

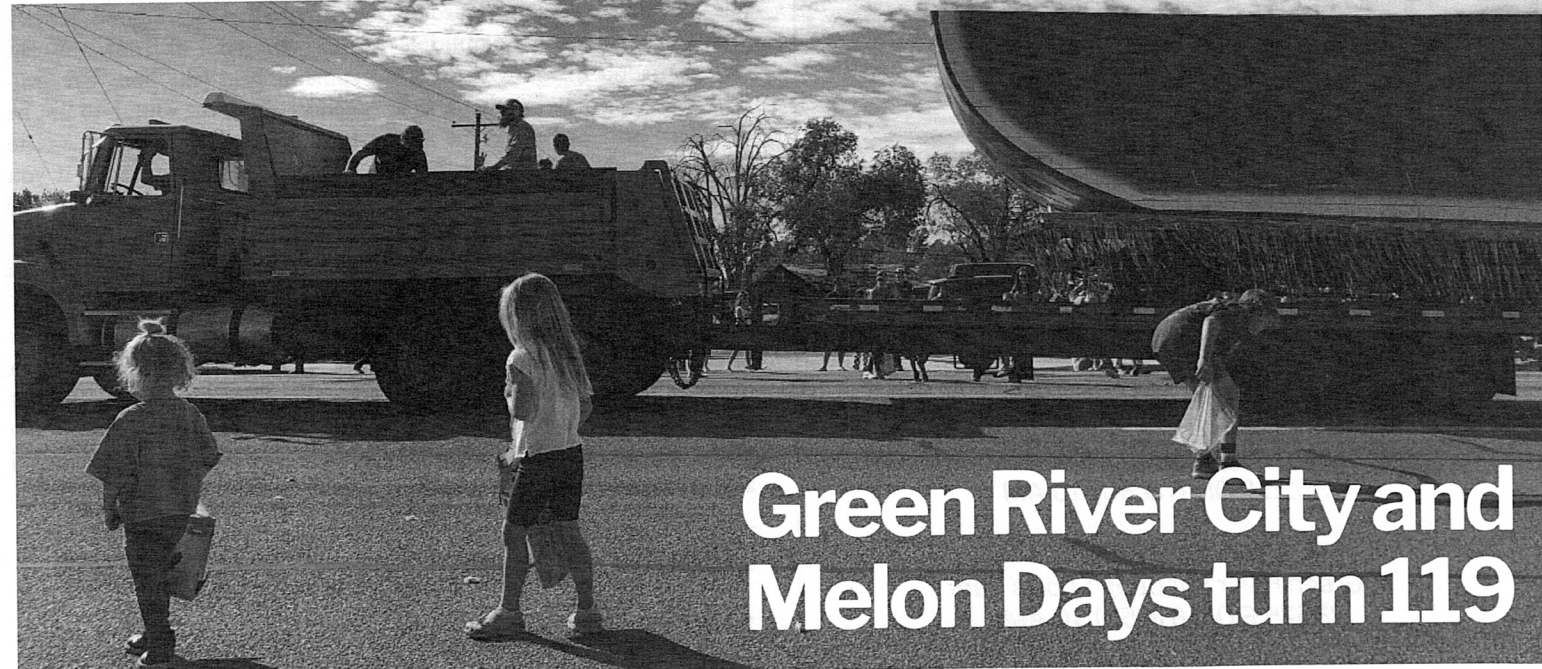


The Green River Observer

Vol. 2, No. 9

"The Other Local Newspaper: News, Notes, and Nothings from the Middle of Everywhere"

October 18, 2025



Green River City and Melon Days turn 119

The world's largest melon gets a lift during the Melon Days parade.



Guzman wins GRHS melon-eating contest

by ROSA BARRAGAN

In honor of Melon Days, Green River High School held a melon-eating contest on September 12th. The school's theme this year is "Celebration," and each class is responsible for planning a celebration throughout the year. September's celebration was planned by the Class of 2026. Two students

from each grade competed to see who was the fastest watermelon eater, and judges were present to ensure that each student finished their allotted melon and that the melon slices were of equal size. Kaden Guzman took home the title of melon-eating contest winner, with Jaziel Hernandez and Cassidy Erwin taking second and third place, respectively. 🍉

City responds to ballfield nuisance complaints

by KENNY FALLON JR.

