



# RIO BLANCO Herald Times

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## The trouble with Mind Springs

Two counties are breaking from their mental health provider. Others are taking notes.

By **SUSAN GREENE**  
Colorado News Collaborative



This investigation is part of the ongoing "On Edge" series about Colorado's mental health by the Colorado News Collaborative, the nonprofit that unites more than 160 communities and news outlets 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.

Summit County is hurting.

The suicide rate in this mountain community of 31,000 is higher than Colorado's, which is one of the highest in the nation. And locals say almost everyone here has someone — or several someones — who ended their life:

A beer brewer. A prominent businesswoman. A bird-watching construction worker. A knitter of fabulous afghans. High school and middle school students.

A girl who was a baby when immigration officials deported her mom. Her name was Vanessa. She was 11.

"It has been a very personal public health crisis for us, and it is devastating," says Summit County

**If you're experiencing a mental health crisis, call the Colorado crisis hotline at 1-844-493-TALK(8255) or text "TALK" to 38255.**

**There is no wrong reason to reach out.**

Commissioner Tamara Pogue.

She and other local leaders have tried to reduce risk factors in a county where the cost of living is high, wages low, the hospitality and outdoor industries' workforces young, hard-partying, transient and separated from support systems. They have sought to combat mental health stigma, which nearly 64% of residents here cite as the reason they don't seek counseling or other treatment.

Now they are trying to root out what they see as two other threats to the community's mental health:

"F#@ing Mind Springs, for one thing," says County Sheriff Jaime FitzSimons, whose jail — like many others — is full of people with untreated behavioral health conditions. "And that P#@ing snake oil saleswoman who runs it, for another."

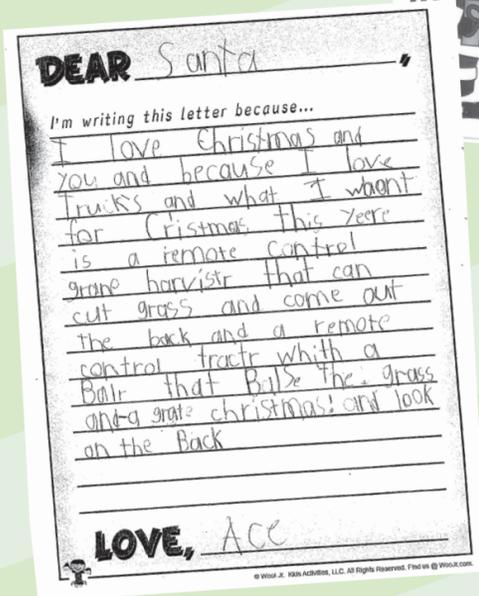
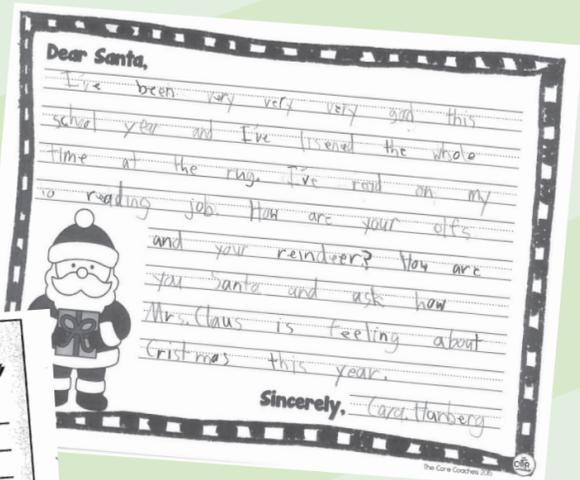
Mind Springs Health, led by CEO and President Sharon Raggio, is the private nonprofit responsible for providing behavioral health safety-net services in Summit and nine other Western Slope counties: Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Mesa, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, and Routt. It is one of 17 regional "community mental health centers" statewide that long have been responsible for inpatient hospitalization, intensive outpatient treatment, outpatient psychiatric care, counseling, and other forms of treatment for Coloradans on Medicaid or who are indigent, underinsured, or in crisis.

► See **ON EDGE**, Page 10A

## Dear Santa,

"I've been very very very good this school year and I've listened the whole time at the rug. I've read on my reading job. How are your elves and your reindeer? How are you Santa and ask how Mrs. Claus is feeling about Cristmas this year."

Sincerely,  
Cara Hanberg

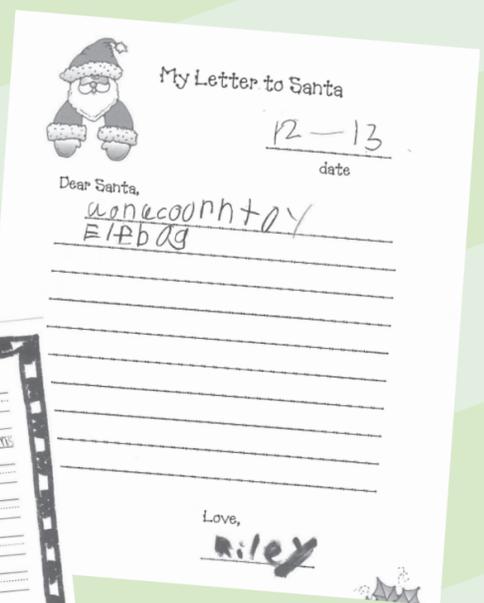


"Uonucoorn toy Elf bag"

Love,  
Riley

"I love Christmas and you and because I love Trucks and what I want for Cristmas this yeere is a remote control grane harvis-tr that can cut grass and come out the back and a remote control tractr whith a Balr that Balse the grass and a grate Christmas! and look on the Back."

Love,  
Ace



"I would like a fluffy pillow with a horse on it and a pop it that has 100 pops on it and hair extensions please."

Sincerely,  
Anden

More letters from RBC students on [Page 12A](#)

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Saturday: 30s/20s

Sunday: 30s/10s



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COUNTY BEAT

Water, roads, meeting notices discussed

By LUCAS TURNER  
lucas@ht1885.com

WATER

“We’ve got demands that are unsustainable to the east of us on the Front Range; we’ve got demands that are unsustainable to the west of us,” said Zane Kessler, Director of Government Relations at the Colorado River District (CRD) to RBC Commissioners this week. Kessler attended a work session Tuesday with Rio Blanco Conservancy District Director Alden Vanden Brink to broadly discuss the future of the Colorado River, the Wolf Creek Reservoir, compact negotiations and more.

Kessler emphasized the impact of Colorado voters passing a recent ballot initiative (7A) which doubled CRD’s mill levy from one quarter to one half mills. The increased money helped fund at least \$3 million of water projects in the 15 counties CRD represents, including \$330K to the Rio Blanco Conservancy District.

Vanden Brink said

the funds will go directly towards the permitting process for the proposed Wolf Creek Reservoir on top of at least \$4 million from the county’s Civic Improvement Trust Fund (CCITF), and additional contributions from the Town of Rangely and the Conservancy District. The district currently estimates it will spend about \$1.8 million per year on the process.

Vanden Brink also updated the board on a feasibility analysis to expand domestic water infrastructure in the Rangely area. The district received a \$50K grant from Colorado’s Finance and Housing Authority which will pay for an environmental assessment and final drawings/engineering work. “We’re tired of seeing people do without,” he said, adding, “it’s time for us to get these basic amenities to people here.” Expansions would require new water lines that would tap into the Town of Rangely’s supply, which according to Vanden Brink “has the capacity and the system to do it.”

SURVEY/PLANNING

RBC Surveyor/Planner Leif Joy gave an update on a year’s worth of completed and currently active or upcoming projects that fall under surveying, planning, GIS and floodplains. Active projects include a land use regulation amendment, the sheriff’s office RMS/CAD software upgrade, gravel pit survey flights to calculate volume, and various others, including a “County Road Maps” project. Road and Bridge Director Scott Marsh chimed in the project, stating, “I think as a county we’ve got to establish what is a county road, why it’s a county road.”

He noted that the process is necessary for future planning purposes. RBC Commissioner Jeff Rector added “We need to figure out which roads are beneficial.”

Joy’s department, of which he is the sole employee, is also working on “updating land use plan maps” with White River Conservancy District Director Callie Hendrickson and Natural Resources/

Emergency Manager Eddie Smercina.

He noted that he does a lot for one person, but it’s all made possible thanks to a collaborative effort with the assessor’s office, road and bridge, IT and other department employees. The board gave special Kudos to Joy for his hard work, dedication and technical abilities, especially drone piloting.

PUBLIC INFO

Public Information and Program Manager Carly Thomson got confirmation about where future board meeting notices should be posted. To date notices have been hung at the post office, but Thompson said someone has been taking them down. In the future the county plans to create a special sign to hold meeting notices outside the county courthouse. In the meantime notices could be posted on the courthouse doors, or you can find them at:

- <https://rbc.us/AgendaCenter/Work-Sessions-5> (work sessions)
- <https://rbc.us/129/Agendas-Minutes> (regular

meetings)

In Rangely, hard copy notices will continue to be posted on the windows at the annex building.

Regular meeting agendas are also published in the *HT* at no charge to the county.

REGULAR MEETING

The board approved several items under regular business:

■ Federal reimbursement requests for pavement maintenance projects on the Meeker Airport (\$39,955.96) and Rangely Airport (\$36,945.81),

■ Liquor license for Meeker Skijor on February 19 from 4 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

■ Settlement agreement with Utah Gas Corp regarding 2020, 2021, 2022 personal property valuations

Referring to the Settlement, Rector said “Neither one of us thought it was exactly right, so I guess that makes it a good settlement.”

Commissioners also approved an agreement amendment with Colorado DHS for the use and bene-

fit of substance abuse and mental health treatment in the Rio Blanco County Jail. Paralegal Vicky Edwards noted the agreement is to close out a prior grant, which will not continue in the future as inmates are no longer being housed in Rio Blanco County.

They also approved 25 year lease agreements for hangar owners in both Meeker and Rangely. Since the county does not own the hangars, it charges for the land hangars sit on at 17 cents per square foot.

A new agreement with county attorney Don Steerman also lays out specifics for attorney costs moving forward. Steerman said it “should allow the county to have a specific budget and reduce the county attorney’s fees overall.”

The agreement includes “general work” plus 10 hours of litigation per month. Additional work will be charged at a discounted rate of \$200 per hour.

Commissioners will not meet again until January 11, 2022.

WRBM to seek mill levy increase for pool repairs, maintenance

By KATIE KING  
Special to the Herald Times

Rangely’s Town Board of Trustees convened on Tuesday, Dec. 14 for a full meeting.

Trustee Tim Webber switched hats from town trustee to director of the parks and recreation district to address the board regarding a bond to increase mill levies. He described the rec center ceiling dropping 2 inches and a crack in the pool causing a loss of 80,000 gallons of water per 24 hours. Webber gave a brief overview of the district’s accounting of the 1996 mill

levies and the operating budget. He expressed the emergent need to pass the bond by November 2022 in order to keep the WRBM district open. “At what point does a community stop cannibalizing itself for tax dollars and start getting rid of services?” Webber said.

Trustee Don Davidson asked if insurance helps pay for expenditures related to utility damages.

The town briefly discussed public input they have received. Mary Ann Allred has been working to address concerns regarding the lack of a bike path or lane connecting the official bike trail

to Elks Park and Parkview Elementary. Webber and Town Manager Lisa Piering said they agree with Allred on the need for this path and offered several options, including the completion of the bike path created on the south side of Elks Park as the preferred starting point or a loop through the park vs. creating a bike lane on Bell St. Piering suggested a team effort between the town and WRBM to secure funding, ideally with grants, to create a safe and desirable bike path for the community.

The board heard the first and final reading of Emergency Ordinance 698-

2021, an ordinance creating Election Code in the Rangely Municipal Code, Title 2, of Administration and Personnel, adding 2.10 Municipal Elections, allowing for write in candidates 2.10.100 and allowing for the cancellation of the election 2.10.150. The objective is to reduce the need for the resources invested in holding elections if the number of candidates does not exceed the minimum required. Town Clerk Marybel Cox said the cost of an election is about \$5,000-6,000. Trustees also held a public hearing for the 2022 budget resolutions, 2021-08, 2021-09, 2021-10 summarizing expenditures and Revenues for the General Fund, Water Fund, Wastewater Fund, Gas Fund, Conservation Trust Fund, Housing Assistance Fund, RDA Fund, RDC Fund, Rangely Housing Authority (White River Village) and the Rangely Foundation for Public Giving for Fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2022.

Committee and board meetings discussed the closing of the jail and Mayor Andy Shaffer offered to share details from the meeting at a later time or during the meeting and stated that Sheriff Anthony Mazzola had justifications for the action. The board briefly discussed their personal opinions on the matter with Town Manager Lisa Piering noting “It’s closed so...”

Police Chief Ti Hamblin shared an update from the police department highlighting Lieutenant Phil Stubblefield’s retirement, a party to honor him will be held on Jan. 3 at noon at Town Hall. Sergeant Rich Garner will be promoted on Dec. 31 at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall. Hamblin recognized the awkward timing of these wonderful events but said it was best to align them with the switching of call signs. Garner will also be the handgun instructor for

the department. Hamblin shared that the dispatch team was fully staffed for the first time in a while, highlighting Duke’s promotion to full time, Cheyenne Steele’s promotion to lead dispatcher/administrative assistant, and the re-hiring of Tracy Cook and how great that felt as Chief. The Polar Plunge event was noted and Hamblin shared that while the department only raised \$673 of the \$1,500 goal, it was a wholesome and enjoyable event. Other key highlights include the donation of riot gear, intoxilyzer recertification by Public Health, two open positions with three applicants who all have some experience, all officers attended arrest control training, Officer Hilton’s attendance to K-9 legal update, and Hamblin’s continued teaching at the CNCC Park Ranger Academy. Dispatcher Kimber Millard traveled to teach in Steamboat Springs, which highlights a first as a Rangely dispatcher traveling as an instructor. Sgt. Garner attended a handgun instructor course and is now the department’s handgun instructor.

Town Manager Lisa Piering’s updates include the completion of the La Mesa project with efforts from Jeff LeBleu and all departments. The Kennedy Drive bike path was paved and discourages people from driving over it. The concrete was poured for the solar lights and that project is awaiting the arrival of the lights. The Headworks Wastewater project is moving forward and funding has been awarded. Human resource personnel policies updates are being integrated. A contracted company, Lexipol, is reviewing current policies and Piering is hopeful that it will help alleviate misconceptions. Shop & Dine was successful after a slow start. Carly Thomson (Rio Blanco County Public Information

and Program Manager) will be attending the RDA/RDC meeting to inform those in attendance regarding Just Transition funding toward possible programs Rangely can participate in, particularly in support of Cogency Power and its goals.

Officer Millard presented to the Town Council his final project from field training highlighting the value of school resource officers (SROs). SROs take on multiple roles including counseling, knowing the policies and laws regarding children, and being educators in law and guidance of children to be responsible citizens. He also highlighted the ability to investigate when laws are broken whether by adults or children and his ability to serve in cases involving students already since beginning his service in Rangely. While it is not believed that a full-time SRO is feasible in Rangely, Millard shared that he has had discussions with Jasper Winston of Bible Baptist Church School and Rangely School District principals Crandal Mergelman and Carlene Cantrell and the consensus is to have a known officer presence. Colorado Revised Statute 24-31-312 “School Resource Officer Training” requires that each municipal law enforcement agency shall employ at least one peace officer who has completed the training curriculum and Officer Millard emphasizes his desire to fulfill this duty for Rangely school district. He advocated that Town Manager Lisa Piering and Chief Hamblin co-sign his training. Several members of the board supported Officer Millard, his reasoning and the need for the police department to be invested in the schools.

In other business, the board appointed Jerry LeBleu as school board representative to the town and swore in interim town trustee Kodi Rae Nelson.

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




**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.

**WE CAN**

Paid for by the Rural Alliance Addressing Substance Use Disorder Colorado

## NEWS NOTES

### NYE masquerade party at brewery

**MEEKER** | Countdown to the new year at Smoking River Brewing Co. on Friday, Dec. 31 with live music by WAVE11 at 9 p.m., and Bier Rockin with Mitch's Wild Weiners Food Truck. Masquerade means wear your mask (the other fun kind)! If you don't have one, we have some for you. Tickets are \$5. 101 E. Market St., Meeker.

### Rangely Chamber annual dinner tickets available

**RANGELY** | Rangely Chamber members, get your tickets now for The Old West Steak and Shrimp Dinner. General public tickets (if there are leftovers) will be available Jan. 10, 2022. Chamber membership for 2022 must be paid before purchase. The dinner will be Feb. 19 from 7-9 p.m. in the CNCC Colorado Room. Single tickets are \$60, a table is \$350. Call 970-875-5290, email [rangelychamber@gmail.com](mailto:rangelychamber@gmail.com) or stop by 255 E. Main St. to purchase tickets or with any questions.

### 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.

### Gift a recording session at The TANK

**RANGELY** | The TANK is offering gift certificates for a half-day (four hour) recording session with expert resident engineers during the 2022 season, which runs from May 1-Oct. 31. The fee for a half-day recording session is \$350. Remote sessions are also available. To purchase a gift certificate or get more information email [info@tanksounds.org](mailto:info@tanksounds.org) and put "Gift Certificate" in the subject line.

