Volume 121, Number 3

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Shorts

CPAC annual election is Feb. 1-4

MONTE VISTA — The CPAC will be conducting its annual election Feb. 1-4 at the Southern Colorado Rocky Mountain Ag Conference. If you are interested in serving as a member of C.P.A.C. committee, please submit your name to the C.P.A.C. office as a nomination to be placed on the ballot. Women, minorities, and the disabled are encouraged to participate.

Available positions include: One Alamosa County Grower, One Rio GrandeCountyGrower,OneSaguache County Grower, One Costilla-Conejos County, Two Independent Handlers, and One Bulk Shipper and an alternate for each position.

Commodities distribution Jan. 26 in Monte Vista

MONTE VISTA

Commodities will be distributed at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 26, at the Church of the Nazarene gymnasium in Monte Vista by the Chapel of South Fork. You must be a resident of Rio Grande County and meet household income guidelines to receive commodities.

SLVREC-Ciello board of directors meeting Jan. 25

MONTE VISTA — SLVREC and Ciello will have the regular meeting of the board of directors on Tuesday, Jan. 25, at 9:30 a.m. located at 3625 US Highway 160 W, Monte Vista. Advance notice is required to attend the meeting, call Michelle Trujillo at 719-852-3538.

Rep. Boebert's office announces mobile office hours

U.S. Representative Lauren Boebert's office will be having mobile office hours in the San Luis Valley on Jan. 25.

Staff from Boebert's office will be available to allow constituents to request assistance with a federal agency, like veterans having trouble with the VA, travelers having difficulties applying for a passport, taxpayers being harassed by the IRS, and senior citizens having issues with Social Security or Medicare. Additionally, constituents are invited to come to the office hours to express their viewpoints on legislative issues and have their voice heard.

Mobile office hours will be available at the following times and locations on Jan. 25:

· Saguache County, Center Town Hall,294 Worth St., Center, 2-3 p.m.

Center School District celebrates School Board Recognition Month



Photo by Mechel Meek

Center Consolidated School District thanked its board members during School Board Recognition Month.

CENTER — Center Consolidated School District was one of 178 school districts in Colorado celebrating January as School Board Recognition

Center's board is President G. Lyn Bogle, Vice President Misty Montoya-Palacios, Kimberlee Duran, Secretary-Treasurer Enrique R. Please see SCHOOL on Page 6A

Trustees meeting discusses crime, fluoride in water

By MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — Center Town Trustees heard reports from department heads on crime and fluoride levels in water during their meeting on Jan. 12.

Center Police Department Chief Dale Meek discussed the crime report. Many crimes decreased in the second half of 2021 as compared to the first half of 2021. Burglaries dropped from 10 to two, shoplifting dropped from 38 to 29, trespassing was nearly identical, criminal mischief did not rise or decrease and drug trafficking

Please see TRUSTEES on Page 2A

Center Town Trustees heard reports from department heads on crime and fluoride levels in water during their meeting on Jan. 12.

Photo by Mechel Meek



Resources available for people at risk of suicide

1-800-273-TALK (8255) suicidepreventionlifeline.org

By MECHEL MEEK

SAGUACHE COUNTY -Mental wellness is a problem that can is confidential. be seen in all parts of the country, even

in rural areas. People can suffer from a crisis at any time in their lives and become at risk of suicide. Resources to help people struggling can be a big help and some are free.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and can be reached via phone call or text. The numbers

are 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or text to doing the act themselves. HELLO to 741741. Every call or text

According to Center Police Department Chief Dale Meek, "I will be frank, suicide calls are the hardest calls for law enforcement to handle."

He explained that entering a situation where someone wants to harm themselves is fraught with risk to the officers as an armed suicidal person may attack an officer to create a "suicide by cop" situation as opposed

He also said that if the suicidal person is alone and is not a risk to others, they will contact the person and refer them to psychological resources instead of inflaming the situation by confronting the person.

Last year, CPD dealt with a situation involving a suicidal person who was home alone.

