

RANGELY REVIEW

VOL. 6 NO. 30 ♦ FEBRUARY 2026

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



11 Most Underrated Towns in The Rockies

Special to the Review

Everyone's heard of Aspen, Banff, and Jackson Hole, and sure, they're wonderful. But if you're craving Rocky Mountain magic without the shoulder-to-shoulder crowds, it's time to look at the places most travelers skip. Tucked between craggy peaks and rushing rivers, these under-the-radar spots serve up hot springs, historic trains, lakeside boardwalks, artsy main streets, and more mountain charm than you can fit into a long weekend.

From rail-riding in Durango to soaking in Salida, paddleboarding on Grand Lake, exploring quirky Rangely, or wandering storybook streets in Fernie and Wallace, these communities prove you don't have to follow the crowds to get big Rocky Mountain views.

If you're dreaming of cool mountain air, uncrowded trails, and the thrill of "discovering" a place before everyone else, these are the most overlooked towns in the Rockies, and they deserve a spot at the top of your list.

Durango, Colorado

Durango is the most populous town in La Plata County, Colorado, with a population of just over 19,000 residents according to the latest census. It is famous for its railroad



linking it to Silverton, which was once named the country's top scenic railroad by USA Today. The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad provides a chance to experience the Golden Age of rail travel. The Silverton Round Trip begins at the Durango Depot and ascends into the Rockies, offering breathtaking views of the San Juan National Forest and the Animas River.

The Cascade Canyon Express journey lasts five hours and follows the same route as the Silverton trip, but it stops at Cascade Canyon, located halfway between Durango and Silverton. For those interested in exploring more, Mesa Verde National Park features the ruins of the ancestral Puebloans. If visitors choose to stay overnight, the historic Strater Hotel offers more than just accommodations: it is a living museum and one of the most iconic hotels in the Western US.

Salida, Colorado

Despite being known as the "Heart of the Rockies," the town of Salida is often overlooked in favor of see Rockies on pg 3

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Greetings from Rangely District Hospital

BY KYLE WREN, CEO

We are honored to welcome Mei Curley, FNP-C, to the Rangely District Hospital family! Mei brings a strong background in rural healthcare along with many years of bedside nursing experience and advanced practice training. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing from Regis University and holds multiple certifications, including FNP-C, BLS, ACLS, PALS, and TNCC.

Born and raised in a small farming community in southern China, Mei's journey to healthcare has been shaped by a deep appreciation for close-knit communities and meaningful relationships. She and her 7-year-old son, Mason, call Craig home, where they enjoy fishing, swimming, biking, and staying active together.

Mei chose Rangely because of her passion for providing high-quality, patient-centered care in rural communities. She values taking the time to truly listen to patients, building trust, and partnering with individuals and families to create care plans that fit their lives and goals. With her background as a former English teacher, Mei is also a clear communicator who excels at helping patients understand their health and feel confident in their care.

When she's not caring for patients, Mei enjoys cooking home-cooked meals, gardening, fishing, traveling with Mason, spending time with friends, and staying active.

We are excited to have Mei's compassion, experience, and dedication to patient-centered care here at RDH



Guangmei Curley, FNP



We Wish You Well in the Next Chapter of Your Story, Miss Rita!

BY AMORETTE HAWKINS

Rangely Regional Library had to say goodbye to our long-time volunteer and storyteller, Miss Rita Reich at the end of 2025. Miss Rita began her volunteer position or "Hobby Job" as she called it at the Library in 2004. She became a permanent fixture here over time even becoming a part time employee in addition to her storytelling.

It is hard to say just how many kiddos she read to or how many stories she read to them. Our best guess is there were hundreds of kiddos and over 6,000 stories over more than 1100 Storytimes. Her Storytime evolved over the years as she acquired more costume changes than Cher! You name it, she had a costume for it. The Library was lucky enough to have been given a donation in memory of Gail Schofield to cover the expenses for her costumes and the talent of Tiffany Douglas to create them for her.

Miss Rita, we cannot possibly put into words our appreciation for your dedicated 22 years of service. We will miss seeing those big brown eyes and even bigger dimples of yours! Enjoy this next chapter of your story known as retirement!

Storytime continues on Tuesday mornings at the Library at 10:00 A.M. We have a new storyteller-Megan Carter!



Rockies continued...

Estes Park and Telluride. Salida is home to the largest indoor hot springs facility in the US and also offers world-class rafting and kayaking activities in the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area. The town also offers prime fishing spots along the Arkansas River. The stretch of the river flowing in and around Salida has around 5,000 trout per mile!

Salida's historic downtown area houses artisans that create several forms of art, including photography, sculpture, pottery, architecture, fiber arts, and a whole lot more. For the adventurous at heart, there are several zipline and aerial adventure parks where riders can fly above the desert and mountains, taking in the gorgeous view of the landscape below, which includes cliffs, rivers, and wildlife. Those who want to feel the earth move beneath their feet can take to the many hiking trails on a mountain bike.

Grand Lake, Colorado

Grand Lake lies two miles away from the western entrance of the Rocky Mountain National Park. The town sits on the shores of a beautiful lake, also called Grand Lake, which is the biggest natural body of water in Colorado. The lake is great for fishing and sailing and also offers many other water activities. The lake provides magnificent views of the Rocky Mountains and wildlife is abundant on and around its shores. There is a sandy beach at Grand Lake that is great for people-watching. Those who want to get their feet wet can paddleboard or row in the waters off the beach area.

Grand Lake incorporates a historical boardwalk where visitors can shop and dine in over 60 stores and restaurants. In the summer, folks can hike up the stunning trails or go mountain biking. During winter, snowmobiling is all the rage.

Rangely, Colorado

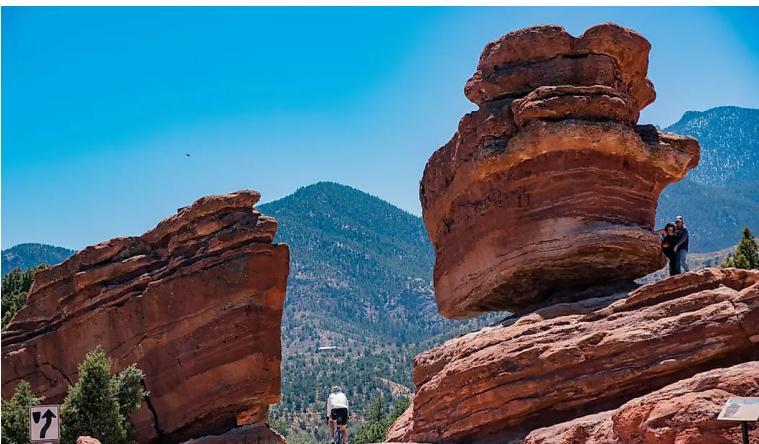
Rangely sits on the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway, which is a "prehistoric highway" that runs through canyons and passes dinosaur fossil quarries and museums. This rural town sits at an elevation of 5,298' in Rio Blanco County and boasts the Rangely Outdoor Museum, which preserves historical buildings and displays the town's history. It is also the location of The Tank Center for Sonic Arts—an empty water tank that doubles as a concert venue.



The Canyon Pintado National Historic District is the place to be for those who want to learn more about the pictographs and petroglyphs left behind by the Fremont and Ute people. In addition, the Kenney Reservoir lies five miles east of Rangely and offers fishing, boating, cliff-diving, swimming, and kayaking.

Manitou Springs, Colorado

Manitou Springs is the definition of quaint American town and features art galleries, restaurants on the creek, and free concerts. The town is the home of Manitou Springs' Carnivale, which is a great alternative to Mardi Gras in New Orleans. It is also home to the Broadmoor Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway, the highest railroad in the US.



Hikers enjoy the Manitou Incline which rises above the town as it ascends on the east slope of the Rocky Mountains. There is also the Manitou Springs Zipline tour which zips people across the Front Range. Tourists who have been to Manitou Springs describe it as having an Old West feel, while others enjoyed the artsy vibe left over from the "hippie era." Manitou Springs opens up towards the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center where visitors can enjoy geological rarities and marvel in awe at the sandstone rock formations.

Canon City, Colorado

Canon City squats between the Front Range and Wet Mountains, north of a portion of the San Isabel National Forest. It straddles the Arkansas River, making it easy for tourists to go whitewater rafting

see *Underrated on pg 4*

Underrated continued...

and sightseeing. Many activities await nature lovers here, including driving Skyline Drive, riding the Royal Gorge Route Railroad, walking across the famous Royal Gorge Bridge, and soaring on the Royal Rush Skycoaster.

