

"Meeker has almost always had a newspaper ..." ~ Richard Lyttle

THE MEEKER HERALD.

VOL. 1--NO. 1.

MEEKER, COLO., SATURDAY, AUG. 15, 1885.

PRICE, TEN CENTS.

THANKS TO OVERWHELMING SUPPORT, THE HERALD NOW WILL PRINT THROUGH NOVEMBER. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? **THAT'S UP TO YOU.**

SAVE THE HERALD.

Proudly Independent Community Journalism Since 1885 ♦ Vol. 139, No. 10 ♦ October 19, 2023 ♦ \$1⁰⁰ ♦ ht1885.com

Community raises \$20,000 in four days to help save the *Herald*

What happened:

85% of newspaper funding comes from advertising sales. Those dropped suddenly and unexpectedly. Since we operate on a shoestring like any small business, we did not have sufficient cash flows or receivables to cover basic expenses past Oct. 26, 2023.

What we're doing about it:

- Letting our full-time reporter go.
- Cutting all extraneous expenses, including our paychecks.
- **Many of our single copy locations will be removed to save on costs. To keep reading, purchase a subscription at ht1885.com/subscribe**
- Our last ditch effort will be killing the print edition and going digital-only.

What you can do:

Become a Community Supporter.

We know the traditional model is broken, and we are working hard to pivot. Community support gives us additional time to make the Herald healthy and sustainable. Anyone who gives any amount in the next two weeks will become an honorary member of our future membership model. Every single dollar received will be used to continue local news coverage. You can give at: givebutter.com/savetheherald or PO Box 720, Meeker, CO 81641.

BY NIKI TURNER & CAITLIN WALKER

Owners, Herald Times

Last week, after the Oct. 12 edition had come out, the *Herald* was thrown into crisis-mode. Balancing the checkbook led to a discovery of an acute shortfall in cash flows and receivables. We had enough funds to publish two more issues, and that was it.

Advertising sales, which generate 80-85% of revenue, have been down significantly all year. It's not unusual to have a slump from time to time, but this one has been steady and extended.

Meanwhile, the cost of production has gone up significantly, just like everything else. The price for the 'paper, people and postage' it takes to create one print copy is now about \$5.55.

So, facing the imminent demise of the community institution we love, we went into emergency management mode. We laid off our staff reporter, cut hours for one part-time office staff member, implemented austerity measures for ourselves (a fancy way to say, "how long can we go without getting paid?"), cut the number of print copies we order and distribute, and started looking at all available options for revising the business model to ensure sustainability. On Friday night, we issued an emergency alert via email to newsletter subscribers and shared it on our social media channels with a request to you, the community, to save your 138-year-old newspaper.

And boy, did you respond. As of press time Wednesday, the *Herald* has received more than \$20,000. There is no way we can thank you or express our gratitude enough, except to reaffirm our commitment to keep this local, independent community publication alive.

The donations are a stopgap measure. It will keep the *Herald* printing at least for the month of November and hopefully through the end of the year while we determine — with wise counsel — the best way to ensure sustainability for the newspaper long-term. Those plans are taking shape now, and we'll keep you up-to-date.

On behalf of all the *Herald's* caretakers, past and present, our sincerest gratitude.

Niki & Caitlin

BLESSED



NIKI TURNER PHOTO

People and their pets gathered on the lawn at St. James' Episcopal Church for the annual Blessing of the Animals service in honor of the feast day for St. Francis of Assisi. Multiple dogs and a single cat present, as well as a handful of pets represented virtually, received a blessing from Father Scott Hollenbeck (left). Kathy Nelson's pug, Vinny, who works part-time as a service dog at the elementary school, was eager to receive a prayer and a pat on the head.

Accident on CR 8 claims life of one Meeker teen, another hospitalized

BY NIKI TURNER
editor@ht1885.com

MEEKER | A single-vehicle crash on County Road 8 at mile-marker 4 at approximately 9:20 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14, resulted in one fatality.

According to the Colorado State Patrol (CSP), a Pontiac Sunfire driven by 16-year-old Bow Muxlow of Meeker, was traveling westbound on CR 8. The driver swerved before losing control of the vehicle, which rotated clockwise off the westbound right shoulder of the road, striking a barbed wire fence before rolling. The vehicle came to rest facing northeast from the westbound lane.

