



Mary and Bart Strang came to Meeker in 1973 with their four daughters, and built a business Mary has continued to run since 2009.

Women in agriculture: Mary Strang

By SOPHIA GOEDERT
Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER I International Women's Day is Monday, March 8. This global celebration first took place on March 8, 1911, honoring women's economic, political and social accomplishments.

In Rio Blanco County, one of the areas women have had significant impact throughout the years is in agriculture. This agricultural community is home to many women who have made a name for themselves in the industry. One rancher in particular has been in the valley for 48 years, marking a solid stand in the cattle business.

Mary Strang's story started back east. Bart Strang, Mary's future husband, was attending Princeton University after getting out of the military. The two connected while Mary was attending Smith College. They married in 1958.

After their marriage, the newlyweds joined Bart's parents at their ranch in Golden, Colorado, where Bart's father bred and raced thoroughbred horses. While in Golden, the couple's first daughter, Mary, was born. Shortly after, the couple started their journey to Meeker, with a stop in Carbondale, Colorado, first.

In January 1961, a partnership formed between Mike Strang (Bart's brother), Tom (their dear friend), and Bart himself. This partnership led to Bart and Mary moving to Carbondale. The Strang brothers continued the program started by their father for East Coast teenagers to come work at their ranch for the summer. The program spread by word of mouth and the parties involved met lifelong friends.

This partnership was the start of the signature Strang Hereford cattle. Bart and Mary started with 10 registered heifers. Their linebred herd started from here, with the intent to keep up with the breed's genetic improvement.

In 1968 the partnership with Mike and Tom was dissolved, and Bart and Mary moved up West Sopris Creek, their final move before coming to Meeker. With half of a herd they bought from Bart Lambers; the couple could continue their line of Herefords. They continued to sell purebred and commercial Herefords for five years.

In 1973 the couple — and their four daughters: Mary, Ellen, Lisa, and Sarah — moved to Meeker. Initially, they bought the old Penrose place down County Road 33. While occupying this property, the Strang family hosted one more summer of teenagers from the east before deciding to disband the program. Shortly after that, the family made their final move to County Road 8, selling the CR 33 ranch to Ed and Bonnie Coryell.

From there, the Strangs continued their work with purebred Herefords and became known for their bull sales in the fall of every year. They used the higher altitude to their advantage as their hardy cattle's sale mark. In the '90s, the couple expanded their herd to include black Angus to develop the Angus line to fit their high-altitude customers' needs.

The Strangs worked side by side until 2009, when Bart passed away. After this, Mary had to take over the business herself, with the help of her daughter and son-in-law Tom and Lisa Walsh, who live on the ranch, and her other kids.

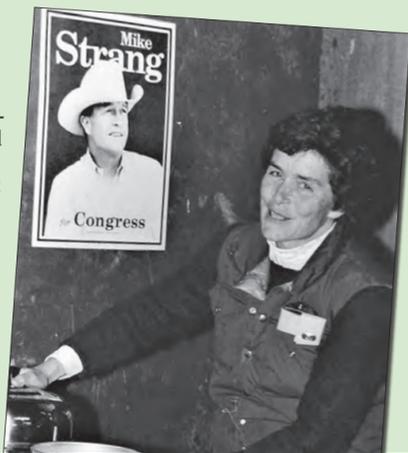
In the 59 years Mary has been a part of Strang Herefords, it has flown by with little changes. The most recent, however, was the switch from the annual bull sale to private treaty cattle. The last couple of years have been an adjustment, but she has managed to make it work in her favor.

Mary's mark on Rio Blanco County isn't limited to the ag industry. She was a member and president of the Meeker School Board for 20 years before she became the chairperson of the Meeker Education Foundation. She can also be found volunteering at different local events during the year, always finding different ways to give back to the community.

In the 12 years Mary has been heading the ranch herself, she has maintained the original goal from 1961. From selling bulls to being a leader in local education, Mary has had an impact on several different fields.

Mary Strang's achievements in agriculture and service to local education are worthy of honor as we celebrate Rio Blanco County's agricultural roots as well as International Womens Day, March 8.

COURTESY PHOTOS



How to watch regional wrestling this weekend

Special to the Herald Times

RBC I Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance at the regional wrestling competition this weekend in Meeker is limited to ticket holders only. Each household will get two tickets for parents. Other family members, friends, siblings and children will not be admitted.

To view the matches taking place, check the Meeker High School and Barone Middle School Facebook pages for livestreams of each mat. The schedule is as follows:

2A REGION 1 WRESTLING TOURNAMENT MEEKER HIGH SCHOOL MARCH 5-6, 2021

■ **Friday, March 5, 2:30 p.m.**

Mat #1 - Live Broadcast on <https://www.facebook.com/MeekerHighSchool/>

Weights: (106, 113, 120, 145)

Mat #2 - Live Broadcast on <https://www.facebook.com/Barone-Middle-School-1589245418004164/>

Weights: (126, 132, 138)

■ **Saturday, March 6, 11:30 a.m.**

Mat #1 - Live Broadcast on <https://www.facebook.com/MeekerHighSchool/>

Weights: (170, 195, 220, 285)

Mat #2 - Live Broadcast on <https://www.facebook.com/Barone-Middle-School-1589245418004164/>

Weights: (152, 160, 182)



Level Blue slips out of reach as county COVID cases rise

By NIKI TURNER
editor@ht1885.com

RBC I Hopes of being able to move into the Blue level on the state's COVID-19 dial have been dashed by a rise in case counts. "We're not going in the right direction," RBC Public Health Director Alice Harvey said. "We were very hopeful we'd be able to go to Level Blue, but continued to see an increase in cases the last two weeks."

RBC has seen an increase in all three metrics: test positivity, hospitalizations, and case counts.

Variant strains of the novel coronavirus have been detected in the county, and have caused some reinfections in individuals who already had COVID-19. "It's not over yet," Harvey said.

The Moderna vaccine, which is what RBC has been distributing, appears to be effective against the variant strains, Harvey said. Previous COVID-19 infection alone does not seem to provide the same level of protection against the variants. Individuals who have already had COVID-19 are encouraged to get the vaccine when they are eligible to do so.

As for vaccinations, RBC is in the top tier per capita for the number of people vaccinated through public health. More than 1,200 people have had at least one dose.

"The new tier opening up will cover a large portion of the county," Harvey said. "[Vaccine] allocations are steady and we haven't had to turn anyone away."

As of March 5, the state will open vaccinations to a new tier that includes people 60-plus, some frontline essential workers (grocery stores, agricultural processing, etc.), and people 18-59 with two or more high risk conditions: "cancer (defined as patients who are currently receiving treatment or have received treatment within the last month for cancer), chronic kidney disease, COPD, diabetes mellitus (types 1 and 2), Down syndrome, specific heart conditions (heart failure, cardiomyopathies or coronary heart disease, and severe valvular/congenital heart disease), obesity (BMI $\geq 30\text{kg/m}^2$), pregnancy, sickle cell disease, solid organ transplant, individuals with disabilities who require direct care in their home, and people with disabilities that prevent them from wearing masks.)

Harvey said they anticipate vaccination clinics will be open to all Coloradans by summer.

Testing continues in Meeker and Rangely. No appointment is needed for testing on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10-11 a.m. For tests on Tuesday or Friday, call Public Health at 970-878-9520 in Meeker or 970-878-9525 in Rangely and leave a message to schedule a testing appointment.

CASE COUNTS

As of Monday, March 1:

Meeker Active: 25
Rangely Active: 4
Current Hospitalized RBC: 3
School District Meeker: 10
School District Rangely: 0

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING COMMUNITY JOURNALISM!

Weather: Sat: 50s/30s, Sun: 50s/30s

WANNING GIBBONS 68%

Phone scams abound; local businesses targeted

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

RBC I “That’s the first one that actually made it seem personal, in the fact that maybe he was targeting local small businesses,” said RBC Dispatcher Kelsey Tate, referencing a recent phone scam that affected business owners in Meeker.

“Good people who work hard to make a living, and he’s trying to scam them out of their money,” said Tate, providing a timeline of the scam perpetrated by an individual using the name “Jonathan.”

Though these types of gifts have become common in the U.S., Tate said this scammer put in effort to target locals specifically, first reaching out to the dispatch center in an attempt to gather names and personal information of local law enforcement officers. Recognizing the unusual nature of the request, Tate asked the caller why he needed the information, to which he responded “for a book report.”

The caller also claimed to live

in Meeker, but became agitated and ultimately hung up when asked to verify his address. Though he failed at gleaning information from local dispatchers, “Jonathan” still went ahead with the scam, targeting potential victims over the next few days.

“A local business owner called, rather upset, saying ‘I just got a phone call from an Officer Thomas, saying I missed jury duty and that there’s a warrant out for my arrest. Is this accurate?’” said Tate, reciting the first of multiple scam-related inquiries she received last week.

According to Tate, “Officer Thomas” informed residents they would need to “pre-pay their bail,” or risk arrest and jail time. “There is no such thing as pre-paid bail,” said Tate, adding that it would be highly unusual for an officer to inform someone of a warrant via phone call. Additionally, there is no “officer Thomas” on duty with either the Sheriff’s Office or Meeker Police Department.

Tate said she understands that

not everyone is aware of which officers are on-duty, or how arrest warrants work, but even residents who do may still be vulnerable to scams.

What’s more important than preparing for any particular scam, is to recognize the common patterns and tactics used by scammers.

SENSE OF URGENCY

Scammers don’t want you thinking too hard about the claims they’re making, so they will often create a sense of urgency. They might claim someone you know is in the hospital or locked in jail, that you’re in legal trouble and could be arrested, or that you’ll face some financial penalty unless you can meet their demand right now. The demand could include payment, disclosure of confidential information, or something else. If someone insists you pay or do something right away, that is a big red flag. Even if you’re convinced someone you know needs money, or that you’ve been selected as the winner of a big prize, etc, there is

no reason to pay over the phone right that second, or at all. You can always hang up and seek more information, or get a second opinion before rushing into anything.

TRUSTED CONTACTS

Scammers typically seek to gain your trust by posing as a friend or family member, government employee, law enforcement official or otherwise. It is important to keep in mind that any internet-savvy person can find personal information online, and may know the names of your close family members, friends, past employers, etc. If you have any reason to doubt the person on the other end of the line is not who they say they are, hang up and call that person/business/official

directly on a number you know belongs to them. As an example, RBC Dispatcher Kelsey Tate said if someone calls you claiming to be an officer or employee of a local law enforcement agency, you don’t have to take them at their word. Instead you can hang up and call that agency yourself. If the original call was legitimate they will be able to tell you.

UNUSUAL PAYMENT METHODS

Scammers often call victims attempting to secure some form of untraceable payment, such as a prepaid debit card. They might also ask for cash via mail or wire transfer. “Never, never do a prepaid card,” said Tate.

Awareness of these tactics can go a long way in protecting yourself against scams, but they’re not an excuse to let your guard down. Remember, if someone is requesting payment, making it urgent/rushing you to make a decision, refusing to verify their identity or just acting strange in general, you might be better off to just hang up the phone.

If you’re ever unsure about who is calling you, it is better to risk accidentally hanging up on a friend than to have your identity stolen, or to be robbed of hard-earned money.

You can find a lot more information about recognizing and avoiding phone scams at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0208-phone-scams#howtorecognize>

WARM ELKS WELCOME ...



The Rangely Elks BPOE #1907 Lodge welcomed Colorado Elks Association First Vice President Tom Root and wife Rose to their March 2 meeting. Exalted Ruler Chris Hall reports that the annual Children’s Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 3 at Elks Park. In 2020 the Lodge canceled the event for the first time in more than 30 years.

What happens during a recall?

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

RBC I In a “first” for Rio Blanco County, according to memory, an official recall petition seeking to remove RBC Commissioner Gary Moyer from office is currently in circulation countywide. Fourteen volunteer petitioners are tasked with collecting 747 signatures from eligible electors (anyone who is eligible to vote in the recall election if one is held) within 60 days. The number of signatures is based on 25% of votes cast in the previous general election for the office in question.

The recall petition was approved by RBC Clerk and Recorder Boots Campbell, who is the designated election official, late last week.

According to state statute, the petition must contain a general statement of 200 words or less identifying the grounds for recall.

The petition lists four reasons, or grounds, for recalling Moyer:

- Commissioner Gary Moyer verbally abused and

made unsubstantiated accusations against Public Health Nurse Alice Harvey in a public meeting on Feb. 9, 2021.

- Commissioner Gary Moyer misused his power by intimidating and terminating long-term, dedicated employees and department heads without prior notice, on impulse without having any plan in place for replacing them, leaving County Departments with a leadership void and creating a fearful hostile work environment for all remaining employees.
- Commissioner Gary Moyer was instrumental in the attempt to eliminate the Rio Blanco County Dispatch Center without giving Citizens or the Sheriff the opportunity to voice their opposition or have any input on the decision.
- Commissioner Gary Moyer has repeatedly demonstrated a total lack of transparency in the manner in which he has conducted County business.

Once the petition is filed, Campbell will review all petition information and verify that each signer was registered at the address provided when they

signed the petition. Signers must use the same address with which they are registered to vote. You can check your voter registration here: <https://www.sos.state.co.us/voter/pages/pub/home.shtml>

Recall proponents have 15 days to “cure” any rejected entries or sections.

Once the petition has been verified, an eligible elector has 15 days to file a protest against the petition. Said protests must be filed in writing and under oath in the election official’s office. The protestor is responsible for “sustaining the protest by a preponderance of the evidence.”

Once the protest period is resolved, if the incumbent does not resign the office within five days, an election is called and an election date set. An election will incur a monetary cost to the county for printing and mailing ballots, paying election judges, and more. The clerk and recorder’s office said they can’t calculate an estimated cost at this point because every election is different.

COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

PHASE 1A

Highest-risk health care workers and individuals:

- People who have direct contact with COVID-19 patients for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- Long-term care facility staff and residents.

PHASE 1B.1

Coloradans age 70+, moderate-risk health care workers, and first responders:

- Health care workers with less direct contact with COVID-19 patients (e.g. home health, hospice, pharmacy, dental, etc.) and EMS.
- Firefighters, police, COVID-19 response personnel, correctional workers, and funeral services.
- People age 70 and older.

PHASE 1B.2

Coloradans ages 65-69, pre-K-12 educators and child care workers in licensed child care programs, and continuity of state government:

- Child care workers in licensed child care programs, teachers (full-time and substitutes), bus, food, counselors, administrative, safety and other support services offered inside the school.
- Select members of the Executive and Judicial branches of state government. *note: members of the legislative branch have already received access to the vaccine.
- People ages 65-69.

PHASE 1B.3

People age 60 and older

Frontline essential workers in grocery and agriculture:

- The intent of this classification is to prioritize current workers who cannot maintain physical distance from others at their place of employment, who work in close contact with many people, especially indoors, and in places with poor ventilation including meatpacking workers; grocery store workers; and agricultural processing workers.

