

URSA pays \$718K in back taxes

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

RBC | The County Treasurer's office received a \$718,363 check from natural gas operator URSA Resources for 2019 back taxes plus interest owed through Sept. 2, 2020, when the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. URSA reported \$303,205,987 in total debt in its bankruptcy filings.

The funds received from

URSA will allow her office to get funds disbursed to the county's special districts on time.

Terra Energy Partners (TEP) acquired URSA's holdings in November 2020, and is expected to take over operations sometime this year, RBC Treasurer Rhonna Waldref said.

The county is still owed an estimated \$780,000 in back taxes from various industry operators, one of which is currently in litigation with the county.

White River Algae TAG group reviews data

By **LUCAS TURNER**
lucas@ht1885.com

RBC | The White River Algae Technical Advisory Group (TAG) held a well-attended virtual meeting last week to review data from three studies conducted over the last year.

STREAM TEMPS

The first data set, presented by Brian Hodges of Trout Unlimited in partnership with Tory Eyre of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) revealed information about stream temperatures in the upper White River.

Water temperature influences distribution, growth and survival of fish, bugs, and algae. The study utilized data from 20 sites in the North and South Forks of the White River down to the main stem of the river above Meeker.

Temperatures did not differ significantly between the North and South Forks of the White River. Hodges said this could indicate that temperature is "not a standalone predictor of algal growth," since the recent algal blooms affected the North Fork but not the South.

Hodges also said stream temperatures were affected most significantly by air temperature and discharge into the river. Responding to a TAG member question about potential effects of "pond runoff" Hodges said "nothing jumped out" but did note there was some evidence of coldwater influx at various sites.

Lastly Hodges said temperatures on the upper White River "appeared to be suitable for cold water fishes," adding that met-

rics were modeled around the Colorado River cutthroat trout.

Hodges said temperature data was only one "piece of the puzzle."

MACROINVERTEBRATES

Senior ecologist Jennifer Lynch of GEI consultants shared analysis of macroinvertebrates and their relation to algal blooms. Sampling and study design were done by the White River Conservation District, and GEI performed the data analysis.

Based on data collected from a total of 14 sites on the White River over three years, Lynch pointed out shifts in taxonomic composition of macroinvertebrates on the North Fork in June and July following insecticide spraying events. Similar but less pronounced shifts occurred at a site upstream of aerial insecticide spraying. Similar shifts did not occur on the South Fork.

"I kinda think with this insecticide question we'd have to have more data to know what's really going on, but I suspect this [shift] may be more to do with cladophora (algae) than the spraying event," said Lynch.

Lynch presented analytical findings with "caution" due to limited data collection. She ultimately recommended continuing the study for additional years with some adjustments to include more samples from early summer before cladophora growths appear.

Lynch also suggested repeating the insecticide study with some changes to allow for better differentiation of effects of aerial spraying versus the effects of

DELI-CIOUS ...



LUCAS TURNER PHOTO

Rangely Chamber Director Mckenzie Webber (left) and Sylvia Gibson, co-owner of Pippi's Soup and Subz, cut the ribbon during a grand opening celebration for the new Rangely business this week. Pippi's is co-owned by Taylor Doyle. "It's been good, it's been really busy and we're really happy," Gibson said. Webber recommends the Italian sub. Try out Pippi's dishes at their 258 E. Main St. location or call (970)572-0133 for a delivery.

algal blooms on macroinvertebrate populations.

In summary Lynch said macroinvertebrate assemblages in the White River were varied and diverse, and said "there was no sign of real impairment," but reiterated that more data would provide a clearer picture.

USGS STUDY RESULTS

The third and final presentation focused on results from an ongoing USGS study, which examined algal taxonomy, synoptic sampling results, streambed mobilization and historic streamflow records. USGS biologist Natalie Day started with an overview.

Data were collected at 20 sites distributed between the North and South Forks and the mainstem.

ALGAL TAXONOMY

Algal species were broken down into broad classifications for the sake of the presentation and fell under four main categories or divisions:

■ **Bacillariophyta** (also known as diatoms) - Microscopic organisms, typically surrounded by a "glass box" like structure.

■ **Chlorophyta** - Micro and macroscopic algae including cladophora and other filamentous algae. Note cladophora is one of the primary types of green algae visible during blooms.

■ **Cryptophyta** - A single celled algae that is not photosynthetic. Day noted that this type of algae was "very rare" in the river but present at a few sites.

■ **Cyanobacteria** - Photosynthetic microscopic algae also often called blue green algae.

Diatoms and chlorophyta made up the vast majority of collected samples, with one or the other usually dominating at individual sites.

When discussing chlorophyta, Day observed that "they weren't all cladophora" and said at least when looking at data samples from 2020, there were a variety of filamentous algae including species like stigeoclonium, spirogyra, ulothrix and others.

"These data really confirmed some of our ideas about what we know about algae taxonomy, and they challenged some of our understanding of algae in the White River," said Day.

Compared to diatoms and chlorophyta, cyanobacteria made up a small amount of collected samples. Day said there were a few sites where they made up more than 25% including planktothrix, which occurred in slow moving or "ponded" areas of the river.

Another type of algae (didymo) known as "rock snot" was found in some areas of the river with slow moving water. "It's known for being a hitch-hiker species so it could have come in from people's waders or boots," said Day.

She also briefly mentioned that it would be beneficial to have more taxonomy data during a normal "bad algae" year since data collected was only from 2020.

SYNOPTIC SAMPLING

In October 2020, USGS employees collected discharge measurements and nutrient samples at all 20 sites. Sampling took place in the fall to minimize variations in either streamflow or nutrient concentrations caused by algal growth, irrigation or other factors.

Day pointed out that there was a decrease in flow of 20-40 CFS on the North Fork below Lost Creek, which did not fall in line with the other discharge measurements. Other noted losses of flow occurred on the mainstem above Highland Ditch, and above Coal Creek. Day said she was trying to find out if there were any active diversions happening at that time, and asked TAG members for assistance to determine if that was the case.

Nutrient measurements checked concentrations of nitrate, total nitrogen, orthophosphate and total phosphorus.

"Concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus are higher on the North Fork than the South Fork," said Day.

"We do see an increase in total nitrogen at White River above Curtis Creek near Meeker," she said, adding that the increase was "not from nitrate, so it must be from organic nitrate or ammonium entering the river."

The study also examined nutrient loads at each site, and according to Day would be further analyzed to locate potential sources of nitrogen entering the river.

STREAMBED MOBILIZATION

Day discussed results of multiple surveys that examined streambed mobilization as a result of shear stress caused by snowmelt runoff.

"Shear stress can affect algal

attachment to rocks, it can move sediment and nutrients, and can reorganize the physical habitat of the stream channel," explained Day. She said results indicated that streambed mobilization likely occurred in 2019, but not in 2018 or 2020.

"We're gonna take all of this information based on three years of data collection and try and make sense of why we saw really high chlorophyll in 2018, but not in 2019 and 2020," said Day, adding, "That's where I think this type of project lends itself to a more sophisticated modeling approach."

STREAM FLOWS

Streamflows were in normal range for the first part of 2018 before dropping into the "much below normal" range in the mid and late summer, when massive algal blooms were happening. 2019 stream flows represented a drastic shift into the "much above normal" range for most of the summer thanks to high snowpack. Day noted "2019's peak flow has a 14% chance of occurring in a given year."

In 2020, streamflows dipped back down to "much below normal" for most of the summer.

Brian Hodges of Trout Unlimited said he was excited to see the results from further analysis of that data. He also said "we've known that the algae issue was bigger than cladophora and this was sort of the evidence to support that."

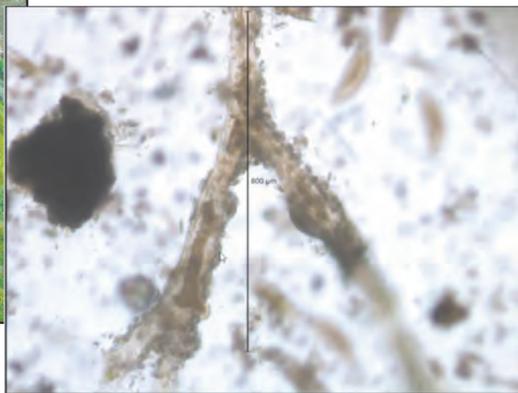
USGS plans to share another update in August of this year.

Results of these studies will be made available at <https://www.whiterivercd.com/white-river-algae-study.html>



COURTESY PHOTO

(Above) The White River during the 2019 algae bloom. (Right) One type of algal species present in the river is Cladophora, shown here with attached cocconeis sp.



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IN THIS ISSUE

- On Edge: After wanting to die, learning to live [PAGE 2A](#)
- Opinion [PAGE 4A](#)
- Obituaries [PAGE 6A](#)
- Town splits vote on Ute Park grazing permit [PAGE 7A](#)
- Local Sports [PAGE 1B](#)
- Wolf collared in NW Colorado [PAGE 3B](#)
- Public Notices [PAGE 6B](#)

Sat: 30s/20s

Sun: 40s/20s

LAST QUARTER 53%

on edge

After wanting to die, learning to live

By **SUSAN GREENE**
Colorado News Collaborative

AURORA I Navee Essien has grown up keenly aware of her gifts.

More times than she can count, people have reminded the senior at Aurora's Rangeview High how fortunate she is to have a close family and strong support system, academic and athletic talent, ease making friends, and the kind of smarts, beauty and confidence that make people say damn, no way that girl is 17.

By those measures, she knows she is approaching adulthood with advantages lots of kids don't have. She also knows those advantages could not prevent a string of traumas from interrupting her coming of age, and they were not enough to protect her from a despair so deep in November that she tried to end her life.

"I was tired of feeling miserable and being told I shouldn't, tired of crying and stressing everyone out, and I didn't have ways of handling it," she says. "I felt like I didn't belong on this earth anymore and that it would be really easier just to die."

There are lots of reasons not to write about a teenage suicide attempt, especially one as recent as two months ago. Doing so, some adults may argue, could shame Navee now or haunt her later. At a time when teen suicide and suicide attempts have shaken communities from the Eastern

Plains to the mountain valleys, some fear that news coverage may inspire copycats.

Navee isn't buying it. She is speaking out – with support from her mother and therapist – partly because she grew up fighting for the mentally ill, and partly because she thinks her story might help.

"Maybe I can save someone from what I went through, from what my mom went through," she says. "And if I can do that, I think it would help me."

This isn't the first time Navee has been interviewed for a news story. That was in 2015 after deputies at the Denver City Jail killed her uncle Michael Marshall, 50, overreacting to a nonviolent crisis triggered by his paranoid schizophrenia. Navee, who was 12 at the time, her family, and a determined band of friends and activists took to the streets, marching for justice. The family kept advocating for the rights of those living with mental illness even after accepting a \$4.65 million city settlement that prompted sweeping policy changes to protect mentally vulnerable inmates.

Another of Navee's uncles and two of her aunts died around the time of Michael Marshall's death, then one of her closest friends was killed in a gang shooting. Afraid and in mourning, her mom, nurse Natalia Marshall, moved from Denver to a safer neighborhood in Aurora, transferring her two girls to schools where

they didn't know anyone. Then, in a span of one month in 2019, Navee was diagnosed with a kidney disease that runs in her family, her great-grandmother died, and her father, Eno Essien, was fatally shot while being robbed in Denver.

"That was the beginning of my big decline mental-health-wise," she says.

Navee started flashing back to the blood stains on her father's kitchen floor and to video images of deputies suffocating her uncle. She started skipping school, and as her grades fell, her mom took away her cell phone and pulled her out of the pom team, the one activity that still motivated her. She lost friends because of it and stopped speaking to people who saw her breakdown as a "way to get attention" and urged her to simply "get over it." She wasn't sleeping, showering, brushing her teeth or cleaning her room. And she lost interest in eating, in spending time with her family.

The one therapist with whom she made some progress retired, making Navee reluctant to open up to another. A doctor prescribed an antidepressant that increased her risk of suicidal thoughts. Then 2020 rolled in, and with it COVID, social isolation, political upheaval with racist undertones, and mass uprisings against the kind of excessive force that led to her uncle Michael's homicide. Navee says she was too deep in her own struggles to pay much



MARC PISCOTTY PHOTO

"I am choosing not to see myself as sick," says Navee Essien, 17, of Aurora, Colorado. "I see myself as someone who is trying."

attention, but knows her mom and extended family were stressed out by those events and by her downward spiral.

"My family was saying, 'You have a big support system' and thought they were supporting me. But they have been through a lot and they were stressed in their own ways and didn't know how to deal with me."

On Nov. 13, Navee closed her bedroom door and slashed her wrists. Her mom found her. A trip to the ER led to a transfer to Highlands Behavioral Health, a psychiatric hospital for youth that, in five days, diagnosed her with bipolar, anxiety and major depressive disorders.

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

She's on four medications now and, while they stabilize her moods, they also seem to muffle them, making her feel emotionless. "You're so used to overreacting that you wonder if that's

normal."

Still, Navee found meaningful help at Highlands.

"They didn't belittle me. They talked to me like I was a real person. They made my opinions relevant and made me understand that what was happening was about brain chemistry and trauma, not something I did wrong or deserved."

If people learn anything from her story, she hopes it's that "things like being pretty or smart or well-spoken are not mental health attributes," nor are they some sort of karmic insurance against trauma and its consequences.

"They don't stop a chemical imbalance in your brain. They didn't stop my father from passing away, didn't stop my aunts from passing away, didn't stop my friends from dropping me, aren't going to fix any broken relations with my family members," she says. "It's a lot deeper than that."

She is back in school now, working a part-time job, seeing

a therapist every week and living with a friend. Her mom, Natalia, says letting her go right now is "the hardest thing I've ever done," and also one of the most necessary.

