



## Spark Reed

My mother's family had truck farms here in the River Valley since the 1930's and supplied fruit and vegetables to all the mines, ranchers and boarding houses from Dolores to Rico, Telluride, Dunton on both the west fork and east fork of the Dolores River.

My parents were living in Rico when I was born in 1951. Being born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is where my nick name came from and I didn't know my real name until Kindergarten in Dolores in 1956. I started school here in Dolores and then moved to Yellow Jacket in 1957 and lived and worked on the family farm for the next 25 years. I have one brother and two sisters.

I attended school at Pleasant View (1<sup>st</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>) then High School in Cortez. I attended college at CSU and Ft Lewis with a major in Ag Econ and minor in history. The Ag-Econ led me into banking where I spent 30 (+) years in the banking industry. I handled loans throughout the Western US, mostly in small rural towns with the majority of my background in ag lending.

Alesa and I have a total of 6 children, 3 boys / 3 girls, ages 36 to 47 (4 graduated here in Dolores) and 16 grandchildren, 3 currently attending Dolores Elementary School and Teddy Bear Preschool.

I have previously served on the RE-4A District Board of Education from 1992-2000. My Board assignments were Dolores Town Board, Dolores Rotary and BOCES where I served as President for two years. I have always been willing to serve on local boards and support all community needs. I am currently in my 4/5 year serving as President on the Four States Ag Fair Board. The Expo produces two large events each year: The Ag

Expo in March and a Ranch Rodeo in June/July. The Expo draws 8-10,000 people from around the four states area.

In an area like Dolores and other smaller communities that I have lived and worked in the school is, and should be, the nucleus for the town and community. This will be one of my main focuses for the board to bring community and school closer and have a better working relationship. I will also concentrate on financial strength of the district and maintaining excellent teaching and supports staff through teacher retention efforts and strong hiring practices.