



MODERNA MIRACLE ...



RANGELY DISTRICT HOSPITAL PHOTOS

Rangely District Hospital CEO Kyle Wren and an Eagle Crest Assisted Living resident were the first two recipients of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in Rio Blanco County, along with other providers. They will receive another booster in 28 days. Pioneers Medical Center was scheduled for vaccinations Wednesday. You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine, as it does not contain the live virus, or even a complete virus. COVID-19 mRNA vaccines, like those manufactured by Moderna and BioNTech/Pfizer, give instructions for our cells to make a harmless piece of what is called the "spike protein." The spike protein is found on the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Our immune systems recognize that the protein doesn't belong there and begin building an immune response and making antibodies to protect against future infection. A vaccination tier schedule is printed on PAGE 4A.

One Good Thing

What kept you going during a year like no other?

Special to the Herald Times

RBC I We've been through enough old Heralds to know this year was a real doozy, but for our annual year in review we flipped the script and asked our readers one good thing that happened to them during 2020. Here are the responses we received.

For years I have tried to find something good that happened each day even if it is something silly like finding my misplaced pen or watching a rabbit hopping over the snow. That habit kept me going during 2020. I found that 2020 helped me to slow down and appreciate all the things I have like family, friends and living in this beautiful part of our country. It gave me time to remember life is good despite its challenges. So, find at least one good thing that happens each day and watch your attitude and life improve.

Janet Clark Meeker

One thing I learned in 2020 was gaining comfort recording piano music for church services instead of playing it live with a congregation. It takes a bit of imagination to pretend that a congregation is singing along with you in a cold, empty sanctuary. However, the process is like a recording studio so if I mess up too badly, we ditch it and start a new hymn. Like much of 2020, this wasn't a goal I sought, but now I'm glad to have a new capability and the Methodist Church has a huge digital library of music.

Kaye Sullivan Meeker

One good thing for me has been all the walking I have done since the pandemic hit. I have made good use of the wonderful trail system so close to town. This summer I hiked to many lakes in the Flattops. I am blessed to have wonderful walking partners. It has been a way for us to safely socially interact and has been good for my emotional health and of course physical health as well.

Peggy Strate Meeker

New great-granddaughter, new great-grandniece, finished three big projects, and good health.

Kay Bivens Meeker

My mom moved in with us to help care for kids after I started a new job. It's been a blessing to have her here as my mom, and also as a helper. I don't know what we would have done without her!

Jess Bayles Meeker

I got to be alive for another year very thankful for that

Rose Smithey Rangely

We got a second granddaughter in October! What a blessing after thinking our limit was one.

Cathie Dolan Meeker

I survived assault from my husband.

Marcella Collins Kansas

Gained a family.

Edey Posey Meeker

My brother is able to walk again after being paralyzed.

Kathy Warren Meeker

My daughter called me.

Toni Francis Meeker

I graduated college with a B.S. at age 39.

Jackie Bean Sanchez Meeker

Special friendship.

Mike Flannery Craig

Bought a house.

Sheryl Little-Myers Meeker

We had a great-granddaughter born in July. She is a blessing and a joy.

Twila Morris Meeker

I was able to continue my weekly workouts virtually with Maggi and lose weight in the meantime. Don't do it alone.

Nancy Harris Meeker

Had six great-grandchildren born this year ... three boys and three girls.

Mickey Tucker Meeker

I got to come to my favorite place on earth, Meeker, and camp for a week. It was calming, rejuvenating and just what I needed.

Steven Libhart Denver

Freedom

Donna Rose California

I got married to an amazing man and gained an amazing family!

Laura Klinzmann

My newest nephew was born.

Eshlay Krueger

My family stayed healthy — and I now know we can live in quarantine and not kill each other.

Nikki Keetch

I opened the Mountain Muse tattoo shop this spring and I am still open now. (Open by appointment)

only for now.)

Vanna Jo Johnson

We had a new grandson! Feel very blessed!

Kris and Henry Arcolesse

A wonderful time to take inventory on self, life and society. It's been time to take pause, go back to simple basics. This has been a great looking glass to see with clarity of the delusion, separation, and programming we have all allowed, and the extremes of it all. It has been a time of holding close what we value and understanding loss. On a personal level I walk away with the deepest gratitude of all that is right in life, deeper compassion, forgiveness and understanding. Even within this great time of loss and fear, 2020 has been a beautiful, harsh gift. I think we can all say we learned value, discernment, and the complex cacophony of which we all are. I hope we see where we need to heal, what we need to hold close, repair, and revise. Perhaps, basics like respect of self and others. Maybe a reminder of manners to be used at home and public. Boundaries are healthy for self and others. There is always room for more integrity. Compassion is a great gift to those who receive it and give it.

Michelle Hale Hayden

Moved to Meeker!

Dee Ann Adams Meeker

New Granddaughter!

Jody Meakins Meeker

As for our one good thing here at the HT? Well, we're still kickin'! [Community newspapers continue to vanish](#), and with them goes the recording of history, commitment to government transparency and countless untold stories.

While there was plenty of adversity this year, we are thankful we were able to continue to inform our citizens to the best of our ability and create a historical record for future generations to look back on (and hopefully learn from.)

A free press is an essential function enshrined in the First Amendment, and it is an immense responsibility we take very seriously. We'll continue the *Herald* tradition come hell, high water, pandemics, unhappy politicians, angry people on the internet, paper shortages, postage increases, economic meltdowns, partisan division, societal upheaval, births, deaths, life events, community happenings, big stories, small stories, during the good times and the bad, just like former Heralders have done, for as long as Rio Blanco County will have us.

Thank you for supporting community journalism.

Happy New Year!



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Sat: 20s/0s



Sun: 30s/10s



on edge

The Splotch: In a rural Eastern Plains community plagued by drought, stigma won't be easy to overcome

By **SUSAN GREENE**
Colorado News Collaborative

EADS I "The Splotch," as some here call the brown mark on the map they check weekly, is the color of scorched earth.

Here in Kiowa County, farmers have always relied on whatever moisture happens to fall from the sky rather than on irrigation. In August, this 1,300-person community bordering on Kansas was the first part of Colorado where drought conditions surpassed "extreme" to a level meteorologists call "exceptional." That designation—which since has hit wide swaths of the West Slope—stands out on the drought map as a big brown pok.

Week after rainless week throughout this year's growing season, it festered like a wound not just on local farmland, but also on the emotional landscape.

"It's horrible, just horrible, the ways drought can affect the human mind," says Jimmy Brown, a third-generation farmer in Eads whose wheat and grain sorghum crops withered this year, just like those of his neighbors. "I doubt there's a person here whose mental health hasn't been affected by it."

The Eastern Plains have had dry spells. Some old-timers remember Dust Bowl conditions in the 1930s. Their children weathered extreme drought in the mid-1950s, and their children's children endured acute

dryness in 2002 and 2012. Each generation has taught the next to take the long view because they have learned that wishing – or praying – for rain doesn't make it happen.

Yet nobody here can remember a year so parched that little grew higher than their work boots. No one recalls ground so dry that even the bindweed stopped growing. Nobody had seen so many rain clouds roll in late afternoons during monsoon season, only to watch them keep rolling eastward without bursting.

Even before smoke from the late-summer mountain wildfires wafted in, Brown says "You couldn't see the sun here because of all the dirt blowing." On the road to his fields this fall, his pickup kicked up enough dirt to form dust devils.

"You can smell the dirt. You can feel it in your nose and sinuses. You can see how everything's so brown, so dead all around you. You can feel how it's all so depressing," he says.

Brown, in addition to farming, serves as Kiowa County's elected coroner and lone funeral director. He's not a mental health expert,

but is more tuned in than most to how locals are feeling. With drought, he says, comes uncertainty, even among majority of growers who carry insurance compensating them for the losses. With uncertainty come powerlessness, irritability and dread.

"People tend to be shorter with one another, to withdraw," he says, noting that he is no exception.

He had a hard time this year mustering the energy to feed and water his cattle, check his fences and tend to the endless other tasks required to run a farm, even one with crop failure. He followed headlines about Kansas farming communities 200 miles east producing their best crop yields ever, pondering the fickleness of drought.

The splotch feels like a curse. "You come to doubt if it's ever going to rain again. You know it will, but you don't know when. So you ask yourself what am I doing here? Why are we doing this? And what exactly is the point in it all?" Brown says.

Growers speak of a rootlessness—financial, family, and spiritual—needed to withstand a year as dry as this, let alone several of them. They do not speak of mental health factors, the complex mix of genetic vulnerabilities, trauma, addiction, brain chemicals, nerve circuits and other triggers that contribute to mental illness and make the ground more shaky for some than others. Especially in a county where data show residents' discomfort talking about personal problems is 11% higher than the statewide average, they cannot know what challenges were faced by the local father whose 16-year-old son discovered his body after his recent suicide. Or



Jimmy Brown, 52, is the Kiowa County Coroner as well as a farmer and owner of funeral homes in Eads, Cheyenne Wells and Burlington.

MARC PISCOTTY PHOTO

by the four men with ties to Kiowa County who ended their lives two years ago—three of them within two weeks of each other, and two of them farmers.

That string of suicides prompted the local mental health services provider to offer classes on recognizing signs of mental health crisis. It held special training for loan officers, machinery dealers, auctioneers and bankruptcy clerks to spot signs of potential suicidality in their clients and urge them to seek professional help.

Dawn Beck is a physician's assistant at the Eads Rural Health Clinic and Kiowa County Hospital. Her patients bristle at words like anxiety and depression. If the land is sick, so will be the people who work it, and there's nothing to be done but wait it out, she says they tell her.

"They say 'Well, we've been through this before,' even though this is by far the worst year anybody can remember. It's a pride thing. A cowboy thing. And it's just eating people up."

Brown, 52, has lived here all his life except for college. The splotch, he estimates, "is the topic of 99 out of 100 conversations"

here this year. Those interactions sound more like "Man, we need rain", "Have you seen it this dry before?", "When is it going to end?" than "I can't sleep", "I'm drinking too much" or "I'm feeling down."

"Our people are tough. They prefer to just weather the storm. I don't think mental health is ever a topic of conversation around here," he says.

"We talk about the things we understand—interest rates, commodity prices, land values, weed control, farming techniques. That's how we operate around here. It's our culture. And whether it's right, wrong or indifferent, it's not going to change."

This story is brought to you by COLab, the Colorado News Collaborative. If you're struggling, help is available on Colorado's crisis hotline. Call 1-844-493-TALK(8255).

If you're a Rio Blanco County resident who is going through mental health challenges, we'd like to tell your story. Please contact us at 970-878-4017 or editor@ht1885.com.

Susan Greene can be reached at susan@colabnews.co.

Whatever you're going through, crisis counselors and professionally trained peer specialists are available to help.

Call Colorado Crisis Service's hotline at

1-844-493-TALK(8255)

There is no wrong reason to reach out.



(Left) The parched landscape around Eads after an extended summer of drought. This is a field of milo, a small usually drought-resistant grain used as a feed crop.

MARC PISCOTTY PHOTO

BLITZ

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Adults 18-54	\$375	\$187.50	\$40.63	\$15.63
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Dual Adult**	\$500	\$250	\$45.84	\$20.84
Family***	\$600	\$300	\$50	\$25

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***Two adults and dependants under the age of 21 living in the same household.

