

RANGELY REVIEW

VOL. 5 NO. 29 ❖ DECEMBER 2025

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



Rangely's Epic Christmas Parade Lights Up the Town with "Christmas Vacation" Cheer

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

In a heartwarming showcase of small-town holiday magic that echoed the Griswolds' unforgettable antics, Rangely's Fun Old-Fashioned Family Christmas Parade marched through downtown on Thursday, December 11, captivating hundreds of spectators wrapped in cozy layers under a stunning winter sky.

This year's theme drew inspiration from the timeless 1989 comedy National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, infusing the event with infectious laughter, dazzling lights, and clever tributes to Clark Griswold's relentless pursuit of the ultimate family holiday. Creative floats brought iconic movie moments to life, including overloaded station wagons hauling oversized Christmas trees, playfully simulated strings of faulty lights, and a cheeky "****tter's Full!" banner that elicited waves of amused cheers from the crowd.

The highlight of the evening—and the well-deserved winner of the Best Float award—was the Town of Rangely's snowplow, transformed into a glittering spectacle with thousands of twinkling lights. As the imposing vehicle rumbled down Main Street, Public Works Director Jeff LeBleu, waved enthusiastically from the cab, perfectly capturing the movie's spirit of triumph amid holiday chaos. Clark Griswold even hitched a ride.

The parade, a cherished cornerstone of Rangely's holiday traditions alongside ChristmasFest, showcased vibrant entries from the Rangely School District, FFA, 4-H Adventure Club, local businesses, special districts, and various community groups. Santa Claus arrived in style aboard a side-by-side - giving Rudolph a well-earned night off - while waving merrily and tossing candy canes to eager children lining the route.

Attendees hailed it as one of the most memorable parades yet, blending beauty with hilarity in a way that strengthened community bonds through shared joy and Griswold-style humor. As the final lights dimmed and families bundled up for home, the evening left no doubt: Rangely's 2025 Christmas Parade delivered the hap-hap-happiest holiday celebration imaginable, straight out of Clark Griswold's wildest dream. See more photos on page 4 and 5



IN THIS ISSUE

**Cantrell Signs with
DSU**
pg 3

**Rally CO
Championship**
pg 10

**CNCC
Athletics**
pg 17

Greetings from Rangely District Hospital

BY KYLE WREN, CEO

As winter settles in and snowfall increases, we encourage all community members to exercise caution. Roadways and sidewalks are becoming increasingly slippery, and your safety remains our highest priority. While it is always a pleasure to connect with our community, we certainly prefer not to meet you under emergency circumstances.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on current activities at Rangely District Hospital, as well as recent legislative developments of significance. The “Big Beautiful Bill,” recently passed at the federal level, allocates new funding to rural hospitals—resources that may soon impact our community in meaningful ways.



Annual Holiday Celebration

Each year, one or more hospital departments take responsibility for planning our annual Christmas celebration. This year, the Dietary and Purchasing departments have taken the lead. We extend our sincere appreciation for their dedication and for their efforts in raising funds throughout the year to provide gifts and prizes for our staff.

Our annual Christmas party will be held on December 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. During this event, we will recognize several outstanding individuals and teams, including the Employee of the Year, Department of the Year, and “Fred of the Year,” an award inspired by the Fred Factor customer service philosophy. The commitment of our staff to exceptional patient care continues to inspire us, and I look forward to sharing the names of this year’s recipients in my next update.

Health Insurance Transition

Rangely District Hospital is making a transition to UnitedHealthcare’s Choice Plan. Since joining the CEBT trust in 2017, we have experienced steady increases in insurance premiums. After careful consideration, we have chosen to partner with the brokerage firm NFP, a move that enables us to secure lower premiums and greater flexibility in our dental and vision offerings.

A notable benefit of this change is that Dr. Grant, our local dentist, will now be an in-network provider for our employees. Previously, both Dr. Myers and Dr. Grant were out of network. We anticipate that this new arrangement will significantly improve convenience and cost savings for our staff. In the future, we hope to extend similar opportunities to local businesses by offering more affordable, direct-contract healthcare options.

Rural Health Transformation Program

At the federal level, \$50 billion has been designated for the Rural Health Transformation Program, to be distributed among all 50 states. Colorado is projected to receive an average of approximately \$500 million over a five-year period. The state has submitted its application and expects to receive notification by December 31st regarding funding for the 2026–2027 program years.

Our hospital will apply to the State of Colorado next year to determine our eligibility for these funds. We intend to identify service lines, educational initiatives, and unmet care needs within our community that may benefit from this support. While details regarding distribution and program structure remain forthcoming, we are committed to keeping the community informed as more information becomes available.

Conclusion

As we move into the winter season and approach the end of the year, Rangely District Hospital remains committed to advancing the quality of care we provide and strengthening our partnerships within the community. We appreciate your continued trust and support as we navigate new opportunities, implement organizational improvements, and advocate for the resources our rural healthcare system needs. It is our honor to serve you, and we look forward to updating you on our progress in the months ahead.

Annika Cantrell Signs with Dakota State University

Special to the Review

Eastern Wyoming College sophomore right-side hitter Annika Cantrell has signed to continue her volleyball career at Dakota State University in Madison, South Dakota.

Cantrell, a 6-foot-2 standout from Rangely, Colorado, said the decision came down to academics and athletics.

“I picked Dakota State because they offered a major in exercise science and they had an excellent volleyball program,” she said.

Dakota State University competes in the North Star Athletic Association and is known for strong programs in health sciences, technology and athletics. The Trojans’ volleyball team has been a consistent contender in conference play and national postseason appearances.

Looking back on her time at EWC, Cantrell said she is grateful for what she experienced as a Lancer. “Winning the Region IX championship last year and going to Nationals was a highlight,” she said. “Also being able to compete at the college level and playing with my teammates.”

EWC volleyball coach George Hamilton praised Cantrell’s development and impact on the program. “I think she will be a very good fit at Dakota State,” Hamilton said. “She can be highly successful there as soon as she steps on campus.”

Hamilton added that her presence was essential to the Lancers’ recent success. “She’s done a great job for us here at EWC. She is a team captain and her leadership ability helped us grow as a team,” he said. “We wouldn’t have made it to Nationals last year without her.”

Cantrell will join the Dakota State Trojans this spring to continue her academic and athletic career.



CPW's Management Plan for Book Cliff Bison Herd Underway

BY BREANA SINCLAIR

On November 6th, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) announced that, following Governor Jared Polis’ signing of Senate Bill 25-053, it started the process of drafting a management plan to protect and manage the Book Cliff bison herd.



The legislation, set to take effect on Jan. 1, 2026, established a dual classification for bison in Colorado, designating them as both wildlife and domestic animals. It aims to protect wild bison, including the herd that migrates into Colorado from the Book Cliffs bison herd in Utah. The Book Cliff bison, after migrating into the state, can be found northwest of Grand Junction and southwest of Rangely.

Before the legislation, any bison entering the state would be unprotected because the CPW had classified them as domestic animals.

As part of the process of drafting a management plan, CPW will conduct a habitat assessment to evaluate the amount of suitable available habitat, consider potential competition with other wildlife or livestock, establish a wild bison population objective in a designated management zone, and determine how to manage bison that migrate outside of the zone. During the process, CPW will also engage with stakeholder groups, Tribal and Indigenous peoples, local producers, private landowners and the general public.

After the draft plan is developed, the public can comment before it is presented to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission.

The commission will vote to finalize any proposed regulation changes to implement the regulation, such as the rules differentiating big game wild bison and domestic bison, future regulated hunting of wild bison, and compensation for damage caused by wild bison during the November Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting on Nov. 14.

To learn more about the herd management plan process or any public engagement opportunities, visit engagecpw.org.

Rangely Welcomes "Walter the Dinosaur" Sculpture in Grand Style

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

On Thursday, October 16, 2025, the small town of Rangely, Colorado, roared to life with the installation of “Walter the Dinosaur,” a stunning metal sculpture celebrating a legendary hadrosaur discovery that put the town on the paleontological map. The unveiling of this larger-than-life artwork marks a proud moment for the community, nestled in the heart of the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway.



