

VOL. 5 NO. 27 💠 AUGUST 2025

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



BY RUPERT BERRINGTON

The small town of Rangely, Colorado, transformed into "Rally Town USA" over the weekend of July 18-20, 2025, as the American Rally Association (ARA) West Regional Championship brought high-octane excitement to the Great West Region. The 2025 Rally Colorado, presented by Flatirons Subaru, drew 34 teams to compete on the sweeping gravel roads and rugged desert terrain, with rally superstar Travis Pastrana and his co-driver Rhianon Gelsomino stealing the spotlight.

The festivities kicked off on Friday, July 18, with a vibrant parade down Main Street at 7:00 PM, following a Parc Exposé at the Rangely Automotive Museum at 5:30 PM. Locals and rally enthusiasts lined the streets to catch a glimpse of the rally cars, including the Subaru WRX ARA25L piloted by Pastrana and Gelsomino. The parade showcased the diverse machinery set to tackle the challenging 121 miles of stages split across 12 segments on Saturday and Sunday. Fans, young and old, waved as competitors embraced the family-friendly spirit of the event.

Adding to the excitement, six-time National Rally Champion Travis Pastrana was on hand at the Parc Exposé, signing autographs and sharing his infectious enthusiasm with fans. Known for his daring exploits in motocross, rally, and extreme sports, Pastrana's presence electrified the crowd. "The people of Rangely make this event special," Pastrana said. "It's like a big family reunion, and we're just here to have fun and put on a show." His co-driver, Rhianon Gelsomino, a seasoned rally veteran and instructor at Dirtfish rally school, echoed his sentiments: "Rangely's support is incredible. It's a thrill to race here and connect with the fans."

Another star that was in attendance was Paul Gerrard from England who for many years was known as the Stig on the TV show Top Gear. He was the mysterious driving expert that never took his all white helmet off on the show and was the designated test driver for fastest times for every car. He was the Grand Marshal for Rally Colorado this year and had the honor of driving the Rangely Automotive Museum's famous 1915 Rally Car in the parade. He signed autographs for 2 hours along with Pastrana and many other drivers and co-drivers. He was amazed at the support this town gave the rally and was intrigued by possibly competing in the rally himself next year.

The rally itself was a test of endurance and skill, with stages like "Valley of the Gods," "Quest for Darwin," and "Earl's Revenge" challenging drivers with tight corners, high altitudes, and varied road surfaces. Pastrana and Gelsomino, fresh off a class win and overall podium at the Southern Ohio Forest Rally in June, competed in the Limited 4-Wheel Drive (L4WD) class, showcasing their precision and teamwork in the Subaru WRX ARA25L. The event's demanding courses, winding through mountains, canyons, and plains, highlighted the duo's expertise, with Gelsomino's pace notes guiding Pastrana

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New Town Manager pg 8 Preserving Rangely's Treasures

Rangely District Hospital CEO Corner

BY KYLE WREN

As Northwestern Colorado summer is flying by, I'd like to extend warm wishes to all our community members. Thanks for your efforts in making out hospital great. We're excited to share a few important updates with you. We launched a new service line, added an additional parking lot, held our annual employee lake day, and a few employees traveled to Grand Junction for a healthcare event.

We are proud to announce the launch of our Sleep Study Program, which officially came online in mid-July. This service will provide critical diagnostics for individuals

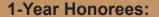
experiencing sleep-related issues, helping to improve overall health and well-being for our patients. We're thrilled to bring this valuable service closer to home for the Rangely community. We will have the ability to have two patients at one time in order to provide the best experience. Feel free to call up to the hospital for an appointment or they can direct you in the right direction.

Parking has been an issue at the hospital for a while now and coming up with a solution has been

challenging. After weighing some of the options, we found a short-term solution. Thanks goes out to Big D's for hauling in some gravel and leveling out some ground that is located west of the hospital. Employees will park over in that area to alleviate the congestion in front of the hospital. This will allow patients to park in front closet to the front doors for easier access

On July 17th we held one of our favorite annual traditions—our Employee Appreciation Lake Day BBQ. This event is an opportunity for our team to unwind, enjoy each other's company outside of work, and most importantly, to recognize the incredible individuals who make our hospital what it is.

We proudly honored the following employees for their commitment and longevity at RDH:



Apryl Lucas, Elyse Francis, Sean Smith, Zoe Sheppard, Carter Swan, Deedra Halcomb, Erin Willis, Raymond Goldstrom, Audrey Caldwell, Colton Johnson, Tammy Dahle, Ronny Anderson, Tracy Voelckel, Rayleigh Goddard, Nathan Allred, Robert Moran, Robert Mackey, Dr. Buchanan, Chris Baker, Danyel Tuck, Derek Nielsen, Azure Davis, Mike Zadra, Dr. Daniel, Marcelina Sanchez, Stephen Luthge, Jennilyn Gillard, and Mariah Jensen.

5-Year Honorees:

Kym Colvin, Deanna Morgan, Natalie Yardley, Kendra Allen, Paulo Fernandez, Jennifer Vendewark, and Christel Mobley.

10-Year Honorees:

Dr. Charles Sutton, Erin Geer, and Meliton Trujillo.

15-Year Honorees:

Joel Dorsey, Cassandra Mojica, and Tammy Garner.





see RDH on pg 5

2025 Hall of Fame: Kelsey Peters

Special to the Review

Kelsey's journey in the automotive trades is characterized by a fervent passion for creation, a dedication to hands-on craftsmanship, and an undeniable spirit. Growing up in a small town, her innate drive and enthusiasm extended to all her endeavors, but her connection to the automotive world and the art of building ignited a particularly intense spark.

From a young age, Kelsey found fulfillment in working with her hands, a trait nurtured and encouraged by her mother, Jeanette. This "tomboy attitude" and early interests in sports and dirt bikes naturally evolved into a deeper



fascination with automobiles and the process of construction. However, it was her time spent with her grandparents, Dave and the late Jean Jordan, that truly solidified her path. Kelsey credits them with instilling in her a sense of creativity and innovation, qualities she deeply admires and strives to emulate.

While the prospect of attending WyoTech appealed to Kelsey, she sought a program that would seamlessly integrate her creative inclinations with her automotive passion. Discovering the Street Rod and Custom Fabrication program proved to be a pivotal moment, instantly affirming her desired specialization.

During her time at WyoTech, Kelsey immersed herself in Collision/Refinishing, and Street Rod and Custom Fabrication courses. Recognizing that her success would be a direct result of her dedication, she applied herself diligently to her studies and practical work. WyoTech provided the foundational knowledge and skills that would underpin her burgeoning career in the automotive trades.

Upon graduation, Kelsey immediately entered the automotive world, quickly identifying her strengths and specializing in metalwork, body and paint, and restoration. Since completing her training, she has been instrumental in building and restoring classic vehicles for Bud Striegel, while also playing a significant role in the operation of his Automotive Museum in Rangely, CO. Kelsey deeply values her relationship with Bud, considering him both a mentor and family. She thrives on the challenges presented by the restoration and custom build projects he undertakes, often finding herself on the same "brain wave" when it comes to creative solutions.

Kelsey holds her grandparents and Bud in the highest regard, recognizing their profound positive impact on her life, both personally and professionally. She attributes much of her success and outlook to their guidance and support. Describing herself as a determined and altruistic individual, Kelsey embraces the unexpected.

Looking to the future, Kelsey harbors aspirations of sharing her knowledge and passion by reintroducing automotive classes to her local high school or teaching within an automotive program. This ambition is inspired by her own WyoTech instructors, Randy and Andy, whose impact during her education continues to resonate.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Kelsey is a devoted wife to Chance and mother to their three daughters, Ackley, Briar, and Kyleigh. Her family is central to her life, and she and her husband prioritize being positive role models for their children.

In a poignant dedication, Kelsey attributes her induction into the WyoTech Hall of Fame to her grandmother, Jean Jordan, affectionately known as "Mamaw," who passed away shortly before the honor was announced. This recognition serves as a testament to the enduring influence of her role models and Kelsey's own unwavering dedication to her craft.

Rally continued...

through the treacherous terrain.

This was not a free ride for them as fellow podium finisher and overall Southern Ohio Forest Rally winners Ryan Booth and Andy Hayes from Ireland also signed up to compete in a RC2 Skoda from the Czech Republic. This is the fastest class here and these cars compete in the World Rally Championship WRC2 class. Booth is no stranger to Rangely and won here in 2020. As expected he used his experience and skills to keep his car in the lead the entire way and secure a second Rally Colorado Championship. Pastrana and Gelsomino finished second overall and first in the



Limited 4WD class which this Subaru was built for.

