



ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL

Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.com

Book by Dennis Kelly, Music and Lyrics by Tim Minchin

Herald Times



Independent Community Journalism Since 1885

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Fire suppression repair efforts underway on Elk, Lee fires

By **JARED HENDERSON**
jared@ht1885.com
and **ED PECK**
Special to the HT

MEEKER | Last week, reporters from the Herald Times had the opportunity to observe suppression repair efforts on both the Lee Fire and the Elk Fire, led by Northern Rockies Team 1, offering a first-hand look at the extensive work required after a wildfire is contained.

Lee Fire: Repairing Firefighting Damage
Freelance reporter

Ed Peck toured the Lee Fire, observing crews restoring areas impacted by firefighting operations. Suppression repair focuses on fixing damage caused by dozer and hand lines rather than the fire itself. Crews work to stabilize soils, restore drainage and prevent erosion. Berms are removed to allow water to flow naturally, water bars are installed, and vegetation is redistributed or reseeded as needed.

Peck noted the careful decisions crews make during fire operations. "Every action considers future harm to land and

vegetation. Dozer lines are weighed against potential soil erosion, brush is cut just enough for a backfire path, and aircraft drops balance effectiveness with environmental impact," he said.

Recovery begins even before full containment. Slash piles are chipped and spread carefully to avoid creating insect habitats. Plans for reseeding are already underway to promote native vegetation and suppress invasive weeds, ensuring long-term restoration.

Elk Fire: Community,

Cultural and Environmental Considerations

The following day, reporter and photographer Jared Henderson toured the Elk Fire, which is 100% contained. Ross McNearney, a public information officer on both fires, explained the types of suppression repair work currently underway.

"Sometimes when you're creating dozer lines, you have to push through a fence, and repairing those fences is a big deal," McNearney said.

He explained the difference between repairing fire effects and suppression repair. "Suppression repair is repairing the impacts from the suppression effort, so not repairing what the fire did," McNearney said. "When you're pushing a dozer line, you might blow through a fence, tear out a culvert or peel off topsoil. What we are doing a lot of is bringing that topsoil back to a more stable state."

On the Lee Fire, Rio Blanco County crews were at work along County Road 5 replacing culverts. On the Elk Fire, repair efforts included two excavators, a chipper, a grader, and a 15-person hand crew. Crews there focused on stabilizing soils, reseeding where needed, repairing fences and other infrastructure, and mon-



JARED HENDERSON PHOTO

One of two excavators at work on the Elk Fire, in conjunction with a chipper, a grader, and a 15-person hand crew, focus on restoring resources after fire suppression.



JARED HENDERSON PHOTO

A grader works on a berm as part of fire suppression repair efforts following the Elk Fire. Where heavy equipment can't be used, crews do the restoration work by hand.

itoring potential impacts on aquatic ecosystems and threatened or endangered species.

Resource advisors work to protect cultural and historic sites. "A lot of times they're from the home unit because they have specific information about the area, but they can also be assigned from anywhere in the country," McNearney said. "They log any damage that occurs and take note of resources during suppression efforts."

At repair sites, advisors may find pottery shards, arrowheads and other lithic artifacts. "We're not out here bringing them to a museum; we want them to stay on the landscape where they belong," McNearney said. Historic structures, including ranger cabins

and recreation residences, are sometimes wrapped in heat-reflective material during the fire and restored afterward.

Some repairs are limited by steep terrain. A member of the management crew explained that some areas cannot accommodate heavy equipment, requiring hand crews to perform similar work. In rocky areas, natural drainage may suffice, though full rehabilitation is not possible.

Community safety remains a priority. McNearney advised residents, "When closure orders are lifted, don't explore areas with obvious damage. Don't start making social trails. Dozers travel 50- to 60-degree inclines, and it's not safe. You could easily get in trouble with a truck or off road vehicle."

From classroom to office: Holliday takes on principal role at Meeker Elementary

By **JARED HENDERSON**
jared@ht1885.com

MEEKER | After 15 years as the art and music teacher at Meeker Elementary School, Shana Holliday is stepping into her next chapter in education as the school's new principal.

"I've been teaching here for 15 years," Holliday said. "Watching some administration changes over the last five years made me think about what we needed and reassess where I was in life. Once my kids were both out of the house, I was ready for a new challenge. I signed up for some classes, and thankfully, the district decided to hire me and give me a chance. I'm excited to dig in, learn new things, and serve our staff, community and students — not necessarily in that order

— as well as I can for the foreseeable future."

Holliday said stepping into the leadership role at a school she's deeply connected to feels natural.

"I have great relationships with the kids. I know a lot of the parents and all of the teachers already," she said. "So I'm very excited to get going."

When asked what she loves most about Meeker Elementary, Holliday's answer was quick.

"Our students," she said. "We have amazing kids in this district. They are eager, fun and exactly the type of people I'm looking forward to taking care of."

She reflected on her years in the classroom with fondness.

"The only thing I'm a little sad about is leaving the job I loved so much," Holliday said. "I always



JARED HENDERSON PHOTO

After 15 years teaching art and music, and directing countless school and community theater productions, Shana Holliday is tackling a new role: MES principal.

loved what I was doing. Helping kids feel confident, open up, perform and do things they never thought was possible — then end up absolutely loving it — that's my favorite part of teaching."

While preparing for her new responsibilities, Holliday has also been

busy directing the community's summer play, a production of Matilda featuring both adults and kids — a first for the local theater.

"This summer, I worked in the office all day learning the new role, and directed the

Cont. on P7

90% containment reached for Lee Fire

By **NIKI TURNER**
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MEEKER | As of press time Wednesday, the Lee Fire was mapped at 137,758 acres. The acreage was updated to reflect more accurate mapping. The FDNY Incident Management team assumed command of the fire on Monday. There were 211 total personnel on the Lee Fire per the Wednesday update. Tuesday the fire remained fully within its current footprint, and crews continued working both to strengthen containment and to begin repair in areas affected by suppression activities. A monsoonal pattern

expected to continue throughout the week has triggered several flash flood warnings for burn scar areas for both the Lee and Elk fires. Sandbags are available, first-come, first-serve, at the county shop for individuals in debris flow hazard zones.

Rio Blanco County is seeking information from rural landowners, agricultural producers, outfitters, and business owners impacted by the fires. Data is needed to demonstrate eligibility in order to receive disaster funding. Please refer to the ad below and scan the QR codes in to access the appropriate survey.

BUSINESS SURVEY



Are you a business owner, ag producer, outfitter, or rural landowner impacted by the Lee/Elk Fires? Please report your disaster-related damages, including financial damages, on the appropriate survey.

BUSINESS OWNERS, please complete the #RioBlancoRecovery team's Business Impact Survey: <https://bit.ly/47gBwfo>

AG PRODUCERS, OUTFITTERS & RURAL LANDOWNERS, please complete the team's Ag and Natural Resources Survey: <https://bit.ly/45T6VC0>



AG SURVEY



Rec district board seeks change to parks agreement with town

By NIKI TURNER
editor@ht1885.com

MEEKER | The Town of Meeker's Board of Trustees were taken aback during a joint work session with the Eastern Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation and Park District (ERBM) Board of Directors when ERBM Board President Kent Walter read a prepared statement that ERBM wants to end the lease agreement with the Town to provide maintenance for Town parks, and wants the Town to convey ownership to ERBM via a vote of the citizens in the next municipal election in April 2026.

The workshop was held to discuss terms of the park lease agreement between the two entities, initiated by ERBM, that has been in place since 2011, and followed a meeting the previous week with Mayor Travis Day and Town Administrator Mandi Etheridge.

The terms of the lease give either party the right to give six months notice if the terms of the lease are no longer acceptable. The lease agreement, which has been amended several times since 2011, provides that ERBM will maintain the multiple parks in town (not including Ute Park). Over the last five years maintenance expenses — park labor, supplies, equipment, security, cybersecurity, insurance, etc. — has cost ERBM approximately \$350K per year, not including capital investments.

"The main issue for us is our mill levy and our operating plan associated with that doesn't allow us — there's some gray area there — to be fiscally responsible to our mill levy. Those monies from our mill levy need to go to ERBM-owned properties," Walter said.

The ERBM board had

reviewed multiple options and having the park property conveyed to the rec district was their preferred solution. "None of the other ones, we felt, really met our needs."

Mayor Travis Day expressed disappointment that ERBM had moved so far along in their internal discussion process without talking to the town. "We've got to come up with all the other alternatives," Day said. "Partnerships in a small community are better for everybody. You can get better grants, better collaboration when it's a joint venture."

Town trustees had several questions for their rec district counterparts.

Trustee Jeff Madison asked, "Why was this a good deal before and now it's not? What changed?"

Walter said expenses, the language of the mill levy language and the cost of maintaining district-owned facilities.

Trustee Amanda Smith asked when the mill levy changed, or if something changed with the terms, to which Walter said the current mill levy passed in 2006, adding that the proposed change would "be more consistent with our mill levy."

ERBM Executive Director Josh Embery said although the lease agreement was passed in 2011, their legal team "would not allow this now."

Asked if the problem is funding, Walter and Embery stated their issue is with the lease agreement. "It's not the expenditure of funds, it's the appropriate expenditure of funds, that's the issue, consistent with our mill levy," Walter said.

When the original agreement was signed back in 2011, former ERBM executive director Michael Weinbrecht said, "Entering into this lease has allowed the recreation

district to significantly increase the amount of park acreage available for programming and recreational improvements, without utilizing tax payer funds for land acquisition." The benefit for the Town of Meeker was reduced expenses for park maintenance. The town budgeted \$50,513 for parks in 2011. The proposed budget for parks in 2012 was \$18,910, a savings of \$31,603 for the town.

Mayor Day asked to schedule a time for the board to consult with their attorney and discuss, and Walter said the ERBM board would "try to come up with another alternative that's palatable to us."

The two entities agreed to hold another work session on Sept. 23 at 6 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

During the regular meeting of the Town Board of Trustees, Mark Rogers addressed the board and staff. Citing 36 years of experience as a firefighter, Rogers urged the board to take a close look at the events of the last two weeks related to the wildfires.

"I hope that individuals, neighborhoods, the town, the county will look at what happened during those two weeks and what your policies, rules, ordinances, whatever you have that guides this place, and see if there are improvements to be made. I know there are. And some of them will not necessarily be in line with the political atmosphere that we have here. I believe there are things the town needs to seriously look at in terms of fire preparedness."

"There will be another one. And another one after that. We were within three or four embers going across Hwy. 13 to the north to have fire coming over China Wall raining live embers [in town] instead of ash." Rogers said

he would be happy to help foster discussion.

Mayor Day agreed, stating, "These last two weeks brought out a lot of stuff that needs to be done."

Public Works Superintendent Jak Kilduff updated the board on the Garfield Street water line project, and talked about the town's water supply during the fire.

"I woke up the morning after the pre-evac with the Seventh St. water tanks half empty. It took about 30 hours to get them back to full," he said.

"About 400,000 gallons were dumped on the ground that night."

That prompted the Town to issue a notice to conserve water, which Day said had "phenomenal" results. The tanks have since been refilled.

Police Chief Eddy Thompson thanked the mayor, Etheridge, Kilduff, and staff for all their help during the fire evacuation. "That was not fun at all," he said. "Mark [Rogers] has some valid concerns."

Etheridge said the water department has been working on making

sure all water customers have been notified about the rate increase coming in September and will be sending letters to all customers.

In Mayor's remarks, Day thanked Etheridge, Kilduff, and Thompson for the time they put in during the fires and spoke about the town's emergency plan.

"We really need to start working on one. Team 3 walked us through evac plans, all the stuff you don't think of."

RIO HAPPENINGS: AUG 17-23, 2025

CALL SUMMARIES

There were 25 traffic stops. There were 63 traffic stops performed within a 3 day period by deputies on Highway 13 due to the reduced speed limit of 50 mph.

8/17/2025 @ 01:43 pm. A semi-truck traveling near mile marker 60 on Highway 64 ran off the roadway. The driver overcorrected, causing the vehicle to veer across the highway and into a drainage ditch. Firefighters from Idaho, currently in the area assisting with wildfire efforts, came upon the scene and stopped to provide aid. The driver sustained injuries and was transported to the hospital for further treatment.

8/20/2025 @ 21:41 A harassment complaint was filed involving a man allegedly threatening to kill the reporting party's dogs. The motive? The reporting party had been spending time with a woman who turned out to be his own sister. He did not wish for law enforcement to contact the individual, but requested that a report be made—just in case something mysteriously happened to the dogs. No further action was taken at this time, and the dogs remain safe (and presumably unaware of the drama).

8/22/2025 @ 11:53 am An elderly female had fallen into a ditch and was unable to get up due to pain and possible injuries. While awaiting help, she was overheard telling her husband to "just shoot me" expressing distress and a desire not to continue suffering. This statement led to confusion and concern over the presence of a firearm, which was relayed in the initial radio traffic. Responders acted with caution given the uncertainty. Upon arrival, EMS determined the woman required advanced medical care. She was airlifted to another hospital.

8/22/2025 @ 10:48 am A boulder—described as the size of a washing machine or possibly larger—was reported sitting on a bad corner along County Road 8 between mile markers 26 and 27. A deputy responded prompt-

ly but found no trace of the rock upon arrival. Whether it rolled away on its own or a good Samaritan moved it remains a mystery. Either way, the road was clear, and the boulder remains at large.

8/22/2025 @ 9:08 pm A concerned citizen reported a backyard fire within Meeker town limits, despite an active fire ban. Meeker Police Department responded and made contact with the individual responsible. The person was informed that open burning is prohibited under the current fire ban and was advised that it was not an appropriate time to

have a fire due to heightened fire danger.

8/23/25 @ 01:12 pm. Dispatch received a 911 crash detection alert from an iPhone near the intersection of Highway 13 and 64. The alert turned out to be for a single-vehicle crash—technology doing its job! Upon arrival, it was determined the driver had fallen asleep at the wheel and struck a guardrail. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries. The driver declined medical attention and was given a courtesy ride home, presumably to finish the nap that started it all.

