➢ RANGELY REVIEW ↔

A Paper for the People, of the People, by the People

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VOL. 4 NO. 22

Governor Polis Announces New Grants to Support Job Creation in Coal Transition Communities



OCTOBER 2024

Special to the Review

Governor Polis and the Office of Economic Development & International Trade (OEDIT) announced two Coal Transition Community grants to fund projects that will diversify local economies in western Colorado, including the Town of Rangely and the communities of Natarita and Nucla in the West End of Montrose County and Norwood in San Miguel County. These grants will support economic and business development activities to create and retain rural jobs.

"I am focused on saving people money and supporting local job creation and business growth. This funding will help them create dozens of new jobs in western Colorado and retain many more," said Governor Polis.

A \$500,000 grant awarded to the Town of Rangely will support the Retain, Attract, Rebuild, Expand (RARE) business support program for three years. A \$210,680 grant to the West End Economic Development Corporation (WEEDC) will support grant writing and increase capacity to focus on programs to the communities of Nucla, Naturita, and Norwood in Montrose and San Miguel counties. "When small businesses succeed, communities can thrive. We are pleased to support local initiatives to retain and attract new businesses while diversifying rural economies," said OEDIT Executive Director, Eve Lieberman.

In the Town of Rangely, the RARE program will provide business, financial and marketing training for local entrepreneurs and existing businesses in partnership with the Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) and the Northwest Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The program will also offer an annual small business grant program, with grants of up to \$40,000 available per awarded business, and an annual pitch competition, both for the next three years.

The Town of Rangely anticipates that the RARE program will create a minimum of 15 full time jobs, with at least five of those jobs meeting or exceeding the average annual wage for Rio Blanco County. "The Town of Rangely via the Rangely Development Association is very proud to be a recipient of a grant to assist with an innovative business support program for local businesses and entrepreneurs which includes development of a pitch competition, also providing a grant award. This will invigorate

see RARE on pg 8

IN THIS ISSUE School Bond

Traffic Safety pg 18

Unexpected Collection pg 27 VOL. 4 NO. 22 🔅 RANGELY REVIEW 🔅 OCTOBER 2024

Rangely District Hospital CEO Corner

BY KYLE WREN

Fall is here and we have been busy the last several months at the hospital. I will mention a few of the highlights. The MRI suite project is under way and we are excited about the project. Cardio pulmonary rehab is up and running with great success and we had a great turnout for the foundation golf tournament. I'm grateful to be part of an awesome team. We have employees here that go above and beyond for our patients every day. We appreciate your commitment to our hospital and hopefully we can provide the best service to you and your family.

As I mentioned the MRI suite construction is underway. Adams management will be helping manage the project and FCI construction Inc, is who we contracted with to perform the work. Beginning the first week in October they will be mobilizing to get everything into place and then start the



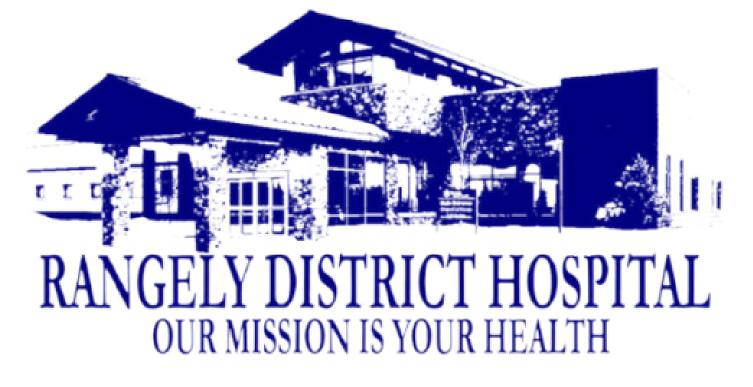
earth work and removal of cement. The project is scheduled for completion in March 2025. Our patients will have access to state-of-the-art technology and won't have to travel for MRI services in the future. We are super excited to add this service to the community. Two of our Radiology technicians have been training in MRI so they will be ready when the project is complete. I want to thank Nancy Droste, her team and Mike Zadra for their dedication to make sure it's a success.

Our Cardiopulmonary Department is one of the key services we're proud to offer here at Rangely District Hospital. Staffed by a team of highly skilled Registered and Certified Respiratory Therapists, they're here to meet both the preventive and restorative health needs of our pulmonary and cardiac patients. These dedicated professionals are available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and they also cover the Emergency Room around the clock, 7 days a week, ensuring our patients always have the care they need.

Each member of the team holds credentials from the National Board for Respiratory Care and is licensed by the State of Colorado, which speaks to the high level of care they provide. Additionally, they're well-prepared to handle a range of critical situations with expertise and confidence. Thanks for the hard work and commitment of our Cardiopulmonary team, who are always ready to deliver top-notch care to our patients.

I would like to give a very special shout out to all of our employees here at Rangely District Hospital. With roughly 150 staff members, each and every one plays a vital role in keeping our operations running smoothly. Without their hard work and dedication, we wouldn't be able to provide the high level of care that our community relies on or maintain our great facilities.

Every person here is essential to the success of our hospital, and I'm incredibly grateful for the effort they put in every day. Thank you to the entire team for everything you do!



Thank you to everyone who helped make our 44th annual Septemberfest a huge success!

WESTERN RIO BLANCO REC AND PARK DISTRICT STAFF WRBM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MOON LAKE ELECTRIC DESERADO MINE/ BLUE MOUNTAIN ENERGY **BIG D'S PUMPING** RANGELY CONOCO NICHOLS MARKET - BILL HUME **SWEETBRIAR** RANGELY TRUE VALUE RANGELY AUTO PARTS BANK OF THE SAN JUANS BAKER HUGHES PETROLITE **PROFESSIONAL TOUCH** CEDAR RIDGES GOLF COURSE RANGELY RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT TOWN OF RANGELY RANGELY DISTRICT HOSPITAL WHITE RIVER MARKET THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS -RANGELY WARD RANGELY HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR CLASS RANGELY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CLASS RANGELY HIGH SCHOOL STUCO UTAH GAS CORP SCOUT RANGELY OUTDOOR MUSEUM

RANGELY AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM RANGELY POLICE DEPARTMENT CNCC MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM CNCC BASEBALL TEAM CNCC VOLLEYBALL TEAM TREAD COACH'S CORNER TWO FIVE NINE SALON THE TANK POWELL LIQUOR CO STATE FARM KEVIN AMACK, AGENT **PRIME WELL FISHING &** RENTAL **BE-YOU-NIQUE PARLOR & SPA** RANGELY TRASH SERVICE JEANNIE CALDWELL **ROGER POLLEY** LINDA GORDON REBECCA RECTOR LENORA SMUTS ANDY SHAFFER JEFF LEBLEU **KEENAN LEBLEU** CLAUDE ROSE VANCE NAAKTGEBOREN JERRY LEBLEU CLAYTON GOHR

Western Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation & Park District 611 S. Stanolind Ave., Rangely, CO 81648

westernrioblancomrpd.colorado.gov 970.675.8211



RANGELY REVIEW

OCTOBER 2024



VOL. 4 NO. 22

255 E. Main Street, Suite A Rangely, CO 81648 970.675.5290 www.rangelychamber.com

This year, like so many others, our business community stepped up to meet unexpected changes and challenges. From inflation and economic downturns, workforce struggles, housing shortages and the ever-increasing cost of living and doing business, change increased at an unprecedented rate, and we faced these challenges in our community in big and small ways.

You are the safety nets of our community. Large and small, businesses and organizations gave their time, their resources, and their passion to meet the needs of those around them. And so many of you — indeed the vast majority of you — did this with ever-dwindling resources, with ever-increasing costs.

In challenging times, it becomes increasingly clear how much we need one another. How much we need networks and advocates. This social capital (the presence of networks, relationships, shared norms, and trust among individuals, teams, and business leaders) is the glue that holds organizations together.

YOU are the glue that holds this organization together!

This year, the Chamber again offered a host of programs and events with several new activities. We've demonstrated vast improvement in our recruiting efforts and average one new member per week as we've seen a 56% growth in membership. We know this couldn't be possible without our loyal membership sharing and recommending involvement. Our digital presence has tripled in size across several different social media platforms, and we launched an entirely new website that includes a QR code and ecommerce store to showcase merchandise and services for each member. Along with that we've added to our staff to provide even more support to our businesses and have successfully implemented several new programs.

