



We go to meetings so you don't have to!

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Where's the workforce? It's complicated.

By LUCAS TURNER
lucas@ht1885.com

RBC | Spend any time discussing the topic of employment, hiring or labor in general and you're likely to hear the following: "people just don't wanna work."

For many employers seeking help, the sentiment rings true. After 18 months of forced shutdowns, quarantines, social unrest and general economic uncertainty, the last thing any business needs is a shortage of reliable staff to keep the doors open. But given the current labor market, that's exactly what many business owners, managers and overworked employees alike now face.

"We've been advertising on facebook, message board, the sign, word of mouth, and nothing," said Mike Sexton, sales manager at Samuelson's True Value Hardware in Meeker, alluding to a sense of mounting pressure to keep the business operational with a shortage of at least two staff members, and one set to leave work within the next several weeks. "If I don't find them a replacement, I'm gonna be hosed," he said.

Help wanted signs aren't hard to find elsewhere around Meeker, Rangely or any other town in the region. Businesses that might typically expect at least a few applications report seeing very few, if any interest in open positions.

"We're lucky if we get two applications in a month," said Sherri Branham, Client Services Administrator for RifleWorks, a private firm based in Garfield County that helps connect businesses of all stripes to qualified job-seekers. Branham noted that the office, normally swamped from February to October, has seen a sharp and sustained decrease in applications.

Branham described some of her own observations on the phenomenon, noting that those who do inquire about work often fail to follow through, citing a variety of reasons as to why. "One of the most legitimate reasons I get is transportation," she said, adding "they either don't have a license or they don't have a car, or both." Other oft-cited reasons to withhold a job application or even accept job offers range from expectations of flexibility provided by remote work (an impossibility for many traditional brick-and-mortar businesses), to concerns about safety, and everything in between. As far as wages go, even higher-paying jobs have become difficult to fill according to Branham, with lowest paying jobs posted by RifleWorks starting at \$15/hr.

She also believes expanded federal unemployment benefits, stimulus payments and other government programs are a large factor in the shortage of willing job applicants. "People have found a way to stay at home and make it work," she said, noting that even with extended federal benefits ending a few weeks ago, applications were still coming in at a trickle. Still, she expressed hope that with time, things might return to normal, "because we desperately need people in every industry, desperately."

Could it be true that Americans, known for their hard-working, industrious nature, churning out more hours and productivity than citizens of other industrialized countries, have collectively grown lazy as a result of government assistance programs? Is it possible that stimulus payments, and unemployment expansions from the federal government have turned the American populace into one that wants to lay around at home on the taxpayer's dime?

Though simple and presumably reasonable to consider, this prevailing explanation for the lack of workers might not take into consideration a few key factors. In other words, as with many economic issues, "it's complicated." At least, that's according to Christina Oxley, Business Services Coordinator for the Colorado Workforce Centers located in Rio Blanco,



Help wanted signs adorn the windows of multiple local businesses in Rio Blanco County. The labor shortage is multi-faceted, and business owners are struggling to stay open while short-staffed.

Moffat, Routt, Grand and Jackson counties.

Oxley, who does wage and labor market analysis for employers in the region, said the labor shortage is influenced by a number of factors — some pandemic related, others a result of long-term trends, all coalescing into one bottom line: "We just don't have enough bodies, period. We don't have enough people to fill the types of jobs that we're looking to fill right now," said Oxley.

Not having "enough people" doesn't necessarily mean there are unemployed workers sitting around who just won't fill available positions, it means that even among the unemployed, there simply isn't enough labor supply to meet current demand.

As one example, Oxley noted, "for July in Rio Blanco County, we had about 546 jobs open, or at least advertisements for jobs, and 167 people unemployed." This means that even if every unemployed person in RBC had gone to work simultaneously, there would still be hundreds of jobs available, and no one to fill them. A similar imbalance exists in neighboring Garfield and Routt counties, both of which have advertised significantly more open positions than there are

unemployed residents. Moffat County, in contrast, has around the same number of available jobs as there are unemployed people. Unfortunately, that doesn't mean Moffat businesses aren't completely unaffected by the labor shortage, as available unemployed workers may not possess the necessary experience or education to fill posted jobs, a problem Oxley describes as a "skills-mismatch." The issue, she noted, is especially prevalent in the healthcare industry, and it has been that way for a while.

She also stressed that even two years ago, Colorado businesses were already struggling to attract workers, though the tumultuous events of 2020 certainly made things worse.

For example, experts have long been anticipating a reduction in the labor pool as the Baby Boomer generation ages out of the workforce. Oxley said the pandemic accelerated this mass exodus. "So a lot of people in that age range might've been in a high-risk group. They may have not had remote work skills or the type of job that allows for remote work. And they were near enough to retirement to where they were able to say, we'll just do it now," she said.

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Reflecting on the death of Laurie French, one year later

By NIKI TURNER
editor@ht1885.com

RANGELY | A year after the body of Laurie French, 38, was found off County Rd. 23 just outside of Rangely, her family and friends have questions about how her disappearance was handled by law enforcement.

EARLY LIFE

French was born in California in November 1981 and moved to Grand Junction with her parents and sisters in 1993. Her mental health began to decline after she was raped, followed by attempts to self-medicate with illicit and prescription drugs. She had several stays in treatment facilities, according to her father, Richard Reno.

"Her mental health and drug addiction issues always led her to God. She loved God, and it is evident through reading her journals that she had a relationship with Jesus," Reno said via Messenger. One of her journal entries, a list she made for 2020, shared by Reno, reads:

"1. Get credit in order/restored 2. Stop talking about my past 3. Forgive/forget 3. Be happy 5. Depend on the Lord 6. Seek peace, live in peace 8. Trust in the Lord 8. Submit to God, stay submitted to God 9. Don't WORRY 10. Pray more!"

Her relationships with men, however, tended to be a source of distress, from breakups that caused her to "fall apart" to an overdose after taking a boyfriend's father's prescription medication. French spent 90 days in jail in Utah after striking a nurse during treatment for the overdose. A return to the family home in Colorado, and two more suicide attempts, followed.

Despite her problems, she was loved by her friends and family. "She had a good heart, she loved children and nature. Her only downfall was the drug use," Reno said of his daughter.

She married Kaine French and moved to Rangely, but the marriage dissolved quickly. She met Dennis Hodges, a Rangely truck driver several years her senior, at a yard sale.

"He took her in and helped her. They became close friends and he stood by her through all her mental health problems," Reno said of Hodges.

Hodges was the last person to get a text from French, not long before she died, in which she said nobody cared for her and that she didn't "have very long to go."

MENTAL HEALTH

Suicidal ideation had tormented her for years, according to Hodges. "It was an ongoing thing for her. She always said she wanted to go home to God."

French was a client of MindSprings mental health, and had been admitted to the mental hospital three times over several years. Hodges accompanied French to many of her appointments.

"She was actively trying to get help," Hodges said.

Diagnosed with ADHD, anxiety, bipolar disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder, French had prescriptions for Adderall and Vyvanse — amphetamines used for treating ADHD. French would abuse the drugs, and MindSprings would increase the dosage, Hodges said. When her prescriptions ran out, French turned to illegal drugs, creating a cycle of addiction.

MISSING PERSON REPORT AND POLICE RESPONSE

The day she went missing, Hodges reported her missing and told law enforcement her car was parked off County Rd. 23. Hodges said Rangely Police Officer Jesse Leech drove out and checked the car. The RBC Sheriff's Office was contacted by RPD, according to the incident report, and three deputies examined the car, the sur-

► See **FRENCH**, Page 7



(Top) Laurie French with her favorite doll. (Bottom) French with her beloved dog, Isis.



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Saturday: 80s/50s



Sunday: 80s/50s



8 0 4 8 7 9 3 5 4 2 3 9

COUNTY BEAT



By LUCAS TURNER
lucas@ht1885.com

RBC I Rio Blanco County commissioners met in Meeker Tuesday, Sept. 14 to discuss the following public business.

PUBLIC HEALTH

RBC Public Health Director Alice Harvey skipped the bulk of COVID updates for the board this week in anticipation of the Board of Health meeting next Tuesday, Sept. 21 in Rangely, noting that virtual attendance was recommended for the upcoming meeting due to high case rates. Harvey said the department was doing around 130 tests per week on average and fielding 50-100 phone calls per day, noting that CDPHE can no longer assist with surge capacity for case investigations, due to being at capacity themselves.

With flu season rolling in, public health is again planning to offer drive-through flu shots starting at the end of this month, or early next month. Harvey also mentioned that Holly Knowles, the department's environmental and retail food inspection specialist, has turned in her resignation. Harvey said further discussions should be held to figure out the best way to work the program with Knowles' departure. She also noted that local business owners expressed a desire to keep the work local, instead of having to work with a state inspector.

FACILITIES

Two upcoming projects at the Meeker airport have presented additional challenges since the Board of County Commissioners awarded a contract to TDA construction earlier this month. The first, related to outflow/drainage is being held up by a delay in procurement of materials. The delay means the project will be pushed to spring, though noted materials should at least be on site and ready before the end of 2021.

Another project to expand an existing waterline at the airport was proposed to take place at the same time as the drainage project, but after further analysis of existing residential water lines and proposed costs, the expansion may be less certain in the immediate future.

At the Rangely airport, recent damage to a taxi-way by a private contractor has revealed some potential issues with ground underneath the runway. RBC Facilities Director Eric Jaquez said a piece of heavy machinery left a large "trench" in the taxi-way. During an inspection of the damage, Jaquez found the material under the asphalt was "moving all around" and upon closer look, determined the

ground underneath was a soft clay. He then recommended using a credit from the contractor who damaged the taxi-way to pay for some of a geotechnical inspection of the area. He said the damaged area is not impacting current operations at the airport.

DHS

Dual-county DHS Director Tia Murry shared information about ongoing efforts to reorganize positions within RBC's Department of Human Services, revolving around an effort to create more dual-county positions between Rio Blanco and Moffat counties. The effort would add multiple dual county positions, including one for an assistant director, and adult protection worker, which RBC currently does not have. The shift could also involve moving a current case-aide from part time to full time, and splitting the position between both counties. As a result RBC would also lose one child welfare worker.

Commissioner Gates expressed some concerns over the plan, noting conversations with some DHS staff who said they felt they were missing communication and supervision. Commissioner Moyer noted that he had a different view, stating he was "a big fan of collaborating services."

4 DAY WORK WEEK

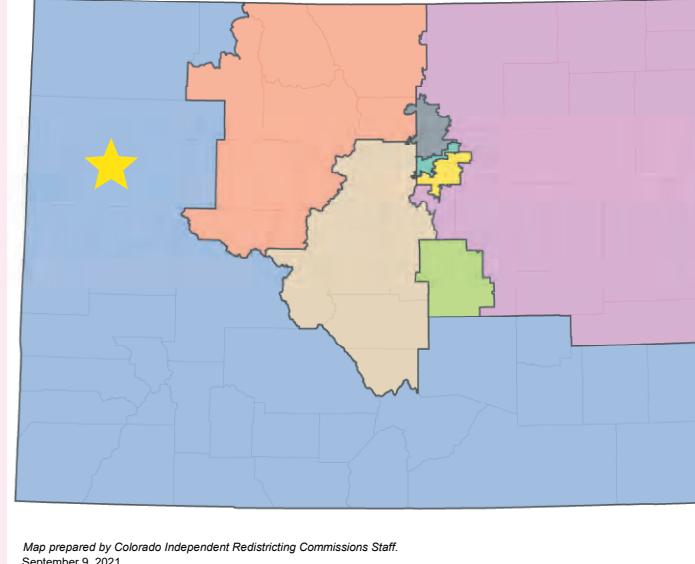
Public Information and Program Manager Carly Thomson shared results of the recent community survey asking residents for their thoughts on a shift to a four-day work week. Based on 263 responses, the majority of residents from all demographics said they felt negatively about the proposed change. Ultimately the board agreed to continue discussing the matter in the future, particularly when Commissioner Rector is in attendance to weigh in.

REGULAR MEETING

During their regular meeting, the board approved a number of items, the most significant of which being a now official decision to begin housing inmates in Moffat County. RBC Sheriff Anthony Mazzola shared comments during the meeting about the decision, reiterating many points expressed in his letter to the editor published in the HT last week.

Sheriff Mazzola's comments centered around the concept of "fiscal responsibility" and a desire to continue offering the same patrol and dispatch services to the community despite declining county revenue. He described a decrease of inmates in the RBC jail that goes back years, a problem he said

► See BOCC, Page 9



Map prepared by Colorado Independent Redistricting Commission Staff.
September 9, 2021
<https://bit.ly/3ZYUES>

Redistricting update

By CAITLIN WALKER
caitlin@ht1885.com

RBC I A new iteration of congressional district maps has put the Western Slope back together again. The Colorado Independent Congressional Redistricting Commission will work to make further changes in the coming weeks.

Amendments Y and Z, which both passed in 2018, set up independent commissions to redraw district maps according to specific rules, chiefly equal population splits across contiguous geographic areas, grouping of "communities of interest," and other parameters. In Rio Blanco County, both amendments passed by about 100 votes.

The commission includes four Democrats, four Republicans and four unaffiliated voters, who work with a nonpartisan team of staff to create the maps with 2020 U.S. Census data. Colorado qualifies for an additional congressional district due to population growth over the last 10 years.

STATE HOUSE REDISTRICTING

Drafts of state legislative maps were released Monday and place Rio Blanco County in a proposed House District 49 with Moffat, Routt (excluding Steamboat Springs), Jackson and west Larimer County.

The proposed state House District 49, "drew itself to a certain degree," according to redistricting attorneys Pierce Lively and Jacob Baus, after commissioners agreed to try to keep the populous Roaring Fork valley in a single district and grouped

Steamboat Springs with other ski areas.

Commissioner John Buckley expressed concerns about the rural, conservative northwest corner of the state crossing the Continental Divide to be grouped with a portion of Larimer County. According to congressional staff, the only included "urban center" from Larimer would be Estes Park; the rest is sparsely-populated Roosevelt National Forest land.

Commissioners Hunter Barnett and Gary Horvath both asked about political competitiveness for candidates, which is further down the list of priorities on the amendments. With the way the maps are drawn currently, Horvath believed Rio Blanco County's proposed district would favor a Republican candidate by more than 20 points.

STATE SENATE REDISTRICTING

For state senate, the county would be in District 8 with Moffat, Routt, Jackson, Grand, Clear Creek, Delta and Gunnison counties as well as portions of Mesa and Garfield counties.

With the state senate map, "tricky" population density again played a huge role, according to commission staffer Julia Jackson.

You can view the proposed maps at <https://redistricting.colorado.gov/content/2021-redistricting-maps>.

You can submit public comments at https://redistricting.colorado.gov/public_comments/new

COVID VACCINE

"The vaccine causes serious side effects." Myth

More than 3.3 billion people have gotten at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine so far, and severe side effects are extremely rare. Some experience no side effects, while others have reported mild side effects like swelling, redness or pain at the injection site, fever, headache, tiredness, muscle pain, chills or nausea. If you do experience these common side effects, that's good! They signal an immune response that will protect you against COVID-19.

• WHAT ABOUT ANAPHYLAXIS?

A severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) is extremely rare. It only happens in 2 to 5 people for every one million, a 0.0002% to 0.0005% chance.

You're 10,000 times more likely to have an anaphylactic reaction to a bee or insect sting.

Please share your questions and concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine!

Scan the QR code to complete a short survey and you'll be entered to win a \$50 Amazon Gift Card!

If you'd rather not provide contact information, you are welcome to remain anonymous.



Scan the code or visit:
<https://forms.gle/eg8xgJKEq6y1wGPJ6>

The COVID-19 vaccine is available to the general public (ages 12+) in Rio Blanco County at no charge. Walk-in clinics are as follows (no appointment needed.)

RANGELY CLINICS

Public Health Walk-In
(101 E. Main St.
across from the library)

• MODERNA (18+)
& PFIZER (12+)
Thursdays, 12-5:30 p.m.

Call (970) 878-9525 with questions.

MEEKER CLINICS

Fairfield Center
Walk-In (200 Main St.)

- MODERNA (18+)
Thursdays, 12-5:30 p.m.
- PFIZER (12+)
Fridays 2-4 p.m.

Call (970) 878-9520 with questions.