The sculpture, a masterful creation by renowned metal artist Jeff Bates, owner of Jeff Bates Art, captures the duck-billed swagger of the hadrosaur in intricate welded detail. Bates’ craftsmanship brings to life the spirit of “Walter,” a nod to the 2014 fossil discovery sparked by an unlikely hero—a curious Great Dane whose keen nose uncovered prehistoric bones near Rangely. That find revealed a hadrosaur, a plant-eating dinosaur from the Cretaceous period, cementing Rangely’s place in Colorado’s rich dinosaur legacy.



“Walter the Dinosaur” now stands as a vibrant tribute to the region’s geological heritage, inviting locals and visitors alike to connect with the area’s ancient past. Positioned prominently at the entrance to the Outdoor Museum, the sculpture is already drawing visitors eager to snap photos with the prehistoric icon. Its installation enhances Rangely’s appeal as a must-visit stop along the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway, a route famed for its fossil-rich landscapes and paleontological treasures.

Walter is more than a sculpture—he is a symbol of our connection to the ancient world and our place on the Dinosaur Diamond. The sculpture promises to be a beloved landmark for years to come, inviting all to explore Rangely’s prehistoric charm.



- ACROSS**
- 1. Europe's tallest active volcano
 - 5. The devil
 - 10. Classify a film as PG
 - 14. Wiener schnitzel meat
 - 15. Calculators that don't need batteries
 - 16. Mouse manipulator
 - 17. One excited about a birthday
 - 20. Cubic meter
 - 21. Big Apple conveyances
 - 22. Meadowlands pace
 - 25. Commoner, briefly
 - 26. Capone and Gore
 - 29. Hollywood giants?
 - 31. Tooth material
 - 35. Dept. of Justice arm
 - 36. Decorative wall hangings
 - 38. Benefit event
 - 39. Unfair things
 - 43. At some earlier time
 - 44. Cargo ship
 - 45. Observe
 - 46. Must
 - 49. ____ a one (nobody)
 - 50. The two doz. in a day
 - 51. Duffer's scorecard listings
 - 53. "That oughta ____!"
 - 55. Savannah's plae
 - 58. Celestial phenomena
 - 62. Unpaid charges
 - 65. College club, briefly
 - 66. Unsophisticated
 - 67. Capital of Norway
 - 68. Act fidgety
 - 69. Positioned, as a building
 - 70. Mulligan or ragout

BASKING QUESTIONS

By Alice Goodwin

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18						19				
20							21							
			22		23	24		25						
26	27	28		29			30		31			32	33	34
35				36				37			38			
39			40						41	42				
43						44						45		
46				47	48		49					50		
			51			52		53			54			
	55	56					57			58		59	60	61
62								63	64					
65					66						67			
68					69						70			

- DOWN**
1. 12/24 and 12/31

2. High schooler's book

3. Scruff fon the neck

4. Advance warning

5. Obeyed "Down in front!"

6. Attorney's org,

7. They're hidden in the theme entries

8. Become troublesome

9. Light-fingered

10. Vegetable that's peeled

11. Like a fireplace floor

12. Golfer's collection

13. Be mistaken

18. Breakfast bowlful

19. Clive of films and TV

23. Cruel boss

24. Human trunk

26. Something attached

27. Freetown currency unit

28. Bordelaise or tartar

30. Gown material

32. Soggy grassland

33. Respected tribesman

34. Does high-tech eye work

37. Caesar or Waldorff

40. Some upright supports

41. Infamous fiddler

42. On the clothesline

47. Jelly-filled pastry

48. Bach is played on them

52. Commandments mount

54. Disturbances

55. Expert

56. JFK postings

57. Way in for a miner

59. Three-piece suit part

60. Qualified

61. Put in the overhead

62. Not right

63. "Now ____ seen everything"

64. Beatty of "Roseanne"



Rangely Welcomes Officer Officer Ranker

BY TI HAMBLIN

The Rangely Police Department is pleased to announce the addition of Officer Ranker to its patrol division, bringing a wealth of diverse experience and a deep commitment to community service shaped by her military family background.

Born in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Officer Ranker's early life was marked by frequent moves across the country due to her father's dedicated service as a Military Police Officer in the U.S. Army. This upbringing instilled in her core values of service, integrity, and discipline, directly inspired her decision to pursue a career in law enforcement and public safety.

Upon her father's retirement, Officer Ranker and her family settled in Mesa County, Colorado. She graduated from Fruita Monument High School in 2018 and continued her education locally, earning an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice from Colorado Mesa University in 2021. Demonstrating her dedication, she obtained her P.O.S.T certificate from a Law Enforcement academy in La Junta, Colorado, in 2022.

Officer Ranker began her law enforcement journey at the La Junta Police Department in La Junta, Colorado, where she served as a Patrol Officer from 2022 to 2024.

Seeking to broaden her understanding of family and social challenges, she later relocated to Texas to work with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (Child Protective Services). This experience provided her with critical insight into the complex challenges faced by children and families, further enhancing her approach to effective community support.

Officer Ranker has now returned to her home state of Colorado, seeking to continue her passion for law enforcement and community service by joining the Rangely Police Department. Her varied background in patrol and social services makes her a valuable asset to the department and the Rangely community.

"Officer Ranker's commitment to public safety and her broad experience, especially in family services, will be a significant benefit to our community," said Chief Hamblin. "We are excited to welcome her back to Western Colorado and look forward to her contributions to the community."



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

SBA Offers Relief to Colorado Small Businesses and Private Nonprofits Affected by the Lee and Elk Fires, Mudslides and Debris Flows - Economic Injury Loans Available for Working Capital Needs

Special to the Review

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced low interest federal disaster loans are now available to small businesses and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations in Colorado who sustained economic losses caused by the Lee and Elk Fires, mudslides and debris flows occurring Aug. 2-29. The SBA issued a disaster declaration in response to a request received from Gov. Jared Polis on Nov. 17.

The disaster declaration covers the Colorado counties of Garfield, Moffat, Rio Blanco and Routt as well as the Utah county of Uintah.

Under this declaration, SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program is available to eligible small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, nurseries, and PNPs including faith-based organizations with financial losses directly related to this disaster. The SBA is unable to provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers, except for aquaculture enterprises.

EIDLs are for working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the business did not suffer any physical damage. They may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred.

"SBA loans help eligible small businesses and private nonprofits cover operating expenses after a disaster, which is crucial for their recovery," said Chris Stallings, associate administrator of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the SBA. "These loans not only help business owners get back on their feet but also play a key role in sustaining local economies in the aftermath of a disaster."

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates as low as 4% for businesses and 3.625% for PNPs with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not accrue, and payments are not due until 12 months from the date of the first loan disbursement. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

"SBA's Business Recovery Centers have consistently proven their value to business owners following a disaster," said Chris Stallings, associate administrator of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the SBA. "Business owners can visit these centers to meet face to face with specialists who will guide them through the disaster loan application process and connect them with resources to support their recovery."

To apply online, visit sba.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

The deadline to return economic injury applications to the SBA is Aug. 18, 2026.

Tractor Supply Hometown Hero Donation

BY RANGELY PD

A HUGE shoutout to our friends at Tractor Supply!

We recently received a generous donation from Tractor Supply's Hometown Hero event, and we couldn't be more grateful. Their support truly means a lot to us and reflects the incredible spirit of our community.

A special thank you as well to Officer Kilduff, who is always willing to jump in for photos and represent our team with a smile!

Thank you, Tractor Supply, for recognizing local heroes and for being a wonderful partner to Rangely!



December CNCC Corner

BY DR. LISA JONES

As we enter the final stretch of the Fall semester, excitement is building for all the wonderful events and milestones that will carry us through December.

Across both campuses, holiday celebrations are underway.

In Rangely, student and employee holiday activities will take place on December 4th and 8th, featuring cookie decorating, food, music, games, and plenty of seasonal cheer.

In Craig, we’re gearing up for the annual Community Christmas Party on Friday, December 12, 2025, from 4–7 p.m. in the Administration Building. This beloved tradition is open to everyone, so bring your family, your friends, and your holiday spirit. The event is free and includes dinner, photos with Santa, cookie and ornament decorating, face painting, music, and more.

Welcoming New Leadership to CNCC

We are also delighted to introduce two exceptional leaders who will join Colorado Northwestern Community College on December 8, 2025, as our newest Vice Presidents.

