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The mental health workforce shortage

By JENNIFER BROWN The Colorado Sun



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.

In the spring of 2020, the community mental health center that serves Jefferson, Gilpin and Clear Creek counties had a completely manageable number of job openings — 11 therapists, counselors and other clinicians.

But as the coronavirus pandemic gripped Colorado, the vacancies started to climb, first into the teens and then the 30s and then to 50 by the end of 2020. Just as the Jefferson Center was growing alarmed, the pace of the resignations picked up even more. By March, a year into the pandemic, the community mental health center was down 105 workers, about one-fifth of its clinical workforce.

The center has only started to catch up from the hit it has taken in the nation's "great resignation."

"We had 75 and 90 and then 102 and 105, and we're back to about 90," said Kiara Kuenzler, president and CEO of the Jefferson Center, which has offices in Lakewood, Wheat Ridge, Evergreen, Conifer and Black Hawk.

The workforce shortage extends beyond Jefferson Center to all of Colorado's 17 regional community mental health centers — the safety net for people without insurance, on Medicaid or who can't afford to pay for private treatment. The centers combined have 1,092 job vacancies, according to data collected by the centers' trade group. That includes 233 administrative jobs and 859 openings for clinical workers, or 16.4% of the total clinicians.

The dire shortage means therapists at the centers are overburdened with patients, that people are waiting weeks or even months for appointments, if they get one at all, and that in the midst of a mental health crisis brought on by the isolation and stress of coronavirus, the centers are seeing thousands fewer patients now than they were before the pandemic began.

Some in the industry consider it a reckoning. After decades of low pay,

the centers have become a training ground for inexperienced mental health workers, and now many of those workers have either burned out or moved on to better-paying jobs where the patients have simpler diagnoses rather than layers of illness, trauma and addiction. In Colorado, they're walking away from community mental health clinics to work in hospital systems that are expanding their behavioral health networks, or they're signing on with telehealth startups where not only is the pay better but they can work from anywhere in front of a computer screen.

The 90 help-wanted postings at Jefferson Center are not a wish list or a new goal based on a growing community need for behavioral health care. They represent the clinicians who've quit in the past year and a half, Kuenzler said.

Case managers with a bachelor's degree start out as low as \$37,698 at Jefferson Center, working their way to a mid-level salary of \$43,369. A mid-level licensed counselor with a master's degree earns \$63,242 and a mid-level clinical psychologist with a doctorate is paid \$84,862.

That's far below what any of those professionals could earn working for a hospital network or one of the private-equity backed telehealth companies that have ramped up services during the past two years. Switching jobs often means an automatic \$20,000 jump in pay.

Kuenzler has heard all the reasons over and over during exit interviews throughout the last year.

The workers are tired, worn out by trying to help folks with a complex set of issues that might involve criminal justice and homelessness and child welfare. They're tired of the paperwork, required by state and federal government insurance programs, that sometimes takes just as much time as they spend with the patient. Why take on the most complex cases, the ones in which resolution is often elusive, when there are other opportunities in mental health care? It's now much easier to work from home, spend more time working with patients and less on paperwork, and earn bigger salaries.

"It's just really hard work," said Kuenzler, a licensed psychologist. "During the pandemic, when everything is hard, if there is an opportunity for your work to be a little less hard, then people are choosing that. They're taking

▶ See ON EDGE, Page 10A

CHRISTMAS MAGIC ...



Rangely's weekend of Christmasfest activities brimmed with delight for all ages. Some activities included visiting with Santa (top right), cookie decorating (bottom right), a parade, and beautiful decorations on display (left) at Ryan and Dana Huitt's home during carriage rides sponsored by the Huitt Family, Wildlife Expressions Taxidermy and Western Rio Blanco Recreation and Park District. More photos at ht1885.com.

KATIE KING/ROXIE FROMANG PHOTOS

Chevron sells Rangely oil field

By LUCAS TURNER lucas@ht1885.com

The recent sale of oil and gas infrastructure in Rio Blanco County represents the end of an era for Chevron and the beginning of a new one for Texas-based Scout Energy Partners. Scout recently purchased the "Rangely Weber Sand Unit and associated facilities," according to Mike Mercer, Scout's VP of operations.

Mercer spoke with HT via email this week to provide an update on the recent acquisition of the assets, a deal he said closed on Dec. 1. "We are officially the owner, and operat-

ing the asset, but until all regulatory approvals have been received, it will be a cooperative effort between Scout and the previous operator," said Mercer.

He noted, "Rangely has been a great oilfield, producing for almost 90 years and we see future value in the field," adding that as the new operator, Scout wants to "work well with the community" and plans to explore options for community engagement and stewardship in the future. For the time being though, Mercer explained "we are focusing on a good handoff with the previous operator."

As far as work out in the field goes, Scout plans to keep local ser-

vice-providers/contractors in their current roles, but "under new contracts with Scout since prior service agreements were not transferred," according to Mercer.

Community members, elected officials, landowners, stakeholders or otherwise can get in contact with Scout via their 24hr emergency phone number (970-675-3700). Their Rangely office can be reached at 970-458-5659 and their corporate office in Dallas, Texas, at 972-277-1397.

Have more questions about oil and gas in the area you'd like answered or explored? Inquiries welcome at lucas@ht1885.com

Meeker board discusses recycling program

By NIKI TURNER editor@ht1885.com

In its final meeting for the year, Meeker's Board of Trustees gave final approval to the 2022 budget, with an addition of \$44 in property taxes from the November public hearing.

For the record, trustees Scott Creecy and Travis Day said while they are in support of the budget, neither supported the \$250K for Phase 2 of the Circle Park project.

The board also approved the required ordinance for the approval and certification of the mill levy for general property taxes for fiscal year 2022.

FUTURE OF RECYCLING

Lee Overton of Overton Recycling was present for a discussion with trustees and staff about the future of the town's recycling program. The Town of Meeker has subsidized the local recycling program for years, but started reducing the amount of

the subsidy in the last year or two. For 2022, the town budgeted \$7,500 for the year, down from as much as \$40,000 in 2017.

Overton has also been receiving a state grant for the free recycling program that covers his transportation of materials to dropoff centers. He said he hauls three to four roll-off truck loads to Eagle every month to drop off Meeker's recycling. Even with the grant and the town subsidy, he said the program "probably barely broke even this year."

When the town's recycling program began, there was a high demand for recyclables. In 2018, China instituted the "National Sword" policy and stopped accepting most materials, leaving the U.S. and other countries with nowhere to send nearly half of recyclable materials. Without a demand for materials, prices plummeted and recycling programs lost business viability.

"The U.S. market has flipped," Overton said. "You

don't get paid for it." He said cardboard is accepted at no charge, but he has to pay a "tipping fee" for everything else. Meanwhile, the quantity of cardboard coming in to recycling has increased exponentially.

"I'm fine with at least breaking even," Overton added. If he starts charging for recycling, he'll lose the state grant funding. "People love the idea of recycling out there because it's free. If they have to pay, there's no way."

Board members said they don't want to end the program, nor do they expect

Overton to operate at a loss. Overton and the board agreed to amend the contract to a six-month plan and will revisit the discussion in July of 2022.

Tuesday was Trustee Scott Creecy's final meeting as a board member. His seat will be open for a temporary appointment beginning in January. Municipal elections in April will have three open seats — Chris Lockwood, Scott Nielsen, Creecy's seat and the mayor's position open. Petitions will be available starting Jan. 4, 2022.

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Saturday: 20s/0s



Sunday: 30s/10s



COUNTY BEAT

Commissioners approve 2022 budget

By LUCAS TURNER  
lucas@ht1885.com

Rio Blanco County commissioners issued final approval for the 2022 budget Tuesday evening after months of deliberation, meetings with staff, community members and elected officials. The full budget as-approved in its entirety is available at <https://www.rbc.us/160/Budget-Finance>. Additional information on all local government budgets is detailed in previous reporting at <https://www.theherald-times.com/?s=budget>

Commissioners also approved the 2021 supplemental budget denoting expenditures and revenues not budgeted for in the 2021 budget, including:

- \$18K for a Fairfield Center replacement boiler
- \$36K for "Ag event stimulus," grant funding which will go towards the county fair in 2022.
- \$150K to the attorney's office for "DAA testimony and DAA expert witness costs"

• additional attorney funding for the "hostile workplace investigation" earlier this year (amount not noted)

• additional attorney funding for the "clerk and recorder for attorney fees" (amount not noted)

• \$29.5K towards an RMS/CAD software upgrade for the Sheriff's office

Food assistance program funding also increased more than \$1 million from about \$850K budgeted in 2021. Budget and Finance Director Janae Stanworth said that the same budget increased in 2020 due to the pandemic, and then stayed high. She added that food assistance dollars, funded via outside grants, are not actually part of the county's cash flow, but still have to be noted in the budget depending on how much assistance the community uses.

JAIL CLOSURE COMMENTS

Meeker residents Carol Parr and Sharon Day commented prior to final budget approval Tuesday to express concerns about the closure of

the Justice Center.

"My perception is we are looking at money over safety, for our community and our law enforcement officers," said Parr, referencing how law enforcement will sometimes have to transport prisoners to Moffat County late at night on potentially hazardous roads. She also spoke about fears of prisoners being released into the community because Moffat County jail is full. RBC Sheriff Anthony Mazzola explained that certain crimes, such as domestic abuse, mean mandatory imprisonment. Other crimes an officer might normally put someone in jail for, like failing to show up to court after a speeding ticket may be summonsed and released as-needed when Moffat County's holding cells are full. Mazzola said legislative changes, including "handing out PR [personal recognisance] bonds like candy" have also tied law enforcement's hands when it comes to releasing certain individuals. Parr also asked about the cost of new vehicles.

Fleet Manager Dave Overton explained the replacement cycle for everything from small vehicles all the way to motor graders. Generally speaking, the county replaces vehicles/machinery on a set schedule and has for some time. In addition to preserving trade-in value for cars and trucks, purchasing larger machinery on a set schedule offers the advantage

of government-backed insurance/warranties. According to Overton, the county even makes money on rotating/replacing certain equipment thanks to the way the cycle functions.

Former Meeker Town Administrator Sharon Day had concerns about the budget and Board of Commissioners in general. Among other items, she suggested that Federal Mineral Lease, PILT and severance tax allocations should be included in the normal budget, to make it more complete/easier to understand.

Commissioner Jeff Rector, who has attended five (about half) of this year's budget meetings, and Chairman Gary Moyer responded to Day by highlighting the fact that community members, including Day, hadn't attended "a single budget meeting." Both commissioners also noted frustration over last-minute critiques of the budget. "We've spent hours trying to figure this out," noted Rector, who, responding to a specific inquiry from Day, also pointed out his and other board members' decision to turn down a \$9K/year pay raise last year to help balance the budget.

"This is why people don't come, because if you come, you're attacked," said Day. "You guys are all public servants, and you serve the public, but it doesn't feel that way anymore."

Moyer responded, "I'm sorry you feel that way," and said the county attorney often comments about RBC having "the most transparent board I've ever worked for."

PUBLIC HEALTH

RBC Public Health director Alice Harvey shared a brief monthly update with the board of commissioners during work sessions. COVID vaccination rates in the county sit at about 45% and are "not really budging" though demand for booster shots is keeping the department busy. She noted the county's low vaccination rate is likely a big reason why RBC has high rates of disease/hospitalization compared to the surrounding region.

Governor Jared Polis recently said he no longer supports statewide mask mandates since vaccination rates are relatively high in the general population. Harvey says in response, public health conversations are mostly focused on protecting hospital capacity and monitoring outbreaks/spread of COVID.

RBC Public Health continues to offer drive-through vaccination clinics on both sides of the county. The clinics are set to continue for now, though Harvey said the department will eventually transition to designated days for walk-in appointments.

SAGE GROUSE

RBC Natural Resources/

Emergency Manager Eddie Smercina sought guidance from the board about a federal reevaluation on the status of wild sage grouse. Smercina said the Biden administration is putting together a national team to take another look at the status of the endangered bird, which he said has a population trend "below the 25th percentile."

Smercina, the Board, and Conservation District Executive Director Callie Hendrickson all expressed concerns about RBC not having a voice in the process, which will incorporate 11 states. The board hopes to submit comments for the scoping process advocating for the evaluation to take place state-by-state. Scoping, which concludes on Feb. 22 could potentially impact oil and gas activity, which is why Hendrickson also suggested advocating for "multiple use" of federal lands.

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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!

COVID-19 numbers in RBC as of Dec. 14

Special to the Herald Times

COVID-19 statistics for Rio Blanco County released as of Tuesday, Dec. 14 from RBC Public Health:

**Cases reported in the last 14 days:** 74

**New hospitalizations in the last 14 days:** 6

**Meeker Active:** 35

**Rangely Active:** 16

**Total Cases to Date:** 1,359

**Total Hospitalized:** 120 (8.8% of reported cases)

**Vaccination rates:** Approximate percent of eligible population (now 5 and up) vaccinated with at least one dose: 44.9%

**Total reported breakthrough cases among vaccinated people in RBC:** 105. Of those, nine have been hospitalized.

**Total Deaths:** 10

According to RBC Public Health: "Overall decrease in case incidence rate and hospitalization rate this week with continued widespread community transmission. Anticipated increase after holidays and variant emergence. Influenza present in NW region with no reported hospitalizations."

TESTING

Testing for COVID-19 is recommended for all symptomatic individuals (please see CDC website for list of symptoms), and all individuals who are exposed to a

known case. If you have no symptoms, but have been exposed, it is advised to test 5-7 days after your last known exposure, or as soon as possible after you begin to develop symptoms. Testing is now available without an appointment, drive-up at the following times at public health in Meeker and Rangely:

**\*Testing schedules subject to change due to staffing shortages. Changes will be reflected immediately on our voicemail message and website (rbc.us), along with physical signage at test sites. Thank you for your understanding.**

**Meeker:** Monday-Friday 10-11 a.m., Thursdays ONLY 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Rapid tests not available on Thursdays. **We will be closed for testing on Friday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 31.**

**Rangely:** Monday-Thursday 1-2 p.m., Wednesdays ONLY 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Rapid tests not available on Wednesdays. By appointment only on Fridays.

Please see the following link for information about Colorado's at-home testing program: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid-19-testing-at-home>

VACCINATIONS

Vaccines are available to general public age 5 and up. Moderna, Pfizer (12 and up) and Pediatric Pfizer (5-11) for COVID-19 and Flu available at all clinics - All insurance accepted for flu vaccines. INSURANCE NOT REQUIRED.

**Walk-In Clinics (no appointment necessary)**

**Meeker:** Thursdays, 12 - 5:30 p.m. (Meeker Public Health Office)

**Rangely:** Thursday, 12 - 5:30 p.m. (Rangely Public Health Office)

**Drive Through Clinics (no appointment necessary)**

**Meeker:** Mondays (2nd and 4th), 4:30 - 6 p.m., Fairgrounds

**Rangely:** Thursdays (2nd and 4th), 4:30 - 6 p.m., parking lot at Library and Public Health

\*Drive through clinics now extended through December.

**Other Clinic Locations and Times**

Pioneers Medical Center Walk-In Clinic: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. - noon and 2-4 p.m. (Johnson and Johnson and Moderna available)

COVID-19 Boosters

Booster doses are now available for anyone in Colorado over the age of 16, as long as six months have passed since initial mRNA series or two months since initial J&J dose.

For more information please call: Meeker, 970-878-9520 and Rangely, 970-878-9525

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in four older adults has a fall each year.

Pioneers Medical Center is excited to offer *The Stepping On* program, which has been researched and proven to reduce falls by 31%.

Improve your balance, increase strength & mobility

PMC's Stepping On Course

7 Consecutive weeks

**Start:** Wednesday January 5, 2022

**Time:** 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**Location:** Meeker Public Library - in the back room.

To inquire about the program and/or sign up, please contact:

**Christina Senechal OTR/L**

**Phone:** 970-878-9142

**Email:** csenechal@pioneershospital.org

**Christmas Masses**

**Holy Family Catholic Church**  
889 Park Ave, Meeker

**Friday, December 24**  
6:15 pm Christmas Eve Mass ~ 7:30 pm Misa de Nochebuena

**Saturday, December 25**  
8:00 am Christmas Day Mass

**St. Ignatius Catholic Church**  
109 S. Stanolind Ave, Rangely

**Friday, December 24**  
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

**Saturday, December 25**  
11:00 am Christmas Day Mass

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)



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.