People 16-59 with 2 or more high risk conditions:

- The intent of this classification is to vaccinate Coloradans who have a high risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19. This includes Coloradans with two or more of the following: Cancer (defined as patients who are currently receiving treatment or have received treatment within the last month for cancer), chronic kidney disease, COPD, diabetes mellitus (types 1 and 2), Down syndrome, specific heart conditions (heart failure, cardiomyopathies or coronary heart disease, and severe valvular/congenital heart disease), obesity (BMI ≥ 30kg/m²), pregnancy, sickle cell disease, solid organ transplant, individuals with disabilities who require direct care in their home, and people with disabilities that prevent them from wearing masks.

PHASE 1B.4

The intent of this classification is to prioritize workers who cannot maintain physical distance from others at their place of employment and who work in close contact with many people, especially indoors and in places with poor ventilation.

- People age 50 and older
- Student-facing higher education employees
- Frontline essential workers in food/restaurant services
- Frontline essential workers in manufacturing
- Frontline essential workers for the US postal service
- Frontline essential workers in public transit and specialized transportation
- Frontline essential workers in public health
- Frontline essential human service workers
- Faith leaders
- Frontline essential direct care providers for Coloradans experiencing homelessness
- Frontline essential journalists
- Continuity of local government
- Continuity of operations for state government
- Adults who received a placebo during a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial
- People 16-49 with one of the high risk conditions listed on the website

PHASE 2

General Public:

- The intent of this classification is to vaccinate any Coloradans who were not included in earlier phases because they have lower risk of exposure or are less likely to have severe outcomes from COVID-19. May be further segmented by age if needed.

Please note: As we move through phases, people in previous phases remain eligible. We may continue to prioritize by age in phase 2 if we remain constrained by supply.

*More detailed definitions for each of these classifications is available at: covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine

RIO BLANCO COUNTY VACCINE UPDATE

Community clinics are limited to Rio Blanco County residents* in the following groups (Phase 1B.2):

- Individuals 65 and older
- PreK-12th grade educators and child care workers in licensed child care programs

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

PHASE 1B.3 OPENS MARCH 5, 2021.

Rio Blanco County Vaccine Clinic Dates and Times

Rangely Walk-In Clinics

*****BOOSTERS & FIRST DOSES*****

Thursday, Mar. 4, 3 to 5:30 p.m. and Thursday, Mar. 11, 2 to 6 p.m.
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 125 Eagle Crest St.

Meeker Walk-In Clinic

*****BOOSTERS & FIRST DOSES*****

Thursday, Mar. 11, 2 to 6 p.m.
Fairfield Center, 200 Main 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.

Testing Schedule: Free COVID testing is available at Meeker and Rangely public health from 10 to 11 a.m. Drive-up clinic; vehicles will be served in order of arrival. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (no appointment needed, Fridays (by appointment only - call the numbers below to schedule)

NEWS BRIEFS

Peter Pan Jr. next weekend

MEEKER | The Meeker Arts and Cultural Council are proud to present four showings of Peter Pan Jr. at the Meeker High School auditorium on March 11, 12 and 13. Evening performances are at 7 p.m., and Saturday's matinee will be at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door and capacity is limited to 100 people per performance. School policy requires all patrons wear masks and social distance in the auditorium. Watch for livestreaming info, as well!

Wagon Wheel OHV meeting April 7

MEEKER | The next meeting of the Wagon Wheel OHV Club will be April 7 at Kilowatt Korner at 7 p.m. (COVID-19 precautions observed). Officer and board elections will be held at the April meeting.

Local LDS conference Mar. 7-8

RBC | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will hold a two day local conference on March 7-8. There will be an evening session on March 7 at 6 p.m. for participants over 18, and a general session on March 8 at 10 a.m. for all ages. Speakers will include church leaders serving in the Vernal Temple, the Denver South mission area, and local church offices. The focus of the conference will be on gaining a testimony of Christ. Visitors are welcome to attend any session. All meetings will be held at 1295 W 9th Street in Craig, Colorado, and will also be broadcast live to chapels for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the following communities: Baggs, Wyoming and Rangely, Meeker, Granby and Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

No annual meeting for Woolgrowers

RBC | Rio Blanco County Woolgrowers will not be holding its annual meeting on March 5, 2021. Contact 970-878-4401 for more information.

SWEET MUSIC ...



Rangely High School band members put on a great show this past week for their winter concert. You can watch the full event at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHkA-CpOLGQ>

MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO

LIFEGUARD OF THE MONTH ...



COURTESY PHOTO

Congratulations to our February lifeguard of the month, Kaulan Brady. Kaulan has been an employee of the WRBM Rec & Park District on and off since 2013. He is a Rangely native and is currently attending CNCC for Aviation Maintenance Technology. He will be graduating in May 2021. "Kaulan is always willing to help wherever he can," stated Natalie Kurrasch, Aquatics Supervisor. Brady has loved working for the district because of the "awesome bosses and management," and said, "the friendly co-workers and flexible schedule help out with work and school."

FREE LEGAL CLINIC MEEKER PUBLIC LIBRARY



STILL
HAPPENING
VIA PHONE!

Wednesday
Mar. 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



Yampa-White-Green
Basin Roundtable

Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable Meeting

Wednesday, March 10th
at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting will be Online Only at
yampawhitegreen.com

If you have Public Comment, please email
yampawhitegreen@gmail.com by March 9th



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- 5 oz. Food Club Chunk Light **TUNA IN WATER** 79¢
- 25 lb. Food Club **GRANULATED SUGAR** \$12⁹⁹
- 25 lb. Food Club **FLOUR** \$7⁴⁹
- 16 oz. Food Club Creamy or Crunchy **PEANUT BUTTER** \$1¹⁹
- 4 oz. Food Club **DICED CHILES** 89¢
- 4 oz. Food Club **DICED JALAPENOS** 89¢
- 2 lb. Food Club Light or Dark **BROWN SUGAR** 3 for \$5
- 16.5 oz. Food Club **CAKE MIX** 4 for \$5

FROZEN

- 12 oz. Old Orchard **FROZEN JUICE** 4 for \$5
- 18 oz. Crav'n Flavor **FROZEN MEALS** \$3⁹⁹
- 16 oz. Food Club **FROZEN VEGGIES** \$1³⁹
- 12 oz. Food Club **FROZEN VEGGIES** 99¢
- 20-24 oz. Fast Fixin' **FROZEN CHICKEN** \$3⁹⁹



6 ct. Food Club
Toaster Pastries
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DAIRY

- 10 oz. CaciQ Rancho **QUESO FRESCO** \$2⁷⁹
- 6 oz. Food Club **YOGURT** 10 for \$4
- 1 lb. Food Club **BUTTER** 2 for \$5
- 32 oz. Coffee Mate **CREAMER** \$3²⁹
- 4-4.5 oz. Sargento **BALANCED BREAKS** 2 for \$4
- 32 oz. Food Club Shredded or **BLOCK CHEESE** \$5⁹⁹

MEAT

- Beef Sirloin **TIP ROAST** \$3⁴⁹/lb.
- 20-24 oz. Fast Fixin' **FROZEN CHICKEN** \$3⁹⁹
- 12 oz. Food Club **BACON** 2 for \$5



15.5 oz. Food Club
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69¢

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- 5 lb. bag Russet **POTATOES** 2 for \$3
- Ripe **MANGOS** 4 for \$5
- Green **ONIONS** 2 for \$1
- 3 ct. Romaine **LETTUCE HEARTS** 2 for \$4
- Roma **TOMATOES** 99¢/lb.
- 1 lb. Earthbound Organic **SALADS** \$4⁹⁹
- 12 oz. Green Giant **BRUSSEL SPROUTS** 2 for \$5
- 12 oz. Sweet Petite **CARROTS** 2 for \$3
- Cello Wrapped Iceberg **LETTUCE** 99¢
- 10.2-13 oz. Dole Chopped **SALAD KITS** \$2⁹⁹



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EDITOR'S COLUMN

Fool's Spring

By NIKI TURNER
editor@ht1885.com

These deceptive days of blue skies and warm temperatures are likely — if we're lucky — to be followed by the usual March and April snowstorms, but a brief respite from snow and cold is welcome this time of year.



I'm going to take up ink and paper this week to extend our humble gratitude to all of our new and renewed subscribers and generous readers who donated funds to help us cover the \$385 bill we received for 30 texts and seven emails between

our elected public officials and other taxpayer-funded entities — aka public records.

The Colorado Open Records and Open Meetings Laws include a provision that allow entities to charge a "reasonable fee" for gathering records to account for staff time, and it allows those filing a request to ask for a waiver or reduction of those charges if the records are to be used for a "public purpose" such as journalism, nonprofit activities or academic



research. This is the first time we've been charged when we've filed a Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) request.

It's worth noting that any citizen can file a CORA request for access to public records. Just like any member of the public (and that includes the press) can attend a work session or an official meeting of a board or government entity.

You have the right to know not just what decisions are being made by your elected and appointed representatives, but how those decisions are reached. The people who play with our tax dollars work for us, not the other way around. Don't forget that.

LOOSE ENDS

Arbor Day connects past and present

By DOLLY VISCARDI
Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER I "Last spring we urged our town authorities to set our trees around the town park. It is too late to take action this season, but such action should be taken next spring and town made comfortable and attractive for visiting autoists."

The editor of the *Meeker Herald* apparently admonished the town board with these words more than 100 years ago. Anyone who longs for a day when the newspaper editor is not going to express an opinion is never going to be happy. That is why newspapers continue to have op-ed sections. While that tidbit about the urgent need to talk about planting trees seems fairly innocuous it reminds me of some of the pictures I see of what this community looked like when it was first settled.

This small mention of talking about the need for more trees told me that our town fathers viewed the importance of planting trees to offer shade and provide comfort for travelers who were starting to pass through on road trips. Once the

word was out about the great sightseeing excursions available, more "autoists", (those traveling by cars), would discover the beauty of the area and take advantage of the hunting and fishing opportunities. They knew the importance of "gussying up" their surroundings to make their community more appealing to visitors.

These days when "fool's spring" tempts those with the green thumbs around us, sending them to sit by their fireplaces with their seed catalogs, there are others in the community responsibly planning to plant trees as soon as possible. The recent request to the Board of County Commissioners for help with the Eastern Rio Blanco Metropolitan District's tree-mapping project is one recent example. Determining how many new trees need to be planted and determining the health and well-being of the trees planted so many years ago is the task ahead.

Arbor Day is still honored in



Dolly Viscardi

schools all across the country. Many of these children's memories of community life involve this special day when they usually get their own tree to plant at home. They not only learn about the environmentally sound practice of planting trees, but they discover how their interest in their

community helps everyone. Planting trees that thrive in our semi-arid climate is equally important.

Reading that the town's newspaper editor in Meeker's early days felt it was important for the leaders of the community to consider tree planting and encourage tourism instantly connected me to the past. Knowing that trees were planted after his efforts helped frame history for me. The trees that stand sentinel all around the historic courthouse marked the boundaries of the first "city park." I look at it a little differently than some town residents. It is the past melding into the present for the future.



Kilowatt Korner

MARCH 2021

Welcome to White River Electric's (WREA's) Kilowatt Korner. The Kilowatt Korner is no longer just our community room, but it is now also the title of our monthly member newsletter. For years, WREA has mailed members a monthly subscription of Colorado Country Life (CCL) which was a great magazine that shared industry news, safety tips, recipes, and our general manager's column. As interest in printed magazines declined, we decided to shake things up by bringing you something new with a local monthly column. The Kilowatt Korner will include many of the CCL features and can be found each month in the Meeker Chamber of Commerce newsletter, on our website at www.wrea.org, on our Facebook page and in the *Rio Blanco Herald Times*.

As we kick off our first Kilowatt Korner, we want to begin with our appreciation for our membership and your continued support during the last year. It has been a challenging year filled with uncertainty. However, it is no surprise that our community has rallied, showing great strength and resilience. The pandemic impacted all our lives. It required us to adapt, it reminds us of the importance of working together as a community, it has shown us new ways to do old things and even highlighting new efficiencies. While WREA was eager for a big 75th Anniversary celebration, we successfully pivoted to our first ever virtual meeting. Thank you to our members who participated by watching online, mailing in an almost record number of ballots for our director election, and picking up your 75th Anniversary camp chairs. We look forward to being back in person this fall to celebrate our 76th Annual Meeting where two directors, one from the Town of Meeker and one from the Rural District, will be elected.

WREA will utilize what it learned from this year's adjustments and work to maximize efficiencies so we can continue to reduce costs with a focus on rate stability. Every month our Board of Directors sends a clear message; maintain safety and reliability with a focus on quality customer service and the bottom line. The WREA team works hard daily to meet this directive.

Recent unprecedented winter storms and power outages in Texas may have members asking about WREA's generation resources and reliability. WREA purchases its power from Tri-State Generation & Transmission (Tri-State) except for our locally generated renewable energy which includes the WREA Miller Creek Ditch Hydro, the Meeker Solar Garden & the Piceance Creek Solar. Tri-State is diligent in its resource planning which includes coal, gas, wind, solar and hydro so it can supply reliable power to its members in four states. While it will take time to determine exactly what went wrong and how the Texas tragedy could have been avoided, WREA wants our membership to know that we work closely with Tri-State to support a balanced mix of generation and transmission resources with reliability as our priority. The utility industry is in transition with increasing regulatory demands and a variety of opinions about the perfect energy solution. Regardless of the complexities, our answer is simple. It is our job to figure out how to responsibly provide our members reliable power regardless of the conditions. WREA will continue to be a voice for reason, reliability and customer service.

Thank you for tuning in for our first Kilowatt Korner and look forward to being back in touch next month.

White River Electric Association

KAYE'S CORNER

Practice makes perfect

By KAYE SULLIVAN
Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER I Many people seem to think a genetic or God-given talent is behind a person's capabilities. For myself, being able to play the piano has little to do with these well intended but incorrect perceptions.

When people comment, "I wish I could play like you," I think, well, you can if you're willing to take lessons and practice faithfully. My childhood included weekly piano lessons, assignments, and 30 minutes of practice every day. My mom set a timer! Twelve years of lessons and daily practice in my childhood are the backbone of my skills.

Now that I'm a part time pianist at the Methodist Church, I'm finding I must re-install the discipline of daily practice. I have forgotten so much. The more I practice, the more my fingers respond and the more comfortable I become. Same song over and over — practice is repetition.

Competence requires mistakes, correction, adjustment, and unrelenting commitment to high standards, whether set by oneself, the public, teachers, or whomever. Even with tons of practice, we probably won't be perfect, but we can strive for our personal best.

Did you know that Winston Churchill, who delivered extremely powerful speeches, sat up late into the night, correcting, adjusting, rehearsing every phrase? His outstanding oratory skills weren't a result of genes but unrelenting attention to detail and preparation.

My opinion is that instead of genetics, our abilities are shaped by our environment. I grew up in an era and family where girls were expected to learn to play the piano. My mother and grandmother could play quite well so I was influenced by their examples. As well, my household included a piano and the means to pay for my lessons.

My three siblings had the same background and influences but none of them took up the piano. If abilities are genetic driven, why didn't all four of us become pianists and why didn't I master playing tennis as they all did? Example, influence, accessibility, encouragement, education all contribute to our talents. Competency is not somehow magically bestowed, on any of us.

