

Shorts

Saguache County Democratic Party Caucus is March 5

STAFF REPORT
SAGUACHE COUNTY — The Saguache Democratic Party Caucus is planned for 3 p.m. on March 5 at Moffat School.

Pre-register by emailing saguachecountydems@gmail.com. People can also register at the door on the day of the event.

“Much has happened since the 2020 Caucuses, so this year’s Caucus format will be different than in the past,” organizers stated. “If you’re a registered Democrat, we need and want your participation. Up for re-election in 2022 are Gov. Jared Polis, Sen. Michael Bennet, Congressional District 3, and a host of state and local candidates. Your involvement is important.”

Saguache County Republican Caucuses and Assembly dates

STAFF REPORT
SAGUACHE COUNTY — Saguache County Republicans recently announced dates for the Combined Precinct Caucuses and Assembly.

The Saguache County Republican Combined Precinct Caucuses (1-7) will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, at Mountain Valley School cafeteria, 403 Pitkin Ave., in Saguache. Registration begins at 6 p.m. The parking lot is located off 2nd Street by the school. Use athletic entrance to the cafeteria area.

The Saguache County Republican Assembly starts at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 12, at the Mountain Valley School cafeteria.

For more information, email sagctygp@gmail.com or call Wyoma Hansen at 719-429-4011.

Youth Basketball Camp registration is open

MONTE VISTA — Registration for Youth Basketball Camp through the City of Monte Vista is open. The camp is Aug. 2-4 at Monte Vista High School gymnasium and is for boys and girls in grades 7-12. Register now and save 20 percent by calling 719-852-8287.

SLVREC, Cielo board of directors meet Feb. 22

MONTE VISTA — SLVREC and Cielo will have their regular meeting of the board of directors at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 22, at 3625 US Highway 160 W, Monte Vista. Advance notice is required to attend the meeting, call Michelle at 719-852-3538.

Kiwanis to hold Pancake Dinner fundraiser Feb. 21

BY MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — The Center Kiwanis Club will be holding its annual all-you-can-eat President’s Day Pancake Dinner, on Monday, Feb. 21.

The event will be held from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Center School cafeteria. The cost is \$9 for adults, \$5 for children older than 6 years old, and children 6 years and younger are free. One pound of sausage can also be purchased for \$5.

According to Dick Ramstetter of the Center Kiwanis Club, “The breakfast is to raise money for all our Kiwanis projects.”

Pastor Debria Upton of the Center United Methodist Church also shared information regarding upcoming events. On Sunday, Feb.

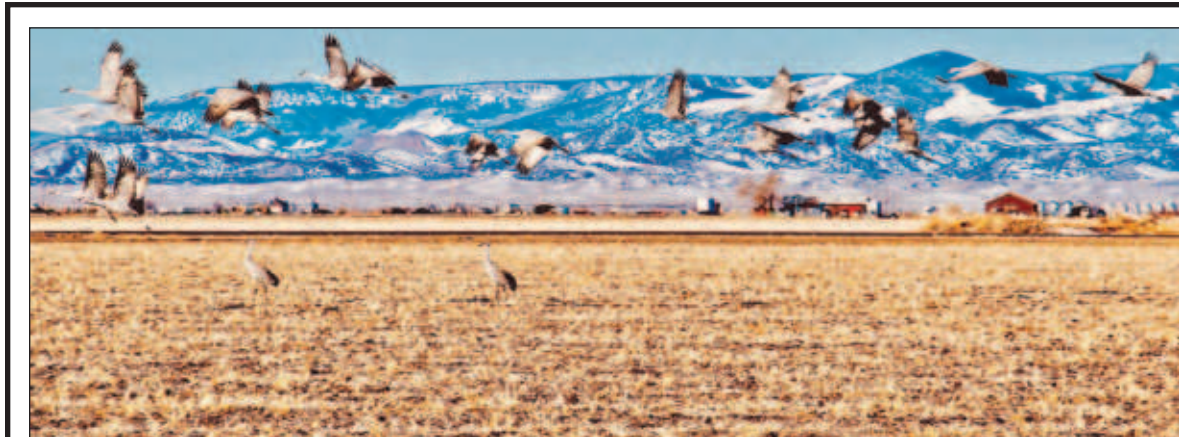
20 at 3 p.m. the Monte Vista United Methodist Church will host an informal Coffee with the D.S., District Superintendent Chris Carr. This event is an informal question-and-answer session with the Superintendent.

Also of note, Upton stated, “Ash Wednesday, March 2, will be here soon. From 7 to 10 a.m. Center Church will be open for prayer and the imposition of ashes. Saguache Church will be open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for prayer and the imposition of ashes. There will be a simple Ash Wednesday service at Center at 6 p.m. followed by Adam Hamilton’s Bible study, The Lord’s Prayer, at 6:30 p.m. both in-person and virtually.”



Contributed photo

The Center Kiwanis Club will be holding its annual all-you-can-eat President’s Day Pancake Dinner, on Monday, Feb. 21.



Photos by Mechel Meek

Sandhill cranes are seen in a barley field in the San Luis Valley. The birds are making their annual Spring migration. The Monte Vista Crane Festival is set for March 11-13.

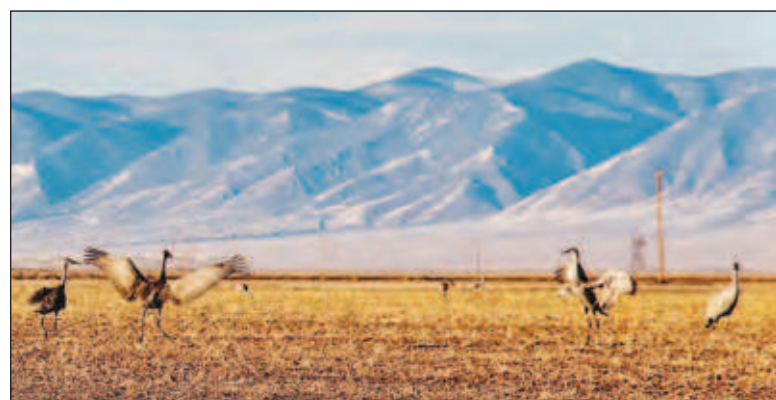
Sandhill cranes return to Valley

Crane Festival introduces new format for viewing

BY MECHEL MEEK

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The cries of hundreds of sandhill cranes have returned to the San Luis Valley. Every year, the large birds can be seen returning from their winter grounds in the south to the assorted wetlands of the Valley.

The sandhill cranes are a draw for visitors, researchers, and bird enthusiasts from around the world. Many people come every year to Monte Vista during the Crane Festival to view these birds, listen



to experts speak, and enjoy the craft show. The Crane Fest will be held March 11-13.

According to the Monte Vista Crane Festival website, mcranefest.org, “In 2022, we are hosting a hybrid

festival. We will not be using buses or gathering indoors. Instead of Crane tours, you will drive yourself to meet-up locations on the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge and *Please see CRANES on Page 5A*

Sargent High School students shine in district-wide leadership conference

BY MECHEL MEEK

MONTE VISTA — The Sargent High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) participated in the District 8 Leadership Conference on Tuesday, Feb. 8. It was hosted by Adams State University in Alamosa. According to Trish Rue, “The members participated in individual



COLORADO FBLA

Preparing Students to Become Business Leaders

and team events. Sargent FBLA competed well and had 17 members qualify in individual events for State Leadership Conference and 20 students qualify in prejudged or team events for State Leadership Conference. Students will need to choose one event to compete in at State. Eleven students

placed from 5th to 10th in individual event. Every member placed in the top 10. Congratulations!”

The State Leadership Conference will be at the Gaylord Event Center in Denver on April 18-20. The FBLA is the largest career student organization worldwide and helps more than 230,000 students each year prepare for a future career in business. The FBLA’s programs focus on leadership development, educational programs, and community service.

According to the Colorado FBLA, the National and State Awards Program recognizes and rewards distinction in a wide range of business and career-related areas. Through district-wide competition, the students who are members of FBLA qualify for the April State Leadership Conference, where members compete in events that test their business knowledge and skills. Top winners at State qualify for the National competition.

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OBITUARIES

Rory Dwight McClellan

Rory Dwight McClellan, 65, of Monte Vista, passed away at home on Feb. 10, 2022.

Rory enjoyed the simple things in life. He loved camping, riding horses, hunting, fishing, hot rod cars, snowmobiling, his family, and an occasional beer.

“A person is mortal but love for them has no end. Though a loved one may not be present, he is always in our hearts and minds. Gone but not forgotten, gone but ever here. No longer living in this world, but always and ever near.”

— Author unknown.

Rory is survived by his wife, Arnell, his stepdad William “Buck” Cooper, his brothers Charles (Heather) Cooper and Loren McClellan, his children Sonya (Cheb) Yund and Nicholas McClellan, grandchildren Tristan (Jessie) Stevenson and Kendra Yund, and his great-grandchildren Jessica, Rylee, and Gavin.

Rory was preceded in death by his father Arthur “Max”



McClellan, his mother Virginia Cooper, his grandparents, and many aunts and uncles.

The family will not be having a memorial service but will have a private family gathering on a later date.

Arrangements in care of Strohmayer’s Funeral Home of Monte Vista.

Royce Rodney Reinhardt

San Luis Valley native, Royce Rodney Reinhardt, 90, passed away on Feb. 7, 2022, in Grand Junction, Colo. He was born on Aug. 23, 1931, in Alamosa, Colo., to Elmer Reinhardt and Mabel (Goff) Reinhardt. Royce grew up in the Bowen Community south of Monte Vista and graduated from Monte Vista High School in 1949.

He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1950 and after basic training stateside, he spent three years at a couple of different bases in Germany. Upon returning home from Germany, he married Jessie Marie Landes on June 6, 1954, at Bowen Methodist Church near Monte Vista.

After finishing his final few months of the Air Force near Reno, Nev., the couple returned to the San Luis Valley where Royce began farming in the Bowen Community, later moving to the Carmel District where they raised five children and farmed for over 40 years.

It was as a farmer where Royce found his true calling in life. For many years he farmed with his brother, Roland Reinhardt. In high school the two of them loaded potatoes by hand and were able to buy a new 1950 Dodge flatbed truck, and later with money saved during their stints in the Air Force were able to start farming together.