• WHAT ABOUT BOOSTER SHOTS?

Third doses of mRNA vaccine are currently recommended for moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals. Please contact your doctor to see if you fall into this category. Booster doses for other high risk groups and the general public will be available soon pending CDC approval.

RBC Department of Public Health & Environment
970-878-9520 Meeker · 970-878-9525 Rangely · publichealth@rbc.us



NEWS NOTES

MACC art school

MEEKER | Thursday Art School, hosted by the Meeker Arts and Cultural Council, is back! Kids ages 5-14 can attend every other Thursday for fun projects and a snack! Art schools are scheduled for Sept. 16 and 30, Oct. 14 and 28, and Nov. 4 and 11 from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Heritage Culture Center at 517 Park Avenue. Cost is \$10 per child. Visit meekersartsandculture.org for more info.

Golf fundraiser

MEEKER | Civil contracting company IHC Scott (completed the Hwy. 13 improvement project between Meeker and Rifle) along with participating vendors and clients are hosting the first annual "Scramble for a Cause" fundraiser Friday, Sept. 17 at the Meeker Golf Course. Proceeds will benefit the Meeker Education Foundation, which supports educational and enrichment opportunities for the Meeker School District. Tee-off is at 8 a.m. Registration and breakfast for participating vendors and construction companies begins at 7 a.m. For sponsors and contact information, visit <https://birdease.com/IHCScottScrambleForACause>.

River meeting

MEEKER | The Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) for the White River Integrated Water Initiative will be meeting on Thursday, Sept. 23 at 6 p.m. in Rangely at the Weiss Conference Room on the CNCC Campus. The PAC will hear reports from the diversion and riparian assessment teams and the Public Input and Reach Meetings. Presentations will be made by Linda Masters on rangeland health and by the Colorado State Forest Service on forest health. If he is not called to fight fires, Curtis Keech will also speak on forest health in the White River Basin. Kyle Arnold from the BLM will address rangeland health if he is available (not out fighting fires).

Library book club

MEEKER | The Meeker Library book club will be reading "The Blue Zones of Happiness" by Dan Buettner. We will discuss the book on Monday, October 11th at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to join in the fun.

Suicide prevention and awareness training

MEEKER | Learn about QPR: Question, Persuade and Refer—the three simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide—at a free training event Tuesday, Oct. 19 from 4 to 5 p.m. at Meeker Recreation Center, 101 Ute Road. Just as people trained in CPR at the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade and refer someone to help. Called 970-756-8500 or 970-878-7417 with questions.

Please
recycle this
newspaper!



AIN'T IT GRAND ...



The Colorado Grand annual classic car charity tour will be in Meeker on Thursday, Sept. 16. It's the 32nd year of the tour, which donates to various programs throughout the state as they travel. The Colorado Grand® currently generates more than \$500,000 annually for small Colorado charities and Western Slope towns as well as college scholarships to graduating high-school seniors in those towns.

CAITLIN WALKER PHOTO

Sweet SAVINGS

 6 oz. Food Club Yogurt	 48 oz. Food Club Premium Ice Cream	 12-18 ct. Food Club Ice Cream Cones
10 for \$4	\$2.99	\$1.49

GROCERY

15-16 oz. Hunt's MANWICH SAUCE	99¢
12-16 oz. American Beauty PASTA	99¢
24 oz. Hunt's PASTA SAUCE	99¢
16 oz. Rosarita REFRIED BEANS	99¢
16 oz. Ken's SALAD DRESSING	2 for \$4
12 ct. Ortega Yellow Corn TACO SHELLS	2 for \$3
10 oz. La Victoria ENCHILADA SAUCE	\$1.19
4 oz. Ortega DICED CHILES	4 for \$5
16 oz. La Victoria SALSA	2 for \$5

FROZEN

16 oz. Ben & Jerry's ICE CREAM	2 for \$6
24 ct. Kellogg's EGGO WAFFLES	\$4.99

DAIRY

10 oz. Caciq QUESO FRESCO	\$2.99
1 lb. Tillamook Salted Sweet Cream BUTTER	\$3.99
128 oz. Food Club ORANGE JUICE	\$4.49
14 oz. Daisy SOUR CREAM	2 for \$4
32 oz. Food Club Block or SHREDDED CHEESE	\$5.99
8 oz. Food Club SHREDDED CHEESE	\$1.99

MEAT

Beef Top SIRLOIN STEAK	\$5.99 lb.
32 oz. Bar-S Hickory Bacon Swiss SAUSAGE	\$4.49
32 oz. Bar-S Jalapeño Cheddar SAUSAGE	\$4.49

40 oz. Bar-S Polish, Cheese Smoked or SMOKED SAUSAGE	\$4.49
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79¢/lb.

Whole Pineapple

79¢/lb.

79

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Sometimes you have to do the right thing, even if you lose.

~ Ted Lasso

By NIKI TURNER

editor@ht1885.com

I wasn't expecting to like a TV show about sports so much, but the Ted Lasso series on Apple TV has thus far lived up to glowing recommendations from friends and family.

In the last few weeks, I keep finding myself coming back to the phrase "do the right thing" when faced with too many items on my to-do list, or too many choices to make, or so much stress I feel like I can't see straight.

Sometimes, doing the right thing is just a matter of being considerate, like putting a grocery cart back in the cart corral or picking up a piece of litter. Other times the "right thing" means being willing to admit we're at fault and apologizing, or acknowledging we're at the end of our proverbial rope and need help.

It isn't always easy, though. In fact, doing the right thing in a given situation might be the most difficult option on the table. It might mean leaving a job or a relationship or taking action that makes us uncomfortable or subjects us to negative consequences or criticism.

But doing the right thing is always

... right; even when it's scary, and even when there might be unpleasant consequences to get through.

When we feel overwhelmed by circumstances, "paralysis by analysis" is not uncommon. We can be so bombarded by demands on our time, intellect, energy and so on that we freeze up or bury our heads in the sand and try to pretend a problem doesn't exist. Figuring out the "next right thing" we can do provides us with a way to move forward, to get unstuck, to improve.

On a positive note, every time we choose to do the right thing — those grocery carts come to mind again — it's like building a muscle. Sure, you might be in a hurry, and maybe it's raining, and other people have abandoned their carts... you could just ditch yours, too. But when you do the right thing in a simple situation, it will be easier to do the next right thing, even when it's something more difficult.

Do the right thing. Even when it's hard. You'll be better for it and so will everyone else.



LOOSE ENDS

Jeans

By DOLLY VISCARDI

Special to the Herald Times



MEEKER I recently wore a pair of my favorite jeans and was worried that they didn't look quite the same after a long hiatus in my closet. Sweatpants had replaced them at the beginning of the pandemic. It was not just the straining of the seams from a steady carbo load, they seemed to lose something in their good looks. It was more that they had donned a worn and weary appearance somehow.

Distressed is the word the fashion industry has been using to describe brand new jeans that have rips and tears all over the fabric. The past few years have revealed that all ages of consumers continue to clamor for this look, and pay a ridiculously high price for these as well.

Most of these appear to be the type of clothes that your mother would tell you to take off before you left the house. The only thing that mattered to most mothers was your appearance. It represented your mother's care and concern, not yours. It was even more important for the children of a single working mother, as your poor choices single handedly reflected badly on her ability to care for you.

There seemed to be a million rules that had

to be checked off before you left for school each morning. Practicing good hygiene and careful grooming were at the top of the list. This included an older sibling checking before you slipped out the door unnoticed.

Your personal grooming could be impeccable, yet someone would notice a small duty that you had overlooked. Mother

made sure that everyone understood the importance of changing one's undergarments each day. She didn't need to rush to an emergency room only to find that one of us had shucked our clothes and was sitting on the examination table in a disreputable pair of underpants. No matter that they were the one comfortable clean pair in the drawer, as the stretched out elastic made them droop unflatteringly. It was a dead giveaway to my mother's inability to make sure all of us were cared for carefully.

You could never say any of us wore a pair of jeans that were "distressed." Instead, we had a mother who all of us could remember as being definitely distressed.

Appearances matter, although there seem to be far fewer rules.

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Kilowatt Korner
SEPTEMBER 2021

September is one of the best months of the year in northwest Colorado with warm sunny days and cool nights. We hope you all find time to get out to enjoy and good luck to all the hunters who are headed to the mountains.

WREA ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you to everyone who participated in the mail-in WREA Election. Both incumbent directors, Ron Hilkey (Rural District) and Mark Rogers (Town of Meeker District), ran unopposed and were re-elected. The 2019 and 2020 Annual Meeting minutes were approved by the membership as well as the proposed WREA Bylaw amendments. Revised WREA Bylaws will be printed and available on the WREA website in October. Please call WREA at 970-878-5041 if you have any questions about the Annual Meeting, the election or the approval of the Bylaws.

Please also take time to watch the WREA Annual Meeting Video and Annual Report Video. The Annual Meeting Video is about 15 minutes which covers the required annual meeting business and features Mason and Ruby Holliday singing the National Anthem as well as insights from Jim and Charlie Brown, Jackie and Mike Brennan and Naomi Etchart. The Annual Report video includes a more detailed financial report as well as general information including WREA scholarship recipients and employee years of service awards. You can scan the QR code above or watch directly on the WREA website at wrea.org/annual-meeting, or go to YouTube to search WREA Annual Meeting 2021.

REBATES

As you wrap up summer chores and begin to prepare for winter, please take a moment to investigate options for electric power equipment including trimmers, chainsaws, lawnmowers, power washers and snow blowers. Please check out all the rebate options by scanning the QR code or visit wrea.org/rebates, or call WREA with any questions. It is a great time to update and upgrade equipment.

FALL ELECTRIC SAFETY TIPS

It is also a good time to review electrical safety tips including checking outlets for loose plugs which can overheat and cause fires, change batteries and test smoke and CO detectors, check the wattage of your light bulbs to make sure they are the correct wattage for the size of fixture, check in on your space heaters to ensure they remain in good clean working order, check on installed electric heat tape, make sure to use only weatherproof electrical devices for outside activities and unplug electrical equipment that won't be used again until spring.

Thanks again for all the great response to the Kilowatt Korner and don't worry the Kilowatt Chef will return in October with some yummy fall football recipes. Enjoy the splendor of fall.

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RIO BLANCO
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— PUBLISHER —

Solas Publications, Inc.

— ADS & DESIGN —

Caitlin Walker

ads@ht1885.com

— SUBS/BILLING —

accounts@ht1885.com

— EDITORIAL —

Niki Turner ~ Editor

editor@ht1885.com

Lucas Turner ~

Journalist

lucas@ht1885.com

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KAYE'S CORNER

Customer service and consequences

By KAYE SULLIVAN
Special to the Herald Times



Kaye Sullivan

MEEKER | Customer service! When it is great, we bask in its warmth and caring. When it is awful, we fume and complain. Recently Jay and I discussed the consequences of customer service, both good and bad.

In general, I think we are more likely to be vocal and protest when things go wrong and less likely to say thanks when things go well. Perhaps we should think about reversing that paradigm.

I've already revised this article several times. As you might suspect, it started with a series of frustrating customer service interactions.

I couldn't get our cell phone service to return us to the plan we had before "excessive" use on our Oregon trip. Really, one month later and you don't offer the cheaper plan anymore? Despite our 20 years of using this vendor, we are shopping.

Meanwhile, my husband tried to return an item to a big box store in Junction who refused since he didn't have the receipt and the purchase was more than 15 days previous. Never mind that their employee had promised this was the correct item and at a mere \$50 for a new purchase, they flat out refused. Not going back there either.

These are the consequences of crummy customer service. Customers stop purchasing, often post negative comments online, and tell all their friends.

But wait! There's also the very positive side of great customer service that shouldn't be overlooked.

We are spoiled in a small town. Local restaurants already know our favorite meals or to split the bill when we show up with a friend. The grocery store never has a line to

check out. The post office staff are pleasant despite being over worked. No lines there either!

When I chat with the support line for our art website provider, they walk me through the steps to fix a problem and don't treat me like I'm a dumb tech no-nothing.

Our KOA campground hosts in Oregon were marvelous to put up with our extended stay, changed the site reservations of other campers since we couldn't move our trailer, and became good friends. Jay left them a piece of art he created while camping there to say thank you.

Perhaps the nubbins of customer service is a two-way street. Respect and understanding go a long way to mitigating troublesome situations. Having a knowledgeable, well-trained staff who is also prepared to address problems helps tremendously.

The consequences of being a courteous customer are often better service, information and results. You can be upset without being rude. Remember, often the employee has no control over inventory, shipping delays, staffing shortages or business policies.

When we have so much other stuff to worry about these days and are worn down from Covid problems, let's try to be more patient with each other, customer service included.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: In last week's column, a mention was made of a water leak at the high school. That was the result of a temporary HVAC problem, not a problem with the construction at the school. Just wanted to clarify.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PMC has lost its way

Dear Editor:

I am writing in regard to reports published in the *Herald Times* last week that the Meeker Town Council and Board of County Commissioners are writing letters to the Colorado Department of Health and Environment protesting vaccination mandates on medical staff.

To a casual outside observer, it might appear that Pioneers Medical Center has lost its way, lacking policies and procedures necessary to protect the public health.

The reluctance of a few to support vaccination, uncertain or afraid for whatever reason, further threatens the health and well-being of the whole community. Our elected officials facilitate that floundering, ignoring state law and their own public health bylaws.

*Dr. Bob Dorsett
Meeker*

There is nowhere medical staff can work in the USA if they are not vaccinated. Not in this state or any other. Waivers should not be granted to health care workers. Both the Governor and the President have given everyone else who manages hospitals cover now. There is no longer any excuse.

So let the chips fall where they may. Require our healthcare workers to be vaccinated.

It is easier to get vaccinated than it is to look for work and to move away.

Quorum should get some backbone and follow the State and Federal Law.

*Bill Levy
Meeker*

Who's paying?

Dear Editor:

My first question is who is paying attorney fees for the recall process? Wouldn't it save the taxpayer money if this was put on the November ballot? I believe there is a deadline to get something on the ballot and hopefully both sides will keep the taxpayer in mind and not prolong the issue until it's too late. Whatever the majority of the voters decide it should be respectfully accepted.

*Carol Parr
Meeker*

Needless risk

Dear Editor:

In the last two or three weeks both Governor Polis and now President Biden have required that all healthcare workers be vaccinated. ALL HEALTHCARE workers.

Yet Quorum, the managers of our hospital, appear to continue to grant waivers to the few D.O.s and nurses that refuse in fear that they will quit. Putting the rest of us at needless risk who need a hospital.

OPINION

What the pandemic taught us about crisis preparedness

By FRANCES PADILLA
SBA COLORADO DISTRICT DIRECTOR
Special to the Herald Times

RBC | The pandemic has shown Coloradans the critical importance that small business plays in both our local and national economies. It was critical for entrepreneurs to immediately change their business models and pivot to a new way of selling their products and services overnight. The U.S. Small Business Administration is highlighting the resilience of America's entrepreneurs and the renewal of the small business economy as they build back better from the economic crisis brought on by the pandemic.

Though beating the pandemic is still front and center in moving our economy forward, our nation is still vulnerable to a variety of natural disasters including wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, and drought. History has shown that up to 25 percent of businesses that close because of disaster never reopen. All Colorado businesses should develop a workable crisis preparedness plan that takes into consideration what we learned over the last 18 months from the pandemic. The following are six simple business strategies a business can use for future crises.

1. Evaluate your exposure. Know your community and the types of disasters most likely to impact your business. Consider your facility's proximity to flood plains, wildfire areas, rivers and streams, and other hazards. Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic should be the first exposure issue on the list.

2. Review your insurance coverage. Consult your insurance agent to determine whether your coverage is sufficient and what it covers. You may need separate flood insurance and determine what is or is not covered during a pandemic. Check into business interruption insurance, which helps you cover operating expenses if you're forced to temporarily close.

3. Review and prepare your supply chain. Establish business relationships with alternate vendors in case your primary supplier isn't available. Place occasional orders with them

so they'll regard you as an active customer. Create a contact list for important business contractors and vendors you plan to use in an emergency. Keep this list at an offsite location. At the start of the pandemic many food suppliers temporarily ceased operations and were not able to fulfill their customer's orders.

Create a crisis communications plan.