Practice is also about improving. Sometimes, one small part of a song is difficult and needs to be repeated over and over until it becomes muscle memory or at least provides confidence to endure through a tough part. Practice is not so fun to listen to because it is filled with lots of repetition and mistakes.

Sometimes we grow weary, bored, or frustrated with practice. It is easy to give up, skip, or not truly work up to our capacity. Sure, I can play easy or familiar piano pieces, but the hard ones take concentration and attention to detail.

The payoff may be familiarity or what some call muscle memory. As a youth, I was determined to learn to play "Nocturne in E Flat" a complicated piece. My parents had a record of this, so I would turn it on then race to the piano to play the piano at the same time. Eventually, I learned the difficult runs and how to play it



Kaye Sullivan

correctly. Now some 50 years later, my fingers still remember how to play that song! (well at my current capability)

A friend of mine who also plays piano talked with me about performance anxiety.

Performing in front of people is different than playing at home where no one hears my mistakes except my patient husband.

She said, if performance is 85% of practice, that is a great accomplishment. Hum! It is an interesting standard. If I perform at the live church service 85% of what I practiced, am I ok with that? I'm still pondering that.

Then there's the advice of our sons' taekwondo instructor who lectured that "perfect practice makes perfect performance." I think this advice means practice as you intend to perform. For example, if I intend to play a hymn at a certain pace, I should practice it at that pace.

Scott Hamilton, the Olympian gold medalist ice skater wrote in his memoirs that if he fell during practice, he was expected to pop up and keep going just as he would need to do during a real performance. The clock is still ticking and you can't just go to the sidelines to have a good cry if you make a mistake. Practice even includes learning to recover from mistakes.

Whatever your interests — an athlete, a writer, a speaker, horseback rider, target shooter, or other, I remind you that consistent practice will pay off. You will improve and be proud of your accomplishments.

Whatever you're going through, crisis counselors and professionally trained peer specialists are available to help.

Call Colorado Crisis Service's hotline at
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CNCC CORNER

What does the CNCC Foundation do?

By SUE SAMANIEGO
Special to the Herald Times

RANGELY I If I had a dollar for every time I was asked to explain what the Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) Foundation does, well...we could do even more. But let's start at the beginning.

What is the Foundation's purpose? The Foundation's mission is to provide a sustaining stream of funding to benefit CNCC's Mission: to enhance people's lives by providing an accessible, affordable, quality education. Donor support enables CNCC to develop and enhance instructional programs, improve college facilities, offer student scholarships, and fund projects outside of the scope of traditional funding sources.

As a 501(c)3, the Foundation is a credible nonprofit accepting private gifts that donors can be sure will be used according to their wishes. The Foundation is also eligible to apply for grants that would otherwise be outside of the college's reach.

Through outreach to alumni and business/industry, the Foundation encourages investment from both inside and outside of the region. This contributes to the local economy and provides for long-term sustainability of the college and its programs by building the donor base. The Foundation's ability to accept legacy gifts and endowments also contributes to the sustainability of the college.

All of this leads back to the mission. Gifts to the Foundation provide student and program support to ensure that all students have access to affordable, quality educational opportunities.

Spring is a busy time for the Foundation. It's when we hold some of our largest and most important fundraising events. For example, the 17th annual Foundation Dinner will be Saturday, March 27 from 5:30-9

p.m. in the Colorado Room on the Rangely campus. Last year's in person event had to be canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions and we held an online auction in its place. This year we are excited to be able to hold this event in person again. However, to adhere to local COVID-19 guidelines, seating will be limited to 175 attendees and individuals will need to wear masks when away from their table. For those looking to attend, tickets are available on a first come-first served basis by contacting Sue Samaniego (sue.samaniego@cncc.edu or 970-675-3216) or purchasing online at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/2021FoundationDinner>. A new event will also be held in April. The CNCC Chair Affair is a unique week-long, online auction with a live kickoff on the CNCC Craig Campus on Monday, April 19 from 3-8 p.m. Auction items will include creative packages featuring "chairs." These may be one-of-a-kind decorated items or new chairs packaged with related items. For more information go to <https://cncc.edu/cncc-foundation-news>.

Sue Samaniego



Proceeds from these events go to CNCC scholarships and programs (80%), the unrestricted fund (10%), and the CNCC endowment (10%). Up to \$40,000 will be matched dollar for dollar by a grant from the Colorado Department of Education's Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative.

Thank you to all who support CNCC through the Foundation's events and/or private gifts throughout the year.

To Polis

Dear Editor:

This letter is to Governor Polis. My name is Abigail Morgan. I am a senior studying environmental science at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colorado. I was born and raised in Colorado; specifically, in the town of Meeker. I am writing to let you know that you are making a big mistake. While the people in the cities and counties surrounding Denver may not believe so, myself and many others in Meeker and other Colorado rural communities agree. There are many reasons as to why I believe this.

In my major, we are constantly discussing not only the environment, but also the energy industry. We understand the impacts of different energy sources on the environment whether renewable or nonrenewable. I have not only had the experience of learning about our resources in the classroom, but also through my summer internships at a Northwest Colorado coal mine you may know about because of the decisions that have been made that will eventually shut it down. That mine is under Tri-State Generation and Transmission and is Colowyo Coal Company. While I understand your push for green energy, I disagree with the shutdown of the mines, wells, pipelines and coal generated power stations. You are not only taking away the jobs that people in my community and surrounding communities rely on, but you seem to not understand that there is a major lack in sustainability with renewable resources on their own. Not only is there lack of sustainability with renewables, our nonrenewable resources are used for much more than just electricity. Without these materials, we will notice a large impact in our day to day lives.

Secondly, I have read the bill that you are trying to pass, SB21-135, the prohibition on the use of certain animals in a traveling animal act. You have identified these animals as performance animals. While, that is exactly what they are, you are making it seem as though these animals and their well being are being abused and restricted. This bill is labeling bucking bulls and broncs as "performance animals." The wellbeing and health of these animals is a priority for stock contractors and those people

who make a living with them. Once again, you are taking away the living of not only the stock contractors, but also the rodeo venues, rodeo contestants and spectators alike. What about the history of rodeos in Colorado? These events are a part of our heritage.

And finally, you seemed to have deemed March 20 as "Meat Out Day"? I do not understand this. Realizing that there are people with a strict no-meat diet, we do not need to make this a statewide "holiday" from meat. This is a direct insult to the way of life of the hard working farmers and ranchers as well as our Colorado history. These men and women work very hard around our state to provide healthy, high quality meat products for Colorado and the nation. To tell someone that their personal diet is wrong and celebrating this "no-meat diet" to make others feel as though that consumption of meat is bad, is not okay. I hope you will consider a "Meat In Day" for us meat eaters.

All in all, I am doing my best to be a voice for the rural communities within this state who do not feel like we are being heard (as we saw in the results of Proposition 114). While you are more focused on not offending the people in the cities where votes carry more weight than those in rural areas, we are very offended by these actions. Thank you and God bless.

Abigail Morgan
Meeker

Infection outbreaks

Dear Editor:

Recent actions by our Board of County Commissioners and their attorney apparently intend to suppress accurate reporting of public health data. Certainly it is important to protect individual health records (and those protections have been followed), but there are very good reasons for timely and accurate disclosure of infection outbreaks. Those reports help public health officers and elected officials to track the spread of an infection in the population. That enables targeted preventive measures. If you don't know where the virus is, you can't stop it. Public disclosure of infection outbreaks, as required, also helps individuals to protect their own health. Knowing of outbreaks alerts people whether they might have been exposed to the virus and what precautions

they should take. Accurate information saves lives.

The only voting members on our County Board of Health are the County Commissioners. As stipulated in their own Bylaws, the purpose of the Board of Health is "To assure compliance with state statutes and to promote and protect the health and environment for the people of Rio Blanco County, Colorado." We should expect our Commissioners to follow the established public health guidelines, not ideology or political expediency.

Dr. Bob Dorsett
Meeker

Addendum to my earlier letter: I'm a slow reader, I guess, but I finally waded through the citations of Deficient Practice at Pioneers Medical Center documented by the state Department of Public Health. As summarized in your pages last week, those citations demonstrate a pattern of failure by PMC supervisors which resulted in considerable risk to staff, patients, and residents, and, through them, risk to the wider community. We would be much better served if our Commissioners, instead of attacking our county Public Health Department for appropriately reporting COVID outbreaks, would correct the problems at PMC.

Bullying and anger

Dear Editor:

When did bullying and anger become our new normal? As adults we are now acting like teenage bullies to anyone that doesn't agree with us regardless of their age. It's now ok for an adult to ridicule and say derogatory remarks to a group of youths because their masks are below their noses, even though they just finished playing an entire basketball game with them covering their faces (which is ridiculous in the first place) and so they head to the bathroom to catch a breather because in these COVID times we can't use locker rooms. So, we congest and congregate in the bathrooms instead?! I don't see the logic in this but that's besides the point.

When will the animosity and judgmental looks subside just because someone isn't wearing a mask, or their mask isn't on "properly"? When did wearing a mask become a badge that entitled a person to judge and belittle others? The anger about

this issue comes from both sides. No one is innocent in this stupid battle except our children that we are conditioning to believe that we must do everything we are told by the powers that be and there is no free will or thinking for ourselves anymore because THAT will get you into trouble and cause angry people to say hurtful things or worse. I am just as guilty as the next person when it comes to my frustrations and pent-up anger with all the issues over the past year but when does it come to a point that we look in the mirror and decide if we like what we see? Whether you agree with me or not we need to start asking ourselves is this how we want our children to live? Does wearing a mask give a person a moral right to hurt or attack others or flat out be a bully? Don't we want better for ourselves and our kids? I know I do, and I will try to do better especially for my kids.

I included a link to an article written by a State Rep from the eastern slope explaining how crazy wearing a mask during basketball is and should not be common practice for anyone!

<https://www.journal-advocate.com/2021/02/09/sonnenberg-chsaa-is-hurting-our-youth/>

Natalie Ducey
Rangey

Moderna and vaccine doubters

Dear Editor:

Throughout the world there is a debate over the COVID virus vaccine. Some doubt that it is necessary because the pandemic is a hoax. Others are afraid to take the vaccine and may be influenced by "news" raising skepticism. On the other hand, Moderna (the inventor and maker of the vaccine used in Meeker) on Feb. 25, 2021, announced their outlook for shipments by country for 2021, paid for in advance by those nations.

Skeptics may benefit from considering why these countries have committed to purchase and inoculate their citizens with \$18 billion of Moderna's vaccine. Will the virus attack the unvaccinated skeptics and thin their ranks in a tragic Darwinian (survival of the fittest) continuation of the pandemic?

Moderna announced that it expects to deliver 700 million doses of their vaccine and hopes

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The Goals of the Moral Law (1)

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



Dr. J.D. Watson

HAVING considered the *giver, gift, and grace* in the Preface to the Moral Law (Exodus 20:1-2), we observe the *goals* of the Moral Law. What are its aims, objectives, and purposes? We see it accomplish at least three things.

First, it is a *mirror* to show us what we are. We are reminded here of when we get up in the morning, look in the mirror, and are a little horrified! We quickly go about fixing what we see. That is what the Law does spiritually. J.

Sidlow Baxter well comments here with another illustration: "As solid objects become black when silhouetted against a bright background, so sin . . . becomes at once shown up and sharply marked off against the light of the Law." Indeed, as Paul made clear in Romans 3:20, "by the law is the knowledge of sin," and then added in 7:7, "Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law." This is easily demonstrated. The *first* and *second* commandments ("Thou shalt have no other gods before me" and "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image") reveal that we are pagan idolaters by nature. The *third* ("Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain") demonstrates that we are blasphemers by nature. The *fourth* ("Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy") reveals that we are self-worshippers by nature, not God worshippers. The *fifth* ("Honour thy father and thy mother") demonstrates that we are disobedient, disrespectful, and defiant by nature. The *sixth* ("Thou shalt not kill [i.e., murder]") reveals that we are murderers by nature. The *seventh* ("Thou shalt not commit adultery") demonstrates that we are sexually immoral by nature. The *eighth* ("Thou shalt not steal") reveals that we are thieves by nature. The *ninth* ("Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour")

demonstrates that we are liars by nature. And finally, the *tenth* ("Thou shalt not covet") reveals that we are lustful by nature. So much for today's ridiculous idea of a positive self-esteem, not to mention that man is "basically good."

Second, it is a map to point us to Christ. In a most fascinating verse (one of my favorites), we read, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Gal. 3:24). "Schoolmaster" is the Greek *paidagogos*, which was a person (usually a slave) assigned as a tutor and guardian for young boys. By its very definition, it was both a temporary and lowly position. When the son came of age into full sonship at about eighteen, the schoolmaster's responsibilities ended. Paul's imagery, then, is unmistakable. The Mosaic System was a temporary schoolmaster that was designed to lead Israel to maturity, that is, Christ. Once Christ arrived, was crucified, and rose again, He (not the schoolmaster) became the controlling force in the believer's life. But even the Moral Law points us to Christ. As He was perfect in His righteousness, He was likewise perfect in keeping the Moral Law. Think of that! He never told a single lie, never stole even a small item, never was sexually immoral, and never violated any other law. And because of that, and His empowering through the indwelling Holy Spirit, we too can keep the Moral Law, not perfectly but progressively.

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).

LETTERS: Moderna, reasons for carrying recall petitions, pub health opinions

► Continued from Page 5A

to reach 1 billion in 2021. The list of countries follows:
 ■ United States: 300 million doses with options to purchase an additional 200 million doses; the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized emergency use in individuals 18 years of age and older

■ European Union: 310 million doses with option to purchase an additional 150 million doses in 2022; the European Commission has granted a conditional marketing authorization (CMA) for COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna in individuals 18 years of age and older

■ Japan: 50 million doses
 ■ Canada: 44 million doses; Health Canada authorized COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna for the immunization of people 18 years of age and older under an Interim Order

■ Republic of Korea: 40 million doses
 ■ United Kingdom: 17 million doses; the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) approved the COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna for use under Regulation 174, a temporary authorization

■ Switzerland: 13.5 million doses; Swissmedic, the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products,

authorized the COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna in Switzerland

■ Colombia: 10 million doses
 ■ Israel: 6 million doses; Israel's Ministry of Health (MOH) has given authorization to import the COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna

■ Taiwan: 5 million doses
 ■ Singapore: (undisclosed); the Singapore Health Sciences Authority (HSA) approved the interim authorization of the COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna for use under the Pandemic Special Access Route (PSAR)

■ Qatar (undisclosed); the Qatar Ministry of Public Health issued an emergency use authorization for the COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna

This totals to 796 million doses, with options for an additional 350 million.

Jim Magid
Meeker

The hows of recall

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter to explain why, after prayerful consideration, I am carrying petitions for recall: not because of the "whys" but the "hows":

Commissioners have a lot of power, and are, more importantly, public servants, serving those who have entrusted power to them to do what is right for the community by the following:

■ Listening to those they serve: appointed officials, employees, and citizens at large and investing hours getting to know those people and their needs
 ■ Becoming familiar with, and following State Statutes,

Rio Blanco County Codes and processes and respecting employees who are following those laws and processes.

