

# Herald Times

140

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## Meeker Classic kicks off 37th year



JARED HENDERSON PHOTO

The 37th annual Meeker Classic kicked off Wednesday morning and continues through Sunday at Ute Park with 135 handler/dog teams competing for a \$27,000 purse. Enjoy the competition, multiple vendor booths, demos and presentations every day, the art show on Thursday starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Wilbur Barn at Ute Park, and the Jammin' Lamb Fest on Saturday starting at 4 p.m. at the Fairgrounds with an outdoor concert and the meal served at 5 p.m. Tickets are available online at <https://meekersheepdog.com/get-tickets/> (Jammin' Lamb tickets are limited and close Saturday, Sept. 6, buy now online!) or at the gate.

## Declaring disaster: Emergency resolutions open doors to aid

By NIKI TURNER  
editor@ht1885.com

**RBC** | On Aug. 3, the Rio Blanco County Commissioners passed a resolution declaring a local disaster emergency for the Elk Fire southeast of Meeker. Later that day, Gov. Jared Polis verbally declared a disaster emergency for the fire. On Aug. 5, Polis expanded the order to include the Lee Fire and signed an executive order authorizing the Colorado National Guard to help with suppression. "The purpose of declaring a disaster is just to make resources available to support an incident," said Micki Trost, strategic communications director with the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (CDHSEM). "Every single event is different."

Disaster declarations aren't based on a set number or threshold. They are issued when local agencies exceed their capacity to respond. For example, a recent investigation at a Pueblo mortuary also prompted an emergency declaration.

At the state level, a disaster declaration activates Colorado's emergency operations plan. That allows CDHSEM to coordinate 26 state agencies and free up funding, staff and procurement processes.

"We can't activate without a declaration," Trost said. "It doesn't mean the world is coming to an end. It gives access to resources."

For wildfires, the Colorado Division of Fire Protection and Control works with federal agencies and county sheriffs to decide when an incident becomes state-managed. From there, a national system supplies needed resources.

Response typically escalates from local aid to neighboring help, then to

state and federal support. Emergency operations centers handle evacuations, shelter, utilities, food assistance and recovery efforts.

Recovery includes surveying damage to determine whether to request federal assistance. Trost said the acting administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) visited Meeker two weeks ago to view infrastructure damage firsthand.

To qualify for federal aid, damages must exceed a calculated threshold. Documented survey data, excluding insured losses, is used to calculate damages before being submitted to the governor's office.

If approved by the governor, a request goes to FEMA. "We don't want to throw together a request because if we don't do it right the first time, it will be rejected," Trost said.

Federal assistance can include Small Business Administration loans, U.S. Department of Agriculture programs and other support. But Trost emphasized the importance of insurance.

"The fastest and best route for recovery is through your insurance," she said. "The purpose of federal disaster programs is not to make you whole. It's to get you to a safe place."

Large disasters, such as the 2013 Front Range floods, can take years to recover from. "We typically see anywhere from five to 10 years we still have significant recovery projects going on," Trost said. Most aid is reimbursed after projects are completed.

She urged residents to provide information if asked. "The surveys are very important for the county and the state to advocate for the right recovery programs. We don't want to miss anything."

## Don't miss this year's P.E.O. quilt show!

By KAYE SULLIVAN

Special to the HT

**MEEKER** | One of Meeker's most special events is the annual quilt show sponsored by the local P.E.O. Chapter BA. There will be 111 quilts on display this year so allow plenty of time to look at all of them. These are handmade quilts made by the talented folks of Meeker and nearby areas. In addition, heritage quilts have been inherited.

If you've ever watched someone quilt, you can appreciate the patience and attention to detail that is required. Every year, new patterns and colors appear. You are sure to be entertained. This year is the 13th annual show and you won't want to miss it.

Show dates are Friday,

Sept. 5 from 12-5:30 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fairfield Center.

The funds raised from this show are used to provide a college scholarship for one of Meeker's high school graduates. An opportunity quilt will be displayed along with the sale of tickets to enter the drawing for this quilt.

Also, don't miss the opportunity to purchase homemade cookies, pies, and other goodies that are on sale and usually get snapped up quickly.

P.E.O. is a philanthropic organization that provides a network for women and support of women's education. The local BA Chapter was founded in 1919 and continues its active support of women, education and community.



COURTESY PHOTO

There will be 111 quilts on display at this year's P.E.O. Quilt Show. Held at the Fairfield Center (200 Main St.) Friday, Sept. 5 from 12-5:30 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Funds raised go toward a scholarship program.

## Years of dedication pay off in Mergelman's final 4-H fair

By JARED HENDERSON

jared@ht185.com

**RANGELY** | From the barn at age 2 to the show ring this year, Ryann Mergelman's 4-H journey ended with a double victory. She capped her career at the Rio Blanco County Fair by winning Grand Champion hog and Reserve Grand Champion lamb.

Mergelman has shown livestock since she was 2 years old, starting with open shows and Sheep Lead before joining 4-H 10 years ago and FFA five years ago. Over her career, she has shown hogs, lambs, cattle and goats, earning Grand or Reserve Champion lamb for eight consecutive years.

Her major titles include Grand Champion Lamb from 2019–2024, Reserve Champion Lamb in 2018 and 2025, and Grand Champion Hog in 2022 and 2025. This year's hog weighed 264 pounds and her lamb 128 pounds.

"It feels absolutely amazing to wrap up my 4-H career with both the Grand Champion pig and the Reserve Grand Cham-

pion lamb," Mergelman said. "I couldn't have asked for a better way to end my final year — it truly feels like going out with a bang. Every ribbon and banner came from years of early mornings, long nights and hard work in the barn."

Preparation this year was a team effort. After returning home from college in May, Mergelman resumed training her animals with the help of her parents and brother, following tailored feeding and exercise routines, skin and wool conditioning, and careful grooming.

"This year's lamb was unlike any I've shown before," she said. "At the start of the season, he became seriously sick, and there was a point we weren't sure he would make it. Stepping into the ring knowing how far he'd come made his Reserve Grand Champion win incredibly rewarding."

Mergelman said her most memorable accomplishments came in showmanship. "While I truly enjoy the excitement of winning in the market classes — and those wins mean a lot — showman-

ship has always held a special place in my heart," she said. "It's never been just about having the best animal; it's about the bond you create with that animal and the time, patience and dedication it takes to work together as a team. I have competed in the Round Robin competition all 10 years, winning five times and earning Master Showman twice. I will now compete at the state level for Master Showman. I have also earned either Grand or Reserve lamb and pig showmanship every year I've shown. Winning showmanship is deeply personal because it reflects the hours spent in the barn and the small improvements made day after day. Being able to finish my 4-H career with showmanship wins feels incredibly rewarding — it's proof that the effort I've put in over the years has paid off."

Reflecting on her 4-H experience, Mergelman said the moments that stood out the most weren't the banners or ribbons, but the journey that led to them. "The early mornings in the barn before school, the



COURTESY PHOTO

Ryann Mergelman (center) of Rangely with her parents, Crandal and Jimmie, displaying her multiple awards from this year's Rio Blanco County Fair. This was her 10th and final year in 4-H.

long hours working with my animals in the heat or cold, and the small breakthroughs that no one else saw but meant everything to me," she said.

"Showing livestock has shaped me in ways that go far beyond the show ring. It's taught me discipline, responsibility, and a work ethic that has carried over into every part of my life. The drive

to constantly improve — to put in the effort day after day, even when it's hard — became a habit that pushed me not only to be a better showman, but also to excel in my sports, academics and personal goals. 4-H has given me more than skills with livestock; it's given me the mindset to chase success with determination and resilience in

whatever I do."

Her biggest supporters have been her parents. "From the very beginning, when I was little and they first introduced me to the livestock industry, they've been by my side every step of the way," she said. "Even this year, 18 years later, we were still walking pigs together in the

Cont. on P8



# Library board considers building concerns, reviews programs

By JARED HENDERSON  
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**MEEKER** | Last week, the Meeker Public Library Board held its monthly meeting for August. Board Vice President Keri Grieser, Secretary/Treasurer Toby Leavitt, and member Dan Olson attended in person. Board President John Moffitt attended via Zoom. Board member Michael Cobb was absent from the meeting that evening.

The meeting opened with approval of the agenda and the July 30 minutes, which were amended to clarify Colorado Public Library standards.

During the public comment period, Jennifer Key raised concerns about library planning and finances. She questioned, "How can we talk about the building and redo the building without a strategic plan or a five-year plan, and without really guidelines into what's wrong with the current building?"

Community member Mary Jo Carroll also spoke, praising the library's summer reading

program.

"The summer reading program was fabulous, my grandkids and I were in here quite a few times. You got lots and lots of children and families in here, and I want to commend the library."

After public comments, the board approved the July financial reports. Members noted that costs for the planned StoryWalk project may exceed the \$6,000 budget due to inflation and rising material prices.

School librarian Amber Garcia reported that students are enjoying the new books at the school libraries. She said she would be spending more time at the middle school library this year and highlighted that students have already checked out books during the first week of school.

Library Director Kristina Selby reported that circulation in July totaled 1,036 checkouts, slightly lower than previous months. She provided programming updates, including weekly story-time and crafts for children every Wednesday at 10 a.m., followed by "Stay and Play" sessions. Other

events included a "Make a Thank You Poster" activity for firefighters, outreach readings at The Wing, preschool story-time, and "Library at Lunch" for Meeker High School students on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Selby also announced new library hours starting Sept. 1, 2025: Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. She explained, "We have had comments from patrons that they cannot get here before our 5:30 p.m. closure on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We see very few people come in the library past 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Having a consistent schedule throughout the week will make it easier for patrons to remember when we are open." She added, "We have noticed even patrons that come in regularly have a hard time remembering our hours of operation because of the changing times. A fixed schedule will bring more consistency to the community on when the library is available to them."

The board then discussed building concerns. Leavitt said, "It isn't the assessment of the roof that I'm worried about, it is the assessment of the building and a growth project together. We have cracks in the basement in the cement floor large enough to trip people." Members debated whether to address roof and HVAC upgrades immediately or wait for a broader remodel plan.

The board also dis-

cussed trustee appointments. Attorney Glory Schmidt reported on her meeting with Rio Blanco County and Town of Meeker officials. She said, "They seemed incredibly amenable to everything I suggested. So the plan is that I will draft an IGA and have it to board by mid-September, in order to get it to the county and the town by end of September. We really want to memorialize this before the end of the year, and what that looks like is identifying what the qualifications are to be a trustee, what the application process looks

like, what the interview process looks like, and ensuring that these things are really set in stone."

Near the end of the meeting, the board reviewed state requirements for meeting notices. Schmidt explained, "Technically at the beginning of every meeting you guys just have to verbally confirm that the meeting was posted, it must be posted 24 hours before and I do always check your library website just to make sure it's done 24 hours beforehand. So technically, you're supposed to be confirming that at the beginning

of every meeting." The board discussed the use of "any other matter" items, with Schmidt noting, "It just gives the board an opportunity or Kristina an opportunity, or me an opportunity just to discuss anything that potentially could not have been put on the agenda due to its time-sensitive nature."

The board adjourned, setting its next workshop for Sept. 23, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the library's community room, with the next regular meeting scheduled for Sept. 24 at the same time and location.

## RIO HAPPENINGS: AUG 24-30, 2025

### ARRESTS

**8/24/2025**-A 28 year-old male was arrested by Meeker PD for Driving Under the Influence. He was issued a summons and released to a sober party.

**9/1/2025**- A 66 year-old male was arrested by Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Office for Prohibited Use of a Weapon and Menacing. He remains in custody.

**9/1/2025**- A 41 year-old female was arrested by Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Office for Domestic Violence and 2nd Degree Criminal Tampering. She remains in custody.