We are pleased to share with you our 2024 Year in Review annual report.

As the calendar turns to 2025, I want to take a moment to reach out to our membership, both new and longstanding, to thank you for making the Rangely Area Chamber of Commerce a continued success. If you have been to any of our many programs and events in the last year, you have seen the energy and camaraderie present within the Chamber.

Looking forward, we will deepen our commitment to the relentless pursuit of a vibrant and prosperous business community.

Together, despite increasing complexities and challenges, we can unlock the potential inside our local business community so they can flourish and become an impactful leader in the community, to be a reliable resource for the people who live, work, and play here, and to be equipped to embrace the future of our community.





2024 YEAR IN REVIEW Rangely Area Chamber of Commerce

MISSION: The Rangely Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to promoting and fostering a positive business climate, thereby enhancing the quality of economic life in our community.

Membership

117 Members 30 New Members 18 Returning/Previous Members _____10 Dropped

> 56% Growth 90% Retention 9% Attrition

Social Media

<u>Rangely Chamber</u> 2K Facebook | 537 Instagram 400 LinkedIn | 45 X | 262 TikTok

Rangely OHV Adventure Rally 1.6K Facebook | 381 YouTube Views

Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch Days 866 Facebook | 130 Instagram

Looking Forward

Crab Crack, February 1st, 2025 ROAR, April 24th-27th, 2025 Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch Days, June 13th-15th, 2025 (NEW) Rockin' Bulls, August 23rd, 2025 Oktoberfest, October 7th-11th, 2025 Polar Plunge, November 8th, 2025 Murder Mystery Dinner, December 6th, 2025

Committees

Board of Directors Finance & Budget Marketing Kid-trepreneur Korner Crab Crack Rangely OHV Adventure Rally Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch Days Oktoberfest Polar Plunge Murder Mystery Dinner

Email & Jext

50 emails sent via Constant Contact 12,253 Sends | 5,125 Opens 221 Clicks | 45% Open Rate 961 Subscribers

10 texts sent via Text Em All 440 Subscribers

Directors

President: Jessica Olivas, Two Five Nine Salon Vice President: Nathan Hardin, Colorado Northwestern Community College Treasurer: Ashley Terrin, Coaches Corner Bar & Grill Director: Norian Edwards, Rangely District Hospital Director: Hannah Black, Raven Realty

Website

14,388 Website Views Popular Pages: Canyon Pintado Rock Art Events Community Job Board Member Directory

Donations

Polar Plunge: \$1000 W.A.R.M. & \$1000 Rangely Community Resource Pantry. 2 Tables to
Murder Mystery and 2 ROAR Registrations for
Elks Charity Ball. ROAR package for auction to GJ Chamber Event. ROAR: Poker Run-\$500
Rio Blanco County Search & Rescue, & \$500
Rangely Fire District. Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch Days: Poker Run- \$90 Rangely 4-H Clubs, Box Social-\$300 Rangely Outdoor
Museum. Chamber Bucks to Bleed Green Golf Tournament. ROAR swag to RBC County for regional meeting. Programs/Events

Lunch & Learn Series, Polar Plunge, Getting to Know Our Members, Crab Crack, Community Calendar, Ribbon Cuttings, Murder Mystery Dinner, Rangely OHV Adventure Rally, Punch Cards on Main, SLC Offroad & Outdoor Expo, Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch Days, Notary Services, Rally Colorado Meet & Greet, Oktoberfest, Community Forums.



Emma Baker Exective Director



**

A Unique Education Grounded in the Colorado Experience

BY LISA JONES

On August 19, 2024, CNCC's Fall semester began with the college seeing a positive and steady enrollment trend that includes a surge in growth among our concurrent enrollment, aviation and bachelor's degree in dental hygiene programs. These programs among others at the College are wildly popular because the institution takes great pride in what we do that differs from other institutions and are unique hallmarks of the Colorado Community College brand.

The CNCC Vision Statement Reads: Colorado Northwestern Community College will be the college of choice for students seeking a unique education grounded in the Colorado experience.

To understand what this means for students and employers who hire our graduates and transfer institutions who accept them after completion at CNCC, we turned to the exemplary faculty at the College led by immediate past faculty Senate President Mario Sullivan and current President, Jennifer Lamanski.

Faculty members agree on the following statement to explain how we educate at CNCC and what makes the student experience unique from other post-secondary institutions:

Faculty leverage the natural and institutional resources of NW Colorado to enhance student learning as appropriate for specific course Student Learning Outcomes.

Though the following are examples of how this is done by course or program, faculty and staff at CNCC continue to develop ways to which students are exposed to and learn from the beauty and benefits of Northwest Colorado.

- By not over complicating the impact of the beauty of our environment. Drawing students' attention to it in meaningful ways
- Incorporating the outdoor experience into the curriculum or involving students in outdoor recreation aside from classroom activities
- Highlighting the diversity and compassion of our community members by visiting the Deserado coal mine, the water treatment plant and the hydroelectric facility
- Students participating in seedball distribution along the white river
- Ethics students touring local coal mines and organic farms
- Aviation students' mountain flying and use of local airfields for training
- Biology students participating in local caving lab searching for life in extreme environments
- Math course students collecting and analyzing data on water flow rates through the local cave systems, or collecting and analyzing data from AG animal production projects
- Geology students locating all five biomes in the region
- All students learning to camp, river raft, hike, snowshoe, ski
- Pre-allied health/medical students utilizing CNCC cadaver lab

To learn more about what we do and how you or your student might benefit from these experiences, please stop into the Administration bldg. in Craig or the Johnson bldg. in Rangely or visit cncc.edu. Here's wishing you a great start to the beautiful Fall season.







We Appreciate Your Business!

609 CO-64 Rangely, CO 81648 (970) 675-2554

Stop by for your grill, hardware, home improvement, lawn and garden, and tool needs!

CNCC Flight Team Takes to the Skies

BY NATHAN HARDIN

Colorado Northwestern Community College's (CNCC) Flight Team will participate in the upcoming National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) Region 1 SAFECON competition October 14th -18th at Northern Colorado Regional Airport in Fort Collins, CO. They will be competing against other 2 and 4-year school flight programs such as Rocky Mountain College, Metro State University, and U.S. Air Force Academy. The National Intercollegiate Flying Association has a rich history dating back to early 1900's when the first competition was held at Mitchel Field located on the Hempstead Plains of Long Island, New York. Participants at that time included schools such as Yale, Harvard, and Princeton. A permanent organization was not formed until 1928 when The National Intercollegiate Flying Club was born and then renamed in 1948 to what we know today. Since then, the NIFA competition has provided a platform for collegiate aviators to demonstrate their proficiency in navigation, safety, and airmanship. It also fosters camaraderie and professional growth among the participants, while giving the students opportunities to connect with potential employers.

"The competitions that our flight team attends are like a track meet for pilots, it gives the students a chance to demonstrate what they have learned while engaging and learning from fellow competitors," said Nathan Hardin Aviation Technology Program Director.

Known for its dedication and excellence in aviation, the CNCC Flight Team has been preparing rigorously for this competition. They have a commendable track record in the NIFA competition with

VOL. 4 NO. 22 * RANGELY REVIEW

RARE continued...

our business community and encourage entrepreneurs who have been contemplating starting a business or expanding a current business but need assistance, as well as training, to take the next step!" said Lisa Piering, Town Manager for Rangely.

The grant awarded to the WEEDC will fund an Office and Grant Administrator to support WEEDC and the Towns of Naturita, Norwood and Nucla with grant writing and general administrative functions of WEEDC. The position is also expected to create capacity for the Town Managers and WEEDC's Executive Director to focus on programs to attract new businesses to the area, including the West End Business Retention & Expansion Program.

WEEDC anticipates at least 15 new jobs will be created and at least 50 jobs retained indirectly as a result of increased funding, programming, and general support for businesses in the West End.