TOTAL CALLS: 538 — 911 CALLS: 40 — ADMIN: 498		
CALL TYPE	SHERIFF	MEEKER PD
911	2	3
ABANDONED VEHICLE	0	0
ANIMAL	4	5
ASSIST COLORADO STATE PATROL	3	0
ASSIST MEEKER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT	0	0
ASSIST RANGELY PD	1	0
ASSIST RIO BLANCO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	0	0
ATTEMPT TO SERVE	12	0
BUSINESS CHECK	1	6
CITIZEN ASSIST	0	1
CITIZEN CONTACT	0	2
CIVIL	0	2
DEATH	0	0
DIRECTED PATROL	8	6
DISTURBANCE	0	1
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	0	1
FIRE	0	0
FIRE - WILD	0	0
FOLLOW UP	5	6
HARASSMENT	2	2
HAZARD	0	0
INFORMATION	1	2
MEDICAL	1	0
MISSING PERSON	0	1
MOTORIST ASSIST	7	1
NOISE COMPLAINT	0	0
OVERDUE PARTY	1	0
PHONE FOLLOW-UP	0	1
SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT	1	4
TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	3	1
TRESPASS	0	0
TRAFFIC HAZARD	4	0
TRAFFIC STOP	81	9
VIN INSPECTION	2	5
WARRANT ARREST	0	0
WELFARE CHECK	0	1
TOTALS	144	60
TOTAL INMATES IN JAIL AS OF 8/25/2025: 6		

County enacts hiring freeze

By NIKI TURNER
editor@ht1885.com

RBC | In a special meeting Monday, Aug. 25, the Rio Blanco County Commissioners enacted a hiring freeze for the county, effective immediately and continuing through the end of the year. Exceptions must be approved by the commissioners.

"The intent of this is so that we don't have to fire anybody on the first of January," said Commissioner Doug Overton. "The reason we're doing this is because we have a \$600,000 increase in health insurance."

On top of the rising cost of health insurance, the county is facing potentially significant funding cuts from the state and federal governments for

programs, and the county's valuation — which impacts property tax revenue — is also expected to be down.

The commissioners also discussed a survey for county employees to

review health insurance options, and approved purchasing \$17K in bridge decking for the CR 202 bridge (southwest of Rangely, connecting county roads 2 and 102).

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The combined economic impact of 6 new full-time jobs created \$1.5M in direct, indirect, and induced payroll, and more than \$3M in direct, indirect, and induced value added, a measure of the contribution to GDP, for a total of **\$18.9M** in direct financial support to the local community.

100 PMC Drive
Meeker, CO 81641
(970) 878-5047
www.pioneershospital.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Open drop-in community meeting for landowners affected by the wildfires

MEEKER | We understand there are many challenges following the recent fires, and we want to ensure landowners have support and clear information moving forward. Join us for an open, drop-in, community meeting where staff from the BLM, Rio Blanco County, and the Conservation Districts will be on hand to listen, answer questions, and share resources. Thursday, 1-3 p.m. at the Fire Protection District (240 7th St.).

Impacted by the wildfires? Your input is needed!

MEEKER | Thorough documentation of damages and loss from the wildfires is essential for recovery and mitigation efforts. If you are a business owner, a rural landowner, an agricultural producer, or an outfitter impacted by the wildfires, please complete one of the following surveys: **BUSINESS OWNERS**, please complete the #RioBlancoRecovery team's Business Impact Survey: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/.../5eda5d67a83a4a3184e96ca7>. **AG PRODUCERS, OUTFITTERS & RURAL LANDOWNERS**, please complete the team's Ag and Natural Resources Survey: <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSfyTEB3K7JNYK.../viewform>

Community theater production of 'Matilda' rescheduled for Aug. 28-30

MEEKER | The Meeker Arts and Cultural Council's production of Roald Dahl's "Matilda: The Musical" scheduled for this weekend has been rescheduled due to the wildfires until Aug. 28-30.

Septemberfest at the TANK Aug. 30-Sept. 1

RANGELY | For this year's Septemberfest, the TANK presents a rare treat, a three-day recorded installation of gorgeous medieval singing from New York's much-praised early music group TENET. TENET has won acclaim for its innovative programming, virtuosic singing and command of a repertoire spanning the Middle Ages to the present. In The TANK, these sacred songs will be uplifting and transcendental. Presented free of charge, Aug. 1-Sept. 1. 9am-1pm and 7-9pm Saturday and Sunday.

RBC Democrats hosting potluck Sept. 3

MEEKER | Rio Blanco County Democrats are hosting a potluck dinner at the Town Park Pavillion (20 South 4th St., Meeker), Sept. 3, 5-8 p.m. and you are invited. We have invited US/Colorado Democrat candidates running for office in the 2026 midterms to join us. It will be an opportunity to learn about their plans concerning climate change, Colorado River compact, gerrymandering, affordable housing, etc. Bring a dish to share. Paper products, plasticware, and water will be available.

Meeker Library book club

MEEKER | The Meeker Public Library book club is reading "James" by Percival Everett. We will meet to discuss the book at the Meeker Public Library on Monday, Sept. 8, at 1 p.m. Extra copies are available for check out at the library if you would like to join in the fun. New members are always welcome!

Tot Spot drop-in childcare returns Sept. 3

MEEKER | Tot Spot at MRC will be available Mondays and Wednesdays from 9-11 a.m., Sept. 3-Dec. 17. Caregiver must remain in the facility—enjoy a workout, hot tub soak, or some peace and quiet in the lounge! \$2 for 1 hour or \$3 for 1.5 hours per child; punch passes available at Guest Services.

ERBM fall activities begin soon

MEEKER | ERBM fall activities begin the week of Sept. 8! Join us for dance, tumbling, cheer, karate, and more! View available openings, schedules, and details at erbmrec.com/register. Download a printable list at erbmrec.com/activities. For questions or account assistance, call 970-878-3403.

Leadville Scenic Train Ride Sept. 12

MEEKER | Enjoy a scenic train ride through the Rocky Mountains on Friday, Sept. 12! Transportation to and from the Leadville Railroad is provided. Bring your own lunch and water; concessions will be available for purchase on board. \$75 per person, ages 18+. Register by Sept. 3 (no refunds after Sept. 4.) Sign up at erbmrec.com/train. For questions or registration help, call 970-878-3403.


Submit your community calendar events to editor@ht1885.com or mail to PO Box 720, Meeker CO 81641.



youthzone

The Herald Times proudly supports YouthZone, a nonprofit that provides assessment, court advocacy, substance education, and counseling to at-risk youth in Rio Blanco, Garfield, and Pitkin Counties. To learn more and donate, visit www.youthzone.com/give.

"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else."
Fred Rogers



THIS SPACE PAID FOR BY AN ANONYMOUS SUPPORTER OF OUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER.

the Meeker Public Library is getting NEW HOURS!

Starting September 2nd the Library will be moving to our NEW operating hours of:
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SATURDAY: 10AM - 2:30PM
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5 lb. 80% Lean
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\$2⁹⁹ lb.



Baby Back Ribs
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Sweet Corn
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99¢ ea.

DAIRY & FROZEN SPECIALS

Frozen Vegetables
Food Club 10-12 oz. Select Varieties **\$1⁹⁹**

Orange Juice
Food Club 52 oz. Select Varieties **2/\$7**

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Land O Lakes 16 oz. Select Varieties **\$4¹⁹**

Juice Blends
Simply 52 oz. Select Varieties **\$2⁴⁹**

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Crav'n Flavor 10 ct. Patties **\$2⁴⁹**

Sausage Rolls
Jimmy Dean 1 lb. Select Varieties **\$3⁹⁹**

GROCERY SPECIALS

Potato Chips
Crav'n Flavor 7.75-8.5 oz. Select Varieties **\$1⁹⁹**

Granola Bars
Quaker 5-8 ct. Select Varieties **\$2⁹⁹**

Cereal
Quaker 10.3-13 oz. Select Varieties **\$2⁹⁹**

Beef Jerky
Crav'n Flavor 2.85 oz. Select Varieties **2/\$7**

Sports Drinks
Powerade 28 oz. Select Varieties **99¢**

Pepsi Products
6 pk. 16.9 oz. Bottles Select Varieties **\$4⁷⁹**

TO VIEW THE FULL AD, SCAN THE QR CODE



EDITOR'S COLUMN

You can believe whatever you want, and so can 'they'

"Tolerance implies no lack of commitment to one's own beliefs. Rather it condemns the oppression or persecution of others." ~ John F. Kennedy

By NIKI TURNER
editor@ht1885.com



At least at this point in time, we have the right to believe whatever we want to believe about literally anything. We can believe the moon is made of cheese, the world is flat, birds aren't real, or anything else that suits our fancy. That's our right and it should be protected. If you want to believe with your whole heart that grass is blue and the sky is green, go for it. More power to you. Buy a T-shirt, go to a "green sky" convention with other "blue sky deniers," etc. Enjoy the benefits of being an autonomous human being in a free country while you can. What we believe — right, wrong or in-

different — eventually catches up with us and we have to live with the results. We invest ourselves in our beliefs, entwining them with our identities to the point we'll excuse and justify almost any bad behavior in the name of whatever we believe. Some of the most atrocious, barbaric actions taken by humanity throughout history stemmed from strongly held beliefs. I don't see that changing.

It's most obvious in religion, probably because believing in things we cannot see requires a stronger commitment than believing water is wet (I can almost guarantee there's someone out there with a web presence trying to convince people water is not wet, but I don't want to look).

Nowadays, with access to limitless information, that "religious fervor" kind of belief has spread into nearly every corner of human activity.

That kind of fervor tilts the scale, so that if someone dares to disagree, or just believes differently, they're branded as an enemy and subject to attack. The more insecure we are about our beliefs, the louder and angrier we become when challenged. It's like when you're trying to get a kid to fess up to eating all the cookies in the cookie jar. They get louder and more emotional with every denial of the truth.

Secure people don't have to condemn, compel, control, or manipulate anyone else to come around to their way of thinking. Those are generally the people we find most appealing, the ones we go to for

counsel, and the ones we respect. They're not trying to make us believe what they believe, they're living what they believe and it shows up in their lives.

Where it gets sticky is not just in proselytizing our neighbors to sign up for our church/club/party/fan group/MLM. It's when we start wanting to cry "persecution" and apply legal remedies to force people to agree with us, to do what we say, to comply with our wishes. We can believe what we want, but we can't use our beliefs as our justification for oppressing someone else or causing them harm.

And sometimes that's really, really hard to accept, especially when we're not very secure in our own beliefs, and when we aren't really trusting the universe to take care of things without our "help."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Water engineer disagrees with findings of return flow study

Dear Editor:

Please accept these comments correcting misinformation published on page 9 of the July 17th edition under "...Return flow study indicates flood irrigation benefits river flows". The article cites Liz Chandler as referring to results of a groundwater modeling study by Dr. Ryan Bailey. Liz purportedly stated something to the effect that, "...up to 75% of summer base flows in the study area can be attributed to return flows." She went on to affirm that, "The research is already informing infrastructure and water management decisions." This gives the false impression that accepted science supports

choices that perpetuate status quo use of the White River.

The Bailey Study found that from July through September about 75% of water in the river is from groundwater discharge. Readers should be apprised that groundwater discharge is not synonymous with groundwater return flow and that the finding pertains to the bottom of the study area, below Powell Park, not to Meeker, and not to the top of the study area, above Agency Park, where return flow is a small portion of river water. Also, return flow is not new water; it is recapture of a fraction of the water that was taken from the river in the first place. The idea that river flow would be 75% less, were it not for irrigation, is bogus, because flow would not be dimin-

ished upstream prior to being partially recovered downstream — it would just pass through, with minimal loss.

These semantic, spatial, and temporal discrepancies muddy explanation of study results in a way that perpetuates a misleading narrative published by the Herald Times before and supported again in this instance by an unfortunate choice of headline. The truth is just the opposite of your claim. Base flow above the large irrigation diversions provides a dependable source of hundreds of cubic feet per second. Sometimes almost all of this water is diverted, meaning taken from the river by irrigation ditches, leaving one or more segment(s) of the channel close to dry, too warm, and hypoxic (aquatic

critters suffocate). Part of the water returns, laden with additional salts, later on, downstream. Lagged return flow accrues when not needed. Flood irrigation can play a positive role in our community, but it does not benefit the river.

Irrigation benefits river water users and the economy in which their production occurs. Upside can be realized without taking as much water from the river by lining or piping ditches (reducing seepage loss), converting to sprinkler application without expanding area (twice as efficient), and cultivating different crops (beans need much less water than alfalfa). During the current long-term trend of decreasing watershed yield, decisions like these will be necessary to preserve local agriculture while also keeping a live river. Accurate explanation empowers irrigators to exercise the courage necessary to sustain both by confronting and adapting to new facts, instead of being soothed by convenient fiction. The pep rally propaganda published so far fails to provide this service. Please do better in future.

Thank you.
Samuel Collin Robinson
Professional Engineer
Grand Junction, Colorado

Dear Editor:

While the wildfire situations are on our minds, let's make a list of what to take in case of emergency evacuation. If you have a list prepared, it will help you make the best choices while you're stressed and in a hurry. Following are the basics of a list I have started that perhaps will help you make your own list.

If you have any advance notice of possible evacuation, get your

vehicles filled with gas and ready to roll. Charge your phones. Talk with your family about whether you will all ride together or drive multiple vehicles.

Pick a destination and get to one spot and then re-assess whether you can stop or if conditions mean keep going. Stay in touch with emergency information resources to stay informed about wildfire spread or containment.

Take:
-Medications. Pack all the medications you usually take. If you run out, you'll have the bottles with labels that will make re-ordering easier. If you have refrigerated meds, take an insulated pack with ice or a blue cube. Replace ice as needed to keep cold. And remember to take your meds even though you may be on a strange schedule or in a strange place.

-Purse, wallet, cash, credit cards, and checks. If time allows, go to an ATM/bank and get cash before they run out. If electricity goes out, your credit cards won't work to charge gas, food, or hotel expenses.

-Laptops, computers, e-readers, other electronic devices and chargers.

-Cell phones and chargers — keep everything charged. Add charging cords to your vehicles if you don't already have them.

-Flashlight or headlamp. We always travel with headlamps. It is amazing how often you can find yourself in an unlit or dark place.

-Clothes — pack a bag of toiletries, toothbrush, clothes, extra shoes, and jackets. Remember summer nights in Colorado can get cold.

-For kids — take some toys and books that will provide entertainment and distraction.

-Heritage and special items — you won't have space to take everything, so take one representative item. For us, that would be Jay's art so we would pick one small piece.

