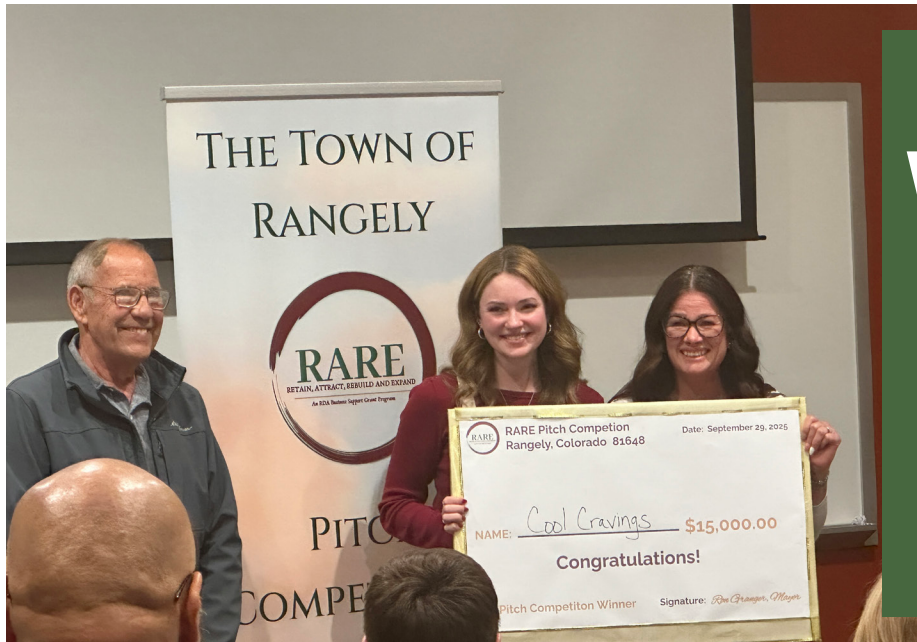


RANGELY REVIEW

VOL. 5 NO. 28 ❖ OCTOBER 2025

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



Pitching Big Wins: Rangely's Entrepreneurs Score \$30K in Pitch Competition

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

On September 29th, Rangely's first Pitch Competition lit up CNCC's Rector Building with entrepreneurial energy!

The Pitch Competition is part of the Retain, Attract, Rebuild, Expand (RARE) grant program, funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT). The purpose of the event is to bring new businesses to Rangely and to boost our economy through new business ventures.

Partnering with CNCC and the Northwest SBDC, the RARE Program offers classes on writing business plans, including marketing, financial planning, and market research. "The goal is to turn ideas into sustainable businesses that create jobs and strengthen our community," said Jeannie Caldwell, Marketing Director for the Town of Rangely. Over three years, RARE will host annual pitch events and will also award 8-10 small business grants up to \$40,000 each to drive economic growth.

Four entrepreneurs pitched their visions to a panel of five judges. A panel of local leaders—Interim Town Manager Lisa Piering, Bank of the San Juans Branch Manager Zachary Glasgow, AGNC's Mistalynn Meyerann, Rio Blanco Schools Federal Credit Union Manager Annette Webber, and Blue Mountain Inn & Suites General Manager Andrea Brannan—evaluated the pitches. The competition awarded \$30,000 in prizes to three standout ventures:

First Place: Cool Cravings – \$15,000

Owned by Ella Sanchez and Marcy Sanchez.

Cool Cravings is a cool shop that will offer a delightful selection of dirty sodas infused with vibrant syrups, cream, and popping boba, as well as snow cones. Their mission is to unite families and the community by providing refreshing treats in a fun and inviting space where everyone can unwind and enjoy games.

Second Place: El Jefe Rentals – \$10,000

Owned by Jaime Sanchez and Fidel Sanchez.

El Jefe Rentals, a mobile event business, brings energy to Rangely with rentals for parties, such as a mechanical bull, inflatables and table and chairs. Let them bring the fun to you!



see Pitch on pg 4

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Rangely District Hospital CEO Corner

BY KYLE WREN

Here comes Fall, my favorite time of year. When the cool air starts to roll in, leaves start to change colors, MLB baseball is closing out, football is rolling, basketball season starts, and the animals start to move to lower ground. I will share a personal experience I had in the clinic, an update on a few service lines and partnerships we have fostered.

As the Chief Executive Officer of our hospital, I have the privilege of witnessing the dedication and excellence our providers bring to their work every day. I regularly hear accounts of compassionate care and exceptional service offered to our patients. Recently, however, I had the opportunity to experience that same level of care in a much more personal way—through the treatment of my daughter, Taya.



Taya had been experiencing a fever and congestion over the course of several days. I took her to our clinic, where we were seen by Dr. Morwood. His approach was methodical and compassionate. After a thorough evaluation and several diagnostic questions, he ordered an x-ray, a respiratory panel, and a comprehensive set of laboratory tests.

All results returned negative, which led to the clinical determination that her illness began as a viral respiratory infection and had since developed into a secondary bacterial infection. Dr. Morwood prescribed an appropriate course of antibiotics, and we were discharged.

While Taya showed some initial improvement over the following week, she continued to struggle with a persistent cough and noticeable hearing loss—symptoms consistent with an ear infection. We returned to the clinic, where she was evaluated by Kelsey Riggio. Following her assessment, a second round of antibiotics was prescribed. This course proved effective, and Taya gradually returned to her normal self, regaining her hearing.

This experience reaffirmed something I have long known but was grateful to witness personally: our providers are deeply committed to their patients. Their clinical expertise is matched by their compassion and their willingness to go beyond—regardless of the patient's background or circumstances.

While some may assume that my family's experience was elevated due to my position within the organization, I can confidently say this is the standard of care extended to every patient who walks through our doors. I have heard countless related stories from members of our community, all of which reflect the same ambitious standards of care and dedication.

I would like to extend gratitude to Dr. Morwood and Kelsey for taking care of Taya, in addition Dr. Torgersen, Vivian Dillon and the entire clinic team. Your professionalism, attentiveness, and dedication exemplify the mission and values we strive to uphold in our organization. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of our patients and our community.

Dr. Andrew Morse, our general surgeon, was hired on by Family Health West. He has been in transition the last few months and will start again soon. We had to wait for him to get credentialed with FHW and settled in before he could start coming to Rangely again. He is still on track to start up this fall and continue his services for us. I apologize for any waiting times as we make this important transition.

Since launching our MRI suite, we've seen exceptional community response and utilization – far exceeding initial projections. Our investment in this addition and technology is already paying off, allowing patients to get high quality diagnostic imaging without the inconvenience of long waits, or traveling.

Sleep Studies are another service line that is up and running. Wait times are shorter and diagnostic reads are coming back sooner than anticipated. We have the capability to perform the in-home study as well as the overnight sleep lab here at the hospital. If you have apnea, feel fatigue during the day, or have trouble sleeping. Set up a clinic appointment with one of our providers.

Finally, we have partnered with several colleges. One of those is our local CNCC college to provide

see CEO on pg 4



Six individuals inducted into CNCC's 2025 Hall of Fame

Published in The Herald Times on October 1, 2025



The recipients of the 2025 CNCC Hall of Fame honors included (L-R) Paul Conrad (his posthumous award was received by his son, Rusty, pictured); Joyce Key, Diana Sizemore, David Cole, Tiffany Douglas and Sarah Ward.

Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) recently hosted its 2025 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, honoring six individuals for their outstanding achievements and contributions. The event celebrated the spirit of perseverance, teamwork, leadership, and excellence that defines the CNCC community.