Treating everyone as a valued person or employee by:

■ Never being demeaning.
 ■ Never leaving an email or a phone call go un-responded to.

■ Listening with both ears and not already forming opinions about what is being said or not even considering input from others.

■ Doing some research concerning whatever the issue is, with input from others.

■ Allowing appointed officials and department heads to deal with an employee in accordance with codes and policies: example: letting the department head freely exercise their duties in accordance to personnel policies.

■ Treating those directly appointed by Commissioners with respect and dignity. If problems arise between the Commissioners and the appointee, there should be a process between them to discuss issues and come to an agreeable plan to correct the issue (a plan to move forward or reprimand allowing time for correction). If dismissal, after all other methods have been exhausted, is considered, the appointee should be informed of the decision before public action is taken. I realize Commissioners have the authority to dismiss without a process, but it doesn't make it right.

■ Never dismissing an appointee or employee over a personal vendetta, which in most instances, results in throwing the entire staff and citizens "under the bus" to accomplish: example attempting to get rid of dispatch.

Build a community and climate of trust by:
 ■ Working with all tax collecting entities on both sides of Rio Blanco County with the following process:

■ Hold meetings with elected officials and CEOs of all tax collecting entities at least twice a year to do long range visioning and hear each other's visions and hopes, then prioritizing community needs.

■ Work together when going for large grants.
 ■ Learn to prioritize which entity will go for large grants, with which all the entities might be entitled to submit grants,

taking turns and supporting the entity applying knowing that there is a plan in place with which all entities will get their turn. Supporting other entities when they are applying for non-competitive grants.

This worked well in the past. When Rio Blanco County's entities applied for grants and representatives from the other entities supported those requests and presented an agreed upon County long range plan, Rio Blanco County was very successful in receiving very large requests, because those awarding grants were able to see a long term collaborative vision for the entire county and its citizens rather than just one entity's vision.

Work with all employees and the citizens of Rio Blanco County: As everyone is aware, Rio Blanco County is in for some rocky times when funding will not be available for the levels of services currently provided and need to develop a strategy:

■ Go to employees. Employees have wonderful innovative ideas and golden suggestions to improve delivery of services, but have to feel safe and valued, the result of Commissioners who are open to listen and explore suggestions. Work with other tax collecting entities to find ways to share equipment, personnel and knowledge, for the good of all of Rio Blanco County (Commissioners' hard work and elbow grease).

■ Hold visioning meetings for the whole County citizenry to discuss their priorities and what they could live with less of or without.

■ If employees, other tax collecting entities and citizens feel buy-in and ownership of decisions made because elected officials are listening, there will be a climate of trust and peace.

■ Celebrate employees. Let them know how much you appreciate their dedication.

■ Plan for positive outcomes! I am ending this with a heavy heart. Unfortunately for over a year, there has been such abuse of power and disregard for policies, laws and codes, that the climate for Rio Blanco County employees and citizens has become fear, distrust and divisiveness. I don't know the WHYS, which in

most cases should be left to the personnel department, and not elected officials, but I do know the HOWS...ridiculing, telling employees and others one thing and doing another, using the bait and switch....we want to get rid of this employee so we will just re-organize, but then we will move people around and give them higher salaries and really not save a lot of money, as was being sold to the public and ignoring input from the citizenry.

It is my perception, which may not be accurate, the Commissioners' goal has been to use their power to settle personal vendettas, create an atmosphere of fear to keep employees in line and ignore anything the public has tried to say. There have been so many wonderful employees I had the privilege of working with over the years, which have been thrown out as garbage and still others to be thrown out in the coming months: example: sales and use tax director even after testimonies of the great job she has and continues to do, from those who work with her.

I worked in Town Government for many years. We weren't perfect, but all the tax collecting entities learned to work together, we knew each other. We shared knowledge, personnel, and equipment because we all understood that we were public servants and worked to provide services to basically the same people. We envisioned that we had hundreds of bosses and tried to serve them well.

I have never been part of a recall in my life, but I have to step up this time. I wish it would be possible for Gary Moyer to retain his position as Commissioner and restore the trust of employees, other taxing entities and Rio Blanco Citizens, but in my perception, that is not possible. Therefore, I will be collecting signatures for a recall and prayerfully asking for wisdom, for this community to choose the right commissioner to replace Gary, if the recall is successful. I also ask you other two Commissioners to step back and prayerfully ask for guidance in your positions.

More than any time in the recent past, we must have Commissioners who view themselves as PUBLIC

SERVANTS, working tirelessly to find innovative ways to provide services with less funding and unify our community by working well with people and building their trust.

From someone who has "been there, done that with God at the helm", the most important entities to bring back to "the table" individually, in our families, communities, nation and the world, is the wonderful awesome "Trio-God our Creator, our Savior Jesus and the Holy Spirit". This Trio has been kicked out of so many of the above and wait patiently in the "wings" to be invited again to all the "tables". With the "Trios" love, wisdom, strength, compassion, and knowledge, we can be great again! The Trio has spoken to us numerous times and in numerous ways over the years. A clear message is found in II Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are call by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways: then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land! What a wonderful promise and I know from experience, it works, God can use us mightily as He has directed me to write this letter. I take no credit, but give God the Glory concerning how mightily he can work here, if we just give him a chance. I am an example of how he can work in someone as imperfect as me. We only have to ask and stand by and watch!

Sincerely,
Sharon Day
Meeker

My opinions

Dear Editor:

This is in response to comments posted in the local newspaper. Every year family and friends of cattle ranchers in the spring gather together to brand, castrate (male calves) and vaccinate thousands of calves. Without any complaining, finger pointing, paperwork, (I had to fill out a lot more paperwork to get my last COVID-19 shot than when I got my Pacemaker put in.) Without any government oversight, no legal help and shortage of vaccine. They get it done with hard work and God given common sense!

I am 71 years old and have never heard of 500,000 head of cattle dying of some disease in a year's time.

So what the ranchers are doing must be working just fine! COVID shots save lives just like seat belts do. (They saved my life!) if you really care about your own life and family get a shot. You are more likely to die in a car accident than getting a COVID-19 shot. I have got both my shots and am doing just fine!

The bottom line is that shots save lives. Standing around complaining about how it is done doesn't!

And I would like to thank Alice Harvey and all the health care workers worldwide for their hard work and compassion in taking care of their patients! We love you and wish all of you the very best!

Nolan Layton
Former ranch hand
Meeker

RADINO & CHUCKWAGON
Mar. 5 through 10, 2021

FRIDAY • MAR. 5
Chicken pot pie, mixed vegetables, strawberry-sundae

MONDAY • MAR. 8
Ham, sweet potatoes, three bean salad, pears, whole wheat bread

TUESDAY • MAR. 9
Chicken patties/bun, pasta-vegetable salad, fruit salad, trail mix

WEDNESDAY • MAR. 10
Pork or beef patties, mushroom gravy, rice, peas and carrots, Jello fruit salad

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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Music by **MORRIS (MOOSE) CHARLAP**
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Town appoints Lockwood to vacant trustee seat

By NIKI TURNER
editor@ht1885.com

MEEKER I Meeker resident Chris Lockwood was sworn in as one of the town trustees on Tuesday. Lockwood will complete the term vacated by Pat Turner, who resigned in February, and be eligible to run in the 2022 election. Lockwood also serves on the Meeker Planning Commission.

Lockwood and Jared Harvey submitted applications and were interviewed by the board last Wednesday.

The board and Town Manager Lisa Cook discussed working together with the Town of Rangely to apply for a Department of Local Affairs grant to hire a consultant to put together a plan for economic development.

"We have tons of data, that's all we've been doing for the last few years," Cook said. "That's what we're lacking, is putting all of that data together and then

coming up with a plan."

Cook also said the Town received a dividend of \$9,945 from their health insurance provider last week, and told the board the county's quarterly interagency meeting will be held Tuesday, March 9.

The Healthy Families and Workplaces Act became effective for the State of Colorado at the first of the year. "Basically we already complied with that," Cook said. Changes to personnel policy are under review by the town's attorney.

Trustee Wendy Gutierrez said there has been community discussion of a barbecue at Town Park on March 20, which has been proclaimed by Governor Jared Polis as "Meat Out Day" urging people to go without meat. The governor's announcement has been met with vocal opposition from multiple counties and towns in defense of local agriculture and livestock producers.



Chris Lockwood

The board discussed writing a resolution in support of local agriculture for the town to approve at the next meeting.

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters before adjourning.

Cemetery board discusses jobs, benefits at workshop

By CAITLIN WALKER
caitlin@ht1885.com

MEEKER I The three-member Meeker Cemetery District board met Thursday, Feb. 25 to discuss potential changes and alterations to the district's employment structure in a work session.

The district has gone through several personnel shake-ups in the past five years, with former employees stating in public meetings they were forced out of their jobs due to personal conflicts with board members.

This meeting, listed as a "workshop" in which no decisions could be made but discussion could be had, was open to the public per CRS 24-6-402(2)(b), which states local public bodies must open meetings of a quorum or three or more members, whichever is fewer, at which public business is discussed or formal action may be taken.

Board members Joe Conrado, Melinda Parker and interim board member Jan Oldland attended, as well as Grounds Manager Jason Blaisdell, who was hired last fall. Office Manager Vanessa Trout attended the latter half of the meeting.

SEASONAL LABORERS

The board opened the discussion by reviewing a draft job description for seasonal cemetery grounds laborers. The purpose of the discussion, according to Conrado, was to create a solid salary schedule and job descriptions so the board wouldn't have to start from the scratch with each new hire.

Parker stated she would like the starting wage for the positions to be lower, \$12 per hour instead of \$14 per hour. Oldland stated she thought the wage as listed was fair.

The board also discussed potential dollar wage increases for any seasonal employees who returned from the prior year. According to Blaisdell, this cost would be offset by not having to train new people.

Raises for other positions were briefly discussed, as well. Parker expressed concern about the projected decrease for the district's mill levy. "We can't guarantee people more raises when we don't know what we're going to have."

The board also discussed adding daily trash pick up to the description (cemetery littering has been an issue) and the potential need for a driver's license.

Conrado stated he'd like to see a clause about "at-will" employment be added to every job description, not just the seasonal grounds laborer. The clause states, "this position is 'at will', which means the district may terminate the employment relationship at any time and for any reason, subject only to the requirements of Federal and State law. Similarly, the employee may terminate the employment relationship without notice at any time for any reason."

Conrado also requested position summaries and desired qualifications to be added to the manager

job descriptions.

CROSS TRAINING

Before moving to the next job description the board discussed cross training of employees. "We've always talked about cross-training these two people (the managers)," Conrado said. Parker said she thought they had already asked for that to be started, and Blaisdell responded it had been. "It's not something we require but it's a desirable trait. I thought it would be good to put that on both of them (the job descriptions)," Conrado said.

"If one of them's gone, or say Jason, he's here more, then he should know everything about the office," Parker replied.

"I think the same way with Vanessa. She goes out and helps them, she's always jumped in and done that anyway," Conrado said, continuing, "it could be that if times get really tough we have one person here and that would be one of these managers that does both jobs."

MANAGER REQ'S

The board discussed a driver's license requirement for both managers, emergency availability on nights and weekends and listing pay dependent on experience instead of a starting salary on both job descriptions. Other desired qualifications would include being a self starter, being disciplined, being a good team worker and being conscientious.

No other major changes were discussed for the grounds manager position, which lists 40 hours/week for April through October and 32 hours per week November through March. The position's primary duties include maintaining the lawn, grounds, graves, memorial areas, shops and equipment, sprinkler systems, trash removal, and working with the office manager, according to the draft job description.

The position is eligible for PERA retirement benefits and a health insurance package, as well.

The 2021 district budget lists the salary for this position at \$59,000 per year.

OFFICE MANAGER

The draft of the office manager position lists primary duties as "being responsible for the overall administrative function of the cemetery." It includes financial duties such as bookkeeping, payroll and associated reports, preparation of the annual budget and the annual audit. Cemetery duties include all record-keeping, arrangement of funeral services and graveside services and the associated items that entails. The employee is also expected to clean the office, be a notary public, respond to all public queries, and manage the board's agendas, member requests, and bylaws. The job description currently lists 21 hours weekly for the office manager job, along with health insurance.

The 2021 district budget lists the salary for this position at \$20,000 per year.

For the office manager position, Parker questioned the health insurance benefit. "I cannot find anybody else that has a part-time employee that offers full-time insurance."

Conrado stated the county does. According to RBC's Lori Zentmeyer, the county's benefit package kicks in at 24 hours and is prorated up to 30 hours, when employees become eligible for full benefits.

"I'm just saying we're a district. I can't find another district that pays full time benefits, I mean every benefit for a part time employee," Parker said. She also addressed the hours. "I think that's probably more hours than we need up here. I don't know another cemetery this size that has somebody here almost all the time."

Oldland stated she would also be for cutting the hours of the position.

Conrado pointed out that cutting hours would also cut the benefits package. "Myself, I don't like cutting hours and benefits. We've got the money and I think looking at these job descriptions, they're responsible for a lot. I don't know if we can ask a part time person to do that," he said. The position and benefits were included in this year's district budget.

In the 2021 budget, health insurance for both employees is listed at around \$40,000.

Current office manager Vanessa Trout arrived during this discussion and was asked by the board about her current duties and what she does now. Parker stated she did not want to go over the whole job description. Conrado asked, "before the next meeting (March 11), I want to know if you can do this with a part-time employee ... do you need 21 hours or can you justify it?" He also stated he doesn't know what her job entails.

Trout suggested a job audit, having her log what she's doing for a month or three months to analyze the job and determine if there was any wasted time.

"I'm not for it. I guess it will come up in the meeting and I'm not trying to sway anyone," Conrado said.

Parker and Oldland did not express further opinions on the matter.

MONEY SITUATION

Positions and associated benefits discussed at this meeting are included in the approved 2021 budget, which lists total operating expenses of \$269,541, a slight uptick over the 2020 budget amount of \$213,055 primarily due to the hiring of Blaisdell.

Overall, total expenditures have trended downward for the past five years — the 2016 budget listed operating expenses at \$590,273.

The board also has more than \$2 million in reserves, and has offered a mill levy tax holiday for the past several years, netting taxpayers a savings of \$440,000.

The board will vote on any changes at an 8:30 a.m. meeting Monday, March 11.

CABIN FEVER CLASSIC ...



On Saturday, Feb. 13 the Panther Country 4-H Community Club hosted their first annual Cabin Fever Classic Cardboard Sled Derby at Cedar Ridges Golf Course. In true Colorado weather fashion, the week prior brought high temperatures and melting snow, but a blizzard on race day. That didn't stop the youngsters and parents from entering their homemade toboggans in the contest though. Jesus Guzman with his silver Jeep sled won the prestigious "Most Creative Toboggan" category. Daxton Wilczek, Kolton Wilczek, Dusty Hall, and Heather Hall were the winners of the fastest sled category in their respective age classes. The 4-H club would like to thank judge Roy Gilbert, the Western Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation and Park District for the use of Cedar Ridges, and all the folks that came out to participate in the fun.