"This type of situation is a condition in which we can call the person and Please see SUICIDE on Page 7A

MV Coop adding state-of-the-art fertilizer building

By Marie Mccolm

MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista Coop's footprint continues to expand. Its latest project — an 8,000-ton fertilizer building — is hard to miss.

The new Dry Fertilizer Shed and Chemical Building will allow MV Coop to meet the needs of the San Luis Valley's hearty agriculture industry efficiently and quickly. It is scheduled to be open to the public in early March, with a grand opening slated for the summer.

MV Coop Agronomy Manager Mike Hampel said the state-of-the-art fertilizer building was the natural next

step in MV Coop's evolution.

"It began about two years ago as a dream," Hampel said. "This is a very well-ran organization, so it kind of evolved on its own, as the markets are changing, we had to adjust to the markets. A few sketches, some thoughts and planning, and us coming together to try to figure it out, and we now have this fertilizer building that has allowed us a lot of efficiency for fertilizer."

Breaking ground on the project took place in July of 2021. Concrete was poured and it grew in the landscape next Please see MV COOP on Page 6A

COMING SOON - MONTE VISTA COOP DRY FERTILIZER SHED & CHEMICAL BUILDING marcus

Monte Vista Coop broke ground on its Dry Fertilizer Shed and Chemical Building in July of 2021. Construction is expected to be completed in March.

Refinance

Call Julie or Scott at 657-4558 today



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OBITUARIES

Carlyn L. Clark

Carlyn L. Clark, 84, of Del Norte, Colo., passed away on Jan. 8, 2022, in La Jara, Colo.

Carlyn was born Sept. 12, 1937, in Wray, Colo., to Vaughn and Dorothy Sheesley. She graduated from Center High school in 1956. On Sept. 8, 1957, she married Donald Clark. With this marriage, she gained three children, Jack, Jeanette and Donna. Three years later they had Terry. She worked at various jobs with the last being a pet sitter.

She loved the outdoors, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing and rock hunting. She loved birds and watched them outside her window every day. She loved to read and do jigsaw puzzles. Carlyn loved watching the Denver Broncos. The whole neighborhood knew every time they scored. Most of all, she loved the Lord and all her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Carlyn was preceded in death by her parents, Vaughn and Dorothy Sheesley, her husband Don Clark, her son Jack Clark, her daughter Jeanette Barros and her brother David

She is survived by her son Terry (Karen) Clark of Del Norte, daughter Donna (Al) Ockstadt of Colorado Springs, abrother Dan (Amy) Sheesley of Lewes, Del., a brother Donald (Jean) Snyder of Grand Junction, as



well as eight grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Cremation was selected and a memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Joseph Prince Ministries, Inc. at PO Box 2115, Fort Mills, S.C., 29716 or Ron Carpenter Ministries at PO Box 641270, San Jose, CA, 95164.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes, remembrances and words of comfort for the family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

James 'Jim' Montgomery Phillips

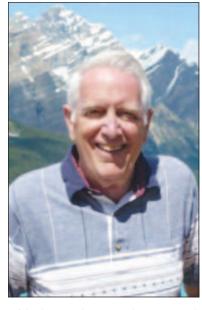
James "Jim" Montgomery Phillips, of Creede, and Fort Worth, Texas, passed away Jan. 16,2022, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

A celebration of life memorial will be held at University Christian Church at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 21.

Jim was born on Aug. 17, 1944, in Bartlesville, Okla., to Anne and Charlie Phillips. He was a lanky, tennis-playing teen who graduated from College High School in Bartlesville in 1962 and went on to play on the University of Oklahoma tennis team for two years.

After completing an engineering degree at OU, he was hired by General Dynamics as a mechanical engineer. He worked on the F-111, F-16, F-22 and F-35 jet fighter designs and variants. Over a 41-year career, GD and Lockheed gave him the opportunity to travel the world on business, including his favorite country, Turkey. He raised three boys with his first wife, Traute.