Navee knows she will need to manage her mental health for the rest of her life and that some days she will be more successful than others.

"I am choosing not to see myself as sick," she says. "I see myself as someone who is trying."

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.

Whatever you're going through, crisis counselors and professionally trained peer specialists are available to help.
Call Colorado Crisis Service's hotline at
1-844-493-TALK(8255)
There is no wrong reason to reach out.

Pioneers Pulse

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic at PMC

WHO:
Tier 1B.2

Individuals age 65+
Pre K - 12 teachers & child care workers will be eligible beginning February 8, 2021

WHAT:

COVID-19 Vaccine
FIRST DOSE ONLY

WHEN & WHERE:

Tuesdays in February
2/9, 2/16* & 2/23*
4:00 PM
Meeker Family Health Clinic

*Clinics will occur based on State allocation of vaccine.

This is NOT a walk-in clinic.
You must register

Call the Clinic: (970) 878-4014

Register Online: www.pioneershospital.org

RBC PUBLIC HEALTH 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.

Walk-In Clinic Dates and Times

Meeker Clinic

*******BOOSTER SHOTS ONLY*******

Thursday, Feb. 4, 2 to 6 p.m.
Fairfield Center, 200 Main St.

Rangely Clinic

*******BOOSTER SHOTS & LIMITED FIRST DOSES*******

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

Beginning February 8, PreK-12th grade educators, child care workers in licensed child care programs and people age 65 and older will be eligible.



RBC Department of Public Health & Environment
970-878.9520 Meeker · 970.878.9525 Rangely
Questions? Email publichealth@rbc.us

NEWS BRIEFS

Rio Blanco economic update

MEEKER | On behalf of Colorado Mesa University, the public is invited to a presentation on the Rio Blanco economy with Nathan Perry, Ph.D., associate professor of economics at Colorado Mesa University. The presentation will cover the following topics:

- How has COVID-19 impacted Rio Blanco, the State, and National economies?
- What is the growth trend for Rio Blanco?
- Has standard of living increased in Rio Blanco?
- Where are unemployment claims headed?
- How will transition away from coal affect NW Colorado?
- What are the population trends for the region?
- What can we expect in 2021?

Join the virtual presentation on Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. by emailing wramaker@gmail.com for the free Zoom link.

Presented by the White River Alliance, Rio Blanco Historical Society, and the *Rio Blanco Herald Times*.

Meeker Skijor livestream Feb. 20-21

MEEKER | We are excited to announce the Meeker Skijor race is happening, but may look a bit different than usual this year. Make plans to watch the event livestream Feb. 20 and 21 on the Meeker Skijor Facebook page @MeekerSkijor or website, skijormeeker.com.

Community Master Plan meeting Feb. 8

MEEKER | A quick reminder that the Meeker Planning Commission's second public meeting for the Community Master Plan is scheduled for next Monday, February 8, 2021. This meeting will serve as an opportunity for the Planning Commission to continue their consideration of whether to adopt the final version of the Community Master Plan, and the Plan's Appendices, as an official document of the Town of Meeker. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:00 PM.

The Planning Commission meeting is open to the public. Those that are interested in participating are strongly encouraged to do so via Zoom (login information provided below). If you plan on attending the hearing/meeting in-person you will be required to wear a mask and comply with the town's social distancing requirements.

Join Zoom Meeting via Internet:
<https://zoom.us/j/7467541100?pwd=NmdZVGJPNkNCYkF5RlI1wU1FKb2pvUT09>

Join Zoom Meeting via Phone:
Dial: (720) 928-9299
Enter Meeting ID: 7467541100
Enter Passcode: 211211

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.

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 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>

(Hey Ladies ... show this to your Fellas!)

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FREE LEGAL CLINIC
MEEKER PUBLIC LIBRARY

STILL HAPPENING VIA PHONE!

Wednesday
Feb. 10, 2021
2 to 3 p.m.

A free legal clinic for parties who have no attorney will be featured on the second Wednesday of each month at the Meeker Public Library. By computer link, volunteer attorneys will answer questions, help fill out forms and explain the process and procedure for all areas of civil litigation, including family law, property law, probate law, collections, appeals, landlord-tenant law, small claims, veterans issues and civil protection orders.

PLEASE CALL 970.878.5911 TO BE ADDED TO THE SIGN UP SHEET

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AIR FORCE ...



COURTESY PHOTO
On Jan. 23, 2021, Lt. Col. Robert Ormsbee (right), son of Bob and Gloria Ormsbee of Dinosaur, Colorado, was promoted to the position of Vice Commander North, NY Wing, U.S. Air Force Auxiliary. Left is Col. John Jones, Commander, NY Wing. Prior to joining the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary Ormsbee served 25 years in the U.S. Army retiring in June 2008. In February 2009 Ormsbee joined the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary as a way to continue serving his country. Ormsbee's wife Michaela is a Major in U.S. Air Force Auxiliary and his youngest son David is serving in The U.S. Air Force at Joint base Lewis-McChord in WA.

Game Day Picks



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Pasta
99¢



24 oz. Food Club

Pasta Sauce
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8 oz. Food Club

Crescent Rolls
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- 18 oz. Bullseye BBQ SAUCE \$1⁶⁹
- 16 oz. Pace Picante Sauce or SALSA 2 for \$4
- 12-16 oz. Hidden Valley RANCH DRESSING \$2⁹⁹
- 14-18.5 oz. Sweet Baby Rays BBQ SAUCE \$1⁷⁹
- 12 oz. Franks RED HOT SAUCE \$2⁹⁹
- 16 oz. Mezzetta PEPPERS \$1⁹⁹
- 5.5 oz. PRINGLES 3 for \$5
- 92 oz. Tide Liquid Laundry DETERGENT \$12⁹⁹

FROZEN

- 19 oz. Johnsonville BRATS \$4⁴⁹
- 18.3-31.5 oz. DiGiorno PIZZA \$4⁹⁹
- 8 oz. Kraft COOL WHIP \$1⁷⁹
- 4-6 ct. Fat Boy ICE CREAM PRODUCTS \$3⁹⁹

DAIRY

- 10 oz. CaciQ Rancho QUESO FRESCO \$2⁷⁹
- 16 oz. Land O Lakes BUTTER \$3⁴⁹
- 6 oz. Food Club YOGURT 10 for \$4
- 16 ct. Kraft American SLICED CHEESE \$3⁴⁹
- 16 ct. Velveeta SLICED CHEESE \$3⁴⁹
- 7.5-8 oz. Philadelphia Soft CREAM CHEESE \$2⁹⁹

MEAT

- Beef Top SIRLOIN STEAK \$3⁹⁹/lb.
- 19 oz. Johnsonville BRATS \$4⁴⁹
- 16 oz. Bar-S JUMBO FRANKS \$1¹⁹

PRODUCE

- 6 oz Blueberries or BLACKBERRIES 2 for \$4
- Ripe AVOCADOS 99¢
- 5 lb. Russet POTATOES 2 for \$3
- Crisp CUCUMBERS 39¢
- Fresh ZUCCHINI 99¢/lb.
- Jalapeno PEPPERS 89¢/lb.
- Cello Wrapped ICEBERG LETTUCE 99¢
- Roma TOMATOES 89¢/lb.
- 13 oz. Litehouse DRESSINGS \$2⁹⁹
- 7.5 oz. Wholly GUACAMOLE \$2⁹⁹



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EDITOR'S COLUMN

The best laid schemes

*The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men
Gang aft aftley
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,
For promis'd joy!*

~ Robert Burns, Scottish Poet

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

Those of Scottish heritage may know that last Monday, Jan. 25, was Burns Night, the celebration of 18th century Scottish poet and bard Robert Burns, whose most well-known ode is "Auld Lang Syne."

Burns also wrote a poem in 1785 titled "To a Mouse" after he accidentally upended a field mouse's nest with a plow. Hence the saying, as we hear it today, "the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." Steinbeck adopted the phrase for his classic novel, "Of Mice and Men."

Most of us like to plan

ahead... for good things. We plan to celebrate birthdays, we plan to get married, we plan vacations, we plan for things we want to happen. We don't plan — most of us, anyway — for things we don't want to happen. Our culture tends to consider that kind of planning a little morbid most of the time.

Insurance helps us plan ahead for those events to a degree. Training classes like "what to do in an earthquake" or "stop, drop and roll" or "how to escape a pit



of quicksand" are meant to help us prepare for the unexpected. I think most of us thought quicksand was going to be a much bigger problem in adulthood than it has been so far. I also haven't caught myself on fire yet, nor have I been in an earthquake of any substantial magnitude, but I know people who have.

Still, life tends to throw surprises our way and those unanticipated events can leave us reeling, and the recovery process is slow and difficult. But it's not impossible.

Modern poet and author Maya Angelou perhaps provided the best advice: "Hoping for the best, prepared for the worst, and unsurprised by anything in between."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hospital jackets frivolous

Dear Editor:

The new jackets bought by Rangely Hospital for board members and hospital staff are very sharp looking, but is this the best use of hospital money or mill levy money?

Thursday, Jan. 28, I had received my tax bill for the year and of course was all the listed raises in taxes, the biggest of all being the hospitals. Later that evening I attended the monthly hospital board meeting.

When I walked in, I saw John Payne handing out new wind breaker type jackets to all the board members. When I confronted him about who bought the jackets and was this the best way to spend hospital money, he laughed.

The next day I had to get a referral from the doctor and while I was at the hospital, I noticed all staff were wearing the new jackets that I saw the night before.

Had I not attended the meeting I wouldn't have known of the frivolous spending.

Nor would you.

René Harden
Rangely

Saddened by Morlan dismissal

Dear Editor:

I was once again saddened to see an article on the front page related to the commissioners' public dismissal of a competent, long-serving public employee. It has only been two years since two of the same members of this commission provided us with a similar headline concerning the county attorney.

I worked with Mr. Morlan for eight years, and having been a member of the commission which initially appointed him to the position of road and bridge director, I find it difficult to imagine circumstances which would justify his dismissal in this unseemly manner.

In my opinion, we should be publicly recognizing the many accomplishments of Mr. Morlan during his years of service to Rio Blanco County. He has developed an efficient, cost-effective department capable of detailing out critical infrastructure projects and seeing them through to completion. Dave has also shown his dedication in providing citizens of our county with safe roadways, clear of snow and debris, bridges which

are at or above state standards, and in many other signs of a quality professional career.

I am well aware that there are laws which, in the interests of protecting an employee's privacy, prevent public discussion of personnel matters. And it is certainly true that the commissioners are granted the power to make such decisions by the State of Colorado. However, as the saying goes, "Might doesn't make right" and I cannot see where this dismissal — one year short of his planned retirement — is the right thing to do and in the best interests of Rio Blanco County. The conduct of this affair, and that with the county attorney in 2019, does not speak well of these Commissioners.

Disrespect for employees cannot lead to a good working environment with high staff morale and quality services being provided to the residents of the county. These now-former employees deserve, at least, a public apology and thanks for their years of service to the residents of Rio Blanco County. Elected officials should appreciate that county employees are also county residents, citizens, and voters who deserve to be treated with respect.

Ken Parsons
Former RBC Commissioner
Rangely

KAYE'S CORNER

The great escape

By **KAYE SULLIVAN**
Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER I'm already dreaming of summer plans to escape COVID and isolation in Meeker. Perhaps a trip to see Alaska and the northern skies. Or how about a lovely, sandy beach in Hawaii?

Not happening for us and not for most of us. Still, it is time to plan some escape. Last year, like many campers, we discovered that recreating in the great outdoors was safe and remote. We camped in several Colorado State Parks that we had never visited before.

Beautiful Pearl Lake (near Steamboat Springs) was a gem even though the skies were just as smoky as here at home. Nearby are lovely reservoirs and places to fish. We had to start all over with the fishing thing. Get the license, find the tackle box, see if Kaye can launch a line. (Not!)

Still, we were out there in the great outdoors, in less contact with people than we would be in Meeker, (that's hard to do), and giving our travel trailer a workout. So, in 2020, we made the best of it with a few short trips to nearby Colorado locations.

Still, I quickly learned that reservations are required and if you don't start booking early, the rest of the world will. Thankfully, most campground reservation sites allowed us to



Kaye Sullivan

cancel or adjust as things changed last year.

Now in 2021, time to plan for the upcoming summer. It's still just February, but I have learned that

if I want to camp in certain locations, such as the Grand Tetons or Pearl Lake, I better start reserving right away.

But now what? What does 2021 hold for us? I surely hope it will be safer and that we can recreate with greater safety. Still, with spread of COVID variants and likelihood that many won't be vaccinated by summer, how safe will travel be?

We've all learned that whatever plans we make can be changed by COVID. The future is subject to yet more changes and hard as it is to keep adapting, we must.

I am hoping and praying that summer 2021 will be more COVID friendly, even as we all suffer through it.

For our household, I am moving ahead with camping reservations for a few summer outings. I do feel positive our lives will get better in 2021 and darn it! I still want to enjoy the great outdoors.

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LOOSE ENDS

This is how it is now

By **DOLLY VISCARDI**
Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER I This is how it is now — no same old/same old, no business as usual — as we all attempt to go back to our daily lives. Reading a magazine article recently I came across that phrase and the obtuse “new normal” that is used to describe daily life in our community, as well as our country. Most of us have been trying to forge forward and go about our regular routines. Now we hear dire reports daily about something called supply insufficiency, which creates the empty shelves in the marketplace. I think this term only serves to place the listener far away from the

real problem. This results in a major disconnect. A few months ago, the term food insufficiency was coined to describe hunger. Families lined up at food banks, as more and more people were laid off, evicted from their homes, and manufacturers stopped making products. Pat phrases describing the problems faced by so many in these tumultuous times do nothing but blur the collective visual picture that needed to come into view to figure out how to move forward. Children going hungry each day is not acceptable. It never has been. It is true that small towns are more insular and families continue to provide for their own. Here the

definition of family expands and community members pitch in to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone. There is always something every one of us can do to make sure children are fed, clothed and educated. Anything that keeps us at arm’s length from pitching in and solving problems such as we are facing these days is a dangerous distraction. This is how it is now.