"We are grateful for OEDIT's support in our transition away from coal. Lack of capacity and infrastructure continue to be our largest barriers to our transition. This capacity award from OEDIT helps our community immensely to provide more services, support economic development, and to seek out more funding opportunities for our community," said Makayla Gordon, Executive Director of WEEDC. The funding announced today is part of an ongoing effort by the Polis Administration, OEDIT and the Office of Just Transition (OJT) to help communities that have relied on coal mines and coal-fired power plants for employment find new sources of jobs and property tax income. In addition to the Yampa Valley and the West End of Montrose and San Miguel counties, funding is available for Pueblo County, Fort Morgan County, and Delta, El Paso, Gunnison, La Plata and Larimer counties. About the Office of Just Transition

Colorado created the Office of Just Transition within Colorado's Department of Labor and Employment in 2019 to assist workers and communities that will be adversely affected by the loss of jobs and revenues due to the closure of coal mines and coal-fired power plants. Its purpose is to help workers transition to new, high-quality, jobs, to help communities continue to thrive by expanding and attracting diverse businesses, and to replace lost revenues. To learn more about the Office of Just Transition, its action plan and the corresponding legislation, please visit cdle.colorado.gov/offices/the-office-ofjust-transition.

About Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade

The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) works with partners to create a positive business climate that encourages dynamic economic development and sustainable job growth. Under the leadership of Governor Jared Polis, we strive to advance the State's economy through financial and technical assistance that fosters local and regional economic development activities throughout Colorado. OEDIT offers a host of programs and services tailored to support business development at every level including business retention services, business relocation services, and business funding and incentives. Our office includes the Global Business Development division; Colorado Tourism Office; Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office; Colorado Creative Industries; Business Financing & Incentives division; the Colorado Small Business Development Network; Cannabis Business Office; Colorado Office of Film, TV & Media; the Minority Business Office; Employee Ownership Office; and Rural Opportunity Office. Learn more at oedit.colorado.gov.

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Rangely School District Seeks Community Support for Bond Mill Levy to Address Critical Needs

Special to the Review

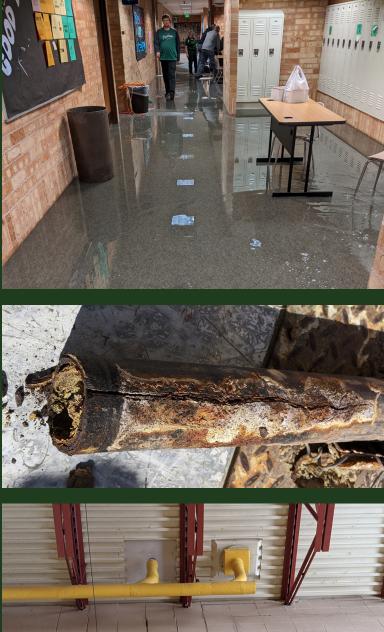
The Rangely School District is asking the community to support a bond mill levy in the upcoming election to fund much-needed upgrades and repairs to our aging school facilities. The bond mill levy will focus on enhancing safety and security, improving health and well-being, and extending the life of our district's buildings.

Key projects include critical repairs to our schools, addressing aging infrastructure, improving air quality systems, and securing matching funds through the state's Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grant program. Without local funding, our ability to secure these state funds will be limited.

The cost to taxpayers, if the bond is approved, will be approximately \$36 per year for a home valued at \$100,000. Superintendent Matt Scoggins emphasizes that this bond will ensure that our students and staff have a safe and effective learning environment. "The last major change to Colorado's School Finance Act in 1996 reduced local control over school funding, which has led us to rely on this bond mill levy to meet our facilities' growing needs," Scoggins said.

It's also important to note that the mill levy for the Rangely District Hospital will expire after 2026, meaning the overall increase to total taxes will only impact residents for a couple of years.

The district believes that maintaining and improving these facilities is vital to the success



of our students, staff, and the broader community. A community-wide mailer with more detailed information about the bond mill levy has been sent to households, and informational fact sheets are available at local businesses. For more information, residents can visit the district's Facebook page, where a recent video outlining the importance of the bond has been posted.

Let's work together to ensure the longevity and safety of our schools for generations to come.



TREAD Moved Up to Next Level

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

TREAD is very excited to announce that they have been successful in utilizing the Main Street Approach and have advanced into a higher tier of the statewide program. The Town of Rangely is now an "Excelling" program.

TREAD has worked on a lot of projects throughout the community since their onset. Projects such as the Pocket Park on Main Street to include benches, sidewalk widening and bike repair station and Kennedy Walking Path, which was repaved and a bench



installed. Other familiar projects include the Hometown Hero Banners on Main Street and items such as fencing, sprinklers, sidewalks and exercise equipment which will eventually be installed at Sunrise Park.

The Main Street Program will continue to move forward in the community and take on projects to beautify Main Street. One such project in the planning stage is new banners for Main Street with a goal of new banners being hung for 2025!

ROAD TRIP

ACROSS

- 1. Heirloom location, often
- 6. Crude dwelling place
- 11. Tool in a bucket
- 14. A Marx brother
- 15. City on the Red River
- 16. Fury
- 17. Film: "Road..."
- 19. It's spotted in casinos
- 20. Mars' two
- 21. More suggestive
- 23. Give the go-ahead
- 26. Is a middleman
- 27. Piano that's not so grand
- 28. Eye drops brand
- 29. A long way from festive
- 30. Brief scouting mission?
- 32. Bundle-of-joy deliverer of legend
- 35. Jet fighter heros
- 37. Chopper blade
- 39. Admire from
- 40. Kind of Boy Scout badge
- 42. Skirts that leave little to the imagination
- 44. What's due in Venice?
- 45. Kid's charity associated with
- Halloween
- 47. Female fowl that's less showy than the male
- 49. Beach changing places
- 51. Llke some horrid weather
- 52. Spheres of influence
- 53. Small shovel
- 55. Seven on a sundial
- 56. Famous walkway:...road
- 61. Uncanny trio?
- 62. Mountain climber's accessory
- 63. Bar, at the bar
- 64. "Stupid me!"
- 65. Broke off
- 66. It's certain along with taxes, it's 10. Response to a said

- By Timothy E. Parker 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 19 17 18 20 22 21 23 24 25 26 27 28 33 34 29 30 31 32 35 36 37 38 39 40 42 44 41 43 45 46 47 48 51 49 50 52 53 54 55 56 60 57 58 59 61 62 64 65 66
- DOWN
- 1. Take steps
- 2. Despite the fact that,
- brieflv
- 3. Money left on the
- table, often
- 4. Deliverers of cold
- blocks, once
- 5. Dead reckoner?
- 6. Leg bone
- 7. Lids
- 8. "Wheel of Fortune"
- gimme? 9. Tailgater's container
- stimulus
- 11. Position to take:...

- road
- 12. Projecting window
- type
- 13. Social equals
- 18. "i" finisher
- 22. -courtin' (dated,
- country-style)
- 23. Indian state
- 24. "The final frontier"
- 25. Trash: road
- 26. Like a rambling
- sentence
- 28. Recurring theme
- 31, "Here ____trouble!" 33. Having less training
- 34. Danish currency

- 36 Exodus mountain 38. Lumber mill
- noisemaker
- 41. Old type of photo
- 43. Cultivation place
- 46. point (example)
- 48. Having distaste
- 49. Went spelunking 50. Type of acid
- 53.
- __ gin fizz 54. Duck's home
- 57. Inc, in the U.K.
- 58. "Let's call day"
- 59. Bunk
- 60. Australian road sign abbr.

10

VOL. 4 NO. 22 🔅 RANGELY REVIEW 🔅 OCTOBER 2024



December 12 - 14 2024



VOL. 4 NO. 22*RANGELY REVIEW*OCTOBER 2024
Rangely's Annual Christmas Parade of Lights Theme: Heart of Christmas Dec. 12th @ 6:30 pm - Line Up at Firehall @ 6:00 pm 2024 Float Registration
Organization Name:
Contact Person:
Address:
Telephone:
Email:
Float Name: Describe your Heart of Christmas below:

- * Float Registration must be fully completed BEFORE the parade for your organization to participate
- * Zero entry fee
- * Registration must be received NO LATER THAN 2 days before the event
- * Return the completed form to the Rangely Rec Center or e-mail it to: bgreen@westernrioblanco.org or jcaldwell@rangelyco.gov





SHOP N' DINE RANGELY

November 1 - December 2, 2024 Put Your Money Where Your Home IS!





Earn \$5 worth of vouchers for every \$50 spent. Earn up to \$40 per household. Exchange qualifying receipts at Town Hall on or before December 2nd at 5:00 pm. for valuable vouchers.