Between Salida and Canon City, the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area offers multiple riverside campgrounds, and the Royal Gorge region around the bridge and park has several well-established campgrounds just a short drive away. Canon City also has many bicycle trails for those who want to experience plants and wildlife up close.

Fernie, British Columbia

During winter, Fernie is any skier's dream destination. On the outskirts of the town are steep slopes that offer thrilling ski rides once the town gets snowed in. More than 140 slopes receive around 32 feet of snow every year. In the town itself, there are several old buildings to admire, some of which have been standing since the early 1900s. No visit to Fernie is complete without a stop at the Beanpod Chocolate, Coffee, and Gelato where chocolate is still made the old-fashioned way.

Fernie also offers the Fairy Creek Falls, which is accessible via a 2.8-mile hike from Fernie Visitor Information. When the weather turns cold, the magical falls freeze over, and during summer, the cascades are great for cooling down on a hot day. The town is truly a paradise for those who love the outdoors, and just south of Fernie the Ancient Cottonwood Interpretive Trail offers a glimpse into the history of ancient black cottonwood trees, some of which are four hundred years old. There is also the Elk River, where visitors can go kayaking or rafting, and afterward enjoy a picnic on the riverbanks as they watch wildlife go by.

Taos, New Mexico

The town of Taos in New Mexico is located on the edge of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the southernmost subrange of the Rockies. It is only about two miles from Taos Pueblo, the only Native American community designated as both a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a National Historic Landmark. Homes in Taos Pueblo are still inhabited today. Besides this remarkable landmark, Taos offers activities like hot-air ballooning, hiking, and river rafting. Visitors can also find fishing spots and skiing resorts, along with numerous art galleries and museums. To the northwest, the Rio Grande Gorge, formed millions of years ago, stretches across the landscape. An elaborately designed bridge crosses the gorge along Route 64, and a nine-mile trail runs along its rim.

Crowsnest Pass, Alberta

The municipality of Crowsnest Pass was established in 1979 when five smaller municipalities merged. It is situated next to the Crowsnest mountain pass, beneath the Rocky Mountains. Despite its small size, Crowsnest Pass offers a variety of tourist activities. It features world-class fly fishing locations and top golf courses. History enthusiasts can explore the nearby Hillcrest Mine site, the site of Canada's deadliest coal-mining disaster that killed 189 people in 1914. For stunning views, visitors can hike up Turtle Mountain. Chinook Lake provides opportunities for paddleboarding and boating, and the Crowsnest Museum showcases the town's cultural history.

Wallace, Idaho

Wallace, Idaho, is renowned for its natural beauty, featuring huckleberry bushes and pine trees, with the Bitterroot Mountains—an extension of the Rockies—surrounding it. It is one of only four towns in the U.S. fully listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Sierra Silver Mine Tours offers a trolley that takes visitors on an educational tour of the town, and they can also explore a real silver mine. Regarding mining history, the Pulaski Tunnel Trail leads to an overlook where the Nicholson mine is visible. Named after fireman Ed Pulaski, who rescued 39 men during a firestorm, the trail is a significant site. For a quirky experience, visitors can check out the "center of the universe," a manhole located on Bank and Sixth Streets that has drawn attention since 2004. Additionally, the Wallace Stairs offer both a great cardio workout and breathtaking mountain views.

West Glacier, Montana

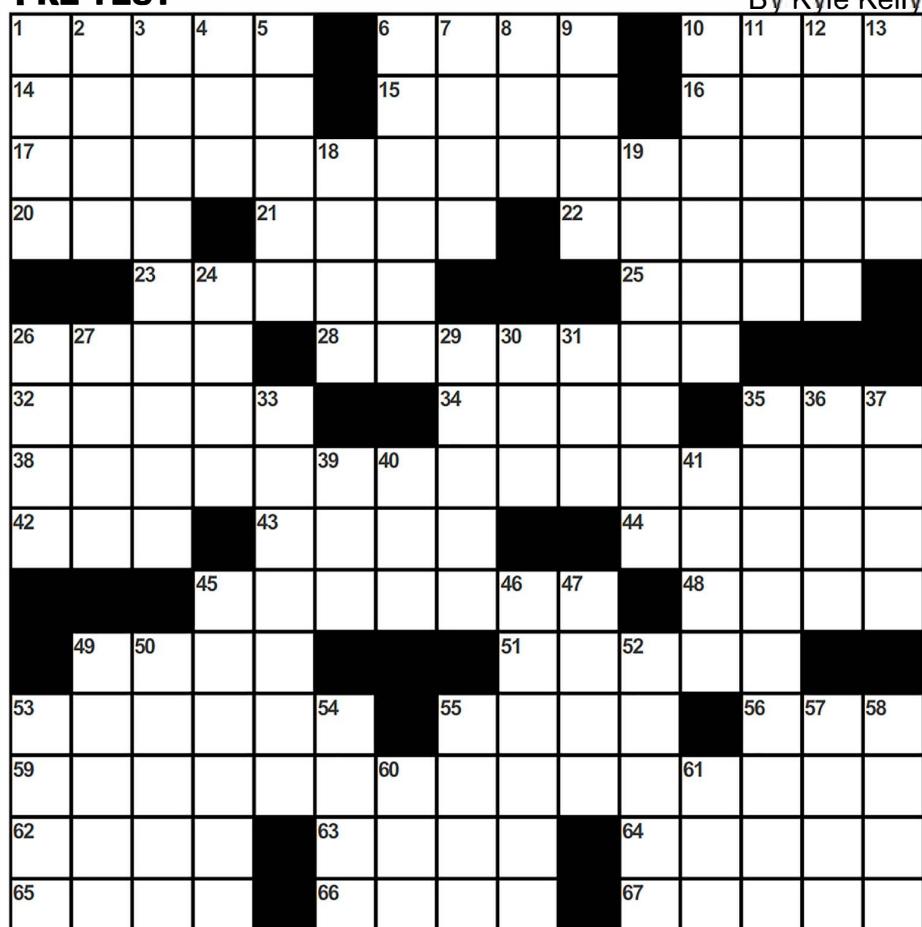
West Glacier, located at the park's west entrance in Flathead County, Montana, features lush evergreen forests and shimmering lakes, making it a popular destination for tourists and hikers. The area is also home to the Ptarmigan Tunnel, built in 1930 to provide horse riders with panoramic views of the surrounding natural landscape. Wildlife such as mule deer, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, and grizzlies can be spotted along the Hidden Lake Overlook Trail. West Glacier is where you find the Going-to-the-Sun Road, route through valleys, waterfalls, mountains, and glaciers. This scenic drive leads to the Trail of the Cedars, a trail renowned for its towering 80-foot cedar trees and stunning vistas.

If prospective visitors are craving some mountain air and taking scenic vacations, they will find themselves enamored with the natural beauty of these small towns in the Rockies. Any one of these towns has something to offer every tourist! Book a trip to one or all of them and experience the best of what mountain life has to offer.

ACROSS

1. Valuable possession
6. Radar image
10. Deep wound
14. Prefix meaning "large"
15. "Peanuts" expletive
16. Bris or confirmation, e.g.
17. Annual Baltimore event
20. Biblical no-no
21. Trees for archers' bows
22. Prosecutors
23. Gnawed to a fare-thee-well
25. Diarist Frank
26. Toxin fighters
28. Hooky-playing
32. Seance board
34. Petty quarrel
35. Poem that honors
38. Emulate T.D. Jakes
42. Coast Guard alert
43. Ancient inscription
44. Drive away
45. Like some air conditioning
48. Provides weaponry
49. Thrown ____ loop
51. "I want it!"
53. Untamed one
55. Game similar to bingo
56. Undercover agent
59. Ignore, in a way
62. Adolescent's facial bone
63. Sword battle
64. Hard to miss
65. Untidy one's creation
66. Garden starter
67. They meet in the middle

