

# \*\*YOU DID IT!\*\*

We have officially met our goal of \$5,000 in contributions to fund community journalism in Rio Blanco County!

We are blown away by the outpouring of support and are so thankful for the opportunity to provide you with the news Rio Blanco County needs in the coming year.

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

# RIO BLANCO Herald Times

100% homegrown community journalism

Serving Rio Blanco County Since 1885 ♦ Vol. 137, No. 21 ♦ December 30, 2021 ♦ [ht1885.com](http://ht1885.com) ♦ \$1<sup>00</sup>

## The top 10 stories of 2021

By HT STAFF  
[editor@ht1885.com](mailto:editor@ht1885.com)

What were the top stories in 2021 for Rio Blanco County? Based on our website traffic at [ht1885.com](http://ht1885.com), the top 10 are as follows (oddly, they're all from the last half of the year):



HT FILE PHOTO

### No. 1. — RBCSO explores jail changes (Sept. 2, 2021)

Sheriff Anthony Mazzola laid out the reasoning behind closing the RBC Detention Center and transporting inmates to Moffat County. The closure came in October, and continues to generate public discussion.

### #2



HT FILE PHOTO

### No. 2. — COVID-19 cases spike in RBC (Nov. 4, 2021)

A rapid rise in the number of COVID-19 cases triggered plenty of local commentary in a story that continues to dominate the news worldwide. Twelve Rio Blanco County deaths have thus far been attributed to the illness since the start of the pandemic, most of them in the last six months of 2021.

► See **TOP TEN**, [PAGE 2](#)



ERBM COURTESY PHOTO

Residents have been enjoying ice fishing (above), ice hockey and other wintry activities at the reconstructed Circle Park pond in Meeker. Proper safety precautions for these and other activities involving ice is very important.

## Safety first for activities on ice

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

Now that winter has finally arrived in northwest Colorado, residents are participating in the usual cold-weather activities, including those that require ice. At the Circle Park Pond in Meeker, freezing temperatures mean new opportunities for ice skating, hockey and fishing.

However, winter time pond usage also means increased concern over potential safety risks. ERBM Recreation & Park District has officially taken a hands-off approach to monitoring usage of the pond both during the winter and summer seasons. Since there is no lifeguard on duty at the pond, residents are advised to use the pond with caution. In the winter, this primarily means ice safety awareness.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has developed a

basic guide for staying safe while spending time on the ice at one of the state's many lakes and ponds. It includes tips for avoiding an emergency incident, along with what to do if you or someone with you does fall through the ice.

General tips for avoiding an incident include educating yourself on ice conditions, staying off of thin ice, never going on ice alone, carrying personal safety items like ice picks, ropes, and floatation devices, and not attempting improper rescues that could make the situation worse.

If you do fall through ice, CPW recommends staying calm to preserve energy, making slow deliberate actions, not trying to swim, and many others, which you can find on [PAGE 8](#) of this week's edition.

More on ice fishing safety is also included on [PAGE 8](#) of this edition.

### ICE THICKNESS SAFETY GUIDELINES

- ❄ ❄ ❄
- ❄ **2 inches or less - STAY OFF**
- ❄ **4 inches of good ice for a walking individual**
- ❄ **6 inches of good ice for a snowmobile or ATV**
- ❄ **8-12 inches of good ice for a car or small pickup**
- ❄ **12-15 inches of good ice for a medium pickup truck**

- ❄ ❄ ❄
- ❄ **What is considered 'good' ice?**
- ❄ Look for clear blue, newer ice.
- ❄ Steer clear of ice around partially submerged objects (trees, structures, etc.)
- ❄ Be especially careful on ice covered with snow and avoid cracks, pressure ridges, slushy or dark areas of ice.
- ❄ Remember, you take a risk any time you go onto ice, so always be prepared to handle an emergency if necessary.

### INSIDE

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Saturday: 10s/-0s



Sunday: 20s/0s



**SHOP@HOME**  
**WEEK FIVE WINNERS:**  
**Geri Camera**  
Entered at Crystal Meadow Farms  
**Nichoel Green**  
Entered at Sweetbriar  
**CONGRATULATIONS!**



## Here's to a new chapter!

Happy New Year from the HT



# TOP 10: more COVID, county news, brewery opening

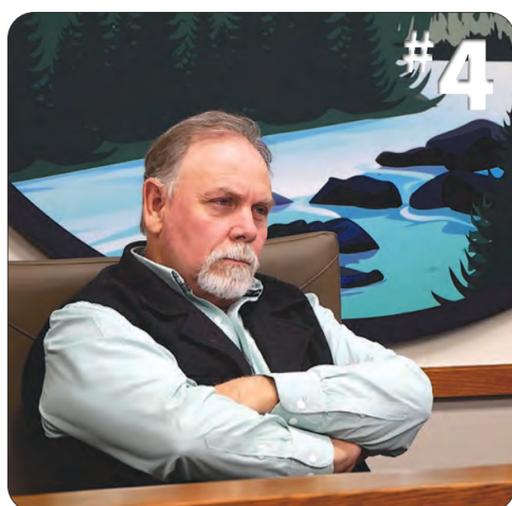
► Continued from Page 1



HT FILE PHOTO

## #3 — Reflecting on the death of Laurie French (Sept. 16, 2021)

Rangely resident Laurie French died in 2020 following an overdose near Rangely. How the case was handled by law enforcement raised questions and concerns from her family and friends.



HT FILE PHOTO

## #4 — Press release on hostile workplace investigation (Oct. 14, 2021)

Part of an ongoing story that includes the effort to recall Commissioner Gary Moyer, multiple dismissals of longterm county employees, and a lawsuit currently underway, the county issued a statement regarding the findings of a "hostile workplace" investigation by a contracted outside firm. In short, because one of the lawsuits relates to the allegations in the investigation, no details can be released at this time.

## #8

### No. 8. — PMC statement on mandates (Sept. 28, 2021)

Pioneers Medical Center issued a press release on vaccine mandates at the end of September. As with everywhere else in the nation, mandates are a cause for consternation.

### No. 9. — Budget discussions continue at RBC (Nov. 5, 2021)

Long meetings with lots of questions and plenty of discussion about how best to allocate the county's funds in 2022 were the topic of multiple work sessions for commissioners and department heads. Long story short, the final budget came out better than expected in terms of anticipated revenue and expenses. The final 2022 budget was approved in December.



HT FILE PHOTO

### No. 10. — Brewery dreams become a reality (Sept. 2, 2021)

And after all of the above, you just might need a beer. The new Smoking River Brewery, owned and operated by the Borchard brothers and featuring homegrown brews, crafted by master brewer Tyler Frye, opened this fall to rave reviews.



HT FILE PHOTO

And what were the most popular stories based on social media likes, reactions, comments and clicks in 2021? The list starts with beer and COVID...

1. (Sept. 3) [Brewery dreams become reality for Borchard brothers](#)
2. (Sept. 2) [The long haul](#)
3. (Sept. 2) [Mustang Makeover's Wade Allred and Windy Bill](#)
4. (Nov. 11) [Shane Kobald's mural at brewery](#)
5. (Dec. 20) [MHS Volleyball player awards](#)
6. (Sept. 9) [Third Meeker Mustang Makeover event nets \\$37K](#)
7. (Oct. 9) [Meeker Cowboys softball heading to regionals](#)
8. (Dec. 16) [Rangely's Steve Cochrane wins prestigious photography award](#)
9. (Sept. 20) [Cowboys pitch and hit their way to wins](#)
10. (Nov. 11) - [MHS Softball Banquet](#)



## #5

### No. 5. — Sharp increase in COVID cases (Sept. 10, 2021)

COVID strikes again. And again.

## #6

### No. 6. — The long haul (Sept. 2, 2021)

A local, personal take on COVID outlined Wendi Gillard's experience as a COVID-19 long-hauler nearly a year after her initial infection.

## #7

### No. 7. — Election results (Nov. 2, 2021)

There were plenty of local issues on the ballot in November, including a lengthy slate of school board candidates from both RBC districts and a bond issue presented by the Rangely School District.

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



## CORRECTION ...



In the Dec. 23, 2021, edition of the HT and in our weekly email newsletter, we misidentified Norrah Patch (left) in a caption, listing her as Tarrah Patch. Norrah played the leading role of Buddy the Elf in the Rangely Jr./Sr. High School performances of "Elf, Jr. the Musical." The HT regrets the error.

MATT SCOGGINS PHOTOS

## 2022 NEW YEARS EVE Masquerade Party

Count Down to the New Year at Smoking River Brewing Co!

**Friday December 31, 2021**

Live Music by **WAVE 11** at 9pm

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 one for you! \$5 Cover

STAY THE NIGHT for 10% off your stay

At Trail & Hitch or Trailhead Cabins AND you have no cover charge to the party!  
Book online with code Newyears10

**SMOKING RIVER BREWING CO**  
101 E. Market Street  
Meeker, CO

**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.

**Upcoming RBC free legal clinic**

**MEEKER** | Free legal clinic Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022 from 2-5 p.m. for parties without an attorney. Contact the Meeker Library at 970-878-5911 to be added to the sign-up sheet. Space is limited. Volunteer attorneys will assist one-on-one via computer link, to answer questions, help fill out forms, and explain the process and procedure for civil legal issues.

**Gift a TANK recording session**

**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.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

**Editorial**  
(Stories, photos, letters, etc.)

**Mondays, 5 P.M.**  
[editor@ht1885.com](mailto:editor@ht1885.com)

**Display Advertising**  
**Mondays, 5 P.M.**  
[ads@ht1885.com](mailto:ads@ht1885.com)

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

Not the only Christians,  
but Christians only

**IMPROVING FISH HABITAT ...**



No, Rio Blanco Lake has not sprung a leak. Colorado Parks and Wildlife held a public meeting in October to explain plans to adjust the management of some fish species currently in the lake to balance sportfish management goals with native fish conservation efforts in the White River. They are taking advantage of the low water to implement improvements to benefit the fishery.