RULES

- Every licensed business in Rangely is eligible to participate.
- Nonqualifying products: tobacco, pharmaceuticals, gasoline & utilities.
- Vouchers must be redeemed at an eligible business.
- Vouchers must be redeemed by December 2, 2024.
- Vouchers must be redeemed in full. No change will be given.

Brought to you by The Town of Rangely

The Town of Rangely reserves the right to refuse to honor receipts that appear to be an abuse of the program.

Advertise in the Rangely Review

Non-Chamber Members Full Page - \$295 1/2 Page - \$150 1/4 Page - \$90 1/8 page - \$55 This pricing includes an ad in the Rangely Review ONLY. <u>Chamber Members</u> Full Page - \$200 1/2 Page - \$100 1/4 Page - \$55 1/8 page - \$40

This pricing includes an ad in the Rangely Review as well as one month utility billing advertisement.

CNCC Corner

BY LISA JONES

When homecoming activities end and days begin to shorten, we quickly realize that the Fall semester is firmly underway. Along with classes, our students will take advantage of outdoor excursions planned through our outdoor recreation department or local fall activities that include Halloween events and Oktoberfest. Fall is also a time when we amplify education and exposure to a CNCC Core Value of community involvement and development through civic engagement. On September 17, 2024, CNCC observed Constitution and Citizenship Day. Adopted in 1952, this is a day federally funded agencies, including educational institutions, recognize the adoption of the U.S. Constitution and educate students and other constituents about the history of its tenets and amendments.

Throughout the year, CNCC provides opportunities for students to volunteer and become engaged in leadership and civic activities. Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is a national honors society for two-year colleges that encourages scholarship and volunteerism. CNCC has chapters on both campuses and seeks eligible student members each fall. A big component of PTK membership is community engagement. Over the years our chapters have held laptop, coat, and food drives for needy individuals within our communities. They have also partnered with other local organizations like the Elks and local hospitals to prepare and deliver meals and clean up leaves for the elderly. Members of PTK are eligible for scholarships while at CNCC and are opportunities for additional scholarships specifically for PTK members upon transfer to many four-year universities.

Student Government provides another opportunity for students to become involved in governance, leadership, and service within the college. Representatives have positions on many of the governance committees providing students a voice in decisions being made and the future of the college. They also engage in volunteerism and philanthropy in the community through working with youth in our local high school and elementary schools and various other activities. To learn more and become involved in either, please visit the following site which will also inform you of other clubs that students choose to engage Clubs & Organizations (cncc.edu).

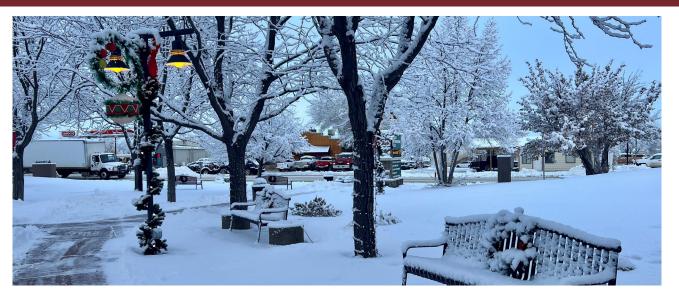
Many of our programs also get involved by donating time and talents with services such as free dental cleaning and education, participating in local emergency preparedness drills, and providing haircuts and care for the elderly. Staff and faculty help out with school fundraisers and sit on many of our communities' local boards.

With this year being an election year, this is the first time that many of our students will participate in a national election. How they vote is a personal choice. Knowing when and where to register, how and where to vote, and where they can find information about candidates and the issues is of greatest importance. Please help our students to understand the importance and get involved in the political process. Listed below are the websites for counties within the service area of Colorado Northwestern Community College. Please share this information with family and friends. Here is hoping each of you take time to enjoy the beauty of fall here on the western slope, spend quality time with loved ones and take pride in your freedoms and your right to vote on November 5, 2024.

Elections | Rio Blanco County, CO (rbc.us)

Elections | Moffat County (colorado.gov)

Elections | Routt County, CO - Official Website



Special Session Recap: More Property Tax Relief

BY DYLAN ROBERTS

The Colorado Legislature is not typically in session at the Capitol in late August; yet that's exactly where we found ourselves. As a result of our special late-summer session, even more property tax relief is coming to every Colorado homeowner and small businesses across the state. And, hopefully, it also marks the end to the years-long property tax battles that have embroiled lawmakers, the Governor, outside political and policy groups, the entities that provide the many crucial services we all rely on every day, and most importantly, you, the taxpayer.

How'd we get here?

Back in 2020, Colorado voters repealed the Gallagher Amendment, a 30 year-old constitutional provision that determined the



assessment rate of residential and commercial property which was not keeping up with the demands of our modern economy, especially in rural parts of the state. With the repeal, the legislature was given four years to come up with a new system. Then, of course, COVID-19 and Colorado's overall popularity caused home values - especially in our mountain towns - to spike and property taxes bills went up with those increased values.

After several temporary measures to lower assessment rates, in May the legislature found a long-term solution when we passed the bipartisan SB24-233, which established permanent reduced assessment rates for residential and commercial property, greater initial reductions for homeowners, and financial certainty for the entities that rely on property taxes to operate and provide services like our schools, fire departments, hospitals, and local governments. SB24-233, passed with the support of 92 out of 100 legislators, reduced taxes by more than \$1.3 billion per year and protected Coloradans from large spikes in the cost of property taxes while building in necessary safeguards to protect local services.

We thought that the broadly-supported, bipartisan, and significantly impactful bill was a long-term solution when we adjourned our regular session in May. Yet, even after this effort, well-funded special interest groups quickly paid significant amounts of money to gather signatures for ballot initiatives that, if passed, would decimate schools, fire departments and would slash local budgets for law enforcement, local services and much more, all while blowing a hole in the state budget that would have meant devastating consequences for our schools, roads, health care, and more.

These groups were ready to spend a significant amount of money to get these measures passed, but over the last few months leaders of those groups came to the table with the legislature and the Governor's Office to seek a better way forward. That effort led to August's special session.

During our four-day special session, we passed HB24B-1001, which adds an additional \$255 million in tax cuts for homeowners and business owners. Because of this bill, Coloradans will see even-further reduced assessment rates and lower revenue caps. All residential property will move from 6.4% to 6.25% and from 7.15% to 7.05% for the school assessment rate, and if statewide value growth exceeds 5% from 2024 to 2025 the residential rate will be lowered even further to 6.15%. For commercial and other nonresidential properties, assessment rates are moving from 29% to 25% over the next two years. Tax bills vary greatly based on where someone lives and what their home is worth, so exact savings can be difficult to calculate. However, estimates predict that HB24B-1001 will lower property taxes for the average homeowner by about \$62 in 2025 compared to current law and \$179 in 2026. That means with both SB24-233 and HB24B-1001 in effect, the typical homeowner in our mountain counties can expect to see their property taxes reduced by about \$368 in 2026 for a home valued at \$800,000.

I would be remiss if I did not add my hesitancy about this process, however. It is important to note that property taxes are local taxes - the state does not collect this money. Rather, it stays in your

OCTOBER 2024

MERRILL

Advice for what matters most, when you need it most

Congratulations to Johnson, Bockelman, Gavegan & Associates for being named to the Forbes "Best-in-State Wealth Management

Teams" 2024 list, published on January 9, 2024. Rankings based on data as of March 31, 2023.



Johnson, Bockelman, Gavegan & Associates

Julie Lane-Bockelman, AAMS[™] Senior Financial Advisor 970.263.2155

Kenneth Johnson Senior Vice President Senior Resident Director 970.263.2179

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management 123 North 7th Street Suite 200 Grand Junction, CO 81501

2024 Forbes "Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams" list. Opinions provided by SHOOK® Research, LLC and is based on in-person, virtual and telephone due-diligence meetings and a ranking algorithm that measure best practices, client retention, industry experience, credentials, compliance records, firm nominations, assets under management and Firm-generated revenue (investment performance is not a criterion because client objectives and risk tolerance vary). SHOOK's rankings are available for client evaluation only, are not indicative of future performance and do not represent any one client's experience, and available for investor help in evaluating the right financial advisor and not an endorsement of the advisor. Compensation was not received from anyone for the rankings study. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Details available at the SHOOK Research website. SHOOK is a registered trademark of SHOOK Research, LLC. Merill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (MLP&S) is a registered broker-dealer, registered investment adviser, and Member SIPC. Bank of America, NA, Member FDIC and MLPF&S are wholly owned subsidiaries of Bank of America.