PRE TEST



By Kyle Kelly

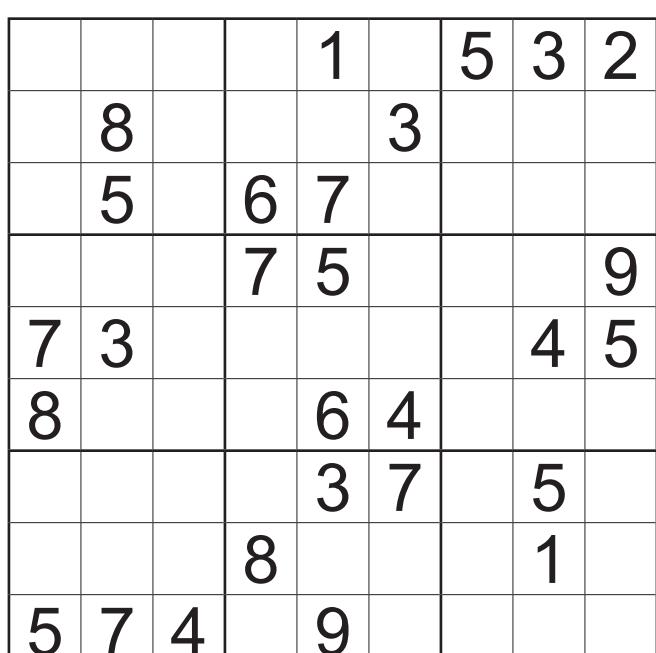
DOWN

1. Current units
2. Dress in India
3. Movie sets
4. It's low for great pitchers
5. City trashed by Godzilla
6. Beer maker
7. Young woman in Scotland
8. "____ not my fault!"
9. Secretive call for attention
10. Like some bad photos
11. "American Idol" contestant Clay
12. Cubic meter
13. Exxon competitor
18. Bird's home
19. Trailer hauler
24. Bangalore bigwig
26. Bribes
27. International money
29. Leading man in the theater?
30. Large primate
31. Carp
33. Land measurement
35. Downtrodden
36. Judge to be
37. Some architectural wings
39. Member of a horde
40. Stick in a Road Runner
- cartoon
41. Baseball feature
45. Warehouse boxes
46. From way back when
47. Dryer debris
49. Satiric comedy
50. Bake-off appliance
52. Diesel's invention
53. Canned meat brand
54. Drops the curtain on
55. Arthroscopy site
57. Gilpin of TV's "Frasier"
58. Tibetan cryptid
60. Invoice word
61. Eggs in bio labs

December Crossword Solution

BASKING QUESTIONS

By Alice Goodwin



What a Truly Special Evening for Rangely!

BY TI HAMBLIN

The Rangely Town Council chambers were filled with community members, local officials, and supportive families on the evening of January 14, 2026, to celebrate the official swearing-in of the Police Department's newest personnel.

Chief Hamblin presided over the ceremony, officially swearing in Officer Alorra Ranker and introducing the newest member of the emergency communications team, Dispatcher Brittany Craig.

Officer Ranker, joined by her family for the ceremony, shared heartfelt remarks regarding her new role. She expressed deep gratitude for the warm reception from the Rangely community and credited her family for instilling in her the values of accountability and hard work.

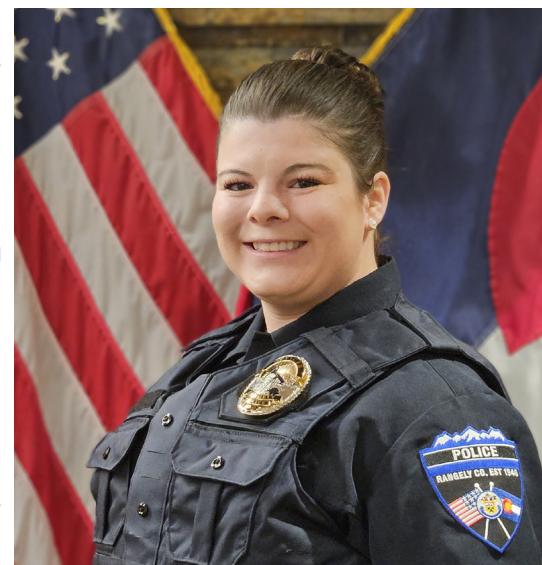
"This calling goes far beyond wearing a badge," Ranker stated during the ceremony. She emphasized that her service would be defined by principled decision-making, professionalism, and a genuine respect for all citizens, noting the importance of doing what is right even under difficult circumstances.

The department also highlighted the addition of Brittany Craig to the Rangely Dispatch team. While new to the police department family, Craig is a familiar face in the area, having moved to Rangely approximately four years ago.

Craig brings a unique background to the dispatch center, having spent the majority of her professional career in the dental implant field. Her transition into public safety communications marks a new chapter in her career of service to the public.

The arrival of both Ranker and Craig comes at a time of continued growth for the department. Local officials noted that the passion and diverse professional backgrounds of these two individuals promise a bright future for the town's public safety efforts.

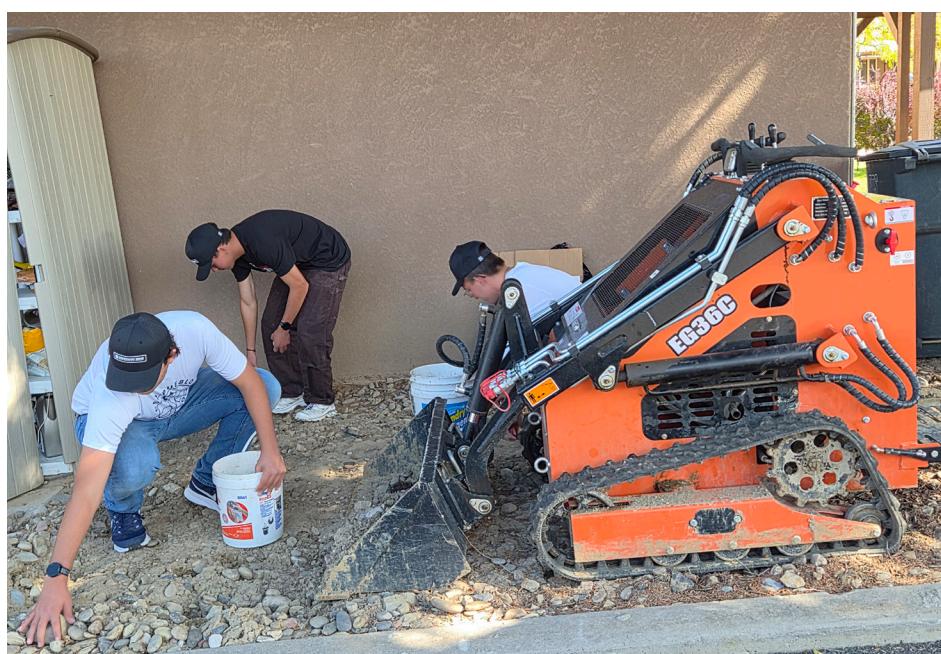
The Rangely Police Department extended its congratulations to both women, stating that the town is "stronger and safer" with their arrival.



Big Thanks to Blue Mountain Energy-Deserado Mine and CNCC Cross Country Team

BY AMORRETTE HAWKINS

Rangely Regional Library would like to express our appreciation to both Blue Mountain Energy-Deserado Mine and Colorado Northwestern Community College Cross Country Team for the community service that was performed at the Library. A special thanks to Dustin Donovan of Deserado Mine and Marki Grant-Head Cross Country Coach for coordinating the day and including the Library on their list of stops. We appreciated the help on our projects and getting to know the student athletes. We wish you a successful year!



Town Welcomes New Manager

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

The Town of Rangely is pleased to welcome Jonah Bollinger as its new Town Manager. Jonah brings a background in finance, private equity, affordable housing, and business leadership, with experience helping organizations grow stronger, operate more efficiently, and plan for long-term success.

After building his career outside the region, Jonah and his wife recently relocated from Tennessee to Rangely with their two young children, returning closer to extended family and drawn by the town's strong sense of community and family values.

Jonah is enthusiastic about serving the town and working closely with residents, staff, and local leaders. As Town Manager, he is focused on preserving what makes Rangely special while supporting thoughtful progress. His goal is to help ensure Rangely continues to be a great place for families to live, businesses to grow, and the community as a whole to thrive, both now and for generations to come.



TANK News: 2026 Season Preview

BY JAMES PAUL

The Tank, as Rangely natives know, has been on its hill over the Moon Lake electric facility since 1963, when it was brought north from the Rio Grande Railroad in pieces and welded back together. The shale hill proved too unstable to support the weight of the filled tank, and so ever after the Tank remained empty, a place for locals to sing and holler and party. In 1976, its amazing internal resonance was discovered by outsiders and its fame spread first around Colorado, then around the world.