More than once in the past year law enforcement has been called to City-owned ballfields to respond to a nuisance, which have typically been people playing softball or baseball at night with the field

lights on. At the September 9th City Council meeting, the City began considering how ordinances can be clarified or expanded to resolve this situation. Mayor Ren Hatt said that the current noise ordinance requires City quiet hours between 11pm and 7am, with

an exception for reserved group events or City events, such as Melon Days. A potential ordinance was distributed earlier in the day, but was not to be voted on until a later meeting after initial consideration. City Councilor Kent

CONT AT "NUISANCE" 🍉

Small Bites 🍴🍷

✓ The City agreed to be an "interested party" for Operation Gigawatt: a State-led partnership for Terra Power to build a natrium nuclear reactor in Utah.

✓ The City is applying to renew their water rights extension, ~2,000 acre feet, likely for industrial use.

Outlaw Days 2025 Schedule

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8TH

Warm-up Cowboy Action Stages and Side Matches
at Green River Shooting Sports Park
(3525 E Old 6 & 50), 2 PM through 4 PM

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8TH

Cowboy Action Shoot
(Register Online at OutlawDays.Com)
at Green River Shooting Sports Park
(3525 E Old 6 & 50), 10 AM

Milk Jug Shoot
at Green River Shooting Sports Park
(3525 E Old 6 & 50), 10 AM

Small Vendor Fair
at Green River Shooting Sports Park
(3525 E Old 6 & 50), 10 AM through 3 PM

Horseshoe Tournament
(Register online at OutlawDays.Com)
at Green River Shooting Sports Park
(3525 E Old 6 & 50), 2 PM through 4 PM

BBQ Dinner and Brenn Hill Concert
(Purchase Plates/Tickets for \$30 Online at
OutlawDays.Com by October 26th)
at Event Center
(370 Main Street), 5 PM

Brenn Hill Concert
at Event Center
(370 Main Street), 5:30 PM

Prize Drawing
(Anyone Who Attends The Dinner And Concert Is
Entered Into A Drawing And Could Win A Prize!)
at Event Center
(370 Main Street), 7:30 PM

NUISANCE (CON'T)

Nelson said that he is opposed to any more restrictions on using the parks, saying "City parks should be open; enough said. If you bought a house next to a ballpark, you knew that ballpark had lights when you bought the house."

Loni Meadows spoke up from the audience to say "I know one person that has complained by calling law enforcement multiple times on adult men, high school-age kids having practice when there have been coaches there, all the way to some youth. We all know how hot Green River is [during the day]. We all know everybody works up until a certain [time of day]. Right now we have a full-out women's league, that is not City-sponsored, and a men's league, that is bringing people from Moab, sometimes twice a week. Because of the availability of the lights, they're able to come after work starting

at 7:30. Some nights they're out there until midnight because of the long innings. I don't know that we should be shutting that down because we haven't had more than the one property owner next door [complaining]." She understands that lights can be annoying to neighbors, but also asks "Why are we chasing our kids away from doing something that's keeping them centralized doing a good activity and staying out of trouble? I read something in [the potential ordinance] about the sound 'to not be heard beyond 50 feet'. Home plate to first base is 65 feet. So if you can't stand on first base and hear something being said on home plate, that to me is a bit ridiculous honestly."

Mayor Hatt noted that the 50 feet stipulation is common in other cities' ordinances, but that this is just a starting point, if any action is to be taken. No Council action was taken that night. 📌

City's project to re-engineer and re-design South Broadway moves forward

by KENNY FALLON JR.

At the September 9th City Council meeting Ensign Engineering, Hales Engineering, and Arcadis gave an introduction to the project the City has hired them to complete: after receiving public input, to engineer and design an improved South Broadway street. This project only consists of design and planning for now, and is funded by the Governor's Office for Economic Opportunity. South Broadway was chosen as a site because of its central "downtown" location and incidentally it is easier to adjust. Main Street is a UDOT road, so it falls under UDOT's more restrictive regulations.