Rangely's enthusiasm for Rally Colorado was palpable, with over 143 registered volunteers and strong community support from Rio Blanco County and the Bureau of Land Management. "This town treats us like superstars," said rally chairman Rupert Berrington. "The parade and fan engagement make Rally

Colorado a standout event." The town's embrace of the rally culture was further evident at the Saturday night volunteer and team BBQ, a highlight for competitors and crews alike. Thank you to Western Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation and Park District for this part of the event. For fans, the weekend offered more than just racing. Two spectator areas allowed closeup views of the action, while the Rangely Automotive Museum displayed rally cars alongside vehicles from this year's Pikes Peak International Hill Climb. Teams serviced their cars in Elk Park for the weekend and had the awards ceremony. Both were also open to the public with no



charge to attend. The event underscored Rangely's growing reputation as a rally hub, continuing a legacy that includes past champions like Pastrana, Ken Block, and Andrew Comrie-Picard from the Colorado Cog Rally days.

As Rally Colorado wrapped up on July 20, the town of Rangely celebrated not only the thrill of motor sports but also the sense of community that makes this event a beloved tradition. With Pastrana and Gelsomino leading the charge, Rally Colorado 2025 delivered high-speed excitement and unforgettable memories for all who attended.



ACROSS

- 1. Like some beds
- 5. Gives audible approval
- 10. Memory unit
- 14. "From Here to Eternity" setting
- 15. Video companion
- 16. Seasick sailor's support
- 17. Event in a prison movie
- 18. Members of the fourth estate
- 20. Currently
- 22. Washing machine cycle
- 23. "It _____" (formal "Who's
- there?" reply)
- 24. Milky white gem
- 26. Baseball maneuver
- 31. " live and breathe!"
- 34. Part of driving directions
- 35. Historical period
- 36. Phrased
- 38. Attach with glue
- 40. Womanizer?
- 42. Bete
- 43. Andre of tennis
- 45. Mannerism or spasm
- 47. Caddie's bagful
- 48. Mao follower?
- 49. Place to play a racket game
- 52. NCO's hall
- 53. Well-put
- 54. A second time
- 57. Derived from experiment and observation
- 63. Impromptu jazz performance
- 65. Dieter's label word
- 66. Having keen interest
- 67. Bolivia's constitutional capital
- 68. Vietnam neighbor
- 69. Make over
- 70. Highway hazard
- 71. Eats gravy with bread

By Gia Kilroy **CRAM IT** 12 14 15 16 18 17 19 20 22 21 23 25 27 26 28 29 30 32 33 34 35 36 38 39 40 41 42 43 45 46 49 51 48 50 52 59 57 58 61 62 64 63 65 68 66 67 69 70 71

DOWN

- 1. Repeated three times, a WWII film
- 2. Cool one's heels
- 3. Breakfast chain, informally
- 4. We need them to survive
- 5. Overturn, as a boat
- 6. Entice
- 7. Middle Eastern gulf
- 8. Small gun
- 9. Castaway's call
- 10. Oven setting
- 11. Exaggerated story
- 12. Ones left behind?
- 13. "What___can I say?"
- 19. Diversion for a tot

- 21. Suffix with "Peking"
- 25. Dog's dog
- 26. March honoree, in short
- 27. Marshy areas
- 28. Heavenly bears
- 29. "___he drove out of sight..."
- 30.Italian staple
- 31. Bordeaux bye-bye
- 32. More dry and withered
- 33. What "i.e." stands for
- 37. Works the soil, in a way
- 39. Member of an ancient Jewis sect
- 41. Palindromic sib
- 44. Measures for Mensa

- 46. Secured, as a backyard dog
- 50. Exhausts, as a supply
- 51. EMS procedure
- 52. Perform incorrectly
- 54. Not completely shut
- 55. Donated
- 56. At the center
- 58. Nursery rhyme trio
- 59. Skin opening
- 60. Florence farewell
- 61. On the summit
- 62. Not quite as much
- 64. Sound of bacon frying

RDH continued...

20-Year Honoree:

Tiffany Skelton.

25-Year Honoree:

Nita Henson.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and compassionate team here at Rangely District Hospital. Their years of service are a testament to the strength of our mission and the heart of our care.

A portion of our team traveled to Grand Junction to our annual Western Healthcare Alliance conference. We had a community thriving. Rangely District Hospital was recognized as an Ultimate Member at the event along with Montrose Regional Health. We are grateful to be apart of a great organization.

Thank you to our community for your continued support. We remain committed to providing excellent, patient-centered care and look forward to many more milestones ahead.

CNCC Appoints New Cybersecurity Director

BY JESSE AITKENS

Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) is excited to announce the appointment of Glenda Tarran as the new Director of the Cybersecurity program. With a wealth of knowledge and a passion for the field, Tarran is poised to drive the program and its students into the continuously evolving future of cybersecurity.

Tarran's journey in cybersecurity began with an AAS Degree in Cyber Security through the Colorado Community College System (CCCS), allowing her to relate closely to today's students. After graduation, she was hired by an Internet Service Provider, where she started in the Cyber Security Operations Center (CSOC), focusing on customer-facing roles. Her experience includes tackling identity theft, DDoS attacks, and malware management. As an Associate Systems Engineer, she worked on Authentication and Access through TACACS (Terminal Access Controller Access-Control System) and CyberArk systems, foundational areas of cybersecurity.



"My vision for this Cyber Security program is to provide students with relative hands-on experience that is resume material, demonstrating to employers that the skills obtained in school are usable," Tarran stated. She aims to implement the Cyber Patriot programming, which will allow college students to mentor younger students, fostering a collaborative learning environment where students learn from each other and work together.

Tarran emphasizes the importance of responsibility in the learning process. "Each participant is expected to uphold their responsibilities when assigned. Owning the job is the best teacher. Mistakes made provide learning opportunities and self-discovery. By giving our students these opportunities, we will be letting them own their success and take responsibility for their failures," she explained.

In a field that is constantly evolving, Tarran is committed to ensuring that students evolve alongside it. She plans to establish hands-on experiences and build relationships with professional organizations like ISSA (Information Systems Security Association), ISC2 (International Information System Security Certification Consortium), and ISACA (Information Systems Audit and Control Association), while also reaching out to local businesses in need of cybersecurity support and training.

"The need for secure software, networking, and data storage is always going to be there. With technology and IT, there is so much going on—just pick one. You will never be without work opportunities," Tarran added.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Tarran is a N2 Swimming Official with USA Swimming, a ski instructor, and has lived in the South Pacific after college graduation. Her love for history drives her passion for understanding the decisions that have shaped our world today.

With her diverse background and unwavering commitment to cybersecurity education, Tarran is set to lead CNCC's Cybersecurity program to new heights, preparing students to meet the challenges of tomorrow with confidence and expertise.

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.

Tractor Supply's Grand Opening: A Boost for Our Community

BY ANONYMOUS

Welcome to Rangely, Colorado, Tractor Supply Company, the nation's largest rural lifestyle retailer! This new store is more than a retailer—it's a major investment in our town's future, bringing jobs, great



prices, and a commitment to giving back. From pet supplies to workwear and support for veterans, Tractor Supply is already making a difference in Rangely.

A Win for Rangely's Economy

Tractor Supply's arrival is a game-changer for Rangely, creating jobs and supporting local commerce. This store provides a one-stop shop for farmers, ranchers, and homeowners, showing confidence in our community's potential. With over 85 years of serving rural America, Tractor Supply's decision to open here strengthens our economy and sets the stage for growth.

Unbeatable Prices on Everything

Tractor Supply offers quality products at budget-friendly prices. Whether you need feed, tools, or lawn care essentials, they've got you covered. Plus, their selection of durable clothing—boots, jackets, and gloves—is perfect for Rangely's rugged lifestyle. It's convenience and value, right in our backyard.

A Neighbor, Not Just a Store

Tractor Supply is already proving to be a true community partner. They've donated dog food and cat litter to the Rangely Animal Shelter, supporting our local pets in need. Their commitment extends to veterans, too, with over \$1 million donated in 2024 to organizations like Farmer Veteran Coalition and Operation Homefront. These efforts provide grants and training to help veterans thrive in rural life, making Tractor Supply a store that honors Rangely's values.

Building a Brighter Future

The grand opening of Tractor Supply is a milestone for Rangely. With its economic boost, affordable products, and dedication to our community and veterans, this store is set to be a cornerstone of our town. Stop by to explore, shop, and celebrate a business that's already giving back to our pets, our heroes, and our future. Here's to a stronger Rangely with Tractor Supply!

Governor Polis Announces New Boards and Commissions Appointments

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

Congratulations to Eric Popham of Rangely on his appointment to the Coal Mine Board of Examiners! Eric brings extensive experience in coal mining as either a coal mine owner, operator, or manager, engaged in underground mining and engineering. He will serve a term through July 1, 2029.

The Coal Mine Board of Examiners prepares and conducts examinations for all applicants to positions in coal mines that require certification under federal law. The Board issues certificates of competency to those who qualify and also provides assistance in developing curricula for coal miner training programs.



4th of July Fireworks Light Up the Night at Kenney Reservoir

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

The skies over Kenney Reservoir erupted in a dazzling display of colors and lights on July 4th, as the Western Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation & Park District hosted its annual Independence Day fireworks show. This year's event was nothing short of incredible, drawing a large crowd of excited residents and visitors who gathered to witness the breathtaking spectacle.

