

# State mental health safety net is failing Coloradans

Will planned reforms fix or further the problems?

By **SUSAN GREENE**  
Colorado News Collaborative

This investigation is part of the ongoing "On Edge" series about Colorado's mental health by the Colorado News Collaborative, the nonprofit that unites more than 160 communities and news outlets like ours to ensure quality news for all Coloradans. The series title reflects a state that has the nation's highest rate of adult mental illness and lowest access to care, and the fact that state government is on the edge of either turning around its behavioral health care system or simply reorganizing a bureaucracy that is failing too many Coloradans.

Matt Vinnola lay curled up on a downtown sidewalk one Sunday in September, his eyes as blank as those of the stuffed lamb he was using as a pillow. The former honors student and youth Taekwondo champion seemed too out of it to shoo a fly off his lip or realize he was peeing through his shorts onto the concrete. If he noticed the woman offering Wet Wipes or the man trying to hand him a \$5 bill, he showed no interest.

"Tell them, just tell them I don't need help so stop it," he grumbled to no one in plain sight.

The voices in Vinnola's head whisper and yell. They can be so loud, so constant, he figures everyone can hear them. Chronic paranoid schizophrenia and an addiction to shooting up whatever he can find to still the voices have landed the 29-year-old Denverite in emergency rooms, psychiatric wards and jails so many times that his mother stopped counting.

Crisis after crisis, Janet van der Laak had to push the Mental Health Center of Denver to provide care for her son instead of finding reasons to deny it. Each time the center dropped him from treatment, Vinnola lost more faith in seeking help. And the more faith he lost, the harder his mother pressed because he was free falling and she alone could not catch him.

"What kind of safety-net system blows off the hardest cases?" van der Laak once wrote in a note to herself. "Giving up on Matt, giving up on anyone in crisis should not



be an option."

As part of our ongoing "On Edge" coverage of mental health statewide, the Colorado News Collaborative has spent six months investigating a state behavioral health system that turns away some of the most vulnerable and at-risk Coloradans in crisis, with no recourse from state officials. We zeroed in on the 17 community mental health centers that are paid more than \$437 million a year in tax dollars to serve as the core of Colorado's safety net.

We learned that Colorado, the state with the nation's highest rate of adult mental illness and lowest access to care, has been giving those centers non-compete contracts and a privileged rate status for nearly 60 years, without meaningful oversight.

Our investigation shows that the centers—most now facing workforce shortages—collectively have treated fewer clients during the pandemic than before it, despite skyrocketing mental health needs. At the same time, more than half the centers have been sitting on liquid reserves of \$10 million or more. Denver's center kept more than \$40 million in liquid reserves while its clients faced record-long wait times for care.

COLab also found that, starting long before the pandemic:

- The state's payment system inadvertently created a financial incentive for the centers to take on fewer ill people and charge higher costs, while also protecting them from competition.
- The centers have been charging taxpayers up to 17 times more than independent Medicaid providers for the same services, but with little transparency about the expenses those rates are based on.
- Several centers, including those in communities with sizable immigrant populations, have had no Spanish-speaking care providers.
- And some centers have been paid for programs they've not provided, with no pushback from the state agen-

cies funding—and charged with regulating—them.

We learned that some of these and other questionable practices stem from a long record by the centers' powerful trade association of pressuring the state to avoid reforms that would ensure greater transparency and accountability.

Even now, as Gov. Jared Polis's administration is poised to launch a new cabinet-level department to carry out those reforms, we've found that state government, at the urging of the trade group, is backpedaling. Months before the new Behavioral Health Administration even launches in July, state officials already have ruled out key ways of regulating the centers more closely. They also have all but scrapped what was supposed to be a top safety-net priority for the new department: Stepping in when the centers fail clients like Vinnola and trying to catch them before they hit bottom.

## COLORADO'S "SAFETY NET"

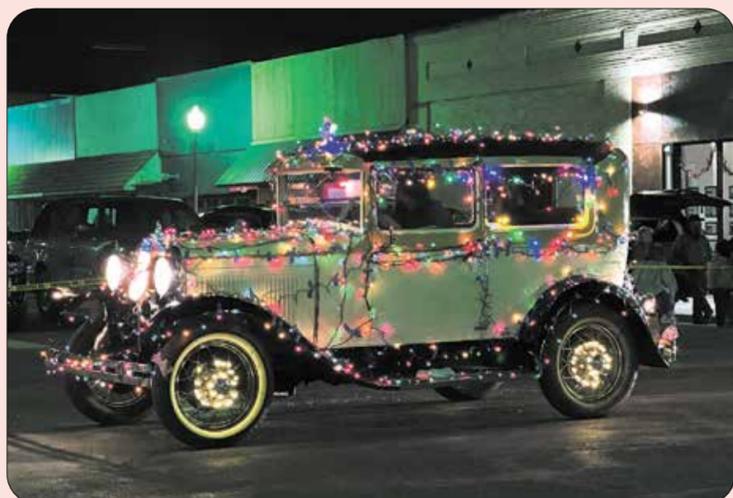
The community mental health movement took root in the 1960s when President John Kennedy called to deinstitutionalize people with mental illnesses. Private nonprofits popped up around Colorado to offer the mental health services—and, eventually, addiction counseling—needed to keep people out of hospitals and in their communities.

Those organizations eventually became the 17 regional community mental health centers (CMHCs) the state has relied on for more than a half-century to treat Coloradans who are indigent, on Medicaid or underinsured and can't pay for private treatment, and to stabilize people in crisis. They are each contracted to provide inpatient hospitalization, intensive outpatient treatment, outpatient psychiatric care, counseling, and other forms of assistance to residents of the counties they're responsible for serving.

The centers have helped generations of people throughout Colorado, especially those with less complex mental health needs. According to the state, they collectively served 158,911 clients in the fiscal year ending in June.

"Colorado is lucky to

# PARADE OF LIGHTS...



TIFFANY JEHOEK PHOTO

It felt more like the set of a Hallmark Christmas movie (without the faux snow, or any snow), but the parade of lights and fireworks display downtown still ushered in this year's holiday season with cheer last weekend. The winners of the 2021 Parade of Lights in Meeker are as follows: "Its a Wonderful Life" Best of Show Award goes to Rivers Bend Outfitting and the Draft Horse Team. The "Clark Griswold" Brightest Award goes to the Brickey family's Model A. The "Santa's Elves Choice" Award goes to the Girl Scout Troops and their Snowball Fight. The Muxlow family — owners of Country Raised — served as judges for this year's parade. Trina Zagar Brown and Matt Holliday were the announcers. [More photos at ht1885.com](http://ht1885.com)

If you're experiencing a mental health crisis, call the Colorado crisis hotline at

**1-844-493-TALK(8255)**

There is no wrong reason to reach out.

Mind Springs cited privacy reasons for refusing to discuss the case.

Emma Harmon, a single mom and Medicaid recipient in Durango, called Axis Health System when she was so depressed she was thinking about suicide several times an hour. She says the center made her wait six weeks for an intake appointment, then three more to meet with someone for a treatment plan. She asked to see a psychiatrist in the meantime, but was told he was busy. Her mother took her to the hospital, which released her because she hadn't actually hurt herself.

Axis' spokeswoman would not comment on Harmon's case. "I was on the brink of death—so, so close to killing myself, and they said 'You're fine' and never followed up with me," Harmon says. "The way things seem to work there, you'd actually have to have killed yourself before they'd meet with you."

If you're experiencing a mental health crisis, call the Colorado crisis hotline at 1-844-493-TALK(8255). There is no wrong reason to reach out.

## A RAINY DAY

Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council, the centers' trade group, represents them in negotiations with Colorado's Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, which provides about two-thirds of their public funding through Medicaid, and with the Office of Behavioral Health, which provides approximately the remaining third through a complex web involving 18 state agencies and more than 75 programs. The state has handed the centers decades of automatic contract renewals despite long standing local concerns about their services.

Commissioners in most of Colorado's 64 counties have over the years complained that their law enforcement and human service officials end up handling mental health crises when the centers fail to do so. Parents raise their hands at support group meetings

to describe the desperation of having to send teenagers experiencing psychotic breaks across the state because there were no adolescent psychiatric beds open near them. Some people with severe depression are limited to two or three therapy appointments, but prescribed drugs indefinitely, with little follow-up.

State mental health officials have long been aware of these and other problems.

"The centers and the state have been failing people," says Robert Werthwein, director of the Office of Behavioral Health, which will morph into the Behavioral Health Administration when the new department launches in July.

The Council—whose members pay an average \$66,000 in dues annually—has, in the meantime, spent years lobbying and litigating to limit the number of independent contractors the state authorizes to receive Medicaid dollars.

"The centers pretty much have a corner on their local markets and don't want competition," says Byron Pelton, a Logan County commissioner and member of the state task force aiming to increase access to behavioral health care.

The Council also has pushed to preserve its members' favored Medicaid reimbursement rate status with the state. The Mental Health Center of Denver receives \$592 in Medicaid reimbursement for an hour of counseling, for example, compared to the \$91 Medicaid pays an independent clinician for the same service. And the Denver center receives \$818 for an hour of crisis intervention compared to the \$47.50 an hour paid the private provider.

Those reimbursement rates are based on a formula—developed by the centers' trade group in conjunction with the state—that divides a center's overall expenses for any given year by the total number of services it provided the year prior. The higher a center's spending and the lower the number of times it treats clients, the more money

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COLAB PHOTO

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Your gift will be matched 100% by the Colorado News Collaborative through Dec. 31st!



Saturday: 20s/0s



Sunday: 30s/10s



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# COUNTY BEAT

## Sheriff's office works to dispel jail misinformation

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

### COMMUNICATION ISSUES

Elected officials, staff and law enforcement personnel from all three local government entities filled the county courthouse Monday to discuss the recent closure of the Justice Center/jail. RBC Sheriff Anthony Mazzola announced the closure in September 2021 at the beginning of this year's budget cycle. Since that time, the subject has been revisited in detail on multiple occasions as part of the normal budget process, and because of public scrutiny.

Despite these discussions, RBC commissioners felt that the other entities affected by the closure needed a more detailed explanation, hence this week's meeting.

Attendees representing the Town of Rangely and the Rangely Police Department spoke about a lack of communication from both the Sheriff's Office and

the Commissioners. "We're not working together, elected officials need to communicate," said Rangely Trustee Tim Webber. Rangely Mayor Andy Shaffer reiterated Webber's remarks, stating, "communication hasn't been good at all." County officials, including Sheriff Mazzola, responded by noting that the problem is a "two way street," but expressing a desire to improve communication moving forward.

Rangely Police Chief Ti Hamblin shared his department's frustrations with the closure, mostly related to increased time and cost associated with transporting inmates to Moffat County. He said of 16 arrests made since the jail was closed on Oct. 11, nine were transported to Moffat County. The other seven arrests, which may have normally led to jail bookings, were released. Hamblin said releases happened when Moffat County jail reported a full jail. He noted, however, those seven instances were mainly minor

issues like outstanding traffic violations that would not have required incarceration. Hamblin added that Moffat County Sheriff KC Hume has been great about accepting inmates "when it's been really important."

Sheriff Hume also attended the meeting to provide context from the perspective of the Moffat County Jail. He described how COVID restrictions have impacted jail booking times and capacity. Even if the jail has plenty of beds available, it may not have capacity to book a large influx of people, as new inmates have to be tested for COVID and, if necessary, isolated before entering the general jail population. These efforts to mitigate COVID outbreaks in the jail have been taken more seriously after the ACLU filed a lawsuit against the Weld County Sheriff for allegedly failing to protect the jail population from contagion.

Hume disputed the claim of the jail turning away inmates. He said the jail has and will accept anyone coming in, with the caveat that only a certain number of people (5) can use the booking/testing/isolation facilities at once. COVID restrictions aside, Hume pointed out a general reduction in the jail population overall, because law enforcement is using more discretion about who needs to be arrested and detained long term. "We're seeing that more in Moffat as well with the Craig Police Department and Colorado State Patrol where they're citing people more often than not," said Hume, describing them as people who "they have a reasonable belief are going to show up to court and do the things they need to do."

**LEGISLATION, REVENUES, COSTS**  
Following comments and concerns from meeting

attendees, Sheriff Mazzola reiterated that he did not want to close the jail, but a variety of financial factors motivated the decision. "Our revenues are declining; we do not have the money," said Mazzola, explaining that just like other department heads and elected officials, he cut 5% of actual expenditures in 2020, which meant losing one patrol deputy. As part of this year's budget cycle, and efforts to make additional cuts of around \$75K, Mazzola said he would have had to cut patrol again even though he was already short staffed. Shutting down the jail instead made the most sense from a "fiscally conservative" perspective, according to Mazzola.

He also explained his reasoning for not discussing the closure with other local law enforcement agencies before going public with the information, describing efforts to avoid a "mass exodus" from the jail staff, which he said happened anyway. Mazzola acknowledged that he could have communicated better.

RBC Undersheriff Jeremy Muxlow shared additional reasoning behind the decision. On top of declining revenues county-wide, the jail's internal revenue stream has been declining at the same time operational expenses have been increasing elsewhere in the department. Recent state legislation was cited as the cause of these financial woes for rural law enforcement agencies. As an example, state Senate Bill 217 added requirements related to body cam footage and compliance with Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) requests in a timely manner, among other responsibilities. These changes meant the sheriff's office needed additional staff just to comply with legal requirements. Legislative changes

have also reduced many misdemeanor crimes to petty offenses and generally placed restrictions on who deputies can detain, which means fewer arrests, fewer jail bookings, and as a result, declining revenues for jails like RBC's Justice Center.

A sustained decrease of local, state and federal inmates in the last couple years have made operating the jail unsustainable, and that trend is unlikely to change anytime soon.

Transportation and administrative costs to house inmates in Moffat County are covered by shifting expenses from closing the jail. The department is also increasing wages for existing deputies, hiring two additional patrol deputies, one special deputy to help with "inmate coordination" and one aforementioned records/administrative position. As both a result of new hires and normal operations, the sheriff's office has a new vehicle on order for the cost of approximately \$55k. Muxlow pointed out that the vehicle purchase lines up with the department's usual replacement schedule. Budget & Finance Director Janae Stanworth also noted later that money had already been allocated for vehicle replacement in last year's budget, and would be rolling over to 2022. To save money, the county will also repurpose Commissioner Ty Gates' vehicle from his time as emergency manager. Despite at least one new vehicle on order, officials and staff noted that nothing is set to come anytime soon, as it is hard to get new vehicles due to the global chip shortage and other problems with the supply chain.

Both Mazzola and Muxlow justified the wage increase by explaining that RBC deputies make less than Meeker or Rangely police officers, and are low-

paid compared to other law enforcement agencies in the state. Additionally, Muxlow emphasized that a short-staffed patrol department can cause burnout, and has cost tens of thousands in overtime payouts each year. In 2021 alone the county spent \$69K on overtime for deputies. "And I understand burnout and fatigue," said Muxlow, noting that he has often had to work double shifts for multiple days in a row covering calls "because we don't have anyone else to cover those calls, or because someone is sick."

**THE NUMBERS**  
The jail's budget, which was about \$1.07 million this year, will be closer to \$230K next year, primarily to cover transportation, contract services with the Moffat County Jail, and to do basic upkeep of the existing building so that it can be repurposed. Currently the idea is to use it as a potential state-of-the-art detentions training center. The savings from the closure will mostly come from cutting 10 full-time staff. Those savings are offset by the addition of four administrative/patrol staff. When all is said and done, the county will save about \$400K as a result of the closure, and RBC residents can expect to see some new law enforcement faces patrolling the community next year.

