward to the season," said head coach JC Watt.

This year coaching alongside Coach Watt are Carl Padilla, Tyrell Turner, Kurt Blunt, Trevor Grant, Justin Grant, and new to the team Stryker Lane.

This year only duals, tris, and quads are allowed by CHSAA, between each competition the gym will be emptied of spectators and competitors and cleaned.

The team first travels to Rifle on Friday, January 29 for a quad against Rifle, Delta, and Eagle Valley. Each wrestler will only be allowed 20 matches throughout the regular season and each competition is very important for rankings as they go into regionals. Regionals, with location to be determined, will have 112 competitors from the 14 weights. State level competition, which will no longer be held at the Pepsi

Center, will see two competitors per weight from each of the regions. For regions that are most difficult, some kids, who were ranked last year and made it to state last year, will not make it this year.

Meeker will stream all home matches on the NFHS network. You can find the link in the basketball article in this week's newspaper and follow the instructions on how to sign up.

Saturday the team travels to Paonia, for another quad against Paonia, Mancos and Coal Ridge. These duals will be broadcasted on the NFHS Network and are set to begin at 1 p.m.

The first home dual is Feb. 5 against Hotchkiss and Norwood.

## MHS football awards

**By TIFFANY JEHOREK**  
*Special to the Herald Times*

**MEEKER** | The 2020 Meeker Cowboy football team once again made it to the playoffs; ending the season with a 5-2 record and 10th in Division 1A, according to MaxPreps.

Recognizing the efforts of the boys and making the All-Conference team were Colby Clatterbaugh, Cooper Main, Ryan Phelan, Jeremy Woodward, Zach Eskelson and Kelton Turner. All-Conference honorable mention awards went to Spud White, Dax Sheridan and Zach Simonsen.

Statewide honors as determined by CHSAA Now for the All-state team are Phelan, Main, Turner, Clatterbaugh and Woodward. Mile High Preps also assembles a list of players making an all-state team, those Cowboys are Phelan, Turner, White, Woodward and Clatterbaugh.

The All-state game for 2021 is unlikely to take place due to the pandemic. Each year one person is selected from each league to play in the game and this year Phelan has been recognized for his achievements during his senior year. For the 2020 season he threw for 1,024 yards and seven touchdowns, rushed 141 yards for a total yardage of 1,165 yards, scored 26 points, and defensively ended the year with 17 tackles.

## Shed antler collecting is prohibited through Apr. 30

*Special to the Herald Times*

**RBC** | To protect wintering big-game animals and sage grouse species, collection of shed antlers on all public lands west of I-25 is prohibited from Jan. 1 through April 30.

"The purpose of the closures is to reduce disturbance of wintering wildlife during the time of year they are most vulnerable," said Scott Wait, senior terrestrial biologist for the Southwest Region of Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Big game and sage grouse species live in a basic survival mode during the winter when food is scarce. If forced to move and burn calories unnecessarily, wildlife can lose the energy they need to make it through the winter.

Shed antler collecting has become very popular. The interest in personal and commercial collection has led to a substantial increase in the number of people searching for antlers across big-game winter range in western Colorado. The seasonal prohibi-

tion applies to both commercial and personal collectors.

Violating these regulations can be costly, said Brandon Diamond, area wildlife manager in the Gunnison area. The act of antler hunting during the closure qualifies as one violation and possession of each individual antler is a separate violation. The fine for each offense is \$100 plus five license-suspension points. If an individual accumulates 20 points, his or her hunting privileges could be suspended.

"These regulations will be most effective and have the greatest positive impact to our wintering wildlife when we work together within our communities to monitor and enforce them. Don't tolerate the behavior of those that would cheat," Diamond advised. "Let's make sure we are all doing what's best for wildlife and help give them a break during their toughest time of year."

Anyone witnessing violations of the shed-antler hunting regulations should call the nearest CPW office or Operation Game Thief at 877-265-6648.

## MSD takes a shot at BEST grant for BMS; perfect attendance lists for fall semester

**By NIKI TURNER**  
*editor@ht1885.com*

**MEEKER** | The Meeker School Board formally approved the pursuit of a BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) grant from the state to improve entry-way safety at Barone Middle School (BMS).

Superintendent Chris Selle said the total cost was "a bit of a sticker shock to me, but I

think it's sound numbers." Out-of-pocket costs to the district if it's awarded the BEST grant would be about \$150,000.

Selle told the board the expectations for extracurricular activities as it relates to COVID-19 are "pretty well settled." He is not recommending proactive testing for students in extracurricular activities for several reasons: testing recommendations are primarily for known expo-

sures and symptomatic individuals, it would be a "heavy lift" for school staff to test about 100 kids every week, and he feels it would put the district at odds with the community.

The proactive measures the school is taking — cohorts, mask usage, etc. — anecdotally appear to be working, Selle said. For the high school, the district is following Colorado High School Activities Association

guidelines for extracurricular activities. Middle school extracurricular activities are not CHSAA mandated.

"Our community does an outstanding job supporting our kids," Selle said, adding, "As a decision maker in our district I don't think it's appropriate to blatantly disrespect public health recommendations."

The board also recognized students who had had perfect attendance in the district during the fall semester.

### MEEKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Cooper Braaten, Onalise Braaten, Carson Cook, Casey Coryell, Grayson Coryell, Hanna Coryell, Emerson Deming, Oakley Deming, Rhett Ducey, Parker Dupire, Miles Etchart, Jordan Garcia, Jada Gould, Trevor Gould, Brodee Kilduff, Lee Kirkpatrick, Daxten Koenig, Madison Otte, Mason Otte, Jamison Piper, Margaret Piper, Willow Renninger, Hope Schaefer, Copen Smith, Jackson Steele, Ashton Tapia, Arius Theos, Thomas Theos, Thomas Thompson, Destiny Todd, Logan Treviso, Bryant Turner, Afton White

### BARONE MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Gabe Cardile, Bailey Coquoz, Graycee Cravens, Brad Nielsen, Liliana Piper, Wyatt Ross, Shailee Rundberg, Lissbeth Sanchez-Zubia

### MEEKER HIGH SCHOOL:

Jacob Blazon, Jonathan Cardile, Grant Cravens, Damon Dade, Sophia Goedert, Mariah Hood, Ellie Hossack, Mackenzie Keetch, Tatum Kennedy, Spud White, Natalie Kracht, Celine Lozano, Antonio Martinez, Opal Munger, Gabe Richardson, Carlos Ruiz, Ashdon Seibert, Jacob Simonsen, Haley Weston

## THE STRIP

## MSD takes a shot at BEST grant for BMS; perfect attendance lists for fall semester

THE STRIP from SLEEPY CAT YOGI SHOP For Chest & Upper Back Space & Strength Parts 1-3 SLEEPYCATYOGISHOP.COM

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1. Lengthen through the crown of your head, tucking your chin in just a smidgen to straighten out your cervical spine; stand, sit, or lay tall.