The fireworks illuminated the night sky with vibrant reds, blues, golds and even smiley faces, accompanied by thunderous booms that echoed across the reservoir. Each burst seemed to outdo the last, leaving attendees in awe and creating memories to last a lifetime. The well-attended event showcased the community's strong spirit and love for this cherished tradition, with families, friends, and neighbors coming together to celebrate.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Tim Webber, whose leadership and dedication helped make this year's show a resounding success. Special recognition also goes to the incredible volunteers and organizations who worked tirelessly behind the scenes: Todd Lowe, Travis LeBleu, Kyle Wren, Jeff Fielder, Andy Shaffer, Richard Brannan, Charlie Low, Keenan LeBleu, Rangely Rural Fire Protection District, Rio Blanco County Sheriff's



Department, Rangely Police Department, and Rio Blanco Conservancy District. Their selfless efforts ensured the event ran smoothly, and their commitment to the community is truly commendable. If you spot these amazing individuals out and about, be sure to give them a big "THANK YOU!" for their hard work and dedication.

As the fireworks lit up Kenney Reservoir, the gratitude of the community was just as bright. Here's to another unforgettable 4th of July celebration in Rangely!

Rangely Welcomes New Town Manager: Allen Parker

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

The Town of Rangely would like to announce the appointment of Allen Parker as its new Town Manager, effective April 2025. With a wealth of experience in local government and a distinguished military background, Parker brings a unique blend of leadership, dedication, and community-focused vision to his new role.

Parker's extensive career in local government spans multiple states, including positions in Millville, Utah, Ada County, Idaho, and Dutch John, Utah. Most notably, he served over 16 years as the Assistant City Manager and Planning Director in Vernal, Utah, where he played a pivotal role in shaping the city's growth and development. His tenure in Vernal also included nine years as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Ashley Regional Medical Center, where he contributed to advancing healthcare services in the region.

A military veteran with 33 years of service as a C-130 Loadmaster,

Parker traveled the world, gaining a global perspective that informs his approach to community leadership. Raised in a small farming community just outside Boise, Idaho, Parker's roots in rural life ground his commitment to fostering strong, vibrant communities. His diverse experiences living in places like Boston, Massachusetts, Little Rock, Arkansas, and Logan, Utah, have equipped him with see *Town Manager on pg 11*

July CNCC Corner

BY DR. LISA JONES

A year ago, the leadership of the Colorado Community College System, including members of its Board of Trustees, embarked on a statewide listening tour to hear from employees and students across its 13-community college system. The purpose? To understand the needs and expectations of those they serve and incorporate them into a strategic plan, adopting a vision for the future over the next five years.

As part of this listening tour, CNCC employees and students at both Rangely and Craig provided their input. The President collaborated with Board and System team members, as well as other Presidents across CCCS, to tailor the plan's vision, values, and goals.



In 2023, CNCC unveiled its own five-year strategic plan. This plan is currently being executed and is incorporated as a means to achieve the 2025-2030 CCCS Strategic Plan, titled "Transforming Futures."

The Vision: CCCS will be the first and best path for all to achieve a more prosperous and fulfilling life. **The Values (abbreviated):** Learners First; Educational Excellence; Culture of Belonging; Bold and Creative Leadership; Community Advancement.

The following are the goals with an overview of intent and what it means for CNCC over the next five years:

Economic Mobility: Increase relevant offerings that will result in successful learners earning a sustaining wage. CNCC will continue its work to identify new and strengthen existing programs which lead to family sustaining wages and offer opportunities for life-long careers. The most recently added programs, Cyber security and Radiologic Technology are programs that will do just that.

Education for All: Increase equitable, learner-centered environments that support all learners in meeting their goals. CNCC has raised and invested over \$20 million to improve its grounds and facilities on the Rangely campus. This summer and over the next year, the College will oversee \$10 million in campus and facilities improvements. The Craig campus, though beautiful, will be eligible for campus improvements within the next couple of years and is undergoing a market study for oncampus housing to enhance its appeal to potential students who live outside a normal driving distance. Empowered Talent: Increase our ability to attract, retain, and sustain the highest quality workforce to advance our mission. CNCC will continue to enhance its focus on shared governance, employee salaries, and benefits. Over the past several years, salaries have increased by 40% across the board, and the first-ever faculty sabbatical program has been launched. Additional resources have been invested in tuition reimbursement and professional development, with a priority on responding to climate studies and employee surveys.

Partner of Choice: Increase capability, trust, and credibility with partners across all sectors to build shared prosperity. Rather than competing with educational institutions, CNCC strives to collaborate with CCCS and other colleges in the state to expand educational offerings for its students and

see CNCC on pg 13

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The Whispering Canyons of Rangely - A Thrilling Series Story

Chapter 2 - The Echoes of Dragon Trail

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

Years after Ellie Mae Harper left Rangely, the whispers of Dragon Trail never quite faded. By the spring of '85, the town had settled back into its dusty rhythm—oil rigs pumping, diner coffee brewing, and the White River murmuring past. But for Tommy Delgado, now 23 and still running the projector at the Starlight Theater, the memory of that glowing disc and the blue lights over the canyons was a splinter in his mind. He'd sworn to Ellie he'd keep quiet, but silence had a way of gnawing at him.

Tommy wasn't the same kid who'd bolted from the cliffs that night. He'd traded his sci-fi paperbacks for late shifts at the theater and a beat-up journal where he scribbled every strange thing he'd seen since: flickers in the sky, static on his radio that sounded like chants, dreams of tunnels under the desert. When Ellie sent a postcard from Boston—vague, saying she was working on "something big" but not to write back—Tommy knew she hadn't let it go either.

One April evening, as the sun bled red over the mesas, Tommy was closing the theater when a stranger walked in. She was tall, sharp-eyed, with a government badge clipped to her jacket. "You're Thomas Delgado," she said, not asking. "You were with Ellie Harper in '78." Her name was Agent Kessler, and she wanted to know about the canyons, the lights, the thing they'd found. Tommy played dumb, but his sweaty palms betrayed him. Kessler left a card and a warning: "People are watching Rangely, closely. Don't make us come back."

Rattled, Tommy drove out to Dragon Trail that night, his old flashlight shaking in his hand. The crevice was still there, but the disc was gone—either taken or swallowed by the rock. As he stood there, the air hummed, low and electric, like it had seven years ago. His flashlight caught a glint deeper in the crevice: another disc, smaller, etched with new symbols that pulsed faintly when he touched it. This one felt colder, heavier, like it carried a warning.

Back home, Tommy hid the disc in a coffee can under his sink. He didn't sleep. The radio hissed again, spitting fragments of words: "They know. Run." They know? He assumed this referred to the shadows he saw moving around on the mesas or perhaps something in the tunnels, the tunnels under the desert that he kept dreaming about.

By dawn, black SUVs were parked at the DinoMart again, and Kessler was asking questions around town. She must know something. Tommy knew he couldn't stay quiet anymore. He mailed a coded note to Ellie's last known address, hoping she'd know what to do. Then he grabbed the disc, a backpack, and his dad's hunting rifle, and headed for the canyons.

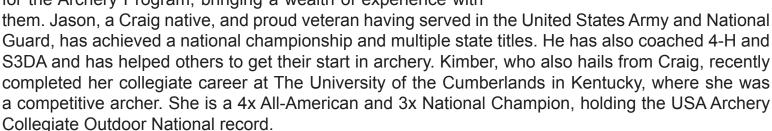
Rangely's whispering again. Some say Tommy's out there, chasing ghosts. Others say the lights are back, brighter now. The old-timers at the diner just shake their heads: "That boy is stirring up trouble – the trouble Ellie left behind."

CNCC Launching Archery Program in Craig

BY JESSE AITKENS

Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) is excited to announce the launching of a Competitive Archery Program on its Craig campus. It will be sanctioned under USA Archery's Collegiate program. All CNCC students will be eligible to join the Archery team and will be able to compete in various disciplines, including Fixed Pins and Compound Unlimited, across 3D, indoor, and outdoor target events.

Jason Wheeler and Kimber Wheeler will serve as the coaches for the Archery Program, bringing a wealth of experience with





Jason Wheeler expressed his enthusiasm for the program, stating, "I have enjoyed competitive archery for the last 40 years. I started shooting Olympic Recurve and traditional but am currently shooting Bowhunter Compound. I am excited to help students develop their skills in this sport."

Kimber Wheeler added, "I am thrilled for the opportunity to offer a competitive archery team here at CNCC! I am excited to come back and start my career here in northwest Colorado. While growing my archery resume, I also earned two bachelor's degrees, one in Exercise Sport Science and one in Coaching."

"We are looking forward to introducing a sport that aligns with Craig's rural community, Archery and outdoor activities have been proven to improve students' academic performance. We are thrilled to bring an Archery program to CNCC on our Craig Campus. Through 4-H, I have known the Wheelers a long time and trust they will be the best coaches and models to our students. I am looking forward to collaborating with them on this new program." said Sarah Bacon, Coordinator of Campus Life.