In the 12 years since the place was renovated as a concert and recording venue, The TANK Center for Sonic Arts (as it is officially known) has presented dozens of concerts and hundreds of recording sessions by musicians and sonic artists. Its free Open Saturdays, public hours from 9am to 1pm, remain popular with locals—you may often hear a stirring rendition of “Amazing Grace.” In recent years, the engineers at the Tank have also perfected techniques for remote recording, so that anyone anywhere can connect to the Tank, play and record their music.

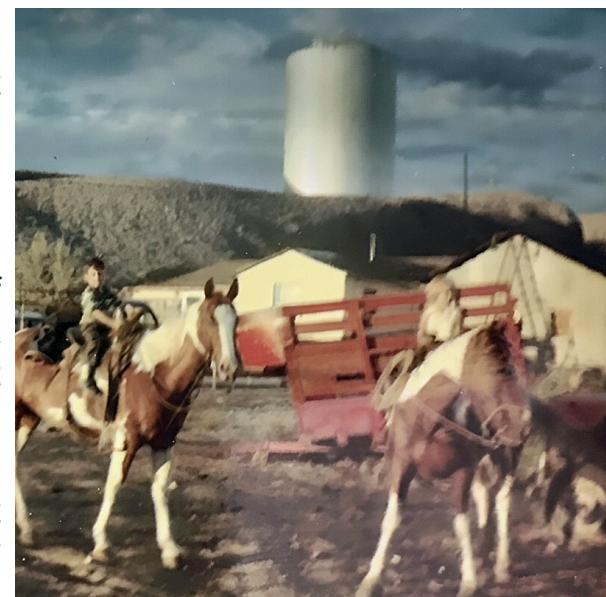
This winter the Tank is preparing its 2026 season, set to start with in-person visits on May 1. Two major concerts are already booked.

Solstice Festival

For this year's Solstice Festival, on June 19 and 20, artist/technicians Neal Johnson and Alan Watts will use arcane electronic devices to bring the whole Tank to life as a single instrument, summoning the structure's own voice to tell a tale of its past, present, and future.

Like all physical objects, the monumental steel cylinder known as The Tank resonates when stimulated. Johnson and Watts have visited the Tank twice in recent years, inventing and testing an amazing array of devices to “play” the Tank, including mechanical solenoids and their custom-built motor drivers that strike the Tank’s surface, and transducers that send structural vibrations across multiple audio channels, so that the entire Tank becomes a “speaker.” Magnetically affixed to the steel walls in a hemispheric array, these devices will produce an extraordinary, encompassing auditory experience, turning the whole Tank into a huge music box.

Using this instrument, Johnson and Watts will perform a “sound cycle” expressing the Tank’s past,
see TANK on pg 9 7



February CNCC Corner

BY DR. LISA JONES

High-Demand Programs Taking Flight and Advancing Healthcare

The Spring semester is off to a strong start at Colorado Northwestern Community College, and this edition of CNCC Corner highlights two of the College's most high-profile programs—both offering exceptional career outcomes, strong earning potential, and growing workforce demand.

Aviation–Flight Program

Located at the Rangely Airport, CNCC's Aviation–Flight program continues to soar—literally and nationally. The airport is home to the College's flight operations and to the 2025 National NIFA Champions among two-year flight programs.

CNCC flight students compete annually in the National Intercollegiate Flight Association (NIFA) competition, which brings together top aviation students and industry professionals from across the country. At the May 2025 national competition, CNCC was named the top two-year flight program in the United States. Building on that momentum, CNCC hosted the NIFA regional competition in October, where the team once again earned a spot at nationals for 2026—with hopes of defending their championship title.

Adding to the program's success, CNCC was recently awarded \$643,000 in federal funding to renovate Rangely Airport. This funding was championed by U.S. Representative Jeff Hurd and supported by local, county, and regional leaders alongside college officials. CNCC extends sincere thanks to all who helped make this investment possible, as it will significantly enhance the quality of training and facilities available to student aviators.

Program Director Nathan Hardin shared his pride in the program's culture and outcomes:

“What I am most proud of is the standard of excellence we have established within the CNCC flight program—a culture that mirrors the highest levels of the aviation industry. We have cultivated an environment where professional discipline and student success go together. Through high-caliber mentorship and data-driven training models, we provide a clear, transparent pathway for our aviators to reach their goals. It is incredibly rewarding to lead a program that not only produces technically proficient pilots but also develops the character and professional integrity required for lifelong success in the skies.”

The timing could not be better for CNCC aviation graduates. With record numbers of pilot retirements and continued growth in global air travel, 2026 is shaping up to be a transformative year for the aviation industry. Graduates of CNCC's FAA-approved program are positioned for immediate employment—often beginning as Certified Flight Instructors before advancing into high-paying roles with regional and major airlines, corporate flight departments, and cargo carriers.

At CNCC, students are not just trained for today's workforce—they are prepared for long-term careers in a field offering stability, competitive salaries, and advancement in an increasingly technology-driven industry. To learn more about the CNCC Flight Program and for contact information visit cncc.edu/degrees/cte/aviation-tech.

Radiologic Technology Program

In 2025, CNCC proudly welcomed its first cohort of students into the Radiologic Technology program at the Craig campus—addressing a critical need in regional healthcare. Graduates of the program can expect strong employment prospects. Local hospitals are eagerly anticipating CNCC's first graduating class, with several expressing interest in hiring students immediately. Notably, UCHealth/Yampa Valley Medical Center has added CNCC's program to its Ascend Career Program, which covers tuition costs for students who commit to working with UCHealth after graduation.

CNCC's Dean of Allied Health emphasized the importance of the program:

“We are incredibly proud to be solving a critical need within our local healthcare systems. Many area hospitals currently rely on temporary ‘travelers’ to fill essential roles. By training homegrown talent, we are strengthening our communities, supporting our healthcare partners, and creating stable career pathways for our students. It's a win for everyone involved.”



see CNCC on pg 13

TANK continued...

present and future, a saga of primordial birth, modern human endeavors, and entropic decay. The show is called Ferromancy: Conjuring Resonant Memories.

This Solstice Festival is shaping up to be the biggest ever. The Airstream Society of Colorado is bringing dozens of trailers to Rangely that weekend and has already booked 40 tickets for a special Friday night concert. The Tank will present a second concert on Saturday night, a first in the ten-year history of the Festival.

Septemberfest

The Tank's other big event of the summer is produced in conjunction with Rangely's Septemberfest, on Labor Day Weekend, which this year is September 5 through 7. For the concert on Saturday, September 5, The Tank presents an extraordinary group of singers, David Hykes and his Harmonic Choir.

Hykes is an American composer, singer, musician, author, and meditation teacher. He was one of the earliest modern western pioneers of overtone singing, a method of producing two harmonizing tones with one voice.

Since 1975 Hykes has developed a comprehensive approach to contemplative music that he calls Harmonic Chant. After early research and trips studying Mongolian, Tibetan, and Middle Eastern singing forms, Hykes began a long series of collaborations with traditions and teachers of wisdom and sacred art, including the Dalai Lama and monks of the Gyume and Gyuto Orders.

Hykes founded the Harmonic Choir in 1975 and has performed and taught Harmonic Chant in America, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Japan, Australia and many other countries. Inside the Tank, his chorus will create a gorgeous and profound listening experience.

Tickets for Neal Johnson and Alan Watts at the Solstice Festival and David Hykes and the Harmonic Chorus at Septemberfest will be available soon online. Check the Tank's website, www.tanksounds.org, for purchase.

The Tank in Boulder

Starting last year, folks in Boulder have been able to hear concerts in the Tank without driving to Rangely. The Tank has partnered with an extraordinary technical theater called the B2, which can reproduce exactly the sound and feeling of being in the Tank. There have been five of these concerts so far, including three last fall, by musicians who have come to the Tank to record, then taken those recordings back to B2. Another is upcoming this spring, when Colorado Springs trumpeter Matthew Langford presents his work subtle vessel on March 24. Tell your friends on the Front Range about this opportunity to hear the Tank without the five-hour drive.