Dolly Viscardi

CNCC CORNER

CNCC to launch 28 smart classrooms, mobile STEM lab

By **KEITH PETERSON**
VP of Instruction, CNCC

RBC I Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) in partnership with Colorado Mountain College has been awarded a \$2.9 million dollar RISE grant to support concurrent enrollment in rural school districts by equipping them with much needed classroom technology. With these funds, CNCC will be standing up 28 smart classrooms in seven different school districts and will be purchasing the region’s first mobile STEM lab. As a rural community college one of the obligations we hold most sacred, is the obligation to provide the communities in our service area with access to college level concurrent education. Currently, CNCC offers concurrent education to 5 counties boasting a service area of over 8000 square miles, the largest in the state. For many of our rural students concurrent education can be the difference between going to college or not.

Research published by the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) demonstrates students are 23% more likely to enroll in college after having successfully completed concurrent courses while in high school. These students likewise experience more success while in college and are far more likely to complete a degree than a student who did not participate in concurrent education. The acquisition of RISE grant funds will allow CNCC to greatly expand the catalog of courses it currently offers to concurrent partners. With remote learning technology in classrooms at high schools and the college there is the potential to offer young students course-



Keith Peterson

work in virtually any program of study offered by CNCC. The addition of a regional mobile STEM lab will allow students access to college level biology and chemistry courses previously unavailable to them due to local lab limitations. Indeed, CNCC will now be in the business of bringing science to your doorstep. Grants can be tricky animals. Oftentimes the amount of administration required to execute or report on a grant can be more of an expense than the award. To that end, CNCC is always very deliberate in choosing which supplemental sources of money to pursue. In this case, we felt the RISE grant gave us a true opportunity to use grant funds to pump money back into the communities who support us. By bolstering our regional public schools we create a greater number of future college students with greater earnings potential to support our local economies. A win we are happy to facilitate for our entire region.

GUEST COLUMN

"Look at me" culture leaves too many marks

By **MARJORIE "SLIM" WOODRUFF**
Special to the Herald Times

RBC I I attended a ranger program recently dealing with Leave No Trace. The ranger showed a picture of rock art, or “ancestral inscriptions” as archaeologists often refer to the practice. We agreed that one does not touch or otherwise deface it. Then she flashed a shot of some modern graffiti nearby -- think of a heart, two names and the word “forever.” “Is this OK?” “No” was the reaction that came easily from all of us. “But why? Isn’t it just modern rock art?” she asked. Indeed. Why are 800-year-old handprints sacrosanct, but not if hacked onto rock walls on public land today? At Capitol Reef National Park in Utah, 19th century pioneers scratched their names and the date into the rocks. Why is this a no-no for the modern visitor?



Marjorie Woodruff

is a hue and cry: “This land is just as important to me as it was to them!” I consider wilderness areas to be spiritual. But saying they are “sacred” to me would push the boundary. Appreciation and worship are not the same. I would posit that as dearly as I hold the Grand Canyon in my heart, the Grand Canyon is not the tradition in which I was raised, and I cannot, as the Hopi and Zuni can, claim the canyon to be my place of emergence. I was once privileged to attend a tour of rock art sites led by a Hopi. A New Age visitor proudly announced that her spirit guide was a Hopi shaman. I cringed, but our guide just nodded politely.

For too many years, there existed a group of Anglo businessmen in Northern Arizona who dressed up and simulated Hopi and Zuni dances during the local rodeo. They claimed to be honoring and preserving Native religions. The Hopi rightly complained that they themselves honor and preserve the dances and ceremonies. They did not need “help.” The Boy Scouts of America has appropriated Indian culture since the group’s founding in 1902. But backlash against Indian costumes and dances have now prompted the Boy Scouts to advise troops to check with local tribes to ascertain if such activities are offensive. Even so, certain troops still perform Indian dances as a form of “educational exploration.” Lisa Aldred, the author of “Plastic Shamans and Astro turf Sun Dances,” argues that fetishizing masks made by Native Americans perpetuates the oppression that real Indian people experienced. You might ask whether appropriating rock art sites for our own use is part

CONSERVATION CORNER

White River Integrated Water Initiative Update

The White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts (Districts) are coordinating the locally led effort to protect the present and future health of the White River while ensuring respect for local customs, cultures, property rights, and water uses. The White River Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) was developed to ensure representation of all stakeholders within the White River Basin and to help the District Boards guide this process. With grant funding, the Districts are hiring a contractor to provide coordination and facilitation of this process.

- The Coordinator position is primarily responsible for coordination and facilitation of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings, maintaining communication between local stakeholders and the PAC, and drafting the Phase 3 Plan of Work. Local stakeholders include water right holders, agriculture producers, municipalities, industry, recreation, environment, community members, and State and federal government representatives. See below for link to more information. The position will be open until filled.
- Riparian Health and Diversion Structure Assessment Teams are developing specific evaluation protocols that will be used by local experts, including landowners. The goal is to establish a baseline and identify potential opportunities for improving structures that will provide benefit to water right users, landowners, and overall health of the river. All activities will be on a voluntary basis and in coordination with respective landowners. If you divert water from the White River or Piceance Creek and you are interested in participating in these efforts, please contact the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts’ (Districts) office.

For more information on the White River Initiative and/or to view the full job announcement, please see www.whiterivercd.com/white-river-integrated-water-initiative or scan the below Zapcode. You are always welcome to call the Districts’ office at 970-878-9838.



The pioneers endured drought, famine, disease, and death in order to reach the West and scratch their names on the wall. The modern hiker had to drive 100 miles from the airport in air conditioning and then walk a good half-mile. Isn’t that “suffering” just as important? One difference may be that now we have the written word, videos, social media and blogs to preserve our encounters with nature for eternity. Four thousand years ago, the only way some people had to express themselves was by drawing on the rocks. One could argue that ancient rock art is also sacred, places of power that record the history of the people. Yet some modern-day hikers claim that they, too, hold the land sacred, and that their writings on rock also record their history. There are places in our public lands that are well-known worship sites. Devil’s Tower in Wyoming. Deer Creek narrows in the Grand Canyon. The Sacred Salt Mines on the Colorado River. But when the Park Service tries to close them to visitors to protect them, there

The Gift of the Moral Law (1)

By **Dr. J. D. Watson**
Pastor-Teacher, Grace Bible Church



Dr. J.D. Watson

HAVING considered the first of five principle in the Preface to the Moral Law in Exodus 20:1-2, the *Giver*, we turn secondly to the *gift* itself. While many people think there was no law before God gave the Ten Commandments at Sinai, it is extremely important and instructive to note that God’s law existed long before that event. Notice that several commandments are foreshadowed in the book of Genesis. While the Sabbath was not actually instituted, the *seed* for that fourth commandment was planted in 2:3, where God rested after Creation. The fifth commandment about honoring father and mother is alluded to in 37:10, where Joseph’s brothers think he is being disrespectful. The sixth about not murdering is clearly in view in 4:3-15, where Cain murdered Abel. The seventh about not committing adultery is alluded to in 12:17 when Pharaoh unknowingly took Sarah into his house. The eighth about not stealing is in view in 44:8, where Joseph makes it look like his brothers stole from him. The ninth about not lying is clear in 27:12, when Jacob deceived his father into believing he was Esau so he could steal the birthright. And the tenth about not coveting is plainly in view in 13:10, where Lot coveted the well watered plain of Jordan. We see this even further in that the very first occurrence of “Law” (*tôrāh*) is in Genesis 26:5: “Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.” Further still, some of the basic principles of the Moral Law already existed among the Babylonians, Hittites, and other civilizations. This demonstrates that at the very least a basic verbal law had been handed down through the years. It eventually was ignored by the majority after Babel, but there were some, such as Abraham, who retained the knowledge of God’s law. We see the same implication in Job (which predates the Mosaic Law): “Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the

words of his mouth more than my necessary food” (Job 23:12). So, long before Moses, there were commandments, that is, law, which while later expanded by the Mosaic Law was nonetheless a code of behavior and a body of teaching by which man was bound. This is the law that is written in men’s hearts, their conscience also bearing witness (Rom. 2:15), a law they can *deny* but cannot *escape*. In fact, throughout Romans, the term “law” specifically refers to the Ten Commandments delivered at Sinai (2:13, 17-29; 7:7-13; 13:8-10). To put it simply: *right has always been right and wrong has always been wrong*. With that in mind, consider what a gift the Law is! As James 1:17 declares: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” While the last thing many people would consider any law to be is a gift, that is exactly what it is, and what a wonderful gift! Law *prepares* us, *protects* us, and even *prosper*s us. From the human perspective, the unequalled genius of the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights is the best example in history. Why does political Liberalism hate and ignore the Constitution? Because it is based on God’s Moral Law! But as wonderful as those founding documents are, even they pale in the light of the full force of the Moral Law. Fourth century expositor John Chrysostom gave us these beautiful analogies: “The Scripture is a garden, and the Moral Law is the chief flower in it; [the Scripture] is a banquet, and the Moral Law is the chief dish in it.” Let us, therefore, consider three reasons the Moral Law is a gift in our next installment. We hope you will visit our website www.TheScriptureAlone.com, where you will find not only our podcast of these devotional studies but also other resources for Christian growth, including messages in MP3 media files. You are also invited to worship with us at Grace Bible Church (on the corner of 3rd and Garfield) at 10:30 A.M. each Lord’s Day, where the ministry is: “continu[ing] stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42).

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OBITUARIES

Shirley Renae (Ottosen) Fliegel

May 14, 1937 ~ Dec. 31, 2020

Shirley Renae (Ottosen) Fliegel was born on May 14, 1937, to Byron C. and Vera M. Ottosen. Her early years were spent on the ranch just west of Meeker. She rode the bus to the Powell Park School in Powell Park and later attended school in Meeker. Her high school years were spent in Mesa, Arizona, where she was a member of the honor society. Graduating in 1955. After high school Shirley attended BYU for four years, graduating in 1959. She taught intermediate school in Meeker for one year.

In 1961 she left on a LDS mission to Guatemala for two years. After her mission she moved to the Phoenix area where she met and married the love of her life, Everett Fliegel. She worked and retired from Motorola. After retiring she moved to Meeker to be with her mother. After her mother's death she moved to Vernal, Utah, to be closer to the Temple. When her health started to deteriorate she sold her home and moved into a Beehive Home where she could have some help.

Shirley was an accomplished musician and played for her church and in the Temple. She loved doing her plastic canvas and sharing with all that she knew. She will be greatly missed.

Shirley was predeceased by her husband Everett Fliegel and her parents Byron and Vera Ottosen along with her two brothers, Duane Ottosen and Lyle Clinton Ottosen. She is survived by her sister JoAnn Findlay (Fred Findlay) and Glenna Ottosen along with several nieces and nephews.

Dr. William R. Zagar

Jan. 25, 1939 ~ Jan. 23, 2021



Dr. William Zagar

Surrounded by love, Dr. William R. Zagar, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021. Billy was born in Pittsburg, Kansas, on Jan. 25, 1939, to Ann Strah Zagar and Frank Zagar. Bill was raised in Arma, Kansas, where the Zagar family had settled upon immigrating from Slovenia. He treasured his close childhood friendships and affectionately spoke about his days at Arma High School. Bill was a three-sport athlete; football, basketball and track and played saxophone in the Arma Bulldog marching band. Billy attended the University of Kansas on a football scholarship and joined the Delta Tau Delta fraternity where he made life-long friendships. At a social function, Bill met his future bride Sandra Kay Lee and upon graduation they were married at the Danforth Chapel at the University of Kansas on June 2, 1962. With his degree in chemistry, Bill went on to graduate from dental school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

In 1965, the Zagars moved to Topeka, Kansas where they began their dental practice and soon to follow their daughters Meya, Kesa and Trina were born. Bill and Sandra were grateful for the Topeka community, their

wonderful friends, and the patients and staff that made Bill's dental practice so special. Raising three daughters was the highlight of Bill's life where tea parties, school and sporting events, conversations about life, politics, dreams and aspirations were always a priority. KU basketball and football, tennis and golf at the Club, family road trips, dinner parties, travels with Sandy and skiing in Colorado were among his favorite activities. As an only child, Bill was grateful for the close relationships he shared with his beloved cousins. In 2003, Bill and Sandra relocated to Overland Park, Kansas, enjoying new and old friends and family. From 2008 to 2017, the Zagars also had a home in Meeker, Colorado, where Bill loved spending time with family, the Meeker Golf Course and Meeker Rec Center. The line between family and friends blurred the minute Bill shined a smile your way. He knew no

stranger and his interest was genuine when he asked, "What has been keeping you busy?"

His 10 grandchildren (Allie Marie Kindred, Samuel William Kindred, Anna Lee Kindred, Maria Elizabeth Kindred, Alexander William Saenz Zagar, Meya Isabella Saenz Zagar, Matilda Lee Brown, Zagar Mathias Brown, Vivian Monroe Brown, and Wagner Ollece Brown) enriched his life; always eager to participate in and keep up on their activities. Bill also cherished his relationships with his sons-in-law, Brian Kindred and Erik Brown. With the support of his family, he endured the challenges of pancreatic cancer and Parkinson's disease with contagious optimism and gratitude. Following a COVID-19 diagnosis, he passed in Kansas City with dignity and peace; grateful for the doctors, nurses and caregivers who supported him throughout the years. Bill will be greatly missed but his spirit lives on in the lives he touched. In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations in his name to local Hospice organizations or to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. A celebration of life will be held this summer.