The CNCC Archery Program aims to foster a love for archery and provide students with opportunities for personal growth and competitive success.

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.

Town Manager continued...

a broad understanding of community dynamics.

Parker is a graduate of Utah State University, holding a bachelor's degree in political science and business, and he earned an associate's degree in aviation operations from the Community College of the Air Force. His educational background, combined with his practical experience, positions him to lead Rangely with strategic insight and a focus on sustainable growth.

In his personal life, Parker married his wife, Cortney, in 2015, and together they have a son, Henry. Cortney is the founder and owner of The Little Sweet Pea, a beloved confectionery shop in Vernal, Utah, established in 2005. The couple shares a passion for camping, traveling, cooking, and a variety of other activities, which they look forward to enjoying in Rangely's stunning natural surroundings.

Welcome to Rangely Allen!

AGNC Awards \$50,000 in 10 Mini-Grant Community Projects Across Northwest Colorado

BY TIFFANY DICKENSON

The Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) is pleased to announce the award of funding of \$50,000 to 10 community-led projects through its 2025 AGNC Mini-Grant Funding. This program is made possible through an Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance Fund Grant (EIAF) awarded to AGNC by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), which is then passed along to municipalities in Northwest Colorado.

The AGNC Mini-Grant Funding provides flexible, targeted funding to counties and municipalities across Region 11, including Garfield, Mesa, Moffat, and Rio Blanco counties - to support projects that strengthen economic development, enhance community vitality, and advance locally-identified priorities. Funding awards were distributed following a competitive application process, ensuring strong alignment with the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

The 2025 Mini-Grant recipients and projects include:

- Craig Yampa River Corridor Marketing
- De Beque Bike Trail Project
- Fruita Security Camera Installation at Fruita Community Center
- Meeker Economic Development Magazine
- New Castle Main Street Revitalization: Empty Lot Renovation
- New Castle (#2) Museum Signage and Façade Restoration
- Palisade Economic Development and Planning Analytics Initiative
- Rangely Dinosaur Sculpture Installation
- Rifle Community Survey
- Silt New Electrical Services at Veteran's Park

"These projects reflect the creativity, leadership, and commitment of local governments to invest in the future of their communities," said Tiffany Dickenson, Executive Director of AGNC. "By securing DOLA's support for this mini-grant program, AGNC is able to provide meaningful assistance directly to our members—allowing them to move forward with priority projects that enhance both economic opportunity and quality of life."

Funding for the AGNC 2025 Mini-Grant Program was made possible through the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF), administered by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). AGNC applied for and was awarded a \$50,000 grant to create the mini-grant program specifically for its member governments across Region 11. The EIAF program supports communities that are directly or indirectly impacted by energy and mineral production, providing financial assistance for projects that promote economic development, public facilities, and community infrastructure. More information about the program is available at https://dlg.colorado.gov/energy-mineral-impact-assistance-fund-grant-eiaf.

AGNC administers the Mini-Grant Program as part of its role as the federally designated Economic Development District (EDD) for Region 11. The 2025 program performance period began in March 2025 and will continue through March 31, 2026.

For more information about AGNC's programs and regional economic development efforts, visit www.agnc.org.

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About AGNC (www.agnc.org) The Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) serves as the Council of Governments for Garfield, Mesa, Moffat, and Rio Blanco Counties and functions as the Economic Development District (EDD), as designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for those counties, with the addition of Routt County. AGNC's mission is to advocate, inform, and reflect the needs of its members by promoting the values, industries, and economies of Northwest Colorado.

CNCC continued...

students statewide. Through its highly ranked programs, CNCC seeks to partner with businesses and industries to provide the necessary training and education to fill workforce needs and grow the local economy. With its fifth place ranking by PayScale as a producer of graduates earning high incomes and as the recipient of the 2025 Governor's Award for Zero Textbook Costs, CNCC has positioned itself as a college of choice for students seeking a unique education with a high value proposition at a reduced cost of attendance.

Power of 13: Increase shared opportunities to grow enrollment, improve quality, and achieve cost efficiencies through consortia models and collaboration while leveraging each college's unique strengths. CNCC will continue its work with the Rural College Consortium and Colorado Online to share resources, reduce costs, and increase opportunities for students, as well as productivity among staff and faculty. The College offers classes that allow enrollment among students attending colleges across the system. Rather than eliminating classes or programs, CNCC students have the opportunity to complete courses that would not otherwise be available to them. These consortia relationships will, in the future, lead to sharing support and other services required by students in a way that maximizes employee time, expands offerings to students, and reduces costs absorbed by each CCCS college.

Leaders across the system are very proud of this plan and intend to implement it with vigor and enthusiasm. It serves as an example of what a plan can achieve when there is intentional involvement at all levels, voices are heard, and minds are open to what is possible.

8 Most Overlooked Colorado Towns for 2025

Special to the Review - World Atlas Article

Colorado's known for big-ticket places like Aspen, Boulder, and Colorado Springs — but let's be honest, they're often crowded and come with a premium price tag. The real magic of Colorado is tucked away in its smaller, lesser-known towns. These are the places where you can breathe deep, slow down, and get to know the local culture without fighting for a parking spot.

All under 30,000 people, these towns are rich in history, outdoor beauty, and unexpected charm. Whether you're into ghost towns, quirky art scenes, or jaw-dropping nature, there's something here for every low-key traveler or potential relocator.

Mancos

Starting our journey in the Four Corners region, Mancos stands out as tucked between Durango and the entrance to Mesa Verde National Park, where artists, ranchers, and adventurers all seem to get along just fine. It's a gateway to natural wonders but somehow avoids the tourist crush. One of the best places to unwind is Mancos State Park, a peaceful pocket of water and woods where you can cast a line, paddle across the lake, or stretch out on a picnic blanket under the pines. Just outside of town, Bluebird Dye Gardens — a farm that grows natural dye plants and sells Navajo Churro wool — offers a glimpse into regional textile tradition and sustainable agriculture.

Back in town, Fenceline Cider brings together locals and visitors in a laid-back taproom that pours small-batch ciders infused with regional character. The downtown area reflects Mancos's agricultural heritage, with the historic Mancos Opera House anchoring Main Street alongside locally owned shops and cafes. With its laid-back feel and deep Old West roots, Mancos is for people who want a slice of Colorado without the Instagram mobs.

Silver Plume

Moving north into the high country, Silver Plume is the kind of place you could miss if you blink on I-70. This tiny town, perched high in Clear Creek Canyon, is like a time capsule from Colorado's 19th-century mining boom. The Georgetown Loop Railroad ends here, consisting of narrow-gauge trains clattering through mountain curves and over tall trestles — it's a journey into the past with postcard views. In the heart of town, the George Rowe Museum, housed in the town's former schoolhouse, offers a closer look at the people and tools that built this place.

If you're in town and need a caffeine fix or want to check out the local cafe vibe, visit Plume Coffee Bar. This cozy spot serves freshly roasted, carefully sourced coffee in a historic Main Street building. You might even catch live folk music here after an afternoon spent watching the clouds roll over the peaks. The town's elevation at 9,118 feet means spectacular views of surrounding peaks like Mount Guyot and Grays Peak, both visible from downtown streets.

Celebrating Community Care: Dental Clinic Provides Over \$17,000 in Services

BY JESSE AITKEN

Recently, the community came together for the 2nd annual Free Dental Clinic, which saw a wonderful turn-out and provided essential care to those in need. The free clinic, which serves as the Capstone project for Colorado Northwestern Community College's (CNCC) Dental Hygiene Bachelor's students, was a resounding success. Over the course of two days, the clinic saw 39 patients and was able to offer more than \$17,000 in free dental and hygiene care. Volunteers included students from CNCC's Bachelor of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene (BAS-DH) program, current second-year CNCC Dental Hygiene students, and the dentists from offices where the bachelor students work.

Tiffany Douglas, CNCC BAS Lead Instructor, remarked, "I love this event because it gives me a chance to see past graduates of the CNCC dental hygiene program return and offer their knowledge

and skills with those in our community."

The CNCC Bachelor's program is a two-year completion degree designed to give dental hygienists the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree online while working full-time. As an online degree, it will provide students with the flexibility to complete it from anywhere they happen to be working. The clinic was held on the CNCC Rangely, Colorado campus and for many students it was also a bit of a homecoming.

"I have a place in my heart for this small town, and I was excited to participate in the creation of the free clinic for the Bachelor Program. With two days of hard work, we provided free dental care to those that needed it the most, while learning valuable skills for our future endeavors.", said Ashley Ruston, AAS-DH graduate.

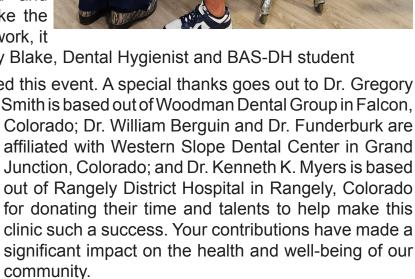
The clinic did more than just provide oral healthcare for residents of rural Colorado. It also gave students an opportunity to put their new skills from the bachelor's program into practice.