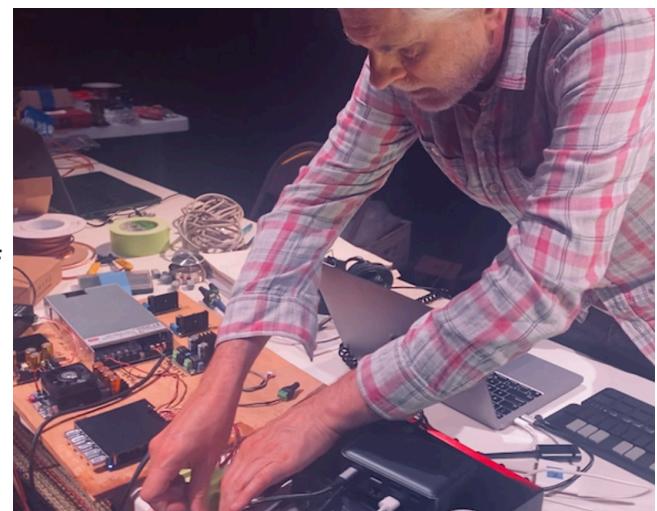
New Record

In 2022, the Tank started its own record label, called Round Sound. This fall, it released a new album, Silence and Space, by Native American flutist R. Carlos Nakai and percussionist Will Clipman.

The record made a bit of splash, getting featured on a major new music broadcast on WNYC in New York and selling enough copies that the artists were able to earn royalty checks. Folks may listen to and purchase the record online at Bandcamp. Altogether 12 albums of Tank music were released in 2025, most by artists who visited Rangely to record.

Lisa Hatch

Tank pioneer and long-term board member Lisa Hatch stepped down in December, to devote her time to caregiving for her husband, Larry. Lisa was instrumental in the founding of the Tank and essential to its survival for more than a decade now. A Commander in the Army Reserves in Operation Desert Storm, Lisa brought that energy and authority to her work at the Tank, as a leader in the Tank's Days of Sonic Learning program and as the chief financial person in its ongoing operations. She also found comfort, as a veteran with PTSD, in playing her violin in the Tank. She'll be much missed. Rangely resident Beth Wiley has taken over Lisa's role as Tank board treasurer.



Legend or Lore - The Old Rugged Dragon Cross

BY GAILA HATCH BELL

The Dragon Cross draws me every year during the Christmas season. It is not just a cross, but a spiritual place—one that has stood through generations.

Each year, according to legend, we write the names of our loved ones on small stones and place them near the cross in the hope it will bring them health throughout the coming year. We also write the names of those who now live only in our hearts, so they will know they are never forgotten and forever loved. Then we kneel and say a prayer, surrounded by the vast beauty of the Colorado high desert.

It is the cowboy way of giving thanks for the Christmas season and for the many blessings received throughout the year.

This ritual was taught to me as a child, as we traveled from our Book Cliff ranch, through the Hill Ranch, and down into Rangely in the early 1950s. Even then, the Old Rugged Cross was a sacred landmark.

In recent years, I have spoken with citizens well into their nineties, asking the same question:

Who placed the Dragon Cross on Dragon Road?

No one truly knows. It has simply always been there.

Why is this old rugged cross so special?

Legends and historians record that two Franciscan priests, Domínguez and Escalante, traveled through this country in 1776. Their mission was to establish a trade route from Santa Fe to Monterey, California, and to convert Native Americans to Catholicism. Their maps and journals reveal contact with Native American tribes in this region and promises that the land was sacred and that they would one day return to establish a mission in the basin—a promise that was never fulfilled.

Richard Ott and a group of archaeologists with the DARG organization later identified numerous ancient wickiups along Dragon Road, now marked for historical preservation. In the early 1960s, markings were discovered indicating that Domínguez and Escalante had traveled through Little Indian Draw and along the historic Ute Trail.

So, did Escalante or Domínguez mark this spot long ago?

Many theories, stories, and legends have surfaced over the years, yet the true origin of the Old Rugged Cross remains unknown. What is certain is that the cross stands quietly in its ethereal setting, guarding a sacred wilderness. Each Easter sunrise, visitors gather to witness the land awakening from its long winter sleep.

For me, it is a place of peace—a place where I feel connected to the spiritual world, where past, present, and future seem to meet. I cherish the legend that says if one travels to the cross, picks up a small stone, writes their name upon it, and returns it to the earth, blessings will follow them throughout the year.

As winter night enfolds the Old Rugged Cross, I drive away filled with a peace that only comes from spending Christmas Day in the Colorado wilderness. I leave knowing my name rests on a stone near my angel son, who left this world so many years ago.

There truly is no place like home in a land scattered with ancient ruins and pump jacks—proof that fossil fuels and sacred history can coexist, each telling its own story of endurance and time.



The Whispering Canyons of Rangely - A Thrilling Series Story

The Final Chapter - The Canyon Remembers

BY JEANNIE CALDWELL

The white flare in the giant's eyes wasn't anger. It was recognition. Agent Kessler didn't flinch. She reached into her coat and pulled out a small, matte-black device, no bigger than a phone, but etched with the same angular runes that glowed faintly on the disc. She held it up like an offering. "You were supposed to wait," the giant said, its voice shifting now to Kessler's own clipped cadence. "The cycle is incomplete."

Kessler's smile didn't waver. "Cycles can be accelerated. We've prepared the conduit." Tommy felt the words like ice water down his spine. Conduit? He glanced at Ellie, who had gone very still, her hand tightening on the silver octagon. The green circle around them pulsed weakly, holding back the blue tide for now.

Ms. Lujan stopped chanting. The sudden silence was worse than the noise. She stepped forward, placing herself between the kids and Kessler. "This land doesn't belong to your schedules, Agent. Or whatever bargains you've made."

The tall shadows - there were only three left now - hovered at the edges, their oil-slick skin rippling as if listening to a frequency no one else could hear. They had always

been here, Tommy realized in some distant part of his mind: faint silhouettes scratched into the canyon walls alongside Fremont spirals and Ute horsemen, watchers older than stories. The giant tilted its head toward Kessler's device. "You bring a key forged in betrayal." "And you bring judgment forged in abandonment," Kessler replied. "Your kind left this world to rot after the last incursion. We found the remnants. We learned." Ellie whispered fiercely to Tommy without looking away from the scene. "She's not trying to stop it. She's trying to control it."

The disc above them wobbled violently, as if torn between two masters. Mollie, still shielded by Baylor's small, defiant body, reached up instinctively. The disc dipped toward her hand, responding to something only she could feel. The giant noticed. Its slit-mouth brightened. "The bearer awakens."

Kessler's composure cracked for the first time. "No—the protocol requires...." She pressed the device. A red pulse shot from it, striking the disc mid-spin. The ring of not-fire turned crimson, and the blue light from the fissure surged upward like a geyser, wrapping around the giant in coils of raw energy. The tall shadows shrieked a sound like glass harmonicas shattering—and phased toward Kessler. But they were too late. The giant raised one segmented arm. The air folded. Kessler's body lifted off the ground, suspended in a cocoon of blue. Her eyes went wide, not in fear, but in triumph. "It's working," she gasped. "The merge—"

Tommy didn't wait. He grabbed Mollie and Baylor, pulling them back toward Ellie. "We must break the connection!" Ellie nodded, slamming the silver octagon harder into the obsidian. Green lines flared brighter, clashing against the red-tainted blue. Ms. Lujan began chanting again, louder this time, her voice weaving with the canyon wind. The giant staggered. Kessler's body began to...

see *Canyons on pg 13*



Public Encouraged to Join Rio Blanco County Hazard Mitigation Plan Meetings

Rio Blanco County, CO — Rio Blanco County is moving forward with the second phase of its Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Public input is a vital part of the planning process, and residents and stakeholders are encouraged to share their experiences, concerns, and mitigation ideas with their local communities.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan serves as a community-driven roadmap for understanding local vulnerabilities to hazards such as flooding, drought, wildfire, winter storms, hazardous materials releases, and dam failures. The plan also evaluates potential mitigation strategies and prioritizes projects that improve public safety, protect critical infrastructure, and reduce disaster-related damage. Maintaining an approved hazard mitigation plan also provides significant financial benefits. Communities and districts included in the plan are eligible for FEMA mitigation funding with a federal cost share of up to 75%.

On Friday, February 13th, Rio Blanco County will host the second planning meetings to discuss the Hazard Mitigation Plan update. These meetings are open to the public, and additional information is available below. If you would like to join virtually, meeting links are available upon request.

Meeker Meeting: Friday, February 13th, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am at the County Courthouse Commissioners Hearing Room (3rd Floor), 555 Main Street.

Rangely Meeting: Friday, February 13th, from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm at the Rangely Town Hall Conference Room, 209 E Main St.

Project Contact: Karl Dietrich

Phone: 402-742-7213

Email: kdietrich@jeo.com

Aaron Parson

Special to the Review



Aaron Parsons (RHS Class of 1998), now a PhD astrophysicist and professor at UC Berkeley, has just published a science-fiction novel titled *Coherence*, which hit bookstores recently.