Raymond Lavern 'Bub' Sutton

July 24, 1937 ~ Jan. 27, 2021

Bub Sutton, 83, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away at his home in Fruita, with his wife of 62 years, Jeri, and his loving daughter, Tracie, by his side.

Bub is survived, in addition to his wife and daughter, his sister, Mary (Tom) Pilkington, of Ammons, Idaho, and his grandson Kamron (Keri) Cadwell, of Grand Junction, several great-grandchildren, and a multitude of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his beloved son, Jay, in 1979, and three sisters and two brothers.



Bub Sutton

He spent his school years in Meeker, and then, working at the Colorado Game and Fish, lived in Carbondale, Yampa, Red Feather

Born in Grand Valley (Parachute), Colorado, at home, Bub lived his entire life in the state of Colorado, except for his service in the Army in Germany.

Lakes and Denver before buying The Dinosaur Store in Fruita in 1972 and starting Sutton's Yard and Garden in 1979.

A gentle giant of a man, with a quick wit and a twinkle in his eye, he loved hunting and fishing and the outdoors and most of all, spending time with his grandchildren.

He will be greatly missed by those who knew him. No services will be held; however, a memorial will be held in May.

Donations may be made in his honor to HopeWest, Grand Junction, Colorado.

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@theheraldtimes.com

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Area Agency on Aging may have funds for older adult services in RBC

PRESS RELEASE
Special to the Herald Times

RBC | The Area Agency on Aging is developing a plan for the delivery of services to older adults in Garfield, Mesa, Moffat, Rio Blanco and Routt Counties. The Area Agency on Aging may have available \$2,299,609 for the SY 2021-2022 service period (7-1-2021 to 6-30-2022). After a review of existing services, needs, and available resources, the Area Agency on Aging will make awards in the areas of:

- 1) Community Services (home care, transportation, legal, ombudsman, adult day care, elder abuse prevention and other)
- 2) Congregate Nutrition Programs
- 3) Home Delivered Meal Programs

4) Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

5) Services to Support Family Caregivers

6) Other Community Living Services

To request the necessary RFP guide, definitions of services, and Colorado Department of Human Services Volume X program regulations, please contact the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Colorado at the number listed above.

The amount allocated is subject to change pending availability of funds due to Federal or State budget developments. Applications can be made at <https://region11.oaa-sys.com/region11/rfp/public/Login.aspx> Applications will be made available on the website from Friday, Feb. 12, 2021 until Friday, March 12, 2021 at 6 p.m. Applications can be made ONLY at the above URL and will not be accepted through any other means. A proposers' conference will be held on Friday, Feb. 12, 2021 9 to 10:30 a.m. via webinar. Attendance by at least one staff person of a program applying for funds is required in order to be considered for funding.

Join with Google Meet: meet.google.com/mgm-vevt-gsd

Applications will be reviewed and notifications made to programs by June 1, 2021. A Notice of Grant Awards (NOGA) will be issued with an operating period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 or for a period that funds are available.

The Area Agency on Aging reserves the right to reject any or all applications and reserves the right to waive minor irregularities

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in the applications. An award will be made on the basis of an application that best serves the interests of older adults according to the judgment of the Area Agency on Aging.

RADINO & CHUCKWAGON Feb. 5 through 10, 2021	
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MONDAY • FEB. 8	Chicken fajitas, Spanish rice, pinto beans, ambrosia deluxe
TUESDAY • FEB. 9	Pineapple/ham bake, sweet potatoes, spinach, cream pie
WEDNESDAY • FEB. 10	Lasagna, tossed salad, strawberries and ice cream, bread sticks
White River Roundup continues to provide lunch to those aging adults 60+. Both Radino and Chuckwagon are providing home delivered meals M, Tu, W and F. To reserve a lunch, call and leave a message before 8 a.m. Radino: (970)878-9638 Chuckwagon: (970)878-5627	

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Meeker Sanitation senior citizen sewer rate reduction program

Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER I If you live in a household with one family member who is 65 years or older, as shown by a birth certificate, school records, and military discharge documents or other supporting documentation acceptable to the Meeker Sanitation District, you may qualify for a reduced sewer rate. Eligible households will receive a discount on their sewer bill each month.

To qualify for the program, the total gross family income for all residents of the household must be less than \$1,781.65 per month or \$21,379.80 per year as evidenced by Social Security Benefit Statement for 2021, federal income tax returns for all household members for the year 2020. If you are not required to file an income tax return, please provide copies of

all non taxable income received by the household for the year 2020.

If you have been previously enrolled in this program, the Meeker Sanitation District has your proof of age on file and will only require that you provide the income tax return or written proof of non-taxable income. In order to qualify for the program please provide the Meeker Sanitation District with the required information no later than December 15th of each year. If you start this program any other month than January of the year, your reduction will become effective the following month after the information required is presented to the Meeker Sanitation District.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the office of the Meeker Sanitation District at 878-5192, or stop by at 265 8th Street.

Split vote ends fall grazing, keeps spring calving in Ute Park

By NIKI TURNER
editor@ht1885.com

MEEKER I In a split vote that had to be decided by Mayor Kent Borchard, Meeker's Board of Trustees approved a lease for the use of Ute Park for cattle grazing only during the spring calving season. In past years — since the Town purchased the property — there has been debate over its use as a park for hiking, walking, and public use versus leasing it to Smith Ranches for his cattle. Smith has leased the property for calving in the spring and grazing in the fall. This year the board voted 3-3 to only allow calving in the spring, with the deciding vote made by Mayor Borchard.

The board approved Leif Joy as a member of the town's planning commission. Joy is also the RBC County Planner.

ERBM was getting the electric bill for Town Park when the Town should have been getting it. In 2019 the two boards agreed that the Rec District would pay for water at Sanderson Hills Park and the Town would pay for electric at Town Park. The difference amounts to about \$3,000.

The board opened bids for a new police vehicle. The bid award will be decided at the next

meeting.

In Mayor's remarks, Borchard encouraged residents to continue abiding by COVID-19 safety recommendations.

Town Manager Lisa Cook reviewed the meeting schedule next week. On Feb. 8 there will be a meeting for the land use committee at 7 p.m., on Feb. 9 at 5:30 p.m. there will be a special meeting to consider special reviews. On March 2, there is a workshop with DOLA.

Trustee Pat Turner announced his resignation because of personal health issues related to mental health. "I don't think it's in the town's best interest, since I can't put the correct amount of interest in the town's business right now, so I'm resigning."

The board will advertise a vacancy, directing interested parties to complete the application. If there is more than one interested applicant, the board will have an opportunity to interview interested candidates prior to appointment.

Trustee Travis Day talked about establishing a leash law in town for dogs. ERBM already has a leash law in place in local parks. It would require an ordinance.

The board held additional discussion about the use of Town Park prior to adjourning.

SPIKE ...



LUCAS TURNER PHOTO

This little spike enjoyed the quiet tranquility of the Rangely CNCC campus.

Board of Health/pandemic update

By NIKI TURNER
editor@ht1885.com

RBC I The county's Board of Health heard from community members, student athletes, athletic directors and school superintendents regarding the requirement for high school basketball players to wear face masks both on and off the court on Jan. 28. On Feb. 2 the board reconvened to approve a letter addressed to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado High School Activities Association, and the Colorado State Board of Health requesting that those groups reconsider the recommendations for basketball.

For the current sports season, only basketball players are required to wear face coverings while practicing. Concerns about choking or entanglement for wrestlers precluded wrestling from being included in the requirement. Spectators and coaches are required to wear masks for both sports.

"It would make things better for them if they could play without their masks," said MHS Activities Director and head basketball coach Klark Kindler. RHS Activities Director Ryan Wilkie cited several studies he found online about masks, and said, "Life is an inherent risk. I think that's a personal choice between athletes."

Superintendents Chris Selle and Matt Scoggins said they supported the request to have the requirement

removed, but expressed concerns that not following CHSAA's rules could take away the opportunities for student athletes to play.

"What happens in the school is still subject to CHSAA regs," Selle said.

RBC Public Health Director Alice Harvey said she fully supported the request.

"In the spirit of the way we have handled this since the start, this is a perfect example of how locally we've handled this, working closely together with the schools, the hospitals, etc. We are sharing information at such a granular level we're able to contain outbreaks in a way that's far more efficient than other districts. I think that's how you manage the infection control risks," Harvey said.

The Meeker wrestling team and boys basketball team recently self-quarantined following reports of probable exposure to limit the possibility of spread.

Also during the Jan. 28 meeting, the Board of Health discussed a media request from Fox News Channel 31 in Denver regarding "wasted and discarded vaccines." According to a spreadsheet provided to County Attorney Todd Starr's office the percentage of loss was higher for RBC than for other counties.

Harvey and Public Health Nurse Sarah Coker provided a thorough explanation for the 17 doses out of 800 that were classified as wasted or discarded. Six doses expired before they could be given, and 11 doses

were missing from "short" vials that only had nine doses instead of 10.

"Other counties are having the same problem. We are giving proportionally more, based on our numbers through our clinics. The only time we throw a vaccine out is if it's expired," Harvey said.

The board directed staff to draft a letter to send to Fox 31, which reported on the situation statewide later that day, quoting the CDPHE's immunization branch chief Heather Roth, who said, "I think we're really pleased with the data, with it being under 1% of unused dose," said Heather Roth, CDPHE's immunization branch chief. "All of our vaccine providers are being really good stewards of the federal resources that are coming to Colorado."

The RBC Board of Health includes the three-member board of county commissioners (the only voting members) and three citizens appointed by the board. It's one of the boards that has some requirements for appointments, including having a background in environmental or behavioral science, or a health/medicine background; and being able to "provide content and technical guidance for jurisdictional enforcement and public health steering." There are two vacancies on the board at this time.

PANDEMIC UPDATE

"We are seeing a decrease after the spike that started about a month ago," RBC Public Health Director Alice Harvey said Monday, adding that they hope the drop in new cases and hospitalizations last week continues.

The State of Colorado is proposing more changes to the COVID-19 dial framework that would change some of the thresholds based on vaccination rates and changing from a 14-day incidence rate to a 7-day incidence rate. If the proposed changes are accepted, RBC would be eligible to move to Yellow status on the dial based on current numbers.

Starting next week, individuals 65-plus, education and childcare workers, and "people essential to continuity of state government" will be eligible to receive vaccines.

Those in the "essential workforce" group — which makes up a large percentage of residents in RBC, are expected to become eligible March 1. Harvey said the county has been receiving vaccine allocations from the state as expected.

For the booster shot clinic and first dose vaccination clinic schedule, see the ad on Page 2A or visit <https://rbc.us/629/COVID-19-Vaccinations>.

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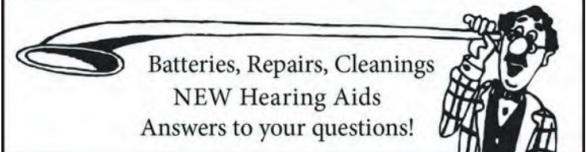


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Thursday, Feb. 18 · Thursday, Mar. 18

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While we strive for accuracy in all our reporting, it is an inescapable fact that mistakes will occur. When a mistake is brought to our attention, it will be addressed in one of three ways, depending on the nature of the error.

Clarification: We didn't say anything untrue, but we didn't state things clearly enough to avoid confusion or new information has come to light.

Correction: We made a factual error. Here's what we should have said.

Retraction: The story is wrong in its entirety.

Corrections are clearly labeled as such, and are published as soon as possible following notification of an error.

To submit a correction, call 970-878-4017 or email editor@ht1885.com.

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Sports stories are posted in the HT as space allows in the following order: varsity stories, junior varsity stories, junior high stories, miscellaneous stories. Contact us at editor@ht1885.com with questions.



TIFFANY JEHOEK PHOTO

Judd Harvey (above) and Trae Kennedy had "the toughest matches" against Coal Ridge Titan wrestlers during a quad in Paonia Saturday, according to head coach JC Watt. All 11 Cowboy wrestlers ended up pinning their Titan opponents for the first sweep of the year.

Cowboy grapplers 5-0 as a team

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

MEEKER I The Meeker Cowboys ended the first weekend of the winter season 5-0 as a team.

Wrestling varsity last weekend was Trae Kennedy at 113 pounds, Ty Goedert (120), Tyson Portwood (132), Kaden Franklin (138), Connor Blunt (145), Trinden Powell (152), Kelton Turner (160), Brendan Clatterbaugh (182), Colby Clatterbaugh (195), Noah LeBlanc (220), and Judd Harvey (285).

Friday, the team traveled to Rifle taking on the Bears and Eagle Valley Devils. In the opening dual of the season the 3A Bears lost to the Cowboys 57 to 12. Turning next to the 4A Devils, Meeker triumphed again 48-30. Each team member secured at least one win in the evening. Winning both matches were Kennedy, Goedert, Blunt, Turner, B. Clatterbaugh, and C. Clatterbaugh.

"I was really proud of the boys and how they wrestled," commented head coach JC Watt, "It was supposed to be a quad and we should have wrestled Delta, so we will make this up at the end of the year."

"We wrestled hard both days, and were the best conditioned of all the teams, and it will help us in the future," said Watt.

The following day the team was once again on the road to Paonia

for the quad with the Eagles, Coal Ridge Titans, and Mancos Bluejays.

The Cowboys had their first sweep of the year over the Titans. The Cowboys wrestled 11 weights, pinned all 11 Titans, and won 66 to 0.

"Kennedy and Harvey had the toughest matches of the dual and faced the kids with the best ability," Watt said. "Our JV got a few matches and with the exception of one quad specifically for them, they will continue to get matches where possible."

Meeker met Mancos for the second dual of the day, wrestling nine weights and winning 37-29. Turner, in his first weekend of high school wrestling, took on Chase Moore, the number two ranked 160 pound Bluejay, pinning him in the third round.