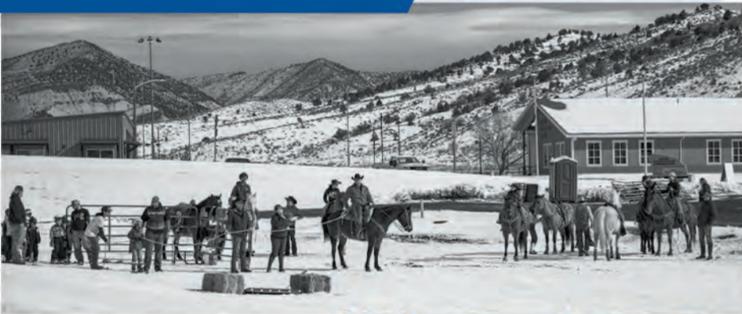
ROXIE FROMANG PHOTOS



THANK YOU!

The Meeker Skijor Board would like to thank all our sponsors and volunteers for your support at this year's 2nd annual event! Meeker Skijor would not be able to happen without you all and we are very appreciative! We had over 100 teams compete and already have many team commitments for next year! We are looking forward to planning another successful event for next year.

Save the date! 3rd Annual Meeker Skijor: February 18-20, 2022



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- Alpine West Properties
- Grant Family Dentistry
- Rio Blanco Abstract Company
- Pioneers Medical Center & The Colorado Advanced Orthopedics Sports Medicine & Spine
- Step Beyond Media
- Bank of the San Juans
- Matt & Shana Holliday (the band for our dance Saturday night after calcutta)
- White River Snowmobile Club

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Special thanks ~ could not have done it without these folks!

Boyd Richardson and the RBC Fairgrounds Crew for helping prepare the facilities, White River Snowmobile Club for the snow cat and operator Troy Osborn for helping build a great track, RBC Search and Rescue Members for shuttling the skiers (Mike Jones, Jonny Murray and Chief Jenista), Russell Overton and Toby Willey and the Town of Meeker for extra snow, RBC Road and Bridge for the use of their parking lot and extra snow, Meeker EMS volunteers, our Calcutta men Bruce Clatterbaugh and Bryce Purkey, Meeker 4-H Youth for clean-up of grandstands, Meeker Classic Sheepdog Trials, Meeker Lion's Cub for providing concessions, Skijor Committee (Diana Jones, Janelle Urista, Meghan Davis, Alex Plumb, Sabine Murray, Kari Brennan and Kelcee Vroman), Meeker Skijor volunteers (too many to list but you are one in a million!), FFA volunteers, Meeker High School Industrial Arts class and Mr. Clatterbaugh for making our board signs, Meeker Chamber of Commerce, Joe Carstens for hauling snow, Tom Moulden and Meeker Cowboy Church, Range Call Rodeo Royalty



Photos by Bobby Gutierrez, Dominick Cardile, Sophia Goedert and Caitlin Walker

Keep up with Meeker Skijor year-round at www.meekerskijor.com and on Facebook @MeekerSkijor

RIO BLANCO HERALD TIMES | Thursday, March 4, 2021



Meeker to host wrestling regionals this weekend

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

MEEKER I Cowboy wrestling has entered the postseason. This week Meeker High School will host the 2A regionals for the Western Slope.

Teams attending this year are: Cedaredge, Dolores, Dove Creek, Hayden, Hotchkiss, Ignacio, Lyons, Mancos, Meeker, North Park, Norwood, Nucla, Olathe, Paonia, Rangley, Soroco and West Grand.

Regional brackets will be 16-man brackets, however the first two rounds are single elimination, no losers bracket to wrestle back through for the potential to still attend state.

Also this year, only the top two wrestlers from each weight will be attending state, therefore making the state brackets only eight men each.

The 2021 Cowboy regional team will be: Ty Goedert (113), Trae Kennedy (120), Tyson Portwood (132), Kaden Franklin (138), Connor Blunt (145), Trinden Powell (152), Kelton Turner (160), Brendan Clatterbaugh (170), Dax Sheridan (182), Colby Clatterbaugh (195), Judd Harvey (220), and Tanner Musser (285).

"We have been working hard and looking forward to this weekend's competition," commented head coach JC Watt.

Entrance into regionals will be by ticket only, each household for each team has been given two tickets per household. Broadcasting will be on the NFHS network and on the Meeker High School Facebook page.

Wrestling will be Friday

and Saturday. On Friday 106-145 will wrestle and the state qualifiers will be determined that day, wrestling to begin at 2:30 p.m. Saturday 152-285 will wrestle, scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m.

"It should be fun to host and wrestle regionals at home," said Watt.

So where do our Cowboys stand?

According to Tim Yount, Goedert is sitting in the number one spot in the region and third for the state. Kennedy is second in the region and eighth in the state. Blunt is third in the region and ninth in the state. Powell is fifth in the region and 14th in the state. Turner is second in the region and fourth in the state. B. Clatterbaugh is fifth in the region and ninth in the state. Sheridan is first in the region and sixth in the state. C. Clatterbaugh is first in the region and second in the state. Harvey is third in the region and ninth in the state. Musser is third in the region and eighth in the state.

The Cowboys have not competed against all of the teams in the region like previous years. These rankings and current estimates and an educated guess based off of previous experience by Yount. Each mat will be livestreamed independently and congruently. One mat will be streamed on the Meeker High School Facebook page and the other will be on the Barone Middle School Facebook page. Please like and follow these pages so that you can watch them.

The livestreaming schedule is as follows:

WRESTLING REGIONAL ATTENDANCE:

Due to COVID restrictions, only PARENTS with a ticketed wristband may attend. Two wristbands will be distributed per household. No children, grandparents, or friends will be allowed admittance, even if in possession of a ticketed wristband.

2A Region 1 Wrestling Tournament
Meeker High School
March 5-6, 2021
■ **Friday, March 5, 2:30 p.m.**

Mat #1 - Live Broadcast on <https://www.facebook.com/MeekerHighSchool/>
Weights: (106, 113, 120, 145)

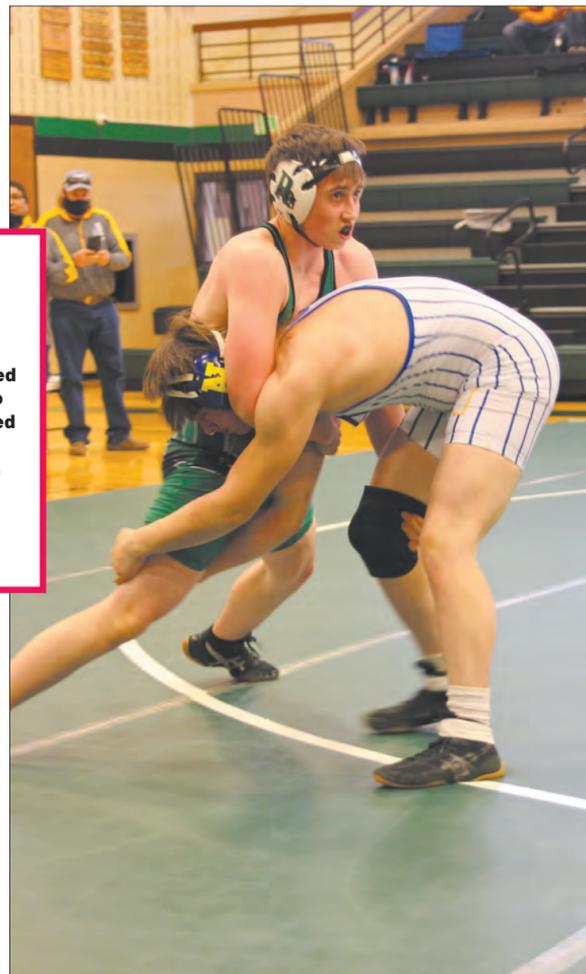
Mat #2 - Live Broadcast on <https://www.facebook.com/Barone-Middle-School-1589245418004164/>
Weights: (126, 132, 138)

■ **Saturday, March 6, 11:30 a.m.**

Mat #1 - Live Broadcast on <https://www.facebook.com/MeekerHighSchool/>
Weights: (170, 195, 220, 285)

Mat #2 - Live Broadcast on <https://www.facebook.com/Barone-Middle-School-1589245418004164/>
Weights: (152, 160, 182)

Facebook allows multiple windows open at one time on your browser. If you would like to switch between the mats you can open two browser windows, one with the Meeker High School Facebook page opened and the other with the Barone Middle School Facebook page.



MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO

Junior Brent Cantrell (170) will join Panther teammates at the regional wrestling tournament in Meeker this Friday and Saturday. Livestreaming details for viewing are to the left of this story and on PAGE 1A.

Panthers put on hometown show

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

RANGELY I This weekend the Panther wrestling team hosted its first home wrestling dual of the year competing against Dove Creek, Nucla and North Park.

"Last weekend against Meeker I felt the men were lacking intensity," commented head coach JC Chumacero, "but they had a really good week and practiced hard. You could tell they were ready for their home showing and they showed the crowd how hard they have been working." The Panther wrestling team defeated all three teams by points and out wrestled each team. Nucla and North Park combined for the night since they had such few wrestlers.

"This made us match up pretty good for the first dual of the night," said Chumacero.

Colton Stevens at 126 pounds, Kasen LeBleu (220), and Jaxon Torsell (195) came up short of wins for the night but all wrestled "really well," commented Chumacero. LeBleu and Torsell both wrestled the same guy, Cordell from North Park who is currently ranked seventh in the state.

"They wrestled him tough," began Chumacero, "a few adjustments and I believe it would have been a much closer match for both of them."

Kobey Chism (132), Braxton Moore (145), Anthony Garner (182), Brent Cantrell (170) and Alex Black (145) all defeated their opponent by pin. Junior Zane Varner (currently ranked sixth in the state at 152) once again jumped up a weight to 160 in order to get a match. He came away with a pin and added another victory against Dove Creek. Varner will be the only Panther to enter regionals with an undefeated record.

The Panthers ended the night facing off against Dove Creek, wrestling only six matches. Rangely out-wrestled the Bulldogs winning four out of the

six. Stevens and Black came up short of a win but wrestled close competitive matches. Chism, Varner, Cantrell and Pena all defeated sophomore Pena at 170 pounds.

"Pena's pin was a highlight for the team as he finished the night with a pin for the Panthers," said Chumacero.

This was Pena's second win of the year.

"This is a huge accomplishment for this young man," commented Chumacero, "It's hard to come into high school and be a first time wrestler. He has handled it very well!"

Unfortunately junior Byron Mackay was unable to get a match due to the other teams not having anyone in his weight.

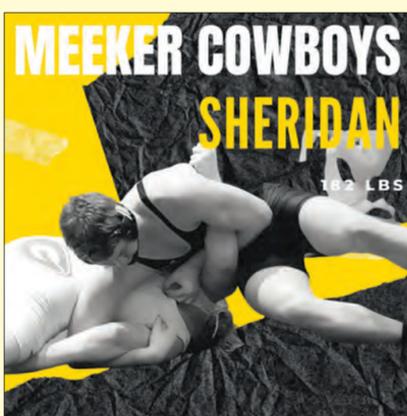
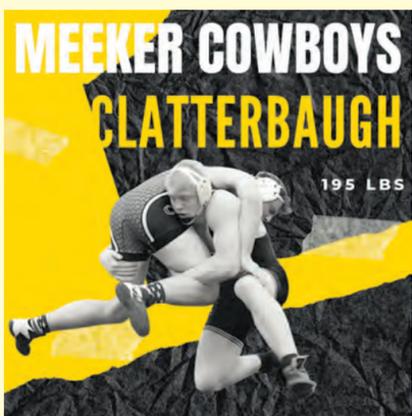
The Panthers hosted a "parent night" where the young men got to recognize their families for all they do and support them. Chumacero would like "to thank all the parents for supporting their kids and the entire wrestling program."

As the regular season comes to an end, the Panther wrestling team plans to hit the road hard and prepare for the regional tournament.

"I feel the young men are peaking at the right time," said Chumacero, "It's going to be tough to qualify for the big show this year as they are only taking the top two instead of the top four and the consolation side of the bracket is very limited. We will not use this as an excuse. I know they plan to wrestle hard and give everything they have into the postseason."

This year's Panther regional wrestling team is Stevens at 120, Chism (126), Black (145) Varner (152), Cantrell (170), Jaxon Torsell (185), LeBleu (220), Mackay (285).

Regionals will begin at 2:30 p.m. on Friday and 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. See the inset above for further info on attendance. You can also view livestreams of the competition on the Meeker High School and Barone Middle School Facebook pages.



Rangely's Scoggins named RMAC 2020-21 Summit Award Winner

Special to the Herald Times

RANGELY I CSU-Pueblo track and field student-athlete Patrick Scoggins of Rangely was the men's 2020-21 RMAC Indoor Track and Field Summit Award Winner. The award is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average (GPA), participating at the final sites for the RMAC Championships. Scoggins owns a 4.0 GPA in exercise science and the 3+2 program where he is pursuing his Master of Business Administration. He competed in the mile and the distance medley relay for the ThunderWolves at last weekend's RMAC Indoor Track and Field Championships. Scoggins was recognized and presented with a plaque at the Championships.

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.

CHSAA-mandated restrictions are currently in place for all high school sports.

Updates at <https://chsaanow.com/coronavirus/>

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Lady Panthers second in West Slope division

Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER I The Rangely lady Panthers took to the road this past week to take on two league foes: the West Grand Mustangs and the Soroco Rams. The West Grand game had been rescheduled due to weather. The 186-mile trip to Kremmling seemed to take a toll on the Panthers as they only mustered three baskets in the first quarter. The Panthers trailed seven to six until they erupted for 19 points in the second quarter, giving them a 25-13 lead going into halftime. Leading the lady Panthers in scoring was junior Adelynn Halcomb with 10 points, followed by freshman Anikka Cantrell who scored eight, junior Mary Scoggins pitched in three points, and senior Dixie Rhea added two more.

The second half saw the much tighter defensive style the lady Panthers are accustomed to playing. The girls only allowed one point for the Mustangs in the third quarter and scored 12 more to bring the score to 37-14. Rangely's half-court trap defense forced the Mustangs into 12 turnovers in the eight-minute quarter, allowing the Panthers to go on the 12-1 scoring run. Scoggins took over the Panthers' scoring reign with five points; freshman Ryann Mergelman added three points, with Rhea and Halcomb both adding two more points.

Holding the 37-14 lead going into the fourth quarter, the Panthers had the goal of winning yet another quarter. By scoring nine points to the Mustangs four, the Panthers closed the game 46-18. Leading Rangely to victory was Scoggins with 13 points, Halcomb with 12, Cantrell with eight, Mergelman with seven, Rhea with six, and freshman Kastyn Dembowski scored one.

With the win, the lady Panthers remained undefeated in league play with a record of 4-0 and stayed tied for first place with Soroco, who was 3-0 in the league. The Panthers were to travel to Hayden for a non-league match-up with the Tigers on Friday, Feb. 26, but due to the Tigers being placed in quarantine, the game was not played. The

next day, the Lady Panthers took to the road to head to Oak Creek and play the division championship determining game against the Rams.