After their move to Carmel, they were among the first to adopt center pivot irrigation and to plant alfalfa using that system. Royce served many years on the Alamosa/La Jara Water Conservancy Board and during his tenure as president of the Terrace Irrigation Company Board was instrumental in building the concrete ditch system, overseeing the construction of 29 miles of ditch and headgates. He received the Adolph Coors Environmental Award for water conservation

in 1994 for his efforts with that project. Eventually Royce and Roland separated their farming operations, but Royce’s legacy carries on with both his sons, Ronald and Kent, and his grandson, Ryan, continuing to farm in the area.

Royce grew up across the road from Bowen Methodist Church and was a lifelong member. He served as treasurer for many years, and both he and Jessie were dedicated and active in countless roles, big and small at Bowen, for their entire life together. Royce enjoyed any game with a ball...softball, bowling, volleyball, and especially golf, and he played on the men’s league at the Monte Vista Golf Course for many years.

The mountains surrounding the San Luis Valley were special to him; many a Sunday afternoon was spent running up to the hills for a hamburger fry on the campfire, and he loved both ice-fishing and fishing from his boat on St. Maria Reservoir. Later years found him and Jessie traveling to spend winter weeks in Mazatlan, Mexico; they also enjoyed a trip to Europe together and a number of cruises, including a memorable one through the Panama Canal.

But it was as a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather that Royce’s life had such a lasting impact. He had an affinity for children, and they for him. The grandkids, and later the great-grandkids were drawn to his presence because he was FUN, and he could turn just about anything into a game!

Royce is survived by his five children: Schonie (Willard) Nielsen, Rhonda (Mike) Entz, Ronald (Mary) Reinhardt, Sonya



(Galen) Smith, and Kent (Vivian) Reinhardt; his grandchildren, Seth (Angie) Nielsen, Kristin Nielsen, Adam Nielsen, Brynna (Aaron) Jones, Vicki (Ryan) Johnson, Matt (Shea) Reinhardt, Marci (Jeff) Moore, Sarah (Kasey) Cox, Josh (Jessie) Smith, Chantal (Carl) Swanson, and Ryan Reinhardt; 15 great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members.

Royce was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Jessie; his grandchildren, Brooke Nicole Entz and Kristopher Aaron Entz; and his brothers, Roland and Gary Reinhardt.

A celebration of Royce’s life will be held this summer (date still to be determined and announced). Contributions are suggested to Beaver Creek Youth Camp and/or Bowen Church and may be made in care of the funeral home office. To express condolences, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements.

Michael ‘Grizz’ Addison Garnett

Ulysses, Pa., resident Mike Garnett passed away Dec. 26, 2021, in Coudersport, Pa., at the age of 67.

Mike was born on Feb. 19, 1954, to Dean Chapman and Dorothy Burton Garnett in Monte Vista, Colo.

Grizz was an avid outdoorsman. He spent his youth 4-wheeling with his family and their 4-wheeler club.

He was always up for anything outdoors. Hunting, fishing, photography, and men’s softball were some of his favorites.

Mike graduated from Monte Vista High School in 1972, one of the largest classes on record.

Mike had a variety of jobs throughout his life. He attended Colorado State University and received his bachelor’s from Adams State while in his 40s. He was a bookkeeper while in the San Luis Valley.

A large man with a large heart. He



was always upbeat and a friend to all.

His health caused him to leave the Valley and he landed in Pennsylvania. He spent many years fighting MS.

He is survived by his brother Jim of Bellingham, Wash., and eight nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Dorothy and brother Don.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF’S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff’s Office for the period between Monday, Feb. 7, 2022, and Sunday, Feb. 13, 2022.

The Sheriff’s Department’s activity on the road included one crash with property damage, one abandoned vehicle, 10 traffic stops, one stolen vehicle, and one traffic complaint. They also patrolled the Town of Saguache nine times.

In addition, there were two reports of fraud, one report of loose livestock, one report of trespassing, one report

of assault, one report of fraud, five animal problem reports, two noise complaints, and one report of found property.

They also responded to nine controlled burns, one fire (other), six ambulance calls, one alarm, four civil disputes, one medical alarm, one search and rescue call, one suicidal subject call, and provided information two times, assisted a nearby agency once, and conducted two welfare checks.

ARRESTS

• A 40-year-old Mosca woman was arrested for an outstanding warrant.

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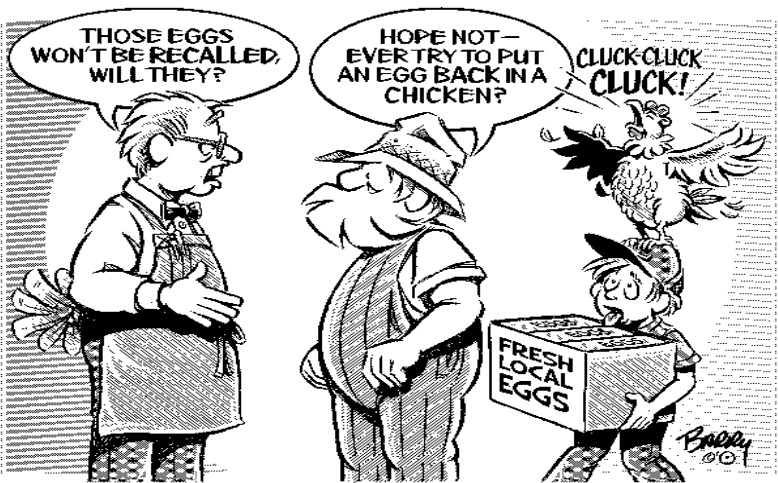
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Image of a family in a kitchen with social media icons (Facebook, Home, FDIC) at the bottom.

OPINION & EDITORIAL



Darwin was right

Most of you probably already know of Charles Darwin and his famous theory about the evolution of the species but for those of you needing a memory jog due to aging synapses, it goes something like this.

He basically said that all of life is dependent upon what he called "natural selection," which means that only the smartest and strongest of a species will survive. This process leaves only those best suited to survival to breed and better their kind.

In actual practice, it pretty much means that someone dumb enough to jump off a cliff to their death won't be around to leave such inferior brain cells to another generation through subsequent breeding efforts. Of course, this does not factor in that that same person may not weed themselves out before procreating but you get the gist anyway.

Now I don't know if any of it is even true but back when Ol' Dutch was growing up we had our kind of weeding out the inferior of the species. This took the form of riding bicycles without helmets, playing in the street, drinking from the garden hose, playing football without gear, shooting fireworks and BB guns at one another plus eating school cafeteria food.

Today if a person was to even suggest that kids do any of the above you would be met with protest signs, news reporters on overdrive harassing you, and Child Welfare acting.

But let me tell you something. Through trial and error, those of us who survived soon learned what to and what not to do to live with the least amount of pain in our lives. We still fell and got hurt but a little mercurochrome (aka Monkey Blood) applied by our mothers was enough to send us out seeking another adventure and injury to learn from.

Just the other day Ol' Dutch saw an ad on the boob tube about the new Tide Pod container being child-proof. This is to get women to buy a more expensive bottle of the magic cleaning potion in hopes of preventing their little Johnny from eating some soap.

Which brought to mind my own experience of ingesting soap at an early age. It seems that Lil' Dutch was prone to having a naughty mouth and my mother was not the type to put up with such shenanigans for too long. You see we did not have an extra corner to put me in for a time out like



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

they do kids today, so she did the next best thing. She attempted to clean up my sassy mouth with Lifebuoy soap.

Many a time she applied her form of behavior change on Lil' Dutch only later to find out that I actually liked the taste of it. You would think that would have stopped her from trying to cleanse me from unrighteous behavior, but I still recall the day she grabbed the dish soap and gave me a good snort right in the old kisser.

Now I don't know what kind that was, nor does it matter but it did the trick and from then on Ol' Dutch became a model citizen of the household. And I learned then and there that soap in sufficient amounts and quality is not to be ingested. Hence, yes you got it, survival of the species had taken place.

I do realize we don't want to let kids eat Tide Pods but maybe if more of them had a taste of the green blobs at an early age, fewer of them would try the latest fad of ingesting them wholly and dying as teenagers. It's just a theory, of course.

You may find it interesting that Old Darwin himself died from heart issues after a rock-climbing expedition at the age of 74. This goes to prove his theory, albeit a tad late for him, to have avoided leaving progeny who will then later attempt the same feat and die all due to his very own theory about the survival of the species.

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com.

LETTERS

Costilla County Assessor Aragon seeks re-election

Editor,
Thomas Aragon is seeking reelection and issued this statement:



I am pleased to announce my candidacy for re-election as the Costilla County Assessor. I have been a public servant to the Costilla County taxpayers for over eighteen years.

It is vital that an experienced candidate is elected to this office for the financial budget stability of the entire county and taxing entities within the county such as our schools, fire protection, ambulance, etc.

It is equally important that an experienced Assessor ensures fair and equitable values for the taxpayers of the County.

Together with my staff, we have built an educated, technologically advanced working system in the

office for efficiency of workflow and database organization.

We have established an online mapping system that benefits the County offices, Sheriff, Emergency Management, as well as the public.

I wish to continue assisting with building and advancing the County for the future. I graciously ask for your support in the 2022 County Assembly, Primary, and General Elections.

Please feel free to contact me at TAragon4Assessor@gmail.com if you would like to visit with me about my campaign.

*Thomas Aragon
Costilla County*

Trish Gilbert announces Saguache County Clerk & Recorder candidacy

I am announcing my candidacy for re-election to the office of Saguache County Clerk & Recorder.

The Clerk & Recorder's office is responsible for the custody and preservation of all documents received for Recording; Motor Vehicle transactions such as titling and registration; Elections; Liquor Licenses; Marriage Licenses, Board of Equalization, Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners, and map scanning - to name a few.

One of my first goals back in 2018 was to offer Online Motor Vehicle Registration Renewals. That service went live on January 21, 2018. The DMV's improved range of online services make it easy to skip the trip. There are now 17 Motor-V services and 17 driver license services offered online.

We had to brace for major changes in elections by mailing primary ballots to unaffiliated voters for the first time EVER. With every year comes new legislation and new challenges.

In the recording department, we have now digitized all records dating back to the 1800's. These records will be viewable online once the indexing has been completed.