Paid for by the Rural Alliance Addressing Substance Use Disorder Colorado



**NEWS NOTES**

**Galapagos program slideshow**

**MEEKER** | The students with the Meeker International Ecology Program will be presenting a slide show program about our trip to the Galapagos Islands at the Meeker Public Library on Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. Please come and enjoy some drinks and goodies as we present our experiences in the Galapagos.

**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 the session on 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 [SOIson@HopeWestCO.org](mailto:SOIson@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 book club**

**MEEKER** | The book club will be reading "Dune" by Frank Herbert. We will discuss the book on Monday, Jan. 10 at 1 p.m. All are welcome to join in the fun.

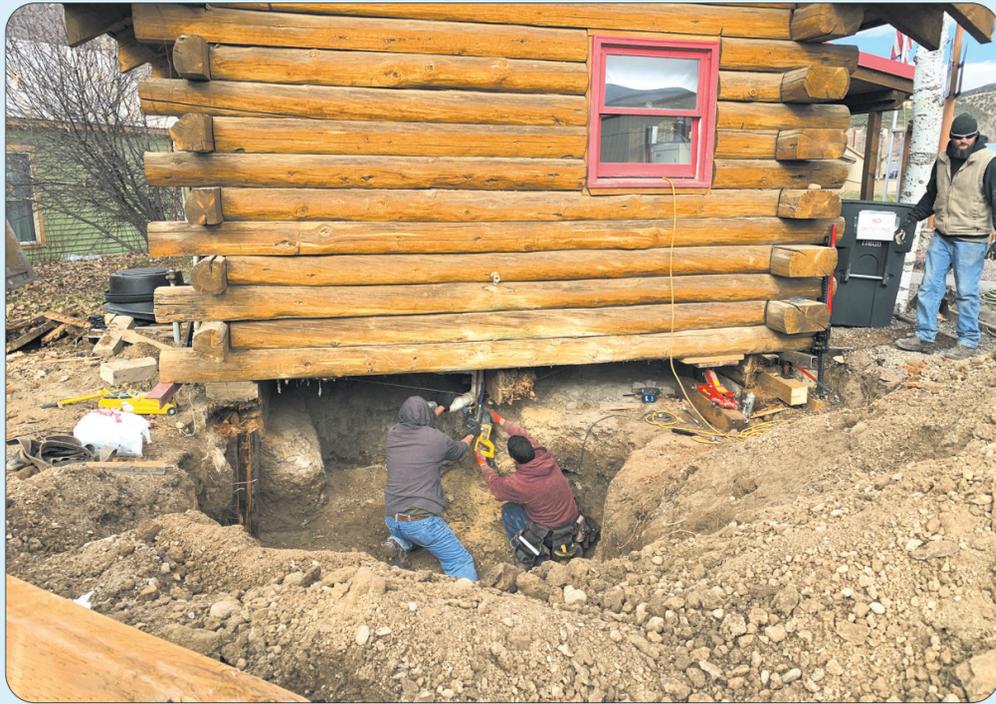
*Meeker*  
**Christian Church**  
443 School St. • 878-5105

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

*Not the only Christians,  
but Christians only*



**CHAMBER REPAIRS ...**



The Meeker Chamber of Commerce is feeling thankful for Regas Halandras and Wade Bradfield. The Chamber Cabin had some deteriorating logs and posts that started to fall apart and cave in. Snow was coming and pipes could freeze, so Regas and Wade immediately fit this construction project into their schedule. We thank them and their crew for their generosity and support of the Chamber of Commerce. We love Meeker and our community!

COURTESY PHOTO

**DASH IN FOR THESE DEALS!**

**GROCERY**

- 1 doz. Food Club **Large Eggs \$1.19**
- 10.5 oz. Cream of Mushroom or **CREAM OF CHICKEN SOUP 89¢**
- 14-14.5 oz. Swanson Beef or **CHICKEN BROTH 89¢**
- 20-30 oz. Best Foods **MAYONNAISE \$3.99**
- 16 oz. Mezzetta **PEPPERS 2 for \$4**
- 25.4 oz. Martinelli's **SPARKLING JUICE 2 for \$5**
- 4.6-4.7 oz. Food Club **BOXED POTATOES 4 for \$5**
- 2 lb. Food Club **POWDERED SUGAR 4 for \$5**
- 2 lb. Food Club Dark or Light **BROWN SUGAR 4 for \$5**
- 15.25 oz. Betty Crocker **CAKE MIX 99¢**
- 18.3-19.9 oz. Betty Crocker Family Size **BROWNIE MIX 99¢**
- 12-16 oz. Betty Crocker **FROSTING \$1.79**
- 20-21 oz. Food Club **PIE FILLING 2 for \$5**
- 29 oz. Food Club **PUMPKIN 2 for \$5**
- 16 oz. Kraft **SALAD DRESSING \$1.99**
- 4.6-5 oz. Betty Crocker **BOXED POTATOES \$1.49**
- 8 ct. Kellogg's **POP TARTS \$2.49**
- 20-24 oz. Kodiak Flapjack and **WAFFLE MIX \$4.49**
- 24 oz. Mrs. Butterworth **SYRUP \$2.99**
- 188 oz. Sun 2x **LAUNDRY LIQUID \$5.49**

**FROZEN**

- 56 oz. Red Button **ICE CREAM \$3.99**
- 32-46 oz. Red Button **PIES \$4.99**
- 10-12 oz. Food Club Steam Easy **FROZEN VEGGIES \$1.19**
- 21-24 oz. Mr. Dee's Hashbrowns or **FRIES 2 for \$3**
- 17.5-48 oz. Rhodes **ROLLS \$3.79**
- 8 oz. Kraft **COOL WHIP \$1.29**

**DAIRY**

- 10 oz. CaciQ **QUESO FRESCO \$2.99**
- 52 oz. Simply **JUICE 2 for \$7**
- 32 oz. Coffee Mate **CREAMER \$3.29**
- 16.5 oz. Pillsbury **COOKIES \$2.99**
- 32 oz. Food Club Shredded or **BLOCK CHEESE \$5.99**
- 8 oz. Food Club **SLICED CHEESE 3 for \$5**
- 8 oz. Food Club **CREAM CHEESE CUPS 3 for \$5**
- 8 oz. Food Club **CREAM CHEESE 99¢**
- 16 ct. Kraft **CHEESE SLICES \$3.49**

**PRODUCE**

- 3 lb. bag Mandarin **TANGERINES \$3.99**
- Large **GRAPEFRUIT \$1.89/lb.**
- Fresh **LIMES 3 for \$1**
- 1 lb. Mini **SWEET PEPPERS \$2.99**
- Ripe **MANGOS 99¢**
- Red Grape **TOMATOES 2 for \$4**
- 9 oz. Earthbound **BROCCOLI BLENDS \$3.99**
- Fresh **WHOLE PINEAPPLE 99¢/lb.**
- 32 oz. Baby Cut **CARROTS \$2.49**
- 10 lb. bag **RUSSET POTATOES \$2.99**
- 32 oz. Baby Cut **CARROTS 2 for \$5**

**6 oz. Blackberries or Blueberries \$1.99**

**WATT'S RANCH MARKET**  
*-Your Hometown Grocer Since 1955-*  
970.878.5868 ■ 271 E. MARKET ■ MEEKER, COLORADO  
Open seven days a week ■ 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday ■ 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday  
Prices effective Dec. 16th through Dec. 29th, 2021

EDITOR'S COLUMN

One day at a time

By NIKI TURNER  
editor@ht1885.com

We're only a week away from Christmas (if you haven't finished your shopping, there's a plethora of local options... check out the Shop@Home section!), and we're two weeks from the new year. That also means we've got two weeks till the end of our fundraising campaign for the matching grant that will help us keep local news coming your way each week. You can donate online, or as some of you have done, mail a check or drop by the office. It's been a note of

encouragement for us to hear your voices and know that the work we do matters to you.

I, for one, am looking forward to giving 2021 the kiss-off. It's been a rough year in a number of ways for so many of us. Almost two years into the pandemic most of us have lost someone or at least know someone who has lost a friend or loved one to COVID. We're all dealing with economic pressures, we all loathe politics and politicians, and we're all worried about the future of our democratic republic, regardless of our personal



political bent, and underlying it all is the stress that comes with uncertainty.

Every new year (and new day, for that matter) brings a measure of uncertainty, of expecting the unexpected. It's getting harder to anticipate what the unexpected might be, given the last few years of "unprecedented" and "historic" events. Sometimes — maybe all the time, at least according to the Bible — it's best to just take one day at a time.

On another note, if you haven't done so already,

please set aside an hour to watch the final budget hearing on the county's YouTube channel (our reporting on that meeting is in this week's edition, but I fear we're much too kind sometimes). Suffice to say, the meeting itself was richly spiced with irony, and peppered with stellar examples of the kind of "leadership style" that currently colors local politics. There's a lot I could say, but I believe you, our readers, are well able to draw your own conclusions.

Back to that one day at a time thing...

KAYE'S CORNER

Good manners

By KAYE SULLIVAN  
Special to the Herald Times



Kaye Sullivan

Here we are in the holiday season with gobs of entertaining. Good manners are always in style and even more important at holiday gatherings. You really can't go wrong when you're a thoughtful guest.

BE ON TIME

If you're attending a large gathering or open house, you can show up "fashionably late." But if your hostess is serving food to a small group, be on time. Guests who show up late throw the entire hot food goal aside.

SUPPORT WITH REQUESTED FOOD ONLY

Offer to contribute with your own dishes that complement the planned menu. Don't bring random items that don't fit the meal or duplicate what is already planned. Bring enough to serve the entire crowd and if you need serving dishes, ask the hostess ahead of the event.

HEALTHFUL FOOD ITEMS

If you're bringing food, remember that many people have food restrictions so please respect their diets, no matter how unusual to you. Diabetics, gluten-free, peanut allergies, and vegans are just a few of the health concerns that others may have. Do not force your food on others, even if they don't reveal the reasons for their resistance to your dish.

WAIT FOR EVERYONE TO BE SEATED

Unless it is a huge group, don't start eating until the hostess and everyone else is seated. Wait for the prayer or blessing if offered before you dig in. Assist the elderly to get seated and served as needed. Traditionally seniors and women go first if it's a buffet.

OFFER TO HELP SERVE AND CLEAN UP

My Mother would have given me a stern lecture if I didn't offer to clear the table and wash dishes as a guest. The operative word is "offer." Guests may not know how to handle delicate glassware or load the dishwasher. Some folks prefer to clean up later. Follow the host's directions and don't crowd the kitchen.

BRING A HOSTESS GIFT

It's always heartwarming to receive jams, nuts, or homemade goodies that don't need immediate attention. Fresh flowers are always nice but provide a vase so the hostess doesn't have to find one.

DO NOT BRING PETS

Some dogs are calm; some dogs run around jumping on people and the furniture. Many pets are distracting to others and remember, some people are allergic to pet hair. Ask permission in advance if you want to bring a pet.

EXPRESS YOUR THANKS

Handwritten, snail-mailed thanks still mean the most and demonstrate that you are grateful for all the effort put into entertaining you. The few moments it takes to scribble a note, add a stamp, and mail it is nothing compared to the cleaning, shopping, and cooking your hosts did for you. Make a sincere effort to demonstrate your gratefulness. An email, text, or call is next best.

Good manners serve all of us and provide a model to others. Be gracious and thankful in all regards.

LOOSE ENDS

Christmas traditions

By DOLLY VISCARDI  
Special to the Herald Times



Dolly Viscardi

While every family celebrates the yuletide differently, there are cultural traditions that some families continue to keep passing on over the years. They can be centered around food, gift-giving, or participating in once-a-year family activities. These traditions were originally passed down from their ancestors and shaped into a version of their first American get-togethers, a few dating back to the English settlements. Much of the western parts of our country were taken away by the Spanish Conquistadors and Mexican soldiers, then settled by dreamers looking for a different life.

The commercialism now associated with most of the seasonal traditions has many families throwing up their hands in despair, yet they continue to try and make getting together with their families and friends the most important part of the season. Cutting down our own Christmas tree up

in the high country is still one of my family's favorite memories. I remember my surprise upon reading one of my children's college essays that was such a fond remembrance of Christmas in Meeker. Writing about the fun of being out and tramping around looking for the perfect tree and taking it home and decorating it together apparently made a memory of mythic proportions. I had no idea, as I still remember the years when things didn't work out as planned. One of the earliest memories is the year we went up Piceance creek and lost the dog for what seemed like a couple of hours after she took off after a rabbit. The other was more than a decade later, when our children were in charge of tramping around in the White River National Forest and selecting the perfect tree. We kept looking and looking for quite a while, even finding the perfect tree before we all realized we had forgotten to get a permit. No one wanted to go back out so they had to settle for my friend's cast-off Kindergarten tree.

While our families all

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- Bags of Dot's Pretzels
- Bags of Bird Seed
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- Slow Cookers
- 52 qt. Coolers
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

One person's junk

Dear Editor:

One person's junk is another person's loss of property value and quality of life. We have put thousands of dollars and many, many hours into beautifying our property here in Rio Blanco County just to have what we do aesthetically destroyed by our neighbor's rapidly growing rubbish and junk filled property.

After a 10-month process requesting the County to enforce the Rio Blanco County Land Use Regulations (LUR), Article 15, we have decided to write this letter, knowing there are others in this beautiful County who likely feel the same way we do. Most likely they are scared to complain, and with good reason, as to do so they may be humiliated and put down by two of our Commissioners, as we were.

Back in March of this year after putting up with our neighbor's junk for years, both near our property and actually some on our property, we filed a complaint with Rio Blanco County. Surprisingly, after going through the process as outlined by the LUR, Article 15, we were notified by the Rio Blanco County Board of Commissioners that they would not be enforcing their own Land Use Regulations. That included cleaning and mowing an area around the huge wood pile for fire mitigation to which absolutely nothing was done. A little bit of junk was moved a while back giving us hope, but apparently only making room for an old motorhome to be towed in two weeks ago. It obviously

doesn't run or it wouldn't have needed towing in by a semi tractor. What a slap in the face to anyone who thinks Rio Blanco County is a beautiful place to live, work and do business, or possibly move their business to, which could bring new jobs and opportunities.

In one statement by Commissioner Moyer, he said his biggest concern was that the regulation could open the door for feuds between neighbors, apparently thinking that one neighbor having rubbish and junk and the other not having rubbish and junk makes for peaceful living! That doesn't even make sense, as the feud already exists. Commissioner Rector said he didn't want another "policing agency" for rubbish, junk, weekends and brush. Well, Commissioner Rector, you already have the law in your Land Use Regulations and you, the Commissioners, are the policing agency, along with other County employees. That is the way it is written.

We write this letter to the editor, not to make enemies of those who insist on having rubbish and junk, but to inform them that not everyone enjoys junk as much as they do.

We realize property that is zoned agricultural is exempt from the Article 15 regulations, as it should be, but our neighbor is not zoned agricultural.

Commissioner Moyer has often stated he is for property owners' rights and the protection of those rights. If this is true, why doesn't he protect our rights also, that just happen to be in the law instead of just protecting those who violate

the laws or want no laws?

We challenge those people who care to look as you travel to other places in this great Country and pay particular attention to rubbish and junk. If you do this you will likely come to the conclusion that sadly, Rio Blanco County has a serious problem with junk! If this problem is not slowed or has a change of direction, it is our opinion, it may be branded forever. It is very difficult and costly to clean up huge amounts of rubbish and junk once it is acquired, but it is much easier to clean up if it never has been acquired in the first place. This is according to the regulations that are already in place, that our Commissioners are again picking and choosing who or where the regulations will be enforced, as there are several places they have been enforced.

We welcome anyone, including the Commissioners, to come walk up on our hill when the ground is bare to see first hand the trash that has blown over on us and the scrap bones littering our property.

If you're tired of seeing useless junk in our county please contact RBC attorney Don Steerman at 970-878-9680, Commissioner Ty Gates at 970-878-9430, Commissioner Jeff Rector at 970-878-9437, or Commissioner Gary Moyer at 970-878-9678. Think about if all that junk were in your backyard!