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CNCC Women's Soccer Makes History with National Ranking at #19 in NJCAA Division I

Special to the Review

The Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) women's soccer team has achieved a historic milestone, earning their first-ever national ranking at #19 in the NJCAA Division I soccer rankings. This comes after their thrilling 1-0 victory over #6 ranked Salt Lake Community College last Saturday, solidifying the Spartans' place among the top teams in the nation.

Led by Head Coach Eldon Brough, the Spartans

NATIONALLY RANKED #19



have been building momentum all season. Saturday's victory was highlighted by an outstanding performance from goalkeeper Jasmine Hernandez, who made 13 saves to secure the shutout and help the team clinch the program's biggest win to date.

"This ranking is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our players," said Coach Brough. "To see CNCC soccer nationally recognized is an incredible honor and something the entire Spartan community can be proud of. We're excited to build on this success and keep pushing forward."

Pink Patch Project

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

Undersheriff Travis Mobley and Sergeant Joe McGuire stopped by Town Hall to raise awareness for a special project The Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Office is undertaking. They are going Pink for October (2024) which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month! The Sheriff's office has joined the "Pink Patch Project," an innovative public awareness campaign designed to draw attention to the ongoing battle against breast cancer and provide crucial support for organizations fighting this devastating disease.

Law Enforcement is collaborating with our local hospitals, Pioneer's Medical Center and Rangely District Hospital, for this project to spread awareness and raise funds in the ongoing fight against this disease.



Deputies will be proudly sporting a commemorative pink patch for October. This special edition department patch is available for public purchase, and 100% of the proceeds will be a direct contribution to the Rangely District Hospital and Pioneer's Medical Center, supporting their efforts in breast cancer detection and treatment.

Special edition Sheriff's Office patches may be purchased for \$10 each at the Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Office and at events where Sheriff's Deputies are in attendance. They are also available at each Pioneer's Medical Center and Rangely District Hospital.

Thank you to the Sheriff's Department for spreading awareness and health to the citizens of Rio Blanco County.

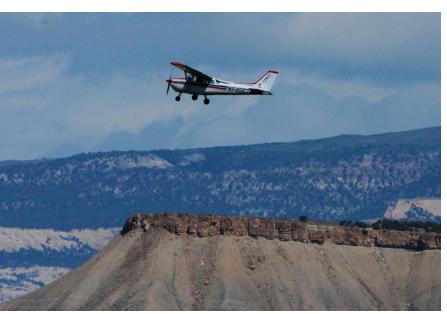
NIFA continued...

notable performances dating all the way back to 1993. The team first earned an invitation the National SAFECON competition in 2010 when they placed third overall their regional competition. In 2013 they qualified for the national event again showcasing their consistent performances. Since then, the Flight Team continued to perform well in regional competitions. Most notably earning a second-place finish behind only the United States Air Force Academy in 2018.

" I love leading our competitive flight team and all the amazing opportunities it has afforded my fellow competitors and I. NIFA has helped mold all of us into the pilots we are today, and I am grateful for the organization and the opportunity to represent the CNCC community," said Daycen Rohrer, CNCC Flight Team Captain.

The Flight Team holds various fund-raising events throughout the year to help pay their way to the competition events such as doughnut sales, golf tournaments, pancake breakfasts, and discovery flights. For more information about the CNCC Aviation Program or the NIFA team visit: https://cncc.edu/degrees/cte/aviationtech/index or contact Nathan Hardin at nathan.hardin@cncc.edu or (970) 675-3291

About CNCC: Colorado Northwestern Community College enhances people's lives by providing an accessible, affordable, quality education. It is the college of choice for students seeking a unique education grounded in the Colorado experience.



Traffic Safety

BY RICH GARDNER

Traffic safety is a critical issue that affects everyone. Whether you're a driver, pedestrian, cyclist, or motorcyclist, adhering to traffic laws and practicing safe driving habits can significantly reduce the risk of accidents and injuries. We have had an increase in traffic complaints ranging from speeding, unlicensed drivers to disregarding stop signs. We are sharing these safety tips again as a reminder how important traffic safety is in our community.

Walkers

 Have your child walk on the sidewalk (if one is available) When on a street with no sidewalk, have your child walk facing the traffic.



- Before your child crosses the street, have them stop and look left and right to see if cars are coming.
- Tell your child make eye contact with drivers before crossing and always cross streets at crosswalks or intersections.
 - » We have two cross walks on South White Ave.
 - » We have two cross walks on River Road.
 - Parkview Elementary has been providing a staff member to oversee the cross walk across from the softball field.
 - » We have three cross walks on Main Street.
- Tell your child to stay alert and stay off their cell phones while walking.
- If possible have your child only walk to school during daylight hours.
- If possible have your child utilize the "buddy system" and walk to school with a sibling or friend.

Cross walk safety

- Do not assume the driver can or will stop. It is the responsibility of the pedestrian to ensure it's safe to proceed across the roadway. Traffic flow and/or congestion may prevent a driver from seeing you or from stopping.
- Watch for turning vehicles and do not step in front of moving vehicles that are too close to stop safely. Watch all lanes you must cross. Even though one vehicle has stopped, vehicles may pass in another lane or in another direction.
- If you cross the street at a place other than a crosswalk, the vehicle has the right-of-way. It is
 your responsibility to yield to the vehicle.
- When provided, always use the pedestrian push button to activate the flashing lights.
- Improve your safety by wearing bright clothing for daytime. Wear reflective clothing for low-light or nighttime conditions.

Bike Riders

- Have your child ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, and in a single file.
 - » Prospect has a lane just for bicycle riders on the north side of the road. From South White Ave until River Road.
- Tell your child to come to a complete stop before crossing the street and then walk their bikes across the street.
- Tell your child to stay alert and stay off their cell phones while riding their bicycle.
- Make sure your child always wears a "properly fitted" helmet.
- If possible have your child only ride their bicycles to school during daylight hours.

Bus Riders

- Go to the bus stop with your child to teach them the proper way to get on and off the bus.
- Teach your children to stand 6 feet (or three giant steps) away from the curb.

VOL. 4 NO. 22 🔅 RANGELY REVIEW

Roberts continued...

communities and funds services that you, your family, your business, and your neighbors rely on every single day. It pays the teachers who educate our kids, funds the fire and EMS departments that respond when we need them, maintains the county and city roads you need to get to work, funds the law enforcement that keeps us safe, and so much more. While I believe avoiding the disastrous consequences Initiative 50 and Proposition 108 would have borne on these services was the responsible thing to do, I know we have more work to do to support our crucial services and I look forward to leading that effort.

Finally, after several years of efforts, and several regular and special sessions of the legislature, meaningful, long-term, and stable property tax savings are heading your way, Colorado.

I am already working to prepare for the 2025 legislative session, and welcome your ideas, concerns, and questions. As always, you can contact me directly at SenatorDylanRoberts@gmail.com or 970-846-3054.

Dylan Roberts is the State Senator for Clear Creek, Eagle, Garfield, Gilpin, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt and Summit Counties

This Is Our Town

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

Fall is my favorite time of the year. I love the colors, the cooler temperatures and the general vibes around town. My husband and daughter call it "hoodie weather." This year, especially, the vibes around town have been awesome! I think it started with CNCC's first Homecoming weekend! Such great fun!

Some of my favorite parts of the event were the Pancake breakfast, dedication of the soccer field and of course the soccer games and last but not least...the PEP RALLY!!



Walking into the Hefley gym and seeing the beautiful, new gym floor was so exciting! Seeing a hundred or more athletes (CNCC and the Panthers) was momentous. Free treats, free noise makers and a ton of residents cheering on our Panthers and Spartans as they were introduced to the community! This is our Town; this is who we are!

On the day of the soccer field dedication, Bud Striegel Family Soccer Field, the Rangely vibes, the Spartan vibes and even the historic vibes gave me goose bumps. I loved seeing Bud Striegel carry around the soccer ball and I know he would have kicked it hard had there not been interference. Thank you Striegel family!