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(Stories, photos, letters, etc.)

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Church Service 11am Sun.

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but Christians only*

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD...



Once again the Operation Christmas Child campaign was a great success in this little town with a big heart. A total of 389 shoebox gifts, pictured here with volunteers Stella McGruder (left) and Karen LaBonte (right), were packed and donated this year by local churches and individuals. These donations will be shipped, literally, to the ends of the earth, whether in deep jungles, city slums, steep mountainsides, or one of 1,000 remote Pacific islands. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, a non-denominational international relief organization. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first ever gift, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love.

GERRY LABONTE PHOTO



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## EDITOR'S COLUMN

# Gratitude and action

*I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach!*

~ "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens

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

You're going to be seeing a lot of "thank you's" from us for the next few weeks. Your generosity and willingness to help us raise funds for a matching grant from the Colorado Media Project has not only brought about a breath of fiduciary relief, it's been a mental and emotional balm as well. We're more determined and committed than ever to continue bringing you the news you need in Rio Blanco County. From the depths of our hearts, we are grateful to you, our readers, subscribers and advertisers. You are the reason we do what we do.

This week is the third installment of COLab's investigative articles about the state of the mental health system in Colorado. This week focuses specifically on the mental health center tasked to provide care for a 10-county region in Western Colorado, including Rio Blanco. It's a difficult read. I had to stop and walk away several times... the stories shared are frighteningly similar to the experiences my own family has had with Mind Springs. I don't believe



the boots-on-the-ground care providers at Mind Springs offices are to blame for the troubles outlined in the article. I believe they're doing the best they can in jobs that are difficult even without layers of bureaucracy and administrative nonsense.

My friend and peer Susan Greene, the author of the series, shared something in her newsletter that stuck with me this week. She was writing about the On Edge series, but her words hit home: "Cynicism has antidotes." One

of those antidotes is action, and the other is gratitude, she wrote. It's easy to get cynical, and once you're in that mode, it can be hard to change your tone. Gratitude changes our perspective and thus anchors us to something good, then we're prepared to take action that won't be fueled by bitterness, greed or grudges. Actions taken with the right motive and intent tend to produce positive outcomes. And isn't the Christmas story a perfect example of that?

On that note, here's wishing you all the very best this Christmas!



## KAYE'S CORNER

# Our Best Christmas

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

*Written in 1954 by my Uncle Clarence Hill for the Farm Journal, I hope you will enjoy this story as much as we have. A father of five, Iowa farmer, humorist, woodworker, and uplifting writer, Clarence Hill was an unforgettable character.*

A shaggy, pot-bellied little Shetland pony got all mixed up with our Christmas last year. I'd like to tell you about it.

Our four boys are in the pony business; you'll see that from our sign along the road, which reads: "Kids love ponies; ponies love kids."

Ponies, like children, have personalities. "Major Midget," our chestnut stallion, 38 inches tall, 14 years old, is a gentleman in the hands of Eleanor, age seven, but with our four boys he is full of tricks, devilish, and unpredictable.

About a dozen Shetland foals are born on our farm each year. "First to see a colt gets to name it," we say and the result is a lexicon of names, such as Dagwood, Scamp, Cheffy, and Twinkle.

Then Sparkle came along. A proven broodmare, she was also the gentlest pony we ever owned. Jet black, she had that comfy look, with a broad and matronly middle, like Mom and Aunt Easter when they're not cinched up for Sunday.

In our six-pony hitch, Sparkle was literally our anchor mare. She couldn't be hurried. The village kids adored her and loaded her up with humanity on the outside and with apple cores on the inside.

Sparkle has horse sense. She would stand motionless while a child got out from under her chassis, but she likewise kicked the daylight, as well as the taillights out of a boy who annoyed her colt.

One of the unwritten codes of our business is that no one shall become so attached to any pony sentimentally, that it may not be sold. But already Sparkle had become an exception. She just wasn't for sale!

It was the week before Christmas that the Baxters came – a tired looking father and a very very red-headed little boy of seven. Bill Baxter's eyes were so blue and his freckles so unanimous that you hardly saw the limp that polio had left him with.

We learned in four words, why Mama hadn't come along: "His Mother is dead."

Here was one order we couldn't fill. We didn't have any pony that was safe – none, that is except old Sparkle who wasn't for sale.

But between boy and beast, it was love at first sight – a silent communication between black mare with her long whiskers and warm nose and red-headed boy with eager, tense face.

Would we price the mare? The twins Ed and Art (16) were noncommittal. Robert (12) and Harold (10) objected. Eleanor rebelled. So, we called a conference.

Could Sparkle, even in a small way help heal the lame leg? The doctor said yes.

But most important, could this decision become our greatest gift this Christmas – not something easy, but a genuine sacrifice of something loved?

We delivered old Sparkle on Christmas Eve. Bob and Harold went along, across the Des Moines River and over near Polk City. I was sorry we arrived at dusk, for a motherless farmstead is loneliest when night and Christmas Eve come on. But a light was in the barn. We found a clean stall with fresh bedding and bright hay and a red-headed boy.

It was then that I knew what I wanted for Christmas tomorrow. Just ten sturdy legs and ten strong arms for my five children and Mother Mabel to be waiting at dusk each day.

Something was happening to Robert and Harold, something as great as a timeless Christmas itself. They were sensing their own participation in the fulfillment of another's dream. For now, Billy had four more legs to help him and a friend to roam the pasture when spring came around.

The freckle-faced boy stood, wordless, watching the pony and I wondered if her barny smell and loose dandruff weren't frankincense and myrrh to him.

We left Sparkle then, my two boys and I. We didn't have much to say as we rode home, but deep inside us, I know we shared something: a strange warm glow, warm enough to melt my eyes just a little. Sometimes, I thought, great lessons are best taught in stables.

At the Des Moines River bridge we slowed down a while and looked back at the Baxter barn where one star sparkled down – bigger, more brilliant, and warmer by far than all the others. At least, that's what two little wisemen said who sat beside me in the truck.



**Kaye Sullivan**

## LOOSE ENDS

# Christmas spirit

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



**Dolly Viscardi**

I hope when any of you are out walking a dog in the next two weeks, the dog doesn't inadvertently leave behind a present. "Please pick up after your dog. Your neighbors will thank you." This sign remains posted on one of my favorite walking paths, as real winter weather finally begins. I say that with hope that the last snow was a true indication of our neighborly inclinations.

I am used to catching a glimpse of polite warnings in yards throughout most seasons. I have yet to see anyone even stop near this particular sign with their dog, even though farther down the path there remains a full bag dispenser. Even though some residents display their belief in keeping their yards pristine with tasteful reminders to pick up what these doggie duos leave behind, every season there seem to be others who believe equally in their right to ruin it for everyone. However, it just happens that this season does bring out the best in most of us, so I have noticed that although the sign remains posted on the fences near parks or paths, our mild winter so far has continued to have as many dog-walkers doing as they are asked.

This simple reminder is unadorned yet offers neighbors and strangers alike a

wonderful Christmas display in the background, so it stays on the fence untouched by weather or angry folks crossing out individual words to reflect the true feelings of the people passing through. I noticed the casual use of the word neighbor, which let me know they consider me a neighbor even if I don't reside in the neighborhood. I was particularly interested in the part

of the sign that gives everyone the benefit of the doubt, reminding anyone passing through that they would be thanked if they did as the sign requested. I bet their light displays demonstrate their optimistic and hopeful spirits.

I wonder if this particular neighborhood goes all out sharing their Christmas spirit with each other as well. No battles over boundary lines or noise have erupted. Now I am waiting for winter to set in and the snow to pile up blocking anyone's access to that pristine parklike area. If I look back to previous winters it is sure to eventually host a few stalwart walkers braving the icy, snow-dusted paved path. I know a few of us may make this a habit, continuing to show our "neighbors" that we appreciate them by thanking them or offering to help them make it through what appears to be one more challenging year. Have a Merry Christmas and the happiest of holidays to one and all!

## VETERAN VOICE

# Two options

By **WES EUBANKS**  
*Special to the Herald Times*

We all swore the same solemn oath "...to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic." At this point in our history to get our nation back I believe we have two options: No. 1: The electoral process. No. 2: Armed revolution. I strongly recommend starting with option No. 1 because if we start with option No. 2 regardless of who wins there is no guarantee we will ever see free elections in America again. God bless America.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Omicron among us

Dear Editor:  
The omicron variant of the novel coronavirus is very likely already amongst us. There's still an awful lot we don't know about it, but here's what's evident so far. Omicron is exceptionally contagious. Doubling times for infections are on the order of two or three days. That is, in a worst case, a community with 100 active cases of omicron today might expect 200 active cases two or three days from now, 400 active cases by the end of a week. Early studies also indicate that omicron has evolved mechanisms to evade our immune defenses. Antibodies from previous infections do not protect well against omicron, so people who had previous covid disease are susceptible to repeat infection and illness. Even two doses of the mRNA vaccines are only partially protective against omicron.

New data indicate that three doses of the mRNA vaccines (i.e. a booster of Pfizer or Moderna) still offer strong protection against severe illness. Otherwise we have to rely on the proven preventive measures: masks, increased ventilation, distancing, and avoiding large gatherings in closed spaces. That's particularly disappointing in the holiday season. Unfortunately those measures may be the only hope to avoid another wave of this epidemic.

Best public health advice is to get vaccinated. Get your booster shot if you haven't yet done so. And, if you are going to family gatherings, follow the public health precautions above. One more measure, if you can obtain them: testing with at-home rapid-test kits (e.g.

day of any gathering (even better if you can carry out two tests, the first one on the day before the gathering). If you're not feeling well, or if you test positive, don't go out and about. Help protect the people you love during these holidays.

Bob Dorsett, M.D.  
Meeker

Commissioner concerns

Dear Editor:  
I was at the Commissioners meeting here in Meeker Dec. 14 to bring up a couple of concerns. I will be the first to admit that I do not attend meetings unless something gets my attention and I want to ask questions that hopefully will help me understand the goings on. As expected Mr. Rector reminded me, several times, that I am absent from meetings and of course I can watch on the computer if I so choose.

Sheriff Mazzola was asked to explain some of the finance issues regarding the closing of the jail, which he did politely and professionally. Mr. Overton explained some of the expenses regarding equipment purchases and also was professional and polite.

Then when Sharon Day asked to address the Commissioners on her concerns and some suggestions, she was in my opinion, verbally attacked. Mr. Rector and Mr. Moyer again and again asked why she has not been to the meetings. When Sharon tried to reply, My. Rector said "I don't care" you never come, and they continued to show their displeasure of her being there. They were abusive,

unprofessional and bullied her until they truly were red in the face. Sharon showed patience and professionalism during their outbursts. The two Commissioners were so worked up they seemed to be talking at the same time. When they were done Sharon was able to bring up her questions and Janae was able to address her concerns.

They say they "encourage" public input but it seems like only if we agree with them. Why should anyone go to these meetings, my opinion is they are rude, and forget who their employer is – the taxpayer. I am sure if they were employed by a corporation or private business, they would have been fired talking to their employer with such disrespect.

OK, I have admitted I do not attend, Mr. Rector, where have you been the last several months. Aren't you paid to be at these meetings? Did I raise my voice and temper to you for not being at these meetings?

Thank you Commissioner Gates for not jumping into the bullying but would ask you to consider stopping the disrespect shown, either from the public or Commissioners, in the future.

While we're talking about expenses, why is the emergency manager allowed to use a county vehicle to go to and from his home outside of town every day? Who pays for that fuel, and is that an option for all county employees?

Also, I would like the Commissioners to consider having their meetings in the evenings for those of us who work during the day.

Carol Parr  
Meeker

GUEST COLUMN

Greetings from Washington, D.C.

Editor's Note: We asked former HT intern Sophia Goedert for her viewpoint on local journalism as she finishes out her first semester at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. where she is studying for a bachelor of fine arts degree in photojournalism.

Her photos of rural ranch life were recently chosen for a D.C. exhibit; stay tuned for more on that in the coming weeks!

By SOPHIA GOEDERT  
Special to the Herald Times

I began interning for the Herald Times in 2019 and continued to work there up until I left for college this August. I started out writing in my column before venturing on to cover events and interviewing local business owners in Meeker for feature stories. My time with the HT has taught me so much about not only journalism, but also technology related skills and has also greatly enhanced my people skills. I was able to experience many of the behind the scenes activities, due to its small size, that I know will be harder to find later on in my career. It's a great atmosphere in the office and I thoroughly enjoyed all the time I spent there.

My time at the HT also showed me how important community journalism is to Rio



Above, former HT intern Sophia Goedert's snap of the Lincoln Memorial. Goedert just finished out her first semester studying photojournalism at George Washington University in D.C.

Blanco County. So many people benefit from the reporting that's done every week. Small businesses are able to promote themselves through advertisements or features with the knowledge that people are guaranteed to see it. The community also gets to experience unbiased reporting on important topics that impact them daily. It's so refreshing to go out into the community and hear people talking about something I or someone else in the office wrote about because then you knew that they actually took the time to read the paper, and that's awesome.

CONSERVATION CORNER

How might you reuse your Christmas tree?

**Mulch?** Whether it's with the woodchips or needles, mulch is a great way to keep your yard trees healthy and moist during the cold winter season. Pine needles are full of nutrients that enhance the PH of your soil if its more alkaline and allow your soil to breathe without becoming dense and compacted. Be sure to douse your pine needles with water and mix well in your compost pile.

**Wildlife habitat and feed?** The tree doesn't have to be living for wildlife to utilize. Hang bird feeders, dip pinecones in peanut butter then cover it in bird seed, or thread popcorn onto string using a needle and use as 'tinsel'. Mix suet with plenty of bird seed, squish it into cookie cutters and push the shapes out onto greaseproof paper. Partly unwind a paperclip and embed it in each shape to create a hook for hanging. Place your shapes in the freezer to set.

**Ashes for the garden?** After you've burned the wood from your tree, gather the ashes and spread them on your garden. Wood ash contains potassium and lime (among other nutrients), which help plants thrive, or mix the ashes into a compost. The ashes are also useful in keeping insects away.

**Plant cover?** Cut off the branches of your tree and lay them on your garden bed, the boughs will protect your plants from winter freezes and spring thaws. By laying them on your garden, you're giving your plants a steady temperature for the cold months. The limbs also work well as a garden edge.



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?



Scan the QR code for eligibility information.

**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.

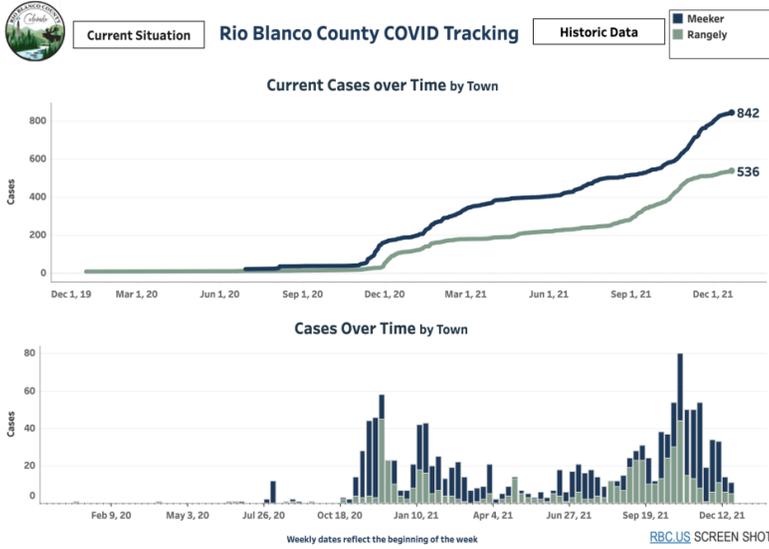
Not sure if you qualify? Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera app or navigate to <https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-booster-eligibility#Booster%20doses>

**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)





## Rio Blanco County COVID update

Special to the Herald Times

### CURRENT SITUATION

- 42 cases in the last 14 days
- 3 hospitalizations in the last 14 days
- 12 deaths

### 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.

## ELF, JR. THE MUSICAL ...



(Top, middle) the Rangely Junior/Senior High School cast of *Elf, Jr.* entertained and delighted with two performances of the holiday classic. (Bottom) Tarrah Patch starred as Buddy the Elf.

MATT SCOGGINS PHOTOS



## 5 tips to help tackle holiday stress

### PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Matthew Husa, Chief Medical Officer, UnitedHealthcare of Colorado

We're in what's often dubbed "the most wonderful time of the year," and you may agree. Still, added pressures amid the holiday season can test even the jolliest of elves.

Beyond the usual decorating, shopping, cooking, social obligations and more, this year there may again be concerns about avoiding COVID-19 and the seasonal flu. At times, the holidays may be as stressful as they are festive.

It's important to try to manage the stress that pops up, as prolonged, high levels of it may contribute to health problems, including:

- Headaches
- High blood pressure
- Digestive issues
- Anxiety
- Depression

To help create a more enjoyable season, consider these tips:

### KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Budgeting time and money can be key to creating happy holidays.