Sincerely,  
John and Connie Kelley  
Highway 64, Meeker

TRADITIONS: continued

► Continued from Page 4

lived so far away, we felt closer to them through melding our old-traditional observances of the occasion, as well adding a few twists. Talking to them on the phone helped a bit, but it could not compare to what happens on social media sites that we have come to take for granted.

I still gravitate toward being with people, so my favorite thing about the White River Valley was the care and kindness we were given by all the unexpected visitors at our door. Two elderly gents I interviewed early on set the tone with their thoughtfulness. One December afternoon, the doorbell rang. I opened the door to find a woman

delivering a poinsettia. A few weeks later, the doorbell rang again and my new friend handed me a silver dollar for baby's first Christmas.

Since that first experience, I have greeted countless unexpected gift-givers of all ages standing at my door simply to say "merry Christmas."

VETERAN VOICE

Support law enforcement

By WES EUBANKS  
Special to the Herald Times

Regardless of which war, or branch of service, all veterans learn early that their survival depends on their ability to ask three critical questions: No. 1) What could go wrong? No. 2) How bad could it get? No. 3) What are they going to do if it does happen?

New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, Baltimore, Portland, Austin and Milwaukee cut funding for law enforcement, Portland saw a 530% increase in its murder rate. Austin saw a 74% rise. New York's murder rate was 56% higher. Chicago's rose by 54%. In 2020, there were an estimated 1,277,696 violent crimes. The volume of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter offenses increased 29.4%. The estimated number of aggravated assault offenses rose 12.1%, and there were an estimated 6,452,038 property crimes, motor vehicle thefts rose 11.8%. I believe it would be smart to fully restore funding for the Rio Blanco Sheriff's department and let Sheriff Mazzola and his deputies continue to do what they do best, protect the citizens. <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr>

THOUGHTS EXPRESSED ON OPINION PAGES ARE EXCLUSIVELY THOSE OF THE WRITER AND DO NOT REFLECT THOSE OF THE HERALD TIMES. INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THE OPINION PAGES HAS NOT BEEN FACT-CHECKED. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO VALIDATE AND VERIFY. LETTERS ARE PRINTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY LAST NAME. SUBMIT SIGNED LETTERS ON MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST TO [EDITOR@HT1885.COM](mailto:EDITOR@HT1885.COM), MAIL TO PO BOX 720, MEEKER, CO 81641 OR DROP OFF AT 304 4TH ST., MEEKER. THERE IS NO CHARGE. WE WILL NOT PUBLISH LIBEL, SLANDER, HATE SPEECH OR OTHER NONSENSE. DUE TO SPACE CONSTRAINTS, WE REQUEST SUBMISSIONS OF 500 WORDS OR LESS.

**White River Electric Association Inc.**  
MEEKER, COLO.

## Kilowatt Korner

DECEMBER 2021

And just like that the end of the year is upon us. WREA wishes all its members a safe, healthy and Merry Christmas followed by a festive and prosperous New Year. Thank you to all the sponsors, participants and everyone who came out for a festive Tree Lighting and Parade of Lights which was topped off with a spectacular fireworks show!

WREA is pleased to report that electric rates in 2022 will remain stable with no rate increases. This marks the third year of rate stability which followed rate decreases in 2018 and 2019. WREA is proud that it has been able to manage costs and bring our membership affordable reliable electricity when most all other costs have increased in recent years. WREA's Board of Directors set a clear goal to maintain rates while upholding safety, reliability, and customer service standards. WREA believes that affordable electricity is important to our membership and to our local economy.

WREA was excited to return to its traditional December calendar by hosting the 21st White River Electric Cowboy Shootout. The WREA Cowboy Shoot out is historically held the first two weekends of December, with the girl's tournament the first weekend, followed by the boys the second weekend. Attending schools participate in the 3-day tournament with both their varsity and junior varsity teams. Each varsity team plays 3 games over the three-day bracketed style tournament starting on Thursday and culminating with the championship game on Saturday afternoon. WREA was thrilled to have teams and fans enjoy the new Meeker High School facilities after the 2020 tournament was cancelled due to Covid.

The Meeker Masonic Lodge provides a Saturday morning pancake breakfast for the teams which is a player favorite. A skills competition follows the pancake breakfast which includes a 3-point contests for both boys and girls, and a slam dunk contest for the boys. Everyone loves when the coaches join in the fun with the Coaches Challenge 3 Point and Slam Dunk Contests. The Cowboy Shoot Out also names All-Tournament teams and Tournament MVPs. The Coal Ridge Titans took home the women's 2021 Championship title and the Aspen High School Skiers took home the men's 2021 title. White River would like to thank all the administrators, officials, parents, spectators, players, and fans who helped make this year another successful year. A special thank you to the Mountain Valley Bank and Tri-State G&T for their contributions to the hospitality room.

Just in time for the holidays, the Meeker High School Culinary students, also known as "Santa's Helpers" are here to share good cheer and a yummy recipe for Paleo Pumpkin Bites.

# Grand Valley Cardiology

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## Kilowatt Chef

### PALEO PUMPKIN BITES

From the MHS Culinary Class taught by Brenda Mullins-Hummel

**FOR THE CRUST:**

- 3/4 cup pitted medjool dates (about 7 dates), soaked in hot water for 10 minutes
- 1.5 cups raw pecans, plus 12 full pecans for topping
- Pinch of pink salt

**FOR THE FILLING:**

- 1/3 cup pumpkin puree
- 1/3 cup full fat coconut milk
- 1 tsp pumpkin spice
- P 1/4 cup maple syrup
- Pinch of pink salt
- Scoop of collagen peptides (optional)

1. In a food processor, combine the drained dates, pecans and salt. Process until combined and the "dough" starts to form into a ball.
2. In a separate bowl, combine the pumpkin puree, coconut milk, pumpkin pie spice, maple syrup, pinch of salt and collagen peptides. Whisk until smooth.
3. Line a cupcake tin (I like to use silicone cupcake liners) and evenly distribute the crust mixture, about 1.5 tablespoons in each cupcake. Use your fingers to press the crust to an even layer.
4. Evenly disperse the pumpkin pie filling among each cupcake, until the tins are about halfway full.
5. Top each with a pecan and place in the freezer for at least 1 hour.

NOTES: These thaw quickly, so eat immediately when you take them out of the freezer!

From everyone at the White River Electric family,  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

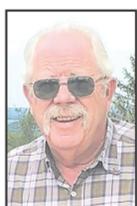
## OBITUARIES

**Richard Ellsworth**

July 1, 1945 ~ Dec. 8 2021

Long-time Meeker resident and rancher Richard Ellsworth, 76, peacefully passed away on Dec. 8, 2021, from a short battle with Covid pneumonia. He passed while surrounded by loved ones in Lafayette, Colorado. Richard was born in 1945 to Truman and Julia Ellsworth in Rocky Ford, Colorado. He attended Mesa College in Grand Junction, Colorado, where he met and married his sweetheart of 56 years, Pearl Anne. He continued his education at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, receiving a Bachelor of Science in agriculture sciences. He later completed a double master's degree from Colorado State University in secondary education and educational administration. Richard taught high school agriculture in Gypsum, Colorado, and Meeker, Colorado, for 21 years. He then taught ranch management through Colorado Northwestern Community College for 13 years.

Richard had a thirst for God's Word, gaining knowledge, teaching, and singing. Not only was Richard an educator, but he was also a rancher and devout Christian. He served on the Rio Blanco Fair Board, the Fairfield Scholarship Committee, Meeker Ministerial Alliance, the Pioneers Medical Center Board of Directors, and the Colorado State FFA Agricultural Teachers Association, as well as played many roles in the annual

**Richard Ellsworth**

Meeker Massacre; behind the scenes as well as playing the Indian Chief role for several years. Richard was very involved in his church, Meeker Christian Church, as an elder, trustee, Sunday school teacher, and preacher. His hobbies included saddle making, leatherwork, music, mechanics, welding and woodworking. He was a "jack-of-all-trades, master of none", a chocolate lover, and very patriotic.

Preceding Richard in death were his parents Truman and Julia Ellsworth, and his sister Karen Nichols. He leaves behind his adoring wife Pearl Anne; his loving children, Becky (Rick) Proctor and Dan (Betsy) Ellsworth; five grandchildren, Garrett (Brianna), Matthew, Mikhala, Morgan and Treavor; half-siblings Ronald (Brande) Ellsworth, Byron Ellsworth, Judy Ellsworth, and Susan (Carl Profazi) Ellsworth. Additionally, brothers and sisters-in-law, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews and many friends. His passing will leave a large hole in the hearts of his family and community.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family asks that you consider making a donation to Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch, P.O. Box 606, Shelbina, MO 63468; telephone number 573-588-2191 or [www.shiloranch.org](http://www.shiloranch.org). Richard and Pearl have supported Shiloh for many years and have a heart for their ministry.

A celebration of life will be held on May 21, 2022, in Meeker, Colorado.

**Cynthia Lu Mobley Kerkstra**

Jan. 23, 1962 ~ Nov. 13, 2021

Cindy Kerkstra, 59, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Nov. 13, 2021, in Wyoming, Michigan. She was born Jan. 23, 1962, in Meeker, Colorado, to Bruce and Mary Mobley. Cindy leaves behind: the love of her life of 30 years, Brian Kerkstra; her six children, Danielle, Sidney and his wife Jessica, Jenni and her husband Sam, Angelina and her husband Kevin, Serena, and Benjamin; and her three dogs, Star, Mollie and Vic. She was preceded in death by her parents, Bruce and Mary Mobley.

Cindy was a loving wife, a caring mother, and a compassionate friend. She had an unshakable faith in Jesus Christ and abided by God's word for her entire life. Her unique personality was memorable to all — she overflowed with joy and kindness, leaving an impact on everyone she met, and she had an eccentric sense of humor that never failed to make her family laugh. She will be remembered and deeply missed by all who loved her. Private visitation and burial services will be held for immediate family. A public memorial service will be held Jan. 23, 2022, at Metcalf and Jonkhoff Funeral Services from 2-4 p.m. in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**Cynthia Kerkstra****Julie Grace McCrary**

July 24, 1949 ~ Dec. 11, 2021

Julie Grace McCrary went home to be with Jesus and start her journey in heaven on Dec. 11, 2021. She was greeted at the gates of heaven by many loved ones waiting for her.

Julie (Gould) McCrary was born to her parents Edna Mae and George Gould on July 24, 1949, in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Julie grew up in Meeker, Colorado, and graduated from Meeker High School in 1967, during high school she participated in cheerleading. While attending school she met the love of her life, Michael Gene McCrary and they got married on Jan. 12, 1969. After getting married they moved to Glenwood Springs where she would spend the next 46 years and where they raised their two children, Pam and Shane. Julie spent most of her career as a bookkeeper and spent her time after retirement enjoying time with her kids, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many, many friends and family. She enjoyed watching the Colorado Rockies, Denver Broncos and the Denver Nuggets and cheering them on whether in the stands or in front of the TV. She loved to see wildlife and explore the mountains. One of her favorite weekend getaways was going to visit Estes Park and watching the elk in town.

**Julie McCrary**

She was a woman of faith and a woman of Christ and set a great example of how to be just that. To know Julie was to love her. She was the most kindhearted person and would gladly give you her last cent if she felt like you needed it. Her entire family and friends were beyond blessed to have been loved by her and the way she showed her love. Julie is survived by her two children,

Pam Harris of Rifle, and Shane (Anne) McCrary of Silt, and a few kids she took in as her own and loved as her own along the way (Sean, Todd, and Aaron Anderson of California, and Paul Roberts of North Dakota), her sister Carole O'Connor of Washington and sister-in-law Kim Gould of Meeker. She is also survived by her four grandchildren who were the light of her life, Michael McCrary Jr., Haley (Luke) Turner, Kylee Harris, Robbie Harris and her two great-grandchildren, Jackson and Emmy Turner. Julie was preceded in death by her parents, Edna Mae and George Gould, her two brothers, Michael Gould and George Gould, and her husband, Michael McCrary. Services will be at 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021, at New Creation Church in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

**Dennis Leigh Estel**

June 19, 1956 ~ Nov. 27, 2021

Dennis Leigh Estel, age 65, died Nov. 27, 2021.

Dennis was born June 19, 1956, in North Charleroi, Pennsylvania, to Ralph and Ruth Evan Estel. Dennis graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Pennsylvania. He also took several college classes.

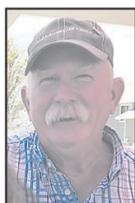
Dennis had been employed as a pumper in the oilfield industry for Williams and Locin Oil until he retired. He was also a pipeline inspector for Williams for many years.

Dennis was a member of Elks, BPOE 1907 in Rangely, Colorado. He attended the Christian Church.

He enjoyed any kind of hunting; hunting for horns; fishing and watching the wildlife. He was a kind-spirited man who would help anyone. Dennis enjoyed traveling. He and his wife Wanda went to various states after retiring.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife Wanda; stepson Daniel (Signy) Hefley and three grandchildren; three siblings, Ralph (Donna) Estel, Pennsylvania; Janice (Lou) McKay, Pennsylvania; Tim (Stephanie) Estel, New Jersey; many nieces and nephews; and a great many special friends.

Memorial services will be in the summer of 2022. Date and time to be announced.

**Dennis Estel****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?**

**Tap here for details.**

**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.**

RBC Department of Public Health & Environment • 970.878.9520 Meeker • 970.878.9525 Rangely  
<https://rbc.us/282/Public-Health> • Email: [publichealth@rbc.us](mailto:publichealth@rbc.us)



OBITUARIES

## Sean Thomas Sanders

Aug. 16, 1989 ~ Nov. 21, 2021

On Sunday, Nov. 21, 2021, Sean Thomas Sanders "Seany T" passed away at the age of 32. Sean was born on Aug. 16, 1989, in Indian Hills, Colorado, to Scott Sanders and Karen Sanders. Sean spent his formative years in Applewood, Colorado, graduating from Wheat Ridge High School then continuing on to study at Colorado Mesa University then moving to Fort Collins and attending Front Range Community College.



Sean Sanders

Sean was an avid outdoorsman, having climbed many of Colorado's 14ers with his friends and family, fly fishing Colorado's streams with his brother Kelly and camping countless times with his brother, cousins and friends. He was a talented carpenter and was currently building his dream home on the White River in Buford, Colorado, with his fiancé Quinn, brother Kelly and his dad and mentor, Scott. In addition to building their dream home, Sean and Quinn shared a love of

gardening and had recently built "Pa's Pantry," a greenhouse in Buford. He was a huge Denver Broncos fan and claimed he was the biggest Broncos fan in the Sanders family — a true feat.

Sean is reunited in the afterlife with his Grandparents Gary and Beverly Sanders "Granny and Pa," his Grandpa John Miller "Papa John", his cousin Ryan White and his dog Bandit.

Sean is survived by his soulmate and fiancé, Quinn Olson; his best friend and brother Kelly Sanders, his devoted mother Karen Sanders, his father Scott (Jody) Sanders, his grandmother Barbara Miller, countless family members, friends and his dog, Aggie.

Sean was a gentle soul, an amazing son, a wonderful partner and a joy to be around. He will be missed dearly by all that knew him. We love you Sean, until we meet again.

A celebration of Sean's life will be held at a later date.

## David LeRoy Johnson

May 20, 1941 ~ Dec. 1, 2021

It is with deep sorrow, long time resident, Ruth Martinson, announces the passing of her brother, David LeRoy Johnson (DJ).

DJ was the first born child to Harold and Florence Ruth Wild Johnson on May 20, 1941, in Jersey City, New Jersey. Although named after both his grandfathers, David was known as DJ most of his life. After several years Harold and Florence divorced and Florence married Joseph Weisenberger. Joe raised DJ as his own son.



David 'DJ' Johnson

The family moved to his maternal grandmother's childhood family home in East Northport, New York on Long Island, on two acres of what people said looked like a park with its own woods. Also, a smaller home on the property DJ helped to build became DJ's future home for a short time.

DJ completed the ninth grade then quit school to help support the family by mowing lawns then later joining his dad Joe painting houses.