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NEWS BRIEFS

It's not to late to get health insurance

RBC | It's not too late to get health insurance for 2021. Join a free virtual drop-in Second Chance Health Insurance Enrollment Event and get help from Health Coverage Guides and Brokers to enroll in health insurance for coverage starting Feb. 1. Event dates are Jan. 4, 11 and 14 from 5-8 p.m. Join Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85045579187?pwd=b3cvZXhPcnJQcWVh3dJNpCzV1MVZad209> Meeting ID: 850 4557 9187, Passcode: 029231.

Free legal clinic Jan. 13

RBC | The next free legal clinic for Rio Blanco County will be held Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021 from 2-5 p.m. Contact the Meeker Public Library at 970-878-5911 to be added to the sign-up sheet. Library staff will schedule all appointments, and you will be contacted directly via telephone by the volunteer attorney. Space is limited.

Historical Society annual meeting Jan. 17

RBC | The annual membership meeting for the Rio Blanco County Historical Society is coming up on Jan. 17 and will be held virtually over Zoom (call 970-878-9982 for details). This is the time to renew memberships, or join for the first time, and to elect officers for the board for the coming year. Current members can call in or pick up a voting slip prior to the meeting to participate. To renew or join as a member online visit <http://rbchistory.org/donate/>, or mail a check to PO Box 413, Meeker CO 81641; or drop off payment at the White River Museum at 565 Park Ave., in Meeker.

Short-staffed? Grow your own talent!

RBC | Good help is hard to find, yet great teams are more important now than ever. If you're part of a healthcare profession (medical, dental, pharmaceutical, behavioral, home health, assisted living, and so much more), you're invited to a panel discussion about new opportunities to grow your existing or new staff. Visit <http://bit.ly/CNCCHealthCareSurvey> to complete a short survey, and receive a follow-up email with useful information. For any other questions and to schedule a visit with our team contact Sasha Nelson, Colorado Northwestern Community College Director of Workforce Training at 970-824-1118 or email sasha.nelson@cncc.edu.

CNCC classes in Meeker and Rangely

YOGA THEORY AND PRACTICE

Learn the history of yoga, how to apply yoga for stress management and end each class with a gentle yoga practicum with flow and pose breakdowns. Taught by Dana Armstrong. Learn in-person in Craig or online. Suitable for all levels. Class runs from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursday, Jan. 21 through Feb. 27. Please register by Jan.13. Class costs \$180 for 12 sessions. Students must also purchase a copy of the book Yamas & Niyamas by Deborah Adele. Meeker seniors 62+ receive 50 percent off. Register at <https://www.cncc.edu/community-programming-registration> or by calling 970-824-1118.

HISTORY OF ETHICS

Enrich your personal and private life by learning how ethics impacts your daily life. Join instructor Gregory LaPoint in learning the basic history of ethics, how ethics is viewed in the modern era and how ethics can affect your life. You may wish to purchase the book: Natural Law and its Relevance by LaPoint. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Feb. 2 through March 11. Cost is \$126 for 12 days of class. The class will be taught via webinar and is 100 percent online. Meeker seniors 62+ receive 50 percent off. Register at <https://www.cncc.edu/community-programming-registration> or by calling 970-824-1118.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION SKILLS TEST

Now there's a new, quicker way to certify or recertify for CPR-AED/First Aid. Test your skills. Take an American Heart Association Online course and then travel to Craig to complete the two-hour skills practice and test. You must bring proof of successful completion of an AHA online course within 3 months of your skills test. Skills testing on your schedule is available for larger groups. Enrollment is open for testing March 6 and May 1. Meeker seniors 62+ receive 50 percent off. Register at <https://www.cncc.edu/community-programming-registration> or by calling 970-824-1118.

Oldland honored for 14 years of service to Cemetery District

Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER | The Meeker Cemetery District would like to acknowledge Board Member Jan Oldland for her 14 years

of dedication to the Highland Cemetery and community by providing direction and donating her time, in addition to being an integral contributor to the important advances made.



Rio Blanco County News

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GOOD DEEDS ...

Rangely 4-H member Cash Fromang is pictured in front of the White River Village while assisting the Rangely BPOE Elks Lodge #1907 in delivering more than \$3,000 in White River Market and other local gift cards to those in need Dec. 19. On Dec. 21 the Elks Lodge hosted a Drive Thru Children's Christmas Party complete with socially distanced Santa Claus. Rangely Elks Exalted Ruler Chris Hall reports nearly 75 children received presents this year and he thanks the community for graciously donating gifts this season.

ROXIE FROMANG PHOTO



16 oz. Food Club
Peanut Butter
3 for \$5

15-16 oz. Food Club
Salsa
\$1.29

32 oz. Food Club
Shredded Cheese
\$6.99

DAIRY

- 16 oz. Food Club **SOUR CREAM** **99¢**
- 14 oz. Daisy Squeeze **SOUR CREAM** **2 for \$4**
- 16 oz. Food Club Small Curd **COTTAGE CHEESE** **99¢**
- 32 oz. Food Club **CHEESE LOAF** **\$6.99**
- 8 oz. Food Club **CHEESE SHINGLES** **\$1.99**
- 8 oz. Food Club **CREAM CHEESE** **2 for \$3**

PRODUCE

- 3 lb. bag Mandarin **TANGERINES** **\$3.99**
- 6 oz. Blackberries, Blueberries or **RASPBERRIES** **3 for \$5**
- 5 lb. bag Russet **POTATOES** **2 for \$4**
- Fresh **LIMES** **3 for \$1**
- Ripe **MANGOS** **5 for \$5**
- Jalapeño **PEPPERS** **99¢/lb.**
- Fresh Whole **PINEAPPLE** **99¢/lb.**
- 16 oz. Baby Cut **CARROTS** **99¢**
- Green **BELL PEPPERS** **79¢**
- 3 ct. Romaine **LETTUCE HEARTS** **2 for \$5**
- Pint Red Grape **TOMATOES** **2 for \$5**

GROCERY

- 10 oz. ROTEL **TOMATOES** **99¢**
- 14.5 oz. Hunt's **TOMATOES** **99¢**
- 8 oz. Hunt's **TOMATO SAUCE** **59¢**
- 15 oz. Ranch Style **BEANS** **99¢**
- 12-13 oz. Frank's **RED HOT SAUCE** **\$2.99**
- 6 oz. Black Pearl **OLIVES** **2 for \$3**
- 25.4 oz. Martinelli **SPARKLING CIDER** **\$2.79**
- 17 oz. Huy Fong **SRIRACHA SAUCE** **\$2.49**
- 16 oz. Pace Picante Sauce or **SALSA** **2 for \$4**
- 92 oz. Tide HE Liquid **DETERGENT** **\$12.99**
- 120 ct. Bounce **DRYER SHEETS** **\$5.49**

MEAT

- Beef Eye of Round **ROAST** **\$3.99/lb.**
- 14 oz. Armour **MEATBALLS** **2 for \$5**
- 12 oz. Hillshire Farm Beef **SMOKED SAUSAGE** **2 for \$5**
- 14 oz. Hillshire Farm **SMOKED SAUSAGE ROPE OR POLSKA KIELBASA** **2 for \$5**

FROZEN

- 4 qt. Food Club **ICE CREAM PAILS** **\$5.99**
- 14 oz. Armour **MEATBALLS** **2 for \$5**
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EDITOR'S COLUMN

Good riddance, 2020

By **NIKI TURNER**
editor@ht1885.com

When the pandemic kicked off last spring I said I thought this event was going to leave a mark. Little did I know at that point how deep that mark would go. I'm chalking 2020 up as the second worst year of my life (second only because no one in our family has physically died). There have been other losses, other traumas to unpack and process, but we're still upright and breathing. For so many others, including many in our communities who may or may not share their grief publicly, this year has been a personal horror story.

There is no magic in turning the page on the calendar,

unfortunately. When we click over into 2021 tonight at midnight, the only thing that we have the power to change is our attitude.

In the last year we've witnessed amazing acts of kindness and generosity. And we've been baffled by folks who've tried to deny reality.

2020 exposed schisms and flaws in many areas of life that we've been ignoring, avoiding or denying for years. Pressure exposes fractures, but it also (eventually) creates diamonds.

The good news is 2021 gives us an opportunity to own up to



those newly exposed weaknesses and make positive changes for good — personally, relationally, and socially. Things are not necessarily going to get a lot easier in a hurry, but we can certainly get stronger.

Thank you to all of you who have stuck with us for another year. We appreciate you all.

Speaking of 2020 stress levels, mine are showing. Last week I said the conjunction of Mars and Jupiter would create the "Christmas Star" effect not seen since 1226 AD. In actuality, it was Jupiter and Saturn, not Mars. Three rounds of proofing, several rewrites, and a discussion in the office about the astronomical phenomenon failed to catch my planetary blunder. Thanks, Elaine Jordan, for setting our orbit straight.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for birthday car parade

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank all those that staged and participated in the car parade to our house on the eve of my 82nd birthday with gifts, cards and well wishes. It was a surprise, I assure you! It took a few minutes to register with me as to what was

going on.

I am very humbled by all your efforts and sincerely thank each of you. Ringmaster Bill along with Sophia, Christine, Tasos, Cyros and Regas gave my birthday a very special twist. Happy New Year.

Gus Halandras
Meeker

LOOSE ENDS

"It is what it is"

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

MEEKER 1 "It is what it is" is the latest phrase to crop up in our daily conversations. It is an earworm without music. Most of us pride ourselves on "telling it like it is" and a few regions of our country are better at it than others. Westerners are often known for speaking plainly — no extra words, no conversational embellishments or fancy flourishes. Midwesterners have also laid claim to that style of speech. An increased number of words and quicker pace of delivery often covers up what is being said.

This phrase is easy to utter and comes in handy for all kinds of situations — pandemics, economic woes, or family dysfunctions. Once it is said aloud however, the implication is embedded in the tone and kind of delivery so it can serve as a conversation stopper. The meaning of it is clear. It says to anyone listening that the speaker does not want to talk about it. After all we have all been trained to politely respond while trying to end a conversation. No "shut up!" will be tolerated.

Some of us will protest that

we didn't imply anything, we are "just saying," another overused conversational response. Does one person's interpretation really differ from another, based on tone and inflection? Can a positive or negative outlook be detected or is it truly just convenient to use it.

Still faced with a surge from the Pandemic, as well as the threat of a mutation of the original COVID-19 virus, most of us seek out our neighbors and friends. We become conversational junkies. Many people are depending on the phrase to explain one's inability to do anything about it until we are all vaccinated. This is the same response even more of us have to the political divisiveness that is running rampant in our country.

The culture clash I experienced was very real when trying to fit in to my new community. I refuse to resurrect the pat phrase that could be used so very appropriately. Well, I could coin a new version of it to describe my own reaction years ago — "It was what it was." I talked too fast, used too many words in each sentence, and loved to use words one friend teased as "high falutin." I also talked too much. My

conversational style hasn't changed much over the years, even though I have spent most of my life out west.