In a doubles tennis group in 1985, Jim met Margaret Norwood, and they married in 1986. They raised three children of their own and visited all seven continents, reaching Antarctica on their 30th wedding anniversary.



with the newly created Fort Worth National Junior Tennis League.

Jim is survived by Margaret, his wife of 36 years, six children, Monty, Tom, Michael, Emily, Matthew, and Tyler, their spouses, and five grandchildren, Sarah, Ben, Mary Lea, Annie and Oliver. Oliver, now 3, was a great joy in his later years living with dementia.

donation to the Creede Early Learning citizens of Center through municipal health in drinking water. One of Jim's proudest achievements Center, PO Box 191, Creede, CO was initiating opportunities for local 81130, where Jim, a lifelong baker, children to learn the sport of tennis was known as "the Pie Man."

Your Night Sky

The Pleiades

Since the full moon was on Jan. 17, the last quarter moon is on Jan. 25, and the new moon will be on Feb. 1. We're getting close to being able to observe the sky. Unfortunately, when Venus got low in the sky and Mercury was visible also low in the sky, I couldn't see them because of the mountains covering them. But I loved observing Venus when she was so high and bright.

But now some of the planets are visible in the morning before the sun comes up. You'll need to look in the southeast before 6 a.m. The moon, Venus and Mars are all there. So, the moon will be in the right. When you find the moon, look a little to the left and slightly higher to see Mars. Venus is 13 degrees to the left of Mars. The constellation Sagittarius is just below them.

In the evening, the Pleiades is visible to the unaided eye, but with binoculars, you'll see a lot more. It's also known as the Seven Sisters, and you'll see seven with unaided vision. The reason it's visible is that it's only 445 light-years away, making it relatively close to us. There are at least 200 stars, and maybe even 1,000. So, if you look with binos, you'll see a lot more.

constellation Orion in the SE. When you see his three-star belt, look to the right. His belt raises a little to our right, so the Pleiades is a little higher than him. You'll first see the constellation Taurus the Bull. About 10 degrees past Taurus, you will find the Pleiades. It's about 35 degrees past Orion's belt to the Seven Sisters. They're high in the sky during fall and winter.

group of stars resembled the looking for them!

To find them, first look for the outline of a dove in the sky. Legend says that Orion was after them, and they were getting away from him. So, they flew away and landed to the east of him.

When you first see it, it looks like a little cloud, but then you can see up to 7 stars. It's a large group of stars moving together in space. They're most likely young hot stars. With binos, you'll see up to 50 stars. With a telescope, you Ancient Greeks thought the can see 500 of them. So, have fun

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between and one report of animal cruelty. Monday, Jan. 10, 2022, and Monday, Jan. 17, 2022.

The Sheriff's Department's activity on the road included one crash with property damage, one traffic stop, one traffic complaint and two abandoned vehicles. They also patrolled the Town of Saguache five times and the Town of Crestone once and assisted

In addition, there were two reports of suspicious activity, three assault

report, three civil dispute reports, five animal problem reports, one missing person report, one harassment report,

They also responded to eight controlled burns, five ambulance calls, provided information four times, assisted nearby agencies two times, and conducted four welfare checks, two citizen assists, two warrants, one ordinance violation, a deceased person call and one search and rescue call.

• A 35-year-old Center man was reports, two burglary reports, one theft arrested on parole violations and

outstanding warrant charges.

- A31-year-old Arvada woman was arrested on failure to comply charge.
- A 60-year-old Palisade man was arrested on DUI (drugs and or alcohol) and driving vehicle with blood alcohol content of .08 or greater charges.
- · A 28-year-old Saguache woman was arrested on second-degree assault, domestic violence summons and complaint and child abuse (places at risk without injury) charges.
- A 43-year-old Saguache woman was arrested on outstanding warrant
- An Alamosa woman was arrested on an outstanding warrant charge.

TRUSTEES Continued from Page 1A

"Sgt. Fresquez and the dog have being sent to homes in the area. The made an impact on our drug problems in town," Meek said.