At 19, DJ joined the Navy. The Navy was the joy of his life to serve. The Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War were two of the major conflicts he faced with honor and pride protecting the country he loved. He always wore a cap stating he was a vet and wore it with pride. People would stop and thank him for his service. His reply was always, "It was my honor to serve you and your family." DJ, after several years of service, was honorably discharged from the Navy.

He pursued his next love, driving 18 wheelers local and over the road. He drove the whole east coast from Maine to Florida to Texas, up the Mississippi River to Canada and everywhere in between. He loved traveling to new places, meeting people, and seeing new scenery. He was never tired of driving. He did this for 35 years until he retired at 69 years old.

Although he was on the road when he was 52 years old. He made a stop in Syracuse, New York, that changed his life. To satisfy his sweet tooth he stopped in a donut shop for a donut and coffee. As he walked in, the waitress behind the counter looked up and their eyes met. It was "kismet," they instantly knew they were meant to be with each other. Rose Guppy, 40 years old, was the one true love of his life. When he was on the road they talked daily, when he was home they were inseparable. They married soon after and their union lasted 27 years until she got an aggressive cancer and passed away Nov. 28, 2018.

In May 2019 DJ moved to Rangely,

Colorado, to live with his sister Ruth. He loved Colorado, especially the mountains, the openness Colorado had to offer, and the friendly people and small town atmosphere.

Despite beating lung, kidney, bladder and skin cancer, the many years of smoking took a bigger toll on his body. Even quitting smoking at age 69, it left him with severe COPD. The altitude and dryness of Colorado made breathing even a bigger challenge, but he still pushed through.

DJ made many friends in Rangely, including his best friend and pastor, Roger Reed. DJ enjoyed their many rides throughout the countryside that were new and exciting to him. If they weren't riding they were fishing, although I question that, they never brought any fish home. But they sure had fun trying.

DJ loved working in the yard as much as he could. He was never afraid of hard work. He had so many plans for the front and backyard he was working on.

He enjoyed attending church at Living Water Assembly, never missing a prayer meeting or Bible study, always eager to help out, especially eating the delicious food at potluck. One of the highlights in his life was Oct. 26, 2021, when he was baptized. This was a big day for him.

DJ was a soft spoken gentleman, always trying to help others, putting their needs before his own. Mostly he enjoyed making people laugh. He said life was too short to take it so seriously, but he was always self conscious not to offend anyone. He loved God, the country he served, his family and friends. DJ was 80-1/2 years old, and his goal for many years was to live to 100 years old. Unfortunately Nov. 19, 2021, DJ contracted Covid-19. He fought a hard battle and died peacefully in his sleep on Dec. 1, 2021.

DJ leaves behind those he loved dearly, his sister Ruth Martinson; niece Kristi and "June" Toledo; great nephew Hunter Stewart; nephew Kevin Martinson and Heidi Reeves, and great niece Lacey Martinson; as well as many friends.

Services will be at the Living Water Assembly Church (204 East Rio Blanco Ave., Rangely, Colorado) on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021, at 1 p.m.. Graveside services will follow at the Rangely Cemetery with full military honors. Following the burial a luncheon will be served at the church for everyone in attendance. Online condolences may be shared at [www.AshleyValleyFuneralHome.com](http://www.AshleyValleyFuneralHome.com)

### OBITUARY POLICY:

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

## Margret (Peggy) Ann Holman Bodine Reese

Jan. 11, 1930 ~ Dec. 11, 2011

Peggy was born in Everett, Washington on Jan. 11, 1930. She died in Meeker, Colorado, on Dec. 11, 2011.

Preceded in death by her parents Harold Eldridge Holman of Utah and Wrenn Willson Holman of Idaho, her husband William (Bill) Stone Bodine of Arizona, and second husband John William Reese, her sister Nancy Wrenn Holman Gregg and in 1927 by her bother Clay Holman.



Peggy Reese

She is survived by her three daughters Wrenn Bodine and Frances Bodine Murdock of Arizona and Traci Bodine Niederriter of Virginia, two grandchildren Melissa Murdock Fagan and William (David) Murdock and three great-grandchildren Jace, Clancy, and Wilder.

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# ON EDGE: low pay, high-cost housing contribute to mental health worker shortage

► Continued from Page 1A

stock in what's important and what they value."

Consider the staffing shortage in human terms. Each clinician at Jefferson Center typically sees about 150 patients in the course of a year. With 90 of them gone, that's about 13,500 patients who didn't get an appointment, Kuenzler said. "It has a huge impact on our ability to serve our community."

The center served about 34,000 people each in 2018 and 2019. Last year, that dropped to about 28,000, partly because of the staffing crisis and partly because of the logistics of the pandemic. While emergency crisis centers remained open, many counseling appointments moved online. Jefferson Center set up "telehealth kiosks" in various spots — including libraries and homeless shelters — where people could log into an appointment using a laptop.

Now, clinicians have outpatient caseloads reaching 100, an unhealthy shift from pre-pandemic times when the center considered 75-80 the upper reaches of the limit.

"We can't just keep piling onto our clinicians," Kuenzler said. "We don't turn people away. What that means is sometimes people have to wait too long between appointments, and they are not able to have as much choice."

Instead of getting an appointment with a psychologist or a therapist, a patient might instead get a phone call from an outreach worker.

The turnover rate among community center counselors and social workers was 30% in 2021, nearly double the rate of other mental health workers, according to the trade

organization, called the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council. The council blames the problem on decades of inadequate rate increases from the state Medicaid system, and is asking the legislature next year for a 5% boost.

The reimbursement rates the state pays to individual clinicians in private practice are far lower even than those paid to mental health centers. Centers, however, say they need higher reimbursement rates than therapists in private practice in order to cover the costs of operating 24/7 crisis services, case management and community education courses.

Since 2000, community mental health provider rates have lost 30.1% of their spending power compared with inflation, and salaries have lagged 27.8% behind state employees, the council said. The mental health centers cannot keep up, the council said, "especially at a time when Colorado communities expect more services by the providers whose mission it is to serve all Coloradans, regardless of their ability to pay."

## WORKFORCE SHORTAGE CONNECTED TO LOW PAY, HIGH-COST HOUSING

In 2019, when Eagle Valley Behavioral Health opened the first community mental health center in Colorado in 40 years, the goal was to hire 100 clinicians.

Two realizations have hit Casey Wolfington, senior director of community behavioral health, since she helped set that goal: 100 more clinicians in the Vail area isn't enough, and, some days, it feels like it will be impossible to find even that many.

Two years after open-

ing, the mental health center has managed to hire 50 clinicians, including several school-based counselors, therapists who work next to doctors inside Colorado Mountain Medical clinics, and four psychiatrists — two enticed to the mountains from Denver and two from out of state.

People apply because they're pumped about being part of the progress in Eagle Valley, the only community in Colorado that has competing safety-net mental health centers. Eagle Valley Behavioral Health was started with a \$60 million investment from Vail Health, the local nonprofit hospital, because the decades-old mental health center, Mind Springs Health, was failing to keep up with the community's mental health crisis. The new center takes private insurance, Medicare and Medicaid, and has a fund, named after a 13-year-old girl who died by suicide, that pays for therapy for people who can't afford it.

But the job interviews with potential new hires often stall. "They are so excited ... and then they look for a place to rent or a place to buy," Wolfington said. "They change their mind. Or they pause their mind."

In the meantime, Eagle Valley can't help all the people asking for appointments.

The pressure for counseling services is so high in part because there are no in-patient mental health services in the region. The closest residential care is in Denver or Grand Junction, a drive along Interstate 70 regularly blocked by wildfire, snowstorms and rockslides. By April, Eagle Valley Behavioral Health is hoping it will have approval from the county to break ground on its own short-

term inpatient facility, with 28-beds for adults and adolescents.

For now, the mental health center keeps openings in the schedule every day in case people need immediate help and can't wait weeks for an appointment. "There are more people showing up for help than we can schedule," Wolfington said.

Colorado has \$450 million to fix the system, but not without workers

Colorado policymakers have what many have called a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" to improve the behavioral health care system in the form of \$450 million in federal coronavirus relief aid that Gov. Jared Polis has tagged for mental health.

But no amount of money will fix a broken system unless there are enough workers, which is why a task force responsible for recommending ways to spend the money has focused much of its time on the workforce crisis.

A real-life example is coming up in Salida, where the local community mental health center is building the area's first 24/7 crisis intervention center. Right now, the counties of Fremont, Chaffee, Lake, Custer and beyond have no crisis stabilization center for people experiencing mental health or addiction emergencies. Across rural Colorado, people in mental health crisis are held in jail when no treatment bed is available.

The new unit is on target to open in the spring, but here's the problem: it will need 28 full-time employees to run it. And Solvista Health, the local mental health center, is already trying to fill 16 vacancies for clinicians.

"Detox work is hard. Acute treatment is hard," Solvista CEO Brian Turner said. "Supporting people



KATHRYN SCOTT, SPECIAL TO THE COLORADO SUN

**Kiara Kuenzler is President and CEO at Jefferson Center for Mental Health. She, along with fellow colleagues have started returning to the office for in person treatment as well as continuing Zoom calls with her clients.**

24/7, that is very difficult work and it pays very poorly, generally."

Despite the worker shortage, Solvista — unlike other community mental health centers in the state — managed to increase its patients last year, by about 300 people. The mental health center, which spends 83% of its budget on salaries and benefits, pays about \$60,000 annually for a licensed clinical professional with a master's degree, and about \$41,000 for a peer counselor — people who are in recovery but don't have professional degrees.

At Southeast Health Group, the community mental health center for Lamar, La Junta and Rocky Ford, current job postings include multiple therapists, youth therapists and peer specialists. The pay listed in the peer specialist job posting starts at minimum wage: \$12.32-\$14.69 per hour.

And the Mental Health Center of Denver, which has had an easier time filling vacancies and already pays more than other centers across the state, announced an "unprecedented" raise for its staff last week. All staff will earn no less than

\$24.04 per hour, or \$50,000 per year for a full-time employee. The adjustment means that all the center's jobs will reach the 60th percentile in the behavioral health market.

The Denver center, with multiple locations in the city, spends 66% of its budget on salaries and benefits. The center has 160 job openings, and in nearby Aurora, the Aurora Mental Center has 78 vacant positions, or 18% of its staff.

A task force working on recommendations about how best to spend the \$450 million and help create a new Behavioral Health Administration has keyed in on the workforce shortage. Wolfington, from Eagle Valley Behavioral Health and a task force subcommittee member, said she was optimistic about the state's potential plans.

One idea is a student loan repayment program in which federal coronavirus aid would pay off a chunk of a mental health clinician's college debt each year they stayed on the job. Eagle Valley already has such a program, and the loan payments continue as long as the worker stays in

► See **ON EDGE**, Page 3B

## 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.





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## Panthers compete in first tournament of season

Special to the Herald Times

**RANGELY** | This weekend the Rangely Panther wrestling team competed in their first tournament of the year. Friday they dualled the Soroco Rams coming away with 54-6 victory.

"The Rams gave up a lot of weights," commented head coach JC Chumacero, "but we out-wrestled them, which is what we look for in a dual like this."

Kobey Chism at 132 pounds, Zane Varner (152), Alex Black (160), and Braxton Moore (145) all came away with wins by pin. Colton Stevens (132) won a close match winning 4-3. Brent Cantrell (182) and Izaiah Moody (132) came up short of wins.

"The next morning the Panthers wrestled in their first bracketed tournament in which Chumacero commented that "the young men performed very well."

Moody and Cantrell came up short of wins in the tournament.

**Braxton Moore (left) and Alex Black (right) came away from the first tournament of the year with wins by pin. Black, a senior, was one of three Panthers to take first.**

GAYLE ZIMMERMAN PHOTOS

"These guys are wrestling hard and with a lot of heart," said Chumacero. "They just have a few small adjustments to make in order to close out those close matches."

Landon Carlson and Moore both ended their day with a 2-2 record and 4th place finishes.

"Landon really turned a switch on this weekend," commented Chumacero, "I think he discovered how much fun it is to get his hand raised, and I know he will continue to work at making that happen more often. Braxton also had a good day and is starting to turn it on."

Aydan Christian finished his day 1-1.

"He got ill early in the morning and just wasn't performing to his full potential," said Chumacero, "We decid-

ed it was best for him to get home and get some rest. His win still got him to end the day with a 4th place finish."

Chism finished with a 2-1 record and a 3rd place finish.

"This young man sat for about 4 hours before his first match," commented Chumacero. "This is hard on the body as it just doesn't stay ready to go. I think we learned from a close semi finals loss though. He dominated the rest of the day."

Kasen LeBleu went 1-2 and also finished with a 3rd.

"He improved a lot from last weekend," said Chumacero of LeBleu.

Stevens wrestled his best tournament of his high school career so far, finishing the day 2-1 and a second place.

"He wrestled smart all

day and couldn't be more proud to see his work pay off," commented Chumacero.

Seniors Varner, Black, and Byron Mackay all came away with first place finishes.

"Zane dominated all day going 3-0 and pinned his way through the tournament," continuing with the top finishers Chumacero says, "Alex impressed once again going 3-0 winning smart technical matches, and Mackay had only one kid in his respective weight class this weekend. This means the best 2 out of three rule, comes

into play. Byron didn't leave any question as he defeated his opponent twice by pin,"

Wrapping up, Chumacero says, "I am extremely impressed by the Panther Wrestling Team this weekend. Everyone wrestled with a lot of heart and desire to win. Their hard work is paying off."

As a team the Panthers finished in third place in the tournament behind Hayden and Steamboat. Next weekend the Panthers will compete in West Grand Duals Friday at 5 P.M. and in the West Grand tournament the next day starting at 9 A.M.



## MHS wrestling competes in Cedaredge, Delta

By TIFFANY JEHOUREK  
Special to the Herald Times

**MEEKER I** Varsity opened the weekend with a dual in Cedaredge, it was supposed to be a tri dual, but due to weather Buena Vista was unable to attend.

Each team had two open weights, the Cowboys lost 45-30, but Cedaredge did some shuffling to create one of the open weights.

Winning their matches were Trae Kennedy, Cade Blunt, Judd Harvey and for JV Hayden Shults,

"Cedaredge is a tough team, but the boys wrestled well," commented assistant coach Tyrell Turner.

At the Delta Panther Invitational at 120 pounds Kennedy took third, Ty Goedert (132) took second and Clay Crawford placed fourth, Abe Maupin (138) placed fourth, Trevor Keys (152) placed sixth, Connor Blunt (160) won the tournament and received outstanding wrestler of the tournament, also at 160 pounds Trinden Powell placed fourth, at 170 pounds Kelton Turner won the bracket and Cade took second, Brendan Clatterbaugh (182) took second, at 220 Harvey took first and Shults placed fourth, and at HWT Tanner Musser won his bracket. As a team the Cowboys took third with 177 points, Cedaredge took first with 208 points and Moffat County second with 190 points.

The teams now look forward to the Warrior in Grand Junction for the varsity and the JV will be traveling to Fruita. Both of these tournaments are Friday and Saturday. The Cowboys are only allowed to take 14 boys to the Warrior and the rest of the team will travel to Fruita. The Warrior begins at 10 am at Grand Junction Central High School on Friday and the JV tournament begins at 4:30 pm at Fruita High School.



(Top) Connor Blunt won and received outstanding wrestler of the Delta tournament. (Bottom left) Kelton Turner won the 170 pound bracket. (Middle right) Heavyweight Tanner Musser won his bracket. (Bottom right) Harvey took first place at 220.

TIFFANY JEHOUREK PHOTOS

## Eight teams compete at WREA Cowboy Shootout

By TIFFANY JEHOUREK  
Special to the Herald Times

**MEEKER I** The White River Electric Association Shootout proved to be a competitive weekend for the eight teams participating.

"We knew when we built this tournament that the competition was going to be good," commented head coach Klark Kindler. "Aspen is a state qualifier returning, Palisade is 3A, Lotus is a big 2A or small 3A and Mancos is in the top ten in 2A."

Aspen, a team which made it to the elite eight last year took home the first place trophy with wins all three days, they also swept the challenges on Saturday. In the three point contest Aspen's Josh Ford took first, their coach Buchner won the coaches three point contest, and Shae Korpella won the dunking contest.