LUCAS TURNER PHOTO

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022**



10 ct. Food Club

**Hot Cocoa Mix**

**99¢**



24.2-30.5 oz. Food Club

**Coffee**

**\$6<sup>99</sup>**



8 oz. Food Club

**Crescent Rolls**

**4 for \$5**

**GROCERY**

- 25.4 oz. Martinelli's **SPARKLING JUICE** 2 for \$5
- 10 oz. Rotel **DICED TOMATOES** 99¢
- 10-14.5 oz. Hunt's **DICED TOMATOES** 99¢
- 12-16 oz. Food Club **PASTA** 99¢
- 24 oz. Hunt's **PASTA SAUCE** 99¢
- 8-10 ct. Don Julio **FLOUR TORTILLAS** 99¢
- 16-18 oz. Don Julio **TORTILLA CHIPS** 2 for \$5
- 16 oz. Pace Picante Sauce or **SALSA** \$1<sup>99</sup>
- 5.5 oz. Pringles **CHIPS** 3 for \$5
- 100 ct. Simply Done Red 18 oz **PLASTIC PARTY CUPS** \$5<sup>99</sup>

**FROZEN**

- 28.3-32.7 oz. Crav'n **PIZZA** 2 for \$9
- 48 oz. Tillamook **ICE CREAM** 2 for \$7
- 13-14 oz. Banquet **MEGA BOWLS** 2 for \$5
- 8 ct. Nestle **DRUMSTICK PRODUCTS** \$5<sup>49</sup>

**DAIRY**

- 10 oz. Caciq Rancho **QUESO FRESCO** \$2<sup>59</sup>
- 16 oz. Food Club **SOUR CREAM** \$1<sup>19</sup>
- 16 oz. Food Club **COTTAGE CHEESE** \$1<sup>19</sup>
- 52 oz. Food Club **ORANGE JUICE** \$2<sup>99</sup>
- 16 oz. La Mexicana **SALSA** 2 for \$5
- 6 oz. Cache Valley **CHEESE SLICES** \$1<sup>99</sup>
- 8 oz. Cache Valley **SHREDDED CHEESE** \$1<sup>99</sup>

**MEAT**

- Beef Boneless **CHUCK ROAST** \$4<sup>99</sup>/lb.
- 5 oz. Armour **PEPPERONI POUCH** \$2<sup>69</sup>
- 16 oz. Swaggerty **MILD SAUSAGE ROLL** \$3<sup>29</sup>

**PRODUCE**

- Fresh Whole **PINEAPPLES** 77¢/lb.
- Fresh **AVOCADOS** 4 for \$5
- Red on the Vine **TOMATOES** 99¢/lb.
- Fresh **LIMES** 3 for \$1
- Jalapeño **PEPPERS** \$1<sup>29</sup>/lb.
- Choice **LEMONS** 2 for \$1
- 6 oz. **BLUEBERRIES** 2 for \$5
- Green **BELL PEPPERS** 69¢
- Cello Wrapped **ICEBERG LETTUCE** \$1<sup>49</sup>
- Roma **TOMATOES** \$1<sup>29</sup>/lb.
- Red **GRAPE TOMATOES** 2 for \$4
- 1 lb. bag Mini **SWEET PEPPERS** \$2<sup>88</sup>
- Russet **BAKER POTATOES** 69¢/lb.

**Crisp Celery**



**99¢**

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Prices effective Dec. 30th, 2021 through Jan. 6th, 2022

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

### Ring in the new year

*The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you're not going to stay where you are.*

~ J.P. Morgan

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



Now, what step in that direction are you going to take?



We are humbled and grateful. You — our readers — came through for us in an astounding way. We not only met the \$5,000 match, we exceeded it, and the credit goes to all of you. In the face of rising inflation, absurd gas prices, and the uncertainty of the pandemic, you offered your support, and we could not be more thankful. It's another reminder for me of the kind of support — in good times and bad, in rejoicing and in grieving — that defines who we are as a community, as a county, as a people. We set off into the new year encouraged and determined to continue bringing you the news you need. God bless you, each and every one.

I used to be a compulsive resolution-maker. New Year's Eve was often spent making lengthy lists of goals I hoped to keep in the coming year. Sometimes I even accomplished one or two of them, but the majority of them faded away by the end of January.

It's all well and good to wish and pray for change, or promise to change, but until we make a decision to change (for ourselves, not for anyone else) and take action in that direction, nothing of consequence will happen. Those action steps don't have to be giant leaps forward for all of mankind, they just have to be baby steps made for you.

Where do you want to go in 2022? (The answer can be literal or figurative.)

White River Energy Company wishes you a



**WHITE RIVER ENERGY COMPANY**  
MEEKER, COLORADO

Our front office will be closed Thursday, Dec. 30th and Friday, Dec. 31st.  
Cheers to 2022!

970.878.9876 • [www.wrenergy.com](http://www.wrenergy.com)

### 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](http://solvingSUDtogether.org).

All of us are the solution. Together we can.

[solvingSUDtogether.org](http://solvingSUDtogether.org)

Paid for by the Rural Alliance Addressing Substance Use Disorder Colorado



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

### KAYE'S CORNER

## Let's walk!

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

Keep up your exercise with an indoor walking/jogging opportunity. The paired efforts of the Rec Center and the Meeker High School are again making available to the community the use of the high school track above the gym.

And ... it's free! No registration required. Just check in at the school's front door on Mondays and/or Wednesdays starting Jan. 3 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Go down the hall and up the steps or use the elevator to rise one floor and you're there.

Exercise at your own rate as much or little as you wish. You'll probably find friends to encourage you and chat with if you wish. If you're speedy, you can run or jog as you wish. The music plays and the view is inspiring.

Last year, folks recovering from surgeries,

adding to physical therapy workouts, and committed exercise athletes all attended. It's open to adults aged 18 and older.

If you need to change from boots to shoes, there's a bench to sit on right outside the gym. Bring a bottle of water if you choose and off you go.

It is dry and warm with a level surface and easy parking in either the nearby visitor or student lots.

I am grateful that these two public entities have worked to make a walking facility available to the rest of us. See you on the track!

*With kind thanks to Dylan Mobley and our ERBM Recreation & Park District for their assistance with this article.*



**Kaye Sullivan**

### LOOSE ENDS

## Extra, extra

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



**Dolly Viscardi**

Growing up in a small town, we always got a newspaper delivered to our front door. It was the main way that we got our news. Most everyone supported the local newspaper by subscribing, as well as advertising their businesses in it as well. The dailies or "big newspapers", as well as the weeklies, operated in the same traditional fashion. The newspapers were our main sources of national and local news.

The front pages of both newspapers reported on the things that were currently happening in town. The key word in the previous sentence is reported. Most newspapermen and women throughout the years abided by an ethical code that did not leave room for speculation, only facts. Yellow journalism was not an approved business practice during my childhood, while easy to read tabloids were readily available throughout the years, since newspapers were the main sources of news. They had radio and television eventually, and in our recent memories, social media, but that was when the printed word was still revered.

Both of my parent's first jobs after college were at newspapers. They started out as reporters then both wrote political opinion and "slice of life" columns that appeared regularly-usually once a week. I didn't read most of those pieces until I was in high school, when it dawned on me that my mother had been using our daily lives as material for both the big city paper and the one in our hometown. She became known for her advice in both columns "The Working Mother" and "Day By Day" telling everyone within reading distance about our daily mishaps. They were both funny and poignant, as she doled out both advice and her opinions to other women who ended up as breadwinners during the 1940s, '50s, and '60s.

While I was proud of her, I was embarrassed that my friends and their parents always knew what was happening in my private life: such as finishing off a whole bag of potato chips and a couple of cans of coke

waiting for her to get home from work. Somehow my teenaged-self could completely ignore the messy house and be completely surprised that she didn't approve of my ability to put off "picking it up to make it acceptable." My selective hearing somehow made sure that I had forgotten the family mantra about trying to make it possible for her to come home to a relatively clean house after a long day at work.

My mother's weekly columns flourished for more than a decade, and she became known as a master of the short, funny, twist. My father's columns were more reportorial, but nonetheless not something I enjoyed reading much because I simply had no interest in the political doings of the adults around me. It featured high society movers and corporate shakers who were fundraising usually with a party or get-together.

A newspaperman usually stood by a code of ethics, as there was no room for error or diversion from the facts. My older brothers started early in the family business, so to speak, as I remember them cutting open a bundle of fresh papers that had been left on our front yard early in the morning. Then they creased and folded each paper into three sections to fit in a canvas sack they threw over their shoulders before climbing up on their bicycles to make their daily neighborhood rounds.

Newspapers now are struggling to survive. That is why it is up to all of us to continue to support one of Colorado's oldest weekly newspapers. The kids among us may be the first to tell you that "nobody reads newspapers anymore." One of my favorite third graders (yes, my granddaughter) told me she reads my column weekly, as she discovered "she liked them." I took that as the ultimate compliment. I encourage everyone to advertise, subscribe and contribute to this newspaper's fundraising efforts that offer all of us a way to ensure that the *Rio Blanco Herald Times* can stay in business. I hope we will all make an extra effort for the coming year, as I still love the old-fashioned newsboy appeal to readers everywhere: "Extra, Extra, read all about it!"



*Cheers to 2022!*

WREA wishes you a Fun & Safe New Year's Eve!

Our front office will be closed Thursday, December 30th and Friday, December 31st.

White River Electric Association | 970.878.5041 | [wrea.org](http://wrea.org)

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MEMBER

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this time and thank the Ranger, the deputy sheriffs, ambulance crew, Laura Smith and her helper, and family and friends for just being there. Also for all the flowers, food, cards and calls that I have received during a very difficult time.

Wanda Estel  
Rangely

Appreciation for support

Dear Editor:

We wish to extend our deepest appreciation for the support shown after the passing of our son and brother Zack. Special thanks to David Morton and everyone from the First Baptist Church.

Greg, Madonna and Wesley Goddard  
Rangely

Goodbye from pharmacy

Dear Editor:

Dear Editor:

Oh boy, I knew this was going to be hard but I didn't realize how hard! It's extremely difficult to say all this out loud for my beloved Meeker community to hear.

My mind cannot articulate the words my heart wants to share. All who know me understand I often lead by emotion, not necessarily from business sense. Therefore, I apologize in advance for running on and on.