I would also pack our sterling silverware collected since we were first married plus my grandma's silverplate that I inherited. These aren't

necessary items, but they are very special. Jay would take one of the rifles that used to belong to his dad. Treasured books, Bibles, and photos are other items to consider.

Think about this in advance so you make an informed decision, not a panic choice. You can't take everything, so be selective.

Remember, all these items must fit in your vehicle/s. When Jay and I discussed our "wish list" of items to take, it would take several vehicles to haul all that stuff. So, we kept winnowing the list which is very hard to do, but necessary.

I realized it would be a tough decision driving one of our vehicles while Jay drove the other, causing us to be separated. Still, leaving a car to possibly be burned to ashes is not a great choice either.

Destination. Think about and discuss where you might go if you are evacuated. Do you have relatives or friends you could stay with? Perhaps go to a camping location if you are a camper. If not, get information about motels, B&B's, etc. in the nearby area.

Water! Since you're not the only one evacuating, water may go quickly. Fill your water bottles and be sure to stay hydrated. We stockpile gallon jugs of water for camping trips, which I also recommend as a preparation step. You can refill them from a faucet.

Snacks and/or food. Take at least some food to keep you going if restaurants are closed. Worst case, you could be stuck on a highway for a long time or never find an open restaurant.

Extra keys to house and vehicles. Lock everything but be sure you take keys with you.

Well, I'm sure there are many more items to add. I encourage you to create your own evacuation list and keep working on it as more things come to mind. Let's hope we don't have to use these, but like the boy scouts, "be prepared."

Kaye Sullivan
Meeker

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MUSEUM MUSINGS: Letters from history No. 95

Los Pinos Indian Agency,
October 2, 1879

TO THE OFFICERS IN COMMAND AND THE SOLDIERS AT THE WHITE RIVER AGENCY:

Gentleman: At the request of the chief of the Utes at this agency, I sent it to Joe. W. Brady, an employee, the enclosed order from Chief Oray to the Utes at the White River Agency.

The head chiefs deplore the trouble existing at White River, and are anxious that no further fighting or bloodshed should take place, and have commanded the Utes there to stop. I hope that you will second their efforts so far as you can, consistent with your duties, under existing commands. This much for humanity.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W.M. STANLEY
United States Indian Agent.

Los Pinos Agency, Colorado
October 2, 1879

Sir: I have the honor to include for your information a copy of the order from Chief Ouray to the White River Utes wired to you today; also a copy of the letter to the commanding officer of the troops at that point, with a copy of the order enclosed.

The letter was sent at the request of Ouray by Joseph W. Brady, an employee at this agency, accompanied by an escort of chiefs and Utes to the number 15. Ouray's order was sent by a special runner.

I also enclosed a copy of a letter to the Southern Ute Agency, dispatched in like manner.

I am informed that the mail-carrier at White River was killed, and took the liberty of sending you the dispatch, as I believed you would get the news quicker than any other way.

Very Respectfully, your obedient servant,
W.M. STANLEY,
United States Indian Agent.

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.
October 2, 1879

To the Chiefs, captains, headmen, and Utes at the White River Agency;

You are hereby requested and commanded to cease hostilities against the whites, injuring no innocent persons or any other farther than to protect your own lives and property from unlawful and unauthorized combinations of horse-thieves and desperadoes, as anything farther will ultimately end in disaster to all parties.

OURAY,
Head Chief of the Ute Nation.

Chicago, Ill., October 2, 1879

General. E.D. TOWNSEND,
Washington, D.C.;

We have nothing new this morning from the Department of Platte.

General Merritt was to have started this morning from Rawlins with over 500 men. The six companies of Seventh Infantry from Fort Snelling and other companies from different posts will reach Rawlins tomorrow, and will follow up General Merritt.

These additional troops will make his strength, exclusive of Major Thornburgh's command, over 900 men, and with it about 1,100. General Crook, who left here this morning for the West, thinks this will be sufficient. I have notified him that I can give him another regiment.

Duplicate sent to the Secretary of War at Keokuk, Iowa.

P.F. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant General.

HISTORY LESSONS: Meeker's Founders — A.J. Gregory

EDITOR'S NOTE: In honor for the Town of Meeker's 140th birthday in September, we are publishing the histories of the Town's founders who's names are listed at the White River Museum and on the plaque on the boulder in front of the courthouse.

By ED PECK
Special to the HT

When the Army occupied the White River valley (1879-1883) they kept the troops busy by improving the road from Rawlins. The road was realigned and new bridges built to accommodate the heavy traffic of supplying 2000 men. The road became known as the Government Road. The Army was not known for originality. The journey took several days with oxen, mule, or horse-drawn

wagon. One of the resting places where water and grass was available was in Routt County (now Moffat). It was a natural place to lay over and spend the night. It soon became known as "Lay Over." Soon, there enough ranchers and settlers lived in the area to warrant a post office.

Albert J. Gregory wrote to the Post office Department desiring to be the first postmaster and suggested the name "Lay Over." For whatever the reason, our ever efficient Postal system shortened the name to "Lay." Lay, Colorado, was born, some 18 miles west of what later became Craig along Highway 40. A.J. Gregory was appointed its postmaster Aug. 12, 1881, by Thomas L. James, Postmaster General. When news that the Camp on the White River was being abandoned, A.J. Gregory saw an opportunity and

became a Meeker Townsite shareholder. The next year, in 1884, when herds were converging on the White River Valley, A.J. Gregory and Ezra Flemming drove 1,500 cattle down from the Laramie Plains. Ezra had the famous Cross L brand in Rio Blanco County among others. Gregory had the open A with a bar connected to the bottom of the "A" (^ -). A.J. Gregory was the owner of a meat market in Laramie about 1874 and Flemming was an 1880 homesteader and cattleman in Albany County, Wyoming. The two were quite successful in the White River valley. In 1886 Gregory was the Garfield County commissioner for the 3rd District [Meeker] and president of White River stock growers association.

Albert began life in Charleston, Maine, born to Amos Gregory and Sarah

Chandler about 1848. When he married Nancy Jennie Haley in 1870, Boston, Massachusetts, his occupation was listed as "Piano Forte Maker." Wow, that was quite a leap to cattle drover in Wyoming 1880. The February 22, 1906 issue of the Rocky Mountain News announced: "GREGORY DIES FROM EFFECTS OF HOLDUP. A. J. Gregory who was livestock agent for the Denver & Rio Grande here [Salt Lake City] at

one time is dead at Provo insane asylum. Gregory was clubbed by holdups two years ago in Denver, and never recovered from the effects of the blows he received." In May of 1904, A. J. was brutally slugged and left unconscious on Stout Street between 17th and 18th in Denver. The concussion left him mentally unfit. To get him care, Nurse Egan took him by train to the Provo Insane Asylum to be closer to his family. He left a wife, Nan-

cy, and two children: Rodney Albert and Claphane Norma Gregory. Albert J. and Nancy are buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Denver.

Sources: TIWIR vol 2 page 50; The Last Frontier 1974 by V.S. FitzPatrick; Museum of the Northwest; Ancestry.com; Federal Census records; Wyomingnews-papers.org; Coloradohistoric-newspapers.org;

LOOSE ENDS: Non-random acts of kindness

By DOLLY VISCARDI
Special to the HT

One dark night when we were all in bed, Old Lady lit the lantern in the shed, and when the cow kicked it over she blinked her eyes and said, "It's gonna be a hot time in the old town tonight."

A hot time would certainly be an understatement about the incendiary beasts that were started by lightning more than three weeks ago. The rollicking song about an old barn catching fire is an old favorite of my generation. No longer, I bet. I can't recall the rest of it. My more than 60-year old memory of this well-known campfire song can't bring it to mind it from those days gone by.

No joke, anyone who has experienced the fear and terror of a wildfire will take fire seriously.

I continue to hear of the outstanding job done by the hard-working firefighters, their support staff, as well as Meeker and Rangely's town and the county government workers. In addition, Governor Polis declared a state of emergency and called out the National Guard.

Local and county residents pitched



Dolly Viscardi

in to help immediately. Their incredible hard work and their willingness to ignore past differences created a bond that I hope will continue to get stronger from now on. It is in such difficult times that the primary goal of controlling and containing the wildfires can be met. Banding together facing the immediate threats insures meeting that goal.

It doesn't matter who owns the property, the livestock, or the structures that have been decimated.

Saving the lives of people always comes first, and so far, no lives have been lost. Fear and anger did not take over in most of the residents and if any official got a complaint about loss of power, or any other issues that arose, dealing with those complaints were taken with a calm, but firm, demeanor.

Consider how most of us use the word "local." We all usually use it to refer to our town and neighboring countryside. Everyone's group efforts countywide and countryside were remarkable, let's hope they will continue.

The large thank-you signs in both communities, as well as the great number of online messages and the letters to the editor throughout this time demonstrated their gratitude. The non-random acts of kindness are the best! Keep them coming!

CONSERVATION CORNER

A message from the Conservation Districts

Following the Lee and Elk Fires, our community and landowners are facing some tough challenges. Immediate destruction, fragile soils, a weakened watershed, damaged infrastructure, and a heightened risk of flooding and erosion don't just affect one landowner or one piece of ground, they affect us all. The White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts are collaborating closely with our landowners and partners in wildfire recovery efforts.

As your Conservation District, and a participant in the Mitigation and Restoration Group, we are at the table with the community and agencies to plan for recovery. We're working closely with the Bureau of Land Management, Stockgrowers Association, Farm Service Agency, U.S. Forest Service, Colorado State University, Rio Blanco County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, many stakeholders, agencies and local producers assessing damages and creating cross-boundary solutions that protect entire watersheds.

Together, we are project partners, assisting in efforts to stabilize soils, repair fences and water systems, source livestock hay and pastures, and restore critical wildlife habitat lost to the fires. Healthy habitat is essential not only for wildlife but also for the long-term balance of our rangelands and watersheds.

We also understand that recovery takes resources. We are currently identifying and applying for grants, leveraging available state, federal, and private funding options for projects with other collaborating partners, while also serving as a point of contact for landowners seeking answers, contact/program information and/or cost-share assistance. This assistance makes it possible to move from plans on paper to real improvements on the ground. We also provide guidance and support materials to equip producers and land managers with tools for post-wildfire recovery and long-term watershed protection, so they can respond quickly and effectively. We've posted wildfire recovery resources on www.whiterivercd.com and compiled a comprehensive after-disaster document with programs, grants, providers, and assistance available to all. Call the Districts for more information 970.878.9838.

After a wildfire, Conservation Districts serves as connectors, advocates, and problem-solvers. We make available technical knowledge, funding opportunities, and partnerships, then coordinate them, so they meet the landowners' needs in conserving soil, water, and related natural resources. This work is about the land, and it is about community. By working side by side, WE RECOVER TOGETHER and continue to assist in protecting the county's natural resources for generations to come. Scan the QR code to link to the Ag & Natural Resources Impact Survey. This will help us connect producers affected by the fires with resources for immediate and long-term recovery mitigation efforts.

-Vanessa Trout, Executive Director
-Tristan McGee, Project Manager
-Blake McGahan, District Manager



www.whiterivercd.com




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Early challenges give Meeker softball momentum to build on

By JARED HENDERSON
jared@ht1885.com

MEEKER | The Meeker High School softball team packed plenty of action into its opening week, playing five games in four days, including a trip to the Eaton Tournament where the Cowboys notched their first win of the season.

Meeker started the year on the road at Rifle, falling 15-3 to the Bears. The Cowboys then opened tournament play Friday against Lamar, dropping a 6-2 contest despite a strong outing from senior pitcher Addie Knowles, who threw six innings, striking out several while allowing just one earned run.

At the plate, junior Kayla Castillo led the way with a double, one hit and one run in four at-bats.

"Great group of players, including experienced veterans and newcomers. Everyone is working hard to improve," assistant coach Brad Bauer said.

The Cowboys bounced back in their next game,

earning their first win of the season with a 13-5 victory over Fort Lupton.

Knowles again made a major impact both in the circle and at the plate. She struck out six batters over six innings while giving up one earned and four unearned runs on five hits. Offensively, she reached base in three of her four plate appearances, stole two bases, scored twice and drove in a run.

Castillo reached base in all four plate appearances, adding two stolen bases, one run and one RBI. Freshman Haigen Harrison contributed as well, reaching base three times with a stolen base, two RBIs and a run scored.

The momentum didn't last, however, as Meeker dropped its next game 24-0 to tournament host Eaton.

"Playing a team of Eaton's caliber exposes our players to high-level pitching, fielding, and hitting," Bauer said. "Games like this one provide a variety of situations to practice, and the exposure to high-level play helps our players set team and personal goals."

Bauer highlighted Knowles, Castillo and senior Emma Bauer as steady forces for the team, while praising Harrison's hitting and junior Rachel Elder's speed as key assets.

The Cowboys closed out the weekend with a 17-7 loss to Limon. Castillo reached base three times, stole three bases and scored once.

"Against Limon was a good opportunity for me to just get on base, whether it was through a hit or walk," Castillo said. "So I really just went into the box with an open mind and smart pitch selection."

Junior Kailynn Watson went 1-for-2 with a double, two RBIs and one run scored. Sophomore Avarie Caulfield got on base twice and scored twice.

With the losses, Meeker fell to 1-4 overall. The Cowboys continue their road stretch this weekend with back-to-back doubleheaders — at Delta on Friday, Aug. 29, at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., and at Cortez on Saturday, Aug. 30, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

"With a few games under our belt, we should



Theresa Hamilton photo

Senior first baseman Emma Bauer makes a catch at first base for an out during Meeker's road game against the Rifle Bears. Bauer helped anchor the infield as the Cowboys opened their season.

be more confident and aggressive when hitting and fielding," Bauer said.

The Cowboys will look to build on their early-season experiences as they travel to face Delta and Cortez this weekend. With

several games under their belt, the team hopes to improve consistency at the plate and in the field, take advantage of scoring opportunities, and continue developing the younger players on the roster.

Meeker High School cross country opens season at Warrior Invitational

By JARED HENDERSON
jared@ht1885.com

MEEKER | The Meeker Cowboys cross country team traveled to Grand Junction this past weekend to compete at Las Colonias Park for the Warrior Invitational, hosted by Central High School.