We are urging schools to register students to vote and get involved in the community they are about to become part of. We have an appreciation for our student election judges who participated in the election process.

I would like to complement our team THE-AWE-SOME-ONES! -Desiree, Ben, Dominique, Rebecca and Miranda for their demanding work, tireless effort, and everyday enthusiasm. They worked through very trying times, including a global pandemic. 100% of staff, including myself, is certified in elections and 100% of staff is cross trained to perform all functions. This dynamic team is highly trained and skilled in all tasks. Their critical work is key to our success.

As far as my experience, I worked in the Clerk & Recorder's office for six years (including 2022), five of which I served as the County Clerk. Prior to working in Saguache County, I worked in county government in another county for 18 years and have other related experience: I was Office Manager for two family-owned businesses to include payroll and accounts payable; worked at the Post Office, which by the way, is much more than putting a stamp on an envelope; and was Assistant Manager at the local store.

I believe my skills in diversity promote creativity, productivity and growth and enable a broadening of existing concepts. I note areas where the Clerk's areas of emphasis and my areas of expertise overlap. I have applied for and received nearly a half million dollars in grant funds for improvements to our office and services

to the community.

I have always been community oriented:

Current member of Colorado County Clerk's Association (CCCA)

Currently Vice-Chairman of the CCCA Southern Region

Appointed by the Secretary of State to the Electronic Recording Technology Board (ERTB)

ERTB Grant Committee Member

Appointed to the ERTB Evaluation Committee

4-H leader

Political Committee Chairperson and Delegate to the National Convention

Community Club officer,

National Australian Cattle Dog Club of America Treasurer,

Volunteer Firefighter,

Rodeo Committee Member,

Member of Colorado Association of Permit Technicians, Inc.,

Director of the Saguache County Museum and currently a member of the Museum Board of Directors,

Member of Saguache County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

Bottom line - I will do whatever it takes to get the job done! I would appreciate your support for the office of Saguache County Clerk & Recorder, where our team strives to put citizens and services first, with professional presence in a friendly atmosphere.

Trish Gilbert

Saguache County Assessor, Treasurer welcome questions

Editor,
Regarding anyone that has experienced a tax increase on their property in Saguache County, or that simply has questions regarding their taxes, the County Assessor's

Office and County Treasurer's Office welcomes inquiry and will provide explanation.

While both offices are extremely knowledgeable concerning assessment rates and mill levies, neither office can

determine nor control the reaction of citizens to tax issues. Both offices are here to promote the best interests of all Saguache County citizens.

*Peter Peterson
Saguache County Assessor*

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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Happy Valentine's week

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

DEL NORTE — For those of you interested in dancing away the winter blues or simply wanting to get out and exercise, High Valley Community Center is now offering Zumba classes on Thursday mornings. Classes will be taught by Veronica Climie on Thursdays from 9-10 a.m. and will be \$5 per class for adults younger than 50 years old and free for the 50-years-and-older community. HVCC will continue to offer free fitness classes at 10 a.m. on Thursdays which will be open to the 50-and-older community only. We hope to see you all here!

HVCC is extending an invite to any members of the 50-and-older community in the Del Norte area to join our Encore Program. We offer art classes on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. and fitness classes Thursdays at 10 a.m. Encore members also enjoy various excursions including bowling, swimming, and going out to lunch. The program is free to eligible members. Please call the HVCC front office at 719-657-2172 or email us at www.thehvcc.org if you would like to sign up for the program or if you have any questions. Our next outing will be at the Sand Dunes Swimming pool on Wednesday, Feb. 23.

A friendly reminder that HVCC



Courtesy photos

High Valley Community Center students continue to enjoy the after-school program with different activities each week. Students are chasing away the late winter blues and diving into arts and crafts, homework help and several other programs offered at HVCC

accepts new registrations year-round. Our program includes children from kindergarten to seniors in high school — there is something for everyone! We are open Tuesday-Thursday from 4-6:30 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. We offer a variety of onsite activities throughout the week as well as homemade meals, homework assistance, various sporting events, etc. Our program is free, and the children are welcome to join us as much or little as they'd like.

Questions? Suggestions? Want to learn more about our program? HVCC staff members are more than happy to assist you. Give us a call, send us an email, or stop by our office at 595 Grand Ave.

Everyone at HVCC wishes you a happy and safe week! We ask that you please do not send your child to HVCC or HVCC events if they are sick, quarantined, or have tested positive for COVID-19. Thank you for understanding!



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YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Zodiacal Light and Morning Planets



The full moon was on Feb. 16, so in a few more days it will rise later, and you'll be able to observe the sky before it rises. On the 18th you can start looking for the Zodiacal Light. It will be visible for two weeks.

It's visible where the Sun sets. So, look to see where that is, then when the sky gets dark, you should be able to see the Zodiacal Light. It's brightest and widest near the horizon. When you find it and look up, you'll see that it gets narrower and dimmer. It will move to the left a little and actually rise to the Milky Way. It will be visible now from Feb. 18 to March 3.

In the morning when the sky is still dark, you will see a lot of the planets. Look in the east-south-east and you'll see a very bright light. That's Venus! When I first saw it, I didn't know what it was because it was so big and bright. But after a few days I realized it was Venus.

Venus is very bright all month because it's closer to us than it usually is. That's why it's so bright. There are several planets close to Venus that are visible in the morning. Mercury reaches its

greatest elongation from the Sun on Feb. 16. So, it's quite visible now. It's just a little to the left of Venus. Mars is just below Venus, and Saturn is to the left of Mercury.

So, you need to get up by 6 a.m. and if you have a window that looks to the south-east, you won't have to go out. I just look out of our window. On Sunday, Feb. 27, there is a morning traffic jam in progress before dawn. Brilliant Venus, small Mars, and a small waning crescent Moon are together and visible. Mercury is to the left of the moon. Although Saturn is to the left of Mercury, you may need to observe it with binoculars.

Jupiter is the only planet visible in the evening sky. It's in the southwest. I see it a lot. It's the brightest object when the sky starts to get dark. It's actually probably close to the Zodiacal Light.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2021-2022

BOYS BASKETBALL

Centauri 52	Sanford 35
Crested Butte 57	Center 41
Monte Vista 32	Del Norte 30
Creede 71	Centennial 45
Sierra Grande 67	Moffat 36
Cotopaxi 51	Moffat 23
Center 60	Trinidad 45
Sangre de Cristo 39	Lake City 25
Del Norte 56	South Park 25
Primer 45	Centennial 26
Sanford 60	Sargent 20
Primer 65	Antonito 29
SB (CO-OP) 53	Antonito 45
Moffat 45	Sangre de Cristo 33
Creede 64	Lake City 12
Sierra Grande 74	Centennial 43
Creede 52	Manzanola 29
Moffat 59	Lake City 15
Sierra Grande 73	Sangre de Cristo 14
South Park 54	Sargent 37
Crested Butte 50	Monte Vista 46
Del Norte 58	Center 41
Sanford 50	Ignacio 22
Monte Vista 55	South Park 25
Centauri 62	Bayfield 35
Centauri 65	Pagosa Springs 48
Montezuma-Cortez 86	Alamosa 77

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sierra Grande 58	Moffat 12
Cotopaxi 42	Moffat 17
Sanford 39	Centauri 27
Center 48	Crested Butte 39
Del Norte 34	Monte Vista 33
Center 36	Trinidad 23
Sangre de Cristo 54	Lake City 12
Sanford 54	Sargent 23
Del Norte 43	South Park 18
Antonito 53	Primer 12
SB (CO-OP) 42	Antonito 23
Sangre de Cristo 56	Moffat 10
Centennial 56	Sierra Grande 51
Lake City 27	Moffat 19
Sangre de Cristo 60	Sierra Grande 21
Monte Vista 43	Crested Butte 29
Sargent 55	Trinidad 33
Sanford 71	Ignacio 26
Monte Vista 47	South Park 17
Centauri 59	Bayfield 21
Centauri 36	Pagosa Springs 32

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Seasonal closures at State Wildlife Areas protect nesting birds

MONTE VISTA — To protect water birds during the nesting season, Colorado Parks and Wildlife implements seasonal closures at several State Wildlife Areas (SWAs) across the San Luis Valley.

Higel, Playa Blanca, Rio Grande, Russell Lakes and Segó Springs SWAs are closed to all public access Feb. 15 through July 15. Additionally, the wetlands portion of San Luis Lakes SWA is closed to the public on the same dates.

“These properties serve as important areas for many species, including the federally endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, different species of waterfowl,

Sandhill Cranes, herons, etc.,” said CPW District Wildlife Manager Tyler Cerny. “We have staff that continually work in these areas managing weeds, water movement

or other projects, so the public may see staff during these times of closure.”

The closures add to two other closures at SWAs currently in place

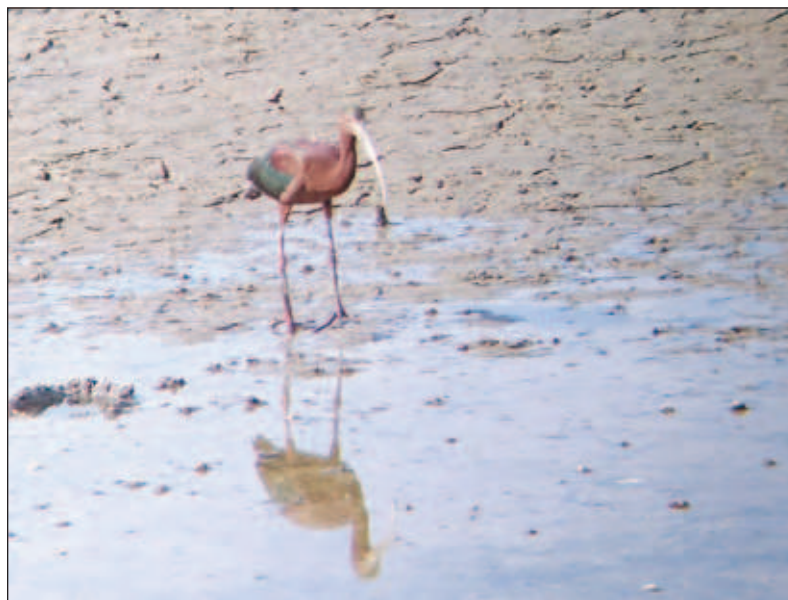
in the San Luis Valley:

- Hot Creek SWA is closed to motor vehicles from Jan. 1 through April 30.