I know this will be a shock to many and I need you to understand that this was a very difficult decision for Jan, my family and I to make. Meeker Drugs, Inc. is closing its pharmacy doors on Dec. 31. The soda fountain, Meeker Sweet Shop, will remain open and will have a new look and offerings in the next few months.

Our community and fellow small business owners understand that independent, brick and mortar business is a massive challenge; just look at how our business community has changed over the years. Add insurance companies, government healthcare programs, mail order, drug costs, policy changes, etc.

We have rolled with and witnessed the pharmacy industry change so much over the past 12 years. It has always been a challenge but due to the previously stated hurdles the last few years have created a very fragile ecosystem and the slightest imbalance creates a tipping point. Well, we've tipped. There are too many upcoming changes in 2022 that have made us realize that we cannot keep up.

So, it is with a heavy heart that I am announcing our closure. The timing was planned to occur with the PMC

location opening but there is a bit of a delay and PMC is doing its best to work out the unexpected challenges.

We have been working with our current customers to get all refills available taken care of as insurance allows and have a transfer of files plan in place. The staff and physicians at Meeker Family Health are also working to get a plan in motion to fill in the momentary gap of service.

There's the meat! Here's the heart...

This community has been so supportive and given us so much! Not just supporting from business relationships but more from personal relationships created with nearly every one of our community members through serving as the pharmacy. We will miss you all in the capacity of your pharmacist and pharmacy staff, but none of us are going "anywhere." We all still hope to have a minute to chat in line at the grocery store or in a social gathering at the post office or during the Range Call and Homecoming parades.

We have shared a lot of ups and downs. We know that all our past and current customers have done everything they could to support us. We know many were forced into mail order for costs but shared a few scripts here and there to keep us in business. Some took the budget hit and just flat out told Surescripts and CVS to take a hike. Allocations and wholesaler costs were often an issue. Please appreciate our hands were truly financially- and policy-tied on too many occasions. We were often extremely frustrated with that but had to make decisions to do what we could to support the community, as a whole.

Warned you I would be long winded! Just know we are sad that we had to make the decision; we are so grateful for the years we were gifted to serve, and our community is resilient. We do love and thank you, Meeker!

Diana Jones  
Meeker

State statement on mental health services

Dear Editor:

Ensuring Coloradans have real access to mental and behavioral health care services has been a commitment for the Polis-Primavera administration since day one. Even before the pandemic increased the need for behavioral health services into a crisis, we recognized the need to make significant changes to our behavioral health system in Colorado. We are committed to addressing the problems and gaps in the behavioral health system and to making bold changes to ensure people the mental health and substance abuse treatment and services they deserve. In April 2019, Governor Polis established the

Behavioral Health Task Force, asking for honest input about how the state could make real, impactful change. Hundreds of families, county commissioners, local governments, including clients, providers, and advocates weighed in on how we could improve access to care. The Task Force developed a detailed plan of action and reform that included the establishment of a Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), and expanding the behavioral health safety net.

There are many factors that have contributed to this crisis, including a shortage of providers, lack of transparency and accountability across the system, and flawed payment models. However we got here, we are all taking responsibility.

We must change the way we deliver and pay for behavioral health services, and we are working to do that through the BHA. Additionally, the Governor and the General Assembly have directed \$550 million to behavioral healthcare. \$100 million was allocated during the 2021 legislative session to care coordination, school-based services, treatment for high needs children and youth and a number of other services and programs.

How to spend the other \$450 million is being debated by an interim legislative committee, which will finalize its recommendations for the 2022 legislative session. We both sit on that committee and hope its recommendations are transformative, address system gaps and provide us with a strong foundation to build a highly functional behavioral health system. Coloradans deserve nothing less.

Real investment in behavioral health is long-overdue. We are taking a new approach: one that asks all stakeholders to work together on an unprecedented level to ensure the behavioral health system is highly functional, transparent, and accountable. Cooperation and mutual respect are essential to ensuring that we provide care for Coloradans, especially those with the highest need.

We must hold ourselves and our providers accountable, modernize our data and reporting systems, improve access and technology, change state contracting while setting new standards with providers, and create sustainable funding to programs that serve all Coloradans in need.

Some of these changes are underway already; for example, within the Medicaid program, which covers one in four Coloradans, we have expanded substance use coverage, added 1,500 behavioral health providers to improve care access over the last 18 months, and increased the Medicaid behavioral health budget by \$400M since 2018—as a result, the total Medicaid behavioral health budget will exceed \$1 billion next year.

We need systems and supports that prevent people from "falling through the cracks" that acknowledge the whole

► See **LETTERS**, [PAGE 6](#)

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VACCINE CLINICS

COVID-19 TESTING

Vaccinations for COVID-19 (ages 5 and up) and flu are available now. All insurance is accepted.

COVID-19 vaccines are free of charge.

**No appointment is necessary at our walk-in vaccine clinics.**

NEW WALK-IN VACCINE CLINIC SCHEDULE

Please be advised that testing for COVID-19 is recommended for all symptomatic individuals (please see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> for list of symptoms), and all individuals who are exposed to a known case. It is advised to test 5 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 in Meeker and Rangely.**

NEW SCHEDULE BEGINNING JAN. 3RD, 2022

VACCINES IN

MEEKER

200 MAIN ST.

Mondays  
12-5:30pm

VACCINES IN

RANGELY

101 E. MAIN ST.

Wednesdays  
12-5:30pm

BOOSTER DOSES

Booster doses are available in Colorado for anyone over the age of 16, as long as 6 months have passed since initial mRNA series (Pfizer or Moderna), or 2 months since initial Johnson & Johnson dose

1st, 2nd and booster doses of Moderna and Pfizer COVID vaccinations are available at all of our clinics.

TESTING IN

MEEKER

DRIVE-UP, 200 MAIN ST.

Mondays, Wednesdays and  
Fridays 10am-11am  
Thursdays ONLY 10am-2pm

Rapid tests not available on  
Thursdays.

TESTING IN

RANGELY

DRIVE-UP, 101 E. MAIN ST.

Mondays 1pm-2pm  
Wednesdays 10am-2pm  
Friday 9-10am.

Rapid tests not available on  
Wednesdays.

\*\*\*We will be closed for testing on Friday, December 31st.\*\*\*

AT-HOME TESTING

Please visit <https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid-19-testing-at-home> for info.

TRAVEL TESTING

We offer same day rapid molecular testing for \$45 at Public Health. Please check travel requirements for your specific destination.

OTHER VACCINATIONS

Please call to schedule an appointment for all other vaccines, including shingles, pneumonia, and childhood immunizations. Walk-ins for flu shots are welcome based on nurse availability.

RBC COVID-19 UPDATES

TAP FOR  
CURRENT  
RBC COVID  
STATS

CURRENT CASE COUNTS AND STATISTICS CAN BE FOUND ON THE RIO BLANCO COUNTY DASHBOARD.

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT  
[RBC.US/606/COVID-19-UPDATES](https://rbc.us/606/COVID-19-UPDATES)

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)



## MORE FROM THE EDITOR

## Black-eyed peas

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

Call it tradition or superstition, given the course of the first two years of this decade, partaking of some food thought to bring good fortune on the first day of the new year can't be a bad idea, right?

In America, the best-known New Year's Day good luck dish is probably black-eyed peas and greens. According to historians, this traditionally southern meal originated

either from African slaves or Sephardic Jewish immigrants to Georgia in the 1700s.

An old Southern saying goes, "Peas for pennies, greens for dollars, and cornbread for gold." The "peas" are actually beans, greens can be braised collard, turnip or mustard greens, and cornbread is self-explanatory.

Toss in some pork, in the form of a roast or bacon for extra good luck, as pigs are considered a symbol of progress in some cultures.

In the Midwest, pork in the form of kielbasa or

roast, with sauerkraut or cabbage rolls, are familiar on New Year's Day tables. For those of Scandinavian origin, pickled herring at the New Year was both a celebration and a prayer for a good catch. And in Italy, lentils and sliced sausage — resembling coins, for the creative mind — are a New Year's staple.

However you choose to ring in 2022, consider doing so with a prayer or an intention for the year ahead. A little positive thinking can go a long way!

## LETTERS: continued

▶ Continued from Page 5

person so all Coloradans can recover and thrive in their communities.

Planned system reforms in progress include a regional approach to care coordination to help people navigate and access behavioral health care in programs that track and measure outcomes.

Through all these reforms, lifting up behavioral health frontline workers is a top priority. Expanding workforce opportunities is an essential pillar of behavioral health transformation and

investment. We know that workers need better pay, and we need more of them. Colorado is investing \$18 million for workforce development so that we can grow this critically needed workforce. The program will increase the ability and capacity of providers to treat individuals, including youth, with severe behavioral health disorders. Governor Polis has also made a request to the Behavioral Health Transformation Task Force for \$20 million in loan forgiveness for behavioral health providers.

For far too long,

Coloradans have struggled to get the care they desperately need. We are confident this path, forged shoulder to shoulder with consumers, patients and family members and committed, mission-driven providers and advocates, will create a system that works.

*Kim Bimestefer  
Executive Director  
Colorado Department  
of Health Care Policy &  
Financing  
Michelle Barnes  
Executive Director  
Colorado Department  
of Human Services*

## WRITERS ON THE RANGE

## Responsible gun owners need to be heard

By BEN LONG  
*Writers on the Range*

Ben Long

I own a closet full of guns.

But nowhere in that closet is ammunition. That is locked up elsewhere, reflecting a rule I was taught in childhood. Guns are powerful, even deadly, tools.

If you own one, it's on you to keep it safe. That is what the parents of a Michigan teenager failed to do, and their son murdered four of his fellow high school students.

Not long ago, safety seemed gospel for gun owners and the gun industry alike. But something has changed. Responsibility has been discarded in a twisted form of gun idolatry.

That change is detailed in a new book, *Gunfight* by Ryan Busse. He's a gun industry boss who walked away from the industry he championed and the company he helped build. His book documents a shift in America's culture about guns and politics. Disclosure: Busse is a friend of mine. I bought one of my favorite rifles from him. We both live in the same town in Montana where the gun industry is a significant economic player.