One's perspective or view of the changing world around them is influenced by their age or experience. Maturation tends to remove the bad habit of blurting things out or offering an opinion without much experience or background, for most of us. My main problem with this overused phrase is that it can often be used as a "cop-out." It simply removes one from the conversation, as it implies there is no action to be taken. "I'm done" is often added on to the response, just in case the listener didn't get it.

Finito, finished, no more to say, could be substituted but will not be as effective in ending the communication. The listener may take it as a challenge to continue talking, to find out why you seem to be so impolite. So, I am going ahead for a few more days before listing that phrase on the top of my New Year's Resolutions.

Plain and simple, 2020 "is what it is." I am looking forward to changing my response to "it was what it was." Happy New Year!



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

~ J.P. Morgan



COVID-19 vaccine has arrived

PHASE 1
Winter

1A

Highest-risk health care workers and individuals:

- People who have direct contact with COVID-19 patients for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- Long-term care facility staff and residents.

1B

Moderate-risk health care workers and responders:

- Health care workers with less direct contact with COVID-19 patients.
- Workers in home health/hospice and dental settings.
- EMS, firefighters, police, correctional workers, dispatchers, funeral services, other first responders, and COVID-19 response personnel.

PHASE 2
Spring

2

Higher-risk individuals and essential workers:

- People age 65 or older.
- People of any age with obesity, diabetes, chronic lung disease, significant heart disease, chronic kidney disease, cancer, or are immunocompromised.
- People who interact directly with the public at work, such as grocery store workers and school staff.
- People who work in high density settings like farms and meat-packing plants.
- Workers serving people that live in high-density settings.
- Other health care workers not covered in Phase 1.
- Adults who received a placebo during a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial.

PHASE 3
Summer

3

The general public:

- Anyone age 16-64 without high risk conditions.

*Timeline subject to change based on supply chain. Prioritization subject to change based on data, science, availability.

Note: CDPHE recognizes the Tribal sovereignty of the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes, and that the Tribes have the authority to determine how vaccine supply will be prioritized for their populations, even if their prioritization scheme is different than what CDPHE recommends. Some federal entities such as the Bureau of Prisons, Department of Defense, Department of State, Veteran's Hospital Association, and Indian Health Services will be vaccinated by the federal government. Children and pregnant people are not included in this preliminary phased approach; they may be prioritized for vaccine contemporaneously when/if safety and efficacy data are available with the appropriate ACIP recommendation.

Any remaining Phase 1A and 1B businesses and organizations, please contact RBC Public Health at publichealth@rbc.us for information regarding a vaccination plan.

Rio Blanco County Department of Public Health & Environment · Testing Available · 970-878.9520 Meeker · 970.878.9525 Rangely · www.rbc.us/606/Covid-19-Updates

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GUEST COLUMN

Evidence-based discussions need to occur

By PIONEERS MEDICAL CENTER PROVIDERS
Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER I “It is a capital mistake to theorize before you have all the evidence. It biases the judgment.”—Sherlock Holmes in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s *A Study in Scarlet*. This obligatory principle will guide our discussion; but instead of solving a murder case, we will be solving the case of our individual COVID risks. At the start of this pandemic, we had very little evidence to guide our decisions, however, we are now far enough into this epidemic that we can begin to make evidence-based decisions. As time passes, more evidence will emerge, and emerging evidence may even change the decisions we make based on the evidence now, at the end of 2020; but, by continuing to investigate, we can more accurately make decisions maximizing both protection for the vulnerable and a return to normalcy. As we begin examining evidence, let us refrain from preconceived conjectures, and instead follow the example in the world’s most famous fictional detective. After all, his famous attributes are founded on the surgeon who pioneered diagnosis by observation and the founding principles in forensic pathology — Dr. Joseph Bell. In our upcoming letters, our observations will examine evidence for the following questions: 1) What is my risk of severe illness or death? 2) What is my immunity status after a COVID infection? 3) What is my risk of adverse events from the COVID vaccine? You can then use this information to help solve your

case of individual risk. You can use this information to empower yourself in lowering your personal risk. However, at the end of this process, it is still about risk. You can make decisions reducing your risk to 0.001% or lower, and you could still be unlucky enough to be 0.001%. Nothing in life is risk free. So now, without further ado, let’s dive in. If you do not care to read how we examine the evidence, are not a numbers person, or are only interested in the conclusions, please feel free to skip to the final paragraphs in each of the next letters. Today, we will begin with addressing the first question. What is my risk of severe illness or death? Let’s start with some background information. How do we determine fatality risk? In the purest sense, we take the total confirmed deaths by COVID, divide it by the total confirmed COVID cases, then multiply it by 100. This provides the infection fatality rate (IFR) as a percentile. However, attaining this figure is not quite that simple, and endeavoring to nail down the exact IFR has been extremely difficult for multiple reasons. First, up to 40% or more of individuals with COVID have no symptoms, and therefore never seek medical testing. Second, another large majority have very mild symptoms that are mistaken for another illness, consequently this group also does not seek a medical diagnosis. Thirdly, the false negative rate has ranged from 10% to 30% depending on the study; this means 10% to 30% of individuals who actually have COVID get a test result falsely saying they do not have COVID. And finally, there are many who

suspect they have it (and likely do), but choose to not get tested and simply quarantine themselves. For these reasons, the confirmed positive cases significantly underestimate the true number of cases; and, indeed, 22 seroprevalence studies (studies examining the presence of antibodies to the virus, indicating past infection), suggest the true number of cases is likely 10 to 20 times higher than the confirmed number of cases, as 10 to 20 individuals have had it without a confirming test for every 1 person who has had a confirmatory test. This statistic has also been confirmed by the CDC, and another large study (described below) also confirms this to be the case. Using this information to determine the IFR provides a broad number including all ages and risk factors. After determining this global IFR, we will then break it down by age to help us solve this case of risk more individually.

So, let’s look at the global number first, then we will break it down. Google is not always the recommended place to obtain your medical advice, but it will serve our discussion well. As of 12/27/2020 (date of this writing), Googling “covid by state” and adjusting the “cases” tab to reflect “worldwide” data provides the following information: 1.76 million confirmed COVID deaths and 80.5 million confirmed COVID cases. Using the formula above, this gives a worldwide IFR of 2.1%. Changing the tab to reflect the United States, the IFR is calculated to 1.7%. Narrowing further to our home state of Colorado, the IFR is calculated to 1.4%. Next, we have to consider

the evidence of underestimated caseload as described above. If we use evidence from the seroprevalence studies and the CDC, this would indicate the confirmed COVID cases are likely 10 to 20 times higher. If we estimate on the low side and increase the caseload by only 10, the IFR’s come out to be 0.21%, 0.17%, and 0.14% for the world, United States, and Colorado, respectively. What does this mean? For comparison the global death rate for influenza ranges from 0.08% to 0.15% depending on the year. This is great news, as we initially thought COVID’s IFR was up to 10 times higher than influenza, and as more data emerges, it looks to be inching closer to the IFR for influenza. However, before we take too much comfort in this, we also must consider that COVID is significantly more contagious than influenza. Consequently, many more people will contract COVID than influenza, and this mathematically means COVID will kill more people than influenza, even if we eventually determine COVID to equal influenza in IFR. Broadly speaking, your risk of severe illness or death if you contract COVID may be much closer to influenza than initially thought (great news), but the total number of lives COVID will claim will still be higher than influenza due to its increased infectivity compared to influenza (not so great news).

Next, let’s narrow down IFR by age and risk factors. Multiple analyses have determined the greatest risk factors for severe illness and death, separate from age, include diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, smoking, cardiovascular disease, and obesity. To account for age, let’s turn to a study published in November of 2020 examining IFR by age across 45 different countries using the 22 seroprevalence studies referenced above to aid in conclusions. This study found a strong consistency in death rate by age across the 45 countries up to the age of 65. Above 65 years, significant variability was found secondary to nursing home populations. When nursing home populations were accounted for, the consistency returned, showing vulnerability does increase with age, and our most vulnerable do indeed live in nursing homes. This makes sense when you return to the original list of risk factors, because the risk of attaining these risk factors increases with age, and the nursing home contains the highest proportion of individuals with these risk factors. This begs the question, is the true risk your age, is it the overall

condition of your health, or is it both? The answer likely includes both, with a heavier emphasis on your overall health, as studies from Italy suggest 1% to 5% of people who died had none of the above risk factors, meaning 95% to 99% of people who died had at least one risk factor other than age. Statistics from England also suggest your health is a stronger indicator of risk than your age, as 95% of those who have died in England also had at least one risk factor, per the most recently published data on Dec. 17, 2020.

Specifically addressing age, here is the approximate IFR breakdown by age from the study of 45 countries:

- 0-4 years old = 0.0009% to 0.001%
- 5-19 years old 0.0003% to 0.0008%
- 20-29 years old = 0.0011% to 0.015%
- 30-39 years old = 0.008% to 0.1%
- 40-49 years old = 0.1% to 0.12%
- 50-59 years old = 0.08% to 0.17%
- 60-69 years old = 0.09% to 1.2%
- 70-79 years old = 0.15% to 9%
- Greater than 80 years old = 2% to 10%

This leaves us to address one more piece of evidence before concluding this letter. If I am an adult living in a home with a school-aged family member who contracts COVID, is my risk acquiring COVID higher, and is my risk of severe illness or death higher? To the first part, yes, your risk of acquiring COVID is higher; living with someone who has COVID has been established as one of the highest risk factors for acquiring COVID. To the second part, no, according to a study of more than 9 million people in England, your risk of severe illness or death from COVID is not any higher in this scenario.

In summary, the global infection fatality rate, including all ages and risk factors, appears to be inching closer to influenza, and it is much lower than we initially thought. However, COVID is still much more contagious than influenza and consequently will infect a larger number of people, meaning COVID will still claim more lives, even if the infection fatality rate is eventually found to equal influenza. Your individual risk can better be determined by considering the findings in the study described above, combined with your known risk factors. If you are high school or early college age in excellent health, your individual risk of death is as low as 0.0003%. However, if you are

80 years old and have at least one risk factor, your fatality risk could be as high as 10%. The greatest indicator of your risk appears to be the state of your health.

In our next letter, we will examine evidence regarding immunity, risk for reinfection, true second infections, and we will weigh risks and benefits concerning the COVID vaccine (the vaccine, like all medical treatments, is not entirely risk-free). If you are uncertain about the vaccine, stay tuned for our next letter. In the meantime, maximize your health to lower your own risk. Plan, cook, and prepare your meals; fill your grocery cart with fresh produce and avoid sugar, soft drinks, juice, and processed foods; stop smoking; exercise; practice proper sleep hygiene; and take your metabolic and cardiovascular health seriously. Hand washing, social distancing, and mask wearing may slow spread, but these actions alone will not significantly decrease your individual fatality risk should you contract the virus. You have the power to decrease your risk of death from all causes, including COVID. Avoid headline evidence and expert opinions, as COVID has not been around long enough to have any true experts on the subject. Examine the evidence for yourself, empower yourself, make healthy decisions, and help us return to normalcy while protecting our most vulnerable.