I also loved seeing the Rangely youth enjoying the sunshine, a Starbucks refresher from Sparty's Café and just having fun together in our safe, little community! Fun comes in all forms, even rolling down a grassy hill, on a sunny, fall day, during a soccer field dedication. I look forward to many more days like this in Rangely, where we come together as a community to enjoy all Rangely has to offer.



Safety continued...

 If your child must cross the street in front of the bus, teach him or her to walk on the side of the road until they are 10 feet ahead of the bus; your child and the bus driver should always be able to see each other.

ATV/OHV Operators

One of the best things about living in Rangely is our OHV ordinance! (Rangely's full OHV ordinance 10.14 can be found on our website at www.Rangely.com)

- Make sure your child has completed the Rangely Police Department OHV safety class and has their card.
- Speed limit is 15 mph for all ATV/OHV regardless of what the speed limit says on the road.
- Department of Transportation rated helmets are required per Rangely municipal code 10.14,030 for all operators that are under the age of 18 years.
- All ATV/OHV operators must follow all traffic laws.
- Their must be enough seats for all passengers.

Driving your child to school

- In the winter months make sure your windshields are clear from ice and snow.
- Stay alert and stay off your cell phone.
- Obey school zone speed limits and follow your school's drop-off procedure.
 » Officers work the school zones are on the lookout for speeders!
- Make eye contact with children who are crossing the street.
- Never pass a bus loading or unloading children! When the school bus stops, extends their stop sign and turns on their flashing lights, you must come to a stop!
- » Officers will write this citation every time!
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them to safely enter and exit the bus.
- Do not pass a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk. A stopped car may be a clue that a pedestrian is crossing.

Teen Drivers

The parking lot around the Rangely Jr./ Sr. High School is very busy before school, during lunch and after school with inexperienced drivers.

- Make sure your teen has their driver's license and not just their learner's permit.
- Make sure your teen knows and follows all State traffic laws.
- Make sure your teen leaves with plenty of time to make it to school.
- » Officers work the school zones are on the lookout for speeders!
- Make sure your teen knows never to pass a bus loading or unloading children! When the school bus stops, extends their stop sign and turns on their flashing lights, they must come to a stop!
 » Officers will write this citation every time!
- Make sure your teen is comfortable operating the vehicle they are driving.
- Tell your teen driver to watch for students running & walking in the parking lot.
- If your teen has a non-injury accident they should call you first and then they must report the accident to Law Enforcement. If it is an injury accident they need to call 911 first, the Police Department will make sure you get notified ASAP.





Career Pathway Summit

November 6, 2024

Located at CNCC, 500 Kennedy Drive Rangely, Colorado In the Colorado Room (Doors Open for set-up at 7:45 am)

What does the day look like?

Event Times: 8:30 am - 11:30 pm - 9th - 12th Grade 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm - 7th & 8th Grade

Lunch will be provided for those who participate in the Pathways Summit.

WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!

- 1. Provide hands-on experience(s).
- 2. To educate and instruct the students, please bring brochures, job applications and information about different careers in your field.
- 3. Provide items for drawings during the time for answering career pathway trivia.

We are so pleased you are considering participating in or sponsoring our Pathway Summit Event! The SWAP representative below can answer any questions you may have!

> Tami Dorris SWAP Coordinator (970) 629-5333 tami.dorris@rangelyk12.org







Indoor and Outdoor Space is available to set up your demonstration/hands-on experience

Career Pathway Summit November 6, 2024 CNCC, Colorado Room



Over 200 Students Grades 7 - 12

Attending to develop a career focus through informational and hands-on experiences from community members

Students will be attending to consider possible career paths in:

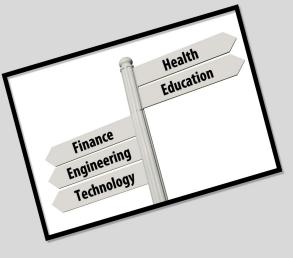


- * Government/Finance
- * Veterinary & Animal Services
- * Education
- Medical & Emergency Services
- Technology/Energy/Engineering
- * Auto Mechanics
- * Plumbing & Electrical
- * Cosmetology
- * Hospitality & Retail
- Heavy Equipment, CDL and CDOT
- **Dental Hygiene**
- Aviation

Showcase your industry, training program, services, and job opportunities to youth through hands-on experiences, demonstrations.

How Can You Help?

We're looking for businesses who can bring their expertise to youth from our communities to help them learn about possible career paths. This opportunity allows you to get a look at potential employee candidates in your industry and tell them what you look for in your employees, what training looks like, and how to get into your field of experience.







Join Colorado Northwestern Community College Executive Leadership as they provide updates on the happenings at the college. CNCC has exciting new projects and program updates as well as visions for the future.

November 8th • 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Rangely Campus

Colorado Room
Dinner served at 5:30 PM





Ring in your special holiday traditions with an everlasting, artistially designed wreath donated by local businesses and community members.





BIDDING OPENS OCTOBER 25TH

Bidding closes November 8th at 6 p.m. during the State of the College meeting on the Rangely Campus in the Colorado Room.



Wreaths will be on display at Town Hall, Rangely Library, and Craig Campus Lobby.

Want to donate a wreath to the auction? Contact Keely Ellis at Keely.Ellis@cncc.edu or (970)675-3216. All donated wreaths need to be dropped off no later than October 21st.

For more information about this event contact Keely Ellis at Keely.Ellis@cncc.edu or (970)675-3216.

VOL. 4 NO. 22 🔅 RANGELY REVIEW 🚸 OCTOBER 2024

Recreation Center Pool Update

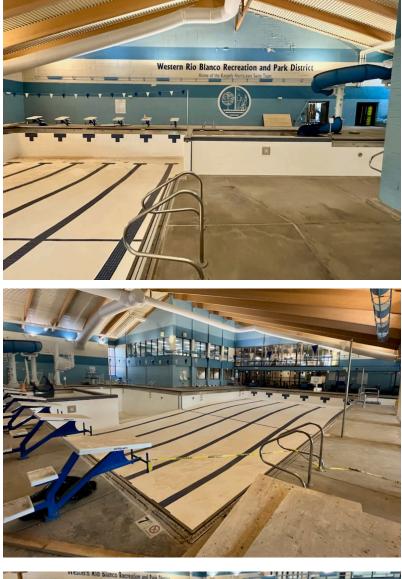
BY BETHANY GREEN

We have a long-awaited update regarding our facility. The leaks and structural issues we have discovered here at the WRB Recreation & Park District have not been taken lightly and have required a thorough evaluation to ensure we have the best plan possible. Please know that getting the swimming pool up and running again has been at the top of our priority list.

As many of you know it is hard to get contractors to come out to our corner of the world, more specifically, specialty contractors that specialize in repairing a commercial size swimming pool. This is a difficult repair, but we are finalizing a contract with R & R Aquatics out of Denver, CO. They will make the necessary repairs, replace the drains and drain lines, and update a large amount of the plumbing that supplies the pool and hot tub. To finalize the contract, R & R Aquatics is working out the details with the Rio Blanco County Health Department which is essentially the Rio Blanco County Building Department and potentially the Colorado State Health Department. This is due to the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act.

The second issue we are working on correcting is the settlement of some of the walls in the swimming pool area. We have received a report from SGM Engineering, out of Glenwood Springs, CO, that includes their recommendations on what the next steps should be regarding this issue. There will be a pre-bid meeting on Tuesday, October 15 with bids due by October 31, 2024. The settlement issues will be quite costly. The WRB Recreation and Park District will need outside grants and assistance to make the necessary repairs, so that everyone can continue to enjoy the beautiful facility we have here in Rangely, CO.

We are ultimately dealing with two separate issues that we are hoping to have resolved at the same time. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience this has caused but we do appreciate your patience and understanding.







VOL. 4 NO. 22 🔅 RANGELY REVIEW 🔅 OCTOBER 2024

GOSTURIES COCKTALS

JOIN US IF YOU DARE! WE'RE HAVING A HALLOWEEN SCARE!

HOSTED BY THE

THE RANGELY ELKS LODGE #1907

OCT26TH - 7:30PM

COME DRESSED UP FOR A COSTUME CONTEST AND PRIZES! MUST BE 21+ Oth Annual Charity Ball

Viaht

NOVEMBER 16TH 2024 DOORS OPEN @6:30PM SINGLE IS \$15 /COUPLE IS \$20

LIVE MUSIC, LIVE/SILENT AUCTION, POKER AND DANCING. 21 AND OLDER.