You can view the full 3-hour discussion from Monday's meeting at <https://youtu.be/g0JqUWg-g?7=706>

You can also review more in depth discussions of jail closure and budget at <https://youtu.be/Gz3JzMHs8xw?7=3055> and on the county's YouTube page [youtube.com/c/RioBlancoCountyColorado/videos](https://youtube.com/c/RioBlancoCountyColorado/videos)

**REGULAR MEETING**  
During a short meeting  
► See **BOCC**, Page 13

You are cordially invited to a showing of new artwork by **Pat Sheeran Daggett** at the **Upstairs Gallery**  
592 Main St. #11, Meeker  
New Artwork and Fine Crafts by Maym Cunningham, Andy Goettel, Suzi Kull, Tasha Goedert, Jere Taylor, Janelle Husband, Roberta Hawks, Jennifer Taylor, Katie Conrado, Tim Knouff & Toby Leavitt  
Please come join our ongoing **December Open House**  
Wednesdays-Saturdays, 12 to 6:30 p.m.  
December 3rd ~ 23rd, 2021  
Partake of homemade sweets and warm drinks while you shop for Christmas delights!



**Ma Famiglia**  
ITALIAN RESTAURANT  
MEEKER, COLORADO

Ma Famiglia will have the following revised hours:  
**4:30 to 8:30 p.m.**  
serving dinner  
through Friday,  
Dec. 17th.

**After Dec. 17th, Ma Famiglia will be closed until further notice.**

**Thank you for your support and prayers!**

**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 Shauna Schreiner's story of substance use and recovery at [solvingSUDtogether.org](https://solvingSUDtogether.org).

**All of us are the solution. Together we can.**

[solvingSUDtogether.org](https://solvingSUDtogether.org) f @

**WE CAN**

Paid for by the Rural Alliance Addressing Substance Use Disorder Colorado

Shauna used to say she was a "professional drinker," but with the support of her husband and others in the recovery community, she has been sober for six and a half years.

**WRB Rec and Park District**

# Christmasfest 2021

**Elf on the Shelf Scavenger Hunt**  
November 29 - December 10  
Snickerdoodle McCheer will be located throughout the town at different businesses every day. Take a picture with the elf and post it on the Rangely's Elf on the Shelf Facebook group page for a chance to win.  
Make a purchase and be entered for a second chance to win.  
Contact McKenzie Webber at the Rangely Chamber with any questions 675-5290.

**Carriage Rides & Chili Dinner**  
Friday, December 10  
1485 LaMesa Circle  
5:00-8:00pm  
We are excited to offer FREE carriage rides again this year! Absolute Prestige will be bringing over 2 beautiful carriages and horses for a Christmas experience to remember. Wildlife Expressions Taxidermy will be offering FREE chili, hot dogs, hot chocolate, and a warm fire for roasting S'mores.

**Saturday, December 11**

**Breakfast with Santa**  
Get your picture taken with Santa and tell him your Christmas Wishes! Gifts for the first 100 kids.  
8:00-10:00am @ Rangely Rec Center

**Christmas Parade**  
Theme for the Parade this year is Small Town Christmas.  
Line up is at 3:30pm and the parade begins at 4:00pm  
The parade begins at the Rangely Fire Hall and ends on Stanolind Ave.  
Parade registrations due by December 9.

**Christmas Tree & Courtyard Lighting**  
5:00 - 7:00pm Tree lighting at 5:30pm  
Hot Chocolate Bar, Food Truck, and fire to keep you warm. Enjoy dinner and beautiful lights before the Christmas Concert. Sponsored by The Town of Rangely

**Christmas Concert**  
A great way to end the Christmasfest weekend! Enjoy a FREE Christmas concert by the A Capella group Vocalocity.  
7:00pm @ Rangely Jr/Sr High School Auditorium

**Snowflake Baby/Pet Contest**  
Last years virtual contest was such a big success we thought we would offer it again.  
Submit a picture of your child or pet by December 5. Voting will be December 6 - 10. Photos can be submitted to the Rangely Rec Center by e-mail, [bgreen@westernrioblanco.org](mailto:bgreen@westernrioblanco.org), or drop off at the front desk.

**Light Up Rangely Contest**  
Wednesday, December 8  
Light up your house for all to see! Enter our contest for the **BEST CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAY** in Rangely. Judging will be done on December 8 between 6:00 and 9:00pm.

Visit our website, [westernrioblancomrp.colorado.gov](https://westernrioblancomrp.colorado.gov), or find us on facebook for more details.

NEWS NOTES

OneSeed fundraiser

**MEEKER** | Come join us to learn about our partnership with Wisdom Ways Academy in Ghana, West Africa and help us to raise money for their school on Friday, Dec. 10 from 4:30-7 p.m. at Meeker Elementary School. There will be a chili dinner. Chili only is \$5 or \$15 with purchase of a handmade ceramic bowl. There will also be custom Ghanaian/Africa artwork and gifts for auction, crafts, games and dancing.

Meeker book club

**MEEKER** | The book club will be reading "Still Life" by Louise Penny. We will discuss the book at Meeker Library on Monday, Dec. 13 at 1 p.m. All are welcome to join in the fun.

Hopewest Handling the Holidays

**MEEKER** | The holidays can be a difficult time of year with grieving the death of a loved one. HopeWest invites you to a free information session that will provide ideas for self-care, new traditions and memorializing your loved one. You can join one or both sessions on Tuesday, Dec. 14 or Tuesday, Dec. 21 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Meeker Library Meeting Room (Main Street entrance). For more information contact Solveig at 970-878-9383 or email [SOlson@HopeWestCO.org](mailto:SOlson@HopeWestCO.org).

MVB community holiday project

**MEEKER** | Let's help make Christmas scent-sational! Mountain Valley Bank is accepting the following items to be distributed to residents of the Walbridge Wing Senior Center throughout the holiday season: lotion, body wash, body spray, lip balm, classic DVDs and throw blankets. Drop off your items through Dec. 16 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 400 Main Street, Meeker.

MVB holiday card workshop

**MEEKER** | Children of all ages are welcome to help us spread holiday cheer by creating Christmas cards for residents of the Walbridge Wing Senior Center. All supplies will be provided by MVB. All you need is your imagination and creativity! Join us Dec. 16 from 4 to 5 p.m. at Mountain Valley Bank, 400 Main Street.

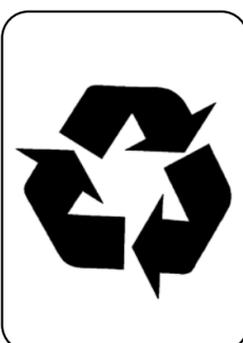
MVB holiday open house

**MEEKER** | Join us for homemade goodies and our famous cranberry tea as we celebrate and thank our customers for the wonderful years. Dec. 22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mountain Valley Bank, 400 Main Street.

*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*



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR ...



HopeWest director Solveig Olson is the well-deserved winner of the Meeker Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Citizen of the Year award, announced and presented last Friday during the annual Chamber dinner by director Stephanie Kobald. Olson has spearheaded the organization and development of HopeWest Meeker, establishing a successful, self-sustaining program that provides hospice and palliative care, grief recovery and more. Olson plans to retire this year. Photo by Kaysyn Davis of [www.mtnmademedia.com](http://www.mtnmademedia.com). To schedule a photo shoot, contact Kaysyn at [kaysynkrystal@mtmademedia.com](mailto:kaysynkrystal@mtmademedia.com) or call 970-756-0165.

KASYN DAVIS/MTN MADE MEDIA PHOTO

**Breakfast Specials**

128 oz. Food Club  
**Orange Juice \$3.99**

10 ct. Food Club  
**Instant Oatmeal 3 for \$5**

10 ct. Food Club  
**Waffles 3 for \$5**

**GROCERY**

24.5-30.5 oz. Folgers	<b>COFFEE</b>	<b>\$6.49</b>
12 oz. Starbucks	<b>GROUND COFFEE</b>	<b>\$6.49</b>
10 ct. Starbucks	<b>K-CUPS</b>	<b>\$6.49</b>
30 oz. Kraft	<b>MAYONNAISE</b>	<b>\$4.49</b>
30 oz. Kraft	<b>MIRACLE WHIP</b>	<b>\$4.99</b>
8 oz. Grey Poupon	<b>MUSTARD</b>	<b>\$2.79</b>
24 oz. Mt. Olive	<b>PICKLES</b>	<b>\$2.99</b>
24 pk. 16.9 oz Food Club	<b>SPRING WATER</b>	<b>\$3.49</b>
24 oz. Ragu	<b>PASTA SAUCE</b>	<b>\$1.99</b>
15.5-16 oz. Food Club	<b>SALSA</b>	<b>\$1.69</b>
36 oz. Log Cabin	<b>ORIGINAL SYRUP</b>	<b>\$4.49</b>
15.25 oz. Pillsbury	<b>CAKE MIX</b>	<b>3 for \$4</b>
12 oz. Jet-Puffed	<b>MARSHMALLOWS</b>	<b>2 for \$3</b>
16 oz. Planters	<b>PEANUTS</b>	<b>2 for \$7</b>
6 ct. Simply Done	<b>BATH TISSUE</b>	<b>\$5.49</b>
12.5 oz. Lysol	<b>DISINFECTANT SPRAY</b>	<b>\$4.99</b>
6 ct. Angel Soft Mega Roll	<b>BATH TISSUE</b>	<b>\$6.49</b>
12 ct. Angel Soft Double Roll	<b>BATH TISSUE</b>	<b>\$6.49</b>

**DAIRY**

6 oz. Food Club	<b>YOGURT</b>	<b>4 for \$1</b>
32 oz. International Delight	<b>CREAMER</b>	<b>2 for \$5</b>
16 oz. Land O' Lakes Sweet Cream	<b>SALTED BUTTER</b>	<b>\$2.99</b>
16.3 oz. Pillsbury	<b>GRANDS BISCUITS</b>	<b>3 for \$5</b>
52 oz. Fairlife	<b>MILK</b>	<b>2 for \$7</b>
14 oz. Daisy Squeezable	<b>SOUR CREAM</b>	<b>2 for \$5</b>
6.5 oz. Redi-Wip Aerosol	<b>WHIPPED CREAM</b>	<b>2 for \$5</b>
6 oz. Yoplait	<b>YOGURT</b>	<b>10 for \$5</b>
12 oz. Meadow Gold Green Chile	<b>SOUR CREAM</b>	<b>2 for \$3</b>
1 lb. Kraft	<b>AMERICAN CHEESE</b>	<b>\$4.99</b>
32 oz. Cache Valley	<b>SHREDDED CHEESE</b>	<b>\$6.99</b>

**PRODUCE**

Choice	<b>NAVEL ORANGES</b>	<b>69¢/lb.</b>
Crisp	<b>CAULIFLOWER</b>	<b>99¢/lb.</b>
Fresh	<b>LIMES</b>	<b>3 for \$1</b>
5 lb. bag	<b>RUSSET POTATOES</b>	<b>99¢</b>
11 oz.	<b>BLUEBERRIES</b>	<b>\$2.99</b>
Cello Wrapped	<b>ICEBERG LETTUCE</b>	<b>\$1.69</b>
Ripe	<b>AVOCADOS</b>	<b>\$1.99</b>
Zucchini	<b>SQUASH</b>	<b>79¢/lb.</b>
12 oz. Sweet Petite	<b>CARROTS</b>	<b>\$1.49</b>
3 ct. Romaine	<b>LETTUCE HEARTS</b>	<b>\$3.99</b>
Red Grape	<b>TOMATOES</b>	<b>\$1.99</b>

**MEAT**

Boneless Beef	<b>RUMP ROAST</b>	<b>\$4.99/lb.</b>
Boneless	<b>PORK TENDERLOIN</b>	<b>\$3.99/lb.</b>
12 oz. Food Club Original Hickory Smoked	<b>BACON</b>	<b>\$3.99</b>
32 oz. Bar-S Hickory Bacon Swiss	<b>SAUSAGE</b>	<b>\$4.79</b>
32 oz. Bar-S Jalapeno Cheddar	<b>SAUSAGE</b>	<b>\$4.79</b>
40 oz. Bar-S Polish, Smoked or Cheese Smoked	<b>SAUSAGE</b>	<b>\$4.79</b>

**FROZEN**

16-32 oz. Food Club Fries, Hashbrowns or	<b>ONION RINGS</b>	<b>2 for \$4</b>
48 oz. Food Club	<b>PREMIUM ICE CREAM</b>	<b>\$2.99</b>
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EDITOR'S COLUMN

# 'Mental health will drive you mad'

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

We're bringing you the latest installment in the "On Edge" series from the Colorado News Collaborative this week. The series — a deep dive into the embarrassing state of mental health care in Colorado — has local impact, and a bit of its roots can be traced to the story we did with Susan Greene in 2019 about the shooting death of Daniel Pierce in Rangely.

One of the "red flags" in that story was the way MindSprings (the local mental health provider) responded to a call from Sgt. Roy Kinney about

Daniel Pierce's bizarre behavior.

Based on a brief—less than five minutes — phone call, Pierce was deemed "not a threat to himself or others," and therefore no official action was to be taken. Not long after, Pierce led officers on a slow-speed chase that would end in his death.

I remember feeling confused and frustrated by the response from MindSprings then. I never anticipated needing to make my own emergency call to the mental health hotline a year later on behalf of a family member in crisis, and subsequently being set adrift to navigate



a broken, bloated, ineffective system that doesn't seem to care. Calling a hotline and being put on hold is agitating to anyone. Being sent home repeatedly without a diagnosis or any plan for care because "you're not a threat to yourself or others," and being tasked with making your own appointments, following up on your own medications and prescription refills, and setting up your own treatment program — all while in the midst of a severe mental breakdown — is ridiculous and shameful, and it puts people at risk.

Fellow journalist Susan Greene's exhaustive research, not just into MindSprings but into the entire mental health care system statewide, reiterates the same kind of horror stories I've now witnessed personally. Being on the "inside" of a story like this makes you feel helpless, hopeless, and lost. The system is broken, and it's going to take awareness and insistence on the part of the general public to change it.

Why bother, you ask? Well, for one, mental illness is the secret 500-pound gorilla in everyone's

closet. No one is immune, and you don't know when or where or how that gorilla will decide to make an appearance. Trust me, it won't be convenient, orderly, or well-planned. For two, there's good reason to believe a huge chunk of our societal woes could be ameliorated if we had access to better (or any) mental health care from an early age, from domestic violence to homelessness to substance abuse and more.

So, read it. Think about it. And let's start demanding real answers.

Have your own story to share about mental health care in Colorado? We want to hear from you.

WHOA, WE'RE (almost) HALFWAY THERE ...

To all of you who have donated toward our #newsCOneds fundraiser, a heartfelt thank you from all of us here at the HT. We're almost halfway to our goal, and have until the end of December to get the rest of the way. We appreciate you, and we will continue to work to bring you the news you need in Rio Blanco County.

You can donate at <https://bit.ly/3xBWb9K> or stop by the office.

KAYE'S CORNER

## Wreath creator extraordinaire

By KAYE SULLIVAN  
Special to the Herald Times



Kaye Sullivan

Christmas elf Gus Halandras works magic on his wreath making. You may know him as long-time Meeker resident, former mayor, Meeker Classic initiator, generous neighbor, and fun guy, but around Christmas, I think he is wreath creator extraordinaire.

When driving by his house, I see that by Thanksgiving, he has harvested a bounty of greens—pinion, pine, blue spruce and the all-important junipers with the colorful berries. They are all fresh bounty and ready to be woven together into a wreath.

Whatever the weather, Gus can be seen outside assembling his wreaths. This year, because it is so warm and dry, the outdoor work is easier, but we both agree the drought is getting increasingly problematic.