Ms. Anya Peterson Frey, Vice President for Business Services

Ms. Peterson Frey brings to CNCC a powerful blend of financial expertise, leadership experience, and community-driven vision. With six years as a CFO, she has led economic and community development initiatives, directed small business incubation programs, provided detailed research and analysis in multiple professional roles, and taught as both a college instructor and business consultant.

She also holds several value-added certifications that highlight her broad professional mastery and potential for cross-campus collaboration:

- SPHR (Senior Professional in Human Resources)
- Certificate in Data Analytics – Cornell University
- Profit Mastery Program – Certified Financial Analysis Trainer
- Board Certified Patient Advocate
- Certificate in Contract Law

Ms. Laura Dulgar, Vice President for Student Services

Ms. Dulgar joins CNCC with nearly 40 years of experience dedicated to student development and success. Holding a master’s degree in counseling and personnel services, she has served in numerous leadership roles across higher education, including a decade as the Dean of Students at Estrella Mountain College in Arizona and, most recently, as an enrollment-management consultant.

Her deep expertise spans student testing, orientation, outreach, recruitment, retention, conduct, and Title IX. With an undergraduate degree in K–12 education, she has continued to teach throughout her administrative career, sharing her passion for student development in classrooms and national conferences alike.

In her new role, Ms. Dulgar will oversee Recruitment, Admissions, Financial Aid, Registration and Records, Student Life, Wellness, Advising and Retention, Marketing, and Enrollment Management.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Ms. Peterson Frey and Ms. Dulgar to the CNCC community. As we close out the semester, we also extend to each of you our heartfelt wishes for a joyful holiday season and a successful, inspiring new year ahead.



Child Care Businesses in Colorado Gain Access to No-Cost Business Support Program

Special to the Review

Today, the Colorado Small Business Development Center (SBDC), a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), and the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) announced a new initiative to support child care providers across the state at every stage of business.

“Childcare is essential to strengthening our workforce and economy while supporting families. This new initiative is giving providers more of the support they need while expanding opportunities for Colorado families. I look forward to seeing the impact of this work in our communities,” said Governor Jared Polis.

“Access to childcare is critical for working parents and an essential part of a thriving economy. By providing childcare providers with no-cost training and advising, we can help them take steps to start and grow their businesses while ensuring more families have access to quality childcare,” said OEDIT Executive Director, Eve Lieberman.

The Essential Business Skills for Child Care Administrators program pairs an expert-designed child care curriculum with no-cost, confidential one-on-one advising and no- to low-cost training to help child care professionals confidently start, grow, or exit their child care business. New and existing child care administrators, home-based child care businesses, and individuals interested in starting a child care business can all benefit from the program, which is currently available on-demand with in-person and hybrid events starting in January 2026.

“The Colorado Small Business Development Center training focused on early childhood education provides skills and knowledge to develop and maintain a thriving child care business with a minimal time commitment from Early Childhood Education professionals and at no cost to them,” said Rebecca Vlasin, Director DECW.

The program comes in response to the Colorado Shines Brighter Needs Assessment, which identified opportunities to improve knowledge and support around child care licensing and offer essential business support to child care providers. Various Colorado SBDC locations will offer the Essential Business Skills for Child Care Administrators program, including:

- four on-demand child care business modules focused on general business, financial management, and marketing at no cost
- four one-on-one confidential advising sessions with Colorado SBDC advisors at no cost
- access to a series of supplemental business tools, training programs, and resources at no- or low-cost

“As we wrap up National Entrepreneurship Month, the Colorado SBDC is excited to continue our partnership with CDEC. Together, we are strengthening our economy by providing vital support to child care businesses and ensuring a brighter future for all Coloradans,” said Hannah Krieger, Colorado SBDC Director.

For more information about the Essential Business Skills for Child Care Administrators program and information on how to register for training and advising, visit the Colorado SBDC Child Care webpage.

Officer RaeLynn Norman

BY RANGELY PD

We would like to take a moment to recognize Officer RaeLynn Norman for an incredible milestone in her law enforcement career!

As of October 2nd, 2025, Officer Norman officially completed her Field Training Program and has been serving independently as a full-time officer. This accomplishment comes after months of hard work, dedication, and countless hours of hands-on training. Throughout the process, she has shown exceptional professionalism, a strong work ethic, and a genuine commitment to serving the Rangely community.

Many of you have probably seen her out on patrol already. The next time you spot her around town, take a moment to say hello and congratulate her on this significant achievement.



Rally Colorado Accelerates to National Championship Status for 2026

Special to the Review

The gravel roads of northwest Colorado are set to host a major milestone in American rally racing, as Rally Colorado officially joins the 2026 American Rally Association (ARA) National Championship calendar. Just announced, the event will serve as Round 5, scheduled for July 18-19, replacing the Oregon Trail Rally in a strategic shift that elevates the series' Western offerings. Previously a staple of the ARA West Regional Championship, Rally Colorado steps up to national prominence, drawing on its reputation for sweeping, high-speed stages amid the rugged terrain near Rangely.

The event's unique blend of technical challenges and scenic vistas—often dubbed for its "dino vibes" due to the area's proximity to Dinosaur National Monument—has long attracted competitors and spectators alike. Organizers say the promotion reflects the rally's growing popularity and the ARA's commitment to diversifying its eight-round national lineup across 13 states.

ARA Series Manager Preston Osborn highlighted the momentum behind the change in a statement: "Across every aspect, American rally is gathering momentum. For 2026, we're excited to honor tradition with some long-standing favorites on our calendar, and to continue the diversification of the series by welcoming Rally Colorado to the National championship."

Osborn's comments underscore a broader resurgence in the sport, with the full 2026 schedule featuring 23 events, including concurrent Super Regionals to bolster regional participation. The news comes on the heels of a thrilling 2025 edition of Rally Colorado, held in July as a Super Regional qualifier. Rally legend Travis Pastrana, driving a Subaru WRX ARA25L in the Limited 4WD class, secured second place overall with a total time of 2:05:29.3, trailing winner Ryan Booth by just over four minutes.

Pastrana, a multi-time X Games medalist and rally icon known for his Subaru campaigns, praised the event's spectator-friendly format and unique roads in post-race interviews, noting its potential to draw bigger crowds at the national level.

Rangely, a hub for outdoor enthusiasts in Rio Blanco County, has embraced the rally since its inception in 2017, transforming dusty backroads into a festival of speed with parades, autograph sessions, and family-friendly viewing spots. Local officials anticipate the national upgrade will boost tourism, much like the event's role in highlighting the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway.

As preparations gear up, competitors—from seasoned "Subaru slingers" to newcomers—are already marking their calendars. With the ARA's East, Central, and West Regional calendars also confirmed, 2026 promises an action-packed season culminating at the Lake Superior Performance Rally in October.

2026

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

1

FEB 6-7

SNO'DRIFT RALLY
ATLANTA, MI

2

MAR 13-14

RALLY IN THE 100 ACRE WOOD
SALEM & POTOSI, MO

3

APR 17-19

OLYMPUS RALLY
SHELTON, WA

4

JUN 11-13

SOUTHERN OHIO FOREST RALLY
CHILlicothe, OH

5

JUL 18-19

RALLY COLORADO
RANGELY, CO

6

AUG 27-29

OJIBWE FORESTS RALLY
BEMIDJI & DETROIT LAKES, MN

7

SEP 18-19

OVERMOUNTAIN RALLY TENNESSEE
NEWPORT, TN

8

OCT 9-10

LAKE SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE RALLY
MARQUETTE, MI

ARA

AMERICAN RALLY
ASSOCIATION

SNO'DRIFT

100 ACRE WOOD

OLYMPUS RALLY

SOFR

RALLY COLORADO

MINN

OVERMOUNTAIN

LSPR

NW Colorado Innovation Center Launches NW Catalyst Capital to Fuel Entrepreneurship and Small Business Growth

BY CHRISTINE RAMBO

The Northwest Colorado Innovation Center (NCIC) has launched Northwest Catalyst Capital, a new microlending revolving loan fund designed to help entrepreneurs and small businesses in Routt, Moffat, and Rio Blanco Counties start, grow, and succeed. NCIC, a 501c3 rural development hub, established the microlending fund through seed funding from a Just Transition Fund philanthropic grant.