Someone in the audience noted how Ray's Tavern is visited by people traveling with RV's, tractor trailers, boats, and UHV's at least partially because it's easy to park on Broadway with large vehicles, and that they're concerned

about anything that might limit parking those vehicles.

A representative from Arcadis said that "Your problems happen all around the state in small communities...We're here for you guys, we need your input. We don't have preconceived ideas." He explained that this team will be consulting with property owners on South Broadway to ensure that existing businesses' experience is taken into account. The team said that they want to enhance what's authentic about Green River to benefit locals and because, "market studies say that the tourists go where the locals are".

Duane Riches, owner of the Melon Vine Food Store said "Forty-three years I've been in business on Broadway. I've seen it in its heyday. I've seen it with a post office, grocery store, hardware store, parts houses, bars, barber shop, hotel, and a drugstore. We are not against beautifying Broadway."



Recycling drop-off area at Green River City Transfer Station

Green River begins new recycling pilot

New collection bins to test interest

by KENNY FALLON JR.

Green River City is working with Moab Solutions and Canyonlands Solid Waste Authority to test out recycling at the City Transfer Station at South Walnut Street and

100 South (directly west on the road south of the Melon Vine). The initial five collections totes (pictured above) are open just past the concrete ramp whenever the

Transfer Station is open, which is generally from 9am to 4pm Monday through Friday.

All recycling that is collected is transported to companies that use it in their own manufacturing processes in Salt Lake City, Grand Junction, and the broader Mountain West region. No recycling is brought to a landfill unless the totes are too heavily contaminated with trash. The Green River Recycling Pilot Program will help determine local interest, how often

Canyonlands Solid Waste Authority will need to do pick-ups, and whether to expand to collecting other materials. 🍷

The materials currently accepted include:

- Empty Steel and Tin Cans and Lids
- Empty Aluminum Cans
- Empty #1 PET Plastic Bottles
- Empty #2 Natural HDPE Plastic Containers
- Empty Solid HDPE Color Plastic Containers

****GR Citizens Town Hall Meeting****

October 21st at 5 PM at the Senior Center
(after the County Commission meeting at 3 PM at Green River City Hall)

Emery County Commissioners and State Representative Logan Monson will meet and greet the citizens of Green River

Representative Logan Monson (LMonson@Le.Utah.Gov)
Commissioner Dennis Worwood (DennisW@Emery.Utah.Gov)
Commissioner Keven Jensen (KevenJ@Emery.Utah.Gov)
Commissioner Jordan Leonard (JordanL@Emery.Utah.Gov)

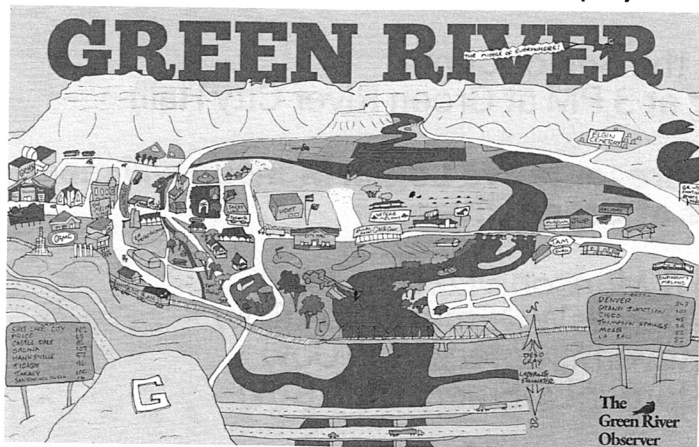
****Refreshments Provided****

Ballot Proposition to be held during November 4th election:

Shall the City re-authorize a 0.10% sales tax to fund recreational, cultural, botanical, and recreational facilities and programs (the RAP tax)?

The RAP tax was first approved eight years ago. For every ten dollars you spend, a penny goes towards the tax. The City has used it for things like resurfacing the basketball courts, putting non-slip under the O.K. Anderson Park pavilion, and maintenance on sprinkler systems on ballfields. The City Council has talked more recently about shifting this tax revenue back towards funding capital (construction) projects in parks.