Soon to be 83-year-old Gus has been assembling wreaths for some 30 years. Initially, his incentive was creating "our style" meaning homemade and from the heart for the Halandras building. Now he also decorates his house, family members, and a few cherished friends, about 7-10 total each year.

These wreaths are huge, about 40 inches across, and weigh nearly 100 pounds. The greens are secured to metal trampoline rings that he has scrounged anywhere he can find them. Wire holds everything tightly in place along with forming a handle for hanging with an "s" hook.

Great care goes into varying the shades of color, creating what he calls a "tincture of color." The junipers with their dark berries make the designs pop. Each wreath is a work of love that you can tell just by watching him work.

Meanwhile, Christine Halandras is also hard at work decorating indoors and creating a designer holiday festive interior. The couple help each other as needed to lift, haul, advise, or whatever. But clearly, she is the inside expert while he is the outdoors guru.

Christine also doesn't really need an introduction — a master chef, gracious hostess, community generous spirit, and the person Gus describes as "the inspiration for his life," she always looks lovely. Gus is happy that they both stay active, despite aging issues, that we quickly dismiss as a topic best left behind while celebrating the holidays.

I am fortunate to drive by their house often and enjoy these beautiful wreaths — a reminder of the old-fashioned, homemade decorations made with loving care that we can all enjoy. Merry Christmas and thanks, Gus and Christine.



Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable

**Yampa-White-Green Rivers Basin Roundtable Water Supply Reserve Fund 2022 Grant Cycle 2 is now open and looking for water projects within Yampa/White/Green River Basins.**

**Application Deadline Jan 19th, 2022**

For further information see <http://www.yampawhitegreen.com/grants>

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MEMBER

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LOOSE ENDS

## Let it dust?

By **DOLLY VISCARDI**

Special to the Herald Times

“I can’t believe it hasn’t snowed much yet.”

“It better be a white Christmas!”

So many of us seem to be having these conversations right now. It is discouraging as we are so used to celebrating the holidays by going outside. Sure we can drive around and see the lights but some of us enjoy putting on our gear and going out and playing every day while the kids are off school.

I know, I know, it is only

natural to moan about our unusual lack of snow. It is happening more often with climate change, but that doesn’t make it any easier to take, especially this month. We expect piles of the white stuff by the end of October.

I distinctly remember my first winter in the White River Valley. It snowed by the end of October and stretched until till late spring. I continue to write a lot about my love for winter here, both in my letters home and this column still. The temperature sometimes



Dolly Viscardi

dipped down to the minus-20s and just when you thought winter was over, a blizzard would hit.

The powder snow up in the high country was wonderful because I loved going up into the flat tops on my cross-country skis. I had been used to crowded trails and fights breaking out between the skiers and the snowmobilers everywhere else.

Here they all were considerate of each other, as there were miles and miles to be explored by both. In addition, most of my new friends rode sleds

(as they called them) all winter long and packed their skis in with them.

Over the years, I began to complain about the changing weather more than the old guys sitting on the “Liars Bench” in front of the hardware store. When my children were growing up here, they began to write stories about some of the winter outdoor activities we did as a family. They were merely given as assignments but gave me a glimpse of their fondness for all the time we spent together cutting down the annual Christmas tree, visiting our friend’s ranch and going snowmobiling all day, ice-skating, or

watching fireworks from a deck on New Year’s eve.

Both children complained a lot over the years, but eventually wrote about a few Christmas traditions they remembered fondly. Unfortunately, cross-country skiing was too much work and they opted out of going up with us so that they could go with their friends on the ski bus to Glenwood Springs. I hope that all of the students in our schools still get that opportunity.

A home weather video on Facebook the other day showed the result of an unusually dry winter that caused so many problems on I-70 recently. The passenger

recorded the cause of the sudden slowdown, a giant “haboob” hurtling across lanes of traffic. I had been in these type of dust storms in Arizona and New Mexico, but never in Colorado.

The chances for a white Christmas are dimming each day. Oh well, someone will think of a profitable way to look at this. They might create a holiday tradition with some sort with a song to go with it. Let it dust, let it dust, let it dust! Can’t you just picture all the families climbing out of their car to help gather up remnants of that enormous tumbleweed?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Kudos to Sportsman's Club on shooting range

Dear Editor:

I had the pleasure of sighting in weapons at the new shooting range just before Thanksgiving. You’re fortunate to have such a fine facility with room to grow.

The helpers were knowledgeable and energetic and the community should be proud.

Thank you,  
Mike Bullen  
Grand Junction

### You, Rio Blanco Citizens, are cordially invited ...

Dear Editor:

... to attend the hearing of the presentation of the Rio Blanco County 2022 budget, as published in the *Herald Times* (HT) and online.

This is an urgent plea for all Rio Blanco Citizens to be present on Tuesday, Dec 14,

2021, at 6 p.m. in the Board of County Commissioners meeting room on the third floor of the courthouse at 55 Main St.

As we are all aware, significant revenues to operate county government have been reduced or are not even available. We are the people for which county government provides services. Without your input or knowledge of what decisions are being made, the county commissioners will lack the very essence of knowledge to move forward with PUBLIC SERVICES that are most important to “WE THE PEOPLE.” As the public notice in the HT states and I quote, “ALL interested citizens and groups are invited to attend!” I understand we are all crazy busy, but if you care about the services offered by county government, then now is the time to attend to be educated about the decisions being proposed and comment if you so choose.

Rio Blanco County has been through boom and bust cycle before and it will survive. However, without you getting involved, at least to listen to the budget

presentation, the commissioners will be less successful in delivering the services that are important to you and our community.

Please calendar this important meeting and be present. I look forward to seeing a packed county commissioners room on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021, at 6 p.m. Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this invitation and attending this important meeting.

Respectfully,  
Sharon Day  
Proud to be a citizen of Rio Blanco County

### Accurate Moyer recall timeline

Dear Editor:

Last week the committee to recall Gary Moyer blamed us for delaying the recall process. On Sept. 2, 2021, RBC Clerk Campbell presided over a “hearing,” in which she should have recused herself (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Akk1OjKyWzg>) in

response to a protest that I filed on Aug. 13, 2021, challenging the recall committee’s petition signatures on three specific grounds, (I am happy to provide copies of our protest to anyone who is interested).

Clerk Campbell’s ruling after the above-mentioned hearing rejected my protest and upheld the Statement of Sufficiency her office issued on July 30, 2021. On Sept. 10, 2021, our attorney filed a lawsuit in District Court challenging Clerk Campbell’s decision and asked the Court for Emergency Relief under Colorado Revised Statute. Since being served, Clerk Campbell has retained her own legal advice at the expense of the taxpayer. Nov. 18, 2021, a meeting to set the District Court hearing date occurred where Clerk Campbell and her lawyer requested that it be delayed. The accusation that we are somehow responsible for the delay is blatantly false just like the other accusations made for almost a year now. No one wants this to be over more than we do.

Matt Scott  
Meeker

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YOUR LETTERS ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY HT SUBSCRIBERS AND SUPPORTERS.

# RIO BLANCO COUNTY VACCINE CLINICS

## COVID and flu vaccinations, including Moderna, Pfizer, regular and high dose flu shots, are now available at the following clinics. No appointment is necessary.



### • WALK-IN VACCINE CLINICS

EVERY THURSDAY from 12 to 5:30 p.m. at both Meeker & Rangely Public Health offices

Meeker office: 200 Main St. • Rangely office: 101 E. Main St.



### • DRIVE-THROUGH VACCINE CLINICS

IN MEEKER: the 2nd & 4th MONDAY of the month from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Fairgrounds, 700 Sulphur Creek Rd.

IN RANGELY: the 2nd & 4th THURSDAY of the month from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in between the library and public health, 101 E. Main

Do you qualify for a COVID booster?

PLEASE NOTE: 1st, 2nd and booster doses of Moderna and Pfizer COVID vaccinations, as well as pediatric Pfizer doses for ages 5-11 are available at all of our clinic offerings.

Not sure if you qualify? Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera app or navigate to <https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-booster-eligibility#Booster%20doses>

**NO APPOINTMENT IS NECESSARY** for these services. For special accommodations or appointment times for flu or other vaccines, please leave a message and we will call you back as soon as possible. Walk-in flu shots are welcomed but limited based on nursing staff availability.

\*Please call to schedule an appointment for other vaccines, all insurance accepted.

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# New program director to build on CNCC Aviation's 60 years

**PRESS RELEASE**  
*Special to the Herald Times*

The buzz of planes overhead has become commonplace in Rangely, Colorado. In large part this is because Rangely is home to Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) where for nearly 60 years they have been training commercial pilots on the western slope of Colorado. CNCC has educated hundreds of pilots around Colorado and beyond. Alumni have excelled in flight operations at airlines, corporate, private and military ventures.

This week, Colorado Northwestern Community College announced the hiring of Nathan Hardin as its new Aviation Flight Program Director. Nathan is an alumnus of the CNCC Flight Program and served as flight instructor for three years and the National Intercollegiate Flight Association (NIFA) team coach, before completing both a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics from Liberty University and a Master of Education in Higher Education Leadership. Prior to accepting the director position with CNCC, Hardin was the Director of Aeronautics at Southwest Aeronautics Mathematics & Science Academy in New Mexico for three years, where he has worked to expand their secondary aeronautics programming and created their drone program. Hardin is also a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy where he served as an Aviation Electronics Technician.

For Hardin, the position is a bit of a homecoming. "The thing that excites me most about becoming the Aviation Program Director at CNCC is the ability to give back to a community and school that has given me so much. As an alumnus

of CNCC I am extremely proud of where I came from and I can't wait to show this community, and the world at large, what we are capable of," said Hardin.

He goes on to explain, "My long term vision for CNCC Aviation is to bring the program into the 21st century. I see a future at CNCC where we are meeting the challenges of the aviation industry by supplying the best trained, most conscientious aviators possible, in the most well equipped and maintained fleet in the state of Colorado."

That is welcome news for the aviation industry that has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to travel restrictions, many airlines furloughed pilots or offered them early retirement in order to reduce costs. As the world begins to emerge from the pandemic and travel restrictions are being lifted, airlines are struggling to find pilots to meet the rising demand. There are 66,920 aviation jobs open nationwide (over 1,100 in Colorado alone), among 1,668 locations offered by 954 companies.

Thankfully, there are individuals like David Cole who are willing to help. Cole, a former CNCC Flight Program Director and longtime supporter of CNCC's aviation program, stepped out of retirement to shepherd the aviation program while they searched for the new program director. He points out, "The demand for pilots is high and it's just going to increase. Frankly, that's why I'm here. Aviation programs are struggling to find instructors who have the experience to qualify for the position because they're being taken up by the industry."

Cole continues, "I don't think it has been this bad since the mid 70's when

airlines offered to hire private pilots with a high school diploma and pay for the rest of their training."

Prior to the pandemic in 2019, the projected growth in jobs for pilots by 2030 was 10% and for aviation maintenance technicians was approximately 13%. Post pandemic, due to the number of retirements, Boeing forecasts the number of new pilots needed over the next 20 years in North America alone will be 130,000.

CNCC stands prepared to take on the challenge, along with institutional and educational partners "Metropolitan State University (MSU) of Denver has long valued its academic partnerships with CNCC. CNCC's Aviation Technology program and the Aviation and Aerospace Science Department at MSU Denver have collaborated for decades in developing integrated pathways for students seeking careers in aviation as future professional flight officers," said Jeffrey Forrest, Chair of the Aviation & Aerospace Science Department at MSU Denver. "We believe that Nathan is the type of leader who will foster and grow collaboration between CNCC and MSU Denver, and be critical to the enhancement of Colorado as a national center for aviation and aerospace educational services and commerce."

Dr. Lisa Jones, CNCC President, under her new administration has recognized the value aviation has to the region of Northwest Colorado and has committed college resources to expanding an already thriving historical program into a growth oriented program for the future. Investment of resources and expanded enrollments will be to the economic benefit of the entire western slope.

"CNCC has a proud



**(Top) Left to right David Cole, CNCC Chief Flight Instructor, Marissa Coney, CNCC aviation student and Lierra Coburn, CNCC Flight Instructor perform a preflight at the Rangely Airport. (Middle) CNCC 2010-2011 National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) Team displaying awards won at the national completion at Ohio State University, where they were recognized as the top two-year flight team in the nation. (Bottom) Nathan Hardin, new CNCC Aviation Flight Program Director.**



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Learn more about CNCC at <http://www.cncc.edu>.

history in aviation and deep roots in the industry with partners and friends all over the globe", notes Dr. Jones. "For many years the program has topped the national rankings as an outstanding two-year aviation program and its graduates are sought globally."

"Moving forward into the next 60 years, our goals are to expand capacity, opening

opportunity for greater numbers of student pilots; utilize aerospace research to continue innovative approaches to teaching and learning, and build upon the existing partnerships we have nurtured in education and industry.", explained Jones.

About CNCC: Colorado Northwestern Community College enhances people's

## PROPANE SAFETY: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

If your home or cabin uses propane to generate heat or run appliances, taking propane-related safety precautions, especially during the winter season, can reduce the potential for property loss, personal injury, and even death.

### HOW TO PREPARE FOR WINTER STORMS

- Make sure your propane tank is properly marked with a flag, pole, or stake higher than the average snowfall in your area.
- Have an adequate supply of propane in your tank. A regular delivery schedule is a great way to make sure this occurs.
- Know how to shut off outdoor propane supply and indoor propane appliances.
- **KNOW THE SMELL OF PROPANE.** It's a strong, unpleasant odor compared to rotten eggs or skunk spray.
- **NEVER** store or place a propane cylinder indoors or in an enclosed area.
- Consider installing a UL-listed carbon monoxide detector on every level of your home or cabin.
- Consider installing a UL-listed propane gas detector.
- Create an emergency preparedness plan and review it regularly with your family to keep everyone safe.

### WHAT TO DO WHEN A STORM IS PREDICTED

- Snow and ice can create serious problems for your propane system by freezing and cracking pipes, regulators, valves, or other equipment. When a storm is predicted, try to stay up-to-date on the forecast and any warnings. You can also:
- Make sure to clear snow and ice away from all outdoor vents, chimneys, and flues to reduce the potential for carbon monoxide poisoning. Whenever possible, use a broom instead of a shovel to avoid damaging system components.
  - Clear snow and ice from around your propane tank. If pipes freeze and crack, gas can pool in the snow and become an ignition source.

### WHAT TO DO AFTER A WINTER STORM

Use caution in the area surrounding your home or cabin. Check for downed power lines that can create major safety hazards. High winds and falling ice can sometimes move, shift or damage your propane lines and/or tank. Immediately call your local utility company or propane supplier if you notice any of these potential hazards.

### IF YOU EVER SMELL GAS INSIDE OR OUTSIDE:

1. **NO FLAMES OR SPARKS.** Put out all smoking materials or other open flames right away. Do not operate lights, appliances, telephones, or cell phones in the immediate area. Flames or sparks from these sources can trigger an explosion or fire.
2. **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.** Get everyone out of the building or area where you suspect a leak.
3. **SHUT OFF THE GAS.** Turn off the main gas supply valve on your tank, if it is safe to do so.
4. **REPORT THE LEAK.** Once you are safely away, contact your propane supplier immediately. If they cannot be reached, called 911 or your local fire department.
5. **DO NOT RETURN TO THE AREA** until your propane supplier has determined it is safe to do so.
6. **GET YOUR SYSTEM CHECKED.** Before you attempt to use any of your appliances, your propane supplier or a qualified service technician must check your entire system to ensure it is leak free.