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GUEST COLUMN

"If the Fates allow"

By KAYE SULLIVAN
Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER I We’ve all enjoyed or survived Christmas in some 2020 adjusted format. Maybe like our household, you too, experienced highs and lows. We deeply rejoiced in a live Christmas Eve church service, personal visit with our oldest son, and joys of baking holiday treats. Frustrating was the seemingly lost box of gifts to our grandkids/children in Oregon that I shipped in early December. I kept getting texts every day that it was “in transit.” Apparently, this box sat in a Denver USPS facility for weeks along with many others.

I don’t blame USPS who is understaffed, underfunded, hit with Covid infected employees, struggling with an unprecedented level of shipping, and criticized by about everyone. In my opinion, our Meeker postal workers are the kindest, caring, most hard-working postal employees I’ve ever seen.

Or go to a postal unit in Lakewood, Colorado; stand in a line of 30 people every time and get a snarly clerk. Believe me, small towns offer over the top customer mail service.

After fretting for days that I had mis-addressed our Oregon package, it magically arrived

the day after Christmas. With the excitement of Christmas and Santa’s arrival, our grandchildren received many gifts. So, in the end, a late arrival was still special.

We’re still learning these tough 2020 lessons that even difficulties can turn out okay. We can handle problems with greater aplomb and accept perseverance as part of daily life.

Onto the days ahead in 2021. I want to start planning and carving out some special times in our schedule, especially travel. But can that happen in a state and country filled with COVID?

Soon the Colorado state parks will open their online camping reservations, so to reserve a site, we’ll have to commit. As we learned last year, with so many people fleeing Covid to the great outdoors, many beautiful Colorado parks are filled quickly.

Perhaps like us you retain dreams of fulfilling plans that were canceled in 2020. We hope to be “artists in residence,” see our children and grandkids, plus tour beautiful Oregon as was planned last year. But, will

COVID be over by summer? Should we schedule earlier to avoid another wildfire season in our western states? Who knows?

I don’t know the answers, so I reflect on the lyrics to the Christmas song, “Have Yourself a Very Merry Christmas.” It includes a reminder that this song is a dream, a hope, a reality check that life is unpredictable and uncontrollable.

“If the Fates allow” applies today and in 2021 as it did when written way back in 1941. We must hold onto the hope that the year ahead will turn out better, that Covid will come under control with vaccines, and that we will still be alive to enjoy it.

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Christian Evidences (5)

By Dr. J. D. Watson
Pastor-Teacher, Grace Bible Church

... ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God ... [and] wait for his Son from heaven ... (1 Thes. 1:9-10)



Dr. J.D. Watson

THE elect of God are easy to spot, easy to distinguish from the world of unbelievers, because they exhibit indisputable evidence of the salvation God has wrought in them. Our text provides two final Christian evidences.

Ninth, there was transformation because of their changed allegiance: **For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God** (v. 9). As we have observed several times, Scripture declares that salvation is a total transformation of life.

The Thessalonians dramatically demonstrated this truth beyond the tiniest tinge of doubt. As all Gentile cities of the day, Thessalonica was thoroughly pagan, and its inhabitants practiced many immoral acts as part of their religious worship. Those who came to Christ, however, **turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God**. Turned is *epistrephō*, which is comprised of *epi* (“to”) and *strephō* (“to turn”) and so “to turn upon, or toward.” It appears often as physically “turning around” (e.g., Matt. 9:22; Mk. 5:30; Lk. 17:4; Acts 9:40; Rev. 1:12). Like our text, Acts 14:15 speaks of turning from idolatry to worship the living God, and 26:18 speaks similarly of those who turn from darkness to light. All this underscores further the idea of turning to God in repentance (Acts 3:19; 9:35; 26:20; 2 Cor. 3:16). Such an “about-face,” a turning in the opposite direction, is the clear meaning of true salvation and an evidence of its authenticity. “Another proof of the conquest of a soul for Christ will be found in a real

change of life,” Charles Spurgeon wrote. “If the man does not live differently from what he did before, both at home and abroad, his repentance needs to be repented of, and his conversion is a fiction.”

Tenth and finally, there was anticipation because of their waiting for Jesus’ return: **And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come** (v. 10). Christ’s return is a major theme in both of Paul’s letters to these believers. Therefore, the capstone of these Christian evidences is waiting for that glorious event. **Wait is *anamenō***, “waiting with patience and confident expectancy.” Unlike some of the Thessalonians who used Jesus’ return as an excuse to quit working (cf. 2 Thes. 3:10) and become busybodies, true anticipation of that event will keep us busily serving right up to that moment. We rejoice with Puritan Thomas Adams: “[He] that rose from the clods, we expect from the clouds.”

Let us, therefore, be as the Thessalonians, for “they were elect, exemplary, enthusiastic, and expectant” (Warren Wiersbe).

Scriptures for Study: What do the following verses declare about Jesus’ return: Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 2 Peter 3:12, 14?

We hope you will visit our website www.TheScriptureAlone.com, where you will find not only our podcast of these devotional studies but also other resources for Christian growth, including messages in MP3 media files. You are also invited to worship with us at Grace Bible Church (on the corner of 3rd and Garfield) at 10:30 A.M. each Lord’s Day, where the ministry is: “continu[ing] steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42).

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Water court trial for Wolf Creek project starts Jan. 4

By **HEATHER SACKETT**
Aspen Journalism

RBC I As its trial date in water court approaches, hundreds of pages of depositions obtained by Aspen Journalism reveal state engineers' sticking points regarding a proposed reservoir project they oppose in northwest Colorado.

Over a few days in November, state attorneys subpoenaed and interviewed several expert witnesses and the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District manager in the White River storage-project case, also known as the Wolf Creek project. Their questions centered on the town of Rangely's water needs and on whether water is needed for irrigation.

The documents, obtained through a Colorado Open Records Act request, also underscore the extent to which fear of a compact call is shaping this proposed dam and reservoir project between Meeker and Rangely.

The Rangely-based Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District is applying for a conditional water-storage right to build a 66,720-acre-foot, off-channel reservoir using water from the White River to be stored in the Wolf Creek drainage, behind a dam 110 feet tall and 3,800 feet long. It would involve pumping water uphill from the river into the reservoir.

There also is an option for a 72,720-acre-foot on-channel reservoir, although this scale of project is now rare in Colorado. Rio Blanco has said they prefer the off-channel option.

For more than five years, top state water engineers have repeatedly said the project is speculative because Rio Blanco has not proven a need for water

above its current supply.

Despite Rio Blanco reducing its claim for water by more than 23,000 acre-feet from its initial proposal of 90,000 acre-feet, state engineers still say the water-right application should be denied in its entirety. After failing to reach a settlement, the case is scheduled for a 10-day trial in January. Division 6 Engineer Erin Light and top state engineers Kevin Rein and Tracy Kosloff are the sole opposers in this case.

Rio Blanco already operates Kenney Reservoir, just east of Rangely on the White River. But it is silting in at an average of 300 acre-feet per year and is nearing the end of its useful life, according to court documents.

Irrigation needs? A main point of contention between Rio Blanco and state engineers is whether there will be an increased need for irrigation water in the future. Rio Blanco claims it needs 7,000 acre-feet per year for irrigation.

During the depositions, state attorneys questioned Rio Blanco manager Alden Vanden Brink about the need for irrigation water. He claimed there is a local boom in agriculture and that there is high-value farmland that is not being irrigated simply because of a lack of water. Vanden Brink said happiness for residents on the lower White River will increase with access to irrigation water from the proposed reservoir, adding that if irrigation water is made available, demand for it will increase.

"It will make water available in the lower White River so that people can increase their quality of life and have a garden, you can have a few pigs," Vanden Brink's deposition reads. "It's just going to be improvement all

the way around."

But details were sketchy on what specific lands would be irrigated and the district's plan to get water from the reservoir to irrigators. State engineers, in a subsequent trial brief, say that just because there are lands that might benefit from irrigation doesn't mean there will be future increased demand. If you build it, they won't necessarily come.

"Instead, the premise that there will be a demand for water if the water right is granted is exactly the sort of 'self-fulfilling prophecy of growth' prohibited under Colorado's anti-speculation doctrine," the state's trial brief reads.

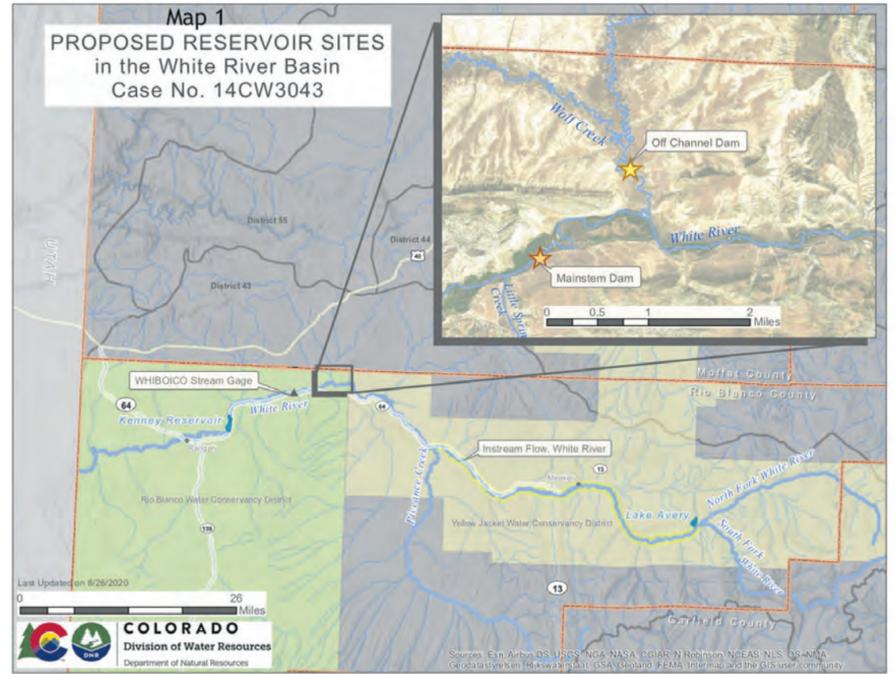
Engineers also say Rio Blanco has not identified how the reservoir, situated low in the White River basin, would serve the majority of irrigated acres located upstream.

"For instance, Rio Blanco has not identified any pipeline construction or other water project works that could run water up to these other locations," the state trial brief reads.

Rangely's water needs Rio Blanco and the state also disagree about the amount of water needed for Rangely, a high-desert town of about 2,300 people near the Utah border. Rangely takes its municipal water from the White River.

In their depositions, Vanden Brink and Gary Thompson, an expert witness and engineer with W.W. Wheeler and Associates, refer to "cow water" as the source of Rangely's water issues.

According to Vanden Brink, who also is the town's former utilities supervisor, when flows in the White River drop to around 100 cubic feet per second, water quality becomes impaired. That



can include increased algae growth, decreased dissolved oxygen, increased alkalinity and increased mineral contaminants, which require more treatment, he said.

"If you want to look at that water and how you can take that water and make it potable, forgive me, but it looks worse than cow water," Vanden Brink said in his deposition. "I know if I was a cow, I wouldn't want to drink it. It's pretty degraded; it's pretty muddy, it's bubbly, it's gross. And there's a reason Rangely's got the extensive treatment that it does."