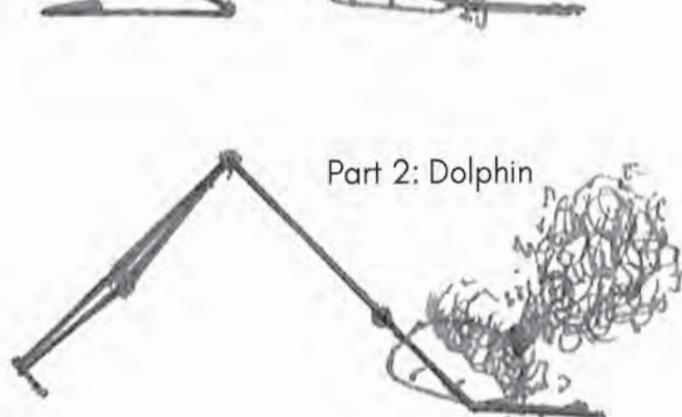
2. Pull your belly button up and then back towards your spine to engage your core and lift your pelvic floor.

3. Stay relaxed through your shoulders and maintain steady/natural inhales and exhales.

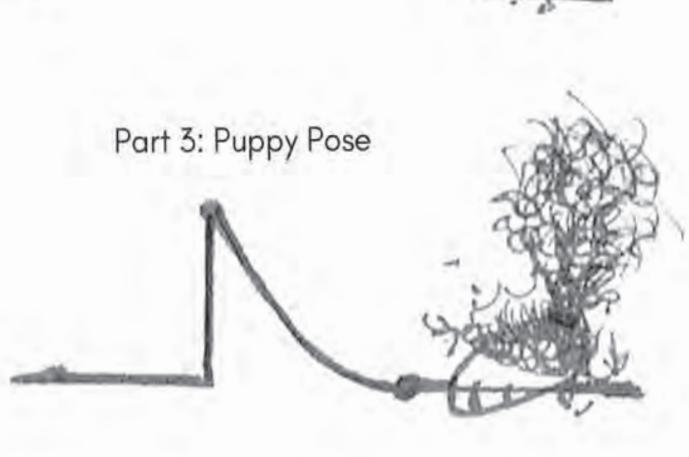
### Part 1: Childs Pose



### Part 2: Dolphin



### Part 3: Puppy Pose



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## Openings on various county boards and commissions

Special to the Herald Times

**RBC I** There are multiple boards and commissions that oversee or advise various aspects of life in Rio Blanco County. The following boards have positions available at this time. If you have an interest in a particular board or commission, or are simply interested in giving back to the community in a productive way, you are encouraged to submit an application. Some boards have specific qualifications for membership, but most need only an interested, engaged resident who is willing to be of service.

### BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Building Board of Appeals consists of three voting members and one alternate who serve three year terms. The board serves as the board of review under state law to consider special requested exceptions to the terms of Rio Blanco County building codes in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the code. The group is also entitled to recommend amendments to the codes. Qualifications for membership on the panel include being a licensed professional engineer or architect, a building contractor or superintendent of construction, or qualified by experience or training to evaluate building construction matters. The panel meets as needed.

### CITIZENS REVIEW PANEL

The Citizens Review Panel is required of the county by state child welfare law. This panel, which meets only as needed, is intended to provide a forum for grievances concerning any conflict in the conduct of county human services department personnel performing their duties. There are no term limits and no set number of members. Qualifications for panel membership include being representative of the community, having demonstrated personal or professional knowledge and experience with children, and not being an employee or agent of the state human services department or any county department. At least one member of the panel must be a parent of a minor child at the time of his or her appointment.

### COLUMBINE PARK BOARD

The Columbine Park Board makes recommendations to the park facility director and the county commissioners in matters pertaining to the operation of Columbine Park in Rangely. The board is composed of five members, each serving a three-year term. The Columbine Board has been meeting every third Wednesday of the month in the evening.

### HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

The purpose of the Historic Preservation Board is to advise the BOCC on the protection and preservation of the county's historic and cultural heritage. It is a five-person, three-year term board which meets only as needed.

### PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission makes recommendations regarding the approval and conditions to the BOCC concerning land use applications and land use text amendments, land use planning regarding major impact reviews, major and minor subdivisions, single lot creations, as well as location and extent reviews. This commission meets as needed, typically the second and fourth Thursday nights of the month.

### RANGELY CEMETERY DISTRICT

The Rangely Cemetery District Board makes recommendations for the operation of the Rangely Cemetery District. Each of the three members are appointed to serve a six-year term.

### MEEKER CEMETERY DISTRICT

The Meeker Cemetery District Board directs the operation of the Meeker Cemetery District. This three-member board meets on the first Thursday of every month and members serve six-year terms.

### WEED MANAGEMENT BOARD

The 10 members of the county weed management board are appointed to three year staggered terms. In addition to the 10 appointed by the BOCC, the BLM, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the county extension office have advisory seats on the board. The board provides advice on weed management within Rio Blanco County and makes recommendations for the Rio Blanco County Undesirable Plant Management Plan. The board meets as needed. According to its bylaws, weed board members are to be residents of unincorporated Rio Blanco County and a majority must own 40 or more acres. They are also expected to possess practical knowledge of weed control.

### COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD

This three-member/two-alternate board makes decisions regarding funding and other services as part of the Area Agencies on Aging Program which provides information and services to assist older adults and those who care for them. Each member of the board is appointed for only a one-year term. The group typically meets on the first Tuesday of every month, March through December. Qualifications are Rio Blanco County residency and being 60 or older. In addition, the group is part of the Northwest Colorado Area on Aging and typically travels to joint meetings with their counterparts from the other counties in the five-county region.

### FAIR BOARD

The purpose of the Fair Board is to maintain and oversee a successful annual county fair. The board meets to recommend policy and sound, knowledgeable decisions about the county fair, and acts in an advisory capacity to the BOCC. Board meetings have typically been the last Thursday of each month, alternating between Meeker and Rangely. Each of the 10 members are appointed to staggered three-year terms.

### FAIRGROUNDS MANAGEMENT BOARD

Members of the Fairgrounds Management Board are in place to make recommendations to fairgrounds facility director Boyd Richardson and the BOCC regarding the needs of the county fairgrounds facility and its operation. It meets only as needed. This board is made up of six individuals, four appointed by the county commissioners for staggered three year terms. The other two members are to be appointed respectively by the Town of Meeker and the Eastern Rio Blanco Parks and Recreation District.