To avoid a busy schedule that may have you feeling overwhelmed, learn to say no to some invitations. In cases where you can't, try to find something else that can come off your calendar, so you don't overextend yourself.

Financial pressures can cause stress during and after the holidays. Set a realistic budget and stick to it. If money is tight, find low- and no-cost ways to show appreciation for the people in your life.

### GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK

While focusing on others, it can be easy to forget to take care of yourself. If you feel tension or worry building up, spend a little time focused on something you enjoy about the season, such as watching a movie, enjoying a cup of cocoa or checking out neighborhood decorations. Giving yourself even 15 minutes to unwind may help you recharge and feel better.



Dr. Matthew Husa

### COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Find time and creative ways to focus on things for which you are grateful. For example, instead of letting a long line at a store feel like a hassle, use the wait time as an opportunity to reflect on the good things that have already happened that day. Research has shown that a focus on gratitude can help to reduce stress.

### DON'T ABANDON GOOD HABITS

A healthy lifestyle may also help you make it through the holiday rush. Try to stick to your normal sleep schedule, get regular exercise, eat nutrient-rich meals and be cautious about how often and how much you indulge. Going overboard may add stress and guilt — and possibly extra pounds to deal with at resolution time.

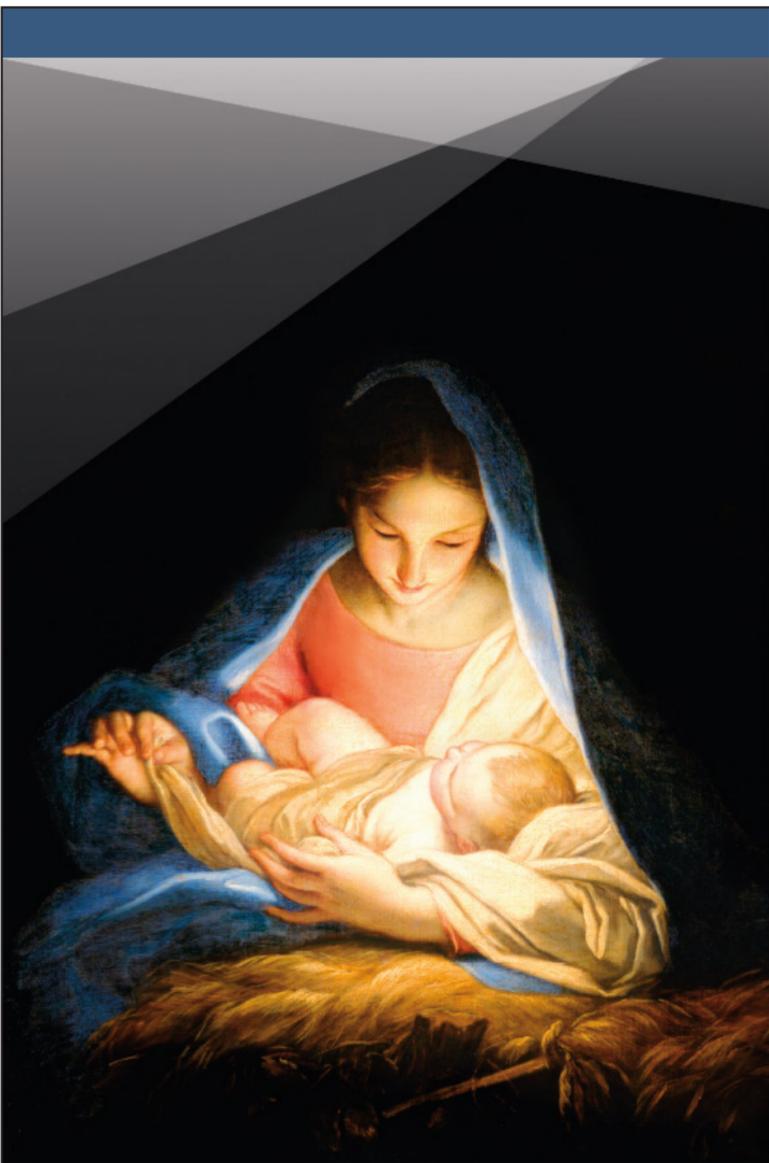
### ACCESS YOUR HEALTH BENEFITS

If you continue to struggle, consider talking to your health care provider or using other resources available through your health plan.

Insurers like UnitedHealthcare offer behavioral health solutions that range from care for your mental health to treatment for substance use disorder. You may have access to a growing number of digital resources, such as Sanvello, an on-demand emotional support app for coping with stress, anxiety and depression.

If your health plan includes the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), you can call anytime for a no-cost, confidential assessment of your situation and a referral to licensed professionals and services. Not sure if EAP is included in your health plan? Call the number on your health plan ID card to find out.

Heading into the holidays with a plan for handling stress may be the best gift you can give yourself and the people who'll share the season with you.



May the light of Jesus Christ fill your heart with joy and peace during this holiday season.

Merry Christmas!

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

OBITUARIES

## Kathryn (Katy) Marie Willis

April 1, 1977 ~ Dec. 13, 2021

Katy Willis, 44, lost a short battle with cancer on Dec. 13, 2021, in Grand Junction, Colorado surrounded by family. Katy was a resident of Rangely where she had lived since graduating from high school in Carbondale, Colorado.

Katy was born in Rangely on April 1, 1977, to Laura King and Bill Willis. She is preceded in death by grandparents Ruth and JD King of Rangely, uncle Darrell King, cousin Jesse King, cousin Wes Bretey, aunt Patty Limon, and loving step-dad John Martin of Carbondale. She is survived by her parents, Laura King (Stan Chafin) of Texas, and Bill (Brenda) Willis of Rangely; brothers Jon (Erin) Willis of Rangely, Zane (Charlea) Hubbard of Silt, Tim and Kendra Willis of Rangely, step-brother Sean Martin of Carbondale, step-sister Holly Martin of Grand Junction; nieces and nephews Brandon, Bryce and Addie Willis and Tara, Kimber and Kase Hubbard. She is also survived by many aunts, uncles and cousins. One of her most significant survivors is her loyal dog, Mickey.

Katy spent the last three-four weeks of her life staying with her aunt Fran (Dan) Piland in Grand Junction where she was cared for by her aunt who never left her side and made sure she knew she was going to beat her cancer. The two were planning a trip to the Grand Canyon when she was well



Katy Willis

again. Throughout Katy's diagnosis and care, she stayed positive and upbeat not accepting that she wouldn't return home to Rangely.

Katy was happiest outdoors and spent time hiking, fishing, and generally loved being at the river. She enjoyed campfires, sunsets, and always had music playing wherever she was. Her favorite song was "Fishing in the Dark." She loved animals and kids. Her nieces and nephews loved her dearly. Kids belonging to friends of hers were drawn to her because she would always take the time to talk to them, help them, or just hang out.

Katy radiated love and was loved by many. She had many close friends that were loyal to her and received the same back. If you had Katy on your side, you had an unceasing warrior! She would not let you down and would stand up for you long before ever thinking about herself. She was independent, self reliant, and lived her life without the worry of materialistic things. All she needed was her dog, family, friends and the White River. She will be greatly missed but will be remembered as someone who always made others feel special, as the person more likely to be cracking a joke than being serious, and for her infectious smile and laugh.

Memorial services are tentatively scheduled for Jan. 8, 2022 in Rangely.

## Ronald Joseph Kerstetter

Sept. 19, 1939 ~ Dec. 20, 2021

Ronald Joseph Kerstetter, 82, passed on Dec. 20, 2021. He was born Sept. 19, 1939, in a house on Battletown Hill, Between Hoffer and Meiserville, Pennsylvania to the late Harvey Kerstetter and the late Florence Dressler. Ron attended the primary school in the one room schoolhouse in Meiserville and was a 1957 graduate of East Juniata High School. At 17, Ron Joined the United States Marine Corps on the buddy system with his childhood friends Ted Ferry and Wayne Strawser. He proudly served as a Marine and was Honorably discharged in 1961 after having travelled the world and serving with a Marine Recon unit for a year of his enlistment.

Ron returned to Central Pennsylvania after the military where he worked as a stone mason before starting a career with Pennsylvania Power & Light in 1965. During this time, Ronnie fell in love with what he would call his "Juke Box Girl". It took him a long time to get the courage to ask her on a date, but in 1967 Ron married Carrie Evelyn Hahn. The two spent 54 years together in marriage before being parted on this earth.

Ron is an active member of the Mason's, Middleburg Lodge #619, where he served as the 1977 Worshipful Master. Ronald was most honored to receive his 50 year Mason pin from his son in 2021. Ron was the former Scout Master of the Liverpool Cub Scouts Pack #91 during the '80s. He had many hobbies, including refinishing furniture, collecting pocket knives, going to sales and he loved to play card games, where he would should no mercy to his opponents.

Ron retired with PP&L in 1995 and shortly thereafter, he and Carrie made their way to



Ron Kerstetter

Meeker, Colorado. In Colorado, he was an avid outdoorsman, where he spent many hours hunting, fishing, 4 wheeling, metal detecting and shed horn hunting. While in Colorado, he was a member of the Meeker Lions Club and the El Jebel Shriners. Ron and Carrie spent 10 years travelling between Pennsylvania and Colorado, before moving to Liverpool, Pennsylvania, in 2005.

Ronald was also a member of the Oriental Sportsman's Club, The Liverpool American Legion Post #0364, A lifetime member of the Marine Corps League and the NRA.

Ron is survived by his wife of 54 years, Carrie Kerstetter of Liverpool, Pennsylvania. Son, Ronald "Skip" Kerstetter II and wife, Diane Kerstetter, Oriental, Pennsylvania. His daughter, Teresa Randolph and husband Karl Randolph, Carlsbad, New Mexico. His grandson, Kie Kerstetter, Oriental, Pennsylvania, and granddaughter, Danielle Kerstetter. Ronnie loved his bonus daughter and son that he gained with Diane and Karl and his grandchildren were the light in his world. Sister, Joyce (Dick) Bennett Wilson, sister Gloria Kerstetter, brother Bill Kerstetter, sister Tina (Greg) Hackett and sister-in-law, Patty (John) Kerstetter, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father Harvey "Snootz" Kerstetter, his mother Florence "Becky" Kerstetter, brother John Kerstetter and nephew, Matthew Bennett. Also, his good friends, Ted Ferry, Dave Hinley, Ray Keller, Bill Carr and Tom Kilduff. A celebration of a life well lived, will be announced at a later date.

Soldier on Marine, Semper Fi!

DEATH NOTICE

## Tom Kilduff

May 21, 1947 ~ Dec. 21, 2022

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)

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# ON EDGE: frustrations with Mind Springs run high in NW CO

► Continued from Page 1A

A recent Colorado News Collaborative investigation found that many of those mental health treatment centers are failing to serve the most vulnerable Coloradans. Mind Springs stands out among them for intense community disappointment about access to and the quality of its care. Nowhere is that disappointment expressed so bitterly and publicly than in Summit County.

Frustrations here are so high that in 2018 voters passed a tax measure to fund mental health care, even though it meant they are essentially having to pay twice for similar services. Since then, local officials have worked with the state to end three of Mind Springs' contracts with Summit County. And now they are going a step further by severing ties altogether and joining nearby Eagle County's new community mental health center because leaders in both counties say the state cannot — or will not — fix problems with Mind Springs.

The split marks the first of its kind in the 50-year history of Colorado's mental health safety-net system, and is prompting other Mind Springs' communities to question the safety-net provider and eye ways to take control of their own care.

Raggio, in a series of interviews over several months, has not addressed specific reasons for public discontent, telling the *Colorado News Collaborative*, "I don't believe in litigating issues in the media."

"It makes me sad that anybody would feel that they got less than adequate services from our organization," she says. "It makes me sad that people have such negative things to say."

## THE NEW MOM

Travis Bickford doesn't want to hear it. Raggio's words will not bring back what he says Mind Springs — from its clinics to its hospital to its services in the county jail — took from his family.

His wife, Jackie

Bickford, 31, had a history of depression and alcohol addiction when she sought treatment at the Mind Springs office near their home in Breckenridge in 2016. She was experiencing severe postpartum depression after the birth of their son, Trent, a few months earlier. The clinic prescribed medication that her husband says seemed to make her more depressed and "turn her into a zombie."

"The doctors there just handed that s#t out like it was candy. They would chastise her for overusing the medicine, but then keep refilling her prescription."

Because she was talking about ending her life, he and his father-in-law had her committed to the Mind Springs-owned West Springs psychiatric hospital in Grand Junction. He says his wife returned home after about 10 days "far worse" than when she went in: "Constant crying, depression, abusing medicine, drinking vodka."

He was at work one day in April 2016 when a nurse called their home for a wellness check. Police responding to the nurse's concern found Bickford drunk and semi-conscious with her infant son nearby, and arrested her on suspicion of child abuse and neglect.

Her family made the tough decision not to bail her out, assuming she — and Trent — would be safer if she were in jail where Mind Springs had a contract to provide mental health services. She threatened to kill herself if he was removed from her care, so the jail clothed her in a smock that kept her from hurting herself and put her on a 24/7 suicide watch.

Within a day, Bickford persuaded a Mind Springs clinician to clear her to move off suicide watch and into a regular cell among the jail's general population. Four days later, she killed herself.

Her family unsuccessfully sued the sheriff's department, one of its officers, and Danielle Wood, the Mind Springs clinician who had evaluated her. During a deposition, the family's lawyer asked Wood

whether, in retrospect, she wished she had not cleared Bickford to be taken off of suicide watch.

"No," she answered. "Why is that?" the lawyer asked.

"Because I did what was presented to me during her evaluation. She was not suicidal at the time," Wood said.

Wood called Bickford's suicide an "impulsive decision," even though records show she had been suicidal for weeks — and even the day — leading up to it. She also claimed that Bickford's husband had told her his wife had improved in the hospital and was not suicidal.

Travis Bickford winces when reading Wood's testimony.

"It's hard enough that I lost my wife, that Trent lost his mom because we were desperate to get Jackie help and these f%#@ing people didn't do their jobs," he says. "But to sit here knowing this woman blatantly lied to justify her wrongdoing, to have no recourse after we made it perfectly clear Jackie was suicidal and tried like hell to make them help her, well, that takes crazy to a whole new level."

The *Colorado News Collaborative* reached out to Wood and asked if she could provide any written notes of her claimed conversation with Travis Bickford. A Mind Springs spokesman says Wood declined to do so or to comment on his allegation.

Trent Bickford, now 6 and with no recollection of his mother, walks into the room and sees his father crying during an interview. He climbs on the kitchen counter and grabs a paper towel to wipe away the tears.

"It's OK," he tells his dad. "I know."

## 'PLEASE DON'T CALL MIND SPRINGS'

Summit County's sheriff at the time, John Minor, announced his resignation to become police chief in Silverthorne a few weeks after Bickford's suicide. Commissioners appointed FitzSimons, a commander in the department, to replace

him until voters elected him to the office months later in 2016.

He inherited the legal aftermath of Bickford's death — and county residents' deep distrust of their community mental health center.

"When we'd come across people experiencing crises, they'd half the time say, 'Oh my God, please don't call Mind Springs. I won't talk to them. They're horrible,'" FitzSimons says.

He and other Summit County officials grew especially impatient with Mind Springs' mobile crisis response unit. The state-funded program is supposed to dispatch a mental health specialist to people in crisis at any hour to help stabilize them so they don't end up in more expensive emergency rooms. Assistant County Manager Sarah Vaine says she inquired about the program when noticing the number of ER visits wasn't dropping, only to be told by a Mind Springs supervisor in Summit County that the organization was urging clients to go to the ER because it didn't want to risk the safety of its mobile response team members.

Mind Springs' spokeswoman, in response, writes, "There is a delicate balance between a crisis worker's personal safety, and responding appropriately to a crisis in someone's home."

Officials and private mental health care providers in five other counties within Mind Springs' service area also describe their local mobile crisis response units as unresponsive.

Raul De Villegas-Decker, a clinical psychologist in Grand Junction, where Mind Springs is headquartered, says the unit there would call the primary care practice where he worked asking what it could do for someone in crisis.

"It was almost laughable — not the call you would expect from the very people who are paid to know how to handle crises," he says.

Gwen Eller, a school counselor in Mesa County, adds that she and her colleagues were told by the school district not to count on Mind Springs' mobile crisis unit in a crisis.

Even Mind Springs' own staff members say they have problems getting the units to show up.

"There's typically nothing mobile at all about our mobile crisis team. It's just basically a call center. And when you call, they act almost like you're inconveniencing them," says a Mind Springs clinician who asked not to be identified for fear of being fired. "Here you have someone who is literally at the lowest point of their life, and they're reaching out or having someone else reaching out for them, and what are we offering them? Nothing, which is terrifying."