"I really believe that it is a true privilege to provide education and care to people who need and appreciate it the most. While it may seem like the patients are the ones who benefited from our work, it

really was the other way around.", said Presley Blake, Dental Hygienist and BAS-DH student

Thank you to all who participated and supported this event. A special thanks goes out to Dr. Gregory





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.



Enhancing Rangely's Safety: How Flock License Plate Recognition (LPR) Keeps Our Community Safer

BY TI HAMBLIN

Here at the Rangely Police Department, we all share a common goal: to keep our community safe. As technology advances, so do the tools available to local law enforcement. One such tool that's gaining traction in towns like ours is Flock LPR, and it's designed to make Rangely an even more secure place to live, work, and raise a family. It's also worth noting that this technology isn't entirely new to our area. Mobile LPR systems have already been in use by the Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Office for several years, demonstrating their effectiveness and integration into our wider county-wide safety efforts.

How Flock Keeps Rangely Safer

You might be wondering, "What exactly is Flock LPR and how will it benefit us?" Simply put, Flock LPR cameras are smart cameras strategically placed at key points around our town – think entrances, exits, and main thoroughfares. They automatically capture images of vehicle license plates and other details like the car's make, model, and color. This information is then used by the Police Department to:

- Deter Crime and Catch Criminals: Imagine a stolen vehicle or a car connected to a serious crime entering Rangely. Flock LPR can immediately flag that vehicle. This quick alert allows us to respond swiftly, potentially preventing a crime from happening or apprehending suspects before they can cause further harm. It's a powerful deterrent that helps keep unwanted activity out of our town.
- Aid Investigations: If a crime does occur, LPR data provides crucial clues. It can help our Officers
 piece together timelines, identify suspect vehicles, and connect the dots. For example, if someone
 reports a hit-and-run, the system can search for vehicles matching the description that were in the
 area at the time.
- Recover Stolen Vehicles and Property: The sooner a stolen car is identified, the higher the chance
 it's recovered. Flock LPR significantly increases the speed at which our officers can locate and
 return stolen vehicles to their rightful owners, often preventing them from being used in other
 criminal acts.
- Help Find Missing People, Especially Children in Amber Alerts: This is a particularly vital benefit.
 In critical situations like an Amber Alert for a missing child, or a Silver Alert for a vulnerable
 adult, every second counts. When an Amber Alert is issued with a vehicle description, Flock LPR
 systems can immediately begin scanning for that associated vehicle. If the vehicle is detected by
 a camera, law enforcement receives an instant alert, providing critical real-time location data that
 can lead to life-saving interventions and help bring missing children home safely and quickly.

Police departments in communities similar to Rangely have reported real successes, including reductions in auto theft, improved rates of solving other crimes, and numerous instances of safely recovering missing individuals.

Understanding What Flock Doesn't Do

A natural question that often comes up with new technology is about privacy and how data is used. It's important for our community to know that Flock LPR cameras do not know or report immigration status.

Here's why that's a key point:

- Focus on Vehicle Information, Not Personal Data: Flock LPR's sole purpose is to capture vehicle information – license plates, vehicle type, and color. It is not designed for facial recognition, nor does it collect or process any personal identifying information related to an individual's citizenship or immigration status.
- Tool for Crime Fighting: This technology is built to help law enforcement solve and prevent vehiclerelated crimes, find stolen cars, and assist in locating missing persons. Its function is strictly limited to these public safety goals.

While there have been broader discussions in other parts of the country about how LPR data could be used, Flock Safety, the company behind the technology, has publicly committed to ensuring their systems are used ethically and within legal boundaries. Their aim is to provide an effective crime-fighting tool that respects community values. By understanding how Flock LPR works, we can appreciate its potential to make Rangely an even safer place for all of us. This technology is a valuable asset for our local law enforcement, helping them work smarter and more efficiently to protect our community and, importantly, to respond rapidly in urgent situations like those involving missing children.

The Rig Theater: A Heartfelt Journey

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

In the heart of Rangely, Colorado, a small-town pulsing with the rhythm of the oil industry, the Rig Theater flickered to life as a beacon of joy and togetherness. For decades, this single-screen gem at

402 W. Prospect Street was more than a movie house—it was the soul of a community, where dusty oil workers and wide-eyed kids shared laughter, tears, and the magic of the silver screen.

The Rig Theater marked a vibrant chapter in Rangely's story—one brimming with hope, connection, and the promise of a brighter future.

A Cinematic Haven Born from Oil

The Rig Theater, named for the towering oil rigs that defined Rangely's economy, was a place where the town's heartbeat echoed. As local historian Kelvin White recalls, "The theater was enough of a sensation that a national movie



theater chain built and opened it. It was first managed by a pair of brothers, Cliff and Joe Mann, who stayed in town long after their theater days."

From the moment its doors swung open, the Rig was a sanctuary where families escaped the daily grind, and kids clutched nickels for Saturday matinees filled with Westerns, Disney adventures, and swashbuckling epics. In a town where entertainment was scarce, the Rig was a glowing oasis calling residents to gather under the spell of Hollywood's golden age.

A New Name, A New Dream in 1962

In February 1962, the Rig Theater transformed into the Campus Theater, a name that sparked excitement and pride. The change reflected Rangely's growing ambitions, tied to the rise of Rangely College (now Colorado Northwestern Community College), which was built by the local community. The theater, a short drive/walk from the campus, became a haven for students and faculty, its new identity symbolizing a bridge between the town's oil-soaked roots and its educational aspirations. The early 1960s were a time of prosperity, with oil fueling economic stability, and the rebranding felt like a bold step into a modern era. The Campus Theater wasn't just a place to watch movies—it was a stage for Rangely's dreams.

Inside, the air buzzed with anticipation as families settled into their seats, the projector humming to life. From John Wayne's grit to the sweeping vistas of The Ten Commandments, the theater delivered stories that stirred the heart. Kids cheered for cartoons, while teens stole glances during romantic scenes, their laughter mingling with the scent of buttery popcorn. At 50 cents for adults and a quarter for kids (give or take), the Campus Theater was a steal—a ticket to adventure and a shared experience that knit the community closer.

The Campus Theater was more than bricks and mortar; it was where memories were born. The theater wasn't just about films; it was about connection—first dates, family outings, and moments when the town felt like one big family.

A Fading Star

Yet, like countless small-town theaters, the Campus Theater faced a dimming spotlight. As Kelvin White notes, "The theater closed in the early '80s, maybe '83. Some folks tried to use the building as a teen arcade, with no movies, but that didn't last long, at the end." The rise of television, VHS tapes, and shifting entertainment habits dimmed the allure of single-screen cinemas. Eventually, The Campus Theater building was physically torn down leaving only great memories.

A Legacy That Lingers

Kelvin White noted, "The long-time owner, B.F. Yaeger bought it from the originator and ran it until his death. In the late 60s a high schooler could have a night out for a buck!! 65 cent admission, 2 boxes of popcorn and a coke, were \$1.00!!!"

see Rig on pg 19

My 2025 Town Hall Tour

BY DYLAN ROBERTS

In a time of immense political division and toxic online conversations, it's more important than ever to gather in person. While too many elected officials are refusing to hold in-person town hall meetings with their constituents, I see them as one of the most important and productive parts of my job as a legislator. They're an opportunity to connect face-to-face with the people I represent, share updates about the work we've accomplished during the legislative session, and to hear directly from constituents - ideas, concerns, and yes, criticism. Engaging in these conversations is essential for a healthy democracy, and that's why, as your state senator, I have always prioritized holding town hall meetings with my constituents.



Just a few days ago, I completed my annual

Post-Session Town Hall Tour of Senate District 8. This tour took me to all 10 counties in the district, where I held public meetings alongside several of my colleagues from the Colorado General Assembly who also serve those counties.

We hosted great crowds in Frisco, Idaho Springs, Granby, Walden, Rifle, Avon, Craig, Steamboat Springs, Meeker, and concluded in Central City. Over the course of the tour, we gathered with hundreds of community members and discussed the major bills from this year that will benefit Western Colorado, including measures to conserve water, make housing more affordable, invest in education, lower healthcare costs, and pass a balanced budget - and then let the questions and answers guide free-ranging, interesting, and productive discussions.

In Frisco, Speaker Julie McCluskie and I highlighted our work on HB25-1115, which aims to improve water measurement and reporting systems across the state to better manage our precious water resources, what we did to help lower homeowner's insurance rates, and the measures we passed to make our mountain highways, including I-70, safer by preventing more commercial and passenger vehicle crashes and spin-outs.

In Walden and Granby, the Speaker and I once again heard from many of you about the ongoing impacts of wolf reintroduction, especially the challenges posed by livestock depredation. We shared details about our SB25-038, a new law based on suggestions directly from Grand and Jackson County ranchers that protects the personal information of ranchers who file claims for livestock losses caused by wolves and other wildlife, and the several ways we have continued to urge Colorado Parks and Wildlife to improve the program for the ranching community.