**CALL SUMMARIES**  
There were a total of 9 calls regarding mudslides or debris on several different County Roads.

**8/24/2025 @ 1:19 am.** A routine traffic stop by Meeker PD turned into a DUI arrest. The driver was taken into custody, issued a summons and released to a sober party.  
**8/24/2025 @ 11:16 am.** A caller reported a vehicle that was unable to maintain lanes and brake checking. A deputy located the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop on County Road 4. The driver was issued a warning for weaving.  
**8/25/2025 @ 12:23 am.**

A bear-y determined visitor at Southfork Campground prompted a camper to call the Sheriff's Office. A bear had been trying to get into the caller's camp trailer and hitting the sides of the camper for a couple of nights. The quieter the caller tried to be, the more aggressive the bear would get. Colorado Parks and Wildlife responded and set out a bear trap.  
**8/27/2025 @ 3:32 pm.** A Forest Protection Officer caught a male party taking trees off Forest Service property. A deputy responded and issued a citation for Driving with No Proof of Insurance and Habitual Traffic Offender since he had been driving his vehicle to commit the crime

he was called in for. The Forest Protection Officer handled the removing forest property crime.  
**8/29/2025 @ 12:31 pm.**

A male party called 911 about a noise complaint occurring at his out-of-state AirBnB. During the 15 minute call, approximately 6 seconds included an unplanned noise event. The noise was assessed as biologically originated and non-threatening. We were glad to have not been in his presence.  
**8/29/2025 @ 4:39**

**pm.** Fast, Furious and Fined Twice! A traffic complaint involving a white Mercedes was called into the Communications Center for passing in a no-passing zone and speeding on Hwy. 139. The vehicle was stopped by a deputy and was issued a summons for speeding. Shortly after, the same driver was stopped again by the Dinosaur Marshall's office and issued another summons. We wonder if they learned a lesson.

TOTAL CALLS: 639 — 911 CALLS: 22 — ADMIN: 617		
CALL TYPE	SHERIFF	MEEKER PD
911	1	2
ABANDONED VEHICLE	1	1
ANIMAL	12	14
ASSIST COLORADO STATE PATROL	6	0
ASSIST MEEKER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT	4	6
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	1	0
ASSIST RANGELY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT	1	0
ASSIST RANGELY PD	3	0
ATTEMPT TO SERVE	3	0
BUSINESS CHECK	1	4
CERTIFIED VIN	0	1
CITIZEN ASSIST	0	1
CITIZEN CONTACT	0	1
CIVIL	1	0
CIVIL STANDBY	0	1
CODE ENFORCEMENT	0	1
CRASH	0	1
DEATH	1	0
DIRECTED PATROL	3	9
DISTURBANCE	0	1
FINGERPRINTS	1	0
FIRE - WILD	2	0
FOLLOW UP	4	4
FOREST PATROL	1	0
INFORMATION	1	1
MOTORIST ASSIST	1	1
PHONE FOLLOW-UP	7	7
SMOKE REPORT	5	0
SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT	3	3
THEFT	1	1
TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	2	2
TRANSPORT-JAIL	1	0
TRAFFIC HAZARD	4	0
TRAFFIC STOP	11	12
VIN INSPECTION	1	8
WELFARE CHECK	1	3
TOTALS	84	85
TOTAL INMATES IN JAIL AS OF 9/2/2025: 7		

Goodbye Summer,  
Hello Autumn

We are ready, right?  
Lots of fun new things and artists!

Ashleigh Christie's  
594 Historic Main Street Meeker, Colorado



**Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable**  
Wednesday, September 10th at 6:00 pm  
This meeting will be a Hybrid Meeting: In-person in Craig, Colorado CNCC Room 185 and Online information is on the website [yampawhitegreen.com](http://yampawhitegreen.com)

If you have Public Comment, please email [yampawhitegreen@gmail.com](mailto:yampawhitegreen@gmail.com)

## DINING GUIDE

**Wendell's**  
206 Market Street  
970-878-3688  
Mon - Sat 6am - 2pm  
[wendells.com](http://wendells.com)  
Follow on FB for daily specials!

**OFF THE OLIVE BRANCH**  
OIL & VINEGAR TAP HOUSE  
317 E Market St. Ste 4  
970-508-8705  
Wed - Sat 12pm - 6pm

**Ma Famiglia**  
Italian Restaurant  
410 Market Street  
970-878-4141  
Mon - Thur 11am - 8pm  
Fri 8am - 8pm  
Sat 9am - 8pm  
[mafamiglia.com](http://mafamiglia.com)

# Where Healthcare and Community Thrive

Pioneers Medical Center is an integral part of our community, providing essential services and employment opportunities to hundreds of people. As one of the largest employers in the area, Pioneers Medical Center has a significant impact on the local economy and helps ensure the well-being of our community.

100 PMC Drive  
Meeker, CO 81641  
(970) 878-5047  
[pioneershospital.org](http://pioneershospital.org)

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Drop-in community meeting today for landowners affected by the Lee and Elk Fires

**MEEKER** | Join us for a community meeting Thursday with BLM, RBC, and Conservation Districts staff to provide support, answer questions, and share resources after the recent fires at the Piceance Rock School 1-4 p.m.

## Silent Auction to support Meeker Volunteer Fire Dept.

**MEEKER** | River Rhythms is hosting a silent auction at Bank of the San Juans now through Sept. 12. All proceeds will go to the Meeker Volunteer Fire Department. Items available for auction are on display inside the bank lobby. Come by and bid during regular bank hours. Winners will be announced and notified Sept. 15.

## 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**, <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/5eda5d67a83a4a3184e96ca7a21e7318>. **AG PRODUCERS, OUTFITTERS & RURAL LANDOWNERS**, please complete the team's Ag and Natural Resources Survey: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyTEB-3K7JNYKqKw835-fxCHsD9244OgRHIVHqx95JLwvPKYQ/viewform?pli=1>

## 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!

## 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](http://erbmrec.com/register). Download a printable list at [erbmrec.com/activities](http://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](http://erbmrec.com/train). For questions or registration help, call 970-878-3403.

## First AID/CPR certification Sept. 20

**MEEKER** | ERBM is offering an American Red Cross/First Aid/CPR Course on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Meeker Rec Center. Cost is \$75 and includes all certification fees. Register at [erbmrec.com/firstaid](http://erbmrec.com/firstaid) by Sept. 15. For questions or registration help, call 970-878-3403.

## Family Night Luau Pool Party Sept. 18

**MEEKER** | Bring the whole family to the MRC Pool Thursday, Sept. 18, and enjoy extended hours from 4-7 p.m. We'll be hosting a Luau Party with games, inflatables, and special surprises! Normal MRC drop-in fees apply. Members: Free, Tots 0-3: Free, Kids 4-12: \$4/each, Youth 13-17: \$5/each, Adults 18-61: \$7/each, Seniors 62+: \$5/each. Towels are available to rent for \$1 plus collateral. Participants ages 7 and under must be accompanied in the water by someone 13 or older at all times. All other pool rules apply.

## National Public Lands Day project Sept. 20

**MEEKER** | ERBM and BLM invite you to celebrate National Public Lands Day by volunteering to improve our local trails! This year's project is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 20, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and will start at the Ute Park trail-head (12th and Hill St.) Bring a sack lunch, plenty of water, and sunscreen! Participants will receive a T-shirt, drinks, and a snack courtesy of BLM. Youth 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Submit your community calendar events to [editor@ht1885.com](mailto: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](http://www.youthzone.com/give).

What is happiness except the simple harmony between a man and the life he leads?

Albert Camus



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

**the Meeker Public Library is getting NEW HOURS!**

Starting September 2<sup>nd</sup> the Library will be moving to our NEW operating hours of:

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 10AM-7PM  
SATURDAY: 10AM - 2:30PM  
SUNDAY: CLOSED




**Make the big play with these tailgate favorites!**  
PRICES EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 3RD - SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2025

### FRESH QUALITY MEAT SPECIALS



**Pork Sirloin Chops**  
Family Pack  
Boneless

**\$2.99** lb.



**Chicken Breasts**  
Family Pack • Boneless • Skinless

**\$3.99** lb.



**Cross Rib Roast**  
CAB

**\$6.79** lb.

### FRESH PRODUCE SPECIALS



**Peaches**  
Farm Fresh

**\$1.99** lb.



**Mini Watermelon**  
Whole Seedless

**2/\$4**



**Celery**  
Large Crisp

**99¢** ea.



Large Fuji Apples or Crisp Bartlett Pears

**\$1.59** lb.



**Mushrooms**  
8 oz. Package Whole or Sliced White

**2/\$5**

### DAIRY & FROZEN SPECIALS

<b>Butter</b> Food Club 1 lb. Salted or Unsalted	<b>\$3.49</b>
<b>Yogurt</b> Food Club 6 oz. Select Varieties	<b>10/\$4</b>
<b>Cheese</b> Food Club 32 oz. Select Varieties Shredded or Block	<b>\$5.99</b>
<b>Orange Juice</b> Food Club 52 oz. Select Varieties	<b>2/\$7</b>
<b>Cold Brew Coffee</b> Califia Farms 48 oz. Select Varieties	<b>\$5.49</b>
<b>Ice Cream</b> Haagen Dazs 14 oz. or 3 ct. Select Varieties	<b>\$4.99</b>

### GROCERY SPECIALS

<b>Sausage</b> Swaggerty's 19 oz. Select Varieties	<b>\$5.29</b>
<b>Coke Products</b> 6 pk. 16.9 oz. Bottles Select Varieties	<b>\$4.79</b>
<b>Pasta</b> American Beauty 12-16 oz. Select Varieties	<b>99¢</b>
<b>Chips</b> Doritos or Ruffles 6-10.8 oz. Select Varieties	<b>\$3.49</b>
<b>Popcorn</b> Skinny Pop 4.4-5.3 oz. Select Varieties	<b>2/\$7</b>
<b>Sports Drinks</b> Powerade 28 oz. Select Varieties	<b>4/\$5</b>

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# EDITOR'S COLUMN

## People gonna people

“...William wondered why he always disliked people who said ‘no offense meant.’ Maybe it was because they found it easier to say ‘no offense meant’ than actually to refrain from giving offense.” — Terry Pratchett, *The Truth: Stage Adaptation*

By **NIKI TURNER**  
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There's a well-known rule that if you want to find out how unpleasant the general public can be, work in customer service, where you, as a “lowly” server or clerk, are subjected to people who seem to believe, as my dad used to say, “their s\*\*\* don't stink.”



more I realize it's not just retail and food-service workers, although

they probably get the worst of it. We tend to behave a little better with people who have authority over us. You don't want to be a wretch to your doctor, lawyer, or that police officer who pulled you over, for example, because

the consequences might outweigh any twisted satisfaction that comes from being a jerk. (Unconfirmed reports from a friend who worked at a fast food place in high school indicate it's probably unwise to be rude to the people working the drive-thru, too.)

I think we'd all agree life is better when everyone avoids being hateful, and I think we're all aware that will never be the case this side of eternity. People are gonna people, and that

means we're all going to encounter insufferable boors or fall into the trap of acting like one from time to time. Meanness is as contagious (and gross) as an oozing rash, so when we run into people who've made being unpleasant a competitive sport, how do we avoid being negatively affected by their bad behavior, or worse, echoing them?

I have not mastered this skill. Sometimes it takes days to get my hack-

les back down after dealing with one of these charmers. It helps me to remember that most professional jerks didn't choose their calling. No matter how powerful and knowledgeable and important they pretend to be, they're really the pitiful victims of other jerks who tormented them in their formative years. They're just repeating the cycle because they don't know any better.

Wounded animals are snarly and snappish.

Wounded humans are the same, but we include emotional pain, not just physical injury. It's harder to recognize when emotional pain is being projected.

So those insufferable boors who keep giving you fits? They're probably wounded and lashing out. Recognizing that helps generate enough compassion to keep from snapping back. Now if I can just remember that next time before I spike my blood pressure.

### “One Drop”

A heart-felt thank you goes out to all the Men and women who worked tirelessly And under every extreme condition imaginable To extinguish the flames. The friends and neighbors who joined together To battle a common cause despite ethic Or political differences. This is America at its greatest.

One drop Is all it takes

Let's hear it for the rivers Let's hear it for the lakes We can't forget the fires Blackening the earth They've finally put them out But it's taken lots of work.