FitzSimons says his



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRAVIS BICKFORD

**Jackie Bickford with her son, Trent, shortly before she ended her life during a crisis involving postpartum depression and alcohol addiction. Her widower blames Mind Springs Health.**

officers would respond to a call about a person actively trying to end their life and phone Mind Springs' mobile crisis team for support, as was their protocol. "They'd ask our deputy if he took their gun away and the deputy would say yes, and they'd say well, then there's no need to send their people out because the problem had been solved."

Raggio says her organization responds appropriately to crises as needed, but she declines to discuss any particular incident raised in this story.

The CEO, who made \$312,331 in 2019, cites a lack of state and federal funding and a maze of red tape as challenges for Mind Springs. But more often than not the former licensed professional counselor keeps returning to her own history leading Mind Springs from the verge of bankruptcy with "three days' cash on hand" in 2008 to building a psychiatric hospital in 2018 and women's recovery center in 2020. In almost all her interviews with the *Colorado News Collaborative*, she has mentioned the multiple business innovation awards the organization has won from industry groups.

Even Mind Springs' own staff members say they have problems getting the units to show up.

"We've done a lot of good things," she adds. "I know there are naysayers and that makes me sad. I think we all want the same things and can achieve more working together."

## A BLACK HOLE

Mind Springs' critics, county officials, former clients, even its own employees say that it's not just mobile crisis units that seem to be MIA.

How much tax money the center receives for its programs, what it spends in each county, how many people it employs in each

county are questions the center can't or won't answer. Entire programs seem not to exist. Spanish-language services are sorely lacking, even in areas with high immigrant populations.

"Mind Springs is a black hole," says Pogue, the Summit County commissioner.

"We don't know where the money goes or how it is being spent," adds Beth Melton, a Routt County commissioner with similar concerns about Mind Springs. "It seems to me that we should have an understanding of what services are being provided in the community."

Mesa County Commissioner Janet Rowland, who has a background in social services, also has questions about how Mind Springs is using state and federal tax dollars. She says Raggio keeps giving different explanations for barriers to care. "I've heard money's an issue. I've at other times heard capacity or staff or state rules and regulations are the issue. We haven't gotten to a real answer about what's getting in the way."

Raggio, who refers to herself as "an open book," repeatedly has said her organization does not keep its electronic records in a way it could figure out how much it spends per county.

"That's a lie," says Sarah Vaine, the assistant Summit County manager.

In response to our initial investigation published earlier this month, Mind Springs' spokeswoman Stephanie Keister contradicted Raggio, saying her colleagues do in fact keep records by county and would make them available for review. As of this writing, she has not provided them.

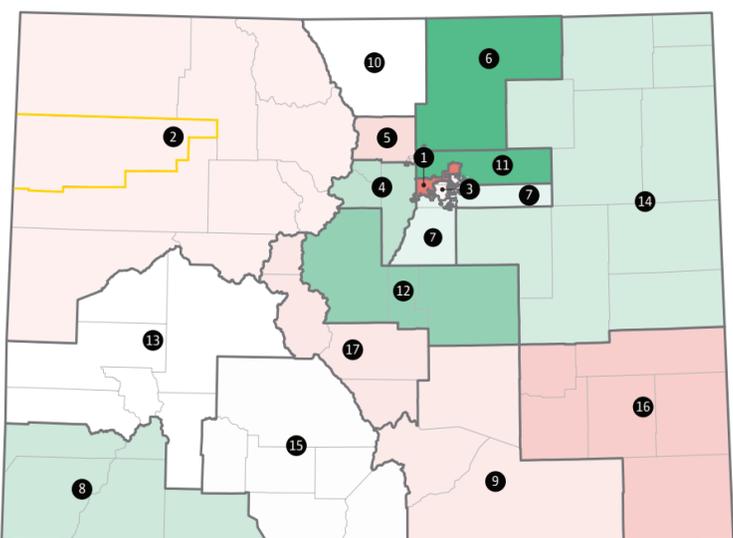
"If I owned a used car

► Continued on Page 11A

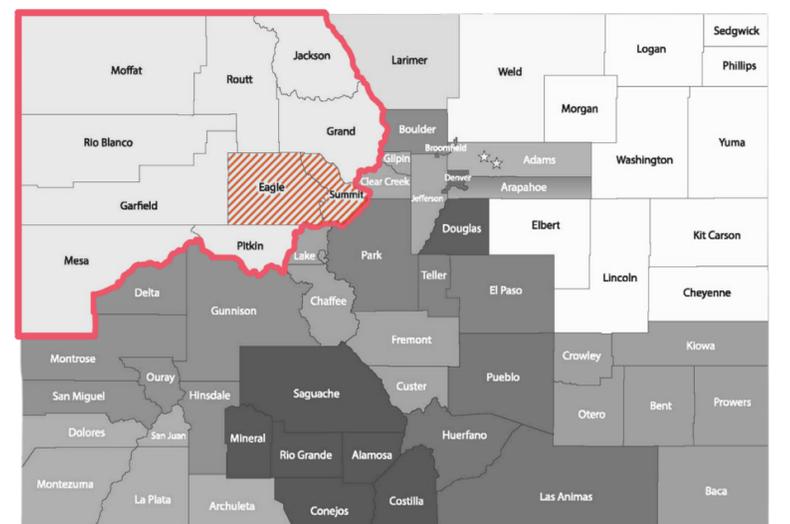
## Colorado's mental health safety-net system: A wide range in rates

The map shows the coverage areas of the state's 17 regional community mental health centers. The table shows what each center charges the state for Medicaid reimbursement versus what an independent clinician is reimbursed by Medicaid for the same service, as well as how much in liquid-asset reserves each center had on-hand and how much the CEO of each made last fiscal year.

Center	Amount Mental Health Center Charges State of Colorado for Services		Amount Medicaid reimburses center for an hour of crisis intervention	Amount Medicaid would pay independent provider for an hour of crisis intervention	Amount Medicaid reimburses center for an hour of counseling	Amount Medicaid would pay independent provider for an hour of counseling
	Lowest	Highest				
1 Mental Health Center of Denver	\$41,326,675	\$819,340	\$818.20	\$47.52	\$592.03	\$91.08
2 Mind Springs Health	\$21,612,135	\$312,331	\$536.97	\$47.52	\$388.54	\$91.08
3 Aurora Mental Health Center	\$20,894,924	\$312,612	\$530.18	\$47.52	\$383.63	\$91.08
4 Jefferson Center for Mental Health	\$19,985,204	\$289,810	\$424.89	\$47.52	\$307.44	\$91.08
5 Mental Health Partners	\$17,354,816	\$210,456	\$578.15	\$47.52	\$418.34	\$91.08
6 North Range Behavioral Health	\$16,694,984	\$173,861	\$315.18	\$47.52	\$228.05	\$91.08
7 All Health Network	\$16,305,451	\$376,791	\$465.78	\$47.52	\$337.03	\$91.08
8 Axis Health System	\$12,287,414	\$314,954	\$440.78	\$47.52	\$318.94	\$91.08
9 Health Solutions	\$11,592,987	\$330,241	\$548.68	\$47.52	\$397.01	\$91.08
10 SummitStone Partners	\$10,788,329	\$273,256	\$492.39	\$47.52	\$356.28	\$91.08
11 Community Reach Center	\$9,960,960	\$434,920	\$321.03	\$47.52	\$232.29	\$91.08
12 AspenPointe Health Services	\$7,872,840	\$242,995	\$379.82	\$47.52	\$274.83	\$91.08
13 The Center for Mental Health	\$7,366,053	\$212,981	\$491.66	\$47.52	\$355.75	\$91.08
14 Centennial Mental Health Center	\$7,162,587	\$181,984	\$447.92	\$47.52	\$324.10	\$91.08
15 San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Gr.	\$6,811,341	\$209,795	\$501.45	\$47.52	\$362.84	\$91.08
16 Southeast Health Group	\$4,782,866	\$203,080	\$614.61	\$47.52	\$444.72	\$91.08
17 Solvista Health	\$1,654,930	\$223,327	\$553.20	\$47.52	\$400.29	\$91.08



Sources: Audited financial statements submitted to Colorado's Office of Behavioral Health, adjusted cost reports submitted to Colorado's Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, Form 990 financial disclosures submitted to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Colorado Medicaid Fee for Service Rate Schedule  
Kevin Hamm, The Denver Post



**Mind Springs has been responsible for providing mental health safety-net services in the ten counties outlined in red. This past summer, Eagle County became the first community statewide to split off from its community mental health center, with officials there saying Mind Springs has failed to meet the needs of county residents. Eagle has created its own center, which Summit County plans to join.**

(Source: Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council, COLab)



PHOTO BY RJ SANGOSTI/THE DENVER POST  
Travis Bickford of Breckenridge has been raising his son Trent, now six, alone since the suicide of his wife, Jackie Bickford, in 2016. He blames Mind Springs Health for her death.



PHOTO BY RJ SANGOSTI/THE DENVER POST  
Summit County Commissioner Tamara Pogue has worked to fill in gaps in mental health care left by Mind Springs, the local community mental health center.

**If you're experiencing a mental health crisis, call the Colorado crisis hotline at 1-844-493-TALK(8255) or text "TALK" to 38255. There is no wrong reason to reach out.**

## ON EDGE: Eagle, Summit cut ties with Mind Springs

► Continued from Page 10A

lot, I'd hire Sharon," says FitzSimons, who slams Mind Springs for creating programs he says don't deliver.

"For some reason our state just gives them the money to keep doing it."

Alex Wolfe, a 22-year-old Summit County resident, has spent years cycling in and out of treatment for borderline personality disorder. In 2018, he did a stint in Mind Springs' psychiatric hospital from which he and his mother say he was released on the condition that he attend a certain kind of therapy group offered only at 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday.

"I went in at that time. They said come back next Wednesday. I went in again. They said there's no such group," he says.

Spanish speakers, whose cultures have especially high stigma around mental health, have an even tougher time accessing care at Mind Springs. In paperwork the nonprofit filed to receive state contracts, it describes its treatment as "culturally responsive." Yet, Mind Springs usually does not have fluent Spanish-language providers in most of its clinics, including those in communities with sizable immigrant populations such as Summit, Eagle and Routt counties. Sources in all three say the bilingual clinicians it has hired typically don't last longer than a few months.

Mind Springs cites a statewide behavioral health workforce shortage for its difficulty finding and keeping bilingual care providers.

Fernando Almanza, a 911 dispatcher and school board member in Eagle County, says that stigma, in addition to Mind Springs' lack of bilingual care, have dissuaded Latinx residents there from relying on the center:

"It's not trusted in the community, to say the least."

Trust in Mind Springs' home county of Mesa also is low. In two separate Mesa County surveys, one to residents and one to health care providers, respondents warned people to stay away from the center.

One provider wrote, "The saying is, you might as well commit suicide than go to Mind Springs because they will drive you to it."

The Colorado News Collaborative interviewed more than 100 people about Mind Springs. The only praise came from someone who works in its hospital and from three self-identified clients who appeared in one of the organization's marketing videos. We could not locate any of the clients who

provided those positive testimonials.

### BUILDING HOPE

Prominent Summit County businesswoman Patti Casey took her life by suicide in January 2016. By that year's end, so had 12 other county residents, a pattern that prompted Casey's family to launch a mental health care nonprofit in her memory.

Building Hope quickly drew widespread support for its mission of reducing mental health stigma, increasing access to treatment for Spanish — and English — speakers, and addressing other local behavioral health challenges. Community members rallied around that mission and proposed a mill levy to pay for mental health services Mind Springs wasn't providing.

Building Hope says that, in less than three years, it has used about \$2 million in revenues to help more than 1,800 county residents who either don't have insurance or have a deductible they can't afford to pay for up to 12 therapy sessions. Those are with 71 mental health care professionals independent of Mind Springs, many of whom are bilingual. Building Hope has been working to train those clinicians on how they can qualify to accept Medicaid reimbursement from the state. That training defies decades of efforts by Mind Springs and the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council, the trade group for community mental health centers, to limit the number of private Medicaid care providers they see as competition.

Revenues from Summit County's mill levy also have allowed Building Hope to fund a program offering medication for addiction; pay for peer support counseling, which research shows can be more successful in communities with high levels of stigma; and staff teams of mental health coordinators to "concierge" or sherpa people through various stages of treatment, to advocate for them with Mind Springs' staff, and to help them find a bed in a psychiatric ward, if needed. Finding a local placement is important because Mind Springs' hospital in Grand Junction is three hours away and often full, and generally doesn't treat children.

"People who have been screwed over so badly by the system just needed to have their health honored the way we do for other people who are sick," says Jennifer McAtamney, Building Hope's executive director.

Community leaders initially had feared the public would balk at having to pay twice — through federal and state tax dollars,

then the local mill levy — for mental health safety-net care. Now, residents there seem to agree that the community cannot "be held hostage with substandard care," says Vaine, Summit's assistant county manager. She last year kicked Mind Springs' detox program out of a county-owned building, then ended Mind Springs' contract for that service and worked to prod the state to fund a different nonprofit to run it.

Likewise, Sheriff FitzSimons has ended Mind Springs' jail and mobile crisis response contracts and replaced them with programs of his choosing. "At first, we didn't know we could say no to Mind Springs," FitzSimons says. "But now I've got sheriffs all over the state calling to learn how to break from community mental health centers that aren't getting the job done."

If Summit County leaders have been the most vocal critics of Mind Springs, leaders in nearby Eagle County have — far more quietly — been the most aggressive in breaking off from the center.

Following Summit's lead, Eagle County in 2018 passed its own mental health tax — on marijuana sales. Responding to what County Manager Jeff Shroll says are the same problems other counties have experienced with Mind Springs, his county then went a step further by forming its own community mental health center, called Eagle Valley Behavioral Health. The new nonprofit is a subsidiary of Vail Hospital, which will likely build a psychiatric hospital as well as a shorter-term overnight facility to stabilize people in crisis. It will include a team of clinicians co-responding to crises with law enforcement, a detox program and all the other safety-net services expected by the state.

Shroll says his county chose to avoid the kind of slow, painful split that has made Summit County have to fight for its share of state and federal mental health dollars.

"We haven't gotten into the weeds with Mind Springs like other counties — you know, adversarial," he says.

"We wanted a quieter divorce," adds an Eagle County official who asked not to be named to avoid further tensions with Mind Springs.

Leaders in Summit County are now working with those in Eagle County and with state behavioral health administrators to fully split from Mind Springs and join the new center.

The creation of the state's 18th community mental health center — the first new one in several decades — challenges the status quo of Colorado's mental health safety-net system. The new center will not be joining the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council, the powerful trade group that represents all other centers throughout the state in contract negotiations and has lobbied against proposals requiring competitive bidding for mental health contracts and more transparency and accountability among the centers. Its creation also will take tens of millions of state and federal tax dollars annually out of Mind Springs' pocket.

Raggio says she has a great relationship with Eagle County officials and initially denied knowing anything about their plans to split from Mind Springs.

"You're the only person I've ever heard that from. Am I misinformed? I don't know what to say about it," she said in August. By that point, sources inside and outside her organization tell the Colorado News Collaborative she had been having conversations about the break-up and how to respond to it for at least six weeks.

Months later, Raggio put out statements welcoming the new center and announcing

that she will be retiring this spring. The two developments are unrelated, she said in November before turning the conversation once again to the industry awards Mind Springs has won.

Officials in all but one of the eight counties remaining in Mind Springs' coverage area have said that political and economic factors make it unlikely their voters would pass a tax to pay for mental health services the center is supposed to be delivering. The one exception is Pitkin County, where Aspen is located.

Meanwhile, Mesa County has been researching ways to possibly end some of Mind Springs' contracts there.

"We're trying to determine which is the best path forward. We definitely are looking at creating some programs — maybe detox, maybe crisis care — that would meet the need that remains unmet," says Rowland, the Mesa County commissioner. In the meantime, she adds she would like to see Mind Springs "focus on improving the system rather than on talking about their awards."

Routt County has been changing some of its contracts with Mind Springs from a flat fee to an hourly rate so, as Commissioner Beth Melton tells it, "we actually pay for services that they've actually provided."

In six months of interviews, no one — except for Sheriff FitzSimons — called to dismantle Colorado's community mental health centers. But, as the state prepares to launch a new cabinet-level department overseeing mental health care this summer, Melton and officials from counties across the state have been asking for laws and policies to make the centers more transparent and accountable.

Colorado's Office of Behavioral Health Director Robert Werthwein has been outspoken about the need for those changes. "Let's just say, and I'm trying to be diplomatic, that a lot of work needs to be done," he said over the summer of Mind Springs in particular. He will not be there to help make reforms because he will be resigning in February.

At his home in Summit County, Travis Bickford says Coloradans cannot wait for state bureaucrats and lawmakers to resolve their "infighting and politicking and b-s'ing" about mental health policy, especially while the pandemic is still adding to the reasons people are spiraling into crises.

"People need help now, yesterday, six years ago. How many suicides ... should it take to fix things?"

On the wall of his living room, Bickford keeps two framed photos of his late wife, Jackie. One is from their wedding day and the other from the last day their family of three spent together. He often pulls that photo down to look at it more closely and think about what was and what could have been. He tries, hard, to cut through the anger and hurt about her death and let himself feel what it is to just miss her.