### GENERAL PROPANE SAFETY RULES

- **NEVER** use outdoor propane appliances (such as outdoor portable heaters, barbecue grills, and portable generators) indoors or in enclosed areas. This can result in carbon monoxide poisoning or death.
- **NEVER** store a propane cylinder indoors or in an enclosed area like a basement, garage, shed, or tent.
- **NEVER** use a gas oven or range-top burners to provide space heating.
- **DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES TRY TO MODIFY OR REPAIR VALVES, REGULATORS, OR OTHER APPLIANCE PARTS.**
- If melting snow or ice floods any part of your home or cabin, **NEVER** turn on a light switch, use any power source, or inspect your household appliances while standing in water. This can result in electrocution.
- **DO** inspect chimneys, flue pipes, and vent connectors for damage, blockage, or debris.
- **DO** inspect your propane appliances for water or other damage, if it is safe to do so.
- If you find a propane tank on your property that is not yours, or if your propane tank becomes dislodged or is missing, contact your propane supplier or your local fire department immediately.



## ON EDGE: continued

▶ Continued from Page 1

it will receive through Medicaid reimbursement. The methodology effectively creates an incentive for centers to be less efficient with their spending and to limit or even refuse clients care.

"It is hard to imagine how that formula is in the best interest of Coloradans, especially when there are so many people waiting for care," says Nancy VanDeMark, former director of the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health who now works as a consultant.

North Range Behavioral Health in Greeley and Mental Health Center of Denver have the lowest and highest reimbursement rates among the 17 centers, respectively, according to cost reports submitted to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Greeley charges Medicaid \$228 for an hour of counseling compared to Denver's \$592 for an hour of the same service.

MHCD says it needs the higher rates to bankroll the array of programs the centers are required by contract to provide and to subsidize others that don't make money, such as food pantries and homeless shelters.

Forrestal, the Council's CEO, refused multiple requests for an interview. In a series of email exchanges she said comparing the centers' reimbursement rates to those of independent Medicaid providers is unfair because centers offer a greater "depth and breadth" of services. Besides, she wrote, "Behavioral health has been significantly underfunded, and without (the Council's) efforts to secure additional funding, there would be no new money for (the centers) to expand services or build new programs."

The trade group recently hired the state's assistant Medicaid director, Laurel Karabatsos, as a consultant only months after she left the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), and she has been attending meetings with that agency about changing the future payment methodology. Karabatsos has not sought an opinion from the state's Independent Ethics Commission about whether that job breaks the state's revolving-door ethics law prohibiting state employees from taking jobs in industries they regulate, and HCPF sees no conflict of interest.

The centers have received far more public funding since Colorado enacted Medicaid expansion in 2013, and watchdogs say some are wasting it with inefficiencies and other questionable spending.

According to a cost report it filed with the state that serves as the basis for its reimbursement, the Aurora Mental Health Center spent 48 cents on administrative costs for every dollar it spent on care in 2020. That's in sharp contrast to North Range Behavioral Health in Greeley—the most efficient of all the centers statewide—which in the same year, records show, spent 8 cents on administrative costs for every dollar spent on care.

Kelly Phillips-Henry, CEO of the Aurora center, attributes her vastly higher administrative costs partly to updating technology, including the systems required to convert to telehealth care.

Former state Human Services director Reggie Bicha long has frowned on an overuse of mental health funding for things rather than people. He points specifically to the aquaponics greenhouse at the Mental Health Center of Denver's Dahlia campus, which recirculates water through fish tanks and garden beds.

"It's a wonderful little concept," he says. "But from an organization that was constantly saying they needed more financial resources, I wasn't seeing nearly that kind of creativity put into fighting severe mental illness, reducing suicide rates, keeping people out of hospitals and jails and institutions."

The \$15.6 million Dahlia campus was funded partly through the center and private donations, but mainly through Denver Urban Renewal Authority bonds.

For the union representing workers at the Denver center, it is a sore point that CEO Carl Clark made \$819,340 in 2019—the most recent year for which data is publicly available—including \$331,583 in bonuses. That's 10 times more than an average clinician there earned that year. Clark defends his earnings, noting his pay is set by his board, not by him.

He made upwards of two and a half times more than the \$301,337 average total compensation for CEOs of community mental health centers in Colorado in 2019, our analysis of financial disclosures found.

The Denver center's audited financial report also shows it sat on \$41 million in liquid assets in 2020. Clark says his board likes to keep sizable reserves on hand as a "rainy-day fund."

Since the pandemic hit in 2020, Denverites have faced the longest-ever wait times for care as pandemic-related depression and anxiety rates skyrocketed. And Denver's is not the only center sitting on reserves. Nine others kept at least \$10 million in liquid assets last year while their wait times also grew and the state plummeted to the bottom of national ranking for access to care.

"If the CMHCs are not willing to reinvest their reserves to expand access to care now, then when?" VanDeMark asks.

As the pandemic gripped Colorado in early 2020, the centers halted most of their services temporarily, then moved to telehealth. Yet, they still managed to treat more patients in that fiscal year ending in June 2020 than they did the following fiscal year when the statewide caseload dropped by 7,200.

The Council attributes the decline to what Forrestal calls a "dire behavioral health workforce crisis," which she writes has left more than 1,000 job vacancies among its members.

"There simply is not enough workforce to meet demand."

Union members counter that the center

could retain more staff by raising salaries far more significantly than it has—and by using bonus pay for executives like Clark to do so.

### LEAVING HOLES IN THE SAFETY NET

Despite the workforce shortage, the Council has fought a proposal that the soon-to-be-launched Behavioral Health Administration offer "care coordination"—regional teams to work with some of the hardest-to-serve clients to make sure they're not dropped from the centers' care and don't otherwise fall through the cracks. The proposal was meant to help people like Vinnola whom centers commonly refuse to treat if they have pending criminal charges, or show up high or delusional or are otherwise hard to manage.

The trade group has sought to block the proposal, saying the centers already coordinate care for their clients and that the state stepping in to do so could divert funding away from their own services. The Council's opposition comes after it has spent years fiercely opposing attempts to add "no reject, no eject clauses" to centers' contracts preventing them from refusing to serve the sickest clients or dropping clients who are difficult to serve.

The Council has an unlikely ally in Vincent Atchity, president and CEO of Mental Health Colorado, the leading statewide group advocating for people with mental health challenges. On the task force responsible for recommending reforms, Atchity voted against making care coordination a priority for the new department as what he calls "an attempted appeasement of the (centers) that objected strongly to" it. He describes his vote as "more about diplomacy than actual opposition."

The no-voters were outnumbered by task force members who supported prioritizing care coordination as perhaps the most important aspect of a reform package the state has made a point of branding "Putting People First."

Nevertheless, a state report released in early November outlining how the new department will function does not, in 109 pages, mention the kind of hands-on care coordination the task force approved. It instead lists detailed plans for what officials call "care navigation"—ways to help the public on the phone or online find behavioral health providers.

Werthwein—who until this fall was a vocal proponent of providing care coordination—at first said his office intentionally left plans for it out of the report because details about how to staff and fund it "have not yet been worked out." In that same interview, however, he called the omission "an oversight" and insisted the new department will be prioritizing hands-on care coordination and will revise the report accordingly.

But so far, the so-called "care coordination working group" Werthwein's office has gathered to address the issue has made no mention of plans for person-to-person care coordination. Instead, the group is focused only on making the state mental health care system more user-friendly technologically.

At least for now, there is no significant plan recognizing that sometimes the centers fail people, and when they do, somebody ought to step in and keep those people from free falling.

### WHAT WE DON'T KNOW

Werthwein's Office of Behavioral Health says it does not know how many indigent Coloradans the centers are serving or how many people with private insurance policies that don't cover mental health care the centers are allowing to pay on a sliding scale.

State officials also say they don't know what happens to tax dollars centers receive for services they end up not providing. The Center for Mental Health in Montrose, for example, was paid to set up a mobile crisis program in the six counties it covers. For logistical reasons, that program didn't serve San Miguel County. County Commissioner Hilary Cooper spent months trying to figure out where money for her county's piece of that program went.

"They showed me a bunch of fancy budget slides and explained that it's really too layered and complicated for someone like (me) to understand, and in the end, I got no answers," she says.

The Center's CEO, Shelly Spalding, did not, in response, indicate where her organization spent that money.

"I think we're transparent. But maybe other people don't think we're being transparent enough. Maybe things are being lost in translation," she said.

Summit County officials say they could not get an answer from Mind Springs Health about what it did with state money it was supposed to spend on a detox program there, which it shut down without telling them. They also say that, despite years of questioning, Mind Springs has never said how much in public funding it was—and should have been—spending in the county.

CEO Sharon Raggio told them, and us, that there is no such information because Mind Springs does not track services or spending per county, but rather more generally in the 10 West Slope counties it's responsible for covering.

"It's like a frigging ridiculous mystery when you ask about it," says Assistant Summit County Manager Sarah Vaine, who refers to Raggio as "a liar" and to Mind Springs as "The Mob." "The way the state contracts work and the way the money flows is so confusing. And I think the community mental health centers benefit hugely from that confusion because it makes it harder to hold them accountable," Vaine adds.

The centers also benefit from their status as private 501(c)3 nonprofits, which, unlike government agencies, are not subject to open records laws. Federal tax law makes it so the centers can—and do, as we've discovered in our reporting—refuse to provide information about how they spend public funding beyond the few financial disclosures required by the IRS and state.

Voters in several counties, including Summit, have over the past five years passed

tax measures to pay for mental health services they say they aren't getting from the centers. And one, Eagle County, is for the first time in the 60-year history of Colorado's safety-net system breaking off from its center, Mind Springs, to create its own—one that officials there say will be more responsive to their residents. Eagle County's will be the only center in the state that won't be joining the trade group.

County governments have spent years urging state government to reform Colorado's safety-net system so taxpayers don't have to double-pay for services. They embrace the creation of the Behavioral Health Administration, which is supposed to give county governments and the public "a better sense of the dollars flowing into their community, and the outcomes resulting from those investments," according to a state report released in November.

Still, many county officials worry the new department will not be able to monitor centers closely enough because it still won't have control over their Medicaid contracts. That responsibility will remain within the separate Department of Health Care Policy and Finance (HCPF).

"If no single agency is actually responsible for these pieces, we fear there won't be real oversight and we'll just see a repeat of what we have now," says Gini Pingent of Colorado Counties Inc., a consortium of county governments.

County governments specifically have urged the state to audit the centers' finances and conduct performance audits to make sure they are complying with contract requirements and not being double-paid by the multiple state agencies and programs that fund them.

There are no plans for the new department to do so, despite state officials' insistence that it will prioritize making the centers more transparent and accountable.

Bicha, the former state human services director, notes there long has been "significant political pressure" from the trade group not to monitor centers that closely.

"The Council has a tremendous amount of influence," he says.

### FREE FALLING

Before it sought and received lawmakers' approval to create the new department, the state Behavioral Health Task Force heard more than 200 Coloradans statewide testify about the mental health reforms they want—and desperately need—from state government.

Matt Vinnola's mom was one of them.

Her son was in jail at the time in 2019, awaiting a competency evaluation after having been involuntarily hospitalized eight times in a year. The Denver car saleswoman had come, she said, as "Matt's mom, advocate and voice."

Janet van der Laak wanted to know why she could make a routine doctor's appointment for her husband, but not an appointment at Mental Health Center of Denver for her adult son who is delusional, unable to remember

his birthday or home address, and so sick he doesn't always know he is sick.

She wanted to know what families like hers are supposed to do when the centers drop their loved ones from treatment.

She wanted to know what the centers are doing with hundreds of millions of tax dollars if not treating severely sick people like her son.

"MHCD dropped him... How do you drop someone who's gravely disabled? How do you deny someone services like that?" van der Laak asked the task force. "We're leaving out a huge, vulnerable population that we're not treating."

The Mental Health Center of Denver's Clark says privacy laws keep him from discussing Vinnola's case. "Could things have been dropped? It's possible for them to have been dropped," he says, adding that if a client is not seeking care for himself, the center "heed(s) to focus on someone who wants treatment."

Five months after van der Laak's testimony, one of her older sons, Aaron Ruiz, ended his life in March 2020.

Relatives say the family had not been aware of Ruiz's mental health challenges, and had been focused on Vinnola's for the 10 years since he developed symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia.

Five months later, van der Laak took her life by suicide. She was 49.

It has been more than a year since the only real voice Vinnola would listen to stopped saying come on, hijito, let's go get you some help. He has been plummeting since his brother's and mother's suicides, both of which took place while he was home. He had a long jail stint last fall and winter, and for about seven months now, has been living on the streets, off his medication and untreated.

His father and stepfather have, as of our last conversations with them, lost track of him.

When time allows, his father goes looking for the son whose mental health van der Laak put before everything else, including her own. He searches Denver's homeless encampments, occupied by many who also need a safety net, but have learned they can't count on one.

He drives by the condo where van der Laak used to live. The neighbors there sometimes spot Vinnola strung out and sleeping on the sidewalk out front, waiting for her to come back.

Freelance reporter LJ Dawson contributed to this report.

Susan Greene can be reached at [susan@colabnews.co](mailto:susan@colabnews.co). This story is part of a statewide reporting project by the Colorado News Collaborative called *On Edge*. The project is supported in part by the Rosalynn Carter Fellowship for Mental Health Reporting and a grant honoring the memory of the late Benjamin von Sternfels Rosenthal. Our intent is to foster conversation about mental health in a state where stigma and a lack of access run high. To learn more about COLab, visit [colabnews.co](http://colabnews.co).

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## Cowboy wrestling kicks off season at CMU

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

**MEEKER** | After a year of duals and only two teams allowed in the gym at a time, Cowboy wrestling has returned to something resembling a normal season.

The varsity of Trae Kennedy at 120 lbs., Owen Hanneman (126), Ty Goedert (132), Abe Maupin (138), Rowdy Rosendahl (152), Connor Blunt (160), Kelton Turner (170), Brendan Clatterbaugh (182), Hayden Shults (220), and Tanner Musser (285) traveled to the Colorado Mesa University (CMU) Maverick Duals.

The remaining wrestlers went to Olathe for a very competitive JV tournament.

At CMU the team dualled five different teams starting with Gunnison, Delta, Palisade, Grand Junction and then Central. Goedert, Turner, Clatterbaugh and Musser all finished the day undefeated. As a team Meeker was 3-2 on the day,

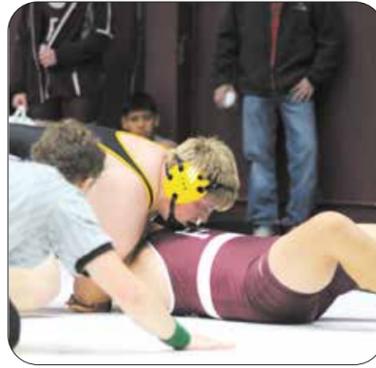
losing to Grand Junction and Central.

Head coach JC Watt and JV coach Carl Padilla both said they were "very pleased with the attitude and effort of the kids this weekend."

Watt commented that the kids "wrestled tough and were in really good condition for the first tournament of the year."

At the JV tournament in Olathe all the kids got four matches and most of them got five. For some, this single tournament was more mat time than they got all of last year. Cade Blunt took his weight class; Clay Crawford and Trevor Keys took second; Teagan Sheridan, Tate Kerchel and Trinden Powell all took third place.

This weekend the team is split again. The JV will be in Rifle Saturday while the varsity is in Cedaredge Friday with duals against Cedaredge and Buena Vista beginning at 5 p.m. and then an all day tournament in Delta on Saturday.