A microlending revolving loan fund is a specialized type of community-based financing program that offers small, low-interest loans to entrepreneurs, startups, and small businesses — especially those that may not qualify for traditional bank loans. The revolving nature of the fund means that as loans are repaid, those dollars are reinvested into new businesses in our area —creating a sustainable cycle of economic reinvestment and local empowerment.

“A survey of entrepreneurs and small businesses in our tri-county region revealed that access to financing represented a significant barrier to business growth,” said Tim Redmond, NCIC Chair. “This fund is a cornerstone in our region’s strategy to foster innovation and diversify the economy beyond coal.”

Northwest Catalyst Capital offers eligible small businesses and entrepreneurs loans ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 at a low, fixed interest rate of 5%, with a 1% origination fee. Loans are issued using a character-based lending approach, focusing on the borrower’s experience, community reputation, and business potential rather than on credit or collateral. Using the character-lending approach opens up financing options for borrowers who might not have the collateral, financial track record, or credit history to access traditional loans.

Additionally, borrowing at a low fixed rate is often the smarter financial option than putting these small amounts of money on high-interest credit cards or raiding your higher-yield retirement accounts to fund your business.

In addition to capital, borrowers will benefit from business coaching and financial training offered through the NCIC in partnership with the fund’s third-party administrator, First Southwest Community Fund (FSWCF), a 501c3 mission-based lender with a decade of lending experience. Together, NCIC and FSWCF provide training and one-on-one guidance in financial literacy, business planning, and loan readiness—ensuring that entrepreneurs have the tools they need to succeed long after the loan is made.

“Access to capital is important, but access to knowledge and support is what truly helps small businesses thrive,” said Rosy McDonough, FSWCF Executive Director. “Our partnership with NCIC allows us to pair loans with hands-on technical assistance and coaching that strengthen the business community across Northwest Colorado.”

Funds may be used for a wide variety of business purposes, including the following:

- Equipment
 - Work vehicles
 - Working capital
 - Inventory
 - Software
- IT systems
 - Pre-construction costs (e.g. feasibility studies)
 - Training and certifications of workforce
 - Facility renovations or upgrades

Funding excludes goods or services that are illegal under federal law (e.g., marijuana, psychedelic mushrooms) and businesses focused solely on products that impact health and morale (e.g., distilleries, tobacco shops, CBD, or liquor stores). Distilleries that serve food may be eligible for partial (prorated) funding.

The application process is easy and begins with a call to First Southwest Community Fund or NCIC staff. We will interview the applicant to understand their goals and plans, instead of asking for copious documentation. Lending decisions are made by a local loan committee made up of local partners. Entrepreneurs and small business owners interested in applying or learning more can visit <https://northwestcolorado.org/business-resources/northwest-catalyst-capital/> or contact the FWSCF team at 719.587.4264 or info@fswcf.org.

A Voice From the Past: Remembering Bob Wardell

BY GAILA HATCH BELL

During a recent hunting trip in the Cottonwood area downriver from Rangely, my husband pointed out a familiar landmark—a weathered rock formation long known to locals as the Wardell Rock. Curious, I walked over to it, and there, carved into the stone, was a name that carries deep meaning in this country: Bob Wardell.

For many years, Bob Wardell was a fixture of the Rangely area. A rancher by heritage and one of the finest welders the region ever produced, he embodied the resilience and grit that defined the early oilfield and pipeline workforce. Anyone who knew him would recognize the classic combination: cowboy, pipeliner, welder, neighbor, and friend.

Our family was fortunate to know him not just as a downriver neighbor, but as a mentor to Robert Bell, who worked beside him and learned from his skill and character. Among the many stories shared over the years, one in particular captures the essence of Bob’s no-nonsense, old-school cowboy ways.

The incident occurred on a pipeline project near the base of the Cathedrals up East Douglas. Bob was welding there alongside Robert Bell and Walter Powell. The crew also included several newly hired hands—young men whom Bob, with characteristic bluntness, referred to as “the hippies.”

The welders had sent the young workers up the hillside to measure the slope to ensure they had enough pipe before pulling it up. When the men failed to return in a reasonable time, Bob grew suspicious. He retrieved his rifle, looked through the scope, and quickly spotted them high on the hill, smoking what he called their “oooch.”

Deciding they needed a little motivation, he fired a single shot into the vicinity—nothing dangerous, just enough to get their attention. The effect was immediate. The young men came down the mountain at a run, then drove straight into Rangely to report to Sheriff Bill Murray that Bob Wardell had “tried to shoot them.”

Sheriff Murray listened to their story, then spoke with Bob. Afterward, he told the shaken newcomers, “If Bob Wardell was trying to shoot you, he wouldn’t have missed.” The young men quickly left town, and the episode became one more story in the long folklore of Rangely’s early oilfield days.

Stories like this help preserve the memory of a generation of workers who shaped this region. Bob Wardell was one of them—a tough, hardworking rancher and pipeliner whose influence lives on in the canyons, ridges, and work sites where he spent his life. He was a man who knelt for God, saluted the flag, and earned the respect of all who knew him.

Today, the carving of his name on that rock stands as a small reminder of a larger legacy. His footprints remain in the country he helped build, and his presence endures in the stories shared by those who called him friend.

Important Announcement from the Rangely Police Department

We have received information that someone has been attempting to open cars and sheds around town.

Please double-check that your homes, vehicles, sheds, and gates are secured!

Please report any suspicious activity to the Rangely Communications Center at 970-675-8466.



Rio Blanco County Update - November

BY LYNN LOCKWOOD

Congratulations, Dispatch!

Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Office Dispatch was recently awarded Team of the Year and Dispatch Center of the Year by Colorado NENA/APCO (National Emergency Number Association/Association of Public Safety Communications Officials). Each category had nearly 20 nominations, including large centers like Jeffcom (Jefferson and Clear Creek Counties), South Metro, Aurora, and Denver. During the ceremony, Colorado NENA/APCO President Jennifer Kirkland shared that the committee rarely gives both awards to the same center, but they felt Rio Blanco was truly deserving. "We may be one of the smallest centers in Colorado, but we continue to prove that heart, grit, and teamwork can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with anyone," said Communications Supervisor Rhawnie McGruder, "These awards weren't just earned by Dispatch—they were earned by everyone at the Sheriff's Office who supports us, pushes us, and stands with us through every call, every fire, every flood, and every long night."



Left to right: Bobbie Schmidt, Rhawnie McGruder, Lesli Herrera, Amber Geist, Tamara Sandoval, Jordan Long

SBA Loans:

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced low interest federal disaster loans are now available to small businesses and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations in Colorado who sustained economic losses caused by the Lee and Elk Fires, mudslides and debris flows occurring Aug. 2-29. Beginning Monday, Dec. 1, SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the Business Recovery Center in Rio Blanco County to answer questions and assist with the disaster loan application process. No appointment is necessary, walk-ins are welcome. Those who prefer to schedule an in-person appointment in advance can do so at [appointment.sba.gov](https://www.sba.gov).

Rio Blanco County Business Recovery Center
Meeker Town Hall, Conference Room
345 Market St.
Meeker, CO 81641

Opens 12 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1 (Mondays - Fridays, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

Closes 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12

Read the news release here: <https://www.sba.gov/.../sba-offers-relief-colorado-small...>

We're hiring!

View a list of open positions at <https://rbc.us/jobs>

Case Aide I, \$18.81-\$22.96/hour: <https://rioblancocounty.bamboohr.com/careers/34>

Caseworker, \$21.02-\$30.44/hour: <https://rioblancocounty.bamboohr.com/careers/29>

Volunteer Opportunities:

These Rio Blanco County Boards have positions available:

Fair Board- Meeker and Rangely, Rangely Cemetery Board, Weed Management Board, Building Board of Appeals, Community Service Block Grant Advisory Committee, Area Agencies on Aging , Board Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Board, Rangely Library Board, Rangely Lodging Tax Board, Meeker Lodging Tax Board, Meeker Colorado Civic Improvement Board

Interested in serving on one or more of these boards? Please print and complete an application and return it to hr@rbc.us, or mail it to:

HR PO Box i Meeker, CO 81641

Questions? Call us at 970-878-9575



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 24, 5:49 pm

Public Notice: Temporary Closure of Fairground Equine Facilities
Precautionary closure to prevent the transmission of Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1)

Rio Blanco County, CO — Effective immediately, Rio Blanco County has temporarily closed all equine facilities at the Meeker Fairgrounds and Rangely’s Columbine Park due to the recent outbreak of Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) affecting multiple states, including Colorado. This precautionary closure is being implemented to protect the health of local horses, prevent potential transmission, and ensure the safety of upcoming events and facility users.