In Avon, Craig and Steamboat, Rep. Meghan Lukens and I talked about how we worked to bring more funding to our rural schools, our shared work on HB25-1056 that will help expand cell phone coverage in rural areas, and what we are doing to lower the cost of living by addressing housing, child care, and health care costs.

In Idaho Springs and Central City, Rep. Lesley Smith and I talked about our bill, HB25-1039, which will require all commercial vehicles to have properly functioning mufflers by July 2027 and increase fines for violations to help reduce noise pollution and improve quality of life along I-70, efforts we are taking to improve rural living for seniors, and ways to help our county and local governments provide crucial local services.

At every stop, I heard about affordability. This remains my top priority, especially when it comes to our housing crisis. I pointed to one of my bills, SB25-006, which allows the State Treasurer to invest \$50 million in below-market bonds to finance the construction of for-sale housing for locals. Additionally, we passed HB25-1272, which will allow developers to build more affordable, for-sale condos and townhomes by cutting unnecessary red tape and creating more opportunities for hardworking Coloradans to purchase their first home.

Taking Care of What We Have: Preserving Rangely's Treasures

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

In the heart of Northwest Colorado, our small town of Rangely is surrounded by vast, untamed beauty of miles of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. This remote landscape is a treasure—a rugged playground for adventure and exploration. But with this gift comes a responsibility to protect and care for both our natural surroundings and the community spaces we hold dear, like the Kennedy Walking

Path and Elks Park.

Lately, we've seen troubling examples of destruction and neglect, from damaged pavement to vandalism and littering. So many residents have approached me, rather upset that this is happening. Most often, they are stating that now is the time to take pride in our town, obey the laws, and preserve what makes Rangely special.



The Kennedy Walking Path

is a beloved community gem. It's a safe, welcoming space where kids ride bikes and scooters, families stroll together, lots of exercise takes place and neighbors connect. Recently, funds have been invested, grant funds, to install a fence to protect the lower section of the path, ensuring its safety and longevity. Yet, someone has been driving a side-by-side vehicle on the upper section, damaging the pavement. This path wasn't built for motorized vehicles, and such misuse causes cracks and deterioration. If this continues, the path could become unsafe, robbing kids of a place to ride and families of a space to gather.

Similarly, Elks Park, our largest town park, is facing its own challenges. This vibrant space, where community events unfold and families create memories, the only playground for our kids exists, has seen acts of vandalism that mar its beauty and function. From defaced structures to damaged amenities, these acts of destruction hurt us all.

Adding to the problem, littering has become a growing issue in the park, but not only in the park but on other walking paths around town. Discarded wrappers, bottles, and other debris not only detract from the area's appeal but also harm the environment and wildlife. Cleaning up litter costs time and money that could be better spent improving our community spaces.

We live in a place where outdoor opportunities are endless. With a vast amount of BLM land surrounding us, there's no shortage of space for off-roading and adventure. There's simply no reason to misuse or destroy community treasures. Nor is there any excuse for littering when trash cans are readily available around town.

By respecting the laws and caring for these spaces, we ensure they remain safe, clean, and enjoyable for everyone. Taking care of what we have starts with pride in our town. Rangely may be small, but it's rich in community spirit. The Kennedy Walking Path and Elks Park aren't just places—they're symbols of what we can achieve when we work together. They're where kids play, where events bring us together, and where memories are made under the Colorado sky. Let's protect them, not destroy them.

So, what can we do? First, let's lead by example. Pick up trash when you see it, and encourage others to do the same. Shout out to the ladies on the Rangely Bulletin Board for speaking about this on their site and for leading the way for cleaning up. You are appreciated!

If you witness vandalism or misuse of community spaces, report it to the authorities or address it respectfully. Stick to designated BLM areas for off-roading, leaving paths and parks for their intended use. Educate kids and neighbors about the importance of caring for our shared spaces. And most importantly, let's show the next generation what it means to take pride in Rangely by keeping our

Town Hall continued...

We also talked a lot about our state budget and the challenges we may continue to face now that the so-called "Big, Beautiful Bill" has been signed into law by the President. As legislators, we have a constitutional obligation to pass a balanced state budget, and this year, I was proud to share that we worked to ensure it reflected the priorities of our communities. We boosted K-12 education funding by \$150 million, prioritizing rural districts and avoiding any cuts. We increased Medicaid provider reimbursement rates by 1.6% to help improve healthcare access, especially in underserved areas, and we preserved funding for conservation initiatives, including crucial wildfire mitigation efforts, to protect our communities and natural resources. You will continue to hear from me about how federal actions will impact us here in SD8, and I'll keep fighting to protect the programs that keep our communities safe and healthy.

Thank you to everyone who attended a town hall; I genuinely appreciate your interest, questions, criticisms, and hopes for the future, and I look forward to seeing how those ideas create opportunities for further conversation and potential legislation. I welcome continued feedback as the year goes on: 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.



Town of Rangely Animal Control/Shelter



🐾 HUGE thank you to Tractor Supply! 🐾

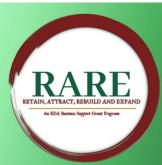
We are incredibly grateful for the generous donation of dog food and cat litter from Tractor Supply! Your support means the world to us and helps us care for our animals

Rig continued...

Though the Campus Theater no longer lights up Rangely's nights, its spirit endures. It was a place where generations gathered to dream, laugh, and cry—a cornerstone of a town that refused to be defined solely by oil. Today, as Rangely preserves its heritage through places like the Rangely Outdoor Museum, the story of the Rig and Campus Theater lives on—a nostalgic reminder of a time when a small-town theater could make hearts soar.

In the quiet streets of Rangely, you can almost hear the echo of projectors whirring and children cheering, a testament to a theater that wasn't just a building but a beloved piece of home. The Rig Theater, reborn as the Campus Theater, remains a cherished chapter in the town's story, forever etched in the memories of those who gathered under its glowing marquee.

I often dream of seeing the Rig Theater/Campus Theater brought back. Imagine rebuilding those walls, not just with bricks, but with the laughter of kids, the whispers of first dates, and the shared dreams of a town that found joy in every flickering frame. To see it rise again would be like giving a piece of our soul back to Rangely—a beacon of memories reborn, ready to weave new stories for generations to come.



RARE
Pitch Competition

Calling all Rangely Entrepreneurs! Is your business less than 1 year old?

Showcase your Startup or Small Business Idea in a Shark Tank Style & Compete for CASH PRIZES to Kickstart your Dreams!

First Prize \$15.000.00

Second Prize \$10,000.00

Third Prize \$5,000.00

Timeline & Requirements for Competition

Grab an application at Town Hall or download one from the town website to apply.

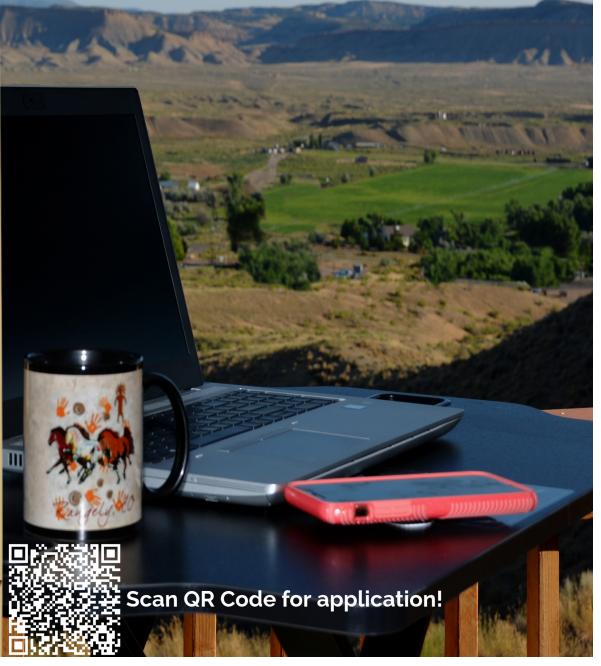
CNCC Classes (Required) August 8th & 9th

Application
Deadline
August 15th

First Round
Pitch
(Judges Only)
Town Hall
Conf. Room
August 29th

Final Round
Pitch
(Public Welcome)
Sept. 29th
Details to follow!

Contact Jeannie
Caldwell at
(970) 675-8476 or
e-mail her at
jcaldwell@rangelyco.gov
for additional
information!



Community Pride continued...

parks and paths clean and intact. Rangely is our home, and places like the Kennedy Walking Path and Elks Park are its heart.

What does pride in a community look like? Go to the "This Was Rangely" Facebook page. Read the comments. They love this town. Many who lived here but moved away come back to visit and walk the town. They love Rangely. By caring for our community, we are building a legacy of care, respect, and community pride that will endure for generations. Our favorite town deserves it!

To register for classes please send your name, the name of the business or the business idea, your address, email & phone number to jcaldwell@rangelyco.gov

Ready to pitch your business idea at the RARE Pitch Competition?