Email Susan Greene at [susan@colab-news.co](mailto:susan@colab-news.co)

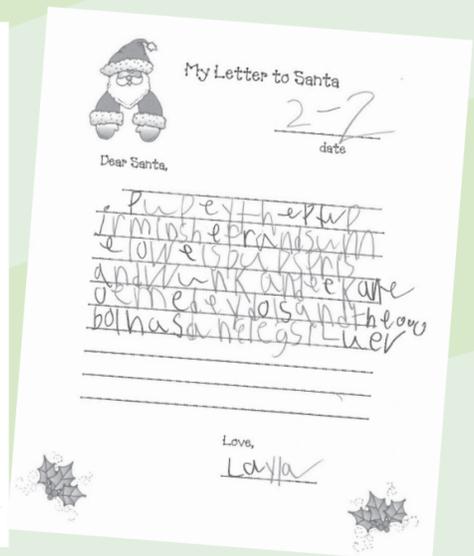
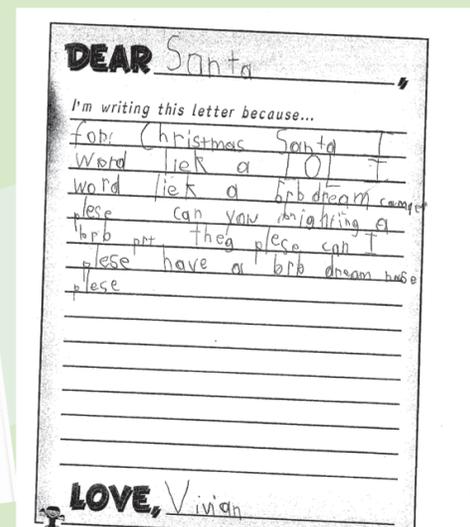
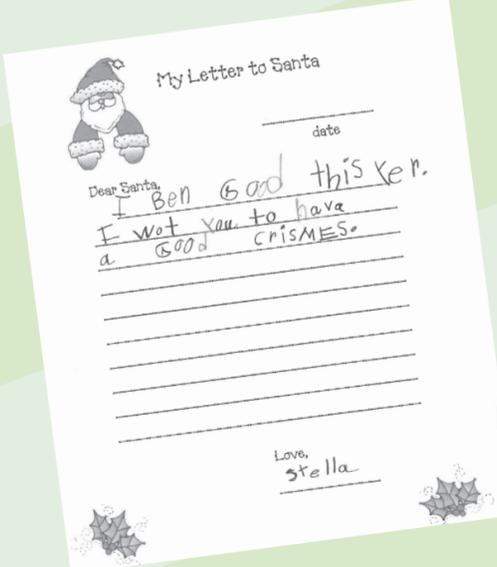
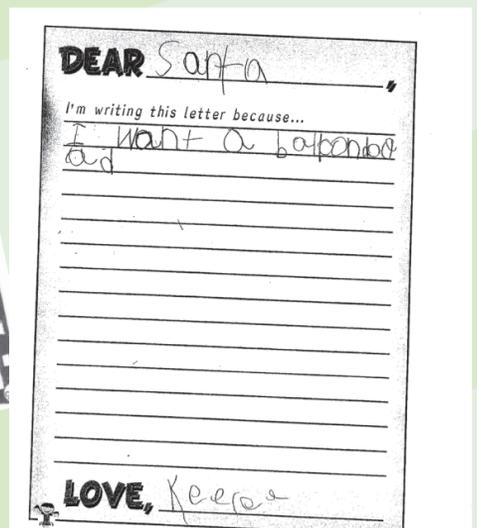
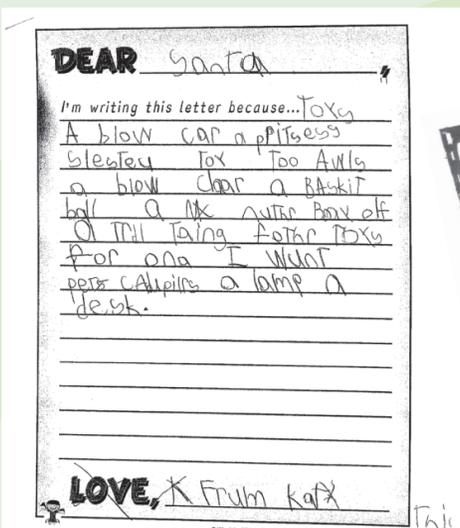
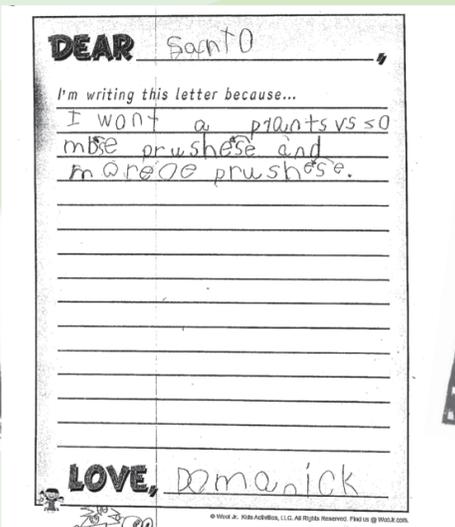
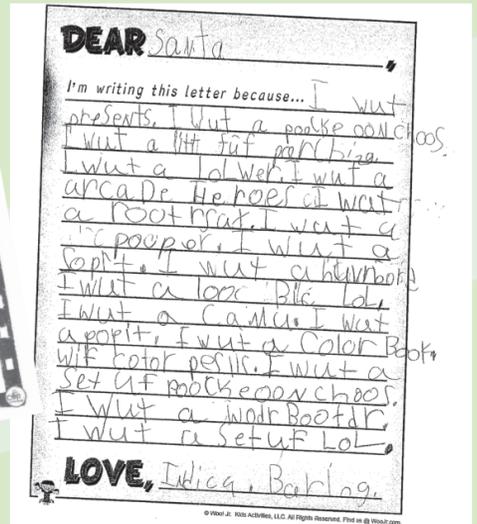
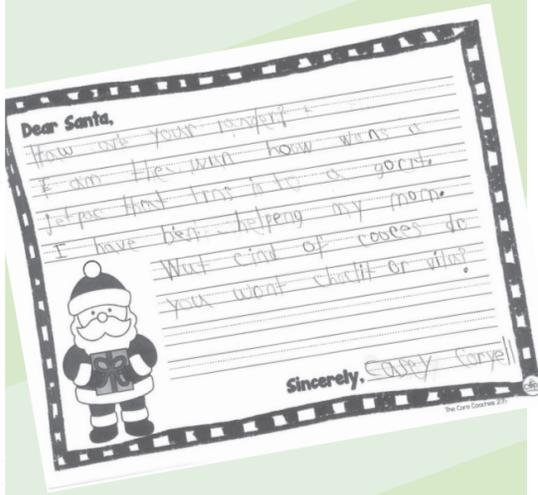
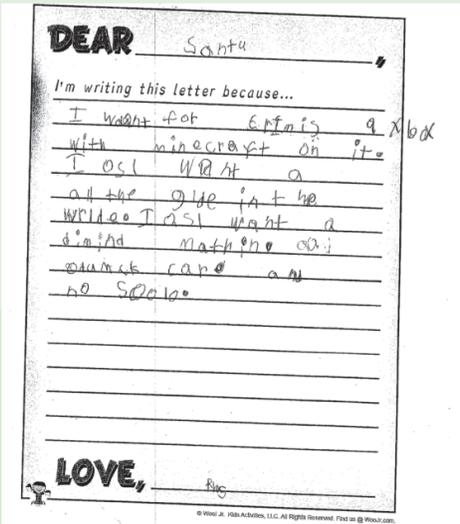
*This story is part of a statewide reporting project by the Colorado News Collaborative called On Edge. The project is supported in part by the Rosalynn Carter Fellowship for Mental Health Reporting and a grant honoring the memory of the late Benjamin von Siernenfels Rosenthal. Our intent is to foster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



PHOTO BY DEAN HUMPHREY  
Sharon Raggio, CEO and president of Mind Springs Health, prefers to tout the industry awards her organization has won rather than commenting on public discontent with the quality of its care.

# Dear Santa,

Our handwriting interpretive skills are pretty rusty, so we'll leave it to you to enjoy deciphering these letters from Rio Blanco County elementary students.



Larger images and lots more letters at [ht1885.com](http://ht1885.com)

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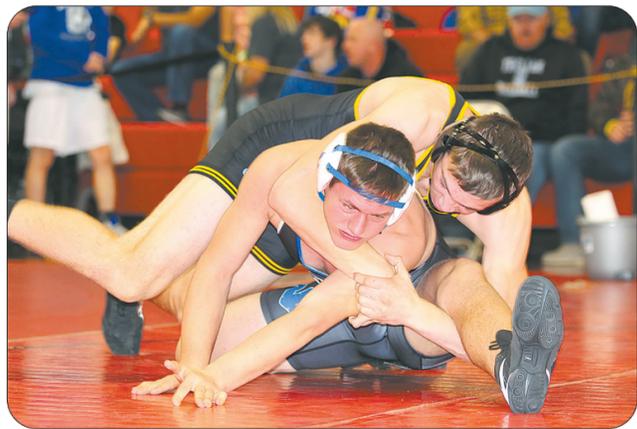
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**SPONSOR HOME TEAM COVERAGE!**



Eleven Cowboys wrestled at the Warrior Classic, including Cade Blunt (top left); Buzz Clatterbaugh, who took second place (top right), Goedert, who took third (bottom left); and Trae Kennedy, who wrestled in the consolation bracket. The Cowboys finished second as a team.

COURTESY PHOTOS

## Cowboys take second at Warrior Classic tourney

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

**MEEKER** | Eleven Cowboy wrestlers traveled to the Warrior Classic Tournament this past weekend, for a two day, 32 person bracket tournament, one of the toughest in the west.

“Our kids wrestled really well, from the first week, to the second week, to this week, we have gotten progressively better,” commented head coach JC Watt.

After day one seven Cowboys remained, Trae Kennedy 120 pounds wrestled in the consolation bracket, and Connor Blunt (152), Kelton Turner (170), Brendan Clatterbaugh (182), Judd Harvey (220), and Tanner Musser all wrestling in the semi finals. As a team the boys were sitting second only 1.5 points behind Fruita going into day two, after the finals on Saturday the Cowboys finished second for small schools.

The previous Warrior only two Cowboys had made it to placing

rounds, this year six Cowboys placed.

Final results of the 2021 Warrior Classic tournament for the Cowboys, Goedert - 3rd, Blunt - 2nd, Turner - 6th, Clatterbaugh - 2nd, Harvey - 5th, Musser - 3rd.

“I felt like our kids did a really good job of wearing their opponents down,” said Watt. “We had 15 pins on the first day which is 30 extra points, and of the six semi-final matches we had a chance to win them all, and we deserved to be in the semi-finals.”

“I hope that when a coach or kid

looks at the bracket and sees that they have a Meeker kid, they know they better come out prepared,” commented Watt, “the gym was aware that if you had a Meeker kid that the Meeker kid was going to battle and this year and over the last couple of years, we are better on our feet.”

Cowboy wrestling now looks forward to a dual followed immediately by the Tournament of Champions in Vernal Utah on January 7-8 and the dual will be at home on January 6 hosting Rifle and Delta.

## Panther wrestlers close year out with a bang

*Special to the Herald Times*

**RANGELY I** The Rangely Panther Wrestlers have closed out 2021 with a bang.

Over the weekend, the Panthers headed to West Grand for a pair of duals on Friday and a tournament on Saturday.

The Panthers started out a little slow with their first matchup against the West Grand Mustangs, losing the dual 38-36. Rangely won four of the seven head-to-head matchups, but gave up enough points to forfeits to fall short of victory.

Following their loss to the

Mustangs, the Panthers brushed it off and came out swinging in their second dual against the Basalt Longhorns. Rangely won the dual 60-6, with Basalt's only points coming from a forfeit. The Panthers won all seven of the head-to-head matchups via pin.

Friday's success continued straight into Saturday's tournament.

Rangely placed 2nd overall in the tournament, losing only to the number one ranked team in the state, Buena Vista.

Three Panthers were crowned champion in their respective weights; Kobey Chism 132

pounds, Zane Varner (152), and Byron Mackay (HWT). Mackay was recognized as Outstanding Wrestler in the upper weights for pinning his way through the tournament.

The Panthers placed a couple of other wrestlers as well; Aydan Christian (113) placed third, Braxton Moore (145) placed-fourth, and Kasen LeBleu (220) placed third.

Landon Carlson (120), Colton Stevens (126), Izaiah Moody(132), and Brent Cantrell (182) all wrestled great, but fell short of placing.

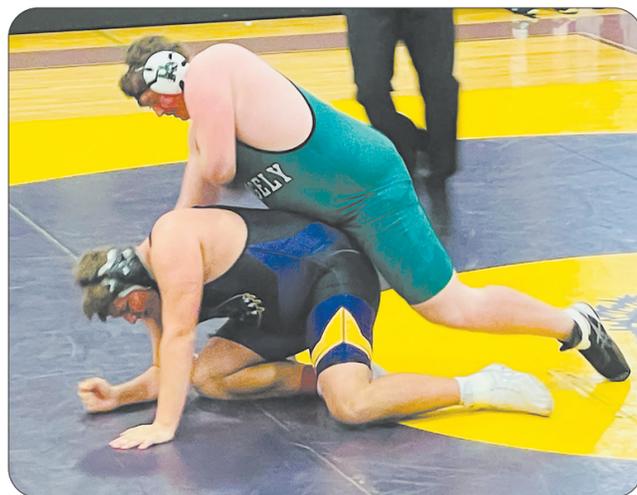
Unfortunately, senior wrestlers

Alex Black and Joseph Adams were unable to compete over the weekend.

Head coach JC Chumacero was pleased with the results.

“I am extremely proud of all these young men, this was a great way to close out the year” said Chumacero. “They have been working really hard in the room and it's great to see it pay off. I'm excited to see what the new year brings.”

After a much deserved break for the holidays, the Panthers will be competing at the Tournament of Champions in Vernal, Utah on January 7th and 8th.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Panthers competed in two duals and a tournament over the weekend. The lost narrowly to the West Grand Mustangs 38-36 before smoking the Basalt Longhorns in a 60-6 victory. At the Saturday tournament, Rangely placed second overall, losing only to number one ranked Buena Vista.

# ALL-CONFERENCE & ALL-STATE ...



MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO

All-conference Rangely athletes this season include cross country runner Andrew Dorris (far left); back row left to right Western Slope All Conference First Team football athletes Justin Cudo, Keihlin Myers, Timothy Scoggins, Byron Mackay, Wyatt Wiley, Marstan Wagner (Western Slope Honorable Mention), Zane Varner and Kobey Chism (Western Slope Honorable Mention); front row left to right cross country runner Mary Scoggins (who was also Second Team All-State), Western Slope All Conference First Team volleyball player Aspen Low and Western Slope All Conference Honorable Mention Adelynn Halcomb.



XX PHOTO

CHSAA Academic All State athletes pictured left to right, back row are Fisher Winder, Ashton Bennett, Kevin Wren, Andrew Dorris, Kasen LeBleu, Keihlin Myers, Timothy Scoggins, Wyatt Wiley and Marstan Wagner and front row left to right Hayley Burr, Mary Scoggins, Adelynn Halcomb and Aspen Low. Football Academic All State First Team athletes are Wagner, Myers, Bennet, LeBleu and Scoggins, with an all-state honorable mention given to Wyatt Wiley. Volleyball Academic All State First Team athletes are Low, Halcomb and Kyrach Phelps (not pictured). Cross country academic all state first team athletes are Scoggins, Burr, Wren, Winder and Joseph Adam (not pictured) with an all-state honorable mention given to Dorris.

## Lady Cowboys win big over Vail Christian in first season away game

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

**MEEKER** | It proved to be a great first road game for Lady Cowboy basketball as they traveled to Vail Christian Friday and came home with a big 71-17 win.

"I was very excited about the girls passing. They moved the ball up the court well and saw each other," commented head coach Jamie Rogers, "Hailey Knowles is passing the ball really well keeping our game tempo up."

Sarah Kracht had 27 points and Ellie Hossack and MyKayla Wille each had eight to lead the Cowboys to their victory.

"All the girls played and contributed great minutes," said Rogers and "Sarah is shooting well."

Hadley Franklin led defensively with seven rebounds, both Ainsely Selle and Hailey Knowles had five and Knowles led with eight steals

"Defensively the girls stepped up," wrapped up Rogers, "Savannah



AMBER GARCIA PHOTO

Sarah Kracht (above) put up 27 points in a big win over Vail Christian.

Mendenhall and Hadley Franklin forced a lot of turnovers with their defensive pressure."

The team now pauses for a couple weeks

during Christmas break before they open up the new year with North Fork and Olathe, and follow the same schedule as the boys for the first weekend.



AMBER GARCIA PHOTO

Despite rallying in the second half, the Cowboys lost to Vail Christian on the road 36-51. They will play their next game after Christmas break against North Fork in Hotchkiss, then host a league game at home against Olathe.