Cartoon Map of GR Posters For Sale (\$8)!



Email TheGreenRiverObserver@Gmail.com

"Oh yeah, I read about that in the Observer"

Your Ad Could be Here...

...and in EVERY PO BOX IN TOWN!

contact TheGreenRiverObserver@Gmail.com for details about rates, reach, and more!

All are welcome to the learn more about organizing events at the free:

Event Coordinator Workshop

**5:30 - 8:30pm, January 15th
in Castle Dale**

**To RSVP, email:
Events@Emery.Utah.Gov**

The Green River Observer is published monthly online (at TheGreenRiverObserver.Substack.com) and in print by Saleratus Press LLC to cover the news, history, and culture of Green River, Utah, the "Middle of Everywhere".



To send tips, feedback, buy ads, submit events, or just say hey email us at TheGreenRiverObserver@Gmail.com, call us at (435) 261-3084, or send physical mail to:


Saleratus Press
PO Box 353
Green River, Utah
84525







Editor in Chief:
Kenny Fallon Jr.

Columnists:
Tadd Mecham
Tony Herrera

Contributor:
Rosa Barragan

Printed by:
Carbon Print and
Design (Price, Utah)

Thank you to our media partner and supporter


Thank you to






for your generous financial support!

Public comment about new billboard designs along I-70 by GR exits


The following text is a portion of a public comment given at the September 9th City Council meeting by Tonya Bigelow. She is discussing the City-owned billboards near I-70 exits 160 and 164 to Green River, which are now being leased to Emery County for a three year term.

The lease does not involve any payment to the City, but the County is paying for the cost of wrap installation, estimated by Mayor Ren Hatt during the meeting to be about \$5000. County Travel Director AnnDee Mead later confirmed that both billboard leases and designs were approved by the Emery County Travel Board, Emery County Commission, and GR City Council before production and installation. The billboard out by Love's that Bigelow references is leased by the City and was designed by Epicenter.

Tonya Bigelow:
"I am here to say that I feel that

[the billboards] was a snub to our downtown businesses. The one out here is kind of funny; I'm sure that's a picture of the Swell, but anybody on the freeway is going to say 'Oh, Arches [National Park]' (the billboard features a photo of Dutchman's Arch). We've got [the other billboard with a photo of] Swasey's Beach, but who knows that for Swasey's Beach, you have to get to by way of Green River? If you go to the website there (VisitEmeryCounty.Com), boy, Green River's down on any of that. And I've been in Green River my whole life -I love being from Green River, I love being from Emery County- but that's just typical of what Emery County [government] does to Green River: they use us. They got us with the TRT tax money. Where does most of that come from? Green River. Our most prized advertisement for our town (the billboards), and we lost it. I loved the billboard out by Love's and just thought that's

what's going out there. So I was sad we have zero representation out there [on I-70]. You've got to go a long ways on that VisitEmeryCounty.Com website to find Green River. If we don't fight for Green River, no one else does."

*Since this meeting, the City has said they will be working with the County to modify the billboards to refer to GR. 

The Emery County Travel Board is a nine-person volunteer advisory board of business owners or employees in the travel and tourism industries that meets monthly in Castle Dale or Green River, and over Zoom. The board members are: Travis Bacon, Maria Sykes, Mayor Ren Hatt, Cathy Gardner, Larry Johansen, Lacey Hardman, Mayor Danny VanWagoner, and Commissioner Keven Jensen. There is currently an opening for a new board member. If you're interested in joining then email: Travel@Emery.Utah.Gov

Be the solution: A call for more EMT's excited to serve community


The following was posted by Steph Crabtree, GR Assistant Fire Chief:

The recent water rescue has reignited the conversation about strengthening our EMS capacity. While the city administration can work on EMT compensation, county partnerships, and additional resources, they cannot create the people needed to serve. The true solution to our EMS shortage must come from our community working together.