### BOARD OF HEALTH

Members of the Board of Health include the three commissioners and three appointment members. Meetings are typically quarterly, but during the pandemic several emergency meetings have been called. In accordance with

state statute: The Public Health Board utilizes science-based strategies to promote the health of the community; prevent disease, injury and premature death; and respond to environmental threats and emergencies that could impact human health. Applicants should have a background in environmental or behavioral science or health/medicine.

### LOGGING TAX BOARD (MEEKER AND RANGELY)

These three-person boards serve three year terms. Members are from the tourism industry within the areas where lodging tax is collected. They are responsible for appropriating funds from the Lodging Tax Tourism Fund to advertise and market local tourism for the areas they represent.

### MEEKER COLORADO CIVIC IMPROVEMENT CORP. BOARD (MCCIC)

The three members of this board, who serve three year terms, oversee the Fairfield Center Apartments in Meeker. They meet on the second Monday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Fairfield Center.

### MEEKER REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

This five-member board is made up of two members appointed by the county commissioners, two appointed by the town of Meeker, and one appointed jointly by the commissioners and the town board of trustees. The Library Board provides management and control of the Library District. Appointments are for five-year terms. Meetings are the last Monday of each month.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) BOARD

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) board is a tripartite advisory committee made up of seven individuals (residents of Rio Blanco County) who are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County. Members of the board provide input and participate in the development, planning, implementation and evaluation of the Human Resource's Department's program to provide CSBG-supported services in the low-income community. Its role is advisory to the Board of County Commissioners in regard to the planning for expenditure of Community Services Block Grant monies for Rio Blanco County.

If you are interested in serving on one or more of the following Boards, please complete an Application for Board or Commission and return to: HR, PO Box i, Meeker, CO 81641 or [hr@rbc.us](mailto:hr@rbc.us), 970-878-9570. The application can be found at the rbc.us website under Elected Offices & Boards/Board & Commissions.

## MISS EARTH USA WATER ...



EVA FLIS PHOTOGRAPHY

Alyssa Magalang of Colorado was named Miss Earth USA Water 2021 (second runner-up) during the final national competition aired Jan. 17 on the VIP Pageant channel. The pageant took place at the Chapin Theater inside the Orange County Convention Center of Orlando, Florida. The national competition included the categories of community service, interview, multimedia, swimwear, runway and evening gown.

Magalang joins the top five national court with Marisa Butler of Maine (Miss Earth USA 2021, Winner), Alyssa Klinzing of California (Miss Earth USA Air 2021, first runner-up), Kennedy Thomas of Alabama (Miss Earth USA Fire 2021, third runner-up), and C'yanne Denby of Maryland (Miss Earth USA Eco 2021, fourth runner-up). Prior to the national competition, Magalang served as Miss Colorado Earth 2020 where she promoted and continues to promote her platform, "Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose - Recycled Projects." She is most proud of her efforts for her Think Global, Act Local Project where she and over 35 volunteers across Colorado crocheted and repurposed more than 7,500 clean, plastic grocery bags which were made into sleeping mats for those experiencing homelessness. Sleeping mats were donated to The Action Center in Lakewood, Colorado, and she was able to partner with The City of Louisville to advocate for a plastic bag tax and the use of reusable grocery bags.

"I would like to thank my family, friends, sponsors, and the Colorado community for your continued support. I am excited to be a voice for Mother Earth and to continue to make a positive impact through environment and sustainability advocacy. The Miss Earth USA organization truly is more than a beauty pageant. We are a Beauty for a Cause." In 2014, Magalang graduated with honors from Colorado Northwestern Community College in Rangely with a liberal arts degree. While at CNCC, she received the Outstanding Scholar Award in 2013-2014, was selected to 2014 All-Colorado Academic Team-Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and received academic/athletic scholarships in volleyball. Magalang is currently a certified personal trainer, youth volleyball coach, and model.

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## DAYS GONE BY

*The Meeker Herald*  
125 years ago

■ At the annual meeting of the Highland Cemetery association, the following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing year: A.C. Moulton, President. J.L. McHatton, Vice-President. F.E. Sheridan, Treasurer. F.H. JoHantgen, Secretary and manager. The attendance of stockholders was unusually large and the reports of the various officers showed the association to be in a flourishing condition.

■ One of the most enjoyable and largely attended "teas" in the series given under the auspices of the ladies' society of St. James church was that given by Mrs. Niblock at her residence Thursday evening.

*The Meeker Herald*  
100 years ago

■ The fellow who never minds his own business, usually has neither mind or business.

■ Mr. Ambrose Oldland (mention of whose serious illness, with pneumonia) was noted in last week's Herald, is now up and recovering strength as fast as could be expected.

■ The pool tournament at Ball's pool hall finished last

Saturday night. Oscar Shehorn captured the pool cue which was the first prize and Mayor Johnson second, and Barney Bacon, third.

*The Meeker Herald*  
50 years ago

■ Sex advertisements can be stopped by objecting patrons: Postmaster Gerald Dickman would like to inform the Meeker area patrons that after Feb. 1, 1971 all mailers of pornography (sexually oriented advertisements) must identify such mail by printing on the envelope or wrapper just underneath the stamp or other method of postage payment, the wording, "sexually oriented ad."

■ Today's Chuckle: One beg defect with the democratic form of government enjoyed in the United States is that only the party out of power knows how to run the country.

*The Meeker Herald*  
25 years ago

■ Martin Villa accepted the 1995 outstanding conservationist award from Duane Ottosen at the annual White River/Douglas Creek Soil Conservation District banquet on Jan. 27. Mark and Greta Sheridan and Jim and Carolyn Dodo won the White River district cooperator award, and Nick Theos

won the Goodyear award.

■ Lance Arrasmith, son of Boots Campbell of Meeker, graduated from CSU, Fort Collins, Dec. 16, 1995 with a Bachelor's Degree in microbiology.

*Rangely Times*  
50 years ago

■ Good news today: Construction to start on post

office here.

■ Dave Connaroe, Student Body President at Rangely College, leads the way in the blood-typing program at the College. More than 150 students participated in the student-suggested program last week and most will be available as blood donors when needed.

■ "The whole problem is that people like to complain

about things they don't know too much about."