The Cowboys opened the tournament Thursday evening to Longmont Christian.

Winning 64-45, Zagar Brown led in scoring with 17, Zach Simonsen had 11 and Liam Deming had 9. Off the boards Brown and Deming led with five each.

"We got off to a really good start and were able to attack the posts, they were unable to take away our post game," said Kindler, "We really shot the ball well on the inside and it was good to get off to a good start like that."

The bracket had the Cowboys on the same side as Aspen, and the win put the two teams together Friday evening. The Skiers led the Cowboys at the half 37-6.

"Apen is long and lengthy and quick, they have three kids that are 6'5" to 6'7" and against Hayden and us they had 6-7 dunks, in the first half we couldn't get a rhythm at all," commented Klark. "Because of their length they challenged every shot and created a lot of turnovers."

In the second half the Cowboys picked it up and scored 25 pints and held the Skiers to 28. Deming led the evening with 13 points and Simonsen had eight. Defensively Casey Brink and Simonsen led with five rebounds each.

The loss against Aspen moved the Cowboys into the consolation round playing for third and paired them with 4A Palisade. Final score off 55-33 to Palisade, coach Kindler called the game very physical, just like most 4A teams are."

"Our kids are not used to playing at a 4A physicality, but it was good for them to see," said Kindler.

The first quarter was very competitive, and the second quarter was 18-18 and then we turned over the ball," commented Kindler. "We turned the ball over on five straight possessions and got down eight or ten points and now we are trying to dig ourselves out of hole the



Casey Brink

TIFFANY JEHOUREK PHOTO

entire game."

For the second straight game, Deming led with 10 points, and Ryan Sullivan and Jace Mobley each picked up seven. Another big game off of the boards for Simonsen who had 10 rebounds and looks to be a consistent defensive player.

At the end of the tournament Zagar Brown earned all

tourney team awards alongside Porter Lee and Korpella from Aspen, Connor Showalter from Mancos, Donovan Maestas from Palisade, and Apanh Hassan from Lotus.

One more game remains on the schedule for 2021. The Cowboys travel to Vali Christian Friday, games begin at three with JV.

# Panthers undefeated in weekend tournament

Special to the Herald Times

**RANGELY** | Teams from seven schools battled for dominance at the 2021 Rangely Shootout, featuring 19 basketball games in three gyms over two days. On the boys' side, the Rangely Panthers walked away with bragging rights as they went undefeated over the weekend. In other play, Ouray defeated North Park 49-45, while North Park downed South Park 46-29 and Nucla 46-32. Nucla and De Beque both earned wins over South Park — Nucla outscored the Burros 45-35 and De Beque prevailed 46-33.

The Panthers picked up their first win of the season on Friday against the Ouray Trojans with a 39-20 victory. Rangely's defense smothered Ouray for three quarters, limiting their scoring to three players. Hayden Hart led Ouray's scoring with 10 points, while Rangely was led by Timothy Scoggins with 10 points and nine rebounds. According to Rangely coach Kyle Boydston, "Our offense wasn't prolific, but our defense performed as expect-

ed. This group plays with high intensity and you could tell they had fun."

Rangely's final opponent was the Nucla Mustangs. The Mustangs came into the tournament with five boys and fought valiantly. Already stricken with injuries, the Mustangs lost another player to a knee injury in their loss to North Park. Their fifth player was able to start both remaining games however, allowing Nucla to finish tournament play and pick up a victory over South Park, who, to their credit, played Nucla four on four. Nucla took on the Rangely Panthers in much the same fashion, with both teams starting one player to the side. The Panther defense again proved to be too much and the four on four action opened up the floor for Rangely resulting in more scoring opportunities. Rangely defeated Nucla 62-32 as Kenyon Cochrane and Timothy Scoggins led the Panthers with 14 points and 12 points, respectively. Rangely's Point guard Keihlin Myers had an all-around game as he pitched in six points, seven rebounds, seven

assists, five steals and 10 deflections. Coach Boydston added, "We had to postpone our game with Telluride as they couldn't make it due to weather, but I was very pleased with our effort and teamwork this weekend." The Panthers will look to reschedule with Telluride, and their next game will be against Vail Christian in Rangely on Jan. 7.

The Rangely JV team also went undefeated at the tournament, winning two games with North Park. They concluded the day with the Rangely JV team taking on the Rangely "C" team. The coaches split the squad evenly with the "Green" team defeating the "White" team by only four points. This game was particularly entertaining as it featured a "showdown," pitting older brother Luis Quintana against his bigger younger brother, Marcos. All who attended enjoyed the intense competition that followed. While Luis's team won, we think Marcos may have had the first and last laugh — yes, you had to be there.



(Left) Point guard Keihlin Myers had an all-around game with six points, seven rebounds. Kenyon Cochrane led the Panthers in scoring with 14 points.

MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO

## SOUNDS OF THE SEASON ...



MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO

The Rangely Junior/Senior High Band presented a Christmas Concert Dec. 6, playing favorites like Silent Night and Jingle Bell Rock. High school band members include Emma Smith, Kristiana Terry, Laurie Ward, Annika Cantrell, Mary Scoggins, Maddie Harris, Macy Morgan and Annaka Evans. Eighth grade band members are Halle Harris, Jasmine Preciado, Falon Gilbert, Sidney Lujan, Miley Francis, Aren Robertson, Caleb Wiley, Gage Nielson, Drew Zadra, Alivia Green, Johnny Lance and Matthew Morgan. Seventh grade band members are Courtney Casto, Taya Wren, Randy Casto, Adeline Hill and Rachel Elder.



## Panthers beat Nucla

Special to the Herald Times

**RANGELY** | The lady Panthers were at home last weekend for the Rangely Tournament. "A lot of good things happened, and a lot of learning from a young group of athletes," said head coach Jimmie Mergelman. "On Friday, we played Dove Creek, a very good 1A team. We didn't come out well and just couldn't get into a rhythm. Senior Mary Scoggins did a great job of leading the way and keeping her composure. We fell to the Bulldogs 46-18."

Saturday the lady Panthers played Nucla "... with much confidence and spunk," Mergelman said,

**Ryann Mergelman led scoring in a win against Nucla with 11 points.**

MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO

adding, "We started off well, and then just kept getting better. We held them to 0 in the second quarter while we put up 12."

The Panthers won 43-30 against Nucla. Ryann led the scoring with 11, followed by Scoggins with eight, Wren seven, Ducey and Cantrell with six each, Dembowski rounded it out with five. "[It was a] great game with everyone contributing," Mergelman said.

The Panthers are off until Jan. 7 when they will pick up with league play against Vail Christian.



## VOLLEYBALL AWARDS ...



COURTESY PHOTO

Congratulations to the Meeker Cowboy Volleyball players receiving awards for this year. In order from left to right: Savannah Mendenhall and Aspen Merrifield, Western Slope League Honorable Mentions; Emma Luce, first team All Conference, Western Slope Player of the Year and first team CHSAA All State; Tatum Kennedy, first team All Conference and second team CHSAA All State; and Sarah Kracht, Western Slope League Honorable Mention.

— IN THIS —  
**HAPPIEST**  
OF SEASONS  
MAY You FIND  
ALL THE  
**LOVE &**  
**KINDNESS.**

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# WREA electric rates to remain stable for 2021

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

White River Electric is pleased to announce that electric rates will remain stable in 2022 with no rate increase. WREA approved a rate decrease in 2018 for residential members and a decrease in 2019 for large industrial members followed by three years of rate stability. It is no surprise that the decline in the oil and gas industry around the region has negatively impacted WREA revenues. WREA has endured over a 20% reduction in electric sales over the last few years. This decline has been offset by cost cutting measures, efficiencies, and a rate decrease by our wholesale power provider Tri-State G&T.

Earlier this year WREA hoped to pass along the Tri-State wholesale rate decrease to the WREA members but in the end, it was not feasible due to the continued decline in loads. WREA's conservative financial nature has allowed it to endure declining loads, maintain rates and reliability while continuing to pay

out annual capital credits to our membership. The WREA Board of Directors was clear that rate stability is important for the membership as most other costs have dramatically increased in 2021.

"The Board's directive was clear, and with a lot of hard work we found ways to turn obstacles into opportunities", said Alan Michalewicz, WREA's general manager. Looking back, it has been a very successful year for WREA, according to Michalewicz. "We navigated a challenging fire season and the continued impacts of the Covid pandemic, WREA hosted our first ever Member Appreciation event with over 500 in attendance, offset declining revenues by managing costs and maximizing the value of the wholesale rate decrease and worked hard to provide our members with highest degree of reliability and customer service." Michalewicz went on to say, "It is a team effort, and I am so proud of our staff who have stepped up to these challenges with optimism and sincere dedication to this company and our membership."

## ON EDGE: pandemic 'turned a problem into a crisis'

► Continued from Page 10A

the community — even if they switch jobs but stay in mental health.

Other ideas include funding for scholarships so that clinicians can easily seek master's and doctoral degrees.

Growing the pipeline could include programs that allow people to get advanced degrees without moving to a city with a major university, either through online programs or partnerships with smaller, far-flung campuses. The University of Denver, for example, offers a master's degree in social work through Colorado Mountain College in Glenwood Springs. Wolfington is advocating for the state to offer universities some of the coronavirus relief money to set up similar programs statewide.

Right now, behavioral health centers and companies are fighting over the same workers, she said. "We're often just shifting them around the state," she said. "There is not one part of the state that's like, 'We're perfect! We're swimming in providers!'"

The task force in particular wants to find ways to recruit first-generation college students, graduates of rural high schools, first-generation immigrants and students who are Black, indigenous or Spanish-speaking.

Kuenzler, with the Jefferson Center, predicts that even with the new incentives, it will take at least five or 10 years to increase the behavioral health provider pipeline. Besides student loan forgiveness and new graduate programs, she wants to see Colorado policymakers decrease the administrative burden for providers who have complained for years that they must produce duplicative paperwork required by federal and state law.

Turner, at Solvista, said his mental health center was required to submit 139 reports last year to seven state agencies that regulate the industry, including the state Medicaid department, the state Office of Behavioral Health and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. That was one report or audit every 2½ days.

Also, mental health providers, at community mental health clinics and beyond, want a boost in rate payments. Some state officials, however, have argued against using the federal aid to increase rates because the money is a one-time allotment meant to create systemic change, an argument that makes sense to providers even as they say they are desperate for a raise.

"I think the money will fly by," Turner said. "We need to make sure that what already exists out there is sustainable before we go invent a whole bunch of new things that will not be sustainable once the money goes away."

The workforce shortage extends, too, to independent counselors in private practice. More than 2.5 million Coloradans — nearly 40% of the population — live in an area with a shortage of behavioral health workers, according to the state Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.

Independent clinicians have offered up a solution of their own. A trade group representing therapists in private or small-group practices is pushing for a change in law that would allow them to more easily take on interns under an apprenticeship model. Right now, hundreds of providers are blocked from doing so by the rules of the agency that processes their Medicaid claims.

### COVID 'TURNED A PROBLEM INTO A CRISIS'

The demand for behavioral health care has skyrocketed during the pandemic, resulting in overflowing emergency departments at hospitals, including Children's Hospital Colorado, and even longer waits than usual to see a therapist, and way longer, still, to see a psychiatrist. Youth mental-health emergency room visits jumped by 70%, and calls to the statewide crisis hotline rose by nearly 40%.

To fill the gap, hospitals are expanding

mental health programs — and hiring workers away from community mental health clinics.

UCHealth, for one, is in the midst of a \$150 million push that includes expanding "tele-psych" and "tele-social work," and embedding psychologists and social workers inside its network of primary care clinics. The hospital system has hired about 100 behavioral health workers in the last couple of years and now has 68 vacancies for social workers, counselors, psychologists and other mental health workers.

The hospital's midpoint salary for a clinical social worker, at \$76,814, is about \$27,000 more annually than the average pay of a social worker or counselor at a Colorado community mental health center, according to the centers' trade group.

Companies including BetterHelp, advertising "therapy from your couch," and Denver-based Sondermind are scooping up therapists from community centers, too. Sondermind patients can use private insurance and book a virtual or in-person appointment within minutes on the company's website, which boasts results in six sessions or less. Sondermind declined an interview request and did not answer questions about how many Colorado-based clinicians it employs or its average starting salary.

The good news is that people — more than ever before — are seeking therapy, likely a result of decades of work to destigmatize mental health care. But concerns about an insufficient workforce circling for the last 20 years are now at perfect-storm levels, said Chuck Ingoglia, president and CEO of the National Council for Mental Wellbeing in Washington, D.C.

"It does seem like COVID has turned something that had been a problem into a crisis," he said. "Everybody I talk to says that their biggest problem right now is finding staff. There is all this money and they want to expand programs, but people are struggling to keep up with current staffing challenges."

The lure of "wearing gym shorts all day" while counseling people via computer is strong, particularly for clinicians who've grown weary helping people with the layers of complex mental health and addiction struggles that community mental health center clients often have, Ingoglia said. The behavioral health workforce was affected more severely than some industries because the field has been dominated by women, who were more likely to quit their jobs during the pandemic, he said.

Vincent Atchity, president of the advocacy group Mental Health Colorado, said the gritty work of community mental health care got even tougher during the pandemic. So much of it is "driven by the instability of life," intractable problems including a lack of housing, unemployment, and family issues that continue for generations. The "burnout factor" is intense, even in normal times.

"There is a different level of satisfaction in the work when you don't solve somebody's problem," he said. "You see them over and over and over again and you don't have that sensation of cure or remedy. People's distress is hard to solve."

Atchity doesn't want Colorado to put the federal dollars into a system that's broken, and is hopeful that policymakers will instead find ways to fix it, as well as increase the value of workers willing to help those who need it most. One obvious fix is integration. Despite talking for decades about combining mental and physical health care in this country, it hasn't yet happened.

"The industry is so slow to realize how foolish they are," he said. "Why is it the Mental Health Center of Denver? Why not just be The Health Center of Denver? You can get a mole checked or see a psychiatrist."

"It's a darn shame to pour money into that system."

Reach Jennifer Brown at [jennifer@coloradosun.com](mailto:jennifer@coloradosun.com)

## Rangely's Steve Cochrane wins prestigious photography award

By KATIE KING  
*Special to the Herald Times*

Rangely resident Steve Cochrane is an honorary member and award-winning photographer of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, an organization that held its 47th annual conference in Alamogordo, New Mexico in September. Cochrane won several awards including best in show and first place in the fauna category for his photo "Hibernation Stare Down." Cochrane also won first place in the member's choice for a black and white image of Corona Arch taken near Moab, Utah.

Cochrane's award-winning fauna image was taken in Yellowstone National Park with a Canon 5D Mark III camera as the grizzly bears were preparing for hibernation. Cochrane fondly describes the time he spent in Yellowstone and capturing photos of the Grand Tetons, fog and other animals including moose. Grizzly bears prepare for hibernation by eating as much as they can until they become almost intoxicated and this is how Cochrane describes the grizzly he photographed. When the bear looked up, Cochrane caught the perfect opportunity for "Hibernation Stare Down." He states he was not intimidated as grizzlies offer plenty of obvious warning before attacking and cited moose as being more intimidating.

Cochrane has been a member of the Rangely community for approximately 15 years and resides here with his wife. His father was a photographer who tried to inspire Steve with older equipment. It wasn't until after college while living in



COURTESY PHOTO

Steve Cochrane won several awards including best in show and first place in the fauna category for his photo "Hibernation Stare Down", taken in Yellowstone national Park.

central Colorado in the heart of the Rockies, a place known for its photogenic attributes, that he found his own passion. He enjoys photographing action sports, such as Rally Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Sled Dog races in Meeker and Grand Junction, pets, nature/wildlife photography as well as partnering with agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management when they are involved in wildlife management.