In the final dual of the day, Meeker met the home team Eagles. Fifth dual and fifth win 45-36, Cowboys over the Eagles.

Cowboys going 3-0 on Saturday were Blunt, Turner, C. Clatterbaugh, and Harvey.

Tuesday the team had another dual, this time with the 5A team Grand Junction, Tigers. The Tigers handed the Cowboys their first loss as a team.

The Cowboys now look towards the duals with Hotchkiss and Norwood that will begin at 6 p.m.



AMBER GARCIA PHOTO

Rangely girls 1-1 on season

Special to the Herald Times

RANGELY I

Basketball season is once again in full force as Rio Blanco County rivals squared off against each other on Friday, Jan. 29, in Meeker High School's new gym. The lady Panthers enter the 2021 season with an overhaul of the team they put on the floor from the previous season. Rangely returns only two varsity starters: juniors Adelynn Halcomb and Mary Scoggins. Filling in the new varsity starting spots are senior Dixie Rhea and freshmen Ryann Mergelman and Annika Cantrell. Also playing varsity this year are senior Maya Mercado and freshmen Kastyn Dembowski and Morgan Ellis.

The much-anticipated tip-off for both teams began with the Panthers jumping out to an 11-0 lead in the first two minutes of the first quarter and they never surrendered the lead. Leading the Panthers in scoring with six points was Mary Scoggins, followed by Annika Cantrell with four points. Adelynn Halcomb, Dixie Rhea, and Ryann Mergelman added two points each to round out the scoring for the Panthers. Cantrell controlled the rebounds with force in the first quarter with six rebounds.

The Cowboys were able to bring the score to within 10 points at the halftime break with the Panthers leading 35-25. The first-half scoring saw two juniors trading buckets, with Rangely's Scoggins scoring nine points and Meeker's Sarah Kracht scoring 13 points. Mercado scored her first four points in the program along with Dembowski scoring her first four points as well. Cantrell continued her rebounding dominance as she added four more rebounds to bring her total to 10 rebounds in the first half.

Scoggins and Kracht continued to push each of their teams in scoring as Scoggins added six points and Kracht added four. Cantrell continued to bring rebounds down for the Panthers as she added five more to total 15 on the night so far. The Panthers outscored the Cowboys 12-10 in the third quarter to push the score to 47-35 at the end of the third quarter.

The fourth quarter continued to be fast-paced like the



MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO

Juniors Mary Scoggins (above) and Adelynn Halcomb are the only returning varsity starters this season. The lady Panthers prevailed over Meeker 47-35 but lost to the Rams in a non-league game over the weekend.

rest of the game and Scoggins stayed hot for the Panthers as she added eight more points to bring her total to 23 for the night. Scoggins ended the night with 11 rebounds for her first double-double of the season. Scoggins also accumulated three steals and three assists to add to her stats for the game. Cantrell added six more points and three more rebounds to also earn herself a double-double as she ended the game with 14 points and 18 rebounds. The Panthers closed out the game with a 64-48 win to start their 2021 season 1-0.

Rangely squared off against the Soroco Rams on Saturday, Jan. 30 in Rangely. This was the first back-to-back games for both the Panthers and the Rams as is accustomed in Western Slope 2A league play. The Panthers jumped out to an 11-8 lead at the end of the first quarter. Halcomb led the Panthers in scoring in the first quarter with five points along with two points from Mergelman, Scoggins and Cantrell. The

Rams were able to turn up their scoring and their stifling defensive style as they took a 25-18 lead over the Panthers into halftime. Unfortunately, the Panthers were not able to retake the lead and fell to the Rams 32-43. This was a non-league game between the two teams as they will match up again in Oak Creek on Feb. 27 for the league showdown.

The leading scorers for the Panthers were Halcomb with 16 points, Cantrell with eight, Scoggins with four, Mergelman and Mercado each with two. Cantrell came close to another double-digit game for rebounds as she pulled down nine for the Panthers.

The Panthers will continue their 2021 schedule as they will travel to take on the Vail Christian Saints in a non-league game on Tuesday, Feb. 2. They will then host the Hayden Tigers on Thursday, Feb. 4 for their first league game. The Panthers will head to Kremmling on Friday, Feb. 5, for their second league game.

Cowboys best Rangely Panthers, Cedaredge Bruins in first two games of 2021 basketball season

By **TIFFANY JEHOEK**

Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER I The Meeker Cowboy boys' varsity team opened their season against two league opponents, capturing wins with both and are headed into week two with a 2-0 record.

At the half the Cowboys had a commanding 21 point lead that the Panthers could never recover from. As the game continued the point spread continued to widen. Final score 72-34 the Cowboys and winners of the 2021 county rivalry game.

Spud White, senior, led the team with 28 points and shot a 63% field goal percentage. Liam Deming had 13, Ethan Drake nine, Braydon Garcia eight and Ryan Phelan had six to round out the top five scorers. Also scoring for the Cowboys was Junior Gaeta and Zach Simonsen. Off the boards White also led with 14 and posts Deming and Ryan

Phelan each had seven.

Another home game followed Saturday and another win. The Cedaredge Bruins traveled to Meeker, but the Cowboys came out taking an early lead 19-6 in the first quarter and wrapped up the win 56-41. Braydon Garcia put up 16 points and was the only Cowboy to break double digits. The bench was deep with six additional boys scoring to make up the 56 points, Drake, White, Phelan, Deming, Gaeta, and Peter Hanks. For a second game in a row White led the way in rebounds with nine, and finishing out the top three was Deming and Garcia each with seven.

Cowboy parents will be able to watch their boys play again at home both Thursday night against the Grand Valley Cardinals and the Friday against Vail Mountain. Game time Friday, JV begins at 4:30 p.m. and will be televised on the NFHS Network and then Saturday JV begins at 4 p.m.

Senior Spud White (left) led the team with 28 points in two games Friday and Saturday. The Cowboys won both matches and will play again Thursday night against the Grand Valley Cardinals and Friday against Vail Mountain.



MHS junior Sarah Kracht led scoring with 25 points during the first games of the season. The team ended the week 0-2 and will play Thursday at home against the Grand Valley Cardinals.

AMBER GARCIA PHOTO

Lady Cowboys end first week of season 0-2

By TIFFANY JEHOUREK

Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER 1 As the season opened last Friday, the girls' varsity team took the court for the first time in the brand new gym as hosts to the Rangely Panthers. A young team, with no seniors, the scoring was led by junior Sarah Kracht with 25 points, nine of which came from her three 3-pointers. Brighton Bair and Savannah Mendenhall each had six points rounding out the top three scorers for the game. Defensively Bair was the top rebounder followed by Kracht, Jayden Overton, and Ainsley Selle.

The Saturday matchup with the Bruins found the Cowboys trailing at the half 40-13. Kracht, who once again broke 20 points, scoring 24 total points, 12 from three-pointers, led the team. The other ten points came from Hadley Franklin, Ellie Hossack, Overton, and Mendenhall. Scoring 34 points, the Cowboys couldn't hold back the Bruins and fell 67-34.

Ending the first week 0-2, the team turns toward another week with home court advantage. Thursday against the Grand Valley Cardinals, JV to begin at 4:30 pm, the girls' varsity will not have a game against Vail Mountain on Friday.

THE STRIP

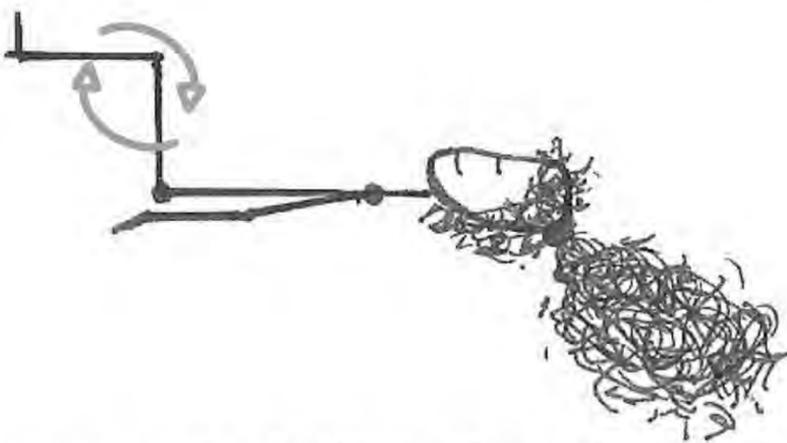
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2. Pull your belly button up and then back towards your spine to engage your core and lift your pelvic floor.
3. Stay relaxed through your shoulders and maintain steady/natural inhales and exhales.



This movement is called Circling Reverse Tabletop and is the first in a three part series that will strengthen and create space in your lower back and core.

To begin, lay down on your back, lengthen your neck so you feel completely aligned through your cervical spine, and tuck your shoulder blades behind you to open your chest to the sky. Your arms will simply lay to either side of you to keep you balanced once you begin to move. Next you will lift your legs bringing your knees to stack directly over your hips, bend your knees to a 90degree angle and pull your toes back towards you as reach through your heels.

Pull your belly button up and back towards your spine to engage your core and pelvic floor, then start to make little circles around and around with your knees. These circles will massage your lower back and hips into the ground beneath you while also working your core and thigh muscles. Keep a steady and even breath as you begin to make the circles bigger and bigger, then switch direction returning to small circles.

Continue this exercise as long as it is comfortable for you, working to maintain a balance between ease and effort of this movement.



MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO

Gabe Polley added 12 points to Rangely's side of the scoreboard during two opening games this weekend.

Rangely boys drop two games

By TIFFANY JEHOUREK
Special to the Herald Times

RANGELY 1 Rangely's opening weekend of boys basketball ended with the Panthers 0-2.

The boys met the Cowboys first on Meeker's home turf. At the half the Cowboys were up 44-13 and the Panthers were unable to close the gap, final score 72-34 (scores

according to MaxPreps and the Colorado High School Activities Association).

Two Panthers were in the double digits for scoring, Gabe Polley had 12 points and Timothy Scoggins was just two behind with 10. Also scoring for the Panthers were Marstan Wagner, Kevin Wren and Keihlan Myers.

The following day the Panthers met the Rams, once

again trailing at the half by 16 points, they were unable to pull out the victory and fell 75-44.

There was a lot of contribution from the bench, led by Andrew Dorris with nine points, and Travis Coates, Polley, and Myers each with six. Other scorers were Wren, Fisher Winder, Kenyon Cochrane, Scoggins and Wagner.

Rangely eighth graders pull together for 25-18 win over Hayden in first season game

Special to the Herald Times

RANGELY 1 Rangely's eighth-grade boys did an excellent job in their first basketball game of the season. They came together as a team to pull off a 25-18 win in a close game against Hayden. With only seven players suited up they had to fight through being tired and work as a team offensively and defensively. Clay Allred and Aydan Christian led the team with seven points each. The boys are looking forward to

next Saturday where they will face Meeker and Hayden.

The seventh-grade boys also did an excellent job in their first game of the season getting a win against Hayden with a score of 23-9. With this being some of the kids' first basketball game, and the first game of the season, they did a great job hustling offensively and defensively. Drew Zadra led the team with seven points. The boys are looking forward to next Saturday where they will face Meeker and Hayden.

Yampa Valley Community Foundation launches scholarship season

Special to the Herald Times

RBC I It's scholarship season for students in the region and the Yampa Valley Community Foundation (YVCF) is pleased to offer two scholarships for Meeker High School (MHS) students.

The Everett & Benita Bristol Memorial International Scholarship is awarded to students planning to or currently attending CMC's Steamboat campus full-time who meet one or more of the following criteria: first generation college student; DACA; Students born outside the U.S. or who have parents born outside the U.S.; International student; or Students for whom English is not their primary language.

The Kenny Corriveau Trade Scholarship is for 17-25 year old residents of Routt, Moffat or Rio Blanco Counties pursuing education in the trades. Recipients are selected from a description of how they will use the skills

required, community/civic service and an essay on driving safety for teens.

There are YVCF scholarships to help students of all stripes further their education, from student-athletes, to those dedicated to community service, to students pursuing careers in health-care, music or the trades. And with options for graduating seniors from every Yampa Valley high school plus scholarships for young adults attending two- or four-year colleges, graduate school, or specialized education programs, the scholarship funds held at YVCF aim to support all students in their attainment of academic, trade and life skills.

With so much disruption to traditional academics and to the economy due to the coronavirus, it feels as important as ever to support our youth through scholarships. "It's inspiring to have so many generous donors in our communities who want to help

students achieve their educational aspirations," said Traci Hiatt, Donor Engagement Manager at YVCF. Many of the scholarship funds held at YVCF welcome donations, which are tax-deductible. In 2020, \$211,300 was awarded to 108 students in the region, with a median award of \$700.

Scholarship applications open on Feb. 1 and, after careful review by scholarships committees, awards are announced at graduation.

To learn more about YVCF's existing scholarships or to make a charitable contribution to a scholarship fund, visit yvcf.org/scholarships or contact Jenny Campbell, Scholarship Program Manager, at 970-879-8632 or jenny@yvcf.org.

For information on how you can start a new scholarship fund, please contact Traci Hiatt, Donor Engagement Manager, at 970-



COURTESY PHOTO

Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff maintain watch over gray wolf M2101 after being tranquilized and fitted with a GPS collar. M2101 has been spotted in north-central Colorado traveling with gray wolf M1084 from Wyoming's Snake River Pack.

Wolf collared in Colorado

PRESS RELEASE
Special to the Herald Times

RBC I Colorado Parks and Wildlife has placed a GPS tracking collar on a wolf in the north-central part of the state. The wolf was confirmed in late January when it was seen with M1084 - a VHF-collared male wolf that entered Colorado in 2019 from the Snake River wolf pack in Wyoming.