- La Jara SWA is closed to motor vehicles Jan. 1 until the last Thursday before Memorial Day. This year, that is May 26.

The purpose of those closures is to protect big-game animal winter range during the months elk and deer are most vulnerable.

For more information on seasonal closures in the San Luis Valley, call the Monte Vista office at 719-587-6900.



A white-faced ibis is pictured at the Rio Grande State Wildlife Area in 2021.

Photo by Tyler Cerny/CPW



Photo by Mechel Meek

CRANES

Continued from Page 1A

learn from experts interesting facts about sandhill cranes from Refuge staff and volunteers. Individual tickets are purchased by selecting an event on the website. Please select one Crane Sandhill Crane Orientation Meet-up for the entire weekend to attend, we have limited availability this year because of COVID. If you wish to take a second tour to locations outside of the Refuge, again please select one meetup for the entire weekend. For 2022 speaking events, we asked our experts to record their presentations.

You can watch the videos on-demand for free from March 11 through March 20. We hope you enjoy! The videos contain interesting information about wildlife use of abandoned mines along the Sangre de Christo Mountains, Flammulated Owls at the Hot Creek Research Natural Area in the San Luis Valley, raptor education by Hawks Aloft and more. The Craft Fair will be taking place for the entire weekend.”

The ecosystem of the San Luis Valley is vital to many birds, not just the iconic Sandhill Crane. The San Luis Valley is a unique microcosm that many different types of migrating birds rely upon. The multifaceted system is comprised of several different types of wetlands, agriculture, and the most endangered wetland, the riparian wetland.

The strength of the stopover habitat is dependent on water, which highlights the importance of thoughtful management of water resources throughout the Valley. These migratory birds are a vital part of the local ecosystem, as they distribute seeds, pollen, and food chain balance which helps the overall health of this complex and inter-reliant system.

As the migratory birds ingest a large amount of energy to migrate, the health of the wetland areas is vital to their populations. Over 400

different bird species depend on the various Valley wetlands to make their semiannual migrations from Canada to the Gulf Coast.

The sandhill crane depends heavily on the San Luis Valley to support its migration north in the Spring and south in the Fall. The plentiful areas set aside in the various wildlife refuges provide needed breeding areas and plentiful food for these majestic wanderers.

The availability of waste grain from farm fields is also a boon to these birds, especially during the early Spring.

“Upon reaching the SLV, they scatter themselves throughout barley fields, lakes, wetlands, and the Rio Grande, feeding on high-calorie grains and

nutrient-dense aquatic invertebrates. Each Spring and Fall, thousands of feathers slice through the brisk San Luis Valley (SLV) sky, alerting resident wildlife, local farmers, and eager birders to the change of season. Ranging from shorebirds to songbirds, a myriad of avian species visits this high-elevation desert as they migrate along the Central Flyway to their breeding and wintering grounds. Nurtured by the Valley’s mosaic of wetlands, riparian corridors, and agricultural fields, the SLV is a critical stopover for these determined travelers,” stated the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council in an article titled “The San Luis Valley as a Critical Stopover During Bird Migration.”

Public Notice
Rio Grande Water Conservation District Appointment

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners is again accepting letters of interest for appointment to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board from an individual who would like to serve as the Saguache County representative to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board whom resides SOUTH of Saguache County Road L. This is a three-year term ending in April 2025.

Letters of Interest may be addressed to the Board of County Commissioners and submitted to the Saguache County Administration office – 505 3rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149 or mailed to PO Box 100, Saguache CO 81149, letters may also be emailed to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

The deadline for letters of interest is Friday, March 18, 2022 at 3PM, for an interview with the Commissioners on Tuesday, March 29, 2022. The Board of County Commissioners will make an appointment to this board during their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

No. 1622 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, February 17 and 24 and March 3, 10 and 17, 2022.

TOWN OF CENTER
NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given of a Municipal Mail Ballot Election of the Town of Center, to be held on April 5, 2022.

Qualifications of Municipal Electors:

1. Citizen of the United States.
2. A registered voter in the State of Colorado.
3. A resident of the Town of Center for 22 days immediately preceding the Election.
4. 18 years of age or older on the date of the election.

All completed ballots must be received in the Town Clerk’s office by 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, to be counted. Returned envelopes containing ballots must bear the signature of the voter. Completed ballots must be returned by either:

- (1) Affixing first-class postage and mailing the ballot in the pre-addressed ballot return envelope; or
- (2) Delivering the ballot in its completed return envelope to the Drop Box located at, 294 S. Worth St., Center CO. The Town of Center will be open on Election Day from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

At said election, the electors of the Town shall select from the following candidates for the offices indicated:

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James Jim Sanchez	<input type="checkbox"/>	Richard (Richie) Barela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miriam Gonzales	<input type="checkbox"/>	Herman Dicky Sisneros	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bernadette Duran	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bill McClure	<input type="checkbox"/>

No. 1623 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, February 17, 2022.

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
CENTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
§1-13.5-501, 1-13.5-1102(3), 32-1-905(2), C.R.S.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and, particularly, to the electors of the Center Fire Protection District of Saguache, Rio Grande, and Alamosa Counties, Colorado.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on the 3rd day of May, 2022, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. At that time, three (3) directors will be elected to serve 3-year terms and two (2) directors will be elected to serve 1-year terms. Eligible electors of the Center Fire Protection District interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form from the District Designated Election Official (DEO):

Kimberlee Schuett
P. O. Box 845
Center, CO 81125
970-396-5396

The Office of the DEO is open on the following days: Tuesday and Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 360 E. 8th Street, Center Firehouse. Or Request a Self-Nomination form through e-mail: Centerfire1941@gmail.com

The deadline to submit a Self-Nomination and Acceptance is close of business on February 25, 2022, 5:00 p.m. including e-mail requests. (not less than 67 days before the election).

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, an application for an absentee ballot shall be filed with the designated election official no later than the close of business on Tuesday preceding the election, April 26, 2022.

CENTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Kimberlee Schuett
Designated Election Official

No. 1621 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, February 10 and 17, 2022.



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2022

Wednesday, February 16

Wrestling Preview

Valley Publishing



Centauri wrestlers win region, advance 11 to state tournament

By **KEN HAMRICK**

DEL NORTE – The top-ranked Centauri High School wrestling team won the Class 2A Region 2 Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 12, at the Del Norte High School gym.

In addition to winning the tournament, the Falcons qualified 11 wrestlers for this week's Class 2A State Tournament.

"It was a good tournament," said Centauri coach Cahlen Keys. "There's a spot or two where I was hoping we would finish higher because it matters where you sit on that bracket where your finish is. Not perfect, but we're not in a bad spot."

Centauri's 11 state qualifiers include six individual region champions.

Riley Valdez was the first CHS champion as he won the 113-pound title by pinning Sargent's Matthew Voss in 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

Eyan Chavez was the champion at 152 by scoring a 4-2 decision over Meeker's Connor Blunt.

Josh Polkowske won by a 9-6 decision over Crowley County's Tach Brewer at 160.

Erik Mestas won by injury default over Meeker's Kelton Turner.

Zach Buhr won by fall in 3:06 over Crowley County's Skeater Baker at 182.

Byron Shawcroft pinned Dolores Huerta's Josiah Trujillo in 3:11 at 195.

The Falcons had a seventh finalist in Robert Coombs at 132. He finished second after being pinned by Meeker's Ty Goedert in 1:58.

The remaining Falcons qualifiers include Ivan Lopez, who was third at 145, Mario Vigil, who was third at 120, Matthew Salazar, who was third at 106, and Cyrus Sandoval, who was fourth at 138.



Centauri High School's Byron Shawcroft turns Dolores Huerta's Josiah Trujillo on his back in the 195-pound championship.

Photos by Ken Hamrick

Also placing for Centauri but not qualifying for state were Diego

Hernandez, who was fifth at 126, and Skylar Montague, who was sixth at 220.

Centauri finished the tournament with 232.5 points, which was more than 30 points better than runner-up Meeker which scored 202. Crowley County was third with 149.5.

Center placed fourth with 122 points and had six state qualifiers.

"The boys wrestled hard," said Center coach Rodney Mondragon. "We'll miss Jesus Valadez who is one of our captains and that's a downer. But he'll be there supporting the boys."

Jordan Duran was the Vikings'

only finalist at 106 pounds. However, he lost by a 16-7 major decision to Dolores Huerta's A.J. Jaramillo.

The other Center qualifiers were Aaron Valadez, who was third at 132, Omar Hernandez, who was fourth at 220, Andree Meraz, who was fourth at 152, Martin Palma, who was fourth at 170, and Francisco Villa, who was fourth at 113.

Hernandez and Villa both had to preserve their qualifying status by winning wrestle backs.

Five other Vikings placed fifth but did not qualify for state. The list includes Matthew Archuleta (120),

Please see WRESTLING on Page 7A



Centauri High School's Eyan Chavez breaks down Meeker's Connor Blunt in the 152-pound championship.