In an April letter to Rio Blanco, Town Manager Lisa Piering and Utilities Director Don Reed said Rangely would commit to contract for at least 2,000 acre-feet of storage for municipal use after the reservoir is built. According to expert reports, Rangely's current demands are 784 acre-feet per year.

Project proponents say that increased flows from reservoir releases will dilute contaminants and improve water quality at the town's intake.

But this argument doesn't work for state engineers, who say that the water Rio Blanco says Rangely needs is not based on projected population growth and that Rio Blanco has not analyzed whether the town's existing water supplies would be sufficient to meet future demands.

"Rio Blanco at trial may attempt to offer evidence regarding needs based on water quality, but Rio Blanco has not disclosed any evidence quantifying the amount of water Rangely would need for that purpose," the trial brief reads.

Colorado River Compact influence

Depositions and water court documents reveal how water managers' and experts' fear — and expectation — of a compact call could influence the project proposal.

According to the 1922 Colorado River Compact, the upper-basin states (Colorado,

Utah, New Mexico and Wyoming) must deliver 7.5 million acre-feet a year to Lake Powell for use by the lower-basin states (Arizona, California and Nevada). If the upper basin doesn't make this delivery, the lower basin can "call" for its water, triggering involuntary cutbacks in water use for the upper basin.

Water managers and policymakers admit that no one knows how it would play out just yet, but risk of this hypothetical scenario becoming reality is increasing as drought and rising temperatures — both fueled by climate change — decrease flows into Lake Powell.

Water managers are especially worried that those with junior water rights, meaning those later than 1922, will be the first to be curtailed. Senior water rights that existed prior to the compact are generally thought to be exempt from compact curtailment.

Many water users in the White River basin, including the towns of Rangely and Meeker, have water rights that are junior to the compact, meaning the users could bear the brunt of involuntary cutbacks in the event of a compact call.

Rio Blanco is proposing that 11,887 acre-feet per year be stored as "augmentation," or insurance, in case of a compact call. Releasing this replacement water stored in the proposed reservoir to meet these compact obligations would allow other water uses in the district to continue and avoid the mandatory cutbacks in the event of a compact call.

According to Rio Blanco's trial brief, "there is significant risk of a compact curtailment in the next 25 years that could negatively impact 45% of the water used in the district."

In his deposition in response to questions from Rio Blanco attorney Alan E. Curtis, Thompson said drought scenarios will get worse in the future, the White River will be more strictly administered and a com-

This map shows the potential locations of the proposed White River storage project, also known as the Wolf Creek project, on the White River between Rangely and Meeker. State engineers oppose the project, saying the applicants have not proven a need for the water.

COLORADO DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES PHOTO

compact call is likely to occur.

"Things are — in my opinion — drought conditions are increasingly pervasive," he said.

But state engineers say that augmentation use in the event of a compact call is not a beneficial use under Colorado water law and is inherently speculative. Compact compliance and curtailment are issues to be sorted out by the Upper Colorado River Commission and the state engineer, not individual water users or conservancy districts, they say. The state of Colorado is currently exploring a concept called demand management, which could pay water users to use less water in an effort to boost levels in Lake Powell.

According to their trial brief, state engineers say that while the desire to plan for compact administration is understandable, "the significant uncertainties involved in future compliance under the Colorado River Compact mean that Rio Blanco cannot show a specific plan to control a specific quantity of water for augmentation in the event of compact curtailment."

The trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 4 in Routt County District Court in Steamboat Springs. Among the witnesses that Rio Blanco plans to call are Colorado River Water Conservancy District Manager Andy Mueller, Colorado Water Conservancy Board Chief Operating Officer Anna Mauss and Rio Blanco County Commissioner Gary Moyer.

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One option for the White River storage project would be an off-channel dam and reservoir at this location between Meeker and Rangely. The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District and Colorado's top water engineers will hash out their arguments for and against the reservoir project in water court next month.

HEATHER SACKETT/ASPEN JOURNALISM PHOTO



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BLM to gather and remove excess wild horses from Sand Wash Basin and Piceance-East Douglas herd management areas

PRESS RELEASE
Special to the Herald Times

RBC I The Little Snake Field Office plans to gather and remove approximately 50 excess wild horses from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) public lands and private lands within and adjacent to the Sand Wash Basin Herd Management Area (HMA) in Moffat County in response to written requests from private landowners.

According to BLM press release in October, the White River Field Office plans to remove approximately 75 excess wild horses impacting private property within the Piceance-East Douglas HMA following requests from a private landowner. That process is expected to begin next week.

Under the Wild Horse and Burro Act, the BLM is required to remove wild horses from pri-

ivate lands when requested in writing. Approximately 20 wild horses will be gathered and removed from private lands in Moffat County near the Sand Wash Basin HMA and Adobe Town HMA located to the north in Wyoming.

At the same time, the BLM plans to remove approximately 30 excess wild horses from BLM public lands along eight miles of the Sand Wash Basin HMA's southern boundary, within two miles of Colorado Highway 318. The purpose of this gather is to reduce the risk of wild horse/vehicle collisions, for the safety of the wild horses and members of the public travelling on the highway.

"We are committed to managing healthy wild horses on healthy rangelands, while being a good neighbor," said Little Snake Field Manager Bruce Sillitoe. "Prolonged drought conditions

have increased wild horse movement in search of water and vegetation resources, impacting both public and private lands."

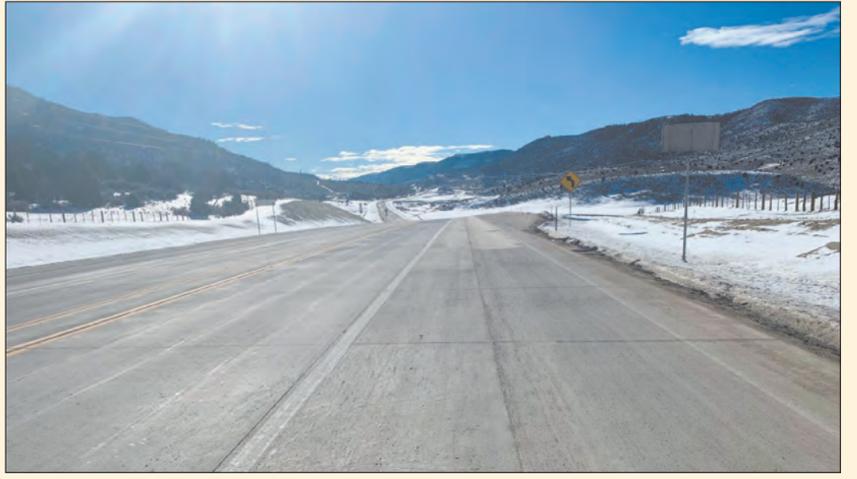
All of the excess wild horses will be gathered using approved capture techniques, primarily bait trapping.

The current population of the Sand Wash Basin herd is estimated to be 828 head of wild horses, but the Appropriate Management Level is between 163 and 362 wild horses.

The current population of the Piceance-East Douglas HMA is estimated at 838 wild horses within the management area and 438 wild horses outside the HMA, which is "approximately six times more than the rangelands are expected to support," according to the October press release.

For more information, contact Maribeth Pecotte, 970-724-3027.

COMPLETE ...



COURTESY PHOTO

The Colorado Department of Transportation's project to reconstruct and improve safety on Colorado Highway 13 is complete. Scott Contracting, Inc. reconstructed approximately five miles of roadway, located 16 miles north of Rifle. CDOT and Scott Contracting would like to thank the Garfield and Rio Blanco county communities for their patience during this project. Work began in June 2019, with a seasonal shutdown during the 2019-2020 winter months, and resumed in spring 2020.

Concrete was the primary material for reconstruction on the project, which extended north and south of Rio Blanco County Road 5. Crews also widened the shoulders and travel lanes between mile points 16.06 and 20.77. Other safety improvements included: Drainage upgrades, including three under-highway corrugated steel drain pipes that were replaced with concrete box culverts, embankment safety improvements, sight distance improvements, wildlife fencing, new signing and striping

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72					73			74				

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THEME: INTERNATIONAL MENU

ACROSS

- Arithmetic operation
- Romantic getaway destination
- "Hold on!"
- Foolish
- Unit of electrical resistance
- Ann Patchett's novel "Bel _____"
- Parallel grooves
- New Zealand's bygone bird
- Daisy-like bloom
- *En _____, cooked and served in individual pot
- *Raw fish
- Like Second Testament
- Archipelago unit
- Fool's Day mo.
- "Days" in Havana
- Just one of TV's "American _____"
- Russian mountain range
- Urban haze
- Spiral-horned African antelope
- Aggressive remark
- 10 percent to charity, e.g.
- Milk choice
- Burnt _____
- "Nobody _____ It Better"

DOWN

- Catchall abbr.
- Gung-ho about
- DEA agent
- Jimmy Hoffa's organization
- Position while landing
- A few
- *Vietnamese soup
- Accumulate
- Done in loads
- Opposing prefix
- Unit on a list
- Torus, pl.
- Milk protein
- *Cocktail garnish
- London art museum
- Evening party
- Boll weevil, e.g.
- Dianne Feinstein, abbr.
- Windmill blade
- "... _____ he drove out of sight"
- In the thick of
- Benign lump
- New Zealand parrots
- Like NCAA's eight
- *Japanese noodle soup
- Suggestive look
- *Clarified butter
- Ruhr's industrial center
- "The Dean Martin Show" and "The Carol Burnett Show"
- Lobe locale
- Ogres of the Norse
- Bigwig in the Orient
- Approval of the audience
- Tow rope alternative
- River in Bohemia
- Comedian Rudolph
- "Dead Poets Society" school, e.g.
- Cowboy's prods
- Apple leftover
- Jekyll's alter ego
- Bucolic poem
- *_____ mode

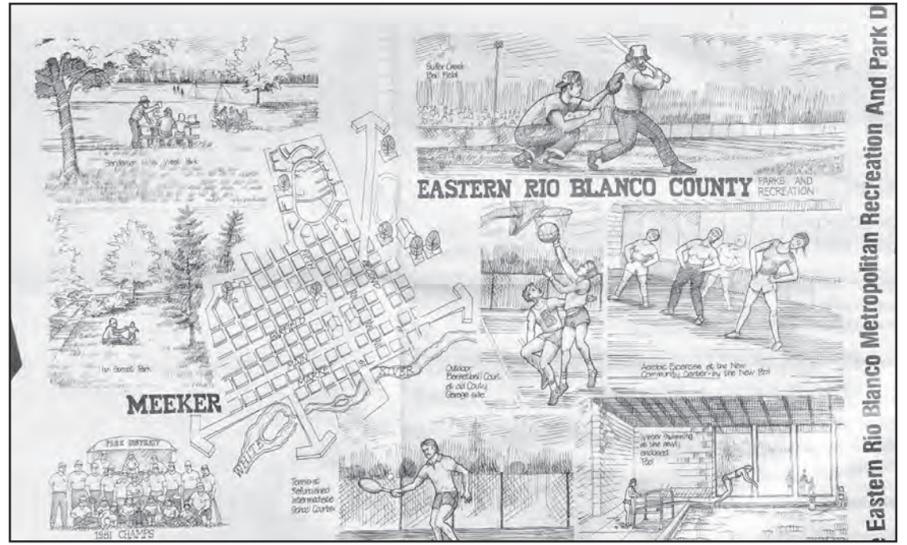
© StatePoint Media
Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

© StatePoint Media

DRIVE-BY BIRTHDAY ...