He holds the Rangely community close to his heart and has inspiring dreams, most notably of merging community and his passion for photography. He has created a local group for photography enthusiasts to come together and gain experience; whether they are professionals, hobbyists or dreamers sharing their work with others. Cochrane holds photography guiding and workshops and can provide

the experience of guiding people to the "good spots" for wildlife viewing where the "perfect shot" can be captured. He compared this to hunting in that the strategy is similar but the tool for shooting is different. The first meeting will be held in January. Email [rangelyphotography@gmail.com](mailto:rangelyphotography@gmail.com) for more information. He hopes to take this group abroad by leading photography safaris in Africa. Cochrane has had his work published here and there, including the Waving Hands publication from CNCC. He is also in the early stages of creating a book combining his photographs and the Book of Proverbs. He credits the RMOWP organization with inspiring and developing his dreams through the learning curve. To find out more about Steve's photography or purchase prints visit [www.stevecochranephotography.com](http://www.stevecochranephotography.com) or follow him on Instagram @SteveCochranePhoto

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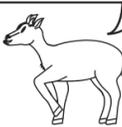
When was gas 59 cents a gallon?

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Whatever happened to those forgotten stars from the past? We track them down.



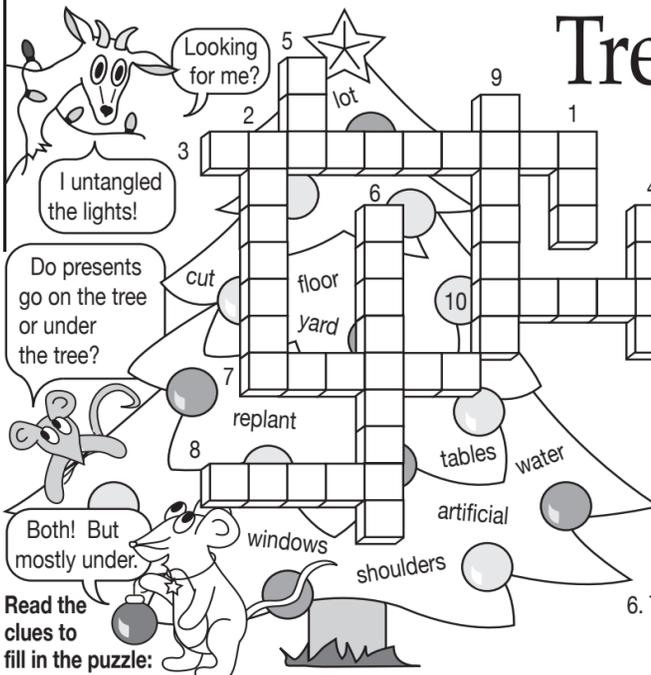
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People have used evergreens...  ...palms, and fake plastic trees too!  Kids: color stuff in! 

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## Trees of Christmas



Looking for me?

I untangled the lights!

Do presents go on the tree or under the tree?

Both! But mostly under.

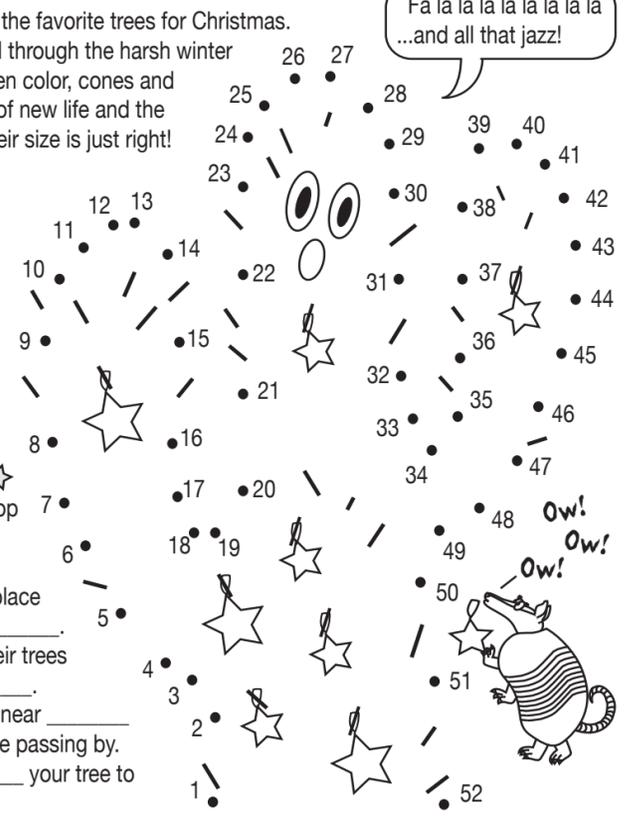
Read the clues to fill in the puzzle:

Evergreens are the favorite trees for Christmas. They stay green all through the harsh winter weather. Their green color, cones and berries remind us of new life and the coming spring. Their size is just right!

When it's hard to find an evergreen tree, people cleverly use other trees, bushes or even ...

Follow the dots to see what it is!

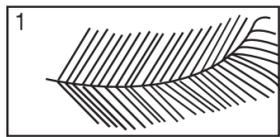
1. People in the city might buy their trees from a corner \_\_\_\_\_ or go to a tree farm.
2. Tree farmers \_\_\_\_\_ where trees have been cut.
3. Some people like \_\_\_\_\_ trees (fake), because they travel during the holidays and the trees don't need to be watered.
4. Some people buy trees with their roots bundled so they can plant the trees later in the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Some go into the woods and \_\_\_\_\_ their own trees.
6. Trees travel home on top of cars, sleds and people's \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Many people used to place their trees on top of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Today people place their trees in stands on the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Often trees are placed near \_\_\_\_\_ to share joy with people passing by.
10. Don't forget to \_\_\_\_\_ your tree to keep it fresh!



Fa la la la la la la la ...and all that jazz!

## What Kind of Tree?

During the winter holidays, in our country's capital, Washington, D.C, a national Christmas tree is lighted to show hopes of joy and peace for the world. There are many kinds of evergreens from which to choose a tree. We look at the length and softness of the needles, and the shape and height of the tree. Which are your favorite needles? Read the clues to fill in the name of these greens:



S \_ C \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_  
P \_ N \_ \_

This is a favorite tree. It is bushy and stays green a long time after it is cut. It has blue-green needles about 1 1/2 to 3 inches long.



C \_ L \_ \_ D \_ O  
B \_ E \_ S \_ P \_ R \_ \_

Ouch! These short, sharp, thick needles hurt my hands. But their beautiful silver-blue to blue-green colors make this a pretty tree.

I'm gathering greens for decorating!

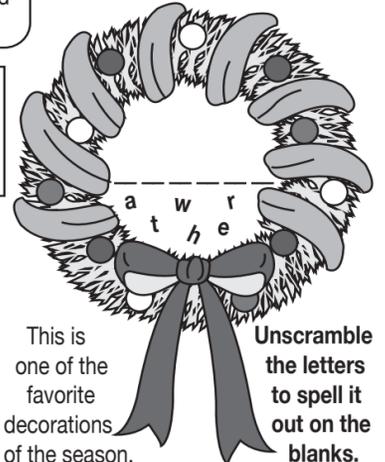
Can you find and circle at least 10 words that have a long "e" sound as in the word tree?

Next, find 10 words that have 3 syllables as in the word "ev · er · greens."



D \_ O \_ U \_ L \_ S  
F \_ R \_ \_

This tree has short dark-green to yellowish-green needles. They bend easily to the touch. This is easy to decorate and smells so good, too!



Unscramble the letters to spell it out on the blanks.

## Topping the Christmas Tree!

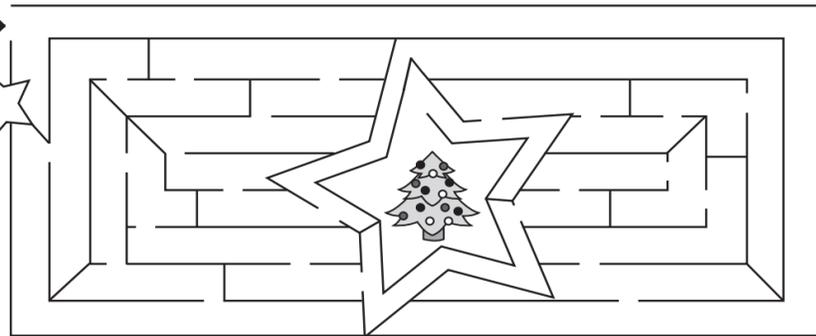
People so love the tradition of setting up a Christmas tree that they sometimes sing this traditional German carol!

O Christmas tree, O \_\_\_\_\_ tree  
How lovely are your branches.  
In summer sun, in \_\_\_\_\_ snow,  
A dress of \_\_\_\_\_ you always show.  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
How lovely are your \_\_\_\_\_.



branches Christmas green winter

Can you help Peak find his way to the Christmas tree to put the star on the top?



### THEME: WINTER FUN

#### ACROSS

1. Rope fiber
5. Mai \_\_\_\_\_
8. Russia's Terrible one, e.g.

#### DOWN

12. "What \_\_\_\_\_ Happened to Baby Jane?"
13. Tattled
14. Actress Reed
15. Internet share-able

16. Inwardly
17. Black tropical hardwood
18. \*Winged impression in winter
20. Home of the Hawkeyes

21. Investigative report
22. Chicken or this?
23. Not dense
26. Early-day supercontinent

30. Afternoon shut-eye
31. Even though
34. Picture on a coat
35. Anti-seniors sentiment
37. Jean of Dadaism
38. Crewneck alternative
39. Half-man, half-goat
40. Arm cover
42. Victoria Beckham \_\_\_\_\_ Adams
43. Lacking sense of moral standards
45. Flying high
47. Often part of disguise
48. Queen-like
50. Wood file
52. \* \_\_\_\_\_ Plunge
56. Secret stash
57. Damien's prediction
58. Not at work
59. Opposite of cation
60. Abbreviated seconds
61. Precedes stated rank
62. Moon pull
63. \*Like toddy or cocoa
64. Trans-Siberian Railroad city

10. Tolstoy's Karenina
11. R&B Charles
13. \*Glittery decor
14. Condescend
19. Indian black tea
22. Nibble
23. Big mess
24. Like a Druid, e.g.
25. Celery, technically
26. \*Snowman's corn cob accessory
27. Are not
28. Wedding singer, e.g.
29. Questioned
32. \*Snow \_\_\_\_\_, ammunition
33. \*\*But I heard him exclaim, \_\_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight..."
36. \*Winter walking aid
38. Type of consonant
40. Actors' grp.
41. a.k.a. strict vegetarians
44. Mature, as in fruit
46. Like Silas of "The Da Vinci Code"
48. Young Montague
49. Decide at the polls
50. Jasmine of "Aladdin"
51. Turns blue litmus red
52. #42 Across, once
53. Cheese from Netherlands
54. Contributions to the poor
55. Stink to high heaven
56. \*Arctic \_\_\_\_\_, snowmobile brand

### CROSSWORD

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7	9		4		1				
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3	2								
	5							6	3

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

# Lions receive awards at annual party

Special to the Herald Times

On Tuesday, Dec. 7 the Meeker Lions Club held its annual Christmas party at the Mexican House Restaurant. This was an "all Club" event with invited guests. During the dinner Lions Club President Brett Dearman was honored to present many significant awards to many Lions for their supreme efforts over the past year(s). These are listed below:

Distinguished Service Award: Mike Miller, Mike Hoke, Tom Allen, Terry Ivie and Dale Smith.

Lifetime Achievement Award (Active Member of Meeker Lions for more than 20 years): JH Sheridan, Mark Rogers, Bill Jordan and Jim Joy.

Lion of the Year: JH Sheridan, Mark Rogers, Bill Jordan and Bernie Gantt.

In addition to providing meals at the below listed events, this year alone the Meeker Lions Club has donated more than \$4,000 to scholarships for local high school seniors, collected eyeglasses, paid for eye care for local residents, and donated funds to support the Close-Up program for local students to participate in the annual trip to Washington, D.C.

The most notable event for the Club during 2020 and 2021 has been working toward replacing the playground equipment at the park to the west of the school administration building at Park and Sixth. The



JH Sheridan, Jim Joy and Bill Jordan were presented with Lions Club Lifetime Achievement Awards by president Brett Dearman (second from right.) Not pictured was Lion Mark Rogers, who also received a lifetime award. More awards and photos at [ht1885.com](http://ht1885.com).

COVID crisis has caused delays in delivering equipment, but this project is expected to be completed in spring of 2022.

If you are looking for "that something" to do in the Meeker community, why not take a look at a well-organized and active worldwide organization that is right here in your backyard. Lions Club meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall/Lions Club House located at the SE corner of Main and Fourth streets. The meeting includes free dinner. Please

call Mike Hoke at 970-629-8866 or Bernie Gantt at 970-220-2034 for more information. (We are on Christmas vacation and the next meeting will be Jan. 4, 2022.) Don't wait, call now! Any adult, young or old is welcome!

With support from, and in participation with many local entities, Meeker Lions Club has provided meals at the following public events this past year: Summer Rodeo Series (13 Thursdays), Range Call (five events), Jammin' Lamb at the Meeker

Classic, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation dinner, Colorado Grand Car Show luncheon, Meeker Mustang Makeover, RBC Fair Auction dinner, Christmas Tree cutting/sales, Easter Egg Hunt, Breakfast with Santa, Meeker Skijor, ice fishing event at Lake Avery, annual Police Night Out, Annual Fireman's (Ball)/BBQ, WREA annual Customer Appreciation event, R-100 archery shoot, and the Meeker Craft Fair.

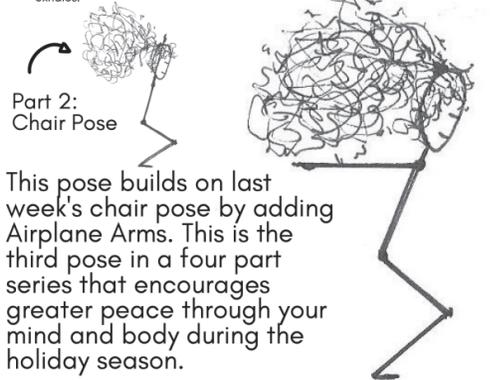
Pictures were taken by and approved for publishing by Joy Clymer

# THE STRIP #85

THE STRIP from SLEEPY CAT YOGI SHOP For The Holidays: Part 3

### 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 builds on last week's chair pose by adding Airplane Arms. This is the third pose in a four part series that encourages greater peace through your mind and body during the holiday season.

To begin, come into chair by exhaling and bending into your knees, sitting 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.

From your chair pose, reach your arms back behind you with your palms facing down. This will open up your chest and heart space. Now begin to pulse your arms up and down to bring a muscle building burn into your triceps.

Hold this pose for three to five breath cycles.

## DAYS GONE BY

The Meeker Herald  
125 years ago

Men do not have half the ailments that afflict women, but a visitor from a strange world would not suspect the fact by merely coming here to listen.

A campaign word that has done duty in this country for more than half a century is "roorback." It means a fiction concocted in one political party in the hope of injuring another party and designed to be put forth so late that there will not be sufficient time before election day for counteracting any injurious effect that it may have.

The Meeker Herald  
100 years ago

The average senator's plan for settling a serious problem seems to be to talk it to death.

And sometimes a man is a conservative because he is too lazy to be anything else.

And we are again being given the various excuses for the high price of coal.

Congress is still

talking about reducing government expenses. Yes, still talking.

The Meeker Herald  
50 years ago

Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District added its views to the growing list of mounting opposition to the proposed Rio Blanco shot. Yellow Jacket, through its board of directors, last week went on record as opposing the Rio Blanco Project of the Atomic Energy Commission, Equity Oil Co., and CER Geonuclear, as "not in the local and national interests."

Dear Santa, I don't know what I want for Christmas, I like hot wheel sets and zoomer — boomers. I would really like just anything. I'd

really like a baby sister if you could find one. Regas Halandras

Dear Santa, Please may I have a nurse kit? Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Santa. Love from LaDonna Richardson

The Meeker Herald  
25 years ago

Meeker's Tony Theos and Sam Dare were named to the Rocky Mountain News class 2A all state football roster. Theos, a senior, made the team as offensive lineman while Dare, a junior, was named to the all-state squad defensive team.

The White Water Spas manufacturing company in Meeker shut down operations Thursday after the company

owner refused to pay employees until the plant gets up to federal safety standards. According to Ken Patey, president of Rocky Mountain Spas, the Bountiful, Utah, parent company of White Water Spas, he shut down the Meeker operation "until employees in Meeker clean up that plant and bring it up to safety standards and keep it there."

Rangely Times  
50 years ago

Rangely retail sales increased 25.1% during the third quarter of 1971 over the

same period in 1970.