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 Aaron Valadez - 132
 Lorenzo Trujillo - 145

Andree Meraz - 152
 Martin Palma - 170
 Omar Hernandez - 220

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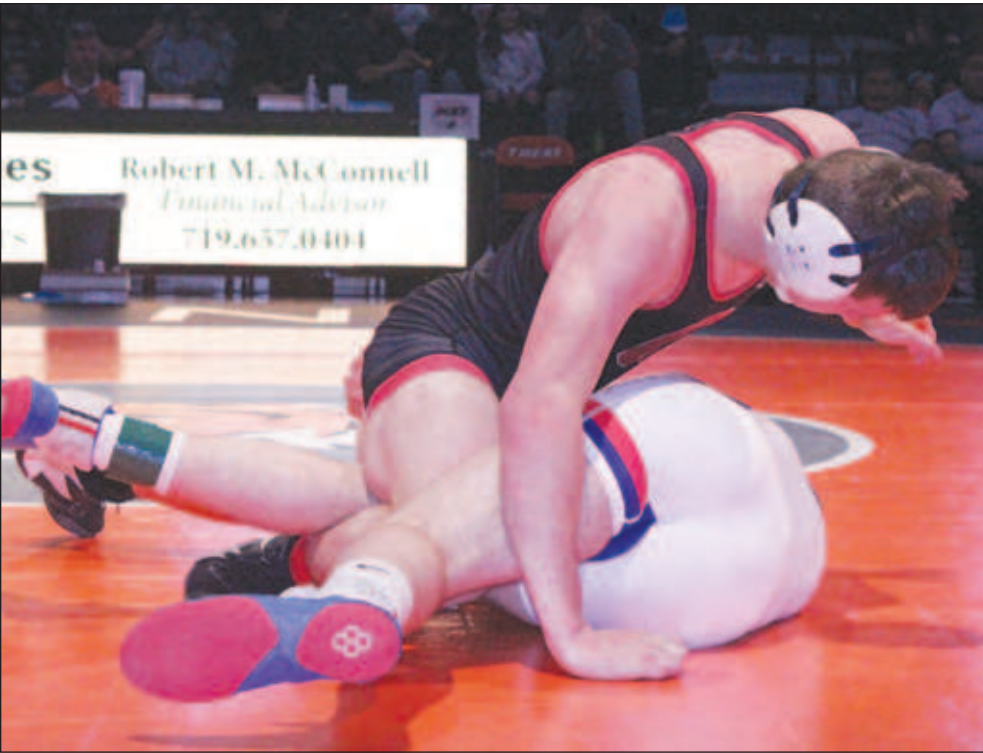
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Photos by Ken Hamrick

Center High School's Josh Polkowske looks to turn Crowley County's Tach Brewer on his back in the 160-pound championship.



Center High School's Jordan Duran takes down Dolores Huerta's A.J. Jaramillo in the 106-pound championship match.

WRESTLING

Continued from Page 6A

Donavin Montoya (160), Manny Morales (138), Lorenzo Trujillo (145) and Jesus Valadez (182).

Dolores Huerta was fifth with 111 points, followed by Monte Vista with 87.5. The Pirates also qualified five to the state tournament.

"We have five going to state and they wrestled tough," said Monte Vista coach Adam Garcia. "I'm just glad that we have five going. Finishing sixth was good with the amount of kids we have. We had seven in the tournament so that's pretty good."

DeAngelo Archuleta was Monte Vista's only finalist as he won the title at 138 pounds. He pinned Meeker's Abe Maupin in 1:03 to claim the championship.

The other Pirate state qualifiers include Damian Lopez, who was third at 126, Kevin Cisneros, who was fourth at 132 and he also won a wrestle back, Nathaniel Juarez, who

was fourth at 120, and Jaxon Martinez, who was fourth at 160.

Another Monte Vista placer who did not qualify for state was Jacob Pacheco, who was fifth at 152.

Trinidad was seventh with 69 points followed by Sargent with 56.

In addition to Voss, Trenton Lovelace, also qualified for state as he placed third at 220.

Three more Farmers were sixth in Raulito Garcia (182), Matthew Gonzales (138) and Jaycian Sierra (126).

Custer County was ninth with 29 points, followed by Del Norte with 26.

The Tigers had only one state qualifier in Malachi Gallegos, who won the 120-pound championship by scoring an 8-5 decision over Meeker's Trae Kenney.

Wyatte McLehane, was fifth at 170 and he also competed in a wrestle back but was defeated.

Sierra Grande/Centennial finished in 11th place with 17 points. It too had only one state qualifier in C.J. Nix, who was fourth at 182.

Another Panther, Bryant Tijerina, was fifth at 113.

Mountain Valley was 12th with only three points. Damien Ross was the Indians' only scorer as he placed sixth at 120.

The state tournament will take place this weekend at Ball Arena in Denver.

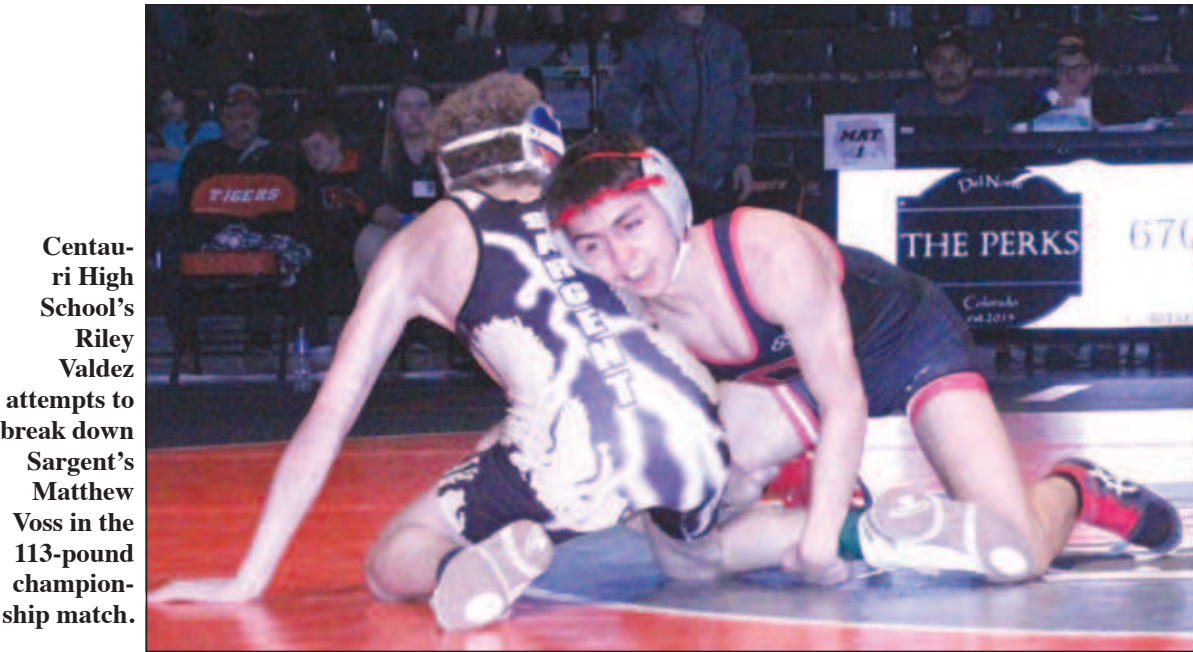
"We haven't won anything yet," Keys said. "Not in 2022. Hopefully we'll go up there and represent us well and see all of these guys again."

"We have to go out and wrestle next week," Mondragon said. "Everybody is 0-0. It's going to be tough. The boys have to wrestle and compete."

"State is always tough," Garcia said. "I'm just glad to just have some kids going, so that's always a fun journey."



Del Norte High School's Malachi Gallegos looks to score against Meeker's Trae Kennedy in the 120-pound championship.



Centauri High School's Riley Valdez attempts to break down Sargent's Matthew Voss in the 113-pound championship match.

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First SLV AgFest opens educational doors for students

By LYNSIE FERRELL
MONTE VISTA — Students from across the San Luis Valley gathered at the Outcalt Event and Conference Center at SLV Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista on Feb. 8 and 9 for the first San Luis Valley AgFest.

The educational event was hosted by the Colorado State University San Luis Valley Area Extension office and San Luis Valley 4-H Club with partners through the Colorado Potato Administration and the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative. The event was an effort to bring agricultural education to fifth-grade students that would fit with their science curriculum and give them the opportunity to learn about agriculture in the Valley.

“We had Alamosa fifth-grade students on the first day and then we welcomed all of the other schools on the second day. It has been a really great time and I think the students have been enjoying themselves,” said CSU SLV Area Extension Director Larry Brown. Brown manned a station in the event and spoke with attending students about the importance of bees in the agricultural community as well as everyday life. The bee station was one of nine stations where students learned about a wide range of topics, all leading back to agriculture.

The SLV Area Extension Office prides itself in providing agricultural education throughout the San Luis Valley and had just recently finished up the 2022 Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Tradeshow the previous week. The conference was the first in two years to be held in person and the first-ever to be held in the new Outcalt Center.

The students attending the AgFest were impressed with the new facility. Several could be heard commenting on how big the building seemed and how nice it was.

The AgFest started with a common-knowledge test that tested students on their basic knowledge of agriculture in the Valley. After completing the test, students were divided into groups by school and went from station to station to learn about pollination, soil, honey, embryology, dairy farming, water quality, erosion, gardening and beef production.

“It is a great opportunity to share this part of agriculture with the students,” said Brown as he moved on to his next presentation on bees.

4-H Youth Development Agent Morgan Young used her experience from previous AgFest events in Pueblo and the eastern part of Colorado to organize the event for Valley students. “We did an AgFest in Pueblo when

Right: San Luis Valley fifth-graders attended the first AgFest on Feb. 8 and 9 at the Outcalt Event and Conference Center at SLV Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista learning about several topics related to agriculture, production, gardening and more.



4-H Area Extension Agent Morgan Young hosted a station dedicated to beef production during the AgFest at the Outcalt Event and Conference Center at SLV Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista on Feb. 8 and 9.

I was in that area in 2006-2007 and when I came down here to the Valley, I couldn't believe that we didn't do anything like that, so I wanted to give the schools a chance to participate in an event,” said Young.

Young invited 14 schools to participate in the AgFest and received generous feedback from teachers, students and staff.

“We have been very excited about the program, and we are looking forward to having it again next year. We may make it a little bit different but all in all we were really happy with how it came out,” Young of the first outing.

Brown said the CSU SLV Extension Office was grateful for the work and planning by Young and that they were looking forward to next year.

“I was really excited about the event, and it turned out really great. It was just fantastic. We are so proud of Morgan for her work on this and I was excited to be a part of it,” Brown said.



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Colorado State University San Luis Valley Extension Director Larry Brown worked with San Luis Valley students during the first AgFest held at the Outcalt Event and Conference Center at SLV Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista on Feb. 8 and 9. Brown manned a booth dedicated to pollination education and the role bees play in agriculture and everyday life.

DA Continued from Page 1A

officer, domestic violence and sexual assault of a child. Review of those cases will be conducted at a later date to be determined.

Officials with the City of Alamosa listened in on the meeting, which included relevant details in each of the complaints filed. City Manager Heather Brooks, one of those who listened, described victims' accounts as “heartbreaking and embarrassing but not surprising, given the concerns the City has with the office.”