TIFFANY JEHOREK/GAYLE ZIMMERMAN PHOTOS  
**Top left Ty Goedert (132), top right Buzz Clatterbaugh (182), bottom left Kelton Turner (170) and bottom right Tanner Musser (285) all finished the CMU duals undefeated.**

## Panthers dominate at CMU wrestling duals

*Special to the Herald Times*

**RANGELY** | The Rangely Panther wrestling team is ready for yet another season. This year the team consists of six underclassmen and six seniors: freshmen Aydan Christian (113), Landon Carlson (120), and Izaiah Moody (132); sophomore Kobey Chism (132); juniors Colton Stevens (126) and Kasen LeBleu (220); seniors Joseph Adams (145), Alex Black (160), and this year's seniors completing their fourth season are Braxton Moore (145), Zane Varner (152), Brent Cantrell (182) and Byron Mackay (HWT). Unable to compete this year due to injury is Jaxon Torsell, although he is still very much a part of our team and wrestling family.

This year's coaching staff consists of head coach JC Chumacero, assistant coach Michael Dillon, and Jeff LeBleu. The Panther wrestling team opened up their season at the CMU Duals, competing against a total of five different teams. The Panthers started off with two very difficult draws, facing off against Palisade (4A) and

Rifle (3A).

"As a team we lost both of these duals but we wrestled extremely competitive and I was proud considering these were our first two matches of the year for these young men. The Panthers were able to bounce back the next two duals defeating Ignacio 53-18 and a close one to Battle Mountain 42-36. We ended the day facing off against the newly founded North Fork, Paonia and Hotchkiss combined. We lost our last dual of the day," said Chumacero.

Colton Stevens, Izaiah Moody and Kasen LeBleu came up short of wins this weekend. Moody wrestled up in his weight class, giving up about eight pounds to his competitors.

"This really showed his heart and how much he wanted to help his team, we hope to be able to get him into the weight class of 132 next weekend where he belongs," Chumacero said, adding that Stevens and LeBleu also wrestled tough matches. "We need to get them both believing in themselves mentally," Chumacero said.

Landon Carlson and Brent Cantrell were both



TIFFANY JEHOREK/GAYLE ZIMMERMAN PHOTOS  
**Zane Varner (left) and Byron Mackay (right) dominated at the CMU duals in Grand Junction.**

able to secure their first wins of the season. Carlson (1-2) not only got his first win of the season, but also his first win of his high school career. Cantrell (1-4) wrestled well but is another one who needs to start believing in his abilities. Aydan Christian also got his first high school wins going 2-1 on the day.

"He wrestled tough and has an attitude on the mat. He and Carlson are freshmen and have a lot to learn, but I am very excited to see what their future brings."

Kobey Chism went 2-1 on the day. "He wrestled really smart and hard all day. His

loss was a really close match that was partially to blame on me because of a questionable decision."

Braxton Moore went 2-3 on the day also wrestling tough. There is always improvement to be made, but he has a lot of heart. Zane Varner and Alex Black impressed this weekend both going 4-1. "This is the by far the best tournament Black has wrestled. He didn't start wrestling until his sophomore year, so it is really pretty amazing how fast he has learned and improved in the sport," Chumacero said.

Varner dominated all

day. His last match of the day was a rematch from last year against a young man he had beaten twice. "We lost a close one to him, but I am confident we will come back to beat him when it matters most."

Byron Mackay started his first weekend undefeated going 3-0. "He looked solid and confident. He was ready to wrestle and it showed. I am very proud of how all the young men wrestled this weekend and I can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings," Chumacero said. The Panthers will compete in Soroco this weekend.

## WREA Cowboy Shootout starts girls basketball

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

**MEEKER** | After a break in 2020 the White River Electric Association Cowboy Shootout was hosted for the girls last weekend. It was the 20th anniversary of the event. Competing this year were Meeker, Lotus, Coal Ridge, Soroco, Hayden, Coronado, Mancos and Nucla. Coal Ridge took home the top trophy, Soroco was second and Meeker took third place.

"The senior girls really stepped up this weekend and did their jobs," observed head coach Jamie Rogers.

The Cowboys opening game was Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. against Lotus.

"Lotus made it into the playoffs last year and we were anxious to see them. It was a really great test for the first game of the year," Rogers said.

Meeker came out early and commanded the lead the entire game. At the half the score was 25-13 and the final score was 62-43. Sarah Kracht, who also earned a spot on the all tournament team, led with 22 points and 10 steals. Hailey Knowles, who is returning to the team this year after injury, scored 17 points and led in rebounds with 11. Ainsley Selle took two defensive charges in game one of the tournament

"For a girl to take one charge in a season is a big deal, but for a girl to get three in a tournament is huge. Ainsley took two charges against Lotus and one against Coal Ridge; she stood her ground," Rogers said.

The win against the Meteors gave the Cowboys the opportunity to play Coal Ridge Friday in the semifinals.

"Coal Ridge is long and fast and we just had too many turnovers," commented Rogers.

The Titans were able to hold the Cowboys to less than 10 points in both the second and fourth quarter.

"In the second quarter they threw a different defense at us and we got stuck, but the girls followed our halftime adjustments and we were able to play with them again," said Rogers.

The final score was 53-36, with Kracht once again scoring 20 points for the team lead. Knowles had eight rebounds, Hadley Franklin had seven, and Jady Overton and Ainsley Selle each had five.

The loss against Coal Ridge meant that Saturday the Cowboys took on the Hayden Tigers to battle for third place.

"Sarah shot really well against Hayden and had zero turnovers. For a point guard that is really awesome," said Rogers. "We were down in the first quarter 10-7 but the girls found the next step and picked it up."

Kracht scored another 32 points in the 58-34 game win, giving her 72 for the weekend, 15 of which came from her five three-point shots. Knowles had a shot at the half that was all net from half court, "it was a great confidence booster for the team," said Rogers.

"Hadley Franklin was so strong on the rebounds and her defense was excellent," wrapped up Rogers.

Savannah Mendenhall and Kracht each had four steals, and Franklin led with nine rebounds.

The tournament hosts a three-point contest Saturday for the teams. Kracht, Knowles, Brea Garcia and



MyKayla Wille competed; Kracht made it to the finals, Knowles to the semi-finals, and Garcia had two extra tie breaking rounds.

The girls now have a break until Dec. 17 when they travel to Vail Christian for their final game in 2021.

TIFFANY JEHOREK PHOTOS  
**(Top) Autumn Hobbs and Hailey Knowles.**

**(Bottom) All-tournament winners from the ladies basketball WREA Cowboy Shootout.**

# UNDEFEATED ...



**The seventh grade Meeker Cowboys basketball team is the undefeated district champion! Coach Amy Chinn, assistant coach Brandon Sanders, managers Dexter Chinn and Lissbeth Sanchez; team members Elai Powers, Trent Sanders, Tucker Chinn, Johnny Allmon, Heriberto Lopez, Said Rodriguez and Carlos Carrillo.**

COURTESY PHOTO

# Panthers best Manila

Special to the Herald Times

**RANGELY I** Rangely's lady Panthers opened up at the Manila Holiday Tournament against Manila. The team came out strong and finished strong winning with a score of 46-21. All 15 girls went through and found some nice rotations. Miah Wren led in scoring with 13, followed by Dembowski with eight, Mergelman with seven, Scoggins and Cantrell with six each, and Ducey and Halcomb with four apiece.

The Panthers followed up by playing Green River, Wyoming, winning that game with a score of 48-34. Mergelman led with 15, followed by Wren with nine, Scoggins with eight, Cantrell with six, Ducey with four and Dembowski, Cox and Halcomb each chipping in two.

Saturday was a great game for Rangely, despite losing 54-43.

"We had a lot of opportunities down the stretch, we just couldn't find the bas-



MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO

**Number 23 Adelynn Halcomb scored four in a 46-21 win against Manila.**

ket," said head coach Jimmie Mergelman.

Scoggins led with 14, followed by Mergelman with 11, Wren five, Ducey four, Dembowski three, and Cantrell, Cox and Chism adding in two each.

"Overall the weekend went well and we are looking forward to the season, and our home tournament this weekend," Mergelman added.



# RHS boys take to Manila court

Special to the Herald Times

**RANGELY |** Returning to the hardwood at Manila, the Rangely boys basketball team faced some of Utah's top 1A and 2A talent. The Panthers are under the direction of head coach Kyle Boydston who is in his 26th year of coaching basketball and his seventh year at Rangely. The Panthers have three returning seniors: Keihlin Myers averaged four points and four rebounds per game as the Panther's point guard last year; Timothy Scoggins contributed three points and three rebounds off the bench; Ashton Bennett, a returning varsity player, rounds out the senior class and all three have been with the Panthers for all four years. While the Panthers graduated three seniors from last year's team, they are replaced by nine juniors.

"Keihlin and Timothy played a lot of varsity minutes last year. We'll be expecting more from them and relying on their leadership. Many of our juniors played varsity minutes as well and most of

them are two- or three-sport athletes. I look for the 2021-22 version of the Panthers to be much quicker and deeper than last year. Our focus is defensive intensity and I like what I've seen thus far, both in practice and on the court," coach Boydston stated.

Rangely also has two sophomores and seven freshmen to contribute on the Panthers' JV team. Colt Allred, in his seventh year of assisting for the Panthers, will direct the JV program. According to coach Boydston, "Colt knows our program inside and out. He does a fantastic job of building our program and instilling great values in our players. With 21 players participating this year, his contribution to our program cannot be overstated."

Friday at Manila, the Panthers took on the Rowland Hall-St. Marks Winged Lions, an 11th-ranked 2A team out of Salt Lake City. Rowland proved to be a tough match-up, downing the Panthers 72-40. Coach Boydston said, "We had our looks offensively, but it was obvious that it

**Above, the Panthers boys basketball team.**

MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO

was Rowland's fourth game and our first — we didn't convert our easy buckets. We turned the ball over too much, but I was pleased with our defensive effort." Fisher Winder led the Panthers with 16 points, while Scoggins and Kevin Wren both pitched in eight points apiece.

Also on Friday the Panthers took on a perennially tough Intermountain Christian School team (also from Salt Lake City). The Panthers started and finished strong winning the first and final quarters of the game. ICS found holes in the Panthers defense in the second quarter to prevail 57-51. Coach Boydston stated, "Our bright spots were both on defense. Marstan Wagner did a fantastic job guarding ICS's best player in the third quarter and our team defense on our full court press helped us chip back twice from being down double-digits." Wren and Kenyon Cochrane led the Panther attack with 18 and 15 points, respectively.

Saturday the Panthers took on the Manila Mustangs, Utah's fourth-ranked 1A team. The Mustang's defensive pressure proved too much as the Panthers committed 24 turnovers and fell to the Mustangs 60-22. Rangely's JV team also played two games over the weekend. They played very well in a 49-57 loss to Rowland Hall and got blitzed on Saturday, losing to Manila 21-51.

The Panther's next contests will be their home tournament, the 2021 Rangely Shootout. The tournament will take place Friday, Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 11 and will feature DeBeque, Dove Creek, Ouray, North Park, Nucla, South Park and Telluride. A total of 18 varsity games and six JV games will be played over two days on three courts. The Rangely boys team will play Ouray on Friday and Telluride and Nucla on Saturday.



MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO

**Number 14 RHS senior Timothy Scoggins goes for the hoop.**

# WRESTLING ...



MATT SCOGGINS PHOTOS

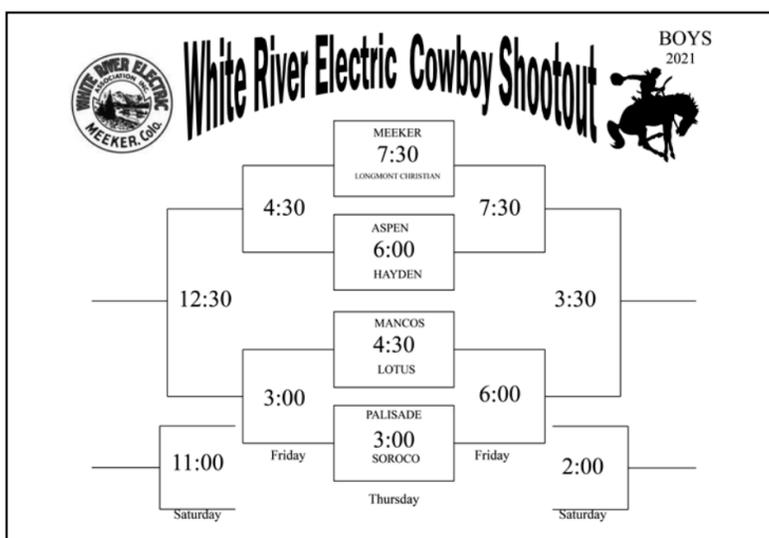
**(Top) the Panther wrestling team and (bottom) this year's senior wrestlers.**

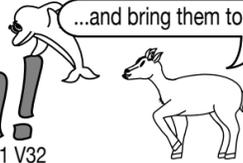
# B-BALL SENIORS ...



MATT SCOGGINS PHOTOS

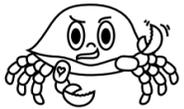
**(Top) Panther basketball seniors are Timothy Scoggins, Keihlin Myers and Ashton Bennett.**



We're going to bake holiday treats...  ...and bring them to the Senior Center.  Kids: color stuff in! 

# Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com Annimills LLC © 2021 V32



December is here!

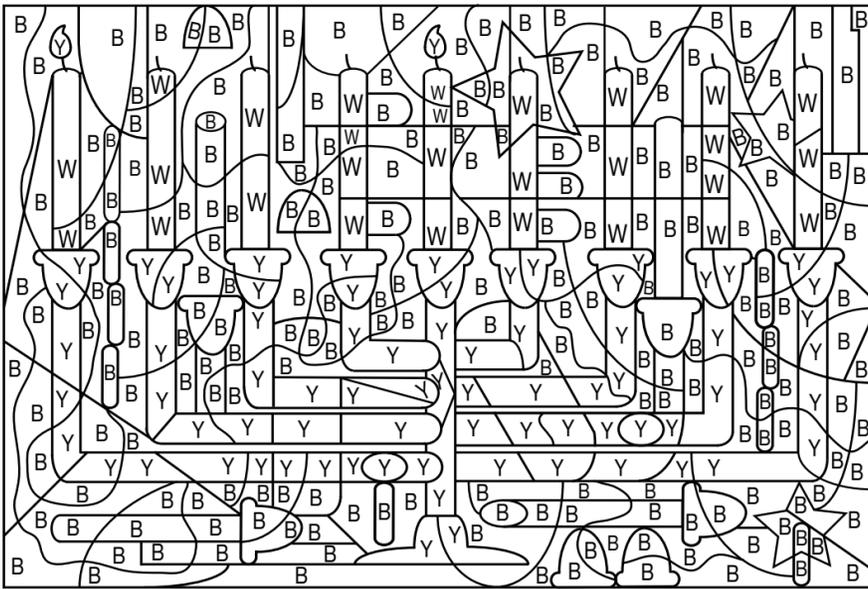
Everyone is busy, busy, busy! They are getting ready for the holidays. Each family has its own customs and traditions. What is your family doing? **Finish the puzzles on this page to find out what people are doing at this time of year.**

Okay, okay the word is out. I love the holidays! I love the hustle and bustle. I'm only half crabby at this time of year.