- Residents - Becoming an EMT requires no prior experience. Anyone in Green River

- can get certified and make a difference.
- Business Owners - Consider sponsoring an interested employee and adjusting schedules so they can serve.
- Community Members - Support your neighbors by offering to watch children, check on pets, or provide other help so they feel supported in serving.
- Educators - Show our youth the opportunities available to serve their community once they're adults. Be the encouraging voice that helps them see

- how they can make an impact.
- Drivers - Interested in helping but not ready to fully commit? Join EMS as a driver. You'll receive training in emergency vehicle operations and radio communications.
- Beyond Medical Calls - Our EMTs work alongside the Sheriff's Office on a wide variety of rescues. There are opportunities for additional training in rope, water, and technical rescue.

Message the GRFD on Facebook with questions on how you can get involved. 

Film Review

by TADD MECHAM

Weapons

★★★★★ (out of five stars)

Rating: R for strong bloody violence and grisly images, language throughout, some sexual content and drug use

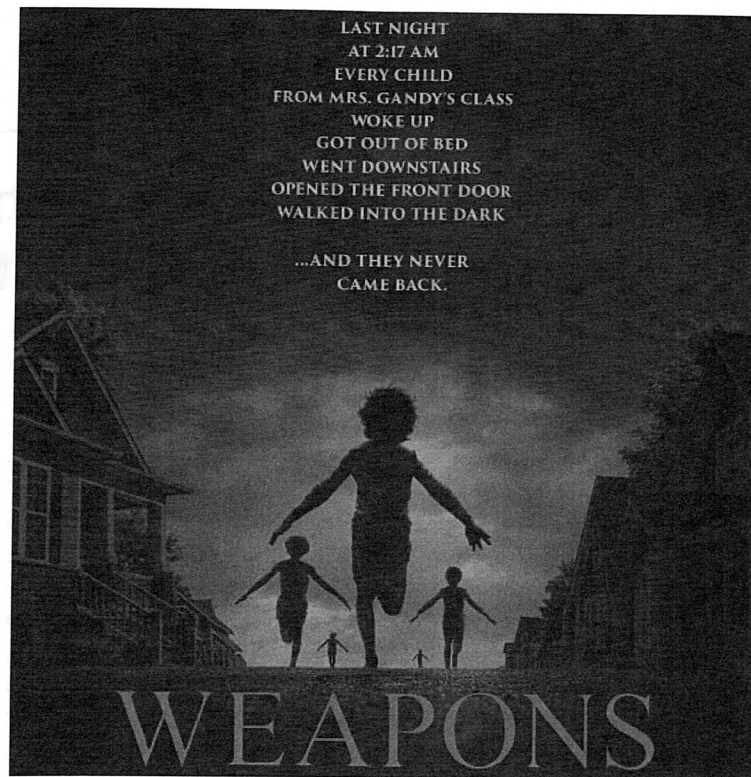
Run time: 129 minutes

Directors: Zack Cregger

Released: 2025

Weapons is the latest super-hyped horror film of 2025. It has been propped up on the pedestal of countless 'best horror film of the year' claims. This happens every year, and the vast majority of the time it isn't true. But I can safely say, as someone who has spent their life obsessed with horror, you can finally believe the hype with this one.

Elementary teacher, Justine Gandy (Julia Garner), arrives at school one morning to find that her entire third grade class has disappeared without a trace. As Jus-



tine searches for answers, she soon discovers the truth about what happened is far stranger than she could have ever imagined.


Zack Cregger made a name for himself with 2022's *Barbarian*. And like his first feature, *Weapons* is shot with very