Brooks, Alamosa's city attorney and police chief later met to discuss how to communicate the City's concerns related to the District Attorney's Office. Items discussed included raising public awareness, drafting a letter to the Attorney General's Office and researching the current recall effort.

When asked for a statement, District Attorney Alonzo Payne said, “We have made staffing changes in our office

and are working in coordination with the Colorado District Attorney's Council to address all issues of non-compliance and prevent any issues in the future.”

When asked for confirmation of what staff changes Payne was referencing, there was no response.

The Crime Victim Services Advisory Board is a 28-member board appointed by the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety. The board acts in an advisory capacity to the Division of Criminal Justice.

A version of this story originally appeared on the City of Alamosa Facebook page.



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Getting Along When Differences Get in the Way

You've probably noticed that every person is not the same. Each of us has a unique personality with various likes and dislikes. And while we are often drawn to people who are different than we are, it's these differences that can lead to strife in our relationships.

Sometimes we try to convince others to be more like us, but that's not what the Bible teaches us to do. We're all created for freedom and liberty, and if we want to have healthy relationships with people, we need to give them the freedom to be who they are.

I can't tell you how many years I tried to get my husband, Dave, to stop watching sports. But it seemed the more I tried, the worse it got. One Saturday afternoon, I walked into the family room to find him shining his golf clubs while he watched one game on TV and listened to another game using his headphones. I thought, *Joyce, your plan is just not working!*

The truth is I wanted Dave to do what I wanted to do—I wanted him to be more like me. But trying to change him wasn't accomplishing anything, and it left me frustrated and upset.

I love what Romans 12:16 (AMPC) says: “Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty (snobbish, high-minded, exclusive), but readily adjust yourself to [people, things]....”

It's impossible to be selfish and have healthy relationships. If we truly want to live in peace and harmony, it's going to require some give and take. At times, we'll have to adjust our lives to accommodate someone else's needs or desires.

Sometimes this simply means being patient and understanding with those who don't share your own strengths. For instance, have you ever noticed yourself getting irritated with someone who takes more time to make decisions than you do? Or maybe they don't catch on to things as quickly as you would like.

If we allow ourselves to get into prideful thinking, we can hurt people by acting out of our own self-importance and selfish interests. The Lord doesn't want us to have a lowly opinion of ourselves, but He certainly doesn't want us to think we're better than anyone else!

First Corinthians chapter 12 provides the perfect illustration. It says we are all part of one body, each with our own distinct and important role to play. Verse 25 (NIV) tells us “there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each another.”

We all need each other, and when we learn to recognize and appreciate each other's talents and abilities, it develops a respect that can strengthen and heal our relationships.

Let's make this practical. When I'm having a hard time accepting someone's differences or agreeing with others, there are a few things I try to do to maintain the right attitude...

When you need to confront someone about a problem or discuss a negative issue, choose your timing wisely. Pray about what to say and ask God to lead you in each conversation.

- Be respectful, even if the other person doesn't agree with your opinion.
- Listen with an open mind. Be willing to pray about what they say.
- Look for things to agree about, instead of focusing on your differences.
- Use positive body language and voice tones, and choose every word with care.

There will be times when you won't find a thing to agree on, and in those circumstances, the best thing you can do is trust God, let it go, and become an expert at forgiveness.



Yes, some things are very important and you need to stand your ground, but there are so many things in life that just don't make a difference.

The bottom line is you won't always agree with your spouse, family or friends, but you can still respect and appreciate them. I don't agree with Dave about all his opinions or 100 percent of everything he does, but I do agree with Dave. He's a good man, and I love him and value his character and principles. Over the years, we've learned how to “disagree agreeably.”

I encourage you to trust God with the people in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see the positive in your relationships and the things you have in common. And as you do your part to “keep the peace,” God will not only honor your commitment, He will also bless your life in greater ways than you can imagine.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching CD resource *Enjoying Successful Relationships*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 135 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *THE POWER OF THANK YOU* (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

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Attendees enjoy new building at SRM Ag Conference



BY LYNSIE FERRELL

MONTE VISTA — As snow fell on the San Luis Valley, visitors to the 40th annual Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show were met with chilly weather for the second and third days of vendors, seminars, presentations and agricultural education at the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex.

This was the first time in two years that the conference was held in person and though attendance seemed aver-

The 40th annual Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show was held Feb. 1-3 inside the newly named Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex.

Photo by Brian Williams

age, Kyler Brown, Southern Rocky Mountain Agricultural Conference Coordinator said that it was lower than in previous years. It was also the first official event to be held inside the new event and conference center.

“A lot of people were actually surprised that we were hosting the event in person but as far as attendance goes it’s down only a little bit this year and we hope to see that change as we move forward. We are really happy with the new building, and everyone has been enjoying the new conference rooms. It was nice to have this center for the vendors and the seminars,” said Brown.

Wednesday morning, Feb. 2, started with a breakfast served by local SLV Rural Electric Cooperative members and employees. SLVREC Marketing-

Please see SRMAC on Page 3

Water Education launch Water '22 initiative

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

SAN LUIS VALLEY — As the drought in Colorado is now measured in years, not months, and wildfires are no longer limited to a single season but occur throughout the year. Governor Jared Polis and Water Education Colorado announced on Wednesday, Jan. 26, the launching of Water '22, a statewide, year-long education campaign that “implores Coloradans to take an active role in securing the state’s water future.”

“Colorado wouldn’t be Colorado without our rivers and aquifers upon which our way of life, our well-being and our livelihood depend,” Gov. Polis said at the event announcing the initiative. “Water serves as the foundation of a strong and thriving economy, but increasingly over the last decade —

especially in the last few years — we have faced additional challenges that threaten that critical life source.”

The timing of such an initiative is driven by necessity as Coloradans are experiencing firsthand the devastating effects of climate change. Persistent drought has fueled wildfires that, in the last 20 years, have scorched 15% of Colorado’s 24.5 million forested acres, according to Water '22, with 20% of that loss happening just in the last two years.

The impact of those wildfires is not limited to the mountainous terrain where they occur. About 80% of Colorado’s population — 4.5 million Coloradans — rely on their municipal water coming from the forested watersheds where those wildfires are most

Please see WATER on Page 10



Photo by John Waters

TSJC reminds students of March 4 scholarship application deadline

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Trinidad State College tuition is already the lowest around, and nearly all students are eligible to apply for scholarships that can save them even more.

“We know one of the biggest challenges for students is how to pay for college, and we’ve come up with many ways to make college more affordable,” said Trinidad State College President Dr. Rhonda M. Epper. “The process is quick and easy, but requires action by March 4 for students planning for the fall semester.”

It starts with automatic Merit Scholarships, which are based on prior academic performance. A high school graduate with a 3.5 to 4.0 Grade Point Average can receive a scholarship that lowers tuition by 40 percent (based on 15 credit-hours per semester). Students who graduate high school with a 3.0 to 3.499 Grade Point

Average can receive a scholarship that lowers tuition by 20 percent (again based on 15 credit-hours per semester). These Merit Scholarships are automatically awarded based on high school transcripts, with no application required.

The Learn Local Scholarship allows local area students who take 15 credit-hours to receive an automatic scholarship worth 3 credit-hours, or 20 percent. This is available to students who live in the Trinidad State service area. Those counties are Las Animas, Huerfano, Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache.

The Learn Local and Merit Scholarships may both be awarded for up to 60 percent off tuition (based on 15 credit-hours per semester). Your application for admission to Trinidad State College is the first step in securing your Merit and Learn Local Scholarships.

In addition, the Trinidad State College Foundation offers numerous scholarships ranging from

\$500 to full tuition. The application process is simple, with no essays, transcripts or interviews required and can be done online. With a single application and answers to just a few questions, applications are automatically matched to multiple scholarship opportunities at once.

“Scholarships are one of the many ways TSC removes obstacles from a student’s path to achieving their education goals and improving their career opportunities,” said Toni DeAngelis, Trinidad State College Foundation Executive Director. “Scholarships are part of our investment in the future of our students.”

In 2021, the Foundation awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships to help over 300 students.

The priority deadline to apply for Foundation scholarships is March 4, for the fall semester. For more information and to apply go to trinidadstate.edu/scholarships or call 888-TSC-1925.



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Real Estate in Valley sees increases in prices, no increase in inventory

BY MECHEL MEEK

SAGUACHE COUNTY — Homes in Saguache County have been rising in price over the past year, a trend that has been seen throughout Colorado and many areas across the country.

The median sale price is currently \$326,500 which equates to \$212 a square foot based on recent sales data. Considering the median household income in Saguache County is \$38,571, this makes purchasing a home out of reach for many families residing within the county.

Rent is cheaper than purchasing within Saguache County at a median of \$783 a month, however, there is a lack of available rental units.

The largest grouping of sales has been in the Crestone area, with 24 single-family homes sold since August 2021 according to Realtor.com. In Crestone, the lowest sales price was \$128,882 and the highest was \$580,700.

While other areas have lower home prices, such as recent sales in Center in the range of \$120,000, there is a lack of listings within this lower price range.

With the high variability and current increase in home prices throughout the San Luis Valley, many people who are trying to buy a home would need assistance to make most homes affordable. Down payment assistance is available to lower-income residents of the San Luis Valley.

The San Luis Valley Housing Coalition has a program for families wanting to purchase a home. Households who meet the income guidelines can take a low-interest loan out to help cover down payment and closing costs associated with the primary home purchase.

A family of three making less than \$66,200 would qualify for this program. According to the SLVHC, "To qualify for the Down Payment Assistance Program you must meet the following: Live in the home as your primary residence once purchased. Meet the required income guidelines. Have permanent financing through a lending institution for your first mortgage. Take the 'First Time Home Buyers' class with Community Resources and Housing Development Corporation. Loan terms for down payment assistance are a fixed low-interest rate (0%-2%), with a loan term based on affordability, loans

will be amortized for 5 years or longer, the loan amount will vary depending on the purchase price of the home up to \$12,000, and the purpose is to help with down payment and closing costs required by a first mortgage. For many homebuyers added help is necessary. The SLVHC

can offer you that added help!"