"The GPS collar will allow our biologists and wildlife managers to learn more about the travel patterns of wolves that are coming into the state," said Dan Prenzlow, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife. "VHF collars are useful for locating an animal but the more advanced GPS collar will allow us to get a much better understanding of the animal's movement, range

and behaviors."

During the collaring effort, a CPW-contracted company netted the animal from a helicopter and used a tranquilizer so that a collar could be placed. The wolf was able to get loose from the net and headed north toward Wyoming. The animal was subdued just inside of the Wyoming state line. At that time, the wolf was collared and staff remained with it until it was alert and mobile. CPW staff notified Wyoming Game and Fish of the operation and the crossing of the border.

"We appreciate Wyoming Game and Fish," Prenzlow said. "I understand this work impacts them and wildlife don't understand where our dividing boundaries are."

"The newly collared wolf is a four-year-old male weighing

approximately 110 pounds," said Brian Dreher, terrestrial section manager with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. "The wolf was given a health exam during the collaring process and appears to be in good health."

In Colorado, gray wolves remain a state endangered species, and may not be taken for any reason other than self-defense. Penalties under C.R.S. 33-6-109, including fines, jail time and/or a loss of license privileges, apply. Colorado voters approved a ballot measure in November 2020 that instructs the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to prepare a plan and reintroduce wolves to western Colorado. To learn more about that process, click on the "Learn about Wolf Management" banner on the CPW website at cpw.state.co.us.

TROOPER TIPS

A rather blustery drive

By MASTER TROOPER
GARY CUTLER

Special to the Herald Times

RBC I As Winnie the Pooh stated, "It undoubtedly looks like a rather blustery day." As that silly old bear stated so many years ago, it still rings true. We have seen a lot of blustery days this year with some gusts reaching as high as 116 MPH.

Wind can affect your travels in many ways. The one that comes to most people's minds is how it can and often does topple big rigs pulling trailers. Even though you may not be driving a semi, you do need to be aware of them in a wind storm.

If you are feeling wind gusts

while driving, it could mean that a particularly strong one can hit the semi and tip it over. You need to be careful with them while following or passing them. Watch to see if you see the semi having trouble maintaining its lane. It could mean something more dangerous is in the near future. Spend as little time around them as possible in case a gust hits it while you are near.

This goes the same if you are pulling a trailer. Lighter trailers, especially empty ones, are more prone to dragging the tow vehicle off the road with it when hit by a gust of wind. Also, make sure your load is secure especially in wind storms. Items that you normally wouldn't think will

blow off your trailer may indeed fly off and possible hit a vehicle or go into the roadway and cause another vehicle to crash.

Those of you who don't pull trailers or drive semis are not off the hook. Particularly strong winds can move your car into the oncoming lane of travel. I'm sure you've felt your vehicle moving around and sometimes finding it hard to maintain your lane. Again, be cautious of wind storms and especially ones with strong wind gusts. If there is a report of possible strong winds, try to adjust your travel plans. Get where you're going safely.

"Oh, Pooh, there's more to life than just balloons and honey."

As always, safe travels!

VA Western CO Health Care celebrates 75th anniversary

Special to the Herald Times

RBC I The VA Western CO Health Care System (WCHCS) celebrates its 75th anniversary commemoration of academic affiliations. WCHCS trains between 225 to 400 health professional trainees per year in collaboration with approximately seventy different affiliates. Future professionals from these programs are the nation's health care workforce pipeline who will go on to care for Veterans and other patients in urban and rural communities across the U.S.

WCHCS began partnerships with many affiliates such as Colorado Mesa University over 30 years ago. Additionally, WCHCS maintains a broad number of affiliations with a majority of local health care academic programs providing health professional trainees access to education focused on the unique care needs of Veterans. WCHCS frequently welcomes interdisciplinary trainees from Colorado Mesa University, Colorado Christian University, Colorado Northwestern Community College, Technical College of the Rockies, Grand Canyon University, Temple University, and University of Colorado. In the last year, WCHCS supported the education needs of 208 nursing students.

WCHCS has grown multiple academic programs focused on preparing the future workforce of providers necessary to meet the care needs of Veterans and the Community. St. Mary's Family Practice Residency is a valued affiliate partnering for Graduate Medical Education since 2014,

supporting resident rotations at WCHCS. Additionally, WCHCS has partnered with the Office of Academic Affiliations to establish multiple programs training providers transitioning into practice. Two Nurse Practitioner Resident Programs have been awarded advancing training of new nurse practitioners in the delivery of Veteran Care in mental health and primary care specialties. Additionally, WCHCS has established an APA accredited Psychology Internship. WCHCS seeks to advance preparedness of providers and maintains specific paid trainee positions in Physical Therapy and Social Work.

WCHCS has been awarded multiple academic grants focused on developing rural interdisciplinary training programs. WCHCS remains a leader in rural health education and has participated in a VA Rural Faculty Development Initiative expanding the WCHCS workforce to serve as Rural Faculty. Furthermore, a Nurse Aid Expansion Program is in development in partnership with Western Colorado Community College.

The commemoration is part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) overall 75th anniversary celebration of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) occurring throughout 2021.

"It is an honor to be a part of positive advancements and cutting-edge efforts serving those who served our nation. VA Western CO Health Care System takes pride in its academic partnership and achievements during the past years,"

said Elizabeth Roten, Chief of Organizational Development & Education. "We look forward to continuing our partnerships that benefit us all with the passion to learn and power to heal."

During the pandemic, VA has worked with medical schools and programs across the country to utilize health professions trainees to care for Veterans virtually and in-person while completing their training requirements. The number of physician residents training in VA over the past year increased by more than 2,000 and, according to the American Association of Medical Colleges, applications to medical schools have increased by 18% for the upcoming 2021 academic year.

VA's academic mission began in 1946 and currently provides training to nearly 70% of all U.S. physicians. Approximately 120,000 health professions trainees help care for more than 9 million Veterans at clinical sites around the country.

Affiliated with more than 1,800 academic institutions including 97% of America's medical schools, VA trains future health professionals in over 40 disciplines including physicians, psychologists, nurses, pharmacists and social workers.

For more information about academic affiliates, visit VA's Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) website. For details on anniversary activities, go to the [OAA 75th anniversary webpage](http://OAA75thanniversarywebpage).

For more information about VA Western CO Health Care System, please contact Kayla Holst at Kayla.Holst@va.gov or 970-314-6582.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR RIO BLANCO HERALD TIMES READERS

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- THEME: U.S. PRESIDENTS
- ACROSS**
- Newton's first name
 - Part of smog
 - Hissy fit
 - Human trunk
 - Form of "to be"
 - Illegal booze
 - Editorial changes
 - Crematorium jar
 - #56 Down, alt. sp.
 - *One of six Presidents named James
 - *First President previously divorced
 - Civil War's Johnny
 - Manage without help
 - Military procedures
 - Cone-shaped quarters
 - MLB bench
 - Cowboy's necktie
 - A whole lot
 - *Whig, e.g.
 - Resembling wings
 - Nightly necessity
 - Experience emotion
 - Large ray
 - Glacier's deposit
 - "Watch out!" on a golf course
 - Traditional sock pattern
 - Reduced Instruction Set Computer
 - Knight's title
 - Bypass
 - Foot digit
 - *President Chester _____
 - *He signed legislation to create Medicare
 - Fauna, Merryweather and _____, fairy godmothers
 - Expert
 - Convex molding
 - Bumpkins
 - CafÉ alternative
 - Car ways
 - Trans-Siberian Railroad city
 - Piercing part
- DOWN**
- Any thing
 - *Trump had button on desk to order his favorite one
 - Desertlike
 - Up and about
 - Cuddle
 - Half-man, half-goat
 - Legendary NHLer
 - Tragedy, or comedy, or satire
 - Cheap form of payment?
 - Before Scotia
 - Clickable picture
 - Olden day "your"
 - Be in charge, two words
 - Newspaper notices
 - What all of #70 Across do
 - Painting or poetry
 - *He beat McCain and Romney
 - Kind of cap
 - Colloquialisms
 - *First "dark horse"
 - Gamecock's spur
 - Dessert sandwiches
 - Wombs
 - *#29 Down predecessor
 - Creative
 - 18-wheeler
 - Green pasta sauce
 - Big Island greetings
 - Australian flightless bird
 - Group of people, often in research
 - Extremely angry
 - Concluding stanza in poetry
 - *G. W. Bush to Yale, e.g.
 - Schneider and Lowe, e.g.
 - Major bike maker
 - Audience's rejection
 - Sold in bars
 - Auto pioneer
 - Like a busybody
 - Back, to a pendulum
 - Latin dance three-step move, once

DAYS GONE BY

The Meeker Herald
125 years ago

At the most recent Cattle Growers' Association it was proclaimed that a big boom in the cattle business is in store for the future.

"Fame never pursues men. It's wreath is won by standing where honor dwells. Notoriety

pursues; fame is enthroned."

The Meeker Herald
100 years ago

Claude Wilson, Meeker's County Clerk, reported that there was a lot

of activity in the marriage license department.

Those who traveled to Stock Show are now back in town.

After the passing of Groundhog Day, it was determined that the porker did not end up seeing his shadow.

The Meeker Herald
50 years ago

Mrs. Mira Lee Renfro received special recognition after being noticed as the oldest Walbridge Wing Resident.

Hugh Caldwell declined to run for another term as County

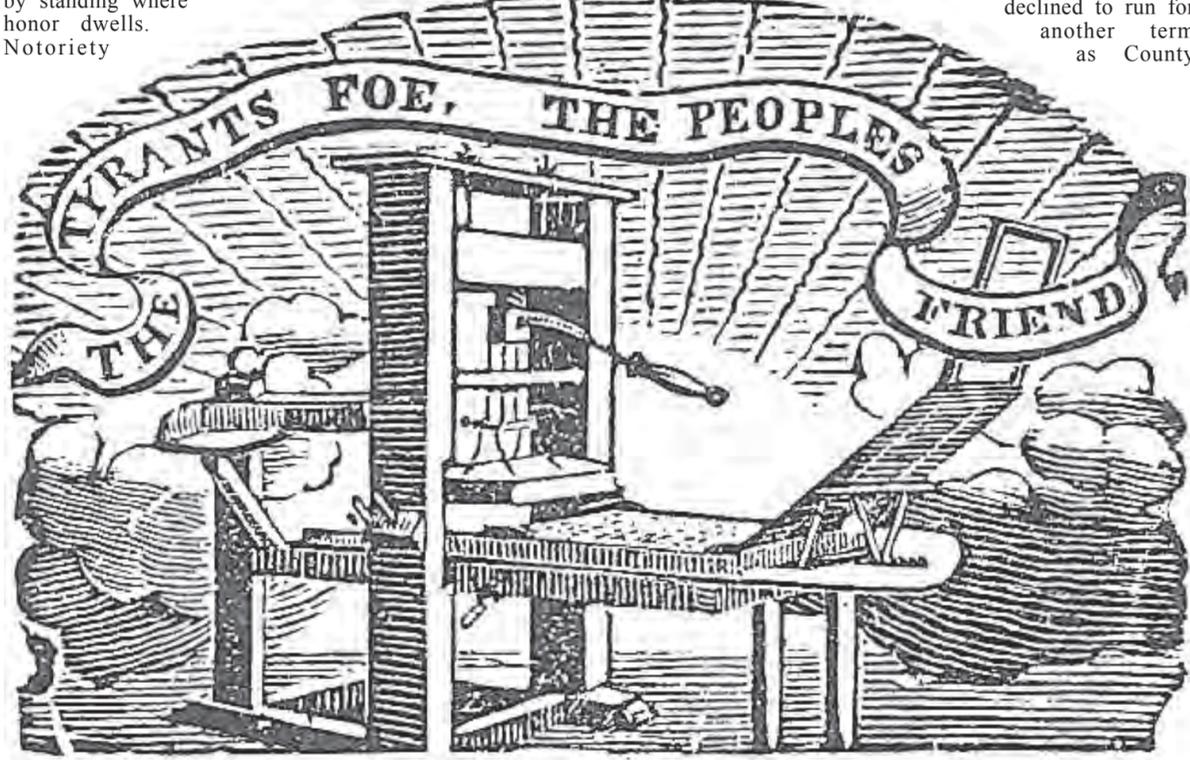
Commissioner after serving for 32 years. Caldwell has served the longest out of the commissioners Meeker has seen.

41 snowmobilers were hosted overnight at Sleepy Cat Guest Ranch. The party came over on the Buford New Castle Road as a part of Glenwood Snowmobile Club.

Rangely Times
50 years ago

A new power plant has been proposed to go along the White River. The project is said to still be a few years out but will employ 250 miners and 40-50 permanent employees.

A proposal was made at the city council meeting for a trash collection charge for residents in town. The charge would be \$2.25 a month. This charge would help pay for the costs of picking up trash and garbage.



The Meeker Herald
25 years ago

Executive Director of the Meeker Chamber of Commerce Mike Kay has resigned after three years. He stepped down in hopes of the Chamber hiring a director who is well versed in tourism.

Many points were brought up during a meeting at the Fairfield Center this week regarding Meeker Airport's meeting of the safety requirements. The main points included, an update to Meeker's airport is a must, by 2016 the airport will have 12,000 takeoffs and landings each year, the runway will be widened from 60 to 75 feet, it will also be lengthened 6,500 to 8,100, and land surrounding the airport will have to be rezoned.

Snowpack percentages at South Platte River Basin were 38% above average. With North Platte averaging at 122% of average.

Rangely Times
25 years ago

Another meeting was held to discuss plans for tourism in Rangely. Ideas were brought up about how to expand the town's opportunities for tourism.

Proctor & Gamble awarded a \$200 scholarship to the Dental Hygiene Program at CNCC.

The Times lost one of their writers after Larry Pedigo resigned on the 25th.

A player on the CNCC basketball team was suspended after violating rules set in place by the college.