He explained that the addition of the drug K-9 has enabled the officers to catch people who are trafficking drugs in the Center area resulting in

Chief Meek also discussed that Neighborhood Watch has continued to grow over the past year and now has over 90 members and that those members are active and help the Center Police combat crimes by giving information regarding criminal

In lieu of flowers, please consider a of fluoride in the water provided to the the best amount of fluoride for human

amount of fluoride is on the lower end of the permissible spectrum, according to David Mehaffie, Public Works Director.

Several Town Trustees questioned whether the amount was sufficient to protect the dental health of the

The State of Colorado recently lowered the amount of fluoride that was permissible in the drinking water supply of all municipalities, due to research by the Centers for Disease

The Town of Center was still below During the Public Works report, a this acceptable level, and several question was posed as to the amount trustees asked Mehaffie to research

Mehaffie said that once they have Municipal water is obtained the data regarding the best amount, the through a well and is treated before Town may need to install a fluoride

injection system to raise the amount in the municipal water.

Also discussed was the needed training for the future annexation of the North 90 property.





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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Water shortage

It seems that every day now that I peruse the Internet, there is a new story about the water shortages facing

Being a fan of the West, I have always been interested in water and the use thereof in the development of the arid lands found there.

Ol' Dutch even did some water rights work for the State of Kansas and so I may have a more-than-average interest in the use of water by the population.

Of course, we all know that it takes water to do just about anything — from taking a bath to growing crops — and we have seemingly overused the amount we have available at this point.

he can outwit Mother Nature, builds dams and drills wells in the most arid places to cheat the gods of dryness. Finally, it appears, though, that we have hit a wall as far as the availability of that resource.

The Colorado River appears to be failing and even the huge dams that have fed water to downstream places like Las Vegas and Los Angeles are draining like one big flush of the commode of life.

Of course, there are things we can do to alleviate some of the shortages like crop changes, water-saving toilets, xeriscape lawns and drying up the irrigated city parks. But the one thing that I believe they have overlooked is what we all wanted when we were younger: showering

Now I am not suggesting that I want to shower with Uncle Bert, but I think if a person has a significant other that may be something that needs to be visited and studied by the government.

And Ol' Dutch will most certainly volunteer to head up just such a study if it becomes available as well, I am just that kind of guy. Always thinking of others and willing to sacrifice for

I don't know about you all, but I remember in my younger years when I did get to shower with my woman, and it seemed like such a good idea

But from what I can recall, it really works out that I ended up farthest from the spigot with a cold backside. at TroutRepublic.com.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters are welcome and encouraged.

They should be fewer than 300 words,

unless arranged beforehand with the

editor, and they are subject to editing for

and include a phone number and address

where the author can be reached (these

are not for publication). Letters forwarded

from other organizations or sent to staff

and not for print must be designated as

such. Letters over 300 words and without

contact information will be returned to

All letters must be signed by the author

length and clarity.



Trout Republic by Kevin Kirkpatrick

And mankind, ever the one to think I guess it was worth it to be able to soap up my female companion and her various fatty deposits or I wouldn't have continued.

> And even though this still sounds like it might be a good idea to try again with Miss Trixie, I am not sure she would let me soap up her fatty deposits and I would be relegated to just taking a shower and being cold.

> And if I did get to soap her up it's most likely I would just be helping her wash the hangy down places on her arms and not the more sexy baggage she carries up front. (Poor Miss Trixie's eyes will someday roll out of their sockets the way she reacts to my writing.)

> Having studied this to some degree, Ol' Dutch has determined that we are probably in for a real amount of suffering from water shortages and the inevitable dehydration of an entire population as no one is going to shower together no matter how dire the global impact.

> But maybe if more showers were equipped with those waterfall-type nozzles that come out of the ceiling and cover more square inches of personal skin, we could get more people to kick in and do their part. That is if the women would agree to it and we all know how that is going to work out?