The Soroco Rams proved why playing in their home gym is tough for opposing teams as they jumped out to a 14-8 lead after the first quarter and never surrendered the lead again. The Panthers' leading scorers in the quarter were Scoggins with three points and Halcomb with three points. Cantrell scored the other bucket for the Panthers to give them their eight points.

The Panthers' scoring woes continued as they could only score six points to the Rams 11 points. Scoggins scored four, with Rhea scoring the other two. The Panthers could not outscore the Rams in the third and fourth quarters as they lost the game 51-32. Leading the Panthers in scoring were Scoggins and Mergelman, who each had nine points, Halcomb with five, Dembowski with three, and Cantrell, Rhea, and Maya Mercado all scoring two points.

With the loss, the Panthers finished second in the Western Slope North division. The girls will face off against the Western Slope South division number two seed on Saturday, March 6 in Rangely at 1 p.m. The previously scheduled league game with Meeker will not be played between the Panthers and the Cowboys due to the Cowboys being placed in quarantine. The first non-league game played between the two teams will now count as the league game, and with the win in that game, the Panthers league record will be 5-1 with their overall record of 6-5. On Monday, March 1, the lady Panthers are in contention for the 24-team state tournament bracket as the 21 seed. Still, the final bracket will not be available until Sunday, March 7, from the CHSAA seeding committee.

Freshman Ryann Mergelman (right) and teammate Mary Scoggins led the team in scoring with nine points each.

MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO



#15 Ethan Drake, MHS senior, earned 35 points for the Cowboys in the game against Moffat County.

TIFFANY JEHOEK PHOTO

THE STRIP #44

THE STRIP from SLEEPY CAT YOGI SHOP

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First Steps To Every Pose

1. Lengthen through the crown of your head, tucking your chin in just a smidgen to straighten out your cervical spine; stand, sit, or lay flat.
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 Pose is called Low Lunge, and is the first in a three part series to awaken the deeper muscle layers of your body.

Come into your Low Lunge by first kneeling onto your left knee with your right foot planted into the ground. Both of your knees should start in 90degree angles, stacking your right knee directly over your right ankle and your left hip over your left knee. Feel free to use a chair or sofa for balance as you find the correct positioning of you legs and use a folded blanket under your left knee for cushion to make this pose more comfortable. **Start to squeeze your inner thighs towards your midline, this will engage your core and help keep you balanced. Next, focus your gaze out in front of you then with an inhale slowly begin to lift your arms up overhead. Remember to keep your shoulders relaxed down away from your ears as you begin to exhale and arch back pressing your weight forward to feel a deep stretch through your front body and down into your left hip flexor.**

Keep your breath steady as you hold this pose for 3-5 full breath cycles. Release by straightening with an inhale before switching your legs and repeating it on your other side.

Cowboys 2-2 on the week

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

MEEKER I Last weekend the Cowboys went 2-2 for the week.

“Three out of our four games were good games, we were tested, and they were really exciting,” commented head coach Klark Kindler.

As reported last week the Cowboys lost in overtime to Moffat County on Tuesday, the next day they hosted Vail Mountain. Vail Mountain was able to pull an immediate six points ahead in the first quarter, but the Cowboys rebounded in the second to only be down by one at the half, 18-19. The third quarter was even and in the final quarter, one extra goal for the Rangers put them ahead by three to seal the win 42-39.

North Park came to Meeker Friday and it gave the Cowboys the opportunity to play the majority of the players, and there was a lot of contribution from the bench. A final score of 70-33, the Cowboys put a quick 20 points up in the first quarter

and didn't allow the Wildcats to close the gap.

Saturday was the third close nail biter of the week with Vail Christian.

“We had a really good second half,” said Kindler.

The Cowboys were down 34-21 going into the second half, but the defensive turned it up. They held Vail Christian to 14 points for the entire half while adding 30 more to their side. Final score was 51-48 the Cowboys with the victory.

A recap of Cowboy stats for the week, this includes the Moffat County Game.

- Points:
Liam Deming: 43
Ethan Drake: 35
Ryan Phelan: 52
Spud White: 43
Total Rebounds:
Drake: 13
Phelan: 27
White: 25
Zagar Brown: 11
Braydon Garcia: 7

This week the team will have three away games. First a non-league game against Hayden on Tuesday in Hayden, games

to begin at 5:30. Thursday the final regular season league game at Rangely, JV will begin at 4 p.m.

The game Saturday is dependent on the outcome of the Vail Christian and Vail Mountain game on Thursday. This year, due to COVID, the league has been split in half, north and south leagues. Both first place teams will play each other to determine who wins the league and the second league teams will do the same to determine who gets second. This year in the southern half of the league DeBeque has secured the number one spot, unless there is a major upset, and Caprock is number two. If Vail Christian beats Vail Mountain then Meeker will have secured the number one spot in the northern half of the league and will take on DeBeque in DeBeque on Saturday. If Vail Mountain wins then the Cowboys will be second and take on Caprock, neither outcome finds the Cowboys playing at home as they lost the coin toss.

There will be no district tournament this year, the season will move straight into regionals once the league games are finished.

This year the top 24 teams will play at home sites that are determined by the higher seed. The ranking and who those top 24 teams are is determined by the combined ranking of MaxPreps, Packard, RPI, and Coaches Poll. It does not matter if a team had a previous away game, the team with the higher seed will always have a home court advantage.

The top eight teams will have first round byes, which means teams seeded 9-16 will host teams seeded 17-24. Right now the Cowboys are looking to secure the 15th or 16th seed and that is all determined by the outcome of their games this week. If they have a great week their first game will be at home, but the rest will likely be on the road.

This year state will consist of the top two teams only, from each class. All other games will be played at home sites.

Panthers top West Grand, fall to Hayden and Soroco

Special to the Herald Times

RANGELY I The Rangely Panthers started their week with a match with West Grand on Tuesday, Feb. 23. It was definitely a defensive game with both teams coming out strong and holding each other to 20 points in the first half. In the third quarter the Panthers found their posts and got Sydney Cole eight of the 17 points that were scored. With this push on offense, the boys turned their momentum to defense and held West Grand to 10 points. The Mustangs kept Rangely's offense from getting to the rim in the fourth, forcing half of their points to come from free throws. Even though West Grand tried to make a push in the fourth they could not overcome the third quarter lead. The Panthers earned their

second league victory with a score of 48-43. Cole led the Panthers on defense with 10 rebounds followed by Gabe Polley with seven and Timothy Scoggins with six. Offensively, Keihlin Myers showed his vision on the court with five assists and Cole led in scoring with 20 points.

The Panthers headed to Hayden on Friday. Rangely found their posts early, outscoring the Tigers 16-11. With the Panthers facing foul trouble in the second quarter, Hayden came roaring back to take a 31-18 lead into halftime. The Rangely boys quickly adjusted in the second half. Kevin Wren heated up at the three point line, and the guards found the dish down to Polley. While the Panthers outscored the Tigers 27-17 in the last half, the second quarter

lead proved to be too much, ending in a close loss of 45-48. Defensively, Sydney Cole found 10 rebounds and three blocks. On the offensive side, Gabe Polley led with 18 points and Kevin Wren closely followed with 14.

Saturday, the Panthers played the Soroco Rams. Starting out strong in the first quarter, Rangely scored 17 and held the Rams to 15. Soroco quickly adapted however, effectively shutting down the inside game. In the second half the Rams continued to foil Rangely's attempts on the inside while also spreading out the Panther defense for a drive to the basket. This led to a final score of 45-77. Once again Cole led the Panthers with 12 rebounds followed by Travis Coates with five boards. Offensively Cole also led the team in points with

15 followed by Wren with seven. Head coach Kyle Boydston had this to say following this week's games, "I thought the boys played with great effort this weekend and I'm very proud of the improvement they've made."

Rangely returns to the hardwood on Thursday, March 4 to host the Meeker boys JV at 4 p.m. and their varsity at 6 p.m. The Panthers will end their regular season by traveling to Paonia on Saturday to take on their varsity boys at 1 p.m.

Junior Keihlin Myers had five assists against West Grand. The Panthers will host the Meeker Cowboys today.

MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO



EIGHTH GRADE B-BALL ...



BOBBY GUTIERREZ PHOTO

In this COVID year, the eighth grade Meeker Cowboys girls basketball team has only played three games and only has three more scheduled. "These girls are a great bunch of kids that work hard," commented head coach Hallie Blunt, "They improved a lot from the first game to our last." This year coaching with Blunt is Natosha Clatterbaugh, "I am really lucky to have Natosha coaching the girls with me, it has been a great year," Blunt said.

TROOPER TIPS

Registration, driver's licenses and insurance

By MASTER TROOPER GARY CUTLER

Special to the Herald Times

RBC I Ask a trooper about how to drive safer on the roadway and you better take seat because it could be a while before the trooper finishes. I have plenty to say about driving, the hardest part is picking a single topic among the myriad number of laws to talk about. But, if you are interested in more, try out the Colorado State Patrol YouTube channel and watch our podcast on driving in Colorado. We go more in-depth on a lot of the topics I hit on each month and have a little fun with it as well.

With that said, let's hit on being up to date on your driver's license, vehicle plates, and insurance. Last year the pandemic put a crimp in our ability to continue our lives the way we used to. One of those items that we lost control of is our vehicles.

When the Department of Motor Vehicles, and county buildings shut down around the state, it put the world of driving in chaos. Law enforcement took notice and backed off stopping vehicles for expired registration and driver's licenses. That was then, and this is now.

There seems to be two elements happening now. One is people that are not sure if they can get their registration and licenses renewed and the other is a group that is trying to manipulate the system. Law enforcement is now enforcing things that have expired.

A lot of renewals can be and are being handled over the internet. This is allowing drivers to get registered so they can be legal. We know the system is still backed up and sometimes a little slow. If you can't get it done over the internet and are required to go in person it could take a little time to get your appointment. To solve the problem of

being ticketed for expired items, make sure you print out your appointment date and time. That shows you are doing you due diligence when it comes to trying to stay within the law.

When it comes to insurance, make sure you have an updated card in your vehicle. It is a law that you need to be able to present proof of insurance to law enforcement when requested. This can be either a printed piece of paper or a digital copy from your insurance company. If you do have it on your phone please make sure you can access it in a reasonable amount of time. Law enforcement can't wait forever for you to find the information and if it takes too long they may write the ticket for no proof of insurance.

So, there's a few tips on keeping your vehicle information up to date so you won't be surprised with a ticket.

As always, safe travels!

Rio Blanco Herald Times Correction Policy

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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DAYS GONE BY

The Meeker Herald 125 years ago

■ The Dreifuss ranch, which was previously owned by W. F. Dendy, was sold to H. S. Harp for under five thousand dollars.

■ The proceeds of the New Castle relief ball will go to those affected by the recent disaster at the mine.

■ It's said that the Oldland store has metropolitan air in the dry goods window.

The Meeker Herald 100 years ago

■ Henry T. Wilson of Flag creek made his shipment of wheat to the railroad recently.

■ A surplus of mud on the Meeker-Rifle road caused mail deliveries to be late several days last week.

■ On Wednesday Feb. 23, the Little Beaver Sewing Club met at Mrs. Ferd Green's residence. The next meeting will be hosted by Mrs. Roy Winslow on the 9th.

The Meeker Herald 50 years ago

■ Woolgrowers Association names Wes Raley as the new

President. Raley took over former president Jerry Seely's seat.

■ The snow survey that was taken on March 1st showed good results. The water supply is now 116 percent of the 20 year average.

■ The members of the Mile High Snowmobile Club arrived in the Sleepy Cat area ready to ride. People interested to ride with them can meet them at Windy Bill Ranch for dinner.

The Meeker Herald 25 years ago

■ The Meeker Elementary

School Library was invaded by teddy bears to be a part of the WE LOVE BOOKS month. In total there were 125 bears that rotated around the library listening to stories.

■ The percentage increase from child support collections was up 5% from the last two years.

■ The employees of Colowyo Coal Company received the 1995 Colorado Mine Health and Safety Recognition Award on Feb. 26. They received the award because of their completion of one million man hours of work without a lost time injury.

Rangely Times 50 years ago

■ Due to a blizzard, many members of the Big Country Headwaters RC&D Executive Committee were not able to attend the meeting on Feb. 25.

■ On May 4th two directors will be elected at the Re-4 school election.

■ Bids will open Thursday for the new municipal building.

Rangely Times 25 years ago

■ Coach Bill Turner was

selected to the Colorado High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

■ Former chief of the Volunteer Firemen's Association, Boyd Millsaps, resigned this week due to time restraints.

■ Four years of coal reserves were lost in the Deserado Mine due to a fire that rages three miles down under the ground. It was said by spokesperson for Western Fuels-Utah Ned Leonard, that the fire doesn't really matter in the long scheme of things.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
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50	51			52				53	54	
55				56				57		58
59				60				61		
62				63				64		

THEME: HEAD TO TOE

ACROSS

- *A or O, to blood
- Catch a wink
- "Don't know what to say" sound
- Eon, alt. sp.
- Severe blow
- *Blood ____, type of blood test
- Eastern ____, 1947-1991
- *Respiratory rattling
- Enormous ones
- *Annual exam
- Largest city of Norway
- Like a romantic movie?
- *Anatomical pouch
- Work over with fists (2 words)
- Levee next to water mill
- Not cooked
- What a terrorist wants to spread
- Continental currency
- Wide open
- Charged particle
- Colorado resort
- Hipbones
- Recede, as in tide (2 words)
- Laos resident
- Stinging shrub, pl.
- Handrail's main supports
- Caribou kin
- Relating to a lobe
- Saint's topper
- *L in ACL
- Bad-tempered
- Affirm with confidence
- Stain on Santa
- Work the dough
- Tiger Woods' pegs
- Ruptured
- "____ my party, and I'll cry if I want too..."
- Store posting, abbr.
- *Largest organ

DOWN

- Can opener
- Crowd's judgement
- Tubby little cubby
- Enclose within a cyst
- W.E.B Du Bois's org.
- Assuage
- Spa treatment
- 2016 western "____ or High Water"
- Type of shark
- Not Miss or Ms
- Influenza
- Sandbar
- *Cardiac, smooth or skeletal ones
- Quickly fry
- Knightly title
- *Cerebellum location
- Two under on one hole
- Look forward to
- *Kissing disease?
- Having two parts
- Beatles: "He's ____ nowhere man" (2 words)
- Plural of #26 Down
- *12 pairs of these
- Rip off
- *a.k.a. kneecap
- Mr. T's team
- Comic book cry
- Unlocks the gate
- Andrew Webber's middle name
- Forcefully grabs
- *Blood filter
- S-shaped moldings
- "The ____ for Red October"
- Greek god of war
- Strip of wood
- Breakfast spot?
- Spelling or Kelly
- Biathlon equipment
- One less than jack