Community Hospital is proud to welcome **Richard Garmany, MD!**

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www.YourCommunityHospital.com

Rio Blanco County News

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We're making Valentines for kids...  ...in our class and for our families too.

Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com Annimills LLC © 2021 V17-5

Kids: color stuff in!



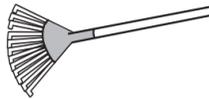
O.K., O.K. so I'll be your pal.

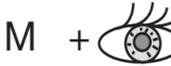
I'll jump through hoops...er, hearts, if you'll be my Valentine!

"Read" the picture and letter clues to fill in my puzzle. Use the sounds of the pictures to help. What is my secret message to you?

  _____

 _____

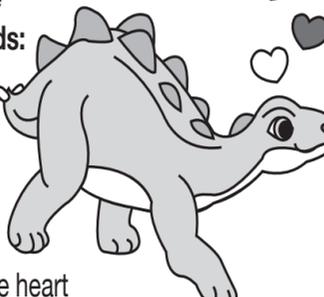
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Hearty Puzzle!

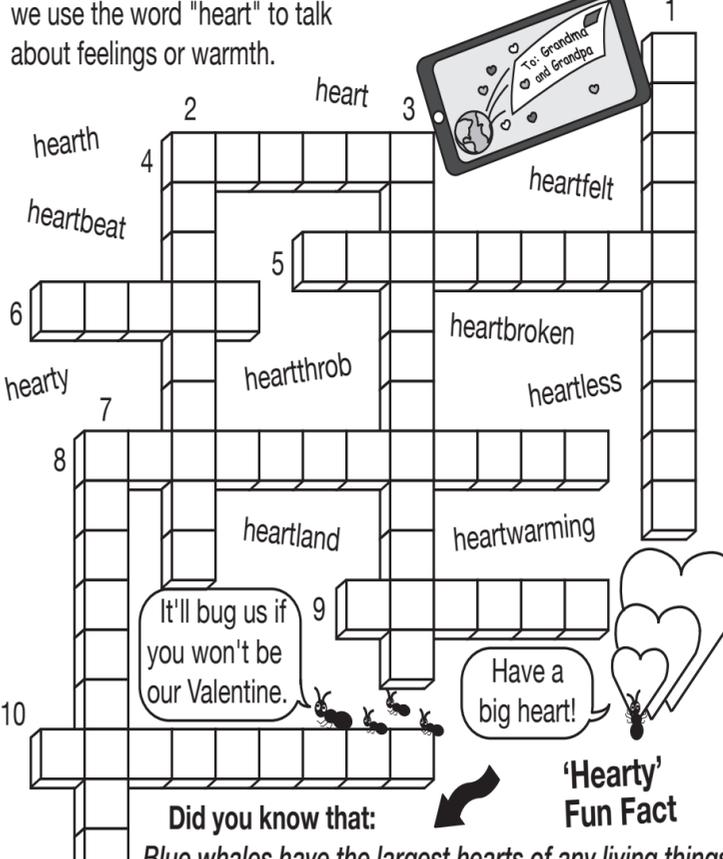
Read the clues to fill in the crossword with "hearty" words:

- sweetheart
- central land area
- full of sorrow
- floor of fireplace
- deeply felt; sincere
- body's most important muscle; pumps blood
- has no feelings; cruel
- cheering
- strong; in good health
- a single pumping of the heart



The heart is the organ that pumps blood throughout the body. It is so important to our lives that we use the word "heart" to talk about feelings or warmth.

By 'snail mail', email or video chat - get your Valentine message to friends or family.



It'll bug us if you won't be our Valentine.

Have a big heart!

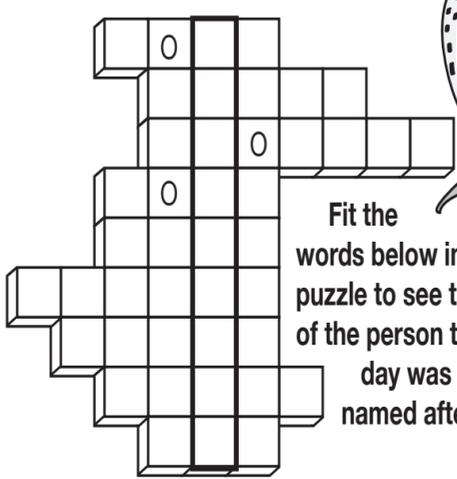
'Hearty' Fun Fact
Did you know that: *Blue whales have the largest hearts of any living things on Earth. Some hearts could weigh up to 400 pounds!*

Parties, poems, cards, flowers, candy and kind words are all part of this fun day. It is a day to share feelings of friendship or love. It is a day named for a person who was very kind to others.

Through Wind, Snow or Rain!

Mr. Turtle is the mail carrier in his neighborhood. He delivers the mail through all kinds of weather!

SAIN T



Fit the words below into the puzzle to see the name of the person this fun day was named after!

HEARTS PINK CANDY FLOWERS
RED CUPID PARTY LOVE POEM

Can you fill the blanks with letters that match the code? Then you will know what some cards say!

Slow and steady I deliver cards and Valentines. Some have funny poems. Some have just a line:





A B C D E F G H I
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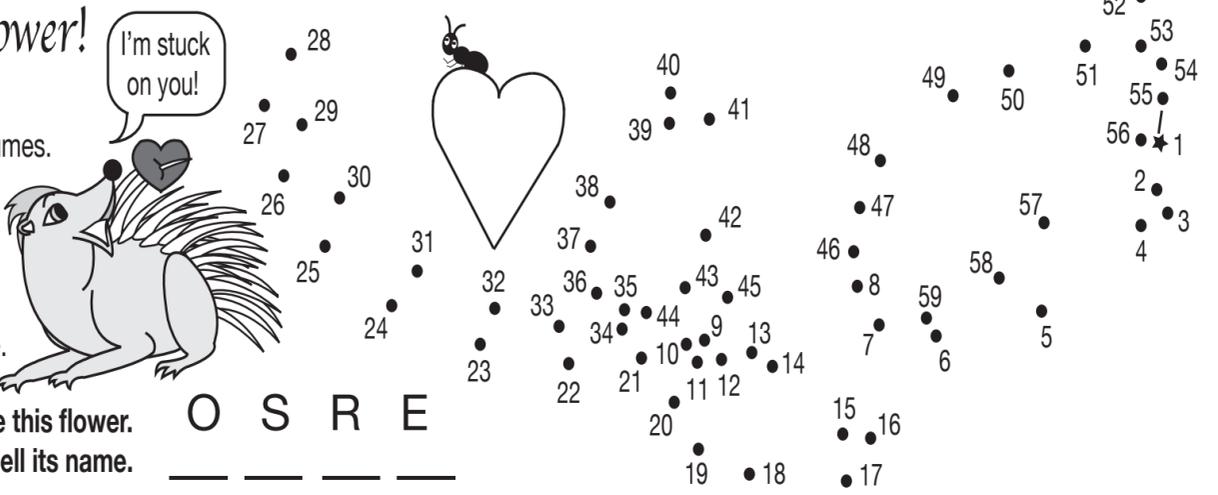
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S T U V W X Y Z
? ○ ! 🐟 ✕ ○ 💧 ☾

A Sweetheart of a Flower!

This is a very popular flower. Its scent is used in soaps and perfumes. It comes in many colors: yellow, white, pink and red. Gardeners grow this flower and enter it into contests. It is a symbol of friendship and love.

I'm stuck on you!



Finish the dot-to-dot puzzle to see this flower. Next, unscramble the letters to spell its name.

O S R E



PUBLIC NOTICES

• MEETING AGENDAS •

Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County, Colorado
Rio Blanco County Historic Courthouse
555 Main Street, 3rd Floor Hearing Room
Meeker, Colorado 81641

To attend by phone, please call 970-878-9432
February 9, 2021

- 11:00 a.m. Call to order:
- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Changes to February 9, 2021 Agenda
- C. Move to approve the February 9, 2021 Agenda including any changes.

2. CONSENT AGENDA February 9, 2021

- Move to approve the below listed items of the Consent Agenda.
- Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2021
- Special Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2021.
- Special Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2021.
- Financial Management Report for January 2021.
- DHS EBT Register and Warrant Register for January 2021
- Motor Vehicle Publication Report for January 2021.

3. BUSINESS

- Rules and Regulations and Boarding Contract for Columbine Park.
- Appoint Tia Murray as the County Director of Human Services.
- Rio Blanco County Investment Policy
- DBE Plan for the Meeker Airport - Coulter Field
- DBE Plan for the Rangely Airport
- Record of Negotiations letter to Michael Matz, FAA-Denver ADO for the Rangely Airport.

4. MOU's, CONTRACTS, AND AGREEMENTS

- Agreement for Services with Miller Engineers, Inc. for annual landfill services.
- Amendment to License Agreement with Commet Four Corners, LLC, to revise the equipment descriptions.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- Public Comment
- County Commissioners Updates

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Adjourn
The next regular Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 16, 2021 in the Rio Blanco County Annex Building, 17497 Hwy 64, Rangely, CO. Please check the County's website for information at <http://rbc.us/186/>

Board-of-County-Commissioners. If you need special accommodations please call 970-878-9431 in advance of the meeting so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

Published: February 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

- Plant Manager Report
- Office Manager Report
- Attorney
- Board
- Adjourn

This agenda is subject to change without further notice.

Agenda is posted at the office of the Meeker Sanitation District.
265 8th Street.
Published: February 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

TOWN OF MEEKER BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, February 9, 2021
5:30 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
- 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:

- Consideration of a Special Review Use application by Tiffany Jehorek for CBD extraction and retail sales at 1085 Market St., Meeker, Colo.
- Consideration of a Special Review Use application by Adeo Holdings, LLC for relocation of existing bowstrings business to 1107 Market St., Meeker, Colo.

Other Board Business
Adjournment
Published: February 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

MEEKER SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

Board of Education Work Session
555 Garfield Street
Meeker, CO 81641

February 8, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

Community members wishing to observe the work session may do so by using the following Google Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/xih-peiq-agb>

Community members wishing to attend the work session in person are asked to RSVP to chris.selle@meeker.k12.co.us no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Work Session:

- Construction project update
- NV5
- Stadium Restrooms
- BMS Security Upgrades
- Contingency funds update
- COVID-19
- Instructional Plans 2.0
- Instructional Plans 2.0 - Q & A
- Practice protocols for extracurricular activities

Published: February 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

- Spectator protocols for extracurricular activities
- Finance
- FY21 Budget update
- FY22 Budget outlook
- Final Policy Edits: GBQEA - Early Retirement Incentive
- Superintendent Evaluation
- Items introduced by board members

Published: February 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

RANGELY BOARD OF TRUSTEES (TOWN COUNCIL)

The Regular Town Council Meeting of February 9, 2021 will be cancelled. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7:00pm

Thank You!
By: Marybel Cox, Clerk/Treasurer
Published: February 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

AGENDA TOWN OF MEEKER PLANNING COMMISSION

Town Hall 345 Market Street
Monday, February 8, 2021
6:00 P.M.

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 Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Minutes for Dec. 7, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting
- Public Participation
- Public Hearing

a. Consideration of a Special Review Use application by Tiffany Jehorek for CBD extraction and retail sales at 1085 Market St., Meeker, Colo.

b. Consideration of a Special Review Use application by Adeo Holdings, LLC for relocation of existing bowstrings manufacturing business to 1107 Market St., Meeker, Colo.

c. Continuation of public hearing from Dec. 7, 2020 - consideration of adoption of Resolution 1, Series 2021 of the Town of Meeker Planning Commission adopting the 2020 Comprehensive Plan.

VIII. Other Planning Commission Matters

IX. Adjournment

Following the meeting, a workshop for the Meeker Land Use Code update will be held at 7:00 p.m.

Published: February 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

Rio Blanco County 2021 DUST CONTROL PROJECT REQUEST FOR BID

PROJECT NAME, LOCATION AND GENERAL SCOPE OF WORK

2021 Dust Control Project. Work includes the placement of approximately 406,966 gallons Blended Magnesium Chloride on approx. 100 miles of various County roads. An additional approx. 34,000 gallons will be applied to Garfield County Trappers Lake Road and Trappers Lake Campground Loop at the same unit price, but billed to and paid for by Garfield County. An additional 6,161 gallons will be applied to other county properties but billed separately to other county departments and private parties.

CONTRACT DOCUMENTS
Contract Documents shall be available on-line at www.govbids.com/scripts/co1/public/home1.asp, or at the county's website at www.rbc.us/bids.aspx.

or at the county's website at www.rbc.us/bids.aspx, or at the Rio Blanco County Road and Bridge Dept. 570 2nd Street, Meeker, Colorado 81641 on January 28, 2021.

PROJECT SUPERINTENDENT AND QUESTIONS
Clint Chappell, Road and Bridge Coordinator, (970) 878-9590, Fax (970) 878-3396. Mailing address: Rio Blanco County Road and Bridge Dept., 570 Second Street, Meeker, CO 81641.

All Vendors must examine the sites and become familiar with all site conditions. Any questions regarding this project are to be directed in writing to Clint Chappell before February 12, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. at the above address or fax number.

WORK SCHEDULE
This project shall start March 30, 2021 and be 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-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
Dated: January 28 2021
By: Gary Moyer, Chairman
Published: January 28 and February 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

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 115k 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 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

BID REQUEST

Piceance Weed and Pest District Aerial Spraying and hand spraying of pesticides

The Piceance Weed and Pest District is soliciting bids for pesticide aerial spraying and pesticide hand spraying. Bid packets are available by calling Chris Uphoff at 970-379-9244 or email tcuphoff@msn.com. Mailed bids are due to the Board of County Commissioners, P.O. Box 599, Meeker, Co 81641 no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 12th., 2021.