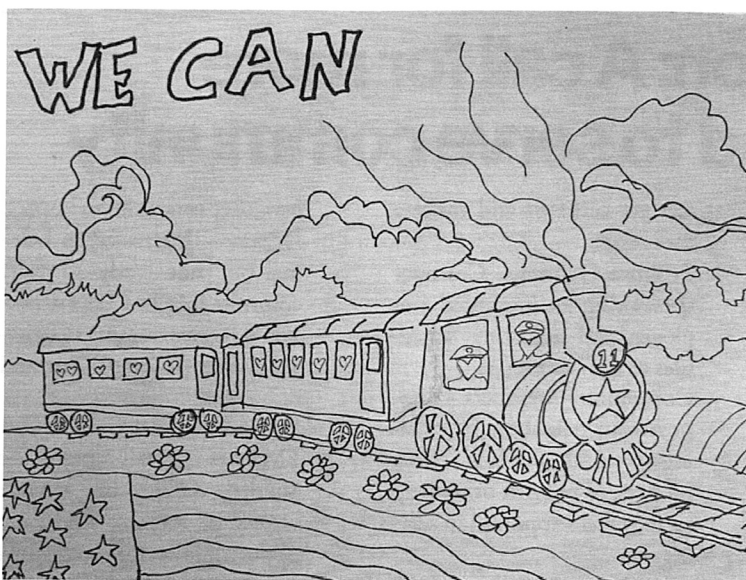
thoughtful camerawork and written with enough narrative shifts to make your head spin. It is polished and consistently impressive in its presentation, with an incredible attention to detail when the story retreads previous events from new perspectives.

Arts &

The script is tight, smart and well paced for a film over two hours long. The writing understands just how close horror and comedy reside and plays to that strength often. Where there are genuine laughs, genuine screams will soon follow.

The performances in this are great. There is impressive work from every actor in the main cast, with one destined to become a staple on every list of favorite horror villains ever. The quality of this filmmaking feels leagues above everything else in theaters and begs for multiple viewings just to catch subtle things that were missed. Will it be too much (horror or humor) for some? Yes. But it will satisfy any horror fan looking for something big and meaty to kick off the spooky season.

My advice would be to avoid looking into the plot at all and just give it a watch without expectation. I cannot recommend *Weapons* enough. 



by Christine Kierstead Sheeter

Travelin' with Tony Reno and Back Again: September 18-22, 2025

by TONY HERRERA

The main purpose of this trip was simple: go to Reno, Nevada for an art teacher's workshop put on by the National Gallery of Art at the Nevada Museum of Art. I was lucky to be elected by the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art as one of ten Utah teachers. I decided to make an adventure out of the trip and drive rather than fly, first to Wendover, then to Reno. At the beginning of my trip I had not yet decided how I would make my return trip. I was warned that

the drive from SLC to Wendover would be boring but I found the barrenness of the salt flats to be interesting. I also saw the Tree of Life, but I found this to be underwhelming. After 4.5 hours of continuous driving I arrived at Montego Bay in Wendover. In Montego Bay everything feels either recently updated or well-maintained. I was happy to see that the entire hotel was decorated with landscape photos, some featuring areas close to home. My only objection was that I was unable to find my favorite slot machines in the 25¢ denomination. I am also perplexed by the existence of high-limit slots in Wendover. Who comes to Wendover to play slots at \$100 a credit? In the end I would stay at Montego Bay again, but I would not stay in Wendover again. This is due to the complete lack of activities outside

CONT'N ON NEXT PAGE 

Culture

of the amenities offered by the hotel (casino, pool, fitness center). After driving 5.5 hours to Reno the following day I checked in at the Whitney Peak Hotel. It is likely the nicest hotel I have ever stayed at. Unfortunately I did not have time to use the climbing gym or the sauna.

From the Nevada Art Museum there were three exhibits I will share here. The first being a selection from their permanent collection titled "Altered Landscape". The photos depicted how humans have interacted with and changed the world around them. I feel that the current set resonated with me because they were all desert photos. I was also happy to see an original Edward Weston print. Secondly, I was excited to see their Dorothea Lange Exhibit, currently on loan from the National Gallery. Finally, the museum had an exhibit consisting of two giant clocks showing how bristlecone pine trees experience time differently than we do. Bristlecone pine trees are the longest living non-clonal organism on earth. I was excited to find out that these ancient trees could be found in Great Basin National Park, a short detour from hwy 50. After leaving Reno I started my drive eastward on hwy 50 also known as "The Loneliest Road in America" according to Life Magazine in 1986. I was surprised to see that the signs normally warning of deer were replaced with signs warning of wild horses. It was not much later that I saw wild horses along the side of the road and after that I saw wild burros. I wish that I could've stopped to photograph them but the shoulder of the road was not wide enough.