Been walking in a desert For months it hasn't rained One single bolt of lightning Now everything has changed Life is but a circle Round and round we spin With one single drop of rain The healing can begin.

Aug. 21, 2025  
Robert Basinger  
Rifle

Poem submitted by Kay Goad

### Thanks from Meeker jr. high volleyball team

Dear Editor:

The Meeker junior high school volleyball team would like to thank the Sleeping Giant volleyball team for your incredible act of kindness you showed our team.

The individual gifts you gave to each girl and the beautiful flowers for each of the coaches to show your support and sympathy for all we have had to endure during the wildfires.

Thank you again for your kindness.

Meeker Jr. High  
Volleyball Team  
Meeker

### Thanks to WREA

Dear Editor:

This will be the first of several letters thanking those involved in heroic acts of service during the Lee Fire. With the excep-

tion of our buildings, our ranch suffered a near total loss.

Today we are focused on honoring White River Electric Association employees and the associated crews from around the West who sent people into harm's way to replace downed power poles and lines in order to keep critically important water wells pumping. We personally witnessed electric crews working very close to flames as they replaced what the fire consumed.

Electricity also kept our Starlink satellite operational thus providing the ability to communicate with the outside world in areas where there is no cell service and the telephone landlines burned. Due to the difficult configuration of our canyon on Piceance, some fire fighters even used our Starlink to communicate. Electric power is always wonderful but it was critical during the Lee Fire crisis.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you White River Electric!

Sam and Cheri Robinson  
V/ Ranch  
Meeker

### Another Robinson letter

Dear Editor:

Thank you for accepting my letter about irrigation return flow for the Aug. 28 issue. Your willingness to print critical material is a welcome sign of transparency. It is, however, unfortunate that you chose to print the letter beneath a headline that is false, necessitating this letter to correct the record. The previous letter did not disagree with findings of the return flow study. Although the Summary of Findings presented by Dr. Bailey leaves room for improvement, what the letter disagreed with was the spin applied to study findings by Liz Chandler and the Herald Times. As you point out in your column, people are free to believe whatever they want. You should also acknowledge that such liberty is not violated by affirming facts. As example, the 42nd slide from Dr. Bailey's presentation shows that reducing diversion by converting from flood irrigation to ef-

ficient sprinklers increases the amount of water in the river in summer, at time of great need, and reduces flow in autumn, when there is no need for the extra groundwater return flow. This finding of the study is not in dispute. The disagreement is about context and characterization of the information. Perhaps you could obtain permission from Dr. Bailey to print the referenced time series chart with this letter to empower readers to decide for themselves.

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

### Questions for the RBC Board of Commissioners

Dear Editor:

There were a variety of meetings held last week throughout Rio Blanco County, where employees were asked by the Human Resources department what would be least impactful on them as they work through a budget shortfall. Unfortunately, the Commissioners were not in attendance at any of these meetings, which proved frustrating for most of us. Employees and voters alike have been asking the same ques-

tions, and I am asking that our Commissioners publicly provide answers in a clear way so that everyone can understand where we are, how we move forward, and why the Commissioners are exploring the option of the employees covering the shortfall with wages and/or another reduction in insurance coverage.

What projects have been turned down by the BOCC in recent years because they weren't emergent or necessary?

Was there/is there a plan to reduce overall spending to reduce the chances that employees will have to fix the shortfall by reducing benefits or pay now and in the future?

What will happen to the hiring freeze that is now in effect when employees inevitably leave employment with the county because of personal budget concerns or on principle?

Is the BOCC aware of the fact that the choice to increase deductible/out of pocket amounts will likely cause employees and their families to forego medical care because of the cost?

Is any other portion of the budget flexible in a way that the Commissioners could spend more responsibly, and alleviate the issue without relying on employees to cover the shortfall?

What types of overhead, such as unused fleet vehicles and empty buildings, could be cut before placing the burden on employees?

Why weren't the Commissioners in attendance at any of the meetings where this was being discussed?

Why is the county pursuing seemingly aesthetic projects in light of the looming budget crisis? For example, the BOCC has in recent months hired a company to oversee a GA ramp being built at the airport, the painting of the Fairfield Center, and decking for a bridge. The budget and votes for these projects are available to the public by request, and BOCC meetings are broadcast via YouTube.

Last year, the BOCC rented a home for \$1,500 a month, seemingly as an “incentive” for an employee that has yet to be hired. Is this home sitting empty? Now that there is a hiring freeze, will they walk that back? Are they aware that in order to lease the home to the county for the course of one year, an employee's lease of \$950 wasn't renewed and they had to vacate the home they had lived in for years?

The public deserve to know how our elected officials spend our dollars, and I look forward to having more clarity about our current situation.

Thank you,  
Jessica Seelhoff  
Meeker

### Prayers Unfolded Lincoln



It is natural to reach out to God in times of extreme stress. I call it Fox Hole religion: praying while under fire in a war. I am sure this county did a lot of praying the last few weeks. Praying for safety: our own and the wildfire fighters; property, family heirlooms.

It's good to be reminded how weak we are as humans. I feel we as Americans have become complacent in depending on our government to provide everything for us. In times of abundance, we think about God less. Instead of thanking God for our blessings, we consider ourselves entitled.

During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln was attributed to have in having this short conversation. Lincoln overheard someone remark that he hoped “the Lord was on the Union's side.” Lincoln responded, “I am not concerned about that, for I know the Lord is always on the side of the right. But it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation should be on the Lord's side.” On March 30, 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation appointing a National Day of Prayer and Fasting. “... And whereas, it is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God: to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord. An insomuch as we know that by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people? When have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown; but we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious land, which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have been too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us. It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins and pray for clemency and forgiveness. All this being done in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the divine teachings, that the united cry of the nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings no less than the pardon of our nations sins, and the restoration of our now divided and suffering country to its former happy condition of unity and peace...” Now that we are in the period of recovery of the wildfires, God should be first on the list to thank.

Sources: Slife.org; abrahamlincolnonline.org

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## HISTORY LESSONS: Meeker's Founders — P.P. Harp

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.

Pleasant Peter Harp is not listed as a founder on the 1949 Courthouse Rock. I am not sure why. He was certainly part of the original 1883 Meeker Townsite Company. In fact, he was the secretary of the corporation. It is possible that he sold his shares early on. There are several names that were listed with the 1883 company who faded

away before the land had clear titles.

Pleasant Harp was usually referred to as P.P. or Pete. In the press release announcing the Meeker Townsite in 1883, he signed the article as P.P. Harp, Secretary. Peter was brother to Thaddeus S. and Horace "Simp" Harp. Thaddeus and Simp owned and operated the stage and freight line beginning in what would become Rifle. Once the Denver Rio Grande and Western Railroad tracks were laid that far west, a practical freight route to Meeker was possible. The road was much shorter than the old Government Road to Rawlins.

The three brothers were among 10 children of William Con Harp and Hannah Marie Brouse. All 10 were born in Iowa. Our Pete was named after his uncle Pleasant Preston Harp (1827-1903), who once traveled to Meeker for a family visit in 1899 from Pella, Iowa. Among other enterprises, Thad and Simp ran the Stage and Freight wagons along the Government Road: Rifle — Meeker — Axial — Craig. Their start in business was boosted by winning the Rifle to Meeker U.S. Mail contract.

According to Pete's obituary, Pete came to Colorado during the 1878 Leadville excitement. He married Miss Minnie Blinn at Buena Vista, Colorado, in 1880 and in 1883, brought her to the White River Valley. Pete was part of the Meeker delegation who traveled to Glenwood in July of 1887 to prove up on the Meeker Townsite. The party consisted of Mayor Clark, James L. McHatton, Col. J. D. Thayer, Frank Sheridan, Pete Harp, and James Lyttle of the Meeker Herald.

Pete homesteaded 160 acres on Sulphur Creek, north of Meeker. In 1888, he refused an offer of \$2,000 for the ranch. In April of 1889, Pete formed a partnership with Charles S. Attix: ATTIX & HARP, real estate. Pete died at his home in Meeker on Dec. 8, 1891. He has the distinction of being the first occupant of the new Highland Cemetery above the White River. Good real estate people know when to move in before things get crowded. Minnie died in Los Angeles, California in 1941. I did not find any recorded children.

Sources: Coloradohistoric-newspapers.org; Rio Blanco Historical Society; ancestry.com; Meeker Herald

## GUEST COLUMN: New water study adds further worries for water managers

By DR. BOB DORSETT  
Special to the HT

A new study (Klavans, 2025) by climate researchers at University of Colorado Boulder adds further worries for water managers. The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), which drives the delivery of moisture to the American Southwest, is locked in its "negative" phase. Those conditions result in persistent drought.

The PDO is similar to the El Nino / La Nina (ENSO) cycle in the tropical Pacific. While changes in wind direction across the tropical Pacific drive ENSO, the PDO results from oscillations in major currents across the North Pacific and along the West Coast of North America. In the positive phase of PDO, warmer currents add extra water vapor to the atmosphere along the West Coast. The wetter atmosphere delivers more

moisture to the continental interior. In the negative phase, colder currents dry the atmosphere, and drier conditions diminish precipitation. The PDO has been locked in its negative phase for the past thirty years. Yearly precipitation in the American Southwest has decreased by about 15% over that time period. Climate models project that the negative phase of PDO and the downward trend in precipitation will continue into the foreseeable future.

This study builds on previous research linking the PDO to climate in our region. General, global models also forecast continuing hotter and drier conditions. The key new finding is that the locked negative phase results from changed atmospheric and ocean conditions due to fossil fuel emissions and not from natural variation in the ocean currents, as previously assumed.

All climate models

predict increasing year-to-year variability with exaggerated extremes — hotter heat waves, deeper droughts, intense precipitation events, more extreme weather. Overall it is very likely that our region will experience persistent decreased precipitation and runoff, worsening wildfires, and a drop in agricultural productivity.

Klavans, Jeremy M. et al. 2025. Human emissions drive recent trends in North Pacific climate variations. Nature 644: 684-692. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-025-09368-2>

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# Sports & Recreation

## Meeker boys golf opens season at Rangely after wildfire delay



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

**MEEKER** | After a delayed start to the season due to two wildfires, the Meeker High School boys golf team returned to the course last week for its first tournament of the year. The event also marked the head coaching debut of Nick Burri.

Burri said it felt great to finally see his players compete, noting that golf is about more than just practice.

“The team handled the delay well,” Burri said. “There were some first-tournament nerves, but everyone came into the event positive and excited.”

While scores were not his primary focus, Burri said he was impressed that each player came away from the tournament with specific areas to improve before the upcoming Rifle tournament.

Sophomore Kaden Ridgeway led the Cowboys with a 111 (+39). He shot a 63 on the front nine before improving to 48 on the back nine.

“I would say there is room for improvement. Front nine could have been better, but I feel pretty good about my back nine performance,” Ridgeway said. “During my back nine I focused more on my short game and putting.”

Ridgeway said it felt good to lead the team in scoring and added that his goals for the next tournament are to keep the ball in play and break 100.

“The team and I are pretty motivated to get back to golfing regarding the wildfire cancellations,” he said.

Freshman Teagan Smith finished second for



JARED HENDERSON PHOTO

**Meeker senior Jacob Roberts chips the ball onto the green during the Cowboys’ first golf tournament of the season last week in Rangely. Roberts finished third in scoring for Meeker as the team returned to competition after a delayed start to the season.**

Meeker with a 112 (+40), shooting 54 on the front and 58 on the back nine. Senior Jacob Roberts was third with a 118 (+46), scoring 62 on the front

nine and 56 on the back.

“I feel as though I definitely could have played better, but it was my first time at the Rangely course, and I did as good as I could that day,” Roberts said. “Surprisingly, on the back nine I focused on just having fun, and that made me relax and play a little bit better.”

Roberts said the first tournament was nerve-racking, especially for the younger players, but it was a good chance to gain experience. His goals include breaking 100 and maintaining a strong mindset through each round, while also seeing more freshmen step into varsity roles.