## Cowboys 1-3 on season

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

**MEEKER** | The Cowboys took to the road for the first time this season for basketball.

"We had expected Vail Christian to be a tough team, but they weren't as tough as I thought, we just could not shoot the ball very well, the shots are just not going," commented head coach Klark Kindler. "It is frustrating, the shot selection is excellent, but they are just not going in."

Vail Christian pulled ahead early while shutting down the Cowboys in the first two quarters. At the half the score was 31-15, the Cowboys picked up steam in the second half but couldn't close the gap. Final score 36-51

Leading scorers Zach Simonsen with 10, Liam Demming with nine, and Zagar

Brown with six.

Simonsen also led the defense with seven rebounds and three steals, Brown had six rebounds.

"We have played a really good schedule so far, the competition, the three teams were all quality opponents," Kindler said. "We are 1-3 but we have learned to get better from our losses because of our competition."

"We have a chance to be right up there in the league," said Kindler, "we will play thirteen league games and will have chances to be one of the top teams."

The Cowboys are now on Christmas break and will play their next game, Friday January 7 in Hotchkiss, Colorado against North Fork, then the following Saturday they return home to host their next league game against Olathe.

## CPW confirms wolf depredation incident in Jackson County

**PRESS RELEASE**  
Special to the Herald Times

After an initial investigation, CPW wildlife officers are confident in confirming a wolf depredation incident has occurred on a domestic calf in North Park.

Just after 9 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 19, a CPW District Wildlife Manager (DWM) received a report of a calf carcass on a ranch in Jackson County.

The DWM responded and conducted a field investigation and necropsy on the carcass of the calf to look for evidence of pre-mortem wounds.

"The results of this investigation indicated wolf tracks in the immediate vicinity of the carcass and wounds on the calf consistent with wolf depredation," said CPW Area Wildlife Manager Kris Middledorf.

CPW will handle reimbursement of the incident under its current game damage process as if the depredation occurred by mountain lions or bears. CPW is in the process of formalizing an official process for damage by wolves.

"CPW is working on draft regulations for the Commission's consideration on hazing for these naturally migrating wolves in the state," said CPW Director Dan Prenzlou. "Our goal is to provide producers with resources to minimize the likelihood of conflict or depredation as we work to create a statewide wolf restoration and management program as directed under Proposition 114."

Depredation compensation is required by statute, and the final Colorado compensation plan will be part of the overall Gray Wolf planning process. Recent Stakeholder Advisory Group and Technical Working Group meetings have focused on the topic of depredation compensation; meeting summaries are available at <https://www.wolfen-gagementco.org/advisory-groups>.

Gray wolves remain a state endangered species, and wolves may not be taken for any reason other than self-defense. Illegal take of a wolf may result in a combination of penalties, including fines of up to \$100,000, a year of jail time, and a lifetime

## BLM seeks public comments on proposed reroute of transmission line at Colorado-Utah border

**PRESS RELEASE**  
Special to the Herald Times

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public comments on a proposal to reroute the approved but unbuilt Gateway South transmission line at the Colorado-Utah border. The proposal, submitted by PacifiCorp doing business as Rocky Mountain Power, would reroute approximately three miles of the Gateway South transmission line south of the existing Bears Ears transmission line and span the Raven Ridge Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

In December 2016, the BLM issued a Record of Decision to approve the Energy Gateway South Transmission Line Project, which includes a 416-mile single circuit 500 kilovolt alternating current transmission line that traverses Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah.

The 2016 decision authorized relocating an approximately two-mile portion of the existing Bears Ears to Bonanza 345 kilovolt transmission line (operated by the Western Area Power Administration) to the north side of the approved Gateway South right-of-way to eliminate multiple line crossings and avoid the Raven Ridge Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The recent proposal poses an alternate route and would not change

the location of the existing Bears Ears transmission line.

A transmission line spanning the Raven Ridge Area of Critical Environmental Concern requires an amendment to the White River Resource Management Plan since the area is managed as a right-of-way exclusion area. If approved, the resource management plan amendment aims to mitigate engineering constraints with the existing Bears Ears to Bonanza 345 kilovolt transmission line and minimize impacts to the Raven Ridge Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Public comments must be submitted by Jan. 20, 2022. Written comments may be submitted online via ePlanning: <https://go.usa.gov/xHM8U>. Comments may also be mailed to BLM White River Field Office, Attn: Heather Sauls, 220 East Market Street, Meeker, CO 81641.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, and/or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While individuals may request BLM to withhold personal identifying information from public view, the BLM cannot guarantee com-

## Roberts in running for newly drawn State Senate District 8

**PRESS RELEASE**  
Special to the Herald Times

Colorado State Representative Dylan Roberts of Avon is announcing that he has filed campaign paperwork to run in the 2022 election for the Colorado State Senate in District 8—a newly-drawn district that encompasses most of central and northwest Colorado.

Roberts is currently in his second term representing Eagle County and Routt County in the Colorado State House. During his time in the legislature, he has championed legislation that has lowered health insurance premiums, protects water resources, promotes economic development in rural areas, and lowers the cost of prescription drugs, including his first-in-the-nation laws reigning in the cost of life-sustaining insulin for people with diabetes.

"It has been a true honor to represent Eagle County and Routt County in the State House. I am proud of my record as a State Representative - passing impactful legislation with a 97% bipartisan record of support - and of my accessibility to my constituents as I have held over 50 Town Hall Meetings since being elected so that I am always prioritizing the needs of my district," said Roberts. "I look forward to bringing my record of legislative success and passion for rural Colorado and our mountain communities to the State Senate and will continue to focus on solving problems and working for the people of my district. This district needs a senator focused on results rather than politics and my record proves I'm ready to do exactly that."

If elected, Roberts hopes to address the district's key challenges, including the rising cost of living, good-paying jobs, health care costs, housing, and child care. Roberts will focus on legislation that promotes the region's economic and workforce needs, protects Colorado's water resources and environment, and advocates for rural transportation and infrastructure needs, among other priorities.

"There is more work to do," said Roberts. "Our region needs a strong, effective, and bipartisan voice at the Capitol and I will be that voice - someone who focuses on our district's needs and puts results over partisan politics. I am running for the state senate to ensure our mountain and rural communities remain a place where people can



**Dylan Roberts**

live, work, and raise their families."

Roberts was raised in Routt County and now lives in Eagle County with his wife Sarah. Since the district lines were approved by the Independent

Legislative Redistricting Commission, Roberts has been on the road meeting with community leaders and residents in all ten counties of the district - from Idaho Springs to Craig, Granby to Silverthorne, Central City to Rifle, Walden to Steamboat, Meeker to Eagle, and everywhere in between - and he plans to continue doing so in the months to come.

Endorsements from leaders across the district include:

- State Senator Kerry Donovan, Eagle County
- State Representative Julie McCluskie, Summit County
- State Senator Tammy Story, Gilpin County
- State Representative Judy Amabile, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand, and Jackson Counties
- Fmr. State Senator Jeanne Nicholson
- Fmr. State Senator Gail Schwartz
- Fmr. State Representative Diane Mitsch Bush
- School Board President Jo Ann Baxter, Moffat County
- Commissioner Joshua Blanchard, Summit County
- Commissioner Kathy Chandler-Henry, Eagle County
- Commissioner Tim Corrigan, Routt County
- Commissioner Elisabeth Lawrence, Summit County
- Commissioner George Marlin, Clear Creek County
- Commissioner Jeanne McQueeney, Eagle County
- Commissioner Beth Melton, Routt County
- Commissioner Tamara Pogue, Summit County
- Commissioner Tim Redmond, Routt County
- Commissioner Matt Scherr, Eagle County
- Commissioner Randy Wheelock, Clear Creek County

Learn more about Dylan Roberts at [www.dylanroberts.org](http://www.dylanroberts.org)



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**DAYS GONE BY**

*The Meeker Herald*  
125 years ago

• Word reached town yesterday that Dr. W.H. Young and two other parties whose names we were unable to learn had killed seven head of elk near the head of Big Beaver creek last week. Here seems to be a clear case for game wardens to act on. Do your duty, gentlemen! This is a fine spectacle! A man holding two honorable and remunerative county positions — that of superintendent of schools and county physician — flagrantly violating the game law when all law-abiding citizens are clamoring for the enforcement of the law. In the face of such shameful deeds as this, it's high time citizens were taking matters into their own hands.

• Next Friday is Christmas and The Herald offers the compliments of the season to all its patrons and good people generally.

*The Meeker Herald*  
100 years ago

• The Meeker post office authorities report the heaviest Christmas post office and parcel post business in the history of the local office.

• Another trouble with politics in this

country is that so many people won't vote as we think they should vote.

*The Meeker Herald*  
50 years ago

• "Looks like a good beef animal," says Co. Commissioner Bill Brennan, looking at "Big Sam," an 1,800-pound Hereford steer that lives on a diet of radioactive feed at the Atomic Energy Commission's experimental farm which occupies 30 acres of the vast Nevada Test Site north of Las Vegas.

• The Planning Commission will hold a meeting with CER Geonuclear personnel on the proposed Rio Blanco Project in Piceance Creek.

*The Meeker Herald*  
25 years ago

• Santa Fennessy presented a judicial ice scraper to Rio Blanco County Court Judge John "Jack" Herron at a courthouse Christmas party on Dec. 13. Judge Herron is retiring in early January, and is moving to New Hampshire, something Deputy District Attorney Joe Fennessy thought to be strange enough to warrant gag gifts.

• Julie and Kelly Amick were unhurt in an early morning dip in the White

River. The girls were on their way to school on glare ice when their car whent off the road near the Green Cabins on RBC 8.

*Rangely Times*  
50 years ago

• News that a major company has decided to move into Rangely to establish an area office is good news. Further details will be announced later.

• Last Wednesday night robbers broke into Nichols Store and Peacock's, breaking open their safes and taking money and a large amount of merchandise at Peacock's.

• Rhonda Pennell was the lucky winner of the 10-speed bicycle given away at the Chamber of Commerce drawing Saturday afternoon.

*Rangely Times*  
25 years ago

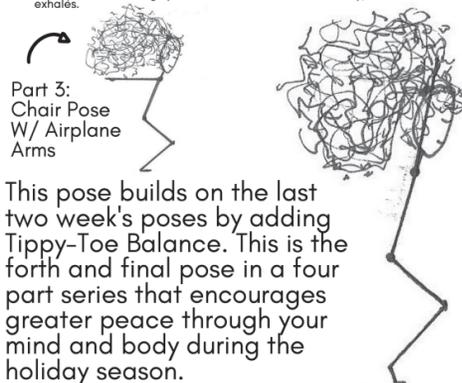
• The Western Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation and Park District swimming pool was leaking before Norm Johnston went to work on it with a drill on Dec. 12, taking soil samples from beneath the pool to determine if soil saturation beneath the structure caused the cracks.

**THE STRIP** #86

THE STRIP from SLEEPY CAT VOGI SHOP For The Holidays: Part 4

**First Steps To Every Pose**

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



This pose builds on the last two week's poses by adding Tippy-Toe Balance. This is the forth and final pose in a four part series that encourages greater peace through your mind and body during the holiday season.

To begin, with an inhale reach your arms high keeping your shoulders relaxed down your back. Next, with your exhale start to bend into your knees and sit your hips back as though there were a chair behind you. From here squeeze your thighs towards each other, this helps maintain engagement through your pelvic floor and core.

**From your chair pose, begin to shift your weight forward onto your tippy-toes to challenge your balance.**

Hold this pose on your toes for three to five breath cycles.

**JULY**

Seller: Troy G and Jessica Y Kurth  
Buyer: Meeker Apartments LLC  
Description: SANDERSON HILLS SUBDIVISION 185454 3 JENNIFER DR  
Transaction Price: \$68,000.00

Seller: Meeker Sportsmans Club Inc  
Buyer: L Bar Slash Ranch LLLP  
Description: 1N 094W 03, 1N 094W 09, 1N 094W 10  
Transaction Price: \$150,000.00

Seller: Albert R and Mary K Krueger  
Buyer: KHB Properties LLC  
Description: 1N 090W 19 26730 COUNTY RD 8  
Transaction Price: \$300,000.00

Seller: Joshua and Vallerie Jackson  
Buyer: Terry W and Debra Tolar Hintz  
Description: DRAGON WASH SUBDIVISION REPLAT OF LOTS 40-46 282847 67 927 W BELL ST  
Transaction Price: \$264,000.00

Seller: John K and Rebecca L Hume  
Buyer: John E Durfee  
Description: 1N 102W 01 410 E RIO BLANCO AVE  
Transaction Price: \$20,000.00

Seller: Richard James and Debra Sue Cook  
Buyer: Shelley Lynn Atkins and Shannon Kay Lamb  
Description: SANDERSON HILLS SUBDIVISION 185454 155 1107 MARK CIR  
Transaction Price: \$215,000.00

**AUGUST**

Seller: Craig H and Valerie Sjoerdsma  
Buyer: Jack David Jr. and Julie Richmond  
Description: ETCHART MINOR

SUBDIVISION 286019 2 1972 COUNTY RD 36  
Transaction Price: \$529,000.00

Seller: Eric Knez  
Buyer: Gwendolyn J Lyons  
Description: TOWN OF MEEKER 1 25 389 7TH ST, TOWN OF MEEKER 2 25 389 7TH ST  
Transaction Price: \$235,000

Seller: Rory and Marty Robie  
Buyer: Mark Andrew and Jessica Anne Wilczek  
Description: Leech Subdivision Amended 76541 7 B 308, S Grand Ave.  
Transaction Price: \$93,000.00

Seller: Frank L Robb  
Buyer: Stoneledge Properties LLC  
Description: TOWN OF MEEKER 1 49 357 8TH ST, TOWN OF MEEKER 2 49 357 8TH ST  
Transaction Price: \$100,000.00

Seller: Curtis Creek Storage LLC  
Buyer: Renninger Investments LLC  
Description: ADAMS MINOR SUBDIV REPLAT LOT 1C-A 1C-B 306305 3 1N 093W 19 CURTIS CREEK DR  
Transaction Price: \$150,000.00

Seller: LD Grove  
Buyer: American First Hospitality LLC  
Description: 1N 094W 23 219 E MARKET ST  
Transaction Price: \$980,000.00

Seller: Michael F and Sharon L Fazi  
Buyer: Eloisa S Black  
Description: WHITE SUBDIVISION RE-SUBDIVISION OF LOTS 6-12 BLOCK A 289324 6B 103 S JONES AVE  
Transaction Price: \$117,000.00

**MARCH**

Seller: Robert W Wheeler  
Buyer: Thomas and Karin Dietrich  
Description: 2N 094W 29, 2N 094W 30, 2N 094W 31, 2N 094W 32  
Transaction Price: \$99,000.00

Seller: Dean H and Janice M Hubbell  
Buyer: Burwell Properties LLC  
Description: TOWN OF MEEKER 4 10 664 MAIN ST, TOWN OF MEEKER 5 10 664 MAIN ST  
Transaction Price: \$200,000.00

Seller: Brett L and Makala A Barton  
Buyer: Trevor M and Marki T Grant  
Description: SHEEP CREEK MINOR SUBDIVISION 321779 1 38527 HWY 13  
Transaction Price: \$650,000.00

Seller: Matthew J and Tessa Rae Herrera  
Buyer: David C and Denise M Stevenson  
Description: MESA SUBDIVISION 73121 5 C 267 CREST ST  
Transaction Price: \$198,050.00

Seller: Gary L and Rebecca Susan Hinaman  
Buyer: Theresa Shelton  
Description: HILDENBRANDTS SUBDIVISION 69613 13 6 221 W RANGELY AVE  
HILDENBRANDTS SUBDIVISION 69613 14 6 221 W RANGELY AVE  
Transaction Price: \$34,700.00

Seller: Jeanne E Newman  
Buyer: Julie L DeYoung  
Description: LITTLE RANCHO ESTATES-SURVEY PLAT 266593 2S 094W 20 1020 S LITTLE RANCHO DR  
Transaction Price: \$575,000.00

Seller: Kevin R, Dennis R and Vickie L Haall  
Buyer: Michael W and Carrie R Campbell, Chris Barnes  
Description: LITTLE BEAVER ESTATES #2 265431 18 2299 MEATH DR  
Transaction Price: \$87,000.00

Seller: Terry L and Kathleen A Drake  
Buyer: SY, VAA  
Description: TOWN OF RANGELY 1N 102W 01 109 CEDAR  
TOWN OF RANGELY 1N 102W 02 109 CEDAR  
Transaction Price: \$65,000.00

Seller: Martin J and Cynthia L Belmont  
Buyer: Wesley D and Lois A White  
Description: LAMESAPUD SUBDIVISION

208675 25 3 1496 LA MESA CIR  
LA MESA PUD SUBDIVISION 208675 26 3 1496 LA MESA CIR  
Transaction Price: \$255,000.00

**APRIL**

Seller: Stanford B and Patricia M Wyatt  
Buyer: JD Outpost LLC  
Description: TOWN OF MEEKER 11 50 223 8TH ST, TOWN OF MEEKER 12 50 223 8TH ST  
Transaction Price: \$540,000.00