The inductees for the 2025 class include:

Diana Sizemore (Alumni Achievement): A 1978 graduate with degrees in Dental Hygiene and Science, Diana has dedicated decades to her profession and community, serving on numerous boards and driving countless volunteer efforts in Rangely.

Joyce Key (Alumni Achievement): With a connection to CNCC spanning nearly half a century, Joyce earned associate degrees in Dental Hygiene and Science in 1977. She has served in various roles at the college, including Dental Hygiene Instructor and library specialist, and was recognized as Faculty Member of the Year in 2006–2007.

Tiffany Douglas (Alumni Achievement): A 2000 graduate of the CNCC Dental Hygiene Program, Tiffany returned to the college as Dental Hygiene Program Director, leading the launch of CNCC's first bachelor's degree in dental hygiene in 2023.

Sarah Ward (Distinguished Faculty): Joining CNCC in 2001, Sarah has held roles as sports medicine program coordinator, athletic trainer, and adjunct faculty, becoming a full-time faculty member in 2023. She has received multiple awards, including Faculty of the Year (2023-2024).

David Cole (Distinguished Staff): A dedicated aviator and community leader, David's aviation career spans decades, earning him the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. He served on the Flight Program Advisory Committee and as Aviation Program Director at CNCC.

Coach Paul Conrad (Outstanding Coach): Known as "The Legend," Coach Conrad dedicated 35 years to CNCC, becoming the winningest coach in men's basketball and baseball history. His legacy is celebrated for his mentorship and impact on generations of athletes. Though Paul passed away on July 14, 2020, his spirit continues to inspire the CNCC community.

The ceremony included opening remarks, reflections from college leadership on CNCC's mission and Spartan values, and individual introductions of each inductee. The event concluded with a group recognition and an invitation for attendees to stay for photos and networking.

***Pitch continued...*****Third Place: Douglas Creek Boutique – \$5,000***Owned by Jessica Potter*

Douglas Creek Boutique, a family-run venture, crafts high-quality skin and hair care products using locally sourced tallow, celebrating Rangely's natural heritage.

The Pitch Competition showcased Rangely's potential for innovation. As Lisa Piering noted, "This is just the start—Rangely's entrepreneurs have a bright future."



Colorado Northwestern Community College Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy Enhances Training

BY C.J. ROSS

CNCC's Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy continues to modernize and enhance its training with the addition of reality-based training mats. The mats arrived this week. Ian Kottenstette of Canyonlands Construction expertly installed the mats allowing the students to train safely. Special thanks to Canyonlands Construction for installing new mats and the renovation!

"The newly renovated mat room is outstanding and brings our program's facilities up to the professional level of training being accomplished daily at the Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy" – Chuck Huyck, PRLEA Director



The 17-week academy, which prepares recruits for law enforcement roles in national parks, will incorporate the mats into scenario-based training sessions. This enhancement is part of CNCC's ongoing efforts to modernize its curriculum and provide a safe, effective learning environment for students.

The adoption of Zebra mats by Colorado Northwestern Community College reflects a commitment to modernizing training and ensuring the highest professional standards in defensive tactics and use-of-force instruction. By providing a safe and effective training environment, this academy aims to better prepare recruits and park rangers for real-world scenarios while minimizing the risk of injuries during training.

This current Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy class is scheduled to graduate in December.

CEO continued...

a great learning experience for their students. Earlier this year the hospital purchased a couple of houses on White Avenue. These houses will be for short term living spaces for our recruitment efforts, staff placement as well as for nursing or radiology students doing rotation at the hospital. We are excited to show them what RDH has to offer. We have other partnerships as well with CU Boulder for physical therapy and several physician assistant programs. These partnerships are vital for our future workforce.

As we head deeper into fall, we want to thank the Rangely and surrounding communities for your trust and support. Whether you have visited us for a checkup, imaging, surgery, or sleep study – or even came up for coffee we are honored to serve you.

- ACROSS
- 1. Nebraskan City
 - 6. Jungle primates
 - 10. Davenport
 - 14. Group of nine
 - 15. Bus money
 - 16. Parts of history
 - 17. Three magic things
 - 20. Word before a maiden name
 - 21. "...and make it fast!"
 - 22. Superdome team
 - 23. Deep cavity
 - 25. They're under the table
 - 26. Completely fill
 - 28. Bad news from carmakers
 - 32. Dodge successfully
 - 34. Johnny Cash's "____ Named Sue"
 - 35. After-school group
 - 38. Two magic things
 - 42. Planning center?
 - 43. "Yup" opposite
 - 44. Old caulking material
 - 45. Thing tugged by a tyke
 - 48. Infamous fiddler
 - 49. Yarn lump
 - 51. Low point
 - 53. Metal fastener
 - 55. Remove, as a rind
 - 56. Org. involved with many touchdowns
 - 59. Three magic things
 - 62. Insistent impulse
 - 63. Crime boss
 - 64. Russian country house
 - 65. Bouncy gait
 - 66. Try, as a case
 - 67. Luster

MAGIC ACTBy Timothy E. Parker

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59						60					61			
62					63					64				
65					66					67				

- DOWN
1. "Do not take ____ empty stomach"

2. "Encore!"

3. Long-snouted formicary consumers

4. "For ____ a jolly..."

5. Cornered

6. Burning

7. Insect's sense organ

8. "... ____ he drove out of sight"

9. Mounts, as a gem

10. Any weekly TV show

11. Round sealing gasket

12. Truisms

13. Emulates a quizmaster

18. Khrushchev's country
19. Fox-hunter's cry

24. Road shoulder

26. Call at home?

27. Bard of ____ (Shakespeare's title)

29. Ship of desert

30. ____ Dhabi (Persian Gulf sheikdom)

31. "Angeles" header

33. Like pianos and car engines

35. Bluff concealer

36. ____ de force

37. Armory supply, briefly

39. Chaney Jr. or Sr. of old horror films

40. Befitting
41. Indian princess

45. Marionette kin

46. Fill with affection

47. Clothing

49. Beatle Ringo

50. Key ____, Florida

52. Accomplishments

53. Rabbit's tail

54. Carve in stone

55. Insect stage

57. Advil target

58. ____ impasse(stymied)

60. Scottish denial

61. "Go team!"



Spartan's Give Campaign

October 13-31

Give today and help us continue the tradition of excellence that began on October 13, 1962.



Rangely Welcomes Officer RaeLynn Norman in Heartfelt Swearing-In

BY TI HAMBLIN

On September 23rd the Town of Rangely celebrated a milestone as RaeLynn Norman was officially sworn in as a new officer of the Rangely Police Department during a moving ceremony before the Town Council. The event was more than a formal oath; it was a powerful testament to Officer Norman's dedication to serving and protecting the community she holds dear.

In a heartfelt speech, Officer Norman expressed her deep gratitude for the opportunity to give back to Rangely, emphasizing her commitment to being a positive role model for her daughter and fostering a safe, welcoming environment for all residents. Her words resonated with attendees, highlighting the personal connections and shared values that define small-town policing. Moments such as this remind us of the heart and strength of our community. Officer Norman's passion and dedication will undoubtedly make a lasting impact on Rangely.