The Rangely Elks 1907: 633 E. Main St Rangely Co

VOL. 4 NO. 22 ***** RANGELY REVIEW ***** OCTOBER 2024



An Unexpected Collection in Rangely, Colorado

Special to the Review

A glossy floor and a giant mirrored wall, experts on 20th century auto manufacturers, and a Belgian sedan popular with royalty. All can be found in a museum in Rangely, Colorado.

Bud Striegel, one of roughly 2,300 residents in Rangely, has lived in the town since 1945, a year before it was officially incorporated. After retiring from the oil and gas construction business, Striegel built the Rangely Automotive Museum as a place to store his car collection — and so the town would have a unique tourist attraction.

"From 1926 to 1934 was a period I thought they had the best looking cars," said Striegel.

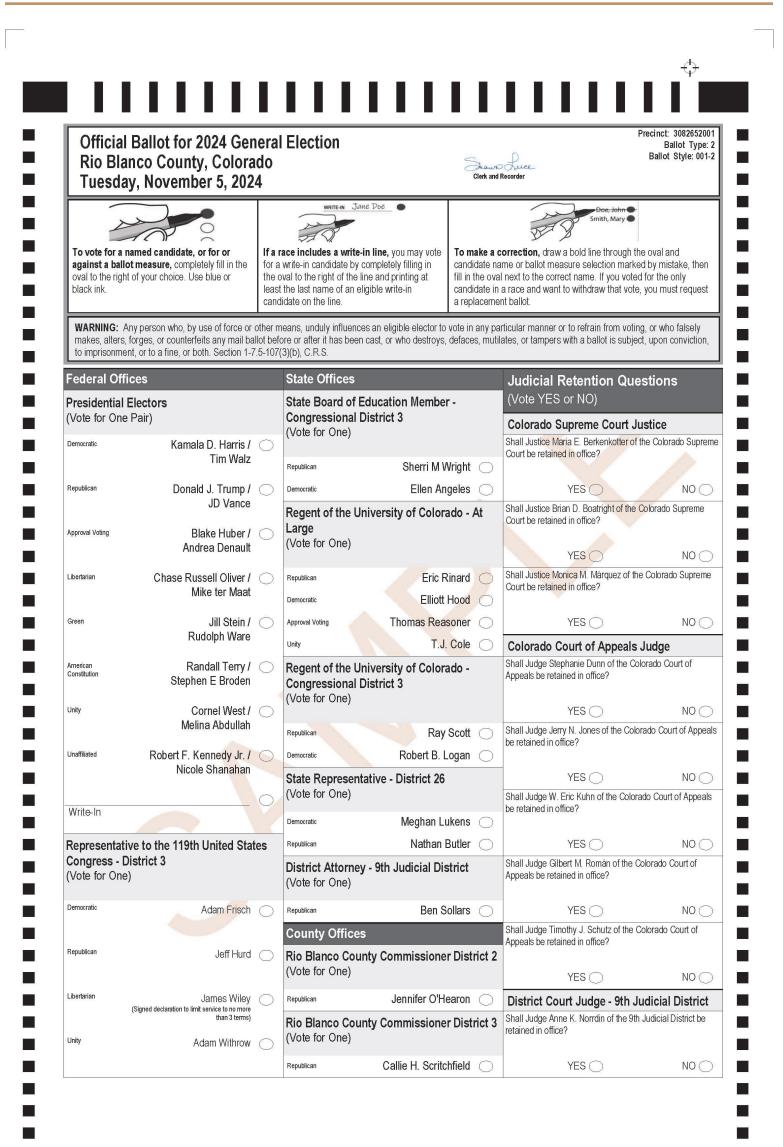


There are 60 cars in the museum, and around 85 total in his collection. He doesn't have a favorite.

"I like something about every one of them I have in here or I wouldn't have it," he said.

The museum is 180 feet long with a tall, warehouse-like ceiling. The walls are covered with reproductions of signs from long-forgotten car manufacturers like Minerva, Kissel, and Packard. A mirrored back wall reflects the classic cars and vintage motorcycles, doubling the size of the room and creating the feeling that the museum is impossible to take it all in at once.

Many of the cars are restored and painted in a shop on the other side of town. Some are reproductions of extremely rare cars built from scratch, based on models. A lot of that restoration work is done by another Rangely local, Kelsey Peters.

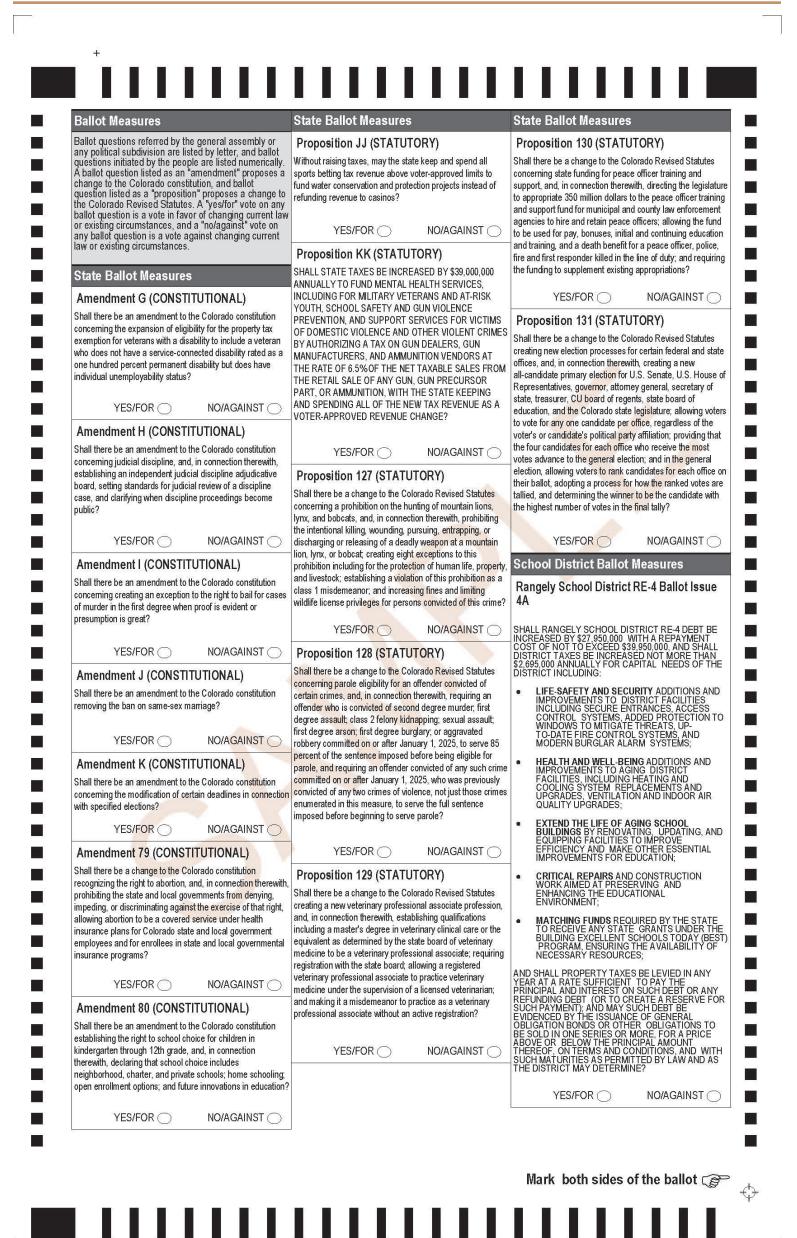


Mark both sides of the ballot

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VOL. 4 NO. 22 🔅 RANGELY REVIEW

OCTOBER 2024



29

Oil and gas communities are a blind spot in America's climate and economic policies

Special to the Review

On a recent visit to Rangely, a small town in northwest Colorado, my colleagues and I met with the administrators of a highly regarded community college to discuss the town's economy. Leaving the scenic campus, we saw families driving into the mountains in off-road vehicles, a favorite activity for this outdoors-loving community. With a median household income above US\$70,000 and a low cost of living, Rangely does not have the signs of a town in economic distress.