While the genre is science fiction, the story is not about outer space or aliens. It is set in the near future and follows a graduate physics student whose research and personal life become entangled with a powerful

artificial intelligence project. As the story unfolds, it explores how advanced technology can be used to manipulate information, influence what people believe, and blur the line between truth and fabrication.

The book also includes lightly disguised references to Aaron's Western Slope roots and Rangely, which he calls "Dragon" in the story.

If you would like to learn a little more about Aaron and his work, you can visit his website at <https://www.aaronparsons.com/>.

It is always great to see where our graduates go and to see them leave a little piece of home in their work.

Canyons continued...

change. Her skin took on the same metallic sheen, limbs elongating unnaturally as the energy forced the merge she sought. For a fleeting instant, as the blue light poured through the giant, Tommy saw—or felt—something else: layered images of red rock and starlit nights stretching back thousands of years. The giant standing sentinel when the first people painted their hunts on these walls. The giant watching as rivers carved deeper, as seasons turned, as its own kind stepped through the fissure one final time and never returned. Left behind to guard a world that slowly forgot it was ever guarded at all.

Mollie looked up at the disc—now pulsing erratically between blue and red—and whispered, "It doesn't want this. "Baylor, brave Baylor, shouted over the roar, "Then tell it what it does want!" Mollie closed her eyes. She didn't reach for the disc this time. She simply spoke, her ten-year-old voice cutting through the chaos like a bell. "Go home. "The disc stopped spinning. For one heartbeat, everything froze. Then the red light shattered outward from Kessler's device, exploding in a harmless burst of sparks. The blue recoiled, slamming back into the fissure. The giant roared—a sound of ancient frustration, of centuries spent waiting for a return that never came—and reached for Mollie. But the tall shadows moved first. They turned on the giant, their thin forms blurring as they struck. Not in violence, but in reclamation. Blue light poured from their eyes into the giant's chest, unraveling the merge. They were releasing it. After all this time, the last watchers were setting their warden free. Kessler dropped to the ground, human again, gasping. The giant shrank, folding in on itself, plates collapsing until it was no larger than a man—then nothing at all, dissolving into motes that sank back into the earth. The fissure sealed with a sigh. The obsidian cracked, turning back to red dirt and stone. The disc fell gently into Mollie's waiting hands, dark and silent now. Cool to the touch. The tall shadows regarded the group for a long moment. One inclined its head—almost a bow—toward Ms. Lujan. Then they stepped backward into nothing and were gone.

Kessler's remaining team, those still conscious, lowered their weapons. The helicopter's searchlight winked out as the pilot, sensing the end, lifted away into the night. Ellie exhaled shakily. "It's over. "Tommy looked at the kids, at Ms. Lujan standing calm as ever, at Kessler being cuffed by her own subdued agents (protocol, apparently, even for traitors). The canyon exhaled one last time, warm now, carrying the scent of sage and distant rain.

Dawn found them back at the museum, the disc sealed in a simple cedar box lined with sage and sweetgrass. Ms. Lujan had insisted—no more metal, no more runes. Just earth and memory.

Mollie and Baylor sat on the porch steps, sharing a thermos of hot chocolate Ellie had scavenged from the diner's emergency stash. Tommy leaned against his truck, his rifle finally back in its case, watching the sun paint the canyons gold. Agent Kessler was gone—airlifted out under guard, muttering about "cycles" and "next convergence." Ellie had already filed her report, the classified parts redacted even from herself. She promised Tommy the kids would be left alone. "The disc chose them," she said quietly. "That kind of choice... even the government respects, eventually."

Ms. Lujan emerged with the cedar box, placing it in Mollie's lap. "It's quiet now. Sleeping. When it's ready, if it's ever ready—it'll let you know what comes next. "Mollie traced the box's lid. "It just wanted to go home. But home wasn't... here anymore. "Baylor nodded solemnly. "So, we told it goodbye. "Tommy ruffled their hair, earning indignant protests. "You two are officially the bravest kids in Rangely. Hell, in the whole state. "Ellie smiled, the first real one Tommy had seen from her. "The canyon exhaled, and now it's breathing easy again. Thanks to all of you. "As they drove away later that morning—the girls chattering about school on Monday like nothing world-ending had happened—Tommy glanced in the rearview. The canyon walls stood silent, keeping their ancient secrets once more. But he could've sworn, just for a moment, that the rock itself looked... relieved.

The End.

CNCC continued...

To learn more about the CNCC Radiologic Technology Program and for contact information visit cncc.edu/degrees/cte/rad-tech.

Looking ahead, CNCC is excited to announce that housing will be available beginning in 2026 for students attending classes in Craig, supporting the success of Radiologic Technology students and others enrolled on campus. Additional details about housing will be shared in a forthcoming article.

On behalf of everyone at CNCC, we wish you a safe, healthy, and successful rest of the month.

Bleed Green Lancaster #17 Foundation Year End Review

BY AMORETTE HAWKINS

The Bleed Green Lancaster #17 Foundation had quite the busy 2025. Here are a few of the highlights since our last report.

After Our Cornhole Tournament in honor of Tristan Scott, two other entities joined forces to help us further help Tristan. Tim Webber donated the proceeds from the Carl and Peggy Rector Memorial Cribbage Tournament. Mandi and Dylan Smuts also contributed funds raised in the Mike Chism Poker Run. A big thanks to both of them as well as all of the individuals who donated!!!!

The 6th Annual Nick Lancaster Memorial Golf Tournament took place on May 31st. It was our most successful golf tournament to date. In fact, we were tied for the biggest tournament ever at Cedar Ridges Golf Course. One could argue that we maybe won that tie because we had a wait list of teams still wanting to get in. We can't thank the players, volunteers, sponsors and donors enough!!!! We would also like to give a TREMENDOUS shout out to Chris Hejl and his staff for once again helping us run an amazing tournament!

Kanden LeBleu, Keyton Elam and Kameron Harvey proudly display their custom-made golf shirts. They were the youngest team to ever compete in our tournament alongside their teammate Tim Webber. They were sponsored by Big D's!

The 2nd Annual Bleed Green Lancaster #17 Junior High Football Camp took place in July. There were 30 participants that attended. The players learned basic drills and techniques to help improve their skills. There were a handful of attendees that received awards for their leadership and effort.

A big thanks to the high school players and coaching staff for helping with the camp and to Get Your Stitch On for designing and making the T-shirts. see Lancaster on pg 15



Golf Tournament Sponsors



Chris Hejl and his staff for once again helping us run an amazing tournament!

Golf Tournament Donors

Jon & Amorette Hawkins

Mike & Debbie Lancaster

Sean & Bonnie Higgins



Ron & Rita Reich

SWEETBRIAR

Celesta Mullen & Henry Kiang



Casey & Karen Wilder



Diana Sizemore

Lancaster continued...

We look forward to hosting another camp next year. The future of Panther Football is very promising. Bleed Green!

The 8th Annual Nick Lancaster Memorial Football Game took place on September 5th 2025. The game ball was delivered via helicopter. What a thrill for the panther football team and fans! Our heartfelt thanks to Head Coach Keenan, his coaching staff and the entire panther football team for honoring Nick again this year. Mike Lancaster Sr. had the honor of riding in the helicopter and presenting the game ball to Jeren Blankenship and Mason Ducey.



A special Thanks to Blue Mountain Energy-Deserado Mine for their generous donation to our Junior High Football Program!!!!!!

Please visit our website to watch a season highlight video featuring the senior players sharing what it means to them to Bleed Green. www.bleedgreenlancaster17.team



The 2026 Colorado Legislative Session Begins

BY DYLAN ROBERTS

Every January, the Colorado General Assembly returns to the Capitol with a mix of urgency and opportunity. This year will be no different. After another year of economic uncertainty at both the national and state level, Coloradans are looking to their legislature to answer some big questions: How do we live within our means while protecting what matters most? How do we make life more affordable for working families? And how do we keep our communities safe, resilient, and thriving?

The Budget

Let's start with the numbers, because this year they matter more than ever. Colorado's budget is under real pressure. Unlike Congress in Washington, which continues to run massive deficits, our state constitution requires a balanced budget. That means when costs rise and revenues slow, we have to make tough decisions.

This year, rising health care costs, inflation, and reduced federal support mean we'll once again face significant cuts. Governor Jared Polis has proposed a budget that includes reductions to Medicaid and other large programs while attempting to preserve funding for education and public safety. Now it's the legislature's job to shape the final plan.