### Festival of Lights

Color Key: Y = yellow B = blue W = white

This family is taking out a family heirloom. It will help them remember the miracle of Hanukkah. **Find your colored pencils and follow the color key to find out what it is.**

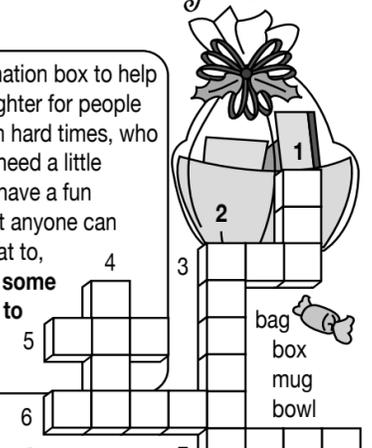


## Holiday Family Fun

My town has a donation box to help make the holidays brighter for people who are going through hard times, who are alone or who just need a little cheering up. We also have a fun community dinner that anyone can attend and bring a treat to, if they wish. **Here are some easy, low-cost ideas to join in the giving spirit:**



tray plate basket

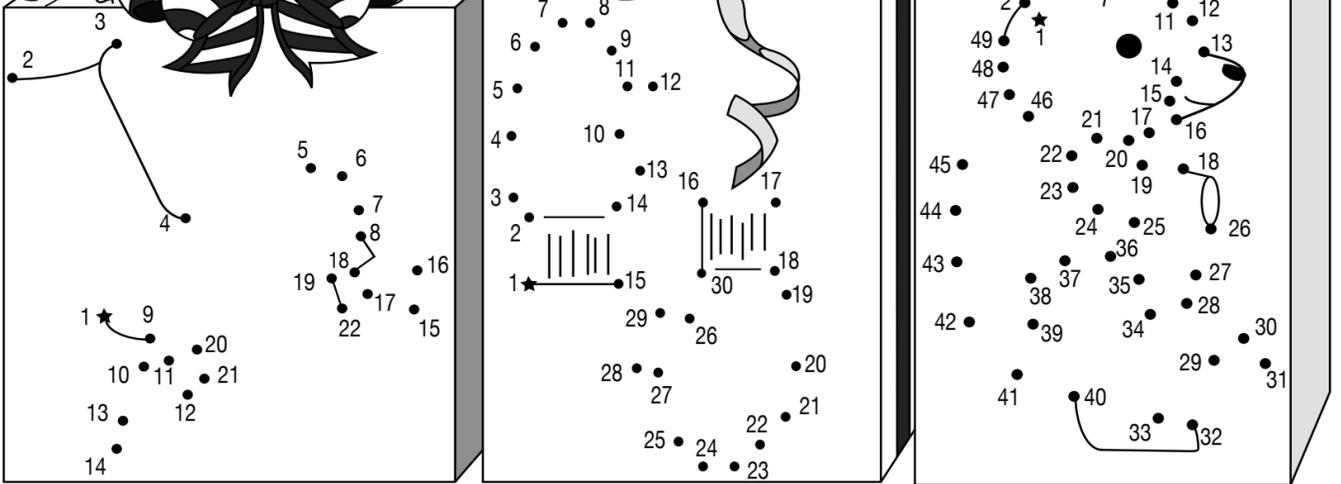


- Put some hot chocolate packets, tea bags or coffee in a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Group small surprises (deck of cards, pencil, score pad) in a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Put a few paperback books in an attractive \_\_\_\_\_.
- Gather some fresh fruit into a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Arrange fancy soaps and small towels in a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Bake and decorate cookies. Place them nicely on a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Place cheese, crackers and jelly on a \_\_\_\_\_.

I've almost finished writing the gift tags.

## The Gifting of Others

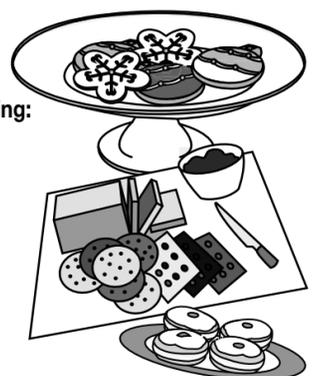
This family earned extra money and bought presents for other families. They wanted to help make everyone's holidays a little extra special! **Follow the dots to see 3 of the presents:**



## Singing & Ringing Out

A group is singing and ringing at a Senior Citizens' Center. They will share songs from different holidays, then they will share holiday treats. **Study the clues to fill in the words missing from the songs they are singing:**

- Jingle \_\_\_\_\_
- Hanukkah Oh \_\_\_\_\_
- Let it \_\_\_\_\_  
Let it \_\_\_\_\_  
Let it \_\_\_\_\_
- O \_\_\_\_\_
- The (12) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Christmas



Newspaper Fun! Created by Annimills LLC © 2021

### THEME: YEAR IN REVIEW

- ACROSS**
- Coalition of countries
  - King trump-er, sometimes
  - Cuckoo bird
  - \_\_\_\_\_ weevil
  - Smelting waste
  - Kitchen-wear
  - Coke or Pepsi
  - Check-in via text, email,

- etc.
- Settler transport
  - \*2021 Super Bowl winner, two words
  - Before long, to
  - Shakespeare
  - Jeopardy
  - Auction action
  - Puts down
  - Coroner's performance

- "High" time
- Wayside stop
- Thinly spread
- Look forward to
- \*\_\_\_\_\_ Papers, leaked offshore account information
- Banana refuse, pl.
- Exchange for money
- Old World lizard
- \*January 20th honoree
- Anti-elderly one
- Those not in favor
- Pita, alt. sp.
- Take without asking
- Gossiper, Yiddish
- \*Perseverance landing spot
- Edible tuber
- \*Kabul's organization in power
- \*The Nobel \_\_\_\_\_ Prize was awarded to Ressa and Muratov
- Snoop around
- Snowmobile brand
- Give the boot
- \*\*"Stronger" by Cindy McCain, e.g.
- Southwestern hut
- Sushi restaurant staple
- \_\_\_\_\_ gum, food additive
- Leave out
- Home to the Leaning Tower
- Not in use
- One in mattress
- Spot for a facial
- \*Actor Liotta, star in "The Many Saints of Newark"

### CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12			13	14	
15				16			17		
18			19				20		
			21				22		
23	24	25			26		27	28	29
30			31		32	33		34	
35		36			37		38		
39			40			41		42	
43			44			45		46	
			47			48	49		
50	51			52				53	54
55				56			57		58
59				60			61		
62				63			64		

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**GRAND ALASKAN CRUISE & TOUR**  
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4				5	7			
	6				9	3		
				6		2		1
			3	4			5	
		2	5		8	9		
	5				3	8		
5	8			7				
	3		2				8	
	9	7						5

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

## DAYS GONE BY

*The Meeker Herald*  
125 years ago

• The most foolish thing people can do is to sacrifice accuracy in the hope of insuring speed.

• A Texas editor says: "Suffer little subscribers to come unto me, and forbid them not, for us such I pay the printers."

• The week started in with the thermometer at 22 below zero, and 20 below on Sunday night. It moderated considerably Monday but remained cold and cloudy throughout the day; Tuesday was the same with a little snow; Wednesday warm with light snow. Thursday and Friday were both clear and warm, and today the sun is in eclipse, but may force itself through the clouds before night.

*The Meeker Herald*  
100 years ago

• There may be nothing in luck. But we have never heard of a man whose subscription to his home paper was paid in advance being struck by lightning.

• It is a dull week that doesn't bring a new crisis of some sort.

• The way to enforce a law is to enforce it. When people fully realize this we will have changed conditions in many respects.

*The Meeker Herald*  
50 years ago

• Two Meeker men, H.G. "Si" Berthelson and Nick Theos, appeared on the program at the Colorado Cattlemen's Association mid-winter convention held in Colorado Springs.

• Selections on the All-Northwestern football team this past season includes eight MHS boys: Bill Stewart, Dale

Overton, Hal Pearce, Mike Jackson, Tom Brumback, Steve Gianinetti, Victor Devereaux and Dick Banzhaf. Honorable mention went to Larry Moyer, David Smith, Ken Norell, Doug Overton, Don Ivie and Galen Homedew.

*The Meeker Herald*  
25 years ago

• Unless something unexpected happens, Meeker will have a 100,000 watt FM radio station by this time next year.

• Lathrop Hughes is pleased to announce the arrival of his new sister, Sydney Marie. Also pleased to welcome Sydney home were her parents, Pat and Becky Hughes.

• The Meeker Town Council on Dec. 10 approved an ordinance annexing the Paintbrush Park property owned by the Eastern Rio Blanco Recreation and Park District.

*Rangely Times*  
50 years ago

• Members of the Rio Blanco County Planning Commission considered the adoption of countywide uniform building code in the near future at a meeting

Nov. 30.

• Rangely's new holiday decorations are up along Main Street. The new street decorations include lighted Santa Clauses on every other light pole on both sides through the milelong street, to go with the lighted strings on each pole.

*Rangely Times*  
25 years ago

• Rangely swimmers will have to find other forms of entertainment for some time to come. Following an expectation of the Recreation and Park District's leaking swimming pool on Dec. 5, district officials were advised that expensive repairs are needed.

• Plummeting assessed valuations continue to plague Rio Blanco County, wreaking havoc in next year's budget and driving county officials to a collective apoplexy.

• The Rangely High School cheerleaders placed sixth in their first-ever state-sponsored "spirit" competition. Larissa Hinaman, Lyndsey Wright, Amanda Hinaman, Kelsey Hejl, Valerie Media, San Riebold, Sarah Crookston, Ashley Chard, Summer Bressett, Laurie Dorris, and coaches Susan Hinaman and Vivian Green.

## THE STRIP #84

THE STRIP from SLEEPY CAT VOGI SHOP For The Holidays: Part 2

First Steps To Every Pose

1. Lengthen through the crown of your head, tucking your chin in just a smidgen to straighten out your cervical spine; stand, sit, or lay tall.
2. Pull your belly button up and then back towards your spine to engage your core and lift your pelvic floor.
3. Stay relaxed through your shoulders and maintain steady/natural inhales and exhales.



This pose is called Chair and is the second pose in a four part series that encourages greater peace through your mind and body during the holiday season.

To begin, stand tall with your feet at hips-width distance apart. With an inhale reach your arms high, but insure you do not lift your shoulders up to your ears. Rather, keep your shoulders relaxed down your back, your neck long, and your crown lifted. Next, with your exhale start to bend into your knees and sit your hips back as though there were a chair behind you. From here squeeze your thighs towards each other, this helps maintain engagement through your pelvic floor and core.

Hold this pose for three to five breath cycles or if you like incorporate Kapalabhati breathing here.

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TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT 970.625.1100

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- ✓ Medicaid (not Medicare)
- ✓ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ✓ Income at or below the Federal Poverty Guidelines
- ✓ Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- ✓ Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- ✓ Head Start (must satisfy income qualifying standard)
- ✓ Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- ✓ Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit

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## BOCC: continued

► Continued from Page 2

ing, RBC Commissioners appointed Teresa Rose Reed to the Meeker

Cemetery board following an interview of Reed that happened last month. The board ratified a letter to the Colorado Office of

Economic Development and International Trade's Economic Development Commission. The letter encourages support of the AGNC Economic Development District as an "Enterprise Zone Contribution Project."

The board also approved an agreement to contract certain family planning services through Rangely District Hospital on an as-needed basis, instead of providing those services via the public health department. They approved a settlement agreement with Utah Gas Corporation regarding the 2020 and 2021 regarding the BAA Appeal valuations. Commissioner Jeff Rector explained that after multiple years of litigation with Utah Gas, the county has come to "an equitable settlement." Commissioner Moyer noted that an official court date was coming up quickly, and said "we're pretty pleased that we were able to save the taxpayers a lot of money by settling, compared to what it was gonna cost to go ahead and go to trial."

The board amended an agreement for "life skills services," which paralegal Vicky Edwards explained has been used more than usual lately. The board also approved an emergency out of home placement contract for the Department of Human Services.

### FINAL BUDGET UPDATE

The final budget numbers for Rio Blanco County's 2022 budget are mostly in order. Budget & Finance Director Janae Stanworth gave a brief overview this week and will present a detailed overview at the next board meeting before commissioners vote to adopt. If the county burns through virtually all (98%) of proposed expenditures next year, the operating budget will be about \$27.5K short. Stanworth noted the county only spent about 95% of what it budgeted for 2021, which she said is normal. More in-depth budget coverage is available in past editions or at our website. You can also see the county budget book in detail at [RBC.us](http://RBC.us)

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Model #403, Augusta, \$42,450	BALANCE OWED \$16,500

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Before Calling View House Plans at [www.americanloghomesandcabins.com](http://www.americanloghomesandcabins.com)

Thank You!

I so appreciate all the wonderful support from my clients during my recent illness.

Thanks to you, I am celebrating my *Three Year Anniversary* in business!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

I appreciate you all! ~ Julia

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1163 MARKET ST., MEEKER  
970.260.6606

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## AGENDAS

Monday, December 13 th, 2021  
7:00 P.M. – Town Hall  
345 Market Street, Meeker, CO  
**Due to COVID-19 precautions, the public is invited to attend by calling 970-878-8091**

Call to Order  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call  
Approval of the Agenda  
Approval of the Previous Minutes  
Approval of Monthly Disbursements  
Public Participation

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

Public Hearings:  
a. Consideration of adoption of Ordinance #03-2021, adopting the Town of Meeker 2022 Budget and Highway Users Tax Budget.

b. Consideration of adoption of Ordinance #04-2021, approving and certifying a Mill Levy and levying general property taxes for the fiscal year 2022.

New Business  
Discussion regarding Overton Recycling annual contract

Discussion regarding job description for Community Development/Planner  
Accept a Brew Pub Liquor License application from Smoking River LLC and schedule Public Hearing for January 18, 2022

Staff Reports  
Public Works  
Police Department

Town Clerk  
Town Manager  
Town Attorney

Mayor's Remarks  
Other Board Business

Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f)(i) for discussion of personnel matters: Town Administrator evaluation

Adjournment  
Published: December 9, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

**MEEKER SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1**  
**Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
555 Garfield Street  
Meeker, CO 81641

December 13, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

**Community members wishing to observe the meeting may use the following link:**  
<https://meet.goo.gl.com/cbf-zadm-syp>

1. Call to Order and Roll Call  
2. Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Allen will lead the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Welcome of Guests  
4. Approval of Agenda

**District Celebrations:**  
**Student Celebrations:**  
**Staff Recognition:**

**General Public Comment Session:** (comments limited to three minutes)  
**Public Committee Reports:** DAC, Meeker Education Foundation, BOCES/SAC

**Principal Reports:** - Attached  
**Superintendent Report:** - Attached  
**Consent Agenda:**

1. Approval: Minutes from Regular Board Meeting on November 22, 2021

2. Approval: 2022 Secretary to the Board of Education - Janelle Unstia and Jessica Browning

3. Approval: 2022 Board of Education Public Meeting Posting Location - www.meeker.k12.c.o.us

4. Approval: 2022 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

**Action Items:**

1. Approval: Personnel Hires  
a. Classified substitute(s) - Madison Kinder, Robert Gardner

b. MHS Boys Basketball Volunteer Assistant - Greg Cravens

2. Approval: 20210930 CASB Recommended Policy Update (3rd Reading)

3. Approval: 2022 Mill Levy Certification

**Other BOE Information:**

1. Meeker Childcare Center

2. FY21 Financial Audit

3. Construction Update

4. School Board Norms/Processes

a. Agendas

b. Meeting Conduct/Evaluations

c. Open Meeting Laws

d. Board Decisions

e. Governance vs. Management

f. Communication to Individual BOE Members

g. Policy Location/Structure

h. Board/Superintendent Communications

i. Other

5. COVID-19 Protocols

**Executive Session (if needed):**

**Adjournment**  
Published: December 9, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

**PLANNING HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 the Rio Blanco County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Rio Blanco County Historic Courthouse, 555 Main Street, 3rd Floor Commissioner Meeting Room, Meeker, Colorado to consider the following:

**Amick Meadow Minor Subdivision PSUB-0003-21.** The applicant is requesting to subdivide +/- 17.4 acres into 3 lots. Current Zoning is Agricultural. The property is located at 4392 CR 6, Meeker Colorado, lying within Sections 29, T1N, R92W, 6th P.M.