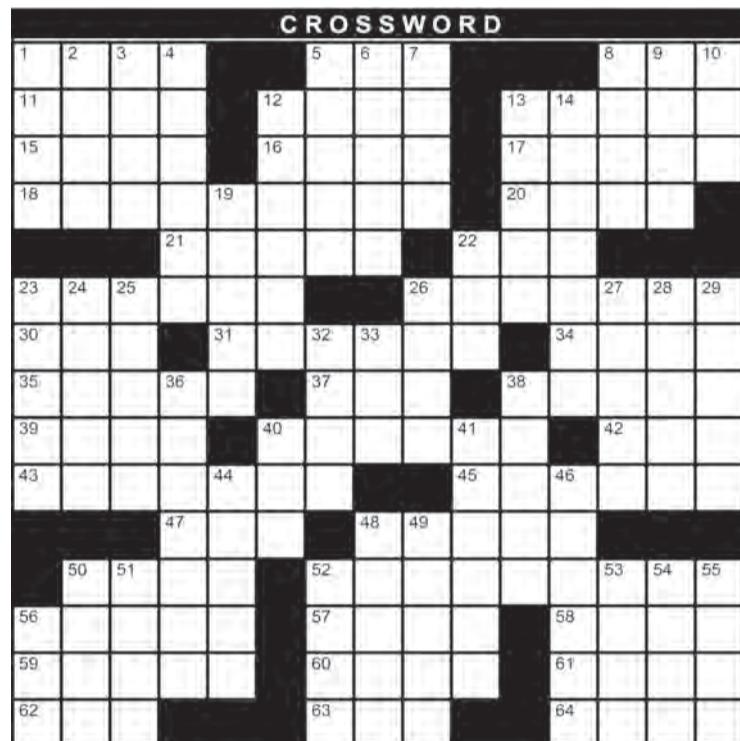
■ Man's problem is how to conquer his environment without a massacre.

*Rangely Times*  
25 years ago

■ Larry Pedigo, staff writer for *The Rangely Times*, resigned Thursday, Jan. 25.

Pedigo replaced Rich Stark in December of 1995.

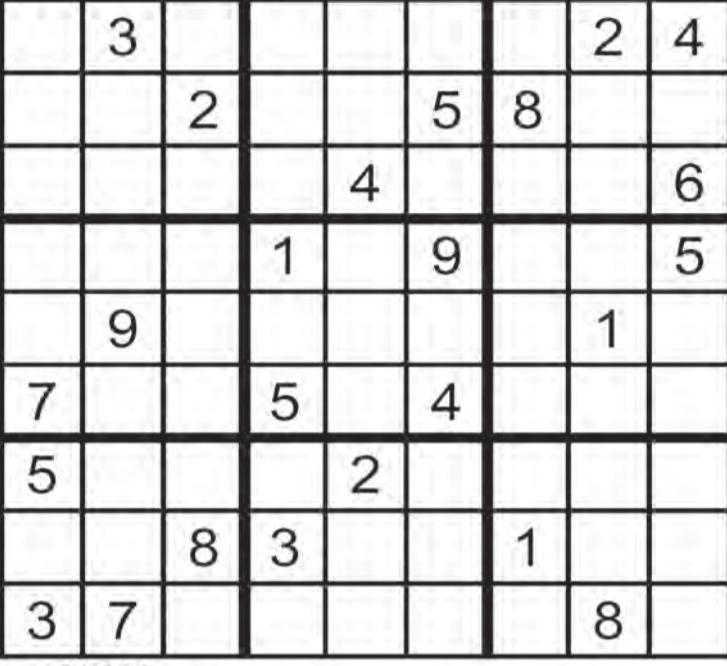
■ Michael Seebaum's 1987 GMC pickup couldn't quite hold the road, as he headed west on Hwy. 64 just past the Mini Mart on Thursday, Jan. 25. Jerry LeBleu of Professional Touch Towing rolled the pickup back upright as onlookers provided an audience.



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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

**THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY ACROSS**

- 1. "You're the \_\_\_\_!"
- 5. Horse color
- 8. Interesting person, acr.
- 11. \*Feeling of the heart
- 12. Nevada city

13. City in Belgium

- 15. Use a whisk
- 16. Greek H's
- 17. \*Popular Valentine's Day delivery, pl.
- 18. \*\*Love means never having to say you're sorry" movie
- 20. Ballpark calls
- 21. Strong adhesive
- 22. Greek letter N, pl.
- 23. Lord's subordinate
- 26. Given to drinking
- 30. Ovine mom
- 31. Old storage medium
- 34. Fairy-tale beginning
- 35. Politician Pelosi
- 37. Tokyo, once
- 38. Bone hollows
- 39. Sky bear
- 40. Fitted with a name tag, e.g.
- 42. "Ever" to a poet
- 43. With more seeds
- 45. Attic
- 47. Summer sandwich?
- 48. Fraternity letter
- 50. Medieval headdress
- 52. \*Only day more popular than Valentine's for card giving
- 56. Like blue sky
- 57. Walk the Pacific Crest Trail, e.g.
- 58. Samoan money
- 59. \*Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
- 60. Affirm
- 61. Give off
- 62. Plays for pay
- 63. \*Color of Valentine's Day
- 64. \*Lovers' reunion

**DOWN**

- 1. Cry like a baby
- 2. Canyon sound
- 3. Convict's weapon
- 4. Conical dwellings
- 5. Get on juice diet, e.g.
- 6. Opposite of binary
- 7. Like a gossipmonger
- 8. Exterminator's target
- 9. Change for a five
- 10. Part of T.G.I.F.
- 12. Like an abridged classic
- 13. Tiler's paste
- 14. \*I Will Always Love You" singer
- 19. Stupefied
- 22. Us, in Mexico
- 23. \*Cupid's mother
- 24. In the know
- 25. Common thing?
- 26. Smoke plus fog
- 27. Lay to rest
- 28. Rocks at mountain base
- 29. \*Symbol of Valentine's Day
- 32. Infantry's last row
- 33. Roulette bet
- 36. \*Chocolatier, pioneer of the heart-shaped box
- 38. \_\_\_\_ apple
- 40. Risk something
- 41. Between egg and eggst
- 44. Feeling worse than before
- 46. Gave away
- 48. Thin piece
- 49. Annoyed
- 50. Russia's alternative to caesar
- 51. Aries or Taurus, e.g.
- 52. Burn to a crisp
- 53. MADD member, colloquially
- 54. Climbed down, as from a carriage
- 55. Fill beyond full
- 56. Pharaoh's cobra

"I consider the Variety of Humours among Men, and despair of pleasing every Body; yet I shall not therefore leave off Printing. I shall continue my Business. I shall not burn my Press and melt my Letters."

~ Benjamin Franklin  
Founding Father, First Amendment champion, and very exasperated newspaper owner

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Do you think that a groundhog can predict the weather? On February 2, some people will get up very early to watch the groundhog come out of its home. They will stand around the groundhog's hole in the ground and study the sky. As soon as they see the groundhog poke out of its hole they will snap pictures. Who do you think will see the funnier sight...the people or the groundhog?