The team brought four boys for the varsity race and five for the junior varsity. Head Coach Marty Casey said he was pleased with the team's effort in the season opener.

"All of our varsity runners were faster than at their first race last year," Casey said.

Sophomore Ryan Hanberg led the boys varsity team, placing 36th in 19:36 on the 5K

course, followed by Bradley Conrado (43rd, 20:04), Cameron Hanberg (45th, 20:20) and Ashton Tapia (64th, 21:59). The JV boys ran a 2.5K course with Landon Damitz finishing first for Meeker in 15th place (10:20), followed by Jackson Steele (25th, 11:19), Remy Broussard (41st, 13:49), Asa Scofield (42nd, 14:22) and Lucas Robinson (44th, 15:34).

Casey highlighted one individual performance that stood out. "Ryan Hanberg really ran well, setting a new personal record. Great to see a PR at the first meet!" he said.

On the girls side, senior Haylee Steele started her season strong with a 13:35 2.5K race, placing 15th in the JV girls division.

Looking ahead, Casey said the team will

focus on building endurance and confidence for the 5K distance.

This weekend, the Cowboys will compete in Leadville. Casey said the high altitude and challenging course will be a test for the team.

"A reminder to monitor their breathing will be the mantra for this meet. I am not sure all of my runners would agree, but I personally prefer the tough courses. This is Colorado; all of the cross country courses should be epic!" he said.

The Cowboys hope to build on their season-opening performance as they take on the high-altitude course in Leadville, aiming to improve times and gain valuable experience in the challenging early-season races.

Rangely harriers start season strong at Basalt Longhorn Invitational

Special to the HT

RANGELY | The Rangely harriers kicked off their season at the Basalt Longhorn Invitational, held at Crown Mountain Park in El Jebel, Colorado. The team, which includes three middle school runners and 13 high school runners, started the season with strong performances.

The high school team is composed of seven boys and six girls. Seniors Jay Valdez and Gage Neilsen are leading the high school team this year.

Middle School Highlights

The middle school runners competed in a combined race. Seventh-grader Dani Thayne led the team with a time of 12:37. In their cross country debut, sixth-grader Dax Halcomb and eighth-grader Rhys Talbot had respectable finishes with times of 13:28 and 13:43, respectively.

"It is fun watching the middle school run and the

improvement they build over the season," said Coach Scoggins.

High School Girls

The high school girls were next to race and were excited to have enough runners to compete as a team. Taya Wren led the team with an impressive second-place finish and a time of 20:01. Making their debuts were sophomore Kira Jo Benson with a time of 26:07 and Kylee Caldwell with a time of 32:47. Other strong performances included Faith Prieto with a 27:03, Addie Thayne with a 31:03, and Courtney Casto with a 35:12. The girls' team placed sixth overall.

High School Boys

The boys' team, with seven runners, placed fourth overall. Senior Jay Valdez finished 14th with a time of 20:25, leading the team. Kyler Fouts and Tavan Morgan were close behind, finishing 16th and 17th, with times of 20:26 and 20:37. Antonio Prieto



Matt Scoggins photo

The Rangely Panthers cross-country team started their season at the Basalt Longhorns Invitational last weekend. Taya Wren finished second for the girls team, which placed 6th overall. The boys team placed fourth.

had a solid debut as the team's fourth runner, finishing in 22:55. Titus Friedrich and Alec Gillard ran close together, with times of 23:12 and 23:18. Senior Gage Neilsen finished with

a time of 26:27.

"Basalt is always a good meet to start the season with; it is moderately challenging but has great competition," said Coach Scoggins. "We learned

what we need to work on and saw encouraging things as well."

The teams will travel to the Grand Mesa Trails for their next meet on Friday, Aug. 29.



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Cowboys set to kick off 2025-26 football season on the road this weekend



BOBBY G'S MEMORIES PHOTO

The Meeker Cowboys gather in a huddle during last Friday's scrimmage against the Rangely Panthers at Starbucks Stadium.

By **JARED HENDERSON**
jared@ht1885.com

MEEKER | This Friday a new high school football

season will begin for the Meeker Cowboys. After months of anticipation, the smell of freshly cut grass on Friday night will fill the air as the team opens the season on the road against

the Centauri Falcons.

Head coach Andy Coryell said the team is excited to get back on the field. "We're excited to be back. We had a lot of guys participate in our offsea-

son programs, and they're ready to play real football for a change," he said.

The Cowboys hosted the Rangely Panthers in a scrimmage last weekend at Starbucks Stadium.

Coryell said he was encouraged by the performance of young players stepping into new positions. "I thought we had a productive scrimmage on Friday. We got to see a lot of young guys in new spots and were encouraged by how they played," he said.

Meeker will be led by nine seniors: Sam Conrado, Auggie Halstead, Holton Harvey, Ty Ivy, Drake Jones, Eric Petrocco, Dillon Pretti, Tristan Rollins and Quintin Simpson. Coryell noted that most of them have significant playing experience. The team also returns several juniors, including quarterback Cade Mills and running back Said Rodriguez, who saw substantial playing time last season.

Friday's opener is a rematch of last year's season opener, in which Centauri

defeated Meeker 33-6 at home. Coryell said facing a strong opponent early will provide a good benchmark for his team. "This Friday we go to Centauri to see a really good team. We'll get to see how we measure up against one of the better teams in the state right away," he said.

The Cowboys will look to start the season strong as they hit the road Friday. With experienced seniors leading the way and a mix of juniors and younger players stepping into bigger roles, Meeker will look to build momentum and develop cohesion throughout the season. Every game will provide opportunities to sharpen their skills, improve teamwork, and set the tone for the rest of the year as they aim to compete at a high level and challenge some of the top programs in the state.

Meeker sweeps Pagosa to start strong, splits matches on Day Two

By **JARED HENDERSON**
jared@ht1885.com

MEEKER | The Meeker High School volleyball team opened its 2025 season last weekend at the Glenwood Springs Tournament, finishing 2-2 after two days of play.

The Cowboys started strong Friday afternoon with a straight-set win over Pagosa Springs, 25-15, 25-15. The victory marked the second straight year Meeker swept Pagosa to begin the season.

"It felt really good," head coach Greg Cravens said. "I even told the girls I was nervous, they were a little bit nervous, so we had a slow start, but the girls picked it up. We played together really well that first match, and I was really proud of what we did."

Senior Rylee Sullivan said opening her final season with a straight-set win was a special moment.

"I would say it was a great accomplishment, especially since it was our first game with a brand-new team. I'm very proud of every girl and all they contributed. Chemistry will come with time, and while communication can always improve, I think we talked enough to get us

through the weekend. As my last first game and last first win, it was emotional, but I was happy and proud of what we did and what we can accomplish this season," Sullivan said.

Cravens said strong execution carried the Cowboys through both sets.

"I thought overall, we passed well," he said. "I thought server speed was really good in that gym. Raegan was good at the net, Rylee was really good at the net, so we had some kids that stepped up offensively that really helped out a lot."

Later Friday night, Meeker fell to tournament host Glenwood Springs in straight sets, 25-22, 25-18. It was the second straight year the Demons topped the Cowboys at the tournament.

"They are very good. They serve well — that libero was actually on my daughter's club team back when they were 13 years old, so I've known how good she's been forever," Cravens said. "She just served us off the court that second set. We were flat-footed and flat-platformed, and that's just not going to work against serves like that."

Despite the loss, Cravens said his players showed fight.

"I thought we did a

good job scrambling. Our serve receive was not very good, but if Jacey couldn't get to the ball, somebody else would," he said. "We did a decent job of putting the ball back over on their side. We didn't make a lot of errors, they just made a lot of points, and defensively we just couldn't keep up."

On Saturday morning, Meeker bounced back with a sweep of Roaring Fork, 25-22, 25-23.

"We battled even though things weren't clicking well for us," Cravens said.

The win improved the Cowboys' record to 2-1 before closing tournament play against Coal Ridge. The last time these two teams played each other it was the Cowboys getting the 3-1 win back in August 2021. This time the Titans controlled the match, winning in two sets, 25-17, 25-20.

"Their serve was very tough. It exposed our weaknesses in serve receive," Cravens said. "We couldn't get in a flow because we were always out of system. Serve, receive and block are concerns for us."

The loss evened Meeker's record at 2-2 to start the year. Cravens said the tournament highlighted both strengths and areas for improvement.

"We have things to work on. I need to find a rotation that works better for us," he said. "Passing and blocking will be better the next time we play."

Meeker has this weekend off before returning to action Sept. 5 on the road at De Beque. Cravens said preparation will be key.

"De Beque has a very good hitter we need to be ready for. She played well against us this summer, so we need to be ready," he said. "Preparation is probably going well because Coach Turner and Coach Steerman are in charge."

With a weekend off, the Cowboys will use the time to sharpen their rotations and clean up passing before heading on the road to face De Beque on Sept. 5.



JARED HENDERSON PHOTO

Senior Lissbeth Sanchez (No. 14) prepares to serve for Meeker High School during a match at the Glenwood Springs Tournament. Sanchez helped the Cowboys in their opening weekend as they split four matches to start the 2025 season.

(Cont.) New elementary school principal at MES

Cont. from P1

play at night, which is something I've always done," she said. "It's been fun to mix adults and kids in the production and provide something new for the community. I love being creative and helping people stretch their wings in ways they didn't think possible."

Superintendent Chris Selle commented on Holliday's commitment to the district and leadership skills, saying, "We're fortunate that Shana Holliday was interested in moving into an administration role. She's committed to our school dis-

trict and our kids, organized, thoughtful, and willing to step up to the challenges of leadership. Having her provide consistent leadership is important for the building, and we're grateful for her dedication."

Looking ahead, Holliday said she is ready to build on the school's strengths while bringing her own creative energy to the role. With years of experience in the classroom, deep connections in the community and a passion for helping students grow, she enters the school year prepared to lead Meeker Elementary into a new chapter.



Navigating medical billing can sometimes be tricky, and we've recently made some updates to our billing processes that might leave you with questions.

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Class size is limited!

Colorado Parks and Wildlife concludes active removal period to address chronic wolf depredation in RBC

PRESS RELEASE

MEEKER | On August 16, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services (WS) deployed a team to Rio Blanco County to lethally remove an uncollared wolf that was determined to be responsible for six depredations in Rio Blanco County in late July and August.

CPW and WS located the wolf and attempted to lethally remove the wolf with a firearm on Aug. 16 but were unable to locate the animal due to the dense vegetation and difficult terrain in the area. CPW and WS spent several days systematically gridding the area, dividing the terrain into sections and thoroughly searching each one. After six days of extensive and continued efforts, the team discontinued its search and concluded removal efforts.

CPW and WS continue to monitor Rio Blanco County for signs of further wolf activity and there have been no additional depredations or reports of wolf vocaliza-

tions since Aug. 16.

This management decision was a response to six confirmed depredations in Rio Blanco County in late July and August. Of these depredations, three were determined by clear and convincing evidence to have been caused by a wolf with the others being determined by a preponderance of evidence to have been caused by a wolf.

Lethal removal operations in Rio Blanco County were delayed due to active fire behavior on the Elk Fire – which started on Aug. 2. On Aug. 16, decreased fire activity and increased containment lines on the Elk Fire allowed CPW and its agents to safely pursue lethal removal operations without impairing the agency’s ability to support firefighting efforts and producers in Rio Blanco County.

A ‘depredation event’ is defined as a 24-hour period in which the Division determines by at least a preponderance of the evidence standard that a wolf or wolves caused physical trauma resulting in injury or death to a producer’s livestock

or working dogs.

The timeline of depredation events that prompted this management action is below.

July 20, 2025: one lamb deceased. WS found clear and convincing evidence that indicated the depredation was caused by a gray wolf, which was later confirmed by CPW. This depredation event was on a public land allotment.

July 22, 2025: one lamb deceased. CPW found the preponderance of evidence indicated that the depredation was caused by a gray wolf. This depredation event was on a public land allotment.

Aug. 2, 2025: one ewe deceased. WS found the preponderance of evidence indicated that the depredation was caused by a gray wolf, which was later confirmed by CPW. This depredation event was on public land allotment.

Aug. 16, 2025: three lambs deceased. CPW found clear and convincing evidence indicated that two of these depredations were caused by a gray wolf, with the other being determined by a preponderance of

evidence.

Following the first depredation event CPW coordinated with producers, including local woolgrowers associations, to provide around-the-clock range rider coverage while opportunistically hazing the uncollared wolf. Range riding efforts supplemented existing non-lethal conflict minimization tools already deployed by the producer as determined by a site assessment conducted earlier this year to discourage depredation on the impacted allotments.

In addition to the range riders deployed following the first depredation on July 20, non-lethal conflict minimization resources utilized by the producer before and during the timeline of depredation included human presence in the form of shepherds, use of working dogs, and deployment of sound scare devices.

CPW will not be sharing specific information concerning the depredation events or the ensuing removal operation. CPW will post a final report on its website once it is completed.

Meeker School Board holds first regular meeting for 2025-26 school year

By **JARED HENDERSON**
editor@ht1885.com

MEEKER | The Meeker School District Board of Education held its regular meeting last week at the district office, with all board members in attendance.

The board approved the agenda without changes and moved quickly into committee reports. The Meeker Education Foundation met in early July and awarded multiple grants. The District Accountability Committee will hold its first meeting Sept. 4, while the District Leadership Team and Employee Council are set to meet later in September.

High School Principal Amy Chinn noted this year’s freshman class is the last large class expected in the near future. She also praised staff for their resilience during the recent fire, especially Kathleen Kelley.

“Staffing and students all were fine, we had different levels of impact. Certainly Kathleen Kelley was very impacted by the fire. She was a trooper all through preservice — she did a great job keeping everybody centered,” Chinn said.

Chinn outlined the school’s new cell phone policy, which restricts phone use during class but allows access during lunch, passing periods, and before and after school.

“That would be in classes, it can’t be seen — so not on the desk, not in your pocket, because that’s distracting too,” she said. “It can be in your backpack, or a lot of teachers have cell phone cages, or they call them vacation spots.”

Students face escalating consequences if caught using phones in class. The first violation requires the phone to be left in the office for the day; the second requires a

parent to retrieve it after the day; and the third results in loss of phone privileges for a semester.

“We are allowing cell phones during passing periods, at lunch, before and after school,” Chinn added. “I did tell them they can see how many Snapchats they can get in four minutes — after that they have to put it away. We had zero violations today.”