Through the drive I was captivated by the white Maynard Dixon style clouds, but around the town of Austin, these were replaced by dark menacing clouds. I stopped briefly in Austin where I photographed an old church and bought a darkroom enlarger from



Bristlecone Pine

by Antonio Herrera

a man who claimed he owns a cabin that Ansel Adams once resided in. Right before I hit Eureka, the dark brooding clouds produced a downpour of hail. I would've liked to stop in Eureka, but I decided to continue driving.

After driving through the hail I finally arrived at the Hotel Nevada in Ely. The Hotel Nevada was built in 1929 and was the tallest building in the state at the time. Luckily my room did not show its age. My room, while small, had

been recently renovated, was immaculately clean and had modern furnishings.

The next morning I awoke early to make my trip to Great Basin NP. Once there I took my car up 4,000 feet in elevation along the scenic drive. The hike to the Bristlecones was fairly easy, and it would've been even easier if I hadn't burdened myself with 30lbs of photography equipment. Right as I got my camera ready I pressed the shutter release, only to realize

that the light had worsened moments before. I decided to wait for the clouds to move before making another exposure. 📷

Do you have an idea for a column, article, or would you like to be interviewed? Let us know by emailing:

TheGreenRiverObserver@Gmail.com
or by calling:
(435) 261-3084

Would you like to submit an event to the calendar?

Community Calendar

Send us the event name, start and end time, and location.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
19 (October)	20 Storytime/4H 3-5 PM / GR Library Barre/Pilates Fusion 5:30 PM / GRMC Recovery Group 7 PM / GRMC	21 Seniors Craft 10 AM / GRMC Women's Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC County Com. 3 PM / City Hall Town Hall w/ Comm. and Rep. 5 PM / Senior Center Planning Com. 7 PM / City Hall	22 Book Club 2 PM / GR Library Mayor Hatt's Office Hours 4-6 PM / City Hall Men's Golf 5 PM / State Park Dance Fitness 7 PM / GRMC	23 Abandoned Mine Reclamation Tour 8:45 AM / Moab Museum Therapy with a dog & Lexis (by appt) Free After-School Activities (ages 5-12) 3:30 PM / JWP Museum Disc Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC	24	25
26	27 Storytime/4H 3-5 PM / GR Library Barre/Pilates Fusion 5:30 PM / GRMC Recovery Group 7 PM / GRMC	28 Seniors Craft 10 AM / GRMC Women's Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC \$25 Adult Craft, RSVP: 435-691-0251 10-6 / GR Library	29 Men's Golf 5 PM / State Park	30 Therapy with a dog & Lexis (by appt) Free After-School Activities (ages 5-12) 3:30 PM / JWP Museum Disc Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC	31 Halloween Carnival and Trunk or Treat 6 PM / LDS Church Dance Fitness 7 PM / GRMC	1 (November) One Man Scramble Golf Tournament 11 AM / State Park
2	3 Storytime/4H 3-5 PM / GR Library Barre/Pilates Fusion 5:30 PM / GRMC Recovery Group 7 PM / GRMC	4 Seniors Craft 10 AM / GRMC Women's Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC	5 Men's Golf 5 PM / State Park Dance Fitness 7 PM / GRMC	6 Therapy with a dog & Lexis (by appt) Free After-School Activities (ages 5-12) 3:30 PM / JWP Museum Disc Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC	7 Outlaw Days Shooting Sports Park	8 Outlaw Days Shooting Sports Park and Event Center
9	10 Storytime/4H 3-5 PM / GR Library Barre/Pilates Fusion 5:30 PM / GRMC Recovery Group 7 PM / GRMC	11 Seniors Craft 10 AM / GRMC Travel Board 3:30 PM / Zoom Women's Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC	12 Mayor Hatt's Office Hours 4-6 PM / City Hall Men's Golf 5 PM / State Park Dance Fitness 7 PM / GRMC	13 Therapy with a dog & Lexis (by appt) Free After-School Activities (ages 5-12) 3:30 PM / JWP Museum Disc Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC	14	15