#### Read the clues to fill in the crossword puzzle:

1. a long winter's nap
2. a warm-blooded creature
3. another name for the groundhog
4. curls into this to sleep
5. something people believe in or think will happen without facts or proof
6. the groundhog's \_\_\_\_\_ pumps more slowly when it hibernates
7. the groundhog is part of this family
8. young are born in this month
9. males are about two feet long and weigh about twelve pounds; females are \_\_\_\_\_
10. to tell about an event before it happens

#### Time to Rhyme!

Find and circle the ten words that rhyme with "ground."

mound      frowned      count  
crowned      wound      pound  
crouch      groaned      hound  
found      sound      browned  
crowd      pounce      round

Our whole family doesn't weigh a pound!



zzz

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## • MEETING AGENDAS •

**TOWN OF MEEKER**  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Tuesday, February 2, 2021  
7:00 P.M. Board Meeting  
Town Hall  
345 Market Street, Meeker, CO

Due to COVID-19 precautions, the public is invited to attend by calling 970-878-8091.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Previous Minutes

Approval of Monthly Disbursements

Public Participation

This is an opportunity for Citizens to bring comments and questions to the Board of Trustees not being addressed in the Regular Meeting Agenda. In consideration of other regularly scheduled agenda items, comments will be limited to 3 minutes or less. Citizens are asked to approach the podium state their name and address for the record.

Public Hearings:

a. Final Contractor Settlement for Town of Meeker Water Supply Improvements Phase 2.

New Business:

a. Renewal of Ute Park Permit Agreement with Meeker Classic Sheepdogs, Inc.

b. Renewal of Ute Park Permit Agreement with David Smith Ranches.

c. Bid opening for Meeker Police patrol vehicle.

Mayor's Remarks

Town Manager's Report

Other Board Business

Adjournment

Published: January 28, 2021

Rio Blanco Herald Times

**Public Notice**  
A public hearing has been scheduled for February 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Meeker Town Hall, 345 Market Street, to consider a request by:  
Meeker Lions Club, a Special Event Liquor License for the following event at 779 Sulphur Crk. Rd, RBC Fairgrounds, Meeker Colorado on February 20, 2021 from 4 pm to 12 am, for Skijor Event and Calcutta.  
§ Kathleen Sizemore  
Liquor Clerk  
Published: January 28, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

## • MISC. NOTICES •

**Public Notice:**  
Plaintiffs:  
Si H. Woodruff and Susan L. Woodruff

Defendants:  
HENRY A. WILDHACK, ANNIE WILDHACK, NICHOLAS C. MATZ BISHOP OF DENVER IN TRUST FOR THE CATHOLICS OF MEEKER, THOMAS KILDUFF, JAMES HAYES, DAVID E. MCMILLIAN, REINHOLD HARTKE, LENA HARTKE, A.C. MOULTON, BENJAMIN E. CURRY AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM UNDER OR THROUGH THE NAMED DEFENDANTS OR WHO CLAIM ANY INTERESTS IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION

District Court, Rio Blanco County, Colorado  
Case No. 21CV30001

### SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Plaintiff filed with the Court in this action, by filing with the Clerk of this Court a written answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons by publication shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the Clerk of the Court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for title relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.

This is an action to quiet title to plaintiff for the real property situate in Rio Blanco County, Colorado and described as LOT B; BLOCK 17; TOWN OF MEEKER, COUNTY OF RIO BLANCO, COLORADO.

Dated: January 12, 2021

Melody D. Massih, Reg. #24683

P.O. Box 916

Glenwood Springs, CO 81602

Tel: 970-928-9100

Fax: 970-928-9600

Published: January 14, 21, 28, February 4 and 11, 2021

Rio Blanco Herald Times

Anyone that has items in a storage unit at 878 Main St., Meeker, CO: Please contact the new owner at 878-3363 or 970-260-3302. The units that haven't paid, your lock has been removed. Our lock is on. Do not cut the lock until you pay your balance. You have til Feb. 19, 2021 to pay the storage charge. Thank you.

Published: January 28 and February 4, 11 and 18, 2021

Rio Blanco Herald Times

CNCC has a 1996 Massey Ferguson 440 4x4 includes bucket with 396 hours available via sealed bid. CNCC also has a 1983 Ford 1710 includes bucket, post digger, and backhoe with 1942 hours available via sealed bid. Reserves must be met. All bids must be postmarked or delivered to CNCC no later than February 4, 2021 and must include your name and phone number. Submit your bid via mail to CNCC Attn: Colleen Kenney 500 Kennedy Drive, Rangely, CO 81648. For more information contact John at 970-629-0678.

Published: January 28, 2021

Rio Blanco Herald Times

to waive any informalities; to accept the bids for the vehicles, which the County's judgment best suit the needs of the County.

**RIO BLANCO COUNTY**  
By: David A. Overton, Fleet Manager  
Published: January 28, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

### INVITATION TO BID

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY is soliciting bids for one (1) Smooth Drum Vibratory Soil Compactor. Sealed bid proposals will be opened and reviewed at 11:15 a.m. on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 in the Rio Blanco County Historic Courthouse, 555 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Commissioners Meeting Room, Meeker, Colorado. Mailed bids are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday February 8, 2021. Hand delivered bids will be accepted until 11:00 a.m. on the date of the bid opening.

All bids shall be marked "Smooth Drum Compactor Bid" and be mailed to the Rio Blanco County Commissioners, Attn: Vicky Edwards, P.O. Box 599, Meeker, Colorado 81641, or delivered up to 11:00 a.m. on the date of the bid opening, to the Rio Blanco County Historic Courthouse, 555 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Meeker, Colorado. Do not rely on the overnight delivery companies to deliver on time. Faxed bids will not be accepted.

Proposals will be compared and judged on the basis of:

1. Cost
2. Delivery Time
3. Compliance with bid specifications
4. Ability of the unit bid to meet the requirements of the County
5. Retained market value of the unit
6. The County's past experience with similar equipment provided by the same manufacturer
7. Any other factor which the Board feels may affect the suitability of the equipment for the County

Bidders may make substitutions to the specifications attached hereto provided that the substitution is of equal or greater value to the item specified will be made by the County. All questions and inquiries must be received by David Overton at (970) 878-9590, ext. 9597, or (970) 629-5645 no later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 2021. Specification sheets for the unit bid shall accompany the bid.

In the event that a bid proposal exceeds the County's budgetary limitations, the County reserves the right to eliminate certain individual items from the proposal. All bids shall be submitted with this in mind.

Bid prices must be good for a minimum of sixty (60) days after the bid opening. All prices shall be F.O.B. Rio Blanco County Road & Bridge Department, 570 Second Street, Meeker, Colorado. Payment shall be made on the first, regular accounts payable date after vehicle delivery. Payment cannot be made on the date of delivery.