While the closure is in effect, no new horses or equine activities will be permitted on the grounds. Existing boarders may keep their horses on site or choose to remove them from the facilities; however, once a horse leaves the grounds, it may not return until after reopening.

County staff will use this time to complete enhanced sanitation and biosecurity measures consistent with current recommendations from the Colorado State Veterinarian’s Office.

Anticipated Re-Opening: December 6, 2025

This date is subject to change based on additional guidance or directives from the Colorado State Veterinarian.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work to ensure the safety of our equine community.

Media Contact:
Lynn Lockwood
Public Information Coordinator
Rio Blanco County
970-878-9409
lynn.lockwood@rbc.us

October Crossword Solution

MAGIC ACT													By Timothy E. Parker												
1	O	M	A	H	A		6	A	P	E	S		10	S	O	F	A								
14	N	O	N	E	T		15	F	A	R	E		16	E	R	A	S								
17	A	R	T	S	B	18	U	L	L	E	T	19	T	R	I	C	K								
20	N	E	E		21	A	S	A	P		22	S	A	I	N	T	S								
			23	A	B	24	Y	S	M			25	L	E	G	S									
26	S	A	T	E		28	R	E	C	A	L	L	S												
32	A	V	E	R	T		33			34	A	B	O	Y		35	P	T	A						
38	F	O	R	M	U	L	A	M	U	S	H	R	O	O	M										
42	E	N	S		43	N	O	P	E		44	O	A	K	U	M									
				45	P	A	N	T	L	E	G		48	N	E	R	O								
		49	S	L	U	B				51	N	A	D	I	R										
53	S	T	A	P	L	E		54		55	P	A	R	E		56	F	A	A						
59	C	A	R	P	E	T	60	N	U	M	B	E	R	A	C	T									
62	U	R	G	E		63	C	A	P	O		64	D	A	C	H	A								
65	T	R	O	T		66	H	E	A	R		67	S	H	E	E	N								

The Whispering Canyons of Rangely - A Thrilling Series Story

Chapter 4 - The Canyon Exhales

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

What a day Tommy was having. It felt like he was time-traveling... going from morning till evening in an hour or less. And now, chasing these goofy 10-year-old girls who were in possession of an ancient disc with powers unbeknownst to anyone he knew on earth. He got to the canyon just in time to witness the ground split, allowing a single sheet of blue light to rip upward from the fissure like a cold aurora, bleaching the stars out of the sky. When the ground split, it felt like the canyon exhaled.



Mollie and Baylor stood there in total shock as the disc flared. The disc shot out of Mollie Dillon's hands as if it had never belonged to any human, hovering ten feet above the two kids, spinning so fast it became a perfect ring of fire that wasn't fire. Mollie screamed first. Baylor grabbed her sleeve and tried to drag her backward, but the ground under their sneakers had turned to glass-smooth obsidian. Their feet slid uselessly. Tommy skidded into the clearing with the rifle half-raised and had no idea who to point it at. "Mollie! Baylor! Get away from—"He never finished.

Ellie's helicopter, black as night, dropped out of nowhere, search light stabbing down. The downdraft flattened sagebrush and flung gravel like buckshot. Ellie Mae Harper hit the dirt running before the skids even touched, hair whipping loose from its knot, eyes wide and furious behind dust-smeared glasses. Kessler's people had dragged her off a classified dig in Massachusetts three weeks ago and kept her on ice in a safe house outside Grand Junction, waiting for exactly this moment. "Suppress the resonance or it cascades!" she shouted into a throat mic. "I need the coil array now!"

Agent Kessler had watched the two children sprint out of the theater's side exit, the disc pulsing like a heartbeat in the girl's pocket. She didn't follow. She didn't need to. She touched her earpiece. "Asset is mobile. Children have it. Moving to secondary site, Canyon 7. Roll the bird and the containment team—Harper's on the manifest. I'll be there first."

By the time the black helicopter lifted off from the abandoned airstrip east of town, Kessler was already in her Bronco, lights off, tearing up the service road that only locals and feds knew existed. Behind her, four figures in matte-black tactical gear fanned out, weapons up. Agent Kessler stepped from the shadows at the canyon's rim as if she'd been carved there all night, her Bronco idling a hundred yards back. The tall shadows arrived last, gliding between the rocks without touching them. Seven feet, maybe eight. Too thin, joints bending wrong, skin like oil on water. Their eyes were the same blue as the light pouring from the earth, and when they turned those eyes on Kessler's team, the air filled with the smell of burnt copper.

The first burst of automatic fire shredded the night. Tracers ricocheted off nothing and vanished. One of the shadows simply wasn't there anymore when the bullets arrived. It reappeared behind the shooter, placed a hand on the man's helmet, and the helmet—and the head inside it—crumpled like a beer can. Ellie didn't look back. She sprinted straight for the kids, boots slipping on the new black glass. "Tommy, the case in my left pocket—silver, runes on it—throw it to me!" Tommy was already moving. He dug into her coat as she slid past, came up with a flat octagon the size of a paperback. It burned cold. He lobbed it underhand. Ellie caught it one-handed, slammed it against the ground. Lines of green light raced outward in a perfect circle, thirty feet across. Where the green touched the blue, both colors screamed—like metal dragged across chalkboard, only inside the skull. The disc faltered, dropped six inches. From somewhere behind them came the low, deliberate chant of Southern Ute words Tommy had heard only once before, the night his grandfather died.

Ms. Lujan walked out of the darkness as if the canyon had grown her. Her museum nametag was still pinned to her denim shirt, eyes reflecting the blue like twin moons. She didn't raise her

see Canyons on pg 16

Rangely Dispatcher Supervisor Brittany Honored as Colorado's NENA/APCO Supervisor of the Year

BY TI HAMBLIN

The Rangely Police Department is beaming with pride after one of its own, Dispatch Supervisor Brittany Mancini, was named the 2025 NENA/APCO Supervisor of the Year for the State of Colorado. The prestigious award, presented jointly by the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) and the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), recognizes outstanding leadership, professionalism, and dedication in the field of public-safety telecommunications. For a small agency serving a community of just over 2,300 residents, the statewide honor underscores the massive impact that exceptional individuals can have in rural Colorado.

The Supervisor of the Year award celebrates not only technical excellence but also the mentorship and support that help dispatchers and first responders perform at their best under pressure — qualities the selection committee clearly saw in abundance in Brittany’s work.

In a small town like Rangely, one person truly can touch every corner of the community, and that’s exactly what Brittany does. From keeping our officers safe with calm, precise communication during calls to stepping in whenever someone needs an extra hand, she’s the steady heartbeat of our dispatch center. In a profession where work is often heard but rarely seen, Brittany’s statewide recognition shines a well-deserved spotlight on the critical role dispatchers play in keeping rural Colorado safe — and on one remarkable leader who does it with heart, every single day.

If you see Brittany around, please share congratulations with her!



Canyons continued...

voice. She didn’t need to. The chant rolled across the stone and the disc dropped another full foot, wobbling.

Kessler’s remaining men were reloading, shouting coordinates no one was answering. One of the shadows reached for Mollie. Baylor stepped in front of her, ten years old and shaking so hard her teeth clicked, but she stepped in front. The shadow paused, tilted its head. Then the ground between them split wider, a perfect staircase of black alloy descending into the blue. Something was climbing up. Each footfall rang like a church bell dropped down a mine shaft. Clang. Clang. Clang. Slow. Patient. The temperature plummeted twenty degrees in a heartbeat; Tommy’s breath fogged white.

The thing that emerged was fifteen feet tall and built from the same dull metal as the disc. Segmented plates, no seams, edges that hurt to look at directly. Its face was almost human—high cheekbones, a mouth—until you noticed the mouth had no inside, just a vertical slit of blue light. When it spoke, every person in the canyon heard it in their own childhood voice. “You were told to deliver it,” it said in Tommy’s. A heartbeat later, in Ellie’s: “You were told to destroy it.” Then, in perfect unison with both: “You did neither.” It stepped fully onto the surface.