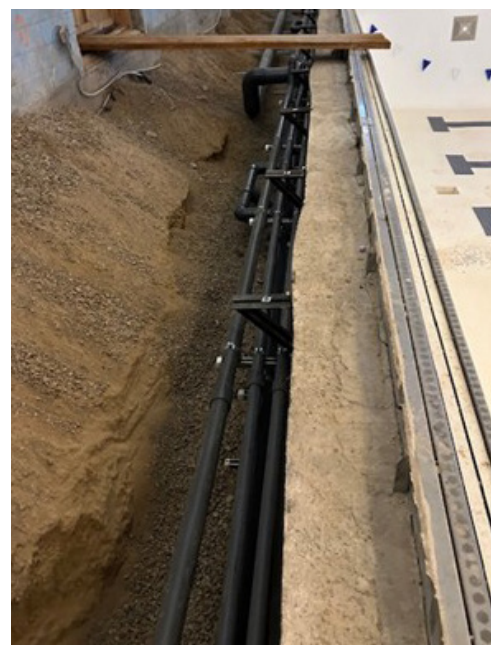
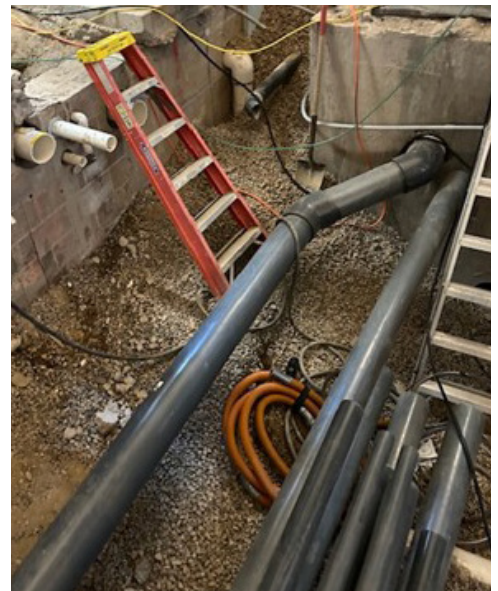
The ceremony underscored the importance of local law enforcement's role in building trust and safety through personal commitment.

The Rangely Police Department and the community warmly welcome Officer Norman as she embarks on this exciting new chapter. Please join us in congratulating Officer RaeLynn Norman on her new role and wishing her success as she serves the people of Rangely with pride and integrity.

WRBM Pool Update

BY TIM WEBBER

The pool piping project started a few weeks ago and has progressed nicely. The attached photos are what have been completed to date. This week they are working on piping for the hot tub, which entails quite a bit of piping and fittings. The crew is working diligently on this part of it and hopefully by the end of this week that will be completed or near completion. Testing of the piping will need to be done to ensure all joints and piping have no leaks and are fully sealed. Once they are completed with the hot tub, all piping will need to be re-plumbed into the pump/filtration room. The piping that is being installed is schedule 80 PVC which is replacing the schedule 40 PVC that was originally installed in 2008-2009 Rangely Recreation Center remodel and pool installation. We do not have a definite completion date yet, but we have made great progress! The electrical, plumbing, backfill of the pool area, cement walkway, and the water slide rehab and reinstall are scheduled. As you can see there is still much to do but we are starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel! Please call Tim Webber at the recreation center, 970-675-8211 if you have any questions or stop by if you want to see the progress.





NWCDC & NCIC Annual Meeting Highlights Economic Diversification, Entrepreneurship, and Regional Partnerships in Coal Transition Communities

BY CHRISTINE RAMBO | NWCDC PROJECT MANAGER

The Northwest Colorado Development Council (NWCDC) and the Northwest Colorado Innovation Center (NCIC) held their Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at the Yampa Valley Regional Airport's second-floor conference room. The event highlighted the region's momentum toward a more diverse and sustainable economy, showcasing success stories from across the three counties of Routt, Moffat, and Rio Blanco Counties.

- Harmonie House, a new healthcare startup in Craig, created 53 full-time and part-time jobs.
- Fitch Ranch Meats will create 100 new jobs with the construction of a new meat processing plant in Craig.
- High Altitude, a new geothermal drilling company in Northwest Colorado, will begin drilling in the next couple of weeks.
- Yampa Valley Regional Airport's new Aviation Business Park is projected to attract more than 230 high-paying aviation jobs.
- Jupiter Power is siting a new battery storage project in Hayden, which will generate millions in tax revenue for the Town and Routt County.
- Pioneer Medical Center received a \$600,000 Colorado Office of Just Transition grant to enhance its operations and create 6 full-time, high-paying jobs.

These are just a few of the success stories in the NWCDC's project pipeline, which currently includes 27 private and public economic development projects that could generate 443 new jobs and \$4.5 billion in capital investment.

"Northwest Colorado is at a turning point, and our communities are working together to diversify industries, grow entrepreneurship, and create new opportunities," said Tim Redmond, NWCDC and NCIC Chairman. "The Annual Meeting is not only a chance to celebrate our achievements, but also to engage with the partners and innovators who are helping us shape the future."

The public event brought together elected officials, business leaders, entrepreneurs, educators, and community partners from across Routt, Moffat, and Rio Blanco Counties to celebrate progress and chart the region's economic future. Hayden Mayor Ryan Banks welcomed attendees, followed by a State of the Region address by Chairman Tim Redmond, Routt County Commissioner. Senator Dylan Roberts, Senate District 8, delivered the keynote address and shared his insights on rural economic resilience, legislative initiatives, and opportunities for coal transition communities. City of Craig Mayor Chris Nichols delivered closing remarks and shared Craig's economic progress.

The Annual Meeting also celebrated major accomplishments in Northwest Colorado, including the establishment of Northwest Colorado Innovation Center (NCIC), a 501c3 rural development hub, and a microlending revolving loan fund, Northwest Catalyst Capital. NCIC will anchor entrepreneurial, small business, workforce, and community development in Northwest Colorado.

To support the new rural development hub, AT&T and the AT&T Foundation announced at the Annual Meeting a contribution of \$15,000 to NCIC programs that support economic development, catalyzing business starts, expansion, and attraction to generate new jobs and tax revenue.



see NWCDC on pg 13



October CNCC Corner

BY DR. LISA JONES

Celebrating 63 Years of CNCC and Our Rich Legacy This October

On October 13, 2025, Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) will proudly celebrate its 63rd anniversary. For more than six decades, CNCC has remained dedicated to transforming students' lives by providing accessible, affordable, and high-quality education, where learning truly comes to life through experience.

One week later, we invite you to join us for our annual Founders Day celebration, taking place during the week of October 20–25, 2025. Like many institutions of higher learning, we honor our founders, our origins, and the history that shaped our mission. This week of events is dedicated to celebrating our identity, our community, and the many milestones we've achieved together. Most importantly, it's a time to inspire and engage students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the broader community.

Honoring Excellence: Aviation & Wrestling

This year, we're shining a spotlight on two programs that reflect CNCC's legacy of excellence and resilience: Aviation and Men's Wrestling.

CNCC Aviation Flight Program

Established nearly 60 years ago, CNCC's Aviation Flight Program has a long-standing reputation for excellence. Over the decades, it has produced successful pilots in commercial, freight, military, research, and academic fields. Recognized nationally as one of the top two-year aviation programs, CNCC Aviation continues to soar.

In May 2025, our team earned 1st place among all 2-year flight programs nationwide at the NIFA (National Intercollegiate Flying Association) national tournament. This month, from October 20–24, CNCC will proudly host the NIFA Region I Competition right here on campus—an exciting opportunity to showcase our talent, teamwork, and industry leadership.

In addition, Sky Magazine recently ranked our program #1 in Colorado for producing work-ready pilots. To explore our journey through the skies, visit the photo display on the main level of the Weiss Building during Founders Week.

Return of Spartan Wrestling

We're thrilled to announce the return of Men's Wrestling to CNCC, a program with a proud legacy from 1969 to 1997, including NJCAA National Tournament appearances in 1972, 1975, 1978, and 1993, and national rankings as high as #6 in 1997.

Leading the revival is Tytus Coombs, a Rangely native and CNCC alumnus whose deep ties to Colorado and strong coaching background make him the ideal head coach for this exciting new era.