Entering our town of Kalispell, there's a billboard from one of our local gun manufacturers that claims "We build the things they want to ban." As an "open carry" community, you can sometimes see moms and dads packing semi-auto pistols as they push a swing on the playground.

At a recent high school band concert, one parent wore a T-shirt featuring an AR-15 like a crucifix. The shirt read: "Guns are my religion. I am the priest." I don't know what's more weird, the T-shirt itself or the fact it barely raised an eyebrow.

Back in 2019, some local high school kids here organized a rally in response to the police murder of George Floyd. About 100 vigilantes came to my town's square, carrying high-capacity semiautomatic rifles. They said they were there to "keep the peace." I carried a cardboard sign that borrowed a quote from the federal Supreme Court building: "Equal Justice Under the Law." I looked around for a parked car to duck behind in case gunshots rang out. Busse was there, too, and we felt the change. As hunters, we understand the reality of even a single bullet traveling 2,000 feet per second.

Clearly, our local vigilantes were no kind of "well-ordered militia" or even a sanctioned sheriff's posse.

Busse's company sold tried-and-true rifles, shotguns and handguns, made-in-America to a high standard of craftsmanship for legitimate, legal uses.

That was the brand he tried to build, a standard he tried to live by. But Busse describes in *Gunfight* how guns have become political props and ideological symbols.

Under this new narrative, any attempt or even discussion of limiting firepower in the hands of random people is denounced as tyranny. Industry spokespeople who dared question this narrative saw their careers ruined. The end result is the sale of rocket-propelled grenade launchers in the public square.

There are cultures on earth where you can find such an arms market, but they are in failed states, not democracies. Democracies draw a line between responsibility and unfettered liberty. Anarchy denies any line exists.

You don't have to look far for this toxic mix of anarchy and firepower. In Oregon in 2016, an armed band of disgruntled white men took over the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, taunting federal authorities until one man, LaVoy Finicum, was shot and killed by Oregon State Police.

In Michigan in 2020, a group of armed men took over the State Legislature.

Also in 2020, in Wisconsin, teenager Kyle Rittenhouse ran into a crowd of protesters with his rifle. As a result, he killed two men and left one badly injured. That same year, in Missouri, a lawyer and his wife pointed their AR-15 rifle and handgun at protesters and photographers, becoming Internet sensations.

Not that long ago, these gun owners would have felt a backlash from fellow gun owners. The idea is that irresponsible gun ownership anywhere is a threat to legitimate gun ownership everywhere. Yet some want to make Rittenhouse, who was acquitted of legal liability but still faces potential civil suits, a folk hero. The Missouri attorney is running for the Senate. The mastermind of the Oregon refuge takeover is running for governor of Idaho.

I believe it is on responsible gun owners to keep our guns safe in our homes. It's also on us to speak out for responsibility in our communities if we are to maintain our freedoms and our democracy.

■ ■ ■

*Ben Long is a contributor to Writers on the Range, [writersontherange.org](http://writersontherange.org), a nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He lives in Kalispell, Montana.*



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## Rio Blanco County COVID update

Special to the Herald  
Times

Please visit <https://rbc.us/606/COVID-19-Updates> for the most current COVID data and trends available for RBC.

**CASE COUNTS**

**Total Cases to Date:** 1,397  
**Meeker Active:** 12  
**Rangely Active:** 16  
**New hospitalizations in the last 14 days:** 2  
**Total Hospitalized:** 123  
**School District Meeker:** 1  
**School District Rangely:** 1  
**TOTAL Deaths:** 12

**UPDATED ISOLATION & QUARANTINE GUIDELINES**

Please note isolation and quarantine guidelines have been updated by the CDC. The following links direct you to the CDC and CDPHE websites that outline the new guidance. In summary, isolation and

quarantine periods have been shortened with a mask component.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/isolation-and-quarantine>

**TESTING**

Please be advised that 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. It is advised to test 5 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.

**New schedule beginning January 3rd, 2022:**

■ **Meeker:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am-11am, Thursdays ONLY 10am-2pm. Rapid tests not available on Thursdays.

■ **Rangely:** Monday 1pm-2pm, Wednesdays 10am-2pm, and Friday 9-10am. Rapid tests not available on Wednesdays.

**We will be closed for testing on Friday, Dec. 31.**

Please see the following link for information about Colorado's at-home testing program: <https://>

[covid19.colorado.gov/covid-19-testing-at-home](https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid-19-testing-at-home)

Travel testing is available at RBC Public Health. We offer same day rapid molecular testing for \$45. Please check travel requirements for your specific destination.

**VACCINATIONS**

Vaccinations for COVID-19 (5 and up) and Flu available - All Insurance accepted. COVID-19 vaccines are FREE of charge. Booster doses are now available for anyone in Colorado over the age of 16, as long as 6 months have passed since initial mRNA series or 2 months since initial J&J dose.

**Walk-In clinics (no appointment necessary):**

■ **Meeker:** Thursdays, 12:00 - 5:30 pm (Meeker Public Health Office)- 200 Main St (Fairfield Center)

■ **Rangely:** Wednesdays, 12:00 - 5:30 pm (Rangely Public Health Office)- 101 E Main St (across from the library)

Please call to schedule an appointment for all other vaccines, including shingles, pneumonia, and childhood immunizations. Walk-ins for flu shots are welcomed on other days based on nurse availability.

■ **Other Clinic Locations and Times:** Pioneers Medical Center Walk-In Clinic: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 - noon and 2:00 - 4:00 pm (Johnson & Johnson and Moderna available)

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Northwestern  
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February 15, 2022

OBITUARY

## Thomas Lester Kilduff

May 21, 1947 ~ Dec. 21, 2021

Thomas Lester Kilduff, 74, passed on Dec. 21, 2021. He was born May 21, 1947, in Collbran, Colorado, to the late Howard Kilduff and the late Erma Dunn. Tom attended primary school in Meeker.



Tom Kilduff

By middle school, Tom had moved with his parents to the Nevada-California border for his father's work as assistant ranch manager on the late Freeman Fairfield's ranches. Tom graduated from Gardnerville High School in 1965. He attended Sierra Community College until 1966 when he decided to enlist in the Marine Corps. Tom served in the 2nd Battalion/4th Marines (Magnificent Bastards) from Dec. 21, 1967 to Jan. 11, 1969, completing three tours in Vietnam where he advanced to Sergeant and was honorably discharged in 1970 due to injuries he suffered during the war.

During his time in the military, Tom earned several awards and medals for his bravery and sacrifices including Bronze Star Medal with Combat V, Navy Achievement Medal with Combat V, Purple Heart w/ Star (two purples), Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam

Service Medal with one Silver Star and four Bronze Stars, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Cross of Gallantry with Palm, USMC Rifle Expert Shooter's Badge and Pistol Sharpshooter Badge, as well as several Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Citations.

In 1974, Tom was officially retired from his military service after marrying his beautiful bride Jeannie Johnson in February of the same year. Tom spent more than 10 years as a cowboy for K/K ranch in Meeker before beginning his career as a soil conservation technician for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the United States Department of Agriculture, from which he retired. Throughout his life, Tom enjoyed serving his community as an Alcoholics Anonymous leader and sponsor with just over 37½ years of sobriety at his time of death. He also served as VFW Post 5843 Commander and dedicated his free time to Military Historical Tours, taking veterans back to historical battle sites around the globe to assist in their healing process. Tom's passions were his family, especially his grandchildren for whom he radiated extraordinary love, his adopted family in Vietnam whom he visited as often as he could, his

friends, his dog Sarge, the great outdoors, patriotism, helping people, and never missing an opportunity to tell his jokes to family, friends and strangers everywhere.

Tom is survived by his wife of 48 years, Jeannie Kilduff of Meeker; his daughter Kimberly (John) Symanski of LaVernia, Texas; daughter Patricia (Brian) Merrifield of Meeker; daughter Kathy Kilduff of Grand Junction; grandsons Shawn Moody and Korbin Symanski of Converse, Texas; granddaughter Madisyn Symanski of LaVernia, Texas; grandson Trapper Merrifield and granddaughter Aspen Merrifield of Meeker; and his grandsons Trentin and Landon Moomey of Grand Junction, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews whom he loved dearly. He was preceded in death by his father Howard Kilduff, his mother Erma Kilduff, his brother James Kilduff, his sister Patricia Howard and his granddaughters Mariah and Miranda Moody. A celebration of life memorial will be held this summer and announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to [woundedwarriorproject.org](http://woundedwarriorproject.org) in Tom's honor, VFW Post 5843 290 4th St. Meeker, Colorado 81641, or AA of Western Colorado PO Box 1531 Grand Junction, Colorado, 81502. Rest in Peace Marine, Semper Fi!

DEATH NOTICE

## Penny Pearce

Jan. 10, 1966 ~ Dec. 22, 2021

Services pending.

DEATH NOTICE

## Robert "Bob" L. Ruckman

Jan. 8, 1944 ~ Dec. 27, 2021

Services pending.

### 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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# Ice fishing guidelines for anglers

By **COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE**

*Special to the Herald Times*

**RBC I** There probably is no such thing as “safe” ice, but there are some guidelines anglers should consider. In Colorado, ice conditions can vary from lake to lake. Along the Front Range, it is especially important that anglers check ice conditions before heading out because of the region’s notoriously variable weather conditions. Many of the most popular lakes are within Colorado State Parks and anglers should check with the specific park staff about ice thickness before going out.

Before going onto a frozen lake, pond or river, it’s important to take safety precautions to reduce the risk of falling through the ice. Remember you take a risk any time you go onto the ice. Anglers should always decide for themselves if it is safe to go out and walk on or drive a snowmobile on ice.

Knowing how to judge ice conditions will help you make more informed decisions while enjoying your outing. Ice thickness depends on several factors with the first and most obvious factor being location. The type of lake also affects ice thickness; a shallow lake will freeze faster than a deep lake. Look for clear blue ice. New ice is stronger than old ice. Ice thickness is not consistent. Beware of ice around partially submerged objects such as trees, brush, embankments or structures. Ice will not form as quickly where water is shallow or where objects may absorb sunlight.