ROXIE FROMANG PHOTO
Dozens of friends and family with decorated vehicles participated in a drive-by 50th birthday celebration for Annette Webber on Dec. 20 at the Western Rio Blanco Rec and Park District. Webber's daughter McKenzie and husband Tim devised a faux scenario to bring Webber out of the house on a snowy Sunday evening. Happy belated birthday, Annette!



HERALD TIMES FILE PHOTO
Drawings of future rec district activities were part of an ad campaign urging voters to approve the creation of the special district in 1981. The measure passed with 60% approval.

ERBM 40th anniversary, Circle Park reopening

PRESS RELEASE
Special to the Herald Times

MEEKER As we all move forward toward embracing a new year in 2021, we hope you will celebrate with us at ERBM Recreation and Park District as we jump into our 40th year of service to the residents and visitors of eastern Rio Blanco County! Founded in 1981, Eastern Rio Blanco Metropolitan (ERBM) Recreation and Park District was created to provide year-round recreational, cultural, and outdoor experiences for those who reside and visit the Meeker area. Throughout the years, the district has grown from a one-room office to a robust park and recreation system with comprehensive amenities, programs and activities that improve our local quality of life.

Throughout 2021, ERBM team members will be celebrating the 40th year with activities, prize drawings, and more at the Meeker Recreation Center (MRC) and in the Meeker community at special events. The year kicks off with MRC's annual 50% blitz membership sale, Jan. 2-15 (40th person to

sign up will receive a free annual membership!). See ad on PAGE 2A for details. Each season will bring new 40th anniversary activities, such as special 40th themed events, prizes to the 40th visitor at MRC during specific days, staff and patron videos, giveaways, and much more. Details will be listed in each of the four Line-Ups in 2021 as they are published, which can be found online at www.ERBMrec.com or by visiting MRC.

ERBM's Board of Directors and team members wish to thank the Meeker community, past board members, and other partners they have worked with over years for making the last 40 years exceptional. Here's to many more years serving all who seek out recreational activities in the eastern portion of Rio Blanco County!

CIRCLE PARK REOPENING

Also coming in 2021 is the reopening of Circle Park and new fishing pond addition. After many years of planning and partnership building the one-acre youth fishing pond at Circle Park has been successfully constructed. This

amenity will greatly enhance local public fishing access, youth fishing events and includes a great pedestrian/bike connection to the Meeker Cemetery overlook trail. Final construction close out will take place in early 2021 with pavilion construction and fishing pier installation. Mark your calendars for the official Grand Opening / Kid's Fishing Derby event scheduled for June 5, 2021, in partnership with CPW.

Circle Park will be formally reopened for public access this winter. Please be aware of the inherent risks associated with both winter and summer water activities at this site. The pond is not constructed or maintained to accommodate any activity in the water, or on the winter ice formation. Any public use on the pond is strongly discouraged and will be at your own risk. Specific signage designating rules and regulations are posted throughout the park.

Happy New Year and thanks for your ongoing support of ERBM and the many programs and services we all enjoy together in this great community!

Happy New Year!

2021

White River Energy Co wishes you a healthy & prosperous New Year.



White River Energy Co's office will be closed
Thursday, December 31, 2020.

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HT RIO BLANCO HERALD TIMES
970.878.4017 ♦ HT1885.COM

NEW MANAGEMENT ...



DARYL LEFEVRE PHOTO
Daryl LeFevre submitted this photo of the "new management" arriving just before Christmas at the historic K-T Ranch on County Road 8.



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RIO BLANCO HERALD TIMES | Thursday, December 31, 2020

Ice fishing guidelines for Colorado anglers



STOCK PHOTO

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

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, embank-

ments 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 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 cushion 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/icefishingsafety>



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Meeker
878-5045

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Henry & Kris Arcolesse
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878-4141

NORTHWEST AUTO SALES & SERVICE
485 Market St., Meeker
878-5026

WATT'S RANCH MARKET
271 E. Market, Meeker
878-5868

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675-8444



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Sports stories are posted in the HT as space allows in the following order: varsity stories, junior varsity stories, junior high stories, miscellaneous stories. Contact us at editor@ht1885.com with questions.

THE STRIP #35

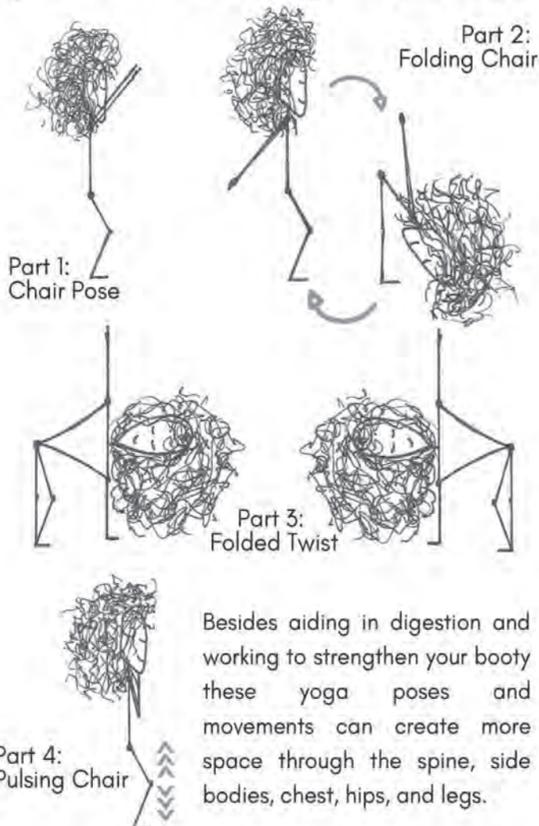
THE STRIP For Digestion & Booty Parts 1-4
from SLEEPY CAT YOGI SHOP

First Steps To Every Pose

SLEEPYCATYOGISHOP.COM

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

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



Besides aiding in digestion and working to strengthen your booty these yoga poses and movements can create more space through the spine, side bodies, chest, hips, and legs.

YURT OPEN ...



COURTESY PHOTO

Kick off the new year than with a trip to the yurt on the Marvine Trail. According to the White River Nordic Council, the roads are plowed and the trail is groomed, be careful around the cattle guards, and be COVID smart while at the yurt.

RBC WARRANTY DEEDS SEPT. - DEC. 2020

SEPTEMBER

Seller: Jeffrey Kummer
Buyer: Michael and Stella McGruder
Description: CROSS L ESTATES
SUBDIVISION 282581 21 338 LOVE LN
Transaction Price: \$60,000.00

Seller: Richard T Mead Trust
Buyer: Adam and Edith Barker
Description: 1S 091W 22 4267 COUNTY
RD 10
Transaction Price: \$1,100,000.00

Seller: Jennie Kay Wardell Wild Heart
Revocable Living Trust, Robert and Gloria
Harris Living Trust, Horrocks, Shana Lee
Buyer: High Voltage Holdings LLC
Description: 4 1N 104W 25 120374
COUNTY RD 2
Transaction Price: \$220,000.00

Seller: Dustin and Jessica Webster
Buyer: Jason and Michelle Spieth
Description: 2N 094W 29 6310 COUNTY
RD 7
Transaction Price: \$255,000.00

Seller: M and A Boleng Family Trust
Buyer: Dustin Webster
Description: BOLENG/WALZ
SUBDIVISION (MINOR) 261114 2 923 S
WHITE AVE
Transaction Price: \$307,000.00

Seller: Katherine Bell
Buyer: Brention Kunkle
Description: LA MESA P. U. D. REPLAT
LT: 49&50 OF REPLAT 1 288873 50A
1380 LA MESA CIR
Transaction Price: \$245,000.00

Seller: Travis Kruckenberg
Buyer: Jacob and Sonja Ames
Description: DOWN RIVER MINOR
SUBDIVISION 308754 2, 3 COUNTY
RD 129
Transaction Price: \$255,000.00

Seller: Christina and Edward Miller
Buyer: Ronald and Alisa Granger
Description: STEWART
SUBDIVISION(MINOR) 255411 2, 3 439
SCHOOL ST GENERAL
Transaction Price: \$287,000.00

SEPT 18 2020
Seller: Ryan and Robyn Wilson
Buyer: Douglas Ebat
Description: STANOLIND ADDITION
98103 4 A 213 S STANOLIND AVE
Transaction Price: \$149,485.00

Seller: Michael Gillard
Buyer: Kaitlyn Tredeaux
Description: RIDGES SUBDIVISION
189335 10 1 120 PINYON CIR
Transaction Price: \$270,000.00

Seller: Daniel and Deserai Lapp
Buyer: Michael and Wendi Gillard
Description: HAZLEWOOD ACRES
MINOR SUBDIVISION 279221 1 2534 E
MAIN ST
Transaction Price: \$420,000.00

Seller: Daniel and Deserai Lapp
Buyer: Michael and Wendi Gillard
Description: HAZLEWOOD ACRES
MINOR SUBDIVISION 279221 1 WATER
RIGHTS

Seller: Jeffrey and Shelly Polley
Buyer: Donald and Rhonda Davidson
Description: 6 A 226 CREST ST MESA
SUBDIVISION
Transaction Price: \$227,600.00

NOVEMBER
Seller: Tyson and Danielle Hacking
Buyer: National Residential Nominee
Services INC
Description: LA MESA SUBDIVISION
208675 10 1 1495 LA MESA CIR
Transaction Price: \$217,000.00

Seller: Henry Widmer
Buyer: RND Properties LLC
Description: CALVAT SUBDIVISION
67909 31, 32, 33 729 E MAIN ST
Transaction Price: \$18,500.00

Seller: Glen Pennycuff
Buyer: Colin and Antonia Phillippi
Description: LITTLE BEAVER ESTATES
#2 265431 14 2140 MEATH DR
Transaction Price: \$92,750.00

Seller: Tyrone Bartlett
Buyer: Cylyne Thompson
Description: RIDGE ESTATES 296824
30 1400 FLAG CREEK DR
Transaction Price: \$480,000.00

Seller: Jeris Danielson
Buyer: Jeris A Danielson Trust
Description: 2N 088W 01 53098
COUNTY RD 8 GENERAL WARRANTY
DEED
Transaction Price: \$10.00

DECEMBER

Seller: Julie Valentine
Buyer: Guarantee Trust Life Insurance
CO
Description: ELK CREEK RANCH PUD
287707 4
Transaction Price: \$1,100,000.00

Seller: Edward Matonich
Buyer: Donald Mersch, Deborah Mersch
Delker, Dawn Mersch Jenkins
Description: 1N 093W 19 987 COUNTY
RD 8
Transaction Price: \$800,000.00

Seller: Curtis and Annette Cooper
Buyer: Felix and Elizabeth Monteagudo
Description: SAGE HILLS SUBDIVISION
196641 30 3 1344 SAGE RIDGE RD
Transaction Price: \$275,000.00

Seller: Timothy Cleary
Buyer: Horseshoe Ranch LLC
Description: 6 1N 092W 27 1138
COUNTY RD 63
Transaction Price: \$175,000.00



SUNDRY PHOTOGRAPHY/ADOBE STOCK PHOTO

CDOT has partnered with Greyhound to begin providing service between Craig and Denver on Jan. 1, 2021. The route will transition to Bustang Outrider sometime early in 2021. Temporary blue and white Bustang Outrider signs will identify bus stop locations in each city or town along Hwy. 40.