I'm confident we can make responsible choices that protect full funding for K-12 education and preserve critical health services as much as possible. But there's no sugarcoating it: this session will require plain talk about priorities, tradeoffs, and what we can realistically afford. I'll be at the table making sure rural and mountain communities — which too often feel overlooked — have a strong voice in those decisions.

Bringing Down the Cost of Living

Affordability remains the number-one issue I hear about everywhere in Senate District 8. Housing costs, insurance premiums, groceries, gas — too many families feel squeezed. While a lot of these pressures come from national and global forces, the state legislature does have tools to help.

This session, expect major debates on ways to lower everyday costs while keeping Colorado a place where families, workers, and businesses can succeed. That includes expanding attainable housing options, reducing home and auto insurance costs, stepping in where the federal government has failed to rein in health insurance prices, and pursuing other policies aimed at lowering the overall cost of living.

My Legislative Agenda: Focused on Results

Since last session ended, I've spent months traveling across SD8 meeting with residents, nonprofit leaders, law enforcement, business owners, and local officials. From those conversations, several clear priorities have emerged — all rooted in the real challenges and opportunities facing rural and mountain communities. Here are a few of the bills I'll be bringing forward.

Cutting Red Tape for Attainable Housing

Colorado's housing crisis is about supply as much as price. I'll introduce legislation to cut unnecessary regulatory barriers so local communities can unlock financing for attainable housing and build more of the homes our workforce and young families need.

Improving Road Safety

In rural Colorado, safe roads aren't a convenience — they're a necessity. I've worked for years to improve winter driving safety on I-70 and mountain highways. Now we need to address dangerous driving behaviors that have led to tragic accidents across our region. Law enforcement and first responders agree: cracking down on excessive speeding and illegal passing will save lives, and one of my bills will do exactly that. We'll also look to improve crash investigations and secure long-term investment in wildlife crossing and fencing infrastructure that saves lives — both animals and humans — by significantly reducing crashes.

Protecting Children

As a father, nothing matters more to me than keeping our kids safe. I'm working with colleagues from



Laptop Contest Essay - Madilyn Carter

From Florida to Colorado

Moving to a small town like Rangely from the big city in Florida is the best thing we could have done. I love how in this town you can admire God's creation by just looking out the window. Outside my window I see so much more nature than I did in Florida such as trees, flowers, and animals are just on the other side of the glass window. My favorite thing I have seen are the tall trees and mountains.

Being able to walk to places and back to home is spectacular. In Florida you had to drive everywhere because it was too hot and far. The traffic was awful! Here there's rarely any traffic. If on some occasion there is traffic, you just park your car and walk. Walking down Main Street you see Nichols, Maverick, Gio's, the Main Street Cafe, and Conoco. Rangely may not have many restaurants, but the ones we have are amazing. I love the Main Street Cafe's pancakes and Gio's alfredo pasta!

Now you may be thinking, how could a small town like Rangely have so many businesses? Well Rangely isn't like every other small town. What makes Rangely special isn't the businesses, it's the people. Here in Rangely, people drive by and wave even if they don't know you. The amazing people who run the businesses are always ready to help. I feel like I have so many more friends here. We moved here two days before Christmas, and people from our church took time from their busy schedule to help us unpack.

Along with the great people, the seasons are spectacular! Florida didn't have seasons. Spring was like here, but hotter. Summer is so much better here because we're outside more. In Florida we would be inside most of the time because it was miserable. I love fall here because we have such nice weather. Winter was hot and ugly, but here it is cold and beautiful! If I had to pick a favorite, I would pick winter because of the colder weather and beauty in the snow.

This will be our fourth year living in Rangely. In my opinion, there is one thing that makes this small town Rangely and it is the people. Activities and nature might be fun, but the people are the most important part. After almost four years of living here, I still love this small town life.

Roses are red, Violets are blue,

Rangely ...

There's no place on earth quite like you!



Republican Precinct Caucus Meetings

Date: Tuesday, March 3rd

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Rangely Town Hall, 209 E. Main Street, Rangely

Precinct 1 (South, East Rangely): Courtroom

Precinct 2 (North, West Rangely): Boardroom

Open to the public, registered Republicans from that precinct may participate.

Republican Rio Blanco County Assembly

Date: Saturday, March 14th

Time: 10:00am

Location: Fairfield Center, 200 Main Street, Meeker

Open to the public, delegates elected at Precinct Caucus may participate.

Colorado State Republican Assembly

Date: Saturday, April 11th

Location: Pueblo, Colorado

Delegates and alternates elected at county assembly may attend and participate.

For more information visit rbcgop.org.

Obituary for Afton Lenae Robertson



Afton Lenae Robertson, 18, of Rangely, Colorado, passed away unexpectedly on December 20, 2025, in North Platte, Nebraska, as the result of a tragic truck accident.

Afton was born on March 16, 2007, and from the very beginning carried a spirit that was loving, brave, and unmistakably her own. Afton was a true country girl at heart-strong, capable, and grounded in humility. She had a rare gift for making others feel seen and cared for, helping and befriending everyone she met with quiet grace. Never one to seek attention, she carried her strength gently, often taking on the worries of others while keeping her own head held high.

Afton graduated from Rangely High School in May of 2025, where she was deeply involved in FFA, FBLA, student council, basketball, and cheerleading. That same fall, she began attending the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, where she was a member of the ranch horse team and was pursuing her dream of becoming a veterinary technician, with plans to one day become a veterinarian. While in college, Afton worked alongside an equine dentistry veterinarian, helped work cattle, and participated in work study caring for the college's animals-cows, goats, horses, cats, and dogs.

Animals were her heart, and caring for them was never work to her.

Proud of her heritage, Afton was part of the fifth generation of cattle ranchers on the ranch where she grew up-a legacy she carried with pride and intention. She dreamed of one day owning her own cattle ranch, getting married, and raising a family rooted in the same values she lived by.

Afton found joy riding horses, spending time at the lake, shopping with friends, hunting, swing dancing, line dancing, and laughing-always laughing. She loved country music, rock and roll, and dance hits, and she had a smile and laugh so contagious they could lift even the heaviest hearts. She was the undisputed queen of nicknames and a loyal, no-judgment presence to everyone lucky enough to know her.

She is survived by her parents, Owen and Michelle Robertson; her siblings, Rayna Robertson, Aren Robertson, Kush Seegmiller, and Zackary Seegmiller; her nephew Kai; her grandmother Cheryl Robertson; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and countless friends who loved her deeply. Afton has many family members who welcomed her into heaven.

Though her time on this earth was far too short, Afton lived with a depth of character many spend a lifetime striving to achieve. She was a light everywhere she went, and the world is better for having known her.

Visitation will be held on Friday, January 2, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., and again on Saturday, January 3, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Funeral services will follow on Saturday, January 3, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., with graveside services and a luncheon following. All services will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 125 Eagle Crest Street, Rangely, Colorado. Graveside will be at the Rangely Cemetery.

In honor of Afton and the cowgirl she was, attendees that are able are encouraged to dress in western or cowboy semi-formal attire, wear a cowboy hat if they have one, and/or include purple-her favorite color-if possible.

Online condolences may be shared at www.AshleyValleyFuneralHome.com

Obituary for Desiree Cochrane

Desiree Cochrane passed away peacefully on February 1, 2026, in Salt Lake City, Utah, surrounded by her loving family. She passed away due to leukemia after bravely fighting angiosarcoma for one year.

Desiree was born on December 16, 1982, in Rangely, Colorado, to Mark and Pamela Berrett. She was the fourth child in the family and was welcomed by an older brother (Glendon Berrett) and two sisters. (Marcia Prater, Tina Wilkerson).

On January 11, 2004, Desiree married Michael Cochrane. Together, they became parents to four children: Makenze, Jordan, Kenyon, and Chase. Their son Jordan was born on February 11, 2004, and tragically passed away the following day due to complications.

Desiree deeply loved animals and cherished her roles as a mother, aunt, and grandmother. She was a proud grandmother to Tyson and Emberly, who were the joy of her life. Desiree loved the outdoors and enjoyed hiking, camping, boating, and attending her children's sporting events.

She was a certified bookkeeper and worked for Rangely Trash Service and Prater Plumbing. Desiree faithfully served in many callings within The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was well known in the community for her kind heart and sweet spirit.