Equip yourself with the skills to succeed!

CNCC business classes will help you prepare a winning pitch!

Don't miss this chance to build your skills and compete for prizes!

CNCC Classes are required to be a participant in the Pitch Competition

Date: Aug. 8th & 9th

Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Location: Weiss Conf. Room

Classes Include:

Writing a Business
Plan, Marketing
Plan, Financial
Plan & Business
Research.





Colorado for All: New Statewide Economic Development Planning Tool Emphasizes Regional Collaboration

BY ALISSA JOHNSON

On June 5, the Rural Opportunity Office within the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) released a draft of the 2025 Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This statewide CEDS is a five-year strategic action plan that articulates an economic vision and goals for Colorado. Today's release is the culmination of dedicated, long-term collaboration across the state to develop regional strategies that served as the foundation for this comprehensive plan. The public comment period is open and runs through July 5, 2025. The public comment form is available on the Colorado Statewide CEDS webpage.

"By benefitting all of Colorado's 64 counties, including the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Tribes, this important tool will help us align economic development strategies and funding statewide to attract more investment, build on local plans, foster collaboration, and create a more vibrant, resilient and prosperous economy for everyone in Colorado," said OEDIT Executive Director, Eve Lieberman.

The 2025 Colorado Statewide CEDS is based on the gold standard for economic development and developed in accordance with U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) guidelines. With it, Colorado continues its commitment to implementing statewide economic development planning that incorporates regional goals and outcomes to align economic development strategies across the state and foster collaboration. CEDS have also been shown to help economic development initiatives attract investment and lead to more consistent, positive outcomes when funding is secured.

"Sustained economic growth results from long-term dedication and collaboration. A plan like the Colorado Statewide CEDS ensures that partners across the state are working together and moving in the same direction. We are grateful to the many state and regional partners who brought a wide range of expertise, experience, and insights from every corner of Colorado to this process," said Rural Opportunity Office Director Meridith Marshall.

Colorado's 2025 CEDS continues previous commitments to align statewide strategies with regional goals, including Colorado's Blueprint 2.0 launched in 2015 and CO|Align, a collective initiative to align strategies, reduce redundancies and enhance capacity for economic development efforts across Colorado. Additionally, over the past two years, the State of Colorado has assisted economic development regions across the state to develop and implement regional CEDS, leveraging the framework created by CO|Align. This marks the first time Colorado's regions have all completed CEDS, which are currently in implementation.

About the Rural Opportunity Office

The Rural Opportunity Office (ROO) supports Colorado's rural communities, economic development offices, business support organizations, and small businesses by connecting them to relevant OEDIT, State and partner programs to work toward a resilient future. The office consists of a director and Rural Opportunity Representatives that serve rural communities across all of Colorado. Each representative lives within the region of the state that they support.

About the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade

The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) works to empower all to thrive in Colorado's economy. Under the leadership of the Governor and in collaboration with economic development partners across the state, we foster a thriving business environment through funding and financial programs, training, consulting and informational resources across industries and regions. We promote economic growth and long-term job creation by recruiting, retaining, and expanding Colorado businesses and providing programs that support entrepreneurs and businesses of all sizes at every stage of growth. Our goal is to protect what makes our state a great place to live, work, start a business, raise a family, visit and retire—and make it accessible to everyone. Learn more about OEDIT.

Colorado Towns continued...

There's something almost magical about Silver Plume. It feels like you've stepped into another century with much better coffee.

Nederland

Heading closer to the Front Range, Nederland sits high in the Rockies, surrounded by national forest and steeped in frontier grit with a creative twist. One of the town's proudest features is the Carousel of Happiness, a lovingly restored 1910 carousel filled with hand-carved animals and stories of healing and joy. It's whimsical, yes, but also deeply rooted in community spirit.

A short walk away, the Nederland Mining Museum (open from June until October) packs a punch with original tools, photos, and stories that dig deep into the town's silver-mining roots. The nearby Caribou Ranch Open Space, once home to a legendary recording studio for artists like Elton John and



Chicago, now invites hikers and wildlife watchers to explore its quiet trails and scenic meadows. The town is a gateway to Brainard Lake Recreation Area, where alpine fishing and hiking trails lead to beautiful, pristine mountain lakes.

Nederland marches to its own beat. It's a combination of a historic mining town and a mountain enclave for musicians, naturalists, and anyone who's ever wanted to live life a little differently.

De Beque

Transitioning to Colorado's western slope, De Beque presents a completely different landscape. Sitting on the Colorado River with the Book Cliffs rising in the distance, De Beque is a historic ranching town that time didn't quite forget — but certainly hasn't modernized too much either. Its authentic Western heritage is fully displayed in the preserved downtown, where the De Beque Town Hall remains a reminder of the frontier days. This is your spot if you're into America's true Old West towns and love nature.

The town's location along the Colorado River provides excellent fishing opportunities, while the historic De Beque Canyon offers rock climbing and hiking trails through dramatic red rock formations.

Just outside town, the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Area protects one of the few remaining herds of wild horses in the United States. Visitors can hike or drive into the rugged canyons to spot them in their natural element. For a change of pace, Vega State Park offers lakeside recreation and cool alpine breezes just an hour's drive away.

De Beque is a place where the past isn't packaged but truly lived. If you love raw landscapes and real stories, it's more than worth a stop.

Creede

Further along the San Juan Skyway, Creede is one of those places that feels both rugged and polished, a town carved into dramatic cliffs with a soul shaped by silver. It was the last silver boom town in Colorado, and you can still see its mining past written all over the hills. The Creede Underground Mining Museum takes you literally into the rock, offering a guided tour carved out by actual retired miners. Back above ground, the Creede Repertory Theatre is one of the best small-town theaters in America, with a rotating lineup of smart, funny, and moving performances every summer. And if you want to stretch your legs, the Bachelor Loop is a 17-mile scenic drive that winds past old mine ruins, alpine meadows, and views that will steal your breath.

The town's Main Street preserves much of its 1890s character, with the old Creede Hotel and historic storefronts creating an authentic Western atmosphere. Nearby, the Rio Grande flows through spectacular canyon scenery, offering world-class fishing for brown and rainbow trout.

Creede is for people who appreciate grit with a touch of drama in its landscape and lifestyle.

Lake City

Cradled in a high mountain valley along the Alpine Loop Scenic Byway, Lake City is the kind of town that rewards those who are willing to take the long way around. It has just one road in and out, and that's a feature, not a flaw. The Alpine Loop itself is an adventure, an off-road route connecting Lake City with Ouray and Silverton through passes more than 12,000 feet above, flanked by jagged peaks

Overlooked continued...

and wildflower-filled meadows. The Hinsdale County Museum brings frontier stories to life in town with artifacts from the area's mining and pioneer days. Nearby, Lake San Cristobal offers kayaking, fishing, and pure alpine serenity. It's Colorado's second-largest natural lake and one of its most peaceful.

The town's elevation, at 8,671 feet, creates a unique growing season that produces spectacular wildflower displays in summer. Locally owned businesses like the Old Carson Cabin offer authentic Western hospitality in the rugged Western landscape.

Lake City is a place where you can go to be still, disconnect, and let the mountains remind you of what quiet feels like.

Rangely

Out in the remote northwest corner of Colorado, Rangely doesn't try to impress; it just quietly delivers some of the most underrated outdoor access in the state. The TANK Center for Sonic Arts is one of Rangely's most unexpected treasures: a former water tank turned experimental sound space with

world-class acoustics. You can participate in a sonic meditation or hear avant-garde musicians turn the massive steel chamber into a live instrument. Outside town, the Dinosaur National Monument stretches across the Colorado-Utah border with fossil beds, petroglyphs, and deep canyons carved by the Green and Yampa Rivers.

For a more hands-on view of the area's natural history, the Rangely Outdoor Museum features a historic jail, a schoolhouse, and exhibits that tell the story of this rough-and-resilient community. The town serves as a base camp for exploring



the Rabbit Ears Pass area and the remote canyonlands of northwestern Colorado. Local outfitters offer guided trips into some of Colorado's most pristine wilderness, while the White River provides excellent fishing.

Rangely feels wild and undiscovered — perfect for travelers who like their destinations raw, real, and far from obvious.

Salida

Salida might be the sweet spot if you crave creative energy and river-town chill. With the Arkansas River running right through downtown and the Sawatch Range rising to the west, it's packed with scenery and an abundance of outdoor activities, mostly centered around the 100 miles of river.

Salida, known as "the Heart of the Rockies," is home to the largest indoor hot springs in the United States, and it's one of three public hot springs to choose from in town. After a healing soak, you can cool off in the river on a raft, kayak, pontoon boat, or raft. You'll have plenty of places to stop along the way, as the riverwalk path offers dozens of casual dining options. Apart from the river, locals and visitors have access to over 175 mountain biking and hiking trails, including several that provide 14,000-foot peaks.