Seller: Strang Herefords & Black Angus LLC  
Buyer: L Bar Slash Ranch LLLP  
Description: 1N 093W 27 COUNTY RD 6  
Transaction Price: \$1,246,160.00

Seller: Crea J and Martha E McMullin  
Buyer: Russel E Vigil  
Description: TWO RIVERS ESTATES 269994 2638 RBC RD 12 COMMON OPEN SPACE  
Transaction Price: \$100.00

Seller: Daren E Olson  
Buyer: Samuel Tolley  
Description: 1N 102W 03 459 COUNTY RD 102, 1N 102W 04 459 COUNTY RD 102  
Transaction Price: \$1,100,000.00

Seller: Douglas and Shannon Moody  
Buyer: Strang Herefords & Black Angus LLC  
Description: 1N 094W 07 2204 COUNTY RD 7, 1N 094W 08 2204 COUNTY RD 7  
Transaction Price: \$1,500,000.00

Seller: Kristopher G and Stacey M Shriver  
Buyer: Aaron Rietzler  
Description: SAGEWOOD WEST SUBDIVISION 189097 26 4 921 HALFTURN RD  
Transaction Price: \$164,000.00

Seller: Jona Larae Lynn Garcia  
Buyer: Christopher S Johnson  
Description: UTAH OIL RE-SUBDIV LT 1 BLK B 207544 4 B 216 RIVER RD  
Transaction Price: \$180,000.00

Seller: Kenneth W and Brenda J Culler  
Buyer: Edward A and Valeria J Thompson  
Description: LITTLE BEAVER ESTATES #2 265431 21 1337 MEATH DR  
Transaction Price: \$218,000.00

Seller: Steven a and Kathleen C Maybury  
Buyer: Clifton D Matriciano  
Description: MASSEY-MAYBURY

RESUBDIVISION 310609 2 1425 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD  
Transaction Price: \$151,500.00

**MAY**

Seller: Margaret R and Dennis J Slauch  
Buyer: David and Michelle Fillenworth  
Description: UTAH OIL RE-SUBDIV LT 1 BLK B 207544 3 B 212 RIVER RD  
Transaction Price: \$171,000.00

Seller: Kum & Go LLC  
Buyer: Texas C Stores Inc  
Description: 1N 094W 29 39065 HWY 13 SUPPER CLUB  
Transaction Price: \$1,000,000.00

Seller: Casey L and Camille D Barger  
Buyer: Anderson Hicks Group LLC  
Description: WHITE ADDITION 220847 1 210 W BELL ST  
Transaction Price: \$140,000.00

Seller: Charles Kenneth Sutton  
Buyer: Kym D Hillwertz Colvin and Christel Mobley  
Description: HILLCREST SUBDIVISION AND ADDITION 162563 29 216 HILLCREST AVE  
Transaction Price: \$307,000.00

Seller: James A Herrera  
Buyer: Mark Stamos  
Description: HILLCREST SUBDIVISION AND ADDITION 162563 15 225 HILLCREST CIR, 16 225 HILLCREST CIR, 17 225 HILLCREST CIR, 18 225 HILLCREST CIR, 162563 19 225 HILLCREST CIR  
Transaction Price: \$323,000.00

Seller: Judy G Demczak  
Buyer: Fletcher and Christina Buckler  
Description: WHITE SUBDIVISION RE-SUBDIVISION OF LOTS 6-12 BLOCK A 289324 9B A 109 S JONES AVE  
Transaction Price: \$110,000.00

**JUNE**

Seller: David and Vickie Temples Trust; David Temples, Trustee  
Buyer: Jason F and Elizabeth A Kracht  
Description: 18 1N 091W 36 928 COUNTY RD 14  
Transaction Price: \$70,000.00

Seller: Cylene Thompson  
Buyer: Vincent R Thompson  
Description: RIDGE ESTATES 296824 30 1400 FLAG CREEK DR  
Transaction Price: \$220,000.00

Seller: Barbara Jean Darnell and Mary Frances Ayars  
Buyer: Chad and Eleanor Carter  
Description: 1S 094W 05  
Transaction Price: \$80,000.00

Seller: Ann C Seely, Ann Seeley AKA, Bruce H Seely Family Trust  
Buyer: RSH Land Company LLC  
Description: 3N 090W 24 3 COUNTY RD 121  
Transaction Price: \$7,430,000.00

Seller: Kevin Lee Dotson  
Buyer: Paulo Francisco and Elise Pearl Fernandez  
Description: MESA SUBDIVISION 73121 3 A 264 CREST ST  
Transaction Price: \$265,000.00

Seller: L Bar Slash Ranch LLLP  
Buyer: Meeker Sportsmans Club Inc  
Description: 1 1N 094W 10, 4 1N 094W 10, 7 1N 094W 10 LOTS 1, 4, 7, 8, 8 1N 094W 10 LOTS 1, 4, 7, 8, 6 1N 094W 11, 7 1N 094W 11  
Transaction Price: \$110,000.00

Seller: Darrell C and Peggy A Aplanalp  
Buyer: Candice Leigh Hauck  
Description: APLANALP MINOR SUBDIVISION 299392 1 27600 COUNTY ROAD 8  
Transaction Price: \$695,000.00

Seller: UINTAH BASIN ELECTRONIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS INC, UINTAH BASIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ELECTRONICS LLC NKA  
Buyer: RENNINGER INVESTMENTS LLC  
Description: CURTIS CREEK INDUSTRIAL PARK RE-SUBDIV 269778 1A 325 CURTIS CREEK DR  
Transaction Price: \$60,000.00

Seller: Julian Mendoza  
Buyer: Patricia Ann and Daman Scott Thompson  
Description: HILLCREST SUBDIVISION AND ADDITION 162563 30 220 RIDGE RD  
Transaction Price: \$208,000

Seller: Rio Mesa Resources Properties LLC  
Buyer: Vance and Tammy L Pierce  
Description: West Rangely Subdivision Replat 310120, 10 409 RIO MESA DR  
Transaction Price: \$53,000.00

**THEME: MOVIE QUOTES ACROSS**

1. THESE
5. General Services

- Administration  
8. Ex-Miami Heat player Dwyane  
12. Pomegranate seed  
13. Actor Chris O'\_\_\_\_\_

14. Pacific Crest Trail walker
15. Country dance formation
16. Wished undone
17. Popeye's sweetie

18. "Sudden Impact": "Go ahead, \_\_\_\_\_"
20. Arm part
21. Gold unit

22. Parabola, e.g.
23. San Joaquin Valley city
26. Hangs out with
30. Unit of electrical resistance
31. "Star Wars": "Stay in \_\_\_\_\_ formation"
34. Mr. Jinx's (of "Meet the Parents") cry
35. Clay and silt deposit
37. Camel debris
38. Japanese sword fighting
39. Was aware of
40. Come into sight
42. "Independence Day": "I belong in the \_\_\_\_\_"
43. "The Dark Knight": "Why so \_\_\_\_\_?"

- nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and \_\_\_\_\_"  
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Walker, American Girl doll  
8. "Field of Dreams": "If you build it, he \_\_\_\_\_"  
9. Related  
10. Deity, in Sanskrit  
11. "... \_\_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight"  
13. Fungus damage (2 words)  
14. Meryl Streep's "The \_\_\_\_\_"  
19. Supernatural life force, pl.  
22. Query  
23. "Who Framed Roger Rabbit": "That's all, \_\_\_\_\_!"  
24. Cûtes du \_\_\_\_\_ wine region  
25. Mideast V.I.P.  
26. Soreness  
27. Kidney-related  
28. "Princess Bride": "You killed my father. Prepare \_\_\_\_\_"  
29. Bound by oath  
32. "Lights out" tune  
33. Nile reptile  
36. "Finding Nemo": "Just keep \_\_\_\_\_"  
38. Danish money  
40. Two before Oct  
41. Lack of enthusiasm  
44. 1/16th of a pound  
46. Not two years but three, e.g.  
48. Coped (2 words)  
49. Freshwater eel, in Japan  
50. Comics character Little \_\_\_\_\_  
51. Fe  
52. Caribbean island country  
53. Carpenter's joint  
54. Like a fairytale stepmother?  
55. Network of nerves  
56. Acronym, abbr.

**CROSSWORD**

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59							60			61		
62							63			64		

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

**RIO BLANCO COUNTY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE PUBLICATION LIST**  
**NOVEMBER 30, 2021**  
**FUND: GENERAL**  
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME, AMOUNT**  
 1st RESPOND, SPPLY, 35.82  
 ALSOCO, PRCH SVC, 1,377.07  
 AMAZON CAPITAL SVC, INTR GOV 4, 4,872.79  
 AMY HOBBS, PRCH SVC, 134.40  
 ATMOS ENERGY, UTL, 2,063.56  
 MONA AVEY, SPPLY, 30.00  
 BYERS, BEVERLY, ELEC JDG, 570.00  
 CENTURYLINK, LND LN, 476.13  
 CENTURYLINK-LND LN, LND LN, 543.75  
 CENTURYLINK-LNG DST, LN DST, 5.93  
 CHAOS INK, AWRD/PRZ, 280.00  
 CNCC, CNTRCT SVC, 2,500.00  
 CO AIRPORT OPERATORS, PRCH SVC, 50.00  
 CO ASSESSOR'S ASSN, PRCH SVC, 2,050.00  
 CO COUNTY ATTY'S ASSN, DUES, 50.00  
 COLORADO, STATE OF, PRCH SVC, 348.01  
 COLUMN, PRCH SVC, 2,727.01  
 COULTER AVIATION, SPPLY, 426.64  
 CRAFT TROPHY, PRCH SVC, 20.00  
 CSU EXTENSION, PRGM EXP, 62.50  
 DISTRICT ATTORNEY, PRCH SVC, 21,416.00  
 ELLIS, TREASA, PRCH SVC, 67.20  
 EMPLOYERS COUNCIL, CNTRCT SVC, 7,507.50  
 FIRST ADVANTAGE, PRCH SVC, 296.64  
 FIRSTNET / AT&T, PRCH SVC, 858.67  
 FRAZIER, DEBRA, ELEC JDG, 480.00  
 HICKEN, KRISTINE, ELEC JDG, 80.00  
 IDENTITY GRAPHICS, AWRD/PRZ, 987.47  
 INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR, PRCH SVC, 325.89  
 JOHNSON CONTROLS FIRE, PRCH SVC, 1,362.71  
 KATHLEEN C NELSON, ELEC JDG, 250.00  
 KINSCO, UNFRM/CLTH, 477.94  
 LELA ASHCRAFT, PRCH SVC, 201.60  
 LITTLE-MYERS, SHERYL, ELEC JDG, 270.00  
 LUCE, SHAWN, PRCH SVC, 67.20  
 MARLOW WHITE UNIFORMS, UNFRM/CLTH, 394.85  
 MCGUIRE AUTO, SPPLY, 19.99  
 MEEKER AIRPORT, CNTRCT SVC, 3,000.00  
 MEEKER SANITATION, UTL, 724.00  
 MEEKER SPORTSMAN CLUB, PRCH SVC, 1,100.00  
 MEEKER, TOWN OF, UTL, 364.60  
 MELISSA DEMBOWSKI, PRCH SVC, 67.20  
 MOON LAKE ELEC, UTL, 1,810.46  
 MVB-VISA, PRGM, 9,421.92  
 NELSON, CONNIE, ELEC JDG, 680.00  
 NICHOLS STORE, SPPLY, 63.00  
 OVERTON RECY, UTL, 1,428.00  
 PATRICIA J DAGGETT, ELEC JDG, 65.00  
 PITNEY BOWES RES, PRCH SVC, 559.11  
 PROMEVO, PRCH SVC, 1,500.00  
 PURKEY, SAMME, ELEC JDG, 465.00  
 QUALITY HEALTH NET, PRCH SVC, 153.00  
 QUILL, SPPLY, 243.03  
 RALEY, DEBBIE, PRCH SVC, 51.52  
 RANGELY AUTO, SPPLY, 11.58  
 RANGELY TRUE VALUE, SPPLY, 357.17  
 RANGELY, TOWN OF, UTL, 2,232.07  
 RB HERALD, PRCH SVC, 93.56  
 RICHARDSON, FAIN, PRCH SVC, 120.00  
 ROGERS, MICHELLE, ELEC JDG, 95.00  
 SAMUELSON'S, SPPLY, 4.99  
 SHOP 4-INATIONAL 4-H, PRGM EXP, 83.09  
 SHULTS, PEGGY, ELEC JDG, 865.00  
 STAPLES, SPPLY, 644.17  
 STEERMAN LAW OFFC, PROF SVC, 13,762.50  
 STEWART, SHEILA, ELEC JDG, 255.00  
 T-MOBILE, PRCH SVC, 65.17  
 TONYA MERZ, PRCH SVC, 117.14  
 UNION, PRCH SVC, 113.28  
 USGS, WR WTR MNTR, 32,690.00  
 VALLEY HARDWARE, SPPLY, 205.63  
 VALUE WEST, PRCH SVC, 2,260.00  
 VOIANCE LANGUAGE, PRCH SVC, 50.00  
 WATT'S, SPPLY, 11.15  
 WESTWATER ENGINEERING, PRCH SVC, 2,381.40  
 WHITE RIVER DIST, SPPLY, 189.00  
 WILBER, MARY ANN, ELEC JDG, 410.00

WREA, UTL, 9,467.30  
 CO STATE WITHHOLDINGS, STATE W/H, 9,185.05  
 COLORADO DEPT OF REVENUE, WAGE ASNMT, 365.13  
 COUNTY HEALTH POOL, INSURANCE, 84,232.63  
 FAMILY SUPPORT REGISTRY, WAGE ASNMT, 671.38  
 GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 34,970.75  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FED W/H, 21,956.01  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FICA W/H, 40,846.93  
 GENERAL FUND TOTAL 334,095.19  
**FUND: ROAD & BRIDGE**  
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME, AMOUNT**  
 CASCADE SOFTWARE, PRCH SVC, 3,000.00  
 COLUMN, PRCH SVC, 44.22  
 J.J. KELLER & ASSN, SPPLY, 345.00  
 GWEN LYONS, SPPLY, 579.43  
 MEEKER, TOWN OF, SPPLY, 24.00  
 MVB-VISA, TRNGNG DEV, 200.00  
 PITNEY BOWES RES, PRCH SVC, 12.99  
 RANGELY TRUE VALUE, SPPLY, 17.54  
 SIGN SOLUTIONS, SIGN MTRL, 410.20  
 UNITED COMPANIES, CR 73 BRDG, 325,694.00  
 VALLEY HARDWARE, SPPLY, 49.98  
 WREA, UTL, 94.81  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FED W/H, 9,915.56  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FICA W/H, 20,053.17  
 COUNTY HEALTH POOL, INSURANCE, 54,336.70  
 GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 15,274.72  
 CO STATE WITHHOLDINGS, STATE W/H, 4,410.25  
 COLORADO DEPT OF REVENUE, WAGE ASNMT, 132.09  
 FAMILY SUPPORT REGISTRY, WAGE ASNMT, 1,055.15  
 ROAD & BRIDGE FUND TOTAL 435,649.81  
**FUND: PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME, AMOUNT**  
 DVXPRESS SVCS, PRCH SVC, 200.00  
 LABORATORY CORP, PRCH SVC, 166.00  
 MVB-VISA, PRCH SVC, 1,786.08  
 PIONEERS HEALTHCARE, PRCH SVC, 2,000.00  
 PMC, PRCH SVC, 364.00  
 SANOFI PASTEUR, SPPLY, 7,032.89  
 STERICYCLE, PRCH SVC, 366.00  
 VIRTRU, PRCH SVC, 1,799.25  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FED W/H, 1,216.65  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FICA W/H, 3,227.16  
 COUNTY HEALTH POOL, INSURANCE, 5,436.26  
 GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 1,682.02  
 CO STATE WITHHOLDINGS, STATE W/H, 630.92  
 PUBLIC HEALTH FUND TOTAL 25,907.23  
**FUND: DEPT OF HUMAN SVCS**  
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME, AMOUNT**  
 MOFFAT COUNTY ACCT., PRCH SVC, 4,438.40  
 PITNEY BOWES RES, CNTY EXPNC, 9.54  
 STEERMAN LAW OFFC, CNTRC SVC, 10,167.91  
 UNION, PRCH SVC, 226.56  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FED W/H, 1,233.59  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FICA W/H, 3,337.30  
 COUNTY HEALTH POOL, INSURANCE, 8,960.84  
 GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 2,017.22  
 CO STATE WITHHOLDINGS, STATE W/H, 760.26  
 COLORADO DEPT OF REVENUE, WAGE ASNMT, 132.10  
 FAMILY SUPPORT REGISTRY, WAGE ASNMT, 132.10  
 AP PAYMENTS, 7,771.92  
 DEPT OF HUMAN SVCS FUND TOTAL, 39,187.74  
**FUND: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN**  
**VENDOR NAME ACCOUNT NAME AMOUNT**  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY FED W/H 92.06  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY FICA W/H 200.98  
 COUNTY HEALTH POOL INSURANCE 1,523.25