Desiree was hardworking, resourceful, and very skilled at do-it-yourself projects around the home. Above all, she always made time for her family and friends. Her love, strength, and generosity will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Desiree was preceded in death by her son, Jordan Dee Cochrane, and by her father-in-law, Carl Dee Cochrane.

Funeral Services will be held Friday, February 6, 2026 at 11am at the Rangely LDS Chapel. Burial will be in the Rangely Cemetery.

To order memorial trees or send flowers to the family in memory of Desiree Cochrane, please visit our flower store.

Roberts continued...

both parties on legislation to strengthen human trafficking laws, protect children from online predators, and ensure social media platforms comply with safety standards. Technology shouldn't come at the expense of our children's well-being.

Supporting Coal Transition Communities

Northwest Colorado communities facing the economic transition away from coal deserve real support — not empty promises. I'll introduce legislation to help these communities maximize settlement funds that will be vital for replacing lost tax base, attracting new industries, and supporting workers.

Standing Up for Agriculture and Water

As Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, I'll continue fighting for smart investments in the Colorado Water Plan, strong support for Western Slope farmers and ranchers, and vigilant oversight of major issues like Colorado River negotiations and wolf reintroduction.

Stay in Touch

I'll be at the Capitol working for smart solutions, honest conversations, and outcomes that make Colorado stronger, safer, and more affordable for everyone. My work is driven by the needs of the communities I serve — and I want to hear from you.

Attend a town hall (virtually or in person), follow the legislature's work, read local coverage, or reach out to me anytime. You can contact me at SenatorDylanRoberts@gmail.com or on my cell at (970) 846-3054.

The session ahead won't be easy. But with clear priorities, open dialogue, and a commitment to practical solutions, I'm optimistic about what we can accomplish together.

Dylan Roberts is the state senator for Clear Creek, Eagle, Garfield, Gilpin, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt and Summit counties.



Dinosaur Fossils Unearthed During Parking Lot Construction at National Park

Remains believed to belong to a large, long-neck dinosaur called the Diplodocus

BY STEPHEN SORACE

A routine parking lot project at Dinosaur National Monument has unearthed dinosaur fossils at the site for the first time in more than a century.

Workers uncovered the fossils near the Quarry Exhibit Hall after removing asphalt in mid-September, exposing dinosaur-bearing sandstone, the National Park Service said. Park staff identified the remains on Sept. 16 and immediately halted construction to allow paleontologists to assess the find.

The fossils are believed to belong to a large, long-necked dinosaur called the Diplodocus. The species is commonly found in the area's historic bonebed.

Park officials said staff members, a Utah Conservation Corps crew, volunteers and construction workers helped excavate the remains.

Between mid-September and mid-October, crews removed roughly 3,000 pounds of fossils and surrounding rock. The material is now being cleaned and studied at the Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum in Vernal, where visitors can watch the preparation process in the museum's fossil lab.

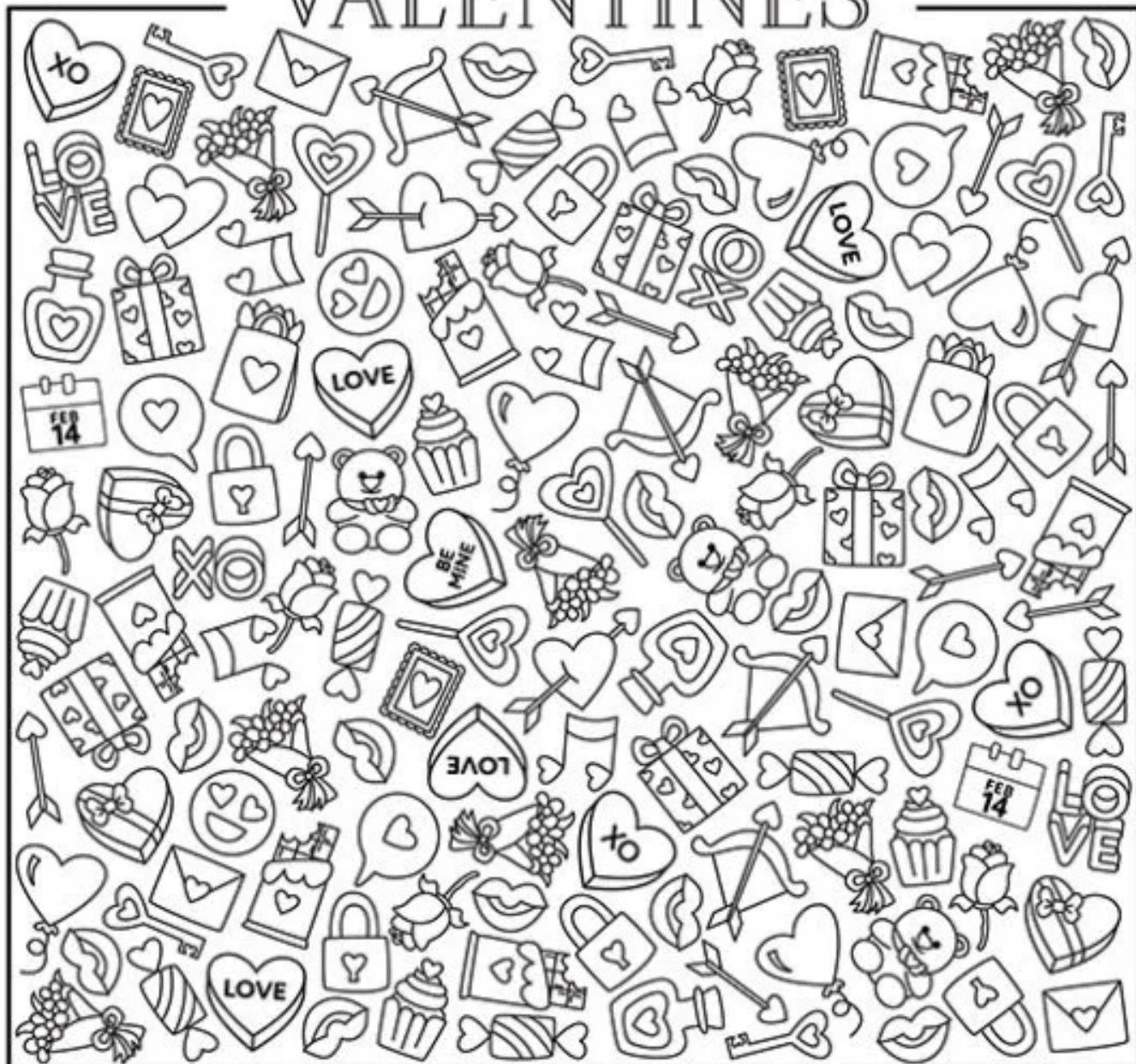
The site had not been excavated since 1924, when fossil removal efforts ended after a series of early 20th-century digs led by the Carnegie Museum, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the University of Utah. Dinosaur National Monument was established in 1915.

Some of the newly uncovered fossils are already on display at the Quarry Exhibit Hall, often called the "Wall of Bones," as well as at the Utah Field House museum. The exhibit hall is the park's most popular attraction and sits atop the original Carnegie quarry, where visitors can view about 1,500 dinosaur fossils still embedded in rock.

Following the excavation, crews completed the parking lot and road improvement project, which included new concrete and asphalt work and accessibility upgrades around the exhibit hall.



Kids Corner

I SPY
VALENTINES

Valentine's Day WORD SEARCH

QOHLOIENVBLMOJN
GAXALSCHEARTSSH
ICHOCOLATECKDNG
FNLMKSRLZIAWSXS
THODFWVGOFRCCZK
SOXJTERAXVDSARH
VLSGGEHFLZERNTY
VIOHMTDLMEJCDHCB
RDRMHHAODWNJYFA
OACYUETWPYVTDKP
MYPGAAEQWOTIPN
AROYCRFRIENDSNQ
NFOENTXSXCUPIDE
CZKISSXEWKZJPFGJ
EOUZAKAVYCBSXKT

Sweetheart	Valentine	Chocolate	Romance
Friends	Flowers	Holiday	Hearts
Cupid	Candy	Gifts	Love
Kiss	Date	Card	Hug



VALENTINE'S DAY

WORD SCRAMBLE

1. MARDIER _____
2. QUTBOUE _____
3. OOLTCCHEA _____
4. PDUCI _____
5. WRSLEFO _____
6. AETRH _____
7. NORMCEA _____
8. WREHTTESAE _____
9. ELVNATEIN _____
10. OESRS _____
11. GHU _____
12. LEVO _____

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