If hand delivered the bids are due no later than 10:15 a.m. on February 16th, 2021 to the County Commissioners, Rio Blanco County Historical Court House, 555 Main St., 3rd floor, BOCC room, Meeker, CO. The bids will be opened according to the agenda on February 16th, 2021. All bids must be clearly marked "Pesticide Aerial Spraying or Pesticide Hand Spraying" on the outside of the bid.

Published: February 4 and 11, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

Published: February 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

• MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES •

BEFORE THE COLORADO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE AND APPLICATION FOR HEARING
DOCKET NO. 201200282
TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to Rule 522.e.(2), the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Staff has applied to the Commission for an Order Finding Violation against Hunter Ridge Energy Services LLC

(Operator No. 10442), to adjudicate allegations in the Notice of Alleged Violation No. 402465161.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to §§ 34-60-101 to -130, C.R.S. and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 2 CCR 404-1, that the Commission has scheduled this matter for hearing on:

Date: March 23, 2021
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place:

Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801
Denver, CO 80203

The Notice and documents related to this matter can be found on our "Hearing eFiling System Document Search" page here <https://otico.hyland.com>. Select "Search for Docket Related Documents" from the pull-down menu, use the above "Docket Number", and select "Search".

Published: February 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

SEMI ANNUAL REPORT										
RIO BLANCO COUNTY, RHONNA WALDREF, TREASURER										
JULY 1, 2020 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020										
Account	Beginning Balance	Current Tax	Delinquent Tax	Miscellaneous Receipts	Transfers	Warrants Paid	Treasurer's Fees	Transfers	Ending Balance	
Boots M. Campbell, Clerk	0.00	0.00	0.00	131,212.69	0.00	0.00	1,312.13	129,900.56	0.00	0.00
Rhonna Waldref, Treasurer	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,235.00	0.00	0.00	32.35	3,202.65	0.00	0.00
Treas Admin Fee	0.00	1,306.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	1,291.45	0.00	0.00
Treas Advertising Fee	0.00	2,583.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,583.00	0.00	0.00
Assessor Penalty Fees	0.00	1,219.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,219.11	0.00	0.00
Public Trustee	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,285.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,285.00	0.00	0.00
Anthony Mazzola, Sheriff	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,164.35	0.00	0.00	21.65	2,142.70	0.00	0.00
County General Fund	24,988,439.61	34,287.38	47.62	2,425,175.38	213,117.19	4,286,504.69	13,365.20	217,968.36	23,143,228.93	
County Capital Expenditure Fund	336,710.53	2,807.53	12.11	153,101.52	0.00	129,996.67	1,614.82	12,866.51	348,153.69	
Road & Bridge Fund	10,681,542.53	23,864.18	45.87	2,002,445.25	0.00	4,845,514.20	20,524.89	719,875.90	7,121,982.84	
Dept of Human Services	1,418,176.99	1,789.87	3.02	380,075.63	0.00	484,243.36	0.00	30,178.36	1,285,623.79	
Use Tax Fund	2,265,556.07	0.00	0.00	567,895.11	0.00	361,589.02	5,679.10	87,327.08	2,378,855.98	
Contingency Fund	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.00	
Capital Improvement Program	329,325.16	0.00	0.00	221,783.79	0.00	169,009.98	22.54	0.00	382,076.43	
Conservation Trust Fund	15,221.70	0.00	0.00	4,834.62	0.00	2,750.00	0.00	0.00	17,306.32	
Fleet Management Fund	3,174,256.18	0.00	0.00	22,079.82	989,064.70	1,232,193.92	220.81	0.00	2,952,985.97	
Central Services	45,557.74	0.00	0.00	314.50	152,296.29	25,086.56	0.00	0.00	173,081.97	
Solid Waste Landfill Fund	5,500,879.57	0.00	0.00	597,543.43	0.00	180,311.18	5,975.44	96,754.72	5,815,381.66	
Fairfield Complex Fund	377,418.02	0.00	0.00	147,360.83	35,551.86	147,360.65	685.61	2,400.61	331,083.84	
Weed & Pest Control Fund	323,897.69	0.00	0.00	78,319.84	307,059.68	499,491.83	399.55	14,211.91	195,173.92	
Impact Fee Trust Fund	403,243.08	0.00	0.00	17,657.09	0.00	0.00	176.57	0.00	420,723.60	
Co Public Hlth Fund	357,042.85	772.04	2.46	232,262.68	0.00	215,094.04	0.00	14,418.75	360,567.24	
Communications	854,442.81	0.00	0.00	399,645.32	19,089.35	254,289.84	3,996.46	0.00	1,014,891.18	
Piceance Creek Pest Control	533,390.44	276.25	0.00	2,746.37	0.00	0.00	14.37	249,438.37	286,960.32	
Lower White River Pest	164,667.30	319.78	0.08	2,104.96	0.00	0.00	16.58	57,621.31	109,454.23	
Balances: County Funds:	51,869,768.27	69,225.59	111.16	7,317,443.18	1,716,179.07	12,833,435.94	54,073.07	1,647,686.35	46,437,531.91	
Town of Meeker General	41,793.23	24,585.04	1.95	23,758.03	0.00	79,795.28	718.37	0.00	9,624.60	
Meeker Special Assessment	0.00	204.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	204.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Eastern RBC Health Svcs Dist	684,724.57	33,052.46	89.05	76,708.40	0.00	780,863.26	1,720.72			

MISCELLANEOUS 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 Complaint 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 the 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

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

TOWN OF DINOSAUR
DISBURSEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2020

Gross Salaries \$ 21,108.42
PERA Monthly Contributions \$ 2,476.21
Colorado Dept of Revenue CWT \$ 728.00
IRS FWT/Med \$ 2,141.16
FPPA & D&D Contributions \$ 2,223.60
Centurylink Phone, Fax, internet \$ 465.46
Moon Lake Electric Town Electricity & School \$ 1,935.63
Rangely Trash Service Trash Service \$ 92.00
Caselle Inc Support \$ 340.00
Lizard Analytical Lab Wastewater tests \$ 40.00
City of Grand Junction Wastewater test \$ 175.50
Rio Blanco Herald Times Notice of Budget \$ 11.89
Comdata Gas \$ 694.36
County Health Pool Insurance \$ 3,004.20
Bankcard Services Water test, maintenance on truck, Tool Box, postage \$ 1,206.86
S. Swofford Lightbar for police vehicle \$ 200.00
L.A.W.S. Equipment for police vehicle \$ 1,991.92
Northwest Title Purchase of property \$ 44,731.62
Sav on Propane Propane \$ 745.26
Crozier Oilfield Services Inc Porta pots \$ 120.00
Pollardwater Chlorine pumps \$ 919.90
T. Long Mileage June-Sept \$ 216.00
L. Elarton Printer & toner \$ 689.05
Colorado West Contracting Sprayed weeds at lagoon \$ 3,546.00
SGS Water test \$ 205.95
Pinedale - Walden Natural gas feasibility study \$ 14,077.50
CML Dues \$ 336.00
Rangely Hardware Supplies for town house, postage, Resp cartridges \$ 166.46
NAPA Auto Parts Vehicle parts \$ 401.04
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE \$ 104,989.99

TOWN OF DINOSAUR
DISBURSEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 2020

Gross Salaries \$ 20,285.98
PERA Monthly Contributions \$ 2,289.50
Colorado Dept of Revenue CWT \$ 702.00
IRS FWT/Med \$ 2,113.30
FPPA & D&D Contributions \$ 2,223.60
Centurylink Phone, Fax, internet \$ 469.46
Rangely Trash Service Trash Service \$ 112.50
Caselle Inc Support \$ 340.00
Comdata Gas \$ 440.21
County Health Pool Insurance \$ 3,004.20
Zions Sewer camera, Halloween, Wa test, heaters, comp. \$ 5,785.74
Sav on Propane Propane \$ 620.48
Mountainland Parts for well \$ 146.74
ICC Dues \$ 145.00
T.J's Tire Pros Worked on police vehicle \$ 215.12
SGS Water test \$ 268.00
City of Grand Junction Wastewater Test \$ 112.50
CIRSA Insurance \$ 323.21
Moffat County Clerk Election \$ 500.00
Professional Touch Work on Maintenance truck \$ 1,316.31
USA Bluebook Test meter & solution \$ 195.67
L. Elarton Folders \$ 42.48
Walmart Bleach \$ 251.21
Green Earth Commercial Sanitation Sprayer & biocide \$ 1,225.95
CNC Technical Services LLC Radios and wiring \$ 3,387.80
Rangely Auto Parts Parts police vehicle \$ 105.47
Rangely Hardware Compressor for water lines \$ 178.75
Pinnacol Assurance Workers Comp \$ 574.00
Newman Signs Inc Posts & supplies for signs \$ 1,048.02
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE \$ 48,423.20
Published: February 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

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CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

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

HELP WANTED
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.

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• 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 or Rio Blanco County HR at 555 Main St., Meeker, CO. 970-878-9570.
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PIONEERS MEDICAL CENTER
With the growth of Pioneers Medical Center & Colorado Advanced Orthopedics Sports Medicine & Spine, we are excited to fill the following positions:
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• Home Health Care Services Director
• Meals on Wheels Volunteers
• Medical Laboratory Technician
• Pharmacy Technician
• Central Sterile Processing Tech
• Registered Nurse - Surgical Unit
To see full list of open positions, see our website or scan the code below.
Complete an application online by scanning the code above or by navigating to www.pioneershospital.org

Position Announcement
White River Electric Association, Inc. is currently seeking applications for an Administrative Assistant/Accounting Clerk. Applicant must be 18 years of age and possess a high school diploma or equivalent. Associates degree in accounting, bookkeeping or a closely related field, or 3-5 years' experience in a related position including administrative assistant, accounts payable, or human resources. Must have experience in computer/internet and business machine applications. Must have excellent administrative skills and accurate accounting/bookkeeping skills. Must be able to work 40-hour week. Applicant must also hold a valid Colorado Driver's license or obtain one prior to commencement of work. Must be able to work variety of hours if needed. Applicant must be able to pass a physical, drug and alcohol, and background tests if requested. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, administrative support functions to the administrative team and Board of Directors, and processing of accounts payable invoices and entering accounts payable information on the computer system classified in proper accounts. Position is considered full time and will be eligible for benefits after 90 days. Salary range of \$30 - \$40 per hour depending on experience, plus any overtime. Successful applicant may be eligible for performance and year-end bonuses. Benefits include Health, Dental, Vision, Life insurances, paid vacation, sick leave, and retirement benefits. Applications can be obtained from the office of White River Electric Association, Inc., 233 6th Street, Meeker, CO 81641 from 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday. Applications and resumes will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on February 16th. White River Electric Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.

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Let's talk about logical fallacies - gaps in logic that invalidate an argument or opinion.
#6 Tu quoque
Pronounced too-kwo-knee and translated as 'you too', this fallacy occurs when someone answers a criticism by turning it back on their opponent instead of addressing the original claim. Also known as 'appeal to hypocrisy.'
Happy fallacy-finding!
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If you would not be forgotten

As soon as you are dead and rotten,

Either write things worth reading,

Or do things worth the writing.

~ Benjamin Franklin

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: Joe 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

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: newedenpcs@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.

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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.

Storage units for rent in Meeker.
Rocky Mountain Storage
1251 Market St.
10x10 \$50 per mo
5x10 \$40 per mo
970-878-3700

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

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

STORAGE DEPOT 10x25 unit. 878-4808.

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

RENTALS: MEEKER

FOR RENT - Halandras Building. Interior commercial office space. @425 sq feet. Two rooms. Off street parking Electricity included. Call 970-629-9714

RENTALS: RANGELY

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314 E. Main Street.
RV Spaces for rent.
Managers: Dan & Debbie Shadow
(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.

YARD SALES

631 Park Ave, Meeker, Sat., Feb. 6, 8am-Noon (no early birds). Park in the street, everything will be in the garage at the end of the driveway. Moving out sale Tools, full dishes sets, holiday decor, kitchen supplies, some furniture.

Senior Housing Apartments
White River Village Apartments

Apartments available now!

Rent is determined by income for those who qualify.

The Following criteria must be met:
Elderly (Senior Citizen)

A person who is at least 62 years old;
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- 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

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NEW UPDATES 880 Main St
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MOVE-IN READY 1022 Julie Circle

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CABIN #2 1947 CR 12
UNDER CONTRACT WITHIN 24 HRS 1159 Bissell Cir.

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/2.032 SF home, good well, heated shop+views \$385,000
1022 Julie Cir - 3BD/2BA/1,984 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

HOMES ARE STILL SELLING & WE HAVE BUYERS THAT WANT TO BUY!
It's not too late to sell! Please Call or Text Us.
We are Happy to Help!

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

SALE PENDING
39.34 Acres, Hwy 64

Mallari Arnold - Associate Broker 970-420-0585 mallari.alpinewest@gmail.com
Alex Plumb - Owner/Broker 970-420-8076 sold@alexplumb.realtor

Your Trusted Source for Anything and Everything Real Estate

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. \$242,500.

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, LLC
ONEA MILLER - Broker • oneamiller@gmail.com • 970.321.2777
2777 CR 7, Meeker, CO • westernexposures.com • 970.878.5877

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BROOKS REALTY
889 Main St., Meeker, Colorado Laurie J. Brooks Owner/Broker
brooksrealtymeeker.com
(970)878-5858 or (970)756-8870 cell

NEW! 50 E. Garfield St.
2.5 lots (18,750 Sf) 2 BD, one full bathroom, Older home w/ many electrical & plumbing upgrades. One car att. garage
\$115,000

◆ 1298 Cleveland St. — 4 BD, 2 BA home. \$317,500. SOLD!
◆ 485 First St. — GREAT location! 3 BDR, 1 1/2 BA. \$252,000. SOLD!

FIND YOUR DREAM HOME HERE!

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