At the beginning of the pandemic many business owners did not have current contact information for their employees and vendors. Establish an email/Twitter/Facebook alert system, keeping primary and secondary email addresses for your employees, vendors, and customers. Provide real-time updates to your customers/clients and the community so they know you're still in business and in the process of rebuilding following a crisis.

5. Establish a written chain of command. Let your employees know the emergency chain of command should your business close. Maintain a clear leave- and sick-day policy during disasters. Have a backup payroll service should your office be destroyed.

6. Create/implement a Business Continuity Plan. This plan should state when it will be activated; identify essential business functions, and staff to carry out these functions; determine which employees will be considered non-essential vs. essential; and identify records and documents that must be secured and readily accessible to perform key functions. All of this may need to be done remotely from home.

Developing an effective and workable crisis recovery plan is critical for all small business owners. For more information on crisis planning, and SBA's ongoing COVID 19 relief programs, please visit www.sba.gov/disaster.

Frances Padilla is the SBA's Colorado District Director based in Denver. She oversees all of the agency's programs and services across the state.

Welcome to Yosemite, the new Pyrocene Park

By STEVE PYNE
Special to the Herald Times

RBC | The Pleistocene epoch that began 2.6 million years ago sent ice in waves through Yosemite.

Glaciers gouged out great valleys along the Merced and Tuolumne rivers, ice sheets rounded granite domes, cirques sculpted the High Sierra. John Muir traced virtually every landscape feature of Yosemite to its legacy of ice.

Now the residual ice is melting, the streams and waterfalls are drying and the living landscape is burning. In 1990, the A-Rock fire closed the park for the only time in its history, so far. The 2013 Rim fire burned around the Hetch Hetchy reservoir; the 2018 Ferguson fire burned along the park's Wawona Road. Where the fires didn't spread, their smoke did.

Add in the industrial combustion of fossil fuels, with its climatic impacts, and virtually every management issue of Yosemite today traces back to fire.

Humans have always used fire: It's our ecological signature.

The end of the last glaciation allowed us, a fire-wielding species, to interact with an increasingly fire-receptive planet. Our pact with fire was mutual. Fire allowed us to flourish; in return, we have taken fire everywhere, even to Antarctica.

The pact had to operate within boundaries set by living landscapes. After all, fire was a creation of life, which furnished its oxygen and fuel and established ecological barriers. Then we discovered an immense reservoir of combustibles buried in geologic time. It was as though we had found a new world — a fossilized, "lithic" landscape --we could work the way we did living landscapes. The only constraints were those people chose to impose on themselves.

Add up all the burning that people now do in living, and it would seem we are refashioning the Earth with the fire-informed

► See FIRE, Page 6

CONSERVATION CORNER

Stock watering pond maintenance critical during drought

The White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts (Districts) recognize the severe need for additional water for livestock and crops during this prolonged drought. Therefore, the Districts will utilize a \$15,000 drought assistance grant from the Colorado State Conservation Board to provide financial assistance to help landowners implement pond maintenance so they will hold water for the upcoming years.

The Districts are offering a \$500 stipend for each pond cleaned with a maximum of four ponds per landowner while funds last. The Districts are seeking additional grant funds to help more landowners with these types of projects.

The funds can be used to conduct pond maintenance on private or public land with appropriate approval. Requirements for funding include completion and approval of a simple two-page application and pictures of before and after maintenance.

Rio Blanco County landowners are encouraged to apply for funding before implementing a pond maintenance project to determine if there are funds available and they qualify. If a landowner has already conducted maintenance this year, they are still encouraged to contact the office to discuss the possibility of reimbursement.

Please contact the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts at 970-878-9838 or at callie.districts@gmail.com.

Meeker Christian Church
443 School St. • 878-5105

ADULTS & CHILDREN
Sunday School 10am Sun.
Church Service 11am Sun.

Not the only Christians, but Christians only

AUCTION!

RADINO & CHUCKWAGON
Sept. 17-22, 2021

FRIDAY • SEPT. 17
Annual Fall Consignment Auction Sat., Sept. 18, 9 a.m. 2368 S. 1500 E. (Hwy. 40) in Vernal, Utah

Equipment of all kinds, Many Vehicles, Semi's, Trailers, Campers, Boats, ATVs, Pipe, Generators, Air Compressors, Tools, Guns, Ammo, Saddles, Tack, Hunting Items, Kitchen Cabinets, Household Furniture, Antiques & Collectibles and much more! Consignments are taken the week of the auction, photos of most items will be posted on our webpage as they are consigned.

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

RBC SENIOR CITIZEN NUTRITION PROGRAM
Menu is subject to change. Please call before 8 a.m. for meal reservation. Meals served at noon.
Chuckwagon (Shona): 878-9671
Radino (Tamm): 878-9638
Suggested Donation age 60+: \$2.50/meal
Under age 60: \$10.25/meal
Questions, call Debra, 878-9650.

White River Conservation District

Douglas Creek Conservation District

FIRE: continued

► Continued from Page 5

equivalent of an Ice Age, complete with a change in climate, rising sea levels, a mass extinction, major shifts in biogeography and smoke palls. Little on Earth is unaffected.

Fire is driving off the last vestiges of the Pleistocene, from its ice to its mammoths. We have been creating a Pyrocene for millennia, but binge-burning fossil fuels put the process on afterburners.

Fifty years ago Yosemite recognized that its fire scene was out of whack. The problem then was not too much of the wrong kind of fire but too little of the right kind. The park sought to restore pre-settlement fire regimes. Among targeted sites was Illilouette Creek, an elevated basin southeast of Glacier Point.

The park recognized that suppressing fire had stockpiled fuels from the foothills to the crestline, caused Yosemite Valley

and the Mariposa Grove to overflow with invasive conifers that blocked views, and prevented the fabled sequoias from regenerating. The park introduced prescribed fire and learned to loose-herd wildfires. The Illilouette basin shuffled toward something like its former fire regime.

No place has the fire program it wants, but Yosemite seems better positioned than the national forests and private lands around it to cope. The issue is no longer to restore natural fire but to find the right mix of fires suppressed and prescribed, and of wildfires managed, to ward off the megafires that are plaguing everywhere else.

Yosemite deals with fires that can threaten small and not-so-small villages. Its specialty is working with wildland fire.

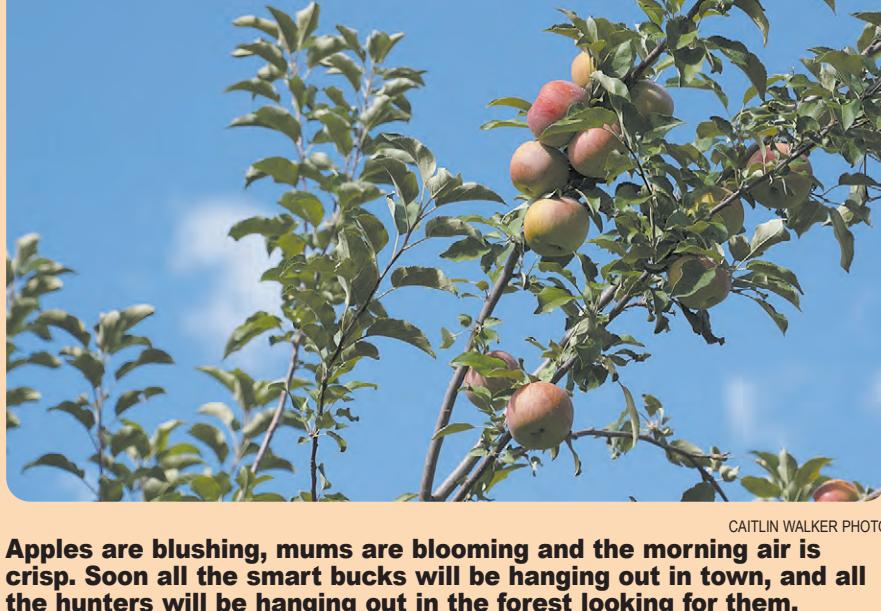
By Aug. 20 of this year the park had coped with 54 fires, 43 from lightning and 11 from people. Some were put out. Some were confined

within natural barriers. And a few burning in Illilouette Basin were tweaked as nature's invisible hand massaged them into five decades of layered burning. The legacy of past fires had altered the conditions for the fires that followed, softening the shock of tougher, meaner burns.

Yosemite has long been celebrated for distilling into near-crystalline state the magnificence of the Western landscape. As it moves from ice to fire, it is showing that it may also serve as a proxy for some of what the Earth needs to do to survive our deepening fire age. There is no way we can't manage fire.

Steve Pyne is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, a nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively debate about the West. He is the author of the new book, "The Pyrocene. How We Created an Age of Fire, and What Happens Next."

FALL, Y'ALL ...



Apples are blushing, mums are blooming and the morning air is crisp. Soon all the smart bucks will be hanging out in town, and all the hunters will be hanging out in the forest looking for them.

Together We Can Help Our Neighbors with Substance Use Disorder

The substance use problem in our community isn't about "them." It's about us. Societal and biological issues are the root causes. Only together can we start to solve it. Together we can educate one another about the facts of substance use disorder. Together we can eliminate stigma. Together we can help our neighbors get treatment and recover.

Read about Kristen Rose's story of substance use and recovery at solvingSUDtogether.org.

All of us are the solution.
Together we can.

solvingSUDtogether.org  

Paid for by the Rural Alliance Addressing Substance Use Disorder Colorado



Pictured: Kristen Rose (middle) is surrounded by her co-workers at Providence Recovery; a community that has supported her own recovery.

We know the importance of being prepared.

We can't predict the weather, but we can help you

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OBITUARIES

Kevin R. Bloch

Aug. 17, 1969 ~ July 22, 2021



Kevin
Bloch

Kevin was able to be a caretaker for his parents for the last few years, allowing his parents to enjoy the freedom of being in their own home for as long as they could.

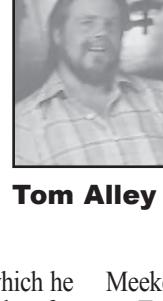
He is survived by his sister Julie, brother-in-law Greg and their four children. He is also survived by two great-nieces and one great-nephew; as well as a large extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins who will miss him greatly.

He was preceded in death by his parents Robert and Carmelita, Uncle Alan, and Aunt Kay.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Kevin on Saturday, Sept. 18 at Burning Mountain Park in downtown New Castle from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thomas Jay Alley

March 6, 1955 ~ Aug. 23, 2021



in Meeker, Colorado.

In Meeker he found his true "home base" and the love of his life Bonnie Kracht. He established Western Colorado Enterprises and owned and operated the Meeker Laundry until the time of his death.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents Sam and Marie Alley, sister Laurel Alley, son Scott Alley and partner Bonnie Kracht. He is loved and missed by sisters Merrily Alley of Monterey, California, and Mia Holz of Oakland, California, as well as nephew Kritofer Holz of San Francisco, California, niece Sarah Alley of Monterey, California, great-nephew Cory Alley of Southern California and canine companion "Buddy."

Tom's California family wishes to express their gratitude to his Meeker community for the care and support given to Tom during the past few months and throughout his life in Meeker.

Your constitutional rights as a voter

Special to the Herald Times

RBC I In response to reported unofficial door-to-door canvassing of Colorado voters, the Colorado Secretary of State's office issued the following reminders to voters:

If an individual comes to your door and requests information about your voting history or registration status, you are not required to answer.

Every voter's right to a secret ballot is constitutionally protected in Colorado. If a door-to-door canvasser asks how you voted in a particular race, you are not required to tell the canvasser how you voted.

Any claim that door-to-door canvassing is official business of the Colorado Secretary of State's office or the state of Colorado is false. No state or local election office in Colorado is conducting door-to-door voter participation surveys.

You have the right to request the name and credentials of door-to-door solicitors, as well as the organization they represent.

If you feel harassed or threatened, please reach out to local law enforcement or the Department of Justice at justice.gov.

Several pieces of information in a voter record are considered a "public record," and the Secretary of State's office is required by law to provide this information to any member of the public who requests it. This information includes your full name, residential address, political party affiliation and date of affiliation, phone number (if provided by the voter), gender identity (if provided by the voter), birth year, and information about whether you have voted in prior elections. If you believe that you or a member of your household will be exposed to criminal harassment or bodily harm because your voter information is publicly available, you may elect to become a confidential voter. Confidential voters' registration information is NOT released to the public, nor is it obtainable through a download of the list of registered voters. To become a confidential voter, you must go to your local county clerk and recorder's office, fill out a voter confidentiality form, and pay a \$5 fee. Refer to this list of county clerk and recorder offices for the necessary contact information.

Survivors of domestic violence, sexual offenses, or stalking may also consider enrolling in the Colorado Address Confidentiality Program. Voters who are part of this program will NOT have any of their voter information released to the public.



FRENCH: continued

► Continued from Page 1

rounding area, and conducted interviews with Hodges and other parties known to French. Deputies continued to scan the area where her car was found over the next few days, according to the report.

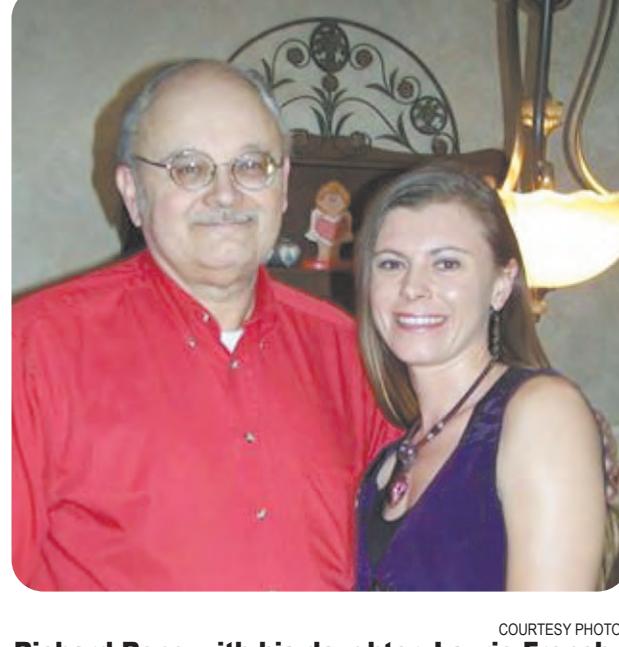
Hodges said he also returned to the site where French's car was found and searched the area daily, along with a handful of local volunteers.

'NOBODY SEEMED TO DO ANYTHING'

Hodges expressed surprise at the lack of a coordinated response from law enforcement.

"Nobody seemed to do anything," he said. "They didn't pull the drones out until the day they found her." Hodges alleges one of the deputies — who is no longer on the force — made a comment that "he didn't give a damn about those kinds of people," meaning known drug users.

On Sept. 16, 2020, following calls from French's father, a search and rescue team was called in. A K-9 unit out of Grand Junction located a body. French was tentatively identified by a ladybug tattoo on her hand



COURTESY PHOTOS

Richard Reno with his daughter, Laurie French.

that matched one Hodges has. They'd gotten the tattoos together.

Asked about the lack of a swift and coordinated search and rescue response, Ninth Judicial District Attorney Jeff Cheney told the *HT* that when an adult party goes missing, law enforcement takes into consideration the person's free will and right to leave a place or situation of their own accord.

"They have the right to leave," Cheney said.

For friends and family, concerned about a person who has gone missing, that policy can be troubling. A similar response was provided by Town of Dinosaur marshals following the disappearance of Dinosaur resident Robin Vonbargen in 2019. Her car was eventually noticed by a road and bridge driver in a ravine between Dinosaur and Rangely six weeks after her disappearance.

"It's just crazy how they don't do anything," Hodges said. "I think they could have done more."

Reno echoed Hodges' frustrations, writing: "I and the family feel she was not served well when we reported her missing. Eight days before a search is mounted is unacceptable! We hope and pray that other families won't have to go through what we did at the poor handling of this through the Rio Blanco Sheriff's department. We do commend CBI [Colorado Bureau of Investigation] and the Coroner's office, they were outstanding! We also want to say that the District Attorney's office was not very receptive to us and communication would have been nonexistent if we hadn't been so persistent."

There was more to French than her mental health problems and attempts to self-medicate, both Hodges and Reno shared.

Reno said his daughter completed a 200-hour yoga instructor course and taught yoga classes for a time, learned to be a barista while in Montana, and "did the best she could in this life and touched the lives of many people."