Celebrate the return of Spartan Wrestling at the Red vs. White Intersquad Dual, an event open to the public, on Saturday, October 25, at 6:00 PM in the Hefley Arena. Enjoy free admission, concessions, and special appearances from alumni, coaches, and supporters. Also, stop by the Hefley Building main level throughout the week to view a special photo display highlighting the program's legacy.

Founders Day Family Fun

Join us for family-friendly festivities on Friday, October 24, from 3–5 PM in the Johnson Building on the Rangely Campus. Our indoor pumpkin patch will feature:

- Free cider and donuts
- Pumpkins and gourds for purchase
- A coat drive hosted by the Staff Council—donate new or gently used coats to help those in need

Whether you're a student, employee, alumnus, or friend of CNCC, we invite you to be part of this special time. Let's honor the past, celebrate the present, and look ahead to a bright future.

If you can't make it to our Founders Day events, we still wish you a safe and joyful fall season, from all of us here in Sparta.



Septemberfest Shines with Patriotic Parade and Record Vendor Turnout

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

From August 30 to September 1, Rangely's annual SeptemberFest brought the community together for a vibrant Labor Day celebration, hosted by the Western Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation and Park District. The event culminated on September 1 with a record-breaking number of vendors at the festival in Elks park, a dazzling parade, and a car show that drew large crowds.

The highlight of the final day was the "Red, White, and Summer Nights Parade," a colorful procession celebrating the U.S. Army's 250th anniversary and honoring local veterans. The parade featured standout floats, with first place awarded to the Town of Rangely, second to the Rangely High School Class of 1990, and third to the Rangely High School FFA chapter. The parade was deeply honored to have the wife of the late veteran John R. "Hoot" Gibson, along with some of his family members, serve as Grand Marshal. A heartfelt thank you was extended to the Western Slope Blue Star Moms for marching in support, adding to the parade's patriotic spirit.

Elks Park buzzed with activity as the largest-ever number of vendors, offered food, crafts, and local goods. The car show, a crowd favorite, showcased a variety of classic and custom vehicles, inviting passersby to stop, admire, and snap photos.



The event's success was a testament to the hard work of Tim Webber and his dedicated staff at the Western Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation and Park District, who ensured a memorable close to the summer season. SeptemberFest remains a cherished tradition, uniting Rangely residents and visitors in celebration of community, pride, and patriotism.

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August Crossword Solution

GRAM IT													By Gia Kilroy															
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The Whispering Canyons of Rangely - A Thrilling Series Story

Chapter 3 - The Shadow Over Rangely

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

Tommy Delgado hadn't slept in days. Holed up in a shallow cave along Dragon Trail, the 23-year-old clutched the strange, cold disc he'd yanked from the canyon's crevice. Its faint pulse synced with his racing heart, growing stronger by the hour. Rangely, Colorado, in the spring of '85, was no longer the sleepy oil town he'd known. Black SUVs prowled Main Street, their tires crunching ominously, and whispers of "government types" buzzed at the DinoMart. Tommy knew they were after the disc—and him.

Ellie Mae Harper, now a scientist somewhere out east, never responded to his coded message. He needed her expertise. His truck was parked a mile back, blared static from its radio, spitting phrases in a guttural language that stabbed at his skull: "They see. They come." The words haunted his dreams, blending with visions of tunnels snaking beneath the desert, bathed in a blue glow that defied fire or starlight.

Last night, the shadows returned—tall, thin figures gliding against the canyon walls. One loomed close, its glowing eyes locking onto his, a voice rasping in his mind: "Destroy it, or deliver it." The rifle in his hands trembled, useless. The disc hummed louder as the shadows neared, a siren call or a warning—Tommy couldn't tell which terrified him more.

Dawn broke, and he crept back to town via backroads, heart pounding as the ground trembled faintly beneath him. The Starlight Theater, where he ran the projector, was his sanctuary. He decided to stash the disc behind the old film reels, thinking it would remain safe. As he locked up, Agent Kessler stood across the street, her sharp eyes piercing through him. She didn't move—just watched, as if waiting for him to break.

Desperate, Tommy hitched a ride to the Rangely Outdoor Museum, hoping the Ute carvings might decode the disc's symbols. As he stepped through the creaky wooden doors of the Museum, a warm, familiar voice enveloped him like a cozy blanket. Diane Sizemore, the museum's spirited Executive Director, stood there with a grin that could light up the whole town. Diane had been a fixture in Rangely since her college days; her roots tangled deep in the community's soil. She'd spent years as a substitute teacher, her laughter echoing through the school halls, earning the adoration of every kid in town—and she loved them all right back, like they were her own.

"Well, hello, Tommy!" she called, her eyes twinkling with mischief. "So good to see you, my boy! What's caught your fancy today?" Tommy tipped his hat, a smile spreading across his face. "Morning, Ms. Sizemore. Always a pleasure. I'm here for the Ute carvings—been thinking about 'em all week." Diane's grin widened, and she leaned in conspiratorially. "You're in luck, Tommy. Ms. Lujan's back from Denver for a spell. She's over there by the carvings right now, probably lost in their stories. I am positive she she'd be thrilled to see you."

Tommy's heart skipped a beat. Ms. Lujan, with her quiet wisdom and tales of the Ute people, was just the person he needed to see. He glanced toward the corner of the museum where the ancient carvings whispered secrets of the past, ready to unravel their mysteries with an old friend.

Ms. Lujan was lingering in the Ute carvings like a specter. "You didn't leave it alone, did you?" she whispered, sketching a matching symbol from memory. "It's older than the Utes, older than the



see Shadow on pg 13



A Deadline Without A Plan: How Rural Colorado is Building the Energy Future the State Won't

BY JEN SCHUMANN | ROCKY MOUNTAIN VOICE



JOLT Committee members with Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon. From left: Matt Shuler, Chair Ray Beck, Gov. Gordon, Co-Chair Rose Pugliese, Sue Hansen, Bobbie Daniel and Dr. Lisa Jones. Unable to attend: Mandy Miller, Head of Business Development with Shactee Engineering and Delta Commissioner Wendall Koontz.

In May 2023, Gov. Jared Polis signed HB 23-1247, directing the Colorado Energy Office to study advanced energy solutions — from nuclear and geothermal to long-duration storage — in regions facing coal-plant closures like Craig Station. The law included \$50,000 from the Just Transition Fund and federal support to study firm energy options in northwest Colorado.

Within months, coal facilities began closing across the state—including Craig Station, now set to shutter by 2028. While studies are underway, comprehensive transition plans are still being reviewed. Facing job losses and shrinking tax bases, rural communities are taking charge.

“There’s a closing schedule—but no roadmap,” said Matt Solomon, project manager for the Northwest Colorado Energy Initiative (NCEI). “Colorado has a date and not a plan... What does that do? It erodes our trust in each other and our communities.”

Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon, who keynoted this year’s JOLT Summit, offered a stark contrast. “We’re learning from your mistakes,” he said. “We have a plan—and then we’ll set a date.”

Who’s leading when the state won’t

When lawmakers passed HB23-1247, they set a firm decarbonization deadline but offered few answers about what would happen to the towns most affected. That vacuum—economic, political and emotional—hit places like Craig and Nucla hardest. Coal plants were given closure dates, leaving families in uncertainty.

Ray Beck, a former Moffat County commissioner, said the impacts weren’t just economic—they were personal. After retiring, he helped launch JOLT to bring community voices back into the energy conversation.

“We shouldn’t be picking winners and losers,” Beck said. “It’s going to take all those energy sources to meet our demands going forward.”

“I understand capacity,” he added. “Right now, renewables alone won’t carry the load.”