The staircase folded into itself and was gone, as if it had never been. “Now we finish what was started. “Ellie’s green circle flickered. The disc shrieked, spun faster, and the blue light pouring from the earth began to climb the metal giant like ivy. Tommy raised the rifle he knew was useless. Ellie grabbed the kids and shoved them behind her. Ms. Lujan kept chanting, softer now, almost a lullaby. Agent Kessler was the only one still walking forward. She stopped ten feet from the giant, tilted her head up, and smiled the smallest, coldest smile Tommy had ever seen. “Welcome back,” she said. “We’ve been waiting. “The giant looked down at her. The blue in its eyes flared white. And the canyon, and everyone present, held its breath.

CNCC Athletics Achieve Milestone

BY JESSE AITKEN

Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) is proud to announce that two of its Athletics programs set milestones this last week. Women’s soccer led by Coach Eldon Brough and Assistant Coach Austin Shafer have qualified for postseason play for the second year in a row. The Cross-Country team, a brand-new program led by Coach Marki Grant, has two runners that have qualified for nationals.



“This group of talented young students has reset the culture of athletics at CNCC. They not only succeed on the pitch, but as a recognized NJCAA Academic All-American team, they likewise succeed in the classroom. Winning in the classroom translates into winning in sports and I couldn’t be prouder of this team for proving that two years in a row.” - Keith Peterson Sr. Vice President of Academic Affairs

The Women’s Soccer clinched their second consecutive Scenic West Athletic Conference postseason position with a decisive 8-0 shutout victory over Pacific Northwest Christian College (PNWCC).

Amelia Warner led the way offensively with a pair of goals, while Ashlee Harris, Lilly Wittwer, and Hali'a Pelton each added to the scoring barrage. The Spartans' defense, anchored by goalkeeper Jasmine Hernandez, recorded yet another clean sheet, marking the team's fifth shutout of the season.

"This is such a proud moment for our players and our college," said Coach Brough. "To clinch back-to-back postseason berths shows how hard this group has worked. Their belief in each other and commitment to the process has been special."

With an overall record of 9 wins, 6 losses, and 1 draw, they are headed into the Region 18 Tournament as the #4 seed and will be playing SLCC in their first matchup. SLCC comes in ranked #1 in the conference and #4 in the nation. The Spartans will be looking for a repeat of their last match, where they handed SLCC their only loss of the season, and this team has the talent and the drive to make it so.



The Cross-Country team in its very first year will be sending two Spartan Athletes Cade Webster and Issiah Simms to the Cross-Country National Championships in Fort Dodge, Iowa, next week.

Both athletes have shown tremendous growth throughout the season. Cross country is unique as success isn’t measured by times alone. Each course brings its own challenges: hills, weather, terrain, and elevation. Cade and Issiah have consistently risen to those challenges, showing resilience, discipline, and a commitment to steady improvement day after day.

“I’m really proud of our entire team and excited for Cade and Issiah to compete at the national level. From the start, it’s been about progress over perfection. These athletes have fully bought in, stayed positive through every challenge, and continued finding ways to improve. That kind of attitude moves a program forward.” – Coach Marki Grant

Their hard work has earned them the opportunity to line up among the nation’s best and represent CNCC on a national stage. As a young and developing

see CNCC on pg 18

From Strange Basin

Got stories?

I'm expanding Strange Basin to further include the Rangely area and want to share its stories with our audience. I know there's a deep, fascinating history there—local legends, strange encounters, and forgotten tales waiting to be told. If you have stories or folklore from Rangely, please reach out. I'd also love to feature another guest from the area on the show.

Contact nformation: Secret underground bunker, Vernal, UT
Phone: (435) 790-3477 Email: strangebasin@mail.com



CNCC continued...

program, this is a meaningful milestone and reflects the dedication of our athletes and the foundation being built within Spartan Cross Country. We are proud of Cade and Issiah and look forward to cheering them on in Iowa. Lace up. Lock in. Let's go, Spartans.

"Athletics bring energy and pride to campus life. Our student athletes exemplify what it means to learn, lead, and grow both in the classroom and in competition. Their achievements, on and off the field, make us all proud. Congratulations to our teams and coaches as they head into postseason play!" - Dr. Lisa Jones President of CNCC

We are so proud of all our Spartan Athletes, to see them excel in the classroom and in their respective sports is truly inspiring. Join us in congratulating the outstanding athletes and coaches that have made these achievements possible, and if you see them be sure to show them your Spartan Pride and cheer them on to victory. It is truly a great time to be a Spartan.

Laptop Contest Essay - Aspen Steele

To me, home is not just a house with four walls or a roof over your head; home is Rangely. I don't just love Rangely-Rangely is who I am. It's where I grew up and where my family was raised. To me, it's not just a place; it's in my blood. I will forever be Rangely blood. Rangely is where my great-great-grandparents homesteaded, where they rode horseback and hunted. It's the mountains I fell in love with, where I shot my first deer and spent my first camping trip with my dad. The hills are where I learned to love shed hunting and found my first horn. It's where I roasted my first marshmallow and slid down a hill on my first sled, surviving crazy rides and journeys. Rangely is the street where I learned to ride my first bike and eventually drive my first car. To me, Rangely is the small-town spirit, growing up with parades down Main Street and all the activities in the park. Rangely is the old drive-in where we got banana splits and soft-serve ice cream, the car museum we took field trips to, and Gios where we all sat and laughed while eating dinner. It's Napa, spinning in the chairs as your dad orders parts; it's Sweet Briar, where you go for any gift; the rec center pool days where we played until our bodies were tired; playing at the park till the sun went down. Rangely, to me, is the Slurpee from Come and Go on hot days. Rangely is the lake where I spent all my summer hours, from sun up to sun down, camping, paddle boarding, and swimming with friends and family. Rangely is the Panthers, the big crowd in the stands cheering with me every week, the team that I have poured my blood, sweat, and tears into. Rangely is the close community where everyone knows everyone, where we are all family and get along. We all know each other's names, lives, and families, and everyone offers a helping hand, no matter what. Family friends we call grandparents, aunts, and uncles are there-not blood from our DNA but family through the Rangely blood. If you live in Rangely, you will always have a supportive, loving community where everyone is right by your side when you need it. It's the type of community I am proud to be a part of that I have fallen in love with. Rangely is the perfect happy place to raise a family and settle down and the perfect place to live. I have been a Rangely Panther for fourteen years and have been part of the Rangely ever since I was born. So yes, I love Rangely more than anything in this world. Rangely will forever be close to my heart and a place I call forever home because it is not just a love I have for Rangely-Rangely is what made me me.



Laptop Contest Essay - Isaac Navarro

This is my Town Now: The Town of Rangely

The scent of wilderness lies within the open blue skies over the Town of Rangely Colorado. A place unlike most other crowded concrete jungles, Rangely is untouched by crime and ugly traffic. One would have a better chance of winning a \$100 in a lottery ticket than your car being stolen. Rangely is a place that brings peace and quiet that you can't access very easily anywhere else.

Since I have moved to Rangely from the city, my life has become drastically better. My mom doesn't have to worry for my safety when I leave the house. I came from a place where young people were robbed of their life for just being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Here in my new home town, children play at the park without ever knowing what it's like to look out for 'bad guys'. People sleep at night with the doors unlocked and dream without worry. There's more sheep on the road than cars. And while some may say that Rangely is too slow, I say Rangely is just the right pace if you like being unrestricted.

As far as being free, nothing beats the wide open spaces and endless trails where anyone who is willing to give it a chance can find themselves on some great adventure. From the Kenny Resavore, to the winding White River, one could get lost in the fiery red and purple sunsets. Every morning promises a landscape so majestic that you really understand what the song 'America the Beautiful' was all about. My congested highrise buildings and sounds of police sirens have been replaced with



mountains, rivers, and valleys. The smell of smog and exhaust are now breezes of fresh air and russian olive blossoms in the spring and cut grass in the summer.