> 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 or on Twitter

We will accept one letter per person,

per subject, per four issues. We reserve

the right to reject letters for reasons we

believe are appropriate. Please send

letters to Letter to the Editor c/o Valley

Publishing, PO Box 607, Monte Vista,

CO 81144 or e-mail to bwilliams@

valleypublishinginc.com (Attention:

Letter to the Editor). Deadline for letters

Political letters may be limited due to

the sender or discarded.

is 5 p.m. Friday.

space constraints.

- Letters

Wetherill announces candidacy for Mineral County Sheriff

Editor,

I Terry Wetherill, am announcing my candidacy for Mineral County Sheriff in the 2022 Election. I feel now is the time for me to step up and provide my own style of leadership for in additional protection and service to our community.

I have been serving as the County Emergency Manager and the Search and Rescue Coordinator since January 2016. I became a Mineral County Reserve Deputy in May of 2016 after receiving my Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certificate.

I spent 29 years serving in the United States Navy Submarine Force and retired as a Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO). During my Navy time, I learned the value of serving with honor, respect and integrity. I believe in, hands-on leadership, leading by example and empowering and developing subordinates. I understood that a leader should be training his relief while ensuring everyone on the team progresses along their career path. I

who can engage and utilize the strengths of everyone on the team, will enjoy much mission success and will have a cohesive team that fully understands the value of service with honor. As a MCPO, I led up to 150 personnel and our Sheriff's Office which will result oversaw a budget of close to a million dollars. Through all of this, I came to understand that "Mission First, People Always" would be critical to our team's success in serving our country.

As your sheriff, I intend to use all of these leadership skills to serve Mineral County. I will make time and put my energy into getting out and determining what issues and or concerns the people of Mineral County are dealing with and how the sheriff's office can best support you. I will ensure our deputies are getting the training they need to fully protect and serve our community. Although we are still a very rural and remote community, and I love that about Mineral County, I believe we have a duty to prepare for and be ready to, deal with some of the more difficult situations we see occurring as close have experienced firsthand that a leader as the San Luis Valley, our state and



our country. I will strive to keep the community policing atmosphere that Mineral County has been known for while increasing our capability to protect and serve and enforce all constitutional laws, in an effort to keep Mineral County the last great place!

It would be my honor and pleasure to continue to serve this community as your elected Sheriff.

Terry Wetherill Mineral County

Community outpouring helped so much

Over the years, I've written many letters to the editor, but this may be the hardest.Icould not put into 25-words our thanks to the people of Creede for their outpouring of love and caring shown to our family in the past month since our son and grandson Damian's death.

During the most difficult time in our lives, you were here for comfort. lives, you were here to help us through. During the most difficult time in our lives, you were you. Thanks for being

Creede is special! We have seen this in the past when people come together to help anyone who needs it in our small community — potluck charity

during our COVID outbreak, helping hands, ladies aid, food bank, mountain ministries sharing with EMS, fire department, etc., Elks scholarships, individuals helping where needed, etc. I know I am forgetting some, but I think this gets my point across — when a helping hand is needed — Creede is there!

Damian's dream from the time During the most difficult time in our he was little was to be a fireman. He reached that goal as a full-time fireman in Gypsum and part-time in Eagle. He was also an EMT, serving on many calls to Interstate 70. He was a certified wildland firefighter, and over the years fought fires in Colorado, California, Oregon, Montana and Idaho. The summer dinners, senior meals, making masks after he graduated from Creede High

School, he was with the Creede Fire Department on the West Fork Fire Complex and with the Alamosa Fire Department on the Black Forest Fire north of Colorado Springs.

Why Damian took his life at the young age of 27, we will never know. As one of the cards we received put it, "Some things will never be understood this side of heaven and certainly this loss was one of them."

Again, your outpouring of caring helped us so much. Thank you!

A memorial service is planned for Damian at Calvary Christian Fellowship Church in Gypsum on Feb. 26 at 1 p.m.

Tracy and Dylan Trow, Amber and David Trow, Donnie and Betsy Rogers, Creede

Xcel Energy cuts power without warning

supplied by Xcel Energy in Denver were sent to SLV counties. was shut off at approximately 6 p.m. tragic fires around Boulder.

power was shut off.