Other Meeker scores included sophomore Holt Pelloni (123, +51), freshman Sebastian Baumgart (118, +46), junior Brycen Pena (117, +45) and freshman Josh

Simmons (124, +52). Pena’s and Simmons’ scores did not count toward the team total.

The Cowboys placed seventh out of eight teams with a final score of 341 (+125).

Burri said the team’s focus early in the season has been fundamentals and consistency. As they prepare for Rifle Creek, emphasis has shifted to short game work—putting and chipping—and the right mindset to manage the course’s hazards.

“The key to scoring well at Rifle is being in the fairway off the tee box, especially on the back nine,” Burri said. “If the players continue improving as they have from the beginning of the season, we’ll be in great shape come late September and hopefully October.”

Meeker will travel to Rifle on Sept. 8 and Keystone Ranch on Sept. 11. Both tournaments are scheduled for a 10 a.m. start.

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## Panthers conquer high-altitude race

Special to the HT

**RANGELY** | The Rangely cross country team faced a unique challenge last Friday, competing in the Grand Mesa Trails meet at a staggering altitude of 10,800 feet. Despite the difficult conditions, both the boys’ and girls’ teams demonstrated their resilience and teamwork on one of the most scenic courses of the season.

The varsity girls’ team placed seventh overall, with five runners scoring for the team. Faith Prieto, a sophomore, was the top finisher for the Panthers with a time of 29:20. She was followed by sophomore KJ Benson (29:58), junior Courtney Casto (33:27), and freshmen Addie Thayn (34:38) and Kylee Caldwell (34:51).

“The girls are running hard and making progress each week,” said Coach Scoggins. “They are getting closer to running as a team, which is a great sign.”

The boys’ team secured a

sixth-place finish out of 10 teams, despite missing a few runners due to illness. Senior Jay Valdez led the way, placing ninth overall with a time of 22:00. Sophomores Kyler Fouts (22:39) and Tavan Morgan (23:06) ran a strong race together, while Titus Frierich (25:13) and Antonio Prieto (25:53) also had respectable times.

“The runners are working hard and have a strong ambition to improve,” said Coach Scoggins. “We should see times drop this weekend when we are not so high in altitude. We’re learning to work together as a team, and that’s what’s important right now.”

The middle school team had two competitors this week. Dani Thayn finished sixth for the girls with a time of 17:08, and Rhys Talbot placed 13th for the boys with a time of 16:28.

The Panthers will compete next on Saturday, Sept. 6, at the Eagle Valley Cross Country Invitational in Gypsum. The race will be held at the Siena Valley Club.

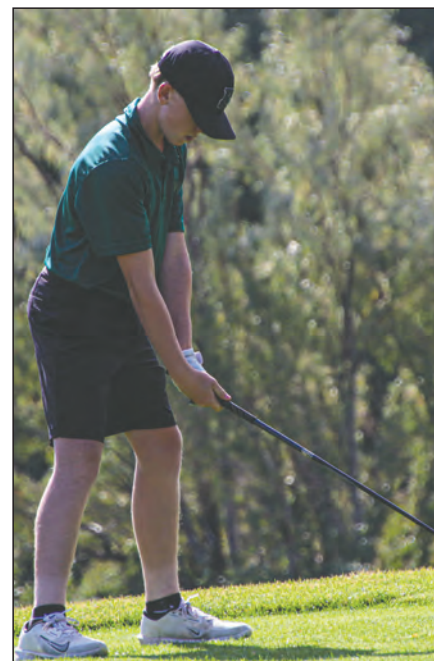


MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO

**The 10,800 ft. elevation of the Grand Mesa Trails cross country course is guaranteed to be challenging. Rangely’s cross country competitors rose to the occasion. The RHS girls placed seventh as a team and the boys secured a sixth-place finish.**

## RHS boys golf hosts first home tournament since reinstatement

Special to the HT



JARED HENDERSON PHOTO

**A Rangely golfer prepares to tee off on the first hole during the Panthers’ home tournament.**

**RANGELY** | The Rangely High School boys golf program celebrated a milestone last week, hosting its first home tournament since being reinstated this year.

For the players, it was a chance to compete on their home course while the school and community rallied behind the event. Strong turnout from parents, local businesses and fans created an electric atmosphere that boosted the team’s energy.

“It was a chance to showcase our players’ hard work and reintroduce golf as a point of pride for Rangely,” head coach Clark Edwards said.

The Panthers finished third overall with a team score of 266, a strong showing for a young team competing against more experienced programs. Edwards credited the team’s resilience and skill while

noting the result sets a solid foundation for the rest of the season.

Sophomore Bryson Elam led the way for Rangely with a 77, shooting 41 on the front nine and 36 on the back. He was followed by freshman Gage Prater with an 86, senior Braxton Shaffer at 103, junior Mason Long at 120, and senior Hudson Torsell with a 127.

Looking ahead, Edwards said the team is focused on building consistency, mental toughness and refining technical skills like the short game and putting.

“We want to carry the pride of representing Rangely into every event, building a culture of growth and competitiveness,” Edwards said.

The Panthers will be on the road again starting Friday, Sept. 5, as the team heads to Sterling, followed by a match in Gunnison on Sept. 9. Both events are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.

## Athlos Life wrestling season announcement

**MEEKER** | We are excited to give our preseason announcement for the upcoming wrestling season! Our competitive folkstyle season will start in December this year, and it will go through the elementary/middle school state tournament. That season will be followed by a competitive freestyle season and will continue through the freestyle state tournament. Here are some important meetings for the upcoming season.

If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to us directly at foreverathlos@gmail.com, and please attend the upcoming parents’ meeting listed below. We will be discussing the upcoming season schedule, rules, expectations, mission, and values. Additionally, we will be starting the process of ordering our team gear, and it will take 6 to 8 weeks to have all of the gear shipped to us. This should give us plenty of time to ensure we have all of our team gear and are ready to go for another epic season. Please attend if you are interested in joining the team as we continue growing opportunities for our community of wrestlers!

**Upcoming Dates:**  
Preseason parents’ meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. in the front seating area at Meeker High School.  
Competitive folkstyle season start date: Monday, Dec. 1 at 5:30 p.m. at 301 Rimrock Drive Meeker, Colorado.  
Competitive folkstyle season end date: Saturday, March 21.  
Competitive freestyle season start date: March 30.  
Competitive freestyle season end date: TBD



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## Meeker cross country competes at Lake County Invitational in Leadville

By JARED HENDERSON  
jared@ht1885.com

**MEEKER** | The Meeker Cowboys cross country team traveled to Leadville on Saturday to compete in the Lake County Invitational, facing cooler temperatures and a morning drizzle before clear skies cleared the way for the high school races. The weather was a stark contrast to last weekend's hot conditions in Grand Junction.

The girls race kicked off the meet, with senior Haylee Steele leading the Cowboys. Last week in Grand Junction, Steele ran the 2,500-meter race, finishing 15th with a time of 13:35.31. This past weekend, she ran the 5,000-meter course, earning 65th place with a time of 32:16.4.

"When going into this race, I knew that it was going to be harder, but that made me and the rest of the team work harder, I believe. Each week is just helping us for the next meets to come," Steele said.

As a senior, Steele said her goals this season include both personal performance and overall team experience.

"My goals for this season are to have fun but also try to be able to go to state. No matter the work I have to put in, I want to make sure that it's a great season for me, but also for others on the team," she said.

Steele and the Cowboys will be back on the road this weekend for the Eagle Valley Invitational in Eagle, Colo-

rado. She said this week's training has focused on speed to prepare for the slightly faster golf course layout.

"The Eagle Valley race should be a little bit easier because it is on a golf course. To be able to prepare for Eagle Valley this weekend will be the speed side of things, hopefully helping to see the time from last week decrease drastically," Steele said.

In the boys race, sophomore Ryan Hanberg led the Cowboys, finishing 23rd overall in 22:49. Sophomore Bradley Conrado and senior Cameron Hanberg ran closely together, placing 26th and 27th with times of 23:02 and 23:06. Freshman Landon Damitz scored for the team in 37th place at 23:59, while sophomore Ashton Tapia rounded out the scoring in 50th place at 26:10. Sophomore Asa Scofield finished in 35:42, and senior Remy Broussard crossed the line in 36:56.

The boys team finished seventh overall, showing strong effort on a challenging, high-altitude course.

Head coach Marty Casey said he was impressed with how the team handled the conditions.

"We got to experience a great new venue for us. The team managed the challenging course and altitude well. I think we can look forward to future competitions in Leadville," Casey said.

This weekend, the Cowboys cross country team will once again be on the road as they head to Eagle, Colorado, to participate in the Eagle Valley Cross Country Invitational at the Siena Golf Club.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Meeker senior Haylee Steele competes in the girls 5,000-meter race at the Lake County Invitational in Leadville on Saturday. Steele, the only girl on the Cowboys cross country team, finished 65th with a time of 32:16.4 as she continues to build toward her senior-season goals.**

## Resilient Cowboys eye rebound against Basalt after 1-8 start



JARED HENDERSON PHOTO

**Meeker senior Addie Knowles (21) runs toward third base during the Cowboys' doubleheader against Delta on Friday. The Panthers took both games, winning 13-1 and 15-0.**

By JARED HENDERSON  
jared@ht1885.com

**MEEKER** | The Meeker High School softball team endured a tough weekend on the road, dropping four straight games in doubleheaders against Delta and Montezuma-Cortez. The Lady Cowboys now stand at 1-8 on the season.

On Friday, Meeker opened its series at Delta. The Cowboys scored once in the first inning of Game 1, but the Panthers responded with a run in the second and then broke the game open with eight runs in the third and four more in the fourth. Delta went on to a 13-1 win, dropping Meeker's record to 1-5.

"While the scoreboard didn't always go our way, there were definitely positive moments," head coach Megan Kuper said.

In the nightcap, Delta shut out Meeker 15-0 to complete the sweep and push the Cowboys to 1-6. De-

spite the final score, Kuper emphasized the importance of learning from each outing.

"We want our players to understand that every game—win or lose—is a chance to learn," she said. "Staying composed under pressure, taking care of the fundamentals, and supporting one another are all lessons that will make us stronger as the season goes on."

On Saturday, the Cowboys traveled to Montezuma-Cortez, where their offense showed more life in the first game. Meeker erupted for six runs in the second inning and added scores in the fourth, sixth and seventh. But Cortez plated eight runs in the first inning and continued to add on, pulling away for a 19-12 win.

"Our hitters came out with a strong approach at the plate," Kuper said. "We were aggressive early in counts, and players trusted their swings. The confidence carried through the lineup, and when one person found success, it seemed to

spark the next."

In the second game, Cortez sealed the sweep with a 15-4 victory. The loss extended Meeker's skid to six games and dropped its record to 1-8.

Meeker will look to regroup this Saturday in Basalt, where both the Cowboys and Longhorns enter with 1-8 records. First pitch is scheduled for 11 a.m. in Game 1, with the second game set for 1 p.m.

"Our practices will emphasize consistency—both at the plate and in the field," Kuper said. "We remind the group that our record doesn't define us—it's about progress and growth. The younger players are developing every game, and our experienced athletes are setting the tone and leading the way."

With a renewed focus and steady improvement, the Cowboys head into the weekend hopeful for a fresh start and an opportunity to get their season back on track.

## Meeker falls to Centauri in season opener, looks to regroup at Wiggins

By JARED HENDERSON  
jared@ht1885.com

**MEEKER** | The Meeker High School football team opened its 2025 season on the road Friday night, falling 34-6 to Centauri.

The Cowboys were looking to redeem themselves from last year's 33-6 home loss to the Falcons but again struggled to slow down a physical Centauri squad.

"We ran into a good football team last Friday," head coach Andy Coryell said. "I did a poor job of having them ready at

kickoff and that led to a few big plays for Centauri."

Junior quarterback Cade Mills led Meeker through the air, finishing 9-of-22 for 130 yards, including a long completion of 49 yards. Mills said the team is focused on fixing mistakes and building on positives ahead of its Week 2 matchup.