Rangely is a town that takes care of each other. In most places, you can live in a neighborhood for years and never know your neighbor. Not in Rangely. Everyone knows everyone and that's not always a bad thing. Every mother watches out for all the kids on the street, not just her own. If your car breaks down or you need a hand getting out of a ditch, I can guarantee that someone will stop and help. We pull together as a community. During Covid, seniors were given a special time to shop in the mornings. No one hoarded all the toilet paper. People check in to make sure you're doing okay. The police officers talk to the kids in a stern but caring manner. Teachers greet their students at the Conoco when they see them on the weekends.

Rangely is unlike anywhere else. Nowhere else can you find peace, safety, freedom, and natural beauty, like right here in my own back yard. This small town is held together by community, trust, and respect. Rangely is a town that still holds the door for ladies and at the same time cowboys still wake up every day at the crack of dawn and do what they have always done: work hard, pay the bills and have fun.

This is my town now. The Town of Rangely.

Laptop Contest Essay - Chase Cochran

Things You Love Most About Rangely

Rangely holds a special place in my heart due to its unique character. The people who are warm-hearted, the school system, a wonderfully connected community, and its natural beauty. To me, Rangely is not just a small town on a map; it's my hometown, where I have grown to be who I am today. Rangely has so many things to love about it.

To start off, the people here in Rangely are wonderful; they are hard-working people, and they provide you with a welcoming atmosphere. No other town in our area has the love and heart like Rangely does. Everyone knows each other, and we are all there for one another. The town is like one big family. The thing I love most about the people in our town is the support at our local sports games. I always love hearing people cheer for me and my fellow teammates. The support always gives me motivation to try my best and always have a good attitude.

The Rangely school system has been the best experience ever. The teachers here at Rangely High School are outstanding; they are so willing to help you be successful and motivate you to do your best. Not only are they just teachers, but they are friends to the kids in our community. Teachers are wonderful role models for the kids in our school. We are truly blessed with our high school. I also love the sports that come along with it. I have dedicated almost all of my time to the sports I play. I have played football, basketball, and track and field for the past 7 years (including middle school). I have had the best experiences with all of my sports; the coaching has been wonderful, and I always walk away with good memories. I love that I was able to be part of a Bleed Green program and be a part of that tradition in football. I also love that I get the opportunity to play basketball and make more memories. Lastly, I am truly thankful for our track program. I love the traditions that come with track; the coaching has been outstanding. We are also blessed with a wonderful college, CNCC has so much to offer. The programs at CNCC are magnificent. We have the Aviation program, Park Ranger programs, and the best dental hygiene program in the state of Colorado. The sports at CNCC are always fun to watch, especially the basketball teams.

The Rangely Community has done a tremendous job of keeping our town entertained; it is the heart and soul of Rangely. I love that we celebrate the traditions of our town. For example, I love celebrating our September Fest. I always love looking at the stands that people put up and how each of those stands is unique. My favorite part of September Fest is looking at the old cars, it never fails to impress me of how much work people put in those vehicles and how beautiful they are. I love the dedication of our community to make all of our parades fun. Homecoming has always been special to me because of the parade and the sports that came along with it. My biggest appreciation to the Rangely community is the donations they give; they always make things possible for us kids and give

continued on pg 21





us multiple opportunities. I want to give a big thank you to Rangely's community, who have given me the opportunity to enjoy and love the things they provide for us.

Lastly, I would love to talk about the natural beauty of Rangely. We have such a beautiful town; each season of the year gives our town a distinctive look. My favorite season for the town of Rangely is Fall. I love it when the leaves on the trees turn orange and yellow. Rangely also has the Kennedy Reservoir. I love the memories that I was able to receive with my family and friends. However, what I truly love the most about Rangely's natural beauty is the night sky. Looking up and seeing the stars is so peaceful to me; it helps me relax and shows me the true wonders of God's creation.

I love that Rangely isn't just another place to live, but it's always been a place that I can call home. I always feel supported, loved, and blessed to be part of this small town. There is no other town that has the treasures like Rangely, and I will always cherish that. God bless Rangely.

Laptop Contest Essay - Rachael Files

Rangely: Home Sweet Home

Strangely Rangely. I remember being offended the first time I heard this term, and to be honest, I believe that was how it was intended; however, I have since gained a new perspective on this term and accept it as a term of endearment. While most who visit Rangely are just passing through, the "lifers" understand that there is something more to this place we call home than what can be seen in a passing moment (even though some of Rangely's charm can be felt in a simple interaction). Unique surroundings, year-round adventures, and people who give all they have for your well-being make Rangely more than just another drive-through town.

Unique surroundings seems like an understatement to a local of over 35 years. Petroglyphs and historic rock art surround Rangely and provide a glimpse into the history that made this place my forever home. The Carrot Man and Kokopelli Sites remain my personal favorites. Rock formations and canyons offer ample opportunity to search for arrowheads, antlers, and the occasional animal friend ... deer can be sneaky, even in city limits! Abundant BLM lands are the key to unlocking all the magnificence that Rangely has to offer.

While Rangely might look like a desert without an opportunity for adventure, a closer look exposes endless opportunities to explore. From feeling the rumble of fireworks echoing through the canyon at Kenney Reservoir on the fourth of July to rock crawling and hiking, Rangely offers excitement for every outdoor enthusiast. The rock-crawling park has given my family new levels of trust (or anxiety) and offers some of the best lizard-hunting you can find! The Rangely Automotive Museum is another gem that provides a look into automobile history, as well as serving as a favored picture-taking spot for homecoming and prom, thanks to its generous owner. Hunting, fishing, and camping are enjoyed by many Rangely residents and often serve as a great conversation starter for those looking to stay awhile ... we have an abundance of tales to tell!

The people in Rangely have and will always be what makes Rangely the most special to me. Being a longterm resident here, I learned early that there is always someone watching out for you. There is a common joke amongst residents that kids can't get away with mischief here because their parents will likely know about it before they get home. This may seem like a hindrance to some, but to me, I am glad to know that my children are surrounded by people who want what is best for them and to make sure they are safe. Driving down Main Street or entering any of the businesses around town will always be met with a friendly smile, kind words, or a wave. This is not the case in most places, trust me, I have tested it! People here are "way outside the ordinary" in the sense that most will give the shirt off their back to make sure you are not going without whatever you need.

Natural beauty, unforgettable experiences, and some of the kindest people on the planet make Rangely its own kind of beautiful. I remember being so excited to experience life outside of Rangely when I graduated high school, but I quickly realized that I missed everything that makes Rangely my favorite place to come home to. Dropping down the hill by W.C. Striegel or Kennedy Drive into town brings a warmth to my heart that is incomparable. I find the term Strangely Rangely endearing because Rangely has a strange way of creating a lasting impression for all those who pass through and choose to make "way outside the ordinary" their forever home.



Laptop Contest Essay - Noah Bolejack

The Spirit Of A Small Town

For the past two years, I have lived in Rangely, Colorado, and during that time I have come to appreciate what makes this small town so unique. Although it may not be large or crowded like a city, Rangely offers a special combination of natural beauty, community activities, and educational opportunities that make it a wonderful place to grow up. As a homeschooler, I have noticed how these aspects of the town connect to both everyday life and learning, shaping my experiences in meaningful ways.

One of the most striking features of Rangely is its natural environment. The land is wide and open, with rolling hills, winding trails, and skies that seem endless. Spending time outdoors has become one of my favorite parts of living here. Whether I am walking, biking, or simply enjoying the quiet, the outdoors helps me feel connected to nature in a way that is calming and refreshing. These natural surroundings are not only beautiful but also encourage an active lifestyle and a deeper appreciation for the environment.

Kenney Reservoir is another highlight of Rangely that adds to the town's charm. This reservoir is a place where people can swim, fish, boat, and relax, especially during the warm summer months. I have spent many afternoons there with family and friends, and it always feels welcoming and peaceful. For me, Kenney Reservoir has become more than just a fun spot-it is a place that makes

Rangely feel like home. It also provides opportunities to learn outside of traditional schooling. For example, while visiting with my homeschool group, I have learned about local wildlife, water ecosystems, and the importance of preserving natural resources., In this way, the reservoir is both recreational and educational.

Even though Rangely is small, the community is very active and supportive. The recreation center offers swimming, sports, and other activities that bring people together. Local events, such as parades, holiday celebrations, and sports games, show how much the town values connection and tradition. These activities create a sense of belonging and remind me that community is about more than just living in the same place-it is about sharing experiences and building relationships. In Rangely, people know each other, and that closeness makes the town feel safe and welcoming.