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			6						
		9		2					7
6				8	5	2			
	3		9	7	1			8	
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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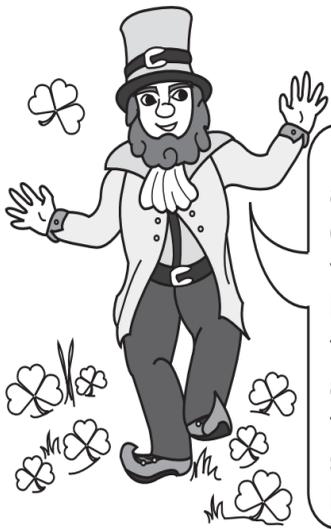
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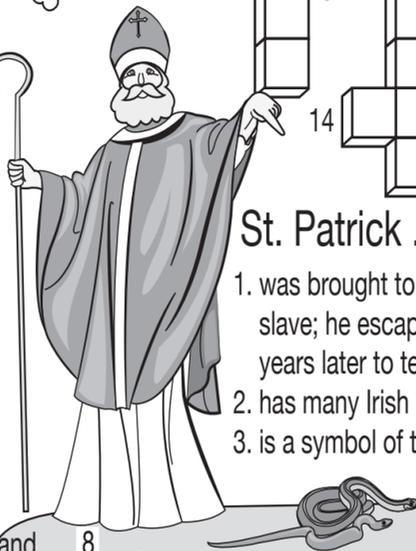


Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

You won't see me, but I'll be part of all the fun and festivities for St. Patrick's Day. I love the Irish dancers and music of the harpists, bagpipers, fiddlers and drummers. I follow the floats and bands in the parades. I even pop into a few homes to taste the family's special treats and meals like corned beef and cabbage. You can look for me if you want...I'm the knee-high guy wearing green and holding a 4-leaf shamrock. **Meanwhile, fill in my puzzle about Ireland and celebrating St. Patrick's Day.**

- 12 is a beautiful "Emerald" 9 in the Atlantic Ocean. It is west of England, separated by the Irish Sea.
- The capital and largest city in Ireland is called 15.
- In the mid-1800s, an important crop suffered terrible blight, causing what is now called the "Great 3 Famine."
- To escape 6, about one and a half 13 people left Ireland, sailing in 11 to get to America.
- Most arrived in large cities and took jobs in 7.
- Today in America, the Irish people share their joy of 1 and 2, like the Irish jig, with everyone else on St. Patrick's Day.
- People like to wear something that is 4.
- You might hear a story about how lucky it is to find a four-leaf 5 or to catch a 14.
- Some cities dye a river or the water in a fountain green and people line the streets to watch 10.
- Everyone can enjoy an Irish-American dinner of corned beef and 8.

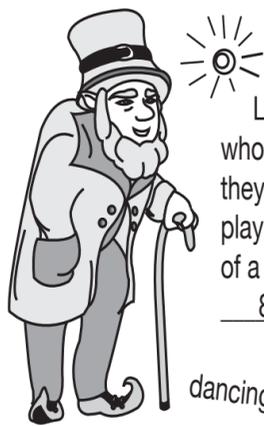
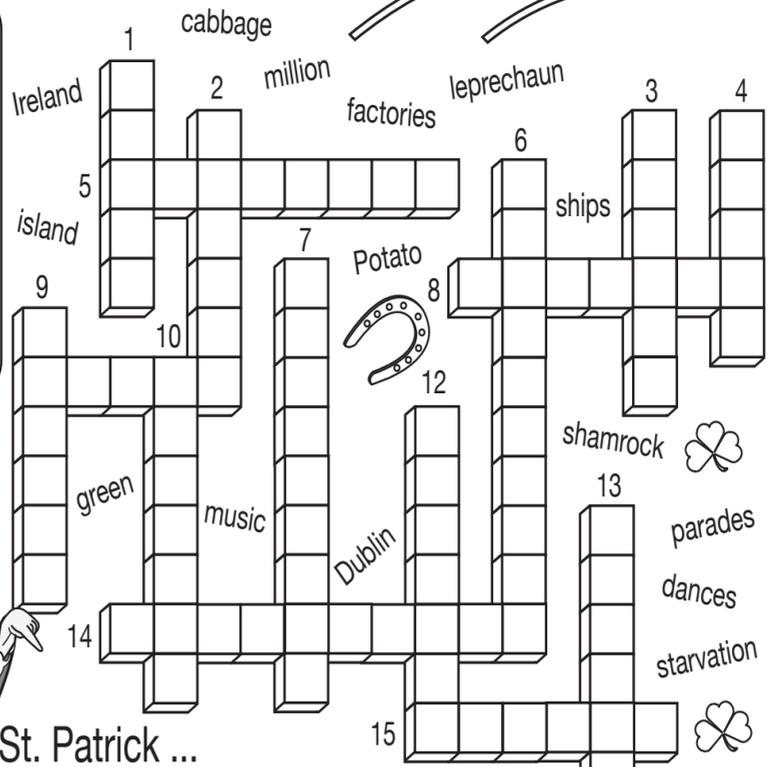
True or False?



St. Patrick ...

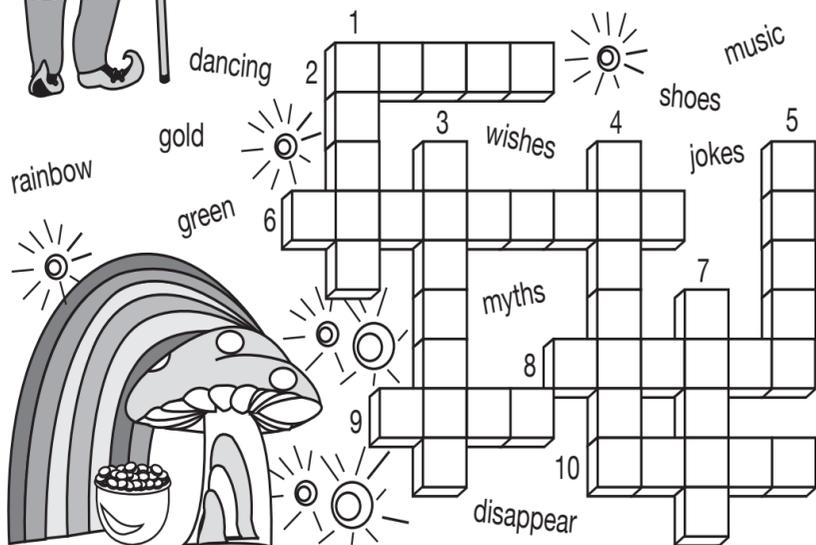
1. was brought to Ireland as a slave; he escaped and went back years later to teach about Christianity
2. has many Irish boys named after him
3. is a symbol of the Irish "spirit"

1. T F
2. T F
3. T F



Upon Catching a Leprechaun!

Leprechauns are found in Irish 2 and legends. They are wee folk who wear 10 and work hard at making 7. That may be because they love 4. The fiddle and harp are 1 to their ears! They like playing 5. It is said that they store their 9 in a pot at the end of a 3. If a person catches a leprechaun, he or she may have a few 8 granted. If they take their eye off the leprechaun, he will 6.



Springing Clocks Ahead!

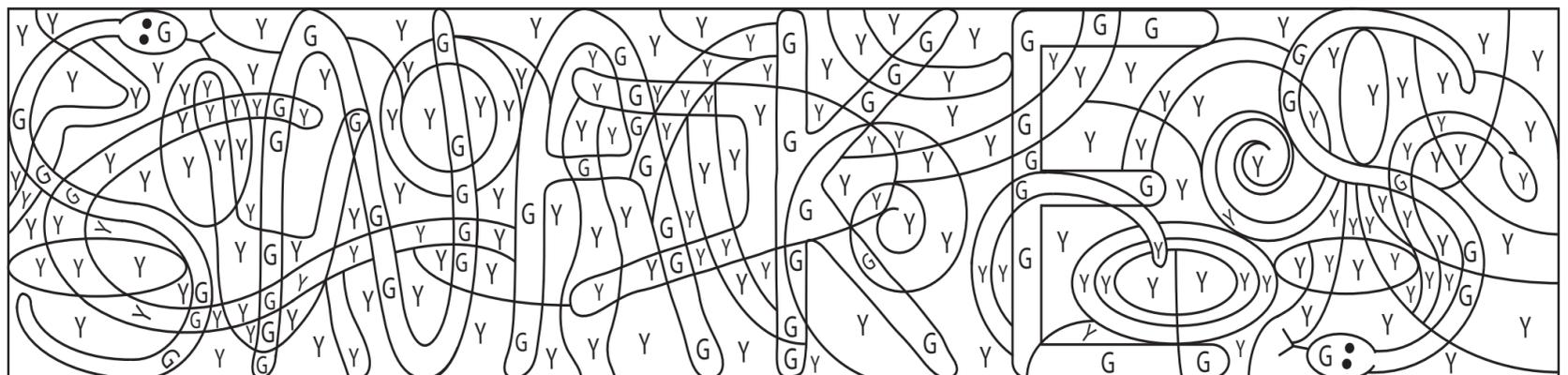
Use the code below to see my timely message!



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
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St. Patrick's feat

According to legend, what did St. Patrick drive out of Ireland? Use the color key to find out: G = Green Y = Yellow





PUBLIC NOTICES

• BID REQUESTS •

• MEETING AGENDAS •

2021 RIO BLANCO COUNTY CHIP SEAL PROJECT
REQUEST FOR BID
PROJECT NAME, LOCATION AND GENERAL SCOPE OF WORK
2021 Rio Blanco County Chip Seal Project. Work consists of seal coating and fog coating approximately 23.46 miles of County Roads in the Meeker District. Be aware there may be other County and/or State projects in the area that may affect material transport routes and/or travel delays.
CONTRACT DOCUMENTS
Contract Documents shall be available on-line at www.govbids.com/scripts/co1/public/home1.asp, or on the county's website at www.rbc.us, on the Bid Postings page, or at the Rio Blanco County Road and Bridge Dept., 570 2 nd Street, Meeker, Colorado 81641 on February 25, 2021.

VENDOR QUALIFICATIONS
Pre-qualified Contractor Listing.

WORK SCHEDULE
This project shall start June 1, 2021 and complete by June 25, 2021, pending delays due to adverse conditions. Contractor shall submit a firm work schedule with bid.

PROJECT SUPERINTENDENT AND QUESTIONS
Van Plaud, County Engineer, (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 Van Plaud before March 16, 2021 at noon at the above address or fax number.

MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING
Vendors must attend mandatory pre-bid meeting: March 11, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. at the Rio Blanco County Road & Bridge Dept., 570 Second Street, Meeker.

BID SUBMITTALS
Bids shall have Vendor's name and address and "SEALED BID-2021 CHIP SEAL 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 Wednesday March 17, 2021. Do not depend on overnight delivery. Mailing Address: RBC Commissioners, P.O. Box 599, Attn: Lori Zentmeyer, Meeker, CO 81641.

Hand delivered bids will be accepted from 8:00 A.M. to 10:45 A.M. on March 18, 2021. Hand-delivery address: Rio Blanco County Commissioners, 555 Main St., 3 rd Floor, Meeker, CO.

BID OPENING
Bids shall be opened and read in public at 11:15 A.M. on March 18, 2021 at the Rio Blanco County Courthouse, 555 Main Street, 3 rd Floor Board Room, Meeker, CO. Bids submitted after 10:45 A.M. will be returned not opened. Bids submitted and opened shall not be withdrawn for 30 days thereafter.

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

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

TITLE VI COMMITMENT
Rio Blanco County, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. SS 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.
RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO
Dated: February 25, 2021
By: Gary Moyer, Chairman
Published: February 25 and March 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

Lower White River Pest Control District Bid Request Aerial Spray
The Lower White River Pest Control District is accepting bid proposals for commercial equipped applicators to spray insecticides/larvicide on private land located within the District. Bids will be opened by the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, County Annex, 17497 State Hwy 64, Rangely, Colorado at 10:30 am. For bid specifications and time line details contact Wade Cox at 970-462-5835 for bid packets. If mailed, bid packets are due to the Board of Commissioners, Box 599, Meeker, CO 81641 no later than Friday, March 12, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. If hand delivered the day of the bid opening (March 16th), the bids must be received no later than 10:15 am by the Board of County Commissioners, County Annex, 17497 State Hwy 64, Rangely, CO. Bid packets must be clearly marked **Aerial Spray AND Lower White River Pest Control District** on the outside of the bid packet.
Published: February 25 and March 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 March 10th, 2021. If hand delivered, the bids are due no later than 1:30 p.m. on March 11, 2021 to the County Commissioners, Rio Blanco County Historical Courthouse, 555 Main Street, 3rd Floor, BOCC Room, Meeker, CO. The bids will be opened on March 11, 2021 at 2 p.m. All bids must be clearly marked **Piceance Weed and Pest Bid with "Pesticide Aerial Spraying or Pesticide Hand Spraying"** on the outside of the bid.
Published: February 25 and March 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

Lower White River Pest Control District Bid Request Commercial Equipped Applicator
The Lower White River Pest Control District is accepting bid proposals for commercial equipped applicators to spray herbicides on private land located within the District. Bids will be opened by the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, County Annex, 17497 State Hwy 64, Rangely, Colorado at 10:30am. For bid specifications and time line details contact Wade Cox at 970-462-5835 for bid packets. If mailed, bid packets are due to the Board of Commissioners, Box 599, Meeker, CO 81641 no later than Friday, March 12, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. If hand delivered the day of the bid opening (March 16th), the bids must be received

no later than 10:15 am by the Board of County Commissioners, County Annex, 17497 State Hwy 64, Rangely, CO. Bid packets must be clearly marked **Herbicide Spray AND Lower White River Pest Control District** on the outside of the bid packet.
Published: February 25 and March 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

• MISC •

PUBLIC NOTICE

Personal Property
Unless specifically exempt by law, all persons owning, possessing, or controlling taxable business personal property with a total actual value greater than \$7,900 (per business, per county) are required to report the personal property to the county assessor by April 15, 2021. Personal Property Declaration Schedules have been mailed to every business, or company known to own, possess, or control taxable personal property in the county. Non-receipt of a Declaration Schedule DOES NOT excuse taxpayers from declaring taxable business personal property to the assessor. Licensed equipment that has a SMM tag or Z-Tab is not required to complete a Personal Property Declaration Schedule. If you have not received a Declaration Schedule and own business personal property in Rio Blanco County, please contact the Rio Blanco County Assessor's office at 970-878-9410.