But an existential risk looms over Rangely. The town is here because of an oil boom during World War II. Today, the oil and gas industry contributes over half of the county's economic output.

Rangely is not unique in the United States, which is the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas. There are towns across the country that depend on the oil and gas industry for well-paying jobs and public revenues that fund their schools and other critical services.

A heavy dependence on any single industry is risky, and the oil industry is prone to booms and busts. But the economies of oil- and gas-dependent towns face a unique threat from global efforts to address the risks of climate change, which is fueled by the burning of oil and natural gas. Any serious strategy to halt global warming involves policies that will, over time, sharply reduce demand for all fossil fuels.

Early signs of this transformation can be seen in last year's international agreement to "transition away from fossil fuels" and in the spread of electric vehicles that are starting to displace gasoline- and diesel-powered cars, trucks and buses.

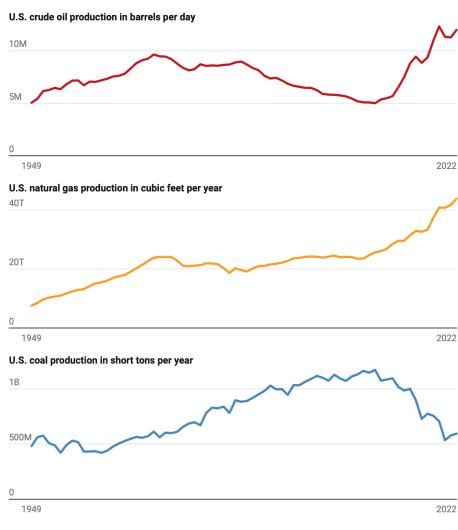
As an economist who worked at the White House during the Obama administration and early Biden administration, I contributed to detailed strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to support communities in economic distress. But we did not have a plan to prepare oil and gas towns like Rangely for future economic challenges.

Why oil and gas towns are overlooked

Congress has prioritized support for small towns in recent legislation. However, oil- and gas-dependent towns were largely absent from these strategies for three primary reasons.

First is a perceived lack of urgency. U.S. natural gas production in cubic feet per The attention to a "just transition" as the nation moves away from fossil fuels has been disproportionately directed to coal-dependent communities. U.S. coal production has declined for 15 years, and a continued transition away from coal appears imminent and inevitable.

In contrast, U.S. production of oil and natural gas continues to grow. To be sure, some oil and gas communities are already struggling. But the widespread economic risks of a shift away from oil and gas may feel more like a problem for future decades.



US fossil fuel production over time

U.S. oil and natural gas production have Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND · Source: EIA · Get the data · Embed · Download image · Created with Datawrapper risen since innovations in hydraulic

fracturing began to spread in the early 2000s. Coal, however, fell quickly over that period.

Second, politicians downplay risks to oil and gas communities.

Most Republicans are not planning for a future decline in oil and gas production at all, and that includes many local politicians in oil and gas-dependent communities. For their part, most Democratic 30 see Oil & Gas on pg 31

Oil & Gas continued...

politicians prefer to focus on how climate action can be an engine of future economic growth. President Joe Biden likes to say, "When I think about climate change, I think jobs."

He is not wrong to highlight the economic opportunities of climate solutions. But clean energy jobs rarely offer one-for-one replacements for the high-paying jobs in the oil and gas industries and the public revenues those industries bring local communities.

Third, economists' policy toolbox is poorly suited to the challenges facing oil and gas communities. Proposals to support local economic development commonly suggest targeting persistently distressed local economies with measures such as wage subsidies that have the potential to rapidly put more people to work.

A different prescription is needed for oil and gas communities, which are not generally struggling today. Over the 15-year period prior to the pandemic, the U.S. counties with oil and gas production experienced average annual GDP growth of 2.4% per year, compared with 1.9% nationwide.

Most oil and gas communities do not need economic stimulus policies that provide immediate relief. What they need are holistic economic development strategies that can cultivate new industries – building on their existing strengths – that will enable them to prosper into the future.

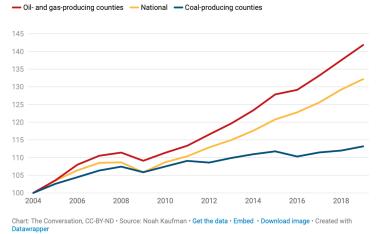
Solutions to help oil and gas towns prepare

Harvard economist Ricardo Hausmann compares the challenge of developing new economic capabilities to the game of Scrabble, where each additional letter enables the creation of more words. He cites the Finish economy as an example: It evolved from harvesting lumber to making tools that cut wood to producing automated cutting machines. From there, it evolved to sophisticated automated machines, including those used by global corporations such as telecommunications giant Nokia.

Such economic evolutions must be tailored to the characteristics of individual places. But the initial step is to recognize the problem and invest in solutions.

GDP growth: A warning from coal counties

An indexed chart of growth of real gross domestic product, with 2004 equal to 100, shows how coal-producing counties have grown more slowly compared to the national average, while oiland gas-producing counties have prospered amid the current oil and gas boom.



The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is doing this in southwest Colorado. It devotes oil and gas revenues to a Permanent Fund, which promotes fiscal sustainability by ensuring the tribe's assets are aligned with its long-term financial goals, and a Growth Fund that diversifies the tribe's revenue sources by investing in a range of businesses.

At the national level, a recent National Academies panel proposed the creation of a federally chartered corporation to help communities facing acute economic threats, including a future decline in oil and gas. This corporation could provide funding for displaced workers, critical public infrastructure and programs that ensure access to economic opportunities.

Colorado's state Office of Just Transition has started to serve this role. Currently, it focuses only on the transition away from coal, with the goals of helping communities develop new economic opportunities and helping workers transition to new jobs. But its mission could be expanded in the future. In fact, Rangely is already receiving some support due to coal closures nearby.

No one-size-fits-all solution

Small, rural towns like Rangely illustrate how oil- and gas-reliant regions will need unique strategies tailored to the strengths and limitations of individual places. No off-the-shelf playbook exists.

Our group of researchers who visited Rangely are part of the Resilient Energy Economies initiative, which was created by universities, research institutes and philanthropic organizations to ensure that policymakers have the information they need to help fossil fuel-dependent communities successfully navigate the energy transition.

The best time to build a more resilient economy is before a crisis arrives. Anyone familiar with the Bible – or Broadway – knows the story of Joseph, whose dreams foresaw seven years of abundance for Egypt followed by seven years of famine. The pharaoh acted on Joseph's vision, using the boom to prepare for the bust.

The United States is experiencing abundant oil and gas production today. Policymakers know risks are coming. But so far, the country is failing to prepare communities for harder days to come. 31

VOL. 4 NO. 22 🔅 RANGELY REVIEW 🔅 OCTOBER 2024

Cars continued...

"We get people all over the world that come to Rangeley, Colorado, just to see the place that they've heard about by word of mouth. It's kind of humbling that they want to see something in my town," said Peters.

She attended the automotive trade school WyoTech to learn to build cars.

"When I was away at college I didn't know Bud had his collection. He was actually building the museum while I

was gone. So when I got back, one of his sons referred me to go talk to him and he hired me on the spot, and I worked for him ever since," said Peters.

Striegel and Peters agree that building and restoring cars is just the same as working on a piece of fine art.

"A lot of patience, a lot of hard work goes into them, a lot of finesse goes into them. All the hard work, and you finally have this masterpiece," Peters said.

In the early 20th century car companies were spread all over the country. One of them even made electric cars in Denver.

"There were 34 manufacturers just in Colorado, six in Utah, two in Wyoming. Everybody made cars," said Peters. "I didn't realize how many different

manufacturers there were. Then [during] World War II, everybody shut down. Nobody was building cars. Everybody was building Jeeps."

Rangely is home to what was once called the "most productive oil well of all time." Production peaked in 1956, but the extractive industry is still an important part of the local economy.

"It was rated number five in the nation for a community college to go to and make a living. Number 23 in the nation for a place to work from home. I'm pretty proud of those facts. Still

32

an oil field town, but we've diversified to some other things," said Striegel of Colorado Northwestern Community College, known for its dental hygiene and aviation programs.

Striegel says he's proud of Rangely, and wants it to be successful.

"This town has been good to me [and] my family. I had to have a place from my cars, and I wanted to make something when they walked in, they'd be surprised to see this thing in Rangeley," he said.