Board member Heather Sauls said she supported the approach. “I really appreciate kind of like a common sense approach,” Sauls said. “I like the philosophy of teaching kids how to live with this technology and modernization. I think it’s a great policy.”

Superintendent Chris Selle also weighed in. “A complete ban isn’t something we can enforce either,” Selle said. “Not only does it help the kid learn how to manage their technology appropriately, but it’s something that we can enforce.”

New elementary principal Shana Holliday reported a smooth start to the year. “Everybody showed up and worked hard during pre-service week,” Holliday said. “We had zero kids out because of fire problems, which was fantastic to get started with everybody there.”

Barone Middle School Principal Dr. Atwell, also new to the district, joked that it was her first time in 36 years she had to wear a jacket to work. “One of the concerns for middle school is whether or not you’ll remember your schedule and if the teacher and kids will like you, and it turns out the principal’s not the only one that feels that way,” Atwell said. “We had a great day, and last week was my first time meeting the staff. We spent a lot of our time focusing on our collective commitments toward safety and culture.”

Selle reported current enrollment at 631 students as of Aug. 14, slightly above the 621.5 students the district budgeted for, though he cautioned that number may

drop as withdrawals are finalized.

“We don’t necessarily always know who’s not going to show up,” Selle said. “My guess is that number will drop a little bit, but we have some buffer before we hit that point of where we build our budget.”

On finances, the district ended the fiscal year with revenues \$271,000 above budget and expenditures \$355,000 below budget, creating a positive variance of \$627,000. The fund balance now stands at about \$4.84 million, pending audit.

“We should be okay for this year. I don’t know what’s going to happen after this year,” Selle said, citing uncertainty around state revenues and the “Healthy Meals for All” program.

He also addressed the special legislative session that began Aug. 21, saying he does not expect major impacts on district funding.

“I would argue that we have a revenue issue, whether it’s tax income or some limitations that TABOR puts on our state revenues. I also argue that we have an expenditure problem, we’re spending money on programs that we can’t really afford, with the current political state in Colorado that’s not necessarily a very popular message, so I don’t know if any of that will change anytime soon,” Selle said.

The board also discussed the November school board election. Four seats are up for election, and as of the meeting, only the four incumbents had pulled petitions. If no additional candidates file by the Aug. 29 deadline, the election could be canceled, saving the district significant costs. A short special meeting on Sept. 2 may be required to formalize the cancellation.

The board adjourned after setting its next meeting for a Sept. 8 work session.

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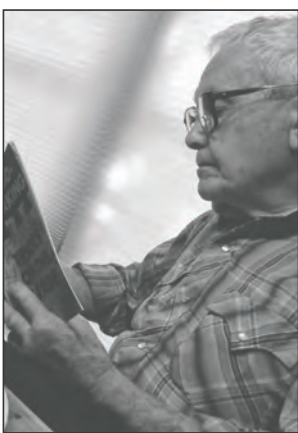
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OBITUARY

James 'Jim' Lee Ruckman

Jan. 29, 1937 ~ Aug. 10, 2025



James 'Jim' Lee Ruckman

James (Jim) Lee Ruckman was the first-born son of Raymond Roy Johnson Ruckman and Clara Maud Johnson Ruckman, born on Jan. 29, 1937, in Powell Park, Rio Blanco County. When he was a toddler, around 1940, his family moved from the ranch on Powell Park to the town of Meeker. His parents gave him four little brothers, Jack, Benjamin (Ben), Robert (Bob), and George (Joe). Ben passed away as a toddler.

Jim passed away on Aug. 10, 2025, in Grand Junction, Colorado, from complications of Alzheimer's.

Although his father, Raymond, was a legendary cowboy, he became one of Meeker's earliest plumbers, and Jim and his brothers were expected to do as much as they were able to help. They grew up in the little cabin on 12th and Park, growing a garden, raising rabbits, hunting, fishing and helping Ray. His mother, Clara, had had rheumatic fever as a child, which left her somewhat frail. She passed away when Jim was barely a teenager.

Jim also had some health issues as a kid, with polyps growing in his sinuses. The polyps would get so large that they would impact his physical growth and even cause temporary blindness. He contracted Rocky Mountain Spotted Tick fever in his 30s, and the resulting Lyme disease was a challenge. No doubt this had an impact on his vision, joints, and stature in later life.

In 1956, he married Barbara Joyce Wolfe. That same year, he began serving in the U.S. Army, stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. While stationed there, he served as a marksmanship trainer. It was apparent that

learning to shoot, which was required to eat in Colorado, had its benefits. In July of 1957, his daughter, Teresia Rose (Terri Rose), was born in Madisonville, Kentucky. The following year, they returned to Meeker, moving into the tiny apartment his dad had built on top of the plumbing shop. Unfortunately, the marriage did not last, but Jim retained custody of Terri.

He enrolled in CSU to pursue an education in engineering, but his dad needed his help back home, so he went back to work for his dad and began taking some mail-order classes to educate himself. He developed true talent and knowledge in all phases of construction, cabinet making, and wood finishing. He was curious and determined. He became a legendary problem-solver, rarely turning down a job or a challenge. If he couldn't find the right tool to do the job, he would make the tool. When his son, Tom, needed help getting a boiler running on a rig in the oil field, a simple phone call to Dad was all that was needed to get it running, despite the fact that the rig's electrician couldn't get it done. When his daughter, Terri, needed to install a water heater on the Front Range, a phone call to Dad was all that was needed. He gave great directions over the phone. He was known in the community as someone with a brilliant mind who could fix almost anything. At one point he found out about wood foundations for houses. So he went to the training and returned to Meeker and started building wood foundations. All of them are still standing and sound. One of his favorite sayings was: "My aim is that when my hands will work no longer, the works of my hands will continue to keep on working."

In 1961, he married Donna Hopperstad and adopted her two children, Melody and Thomas. He bought the house on the corner of 4th and Main, which was the first framed house ever built in Meeker. He raised his family there on that corner, with a yard full of horses, goats, dogs, and other critters. He never knew a dog he didn't like or a dog that didn't like him. Sadly, his marriage to Donna ended

17 years later.

He was a great teacher, always showing anyone who asked how to do things. He served as a 4-H leader. He was determined to make Meeker a better place. When the town of Meeker decided that they were going to banish horses from being kept inside the town limits, he went on the defensive to make sure there were regulations in place to let them stay. If we are going to remain a rural community that benefits from having our horses in town, like the fair and rodeo, we shouldn't make our citizens keep them somewhere else the rest of the time, he reasoned. He served as the president of the Meeker Chamber of Commerce and made a trip to Washington, D.C., to talk to politicians about developing tourism in Meeker. He would later say that he might have done that job too well. He was dedicated to the Jaycees when they would cook a pig on a spit for the 4th of July.

He was a firefighter and EMT, saving many lives and putting out a lot of fires. He was an Evinrude dealer for a number of years, snowmobiling every weekend in winter and working on them in the evenings after a hard day's work. He was instrumental in the Meeker Park Ice Skating Pond. He grew potatoes with his Uncle Floyd on South Fork, which fed the family (and townspeople) for many years and provided Mel, Tom, and Terri with an opportunity to weed a good acre and get dirty. In all of these activities, his kids were with him. He taught them to work hard, never be afraid to think outside the box, and use their brains.

In 1982, Sue Kirkham became his life partner. Like any relationship, they had their ups and downs. She stayed by him through thick and thin to the very end.

He and his brother Bob partnered in a construction company, Holzberlein-Ruckman Construction and Ruckman Incorporated. They owned Ruckman Construction, Ruckman Paint and Decorating as well. He left his mark on many, many buildings in town. He followed his father's footsteps in taking care of the Hugas Building until

he retired in 2017. He was a big part of the remodel that added the elevator, stairs, and inner walls to the Hugas Building while retaining the historic integrity of the building. He made a new window for the Holy Family Catholic Church, which you can see as you drive by on Park Avenue in Meeker. He later partnered with Mike Whalin to do builds and renovations around town. Although they argued like a married couple, they did high-quality work. Folks in Meeker were fortunate to have such a high level of craftsmanship available.

Jim and Sue moved to Grand Junction in 2017 to be closer to medical care and to avoid shoveling and driving in the snow.

He was known for having a temper, which was more apparent when he didn't feel well. He was also known for his quick wit. Whether he was setting a helper up to get poop on his head while fixing a sewer line or hiding under a sink to surprise someone, you were sure to have a laugh. You had to be quick and smart to catch his humor. He was known for his kindness. He never got rich in the monetary way, because he gave much of his time and work away.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Clara Maud; his father, Roy Raymond Ruckman; his brothers: Jack, Benjamin, Robert, and George; and his grandson, Michael

Aaron Bowden. He is survived by his wife, Sue Kirkham; his daughter, Teresia (Scott) Reed; his son, Thomas Ruckman; his daughter, Melody Robinson; his grandchildren: Ame (Doug) Warren, EJ (Dawn) LeClair, and Thomas Ruckman; 11 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. He was a great man and is deeply missed.

Services will be held at Calahan-Edfast, 2515 Patterson Rd., Grand Junction, CO 81505, at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025

Interment will be held at Highland Cemetery, Meeker, CO 81641 at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 3, 2025.

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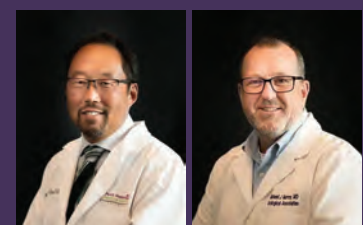
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MEEKER HERALD ~ 125 YEARS AGO

Wanted, immediately, someone to put up a dozen habitable dwelling houses. It is guaranteed that they will be rented as soon as completed. For further information inquire from the first person you meet.

Several attempts to break

the drought occurred early in the week, but without success.

Plenty of snow can be seen today on the flattops from Meeker.

MEEKER HERALD ~ 100 YEARS AGO

The Rio Blanco County Fair opened at 10 a.m.

Thursday, with the "Modes of Transportation" parade depicted the development of transportation from the early prairie schooners, Concord state coaches, driving rigs, early automobiles and so on to the latest eight-cylinder cars.

With gasoline down to fourteen cents a gallon in Kansas there is no reason in the world why there should be twenty-two cent gas in Denver and thirty-eight cents a gallon here.

The heavy rains of the past two weeks have worked a hardship on the roads through the county and the up-river road from Buford to Trappers is reported as almost impassable.

MEEKER HERALD ~ 75 YEARS AGO

Mr. K.E. Cowdery, manager of the Meeker airport, has had Engineer R.C. Graham at the airport the past week making a land survey and running a contour of the proposed field. The planned airport would take in two runways and give Meeker a very creditable field for postwar period.

Rio Blanco nimrods are getting itchy trigger fingers, what with the

1945 hunting seasons approaching.

Mr. Francis White, manager of the Meeker Cash Grocery, made a business trip to Denver this week, leaving Meeker Tuesday.

MEEKER HERALD ~ 50 YEARS AGO

The fourth death within eight days occurred on the White River Road last Sunday morning at 1:45 a.m. Seat belts were installed but not in use. Alcohol was believed to be a prime cause of the accident.

Oil shale panel meets in Rangely. The Oil Shale Environmental Advisory Panel will review the latest environmental data reports for the four prototype oil shale lease tracts.

MEEKER HERALD ~ 25 YEARS AGO

Enrollment in the public schools of Rangely will be down just a little from last year, according to Bob Mullen, Superintendent of Schools in District RE-4. Students returned to school on Wednesday of last week.

Emma Vaughn, daughter of Boone and Barbara

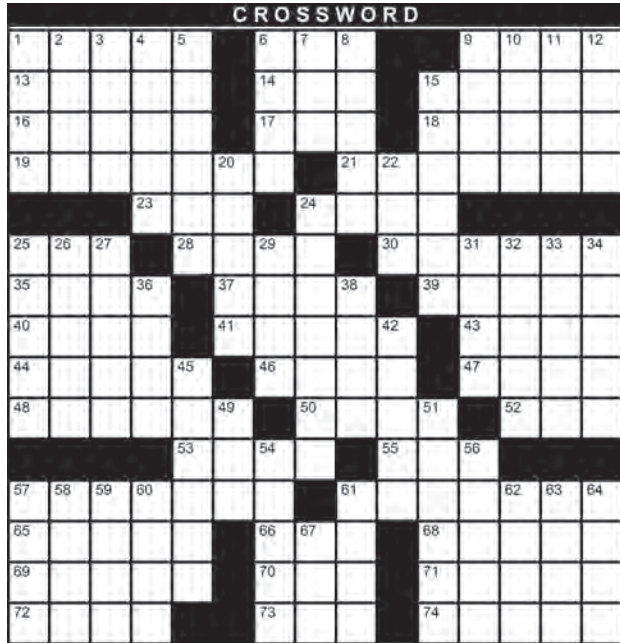
Vaughn of Meeker, was among the candidates competing for the title of Miss Teen of Colorado at the 2000 State Pageant.

RANGELY TIMES ~ 50 YEARS AGO

George Pidcock of Rangely has been elected to the Colorado Education

Association Board of Directors.

Arthur McKee was recently appointed by the Board of Directors of Moon Lake Electric Association to fill the unexpired term of Leo Karrent, Director from District 5.



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

THEME: MEET ME IN...