"Taking a loss on week one was very difficult. Centauri is a good team," Mills said. "I have a lot of confidence in my team and coaches and we are looking forward to week two against Wiggins."

On the ground, junior running back Said Rodriguez was a bright spot for

Meeker, rushing nine times for 94 yards and averaging more than 10 yards per carry. His longest run went for 25 yards.

"The thing that was really working was getting outside fast," Rodriguez said. "Trusting my speed is something that really helps with that. Also having some great blockers in front of me makes my job a whole lot easier."

Rodriguez said the Cowboys' offense can build on that rushing momentum heading into Friday's game at Wiggins.

"Watching film we can see where we go wrong and we'll get it fixed at practice," Rodriguez said.

Defensively, senior Joseph Halstead led the Cowboys with eight total tackles, including one tackle for loss. Coryell said he was proud of how his team battled even after falling behind early.

"We got behind early but I am proud of how the guys fought and tried to get back in it," Coryell said. "Won't get any easier this week — Wiggins is another good, physical team."

Meeker (0-1) will look for its first win of the season Friday night when it travels to face Wiggins (0-1). Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. Good luck to the Cowboys this week as prepare for the Tigers.

## Rangely volleyball stays hot with sweep of Grand Valley

By JARED HENDERSON  
jared@ht1885.com

**RANGELY** | The Rangely High School volleyball team stayed home this past weekend, hosting Grand Valley High School on Saturday afternoon.

The Panthers entered the matchup with a 3-1 record, while the Cardinals arrived in Rangely at 1-4.

The meeting came one week after Grand Valley fell to Rangely in straight sets at the Panthers' home tournament. That loss was the Cardinals' seventh

straight to Rangely.

On Saturday, the Panthers extended their winning streak over the Cardinals to eight with another sweep. Rangely won 25-22, 25-17, 25-21, improving to 4-1 on the season.

New head coach Angie Hill said she was proud of her team's poise and energy throughout the matches.

"Super proud of how much energy and how mentally strong they were through this game," Hill said. "They just played really well and had fun while

playing, and that was just awesome to see."

Hill pointed to the third set as a turning point. "I think in set three we just really worked through," Hill said. Looking deeper into the season, Hill said the Panthers will focus on sharpening their execution.

The Panthers will face their first road tests this weekend with matches against Caprock Academy on Friday in Grand Junction and North Fork on Saturday in Hotchkiss. Hill said both opponents will present tough challenges,

especially with Caprock returning several upper-classmen and North Fork known for its scrappy play.

"Playing away is always a challenge, but I think that after the way the girls played today, we can carry that on to next weekend and continue to stay mentally tough," Hill said.

Rangely plays at Caprock at 6:30 p.m. Friday before traveling to North Fork for a 1 p.m. match on Saturday.



MATT SCOGGINS PHOTO

**From left, Rangely seniors Courtney Files (5), Kaelyn Geer (6), Addison Scott (7) and Aubrianna Tapia (13) stand together after leading the Panthers to a 4-1 record over Grand Valley with a 3-0 sweep on Saturday.**

**Meeker Certified Nurse Aid Training Program**

## The fall 2025 CNA course begins

Join us October 6<sup>th</sup> - November 3<sup>rd</sup>

The next CNA class will be held weekdays at Meeker High School.  
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

For more information on registration, please email:  
[meekercnatrainingprogram@outlook.com](mailto:meekercnatrainingprogram@outlook.com)

There will be an interview component that will be scheduled once you register.  
**Class size is limited!**

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- Part C — Medicare Advantage
- Part D — Prescription drugs

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JOIN US for a free presentation  
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or **Tues. Sept 23 4:00-5:00pm**

Have questions about Medicare?  
Do you understand the options and benefits of different plans?

Grand River Health Conference Center  
501 Airport Rd. Rifle, CO 81650  
[GrandRiverHealth.org](http://GrandRiverHealth.org)

# All-State Livestock Judging



**Hattie Brennan of Meeker (left) and Ally Black of Rangely (right) traveled to Pueblo, Colorado, to the Colorado State Fair this past weekend for the recognition and awards ceremony for the All-State Livestock Judging 2024/2025 season. Both ladies represent Rio Blanco County and had an amazing judging season. Hattie placed third overall and Ally placed seventh overall in the junior division.**

COURTESY PHOTO

# CPW reopens Oak Ridge, Piceance SWAs

PRESS RELEASE

**MEEKER** | Colorado Parks and Wildlife has decided to reopen Oak Ridge and Piceance State Wildlife Areas (SWA) with the following restrictions in place.

**Oak Ridge SWA:**  
Public access and campgrounds within the Oak Ridge SWA will reopen to the public, except for the “Sleepy Cat” entrance and campground which will remain closed to the public.

CPW reminds the public that Lake Avery Reservoir is closed to the public. The closure has been in place since 2024 for safety due to the dam maintenance and construction project.

**Piceance SWA:**  
The Little Hills Unit will remain closed to the public due to public and firefighter safety closures on surrounding public lands by the Bureau of

Land Management - White River Field Office.

The North Ridge Unit will reopen west of Rio Blanco County Road 127, everything within the unit east of Rio Blanco County Road 127 will remain closed to the public. While portions of these units will open to the public, access may be limited due to road closures. Currently, Rio Blanco County Roads 22 and 127 are closed. For up to date information on road closures go to Rio Blanco County.

While much needed rain has been a welcome sight for many areas, slow moving storms have created an increased risk for flash floods.

• Weather can change in an instant. Having a weather radio or two-way messaging device will ensure you can get weather forecasts and emergency alerts in areas where cell service is limited or not

available.

• If flooding is occurring, get to higher ground as quickly and safely as possible.

• Turn around, don't drown. Never walk or drive through flooded roads. It takes just six inches of moving water to knock an adult off their feet, and one foot of moving water is enough to sweep away a vehicle.

• Hunters are reminded that your hunt may take you to an area that's closed for firefighter and public safety which means these areas are also closed to hunting. While gates in these areas may have been left open to aid in fire fighting efforts, CPW is asking the public to respect the closures in place.

For additional information on alternative access locations, please visit the Colorado Hunting Atlas online or contact your local CPW office.

# PMC board reviews finances, Medicare concerns and billing issues at August meeting

PRESS RELEASE

**MEEKER** | The Eastern Rio Blanco County Health District Board of Directors for Pioneers Medical Center (PMC) held its monthly meeting in August, opening with a 9:30 a.m. financial session before moving into the regular meeting at 10 a.m. All board members were present.

Chief Financial Officer John Nadone outlined concerns with Medicare Advantage (MA) plans, telling the board, “Insurers are narrowing networks, reducing PPO access, and increasing out-of-pocket costs for patients, especially for surgeries.” He also warned that some insurers are “buying physician practices, funneling patients to certain providers, and sometimes pulling out of markets.” Exchange premiums are projected to rise, he said, which could mean more self-pay or uninsured patients. Nadone described the transition out of MA plans as “very difficult for seniors due to pricing and eligibility restrictions.” Board member Wade Bradfield suggested hosting “a community education event on Medicare enrollment options.”

Nadone's July financial report showed inpatient volumes slightly under budget, though “surgeries and retail pharmacy revenues were strong.” Retail pharmacy income is up 6% over last year. Despite a positive monthly net income of \$14,000 without depreciation, PMC reported a \$2.1 million year-to-date loss driven by reduced mill levy revenue. Cash reserves also fell following equipment purchases

and about \$530,000 withheld by Medicare. Nadone said delays from United and Blue Cross are “harming hospital cash flow and patient perceptions,” and patients are frustrated when “Medicare often denies coverage for drugs available over-the-counter.”

The regular meeting opened with recognition of PMC staff and providers for their response during the recent wildfires, which forced evacuations, including residents of the Walbridge Wing. Speakers praised the administration and hospital team for keeping operations running, transporting patients safely and assisting the community during the crisis.

Dr. Karen Frye addressed the board about communication and respect for providers. She said, “A board member allegedly discussed patient medical care inappropriately,” and noted “comments from board members in the community suggesting physicians are overpaid and underworked,” which she said had been hurtful to staff.

Board secretary/treasurer Sherri Halandras responded, saying, “I don't know where that is coming from. It sounds like a little bit of gossip,” but agreed better communication is needed. Plans are underway for a board-provider retreat and strategic planning day to strengthen collaboration.

During public comment, community member Bobby Gutierrez praised PMC staff and providers for their “exceptional work during the wildfire crisis,” but also voiced “frustration about lack of transparency,” citing delayed posting of agendas

and “too much executive session.”

The board also welcomed Brian Krueger, Flight Operations Director, who recently relocated from Minnesota. Staff highlighted his experience and praised his early contributions to PMC's grounds and facilities.

Minutes from prior meetings were reviewed but not approved. Halandras noted they should include “only factual actions and decisions, not opinions.” Final approval was tabled until revisions are made.

Other business included approval of medical staff reappointments and new appointments, including several radiologists who provide overnight ER coverage. Chief Nursing Officer Janelle Borchard reported that the Athena electronic health record system is now fully implemented in the clinic and “functioning well,” with providers noting greater efficiency in faxing, reporting and care coordination.

Borchard also shared updates on the evacuation of the Walbridge Wing during the wildfire. Patients were safely relocated and later returned. While some transportation challenges arose, she said, the overall process went smoothly.

CEO Liz Sellers reported on apartment remodeling, landscaping repairs and tree health assessments in the courtyard and orchard. She also praised emergency management coordination during the fire, calling the daily check-ins “effective” and highlighting “strong collaboration.”

Staffing remains a focus. PMC is recruiting additional physician assis-

tants while preparing for the upcoming departure of two CRNAs. Dr. Mares, who specializes in lower extremity orthopedics, has begun seeing patients in the clinic, joining Dr. Briggs, who focuses on upper extremities.

On the technology side, the hospital launched a new phone system, Weave, which allows for better call tracking and voicemail monitoring while keeping live staff answering during business hours.

Discussion later returned to billing issues. Board members raised concerns that patients are waiting months for bills and are often confused by what they receive. “Reports of patients being told not to pay co-pays at the time of service” have added to the confusion, one board member said.

Leadership clarified that statements are generated at PMC, not by Amplify, its billing partner, and acknowledged that the process is being redesigned. A board member compared PMC's system to Valley View Hospital, noting, “Valley View provides itemized bills quickly,” while PMC has struggled with timeliness.

Medication billing was also discussed, with patients reportedly billed “as if they self-administered medications,” raising coverage concerns. Questions were raised about liability if patients bring their own prescriptions for procedures, and leadership agreed to evaluate clearer policies.

The board requested follow-up on billing improvements and patient communication at its next meeting before moving into executive session.

## Introducing Our New Patient Portal: MEDITECH MyHealthHub

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Coming May 12th

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[www.pioneershospital.org](http://www.pioneershospital.org)

Click Patient Portal on the top header

Need help creating or accessing your Patient Portal?  
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### What You Can Do with the New Patient Portal:

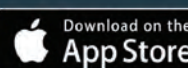
- Schedule or request appointments
- Review upcoming visits with location info
- Complete registration forms before arrival
- Securely message your provider
- Attend virtual visits
- Request prescription renewals
- View lab, imaging, and test results
- Track current hospital stays and discharge instructions
- Pay your bill online
- Grant access to caregivers or family members

### Check in from your phone:

- Use mobile self-check-in to skip the front desk and save time

### Remote Monitoring & Virtual Visits:

- PMC providers can track health data from connected devices and offer virtual visits to support care at home.



## (Cont.) Mergelman wraps successful 4-H career



KAYSYN CHINTALA PHOTO

**Mergelmen in the ring with her championship swine this year.**

**Cont. from P1**  
early mornings, just like we did when I was a kid.”

Looking ahead, Mergelman plans to continue her education at Northeastern Junior College, earning an associate degree in agriculture

business and finance, as well as an advanced agriculture accounting certification. She then plans to pursue a bachelor's and master's degree. She said she will return to the fair to support her younger brother.