CO STATE WITHHOLDING STATE W/H 47.00  
 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND TOTAL 1,863.29  
**FUND:USE TAX**  
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME, AMOUNT**  
 AMAZON CAPITAL SVC, SPPLY, 348.22  
 JOHNSON CONTROLS FIRE, PRCH SVC, 55.38  
 MOON LAKE ELEC, UTL, 343.99  
 MVB-VISA, PRCH SVC, 265.99  
 PITNEY BOWES RES, PRCH SVC, 2.12  
 RANGELY, TOWN OF, UTL, 104.47  
 RANGELY TRUE VALUE, SPPLY, 252.03  
 RB HERALD, PRCH SVC, 37.50  
 U.S. FOODS, NSIP FDS, 3,883.95  
 WATT'S, NSIP FDS, 222.44  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FED W/H, 1,340.02  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FICA W/H, 2,865.99  
 COUNTY HEALTH POOL, INSURANCE, 8,806.50  
 GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 2,111.50  
 CO STATE WITHHOLDINGS, STATE W/H, 576.72  
 FAMILY SUPPORT REGISTRY, WAGE ASNMT, 387.68  
 USE TAX FUND TOTAL 21,604.50  
**FUND:IMPACT FEES**  
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME, AMOUNT**  
 IHC SCOTT, CR 5, 16,996.60  
 IMPACT FEES FUND TOTAL, 16,996.60  
**FUND: SOLID WASTE**  
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME, AMOUNT**  
 MVB-VISA, CLSR/POS, 447.70  
 PITNEY BOWES RES, PRCH SVC, 8.52  
 REDI SVCS WY, PRCH SVC, 60.00  
 SOUDER, MILLER & ASSN, CLSR/POS, 17,930.76  
 UNION, PRCH SVC, 45.90  
 WREA, UTL, 123.12  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FED W/H, 1,621.90  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FICA W/H, 2,094.56  
 COUNTY HEALTH POOL, INSURANCE, 2,688.70  
 GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 1,086.98  
 CO STATE WITHHOLDINGS, STATE W/H, 552.75  
 SOLID WASTE FUND TOTAL 26,660.89  
**FUND: WEED & PEST**  
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME, AMOUNT**  
 AMAZON CAPITAL SVC, SPPLY, 376.00  
 CLAYBAUGH, VICKIE, SPPLY, 75.75  
 MVB-VISA, PRCH SVC, 161.97  
 ROCKY MTN WEED, WEED CNTRL, 5,000.00  
 VALLEY HARDWARE, SPPLY, 20.97  
 VAN DIEST SUPPLY, CHEM USED, 2,059.83  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FED W/H, 407.41  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FICA W/H, 588.76  
 COUNTY HEALTH POOL, INSURANCE, 1,523.25  
 GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 411.54  
 CO STATE WITHHOLDINGS, STATE W/H, 155.00  
 WEED & PEST FUND TOTAL 10,780.48  
**FUND: COMMUNICATIONS**  
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME, AMOUNT**  
 CALIX, SPPLY, 624.77  
 ERBC REC, PRCH SVC, 140.00  
 FIBERSTORE, SPPLY, 637.84  
 KPE LOCATING, PRCH SVC, 2,560.00  
 MAMMOTH NET, PRCH SVC, 3,560.00  
 MOON LAKE ELEC, UTL, 706.21  
 MVB-VISA, PRCH SVC, 35.97  
 NOANET, PRCH SVC, 544.50  
 ONE TECHNOLOGY, PRCH SVC, 1,462.50  
 PIONEERS HEALTHCARE, AMMTY ACC, 7,332.00  
 RANGELY, TOWN OF, UTL, 18.60  
 RANGELY TRUE VALUE, PRCH SVC, 73.76  
 THINAIR COMM, CAP OTLY, 131,005.46  
 UTILITY NOTIFICATION, PRCH SVC, 132.00  
 WREA, UTL, 1,504.17  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FED W/H, 904.42  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FICA W/H, 2,056.94  
 COUNTY HEALTH POOL, INSURANCE,

4,608.81  
 GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 1,578.66  
 CO STATE WITHHOLDINGS, STATE W/H, 428.05  
 COMMUNICATIONS FUND TOTAL 159,914.66  
**FUND: FAIRFIELD**  
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME, AMOUNT**  
 A-1 HEATING, CAP OTLY, 17,739.81  
 ATMOS ENERGY, UTL, 511.09  
 BOYKO, SPPLY, 1,116.56  
 CRITTERS R US, SPPLY, 150.00  
 MCGUIRE AUTO, SPPLY, 47.99  
 MEEKER SANITATION, UTL, 40.00  
 MEEKER, TOWN OF, UTL, 588.00  
 OVERTON RECY, UTL, 345.00  
 ROCKY MTN MACHINE, PRCH SVC, 107.50  
 SAMUELSON'S, SPPLY, 124.80  
 TAYLOR ELECTRICAL, PRCH SVC, 605.00  
 WREA, UTL, 1,421.29  
 YOUR PARTS HAUS, SPPLY, 10.82  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FED W/H, 269.66  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FICA W/H, 737.92  
 COUNTY HEALTH POOL, INSURANCE, 2,688.70  
 GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 578.76  
 CO STATE WITHHOLDINGS, STATE W/H, 124.00  
 FAIRFIELD FUND TOTAL 27,206.90  
**FUND: CENTRAL SVCS**  
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME, AMOUNT**  
 ALL COPY PRODUCTS, CNTRCT SVC, 376.98  
 IMAGENET, CNTRCT SVC, 1,139.79  
 PITNEY BOWES, RNTL/SE, 150.00  
 PITNEY BOWES RES, PSTG, 39.35  
 ROCKY MTN COMPETIVE, CNTRCT SVC, 774.12  
 CENTRAL SVCS FUND TOTAL 2,480.24  
**FUND: FLEET**  
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME, AMOUNT**  
 A&E TIRE, TIRES, 791.36  
 BEST DEAL SPRINGS, SPPLY, 123.55  
 CORNWELL TOOLS, MISC INV, 197.98  
 EMC PLUMBING, CAP OTLY, 10,505.55  
 GILBARCO, PRCH SVC, 130.38  
 H&H HYDRAULICS, PRTS/ACCS, 938.61  
 HILL PETROLEUM, GAS, 19,314.93  
 HONNEN EQUIP, PRTS/ACCS, 274.86  
 IBS, SPPLY, 531.70  
 JACKSON GROUP, LUB, 1,522.19  
 JOHNSON CONTROLS FIRE, PRCH SVC, 1,696.00  
 LACAL EQUIP, PRTS/ACCS, 484.00  
 MCGUIRE AUTO, SPPLY, 273.95  
 MEEKER COLLISION, RPR/MNTC, 382.72  
 TONYA MERZ, GAS, 59.11  
 MOON LAKE ELEC, UTL, 48.21  
 MVB-VISA, GAS, 252.68  
 NEXTRAN TRUCK CENTERS, PRTS/ACCS, 493.31  
 NORTHERN TOOL, PRTS/ACCS, 82.98  
 NW AUTO SALES, RPR/MNTC, 162.09  
 OFFICE DEPOT, SPPLY, 349.64  
 POWER EQUIP, PRCH SVC, 157.60  
 RANGELY AUTO, PRTS/ACCS, 477.36  
 RANGELY COLLISION, RPR/MNTC, 340.89  
 RANGELY TRUE VALUE, PRTS/ACCS, 6.49  
 SAMUELSON'S, PRTS/ACCS, 31.56  
 SNAP ON TOOLS, SPPLY, 10.45  
 U.S. TRACTOR, PRTS/ACCS, 110.18  
 VERMEER SALES, CAP OTLY, 33,479.00  
 WAGNER EQUIP, RPR/MNTC, 1,513.64  
 WEAR PARTS, PRTS/ACCS, 6,940.34  
 WREA, UTL, 538.46  
 WR ENERGY, SPPLY, 330.23  
 XCEL ENERGY, UTL, 242.37  
 YOUR PARTS HAUS, PRTS/ACCS, 1,088.78  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FED W/H, 2,154.89  
 US DEPT. OF THE TREASURY, FICA W/H, 4,856.67  
 COUNTY HEALTH POOL, INSURANCE, 9,341.78  
 GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 4,965.80  
 CO STATE WITHHOLDINGS, STATE W/H, 1,026.00  
 FLEET FUND TOTAL, 106,228.29  
**\$ 1,208,575.82**  
 Published: December 23, 2021  
 Rio Blanco Herald Times

## ELECTION NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**TOWN OF MEEKER**  
**MUNICIPAL ELECTION**  
**April 5, 2022**

TO:  
 Any person, who is eligible by law, to be a candidate for the Offices of Mayor or Trustee for the Town of Meeker to be elected at the Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 please take notice:  
 A candidate's qualifications for eligibility to hold public office are:  
 1) Be a registered elector;  
 2) Attain the age of eighteen years or older on the date of the election and;  
 3) Reside in the town of Meeker for a period of at least twelve (12) consecutive months immediately preceding the date of the election.  
 Nomination petitions may be circulated and signed beginning on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Nomination petitions and an information sheet for prospective candidates will be available at Town Hall, 345 Market Street, Meeker, on or after 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Regular office hours at Town Hall are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.  
 The last day for the circulation and signing of nomination petitions shall be Monday, January 24, 2022, on or before 5:00 p.m. All nomination petitions shall be filed with the Town Clerk at Town Hall by this date and time.  
 The following Town Officers will be elected at the election:  
 1) Mayor – two-year term;  
 2) Three members of the Town Board of Trustees – all four-year terms.  
 Dated this 15th day of December, 2021.  
 TOWN OF MEEKER  
 By: Lisa Cook, Town Clerk  
 Published: December 23, 30, 2021,  
 January 6, 13 and 20, 2022  
 Rio Blanco Herald Times

## BID REQUEST

**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ERBM- Meeker Recreation Center (MRC) Lower Parking Lot Asphalt Replacement/Repair Project**  
**A Public Works Project**  
**Eastern Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation and Park District**  
**101 Ute Road Meeker, Colorado 81641**  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Eastern Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation and Park District ("ERBM"), a political subdivision of the State of Colorado, is inviting proposals from qualified General Contractors for the Lower Parking Lot Asphalt Replacement Project located at Meeker Recreation Center 101 Ute Rd. in Meeker, Colorado.  
 Contractors must submit their bid proposals before **5pm on Wednesday January 5, 2022** at ERBM's administrative office located at Meeker Recreation Center, 101 Ute Road, Meeker, Colorado 81641; or via email at [Rodney@ERBMrec.com](mailto:Rodney@ERBMrec.com). Bids must be clearly marked "ERBM-MRC Parking Lot Asphalt Project". A pre-proposal walkthrough of the site is highly recommended and can be scheduled on or before Thursday, December 30, 2021 at 1pm by contacting Rodney Gerloff at 970-878-7420.  
 This is a guaranteed maximum price construction project. A complete Request for Proposal with project specifications and the Owner-Contractor Agreement template can be obtained from the ERBM's website: [www.ERBMrec.com](http://www.ERBMrec.com)  
 Construction timing to be negotiated with contractor. ERBM reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. Each proposal shall be reviewed and considered consistent to adopted ERBM Fiscal Policies and Procedures.  
 Board Approval: /s/ Kent Walter Date: 12/14/2021  
 Executive Director: /s/ Sean VonRoenn Date: 12/14/2021  
 Published: December 23 and 30, 2021  
 Rio Blanco Herald Times

## FORECLOSURE

**COMBINED NOTICE- MAILING**  
**CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 21-013**

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 Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau  
 1300 Broadway, 10th Floor P.O. Box 4503  
 Denver, Colorado 80203 Iowa City, Iowa 52244  
 (800) 222-4444 (855) 411-2372  
[www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov) [www.consumerfinance.gov](http://www.consumerfinance.gov)  
 DATE: 10/05/2021  
 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

# HOW TO READ A PUBLIC NOTICE



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

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

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

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

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

In other words, they're kind of a big deal.

**READ AND SEARCH THROUGH PUBLIC NOTICES ONLINE**  
[rbheraldtimes.column.us/search](http://rbheraldtimes.column.us/search)

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES

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

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, January 18, 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 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 1/2 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 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:  
**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 PM.  
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

**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](http://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 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

**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

**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

**RANGELY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
(TOWN COUNCIL)**

The Rangely Town Council Meeting of December 28, 2021 will be cancelled. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 7:00pm.  
Thank You!  
By: Marybel Cox, Clerk/Treasurer  
Published: December 23, 2021  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given of the filing of a Technical Revision 152 (TR-152) to the Colowyo Coal Mine, Mining Permit No. C-1981-019, by the Colowyo Coal Company L.P., 5731 State Highway 13, Meeker, CO, 81641, with the Colorado Division Reclamation Mining and Safety, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, Colorado 80203. TR-152 proposes additional highwall mining on the G78 seam in the northwest and southwest portion of the South Taylor Pit.  
All of the areas to be affected by this Technical Revision are owned by Colowyo Coal Company L.P., Axial Basin Coal Company, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Colorado State Land Board, and are located approximately 28 miles south of Craig, Colorado, west of Colorado State Highway 13 and west of Moffat County Road 51.  
The affected area can be located on U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle map Nos. N4015-W11245/7.5 (Axial, Colorado) and N4007.5-W11245/7.5 (Ninemile Gap, Colorado) and is more particularly described as follows:  
All or portions of Sections 2-6, 7-11, 14-22, and 28-30 of Township 3 North, Range 93 West, all or portions of Sections 13, 15-18, 20-24, 26-30, and 31-34 of Township 4 North, Range 93, all or portions of Sections 1-3, 10-12, and 14-15 of Township 3 North, Range 94 West, and all or portions of Sections 12, 13, 18, 23-27, and 34-36 of Township 4 North, Range 94 West of the 6th P.M., Moffat County and Rio Blanco County, Colorado.  
A precise description of the Permit Boundary can be found in Volume 16, Exhibit 1, Item 13 of the permit document and is included herein by reference.  
A copy of the application for the Technical Revision is on file at the Moffat County Clerk and Recorder's Office in the Moffat County Courthouse located at 221 West Victory Way, Craig, Colorado, 81625. Questions concerning this Technical Revision should be directed to Tony Tennyson, Reclamation Manager at Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Inc., at (970) 824-1232.  
Any person having an interest concerning this Technical Revision has the right to provide written comments or objections concerning this Technical Revision to the Colorado Division Reclamation Mining and Safety at the address noted above. Comments to the Division must be made within 10 days after the publication of this notice.  
Published: December 23, 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:

**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.



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



**EMPLOYMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES**

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



**BOARDS AND  
COMMISSIONS**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

The following Boards have positions available. If you are interested in serving on one or more of the following Boards, please complete an [Application for Board or Commission](#) and return to: HR, PO Box 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

**MEEKER  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT  
RE-1**

**Employment Opportunities**

**Meeker High School**  
• Head Track Coach

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



**EMPLOYMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES**

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

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

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

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

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• Audio/Visual Cabling & Consulting  
• Residential & Business Networking Solutions

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MARTY CASEY  
970.878.4650  
support@caseytechservices.com

**The Blind Guy Shades, LLC**  
Bringing Shade to Your Life

Regas K Halandras  
Owner

PO Box 677  
Meeker, CO 81641

970-629-9714  
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Attention Rio Blanco County Veterans: Veterans may be eligible for mileage reimbursement for travel costs to receive VA medical care. If you do not currently receive VA travel compensation please contact the Rio Blanco County Veterans Service offices. Rangely: John 'Hoot' Gibson, 970-878-9695. Meeker: Joe Bob Dungan, 970-878-9690. Travel compensation is made possible through the Veterans Trust Fund Grant and VFW Post 5843.

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

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6900 C.R. 7  
1161 C.R. 8  
1417 Silver Sage Rd.  
1131 Michael Cir.  
1085 Pinyon St.

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 \$815,000*

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*

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*

NEW! White River Condo, Unit 15-2BD | 1BA | 879 SF, two-story floorplan with a 50 SF storage unit included, Private Park. *\$89,000.*

NEW! 1085 Pinyon St-Lg. double lot with one water and sewer tap already paid. Build with views of the Mesa and Flag Creek area. *\$50,000*

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

White River Condos-Unit 3...UNDER CONTRACT  
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1034 Julie Cir.....SOLD  
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Merry Christmas!

**RANCHES**  
125± acres - Vacant land with water rights. Close to town. \$750,000.  
BACK ON THE MARKET! 1001 County Rd. 36, Meeker - 145± total acres, ranch with 4 BD/3BA home, metal insulated shop, insulated barn and pipe corrals. Mostly irrigated with water and spring rights and creek. Only 3 miles from town. \$1,200,000.

**VACANT LAND**  
NEW! 1129 Gail Circle in Sanderson Hills - Great views, includes sewer and water taps, plus survey and some excavation. \$41,500.

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

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&  
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\*Five 6 to 8 Acre lots in east Rangely. \$51,000 to \$71,000.  
\*43 Acre lot in east Rangely. \$180,000.  
\*6.4 Acre lot E Main St., Rangely. **SOLD!**  
\*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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