ACROSS

- Manual calculator, pl.
- Beach Boys: "___ Only Knows"
- Army beds
- Pressed ham and cheese sandwich
- Part of spch
- Popular Latin dance
- Influencer's creation
- Hula dancer's flowers
- Birdlike
- *Meet me here, under the arch
- *Meet me at the Top of the Rock

- Comic book expression for alarm
- Press backward arrow key
- "Hand" with claws
- Spreadsheet software command
- Day off, backwards
- Bug-eyed
- "Cheers" regular
- Coupe alternative
- Be dependent
- Damage one's reputation
- Slightly (2 words)
- Prefix for below
- Shade of beige
- Java neighbor

- War mounts
- Rope fiber
- "___ Now or Never"
- Leave at the altar
- Flapper's feathers
- *Meet me at the London Bridge
- *The Black Eyed Peas: "Meet Me ___"
- *Meet me in ___ Mara, Kenya
- Undergarment
- *Meet me in Australia to see this bear
- Done to printer cartridge
- Corn unit
- Poet W. H. ___ of "Funeral Blues" fame
- Infamous Nazi villain

- Strong solution of sodium
 - Like gelled hair
- #### DOWN
- Parts of a play
 - Actor Reynolds of "Smokey and the Bandit"
 - Cain's victim
 - Paddler's vessel
 - Endows or empowers
 - "Buffalo ___, won't you come out tonight..."
 - Keats' poem
 - Jinn or genie
 - Guinea pig or capybara
 - Mixture
 - Russian monarch

- What Titanic did
- Went to bid farewell (2 words)
- *Meet me in Orthodox church to see these
- *Meet me in Tokyo, pre-1968
- *Meet me in the largest city in Netherlands
- *Meet me under the Eiffel Tower
- Real estate broker, e.g.
- "The Bonfire of the Vanities" author Tom ___
- *Meet me by the Trevi Fountain
- Adipose tissue
- *Meet me at the Burj Khalifa
- Like the Tower of Pisa
- Bigfoot's cousins

- Swirling vortex
- Filly's mother
- Popular Cuban dance
- Be next to, as in rooms
- Fall from grace
- The Kenosha Kickers' songs
- Sticker on a jar
- Run ___ of the law
- Same as ayah
- Respiratory rattling
- Osiris' sister and wife
- Opposite of zigs
- Tortoise's opponent
- Do like fly fishermen
- Sheltered, nautically
- Pull
- Everybody loved him on TV

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PUBLIC NOTICES

RIO BLANCO COUNTY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE BALANCE LIST

JULY 31, 2025
FUND: GENERAL
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME,
AMOUNT**
CDPHE, PURCH SVC, 337.00
JOHNSON CONTROLS, PURCH SVC,
2,731.17
SYMBOLARTS, UNFRM/CLTH, 140.00
FREMONT CTY EXTENSION, TRNG/
DEV, 70.00
EIDE BAILLY, CNTNGNCY, 1,180.00
EMC PLUMBING, RPR/MNTC, 14,525.00
A-1 HEATING, PURCH SVC, 315.96
ALL STATE COMM, PURCH SVC,
6,210.36
ALSCO, PURCH SVC, 1,340.62
AMAZON, SPPLY, 10,731.32
ANTHONY WEST, PURCH SVC, 300.00
ATMOS, UTL, 541.79
EMMA BAKER, PLNG CMTY, 50.00
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, PURCH SVC, 700
CENTURYLINK, LND LN, 170.39
CNCC, CNTRCT SVC, 2,500.00
CATÁ, TRNG DEV, 969.00
CO ASSESSORS' ASSOC, PURCH SVC,
10,00
CBI, PURCH SVC, 1,612.50
CO CTY CLERK'S ASSO, PURCH SVC,
125.00
CO, ST OF, PURCH SVC, 797.41
CO-RESPONDER, CNTRCT SVC,
9,445.50
COLUMN, PURCH SVC, 301.31
CTY SHERIFF'S OF CO, TRNG DEV, 150
CROSSCONNECT, PURCH SVC,
68,925.06
DCW, SPPLY, 3,470.00
DAY, TRAVIS, PLNG CMTY, 50.00
DBT TRANSPORT, PURCH SVC, 6,496.00
DIGITAL MAP SOL, CNTRCT SVC,
18,147.89
D A OFFICE, PURCH SVC, 32,702.50
DUCHEY'S ELEC, PURCH SVC, 1,426.02
DUNGAN, JOSEPH, PURCH SVC, 168.00
DVL GROUP, PURCH SVC, 3,188.00
FEDEX, PURCH SVC, 3.02
FIRST ADVANTAGE, PURCH SVC, 274.70
FIRSTNET, PURCH SVC, 1,300.02
JESSICA FERRO, OTHR CNTRCT SVC,
250.00
AVERY KIMBLE, OTHR CNTRCT SVC,
1,000.00
BRIGHTON LAKE, OTHR CNTRCT SVC,
1,000.00
KAITLIN MANITSAS, OTHR CNTRCT
SVC, 500.00
TAMERA CLARK, OTHR CNTRCT SVC,
500.00
FORGING COURAGEOUS, CNTRCT
SVC, 5,100.00
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE,
PURCH SVC, 360.00
FREMONT CTY CLERK, TRNG DEV, 70
GALL'S, UNFRM/CLTH, 791.34
IDENTITY GRAPHICS, PURCH SVC, 385
IMAGENET, SPPLY, 3,905.00
JOHNSON CONTROLS, SPPLY, 138.45
KEHFT, RNTLSE, 1,500.00
MAZZOLA, ANTHONY, TRVL, 70.82
MEEKER AIRPORT, CNTRCT SVC,
3,000.00
MEEKER SANITATION, UTL, 624.00
MEEKER, TWN OF, UTL, 3,833.80
CRANDAL MERGELMAN, SPPLY, 73.38
MOBLEY, TRAVIS, ADV, 154.00
MOFFATT CTY, CNTRCT SVC, 9,567.84
MOON LAKE, UTL, 2,838.45
MOTOROLA SOL, PURCH SVC, 22,150.46
MVB-VISA, PURCH SVC, 23,827.96
NICHOLS STORE, SPPLY, 14.00
OVERTON RECY, UTL, 2,219.00
PATHOLOGY GROUP, PURCH SVC, 6,006
PMC, PURCH SVC, 136.00
PITNEY BOWES RES, PURCH SVC,
710.47
PROFORCE LAW ENFOR, SPPLY, 660.96
RANGELY, TWN OF, UTL, 2,147.61
RANGELY TRASH, PURCH SVC, 1,555.00
RANGELY TRUE VALUE, SPPLY, 1,058.36
RBC FAIR BOARD, CNTRCT SVC, 1,500
RBC FAIR BOARD, MISC REV, 630.00
REDLANDS ACCT, CNTRCT SVC,
13,721.75
RICHARDSON, FAIN, PURCH SVC, 130
RB HERALD TIME, PURCH SVC, 2,577.16
ROCKY MTN INFO, SUBS, 100.00
SAMUELSON, SPPLY, 495.34
SHUMS CODA ASSOC, PRJCT SPRT,
5,150.00
DIANA SIZEMORE, PLNG CMTY, 50.00
EDDIE SMERCINA, PURCH SVC, 400.00
STEERMAN LAW, PROF SVC, 11,500.00
JAY SULLIVAN, PLNG CMTY, 50.00
T-MOBILE, PURCH SVC, 124.92
THOMSON REUTERS, PURCH SVC,
157.50
TYLER TECH, PURCH SVC, 18,430.80
USGS, WTR STDY, 45,240.50
U.S. TRACTOR, SPPLY, 578.47
USDA, APHIS, CNTRCT SVC, 25,180.30
VALLEY HARDWARE, SPPLY, 1,506.57
VALUE WEST, CNTRCT SVC, 2,180.00
VITALSHRED, PURCH SVC, 81.66
VOIANCE LANGUAGE, PURCH SVC, 50
WR DIST, SPPLY, 126.25
WREA, UTL, 11,070.21
YOUR PARTS HAUS, SPPLY, 21.60
US DEPT TREAS, FED W/H, 28,099.94
US DEPT TREAS, FICA W/H, 52,317.27
CEBT, INSURANCE, 96,776.47
GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 40,178.84
AM FIDELITY ASSURANCE, SPLMNTL
INS, 3,128.40
TEXAS LIFE INSURANCE, SPLMNTL
INS, 337.02
CO ST, STATE W/H, 12,899.56
GENERAL FUND TOTAL, 655,787.63
FUND: CAPITAL
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME,
AMOUNT**
MOTOROLA SOL, SHRF CAP, 27,780.00
PAINTING PLUS, MNTC, 27,690.00
CAPITAL FUND TOTAL, 55,470.00
FUND: ROAD & BRIDGE
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME,
AMOUNT**
MEEKER, TWN OF, AP MUNCL, 43,374.55
RANGELY, TWN OF, AP MUNCL, 25,559.11
AMAZON, SPPLY, 175.55
JAKE BUTLER, PURCH SVC, 75.00
CAROLINA SOFTWARE, PURCH SVC,
450.00
JOSEPH CARSTEN, PURCH SVC, 75.00
COLUMN, PURCH SVC, 25.08
CULLIGAN, PURCH SVC, 230.00
JUSTIN DAVIS, PURCH SVC, 75.00
ANTINA DIBENEDETTO, PURCH SVC, 75
ENVIROAD, DUST CNTRL, 23,625.00
NEW GMCO, DUST CNTRL, 12,712.64

HAGGART, JAMES, PURCH SVC, 75.00
MGM, SPPLY, 105.00
MSG, DUST CNTRL, 15.00
MEEKER, TWN OF, DUST CNTRL, 24.00
MVB-VISA, PURCH SVC, 1,251.99
PITNEY BOWES RES, PURCH SVC,
10.25
RANGELY TRUE VALUE, SPPLY, 84.99
REINHARD, CRYSTAL, PURCH SVC, 75
RB HERALD TIME, SUBS, 50.00
SAMUELSON, SPPLY, 162.41
SGM, BRKE BRDG, 12,157.75
VALLEY HARDWARE, SPPLY, 44.97
WREA, UTL, 125.63
THAD WHITE, PURCH SVC, 75.00
US DEPT TREAS, FED W/H, 10,920.89
US DEPT TREAS, FICA W/H, 22,269.60
CEBT, INSURANCE, 45,349.80
GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 15,549.75
AM FIDELITY ASSURANCE, SPLMNTL
INS, 2,437.05
CO ST, STATE W/H, 5,240.10
FAMILY SUPPORT REGISTRY, WAGE
ASNM, 329.53
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND TOTAL,
222,805.64
FUND: PUBLIC HEALTH
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME,
AMOUNT**
ALL STATE COMM, PURCH SVC, 228.00
AMAZON, SPPLY, 172.40 GLOBAL
PROTECTION, SPPLY, 195.00
McKESSON MED, SPPLY, 354.26
MVB-VISA, PURCH SVC, 395.80
T-MOBILE, PURCH SVC, 41.64
US DEPT TREAS, FED W/H, 1,341.13
US DEPT TREAS, FICA W/H, 2,914.18
CEBT, INSURANCE, 3,116.76
GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 1,925.66
AM FIDELITY ASSURANCE, SPLMNTL
INS, 57.15
CO ST, STATE W/H, 693.88
PUBLIC HEALTH FUND TOTAL, 10,644.26
FUND: DEPT OF HUMAN SVCS
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME,
AMOUNT**
ADVANTAGE TREATMENT, CHLD WLFR,
200.00
AMAZON, CNTY ADMIN, 178.01
AXIOM HUMAN RESOURCE, CNTY
ADMIN, 62.70
FARNEY, LINDA, CHLD WLFR, 320.00
LANGUAGE LINE, CNTY ADMIN, 23.37
CARMEN MCKAY, PURCH SVC, 63.00
MVB-VISA, PURCH SVC, 413.08
PITNEY BOWES RES, CNTY EXPNC,
4.52
RANGELY CONOCO, IVE INHENCE, 105.00
REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY, CHLD WLFR,
63.44
STEERMAN LAW, CHLD SPRT, 11,580.00
T-MOBILE, PURCH SVC, 291.48
TAYLOR CONSULTING, CNTY ADMIN,
192.50
VITALSHRED, CNTY ADMIN, 163.34
US DEPT TREAS, FED W/H, 3,738.24
US DEPT TREAS, FICA W/H, 8,510.66
CEBT, INSURANCE, 21,777.74
GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 4,017.47
AM FIDELITY ASSURANCE, SPLMNTL
INS, 422.75
TEXAS LIFE INSURANCE, SPLMNTL
INS, 105.04
CO ST, STATE W/H, 1,997.37
DEPT OF HUMAN SVCS FUND TOTAL,
53,873.69
FUND: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME,
AMOUNT**
ELEVATED EXCAVATIN, M AP WTRLN,
26,307.52
GARVER, M AP PRJCT, 17,068.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TOTAL,
43,375.52
FUND: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME,
AMOUNT**
CALIX, CAP OTLY, 143,394.42
CROSSCONNECT, CAP OTLY, 25,241.20
QYPSYS, CAP OTLY, 78,012.01
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND TOTAL,
246,647.63
FUND: USE TAX
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME,
AMOUNT**
ASHLEY FILLMORE, PURCH SVC, 100.00
MOON LAKE, UTL, 292.57
MVB-VISA, SPPLY, 229.65
NICKSON, ANNALEE, PURCH SVC, 44.79
PITNEY BOWES RES, PURCH SVC, 2.22
RANGELY AUTO, SPPLY, 72.90
RANGELY, TWN OF, UTL, 5,195.89
RANGELY TRASH, UTL, 203.00
RANGELY TRUE VALUE, SPPLY, 664.84
RB HERALD TIME, PURCH SVC, 80.00
SYSCO, FD SPPLYS, 3,104.65
U.S. FOODS, SPPLY, 3,705.29
WATT'S, FD SPPLYS, 149.72
US DEPT TREAS, FED W/H, 1,241.41
US DEPT TREAS, FICA W/H, 3,191.93
CEBT, INSURANCE, 6,760.98
GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 1,947.54
AM FIDELITY ASSURANCE, SPLMNTL
INS, 98.74
CO ST, STATE W/H, 692.19
USE TAX FUND TOTAL, 27,778.31
FUND: SOLID WASTE
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME,
AMOUNT**
AMAZON, SPPLY, 2,119.25
CAROLINA SOFTWARE, PURCH SVC,
461.50
CDPHE, ST LF, 11,871.13
MVB-VISA, PURCH SVC, 26.33
OVERTON RECY, PURCH SVC, 100.00
PITNEY BOWES RES, PURCH SVC, 7.59
RB HERALD TIME, PURCH SVC, 308.00
SAMUELSON, SPPLY, 41.94
SMA, CLSR PST, 10,616.66
TOBEY WILLEY, PURCH SVC, 75.00
VALLEY HARDWARE, SPPLY, 197.49
WREA, UTL, 171.19
YOUR PARTS HAUS, CAP OTLY, 1,967.96
US DEPT TREAS, FED W/H, 3,218.19
US DEPT TREAS, FICA W/H, 4,653.40
CEBT, INSURANCE, 11,550.94
GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 1,958.85
AM FIDELITY ASSURANCE, SPLMNTL
INS, 15.53
CO ST, STATE W/H, 1,161.90
SOLID WASTE FUND TOTAL, 50,522.85
FUND: WEED & PEST
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME,
AMOUNT**
BURKE BROTHERS, MSQTO CNTRL,
1,007.50
MTN AIR SPRAY, MSQTO CNTRL,
20,250.00
MVB-VISA, PURCH SVC, 55.85
OSBORN INDUST, WEED CNTRL,
20,612.50
OVERLAND, MSQTO CNTRL, 13,244.77
PITNEY BOWES RES, PURCH SVC,
10.36
VAN DIEST SUPPLY, CHEM USED,