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# OBITUARIES

## Mary Strang

June 25, 1938 ~ Aug. 25, 2025



Mary Strang

Longtime Meeker resident Mary Strang, 87, peacefully passed away on August 25, 2025, at her home surrounded by her family.

Mary was born June 25, 1938, in Princeton, New Jersey, to the late Rev. John C. Crocker, Sr. and Mary Hollowell Crocker. She was the youngest of six children.

At the age of two, Mary's family moved to Groton, Massachusetts, when her father became the headmaster of Groton School. She spent her childhood summers at the family home on the island of North Haven, Maine. While there, she, her siblings, and other cousins

were given tremendous freedom to use the skiffs off the dock and explore the various features of the Point, including its mudflats. Her gusto for adventure, regardless of how dirty the task, earned her the fond title of "Dirty Gert." How she played as a child is indicative of how she approached life.

Mary attended Concord Academy and graduated high school from Milton Academy. She attended Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

At 16, Mary and a friend travelled to Ralston Creek Ranch near Golden, Colorado. She met and fell in love with Bart Strang that summer. It's a wonder that the decision to go to Ralston Creek one July ended up changing her life forever, at a young age, as she decided to leave life in New England and jump into being a rancher's wife. Mary and Bart were united in marriage on Sept. 13, 1958, in Groton, Massachusetts. Four girls, Mary, Ellen, Lisa and Sarah were born to them.

Mary and Bart spent their first years of mar-

riage on the family ranch at Ralston Creek. In 1960, they moved to Carbondale, Colorado. They purchased their first Hereford cattle in 1962 while they were ranching in Carbondale with Bart's brother, Mike, and friend Tom Turnbull. In 1968, they moved to their own place on West Sopris Creek in Basalt, Colorado. In addition to their registered and commercial cattle business, they operated a summer program for teenagers, serving as surrogate parents to 40 teens for eight weeks. Each summer, the Strang family of six grew to 60 as everyone shared life on the ranch in the Colorado high country. Mary prepared three meals a day for her large summer family of 60. It was routine for her to bake 20 loaves of bread, make 10 pies, and prepare large amounts of meat, salad, and vegetables. Alongside managing the summer business and raising four daughters, Mary helped Bart develop their herd of Hereford cattle. She took weekend ski trips to Buttermilk, assisted with 4-H projects, attended bull

sales and junior rodeos, and served as a trustee for Rocky Mountain School. The friendships she formed during this time lasted until her death.

The family moved to Meeker, Colorado, in 1973 and focused solely on raising cattle. Mary quickly became involved in many facets of the community, including the Episcopal Church, school, 4-H, and Community Choir, to name a few. An advocate for youth and education, Mary volunteered her time in classrooms and boardrooms, never passing up the opportunity to help someone.

The cattle operation became the center of Mary's life. She found joy in the simple tasks of dragging fields in the spring and cleaning stalls during calving season. She learned to manage a website, edit videos, and market bulls with the best. Annual bull sales and showing carloads of yearling bulls at the National Western Stock Show were her working vacations.

Throughout her life, Mary devoted immeasurable effort to supporting

the youth of each community she lived in. She was a staunch supporter of education and enrichment for all students, believing that the arts were an integral part of every child's education. She spent many years on the Meeker School Board and was the driving force behind the creation of the Meeker Education Foundation (MEF). The MEF now provides crucial funding for the Meeker School District.

This New England schoolgirl did not hesitate to embrace the life of a rancher's wife, even though, in retrospect, she was asking herself to make a huge adjustment in the way she lived. As a dear friend wrote, "And with each challenge that came along, she rose up, as if it was no big deal, and turned herself into a hero in my eyes, not just a cherished friend. One of a kind she was." Mary was the epitome of the DIY person. She taught herself to refinish furniture, do the finish work on her house, landscaping, and woodworking, and she was not afraid of technology; there was nothing she

couldn't do.

Mary is survived by daughters Mary (Greg) Cunningham, Lisa (Tom) Walsh, Sarah (Clint) Hjelm, son-in-law Joe (Ellen) Nieslanik, 11 grandchildren - Ben (Rachel) unningham, Charlie (Cami) Cunningham, Hannah (Ben) Cunningham Hollinger, Meg (John Colavita) Nieslanik, Jake (Paige) Nieslanik, Sam (Katie) Nieslanik, Nate (Kalyn) Walsh, Anna Walsh, Stephen Walsh, Wyatt Hjelm and Hannah Hjelm, plus seven soon to be eight great-grandchildren, her sister-in-law Kit Strang and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bart Strang; her daughter, Ellen Nieslanik; her parents; and her five siblings.

Services for Mary will be held at 11 a.m. on Sept. 12, 2025, at St. James Episcopal Church in Meeker, Colorado, followed by a reception at the Meeker 4-H building.

Instead of flowers, please consider making memorial donations to St. James Episcopal Church, in care of Grant Mortuary.

## Ernest 'Ernie' Gianinetti

June 13, 1934 ~ Aug. 18, 2025



Ernie Gianinetti

With deep gratitude, we announce the passing of Ernest "Ernie" Gianinetti, a lifelong Carbondale native who lived with heart, grit and a deep love for the land and people around him. Born to Ben

and Alphonsine Gianinetti, Ernie was shaped early by the values of hard work, loyalty, and service, traits that left a lasting mark on the Roaring Fork Valley. His honesty earned respect, and his warmth and humor made him unforgettable. He loved a good story, a lively polka, and any excuse for a gathering filled with laughter.

Family was at the heart of everything for Ernie. He carried his Italian heritage with pride, from making Gianinetti Sausage with the game he hunted and the animals he raised, to passing down traditions that connected generations. He took great pride in his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and nothing meant

more to him than seeing his family together carrying those values forward. His opinions

were strong and his voice carried weight, but at his core he was a man whose deepest hope was to see his family and community thrive.

Ernie poured himself into his community. He never missed a Potato Day and proudly rode in its parade. As a longtime leader of the Mt. Sopris 4-H Horse Riding Club, he mentored countless local kids, sharing his knowledge and passion for horses. His fingerprints are all over Carbondale's history. He, along with his wife, Carol, helped

establish the valley's first local bank, today known as Alpine Bank, and the Heritage Park Nursing Home. He also founded the Mt. Sopris Recreational Riders Snowmobile Club and carved the very trails we enjoy today.

He was happiest outside, on horseback, on a snowmobile, on a dirt bike, on a boat fishing, or hunting in the backcountry. For many years he proudly rode in the Colorado 500, fueled by his adventurous spirit and love of the open trail. And through it all, he was anchored by the love of his life, Carol, his wife of 72 years, with whom he built a home, raised a family, and shared a bond that be-

gan with a motorcycle ride in the summer of 1950. In his later years, when asked to reflect, Ernie said simply, "It's been a great ride!"

Perhaps his greatest legacy is the land he poured his soul into, known as Gianinetti Spring Creeks Ranch. Every tree planted, every pasture cared for, and every fence post set carries a piece of his story, and his family will continue to honor his values there for generations to come.

As he often said, "When in doubt, give it hell!" Ernie was a force of nature, a man who lived fully, loved deeply, and left behind a legacy not just of land and tradition,

but of character that will not be forgotten.

He is survived by his wife Carol Gianinetti (Fiscus); four children: Melanie Cardiff (David), Marissa Bell (John), Mark Gianinetti (Anna), Mitch Gianinetti (Denise); his 12 grandchildren: Jashine Wise, Janelle Forbes, Seth Bell, Carissa Bell, Kade Gianinetti, Tanner Gianinetti, Landin Bailey, Hattie Gianinetti, Megan Gianinetti, Shay Gianinetti, Paige Gianinetti, Kaleigh Gianinetti; and nine great-grandchildren: Layton Wise, Aubrey Wise, Aspen Bell, Adler Bell, Hayes Gianinetti, Lorna Forbes, Sunny Gianinetti, Hadley Bailey, Nia Logan.

## More results from the 2025 Rio Blanco County Fair

### MONDAY DOG SHOW

Premier Exhibitor Landree Tate  
Jr Showman Champion Aerie Smuts  
Int Showman Champion Aly Healy  
Int Showman Reserve Landree Tate  
Sr Showman Champion Joslin Spieth  
Sr Showman Reserve Dixie Hall

### MONDAY CAT SHOW

Jr Showman Champion Kemry Osborn  
Jr Showman Reserve Kaisley Sanford  
Conformation Champion Kaisley Sanford  
Conformation Reserve Kemry Osborn

### WEDNESDAY POULTRY SHOW

Market Champion Tyler Urie - Chicken  
Market Reserve Colt Legits - Turkey  
Jr Showman Champion Jacob Olson  
Jr Showman Reserve Jacie Plummer  
Int Showman Champion Tyler Urie  
Int Showman Reserve Blake Smith  
Sr Showman Champion Hayden Garcia

Sr Showman Reserve Liam Olson  
1st Place Turkey Colt Legits  
1st Place Chicken Tyler Urie  
1st Place Duck Jacie Plummer  
Born & Raised Champion Liam Olson  
Born & Raised Reserve Hayden Garcia  
Breeding Champion Liam Olson  
Breeding Reserve Luke Olson  
Best in Show Brooklyn Ehnstrom  
PeeWee Showman Cash Smith

### WEDNESDAY RABBIT SHOW

Market Champion Hayden Garcia  
Market Reserve Hoyt Garcia  
Champion Doe Hayden Garcia  
Champion Buck Hoyt Garcia  
Jr Showman Champion Dustin Ward  
Jr Showman Reserve Skyler Wilson  
Int Showman Champion Blake Smith  
Sr Showman Champion Hayden Garcia  
Sr Showman Reserve Hoyt Garcia

Born & Raised Champion Hayden Garcia  
Born & Raised Reserve Hoyt Garcia  
Best in Show Sonya Garcia  
Best Opposite Sex Sonya Garcia  
PeeWee Showman Cash Smith

### WEDNESDAY SWINE SHOW

Market Champion Ryann Mergelman  
Market Reserve Paola Munoz  
Jr Showman Champion Trevor Gould  
Jr Showman Reserve Kaisley Sanford  
Int Showman Champion Klayton Carroll  
Int Showman Reserve Jada Gould  
Sr Showman Champion Ryann Mergelman  
Sr Showman Reserve Paola Munoz  
Breeding Champion Ryann Mergelman  
Breeding Reserve Klayton Carroll

### THURSDAY GOAT SHOW

Jr Showman Champion Whitney Carroll  
Jr Showman Reserve Riley Alger  
Int Showman Champion Cora Lewis

Int Showman Reserve Cambrey Rogers  
Sr Showman Champion Cienna Rogers  
Sr Showman Reserve Teagan Smith

### THURSDAY SHEEP SHOW

Jr Showman Champion Makylie Kilduff  
Jr Showman Reserve Kinzie Preciado  
Int Showman Champion Cora Lewis  
Int Showman Reserve Paisley Potter  
Sr Showman Champion Ryann Mergelman  
Sr Showman Reserve Brielle Lucero  
Born & Raised Champion Teagan Smith  
Born & Raised Reserve Cora Lewis

### FRIDAY CATTLE SHOW

Jr Showman Champion Lillie Potter  
Jr Showman Reserve Annabeth Moody  
Int Showman Champion Brooklyn Griggs  
Int Showman Reserve Miles Franklin  
Sr Showman Champion Charlie Rogers  
Sr Showman Reserve Brielle Luero  
PeeWee Showman Oaklee Ahrens

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# DAYS GONE BY

**MEEKER HERALD ~ 125 YEARS AGO**

The automobile craze bears many earmarks of the first attack of the bicycle craze, a few

years ago, especially in the organization of new manufacturing companies.

According to present plans an extra session of

the state legislature will be called in November for the purpose of raising the 'wind' (financial). Had there been less wind expended at the regular

session the extra would not be needed. But such forethought and eye to economy would not suit the purpose of the average legislator.

On Tuesday David Smith and family moved to their new home on the ranch which adjoins the town on the west. The residence is a very handsome and commodious one and makes a notable addition to this year's permanent improvements.

high-heeled boots who has found the new oil field a bonanza. Baucum homesteaded his place in 1932 and subsequently brought in an artesian well. His well provides the only drinking water in the area. He is selling water to the entire Rangely field and wouldn't swap his artesian well for an oil property.