"She was very sweet, loving, kind, wouldn't hurt a bug. She liked the outdoors, animals; she loved to cook," Hodges said. "Her body, her mind, everything failed her."



She did the best she could in this life ... her body, her mind, everything failed her.

~ Laurie French's father Richard Reno and friend Dennis Hodges



Friends have erected a memorial to French on County Road 23.

COURTESY PHOTO

Permanent positions include full benefits (worth an average of \$16,669 per year) and promotional opportunities. CDOT also allows the heavy equipment requirement to be gained by driving a forklift or bus. In addition, certain positions and locations offer a housing stipend. Colorado residency is not required for permanent or temporary employees at the time of application. All positions include paid sick leave.

Temporary seasonal positions generally last up to nine months. However, seasonal workers can apply for full-time maintenance positions based on experience gained while in the temporary position.

"At each career fair, candidates can complete an application for both permanent and temporary positions, and possibly be interviewed and receive a conditional employment offer for a temporary position," said CDOT Human Resources Director Kristi Graham-Gitkind. "I encourage people to apply if they're interested in a transportation career that provides steady pay, good

benefits, and a high-level of job satisfaction from providing impactful, meaningful work that serves the traveling public."

Each career fair is being held at a CDOT office and/or maintenance facility. Masks are required to participate. Positions are available not only in the towns and cities listed below but also in the greater geographic area.

WESTERN COLORADO

■ Thursday, Sept. 23

3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

10519 U.S. 6

Gypsum, CO

■ Tuesday, Sept. 28

3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

202 Centennial St.

Glenwood Springs, CO

■ Thursday, Sept. 30

3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

2328 G Road

Grand Junction, CO

Candidates who cannot attend a fair are encouraged to view the job postings and apply online at: <https://www.codot.gov/topcontent/employment/cdot-job-openings.html>

CPW commissioner meeting in Meeker: recap

Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER | At its Sept. 1 - 2 meeting, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission heard proposed changes to management strategies and regulations as follows. All emergency regulations approved at the September meeting became effective upon adoption. All final regulations approved at the September meeting will go into effect on Nov. 1, 2021.

EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

Agenda Item 11: Chapter W-3 - "Furbearers and Small Game, Except Migratory Birds" 2 CCR 406-3

The Commission adopted emergency regulations related to closing the 2021 hunting season for greater sage-grouse in Game Management Unit 10 pursuant to thresholds set forth in the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan.

FINAL REGULATIONS

Agenda Item 12: Chapter W-3 - "Furbearers and Small Game, Except Migratory Birds" 2 CCR 406-3

The Commission adopted the following final regulations:
Closing the 2021 hunting season for greater sage-grouse in Game Management Unit 10 pursuant to thresholds set forth in the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan.

EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

Agenda Item 13: Chapter P-7 - "Passes, Permits and Registrations" - 2 CCR 405-7 and those related provisions of Chapter P-1 ("Parks and Outdoor Recreation Lands" - 2 CCR 405-1)

The Commission adopted emergency regulations to implement House Bill 21-1116 related to providing Purple Heart recipients free access to state parks and state recreation areas with a Purple Heart license plate or Independence Parks Pass.

FINAL REGULATIONS

Agenda Item 14: Chapter P-7 - "Passes, Permits and Registrations" - 2 CCR 405-7

The Commission adopted final regulations including, but not limited to, the following:
Implementing House Bill 21-1116 to provide Purple Heart recipients free access to state parks and state recreation areas with a Purple Heart license plate or Independence Parks Pass.

Changing the replacement fee for an annual affixed park pass and Aspen Leaf annual pass to half the cost of the original pass, if proof of eligible replacement need is not provided.
Eliminating the replacement fee for the Columbine, Centennial, Blue Spruce and Independence parks passes.

Updating camping and day-use reservation cancellation and change regulations.

Agenda Item 15: Chapter P-1 - "Parks and Outdoor Recreation Lands" 2 CCR 405-1

The Commission adopted final regulations including, but not limited to, the following:
Updating swimming regulations to allow swimming in state-park-managed areas with some exceptions and changing the age restrictions for swimming unaccompanied by an adult from 12 to 13 years old.

Modifying seasonal restrictions for peregrine falcons at Fishers Peak State Park to correspond with Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions for Colorado Raptors.

Implementing House Bill 21-1116 to provide Purple Heart recipients free access to state parks and state recreation areas with a Purple Heart license plate or Independence Parks Pass.

Creating a wakeless day (Wednesday) for boaters at Highline Lake State Park.

Agenda Item 16: Chapter P-8 - "Aquatic Nuisance Species" 2 CCR 405-8

The Commission adopted the following final regulations:

Adding regulations to clarify that defacing or tampering with a watercraft inspection and decontamination seal or seal receipt is unlawful.

Agenda Item 17: Chapter W-0 - "General Provisions" - 2 CCR 406-0

The Commission adopted the following final regulations:
Raising the fee for the Federal Duck Stamp to \$31 and adding the fee for the Federal Duck Stamp to Appendix F of Chapter W-0.

Agenda Item 18: Chapter W-16 - "Park and Wildlife Procedural Rules" - 2 CCR 406-16

The Commission adopted the following final regulations:
Clarifying review via the consent agenda for license suspension appeals and game damage claim appeals.

FINAL PWC POLICY-NON-REGULATORY

Agenda Item 19: Citizen Petitions to Initiate Rulemaking – Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission Policy

The Commission considered modifications related to withdrawing a petition once a petitioner submits it to the Division. Following Commission discussion at the July 15-16, 2021 meeting, the Division no longer recommended adopting the previously proposed change to policy. The Commission opted to retain the current policy and took no action on the previously proposed change.

DRAFT REGULATIONS

Agenda Item 21: Chapter W-0 - "General Provisions" 2 CCR 406-0, and those related provisions of Chapter W-2 ("Big Game" 2 CCR 406-2), Chapter W-3 ("Furbearers and Small Game, Except Migratory Birds" 2 CCR 406-3), Chapter W-11 ("Wildlife Parks and Unregulated Wildlife 2 CCR 406-11), Chapter W-15 ("License Agents" 2 CCR 406-15), and Chapter P-7 ("Passes, Permits and Registrations" - 2 CCR 405-7 necessary to accommodate changes to or ensure consistency with Chapter W-0

The Commission heard draft regulations including, but not limited to, adjusting license fees and license agent commission rates according to adjustments to the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood Consumer Price Index (CPI). The Commission instructed staff to present alternative regulations at the November 18 - 19, 2021 meeting showing all possible CPI license fee adjustments, along with information on licenses that have historically been discounted by the Commission.

ISSUES IDENTIFICATION

Agenda Item 22: Chapter W-3 - "Furbearers and Small Game, Except Migratory Birds" 2 CCR 406-3

The Commission initiated its annual review of regulations regarding turkey hunting, including but not limited to, license areas, season dates, and manner of take provisions for the 2022 turkey hunting seasons. Specific considerations include, but are not limited to, the following:

Creating Novice Adult Outreach Hunting Licenses for turkey.

Creating an over-the-counter fall turkey season in Game Management Unit 23.

CONSENT AGENDA (AGENDA ITEM 34)

CITIZEN PETITIONS

Agenda Item 34.1 - Chapter W-2 – "Big Game" – 2 CCR 406-2

The Commission adopted the Director's written recommendation to DENY a petition for rulemaking requesting that the Commission revise big game regulations, as follows:

A Citizen Petition for Rulemaking requesting the creation of a new regulation to allow youth under the age of 12 to purchase preference points after fulfilling hunter education requirements.

ISSUES IDENTIFICATION

Agenda Item 34.2 - Chapter W-1 - "Fishing" 2 CCR 406-1

The Commission initiated its annual review of the entire chapter including, but not limited to, consideration of regulations regarding season dates, bag and possession limits, licensing requirements, manner of take provisions and special conditions or restrictions applicable to waters of the state. Specific considerations include, but are not limited to, the following:

Removing the prohibition on fishing on the South Prong of Hayden Creek.

About CPW Commission Meetings

A complete agenda along with all materials for public review for this meeting can be found on the CPW website. The public is encouraged to email general comments to the commission at dnr_cpwcommission@state.co.us and wolf-related comments can be submitted through wolfsengagementco.org. Details on providing public comments for meetings are available on the CPW website, cpw.state.co.us.

The commission meets regularly and travels to communities around the state to facilitate public participation. Anyone can listen to Commission meetings through the CPW website. This opportunity keeps constituents informed about the development of regulations and how the commission works with Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff to manage the parks, wildlife and outdoor recreation programs administered by the agency. Find out more about the commission on the CPW website.

The next commission meeting will take place on Nov. 18-19 in a hybrid virtual/in-person meeting with limited in-person attendance in Lamar, Colorado.

CDOT hosting career fairs

Special to the Herald Times

RBC | The Colorado Department of Transportation is holding career fairs around the state over the next five weeks, seeking to hire permanent and temporary full-time and part-time highway maintenance workers. Specific fair information is listed below.

A variety of positions are available for hire, including:

- CDL (Commercial Driver's License) Highway Maintenance Employee and Temporary Winter Employee (requires a CDL A or B and two years of experience in labor and/or equipment operation)
- Temporary Highway Maintenance Trainees (CDOT assists with CDL attainment once hired; must be at least 18 and requires a valid regular driver's license; some experience in labor and/or equipment operation preferred, not required)
- Temporary/Permanent Equipment Mechanics (CDL preferred, not required)



This year's post-COVID Classic was a hit all around. Pictured above left to right are judge Patrick Shannahan and the top 12—Diana Sylvestre, Jenny Glen, Faansie Basson, Chris Jobe, Scott Glen (champion), Russell McCord, Angie Coker-Sells and Barbara Ray (reserve champion.) Not pictured are Bryan White and Terry Murray.

CAITLIN WALKER PHOTO

Sheepdog Alice and handler Scott Glen take first at Classic

PRESS RELEASE

Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER | The most decorated border collie in North America added the final jewel to her crown by winning the 2021 Meeker Classic. Scott Glen and Alice from New Dayton, Alberta, Canada made an amazing run on Sunday, Sept. 12. The sheep were tough, and it took most of the last 11 minutes of the run to pen the sheep. Closing the gate with two seconds left Alice and Scott received a score of 150 points that put them on top above Barbara Ray and Grantham (second) Millboro, Virginia, and Faansie Basson and Jack (third) from Chico, Texas.

Nine-year-old Alice is a three-time national champion, she was the nursery champion in 2013 and has now won every major sheepdog trial in North America. Jenny Glen, Scott's wife, ran Alice's son, five-year-old Grit, in the finals, placing ninth overall. Running during a torrential downpour, she and Grit won the Biggest Heart Award for the day. While spectators fled for cover, seeking shelter from the hard rain, she and Grit stuck it out and finished the course. It was an impressive display of determination and skill to do so.

Record crowds, happy vendors and happy people were the theme of the sheepdog trials this year. Folks were happy to be there, to share their time in Meeker and to enjoy the hospitality and beauty of the White River Valley. The resiliency and good

will of the community was on display throughout the event. Such was the case on Saturday evening downtown during the Jammin' Lamb Fest. Members of HopeWest, Lions Club, Meeker FCCLA and the Meeker Classic braved a microburst and heavy rainstorm during the evening to serve loyal customers anxious to share a good meal of lamb and sides, truly a display of human nature's best attributes. "We feel the Jammin' Lamb went well, considering all the handicaps that occurred. We have not heard what the final number served was, but we hope that people were satisfied and enjoyed, in spite of the microburst. We all managed to keep things going and kept a smile on our faces. We did not run out of anything and for that we are grateful — it would have been terrible to turn people away after they stood in the rain to have our lamb! The Kabobs Un-done with tzatziki sauce were a big hit and something a little different," said Gus Halandras of the evening. The words of Jenny Glen can best describe the event this year:

"Meeker:

Some years we go home crying with our tails tucked and some years we can hold our heads high.

This year it was the latter.

We were asked what makes Meeker the Mecca that makes everyone want to come and try it. It's the field, it's the sheep, it's the other handlers and their tough dogs, it's the fans.

The current organizers and volunteers of the Meeker Classic are amazing. The skilled set out crew is the best any-

where and if you thought I was wet in yesterday's storm, you can bet they were just as wet and probably hoping my dog would hurry up and turn back so they could get some rain gear on.

We are always happy to see Patrick's name as a judge because we know he will be fair and accurate and has done it all before, so he also has some empathy for what happens out there at the Meeker post.

Julie Hansmire and her sheep make it an adventure every year.

The handlers. They come from both coasts to take on this trial and everyone cheers everyone else on because we are all in the same boat. Barbara and Faansie and the rest of the handlers brave enough to step to the post were tough all week along with Angie who has a special place in my heart. She told me after my first run that she was proud of me, and then tolerated my pacing panic during Alice's pen in the last round, even though she was getting ready to run herself. We will see you all at the finals in a couple weeks.

And finally, thank you to the fans who make this the event that it is. Every handler was proud to show you what our partners, our dogs, can do."

The Meeker Classic extends its sincere appreciation and thanks to every sponsor, volunteer, individual, fan, vendor and handler that contributed to a great post COVID year!

More photos at ht1885.com



(Top left) Hopewest volunteers braved wind gusts and a torrential downpour to serve all Jammin' Lamb attendees. (Top right) Meeker's 'super' sheep delighted fans.

CAITLIN WALKER PHOTOS

(Second row left) 2021 champion dog Alice (left) and her son Grit, who took ninth.

JENNY GLEN PHOTO

(Second row center/right,) Spectators and competitors braved a variety of conditions during the event, from bright sunshine to pouring rain in the span of just a few hours.

LUCAS TURNER/NANCY HENLEY PHOTOS

(Third row right) Meeker's own River City Band returned as the opening act for a Debby Campbell tribute concert Friday evening.

RON FORBERG PHOTO

(Fourth/third row bottom) Demos, vendors, and great viewing kept all attendees well-entertained.

CAITLIN WALKER/LUCAS TURNER PHOTOS

Final Placings for the top 12 were:

PLACE	HANDLER	DOG	Sex/Age	CITY, STATE	Score
1	Glen, Scott	Alice	F : 9	New Dayton, AB	150
2	Ray, Barbara	Grantham	M : 5	Millboro, VA	140
3	Basson, Faansie	Jack	M : 6	Hico, TX	137
4	Coker_Sells, Angie	Link	M : ?	Tecumseh, OK	136.099
5	Ray, Barbara	Maverick	M : 8	Millboro, VA	136.098
6	Jobe, Christine	Becca	F : 7	Cypress County, AB	116
7	Sylvestre, Diana	Kip	M : 8	Hopland, CA	91
8	Coker_Sells, Angie	Soot	F : ?	Tecumseh, OK	90
10	Murray, Terry	Crow	M : 4	Peyton, CO	0
11	White, Bryan	Brae	M : 8	Bend, OR	0
12	McCord, Russell	Cutter	M : 5	Zephyr, TX	0

Air Force training brings big cargo plans to Meeker skies

BY TIFFANY JEHOREK
Special to the Herald Times

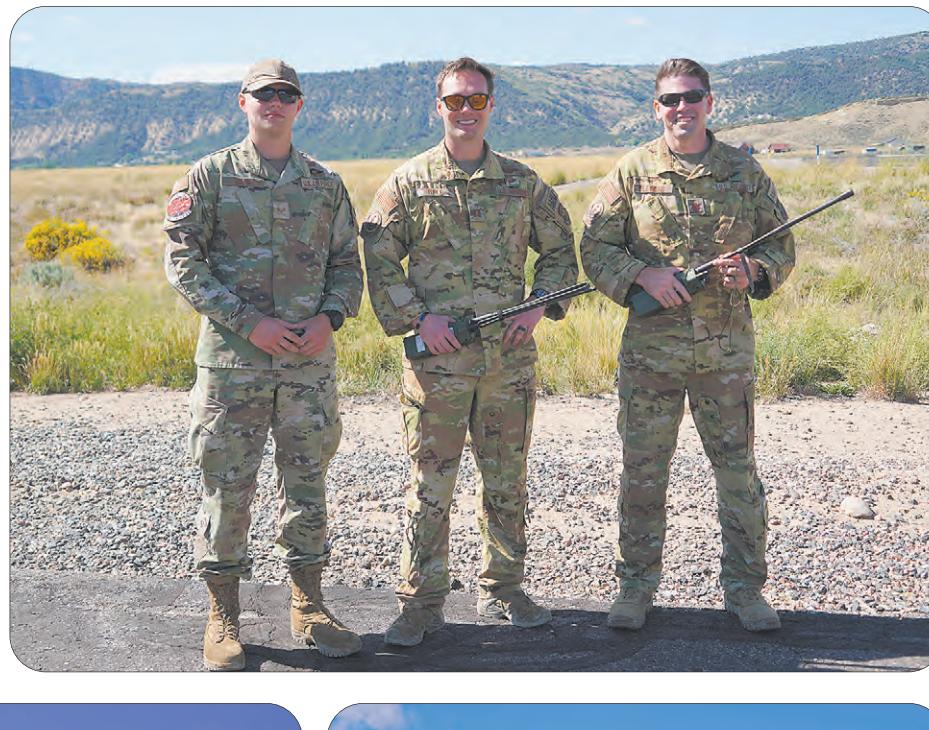
RBC I Rally in the Rockies, an Air Force Reserve training operation, made its debut in Meeker. The reserve units participating were from all over the southern United States including Little Rock, Biloxi, and different locations in Missouri. The operation itself has multiple hubs with locations in Eagle County, Rifle, and Wyoming. Yesterday they landed a C-130 on a highway just outside of Guernsey, Wyoming.