An approximate delivery schedule must be included in the bid. In the event that a bidder wishes to demonstrate his product prior to the bid opening, the bidder should contact David Overton, Rio Blanco County Fleet Management Department, 570 Second Street, Meeker, Colorado 81641, Telephone (970) 878-9590, ext. 9597, or (970) 629-5645, Fax (970) 878-3396.

The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids; to change, add or amend the specifications; to waive any informalities; to accept the bids for the vehicles, which the County's judgment best suit the needs of the County.

**RIO BLANCO COUNTY**

**FLEET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

David A. Overton, Fleet Manager

Published: January 28, 2021

Rio Blanco Herald Times

## • BID REQUESTS •

**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
Meeker Recreation Center (MRC) Lap/Whirlpool Resurfacing and Leak Repair Project

A Public Works Project

Eastern Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation and Park District

101 Ute Road

Meeker, Colorado 81641

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Eastern Rio

Blanco Metropolitan Recreation and Park District ("ERBM"), a political subdivision of the State of

Colorado, is inviting proposals from qualified

General Contractors for the Resurfacing of 115

gallon lap pool, Resurfacing of 2100 gallon

Whirlpool, Lap pool fill line repair (in deck), and

Replace deck joint sealant on all bodies of water,

located at 101 Ute Rd. in Meeker, Colorado.

Contractors must submit their bid proposals

by February 10, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., at ERBM's

administrative office located at 101 Ute Road,

Meeker, Colorado 81641; or via email at rodney@

ERBMrec.com. Bids must be clearly marked "Lap/

Whirlpool Resurfacing and Leak Repair Project".

This is a guaranteed maximum price construction

project. A full Request for Proposal, Project

specifications, and Owner-Contractor Agreement

template can be obtained at [www.ERBMrec.com](http://www.ERBMrec.com) or

by contacting Rodney Gerloff, 970-878-7420 or via

email at rodney@ERBMrec.com.

A pre-proposal walk-through of the Project site

with an ERBM representative may be scheduled

with advanced notice to the contact information

provided in this notice. Requests for pre-proposal

walkthroughs will be accepted through February

5, 2021.

Construction timing to be May 3, 2021 through

May 23, 2021. ERBM reserves the right to accept

or reject any and all bids. Each proposal shall be

reviewed and considered consistent to adopted

ERBM Fiscal Policies and Procedures.

Published: January 28 and February 4, 2021

Rio Blanco Herald Times

completed by June 10, 2021, pending delays due to adverse conditions. A second application on County Road 65 will be scheduled for approx.

Aug. 24, 2021 as shown on the Project Application Schedule.

### NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING

Vendors may attend a non-mandatory pre-bid meeting:

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. at the Rio

Blanco County Road & Bridge Dept., 570 Second

Street, Meeker.

### BID SUBMITTALS

Bids shall have Vendor's name and address and "2021 RIO BLANCO COUNTY DUST CONTROL PROJECT" written on the sealed envelope. All required documents shall be included with the bid or it shall be rejected.

Each bid must include a certified check or cashier's check in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid, made payable to Rio

Blanco County, or by a bid bond in like amount executed by a surety company.

Mailed bids are due no later than 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Hand delivered bids will be accepted in Meeker from 8:00 A.M. to 10:45 A.M. on February 17, 2021. Do not depend on overnight delivery.

Mailing: RBC Board of County Commissioners, Attn: Lori Zentmeyer, P O Box 599, Meeker, CO 81641

Hand-delivery address: Rio Blanco County Historic Courthouse, 555 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Meeker, CO 81641

### BID OPENING

Bids shall be opened and read in public at 11:15 A.M. on February 17, 2021 at the Commissioners' Board Room at the Rio Blanco County Historic Courthouse, 555 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Meeker, CO 81641. Bids submitted after 10:45 A.M. shall be returned unopened. Bids submitted and opened shall not be withdrawn for 30 days thereafter.

### BID PREFERENCE

C.R.S. 8-19-101, et.seq., shall be observed on all construction contracts on public projects. The law states that when a construction contract for a public project is to be awarded to a bidder, a resident bidder shall be allowed preference against a nonresident bidder from another state equal to the preference given or required by the state in which the nonresident bidder is a resident.

### BID AWARD

The Rio Blanco County Board of County Commissioners reserve the right to reject any or all bids; to waive any informalities in bids; and to accept the bid that, in the opinion of the Board, is in the best interest of the County of Rio Blanco, State of Colorado.

### TITLE VI COMMITMENT

Rio Blanco County, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. SS 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

**RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO**</p



# CLASSIFIEDS

## HELP WANTED

Job opening in Assessor office for Property Assessment Administrator. For information please go to the website at rbc.us under employment.

**Rio Blanco Care Coordinator**  
The Health Partnership is known and respected throughout Northwest Colorado for compassionately connecting people to health and well-being resources, through collaboration with community partners. We are looking for individuals that share this vision for our communities. If you have the passion to help people live longer, healthier lives visit our website, <https://thehealthpartnership.org/employment/> for details! This is a full-time position with great benefits including health, dental, paid time off, 401k and disability insurance. The Health Partnership is an EOE.

**RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT  
MEEKER, COLORADO**

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Lifeguards (2)  
- \$12.32 - \$15.60/hr  
- part-time, non-benefitted

For details and an application, go to [www.ERBMRRec.com](http://www.ERBMRRec.com) or 101 Ute Road, Meeker CO. 970-878-7417 EOE

**HELP WANTED**

Tech-savvy book reader to work with all ages 24-hours per week. Able to listen, to lead crafts for kids, and to recommend books for all ages. Bi-lingual a plus. Apply in person. Meeker Regional Library.

**BANK OF THE SAN JUANS**  
ONE BIO HAPPY LITTLE BANK

Bank of the San Juans  
Customer Service Representative/Teller  
Meeker

Bank Happy. Work Happy. Right Here. We are looking for a professional individual with strong customer service skills and cash handling experience to join our team. Banking experience is a plus. Excellent benefit ts, nice co-workers and on Fridays we wear jeans! Apply online at [www.gacierbancorp.com](http://www.gacierbancorp.com). Bank of the San Juans is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**Let's talk about logical fallacies-gaps in logic that invalidate an argument or opinion.**

## #6 Special pleading

**Also known as 'moving the goalposts', this fallacy happens when a claim is proven to be wrong and the debater then changes the 'goalposts' of the original argument so they can continue to rationalize and cling to their old beliefs.**

**It requires integrity and honesty to be able to examine your beliefs and change your mind when confronted with the facts rather than justifying your existing bias. Remember, being able to accept the facts and change your mind is a strength, not a weakness!**

**Happy fallacy-finding!**

**HT**  
970-878-4017  
[ht1885.com](http://ht1885.com)

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

Delivery of meals for senior meals  
Meeker and Rangely  
11:00 - 1:30 M, T, W, F  
Contact White River Roundup,  
878-9652

**EMPLOYMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES**

- Case Aide, part-time
- Caseworker
- Emergency and Natural Resource Manager
- Family Engagement Facilitator
- Property Assessment Administrator
- Relief Radino Driver, Rng

For details and a Rio Blanco County application, please go to [www.rbc.us](http://www.rbc.us) or Rio Blanco County HR at 555 Main St., Meeker, CO. 970-878-9570. ADA/EOE

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\*Offer valid only while supplies last. Limit one per household. Must be first time purchase. Minimum spend amount applies. Financing subject to third party credit approval. Some financing options cannot be combined with other offers and may require minimum monthly payments. All offers subject to change prior to purchase. See AmericanStandardShowers.com for other restrictions and for licensing, warranty, and company information. CSLB B982795; Suffolk NY 55431H.NYCHIC 2022748-DCA. Safety Tubs Co. LLC does not sell in Nassau NY, Westchester NY, Putnam NY, Rockland NY.

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**HT**

# BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

## MEEKER

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Kent Trunk | 720.276.3293 | [cstrimcon@gmail.com](mailto:cstrimcon@gmail.com)

**Home Repairs  
Renovations  
Carpentry, Cabinets,  
Tile & More  
Windows  
Doors**

**The Blind Guy Shades, LLC**  
Bringing Shade to Your Life  
Regas K Halandras  
Owner  
PO Box 677  
Meeker, CO 81641  
970-629-9714  
[BlindGuyShades@gmail.com](mailto:BlindGuyShades@gmail.com)  
[www.skandiawf.com](http://www.skandiawf.com)



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- Audio/Visual Cabling & Consulting
- Residential & Business Networking Solutions

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support needs!  
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970.878.4650  
[support@caseytechservices.com](mailto:support@caseytechservices.com)

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970-878-5606  
Complete Automotive Repairs  
Computer Diagnostics | Machining | Fabricating | Welding  
Phil Mass Mike Mohr  
It's not rocket science.

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meeker, colo. 81641  
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Spray-In Bedliners

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Cooling • HVAC • Appliance Repair  
**24 HOUR SERVICE**  
Commercial • Residential • Industrial  
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ads@ht1885.com | 970.878.4017  
PO BOX 720, MEEKER, CO 81641**

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Certified Oilfield Welders  
Ed Stewart: 675-2063  
SHOP PHONE: 675-8720



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## RIO BLANCO COUNTY

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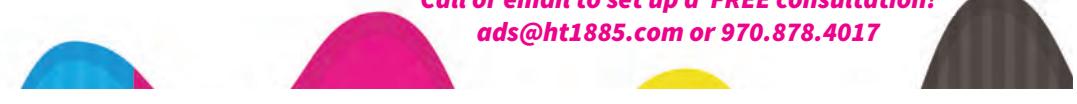
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# *It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one.*

~ George Washington



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SAFEHOUSE

If you are being abused physically or mentally, you can call SAFEHOUSE for confidential shelter and help.  
878-3131

Rangely Victim Services: An open door for the protection and care of abused and battered persons. Non-emergency call 629-9691. Emergencies call 911. Providing assistance for victims of violent crimes.

RBC | Attention Rio Blanco County Veterans: Veterans may be eligible for mileage reimbursement for travel costs to receive VA medical care. If you do not currently receive VA travel compensation please contact the Rio Blanco County Veterans Service offices. Rangely: John 'Hoot' Gibson, 970-878-9695. Meeker: Bob Dungan, 970-878-9690. Travel compensation is made possible through the Veterans Trust Fund Grant and VFW Post 5843.

AA & Al-Anon Meetings - Rangely Alcoholics Anonymous - Open meetings Tues & Thurs, 7 p.m., 115 Kennedy Dr., St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Rangely. Al-Anon meets Monday, 8:15 p.m., 207 S. Sunset, 1st Baptist Church, Rangely. Al-Anon info call 970-629-5064 or 970-629-2970. Women's NA/AA meetings, Monday 1:30 p.m., St. Timothy's.

RIO BLANCO Masonic Lodge #80 meets 2nd and 4th Thursday, 7:00 p.m., at 7th and Park, Meeker.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Eden Pregnancy Care Services - pregnancy tests, emergency supplies, guidance by trained volunteers, classes on pregnancy and child care, post-abortion support, referrals.

Meeker: Thursdays, Noon to 5 p.m., 345 Main Street, Meeker. Email: newedenpc@gmail.com or (970)878-5117

Rangely: Mondays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., 219 Sunset Avenue Rangely. Email: newedenrangely@gmail.com or (970) 675-2300. All services are confidential.

Veterans Service Offices Rio Blanco County: Veterans Service Officer - Joe Dungan, Wednesday, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., County Administration Building, 200 Main Street Suite 300, Meeker. 878-9690 office, 878-3219 home. Fax 878-9581. Rangely: Veterans Service Officer - Hoot Gibson, Tuesday and Thursday, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., County Annex, 17497 State Hwy 64, Rangely. 878-9695 office, 675-2669 home.

## ELDER CARE SERVICES



Western Slope In-Home Care  
[www.westernslopehomecare.com](http://www.westernslopehomecare.com)  
970-878-7008

## MISCELLANEOUS

ASK ABOUT OUR CNC MACHINING Can't get a metal part? We can make all kinds of parts. We have CNC Machine equipment, lathe and tooling to do the job. Contact Phil at Family Automotive and Machine. (970)878-5606.

## RENTALS: MEEKER

AVAILABLE NOW: Beautiful retail space downtown at 6th and Main in the historic Hugus Building. Call 970-878-4138 for details.

Commercial office space available in Hugus Building, downtown Meeker. 878-4138.

## Storage units for rent in Meeker.

Rocky Mountain Storage  
1251 Market St.  
10x10 \$50 per mo  
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970-878-3700

SPECIOUS 2BD/1BA apartments available immediately. Owner pays trash, sewer, water and heating. Coin operated laundry on-site. \$550/\$600 monthly. 970-756-4895.

CLEAN REMODELED 2BD apartments, in-house laundry, storage units available, close to shopping and the downtown area & more. \$625 per month. Western Exposures Realty LLC (970) 321-2777.

STORAGE DEPOT 10x25 unit. 878-4808.

## RENTALS: RANGELY

**SILVER SAGE RV PARK RV**  
314 E. Main Street.  
RV Spaces for rent.  
Managers: Dan & Debbie Shadlow  
(970)675-2259 or cell: (253)222-3261 or  
(253)222-3469

Rangely Duplex for Rent 1 or 2 bedroom duplex -Newly remodeled & landscaped. Please contact Rodney 970-462-6538 or Sandy 970-462-6459.