30,041.32
WILD VEGETATION, WEED CNTRL,
16,725.00
US DEPT TREAS, FED W/H, 1,273.10
US DEPT TREAS, FICA W/H, 2,586.74
CEBT, INSURANCE, 1,719.18
GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 1,165.44
AM FIDELITY ASSURANCE, SPLMNTL
INS, 246.14
CO ST, STATE W/H, 621.00
WEED & PEST FUND TOTAL, 109,558.90
FUND: COMMUNICATIONS
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME,
AMOUNT**
AMAZON, SPPLY, 1,773.30
CALIX, PURCH SVC, 430.32
GLDS, PURCH SVC, 315.12
KPE LOCATING, PURCH SVC, 5,360.00
MAMMOTH NET, PURCH SVC, 3,240.00
MOON LAKE, UTL, 831.78
MVB-VISA, SPPLY, 1,379.61
NWCOG, PURCH SVC, 57,344.34
PMC, CMNTY ANC, 8,673.60
RANGELY, TWN OF, UTL, 22.45
UTILITY NOTIFICATION, PURCH SVC,
134.19
VALLEY HARDWARE, SPPLY, 3.99
WREA, UTL, 2,150.84
US DEPT TREAS, FED W/H, 908.84
US DEPT TREAS, FICA W/H, 2,169.20
CEBT, INSURANCE, 6,380.30
GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 1,701.28
AM FIDELITY ASSURANCE, SPLMNTL
INS, 141.76
CO ST, STATE W/H, 482.00
COMMUNICATIONS FUND TOTAL,
93,442.92
FUND: FAIRFIELD
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME,
AMOUNT**
ATMOS ENERGY, UTL, 98.34
CRITTERS R US, PURCH SVC, 300.00
MEEKER SANITATION, UTL, 40.00
MEEKER, TWN OF, UTL, 588.00
MVB-VISA, RPR/MNTC, 1,164.99
OVERTON RECY, UTL, 416.00
SAMUELSON, SPPLY, 39.98
VALLEY HARDWARE, SPPLY, 84.12
WR DIST, SPPLY, 69.75
WREA, UTL, 1,885.49
FAIRFIELD FUND TOTAL, 4,686.67
FUND: CENTRAL SVCS
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME,
AMOUNT**
IMAGENET, CNTRCT SVC, 777.05
MGT IMPACT SOL, CST ALLCTN,
6,100.00
PITNEY BOWES RES, PSTG, 23.79
CENTRAL SVCS FUND TOTAL, 6,900.84
FUND: FLEET
**VENDOR NAME, ACCOUNT NAME,
AMOUNT**
4 RIVERS EQUIP, PRPTS/ACCS, 2,214.70
AIRGAS USA, SPPLY, 282.93
ALL STATE COMM, RPR/MNTC, 341.53
ALldata, PURCH SVC, 1,500.00
AMAZON, SPPLY, 1,116.78
APPLIED INDUSTRIAL, PRPTS/ACCS,
232.03
CGRS ENVIRO, PURCH SVC, 2,413.36
COMMERCIAL TIRE, TIRES, 131.00
RYAN HUBBARD, PURCH SVC, 75.00
INTERSTATE BILLING, SPPLY, 178.00
JACKSON GROUP, PRPTS/ACCS, 125.19
J.J. KELLER, PURCH SVC, 1,449.00
MEEKER COLLISION, PURCH SVC,
887.00
MEEKER PARTS CITY, PRPTS/ACCS,
2,350.60
MONUMENT OIL, GAS, 21,530.56
MOON LAKE, UTL, 62.00
MVB-VISA, GAS, 630.94
NICHOLS STORE, SPPLY, 41.95
PARISH OIL, DIESEL, 48,879.89
POWER EQUIP, PURCH SVC, 6,765.60
PURCELL TIRE, TIRES, 783.44
RANGELY AUTO, PRPTS/ACCS, 1,926.36
RANGELY TRUE VALUE, SPPLY, 123.61
RHINEHART OIL, GAS, 49.38
SAMUELSON, PRPTS/ACCS, 7.58
TRANSWEST TRUCKS, PRPTS/ACCS,
172.44
VALLEY HARDWARE, SPPLY, 6.99
WAGNER EQUIP, PRPTS/ACCS, 6,148.67
WEAR PARTS & EQUIP, PRPTS/ACCS,
1,075.60
WREA, UTL, 283.68
WR ENERGY, PURCH SVC, 374.34
YOUR PARTS HAUS, PRPTS/ACCS,
2,182.54
US DEPT TREAS, FED W/H, 1,709.38
US DEPT TREAS, FICA W/H, 5,910.52
CEBT, INSURANCE, 13,221.48
GREAT WEST, RETIREMENT, 5,661.48
AM FIDELITY ASSURANCE, SPLMNTL
INS, 227.40
TEXAS LIFE INSURANCE, SPLMNTL
INS, 28.54
CO ST, STATE W/H, 1,332.00
FLEET FUND TOTAL, 132,433.49
\$1,713,928.35
Published: August 28, 2025
Rio Blanco Herald Times

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
BY CONSOLIDATED NOTICE
CASE: 24DR14
Petitioner: Macy Rae Ridgeway
Respondent: Dakota Wayne Perla
The foregoing proceedings have been filed and are served by this publication. If your name appears above, you may obtain a copy of the petition and summons from Rio Blanco Combined Courts at 455 Main St., Meeker, CO 81641. If you fail to respond within thirty-five (35) days, a default judgment may be entered against you.
Published: August 28, September 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025
Rio Blanco Herald Times

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO
HEARING
Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 the Rio Blanco County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Rio Blanco County Courthouse, 555 Main Street, Meeker, Colorado to consider the following: PLJR-0001-25 Olmsted ADU. The applicants are proposing to build a second residence on a 757 acre parcel of land. The property is located at 201 CR 32A, Meeker Colorado, lying Within Section 13, 14, 23 & 24, T1N, R95W, 6th P.M. Copies of the documents may be obtained from the Rio Blanco County Planning Department at 555 Main Street in Meeker, Colorado, or you may call (970) 878-9510 for more information between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.
Published: August 14, 21, 28 and

September 4, 2025
Rio Blanco Herald Times
Invitation to Bid
Rangely Regional Library District
109 East Main Street
Rangely, CO 81648
Separate sealed bids for installation of a 10-foot by 19-foot cement slab on the west side of the Library. Project details can be requested from the Library Director, Amorette Hawkins, at 109 East Main Street, Rangely, CO, phone #970-675-8811. Deadline for bids is Friday, September 5, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.
Published: August 21 and 28, 2025
Rio Blanco Herald Times

RIO BLANCO COUNTY EMPLOYEES
TOTAL GROSS SALARY PAID IN
JUNE 2025. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS IN
ADDITION TO COMPENSATION DURING
JUNE WAS 45% OF GROSS SALARY.
TITLE ADJUSTED, GROSS SALARY
Assessor, 6,788.70
Assr Analyst/GIS, 4,280.00
Assr Appraiser III/Personal Prop, 4,768.00
Assr Cartographer I/Appraiser, 4,080.00
Assr Chief Appraiser, 4,495.50
Assr Oil & Gas Tax Auditor, 1,532.52
Assr Prpty Admin, 4,024.00
Atty/City Services Admin, 1,288.25
Assr Cartographer I/Appraiser, 4,080.00
Assr Chief Appraiser, 4,495.50
Assr Oil & Gas Tax Auditor, 1,532.52
Assr Prpty Admin, 4,024.00
Atty/City Services Admin, 1,288.25
Clerk & Recorder, 6,788.70
C&R Bkkr/Election, 4,019.20
C&R MV Compl Agnt, 2,378.88
C&R MV Compl Agnt, 3,776.00
C&R MV Compl Agnt, 3,600.00
C&R Rrd/Elec Tech, 3,803.19
Comm Broadband Svc Tech, 4,414.41
Comm Spec II, 4,556.80
Comm Spec II, 5,206.40
Commissioner, 7,783.08
Commissioner, 6,788.70
Commissioner, 7,783.08
Community Dev Admin/GIS/Pla,n 8,013.94
Community Dev Admin Asst, 3,900.80
Coroner, 3,841.16
Coroner Deputy, 40.00
Coroner Deputy, 83.92
County Admin, 8,461.54
DHS Dir, 7,716.14
DHS Admin Asst, 3,130.39
DHS Case Aide I, 3,193.60
DHS Case Aide II, 4,101.95
DHS Caseworker I, 4,818.60
DHS Caseworker I, 4,088.01
DHS Caseworker II, 3,923.61
DHS Caseworker II, 2,560.50
DHS Caseworker Spvr, 6,000.00
DHS Eligibility Spec/Admin Asst, 3,795.20
DHS Eligibility Spec/Admin Asst, 3,271.36
DHS Eligibility Spvr/Asst, 5,374.12
DHS Lead Eligibility Spec, 4,160.00
DHS On-call Spvr, 517.65
DHS Youth Mntl Health Progm M, gr 4,480.00
Exten Admin Asst, 2,984.30
Exten Office Mgr, 3,730.50
Facility Mgr, 5,956.81
Facility Mgmt Custodian, 3,200.00
Facility Mgmt Custodian, 3,512.00
Facility Mgmt Custodian Lead II, 3,920.01
Facility Mgmt Tech, 4,161.59
Facility Mgmt Tech, 4,161.60
Facility Mgmt Tech, 3,600.00
Facility Mgmt Tech I, 4,161.60
Facility Operations Admin, 8,305.28
FG Coordinator, 6,115.25
FG Laborer, 3,480.00
Fin Accountant, 4,596.80
Fin Accountant PRN, 615.00
Fin AP/Payroll Spec, 3,740.89
Fin Grant/Accounting Tech, 4,296.02
FLT Spvr, 7,409.24
FLT Amin Asst III, 4,310.40
FLT Mechanic, 5,382.40
FLT Mechanic, 5,382.40
FLT Mechanic I, 5,382.40
FLT Mechanic II, 5,382.40
FLT Mechanic III, 5,382.40
HR Dir, 7,269.08
HR/Atty Admin. Assistant, 3,900.81
IS Dir, 8,835.28
IS Systems Admin III, 7,114.24
Ntrl Resources Policy Dir, 5,769.60
PHA Dir, 6,920.00
PHA Nurse, 4,860.00
PHA WIC Educator/Admin, 3,157.57
R&B Dir, 7,885.24
R&B Admin, 1,136.00
R&B Coordinator, 5,446.40
R&B District Suvp, 5,449.60
R&B District Suvp, 5,864.62
R&B Lead Operator, 4,828.80
R&B Office Admin, 5,703.02
R&B Office Admin III, 4,302.40
R&B Operator II, 4,464.80
R&B Operator II, 4,788.00
R&B Operator II, 4,364.80
R&B Operator II, 4,692.16
R&B Operator II, 4,364.80
R&B Operator II, 4,464.80
R&B Operator II, 4,364.80
R&B Operator II, 4,364.80
R&B Operator II/WPC Tech, 4,364.80
R&B Operator III, 4,364.80
R&B Operator III, 4,788.00
R&B Operator III, 5,588.98
R&B Operator III, 4,688.00
R&B Operator IV, 4,828.80
R&B Operator IV, 4,928.80
R&B Operator IV, 4,828.80
R&B Operator IV, 4,828.80
R&B Operator IV, 4,828.80
R&B Operator IV, 3,621.60
R&B Prmt&Safety Compl Spec, 5,072.00
R&B Sign Mntc Tech, 2,392.00
R&B Temp Laborer, 130.44
R&B Temp Laborer, 3,304.48
R&B Temp Laborer, 2,174.00
R&B Traffic Control Suvp, 4,988.00
Sheriff, 8,819.54
Shrf Admin Deputy, 5,260.80
Shrf Court Security, 312.00
Shrf Dispatcher, 5,602.80
Shrf Dispatcher, 4,890.38
Shrf Dispatcher, 5,373.00
Shrf Dispatcher, 4,762.80
Shrf Dispatcher Suvp, 6,819.18
Shrf Office Mgr, 4,766.40
Shrf Operations LT, 7,115.38
Shrf Patrol Deputy, 5,841.01
Shrf Patrol Deputy, 7,066.78
Shrf Patrol Deputy, 5,688.64
Shrf Patrol Deputy, 1,218.96
Shrf Patrol Deputy, 5,688.64
Shrf Patrol Srgnt, 7,660.58
Shrf Patrol Srgnt, 6,829.26
Shrf Records Clerk, 4,203.20
Shrf Revs Deputy, 408.00

Shrf Undersheriff, 8,235.72
Surveyor, 382.92
SW Landfill Dir, 1,769.20
SW Landfill Operator, 5,408.04
SW Landfill Operator, 5,061.00
SW Landfill Pft Foreman, 4,880.00
Treasurer, 7,728.70
Use Tax Admin, 4,497.60
Veteran's Officer, 1,807.96
WPC Suvp, 5,347.20
WPC Temp Asst, 1,912.80
WRR Mgr, 4,640.00
WRR Cook, 2,937.38
WRR Cook, 3,129.68
WRR Rlf Cook, 19.20
WRR Rlf Cook, 1,912.80
WRR Rlf Cook, 622.08
WRR Transport Driver, 1,174.66
WRR Transport Driver, 2,155.41
\$655,839.81
Published: August 28, 2025
Rio Blanco Herald Times