Sunday matinees have been discontinued at the Campus Theatre because of lack of patronage.

Every time we hear someone advocating disobedience to a law he doesn't like, we wonder what kind of country this would be if everyone obeyed only the laws he felt were right and disobeyed the others. How long would this society last?

Rangely Times  
25 years ago

First National Bank to purchase Rangely banks.

officials believe that acquisition of the Rio Blanco State Bank and the Rocky Mountain State Bank by the First National Bank of the Rockies in Meeker will produce an arrangement that will serve the area far better than the Rangely banks could have separately.

In an effort to provide quality retail electronics to Rangely consumers, brothers Andrew and John Brown opened Cameron Communications, Inc., Radio Shack at 826 E. Main St. last week.

## WATER LEGAL

### DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 6, COLORADO TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS IN WATER DIVISION 6

Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302, you are hereby notified that the following pages comprise a resume of Applications and Amended Applications filed in the office of Water Division 6, during the month of November 2021.

**2021CW19 RIO BLANCO COUNTY** Application for Absolute Water Rights (Storage); Applicant: Diana K. Watson, PO Box 1056, Meeker CO 81641-1056, 970-629-0583, [dwatson5898@gmail.com](mailto:dwatson5898@gmail.com). **Name of Structures:** Purebred 1 Pond; Unnamed Spring 1; Unnamed Spring 2. **Legal Description:** Rio Blanco County; SW4 SE4; Sec: 18; T1S; R93W; 6th PM (All structures). **UTM Coordinate:** E254589 N4427851; E254585 N4427843; E254620 N4427871 Zone 13 (All Structures). **Source of UTM:** Garmin; **Accuracy of Location:** 200 Feet **Source of Water:** Purebred 1 Pond Tributary to, Unnamed Springs 1 and 2 Tributary to, Evans Gulch Tributary to White River; Unnamed Springs 1 and 2 tributaries to Evans Gulch tributary to White River. **If filled from a ditch: Name of ditch used to fill reservoir and capacity in cubic feet of water per second:** Two unnamed springs. **Date of Appropriation:** July 10, 2021. **How Appropriation was Initiated:** Capture of spring flow with use of dozer. **Date Water Applied to Beneficial Use:** July 10, 2021. **Amount Claimed in Acre Feet:** Absolute .33 acre feet. **If filled from a ditch, rate of diversion in cubic feet per second (cfs) or gallons per minute (gpm) for filling reservoir:** Absolute 1 gpm. **List All Uses or Proposed Uses:** To be used for drinking water for livestock, elk, deer and other wildlife. **If Non-Irrigation Describe Purpose Fully:** The Springs became more accessible when a trail was created with a dozer in that area. It appeared that the springs flowed on the surface and then went underground. A small dam was created as a dyke for the trail. At the current time the pond is not sealed, and excess water is seeping from the bottom of the pond, running under the dyke. The pond is holding enough water to be useful for wildlife and livestock. We plan to put in a can to allow water to flow through the dyke. We met with our water commissioner, Shanna Lewis to discuss what would be appropriate. Weather permitting, this will be done late this fall or in the spring or early summer of 2022. **Surface area of high-water line:** .01 acres. **Vertical height:** 6.50 feet. **Length of dam:** 30 feet. **Total capacity of reservoir in acre feet:** .33 acre feet. **Active capacity:** N/A. **Dead capacity:** .33. **Name of Landowner:** Applicant

**2021CW3044 RIO BLANCO COUNTY** Application for Simple Change in Surface Point of Diversion pursuant to §37-92-305(3.5), C.R.S. Applicant: Matt Brennan, 3414 Bedford Ave, Midland, TX 79703; 432-438-9338. Structure: Thomas Ditch 2 (WDID 4300966); Date of original Decree- CA0624, 5/26/1942; Subsequent decrees CA1269, 11/21/1966, all in Water Division 6. Existing Legal Description of Structure - the left bank of said White River at a point whence the southwest corner of Section 25, Township 1 North, Range 96 West of the 6th P. M., bears South 83° West 1805 feet; Appropriation dates - 11/13/1899, 12/14/1990, and 7/1/1958; Amount decreed 9.67cfs absolute; amount to change 1.30cfs; Use - irrigation. Decreed source: White River. Proposed change: pump water directly from the white river from a point on applicant's property as an alternative to diverting at headgate and conveying through ditch across neighbors' properties. UTM coordinates: 40°01'36.0"N, 108°07'23.0"W Zone 12; Street address 1749 and 1751 Brightwater Lane, Meeker, CO 81641. Source of UTM: Google Earth. Changed Legal Description: SENE S26-T1N-R96W; Parker Minor Subdivision No. 2; Lot 2A and 2B; Applicant is owner. Remarks: See Court file for detailed information.

The water right claimed by this application may affect in priority any water right claimed or heretofore adjudicated within this division and owners of affected rights must appear to object and protest within the time provided by statute, or be forever barred.

You are hereby notified that you will have until the last day of January 2022 to file with the Water Court a Verified Statement of Opposition, setting forth facts as to why a certain Application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must be served on the Applicant or the Applicant's Attorney, with an affidavit or certificate of such service being filed with the Water Court, as prescribed by Rule 5, C.R.C.P. The filing fee for the Statement of Opposition is \$192.00, and should be sent to the Clerk of the Water Court, Division 6, 1955 Shield Dr. Unit 200, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487.

CARMMA L. PARKISON  
CLERK OF COURT  
ROUTT COUNTY COMBINED COURT  
WATER DIVISION 6  
/s/ Elsy Moore  
Deputy Court Clerk

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# RESPIRATORY CLINIC

Book your Respiratory Clinic appointment online in your Patient Portal.

If you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, you may schedule an appointment either online in your Patient Portal account, or by calling 970-625-1100.

Appointments available in Rifle or Battlement Mesa.

grandriverHealth

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TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT 970.625.1100

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

**Meeker Sanitation District**  
Accounts Payable  
November 30, 2021

Total Payroll, \$16,888.59  
Quickbooks Payroll Svc. Direct Deposit Fee, \$35.25  
Federal Tax Withholding, \$1,410.00  
Social Security Withholding, \$2,872.37  
Medicare Withholding, \$671.77  
PERA Retirement, \$5,439.52  
U.S. Postal Service: Postage, \$348.04  
CEBT: Health, Dental, Vision, Life Ins., \$11,704.30  
Mountain Valley Bank: Merchant srv. Fees, \$61.71  
Kari Casias: Retirement gift, \$1,650.00  
Atmos Energy: Natural Gas Svc., \$1,043.10  
Century Link: Telephone Service, \$356.61  
Cimarron Telecom: Broadband, \$155.00  
CO. Special Dist. State Comp Ins.: Annual renewal, \$3,081.00  
SDA Prop. & Liability Ins.: Annual renewal, \$28,454.00  
ConvergeOne Inc.: Cloud backup srv., \$208.18  
First Bankcard Visa: Adobe, Safety Clothing, Office supplies, \$305.30  
Goedert Construction LLC: Concrete work for Plant, \$4,210.00  
Hach Company: Lab Supplies, \$956.50  
McGuire Auto Parts: Vehicle Maintenance, \$309.98  
Meeker General Mercantile: General maintenance, \$252.00  
Meeker Sanitation District Petty Cash: Replenish, \$21.34  
Networking of the Rockies: Dec. IT support, \$1,000.00  
RBC Fleet Management: Fuel, \$298.28  
Rio Blanco Herald Time: Publish Accounts Payable, \$40.00  
SGM: Professional Srv, \$200.00  
Town of Meeker: Water Svc., \$24.00  
Union Telephone: Cell Phone Svc., \$217.32  
US Geologic Survey: Testing, \$2,226.00  
Utility Notification Center: Line Locates, \$43.56  
Watt's Ranch Market: Misc. Supplies, \$33.52  
WREA: Electric Svc., \$5,166.34  
Total Accounts Payable \$89,683.58  
Published: December 16, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

TOWN OF RANGELY  
Check Register  
November-21

**VENDOR, AMOUNT, DESCRIPTION**  
AFAC, 254.51, Payroll Deduction  
ALL COPY PRODUCTS INC, 897.67, Expenses  
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, 91.79, Expenses  
ARAMARK, 666.31, Expenses  
ARROW TOPHIES AWARDS & GIFTS, 9.70, Expenses  
BIG D'S PUMPING, 1170.00, Expenses  
BONA FIDE SURVEYING LLC, 300.00, Expenses  
BOYKO SUPPLY CO, 210.76, Expenses  
CANYON PINTADO VETERINARY CLINIC, 956.73, Expenses  
CASELLE, INC, 1418.00, Software Support  
CEBT, 30277.86, Life Insurance  
CENTURYLINK, 1713.69, Communication  
CIMARRON TELECOMMUNICATIONS LLC, 55.00, Communication  
COLOCPA SERVICES PC, 33.75, Expenses  
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC, 72.85, Expenses  
COX, MARYBEL, 40.00, Expenses  
DAN E WILSON, ATTORNEY AT LAW LLC, 5454.30, Services  
DAVIDSON, DONALD J, 100.00, Council Stipend  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR/BLM, 1652.55, Expenses  
DILLON, MICHAEL, 90.90, Expenses  
DIRECTV, 481.75, WRV Expenses  
DISPLAY SALES COMPANY, 1359.00, Expenses  
DUCEY'S ELECTRIC, 476.90, Expenses  
ELLIS, KEELY, 100.00, Council Stipend  
EMTECH INC, 1265.08, Expenses  
FBILEEDA, 50.00, Expenses  
FIDELITY ADVISOR FUNDS, 18021.57, Payroll deduction  
FIRST BANKCARD, 2011.73, Expenses  
FLORES, KACEE, 9.30, Expenses  
FPPA, 764.25, PD Insurance  
GRANGER, ALISA, 100.00, Council Stipend  
HACH, 157.89, Expenses  
HAMLIN, TIRYNN, 40.00, Expenses  
HILTON, KELLER, 40.00, Expenses  
HUBER TECHNOLOGY, 45000.00, Expenses  
ITRON INC, 900.00, Expenses  
MAIL SERVICES, 916.24, Services  
MANSFIELD PRINTING INC, 104.16, Expenses  
MASTER PETROLEUM CO INC, 3033.69, Expenses  
MCDONALD, CHERYL, 41.60, Expenses  
MILLARD, KETCHUM, 40.00, Expenses  
MOON LAKE ELECTRIC ASSN, 16201.89, Electricity  
MOUNTAIN STATES PIPE & SUPPLY, 14525.20, Expenses  
MULLEN, JOCELYN, 86.95, Expenses  
NETWORKS UNLIMITED, 3245.06, Support/ Services  
NICHOLS STORE, 182.25, Expenses  
PIERING, LISA, 40.00, Expenses  
PINNACOL ASSURANCE, 2987.00, Expenses  
PRATER'S PLUMBING & HEATING, 280.00, Expenses  
PROFESSIONAL TOUCH OF NWCO LLC, 22842.80, Expenses  
PSI WATER TECHNOLOGIES INC, 414.00, Expenses  
PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER INC, 175.00, Expenses  
QUILL CORPORATION, 551.96, Expenses  
RANGELY AUTO PARTS & SUPPLY, 692.95, Expenses  
RANGELY HARDWARE, 2432.31, Expenses  
RANGELY SCHOOL FOUNDATION INC, 17889.32, Sales Tax Funding  
RANGELY TRASH SERVICE, 930.00, Services  
RANGELY, TOWN OF, 4869.93, Utilities  
RESPOND FIRST AID SYSTEMS, 131.60, Expenses  
RIO BLANCO COUNTY, 30334.71, Expenses  
RIO BLANCO HERALD TIMES, 384.00, Expenses  
ROBIE, TREY, 100.00, Council Stipend  
SBT INTERNET, 45.00, Expenses  
SCHMEUSER GORDON MEYER INC, 2968.00, Expenses  
SENERGY BUILDERS LLC, 3888.52, Expenses  
SGS ACCUTEST INC, 967.41, Expenses  
SHAFFER, ANDREW, 150.00, Council Stipend  
SILVERSAGE RV PARK, 5979.60, Expenses  
STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY RC, 670.68, Life Insurance  
SUMMIT ENERGY LLC, 49508.98, Gas Transmission/Transport  
TRANSSIONION RISK & ALTERNATIVE, 75.00, Services  
TURTLE TRACKS, 415.00, Expenses  
UNCC, 18.48, Services  
URIE ROCK COMPANY, 4417.86, Expenses  
VERIZON WIRELESS, 720.99, Expenses  
WEBBER, TIMOTHY, 100.00, Council Stipend  
WEX BANK, 5070.78, Fuel  
WHITE RIVER MARKET, 79.15, Expenses  
WILCZEK, KAREN, 300.00, Judge's Fee  
WRB REC & PARK DISTRICT, 36.50, Expenses  
315,088.41  
Published: December 16, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

MISC NOTICES

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**Colorado Parks and Wildlife**  
**Haying Lease**  
**Indian Run SWA**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is accepting management proposals for a haying lease on the Indian Run State Wildlife Area. Please call the Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 970-824-2502 or 970-942-3082 to obtain bid process details and information about the lease. Bid deadline is December 31, 2021.  
Published: December 16 and 23, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**Colorado Parks and Wildlife**  
**Grazing Lease**  
**Beaver Creek SWA-Cold Springs Unit**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is accepting management proposals for a grazing lease on the Browns Park State Wildlife Area-Cold Springs Unit. Please call the Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 970-824-2502 or 970-942-3082 to obtain bid process details and information about the lease. Bid deadline is December 31, 2021.  
Published: December 16 and 23, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

Wednesday January 12, 2022.  
Qualifications for the position of Trustee are (a) Registered voter within the Town of Meeker, (b) eighteen years of age or older, (3) must have resided in the Town of Meeker for at least twelve consecutive months immediately preceding the date of appointment.  
The person appointed to the vacancy shall hold office until the election on April 5, 2022. For further information, please call Town Hall 878-5344  
Board of Trustees, Town of Meeker  
Mandi Etheridge, Town Administrator  
Published: December 16, 23, 30 and 2021, January 6, 2022  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

**PLIR-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

Vehicles, Central Water, Central Sewer, and Adjacent Owner Notification  
**OTHR-0002-21 Item 1:** Small Lots - Add verbiage to CR, I, and C zoning districts that all lots less than 1 acre in size must have access to Central Water and Sewer Utilities. Pages 28, 30, and 31 of the current LUR respectively.  
**OTHR-0002-21 Item 2:** RV's Article 7, Section 7-610 - combine subsections A & B as follows:  
"Recreation Vehicle use on privately owned Legal parcels for longer than 60 consecutive days must have/acquire a water and sewer plan approved by the Rio Blanco County Building Department."  
**OTHR-0002-21 Item 3:** Adjacent Property Owner Notification:  
Change from 1/4 mile radius to Adjacent - Article 4, Section 4-101, Item 1, sub-item 2: Page 40 of the current LUR  
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 16, 23, 30, 2021, January 6 and 13, 2022  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

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

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, January 11, 2022 the Rio Blanco County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Rio Blanco County Annex Building - Board Room, 17497 Hwy 64, Rangely, Colorado to consider the following:  
**2021 Land Use Regulation Amendments OTHR-0002-21 (1-3).** Recreational

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**Colorado Parks and Wildlife**  
**Grazing Lease**  
**Little Snake SWA**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is accepting management proposals for a grazing lease on the Little Snake State Wildlife Area. Please call the Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 970-824-2502 or 970-942-3082 to obtain bid process details and information about the lease. Bid deadline is December 31, 2021.  
Published: December 16 and 23, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

**TOWN OF MEEKER ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR TRUSTEE**

A member of the Meeker Board of Trustees has notified the Board of their resignation. The vacancy left by the resignation of Scott Creecy, will be filled by an appointment made by the Board of Trustees at its regular Board Meeting to be held January 18, 2022. Interested individuals may obtain an Application for Board or Commission at www.townofmeeker.org under Documents & Forms or at Town Hall and must be received at Town Hall, 345 Market Street, Meeker, Colorado 81641 by 5:00 p.m. on

**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:

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE No. 4, Series 2021**  
**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND CERTIFYING A MILL LEVY AND LEVYING GENERAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF MEEKER, COLORADO**