The ground crew in Meeker waiting to retrieve the cargo were active duty Air Force officers Major Leyden from Peterson, Captain Bell from Camp Lejeune, and Senior Airman Jones from Little Rock, Arkansas. M Leyden and C Jones are Air Mobility Liaison Officers (AMLO) and their job is to bridge the gap between Army and Air Force for joint operations. SA Jones was in charge of actually packing, retrieving and checking the cargo

and reporting on the operation.

The goal was to simulate actual mountain combat operations by dropping cargo from a C-130J. The operation had scheduled two different planes with two different cargo loads to fly from Peterson Air Force Base, drop cargo in Meeker and travel back to Peterson, with drops in Taylor Park as well. The drops, called a Low Cost Altitude Aerial Resupply, have changed over the years. What used to be made up of costly plywood is now specially constructed cardboard mixed with plywood that can withstand the drop, provide cushioning and is 100% biodegradable. The parachute for these drops is also disposable and degradable in UV light so that the resupply has minimal impact. The flight came into Meeker from Flag Creek, made its drop on the runway at Coulter Field and headed back out over the Flat Tops.

The operation will be taking place in various parts of Wyoming and Colorado until Sept. 17.



TIFFANY JEHOREK PHOTOS

Watch a video of the drop on the HT YouTube channel.

WORKFORCE: causes for labor shortages are multi-faceted

► Continued from Page 1

Additional reductions in the labor pool touch on other socioeconomic trends, like childcare, transportation, remote work, and housing availability. As a result of school closures for instance, many parents, particularly women, left the labor force entirely in order to care for kids who were home from school. Even now, many of those parents have not returned to the labor force.

In another prominent example, a real-estate boom has turned what was already an affordability issue into an issue of availability. "Since

the great recession we have not been adding new houses at near the rate we did prior to that. I want to say in 2008 the United States added about two million new homes a year and now it's about a quarter of that," Oxley said. The housing shortage contributes to the shortage of workers in the area, since there is nowhere to live, even in places that have not previously experienced major housing shortages, like Moffat and Rio Blanco counties.

Worker shortages aside, for those positions that need to be filled, what will motivate the currently unemployed residents, few as there

may be, to apply? Have the extended federal unemployment benefits turned them all lazy? Oxley doesn't think so, and here's why. According to a study by the University of Toronto, U.S. states that ended federal unemployment benefits early saw a 25.9% return to work factor, whereas states that kept the extended \$300/wk benefits through August saw a 21.5% return to work factor, a difference Oxley described as "negligible."

She pointed to another example as well, noting that when restaurants closed down, continuing unemployment claims skyrocketed, yet by the time those same restaurants opened back up at restricted capacity, a majority of those workers got off unemployment to return to work. "It really demonstrated that people, I mean not 100% obviously, but people just want to work," Oxley said.

Whether or not people want to work, one thing seems to be fairly straightforward: in any market, reduced supply and increased demand puts those with products, services, or in this case, labor, in a strong negotiating position. That basic economic fact means workers now have more bargaining power, and businesses struggling to

find help could be forced to adjust.

Making those adjustments is easier said than done, however. As Oxley noted to the HT, attracting help isn't solely a matter of higher wages, and for the people already employed, wages aren't the only thing that keep them coming back to work every day.

"Employers get to look at what their wages are like, what their work environment is like, what their culture is like, what employees really want and what helps retention," said Oxley, who also shared more general advice for any business

currently hiring, which basically amounts to talking to your employees about what is and isn't working for them.

"The best employee is the one that you already have, and the cost of turnover is astronomical, and so you want to prevent that at all costs," she said, adding "most jobs are filled word of mouth by one of your employees telling their friends this is a great place to work, and if your employees aren't telling their friends and everybody they interact with that it's a great place to work, then you're automatically at a disadvantage."

BOCC: jail will close in January

► Continued from Page 2

has been exacerbated by legislative changes requiring detention centers to provide more mental health and other services to inmates, and reducing the overall incarceration rates for non-violent offenses. He described some of these legislative changes as "more unfunded mandates."

The closure, slated to happen in full by January, will result in a loss of five full time employees from the department. The multi-million dollar facility "won't be mothballed" according to Mazzola who says it could serve as a potential training facility, and will continue to be as a holding center for Sheriff's deputies, Meeker PD or state patrol officers before they take inmates to Moffat.

Other major items during the meeting included but were not limited to:

■ Approved a letter to Governor Jared Polis and CDPIHE requesting the hospitals located within Rio Blanco County be exempted

from mandatory COVID 19 Vaccinations for staff members.

■ Approved consulting with One Technology Corporation for \$9,980 to upgrade firmware on switches in the county broadband network.

■ Approved an application for transportation and utility systems and facilities on federal lands for a right of way on County Road 23. Road and Bridge Director Scott Marsh noted his department wanted to spend its paving budget in the Rangely area for next year and needed a right of way agreement in writing.

■ Approved a service agreement renewal with Johnson Controls Fire Protection for service of fire alarm, sprinkler and suppression for \$13,324.70.

You can view work sessions and meetings in their entirety on the Rio Blanco County YouTube page.

28 new COVID cases, 2 hospitalizations

Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER I For the week of Sept. 6-14, there were 28 new reported cases of COVID-19 with two new hospital admissions. Multiple outbreaks and community transmission have been reported.

Of the 42.4% of the eligible population vaccinated with at least one dose (2,308 individuals) there have been a total of 25 "breakthrough" cases among the vaccinated.

Moderna and Pfizer vaccines will be available at regular vaccination clinics in Meeker and Rangely.

■ Meeker Walk-In Clinic:

Fairfield Center, 200 Main St.

■ Moderna (18+): Thursdays 12-5:30 p.m.

■ Pfizer (12+): Fridays 2-4 p.m.

Please call 970-878-9520 with any questions or for special accommodations.

Pioneers Medical Center is offering walk-in clinics for Johnson and Johnson and Moderna vaccines on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon and 2-4 p.m.

■ Rangely Walk-In Clinic:

Public Health, 101 E Main across from the library

■ Moderna (18+) and Pfizer (12+): Thursdays 12-5:30 p.m.

Please call 970-878-9525 with any questions or for special accommodations.

GET YOUR FLU SHOT!

Flu shots are now available for all through the Rio Blanco County Public Health. All insurance is accepted and flu shots are free of charge if you are uninsured!

DRIVE-THROUGH CLINICS BEGIN AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER!

Watch for the schedule!



RBC Department of Public Health & Environment
970.878.9520 or 970.878.9525
publichealth@rbc.us

Employment Screenings close to home

DOT Physicals

Pre-Employment Physicals

Drug & Alcohol Screens (DOT & Non-DOT)

Work Comp Injuries

Post-Offer Evaluations (Worksteps)

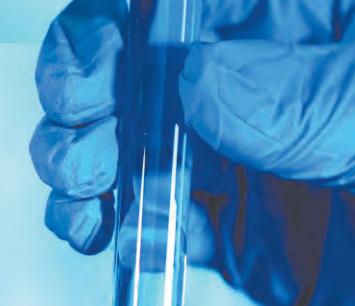
Audiograms

Mask Fits

Pulmonary Function Test

Respirator Clearance

Vaccines (Hep B, MMR, Flu, etc)



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RIO BLANCO HERALD TIMES | Thursday, September 16, 2021



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Lady Cowboys remain undefeated

BY TIFFANY JEHOREK

Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER | Lady Cowboy volleyball remains undefeated. Last week in the polls they were ranked second in RPI just below Sedgwick County and third in the coaches poll. Soroco, while not ranked, received some votes and beating Soroco this week will boost the RPI.

The Rams traveled to Meeker to be beaten by the Cowboys 3-1. Set scores were 25-15, 25-21, 23-25, and 25-15.

"As anticipated, Soroco was a good challenge for us but we were up to the challenge," opened head coach Greg Cravens. "We didn't serve as well as we have been doing lately but worked really hard this week at passing and came out with our second best passing rat-

ing of the season".

Defensively Emma Luce and Nora Gianinetti led the team with two blocks each, Sarah Kracht handled the majority of the serve receives taking 28, and digging Luce had 28, Aspen Merrifield 18, and Kracht and Ellie Hossack both had 14.

"I would have liked to see us block better and we need to generate some more offense," commented Cravens. "We are only averaging scoring 15 points a game and hoping the other team will make 10 errors for us to win. We need to be up to score 18-19 points a set and only relying on the other to make 6 or 7 errors for us to win."

On the offensive side, Luce had six aces leading the team, Tatum Kennedy two and Hossack two. Luce once again gets into double digit kills with 27 and



both Savvy Mendenhall and Ainsley Selle each had four.

Looking forward it will be "another tough week," said Cravens.

The team travels to Cedaredge on Friday and hosts Rangely on Saturday.

"Cedaredge is another

good 3A school that we wanted to add to our schedule.

Rangely-Meeker is always going to be a tough match as they play so well against us; we will have to be on our game to be ready for them on Saturday," wrapped-up Cravens.

The MHS volleyball team is undefeated so far this season, and Emma Luce was named national player of the week last week by MaxPreps.

TIFFANY JEHOREK PHOTO

Lady Panthers travel to Cedaredge

Special to the Herald Times

RANGELY | On Tuesday, Sept. 7 the Rangely volleyball team traveled to Cedaredge.

The lady Panthers White team came away with the win again against the Cedaredge Bruins C Team. It was a very exciting game with some players coming alive in their play that we haven't seen much of before. Ella Patch, playing in her first full match as a White team starter, came away with several kills as an outside hitter. Leading scorers were Kaitlyn Cox with 12 earned points including four aces, Jade Miller with four earned points, three aces and several kills and Audy Ryder with six earned points including one ace.

The Panther defense was also strong: Whitney Rusher, Bailey Tucker and Audy Ryder worked hard in the back row to make sure nothing hit the floor. These ladies played hard, and it paid off, bringing a win home to Rangely.

The JV team lost the first set 25-15, won the second set 26-24 and lost the third set 15-9. The girls had some great volleys and plays. We were able to block their heavy hitter and shut her down a few times. Defense had great digs and passes and worked really hard to keep the ball alive. Lexi LeBleu had a great kill out of the middle on an overpass from the other team and Emeree Wagner had two amazing solo blocks.

Varsity took to the floor and came out ready

to play and beat Cedaredge in four sets. The lady Panthers found their stride and didn't look back. Offensively they placed their hits and found the open holes. Morgan Ellis did a great job moving the ball around to all the hitters. Defensively the blockers did their jobs well and back row didn't let very many balls hit the floor. Miley Chism led the Panthers with four aces with Morgan Ellis chipping in three. Kyrah Phelps led the offensive with 12 kills with Aspen Low and Miley Chism adding five apiece. Aspen Low had nine blocks at the net while Adelynn Halcomb dug up the ball 42 times.

The lady Panthers have a busy weekend starting Thursday traveling to Caprock and then on Saturday traveling to Meeker.

Cowboys bounce back against Roaring Fork Rams

BY TIFFANY JEHOREK

Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER | Cowboy football took on the Roaring Fork Rams the first time in decades last Friday.

Coming off of a big loss to the Limon Badgers, the team "bounced back well, they responded to disappointment of last week well and I am pleased with how they did," commented head coach Shane Phelan.

Roaring Fork lost the coin toss, went three and out, punting to the Cowboys, and in three plays, Kelton Turner found the end zone putting the Cowboys on the board right away. Meeker found the end zone five more times, three more by Turner, a 42 yard pass to Liam Deming who ran it in for six, and a punt return for a score by

Clay Crawford. Four extra points by John Hampton Hightower when he kicked in four PAT's.

"We have a few more things to work on this week, but we improved," said Phelan.

On the ground we rushed for 229 yards and in the air Connor Blunt had 42 yards passing.

This weekend volleyball and football play back to back taking on the Cedaredge Bruins on their home turf. Cedaredge has the same record as Meeker, they lost their first game to Montezuma-Cortez 28-13 and turned around to beat Coal Ridge 20-0.

"They have a group of talented seniors, their coach does a good job, and it will be another good league opponent," wrapped up Phelan.



Liam Deming, MHS senior, reaches for the catch.

TIFFANY JEHOREK PHOTO

Tough loss for Panthers

Special to the Herald Times

RANGELY | The Rangely Panthers got off to a great start in Caliche only to lose in overtime. Leading the entire game except for the final minute and a half, Rangely gave up a safety to allow Caliche to tie the game.

"Obviously it was a tough way to lose, but I am proud of our kids tonight, and their effort. We got a lot better today, and just didn't make enough plays to win in the end," said head coach Ryan Wilkie.

The Panthers had a sack fumble returned for a touchdown to end the first half, "It really changed the momentum, and we couldn't really get in a rhythm the second half on offense," Wilkie said.

"We won the overtime toss and wanted to really be able to put some pressure on them to have to score, instead we turned the ball over on first down. "Ultimately we just have to continue to get better, I know our kids could recognize the progress they made this week," Rangely looks to rebound when they travel to Calhan this week.

Golf fundraiser tomorrow

Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER | Civil contracting company IHC Scott (completed the Hwy. 13 improvement project between Meeker and Rifle) along with participating vendors and clients are hosting the first annual "Scramble for a Cause" fundraiser Friday, Sept. 17 at the Meeker Golf Course. Proceeds will benefit the Meeker Education Foundation, which supports educational and enrichment opportunities for the Meeker School District. Tee-off is at 8 a.m. Registration and breakfast for participating vendors and construction companies begins at 7 a.m. For sponsors and contact information, visit <https://birdease.com/IHCSchrambleForACause>.

Meeker cross country runs at Coal Ridge Invitational

Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER | Meeker cross country was in New Castle on Friday, Sept. 10 for the Coal Ridge Invitational. The course sports a variety of surfaces across rolling terrain.

"We saw some really great results on a new course. We are starting to see the hard work pay off," said head coach Marty Casey.

"We were missing some runners due to illness and injuries this week, but hope to be back to full strength for our next meet."

MHS did not have any female competitors at the Coal Ridge meet, but the boys certainly showed up ready to race. All five runners posted their best times of this season. Gabe Richardson was the fastest Cowboy runner again this week, breaking under the 20 minute mark

at 19:52, for 20th place. Gabe Smithers kicked into high gear late in the race, chasing down a number of runners for 23rd place and a new personal record (PR) of 20:06. Wyatt Rollins also had an excellent race, running a new PR in 20:52, and 29th. Gage Richardson was close behind in 31st place, at 21:07. Owen Hannemann just edged out the competition for 41st place, in 22:40. The boys took sixth place in team scoring.

"I am proud of how everyone raced this week, and appreciate all of the effort. Our times are getting closer to where we need to be," Casey said.

Meeker's next scheduled meet will be at Loudy-Simpson Park in Craig for the Moffat County Invitational on Saturday Sept. 25. High school races start at 9:45 a.m.