JOLT’s first conversations began in 2022, when Beck reconnected with Rose Pugliese, a former Mesa County commissioner—and now Colorado House minority leader. “We started talking weekly,” Beck said. “We realized it couldn’t just be Rose and me.”

They acted. JOLT’s founding members included local officials, educators, energy workers and development leaders—united not by politics, but by the belief that rural Colorado deserves a voice.

see JOLT on pg 21



CNCC Honors Meeker First Responders for Wildfire Efforts

BY JESSE AITKENS

Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) honored Meeker's first responders Monday evening for their dedication in combating the Rio Blanco fires that have burned over 141,000 acres since early August. (koa.com)

The event, held in Meeker, featured dinner and plaque presentation to recognize the volunteer firefighters who have been on the front lines daily.

CNCC President Dr. Lisa Jones, along with leadership from the Rangely and Craig campuses, expressed gratitude for the responders' unwavering commitment to protecting the community.

"The heroic efforts of these men and women during the wildfires cannot be understated," Dr. Jones said. "Their selflessness and bravery have safeguarded countless lives and properties in Meeker."

Attendees included Craig Chief Operating Officer Nicholas Coccozzella, Craig Academic Dean Amanda Ott, Rangely Academic Dean Meghan Davis, Chief Human Resources Officer Angela Miller, Executive Assistant to the President Jennifer Barker, and Marketing Director Reuben Talbot.

The college also acknowledged the Meeker Volunteer Fire and Rescue Board members for their support: Chairman Todd Morris, Vice Chairman Laura Smith, Secretary/Treasurer J'Leah Richardson, and members Dave Murray and Charles Day.

The Rio Blanco fires, comprising of the Lee and Elk fires, have posed significant challenges to the region. The Lee Fire alone consumed over 127,000 acres and was 3% contained as of August 14. (koa.com) The Colorado National Guard assisted with aerial fire suppression efforts to support the local firefighting operations. (nationalguard.mil)

CNCC remains steadfast in its support for those who risk their lives to protect it and the communities it serves. Monday's tribute served not only as a gesture of gratitude but as a reminder of the strength and unity that define Northwest Colorado. The college encourages the community to continue recognizing and uplifting its first responders, whose courage and commitment exemplifies the very best of Colorado.



Colorado's Special Session Recap

BY DYLAN ROBERTS

Normally, late August is a time for enjoying the last weeks of summer and getting the kids back to school. However, for the second year in a row, the Colorado legislature found itself spending late August inside the Capitol in Denver.

Last year it was to lower property tax rates. This year, we were called back to the Capitol for a special session to address a nearly \$800 million budget shortfall. This shortfall was caused by the passage of H.R. 1, President Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill," which significantly reduced state revenue just days after Colorado's new fiscal year began. Both Democrats and Republicans agree that the special session was necessary once H.R.1 was signed

into law because Colorado is one of only four states that links its state tax code to the federal tax code.

Unlike Congress, Colorado's constitution requires a balanced budget and we cannot "overspend" nor keep a surplus due to the constitutional requirements in the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR).

see Special Session on pg 17



NWCDC continued...

“AT&T is proud to collaborate with organizations like NCIC to help close the digital equity gap in Northwest Colorado and assist small businesses and entrepreneurs as they find new ways to build their businesses and livelihoods,” said LJ Godfrey, President, AT&T Colorado, Arizona, and Hawaii. “Access to connectivity is vital in helping to bridge the digital divide, and we are glad we can provide these resources to entrepreneurs, businesses, and families.”

Additionally, AT&T and Human-I-T provided NCIC with 185 refurbished laptops to distribute to small businesses and families in Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt Counties. The laptops are being distributed to entrepreneurs, small businesses, families in need, and individuals seeking digital literacy training in Moffat, Routt, and Rio Blanco Counties — ensuring that residents have the technology tools they need to participate in today’s economy.

This effort is part of AT&T’s initiative to help address the digital divide through internet accessibility, affordability, and safe adoption. AT&T is committing \$5 billion to help 25 million people get and stay connected to high-speed internet by 2030. This includes distributing more than 1700 computers to students and their families across Colorado since 2023.

The second NWCDC & NCIC Annual Meeting is made possible through the generous support of Event Sponsor, Jupiter Power; NCIC donors, Just Transition Fund, CHFA, and AT&T; and the diligent work of NWCDC and NCIC Board of Directors, and state, regional, and local partners. We hope to rotate the event throughout the three counties. The first Annual Meeting was held in Craig.

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About NWCDC

Northwest Colorado Development Council (NWCDC) is an intergovernmental agreement between Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt Counties and their member communities, Craig, Hayden, Meeker, Oak Creek, Rangely, Steamboat Springs, and Yampa. These communities work collaboratively to diversify the regional economy and to support workforce development, affordable housing, access to child care, and regional transportation. Learn more, visit our regional website NorthwestColorado.org

About NCIC

The Northwest Colorado Innovation Center (NCIC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, serves as the region’s hub for entrepreneurs, small businesses, and workers. Through business coaching, incubation, workforce training, and its Northwest Catalyst Capital microloan fund, NCIC helps launch and grow businesses that drive regional prosperity.

About Jupiter Power

Jupiter Power is a leading energy storage infrastructure platform with extensive capabilities in trading, analytics, development, finance, operations, and construction. The company is developing approximately 12,000 MW of utility-scale energy storage projects from California to Maine. Jupiter Power is headquartered in Austin, Texas, with offices in Houston and Chicago. For more information on Jupiter Power LLC, please visit our X, LinkedIn, or Facebook pages or visit www.jupiterpower.

Shadow continued...

dinosaurs. You woke something, Tommy.”

As he left, the sky flickered blue, and the ground shuddered harder. Back at the theater to maintain the projector, he checked for the disc— but it was gone. A note replaced it: “Ellie’s coming. Stay put.” Ellie? After all this time?

Unbeknownst to Tommy, two local kids, Mollie Dillon and Baylor Hagge, had slipped into the theater earlier, drawn by rumors of his strange find. They’d nabbed the disc, its pulse now a frantic beat in their hands. Giggling, they darted toward the canyons, unaware of the shadows trailing them. Tommy, realizing the theft, grabbed his rifle and backpack, racing after them as the hum from the disc grew deafening.

In the canyons, Mollie and Baylor froze as the disc flared, illuminating a tunnel entrance. The shadows closed in, and Tommy arrived just as a helicopter’s roar split the night—Ellie, descending with a team, her face grim. “We’re out of time,” she shouted over the chaos. The ground split, blue light erupting, and Rangely held its breath as the trio faced an ancient force unleashed by the disc.



The Secret of the Old River Bridge

BY GAIL HATCH BELL

It's dusk, and I find myself back at the famous Well 12—a favorite meeting place for Rangely High School students in the 1960s and 70s. The White River drifts quietly beneath the old bridge, the kind of slow, secretive current that seems to carry whispers of the past. This year has been dry, and the waterline has fallen to a record low. If ever there were a time for the river to give up its secrets, it is now.

When Tom Collins first told me the story of what happened at the old bridge, I asked him to repeat it twice. Even then, I had to confirm it with other old-timers. Tom is in his 90s now, but his memory is sharp, and what he shared changed the way I thought about our hometown forever.

We all knew Bernard Yeager—our superintendent of schools, the great defender of Rangely's youth, and a pillar of the community. He was the steady hand guiding us camp kids through the booms and busts of oil town life. What we didn't know—what none of us could have guessed—was just how far he would go to protect both his students and his town.