Address – 4392 CR 6, Meeker Colorado. Copies of the documents may be obtained from the Rio Blanco County Planning Department at 555 Main Street in Meeker, Colorado, or you may call (970) 878-9510 for more information between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Published: November 18, 25, December 2 and 9, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**RIO BLANCO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, December 9, 2021 the Rio Blanco County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Rio Blanco County Historic Courthouse, 555 Main Street, 3rd Floor Commissioner Meeting Room, Meeker, Colorado to consider the following:

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Published: November 25, December 2 and 9, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

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**RIO BLANCO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 the Rio Blanco County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Rio Blanco County Historic Courthouse, 555 Main Street, 3rd Floor Commissioner Meeting Room, Meeker, Colorado to consider the following:

**Amick Meadow Minor Subdivision PSUB-0003-21.** The applicant is requesting to subdivide +/- 17.4 acres into 3 lots. Current Zoning is Agricultural. The property is located at 4392 CR 6, Meeker Colorado, lying within Sections 29, T1N, R92W, 6th P.M.

Address – 4392 CR 6, Meeker Colorado. Copies of the documents may be obtained from the Rio Blanco County Planning Department at 555 Main Street in Meeker, Colorado, or you may call (970) 878-9510 for more information between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Published: November 25, December 2 and 9, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**RIO BLANCO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO HEARING**

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Address – 4392 CR 6, Meeker Colorado. Copies of the documents may be obtained from the Rio Blanco County Planning Department at 555 Main Street in Meeker, Colorado, or you may call (970) 878-9510 for more information between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Published: November 25, December 2 and 9, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

Town of Rangely - December 14, 2021 - 7:00pm

**Agenda**

**Rangely Board of Trustees (Town Council)**

ANDY SHAFFER, Mayor  
Trey Robie, Mayor Pro Tem  
don davidson, trustee  
Luke Geer, Trustee  
Tim webber, Trustee  
Alisa Granger, Trustee  
Keely Ellis, Trustee

1. Call to Order  
2. Roll Call  
3. Invocation

4. Pledge of Allegiance  
5. Minutes of Meeting

a. Discussion and Action to approve the minutes of November 9th, 2021, Town Council Meeting

6. Petitions and Public Input  
7. Changes to the Agenda

8. Public Hearings - 7:10pm

a. First and Final reading of Emergency Ordinance 698-2021 an Ordinance creating Election Code in the Rangely Municipal Code, Title 2, of Administration and Personnel, adding 2.10 Municipal Elections, allowing for write in candidates 2.10.100 and allowing for the cancellation of the election 2.10.150

b. Public Hearing for the 2021 Budget Resolutions, 2010-08, 2010-09 and 2021-10 summarizing expenditures and revenues for the General Fund, Water Fund, Wastewater Fund, Gas Fund, Conservation Trust Fund, Housing Assistance Fund, RDA Fund, RDC Fund, Rangely Housing Authority (White River Village) and the Rangely Foundation for Public Giving for Fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022

**Committee/Board Meetings**  
**RBC Commissioner Reports**  
**Council Reports**

12. Supervisor Reports – See Attached a. Chief Hamblin

13. Reports from Officers – Town Manager Update

14. Old Business

15. New Business

a. Discussion and action to approve the October Financial Summary

b. Discussion and action to approve the November check register

c. Discussion and action to approve Emergency Ordinance 698-2021 an Ordinance creating Election Code in the Rangely Municipal Code, Title 2, of Administration and Personnel, adding 2.10 Municipal Elections, allowing for write in candidates 2.10.100 and allowing for the cancellation of the election 2.10.150

d. Discussion and action to approve Resolution 2021-07, "Designating a Public Place for Posting Meeting Notices during calendar year 2022"

e. Discussion and action to approve the 2022 Certification of Mill Levy in the amount of \$17,608,310

f. Discussion and action to approve the Resolution 2021-08 of the Town Council of the town of Rangely summarizing expenditures and revenues for the General fund, Water Fund, Wastewater Fund, Gas Fund, Conservation Trust Fund, Housing Assistance Fund, RDA Fund, and Rangely Development Corporation, and adopting for said funds budgets for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022.

g. Discussion and action to approve the Resolution 2021-09 of the board of directors of the Rangely Foundation for Public Giving summarizing expenditures and revenues for the Rangely Foundation for Public Giving and adopting a budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022.

h. Discussion and action to approve the Resolution 2021-10 of the Rangely Housing Authority summarizing expenditures and revenues for the Rangely Housing Authority (White River Village) and adopting for said authority a budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022.

**Informational Items**

a. RBC Covid Update  
**Board Vacancies**

a. Planning and Zoning Board Vacancy  
b. Community Garden Board Vacancies

18. **Scheduled Announcements**

c. Rangely District Library Board meeting is scheduled for Dec 13th, 2021, at 5:00 pm

d. Western Rio Blanco Park & Recreation District Board meeting is scheduled for Dec 13th, 2021, at 7:00 pm

e. Giant Step Preschool Board meeting is scheduled for Dec 9th, 2021, at 6:00 pm

f. Rural Fire Protection District Board meeting is scheduled for Dec 20th, 2021, at 7:00 pm

g. Rangely Junior College District Board meeting is scheduled for Dec 21st, 2021, at 12:00 noon

h. Rangely School District Board meeting has been scheduled for Dec 21st, 2021, at 6:15 pm

i. Rio Blanco County Commissioners Board meeting is scheduled for Dec 21st, 2021, at 11:00 am

j. RDA/RDC Board meeting is scheduled for Dec 16th, 2021, at 7:30 am

k. Rangely Chamber of Commerce Board meeting is scheduled for Dec 16th, 2021, at 12:00 noon

19. **Adjournment**  
Published: December 9, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO

RIO BLANCO COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

555 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 599 MEEKER, COLORADO 81641

This meeting will be streamed live on the RBC YouTube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBicnhMpb47tzL\\_NjN0fIg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBicnhMpb47tzL_NjN0fIg)

**Tentative Agenda December 14, 2021**

**Public Comment:** Any member of the public may address the Board on matters which are within the jurisdiction of the Board. If you are addressing the Board regarding a matter listed on the Agenda, you are requested to make your comments when the Board takes that matter. Please limit your comments to three minutes per member or five minutes per group. The public comment time is not for questions and answers. It is your time to express your views.

1. **11:00 a.m. Call to order:**

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Changes to the December 12, 2021 Agenda

**C. Move to approve the December 14, 2021 Agenda including any changes**

2. **CONSENT AGENDA for December 14, 2021**

**A. Move to approve the below listed items of the Consent Agenda.**

B. Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2021.

C. Payroll Management Reports of November 26, 2021.

D. Accounts Payable Management Reports for November 2021.

E. DHS EBT Register and Warrant Register for November 2021.

F. Special Meeting Minutes of November 29, 2021.

G. Special Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2021.

**3. BUSINESS**

A. Move to approve/deny CDHS Certification of Compliance - Year 2022, County Personnel and Merit System.

B. Move to approve/deny a Federal Financial Report Form SF425 for Federal Grant No. 3-08-0047-016-2021, for the Rangely Airport Pavement Maintenance Project.

C. Move to approve/deny a Federal Financial Report Form SF425 for Federal Grant No. 3-08-0041-014-2021, for the Meeker Airport Pavement Maintenance Project.

D. Move to approve/deny a Federal Financial Report Form SF425 for Federal Grant No. 3-08-0041-013-2018, for the Meeker Airport Master Plan.

E. Move to approve/deny a Federal Financial Report Form SF425 for Federal Grant No. 3-08-0047-016-2021, for the American Rescue Plan Grant Program – Meeker Airport.

F. Move to approve/deny a Federal Financial Report Form SF425 for Federal Grant No. 3-08-0047-018-2021, for the American Rescue Plan Grant Program – Rangely Airport.

G. Move to approve/deny a Federal Financial Report Form SF425 for Federal Grant No. 3-08-0047-015-2021, for the Meeker Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program.

H. Move to approve/deny a Federal Financial Report Form SF425 for Federal Grant No. 3-08-0047-017-2021, for the Rangely Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program.

I. Move to approve/deny an Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement Form SF270 for Federal Grant No. 3-08-0047-016-2021, for the Rangely Airport Pavement Maintenance Project.

J. Move to approve/deny an Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement Form SF271 for Federal Grant No. 3-08-0041-014-2021, for the Meeker Airport Pavement Maintenance Project.

K. Move to approve/deny a Request for Advance or Reimbursement Form SF271 for Federal Grant No. 3-08-0041-013-2018 for the Meeker Master Plan.

L. Move to approve/deny a Single Audit Engagement Letter from Paul D. Miller, the

**4. BID AWARDS**

5. **MOU'S, CONTRACTS, AND AGREEMENTS**

**6. RESOLUTIONS**

A. Move to approve/deny Resolution No. 2021-26, a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Appropriating additional sums of money to defray expenses in excess of amounts budgeted, in the various fund and spending agencies, in the amounts and for the purposes as set forth below for the 2021 budget year.

B. Move to approve/deny Resolution No. 2021-32, a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County, Colorado, cancelling uncollectible delinquent taxes on account No M0300029.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Road & Bridge Report – Scott Marsh

B. Public Comment

C. County Commissioner's 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 December 21, 2021 in the Rio Blanco County Annex Building, 17497 Hwy 64, Rangely, CO. Please check the County's website for information at <http://rbc.us/18> 6/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: December 9, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

## MISC NOTICES

**Notice to Creditors**  
**Estate of Florence Ardith Hazelbaker, also known as Florence A. Hazelbaker and Florence Hazelbaker, Deceased, Case Number 21 PR 30013.**

All persons having claims against the names estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Rio Blanco County, Colorado on or before March 31, 2022, or the claims may be forever barred.

Linda Stewart  
820 County Road 36  
Meeker, CO 81641  
Attorney for Personal Representative  
F. Joseph Fennessy #10477  
PO Box 1518  
Meeker, CO 81641  
Phone (970)878-4783 Fax (970)878-5494  
[joef@fennessylaw.com](mailto:joef@fennessylaw.com)  
Published: November 25, December 2 and 9, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 the Rio Blanco County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Rio Blanco County Historic Courthouse, 555 Main Street, 3rd Floor Commissioner Meeting Room, Meeker, Colorado to consider the following:

PLUR-0001-21 **Terra Energy Partners Water Recycling Facility.** The applicant is requesting to construct a water recycling facility on Federal Lands (BLM). The property is located Within Sections 35, T1S, R98W, 6th P.M.

Copies of the documents may be obtained from the Rio Blanco County Planning Department at 555 Main Street in Meeker, Colorado, or you may call (970) 878-9510 for more information between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Published: December 9, 16, 23, 30 and 2021, January 6, 2022  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

## FORECLOSURE

**COMBINED NOTICE - MAILING**  
**CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 21-02**

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust: On September 2, 2021, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Rio Blanco records.

Original Grantor(s): JEAN K HEJL  
Original Beneficiary(ies): WELLS FARGO BANK N.A.  
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt: NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A CHAMPION MORTGAGE COMPANY

Date of Deed of Trust: February 11, 2009  
County of Recording: Rio Blanco  
Recording Date of Deed of Trust: February 19, 2009  
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.): 295050  
Original Principal Amount: \$237,000.00  
Outstanding Principal Balance: \$131,914.74

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.

**THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN. LOTS, 14,15,16 IN BLOCK 4, HIDENBRAND'S SUBDIVIDED LOTS BEING IN THE TOWN OF RANGELY.**

**Also known by street and number as: 313 W RIO BLANCO AVE, RANGELY, CO 81648.**  
**THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.**

**NOTICE OF SALE**

The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust. THEREFORE, Notice is hereby given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 01/05/2022, at Office of the Public Trustee, Rio Blanco County Courthouse, 55

**BUDGET NOTICES**

**NOTICE AS TO BUDGET SUPPLEMENTAL**

The Rio Blanco County Board of Commissioners will be considering a budget supplemental resolution on December 14, 2021, 11:00 a.m. Rio Blanco County Historic Courthouse, 555 Main Street, BOCC Meeting Room, Meeker, Colorado.

The proposed resolution is for the purpose of appropriating sums of money to defray expenses in excess of amounts budgeted for the 2021 budget year in the following funds: General Fund, Capital Expenditure, Road & Bridge, Public Health Agency Fund, Human Services Fund, Use Tax Fund, Communications Fund, Fairfield Complex, and County Capital Improvement Trust Fund (CCITF). The resolution may be viewed at the offices of the County Clerk and Recorder, 555 Main Street, Colorado, and the County Clerk and Recorder Office in the Rangely Town Hall, 209 E. Main Street, Suite 101, Rangely, Colorado, and are open for public inspection 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on normal work days. Published: December 2 and 9, 2021 Rio Blanco Herald Times

**NOTICE AS TO ADOPTED BUDGET**

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a special board meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 6:00pm, Historic Courthouse, 555 Main St., 3rd Floor BOCC Meeting Room, Meeker, CO to adopt the 2022 Rio Blanco County Budget. All interested citizens and groups are invited to attend. The Agenda for the Budget Meeting will be: Pledge of Allegiance; Changes or Additions to the Agenda; Hearing; Procedure of Hearing; Presentation of the proposed 2022 Budget by Janae Stanworth, Budget & Finance Director; Presentation of the proposed 2022 HUTF spending by Scott Marsh, R&B Director; Questions or Comments by the Public; Consideration of Resolution to adopt the Rio Blanco County Budget for 2022; Consideration of Resolution to appropriate sums of money for 2022; Consideration of three resolutions to levy General Property Taxes for 2021, to help defray the cost of County Government, Piceance Creek Pest Control District and Lower White River Pest Control District, all for budget year 2022. Meeting to be recessed. If you need special accommodations please call 970-878-9440 in advance of the meeting so that reasonable accommodations may be made. Please check the County's website for updates. Published: December 2 and 9, 2021 Rio Blanco Herald Times

**NOTICE OF BUDGET**

Notice has hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the RIO BLANCO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT for the ensuing year of 2022. A copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the office of the RIO BLANCO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, where it is open for public inspection. The proposed budget will be considered at a regular meeting of the RIO BLANCO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, to be held at the office of the District at 240 7th Street, Meeker, Colorado, on December 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Any interested elector of the RIO BLANCO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget. Published: December 9, 2021 Rio Blanco Herald Times

**TOWN OF RANGELY NOTICE OF 2022 BUDGET ADOPTION**  
(Pursuant to 29-1-106(1), C.R.S.)

Notice is hereby given that the adoption of the Town of Rangely 2022 budget will take place during a Public Hearing scheduled December 14, 2021. The public is invited to attend the public hearing. Any interested elector of the Town of Rangely may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objects thereto with the Town of Rangely prior to the time of the final adoption of budget by the Town of Rangely Marybel Cox, Town Clerk/Treasurer. Published: December 9, 2021 Rio Blanco Herald Times

**TREASURER'S DEED**

**NOTICE**

**REAL PROPERTY PURCHASE AT TAX LIEN SALE AND APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED**

TO: Every person in actual possession or occupancy of the hereinafter described real property, lot or premises, and to the person in whose name the same was taxed or specially assessed, and to all persons having an interest or title of record in or to the said premises and to whom it may concern, and more especially to:

**TRANS-VAIL, INC.  
ROBERT H. BARR  
JUSTIN GRANT  
ATHLOS LIFE**

**RIO BLANCO COUNTY TREASURER**

You and each of you are notified that on **NOVEMBER 14, 2018**, the then County Treasurer of Rio Blanco County, Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to **BERNIE ANDRIASH**, the following described real property situate in the county of Rio Blanco, State of Colorado, to-wit:

**LOT 5 SANDERSON HILLS SUBDIVISION  
(Commonly known as the Easterly portion of Lot 5)**

And a Certificate of Purchase was issued therefore to **BERNIE ANDRIASH**, by the said County Treasurer; That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent taxes assessed against the real property for the year **2017**;

That said real property was taxed or specially assessed in the name of **TRANS-VAIL, INC.**, for said year **2017**; That on **APRIL 27, 2020**, said Certificate of Purchase was assigned by **BERNIE ANDRIASH** to **JUSTIN GRANT**; That on **NOVEMBER 8, 2021**, said assigned Certificate of Purchase was reassigned by **JUSTIN GRANT** to **ATHLOS LIFE, LLC**.