2025 Rio Blanco County
Sand Salt Mix
Invitation for Bid
Project Name, Location and General Scope of Work:
Work includes providing approximately 2000 tons +/- of sand salt mix for the Rio Blanco County Road and Bridge Department to the shop locations in Meeker and/or Rangely.
Product Specifications:
Sand Salt Mix Requirements based upon CDOT Table 703-1 Fine Aggregate at 80% and 20% mix of Ice Kicker.
Rio Blanco County reserves the right to test materials delivered for accuracy of 80/20 mixture and sand specifications as per CDOT Table 703-1 Fine Aggregates.
Contract Documents:
All bid information and contract documents are available at www.bidnetdirect.com/rio-blanco-county.
Project Administrator:
Clint Chappell, Road and Bridge Coordinator, (970)878-9590, email: clint.chappell@rbc.us
Project Duration:
The County requires the project to begin on or near September 25, 2025 and requires the project to be completed by May 29, 2026 with delivery to commence upon requests from the Road & Bridge Department.
Title VI Commitment:
Rio Blanco County, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. SS 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to

submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

RIO BLANCO COUNTY COLORADO
Dated: August 28, 2025
By: Jennifer O'Hearon, Chairman
Published: August 28 and September 4, 2025
Rio Blanco Herald Times

MEEKER SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1
Board of Education Special Meeting
555 Garfield Street
Meeker, CO 81641
September 2, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.
Google Meet Link:
meet.google.com/fnr-ncwy-jfm
1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Theos will lead the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Welcome of Guests
4. Approval of Agenda
Action Item:
1. Approval: Resolution to Cancel 2025 Board Election and Elect by Acclamation
Adjournment
Published: August 28, 2025
Rio Blanco Herald Times

TOWN OF MEEKER
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday, September 2, 2025
7:00 P.M. ~ Town Hall
345 Market Street, Meeker, CO
Call-in number: 970-878-8091
I. Call to Order
a. Pledge of Allegiance
b. Roll Call
II. Approval of the Agenda
III. Approval of the Previous Minutes
a. Minutes from August 5th 2025
b. Minutes from August 19th 2025
IV. Approval of Monthly Disbursements
V. Public Participation
VI. New Business
a. Consideration of bid award for Town Hall Security System
b. Discussion regarding 2026 budget and capital priorities
VII. Manager's Report
VIII. Mayor's Remarks
IX. Other Board Business
X. Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) to conference with attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific questions re: Town Parks lease agreement
XI. Adjournment
Published: August 28, 2025
Rio Blanco Herald Times

COMBINED NOTICE - MAILING

CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 25-08
To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:

On June 12, 2025, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Rio Blanco records.
Original Grantor(s)
Dolores J. Weiss and Anthony L. Weiss
Original Beneficiary(ies)
Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Beneficiary, as nominee for Goldwater Bank N.A., its successors and assigns
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt
Carrington Mortgage Services LLC
Date of Deed of Trust
July 22, 2016
County of Recording
Rio Blanco
Recording Date of Deed of Trust
August 03, 2016
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.)
312956
Original Principal Amount
\$637,500.00
Outstanding Principal Balance
\$295,619.80

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.
THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.
Lot 2 Weiss Minor Subdivision according to the Plat thereof filed June 25, 2012 as Reception No. 304108 Rio Blanco County, Colorado
Purported common address: 15000 County Road 115, Meeker, CO 81641.
THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE
The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.
THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 01/15/2025, at Office of the Public Trustee, Rio Blanco County Courthouse, 555 Main Street, Meeker CO 81641, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.
First Publication 8/28/2025
Last Publication 9/25/2025
Name of Publication Rio Blanco Herald Times

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Long before the internet barked for attention, the HT was here—bringing you the “first rough draft of history” for Meeker and Rio Blanco County.

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DINING GUIDE



206 Market Street
970-878-3688
Mon - Sat 6am - 2pm
wendells.com
Follow on FB for daily specials!




317 E Market St. Ste 4
970-508-8705
Wed - Sat 12pm - 6pm



410 Market Street
970-878-4141
Mon - Thur 11am - 8pm
Fri 8am - 8pm
Sat 9am - 8pm
mafamiglia.com




1030 Market Street
970-440-2312
Mon - Fri 11am - 7pm
Sundays 10am - 7pm

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED



RIO BLANCO COUNTY
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
Volunteer Opportunities
The following Boards have positions available. If you are interested in serving on one or more of the following Boards, please complete an Application for Board or Commission and return to: HR, PO Box i, Meeker, CO 81641 or hr@rbc.us, 970-878-9570.
The Application can be found at the rbc.us website under Elected Offices & Boards.
• Fair Board

HELP WANTED



MEEKER SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1
Employment Opportunities


Meeker High School
• MHS Assistant Softball Coach
Position will remain open until filled.

Barone Middle School
• 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
Positions will remain open until filled.

Visit our website for vacancy details & application process:
meeker.k12.co.us

ADA/EOE. Subject to change at any time!
Meeker School District Administration
555 Garfield St., Meeker, CO
970-878-9040

HELP WANTED



RIO BLANCO COUNTY
Employment Opportunities

- Caseworker - \$21.02-\$30.44/hr, B
- Case Aide I \$18.86-\$22.96/hr, B
- Patrol Deputy - \$2,349-\$2,468/ biweekly, \$5,000 bonus, B
- Road & Bridge Operator- Mkr- \$22.85-30.18/hr, B
- Road & Bridge Laborer- Mkr - \$21.74/hr NB
- Relief Cook - Meeker - \$19.20/hr, NB
- Budget and Finance Director - \$94,919-\$127,000/yr, B
- Accountant II - \$30-\$38/hr, B

B=benefitted: Medical, dental, vision and life insurance, paid time off, retirement
PB=prorated benefits
NB=Colorado sick leave accruals only

Please visit www.rbc.us or **Rio Blanco County Human Resources at 555 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Meeker, CO. 970-878-9570**
ADA/EOE

HELP WANTED

Help Wanted
Maintenance Assistant at Nix Shop. Join our team! Flexible schedule, driver's license required, pay dependent on experience, training and certifications available while working. Apply in person: 246 Market Street

We are hiring!
Join the team at the Meeker Public Library as a Library Assistant! This is a part-time position. Please go to our website meek-erlibrary.org or stop in the library for an application. Applications will be accepted through the 26th.

PIONEERS MEDICAL CENTER

With the growth of Pioneers Medical Center and Colorado Advanced Orthopedics Sports Medicine & Spine, we are excited to fill several positions. To see the full list of open positions, visit our website or scan the code below.



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bingo Night! Join us on the last Saturday of the month for Bingo, hosted by the Rio Blanco County Historical Society. Doors open at 6 p.m. \$1 per sheet or \$5 for 6 sheets. Heritage Culture Center - 517 Park.

RENTALS: MEEKER

Commercial space for rent in Meeker, 685 Main St. Call for more info. 970-220-2031

YARD SALES

Garage Sale/Plant Sale, 820 3rd St. (MEEKER) Aug. 22 1-5 p.m., Aug. 23 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

ELDER CARE

★★★★★
Western Slope In-Home Care
www.westernslopehomecare.com
970-878-7008

PUBLIC SERVICE

Rio Blanco County Veterans Services
Meeker: POB 599, County Administration Bldg, Wednesday 1300 - 1500
Rangely: 17497 Hwy. 64, County Shop, Thursday 1300 - 1500.
(Also, by appointment)
County Veteran Service Officer:
Joe Dungan
(970) 878-9690

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Meetings in Meeker M-W-F at 7 p.m. Downstairs at Richards' Hall - St. James Episcopal Church - 368 4th St.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."
Philippians 2:3-4
Five Legged Stool, LLC

Job Opportunities

- **Full-Time Recreation Coordinator**
Develop and implement activities and events for all ages! Shift flexibility required; \$20-\$32.40/hr + benefits.
- **Full-Time Maintenance Specialist**
Care for Meeker Rec Center, parks, and trails. Shift flexibility, rotating on-call required; \$24.15-\$33.21/hr + benefits.
- **Part-Time Daytime Lifeguard**
Ensure patron safety in the natatorium. Hours vary M-F, 4:45am-1:30pm; up to 24 hrs/wk. \$16-20/hr. Paid training!
- **Part-Time Specialty Instructor I & II**
Plan and implement fitness programs year-round. Hourly as assigned; \$20-\$28.35/hr. Paid training!


Open until filled. EOE.
Apply: erbmrec.com/careers
ERBM Recreation & Park District | 970.878.3403
erbmrec.com | erbmrec

A	B	A	C	I	G	O	D	C	O	T	S				
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7	1	2	3	4	5	8	6	9
4	3	9	2	8	6	5	7	1
8	6	5	9	7	1	4	2	3

REAL ESTATE CORNER

Celebrating 24 Years - Same office, Same Location!



BROOKS REALTY
889 Main St., Meeker, Colorado
brooksrealtymeeker.com
(970)756-8772



490 9th St.
Charming brick home built in 1934. 3BD/2BA, original wood trim, hardwood floors throughout. 6 ft. privacy fence. Detached 672 sq. ft. garage. 2 full lots.
\$485,000



Alpine West Properties LLC

For Photos & Videos Scan Here

Your Trusted Source for Anything and Everything Real Estate!

TBD CR 15 - 39013± acre ranch w/ 3BD | 1BA | 1412 SF log home, 2 domestic wells, fenced pens/pastures, outbuildings and two ponds.....\$1,200,000

1509 CR 4 - 4BD | 3.25BA | 3810 SF 2-story home on 3 AC w/ domestic well, 30'x49' shop, 16'x31' loafing shed, w/ views from the mesa overlooking Meeker.....\$765,000

1351 La Mesa Cir, Rangely - 5BD | 3.5BA | 6176.8 SF custom home w/ luxury finishes & views from 0.558 acres. Plus a 1976.7 SF garage w/ car lift.....\$765,000

65701 Hwy 64 - Enjoy river views from this single-level 3BD | 2.75BA | 2518 SF log home w/ domestic well & cistern, on 27.06 acres, bordering the BLM. Reduced!.....\$560,000

4019 CR 4 - 3BD | 2BA | 1296 SF ranch-style home, outbuildings, domestic well, on 7 acres of ag meadow.....Under Contract

1135 Michael Cir - 3BD | 2.5BA | 1743 SF 2-story home on a double lot near the park & trails. Features: A/C, pellet stove, 2-car garage, vinyl fencing, & sprinkler system. Reduced!.....\$389,000

950 Cleveland St - 3BD | 3BA | 1930 SF log home w/ vaulted ceiling & 2 rock fireplaces, on an oversized lot w/ detached garage and large backyard. Reduced!.....\$355,000

302 W. Main St, Rangely - Commercially zoned, 3080 SF building w/ paved parking lot, highway frontage, great visibility, 10 separate 2BD | 1BA | 880 SF house. Reduced!.....\$265,000

9501 County Road 10, Maybell (Greystone) - 3BD | 2BA | 1782 SF home offered with your choice of land options (120, 80, 40, or 8.469 ± acres) & water tap.....\$275,000 - \$412,500

807 E. Main St, Rangely - Commercial lot & 3168 SF shop+office space. Auto Mechanic Trade Fixtures can be purchased for \$86,000. Real estate only.....\$224,000

NEW! 1058 Sage Ct - 1BD | 3/4BA | 560 SF home, stucco finish, & covered porch, on a corner lot.....Under Contract

White River Condos is a pet friendly, HOA managed complex w/ river access, community green space, an onsite laundromat & use of a private storage facility.

Unit 6 - 2BD | 1BA | 885 SF single level w/ exterior access & 201±SF storage.....\$129,750

Unit 10 - 2BD | 1BA | 859 SF 2-story space, updated flooring, & 101±SF storage.....\$119,000



Alex Plumb Owner/Broker
sold@alexplumb.realtor • 970.420.8076

Lori Plumb Associate Broker
lori.alpinewest@gmail.com • 970.620.2233

950 Cleveland St
643 Main Street, Meeker

Colorado Classified Advertising
Statewide Network



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REGULAR DEADLINES

Editorial:
Mondays, 5 P.M.
editor@ht1885.com

Display Advertising:
Mondays, 5 P.M.
ads@ht1885.com

Classifieds/Legals:
Tuesdays, NOON
ads@ht1885.com

NEW LISTING



565 4TH STREET, MEEKER
\$345,000

MEEKER: Adams Lodge Outfitters: Outfitting business, camp inventory, horses, truck, trailer, and base property.....\$1,400,000

MEEKER: 4000 County Road 4: 37 acres, water, 4BD/3.5BA home, shop & greenhouse.....\$1,300,000

SILT: 5939 County Road 233: 10 acres, 4BD/2BA Home.....\$860,939

RIFLE: 3768 County Road 237: Horse friendly 40+/- acres bordering BLM, 3BD/2BA home with outbuildings... PENDING \$815,768

MEEKER: 410 Market Street: Established restaurant, bustling location, 2BD/1BA upstairs apartment.....\$675,000

MEEKER: 1085 Market Street: Commercial shop and retail space with apartment, corner lot.....\$650,000

MEEKER: 1287 Cleveland Street: Unobstructed views, oversized lot, 4BD/1.75BA log home, 30'x50' shop..... PENDING \$595,000

MEEKER: 6255 County Road 7: 14.87 acres, pond, well water, shop, freshly remodeled home..... PENDING \$589,000

RIFLE: 1018 East Avenue: Creekside 1,920 sqft, 3BD/3.5BA townhome with garage.....\$443,118

MEEKER: 1217 Main Street: Freshly updated 3BD/0.75BA, private double corner lot, abundant storage.....\$390,000

MEEKER: 3915 County Road 10: 3.1 acres, well water, gorgeous views of the South Fork Valley.....\$393,000

MEEKER: 565 4th Street: Tri-level 3BD/3BA, fenced yard, spacious garage, peaceful location.....\$345,000

MEEKER: 267 6th Street: 1,450 sqft downtown commercial building, private offices, conference room, breakroom, 2BA.....\$200,000

MEEKER: 1200 Flag Creek Drive: 3.28 acres with views of the river and golf course.....\$124,000

MEEKER: 1001 White River Road: Lot 1 in Ridge Estates, 3.48 acres, 1 mile to town.....\$121,000

MEEKER: 1000 Flag Creek Drive: 3.32 acre lot in Ridge Estates, year round access.....\$119,000

MEEKER: 837 Cedar Street: Large 4BD/1.75BA home on a spacious 15,000 SQFT corner lot... PENDING \$115,000

MEEKER: 851 5th Street: 7,500 SQFT vacant lot, with water tap and spectacular view..... PENDING \$49,000

970.878.7700 | Streamline-Realty.com | 600 Main Street, Meeker, CO