When ice fishing, it is always a

good idea to drill test holes or use an ice chisel as you venture onto a lake to help judge the thickness and character of the ice. These “Test” holes should be at no more than 30 foot intervals.

You should also have a safety kit specific to ice fishing whenever you go. The items on this list will help prevent someone or something from falling through the ice. If you or someone else should fall through the ice, know how to use these tools to perform a self-rescue or assist in a rescue. The safety kit list is at the beginning of each rescue guide. See the rules of thumb for ice in the graphic on the left.

Other considerations for a safe trip include:

- The use of crampons, or cleats, for walking on ice is a good idea in Colorado. With the state’s powdery snow and wind, there is often no snow cover on ice. Blowing wind and snow actually polish ice to a glassy, slippery surface.

- Attaching a long cord to sleds should make them easier to pull, and if someone falls through the ice, anglers can push their sled to them while holding onto the line.

- Anglers should carry two picks—or spikes protruding from wooden hand holds—that will float and are securely connected together with a piece nylon cord 24 to 30 inches in length. These picks should be carried allowing for quick and easy access in case anglers need to pull their way out if they fall through the ice.

- Ice fishermen should carry a portable flotation cushion. The cush-



Have fun and stay safe when ice fishing this winter.

STOCK PHOTO

ion will add to their seating comfort and give them something to throw should someone fall through ice.

- Anglers should keep their augers covered because the blades are sharp, and can easily cut them, their children or their dogs.

- Ice fishermen should spray vegetable oil on their auger and snowshoes. That way, snow won’t stick and anglers won’t cut themselves cleaning off the snow.

- Beware of ice covered with snow. Snow acts much like a blanket, insulating thin ice and preventing the formation of clear, blue ice. Snow can also hide cracked, weak and open water. Daily changes in temperature

cause ice to expand and contract, creating cracks and possibly pressure ridges which can affect ice strength. Extreme caution should be exercised when approaching a pressure ridge. Ice may be unstable up to 20 feet from the ridge itself. Stay away from cracks, pressure ridges, slushy or darker areas that signify thinner ice.

Traveling on a snowmobile or ATV early or late in the season is an accident waiting to happen. Do not drive across ice at night or when it is snowing. You can easily become disoriented and end up in areas of the lake you never intended to be.

<http://cpw.state.co.us/icefishing-safety>

## Follow these ice safety tips to prevent a fatal mistake:

- ✳ **Be aware of ice and weather conditions by checking online or calling ahead. Educate yourself on proper tools and techniques for checking ice conditions. Looks can be deceiving! Always test the ice rather than relying on its appearance**

- ✳ **The buddy-system is best on the ice so try not to go alone. Let someone know your plan and where you're going. If someone is in need of rescue, call 911 for help - attempting a rescue could cause you to also fall through the ice.**

- ✳ **Always wear a life jacket or float coat. Wear a life jacket or personal flotation device (PFD) over winter clothing. Life jackets provide excellent flotation and protection from the cold.**

- ✳ **Assemble personal safety items, such as ice picks and a whistle, which should be attached to you while on the ice. Other essential equipment includes a rope or throw bag and a cell phone. Keep your cell phone in a secure pocket or waterproof pouch to make it more accessible if calling for help.**

- ✳ **Wait to enjoy alcoholic beverages. Alcohol in your system increases the likelihood of hypothermia and poor choices. Stay hydrated with water and warm liquids.**

- ✳ **Keep pets on a leash at all times. Never allow your pet to run out onto the ice and do not walk your pet near a frozen lake or pond without a leash. If your dog falls through the ice, do not attempt a rescue. Call for help.**

- ✳ **Remember: Reach-Throw-Go. If someone falls through the ice and you can't reach the person from shore, throw a flotation device or rope. If you still can't quickly help the person, go or call for help.**

### If you do fall through the ice, try to remember these tips:

- ✳ **Try to Stay Calm. This will help you to conserve as much energy as possible.**

- ✳ **Act slowly and deliberately to conserve heat. Expect a progressive decrease in your strength and ability to move. Make the harder maneuvers at the beginning, while you can.**

- ✳ **Do not try to swim. Swimming will cause your body to lose heat much faster and will use up energy than if you stay as still as possible.**

- ✳ **Try to get your arms onto the ice. Kick your feet as hard as you can to help lift you onto the ice, use your ice picks to grab onto the ice and then roll to safety.**

- ✳ **If you can't get out by yourself, try to keep your upper body above water to conserve body heat. Use your whistle or yell to alert others that you need help.**

#### RULES OF THUMB FOR ICE THICKNESS SAFETY



2 INCHES OR LESS  
**STAY OFF!**



4 INCHES  
WALKING



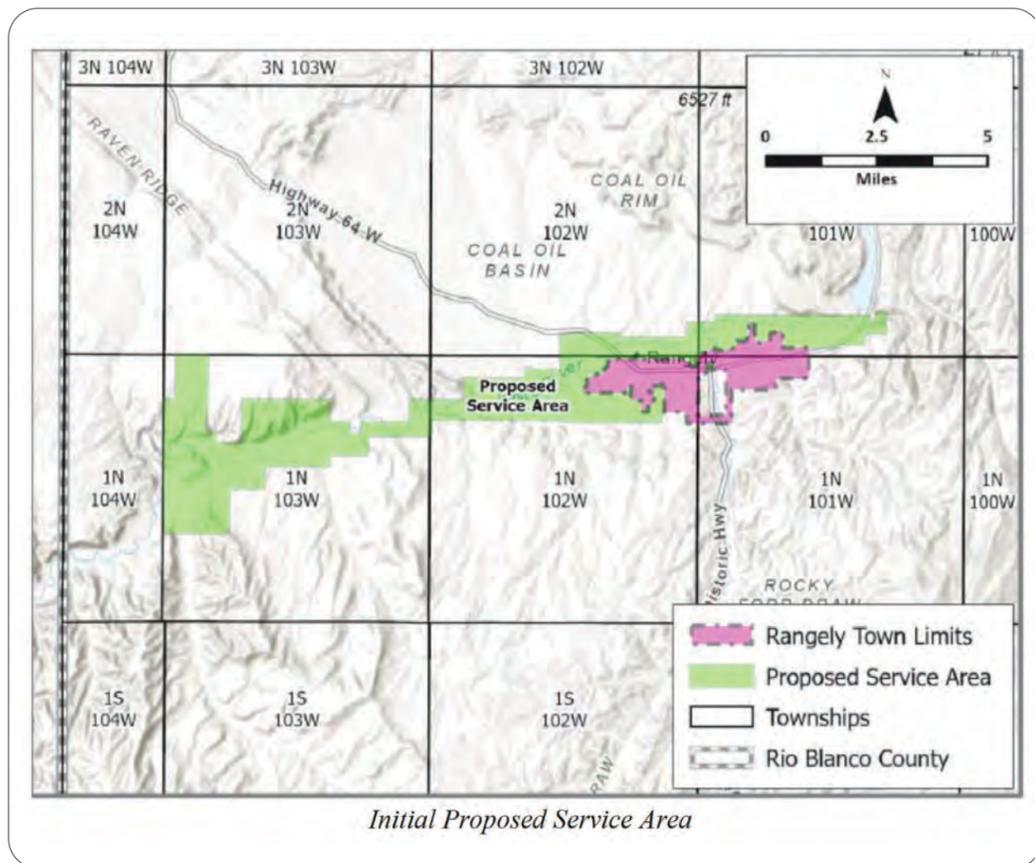
6 INCHES  
SNOWMOBILE/ATV



8-12 INCHES  
CAR/SMALL PICKUP



12-15 INCHES  
MEDIUM PICKUP



The RBWCD is continuing its pursuit of a rural water project to provide drinking water to residents outside the Town of Rangely. COURTESY PHOTO

## Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District making progress on rural water project

**PRESS RELEASE**  
Special to the Herald Times

As you may recall, the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District (RBWCD) Board of Directors completed a beneficial initial step forward by finalizing a Rural Water Feasibility Study. This report found the project to be feasible with considerable benefits to our community. The project will provide a reliable, high-quality supply of drinking water to properties outside the Town of Rangely, that are not currently served by the Town's water system.

Seeing the value of providing an alternate drinking water supply to our rural community, the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) recently awarded the RWBCD a gracious grant awarded a \$50,000 from for continuation of the rural water project. The CHFA grant has since been put to work developing the Preliminary Engineering Report and a Pipeline Pathway Environmental Assessment both of which are essential components for completing a USDA Rural Development

and Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) financing application.

Over the next few months, RBWCD staff will be actively pursuing the completion of our USDA and DOLA applications for submission in the summer of 2022. During this time individuals within the proposed service area will be contacted by an independent contractor who will be completing an anonymous income survey. Your completely anonymous response to the income survey is necessary to establish USDA funding. The higher the household income the less grant funding available and likewise, the lower the income the higher the potential grant award amount.

Upon completion of the pipeline design, environmental assessment, and income reports the district will initiate a rate study. This study will be used to determine connection cost, monthly base rates, and user fees.

To learn more about the emerging rural water district please contact the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District at 2252 East Main in Rangely, call 970-675-5055, or email [rbwcd@yahoo.com](mailto:rbwcd@yahoo.com).



STOCK PHOTO

## New state law aims to replace faded license plates

**PRESS RELEASE**  
Special to the Herald Times

Drivers will be paying a bit more to renew their license plates in 2022 thanks to a new state law that goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2022. The law (SB21-069) will require drivers to replace old license plates with new ones that are easier for law enforcement to read. The License Plate Expiration on Change of Ownership Act of 2021 (SB21-069) is designed to aid police efforts during Amber Alerts, or if law enforcement needs to read a vehicle's license plate number in low-light situations to improve public safety.

License plates are designed to be reflective, improving visibility for vehicles on the side of the road, but that reflectivity fades over

time. According to the Colorado Department of Revenue, "on average, license plates lose 50 percent of their reflectivity within five to 10 years of use and the average age of motor vehicles in Colorado is six years."

The law ([leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb21-069](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb21-069)) only applies to plates for Class C personal property vehicles, including passenger cars, motorhomes and motorcycles. The bill does not affect personalized license plates, and renewals are required for change of ownership.