Panthers place 17th at one of biggest meets of the season

Special to the Herald Times

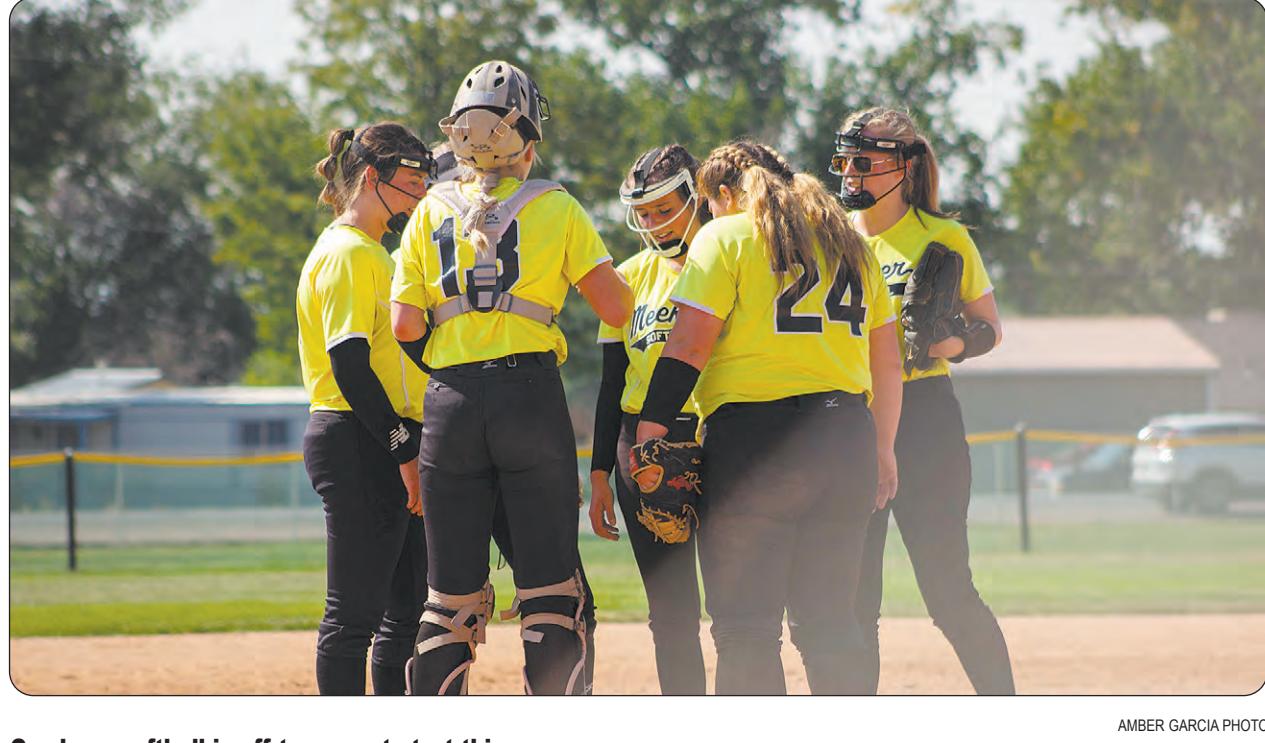
RANGELY | The Rangely Panther harriers made their trek over the mountain and south to the Joe Vigil Invitational in Alamosa, Colorado. They ran on Saturday after watching Adams State win their home meet.

The boys placed 17th out of 33 teams and 161 runners. This was one of the biggest meets of the season so far. The third, fourth and fifth runner did a great job of working together; they were within just a couple of places of each other. Andrew Dorris had a great race, placing 54th with a time of 18:28. Colton Noel was the next to finish with a time of 19:56, respectively. James Talbot ran 20:37, Anthony Dorris 20:44, and Kevin Wren 20:47, respectively. Joseph Adams is improving each week and has taken a minute off his time from the first race, he ran a 21:13. Justin Allred is getting better each week with a time of 23:24.

"It is fun to see the boys work so hard and together. I look forward to seeing how they will do at regionals," said head coach Beth Scoggins.

The girls only had three running but each runner had a new season personal best or even just a personal best. Mary Scoggins placed 25th with a time of 20:37. Hayley Burr just keeps getting better and is a lot of fun to watch at the end when she gets to do what she does best: sprint. She had a time of 27:17. Macy Morgan works hard at each race and is improving with a time of 30:08.

The team will take this week off to get some more training in. They will race again at Moffat county on Saturday, Sept. 25.



Cowboys softball is off to a great start this season.

AMBER GARCIA PHOTO

Cowboys pitch and hit their way to wins

BY TIFFANY JEHOREK

Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER | Meeker Cowboy softball hit the road for a four game series, double headers in Delta on Friday and Aspen Saturday. The Cowboys began the weekend 0-6 and finished it 4-6. In game one in Delta Ryann Mergelman had a 2-run homerun to start off the game, Brea Garcia pitched the game with limited walks and fielded many balls that culminated in outs, MyKayla Wille and Macy Ridgeway teamed up for the first Cowboy double play of the season, and Kastyn Dembowksi showed off her speed once again for a catch in the right center gap.

The Cowboys came out on top 12-10.

"Brea pitched her heart out and did an amazing job," commented head coach Kendal Bergman,

"Everyone in the hitting lineup did amazing and put up a ton of runs. The standout hitters for the first game were Hailey Knowles, Ryann Mergelman, Dylan Herndon, and MyKayla Wille."

In game two the Cowboys beat Delta again, 9-6.

"Hailey pitched another great game and struck out a bunch of batters with a stellar rise ball," said Bergman.

Defensively Knowles had numerous strike outs and one inning with three strikeouts. The Cowboys played clean defense throughout the game which included a catch in left field by Wagner Brown and a game ending double play when Dembowksi threw to third base to MyKayla Wille who then threw it back to second for the out number two when the runner didn't tag.

On offense Mergelman got a hold of the ball again hitting a double that was very close to making it over the fence for a homerun.

"Once again, the entire lineup did their job at the plate and pushed a ton of runs across the plate with aggressive base running and great at bats with confidence," commented Bergman.

In Aspen the Cowboys picked up another two Ws.

"We got the job done in less innings which is good," said Bergman

In game one against Aspen, Reagan Hafey pitched the first game with only two walks and seven strikeouts.

At bat, "the whole lineup was patient with aggressive swings at strikes with only one Cowboy struck the entire game," said Bergman. Top hitter was Dembowksi who had an in the park grand slam!

"The defense was clean with good three up and three



MyKayla Wille

AMBER GARCIA PHOTO

down innings and included MyKayla making a great catch in foul territory," commented Bergman.

The Cowboys won game one 22-2 and game two 17-1.

Knowles was on the mound for the second Apsen game, and only allowed one hit in the game with five strikeouts and at bat she hit an in the park homerun. Dembowksi hit a triple to score two runs and Wille had some finesse running the bases and stole home on a delayed steal. "Everyone again did their job up to bat and put the ball in play with confidence and patient at bats," wrapped up Bergman about Aspen, "Vivian Brown was a wall behind the plate in the first game to help secure the win and Dembowksi caught a great second game and bounced up quick for every play."

This week coming up the team will travel to Basalt varsity playing at 4:30 on Tuesday and Rifle on Thursday at 6 p.m.

"I'm hoping we keep our win streak going against Basalt and Rifle this week and work hard like we did this past weekend," said Bergman, "Basalt is always great competition and if we have our bats going and solid defense then we'll have a good shot. As long as we work hard and play clean like we can we'll have some more success this week."

COURTESY PHOTO
Starting early, the Barone Middle School runners competed at Loudy Simpson Park in Craig.

BMS competes in Craig

Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER | The Barone Middle School cross country team competed this Saturday in Craig at Loudy-Simpson Park. Boys and girls ran together. There were roughly 80 runners in a 2.3 mile course.

Meeker athletes earned the following times:

- Sam Smithers 18:04
- Brad Nielsen 19:27
- Dawn Arnold 19:58
- Cameron Hanberg 21:15
- Skylar Grimes 22:54

The next meet will be back in Craig on Saturday, Sept. 25.

Rangely middle school runners make great progress

Special to the Herald Times

RANGELY | The Rangely Middle School harriers found themselves in Craig last weekend. They ran at Loudy-Simpson park and did a 2.2 mile course. The course is on a rough trail along the river, the girls and boys ran a combined race. In middle school the courses will vary from 1.8 miles to 2.2. This is the second meet that the athletes have run.

"They are all making great progress, they are learning how to run the course and how to work throughout the whole course," said head coach Beth Scoggins.

Jay Nickson, who joined the team this week, was the first Rangely runner across the line with a time of 17:11. Tylee Fielder was the first girl across the line with a time of 19:57. Matthew Morgan ran a 20:02. Samantha Granger was right behind him with a time of 20:19. Rachel Elder and Taya Wren worked together throughout the race and found them separated by only a couple of seconds. Elder had a time of 20:47 and Wren had 20:53. Faith Prieto came in with a time of 22:02.

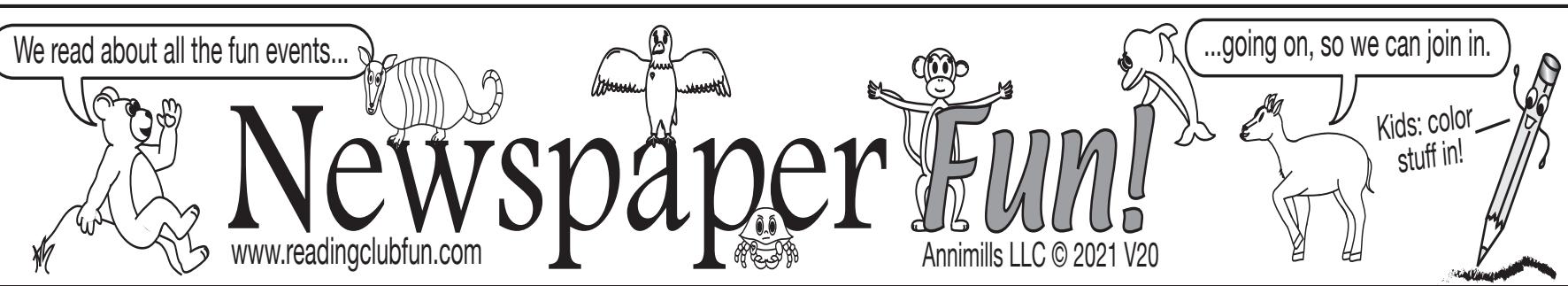
The athletes will not have a meet this weekend but will run Sept. 25 in Craig again.

MEEKER V. RANGELY ...



The Meeker Mustangs beat Rangely's junior team 6-0.

SAMME PURKEY PHOTOS



News! Read All About It!

Our Town News

September 30 Sunny, 73° F

Dish Runs Away With Spoon!

Breaking News!

On Thursday, Sept. 29 at 9 p.m. officers responded to a complaint about loud noises in a small suburban kitchen.

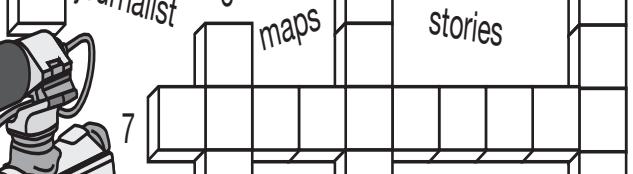
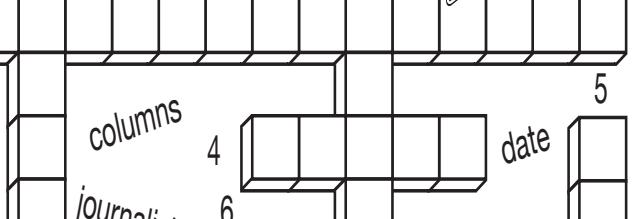
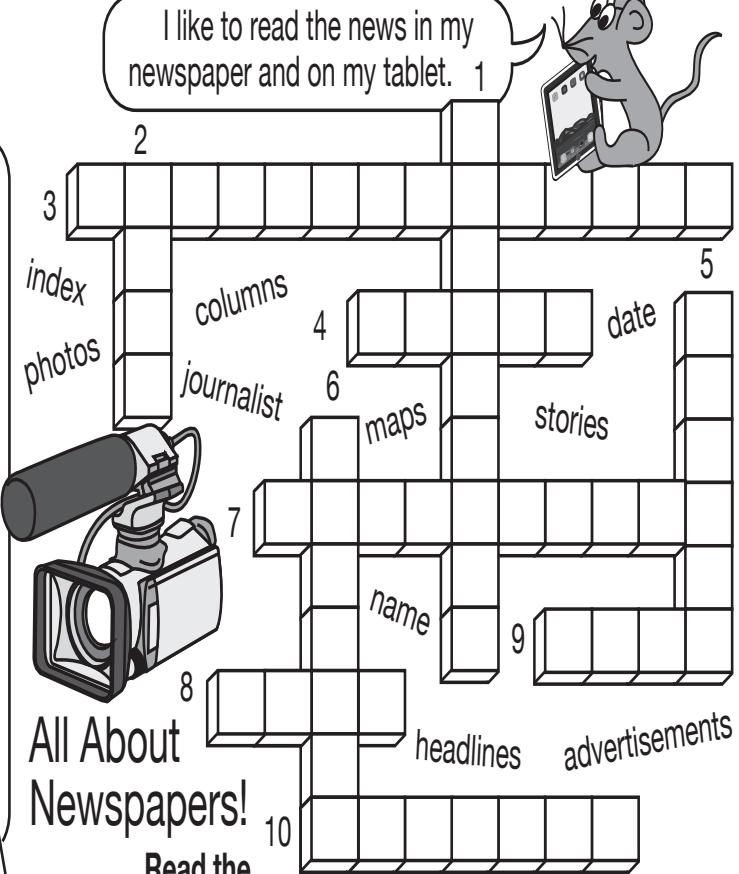
On Friday, Mr. James Smith, owner of the home, explained what had happened.

"There was a rustling noise in the kitchen. I got up to check on it and, to my surprise, one of the dishes was running away with a spoon," he said.

Eyewitnesses included forks and knives. Most occupants, except the kitchen sink, claimed to have been thrilled by the daring escape.

Newspaper articles try to answer the questions "Who, what, when, where, why and how." **Read the story above and see if you can find out the answer to each of these questions.**

Who gets important community news, information and stories out to the public? Reporters and journalists. There is a whole team of people behind every item published – from the reporter and video crew in the front to the columnists, editors, printers and publishers in the back. Today, lots of people enjoy the paper version of the newspaper, while many also are reading the news on their tablets, computers and smart phones. People always want to learn about what is going on.



What's Inside Your Newspaper? (Index)

If you look on the front page of your newspaper you may see an index. An **index** lists where to find each section *inside* the newspaper. Can you fill in the vowels that are missing in the index? Next, match each listing to what is in it.

Inside

Where can I find the movie listings?