According to the Colorado Housing Finance Authority, "The Colorado Mortgage Lenders Association (CMLA) recently hosted an Economic Update featuring Michael Fratantoni,

Chief Economist and Senior Vice President of Research and Industry Technology for the Mortgage Bankers Association.

At the event, Fratantoni shared his forecasts related to the Colorado housing market. In summary, they included home prices: while affordability in terms of home prices aligning with wages continues to be a challenge, Fratantoni predicts that home price appreciation will slow down in 2022 and fall to a more normal level by the end of 2023. This may help the easing of escalating home prices in the future. Interest rates: interest rates on home mortgage loans are expected to rise at three different points in 2022 and may reach 4.25 percent by the end of the year according to Fratantoni. However, this still represents historically low average interest rates. Available inventory: Fratantoni noted that the inventory of available homes to purchase — at all price points — will remain low in 2022. This means prospective homebuyers should prepare to be flexible and patient with their home search. Supply chain: material shortages caused by supply chain issues were forecasted to continue and data shared from the National Association of Home Builders showed that appliances and lumber experienced the most severe shortages in Spring 2021. Homebuyers might keep these circumstances in mind when considering a new build or purchases for an existing home."

Also, of note in real estate locally, is the Town of Center's upcoming annexation of the North 90 property and its plan to build affordable homes. While that plan is not set to be completed soon, it will eventually fulfill a need that has been identified in the San Luis Valley and prospective homebuyers may need to be patient to find homes that are affordable or wait for the perfect opportunity.



Steffens Reality is more than it seems

BY LYNDIE FERRELL
SOUTH FORK —

Long-time business owner Bruce Steffens and his family moved to the South Fork area 12 years ago and opened Steffens Reality after selling the family ranch where he grew up near Monte Vista.

Steffens has been part of selling large heritage ranches, farms and agricultural land in the San Luis Valley but that is not all he has done in his years growing up in the area.

"I was a professional cowboy. That was how we made our living. After that was no longer a means of income, we had to make the choice to do something different," said Steffens. "We were caught in a drought and that was when we sold and moved to South Fork."

Steffens employs six agents in his real estate business and each one handles all types of real estate. In the summer, during a three-day period, Steffens spends his time teaching his grandchildren and neighborhood children outdoor survival techniques.

"It is something I really enjoy. We have up to 22 people ranging in age from 4 to 70, just anyone who wants to learn. It is by invitation only," Steffens said. "I don't have the space or time to teach it openly to the public though it would be something I would love to do."

Steffens has been teaching the survival course for eight years and has no plans to slow down. "I could do this full-time, but I think it would take away from the enjoyment," he said.

Steffens focuses on outdoor survival techniques like building traps, learning to build a fire with minimal materials, knife throwing and other survival techniques.

In his younger days, Steffens was a two-time national champion calf roper and professional cowboy. He was at one point in the top 50 of the world championships. He trained horses for more than 50 years but hasn't done any training work in some time now.

"It was how we made our living back then," he said.

Steffens Realty is one of the largest real estate companies in the San Luis Valley and it can help anyone seeking to purchase a home or anyone looking to sell a home or land on any scale.

"We are your go-to company and are able to help with everyone's needs," he said.

During the COVID pandemic, South Fork saw an increase in sales and people moving to the area from out of state which made for a decent business opportunity for both the community and Steffens Realty. Their listings are on over 1,000 websites word-wide and have been recognized as the number two best realty company in the Valley. Their agents were also recognized in the top six in South Fork for 2020.

For more information or to seek help buying or selling a property, call 719-873-1700 or visit their website at www.steffenscorealty.com.



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Sargent High School hosting benefit dinner for Diana Rice

MONTE VISTA — Sargent High School is hosting a benefit dinner on Feb. 19 for Diana Rice, known affectionately as RiceBob, MommaRice, RiceLady.

She was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and is still fighting leukemia. Rice will undergo breast

removal and several chemo treatments. She will need help with expenses that medical insurance will not cover, such as lodging, food, gas, and any surprise expenses that arise.

The fundraiser dinner consists of ribs, ham and beans, baked potatoes with fixings, and a silent dessert

auction. The dessert auction winners will be announced during halftime of the varsity boys basketball game. Sargent is hosting Custer County with tipoff at 1 p.m. on Feb. 19. The fundraiser dinner begins at noon in the SHS Cafeteria.

Dinner cost is a donation.

Annual ALMA & Friends Concert Features Local Musicians Feb. 19

ALAMOSA — The annual Alamosa Live Music Association & Friends concert is on Saturday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. at Society Hall, 400 Ross Ave., Alamosa. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

ALMA announced that Palmas will kick off the evening with Nueva Eclectica/Flamenco. The Celtic (K)

notes will close out the evening with Celtic and early American folk music.

Admission is free for ALMA 2022 members and \$15 for general admission. No advance tickets are for sale, so come early to grab a seat. Masks required.



Photos by Brian Williams

SRMAC

Continued from Page 1A

Sales Coordinator Jennifer Alonzo spoke about the new building and the difference it made at the conference this year.

“Everyone we have talked to has mentioned how great of a venue this is and the conference rooms are just wonderful. We really enjoyed serving breakfast this morning and have had a good turnout this year,” she said.

Over 90 vendors came this year to showcase their educational and informative booths throughout the main room of the complex.

“This center is probably one of the best things to happen here in the Valley in quite a few years. The building is amazing and will be a huge benefit to the community for many years to come,” said Rio Grande County Commissioner Chairman Gene Glover.

Glover and his fellow commissioners Scott Deacon and John Noffsfer were in attendance Wednesday to greet visitors and to thank the committee that was responsible for putting the conference together.

“The committee that worked to put this year’s conference together did an amazing job. The event was very well planned and laid out throughout the entire building, and we were all very impressed with how things went,” said Glover.

Monte Vista High School participated by allowing students to attend the conference and participate in some of the presentations and interact with the vendors. Overall, the conference was considered a welcome success for the Valley and Monte Vista.

Plans for the next event are well underway, and according to CSU San Luis Valley Extension Director Larry Brown, the committee, Colorado State

University and other organizations are looking forward to seeing the conference grow.

“We are anticipating that the conference will be better as we move forward and we are looking forward to the next 40 years,” Brown said.

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07 Help Wanted

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION Job Vacancy 18-22 This specific 4-H Youth Development Area Extension Agent position is a full-time position working with 4-H in the schools and the Juntos 4-H program throughout the San Luis Valley Area. A Completed bachelor's degree. D should be conferred in education, public health,

social sciences, public relations, agricultural sciences, agricultural education, youth development or a closely related field. To view the job vacancy announcement and apply, click link: <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/99234>. **For full consideration, all materials must be RECEIVED no later than 11:59 PM Mountain Time on Sunday, February 27, 2022.** We are committed to increasing the diversity of our staff and providing culturally responsive programs and services. Therefore, we encourage responses from people of all backgrounds and abilities. We invite you to review Colorado State University's Principles of Community that guide our mission and vision of access, teaching, service and engagement. <http://diversity.colostate.edu/principles-of-community/> CSU is an EO/EA/AA employer and conducts background checks on all final candidates. **If you have questions before applying call Larry Brown SLV Area Extension Director at 719-852-7381.**

Saguache County Treasurer's Office is accepting applications for a full-time clerical position. Position

is 40 hours per week, Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 4:00pm. Applicants must have Microsoft Excel, Word, 10-key, customer service, and book-keeping experience. Must be able to answer phones, and wait on public. Starting salary is \$15.00/hr, but will be negotiable based on experience. Applications are available at Saguache County Administration Office at 505 3rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149, or by visiting the Saguache County website www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov. Position will remain open until filled. Must have high school diploma or GED. A background check and pre-employment drug screening is required. Saguache County is an E.O.E employer. (3/9)

Rio Grande County's Sheriff's Office is hiring two Weekend Court Administrative Assistants. These positions will assist the Sheriff with reports, bookings and reporting data to the State of Colorado, District Attorney.

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2022 OPEN POSITIONS FOR PLANNING & ZONING-City of Monte Vista is seeking three citizens with a desire to serve on <mailto:awelch@valleypublishinginc.com> the Monte Vista Planning and Zoning Commission. The Planning Commission consists of a five-member board and persons must reside in the City of Monte Vista. One member may be a non-resident but must own property within the City limits. The Planning and Zoning Commission members serve in an advisory capacity to the City of Monte Vista Council in matters relating to planning and zoning, reviewing and making recommendations on subdivisions and land development applications, and reviewing proposed ordinances related to the planning function. The Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the last Thursday of each month and members that are appointed by City Council will receive a \$40 stipend per meeting. Interested applicants please go to www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov, City Clerk's page, Dept. Forms/Documents and fill out the Planning & Zoning Application and send it to uvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us or 95 West 1st Street Monte Vista, CO. 81144. If you have questions please call 719-852-6171 (3/2)

Rio Grande County Department of Social Services is seeking a **Receptionist/Administrative Assistant**. Position provides a full range of clerical, secretarial, computer data entry, and receptionist duties. High School Diploma or GED and two years clerical experience required. Successful completion of business courses obtained

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Creede Arts Council seeking part-time Program Coordinator.

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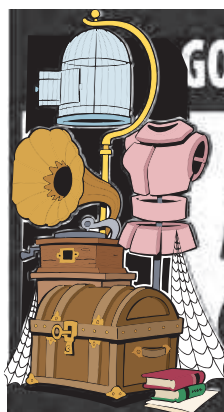
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WATER

Continued from Page 1A

likely to occur. In 2020 alone, a historic fire season, 26 municipal water storage facilities were shut down, according to Water '22.

Few know better the challenges of water scarcity than residents of the San Luis Valley, where growers have been battling a drought that is entering its 20 year. Yet, while 86% of the water drawn from Colorado's aquifers and streams is used to grow the food that people rely upon to survive, few communities equal the San Luis Valley in pro-actively taking steps to manage water sustainably. But the battle persists, with ongoing success far from guaranteed.

Nonetheless, in his introductory comments, Polis described 2022 being a key moment with Colorado "poised to take full advantage of the game-changing opportunity made possible by an infusion of funds made possible by passage of the bi-partisan Infrastructure Act...that can augment and leverage the limited funds the state has" for much-needed water projects across the state.