Most Colorado drivers will see an additional expense of \$4.73 to register vehicles, however those wishing to retain their current plates must pay a one-time fee between \$68.06 and \$118.06, depending on the license plate. The new law goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2022.

# Getting to know your community newspaper

By RICH LYTTLE  
AND THE HT STAFF  
[editor@ht1885.com](mailto:editor@ht1885.com)

### ONCE UPON A TIME ...

The first newspaper in what would later become Rio Blanco County was born in Meeker, Colorado on August 15, 1885.

Mr. James Lyttle was an Irish immigrant who had worked at a newspaper in Leadville, Colorado. He must have liked the work, because he purchased some basic equipment in 1883 from a defunct paper in Kokomo (near Leadville.)

Lyttle started looking for a place to set up shop. He heard the town of Meeker was getting started and might be interested in having a local newspaper, so in 1884, he took a train from Leadville to Red Cliff, as far as the railroad went at that time. Then, he rented a horse and rode to what is now Dotsero and traveled over the Flat Tops.

Lyttle liked what he saw in Meeker, so he and fellow newspaper man Jack Houston packed up all their printing equipment and brought it to town. According to local legend, the press got stuck in the mud on a pass, delaying the first issue by about two weeks.

The *Herald* was officially born August 15, 1885. The Washington hand press and some of the type used in publishing that first issue are now on display at the White River Museum in Meeker. Be sure to check out the full *Herald* display the next time you visit!

It was a very time-consuming job to hand set

all of the items that were put in the paper, but there wasn't enough revenue to support two individuals, so Houston quit to become Meeker's postmaster, leaving Lyttle a one-man newsroom.

The *Herald* building was originally located in an adobe building where Mountain Valley Bank is now, then moved to a frame building across the street in 1887. This location at 4th and Main Street in downtown Meeker is where the current *Herald* office is now located.

### HOW WAS THE PAPER PRINTED?

In the beginning, the *Meeker Herald* was a hand-set paper. Each individual letter of type was assembled in frames and placed on the bed of the press (boy, does that make us thankful for keyboards!) The type was inked with a big roller, then a sheet of paper was placed on top. The operator of the press used a crank to place the page under the press, then pulled a lever to press down.

The process was repeated on the other side of the paper, and then the whole thing was folded in half to create one four-page edition.

This time-consuming process lasted until the 1920s when a Linotype was installed and a much faster process took its place (to see how a Linotype works, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5slfQizimtg>)

The hand press eventually gave way to a Hoe printing press. During the spring, the Hoe press was operated by water power from Sulphur Creek.

(Back then, Sulphur Creek flowed southwest behind the Herald building on 4th and Main Streets.)

When the creek was dry, a crank was attached to the flywheel that ran the Hoe and it was turned by manpower. When the Meeker Light Plant was built and power was made available throughout the town, the Hoe press was run by electricity.

The paper continued to be printed two pages at a time until a four-page press was purchased and shipped from Juneau, Alaska. To accommodate this new press, an addition was put on the existing frame building. The *Herald* was printed on this "new" press until the Cook family purchased the newspaper from the Lyttles in May 1964.

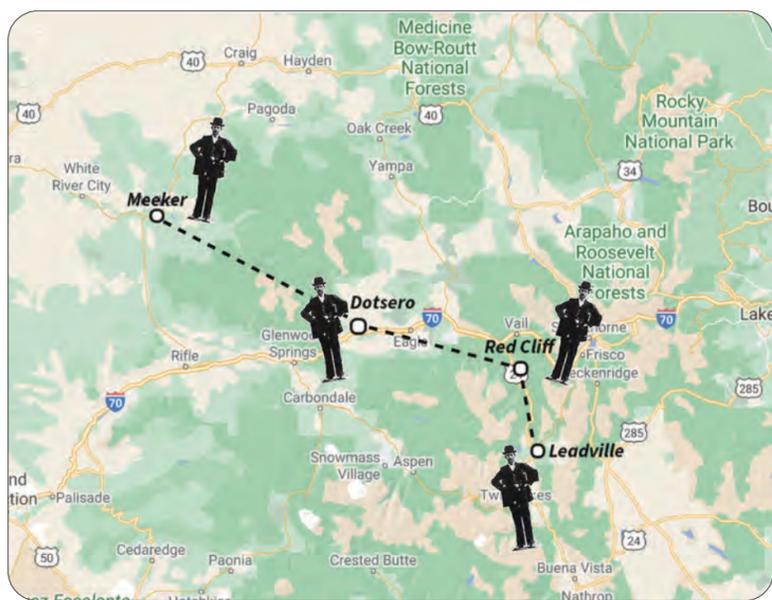
In the 1970s, the Cooks did a major remodeling job on the building and converted the cold type process to a more modern offset method. This allowed for a lot more flexibility in production and later, with the use of computers, a more attractive product.

The paper is not printed in-house anymore. It was printed in Gypsum from 2000 to 2018, then at the Daily Sentinel in Grand Junction from 2019 to July 2021, when the Sentinel shut down their press. Check out a cool video of the *Herald* being printed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFW7ottJy-ic&t=1s>

The *Herald* is now printed each week at the *Montrose Daily Press* in Montrose, Colorado.

### OWNERS, PAST AND PRESENT

There were only three



HT STAFF PHOTO

In 1884, HT founder James Lyttle traveled from Leadville to Red Cliff via train, then over the Flat Tops to Meeker on horseback.

owners of the *Herald* until the 1990s. They were:

- James Lyttle, who ran the paper until his passing in 1925.

- His son, R.G. Lyttle, Sr. assisted by Rich Lyttle, Jr.

- the Cook family, who bought the paper in 1964

When James and Leota Cook retired in 1992, they sold the business to a woman named Sureva Towler. She published the *Herald* for a little more than a year. Then, Mike and Lisa Cook, James and Leota's son and daughter-in-law, had the paper for a little more than a year before selling to Glenn and Donna Troester.

The Troesters moved the location to the former school administration building at 6th and Garfield and ran the paper for about five years.

The *Herald* was then

sold to Kerry and Joy Murdock and moved to offices in the Hugas Building. The Murdocks had it about a year when it was again sold to Mitch and Meg Bettis in March of 2001. The Bettis family sold the paper to Niki Turner and daughter Caitlin Walker in September 2016.

### OTHER NEWSPAPERS

Another Leadville man named Jim Riland had planned to come to Meeker with Lyttle but took a job in Aspen instead. In 1900, however, Riland set up his own rival publication, *The White River Review*. Riland's paper ceased publication in 1934.

One other publication popped up in 1964. The *White River Press* was run by Robert F. Sweeney and did not last long, folding after just two years.

### THE RANGELY DRILLER AND THE RANGELY TIMES

The *Rangely Driller* published its first edition Sept. 29, 1949. The first publisher was Charles Baker and first editor was William Lahman. The Library of Congress lists the first owner as Cliff Neumann.

The publication changed hands numerous times before landing in the lap of local business entrepreneur Bernard F. Yaeger in the early 1950s. Yaeger rebranded the publication as *The Rangely Times* and used the funds from his other businesses to keep the presses running. Yaeger was owner and publisher until his death in 1995. A news entry in that week's *Times* read:

► See **ORIGIN STORY, PAGE 10**

# ORIGIN STORY: more Herald history, tag #LittleLyttle on social media

► Continued from Page 9

“Bernard F. Yaeger, one of Rangely’s greatest and most revered fathers, passed away at Colonial Minor Nursing Home in Glasgow, Missouri on Christmas morning. He parted this world at age 76, leaving behind an impressive legacy to his credit.”

After Mr. Yaeger passed away, the business was sold to his relative, Michael Prewitt, who appointed Peggy Rector as business manager.

The paper was printed as a small tabloid on the *Herald* press in Meeker.

### THE MERGE

In 1996, the Troesters, owners of the *Meeker Herald*, were approached by Rector and asked to purchase the struggling newspaper. They signed the contract Oct. 9, 1996, and switched the Times to a broadsheet format the following week. The Troesters published one edition for Rangely and one for Meeker with basically just the front pages changed each week.

In 2000, the papers were combined into one print product and the name was changed to *Rio Blanco Herald Times*.

### TODAY

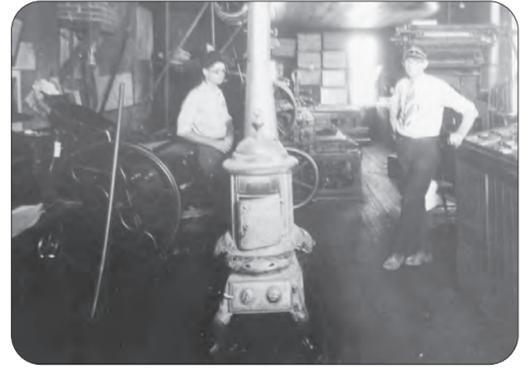
Today, the paper is owned by Niki Turner and daughter Caitlin Walker. If you ask them why, they’ll tell you they went temporarily insane (we’re kidding, sort of.) Turner and Walker want to keep local journalism sustainable in Rio Blanco County. “We believe in the power of local journalism to accurately record our shared history, connect people, create a sense of community, hold power to account, and foster a healthier, happier, more informed Rio Blanco County.”

Turner and Walker brought another family member, Lucas Turner, on board in 2019 to help the *Herald* add media-rich and digital storytelling methods, like a podcast and news show created in our in-house studio. Lucas’s wife Haley joined the team in 2021 to provide specialized marketing and social media services to local businesses. Several regular contributors help fill out the newspaper each week, telling the story of Rio Blanco County for future generations.

In their spare time, you will probably find *HT* staff working on the next edition of the paper, chasing the littlest *HT*ers around (Caitlin has four kiddos and Lucas and Haley have two, which makes a total of six grandbabies for Niki), and hollering at office mascots/Golden Retrievers Nellie ‘the Newshound’ Bly and Carl ‘Bernie the Broadcaster’ Bernstein.



HT founder James Lyttle and his excellent mustache in front of the Herald building, located at 4th and Main. This is also the location of the current office.



Robert J. Story and R.G. Lyttle (James’ son) in the Herald office in the 1920s.