## PUZZLES

**CROSSWORD**

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

**MEEKER HERALD ~ 100 YEARS AGO**

Babe Ruth, the big black bear, arrived in crate in Meeker early this week and he is now under the care of W.A. Thomas getting in prime condition for the big ceremonial to be held in this town by the Imperial Order of Muscovites on Sept. 11.

We have reached a point where the canny motorist carries a bicycle along so he can ride to work after he finds a place to park.

There will be a dance at the Lime Kiln school house this evening. Yesterday was the last day of the summer school at the place.

**MEEKER HERALD ~ 75 YEARS AGO**

Just two miles west of Artesia is Wiley's Resort, run by Wiley Baucum, a short, stubby man in

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hilkey had a letter this past week from their son Lt. Joe Hilkey who is in the air corps and a first pilot of a transportation plane in the Pacific theatre of operations. Joe has been hauling troops for the occupation of Japan and writes that he makes a round trip from his base every three hours.

**MEEKER HERALD ~ 50 YEARS AGO**

Rio Blanco County Commissioners gave their final approval Monday for the development of the Ute Terrace Mobile Home Park, the largest residential project ever undertaken in Rio Blanco County. The park is presently designed to handle 401 units which will definitely bring a

Cont. on P11

**THEME: FICTIONAL CANINES**

**ACROSS**

1. "Call of the Wild" dog
5. Lightning McQueen, e.g.
8. Island near Java
12. Popular hairdo in the 1960s and '70s
13. Governmental space agency, acr.
14. Meat in a casing
15. Larry Bird's target
16. Narrative poem
17. Richard Bachman to Stephen King
18. \*Sherman's Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

20. Fence plank
21. Small jar
22. FedEx competitor
23. \*Tabaqui of "The Jungle Book"
26. Most vital part
30. a.k.a. Home of the Brave
31. Bewilder
34. Y'all
35. Phonograph media
37. Williams sister's return
38. "Two mints in one" classic mints
39. Celt
40. Red carpet suit
42. Pirate's turf
43. Flag on a ship, pl.

45. Solar system model
47. Like a fiddle
48. Sweating room
50. Chesterfield, e.g.
52. \*National Crime Prevention Council's mascot
54. "The Martian" (2015) actor Matt \_\_\_\_\_
55. Verbal exam
56. Half-man, half-goat
59. Deflect
60. Charge a tax
61. Division word
62. Darn a sock, e.g.
63. Bo Peep follower
64. Long, long time

**DOWN**

1. Scrooge's exclamation
2. E. T. transporter, e.g.
3. Photo editing option
4. 1/100th of a ruble
5. Mafia's top dogs
6. "All joking \_\_\_\_\_"
7. Risqu
8. \*Target's mascot
9. "Si, mi chiamo Mimi" in La Boheme, e.g.
10. Law school test acronym
11. "\_\_\_\_\_ a Wonderful Life"
13. Interstellar cloud
14. Flying stingers
19. Omani and Yemeni

22. Consume
23. TV Judy's title
24. Of the Orient
25. Lawyers' loads
26. Major European river
27. Relating to Scandinavia
28. Like a button, but more so
29. English homework
32. Swine and avian diseases
33. \*Maid Marian of Disney's "Robin Hood" movie (1973)
36. \*The Big Red Dog
38. \_\_\_\_\_ copia
40. Blast maker, acr.
41. Sullenly
44. James Dean's last movie

- (1956)
46. Basket-making fiber
48. Nut holder
49. Tequila source
50. "\_\_\_\_\_ me a seat"
51. Damien's prediction
52. Lawn pest
53. \*Rubeus Hagrid's faithful boarhound
54. Beaver's edifice
57. Beehive State native
58. Us, in Mexico

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# DAYS GONE BY

Cont. from P10

lot of people into town – something to quell those people’s fears who think the town is dying and something to make those people who don’t want to see Meeker grow, unhappy. Whichever side of the fence you’re on, it doesn’t matter now, as ground will be broken on the 80-acre tract next spring, barring any unforeseen disaster.

Putting their teams thru the final days of practice week before the football season begins are Meeker High School coaches John Almgren, Bill Turner and Bob Tucker.

## MEEKER HERALD ~ 25 YEARS AGO

The Meeker Classic Sheepdog Trials elimination rounds began Wednesday. Gus Halandras said the committee never dreamed that the Meeker Classic would become what it is now. Halandras and his wife, Christine, long time Meeker residents, along with Laura Watkins and Marv Brown, came up with the idea as a way to invigorate the local economy when Gus was the mayor of Meeker.

Septemberfest 2000 was a success in Rangely.

Countless volunteers put in their efforts to make the annual celebration “sing/” Carol Ditmanson of the Rangely Chamber of Commerce said, “I have never lived in a town before that does this, where everybody comes together for the largest event of the year. It is wonderful.”

## RANGELY TIMES ~ 50 YEARS AGO

At the last meeting of the Rangely Area Chamber of Commerce, Bob H. White, President of the Bank of Rangely, was elected to serve as President during the next chamber year. Agreeing to continue with the position of Vice

President was Pat Hejl, Pat’s Floral and Main Auto Center with Laura Conroy of the Rimco Insurance Agency elected as secretary/treasurer.

People who stretch the truth often find that it occasionally snaps back and hits them.

Rangely has had about 20 physicians come and go. Some have left for ‘greener pastures’ and others for reasons I would not care to mention, but none has retired. Rangely is a difficult place to practice, as regardless of how many doctors are here a bulk of the local people will go out of town.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**TOWN OF RANGELY WORKSESSION – BUDGET WORKSESSION**

September 9 th , 2025 - 7:00pm Town of Rangely Council Chambers

Agenda

Rangely Board of Trustees (Town Council)

Ron Granger, Mayor

Andy Shaffer, Mayor Pro Tem

Todd Thayne, trustee

shaw morgan, trustee

Tim webber, Trustee

Kyle wren, Trustee

Robby Elam, Trustee

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Invocation
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Minutes of Meeting
- a. Discussion and Action to approve the Town Council minutes of August 26th, 2025 .
6. Petitions and Public Input
7. Changes to the Agenda
8. Public Hearings - 7:10pm
9. Town Manager Update
- Council Reports
11. Supervisor Reports
12. Old Business
13. New Business
- a. Discussion and action to approve the August 2025 check register
- b. Discussion and action to approve a contribution to Giant Step Preschool from the Fund for Public Giving in the amount of \$3,000.00
- c. Discussion and action to appoint Jeremy Lohry, Elizabeth Wiley, Diane Sizemore, and Emma Baker to the Rangely Historical Preservation Board respectively.
- d. Discussion and action to appoint Jeannie Caldwell and Keely Ellis to the Rangely Historical Preservation Board in an advisory role.
- Informational Items
- Board Vacancies
- a. RDA/RDC
16. Scheduled Announcements
- a. Rio Blanco County Commissioners Board meeting is scheduled for Sept 9th, 2025, at 11:00 am in Meeker
- b. Giant Step Preschool Board meeting is scheduled for Sept 11 th , 2025, at 6:00 pm
- c. Community Outreach meeting is cancelled for September 2025
- d. Rangely School District Board meeting is scheduled for Sept 16 th , 2025, at 6:15 pm
- e. Rangely Junior College District Board meeting is scheduled for Sept 16th, 2025, at 12:00 noon
- f. Rangely Chamber of Commerce Board meeting is scheduled for Sept 18 th , 2025, at 12:30 noon
- g. Rangely District Library Board meeting is scheduled for Sept 15 th . 2025, at 5:00 pm
- h. WRB Park & Recreation District Board meeting is scheduled for Sept 15 th , 2025, at 6:00 pm
- i. Rural Fire Protection District Board meeting is scheduled for Sept 15 th , 2025, at 7:00 pm
- j. Rio Blanco County Commissioners Board meeting is scheduled for Sept 23 rd , 2025, at 9:00 am in Rangely
- k. RBC Water Conservancy District Budget Work session is scheduled for Sept 24 th , 2025, at 6:30 pm
- l. Rangely District Hospital Board meeting is scheduled for Sept 25 th , 2025, at 6:00 pm
- m. RDA/RDC Board meeting is scheduled for October 9th, 2025, at 7:00 am
17. Adjournment

Published: September 4, 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:

PLIR-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

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO**

555 Main Street, 3rd Floor Commissioner's Hearing Room, Meeker, Colorado 81641 Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

This meeting will be streamed live on the RBC YouTube Channel at: <http://youtube.com/c/RioBlancoCountyColorado>

I. Call to Order 11:00 AM.

- a) Pledge of Allegiance.
- b) Public Comment Period: Any member of the public may address the Board on matters which are within the jurisdiction of the Board. If you are addressing the Board regarding a matter listed on the Agenda, you are requested to limit your comments to three minutes per member or five minutes per group. The public comment time is not for questions and answers. It is your time to express your views. To ensure there is adequate public comment time, please provide your name, contact information, and any affiliation prior to the meeting by contacting the Board assistant at (970) 878-9575. If you would like to submit written comment please contact the Board assistant. If any member of the public would like to comment at this time, please state your name, contact information and any affiliation for the record.
- c) This is a tentative agenda which includes all information available as of September 1, 2025. The final tentative agenda will be posted at the RBC Historic Courthouse, 555 Main St., Meeker, CO, and at the Rangely Town Hall, 209 E. Main St., Rangely.
- d) Consideration of the approval of the September 10, 2025 Agenda including any changes.

II. Consent Items:

- a) Move to Approve the Below Listed Items of the Consent Agenda.
- b) Payroll Management Report for August 15, 2025.
- c) Payroll Management Report for August 29, 2025
- d) Accounts Payable Management Reports for June 2025.
- e) Special Meeting Minutes for July 23, 2025.
- f) Special Meeting minutes for August 7, 2025.
- g) Meeting Minutes for August 12, 2025.
- h) Motor Vehicle DMV Report for August 2025.
- i) DHS EBT Register and Warrant Register for August 2025.

III. Business:

- a) Consideration of approving the Representation Letter – Applying Agreed-upon Procedures, from Blair and Associates, P.C. for Solid Waste Landfill. - Being Sent from Paul Miller
- b) Consideration of approving the Rio Blanco County Management Representation Letter, from Blair and Associates, P.C. for Solid Waste Landfill. - Being sent from Paul Miller
- c) Ratification of an MOU with the Yampa Valley Community Foundation, an existing 501 C 3 Organization as Fiscal Agent for the purpose of Recovery Efforts for the Lee and Elk Fires.
- d) Consideration of the request from the Eastern Rio Blanco County Health Service District (Pioneers Medical Center) increasing the board from a five (5) member board to a seven (7) member board.
- e) Consideration of a renewal of an Agreement for Services with Redlands Accounting for Interim Finance Director Services.
- f) Discussion and Consideration of the approval to purchase a magnet for the excavator at Solid Waste Landfill.
- g) Consideration and approval of the 2025 RBC EEO Meeker Airport Coulter Field Winter Maintenance Policy and Procedure.
- h) Consideration of executing the Bureau of Land Management Request for Relinquishment of Grant COC-19633 - Communication Site Lobo.
- i) Ratification of a letter of support for the Northwest Colorado Outdoors (NWCO) 2025 Regional Partnerships (RPI) Implementation Grant application.
- j) Ratification of a Contract Amendment with the Kenneth E. Harrison Family Trust, amending the contract to end one month early on September 30, 2025.
- k) Ratification of a Letter for public comments to the Colorado Energy Office regarding the Evaluation and Assessment of Local Government Processes for the Siting of Commercial Clean Energy and Energy Transmission Projects Draft Report.

IV. Recess as the Board of County Commissioners and Convene as the Board of Social Services.

V. Adjourn as the Board of Social Services and Re-Convene as the Board of County Commissioners.

VI. Resolutions:

VII. Public Hearing:

- a) Consideration of Olmsted Limited Impact Review PLIR-0002-25.
- i) Consideration of Resolution 2025-26, a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County, Colorado, Approving the Olmsted Limited Impact Review PLIR-0002-25.