WHEREAS, the Town of Meeker Board of Trustees, the "Town Board", on December 13, 2021, adopted an annual budget for the 2022 fiscal year in accordance with the Local Government Budget Law of Colorado; and,  
WHEREAS, at the Town's regular municipal election on April 1, 2008, the Town's registered electors approved a ballot question authorizing and permitting the Town to collect, retain and spend or reserve all property tax revenue collected, in the amount of the Town's 1999 property tax mill levy (which was 9.781 mills), prior to the Town's approval of its temporary tax credit, which was effective on January 1, 2009 and, further, authorized the Town to collect and spend or reserve the full revenues from such revenue increase, notwithstanding the restrictions on the collection or spending of revenues under Article X, Section 20 of the Constitution of the State of Colorado, C.R.S. §29-1-301, or any other state law; and,  
WHEREAS, the amount of money necessary to balance the budget for general operating expenses is \$4,155,576.00 and, WHEREAS, the Town's 2021 valuation for assessment, as certified by the Rio Blanco County Assessor, is \$23,407,690.00; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF MEEKER BOARD OF TRUSTEES:  
1) For the purpose of meeting all general operating expenses of the Town of Meeker, during the 2022 fiscal year, there is hereby levied a tax of 9.781 mills upon each dollar of the total valuation for assessment of all taxable property within the Town of Meeker for the year 2021.  
2) The Town Board forthwith formally certifies to the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County, Colorado, the 9.781 mill levy and said mill levy will be certified by letter to the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County, Colorado, on or before December 15, 2021.  
3) The mill levy herein approved and adopted by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Town Board shall be signed by the Mayor and made a part of the public records of the Town of Meeker.  
4) Pursuant to C.R.S. §29-1-108, this ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.  
INTRODUCED, READ, PASSED, ADOPTED, AND ORDERED PUBLISHED AS PROVIDED BY LAW BY A VOTE OF 6 TO 0 OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF MEEKER, COLORADO, AT ITS SPECIAL MEETING HELD IN THE TOWN OF MEEKER THIS 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2021.  
**TOWN OF MEEKER**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
KENT A. BORCHARD, Mayor  
ATTEST:  
LISA COOK, Town Clerk  
Published: December 16, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

**ORDINANCE No. 3, Series 2021**  
**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET, SUMMARIZING EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR EACH FUND FOR THE TOWN OF MEEKER, COLORADO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY 2022 AND ENDING THE LAST DAY OF DECEMBER 2022.**

WHEREAS, the Town of Meeker Board of Trustees, the "Town Board", has received from the Town budget office a proposed budget for the 2022 fiscal year; and,  
WHEREAS, upon due and proper notice, published in accordance with Local Government Budget Law of Colorado, the proposed budget was open for public inspection at the Meeker Town Hall, a public hearing was held on November 16, 2021, and interested Town electors were given the opportunity to file or register any objections to the proposed budget, up to the time of final adoption of the proposed budget; and,  
WHEREAS, whatever increases or decreases may have been made in expenditures, like increases or decreases were made to the revenues, so that the budget remains in balance, as required by law;  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF MEEKER, COLORADO:  
1) The estimated expenditures and reserves in each fund are as follows:  

GENERAL FUND	
Operating Expenses	\$2,000,345.00
Systems Development Amount	1,952,181.00
Highway Users Tax Fund	92,400.00
Estimated Fund Reserve	4,975,762.00
Emergency Reserve	110,650.00
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$9,131,338.00</b>
WATER FUND	
Operating Expenses	\$ 637,466.00
Systems Development Amount	855,040.00
Estimated Fund Reserve	884,639.00
<b>Total Water Fund</b>	<b>\$2,377,145.00</b>
ABATEMENT FUND	
Abatement Expenses	\$ 125,200.00
Estimated Fund Reserve	250,770.00
<b>Total Abatement Fund</b>	<b>\$ 375,970.00</b>
CONSERVATION TRUST FUND	
Park Expenses	\$12,014.00
Estimated Fund Reserve	\$30,596.00
<b>Total Conservation Trust Fund</b>	<b>\$42,610.00</b>

  
2) The estimated revenues and reserves for each fund including transfers are as follows:  

GENERAL FUND	
Sources other than General Property Tax and Highway Users Tax, including appropriated reserve	\$3,723,575.00
Emergency Reserve	110,650.00
General Property Tax	228,951.00
Highway Users Tax Fund	92,400.00
Reserve Funds and Unencumbered	
Estimated Opening Balance	\$4,975,762.00
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$9,131,338.00</b>
WATER FUND	
Non-water Service Income, including appropriated reserve	\$ 892,506.00
Water Service Fees	600,000.00
Reserve Funds and Unencumbered	
Estimated Opening Balance	884,639.00
<b>Total Water Fund</b>	<b>\$2,377,145.00</b>
ABATEMENT FUND	
Income	\$ 125,200.00
Estimated Opening Balance	250,770.00
<b>Total Abatement Fund</b>	<b>\$ 375,970.00</b>
CONSERVATION TRUST FUND	
State Lottery Share & Reserve for Parks Expenses	\$12,000.00
Interest	14.00
Estimated Opening Balance	30,596.00
<b>Total Conservation Trust Fund</b>	<b>\$42,610.00</b>

  
3) That the budget as submitted, amended, and hereinabove summarized by Fund, hereby is approved and adopted as the budget of the Town of Meeker for the 2022 fiscal year and funds are hereby authorized and allocated to be appropriated to each fund for the purpose of meeting expenditures therein.  
4) That the budget herewith approved and adopted by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Town Board shall be signed by the Mayor and made a part of the public records of the Town of Meeker.  
5) Pursuant to C.R.S. §29-1-108, this ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.  
INTRODUCED, READ, PASSED, ADOPTED, AND ORDERED PUBLISHED AS PROVIDED BY LAW BY A VOTE OF 5 TO 1 OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF MEEKER, COLORADO, AT ITS SPECIAL MEETING HELD IN THE TOWN OF MEEKER THIS 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2021.  
**TOWN OF MEEKER**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
KENT A. BORCHARD, Mayor  
ATTEST:  
LISA COOK, Town Clerk  
Published December 16, 2021 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:  
**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 4 SANDERSON HILLS SUBDIVISION**  
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
R0103808	2018-00014	44,290	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

**Notice of General Municipal Election Conducted as a Mail Ballot Election To Be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 At Town Hall 209 E Main Rangely, Colorado**

I, Marybel Cox, Town Clerk of Rangely, Colorado, I DO HEREBY GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE of a General Municipal Election for Town of Rangely Mayor and Council members to be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at which time there will be elected: ONE MAYOR, SERVING A 2-YEAR TERM and THREE COUNCIL MEMBERS, SERVING A 4-YEAR TERM  
Each position shall be voted upon by the entire electorate of the Town. The person receiving the greatest number of votes for the Mayor, 2-year term shall be elected.  
The first three people receiving the greatest number of votes for the Council member 4-year terms shall be elected.  
**\*NOTE: The First day that nomination petitions may be picked up and circulated starts January 4, 2022 and must be returned to the Clerk no later than January 24, 2022. Nomination petitions will be available at the Town of Rangely, 209 E. Main, Rangely, Colorado. In order to run for Town Council, Candidates must be; - Registered electors 18 year of age or older - Resident of the municipality for at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the election - Cannot be a candidate for (2) two offices at the same election**  
Every person who has attained the age of 18 years possessing the following qualifications is entitled to register to vote at all municipal elections:  
A) He/she is a citizen of the United States; B) He/she resided in the State of Colorado for thirty days prior to the municipal election at which he offers to vote.  
The Town of Rangely will conduct a mail ballot election. Ballots may be deposited up to and on the day of the election at the Collection box until 7:00 p.m. April 5, 2022 at Town Hall, 209 E Main, Rangely Colorado, 81648.  
Ballots will be mailed to registered electors unless an absentee ballot request application is completed. Your application must be returned to the town clerk's office on or before April 1, 2022. You can download absentee ballot applications at [www.rangely.com/underdivisions/administrativeservices/townclerk/elections](http://www.rangely.com/underdivisions/administrativeservices/townclerk/elections) or come into the Town of Rangely offices at 209 E Main for blank forms.  
Marybel Cox Town Clerk/Treasurer  
Published: December 16, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

FORECLOSURE

**COMBINED NOTICE- MAILING**  
**CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 21-03**  
To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust  
On October 5, 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): KAULAN W PENNELL  
Original Beneficiary(ies): MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR AMCAP MORTGAGE LTD. DBA MAJOR MORTGAGE CO., ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS  
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt: THE MONEY SOURCE INC  
Date of Deed of Trust: April 28, 2014  
County of Recording: Rio Blanco  
Recording Date of Deed of Trust: April 29, 2014  
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.): 308323  
Original Principal Amount: \$214,051.00  
Outstanding Principal Balance: \$192,668.46  
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**  
**LOT 2 STEFFAN SUBDIVISION TOWN OF RANGELY, COLORADO ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED APRIL 8, 1983 AS DOCUMENT NO. 210812 TOGETHER WITH A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN LOT 1 OF SAID STEFFAN SUBDIVISION, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 1; THENCE SOUTH 00°00'00" WEST, 10.00 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING. THENCE SOUTH 58°42'42" EAST, 116.49 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 1; THENCE NORTH 90°00'00" WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, 15.62 FEET; THENCE NORTH 54°12'51" WEST, 103.46 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; LESS AND EXCEPTING A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN LOT 2 OF SAID STEFFAN SUBDIVISION BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 2; THENCE SOUTH 00°00'00" WEST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 2, 12.19 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 81°32'40" WEST, 38.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 58°42'42" WEST, 9.20 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 2; THENCE SOUTH 90°00'00" EAST, ALONG SAID NORTH LINE 12.88 FEET; THENCE NORTH 68°49'54" EAST, 36.00 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING.**  
**Also known by street and number as: 405 DARIUS 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, 02/02/2022, at Office of the Public Trustee, Rio Blanco County Courthouse, 555 Main Street, Meeker CO 81641, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.  
First Publication: 12/9/2021  
Last Publication: 1/6/2022  
Name of Publication: Rio Blanco Herald Times

**NOTICE OF RIGHTS**  
YOU MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY BEING FORECLOSED, OR HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS OR SUFFER CERTAIN LIABILITIES PURSUANT TO COLORADO STATUTES AS A RESULT OF SAID FORECLOSURE. YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REDEEM SAID REAL PROPERTY OR YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CURE A DEFAULT UNDER THE DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED. A COPY OF SAID STATUTES, AS SUCH STATUTES ARE PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED, WHICH MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS SHALL BE SENT WITH ALL MAILED COPIES OF THIS NOTICE. HOWEVER, YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE DETERMINED BY PREVIOUS STATUTES  
• A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE FILED PURSUANT TO SECTION 38-38-104 SHALL BE FILED WITH THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE AT LEAST FIFTEEN (15) CALENDAR DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST SCHEDULED SALE DATE OR ANY DATE TO WHICH THE SALE IS CONTINUED;  
• A NOTICE OF INTENT TO REDEEM FILED PURSUANT TO SECTION 38-38-302 SHALL BE FILED WITH THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE NO LATER THAN EIGHT (8) BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE SALE;  
• IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;  
• IF THE BORROWER BELIEVES THAT A LENDER OR SERVICER HAS VIOLATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT IN SECTION 38-38-103.1 OR THE PROHIBITION ON DUAL TRACKING IN SECTION 38-38-103.2, THE BORROWER MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE FEDERAL CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB), OR BOTH. THE FILING OF A COMPLAINT WILL NOT STOP THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS  
Colorado Attorney General  
1300 Broadway, 10th Floor  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
(800) 222-4444  
www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov  
DATE: 10/05/2021  
Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau  
P.O. Box 4503  
Iowa City, Iowa 52244  
(855) 411-2372  
www.consumerfinance.gov  
Rhonna Waldref, Public Trustee in and for the County of Rio Blanco, State of Colorado  
By: Rhonna Waldref, Public Trustee  
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:  
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:  
Alison L. Berry #34531 David R. Doughty #40042 Elizabeth S. Marcus #16092  
Lynn M. Janeway# 15592 Nicholas H. Santarelli #46592 Sheila J. Finn #36637  
Janeway Law Firm 9800 S. Meridian, Suite 400, Englewood, CO 80134 (303) 706-9990  
Attorney File# 19-023669  
The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt Any information provided may be used for that purpose.  
©Public Trustees' Association of Colorado Revised 1/2015

MISC NOTICES

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO  
RIO BLANCO COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING  
17497 HWY 64  
RANGELY, CO 81648

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

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBicnhlMpB47tzL\\_NjNOfig](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBicnhlMpB47tzL_NjNOfig)

Tentative Agenda December 21, 2021

1. 11:00 a.m. Call to order:  
A. Pledge of Allegiance  
B. Changes to the December 21, 2021 Agenda

C. Move to approve the December 21, 2021 Agenda including any changes  
2. CONSENT AGENDA for December 21, 2021

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

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

A. Move to approve/deny Contract Amendment #3 between the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health and Rio Blanco County Colorado for the use and benefit of the Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Office, for substance abuse and mental health treatment in the Rio Blanco County Jail.

B. Move to approve/deny Rio Blanco County Couter Field Airport Ground Lease Agreement with Tom Allen and David Cole.

C. Move to approve/deny Rio Blanco County Couter Field Airport Ground Lease Agreement with Brad Neat.

6. RESOLUTIONS  
7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Road & Bridge Report – Scott Marsh  
B. Public Comment

C. County Commissioners Updates

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS  
Adjourn

The agenda is provided for informational purposes only; all times are approximate.

Agenda items will normally be considered in the order they appear on the agenda.

However, the Board may alter the Agenda, take breaks during the meeting, work through the noon hour and even continue an item for a future meeting date.

The Board, while in session, may consider other items that are brought before it.

Scheduled items may be continued if the Board is unable to complete the Agenda as scheduled.

The next regular Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 28, 2021 in the Rio Blanco County Historic Courthouse, 555 Main St., 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Meeker, CO. Please check the County's website for information at <http://rbc.us/186/Board-of-County-Commissioners>. If you need special accommodations please call 970-878-9431 in advance of the meeting so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

Published: December 16, 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 to 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

**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 Othopedics Sports Medicine & Spine, we are excited to fill several positions. To see the full list of open positions, visit our website or scan the code below.



**PIONEERS**  
Medical Center

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

**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**

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

**RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT**  
Meeker, Colorado

**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

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**  
Volunteer Opportunities

The following Boards have positions available. If you are interested in serving on one or more of the following Boards, please complete an **Application for Board or Commission** and return to: HR, PO Box 1, Meeker, CO 81641 or [hr@rbc.us](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

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

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**SIGN UP FOR OUR FREE EMAIL NEWSLETTER!**



Scan or visit <https://bit.ly/3bw6Fxi>

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

**Cimarron TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

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

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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 'Hoo' 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.

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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.

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**RENTALS: MEEKER**

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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.

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

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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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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 ..... PENDING  
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  
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13.45 acres south of Pioneers Medical Center ..... \$80,700

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79 acres vacant land. Dry land grazing. Strawberry Creek runs through property.  
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**ONEA MILLER ~ Broker**  
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**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. \$441,500.

**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!

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Meeker, Colorado  
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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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6900 CR 7-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. **Reduced \$875,000**

**1161 C.R. 8**  
1161 CR 8-3BD|2BA|1952 SF log home on 5 acres overlooking the river with a natural spring. Features include central air, updated electrical system, and domestic well. **Reduced \$415,000**

**1417 Silver Sage Rd.**  
NEW! 1417 Silver Sage Rd-Elevated double lots in Sage Hills, great views w/ Lg. building envelope. **Reduced \$50,000**

**1131 Michael Cir.**  
NEW! 1131 Michael Cir - 3 BD | 3 BA | 2779 SF 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! **\$325,000**

**White River Condos-Unit 3**...UNDER CONTRACT  
**White River Condos-Unit 13**...UNDER CONTRACT  
**858 5th St.**.....SOLD  
**1034 Julie Cir.**.....SOLD  
**1200 CR 119.**.....SOLD  
**White River Condos-Unit 1**.....SOLD

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