According to Tom, sometime in the early 1960s, Yeager received word that the Colorado Gaming Commission was coming to Rangely. That night, he, Tom Collins, and Junior Hume went down into the basement of the Elks Club, hauled out every slot machine they could find, and under cover of darkness, pushed them over the rail of the old river bridge. One by one, the machines splashed into the White River and sank into the shadows.

Why would a superintendent know about those machines? Why would he risk being caught disposing of them? That question has haunted me for years.

The more I dig into Rangely's history, the more I see how our little oil boomtown was never as quiet as it looked. A few years back, I traveled to Skagway, Alaska, and the Klondike. The place felt familiar, almost like home. Skagway had its gold rush; Rangely had its black gold. Both towns grew quickly, both attracted fortune-seekers and drifters, and both carried their share of stories—stories of prosperity, but also of gambling, vice, and unsolved murders.

Rangely, at one time, had eleven bars, a house of ill repute, and more gambling than most of us kids ever knew about. Looking back, it all makes sense. The adults worked hard, but they also played hard, and gambling was woven into the fabric of recreation.

And yet, when we remember Bernard Yeager, it isn't as a gambler or a lawbreaker. It's as our superintendent—the man who stood up for us, believed in us, and, perhaps in his own way, protected us from forces we didn't even understand at the time. Whether or not he ever pulled a lever on those machines, the story of the night they sank beneath the bridge only adds to the mystery of Rangely's past.

The White River still carries its secrets. Some may rise to the surface in dry years, but others will remain forever hidden in the river's depths, waiting for someone willing to listen.





A Sweet Slice of Rangely's Past: Dairy King's Enduring Charm

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

If you're not following the "This Was Rangely" Facebook page, you're missing a time machine to the town's golden days. The stories and photos shared there—like a recent snapshot of the Dairy King sign—spark a longing to step back into Rangely's vibrant past. I wish I could time travel!

As a resident of just seven years, I never tasted Dairy King's magic myself, but that faded sign in the photo, glowing with retro promise, has made me

daydream about what it once was. The comments under the post buzz with life—locals swapping tales of 10-cent soft-serve cones (imagine that!) and laughter-filled nights at the counter. One gem stood out: Elaine Urie, working for owners Mike and Mona Brady, met her husband Steve there amid the hum of the ice cream machine. It's the kind of story that makes Dairy King more than a restaurant—it's a cornerstone of love, community, and memories.

Apparently, James Talmadge built the restaurant from a sagebrush lot, per Terri Talmadge. They owned it 10 years and then sold it to Mike and Mona Brady. The building, per Terri's post, was built in 1954

In a town shaped by booms and busts, Dairy King was a steady beacon, dishing out burgers, creamy cones, and moments that stuck. Though its doors are closed, the spirit of those summer nights linger in Rangely's heart, preserved in stories and that iconic sign. Here's to Dairy King—may its memories live on!



CNCC Nursing Graduates Achieve 100% NCLEX-RN Pass Rate

BY JESSE AITKENS

Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) 2025 nursing cohort has achieved a 100% first-time pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), marking a significant milestone for the program.

This accomplishment underscores the dedication of CNCC's nursing students and the commitment of the faculty and staff to excellence in nursing education. The program's leadership, including Associate Dean of Allied Health and Director of Nursing Noreen Beckett, Lead Nursing Faculty Denise Huff, and Nursing Faculty members Pavel Borisov, Ariel Barrett, and Marian Hawley, played pivotal roles in guiding students to this success.

Graduate Heather Curtis highlighted the program's supportive environment, stating, "The instructors were very knowledgeable. No question went unanswered. They worked very hard to make sure you understand the content and feel supported. They recognized learning opportunities in an environment where teaching and mentorship were ingrained in the culture. They had my success in mind at all times. The hands-on experience I gained from the sim lab, and the high-quality mannequins offered invaluable preparation of essential skills. After my first year, I was able to continue my education through the summer and obtain my LPN. This allowed me to work as an LPN while continuing towards my RN."

Another graduate, Kailee Wahlberg, reflected on the faculty's impact: "Denise, my first-year teacher, never gave up on me. She saw the potential in me even when I couldn't see it myself. Her encouragement and belief in me gave me the strength to push through the hardest moments of that first year. In my second year, Pavel challenged me to grow in ways I didn't know I could. He taught me how to study effectively, approach tests with confidence, and truly understand the material. More than that, he taught me resilience and the value of hard work. His guidance prepared me not just for exams, but for my life as a nurse."

see Nursing on pg 18



JOLT continued...

The group started with calls and weekly sessions. “We didn’t have a plan laid out,” Beck said. “We just knew it had to be something—and we started bringing in people who were on board with the idea to educate, communicate and advocate.”

By the following summer, JOLT had evolved from a loose group of phone calls and Zoom sessions into a coordinated regional initiative. The team partnered with AGNC and NCEI, brought in university researchers and national labs, and launched a public survey effort across the Western Slope.

Their goal wasn’t to fight the state—it was to build what the state hadn’t.

Local leaders build their own blueprint

While lawmakers in Denver drafted timelines and targets, rural communities began filling in the blanks. Through partnerships with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Idaho National Lab and Los Alamos, the JOLT network launched a regional modeling effort—measuring workforce needs, siting potential and long-term economic risks.

Led by the Northwest Colorado Energy Initiative (NCEI), it remains one of the only locally driven transition plans of its kind in the state.

Jamie Cutlip-Gorman of NREL said the goal was to find what works.

“This isn’t about picking the best technology—it’s about economic development, workforce and energy affordability,” she said.

Two regional surveys showed residents prioritized job protection, reliability and affordability.

“Our workforce and our energy security—that’s what matters to Northwest Colorado,” Solomon said.

Now supported by the federal Communities LEAP program, the modeling informs the state’s own feasibility study. “We want to engage with the state,” said Solomon. “But we didn’t wait.”

JOLT’s scope includes advanced nuclear, geothermal, wind, carbon capture and long-duration battery storage. The team is analyzing each option based on labor requirements, tax impact and siting feasibility—working to identify which, if any, can replace the economic weight of legacy industries.

Without a state roadmap, JOLT’s modeling is becoming rural Colorado’s blueprint.

Best of the above: beyond politics

One phrase quietly reframed the JOLT Summit this year: best of the above.

“We’re not going to have energy transition,” Gordon told the crowd. “It’s energy addition. Every form of energy has its benefits and its consequences.”

He warned against political purity tests and urged states to be strategic. “This shouldn’t be about ‘or.’ It should be about ‘and.’”

“He’s trying to find the best of all the above and what works,” Beck said. “And that’s what we’re about too.”

“Let’s erase this either/or conversation... Let’s have an AND conversation,” Solomon said.

For rural counties already reeling from coal job losses, the political debate in Denver feels disconnected from what’s actually needed. That’s why conversations at JOLT kept returning to one idea: integration. Not just of energy sources, but of policies, partnerships and rural economies that have too often been treated as expendable.

“We can do it better than anywhere else,” Gordon said. “We’ve led before—and we can lead again.”

What rural Colorado stands to lose

Despite talk of portfolios and targets, the sharpest edge of the transition is economic—and rural counties are feeling it first.

Dr. Nathan Perry, an economist at Colorado Mesa University, presented a sobering analysis at the summit. Energy jobs make up 5 percent of statewide employment—but 10 percent of wages, and even more in northwest Colorado.

“It’s not just about the number of jobs—it’s about the kind of jobs,” Perry said. “When you lose a \$200,000 rig job, your spending goes down. Period.”

Perry’s modeling showed that in Craig, coal still supports hundreds of jobs, plus schools, hospitals and basic infrastructure. Yet severance and ad valorem tax revenues—the lifeblood of those systems—are declining as production falls.

see Transition on pg 20



Special Session continued...