That on **NOVEMBER 8, 2021**, said **ATHLOS LIFE, LLC**, the present holder of the certificate of purchase, has made request to the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said real property;

That at 10:00 A.M. on **MARCH 21, 2022**, a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for the said real property to the said **ATHLOS LIFE, LLC**, unless the same has been redeemed.

Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Tax Lien Sale Date: **NOVEMBER 14, 2018**

Treasurer's Deed can be issued after **NOVEMBER 14, 2021**

Date Deed Scheduled to issue: **MARCH 21, 2022**

Redemption Period expires **MARCH 21, 2022, PRIOR** to 10:00 A.M

Schedule	TLSC #	ASSD Value	Assessed Name
R0103809	2018-00013	42,920	TRANS-VAIL, INC.

Witness my hand this **16TH** day of **NOVEMBER**, A.D. **2021**.  
/S/ Rhonna Waldref, Treasurer, Rio Blanco County, Colorado  
Published: **DECEMBER 2, 2021; DECEMBER 9, 2021; DECEMBER 16, 2021**.  
Published in the Rio Blanco Herald Times

**TREASURER'S DEED**

**NOTICE**

**REAL PROPERTY PURCHASE AT TAX LIEN SALE AND APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED**

TO: Every person in actual possession or occupancy of the hereinafter described real property, lot or premises, and to the person in whose name the same was taxed or specially assessed, and to all persons having an interest or title of record in or to the said premises and to whom it may concern, and more especially to:

**BERKENKOTTER REAL ESTATE, LLC  
GARY LUCERO  
RIO BLANCO COUNTY TREASURER**

You and each of you are notified that on **NOVEMBER 19, 2014**, the then County Treasurer of Rio Blanco County, Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to **LUCERO, GARY** the following described real property situate in the county of Rio Blanco, State of Colorado, to-wit:

**T: 1N R: 102W OF THE 6TH P.M.**

**A TRACT OF LAND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT POINT 801.00 FEET WEST OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NE1/4SE1/4, S: 2, T: 1N R: 102W OF THE 6TH P.M., AND RUNNING THENCE WEST 80.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 158.89 FT; THENCE EAST 80.00 FT; THENCE SOUTH 158.89 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, BEING IN THE TOWN OF RANGELY, COLORADO**

And a Certificate of Purchase was issued therefore to **LUCERO, GARY**, by the said County Treasurer; That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent taxes assessed against the real property for the year **2013**;

That said real property was taxed or specially assessed in the name of **BERKENKOTTER REAL ESTATE LLC.**, for said year **2013**;

That on **OCTOBER 26, 2021**, said **LUCERO, GARY**, the present holder of the certificate of purchase, has made request to the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said real property;

That on **OCTOBER 26, 2021**, said assigned Certificate of Purchase was reassigned by **GARY LUCERO** to **SOVEREIGN, LLC**.

That at 10:00 A.M. on **MARCH 10, 2022**, a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for the said real property to the said **SOVEREIGN LLC**, unless the same has been redeemed.

Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Tax Lien Sale Date: **NOVEMBER 19, 2014**

Treasurer's Deed can be issued after **NOVEMBER 19, 2017**

Date Deed Scheduled to issue: **MARCH 10, 2022**

Redemption Period expires **MARCH 10, 2022, PRIOR** to 10:00 A.M

Schedule	TLSC #	ASSD Value	Assessed Name
R1000295	2014-00080	14,860	BERKENKOTTER REAL ESTATE LLC

Witness my hand this **30TH** day of **NOVEMBER**, A.D. **2021**.  
/S/ Rhonna Waldref, Treasurer, Rio Blanco County, Colorado  
Published: **DECEMBER 9, 2021; DECEMBER 16, 2021; DECEMBER 23, 2021**.  
Published in the Rio Blanco Herald Times

**HELP WANTED**

**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.



Complete an application online by scanning the code or by navigating to [pioneershospital.org](http://pioneershospital.org)

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Please visit [www.rbc.us](http://www.rbc.us) or Rio Blanco County HR at 555 Main Street, Meeker, CO. 970-878-9570 ADA/EOE

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS Volunteer Opportunities**

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

- Building Board of Appeals
- Board of Health
- Citizens Review Panel
- Columbine Park Board
- Community Services Block Grant Board (Min. requirements)
- Council on Aging Board
- Extension Advisory Board
- Fair Board
- Fairgrounds Board
- Historic Preservation Board
- Lodging Tax Board, Rng
- Planning Commission
- Rangely Library Board
- Weed Management

**MEEKER SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1 Employment Opportunities**

**Meeker High School**  
• Head Track Coach

ADA/EOE  
Subject to change at any time!  
For details and an application, please visit our website at [meeker.k12.co.us/domain/10](http://meeker.k12.co.us/domain/10) or Meeker School District Administration at 555 Garfield St., Meeker, CO  
**970-878-9040**

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Fitness-Specialty Instructor  
- \$15.97 - \$25.72/hr  
- Not certified? Mentorship Program Available-will train to be a Fitness Instructor

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



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

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MARTY CASEY  
970.878.4650  
support@caseytechservices.com

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

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Mike Mohr ASE  
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[haley@ht1885.com](mailto:haley@ht1885.com)

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Rangely • Meeker  
675-5455 878-4036

**Stewart Welding**  
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• Trailer Axles & Accessories •  
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Certified Oilfield Welders  
Ed Stewart: 675-2063  
SHOP PHONE: 675-8720

**MEEKER collision CENTER**  
43904 highway 13 meeker, colo. 81641  
970.878.0000  
Auto Glass Chip Repair  
Auto Body Spray-In Bedliners

**SERVING NORTHWEST COLORADO**  
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Toll Free: 1-877-878-4783  
Fax: 970-878-5494  
Cell: 1-970-220-2529 or 220-2LAW  
Website: FennessyLaw.com  
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### 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.

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

### SAFEHOUSE

If you are being abused physically or mentally, you can call SAFEHOUSE for confidential shelter and help. **878-3999**

### AUCTIONS

Estate Auction Saturday December 18th 10:00AM 4521 South 84/10 Road Glade Park Colorado (11 miles west of store) 1996 Dodge Dakota Pickup, JD gator, Rhino, 3-20'X10' Sheds w/ rollup doors, gas torch set, wood splitter, 5' Brush mower, rototiller, 12' flatbed trailer, 5' ATV land leveler, 3' mower, 40 gun safe, pressure washer, band saw, wood power saws, Stihl chainsaws, 3 big generators, lots of wood tools, 2 piece tool box, hand and power tools, coins. There will be good silver and gold jewelry, queen log bedroom set, furniture, pictures, glassware, nice household items. For more info call Steve Claypool CP Auction Service 970-260-5577 must see web [www.cpauction.com](http://www.cpauction.com) "Call Us About a Sale For You"

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### FREEBIES

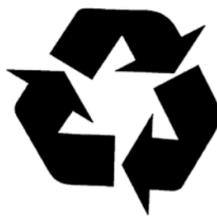
10 chickens, approximately a year and a half old. Lay green, tan and brown eggs. Contact Ron with any questions 970-756-0826.

### 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.

### YARD SALE

ESTATE SALE - THIS WEEKEND  
Saturday, Dec. 11 (this weekend)  
138 Main St., Meeker.  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Household and garage items, tools, some furniture.



Please recycle this paper!

### DOGS

Livestock guardians, 3/4 Akbash, 1/4 Pyrenees. Born Sept. 26, ready in December. \$550 - raised with poultry, goats, sheep. (970)276-2060

### RENTALS: MEEKER

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

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

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

### RENTALS: MEEKER

**Main Street Building**  
Office and warehouse spaces available. Utilities included with monthly rent. Please call 970-683-1875.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

3 BD, 1 3/4 BA, family style kitchen, fireplace, attached 2-car garage, quiet neighborhood. Available now. 1087 Laurie Cir. Six month lease. \$1000/mo. + \$1000 damage deposit. Call 303-657-9050.

STORAGE DEPOT 10x25 unit. 878-4808.

### RENTALS: RANGELY

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

<p>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 <a href="mailto:ColoradoPressAssociationNetwork@coloradopress.net">ColoradoPressAssociationNetwork@coloradopress.net</a></p>	
<p><b>DIRECTV</b></p> <p>DIRECTV for \$69.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Watch your favorite live sports, news &amp; entertainment anywhere. One Year of HBO Max FREE. Directv is #1 Customer Satisfaction (JD Power &amp; Assoc.) (some restrictions apply) Call for more details! 1-888-725-0897</p>	<p><b>LIFE INSURANCE</b></p> <p>Up to \$15,000.00 of GUARANTEED Life Insurance! No Medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company at 855-595-2161 or visit: <a href="http://www.life5plus.info/copa">www.life5plus.info/copa</a></p>
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<p><b>MOBILE HELP</b></p> <p>Mobile Help. America's Premier Mobile Medical Alert System. Whether you're home or away. For safety and Peace of Mind. No long Term Contracts! Free Brochure! Call Today! 1-844-996-4998</p>	<p><b>FREON WANTED</b></p> <p>FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient, Certified Professionals Call: 312-291-9169 or visit: <a href="http://RefrigerantFinders.com">RefrigerantFinders.com</a></p>

# REAL ESTATE CORNER

## STREAMLINE REALTY, LLC

970.878.7700  
[Streamline-Realty.com](http://Streamline-Realty.com)  
600 Main Street  
Meeker, CO

NEW 58.37+/- Acres at Highway 13 & Rd. 15: Gateway to Meeker, development opportunity.....	\$700,440
58.25 acres east of Pioneers Medical Center.....	\$699,000
12.69 acres close to Lake Avery, irrigation water rights, south facing views of the valley .....	\$480,000
980 Cleveland St.: Enormous corner lot, 2BD/1BA main home upstairs, 1BD/1BA rental below. ....	\$280,000
8.45 acres at the top of 6th Street, great building location for one or more homes. ....	\$249,000
825 3rd St: 3+BD/2BA, garage, fenced yard, storage shed. ....	\$247,000
7.46 acres on East Market St., great highway visibility, potential for residential, agricultural or commercial .....	\$245,000
73432 Hwy. 64 .....	PENDING
GAME UNIT 11: 240 Acres in Indian Valley, late season hunting and quiet getaway property .....	PENDING
109 Market St.: Corner lot on HWY 13, surrounded by thriving businesses. ....	\$167,000
6 lots in Ridge Estates, 2-5 acre lots, domestic & irrigation water, private road, close to town .....	Prices \$45,000 - \$130,000
13.45 acres south of Pioneers Medical Center .....	\$80,700

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

Celebrating 20 Years - Same office. Same Location!

## BROOKS REALTY

889 Main St., Meeker, Colorado  
**brooksrealtymeeker.com**  
(970)878-5858 or (970)756-8772 cell

**Vacant Land**  
79 acres vacant land. Dry land grazing. Strawberry Creek runs through property.  
**\$146,000**

◆ 225 Garfield Street — Remodeled 3BD, 2BA, corner lot. **SOLD!**  
◆ 940 7th Street — Quaint and quiet 3BD, 1BA home. **PENDING!**

**RANCHES**  
125± acres - Vacant land with water rights. Close to town. \$750,000.  
**BACK ON THE MARKET!** 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**  
NEW! 1129 Gail Circle in Sanderson Hills - Great views, includes sewer and water taps, plus survey and some excavation. \$41,500.

**COMMERCIAL**  
NEW! Maybell Meat Processing, 60240 Hwy. 40, Maybell - Full wild game processing in one of Colorado's prime hunting areas. Fully equipped building on 6 lots, also has two RV hookups and a private well. \$280,000. Call for more details!

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

**WESTERN EXPOSURES REALTY, LLC**

2777 CR 7, Meeker, CO  
[westernexposures.com](http://westernexposures.com) • 970.878.5877

**ONEA MILLER ~ Broker**  
[oneamiller@gmail.com](mailto:oneamiller@gmail.com) • 970.321.2777

**SAMANTHA LOPEZ ~ Realtor**  
[samlopez.we@hotmail.com](mailto:samlopez.we@hotmail.com) • 970.440.0411

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**FOR SALE:**  
TBD County Road 43-5 vacant irrigated acres on year around county road. Great views, good homesite. No HOA, utilities available. \$150,000.  
\*760 & 780 12th St- Two vacant lots. \$25,000 each.  
\*Six 6-8 Acre lots in east Rangely. \$51,000 to \$71,000.  
\*43 Acre lot in east Rangely. \$180,000.  
\*195 Mesa Drive-5 Acres, large 2 story home, garage. \$502,000. **SOLD!**  
189 County Road 43-Large home, garage, shop, 11.5 irrigated acres. **SOLD!**  
\*6902 County Road 7- 5 Acres, home, shop. **SOLD!**

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**FOR SALE IN MEEKER**

<p><b>6900 C.R. 7</b></p> <p><b>1161 C.R. 8</b></p> <p><b>1417 Silver Sage Rd.</b></p> <p><b>1131 Michael Cir.</b></p> <p><b>W.R. Condo, Unit 3</b></p> <p><b>W.R. Condo, Unit 15</b></p>	<p><b>6900 CR 7</b>-Unlimited opportunities await with this 35 acres rural property, featuring a domestic well, Lg. primary home w/ 5BD/2BA and a private guest house 1BD/1BA, heated garage, and workshop. <b>Reduced \$815,000</b></p> <p><b>1161 CR 8-3BD/2BA</b>1952 SF log home on 5 acres overlooking the river with a natural spring. Features include central air, updated electrical system, and domestic well. <b>Reduced \$415,000</b></p> <p><b>NEW! 1131 Michael Cir - 3 BD   3 BA   2779 SF</b> home offering open concept living, updated appliances, new flooring, and a great location to the Meeker trail system, parks, Recreation Center, and schools. This home provides ample storage, generous room sizes, and beautiful natural light. Priced to Sell! <b>\$325,000</b></p> <p><b>NEW! White River Condo, Unit 3-2 BD   1 BA   874 SF</b>, single level floorplan with a 201 SF storage unit included, River Access. <b>\$89,000.</b></p> <p><b>NEW! White River Condo, Unit 15-2BD   1BA   879 SF</b>, two-story floorplan with a 50 SF storage unit included, Private Park. <b>\$89,000.</b></p> <p><b>1417 Silver Sage Rd</b>-Elevated double lots in Sage Hills, great views w/ Lg. building envelope. <b>Reduced \$50,000</b></p> <p><b>White River Condos-Unit 1...UNDER CONTRACT</b> <b>White River Condos-Unit 13...UNDER CONTRACT</b> <b>858 5th St.....SOLD</b> <b>1034 Julie Cir.....SOLD</b> <b>1200 CR 119.....SOLD</b></p> <p><i>Homes are still selling and we have buyers waiting! It's a great time to list your property!</i></p> <p><b>Alex Plumb Owner/Broker</b> <a href="mailto:sold@alexplumb.realtor">sold@alexplumb.realtor</a> • 970.420.8076 <b>Mallari Arnold Associate Broker</b> <a href="mailto:mallari.alpinewest@gmail.com">mallari.alpinewest@gmail.com</a> • 970.420.0585 <i>Call or text us. We are happy to help!</i></p>
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