## MAKE HISTORY!

Cut out Mr. Lyttle, take a photo of him wherever you wish, and tag us on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages (@ht.1885) with the hashtag #LittleLyttle. We can't wait to see where he goes!



#LittleLyttle  
Tag us at @ht1885!



Members of The Meeker Herald who brought you this centennial edition are, from left to right in the front row, Dennis Brady, Mike Zobel, Kip Bunner, and Dolly Viscardi. Behind them are Jim Cook, Leta Cook, K. James Cook, Pat Robinson, Joyce Johns, Lona Colby, Lee Smith, and Gerry LaBonte.



One of the early editions of the Rangely Driller, which later became the Rangely Times.

The Cook family kept the Meeker Herald operational for many, many years.



Niki Turner (left) and daughter Caitlin Walker now own the Herald. “We believe in the power of local journalism to accurately record our shared history, connect people, create a sense of community, hold power to account, and foster a healthier, happier, more informed Rio Blanco County.”

## This is #newsCOneds

Thanks to your generous support, the *Herald's* legacy of community journalism will continue into the new year.

Because of the overwhelming generosity of you, our readers and supporters, we not only met, but EXCEEDED our \$5,000 fundraising goal for this year's #newsCOneds campaign! We also will be receiving the full \$5,000 match from the Colorado Media Project.

Thank you from the bottom of our ink-stained hearts for your continued support of community journalism!



# Associated Press investigates claims of voter fraud

By **CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY**  
*The Associated Press*

An Associated Press review of every potential case of voter fraud in the six battleground states disputed by former President Donald Trump has found fewer than 475 — a number that would have made no difference in the 2020 presidential election.

Democrat Joe Biden won Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and their 79 Electoral College votes by a combined 311,257 votes out of 25.5 million ballots cast for president. The disputed ballots represent just 0.15% of his victory margin in those states.

The cases could not throw the outcome into question even if all the potentially fraudulent votes were for Biden, which they were not, and even if those ballots were actually counted, which in most cases they were not.

The review also showed no collusion intended to rig the voting. Virtually every case was based on an individual acting alone to cast additional ballots.

The findings build on a mountain of other evidence that the election wasn't rigged, including verification of the results by Republican governors.

The AP review, a process that took months and encompassed more than 300 local election offices, is one of the most comprehensive examinations of suspected voter fraud in last year's presidential election. It relies on information collected at the local level, where officials must reconcile their ballots and account for discrepancies, and includes a handful of separate cases cited by secretaries of state and state attorneys general.

Contacted for comment, Trump repeated a litany of unfounded claims of fraud he had made previously, but offered no new evidence that specifically contradicted the AP's reporting. He said a soon-to-come report from a source he would not disclose would support his case, and insisted increased mail voting alone had opened the door to cheating that involved "hundreds of thousands of votes."

"I just don't think you should make a fool out of yourself by saying 400 votes," he said.

These are some of the culprits in the "massive election fraud" Trump falsely says deprived him of a second term:

■ A Wisconsin man who mistakenly thought he could vote while on parole.

■ A woman in Arizona suspected of sending in a ballot for her dead mother.

■ A Pennsylvania man

who went twice to the polls, voting once on his own behalf and once for his son.

The cases were isolated. There was no widespread, coordinated deceit.

The cases also underscore that suspected fraud is both generally detected and exceptionally rare.

"Voter fraud is virtually non-existent," said George Christenson, election clerk for Milwaukee County in Wisconsin, where five people statewide have been charged with fraud out of nearly 3.3 million ballots cast for president. "I would have to venture a guess that's about the same odds as getting hit by lightning."

Details of AP's investigations in each state are at <https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-arizona-donald-trump-voter-registration-tucson-c64bba90b8c074b78bdf2c751b6b0f2>.

*Editor's note: At the request of The Rural Blog, AP has agreed to allow weekly newspapers that are not AP subscribers to republish this story, along with links to it and the sidebar, linked above. The mainbar is at <https://apnews.com/article/voter-fraud-election-2020-joe-biden-donald-trump-7fcb6f134e528fee8237c7601db3328f>*



FREEPIK PHOTO

**'Tis the season to enjoy winter in the White River National Forest! All wheeled vehicles are limited to plowed routes to protect snow conditions for winter recreation and protect road quality.**

## Winter travel season underway in Natl. Forest

### PRESS RELEASE

Special to the Herald Times

The White River National Forest winter travel season is underway.

During the winter season, all wheeled vehicles, including bikes, are limited to plowed routes to protect snow conditions for winter recreation and to protect road quality.

"These winter regulations are an important part of keeping the White River National Forest a premiere location for winter recreation by helping maintain conditions for activities like snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing," said Forest Supervisor Scott Fitzwilliams.

In many areas on the White River National Forest, snowmobile clubs groom roads for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing as a public service using volunteer time and funding from private and partner sources. Respecting signs and travel restrictions will help protect this investment in maintaining groomed surfaces and winter recreation opportunities.

Winter Motor Vehicle Use Maps identify routes and areas designated for "over the snow" motor vehicle travel, such as snowmobiles. They are free and available at all White River National Forest offices or from <http://www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver>.

# Northwest Rural Philanthropy Days conference to be held in Routt County

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

It was just announced that the 2022 Northwest Rural Philanthropy Days conference will be hosted by Hayden and Steamboat Springs in Routt County from September 13 - 15, 2022. The announcement about the location of the conference came in late October after community leaders were successful in their pitch to host the event in Routt County.

Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) is a statewide program that provides nonprofit leaders the resources they need to lead effective and sustainable organizations. RPD conferences convene nonprofits, funders and local governments to share ideas and develop collaborative opportunities to build the capacity of local organizations and communities to address regional issues.

The Community Resource Center, along with committees of local volunteers, coordinate RPD conferences in eight

rural regions throughout Colorado. The Northwest (NW) region consists of Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Routt, and Rio Blanco counties. RPD conferences are hosted in each rural region every four years, with the location varying depending on the interest of host communities each cycle. The conference would have been slated for 2021, but was delayed by one-year due to the impacts of COVID-19.

"This is an opportunity to bring together many different partners, nonprofits, businesses, governments and funders to talk about solutions to the challenges many communities are addressing in Northwest Colorado," said Joe Haines, Executive Director for Yampatika and NW RPD event co-chair. "In addition to problem solving, this conference offers professional development, networking and an opportunity to highlight the great work being done by hardworking people to support their local communities in NW Colorado."

For over three decades, local communities have worked together to coordinate RPD in partnership with Community Resource Center and Colorado's philanthropic community. "RPD builds opportunities for important community projects in rural regions across the state by strengthening regional relationships, building the skills of the region's nonprofits, and connecting local organizations with grantmaking organizations," said Maria Fabula, Community Resource Center CEO.

The relationships built between local organizations and statewide funders help to break down barriers and ultimately result in stronger partnerships, increased access to resources and the development of long-term relationships. Fabula shared that "RPD is a grassroots effort to bridge the resource gap between rural and Front Range communities. It exposes funders and nonprofits alike to the unique challenges, as

well as opportunities for partnership, that each diverse rural region of Colorado faces - and because of this ultimately more grant awards are being made to our rural communities to support their critical work. The last time an RPD conference was held in the Northwest region was 2017; and from 2016 to 2017 we saw funding to local organizations increase by 58%. The 12 core funders of RPD alone gave more than \$62,000,000 directly from 2009 - 2019."

Routt County nonprofit

leaders and community members continue to generate momentum and express enthusiasm around bringing RPD to Routt County. Joe Haines of Yampatika has been selected to serve as a Northwest RPD conference co-chair, and was a part of the team that proposed Hayden and Steamboat to host the event. He will lead a regional steering committee to begin planning for the conference beginning in January. Recruitment has begun for the 20+ member regional conference Steering Committee, local nonprofit

leaders, government officials, and community leaders are encouraged to consider serving on the 9-month committee which will shape the event in September.

*Community Resource Center (CRC) creates opportunities, tools and strategies to develop nonprofits and community groups to strengthen Colorado. We are a mission driven nonprofit that offers a continuum of services throughout the state of Colorado.*

**A Great Offer For Rio Blanco Herald Times Readers**

# REMININD

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Happy, healthy New Year, everyone!

It's a great time for new beginnings!

Kids: color stuff in!

# Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com

Annimills LLC © 2021 V35

## Happy New Year, Everyone!

A happy, healthy New Year to you and your family.

I love celebrating on New Year's Eve and Day! I decorate, bake and make little snacks for my family's party. I write a short list of my *resolutions* – promises and ideas for little changes that I can work on – and then welcome in the New Year at midnight.

What do you like best about the New Year? **Read my clues to fill in my puzzle:**

- falling, shining globe
- its hands tell us the time
- what we do when we gather at parties
- the new year can give us a clean slate
- last month of the old year
- the world's most famous New Year's party is held here
- the Rose Bowl is always played on New Year's Day
- when you see this infant, it means new beginnings
- explosions in the sky
- a march through the center of town
- 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
- old man, stands for the past year, history
- the exact moment when the old year becomes new
- a promise to yourself to change
- first month of the new year
- tool to keep track of dates in the new year
- these 'ring in' the new year
- group of people playing instruments
- Auld Lang Syne is a very popular one
- great time had by friends, family with music and food

I'm full of energy and raring to go!

Whew! I'm tired and ready to go.

new beginnings

celebrate

Times Square countdown

fireworks

party

Grandfather Time

December

midnight

dropping ball

calendar

football game

parade

January

resolutions

Baby New Year

bells

clock

band

song

10

8

9

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

## A Party All Over the World!

New Year's Day is celebrated all over the world. In most places, people join in the fun by having parties, feasting, visiting, and greeting each other with good wishes. **Read the "party" words. Then, find and circle them in the puzzles.**

Things we use to decorate or set up.

- balloons
- lights
- centerpiece
- banner
- garland
- twirly whirlys
- sparkles
- party poppers
- star cutouts
- tablecloth
- plates
- napkins
- glasses
- forks
- knives

board games  
noise makers  
finger foods  
movies  
friends  
stay awake  
dancing  
streamers  
hats  
a toast  
drinks  
shakers  
family  
music  
horns

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

## The Magical Stroke of...

At what time does the old year end and the new year begin? When does the host give a toast and everyone cheer? Why, at the magical stroke of...