In April, the General Assembly passed a bipartisan, balanced budget that cut \$1.2 billion. When our fiscal year began on July 1st, our state's finances were balanced, but when the federal tax changes were signed into law on July 4, our budget was instantly thrown out of balance by nearly \$800m, which necessitated the legislature's return to work.

I am a very bipartisan lawmaker who always tries to put my district over my party - I firmly believe that most policy matters are not Team Red or Team Blue, but somewhere in between. That's why it pains me to say that there is no way around the fact that H.R. 1, which was passed with only one-party support in Congress and actually received bipartisan opposition, has put our state, and every state, in a challenging position. Its tax cuts primarily for high-income earners and large corporations will not greatly benefit working families and it will add \$4 trillion to the national debt. Further, it has and will continue to require Colorado to cut services and programs that many of you rely on, that support kids and seniors, will reduce our funding for road maintenance and affordable housing, and its fallout threatens to close many health clinics and rural hospitals - which will make health care less accessible and more expensive for all.

I wish Congress would learn something from Colorado's predominantly bipartisan legislative work and balanced budget requirement. Nonetheless, we returned to Denver to responsibly balance our state budget, for the second time this year.

Closing Loopholes, Cutting Spending

In a matter of days, we made the difficult decisions needed to address the budget shortfall. We passed several revenue-generating bills, focusing on closing outdated corporate tax loopholes and ensuring a fair tax structure, although I personally did not vote for all of them. We also directed the Governor to identify up to \$300 million in spending cuts with the Joint Budget Committee's oversight, and authorized limited use of state reserves. The Governor announced those deep cuts last week. These steps, taken together, ensure Colorado's budget will once again be balanced.

Health Insurance Affordability

The special session also addressed the looming spike in health insurance premiums if Congress fails to extend the federal premium tax credits. To help families avoid devastating cost increases, the legislature generated new funding for the Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise, which helps keep insurance affordable for those who buy coverage on the individual market.

Without action, average statewide premiums were projected to increase by 28% and as much as 38% on the Western Slope. This investment is projected to keep premium increases to a statewide average of 20% and protect coverage for thousands of Coloradans who rely on the Affordable Care Act marketplace for their insurance.

I am continuing to urge Congress to extend these bipartisan premium tax credits. We did what we could to blunt the immediate impact, but only Congress can ensure health insurance remains affordable and attainable.

Wolf spending

Finally, I brought forward a bill with Sen. Marc Catlin (R-Montrose) to make our state's wolf reintroduction program more financially responsible. While the introduced version would have paused new wolf releases for a year, the Governor made clear he would veto that approach. The compromise we passed redirects \$264,268 that had been appropriated for new wolf procurement and instead uses those funds to support the Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise. Importantly, funding for coexistence efforts and livestock compensation remains intact, while future wolf procurement must be funded from sources outside the state's general fund.

Looking Ahead

In less than a week, Colorado confronted a serious fiscal challenge and produced a responsible plan. We stabilized revenues, authorized spending cuts, bolstered state support for health insurance affordability, and adjusted wildlife management spending.

Taken together, these steps put Colorado back on solid fiscal ground, allowing us to continue funding essential services responsibly. We face more difficult decisions in the months and years ahead as we grapple with the impacts of H.R.1 and as always, I am eager to hear your thoughts. Please contact me anytime.

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



DRIVE THRU FLU CLINIC

Tuesday
Oct 14th, 2025
9:00am - 1:00pm

Thursday
Oct 16th, 2025
2:00pm - 6:00pm

ALL AGES WELCOME

Please Bring Proof of Insurance



Nursing continued...

Lead Nursing Faculty Denise Huff emphasized the program's evolution: "Over the last two years, we have made several changes that have been made as a team through many discussions and surveys from the students. Active learning is a big part of the techniques that we currently use. We have also increased the use of simulation every semester for the students since CNCC has updated and integrated all new equipment as studies show that more simulation helps with critical thinking and clinical judgment."

CNCC's nursing program would like to thank all our clinical partners who have been willing to let us into their facilities and for the nurses who have precepted the students during their Capstones. The students (now RN's) were able to take the knowledge, skills, and critical thinking that they learned in the classroom and turn it into clinical judgment. We have the opportunity over the 2-year program to go to Memorial Regional Health in Craig, UC Health in Steamboat Springs, Pioneer Medical Center in Meeker, Grand Junction VA Medical Center and Intermountain Health St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs, Rangely District Hospital in Rangely, Wyoming State Hospital in Evanston, WY. These partnerships provide students with diverse clinical experiences essential for their professional development.

CNCC is very proud of all the graduates, RN's, who worked so hard for their successes and continue to move forward in their careers. The College remains committed to maintaining high standards in nursing education and supporting students in achieving their professional goals.





Colorado Unveils Landmark Economic Development Tool

BY ALISSA JOHNSON

On September 29, the Rural Opportunity Office within the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) released Colorado's first Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The Statewide CEDS is a five-year strategic action plan that articulates an economic vision and goals for Colorado and was developed with extensive input from communities and economic development partners from across the state.

"Building a strong economy for Colorado's future requires detailed research, strategy and coordination across local, state, and private partners across rural, urban and suburban communities, and that's what this statewide strategy does. We continue to move forward in spurring economic development and investment in our economy and I'm excited to see this strategy support this important work," said Governor Polis.

"The Statewide CEDS is more than a plan. It is an important tool that will benefit all of Colorado's 64 counties, including the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Tribes, by helping us align economic development strategies statewide. Today's milestone lays the foundation to build on local and rural plans, attract more investment, foster collaboration, and create a more vibrant, resilient and prosperous economy across the state," 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 implement statewide economic development planning that incorporates regional goals and outcomes. CEDS have also been shown to help economic development initiatives attract investment and lead to more consistent, positive outcomes when funding is secured.

"Colorado's Statewide CEDS is the result of dedicated, long-term collaboration to develop regional strategies that informed this comprehensive plan. We are grateful to the many communities and partners who contributed their expertise, experience and insights to ensure this plan represents all four corners of Colorado. By ensuring that we are all working together and moving in the same direction, we can work toward long-term, sustained economic growth," 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.



Transition continued...

He pointed to signs of resilience, with new jobs in construction, healthcare and tourism—though wages and stability don't yet compare.

"We're seeing momentum, and that gives me hope," he said. "But it's going to take coordination—and a long runway—to land this plane."

Solomon said that's exactly what the modeling is designed to support—offering side-by-side comparisons of energy technologies based on labor needs, tax impact and feasibility.

The point wasn't to cling to coal, but to be honest about what it provided—and what it will take to replace it.

"Energy is economic development," Beck said. "We've said that from the beginning. And that's why we're doing this work."

A working model for rural transition

What began as a grassroots response to policy silence has grown into one of the most coordinated rural transition efforts in the state. From its roots in Craig to recent gatherings in Montrose and Rifle, JOLT has steadily gained momentum.

Next year's summit is scheduled for June 18–19 at Colorado Mesa University.

"We're not just filling seats—we're looking for people who can take what they learn and apply it," Beck said.

Beck said one sponsor told him, "I've seen real growth since your first summit," and added, "This could be the model for the nation."

"Between New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado, we have an enormous amount of energy we can provide," Gordon said. "If we work together, we all benefit."

JOLT proves local leaders can lead it themselves. What sets it apart isn't partisanship or bureaucracy. It works—bringing leaders into the same room, starting at neutral and building from there.

This isn't retirement—it's responsibility

When Beck retired from public office in 2021, after years of serving Craig, Moffat County and the state, it looked like a chapter was closing. Instead, it opened a new one.