New bus service will link Craig to Denver, nine other NW communities

PRESS RELEASE
Special to the Herald Times

CRAIG | The Colorado Department of Transportation, in partnership with Greyhound, will begin providing service between Craig and Denver on Jan. 1, 2021.

In addition to Craig, regularly scheduled stops include Hayden, Steamboat Springs, Kremmling, Hot Sulphur Springs, Granby, Tabernash, Fraser, Winter Park, Idaho Springs, the Denver Federal Center and Denver's Union Station. Temporary blue and white Bustang Outrider signs will identify the bus stop location in each city or town along Highway 40.

The route will operate daily,

including weekends and holidays. Fares are priced at 17 cents per mile:

- Craig-Union Station (\$34)
- Steamboat Springs-Union Station (\$27)
- Granby-Union Station (\$13)

Tickets are half price for those 65 years and older, 11 years or younger or disabled. Additional information on purchasing tickets is available at: www.ridebustang.com.

"The route will be transitioning to Bustang Outrider sometime early in 2021," said CDOT's Division of Transit and Rail Director David Krutsinger. "And because we wanted to get this line up and running and serving northwestern Colorado as soon as possible, we decid-

ed it's best to partner with Greyhound Lines in the interim while we continue making our final preparations to implement our latest Outrider route."

In response to COVID-19 and in accordance with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) regulations, Outrider operators will take increased precautions to keep drivers and passengers safe. Precautions include, but are not limited to: daily enhanced cleaning and sanitizing on all buses, required face masks for drivers and passengers, supplied face masks (for personal use), latex gloves and personal hand sanitizers on all buses, and blocked seats onboard to ensure proper social distancing.

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NEW YEAR COLD SNAP ...



Rio Blanco County is welcoming the new year with temperatures well below freezing. The cold snap is expected to continue until at least Sunday, when a pre-snow-storm warm-up is in the forecast.

LUCAS TURNER PHOTOS

New COVID variant detected in state, local case counts down

By JESSICA SEAMAN
The Denver Post

DENVER Colorado public health officials on Tuesday confirmed the presence of the new variant of COVID-19 first discovered in the United Kingdom, saying the state is the first to identify the strain in the United States.

The variant is believed to be as much as 70% more contagious, but not have more severe symptoms, than previous strains of the novel coronavirus. It is also thought the COVID-19 vaccines the state began distributing earlier this month will protect against the variant, according to a news release from Colorado Gov. Jared Polis' office.

Colorado's state lab confirmed the presence of the strain in an Elbert County man in his 20s. The person is isolating and will remain so until public health officials clear him. He has no history of traveling, according to the news release.

"The health and safety of Coloradans is our top priority and we will closely monitor this case, as well as all COVID-19 indicators, very closely," Polis

said in a statement. "We are working to prevent spread and contain the virus at all levels."

New variants of the coronavirus have appeared in the U.S. since the start of the pandemic. The concern with the one discovered Tuesday is that because it appears to be transmitted at a higher rate, it could lead to more cases and hospitalizations, said Jasmine Reed, a spokeswoman for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in an email.

"In addition to the reported cases in Colorado, we expect that there will be additional cases that are likely to be detected in the coming days," she said.

Workers in Colorado's lab identified the new variant in a test sample that was positive for the disease but in which they did not detect the signal for the "S gene." The absence of the signal is a signature of the new strain and is what led scientists to flag the test sample for additional investigation.

They then sequenced the viral genome in the sample and discovered eight mutations that are known to be part of the spike protein gene in the new strain,

according to the news release.

The new strain, called B.1.1.7, has spread throughout the U.K. since September but it's unclear whether it originated there. It was also discovered in Canada, Italy, India and the United Arab Emirates.

The new variant has pushed the U.K. into tighter restrictions and multiple countries, including Canada and France, have stopped travel from there. The U.S. also has announced travel restrictions, including requiring airline passengers from Britain to test negative for COVID-19 before their flight.

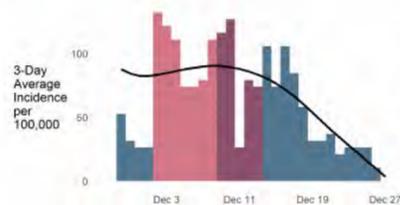
Colorado public health officials said they are investigating the case and are working to identify other potential cases through contact tracing.

"We are currently using all the tools available to protect public health and mitigate the spread of this variant," said Jill Hunsaker Ryan, executive director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, in a statement.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

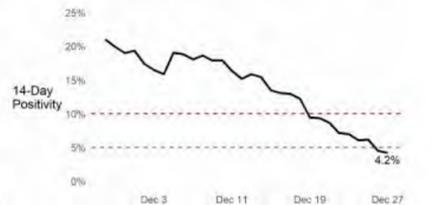
INCIDENCE

14 days of the last 14 (Dec. 14 through Dec. 27) are in a sustained decline. (Pass)



PERCENT POSITIVITY

Rio Blanco county's two-week positivity from Dec. 14 through Dec. 27 is 4.2%. (Pass)



RIO BLANCO COUNTY PHOTO

The November/December spike in positive COVID-19 cases has waned, with only one new positive case reported on Monday, Dec. 28 in Meeker. The potential for another spike in cases following holiday celebrations remains. Residents are still urged to wear masks, wash their hands, and practice social distancing. According to data from RBC Public Health, 31% of those who have tested positive do not know where they contracted the virus.

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Happy New Year!

What are you excited about for 2021?

**Thank you for your continued support of
community journalism.**



DAYS GONE BY

The Meeker Herald
125 years ago

■ Judge Platt Rogers is of the opinion that a railroad into Northwestern Colorado is the most important line that Denver men could project for the coming year.

■ For Sale: A four-room dwelling house, with good cellar; lot 75x150; \$600 buys it — \$100 down, balance on easy terms. See or write H.A. Wildhack.

The Meeker Herald
100 years ago

■ The Herald has given over considerable space in this issue to what we believe to be the coming industry in Rio Blanco County — oil shale production.

■ It is said that Doc Farthing has dug up all his backyard and part of his cellar since he moved there, looking for buried treasure; a saloon keeper used to live there.

■ Prohibitionists must find it somewhat disconcerting to discover their prophecies with

reference to crime to be vain and fallacious. Prohibition not only has not assisted in decreasing crime, but since the advent of that alleged blessed system the country has experienced an unprecedented increase in all forms of criminal activity.

The Meeker Herald
50 years ago

■ Someone has finally come up with an idea that Russia is good for something. Without them how would we know whether we are ahead or behind?

■ Named this week to the Denver Post AllState Football team was Ed Harp, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bud Harp of Meeker.

The Meeker Herald
25 years ago

■ The town's new wood chipper will be at 111 Third Street for at least the next week or two where Christmas trees will be reduced to chips. Please take your trees to this chipping site.

■ Colorado Hospital Association (CHA) recently released information related to hospital charges around the state. The information indicated Pioneers Hospital's charges are some of the lowest in the state and the lowest in comparison with other hospitals on the western slope.

Rangely Times
50 years ago

■ Beware of the half truth — you may have gotten hold of the wrong half.

■ PROMISE YOURSELF

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on

to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have not time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Happy New Year!

Rangely Times
25 years ago

■ 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.

One Wednesday, Dec. 20, The Rangely Times sold to Michael Prewitt, an associate dean for the University of Missouri in Columbia and a relative to the previous owner, Bernard Yaeger. Rather than moving here and running the operation himself, Prewitt appointed local resident Peggy Rector as business manager, since she already had some experience overseeing the Times.

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• MEETING NOTICES •

• MISC NOTICES •

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~ James Madison

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

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, January 26, 2021 the Rio Blanco County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Rio Blanco County Historic Courthouse, 555 Main Street, 3rd Floor Commissioner Meeting Room, Meeker, Colorado to consider the following:

Sheep Creek Minor Subdivision PSUB-0006-20. The applicant is requesting to subdivide the property into two lots. The property is located at 38527 County Road 33, Meeker Colorado, Lying within Tract 104 of the 1908 GLO Resurvey, aka: in Sections 29 & 32, T1N, R94W.
Address – 38527 Highway 13, Meeker Colorado. Copies of the documents may be obtained from the Rio Blanco County Planning Department at 555 Main Street in Meeker, Colorado, or you may call (970) 878-9510 for more information between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.
Published: December 17, 24, 31, 2020, January 7, 14 and 21, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

record.
New Business:
Review of SWCA's Fluvial Assessment and Design Considerations for White River and Circle Park.
Mayor's Remarks
Town Manager's Report
Other Board Business
Adjournment
A workshop will be held following the meeting to discuss code revisions.
Published: December 31, 2020
Rio Blanco Herald Times

PUBLIC NOTICE
RIO BLANCO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING

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

Sheep Creek Minor Subdivision PSUB-0006-20. The applicant is requesting to subdivide the property into two lots. The property is located at 38527 County Road 33, Meeker Colorado, Lying within Tract 104 of the 1908 GLO Resurvey, aka: in Sections 29 & 32, T1N, R94W.
Address – 38527 Highway 13, Meeker Colorado. Copies of the documents may be obtained from the Rio Blanco County Planning Department at 555 Main Street in Meeker, Colorado, or you may call (970) 878-9510 for more information between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.
Published: December 17, 24, 31 and 2020, January 7, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

MEEKER SANITATION DISTRICT
JANUARY 6, 2021
REGULAR BOARD MEETING at 7:00 PM

The Regular Board Meeting of the Meeker Sanitation District will be held at the Meeker Sanitation District Office, 265 8th Street, Meeker, Colorado

1. Call to order
2. Additions or Changes to the Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes

4. Public Comments
5. New Business
- A. SDA Dues
- B. Meeker Chamber of Commerce
- C. Posting of Public Notice
- D. Equal Pay Act
6. Old Business
- A. Gianinetti Plat
- B. Plant Manager Report
- C. Office Manager Report
7. Attorney
8. Board
9. Adjourn

This agenda is subject to change without further notice.
Agenda is posted at the office of the Meeker Sanitation District.
265 8th Street.
Published: December 31, 2020
Rio Blanco Herald Times

Meeker Cemetery District
Regular Board Meeting
265 County Road 4, Meeker, CO Thursday, January 7, 2021 8:30am

1. Call to order
2. Approve agenda
3. Approve 12/10/20 minutes
4. Approve bills and deeds
5. Public input
6. Old business
 - a. Circle Park Pond update and ERBM easement extension
7. New business
 - a. Review job descriptions
 - b. Designate official posting place for 24-hour notice of district meetings
 - c. Recognize Board Member Jan Oldland 14-year term
8. Board discussion
9. Adjourn

Published: December 31, 2020
Rio Blanco Herald Times

Public Notice:
Plaintiffs:
Lance A. Coulter and Danette K. Coulter
Defendants:
JOHN W. HUGUS, H.J. HAY, L.B. WALBRIDGE, H.H. JOY, VI. HOUSE, GRACE S. BLAIR, ANNIE WILDHACK, H.A. WILDHACK, AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM UNDER OR THROUGH THE NAMED DEFENDANTS OR WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION
District Court, Rio Blanco County, Colorado
Case No. 20CV30017

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint filed with the Court in this action, by filing with the Clerk of this Court a written answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons by publication shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the Clerk of the Court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.