8	3	6	9	1	7	5	2	4
9	4	2	6	3	5	8	7	1
1	5	7	8	4	2	3	9	6
2	8	4	1	6	9	7	3	5
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5	6	1	7	2	8	9	4	3
4	2	8	3	9	6	1	5	7
3	7	9	4	5	1	6	8	2

# REAL ESTATE CORNER

## STREAMLINE REALTY, LLC

600 Main Street • Meeker, CO  
970.878.7700 • 970.623.2900

[www.Streamline-Realty.com](http://www.Streamline-Realty.com)  
YourMeekerExpert@gmail.com



1157 Rd. 57: 673± acres on the White River with residence ..... \$2,290,000  
723 Market St.: Remodeled 21 room motel, bar/restaurant, office.....\$975,000  
1986 Rd. 41: 640 acres, hunting, grazing & recreation w/ home.....\$799,000  
223 8th St.: Prime location, retail business & spacious residence ..... PENDING  
NEW 1751 Bright Water Ln: 39 acres, large metal pole barn, excellent views. PENDING  
Building Pad 30 miles east of Meeker: 29+ acres w/ fishing access....\$299,000  
NEW TBD N 6th St.: Acres, room to build your dream home.....\$249,000  
7.46 acres, E Market St.: Great highway visibility at HWY 13 & Road 8...\$245,000  
NEW 1051 Lance Cir.: 3BD/2BA, open concept, garden lovers dream.... PENDING  
109 Market St.: Bustling location, vacant corner lot.....\$175,000  
1107 Market St.: Build your new business ..... PENDING  
Silver Sage Rd.: View of the Flat Tops from this 1/2 acre lot. ....\$50,000  
Ridge Estates: 18 2-5 acre lots, next to golf course. ....Prices \$45,000 - \$160,000  
Andrea Cir.: Valley views & southern exposure, 14,740 sq. ft. vacant lot...\$29,000

## Backcountry Realty

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970-878-4715

stevenwix@backcountryrealty.com  
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## Alpine West Properties LLC

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FOR SALE IN MEEKER

Bear Mountain Inn - Income producing Bed&Breakfast w/Apartment Unit+Beautiful Yard.....\$595,000  
73209 Hwy 64 – 11.02 ac w/updated 5BD/2BA/.032 SF home, good well, heated shop+views \$385,000  
1022 Julie Cir – 3BD/2BA/.984 SF home w/single car garage, workshop, & large back yard....\$256,000  
1947 CR 12 – 3BD/1BA Log cabin with vaulted ceiling and fishing access on the White River....\$250,000  
1959 CR 12 – 3BD/1BA Log cabin offering a rustic charm, fishing, BLM+Forest access nearby....\$250,000  
880 Main St – Newly updated 4BD/2BA/2,030 SF home w/ Lg. lot and guest/rental cabin....\$220,000  
1042 Park Ave – Classic 2 story 3BD/1BA/2,340 SF home w/ rustic barn, 3 lg. lots+fruit trees....\$195,000  
NEW 1159 Bissell Cir.....SALE PENDING  
410 Cleveland St.....SALE PENDING  
1409 Silver Sage Rd.....SOLD

FOR SALE IN RANGELY

NEW TBD Hwy 64- Residential parcel near Rangely/Dinosaur. Easy access to Hwy 40 & 4x4 trails. This property is located in the heart of outdoor recreation.....SALE PENDING  
1511 La Mesa Cir.....SOLD

FOR SALE IN RANGELY

SALE PENDING  
39.34 Acres, Hwy 64

Mallari Arnold - Associate Broker  
970-420-0585  
[mallari.alpinewest@gmail.com](mailto:mallari.alpinewest@gmail.com)

Alex Plumb - Owner/Broker  
970-420-8076  
[sold@alexplumb.realtor](mailto:sold@alexplumb.realtor)

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(970)878-0103 | [kcook@bankmvb.com](mailto:kcook@bankmvb.com)

Mountain Valley Bank

## RESIDENTIAL

NEW! 760 2nd St. – New updates. This 3 bedroom 2 bathroom home is situated in a great area of town and move-in ready. Recently updated with new paint, new carpets, stainless steel range, fridge & dishwasher, butcher block countertops and much more. Large family room on the lower level and the main level living room has a rock fireplace. Beautiful views and large heated garage. \$24,500.

## RANCHES

NEW! Ranch with lots of irrigation water, meadows, gravel, pond and White River frontage west of Meeker. \$900,000. Call for details!

NEW! 10,225 steel shop building with 14' OH Doors on 25.185 acres west of Meeker. Could be a part of great shop house. Has well water. \$600,000. Call for details!

1001 County Rd. 36, Meeker - 145± acre ranch with 4 BD/3BA home, metal insulated shop, insulated barn and pipe corrals. Mostly irrigated with water and spring rights and creek. Only 3 miles from town. \$1,100,000.

## VACANT LAND

Vacant lot – 1176 Main St. Reduced to \$19,500 PENDING

NEW! Lot 8 – 1176 Main St., \$27,500 PENDING

5 acres vacant land in Cross L Estates – Realtor Owned, Owner Financing. \$56,000.

Sanderson Hills Lots – Great building sites! REDUCED! \$28,000/ea.

## COMMERCIAL

NEW-White River Condominiums on 680 Water St. 19 Units for sale with adjoining common area, park with access to the White River. Call for detail!

975 Market St. – Commercial Property located on prime corner location on Highway 13. \$200,000. SALE PENDING!

All advertising is subject to errors, omissions or changes without notice.

## WESTERN EXPOSURES

REALTY INC.

2777 County Rd. 7 Meeker, CO  
[www.westernexposures.com](http://www.westernexposures.com)  
970.878.5877

ONEA MILLER ~ Broker  
[oneamiller@gmail.com](mailto:oneamiller@gmail.com)  
970-321-2777



To advertise your listings, email [ads@ht1885.com](mailto:ads@ht1885.com) or call 970-878-4017.

**RIO BLANCO HERALD TIMES ~ 970-878-4017 ~ 304 4th Street, Meeker, CO**

**Editorial Deadline\*: Mondays, 5 p.m. [editor@ht1885.com](mailto:editor@ht1885.com)**

**Display Advertising Deadline: Mondays, 5 p.m. [ads@ht1885.com](mailto:ads@ht1885.com)**

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\* This might come as a surprise, but we are not all-knowing, nor are we mind readers. If you think something deserves news coverage, you've gotta tell us about it!

You can send story ideas and news tips\*\* to [editor@ht1885.com](mailto:editor@ht1885.com), call 970.878.4017 or message us on Facebook or Instagram.

\*\*The Reporter's Shield Law gives journalists the right to protect the identity of any source who would like to remain anonymous.