Homeschooling in Rangely has taught me that education does not only happen at a desk. Everyday life provides lessons, whether it is exploring nature, participating in community events, or exploring the town's history. Over the past two years, I have realized that Rangely itself can be a classroom, offering lessons that are practical and meaningful. Living here has shown me the value of combining academic learning with real-world experiences.

Overall, Rangely's natural surroundings, Kenney Reservoir, and strong sense of community make it a great place to grow up. It may be small, but it offers many opportunities to enjoy life, connect with others, and learn in ways that go beyond the classroom.



A Heartfelt Thank You from the Town of Rangely

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to two incredible women who make our holiday season brighter every year: Gail Palmer and Brenda Hopson!

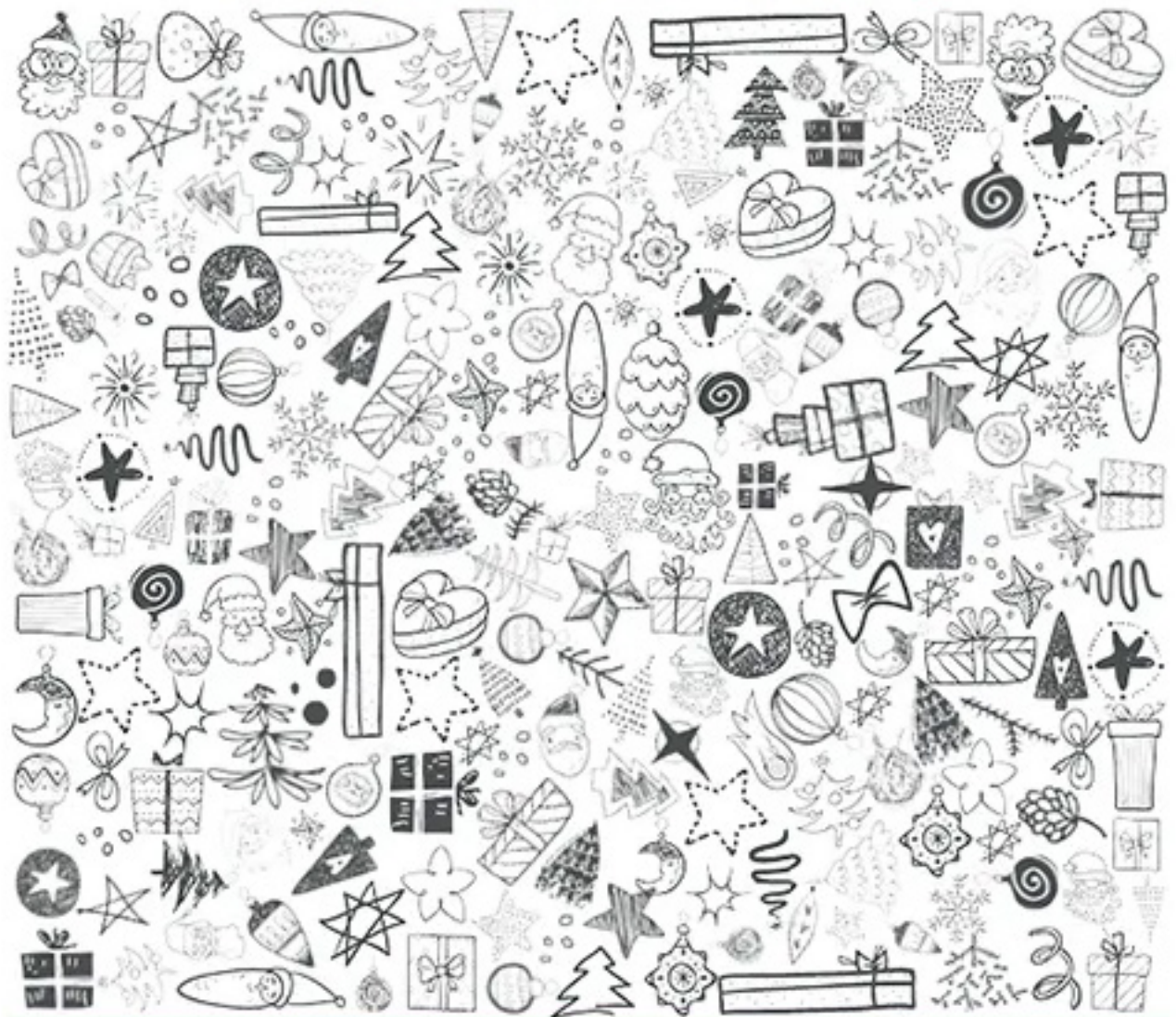
For more than 20 years, Gail and Brenda have continued their beautiful Christmas tradition of crafting and delivering handmade ornaments to our staff at Town Hall, as well as to many others throughout the community. These thoughtful, one-of-a-kind gifts bring joy, warmth, and a true sense of holiday spirit to everyone who receives them. Your generosity and kindness remind us all what makes Rangely so special—the caring hearts of people like you who go out of their way to spread cheer and build connections year after year.




















Thank you, Gail and Brenda!! You truly embody the magic of Christmas!



Kids Corner

CHRISTMAS I SPY



	3		4		3		4		3
	3		2		4		3		3
	4		2		2		3		4
	3		3		4		4		4

Name:

Date:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Giant Christmas Word Search

b g y p y r u d o l p h s c f u l w a r r u o r z
 f d z f v b z l q x j k l t u r k e y l y h f o e s
 s s l j j c o w q n n j e j g a r l a n d a f i l
 a n w o o v a p p r e c i a t i o n m p w i d n e
 l o t y l s a m c f s p e s t o c k i n g s g d
 f w g t l y c h a v c h e g g n o g k a e d i e g h
 a d w t y u v g e l i d o i k p h b z s d f f e h
 m w o c o w l k t i n s e l e n s c b m u y t r v
 i s v r h y k w b n s q v h l p x s a g q c s s j
 l n l o t r s j c t s h s w r y q k f r e e n f i
 y o v s t k i q w r q q d a i w y t u e o z b t n
 z w a n u r k s g e l d x u n q m i f l c l y r g
 q f e o w i p x t e a n f x s t k n y g z i s a l
 x l b w g o r n a m e n t s w x a u g a k q c d e
 u a v m q c q n b o a j h a l c g t y t r l z i b
 j k b a v k c i e j f s s b l a y c s h u i z t e
 d e c n t x a p v l p w d q z u l r k e a g i i l
 t b h h t g y a s o f d d f c e v a k r b h p o l
 c f w l e t h a n k f u l k f a w c n i d t r n s
 c d o h j e z r h s v c t r g u j k q n f s c s v
 u r v d e z r o m q q p u m u d x e w g y z i x g
 n o r t h p o l e e j s d f s n a r s v b k q a n
 k g s o b n q w x j j d r o s t i t u d e w p s a
 t r e e s k i r t j x f r o s t y d t e h i p v q d
 s i p m i s t l e t o e d y r m b w o e a b q a q

Find these **Christmas** words.

North Pole	Santa	ornaments	nutcracker
family	reindeer	tree skirt	mistletoe
joy	toys	jingle bells	traditions
tinsel	snowflake	eggnog	gathering
thankful	Frosty	gratitude	appreciation
garland	holly	carols	Christmas
snow	lights	sleigh	Rudolph
turkey	stockings	snowman	tree
cheer	jolly	gifts	elf



(The words may be hidden vertically, horizontally or diagonally.)

Christmas Word Scramble

- | | |
|------------------|-----------|
| 1. BATLECERE | 1. _____ |
| 2. IRDENERE | 2. _____ |
| 3. LEF | 3. _____ |
| 4. SMTHIRSACEETR | 4. _____ |
| 5. SNTAA | 5. _____ |
| 6. SNEPRTSE | 6. _____ |
| 7. GEGNGO | 7. _____ |
| 8. HRNOTOPEL | 8. _____ |
| 9. BYABESJSU | 9. _____ |
| 0. YNCADENAC | 10. _____ |
| 1. UHDPLROO | 11. _____ |
| 2. GPIRPWANPAERP | 12. _____ |
| 3. LMFYAI | 13. _____ |
| 4. STEFA | 14. _____ |
| 5. CEOSKIO | 15. _____ |