If outdoor adventure isn't for everyone in your group, Salida has much to offer. Its downtown is on the National Register of Historic Places and is now a modern creative district. Visit any time of year, and you'll find everything from blacksmithing to digital media to fine art and live music.

Salida is where adventure and artistry meet seamlessly. This lively yet slow-paced town is friendly, walkable, and refreshingly unpolished. It's the kind of place where you'll start chatting with a stranger and end up tubing the river together an hour later.

Rangely Joins Colorado's Certified Local Government Program, Boosting Historic Preservation Efforts

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

The Town of Rangely has officially been named Colorado's newest Certified Local Government (CLG), bringing the state's total to 68 CLGs, according to an announcement from Lindsey Flewelling of the Colorado Historical Commission. This exciting milestone, shared via email on Wednesday afternoon (July 30th), marks a significant step in preserving Rangely's rich cultural and historical heritage.

Nestled in Rio Blanco County, Rangely is a treasure trove of geological and



historical significance. The region's unique geology has yielded a wealth of dinosaur fossils, alongside see CLG on pg 30

45th Annual Septemberfest ~ August 30 - September 1, 2025

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2025		
Dragon and the Gilsonite Mines Tours	8:00am	True Value Garden Center
This is an all-day adventure with a trip that will start at Rangely True Value		
Call Rodger Polley with questions, 970-509-0310.		
Fast, Flat and FREE 5K	8:00 am	Elks Park
Bike Rally		
Sponsored by the Rangely Police Department		
Visit the Rangely Automotive Museum	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Rangely Automotive Museum
Open House at THE TANK		
Day in the Park	11:00 am - 3:00 pm	Elks Park
Free inflatables for all ages		
Chili Cook-Off Contest		
Free Concert	6:30pm	Elks Park
FREE CONCERT		
SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025		
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Open House at THE TANK		
Ice Cream Social (Donation of \$1.00 per person appreciated)	1:00 pm	Rangely Outdoor Museum
Sponsored by the Rangely Outdoor Museum		D 1 D C 1
Cribbage Tournament	2:00 pm	Rangely Rec Center
Family Movie Night (\$5 donation per person appreciated)	7:00 pm	RJSHS Auditorium
Sponsored by RJ <mark>SHS S</mark> TUCO		
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025		
Fireman's Pancake Breakfast	6:30 am to 8:30 am	Rangely Fire Station
"Red, White, & Summer Nights" Parade		
Sponsored by The Town of Rangely	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	ministratif derect
Open House at THE TANK	9:00am to 1:00pm	The Tank
Craft Fair in the Park		
29 th Annual Car Show in the Park		
Barbecue in the Park (Donation of \$5.00 per person minimum)		
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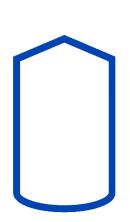
^{**}All events are subject to change**

SEPTEMBERFEST AT THE TANK LABOR DAY WEEKEND AUG 30 TO SEPT 1



MEDIEVAL SONG IN THE TANK

A RECORDED INSTALLATION



SOPRANO JOLLE GREENLEAF MEZZO-SOPRANO ELLIE SUTHERLAND TENOR ANDREW FUCHS

> 9AM TO 1PM & 7PM TO 9PM ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY

9AM TO 1PM ON MONDAY

FREE

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



VOL. 5 NO. 27

SeptemberFest Parade "Star, Stripes and Summer Nights" Sept. 1st 9am

Float Line-Up Kicks Off at 8 AM Sharp at the Fire Hall!

Join SeptemberFest's 45th Celebration!











AUGUST 2025

SeptemberFest Parade **Registration Form**

Honoring the U.S. Army's 250th Anniversary, local Veterans and All Things Rangely

Organization Name:					
Contact Person:Address:					
Telephone:					
Email:					
	Please describe your entry below:				

- **★ Float Registration must be fully complete BEFORE the parade for** your organization to participate.
- **★ There is a ZERO entry fee.**
- * Registration must be received NO LATER THAN 2 days before the event.
- ★ Return the completed form to the Town of Rangely office building or email it to jcaldwell@rangelyco.gov

Sponsored by the Town of Rangely & Western Rio Blanco **Metropolitan Recreation & Park District**





Colorado Northwestern Community College Students Embark on Tranformative Study Abroad Experience in Egypt

BY AMANDA OTT

Short-Term Program Explores History, Art, and Cultural Intelligence in the Heart of the Ancient World

Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) is proud to announce the successful completion of a dynamic short-term study abroad program in Egypt. This initiative offered students a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore the country's rich historical, artistic, and cultural heritage firsthand.

Under the leadership of Dean of Academics Amanda Ott, this interdisciplinary program immersed a diverse group of undergraduate students in a two-week exploration of



Egypt. Students experienced everything from the monumental architecture of the Giza pyramids to the intricate artistry of ancient tombs in the Valley of the Kings. This experience not only deepened their understanding of Egypt's contributions to global civilization but also significantly developed their vital skills in cultural intelligence and global awareness.

"The program was designed to bridge academic learning with lived experience," said Dean Ott. "Egypt provided an extraordinary setting for our students to engage with history not just in the classroom, but on-site, where they could walk through temples, speak with local experts, and witness living culture in action."

The program's immersive nature extended beyond key archaeological and artistic sites. Students actively participated in workshops on Egyptian art techniques, toured Cairo's museums and contemporary galleries, and engaged in meaningful discussions with locals and community leaders. Central to the experience was a strong emphasis on cultural intelligence, fostering students' awareness, empathy, and adaptability for effective and respectful cross-cultural engagement.

This program highlights CNCC's commitment to expanding global education opportunities and preparing students to be informed, culturally literate citizens in an interconnected world. Looking ahead, plans are already in motion for a future cohort to visit Ireland and Wales in Spring 2026.

For more information about study abroad opportunities at CNCC, visit www.cncc.edu or contact Amanda Ott at Amanda.ott@cncc.edu



CLG continued...

valuable oil and coal deposits. Home to the Fremont and Ute peoples, Rangely boasts a vibrant collection of Indigenous art, including the renowned Carrot Men Pictograph Site.

The town's modern history began with oil development in the early 1900s, with Chevron's arrival in 1931 to construct the first deep well, followed by Rangely's incorporation in 1946 during a post-World War II oil boom.

"We are thrilled to welcome Rangely into the CLG program," said Flewelling in the announcement. "Their commitment to preserving the area's unique history and cultural resources will strengthen our statewide efforts to protect Colorado's heritage." As a CLG, Rangely will gain access to federal and state resources, technical assistance, and grants to support historic preservation projects. This designation highlights the town's dedication to safeguarding its historical landmarks, from Indigenous art to its oil industry legacy, for future generations.

The Colorado CLG program, overseen by the Colorado Historical Commission, fosters local preservation initiatives and encourages communities to celebrate their unique histories. Rangely's inclusion is expected to inspire further engagement with its storied past, from its prehistoric roots to its pivotal role in Colorado's energy history.

"Rangely's addition to the CLG program is a win for all of Colorado," Flewelling added. "We look forward to seeing the incredible contributions they'll bring to our shared mission."

If you want to make a difference and help preserve Rangely's amazing history, join the Rangely Preservation Board! We are looking for 5 great members who have a love for Rangely's history. If interested, email Jeannie Caldwell at jcaldwell@rangelyco.gov with your name, address, phone number, and why you are passionate about serving in this position.







The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District wants your input.

Do you use Kenney Reservoir?

If so, help us understand flatwater recreation needs in Rio Blanco County.



To gather information related to potential flatwater recreation demands in the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District and around the region.

Take the Survey

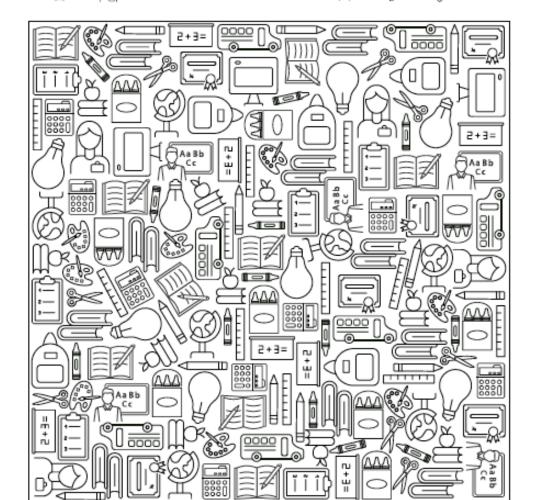


Kids Corner



BACK TO SCHOOL I SPY

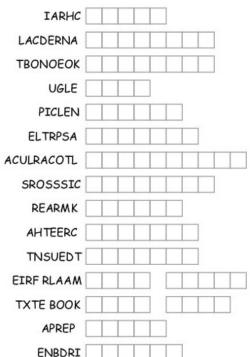




BACK TO SCHOOL Scramble

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Unscramble the words to solve the puzzle!



Back to School Word Search

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school homework supplies notebook backpack pencils orientation recess library lockers playground student

teacher scissors eraser reading writing schedule classroom crayons