Y = Yellow  
B = Blue

**DAYS GONE BY**

*The Meeker Herald*  
125 years ago

- There is nothing like hard work to settle unruly nerves.
- Men who have to be taught will never be great leaders either in thought or action.

*The Meeker Herald*  
100 years ago

- It was a white Christmas at Meeker this year. The snow which set in Monday night had the ground covered to the extent of three or four inches.
- The singing of Christmas carols Sunday was enjoyed by the young singers of the Methodist Church and those for whom they sang.

*The Meeker Herald*  
50 years ago

- Last Wednesday afternoon, personnel and patients planned an annual party for the residents of the Walbridge Wing for Christmastime. Through a trust fund established by the late Freeman E. Fairfield,

the interest derived each year is used to finance the celebration, with personal gifts and presents.

- Gamma Delta Chapter of E.S.A recently sponsored a Flea Market as a money making project for their Philanthropic work. Rangely Residents donated garments for the sale. Dick Rosenlund was the lucky winner of the \$50 bill drawing.

*The Meeker Herald*  
25 years ago

- Chad Kirkpatrick has been selected to the All-Colorado Team for his performance in the 1996 high school soccer season.
- The Meeker Classic committee has come up with another promotional idea for the 97' classic. "Dalmations!" Gus Halandras declares. "We're going to challenge Dalmations to herd some sheep at the next trails."

*Rangely Times*  
50 years ago

- Art Moss, executive director of club 20 was the guest speaker at

the Big Country headwaters RC&D Council meeting in Craig Wednesday December 15. "Water will control the future of Western Colorado. If we lose it all our other efforts on behalf of Western Colorado will be useless," Mr. Moss warned.

- Mr. Louis Dwire, Rangely High School teacher, was awarded honorable mention in the annual "Teacher of the Year" program sponsored by the State Department of Education and on a national level by the council of chief state school officers.

*Rangely Times*  
25 years ago

- Poaching has taken a toll on local game herds, making hunters less eager to flock to Rangely like they used to for trophy animals.
- Rangely's Deserado Mine burst into flame on Dec. 31 when an errant spark from an underground worker's torch ignited a pocket of methane gas in the tailgate area of the longwall.

**RBC WARRANTY DEEDS SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2021**

**OCTOBER**

Seller: John Pierre and Sheryl Renee Etchart  
Buyer: James W and Peggy S Joy  
Description: TOWN OF MEEKER 4 57 380 1ST ST, TOWN OF MEEKER 5 57 380 1ST ST  
Transaction Price: \$195,000.00

Seller: Golden Parachute LLC  
Buyer: White River Dirt LLC  
Description: SANDERSON HILLS RE-SUBDIVISION PHASE 2 #1 284732 343 MULTIPLE LOTS  
SANDERSON HILLS RE-SUBDIVISION PHASE 2 #1 284732 344 MULTIPLE LOTS  
Transaction Price: \$484,000.00

Seller: Lyndsay Jo Smith  
Buyer: Jasin Carolin and Matthew Patrick Anderson  
Description: 8 3S 094W 05 320 BUGLE DR 14 MILE RANCH  
Transaction Price: \$374,000.00

Seller: Brockman Elk Creek Lot 16 LLC  
Buyer: Booner Creek Farms LLC  
Description: ELK CREEK RANCH PUD 287707 16 ELK CREEK RANCH VILLAGE  
Transaction Price: \$1,450,000.00

Seller: W&C Properties LLC  
Buyer: Douglas R and Laura Ebat  
Description: LEECH SUBDIVISION 75335 5 A 320 S WHITE AVE  
Transaction Price: \$115,000.00

Seller: Lindsey Blake  
Buyer: James and Lisa M Burt  
Description: STANOLIND ADDITION 98103 6 B 225 DAKOTA AVE  
Transaction Price: \$173,500.00

Seller: Sharon Rose Parr, FKA Sharon R Sullivan  
Buyer: Cary Jude and Deana Louise Marone  
Description: CROSS L ESTATES SUBDIVISION 282581 13 359 LOVE

LN  
Transaction Price: \$150,000.00

Seller: Walt M Brown  
Buyer: Sky Homes LLC  
Description: 1N 094W 29 38723 HWY 13  
Transaction Price: \$650,000.00

Seller: Bugle Basin Ranches LLC  
Buyer: Blake J Whealy  
Description: 3N 089W 29 ADAMS RANCH ADD SECTION 32  
Transaction Price: \$320,000.00

**NOVEMBER**

Seller: John Silva Fialho II Turst  
Buyer: Keven and Krista Schnepf  
Description: Water Point Subdivision #1 195441 1 12934 CR 8  
Transaction Price: \$950,000

Seller: Michael E and Paula F Morgan  
Buyer: Monica R Beers  
Description: Stanolind Subdivision

95708 12 B 218 Morrison Ave  
Transaction Price: \$130,000

Seller: Michael P and Brittanie A Meinzer  
Buyer: Scott Smith  
Description: Sagewood West Phase I Subdivision 2017248 12 2 960 Tanglewood Ln.  
Transaction Price: \$154,500

Seller: Joseph Adams  
Buyer: Lester E and Regina L Adams  
Description: Little Rancho Estates - Survey Plat 266593 9 617 Little Rancho Dr.  
Transaction Price: \$480,000

Seller: Onea Jewel and Michelle Marie Miller  
Buyer: Kelli E Henry and Stryker T Lane  
Description: Cross L Estates Subdivision 282581 24 409 S Cross L Dr  
Transaction Price: \$60,000

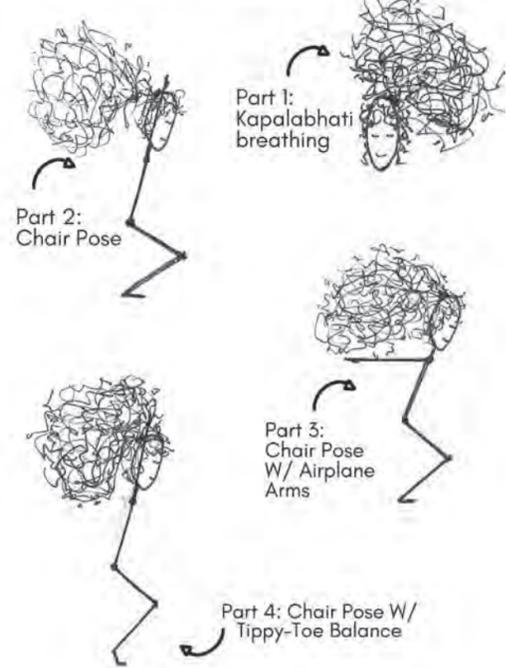
**THE STRIP** #87

THE STRIP from SLEEPY CAT YOGI SHOP For The Holidays: Parts 1-4

**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.

Using the guides from the last four week's papers to insure you have proper alignment, you can now flow through this full series.



Seller: Anderson Family Trust  
Buyer: Jonathan A and Brittany Rosales  
Description: 1 1N 090W 29 237 CR 75  
Transaction Price: \$560,000

Description: Dragon Wash Subdivision 226794 Open Space Lot  
Transaction Price: \$9,000

Seller: Town of Rangely  
Buyer: Nathan and Kristol Urie

**THEME: FOOD & DRINK ACROSS**

1. \*Lettuce variety
5. Drivel

8. \*CafÉ alternative
11. \*Cantina cooker
12. \*Waldorf salad ingredient
13. Animal trail

15. Radio knob
16. Hurry up, acr.
17. One who accepts the offer

18. \*Anise-flavored spirit
20. "Happily \_\_\_\_ after"
21. Operatic solos
22. \_\_\_\_ Air in L.A.

23. Hairy vertebrate
26. Freed
30. In the past
31. Small type of drum
34. \*Wine in Italy
35. Charleston, e.g.
37. Chow down
38. a.k.a. honey badger
39. Wet nurse
40. HervÉ Villechaize on "Fantasy Island"
42. Expression of doubt
43. Founding Father
45. City in Japan
47. Shock and \_\_\_\_
48. Jawaharlal's last name
50. \*Driest type of sherry
52. \*a.k.a. black treacle
55. Softly-softly, loris' cousin
56. A Flock of Seagulls' 1982 hit (2 words)
57. \*Cabbage amount
59. Alexandre Dumas' "The Black \_\_\_\_"
60. What seekers do
61. One clean one?
62. Everything
63. Temporary craze
64. Swedish shag rugs

6. Same as #39 Across, pl.
7. Supreme pontiff
8. Puff
9. Field worker
10. Be off base
12. Capital of Philippines
13. Be at the helm
14. \*Ballerina-inspired dessert
19. All worked up
22. \*Granola serving
23. T'Éa Leoni's "\_\_\_\_ Secretary"
24. Old World lizard
25. Unicellular organism
26. Stroke on a green
27. Lithograph, for short
28. Japan to U.S. in WWII
29. \*Stuffed grapevine leaf
32. \*Flageolet or azuki
33. \*Popular breakfast cereal
36. \*Type of #34 Across
38. Lion sounds
40. One little piggy?
41. Easily available (2 words)
44. One clean one?
46. \*Betty Crocker fruit snack
48. Waterwheel
49. Serengeti grazer
50. Unplayable baseball
51. It will, contraction
52. Irk
53. Like a ghost
54. Long novel
55. School support org.
58. Opposite of don'ts

**CROSSWORD**

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



**Here's to a new chapter!**

Happy New Year from the HT





# HOW TO READ A PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that

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

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

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

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

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

Public notices keep you informed of government actions and provide a third-party transparency check. They 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.

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

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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**

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**  
Volunteer Opportunities

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

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

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

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ADA/EOE

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Fax: 970-878-5494  
Cell: 1-970-220-2529 or 220-2LAW  
Website: [FennessyLaw.com](http://FennessyLaw.com)  
Email: [Joe@FennessyLaw.com](mailto:Joe@FennessyLaw.com)

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\*43 Acre lot in east Rangely. \$180,000.

\*64 Acre lot E Main St., Rangely. **SOLD!**

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\*6902 County Road 7- 5 Acres, home, shop. **SOLD!**

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