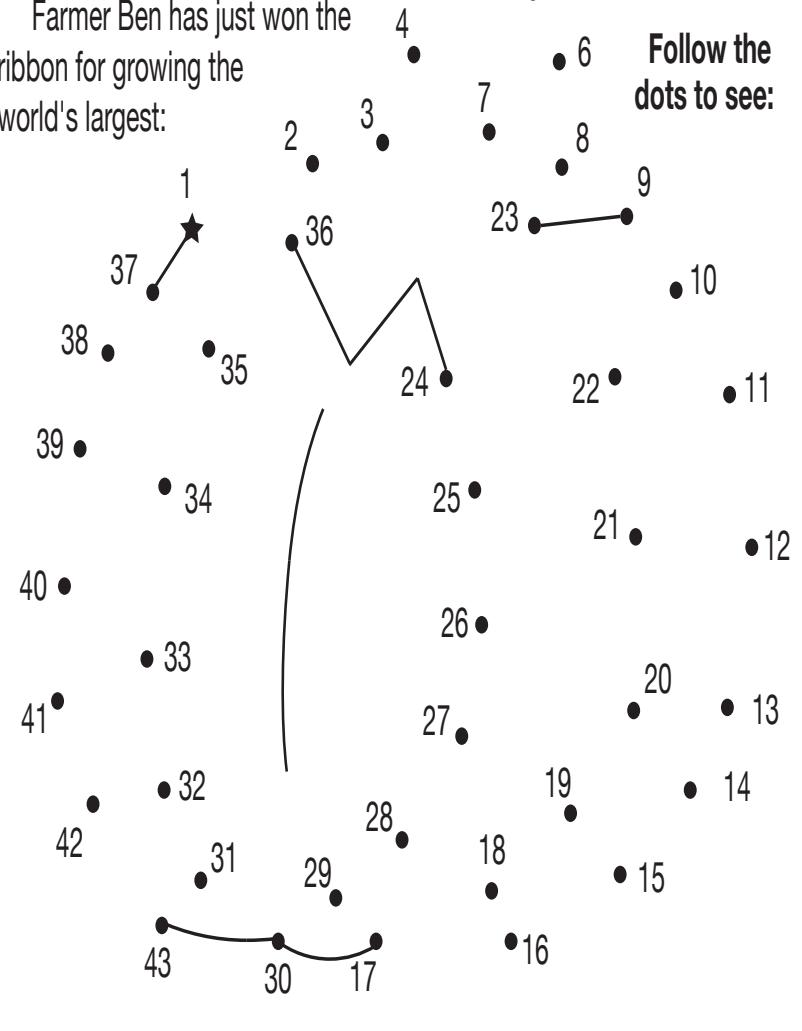
1. B_s_n_ss	A. advertisements to sell and buy
2. Cl_ss_f_d	B. stories about what people are buying, new stores, stock market
3. C_m_c_s	C. home, yard, clothing fashions
4. _d_t_r_is	D. cartoons, puzzles, contests
5. L_v_ng	E. people send letters or write articles to express their ideas

6. Sp_rts	F. forecasts of sunshine or rain, temperatures
7. T_l_v_s_n	G. team news, game scores
8. T_w_n_N_ws	H. road work, places to visit
9. Tr_v_l	I. listing of movies and shows
10. W_th_r	J. local news

u i o e e e a a e i i e i e i a o i i e i o a o i o

Breaking News – World's Largest

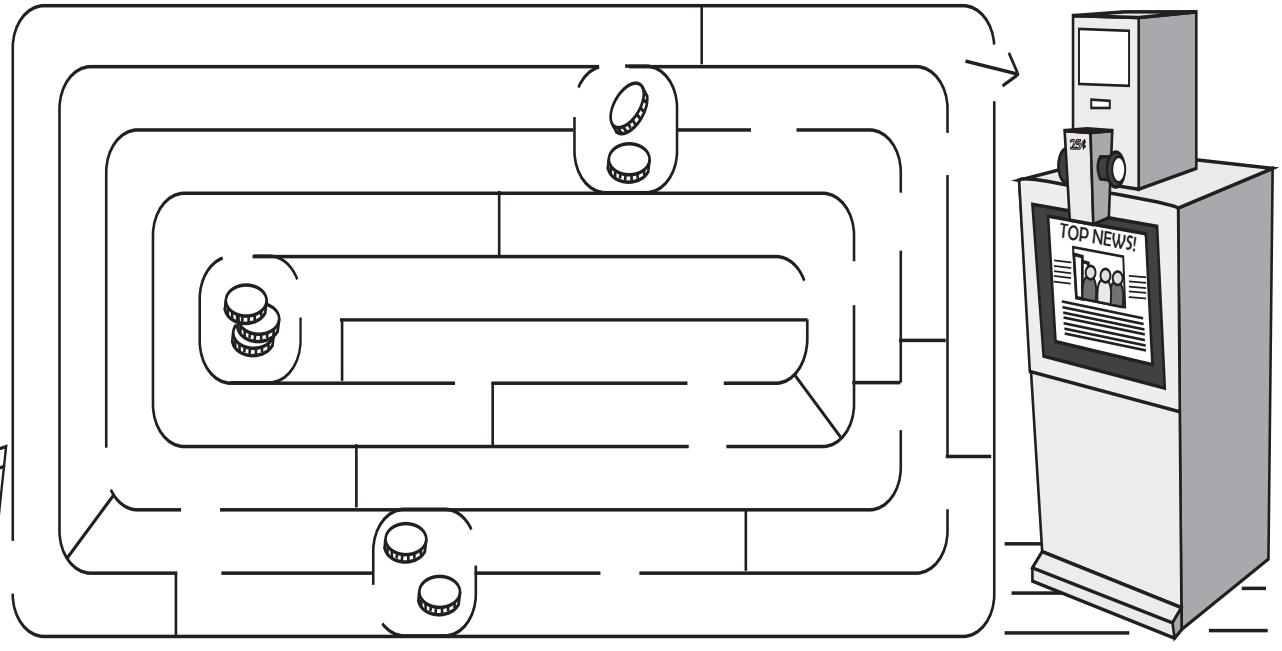
Farmer Ben has just won the ribbon for growing the world's largest:



Today's News!

I really enjoy reading the newspaper. That's tricky for a dolphin!

Echo wants to buy today's newspaper from the box at the end of the pier. Can you help him scoot through the maze to get it? Pick up all the coins as you go.



PUBLIC NOTICES

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

TOWN OF RANGELY
Check Register
August-21
VENDOR, AMOUNT, DESCRIPTION
AFLAC, 254.51, Payroll Deduction
ALL COPY PRODUCTS INC, 897.67,
Expenses
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, 276.06,
Expenses
AV-TECH, 198.00, Expenses
AXON ENTERPRISE INC, 228.00,
Expenses
BIG D'S PUMPING, 1350.00, Expenses
BOBCAT OF THE ROCKIES, 103.91,
Expenses
BOHANNAN HUSTON INC, 698.25,
Expenses
BOY-KO SUPPLY CO, 116.08, Expenses
BUSINESS SOLUTIONS GROUP LLC,
1154.60, Expenses
CANYON PINTADO VETERINARY CLINIC,
1461.64, Expenses
CASELLE, INC, 1418.00, Software Support
CEBT, 31100.06, Life Insurance
CENTURYLINK, 1715.00, Communication
CHAMPION, JOSHUA, 96.08, Expenses
CIMARRON TELECOMMUNICATIONS
LLC, 55.00, Communication
CNCC FOUNDATION, 1500.00, Expenses
CO DEPT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & ENV,
465.00, Expenses
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC, 77.40,
Expenses
COX, MARYBEL, 40.00, Expenses
DAN E WILSON, ATTORNEY AT LAW LLC,
1841.46, Services
DAVIDSON, DONALD J, 100.00, Council
Stipend
DETROIT INDUSTRIAL TOOL, 305.73,
Expenses
DIRECTV, 463.00, WRV Expenses
DUCHEY'S ELECTRIC, 120.00, Expenses
ELK MOUNTAIN TECHNOLOGY LLC,
587.00, Expenses
ELLIS, KEELY, 100.00, Council Stipend
ENDRESS+HAUSER INC, 258.00,
Expenses
ENNIFER, MICHAEL, 20.53, Expenses
FAMILY SUPPORT REGISTRY, 1302.46,
Expenses
FARNEY, LINDA, 75.99, Expenses
FEDERAL EXPRESS, 123.25, Expenses
FERGUSON WATERWORKS #1116,
24662.09, Expenses
FIDELITY ADVISOR FUNDS, 25222.50,
Payroll deduction
FIRST BANKCARD, 5088.68, Expenses
FFPA, 1298.42, PD Insurance
GALLS LLC, 1249.50, Expenses
GEER, LUKE D, 100.00, Council Stipend
GRAINGER, 57.76, Expenses
GRANGER, ALISA, 100.00, Council
Stipend
H & H HYDRAULICS INC, 51.29, Expenses
HAMBLIN, TIRYNN, 40.00, Expenses
HEJL, STEVE, 1.00, Expenses
HILTON, KELLER, 40.00, Expenses
HUGHES, JORDAN, 40.00, Expenses
ITRON, INC, 3964.37, Expenses

M&M CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LLC,
8125.00, Expenses
MAIL SERVICES, 769.42, Services
MASTER PETROLEUM CO INC, 2866.50,
Expenses
MILLARD, KETCHUM, 40.00, Expenses
MOON LAKE ELECTRIC ASSN, 19588.29,
Electricity
MOUNTAIN STATES PIPE & SUPPLY,
5810.09, Expenses
NETWORKS UNLIMITED, 2566.05,
Support/Services
NICHOLS STORE, 280.85, Expenses
OLDCASTLE SW GROUP INC, 1456.86,
Expenses
OSBORN, STEVE, 300.00, Expenses
PIERING, LISA, 40.00, Expenses
PINNACOL ASSURANCE, 5352.43,
Expenses
PROFESSIONAL TOUCH, 182.95,
Expenses
PURCHASE POWER, 2000.00, Expenses
QUILL CORPORATION, 280.63, Expenses
RANGELY AUTO PARTS & SUPPLY,
1023.55, Expenses
RANGELY HARDWARE, 6433.13,
Expenses
RANGELY SCHOOL FOUNDATION INC,
17731.24, Sales Tax Funding
RANGELY TRASH SERVICE, 923.00,
Services
RANGELEY, TOWN OF, 8130.76, Utilities
RBC CLERK & RECORDER, 13.00,
Expenses
REED, DONALD, 216.98, Expenses
RIO BLANCO COUNTY, 18455.61,
Expenses
RIO BLANCO HERALD TIMES, 1562.00,
Expenses
ROBIE, TREY, 100.00, Council Stipend
SBT INTERNET, 45.00, Expenses
SCOTT ALLRED PAVING INC, 6500.00,
Expenses
SENERGY BUILDERS LLC, 3914.00,
Expenses
SGS ACCUTEST INC, 967.41, Expenses
SHAFFER, ANDREW, 150.00, Council
Stipend
STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY RC,
665.27, Life Insurance
STATE BOARD OF LAND
COMMISSIONERS, 500.00, Expenses
SUMMIT ENERGY LLC, 7059.55, Gas
Transmission/Transport
TRANSUNION RISK & ALTERNATIVE,
75.00, Services
US TRACTOR & HARVEST INC, 732.42,
Expenses
UINTAH BASIN OVERHEAD DOOR,
624.00, Expenses
UNCC, 27.72, Services
VERIZON WIRELESS, 656.15, Expenses
WAGNER EQUIPMENT COMPANY,
548.98, Expenses
WEBBER, TIMOTHY, 100.00, Council
Stipend
WEX BANK, 6666.84, Fuel
WHITE RIVER MARKET, 151.06,
Expenses

WHITE RIVER SAFETY, 400.00, Expenses
WILCZEK, KAREN, 300.00, Judge's Fee
WRB REC & PARK DISTRICT, 47.50,
Expenses
250,085.53
Published: September 16, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

Meeker Sanitation District Accounts Payable

August 31, 2021

Total Payroll, \$19,473.46

Quickbooks Payroll Svc. Direct Deposit
Fee, \$35.25

Federal Tax Withholding, \$1,900.00

Social Security Withholding, \$3,425.43

Medicare Withholding, \$801.16

PERA Retirement, \$6,442.72

U.S. Postal Service: Postage, \$346.11

CEBT: Health, Dental, Vision, Life Ins.,
\$18,230.65

Mountain Valley Bank: Merchant Srv. Fees,
\$62.44

Atmos Energy: Natural Gas Svc., \$68.44

Boyo Supply: Misc. Supplies, \$89.95

Century Link: Telephone Svc., \$359.07

Cimarron Telecom: Broadband, \$155.00

CO CPA Service: Audit Srv., \$4,950.00

Column: Publish Accr. Payable, \$24.12

ConvergeOne: Cloud backup svr. For
September, \$208.18

First Advantage Occ. Health Srv.: Drug
testing, \$81.70

First BankCard Visa: Adobe, safety clothes,
\$968.65

Gail Frantz: Reimbursement for Sam's club
renewal, \$260.00

Grainger: Misc. Supplies, \$159.47

McGuire Auto Parts: oil, oil filter, motor
flush, \$151.56

Meeker Auto Parts: Lube, \$229.08

Petty Cash: Replenish, \$100.63

Networking of the Rockies: September
oncall, \$1,050.00

Northwest Auto: Vehicle DOT inspection,
\$849.91

Office Depot: Computer, envelopes,
clipboards, \$238.26

RBC Fleet Management: Fuel, \$284.31

Special District Asso., of Colo.: Conference
Registration, \$1,400.00

Town of Meeker: Water Svc., \$27.10

Union Telephone: Cell Phone Svc., \$217.44

Utility Notification Center: Line Locates,
\$40.92

Valley Hardware: Misc. Supplies, \$7.98

Valley Repair: annual vehicle inspection,
\$1,063.71

Walt's: Misc. Supplies, \$123.70

Western Co. Elec. Control Spec.: Air
handler Labor, \$316.25

WR Distributing: Water, \$33.75

WREA: Electric Svc., \$6,265.96

Total Accounts Payable: \$70,462.36

Published: September 16, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

RIO BLANCO COUNTY NOTICE OF FINAL CONTRACTOR SETTLEMENT RIO BLANCO COUNTY 2021 DUST CONTROL PROJECT

NOTICE is hereby given that on the 12th day of October, 2021 at Meeker, Colorado, final settlement will be authorized by the Rio Blanco County Board of County Commissioners with GMCO Corporation, P.O. Box 1480, Rifle, CO 81650 for all work done by said CONTRACTOR on the project known as Rio Blanco County 2021 Dust Control Project.

1) Any person, co-partnership, association, or corporation who has an unpaid claim against the said project may at any time, up to and including the date specified in item 2 below, file a VERIFIED STATEMENT of the amount due and unpaid on account of such claims.

2) All such claims shall be filed with Clint Chappell, R & B Coordinator, Rio Blanco County Road & Bridge Department, 570 2nd Street, Meeker, Colorado 81641 on or before October 5, 2021 by 4:00 P.M.

3) Failure on the part of a creditor to file such a statement will relieve Rio Blanco County from any and all liability for such claim.

Dated at Meeker, Colorado this 16th day of September, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY
BY GARY MOYER, CHAIRMAN
Published: September 16 and 23, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is hereby pursuant to CDPHE Health Facilities & Emergency Medical Services Division Chapter 2, Section 4.103 (4)

On September 8, 2021, Pioneers Medical Center submitted a State Regulation Waiver Form from Emergency Rule, 6 CCR 1101-1, Chapter 2 General Licensure Standards and the COVID-19 Vaccine. Published: September 16, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement Board of the 9TH Judicial District, which is Garfield, Pitkin and Rio Blanco Counties, is seeking grant applications from agencies and organizations to provide services to crime victims. The funding cycle is January 1 - December 31, 2022.

The board is committed to funding programs which provide direct services to crime victims and implement the Victim's Rights Amendment. Revenue for this fund is generated from a surcharge or fees assessed to people who are convicted of felonies, misdemeanors, traffic offenses

8. Public Hearing

a. Consideration of Ordinance #2 - 2021 approval FEMA Flood Plain Regulations

9. New Business

a. Discussion regarding Police Vehicle bid

b. Update from Chamber of Commerce

a. Public Works

b. Police

c. Town Clerk

d. Town Manager

11. Mayor's Remarks

12. Other Board Business

13. Adjournment

Published: September 16, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

and fish and game violations. These funds are authorized by Title 24, Article 4.2, Colorado Revised Statutes. Federal funds may also be included that require additional reporting. During the 2021 grant cycle the board awarded a total of \$240,000 to 7 agencies that provide services to victims in the 9th Judicial District. It is anticipated that approximately \$240,000 will be available for the 2022 12-month grant cycle.

PRIORITY CATEGORIES:

1) In accordance with 24.4-103(5), priority use for moneys in the fund shall be the implementation of the rights afforded to crime victims pursuant to Section 24.4-1-302 and 24.4-1-304 related to all crimes as defined by Section 24.4-1-302. 2) Services outlined in Section 24.4-2-105(4) C.R.S.

Completed grant applications must be received by the board administrator by 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 12th, 2021. Steve Auran, VALE Board Administrator

9th Judicial District Attorney's Office
109 8th Street, Suite 308
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
sauran@sdaco.org
(970) 384-3517

Published: September 9 and 16, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

MISC NOTICES

Conservancy District has been set before the District Court for Friday, November 5, 2021 commencing at 8:30 a.m. in the District Court Room, Rio Blanco Combined Court, 555 Main Street, Meeker, Colorado. Any party interested in serving as a director must submit an application and appear at the Rio Blanco County District court at such time or contact undersigned counsel to participate by telephone. Directors may serve at-large where there is a vacancy in a particular District and are not required to own property within a specific District.