Completed Declaration Schedules are due April 15, 2021. If you fail to file a Declaration Schedule, the assessor will establish a taxable value based on "best information available" and add a penalty of up to 25% of the valuation for the assessment of omitted property that is subsequently discovered. Colorado law requires the county assessor to begin hearing objections to personal property valuations no later than June 15, 2021. Objections to personal property valuations must be postmarked, delivered, or presented in person to the Rio Blanco County Assessor's office no later than July 1, 2021. If you have questions concerning your Notice of Valuation(s), please contact the Rio Blanco County Assessor's office at 970.878.9410.
Real Property
Colorado law, C.R.S. 39-1-104(10.2), currently requires a two-year reassessment cycle for all real property in the state of Colorado with year 2021 being a reappraisal year. The 2021 Notices of Valuation will be sent on or around May 1, 2021. The NOV describes the property you own, gives the actual (or market) value for the prior and current years and describes the process to present objections to the assessor. The Rio Blanco County Assessor will hear objections to real property classifications and 2021 valuations beginning no later than May 4, 2021. Objections to the valuation or classification of real property must be postmarked, delivered, or presented in person to the Rio Blanco County Assessor no later than June 1, 2021. If you have questions concerning your Notice of Valuation(s), please contact the Rio Blanco County Assessor's office at 970.878.9410.
Published: March 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

County Court, Rio Blanco County, Colorado, Corey Maxwell Russell FOR A CHANGE OF NAME TO: Maxwell Zollie
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Public Notice is given on February 11, 2021 that a Petition for a Change of Name of an Adult has been filed with the Rio Blanco County Court. The petition requests that the name of Corey Maxwell Russell be changed to Maxwell Zollie.
By: Joan Gibson
Clerk of Court
Published: February 25, March 4 and 11, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

MEEKER SANITATION DISTRICT MARCH 10, 2021 REGULAR BOARD MEETING at 7:00 PM
The Regular Board Meeting of the Meeker Sanitation District will be held at the Meeker Sanitation District Office, 265 8th Street, Meeker, Colorado
1. Call to order
2. Additions or Changes to the Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Public Comments
5. New Business
6. Old Business
A. CDOT Connection
B. Plant Manager Report
C. Office Manager Report
7. Attorney
8. Board
9. 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: March 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

MEEKER SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1 Board of Education Work Session and Special Board Meeting 555 Garfield Street Meeker, CO 81641 March 8, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Community members wishing to observe the board meeting/work session may do so by using the following Google Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/hbn-bgyv-hms>
Community members wishing to attend the board meeting/work session in person are asked to RSVP to chris.selle@meeker.k12.co.us, no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting.
Special Board Meeting
1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Allen will lead the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Welcome of Guests
4. Approval of Agenda
General Public Comment Session: (comments limited to three minutes)
Action Items:
1. Approval: Fire and Security Alarm Monitoring Bid
2. Approval: Contract with Renninger Construction for repairs to existing transportation facilities
3. Approval: Roxanne Chintala - Certified Substitute
Other BOE Information:
Executive Session (if needed):
Special Meeting Adjournment
Work Session:
1. Construction project update
a. Stadium Restrooms
b. BMS Security Upgrades
c. COVID-19
a. School Status
b. Instructional Plans 2.0 - Q & A
c. Policy Final Edits
a. CASB Recommended Policy Updates - Online link
b. JEB - Entrance Age
c. GBGG - Staff Leave
d. Superintendent Evaluation
5. Items introduced by board members
Published: March 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

Town of Rangely Agenda March 9, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Rangely Board of Trustees (Town Council)
Andy Shaffer, Mayor
Trey Robbie, Mayor Pro Tem
Rich Garner, Trustee
Luke Geer, Trustee
Tim Webber, Trustee
Alisa Granger, Trustee
Keely Ellis, Trustee
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Invocation
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Minutes of Meeting
a. Discussion and Action to approve the minutes of February 23, 2021.
6. Petitions and Public Input
7. Changes to the Agenda
8. Public Hearings - 7:10pm
9. Committee/Board Meetings
10. Council Reports
11. Supervisor Reports – See Attached
a. Ti Hamblin
12. Reports from Officers – Town Manager Update
13. Old Business
14. New Business
a. Discussion and action to approve the February Check Register
b. Discussion and action to approve the Special Event Permit for the CNCC Foundation Dinner
15. Informational Items
a. CNCC Foundation Dinner March 27, 2021, Colorado Room CNCC Campus, 5:30 – 9:00 pm
16. Board Vacancies
a. Planning and Zoning Board Vacancy
17. Scheduled Announcements
a. Community Outreach meeting is cancelled for Mar. 1, 2021 at 6:00 pm
b. Rangely District Library Board meeting is scheduled for Mar 8, 2021 at 5:00 pm
c. Western Rio Blanco Park & Recreation District Board meeting is scheduled for Mar 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm
d. Rural Fire Protection District Board meeting is scheduled for Mar 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm

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 March 10th, 2021. If hand delivered, the bids are due no later than 1:30 p.m. on March 11, 2021 to the County Commissioners, Rio Blanco County Historical Courthouse, 555 Main Street, 3rd Floor, BOCC Room, Meeker, CO. The bids will be opened on March 11, 2021 at 2 p.m. All bids must be clearly marked **Piceance Weed and Pest Bid with "Pesticide Aerial Spraying or Pesticide Hand Spraying"** on the outside of the bid.
Published: February 25 and March 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

Notification of Public Hearing Rangely Planning and Zoning Commission March 16, 2021 - 9:00 A.M.
Rangely Municipal Conference Room
The Rangely Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to elect new officers and consider the rezoning of 2828 Shale Drive, being a change of zoning from Industrious to Country Zone of the 4.954 acre lot. Rio Blanco County Assessor's office describes the lot as: Cedar Ridge Subdivision Poole & Pilcher Resub Block 3 Lot 4 in Section 4, T1N, R101 W of the 6th P.M., Town of Rangely, Rio Blanco County, CO. Assessor's Parcel No. 139504203004.
The 2828 Shale Drive Rezoning request can be viewed at the Main Office of the Town of Rangely at 209 E. Main Street in Rangely, Colorado. The Public is invited to attend the Public Hearing and provide written or verbal comment on the proposed 2828 Shale Drive Rezoning request.
By: Marybel Cox, Clerk/Treasurer
Publish: March 4 and 11, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

Meeker Cemetery District Regular Board Meeting 265 County Road 4, Meeker, CO 8:30am Thursday, March 11, 2021
1. Call to Order
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approve Minutes
4. Approve Bill & Deeds
5. Public Input
6. Old Business
a. propose changes to job descriptions
7. New Business
a. election of officers
8. Staff Updates
9. Board Discussion
10. Adjourn
Published: March 4, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County, Colorado Rio Blanco County Historic Courthouse 555 Main Street, 3rd Floor Hearing Room Meeker, Colorado 81641 March 9, 2021
1. 11:00 a.m. Call to Order:
A. Pledge of Allegiance
B. Changes to March 9, 2021 Agenda
C. **Move to approve the March 9, 2021 Agenda including any changes**
2. **CONSENT AGENDA March 9, 2021**
A. **Move to approve the below listed items of the Consent Agenda.**
B. Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2021
C. DHS EBT Register and Warrant Register for February 2021
D. Motor Vehicle Publication Report for February 2021
3. **BUSINESS**
4. **MOU'S, CONTRACTS, AND AGREEMENTS**
A. Equipment Location Sublease Agreement with Union Telephone
3. **OTHER BUSINESS**
A. Public Comment
B. County Commissioner Updates
4. **PUBLIC HEARING Adjourn**
The agenda is provided for informational purposes only; all times are approximate. Agenda items will normally be considered in the order they appear on the agenda. However, the Board may alter the Agenda, take breaks during the meeting, work through the noon hour and even continue an item for a future meeting date. The Board, while in session, may consider other items that are brought before it. Scheduled items may be continued if the Board is unable to complete the Agenda as scheduled. The next regular Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 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.

HOW TO READ A LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that

Published: Never 7, 8, 9, 2500
Rio Blanco Herald Times

Title
This is the easiest way to pinpoint the purpose of a notice. Sometimes this will be very general, maybe even just "PUBLIC NOTICE". Keep reading for the ...

Description
This is the 'meat' of the legal notice, telling you what it's about. For agendas, it's what will be discussed in the meeting. Other types of notices vary.

Publication Date
This is the date the notice is scheduled to be published. Many public notices have requirements for publication set by state statute.

Newspaper of Record
A newspaper of record must meet certain requirements to be able to publish public notices.

Public notices keep you informed of government actions and provide a third-party transparency check. They are a permanent record of government actions and cannot be easily altered like digital records. They are readily available to each and every citizen, regardless of digital know-how.

FUN FACT:
Publication prices for legal notices are set by state statute and have not changed since 1993!
(For reference, a first class stamp in 1993 cost just 29 cents!)

INFORMED CITIZENS ARE THE BEST CITIZENS. READ YOUR PUBLIC NOTICES!

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

PIONEERS MEDICAL CENTER
With the growth of Pioneers Medical Center & Colorado Advanced Orthopedics Sports Medicine & Spine, we are excited to fill the following positions:

FULL TIME (Eligible for Benefits)

- Patient Care Tech
- Development Coordinator
- Registered Nurse Acute Care/ED
- Certified Nurse Aide - Home Health
- 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

◆◆◆◆◆

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.

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

The Meeker Cemetery District is seeking seasonal, non-benefited laborers who can work outdoors 32-40 hours per week. Duties include: perform manual labor, maintenance and repair of sprinkler hoses and systems, grounds maintenance and mowing. Must be able to lift, pull and carry 50lbs. Experience in small equipment like lawn mowers, weed eaters, and small landscaping equipment is a plus. Hiring range is \$14-\$18 DOE. You can pick up an application at the Meeker Highland Cemetery, 265 County road 4, between the hours of 8-5pm Monday through Friday. Applications will be accepted through April 5th

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Case Aide, part-time
- Caseworker
- Detentions Deputy
- Dispatcher
- Family Engagement Facilitator
- Patrol Deputy
- Relief Control Room Operator
- Relief Dispatcher
- Relief Radino Driver, Rangely

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. ADA/EOE

Colorado Parks and Wildlife in Meeker is hiring a permanent/part time administrative assistant/customer service rep. This will be an average 20 hr./wk. position working out of the Meeker CPW office. Set salary, paid holidays, paid leave, vision, health, and retirement benefits are available. The job posting will remain open until 5:00 PM MST on 03/08/2021. Applications are available at: <http://www.colorado.gov/jobs> (Position #PMA 02284 02/21 CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE - MEEKER)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Road & Bridge Director
Apply at prothman.com
ADA/EOE

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS Volunteer Opportunities

The following Boards have positions available. If you are interested in serving on one or more of the following Boards, please complete an [Application for Board or Commission](#) and return to: HR, PO Box 1, Meeker, CO 81641 or hr@rbc.us, 970-878-9570. The Application can be found at the rbc.us website under Elected Offices & Boards.

- Building Board of Appeals (Min. requirements)
- Citizens Review Panel
- Columbine Park Board
- Community Services Block Grant Board (Min. requirements)
- Extension Advisory Board
- Fair Board
- Fairgrounds Board
- Health Board
- Historic Preservation Board
- Lodging Tax Board (Min. requirements)
- Meeker Cemetery
- Meeker CO Civic Improvement Corp
- Meeker Library Board
- Planning Commission
- Weed Management

MEEKER SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

Employment Opportunities

Meeker Elementary School

- Elementary School Principal
Application Deadline April 1, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. MST

Meeker High School

- English Language Arts Teacher
Application Deadline March 18, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. MST

ADA/EOE
Subject to change at any time!
For details and an application, please visit our website at Meeker.k12.co.us or Meeker School District Administration at 555 Garfield St., Meeker, CO 970-878-9040

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Text 970-220-2529
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Let's talk about logical fallacies—gaps in logic that invalidate an argument or opinion.

11 Genetic fallacy

Genetic fallacies occur when judgements are made based on the basis of where an argument comes from, rather than actual merit or factuality.

Happy fallacy-finding!

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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.

AUCTIONS

Electrical Shop Auction Saturday, March 6th 10:00 a.m. 424 Russell Street, Craig, Colorado.

1999 Chevy Boom Truck, 1983 Int. Bucket Truck, Hand and power tools of all kinds, metal and wood shelving, 3 desks, file cabinet, safe, parts books, multiples of: wire - light bulbs - breakers - fuses - fixtures - copper - brass - fittings - conduit - wood, fiberglass and aluminum ladders, tires, well pumps, electric motors, etc etc. For more info call Steve Claypoole, CP Auction Service, 970-260-5577. Must see web cpauction.com "Call us about a sale for you"

Annual Spring Consignment Auction Sat., April 10, 9 a.m.

2368 S. 1500 E. (Hwy. 40) in Vernal, Utah
Equipment of all kinds, Many Vehicles, Semi's, Trailers, Campers, Boats, ATV's, Side by Sides, Pipe, Generators, Air Compressors, Tires, Tools, Guns, Ammo, Saddles, Tack, Lawn and Garden items, Furniture and much, much more.
For More Information or to consign to this auction, please call ZJ Auction Service Inc. at 435-828-7424 or go to www.zjauction.com

Moving Auction Saturday March 13, 10 a.m. 862 Grand Vista Way Grand Junction, Colorado

Wood tools, hand tools, 296 cap guns, antiques, Star Wars and Star Trek, books, chainsaw, fish poles, old cameras, 26 chemistry and other bottles, records, tube radios, radio tubes, metal roller skates, 8 tracks, toys, red wagon, whitetail and antelope heads, youth saddles, craft items and more. For info call Steve Claypoole, CP Auction Services 970-260-5577. See web www.cpauction.com "Call us about a sale for you"

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970-878-7008

FARM & RANCH

Standing Hay Opportunity. Please contact Erin 970-379-8623.

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FOR SALE: 40'x60'x20' Steel building. 60 Snow and Ground load, 115 Wind. This building is rated for Meeker. 1-14' and 2-12' rollup doors. Tan with Hunter Green trim. This building was specifically designed for 3 stem walls. It can be redesigned. I do have the engineer plans for this building as well as the concrete plans if you want to go with the original design. This building does not have insulation. It was manufactured by Armstrong Steel. \$40,000 If you have any questions please call 903-692-2563 Kim or you can email @kdavis6939@yahoo.com

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.

WANTED

Pianist wanted for Sunday services at Meeker Christian Church. If interested, please contact Richard Ellsworth at 878-5318.

RENTALS: MEEKER

STORAGE DEPOT 10x25 unit. 878-4808.

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- 1157 Rd. 57: 673± acres on the White River with residence \$2,290,000
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- ◆ 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!

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NEW! Ranch with lots of irrigation water, meadows, gravel, pond and White River frontage west of Meeker. \$900,000. Call for details!
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Vacant lot — 1176 Main St. Reduced to \$19,500
NEW Lot 8 — 1176 Main St., \$27,500
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NEW 631 Park Ave **Bear Mountain Inn** **1022 Julie Circle**

CABIN #3 **CABIN #2** **NEW 333.31+ ACRES**
1959 CR 15 **1947 CR 12** **TBD County Road 15**

FOR SALE IN MEEKER
NEW TBD CR 15 - Land, 333.11 acres, domestic Well in place, partially fenced w/great views \$599,250
Bear Mountain Inn - Income producing Bed&Breakfast w/ Apartment Unit-Beautiful Yard...\$595,000
NEW 631 Park Ave-5BD/4BA/3,412 SF home w/ vaulted ceiling, wood finishes, lg. heated garage \$450,000
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
1042 Park Ave - Classic 2 story 3BD/1BA/2,340 SF home w/ rustic barn, 3 lg. lots+fruit trees...\$195,000
NEW 1124 Mark Cir. SALE PENDING
73209 Hwy 64. SALE PENDING
880 Main St. SALE PENDING
NEW 1159 Bissell Cir. SALE PENDING
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