"It was an opportunity to take what I've learned over the years and apply it in a way that would benefit the region and our communities," Beck said.

He hasn't done it alone. "Ray believes in this with his whole heart," said Dixie Beck, who's been by his side throughout. "And I believe in it too."

The Becks' presence reflects what the summit is about: protecting what matters without bitterness or blame.

"He was just really complimentary—saying how much growth he'd seen from our first summit to this one," Beck said of one sponsor.

Beck is quick to redirect the praise. "None of this would happen without our committee, our sponsors and the folks who show up," Beck said. "They're the reason it works."

His message to the next generation is simple: "Get involved." Beck added, "Too many people sit on the sidelines and criticize. But when you're around positive people, that can spill over."

Gordon said: "People in this room... know and care and can solve this. We are at an incredible inflection point for America."

Presentations from this year's speakers will be posted soon at www.joltenergysummit.com.



Photo Credit: Bob Blackburn



The Rangely School Board election is set for November 2025—a pivotal moment for our district as we look to hire a new superintendent and advance multimillion-dollar projects that will shape the future of our schools for generations. My passion for education runs deep. From the opportunities it unlocked during my business administration degree at Northern Kentucky University to the profound ways it enriches lives, I've always believed in its transformative power. That's why I entered this race: to help build on the strong foundation our community has laid, ensuring Rangely's schools continue to thrive amid exciting changes ahead. Life, however, has a way of redirecting our paths. Due to pressing personal family commitments, I've made the difficult decision to withdraw my name from the ballot. I remain deeply grateful for the encouragement and conversations I've had throughout this process—your support truly means the world. As we move forward, I encourage everyone to get involved. For the two-year seat, Jerry LeBleu and Jimmy Dillon are the candidates to choose from. Jerry currently serves on the Board. While I couldn't uncover detailed campaign platforms from their online presence, they're stepping up for our kids, and I urge you to reach out to them directly, follow local updates, and make your voice heard at the polls. There are several running for the remaining four year spots. I found information for each one of them, except for Brad Casto. I located a photo of Brad on his social media so I will include that. Brad currently serves on this board, and he is well known throughout the community. Please reach out to him to discuss his opinions. He is a great guy with great ideas. Together, let's keep Rangely's educational momentum strong. Thank you for your understanding and shared commitment to our schools. Warm regards,
Jeannie R. Caldwell



I am running for the Rangely School Board. I have the time and willingness to dedicate to this very important board. I have a lifelong history with the school district. My parents, husband, brothers, myself, my child, all attended and graduated from the Rangely schools. Now my grandchildren are currently attending school here in Rangely. I have no hidden agenda, I just want what is best for the kids and the school district. We have a lot of hard working staff and some really good things going on that need support. We, also, have some huge decisions to make in the next few years that will determine the direction and future of our schools. I have served on several boards in the past and present and understand how they function. I was born and raised in Rangely, so I have a vested interest in the community. If you would like to sign my petition to be on the ballot, please let me know. I would appreciate your support.
Thanks,
Lonnie Baker Tolley



Brad Casto - currently seated board member

Rangely Receives Donation of 25 Laptops from AT&T

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

The Town of Rangely has received a generous donation of 25 laptops from AT&T, bolstering local access to technology. Each laptop comes equipped with Microsoft programs and includes one year of technical support, ensuring recipients can make the most of these valuable resources.

The donation was facilitated through a collaboration between AT&T, the Northwest Colorado Innovation Center, and the Northwest Colorado Development Council (NWCDC). This partnership highlights a commitment to supporting community development and technological access in Northwest Colorado.

“We are incredibly grateful to AT&T, NWCDC, and the Northwest Colorado Innovation Center for their generosity and coordination in making this donation possible,” said a Jeannie Caldwell who is the Marketing Director for the Town of Rangely. “These laptops will provide significant opportunities for our residents to engage with technology for education, work, and personal growth.”

Each participant in Rangely’s recent Pitch Competition received one of these laptops, leaving 21 laptops available for giveaway. Further details on how residents can access these computers will be announced soon, so stay tuned for updates!



Meet the candidates
Tuesday
October 14th @ 7pm
Rangely High School

VOTE

A vote for
MARYANNE MCCOY
is a vote for:

- Transparency
- Support
- Accountability
- Positivity
- Change
- Progress
- Improvement

THE REAL
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November 4th



ELISE FERNANDEZ

Candidate for Rangely School District Board of Education

I am a mom of three brilliant children, a wife, and a clinical dental hygiene instructor at CNCC. I am running for the Rangely School Board because I believe strong schools are built on **trust, transparency, and communication.**

I want to give back to the community that has given my family so much, as well as support our **teachers, students, and families** while helping our district grow together.



LISTENING.
SUPPORTING.
LEADING.

- Open and honest communication between board members, staff, and families.
- Support and appreciation for teachers.
- Student success in academics and extracurriculars.
- Collaboration and transparency in decision-making.

VOTE

KIRSTIE KILDUFF

RANGELY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION



✓ Working mom of 3 and new district coach – committed to being involved and bringing a parent’s perspective.

✓ Advocate for teachers & staff – ensuring they have the resources, respect, and support they need.

✓ Support staff retention & success – reevaluating benefits, addressing turnover, and rewarding excellence.

✓ Incentives for achievement – encouraging staff for strong test scores and student involvement beyond the classroom.

✓ Community-focused leadership – building strong partnerships between parents, teachers, and schools.

✓ Guided by our motto: “Building champions in life” – preparing students not only for academics, but for character and lifelong success.

I’m always available to chat:

970-396-6980

Kirstieandclinton@gmail.com

JESSICA DILLON
For
Rangely School Board

“She’s a single mom of five—how will she have time for the school board?”

Here’s the truth: I’ve spent over a decade working in education at two different daycares and at ALL three schools in our district. From teaching to support staff, I’ve done the work. As a prior special education teacher, I’ve advocated fiercely for students, and I will continue to do the same for families, teachers, and our entire community.

I’m not afraid to speak up, even when it’s uncomfortable or unpopular. I believe in doing what’s right, not what’s easy.

If juggling five kids has taught me anything, it’s that I’m ready for this challenge 🐾.



PRIORITIES:

#1 The Kids

*Accountability
*Transparency
*Community
*Advocacy

Election Day: November 4th

Questions? Contact Me!
Email: Jessica.dillon675@mail.com
Phone: 970-701-1829



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Kids Corner

HALLOWEEN I SPY




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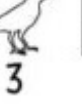

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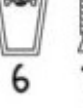

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HALLOWEEN
WORD SCRAMBLE

- rowcaresc
- nechtsleo
- vireapm
- focfni
- tichw
- dizarw
- kumpinp
- onestgaver
- robom
- doulcron
- dalnce
- dspeir
- foelwrew
- ozbiem

Halloween

E O U N F E C D Q X N Z C X C
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I E A M L F C A U L D R O N M
B C G C O W R T M Z X I C L E
E A U T O U S T P H O P U I T
S T U G D O K K K J D M V V E
M V N Q H Y V Y I C N A D E R
L U E G X J A J N H E V J N Y
N I E T S N E K N A R F V M B
E M W J X G P F W I Y W M B W
F A O R H W A I V X E U Z H D
F S L Y M J T V R V M N D J X
P K L I V C M O U H N X N W E
A Y A C H M N J H I K P Z M X
P Y H C O S T U M E I G R F V

- BLOOD
- GHOST
- CAPE
- HALLOWEEN
- CAT
- MASK
- CAULDRON
- MUMMY
- CEMETERY
- PUMPKIN
- COSTUME
- VAMPIRE
- EVIL
- WITCH
- FRANKENSTEIN