With both significant need and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity knocking on the same door, Polis said, "It all starts here. It doesn't matter where you live or what you do, this is the time to unify all Coloradans to be committed to smart Colorado water policies, actions and investments to preserve and protect our water now and into the future."

As the Water '22 initiative plays out through the year, there will be numerous opportunities for Coloradans to engage, including, according to Water Education, "taking the pledge to engage in '22 Ways to Care for Water in 2022'" and taking simple actions that can save at least 22 gallons of water per day per person and keep waterways clean.

Despite the myriad of ways Colorado is working to address water scarcity, it turns out that individual Coloradans have considerable room for improvement in daily habits.

According to 2015 data from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the average use of publicly supplied households, or "domestic" water users, in Colorado was about 128 gallons per capita per day. That is 45 gallons more per person per day than the national average of 83 gallons per person per day.

If the average Coloradan cut back personal water usage to be more in line with average use across the nation, that would be a savings of 256,500,000 gallons every single day.

But, in the interest of setting sites a little lower, what are ways to cut back on water usage and save just 22 gallons of water per person while helping to keep waterways clean?

Water Education has the answer, thanks to contributions from "Colorado Water Wise" (www.coloradowaterwise.org) and "Live Like You Love It" (www.lovecoloradowater.org), and following are five.

- Know your water. What river water or groundwater source are you drinking? Find out where your water comes from and trace its path through the watershed and to your tap. If you receive a water bill, identify your provider and then visit them online to learn where they source your water from.

You can also check out the U.S. EPA's Drinking Water Mapping Application to search for water providers by address. Knowing where your water comes from is the starting point to understanding how it's all connected, and why your actions matter. Conserve water indoors.

- Lessen up while you freshen up.

Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or while shaving/soaping up in the shower. Go the extra step and take the five-minute shower challenge! Every minute with the faucet off saves at least two gallons of water! Consider baths an occasional luxury: The typical bath uses 35-50 gallons of water, compared to 10 gallons for a five-minute shower with a low-flow showerhead.

- Make appliances do the dirty work. Use the dishwasher and washing machine instead of handwashing and run your appliances only when FULL. Depending on your machines, you can save anywhere from 15-30 gallons per load by filling up and cutting a load.

- Save water during food prep. Defrost foods in the fridge instead of in running water to save up to five gallons of water per day! Compost food waste instead of putting it down the garbage disposal for similar savings. In food service? Check out the Boss Defrost for commercial grade savings.

- Lose the leaks. Faucet and toilet leaks lead to lots of lost water, about seven gallons per day for a faucet and 200 gallons for a toilet. Try these easy fixes: For a toilet leak, fix your flapper; for a faucet leak, replace the washer. Don't know if you have a toilet leak? Try putting food coloring in the back tank. If color appears in the bowl, you

have a leak.

Eleven months remain in Colorado's "Year of Water" and the Water '22

initiative, and the Valley Publishing is committed to keeping the information flowing.



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

Fun By The Numbers

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Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Solution to last week's puzzle

A	Y	P						T	E	C	H
R	E	A	P					B	O	O	L
N	O	P	E					P	E	N	C
I	M	I	N	O				P	R	E	T
C	A	S	K	S				F	E	E	L
A	N	T	I	H	I	S	T	A	M	I	N
								D	E	C	O
								B	O	I	E
								B	O	E	R
								C	O	N	C
								M	A	L	A
								M	I	S	T
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								L	O	A	T
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Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference keynote speaker shares river story

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
ALAMOSA — When it comes to water conflicts, Jim Yahn, long-time manager of North Sterling Irrigation District, has quite a story to tell. For almost 30 years, Yahn has been at the helm, overseeing the diversion and distribution of water to over 350 farmers from the North Sterling and Prewitt Reservoirs that, together, provide irrigation water to approximately 70,000 acres. That role put Yahn on the frontline of matters 20 years ago when a court ruling resulted in the office of the state engineer shutting down thousands of wells on the South Platte.



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Jim Yahn, manager of North Sterling Irrigation District, delivers the keynote address at the Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show on Feb. 2 in Monte Vista that resonates with the audience. the community of farmers, themselves. Those decisions, as Yahn describes it, “pushed farmers into opposite corners and determined to stand their ground.”

Yahn brought the story back to the San Luis Valley, acknowledging that local farmers knew very well of those dynamics.

“We [on the South Platte] didn’t have time to work it out ourselves. We were thrown into the middle of the situation. I think...I think your way is better,” saying without actually saying the collaborative and collective process that led to the formation of the subdistricts was far preferential to the litigious path farmers on the South Platte were forced to travel.

At the end of his address, Yahn spoke about the nature of small-town communities where people “work together more...helping their neighbors and putting themselves in their neighbors’ boots.”

He then described himself as a Christian and quoted the two most important commandments. The first is, “Love thy God with all thy heart.” The second, which Yahn says he has tried to follow, underscored his message. “Love thy neighbor as thy self.”

Among the handful of questions asked at the end, one person asked Yahn to weigh in on the Renewable Water Resources proposal to use American Rescue Plan Act money to secure water in the San Luis Valley for Douglas County.

“I wouldn’t like it,” he answered. He then added, “There’s a right way and a wrong way to do things.”

After a brief pause, he answered the question, “I’m opposed to it.”

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

Prime Mountain Tract. A rare and beautiful gem of mountain property is now for sale near Salida Colorado. San Luis Creek flows through the center of a lush green meadow surrounded by a variety of plant life. Alder trees line the creek bank and beaver ponds full of fish provide a peaceful secluded environment that is 'one-of-a-kind'. Above the creek bottom are stepped bench uplands. Ancient Indian campsites have been identified on an overlook. A private road accesses the center of the property. The entire property tract is fenced. A public forest access road crosses the south east corner and is fenced. The property lies 1/2 mile from US Highway 285 and connections to utilities. The town of Salida with all the amenities of skiing, mountain biking, river rafting, excellent medical services, schools and so much more are a short 20 minute drive from this mountain retreat. Call today! **\$1,000,000** MLS#771050



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SOLD

Level building spot on the 10th Fairway at the Rio Grande Club and Resort with stunning views. Just minutes away from World Class skiing and the Rio Grande River known for Gold Medal fishing- This is a perfect spot for your dream home on a Championship Golf Course. Don't let this one slip away! **\$47,000** MLS#781025



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\$88,000 Beautiful 8.01 Acre parcel located in Crow's Nest subdivision in South Fork, CO. Paved roads, city water and sewer with water tap that is currently paid. Wonderful mountain views over looking the Rio Grande River and the town of South Fork. Your perfect location to build your dream home. Moments away from Gold medal fly fishing, hiking, camping, skiing, 4 wheeling, hunting and everything outdoors. Call and schedule your showing today! **MLS #775764**

0 Escondida Drive • South Fork
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FOR SALE

Great commercial lot with beautiful trees on property! This 0.33 acre lot is a great place to start a new business whether it is cabins, hotels, or a store without having to worry about any HOA's. This land is partially levelled and can be tapped into the City utilities. It is connected to 92 Rio Vista Circle; with the possibility to purchase both properties for \$65,000.00 to make your business space that much larger! Don't miss out on this opportunity; call us to view it today! **\$30,000** MLS#790097



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SOLD

Great commercial lot with beautiful trees on property! This 0.6 acre lot is a great place to start a new business whether it is cabins, hotels, or a store without having to worry about any HOA's. This land is partially levelled and can be tapped into the City utilities. It is connected to 52 Rio Vista Circle; with the possibility to purchase both properties for \$65,000.00 to make your business space that much larger! Don't miss out on this opportunity; call us to view it today! **\$40,000** MLS#790099



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Wonderful custom home site located on the Rio Grande Golf Course in South Fork, Colorado. Beautiful fairway and mountain views and just moments from the Rio Grande River. A perfect place to build your dream home or vacation home with year round access and public South Fork water and sewer. Enjoy the beautiful outdoors, great golfing, fishing and magnificent skiing at Wolf Creek during the winter season. Call and schedule your viewing today! **\$62,900** MLS #784728

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SOLD

\$658,000 MLS #785486
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1 Acre parcel with beautiful views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Close to the Sand Dunes and Alligator Farm and Hooper Hot Springs Pool. Just a short drive over to Salida. **\$5,000** MLS#780912



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SLV GO! to host information session on proposed Sangre de Cristo Dark Sky Reserve

STAFF REPORT
SAGUACHE COUNTY — San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) will be hosting two community information sessions about the proposed Sangre de Cristo Dark Sky Reserve and its requested amendments to the county’s outdoor lighting ordinances.

The community information sessions invite Saguache County residents to learn more about the proposed International Dark Sky Reserve, the benefits of dark skies, and how dark sky regulations increase lighting on the ground in the community.

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in dialogue with Sangre de Cristo Dark Sky Reserve Coalition partners that are working together to preserve dark skies to combat light pollution, increase energy efficiency, enhance astro- and eco-tourism in the region, improve health and safety, and protect nocturnal wildlife and habitat.

The first community information session will be held in Saguache at the Saguache Library, 702 Pitkin Ave., on Thursday, Feb. 17 at 5 p.m. The second community information session will be held in Crestone at the Baca Grande Library, 67487 CR T, on Friday, Feb. 18 at 5 p.m.

The International Dark Sky Association’s (IDA) International Dark Sky Places program encourages communities, parks, and protected areas around the world to preserve and protect dark sites through responsible lighting policies and public education.

Amendments to the county’s lighting ordinances are based on the following five key principles to minimize the effect of light pollution:

- Lighting should only be used when needed,
- Only light the area that needs it,
- Be no brighter than necessary,
- Minimize blue light emissions, and
- Be fully shielded.

Newly adopted lighting ordinances would grandfather in existing lighting infrastructure and apply to new construction and potentially lighting upon replacement. The Sangre de Cristo Dark Sky Reserve Coalition intends to submit an International Dark Sky Reserve application to the IIDA by the end of 2022, potentially becoming the world’s largest dark sky designated area.

San Luis Valley Great Outdoors’ (SLV GO!) mission is to provide residents and visitors throughout the San Luis Valley with accessible and inclusive outdoor recreation opportunities that balance conservation, connect communities, improve wellness, encourage stewardship, and contribute to the economic vitality of the region.

For more information, call Dani Robben at 218-407-0399, or email danirobben@slvgo.com.



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