Preference will be given to applicants owning property within a particular District. The Districts for which applications will be considered are: Lower White River #1 and Meeker District #4. To qualify, the Applicant must be a resident of the Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District. Applicants should be knowledgeable in water matters and familiar with the beneficial use of water in the YJWCD's boundaries. Applications must be in writing with resumes showing background in water use and filed with the Clerk of the District Court, Rio Blanco County Combined Court, P.O. Box 1150, Meeker, CO 81641.

Applications will be accepted by the Court until October 1, 2021. Please contact Scott Grosscup, Balcomb & Green, P.C., 970-945-6546, P.O. Drawer 790, Glenwood Springs, CO 81602, with any questions regarding director terms, map of the director district or other requirements.

Published: September 16, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

PUBLIC NOTICE – REQUEST FOR DIRECTORS – YELLOW JACKET WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by arrangement with the Clerk of Court, a hearing to appoint directors for the Yellow Jacket Water

CONSERVANCY DISTRICT is invited to attend by calling 970-878-8091.

4. BID AWARDS
5. MOU's, CONTRACTS, AND
AGREEMENTS

A. Move to approve/deny an Agreement with Jennifer Glynn to provide Family Interaction Therapy.

6. RESOLUTIONS
7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Public Comment
B. County Commissioners Updates
8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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 September 28, 2021 in the Rio Blanco County Historic Courthouse, 555 Main St., 3rd Floor

Please check the County's website for information at <http://rbc.us/186/Board-of-County-Commissioners>. If you need special accommodations please call 970-878-9431 in advance of the meeting so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

Published: September 16, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

PUBLIC NOTICE RIO BLANCO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING

ATMOS ENERGY TARIFF CHANGE

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN TARIFFS ON LESS THAN 30-DAYS' NOTICE

Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos Energy")
1555 Blake Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

You are hereby notified that Atmos Energy has filed with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission of the State of Colorado ("PUC"), in compliance with the Public Utilities Law, an application for permission to file certain changes in tariffs, affecting all residential, commercial, interruptible and other consumers in its Colorado divisions to become effective October 1, 2021, if the application is granted by the PUC.

The purpose for this filing is to change rates by revising the Company's existing gas cost adjustment tariff to reflect changes in the rates charged Atmos Energy by its suppliers for natural gas purchases. The present and proposed natural gas rates are as follows:

<u>Class of Service by Division</u>	<u>Present Rates</u> <u>Total Volumetric</u>	<u>Proposed Rates¹</u> <u>Total Volumetric</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
North Colorado*			
Residential	\$ 0.70527	\$ 0.84286	20%
Small Commercial, Commercial	0.59327	0.73086	23%
Irrigation	0.57866	0.71625	24%
Transportation	0.13817	0.13795	0%
	<u>Average Monthly Bill</u>	<u>Projected Average Monthly Bill</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
North Colorado*			
Residential	\$ 55.53	\$ 64.06	15%
Small Commercial, Commercial	253.74	305.89	21%
Irrigation	237.84	283.80	19%
	<u>Prior Year's Peak Month Bill</u>	<u>Projected Peak Month Bill</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
North Colorado*			
Residential	\$ 103.49	\$ 121.37	17%
Small Commercial, Commercial	491.64	598.96	22%
Irrigation	757.48	926.99	22%

*Notification Published in our North Rate Area Newspaper

The proposed and present rates and tariffs are available for examination at the business office of Atmos Energy Corporation located at 1555 Blake Street, Suite 400, Denver, Colorado, or at the Public Utilities Commission at 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, Colorado, 80202.

Anyone who desires may either file written objection or seek to intervene as a party in this filing. If you only wish to object to the proposed action, you may file a written objection with the Commission. The filing of a written objection by itself will not allow you to participate as a party in any proceeding on the proposed action. If you wish to participate as a party in this matter, you must file written intervention documents under the Commission's rules.

Anyone who desires to file written objection or written intervention documents to the proposed action shall file them with the PUC, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, Colorado, 80202 at least one day before the proposed effective date.

Members of the public may attend any hearing and may make a statement under oath about the proposed change whether or not a written objection or request to intervene has been filed.

Atmos Energy Corporation has filed a separate gas purchase report in accordance with Rule 4607 of the Commission's Rules Regulating Gas Utilities and Pipeline Operators to begin the initial prudence review evaluation for the gas purchase year ended June 30, 2021.

Atmos Energy Corporation
Colorado-Kansas Division
By: Bart W. Armstrong
President

Published Sept. 16 and Sept. 23 in the Rio Blanco Herald Times

HELP WANTED

MA FAMIGLIA'S IS LOOKING FOR FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF.
MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER. PLEASE STOP BY FOR AN
APPLICATION AT 410 MARKET STREET.

EVENING DISH/KITCHEN PERSON, 5 NIGHTS/WK, 6 HRS/SHIFT.
POSSIBLE PREP WORK. CALL HENRY 970-878-4141



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Deputy Coroner
- Dispatcher
- Landfill Operator
- Patrol Deputy
- Relief Cook, Rng
- Relief Senior

Transportation Driver, Rng

For wage and benefit information and a Rio Blanco County application, please visit www.rbc.us or Rio Blanco County HR at 555 Main Street, Meeker, CO, 970-878-9570

ADA/EOE

Subject to change at any time!
For details and an application,
please visit our website at
meeker.k12.co.us/domain/10
or Meeker School District
Administration at 555 Garfield
St., Meeker, CO

970-878-9040

PIONEERS MEDICAL CENTER

With the growth of Pioneers Medical Center and Colorado Advanced Orthopedics Sports Medicine & Spine, we are excited to fill several positions. To see the full list of open positions, visit our website or scan the code below.



PIONEERS MEDICAL CENTER
Complete an application online by
scanning the code or by navigating to
pioneerhospital.org

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

M	O	W	E	C	F	C	K	U	D	U
E	R	D	E	A	D	O	F	I	R	E
T	E	N	E	T	R	A	M	A	G	A
H	O	T	M	A	I	L	B	U	R	N
O	M	A	I	D	S	O	L	O	N	O
C	A	R	L	O	C	I	T	U	G	R
I	R	E	S	L	I	D	E	N	R	I
G	O	B	I	S	T	E	Y	E	G	E
A	M	E	N	D	Y	A	R	S	A	T
A	M	E	N	D	Y	A	R	S	A	T
R	A	C	H	E	R	E	L	Y	N	E
B	E	A	M	E	R	E	L	Y	N	E
M	O	B	U	T	U	M	A	D	E	L
W	A	X	E	N	R	A	D	I	T	R
A	L	E	C	A	N	T	E	G	E	S
R	I	N	K	E	A	H	D	E	N	T

PLEASE
RECYCLE
THIS PAPER!



~ Desmond Tutu

Arrogance really comes from insecurity, and in the end our feeling that we are bigger than others is really the flip side of our feeling that we are smaller than others.

~ Desmond Tutu

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

Cimarron Telecommunications
Your Locally-owned Internet Service Provider
Meeker & Rangely • (970)878-4421

BRENTON SERVICE COMPANY
Electrical • Refrigeration • Heating
Cooling • HVAC • Appliance Repair
24 HOUR SERVICE
Commercial • Residential • Industrial
970-629-3605 • 970-439-5025
303 W. Main St., Rangely

Casey Tech Services, LLC
• Computer Diagnostics & Repair
• Virus & Spyware Clean-up & Removal
• Audio/Visual Cabling & Consulting
• Residential & Business Networking Solutions
For ALL your local computer support needs!
MARTY CASEY
970.878.4650
support@caseytechservices.com

ELECTRICAL WORK OF ALL KINDS
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739 East Main Street, Rangely • 563 Market Street, Meeker
675-8368 • Alan Ducey • 878-4144
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262 6th Street | PO Box 476 | Meeker, CO 81641
970-878-5606
Complete Automotive Repairs
Computer Diagnostics | Machining | Fabricating | Welding
It's not rocket science.
Phil Mass Mike Mohr

State Farm
KEVIN AMACK, AGENT
Rangely • Meeker
675-5455 878-4036

Stewart Welding
98 County Road 46
• **Trailer Axles & Accessories** •
24 - Hour Service on Welding & Machine Work
Reflex Spray On Bedliner Dealer
Certified Oilfield Welders
Ed Stewart: 675-2063
SHOP PHONE: 675-8720

MEEKER COLLISION CENTER
BODY & FRAME
43904 highway 13
meeker, colo. 81641
970.878.0000
Auto Glass Chip Repair Auto Body Spray-In Bedliners

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Craig • Meeker • Rifle • Parachute • Steamboat • Rangely • Glenwood
- WILLS - MINERAL
- REAL ESTATE - PROBATE
- BUSINESS - TRUSTS
- CRIMINAL - TRAFFIC
DILIGE ET QUOD VIS FAC
Joe Fennessy ATTORNEY (former prosecutor)
Weekends & Nights
P.O. Box 1518 | 613 Park Avenue
Meeker, CO 81641-1518
Behind Meeker Courthouse
Office: 1-970-878-4783
Toll Free: 1-877-878-4783
Fax: 970-878-5494
Cell: 1-970-220-2529 or 220-2LAW
Website: FennessyLaw.com
Email: Joe@FennessyLaw.com

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16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS

RIO BLANCO HERALD TIMES

Thursday, September 16, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

AUCTIONS

Contractor's Auction
Saturday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m. at 406 Yampa Ave. Craig, Colorado. Snow machine, 2 flatbed trailers, 20' truck that dumps, pickup tool van, concrete form truck with 2000 ft. foundation forms, concrete tools of all kinds, scaffolding, hand and power tools of all kinds, lumber, wood and tin, 42' floating dock, saddle and pack items, office desk, file cabinets, antiques, 2 good printers, copiers and more. APH Construction retiring after 40 years. For more info call Steve Claypoole, CP Auction Service, 970-260-5577. See web at cpauction.com. Call us about a sale for you!

COUNTRY FARM AND RANCH AUCTION
Saturday, Sept. 25, 10AM
6232 CR 8 Meeker, Colorado,
6 miles up White River.
Two 40ft conex containers,
2 40ft semi vans, 3 part
attachments, fencing, tire
machine, antiques and
collectables, furniture, saddles
and tack, lots of harness, traps,
tools and more. For more info,
call Steve Claypoole CP Auction
Service 970-260-5577 must see
web www.cpauction.com Call
Us About A Sale For You!

ELDER CARE SERVICES

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Western Slope In-Home Care
www.westernslopehomecare.com
970-878-7008

WAREHOUSE ON MAIN STREET FOR RENT
5,000 FEET HEATED WAREHOUSE
AT 675 MAIN STREET FOR RENT.
PLEASE CALL 970-683-1875 FOR
MORE INFORMATION.

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.



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

HOMES: MEEKER

Rustic log home. 10 acres or 108
acres. 3BDR/1.75BA, cistern, barn,
shop. Set up for horses or cows. 4
miles west of Meeker. Call for info.
970-756-0718

YARD SALES (WOO!)

ESTATE/YARD SALE

ONE DAY ONLY!

SATURDAY, SEPT. 18, 8 a.m. to ?
858 5th Street, Meeker

Antiques, Silver, Brass, Crystal, Jewelry, Piano,
Entertainment Center, Brand new remote lift recliner,
China hutch (antique and new), Oil lamps, Antique sewing
machine, Brass bed, bedroom furniture.

This is just the tip of the iceberg,
it is an open house/shop SALE!

Items are priced to go!

DON'T MISS OUT!!

Colorado Statewide Classified Advertising Network

To place a 25-word COSCAN Network ad in 91 Colorado newspapers for only \$300, contact your local newspaper or email Colorado Press Association Network at rtoldeo@coloradopress.net

WESLEY FINANCIAL

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees canceled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare!
Free Consultations!!
Over 450 positive reviews!!
Call: 855-396-3805

INOGEN PORTABLE OXYGEN

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One.
Free information Kit! Call 855-955-4723

LIFE ALERT

One Press of a button sends HELP FAST! 24/7!! At home and on the go. Mobile Pendant with GPS. FREE First Aid Kit (with subscription) Call: 833-386-0792 FREE Brochure!

LIFE LINE SCREENING

Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149 Call 1-844-986-2208

WANTED TO BUY OR TRADE

FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals Call: 312-291-9169 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com

AMERIGLIDE ACCESSIBILITY SOLUTIONS

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide Today! 1-844-341-2349

YARD SALE
3776 County Road 13 past golf course, Meeker. Saturday, Sept. 18 from 8-11:30 a.m. Follow signs. Snowmobiles, accessories, water pump, lift. Household items, chairs, mattress, clothes, mens work pants, young ladies, Aeropostale, Silver and American Eagle clothing and homecoming dresses and much more!

Sale 7 miles up County Road 7, Meeker
Sept. 17 and 18, 8:00 - 1:00
Antique children's roll top desk, 1950's formica dining set, old dropleaf table, dishes, blankets, comforters, towels, fun teaching tools for elementary ages, LEER Truck topper, to name a few. Priced to sell

REAL ESTATE CORNER

STREAMLINE REALTY, LLC

970.878.7700

Streamline-Realty.com

600 Main Street • Meeker, CO



80 Rd. 54: 35+ lush acres along 1 mile of the White River. 2 potential lots	\$3,900,000
15807 Rd. 8: Custom 3BD/2.5BA home overlooks the White River, 5 acres, borders public land	\$834,000
NEW 58.25 acres east of Pioneers Medical Center..	\$699,000
237 Rd. 75: Large cabin, located moments from multiple trailheads, 30 miles east of Meeker.....	REDUCED \$599,000
12.69 acres close to Lake Avery, irrigation water rights, south facing views of the valley	\$480,000
1450 Mountain View Rd.....	PENDING
980 9th St.....	PENDING
NEW 980 Cleveland St.: Log home on 3 town lots-main level 2BD/1BA, lower level is a lock-off rental 1BD/0.75BA ...	\$280,000
8.45 acres at the top of 6th Street, great building location for one or more homes.....	\$249,000
7.46 acres on East Market St., great highway visibility, potential for residential, agricultural or commercial	\$245,000
1110 Hill St.: Split design 4BD/2BA home, strong income producer or primary residence	\$225,000
NEW 73432 Hwy. 64: Cozy 2BD/1BA cottage, 2.402 acres, water well and irrigation water rights	\$199,000
GAME UNIT 11 - 240 Acres in Indian Valley, late season hunting and quiet getaway property	\$189,000
109 Market St.: Corner lot on HWY 13, surrounded by thriving businesses.....	\$167,000
11 lots in Ridge Estates, 2.5 acre lots, domestic & irrigation water, private road, close to town....	Prices \$45,000 - \$130,000
NEW 13.45 acres south of Pioneers Medical Center	\$80,700
NEW 871 9th St.: 11,280 SQFT vacant lot w/ views over the town, water & sewer taps paid.....	\$67,000

FREE Coffee & Conversation - 1st Friday of each month @ Streamline Realty Office, 8 a.m.



99.33 acre ranch on the White River

Huge shop, well, water rights, pond and more. Excellent property for agriculture or an investment!

NEWLY REDUCED! \$700,000

RANCHES

99.33 acre ranch west of Meeker located on the White River. Huge 12,225 sq. ft. steel shop, water well, irrigation water rights, pond and gravel. Excellent property for agriculture or an investment. NEWLY REDUCED: \$700,000.

125± acres - Vacant land with water rights. Close to town. \$750,000.

1001 County Rd. 36, Meeker - 145± total acres, ranch with 4 BD/3BA home, metal insulated shop, insulated barn and pipe corrals. Mostly irrigated with water and spring rights and creek. Only 3 miles from town. \$1,200,000.

VACANT LAND

Sanderson Hills Lots - Great building sites! UNDER CONTRACT!

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



WESTERN EXPOSURES

REALTY, Inc.

2777 CR 7, Meeker, CO

westernexposures.com • 970.878.5877

ONEA MILLER ~ Broker

oneamiller@gmail.com • 970.321.2777

SAMANTHA LOPEZ ~ Realtor

samlopez.we@hotmail.com • 970.440.0411

MAKE YOUR MOVE AND START OFF ON THE RIGHT STEP

We'll help you get the right mortgage to fit your family's needs and budget.



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(970)878-0103 | kcook@bankmvb.com

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Member of Craig Board of Realtors & Aspen, Glenwood Springs, Rifle and Craig MLS.

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