VIII. Other Business

- a) Update of Current Disaster/Fire Situation
- b) Road and Bridge update
- c) County Attorney update
- d) County Administrator update
- e) County Commissioners updates

IX. Adjourn.

The agenda is provided for informational purposes only; all times are approximate. Agenda items will normally be considered in the order they appear on the agenda. However, the Board may alter the Agenda, take breaks during the meeting, work through the noon hour and even continue

an item for a future meeting date. The Board, while in session, may consider other items that are brought before it. Scheduled items may be continued if the Board is unable to complete the Agenda as scheduled.

The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 23, 2025, at the Rio Blanco Annex, 17497 Hwy 64, Rangely, CO 81648. If you need special accommodations, please call 970-878-9575 in advance of the meeting so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

Published: September 4, 2025  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

## MEEKER SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1 BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING AND WORK SESSION

555 Garfield Street  
Meeker, CO 81641

September 8, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

Google Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/fr0-nuyt-etz>

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Allen will lead the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Welcome of Guests
4. Approval of Agenda

General Public Comment Session: (comments limited to three minutes)

Action Item:

1. Approval: 2025-2026 Certified and Classified Substitutes - Updated 9/8/2025
2. Approval: Coaches
  - a. Mike Dinwiddie - 8th Grade Boys Basketball Head Coach
  - b. Karen Dinwiddie - 8th Grade Boys Basketball Volunteer Coach
  - c. Hannah White - High School Softball Assistant Coach

Other BOE Information:  
Executive Session (if needed):  
Special Meeting Adjournment

Work Session:

1. Policy Discussion:
  - a. 20250818 Policy Update - Recommended by CASB
  - b. 20250820 CASB Special Policy Update
2. 2025 School Board Organizational Meeting (Policy BDA)

3. Assessments & Accreditation (Policy IK & AED)
  - a. Annual Assessment Data Report
  - b. School and District Performance Frameworks
4. Superintendent Goals (Policy CBI and CBI-R, Contract Provision)
  - a. 2024-2025 Goals Summary
  - b. 2025-2026 Draft Goals
5. Finance (Policy Group DB)
  - a. Uses of General Fund balance
  - b. Uses of Bond Fund interest
6. School Board Best Practices (Policy BBA)
  - a. Meeker BOE self evaluation form
  - b. BOE discussion/training topics
7. Community Survey Action Plan - Monitoring (Policy KCB & ADA)
8. Other

Published: September 4, 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 CDDT 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 CDDT Table 703-1 Fine Aggregates.

Contract Documents:

All bid information and contract documents are available at [www.bidnetdirect.com/](http://www.bidnetdirect.com/) rio-blanco-county.

Project Administrator:  
Clint Chappell, Road and Bridge Coordinator, (970)878-9590, email: [clint.chappell@rbc.us](mailto: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 SANITATION DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM

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

Additions or Changes to the Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Public Comments

New Business

Appointment of Budget Director

Property Tax Leins

Old Business

Plant Manager Report

Office Manager Report

Attorney Board Reports

Delinquent Accounts

Approve Current Bills

Adjourn

This agenda is subject to change without further notice.

Agenda is posted at the office of the Meeker Sanitation District. 265 8th Street. Published: September 4, 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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● A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE FILED PURSUANT TO SECTION 38-38-104 SHALL BE FILED WITH THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE AT LEAST FIFTEEN (15) CALENDAR DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST SCHEDULED SALE DATE OR ANY DATE TO WHICH THE SALE IS CONTINUED;

● A NOTICE OF INTENT TO REDEEM FILED PURSUANT TO SECTION 38-38-302 SHALL BE FILED WITH THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE NO LATER THAN EIGHT (8) BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE SALE;

● IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;

● IF THE BORROWER BELIEVES THAT A LENDER OR SERVICER HAS VIOLATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT IN SECTION 38-38-103.1 OR THE PROHIBITION ON DUAL TRACKING IN SECTION 38-38-103.2, THE BORROWER MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE FEDERAL CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB), OR BOTH. THE FILING OF A COMPLAINT WILL NOT STOP THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS.

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Consumer Financial Protection Bureau  
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Washington, DC 20038  
(855) 411-2372  
[www.consumerfinance.gov](http://www.consumerfinance.gov)  
DATE: 08/15/2025

Rhonna Waldref, Public Trustee in and for the County of Rio Blanco, State of Colorado

By: Rhonna Waldref, Public Trustee  
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:  
Amanda Ferguson #44893  
Heather Deere #28597  
Toni M. Owan #30580  
Halliday Watkins & Mann, P.C. 355 Union Blvd., Suite 250, Lakewood, CO 80228 (303) 274-0155  
Attorney File # CO24894  
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Published Aug. 28, Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25  
Rio Blanco Herald Times

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<input type="checkbox"/> None			
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address	
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months			
<input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)			
13. Publication Title	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below		
RIO BLANCO HERALD TIMES	08/29/2025		
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation			
		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			
(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	175	168
(2)	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	500	473
(3)	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution USPS® (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	100	100
(4)	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		775	741
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15c (1), (2), (3), and (4))			
(1)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(2)	Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3)	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
(4)	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15c (1), (2), (3) and (4))		0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)			
		775	741
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))			
		0	0
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)			
		775	741
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)			
		100	100
* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.			
16. Electronic Copy Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies		200	228
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		975	228
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		975	969
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 15c x 100)		100	100
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.			
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership			
<input type="checkbox"/> If this publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 08/25 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.			
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner			Date
Catlin Walker, Owner			08/29/2025

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

# 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.

**Meeker Elementary School**  
• Special Education  
Paraprofessional - Part Time  
Position closes Sept 18, 2025 at 4:00pm

Visit our website for vacancy details & application process:  
[meeker.k12.co.us](http://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**

**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](http://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.

For immediate fire and demolition clean up, road building, and all other dirt work, contact Wes Moody Construction, 970-987-1250

**RENTALS: MEEKER**

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

**ELDER CARE**

★★★★★  
Western Slope In-Home Care  
[www.westernslopehomecare.com](http://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

**PUBLIC SERVICE**

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



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

**Colorado Classified Advertising**  
Statewide Network

To place a 25-word COSCAN Network ad in 91 Colorado Newspapers for only \$300, contact your local Newspaper or email [rtoledo@colopress.net](mailto:rtoledo@colopress.net)

<b>JACUZZI BATH REMODEL</b> Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer.) Offer ends 9/30/25 Call: 1-888-763-4659	<b>Inogen</b> Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free Information Kit! Call 844-823-0293
<b>DISH Satellite</b> Get DISH Satellite TV + Inernet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up to \$600 In Gift Cards Call Today! 1-855-720-8701	<b>COLORADO PRESS ASSOCIATION NETWORK</b> To Place a 25-word COSCAN Network ad in 91 Colorado Newspapers for only \$300 Contact your Local Newspaper or email: <a href="mailto:rtoledo@colopress.net">rtoledo@colopress.net</a>



**Position Announcement**  
**Accountant / Analyst - Mid-Level**

White River Electric Association, Inc. is currently seeking quality applicants for Accountant/Analyst - Mid-Level position at the headquarters of the Association. The applicant must be 18 years of age. A bachelor's degree in business administration or related field is preferred and applicants must possess a minimum of three years' experience in accounting, finance or related field. Must be able to work a 40-hour week. Applicant must be able to pass a physical, drug, alcohol and background test if/when requested. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: assisting with the overall financial management of the association and subsidiary, including financial forecasting and reporting; cash management, debt management, general ledger reconciliation and analysis; assisting financial and administrative staff with activities related to asset management, budgeting, plant accounting, payroll, purchase orders, bank reconciliation and accounts payable; supports with audit requests, employee benefit administration, and regulatory reporting. Position is considered full-time and will be eligible for benefits after 90 days. Pay range of \$35.00-\$45.00 per hour, depending on experience, plus any overtime. Successful applicants may be eligible for performance and year-end bonuses. Benefits include health, dental, vision and life insurances, paid vacation, sick leave and retirement benefits. Applications can be obtained from the office of White River Electric Association, Inc., 233 6th St, Meeker, CO 81641 from 7am-5pm- Monday-Thursday or found online at [wrea.org/](http://wrea.org/) employment-opportunities. Applications must be accompanied by a resume and will be accepted until 5:00 pm on Thursday, September 18, 2025. White River Electric Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.

**HELP WANTED**


**RIO BLANCO COUNTY**  
**Employment Opportunities**  
• Budget and Finance Director - \$94,919-\$127,000/yr, B  
B-benefitted: Medical, dental, vision and life insurance, paid time off, retirement

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

**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](http://erbmrec.com/careers)  
ERBM Recreation & Park District | 970.878.3403  
[erbmrec.com](http://erbmrec.com) | [erbmrec](mailto:erbmrec)

**Be prepared before the next power outage.**



**It's not just a generator. It's a power move.**

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$535.

Call 866-977-2602 to schedule your free quote!

**GENERAC**

# REAL ESTATE CORNER

**AGREAGE VIEWS WELL-NICE HOME LARGE BARN HORSE-PROPERTY**

**REDUCED!**  
**\$580,000**

Beautiful sunrises, sunsets and 360-degree views await you as the new owner of Ponderosa Pass Ranch located in history and recreation rich Northwest Colorado. The ranch affords you year-round access with county maintained roads. This 35.06 acre horse property boasts a well cared for 3 BDR, 2 BTH home with an open floor plan, a wraparound composite deck for relaxing with a cup of coffee and taking in the views and wildlife of elk, mule deer or pronghorn which frequent the property. The southern exposure windows supply added views from the living, dining and kitchen areas. A bonus room downstairs has a pellet stove for that extra bit of added warmth on those chilly mornings and evenings. The oversized 2-car garage sits beside the house with a breeze way in between and the fenced yard is completely landscaped. The domestic well supplies water to the house, yard and livestock and has a backup city water cistern. Your horses will have plenty of room to roam and graze inside the well-maintained fenced property which is complete with a shed and corrals. The large 3600 sq ft metal barn has electricity and spacious areas for hay and equipment storage, and two insulated rooms for tack and shop area. The seller is including a Kabota tractor with two attachments in the sale of the ranch. Ponderosa Pass Ranch is located just a few short miles from the town of Craig which has grocery stores, banks, a new hospital, college and restaurants. Steamboat Springs is approx. 40 mi to the east as well as Hayden Airport which is 25 mi to the east. See this property today because your rural Northwest Colorado outdoor adventures lie ahead of you!

**Elk Canyon Realty, LLC**  
**Carolyn Plumb - Owner/Broker**  
Ranch | Residential | Land | Commercial  
**(970) 620-2249**  
[www.elkcanyonrealty.com](http://www.elkcanyonrealty.com) - [carolynplumb.ecr@gmail.com](mailto:carolynplumb.ecr@gmail.com)

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889 Main St., Meeker, Colorado  
[brooksrealtymeekeer.com](http://brooksrealtymeekeer.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**

**RENEWAL by ANDERSEN**  
FULL SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

**BUY 1, GET 1 40% OFF**  
PLUS  
**\$200 OFF**  
Your Entire Purchase\*  
MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 4

**OFFER ENDS 12/31**

**TOLL FREE 888-670-2459**

**Alpine West Properties LLC**  
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' loading 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 & cistem, on 2706 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. Plus 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](mailto:sold@alexplumb.realtor) • 970.420.8076

**Lori Plumb Associate Broker**  
[lori.alpinewest@gmail.com](mailto:lori.alpinewest@gmail.com) • 970.620.2233

**950 Cleveland St**  
**643 Main Street, Meeker**

**ADAMS LODGE OUTFITTERS**



**BUSINESS AND BASE PROPERTY**  
**\$1,400,000**

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 \$599,000

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..... PENDING \$443,118

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

MEEKER: 1217 Main Street: Freshly updated 3BD/0.75BA, private double corner lot, abundant storage.....\$379,000

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..... SOLD

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

**STREAMLINE REALTY LLC**