This is an action to quiet title to plaintiff for the real property situate in Rio Blanco County, Colorado and described as LOT B; BLOCK 41; TOWN OF MEEKER, COUNTY OF RIO BLANCO, COLORADO.
Dated: December 17, 2020
Melody D. Massih, Reg. #24683
P.O. Box 916
Glenwood Springs, CO 81602
Tel: 970-928-9100
Fax: 970-928-9600
Published: December 24, 31, 2020, January 7, 14 and 21, 2021
Rio Blanco Herald Times

Senior Housing Apartments
White River Village Apartments

Apartment available for rent!

Rent is determined by income for those who qualify.

The Following criteria must be met:
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A person who is at least 62 years old;
An individual with a disability;
or an individual with a handicap.

For more information contact Janet Miller at 970-675-8476.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS & PROPOSALS (RFQP)
Meeker School District RE-1
FIRE, LOCKDOWN, AND INTRUSION ALARM MONITORING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES

Meeker School District RE-1 is soliciting qualified candidates interested in providing Fire, lockdown, and intrusion alarm services for the Meeker School District Facilities. The RFQP is available as of December 21, 2020. Interested applicants may obtain the RFQP by contacting the owner's representative, NV5, via e-mail at: john.usery@NV5.com
Optional Site Walk is January 6, 2020 at 11:00 am
Deadline for responses is January 18, 2020 at 2:00 pm
Published Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, 2020 and January 7, 2021 in the Rio Blanco Herald Times

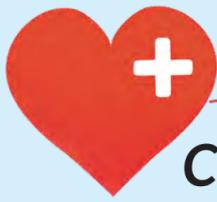
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These are the five freedoms of the First Amendment. #knowyourrights

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Delivery of meals for senior meals
Meeker and Rangely
11:00 - 1:30 M, T, W, F
Contact White River Roundup,
878-9652

Rio Blanco Care Coordinator
The Health Partnership is known and respected throughout Northwest Colorado for compassionately connecting people to health and well-being resources, through collaboration with community partners. We are looking for individuals that share this vision for our communities. If you have the passion to help people live longer, healthier lives visit our website, <https://thehealthpartnership.org/employment/> for details! This is a full-time position with great benefits including health, dental, paid time off, 401k and disability insurance. The Health Partnership is an EOE.

PIONEERS MEDICAL CENTER
With the growth of Pioneers Medical Center & Colorado Advanced Orthopedics Sports Medicine & Spine, we are excited to fill the following positions:

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- Development Coordinator
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- Home Health Care Services Director
- Meals on Wheels Volunteers
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Pharmacy Technician
- Central Sterile Processing Tech
- Registered Nurse - Surgical Unit

To see full list of open positions, see our website or scan the code below.

Complete an application online by scanning the code above or by navigating to www.pioneershospital.org

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS Volunteer Opportunities

The following Boards have positions available. If you are interested in serving on one or more of the following Boards, please complete an [Application for Board or Commission](#) and return to: HR, PO Box 1, Meeker, CO 81641 or hr@rbc.us, 970-878-9570. The Application can be found at the rbc.us website under Elected Offices & Boards. DEADLINE is 01/15/2021.

- Board of Health
- Building Board of Appeals (Min. requirements)
- Citizens Review Panel
- Colorado River District *Deadline 01/07/2021
- Columbine Park Board
- Community Services Block Grant Board (Min. requirements)
- Council on Aging (Min. requirements)
- Fair Board
- Fairgrounds Board
- Historic Preservation Board
- Lodging Tax Board (Min. requirements)
- Meeker Cemetery
- Meeker CO Civic Improvement Corp
- Meeker Library Board
- Planning Commission
- Rangely Cemetery
- Rangely Regional Library District
- Weed Management

MEEKER SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

Employment Opportunities

District

- Food Service Cook
- Substitute Teacher

Barone Middle School

- Co-Head Coach Boys' Basketball

ADA/EOE
Subject to change at any time!
For details and an application, please visit our website at Meeker.k12.co.us or Meeker School District Administration at 555 Garfield St., Meeker, CO
970-878-9040

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Case Aide, part-time
- Emergency and Natural Resource Manager
- Property Assessment Administrator
- Public Health Nurse - PRN
- Relief Radino Driver, Rng

For details and a Rio Blanco County application, please go to www.rbc.us or Rio Blanco County HR at 555 Main St., Meeker, CO. 970-878-9570.
ADA/EOE

MEEKER SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

School Bus

Route/Activity/Substitute Driver

Meeker School District Re-1 is seeking individuals to drive a school bus route and activity trips beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. While it is preferred that applicants hold a current CDL Class B P2S license, the district will train approved applicants in obtaining this license.

For job requirements, details and an application, please visit Meeker.k12.co.us or Meeker School District Administration, 555 Garfield St., Meeker, CO.
Review of applications will begin immediately and close when position is filled.

ADA/EOE
970-878-9040

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Contact this newspaper or call Colorado Press Association Network 303-571-5117

Let's talk about logical fallacies—gaps in logic that invalidate an argument or opinion.

#2 Ad hominem

When someone attacks you personally, instead of presenting a rational response to your argument.

It's not just an insult, because the attack is used as "evidence" in support of a conclusion. Verbally attacking people, however, proves nothing above the truth or falsity of a claim.

Happy fallacy-finding!

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~ Anonymous

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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878-3131

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

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Eden Pregnancy Care Services - pregnancy tests, emergency supplies, guidance by trained volunteers, classes on pregnancy and child care, post-abortion support, referrals.

Meeker: Thursdays, Noon to 5 p.m., 345 Main Street, Meeker. Email: newedenpcs@gmail.com or (970)878-5117
Rangely: Mondays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., 219 Sunset Avenue Rangely. Email: newedenrangely@gmail.com or (970) 675-2300. All services are confidential.

Veterans Service Offices Rio Blanco County: Veterans Service Officer - Joe Dungan, Wednesday, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., County Administration Building, 200 Main Street Suite 300, Meeker. 878-9690 office, 878-3219 home. Fax 878-9581. Rangely: Veterans Service Officer - Hoot Gibson, Tuesday and Thursday, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., County Annex, 17497 State Hwy 64, Rangely. 878-9695 office, 675-2669 home.

AA & Al-Anon Meetings - Rangely Alcoholics Anonymous - Open meetings Tues & Thurs, 7 p.m., 115 Kennedy Dr., St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Rangely.

Al-Anon meets Monday, 8:15 p.m., 207 S. Sunset, 1st Baptist Church, Rangely. Al-Anon info call 970-629-5064 or 970-629-2970.

Women's NA/AA meetings, Monday 1:30 p.m., St. Timothy's.

RIO BLANCO Masonic Lodge #80 meets 2nd and 4th Thursday, 7:00 p.m., at 7th and Park, Meeker.

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5	9	6	8	2	4	7	1	3
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Editorial Deadline: Mondays, 5 p.m.

Display Advertising Deadline: Mondays, 5 p.m.

Classified/Legal Deadline: Tuesdays, 3 p.m.

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RANCHES
NEW! Ranch with lots of irrigation water, meadows, gravel, pond and White River frontage west of Meeker. \$900,000. Call for details!
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All advertising is subject to errors, omissions or changes without notice.

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410 Cleveland St - 2BD/1.75BA/1,732 SF home with nice views, privacy, storage+Lg. garden...\$270,000
NEW 1022 Julie Cir - 3BD/2BA/1,984 SF home w/single car garage, workshop, & Lg.back yard...\$256,000
1947 CR 12 - 3BD/1BA Log cabin with vaulted ceiling and fishing access on the White River...\$250,000
1959 CR 12 - 3BD/1BA Log cabin offering a rustic charm, fishing, BLM+Forest access nearby...\$250,000
NEW 880 Main St - Newly updated 4BD/2BA/2,030 SF home, Lg. lot and guest/rental cabin...\$220,000
1042 Park Ave - Classic 2 story 3BD/1BA/2,340 SF home w/ rustic barn, 3 Lg. lots+fruit trees...\$195,000
763 12th St - ...SALE PENDING
1409 Silver Sage Rd. ...SALE PENDING

HOMES ARE STILL SELLING & WE HAVE BUYERS THAT WANT TO BUY!
It's not too late to sell! Please Call or Text Us.
We are Happy to Help!

FOR SALE IN RANGELY
NEW TBD Hwy 64 - Residential parcel near Rangely/Dinosaur. Easy access to Hwy 40 & 4x4 trails. This property is located in the heart of outdoor recreation w/ access to public lands...\$37,500
1511 La Mesa Cir. ...SALE PENDING
2534 E. Main St. ...SOLD

NEW 39.34 Acres, Hwy 64

Mallari Arnold - Associate Broker
970-420-0585
mallari.alpinewest@gmail.com

Alex Plumb - Owner/Broker
970-420-8076
sold@alexplumb.realtor

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889 Main St., Meeker, Colorado Laurie J. Brooks Owner/Broker
brooksrealtymeeker.com
(970)878-5858 or (970)756-8870 cell

◆ NEW! 50 E. Garfield - 2 1/2 lots. Older home w/ many upgrades. 2 BD, 1 BA, 1 car garage. \$115,000.
◆ 1298 Cleveland St. - 4 BD, 2 BA frame built home, 768 SF garage. Quiet location and fenced backyard. \$320,000. SALE PENDING!
◆ 485 First St. - GREAT location! 3 BDR, 1 1/2 BA. \$252,000. SALE PENDING!
◆ 225 Garfield St. - Sparkling 3 BD, 2 full bath home. SOLD!
◆ 550 County Rd. 60 - Sportsmans Delight! 103 acres, 4 BD, 2.5 BA. \$595,000. SOLD!

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673± acres on the White River with residence at 1157 Rd. 57\$2,290,000
Remodeled 21 room motel, bar/restaurant, office at 723 Market St. \$975,000
640 acres, hunting, grazing & recreation w/ home. 1986 Rd. 41 \$799,000
Prime location, retail business & spacious residence at 223 8th Street PENDING
Building pad on 29+ acres w/ fishing access, 30 miles east of Meeker. \$299,000
7.46 acres w/ great highway visibility at HWY 13 & Road 8 \$245,000
Building location, vacant corner lot at 109 Market Street \$175,000
Buy your new business on the corner of Market & 11th Street. PENDING
View of the Flat Tops from this 1/2 acre lot on Silver Sage Rd. \$50,000
Eighteen 2-5 acre lots in Ridge Estates, next to golf course. Prices \$45,000 - \$160,000
Valley views & southern exposure, 14,740 sq. ft. vacant lot on Andrea Cir. \$29,000