The driver and the passenger were not wearing seatbelts and were ejected from the vehicle. Dillon Hobbs, 17, also of Meeker, was pronounced dead at Pioneers Medical Center. The driver of the vehicle was flown to a larger hospital facility with moderate injuries, treated and released. He is expected to recover. Alcohol and drugs are not suspected as a cause at this time, according to CSP. Excessive speed is considered a factor.

A fundraiser for the Hobbs family has been created here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/31z3r8>

A fundraiser for the Muxlow family has been created here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/oemd5v>

SERVICES

Services for Dillon Hobbs will be held Sunday, Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. at Meeker High School (550 School St.).



OPAL MUNGER PHOTO

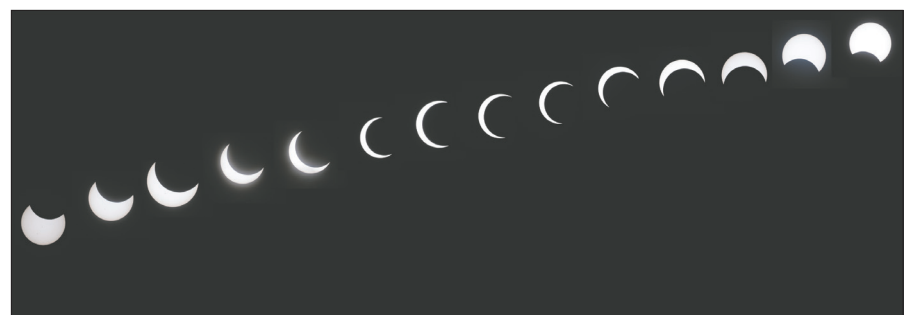
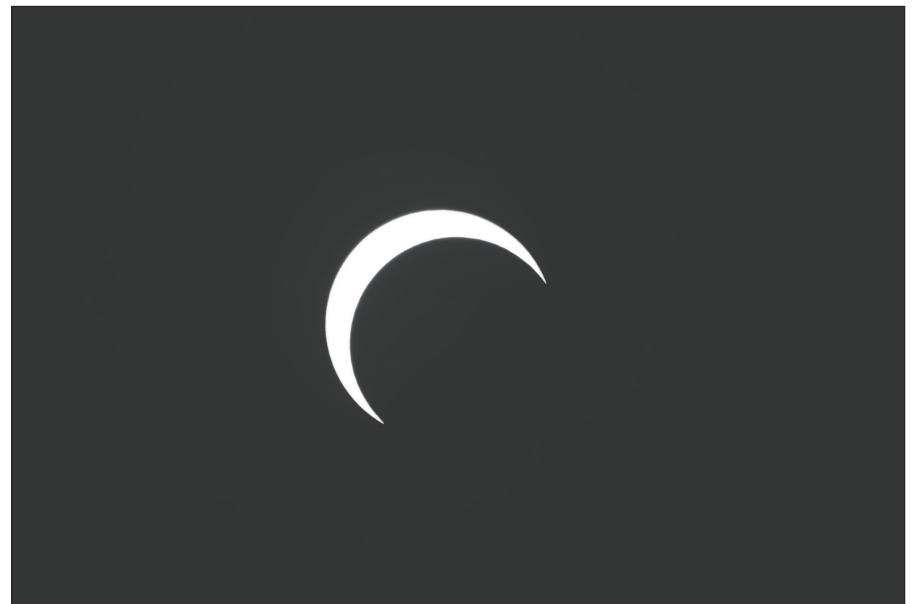
Memorials for Dillon Hobbs were set up at Meeker High School by classmates and friends.

GRIEF SUPPORT RESOURCES

- HopeWest, 970-878-9383 hopewestco.org/grief-support
- Open Hearts Advocates, Amber Douglas, 970.274.8090
- National Alliance for Children's Grief nacg.org/resourcelibrary
- The Dougy Center for Grieving Children and Families, dougy.org

Thanks to Brittni Turner, Grief Counselor at HopeWest Meeker, and Amber Douglas, Counselor at Open Hearts Advocates, for providing this list.

ANNULAR ECLIPSE



TIFFANY JEHOUREK/NASA/JAXA PHOTOS
In the path of totality, the annular eclipse Oct. 14 created a "ring of fire" effect (right). This was taken by the solar optical telescope Hinode as the Moon came between it and the Sun.

Viewers here enjoyed about 80% totality (top) with special glasses, lenses, and homemade pinhole cameras.

A total solar eclipse, will happen April 8, 2024, seven years after the last one. Western Colorado is not in the path of totality, so if you want to see it, make plans to travel.



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