They all told me they were not warned that power would be turned off, although it was reported on Jan. 4

On Dec. 30, 2021, electrical power Michelle Aguayo that notifications

All agencies that supply emergency to parts of Alamosa, Rio Grande and services to our communities learned Saguache counties as a result of the of the outage when it occurred and after their normal hours of operation. Italked with our 911 dispatch, who It was reported that at several emergency in the future. otifies all emergency agencies, local facilities, electric doors could not be hospitals and long-term care facilities opened thereby leaving professional should register to receive a reverse to see if they were notified before the personnel or clients either locked in or locked out of rooms.

The extreme possibilities for various people have led me to encourage our San Luis Valley residents to do

by Denver Xcel media representative several things. If you encountered a concerning health threat during the outage, please join with us and contact your elected officials and emergency response agencies in your county to address this problem with Excel Energy, Denver, to prevent a worse

> Individuals requiring oxygen 911 call warning them of outages. Register for this service online at SLVE911.org

Kay Jones Mosca

THE CENTER POST-DISPATCH (USPS 775-900) Published weekly (every Thursday) by Valley Publishing. (719) 852-3531 at 835 First Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado 81144-1423. Official newspaper of the Town of Center, and a legal newspaper in Saguache County.

Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144 Main office, Want ads and Subscriptions: (719) 852-3531 Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, Colo., 81144

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Subscriptions: \$45 one year in the San Luis Valley; \$40 one year seniors (65 and older) in the San Luis Valley; and \$55 one year out of the San Luis Valley. (719) 852-3531
News Media Corporation website: http://www.newsmediacorporation.com

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www.centerpostdispatch.com

BLM plans prescribed burn to benefit wildlife at Blanca Wetlands

prescribed burn at Blanca Wetlands, approximately 11 miles northeast of Alamosa.

The primary objective of the prescribed burn is to increase the quality and size of open water habitats by removing overgrown fuels and thick stands of cattails surrounding the ponds. Fire is the most effective method to accomplish these objectives. Up to 200 acres surrounding eight ponds will be burned to improve habitat for nesting and migratory waterfowl in the wetlands.

wetland landscape.

between mid-January and mid-March. The prescribed fire may occur over multiple days, or sets of days, during this timeframe. Specific timing of the operation will depend on favorable weather and fuel moisture conditions. Crews will be on site for the duration of the burn.

Smoke from the prescribed fire MONTE VISTA - The Bureau wetlands are burned at five-to- will be visible while the burn of Land Management's (BLM) ten-year intervals to maintain is occurring, mostly during the San Luis Valley Field Office and a balance between vegetated warmest part of the day. With BLM Rocky Mountain District and open water habitats for the cooler temperatures in the evening, Fire are preparing to conduct a 150+ species of birds that use smoke may linger and accumulate the area, while also improving in low-lying areas. Prescribed fire angler access. Without periodic smoke may affect your health. For disturbance through burning, more information, please visit the cattails would soon dominate the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division's website www.colorado. The burn is planned to occur gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smokeand-health.

Updates on the Blanca Wetlands prescribed burn will be available on the @BLMColoradoFire Facebook

For additional information, contact Scott Nilson, Fire Management Specialist for BLM Rocky Mountain District Fire at 719-852-8150.

SHS Honor Roll First Semester

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Makayla Brown Rusch Pepper Emma Sewell Mayah Stephens Josiah Yocom Annabelle Heineman Sydney Lorentzen Aaron Price Lane Spearman Gracie Wilson Madelyn Beiriger Stephanie Johnson Megan Peterson Parker Ford Kamryn Holland Madison Kyffin Daylon Maze Ashlyn Rockey Taylor Rockey Katherine Sewell **Emberly Spearman** Roman Vitale Carson Wolfe

Principal's Honor Roll:

Kaitlynn Askew Jessica Buser

Montana Younkerman

Lucas Garcia Tanner Kenison Maia Krattli Ellaree Rockey Mia Stickens Giovanni Aguilar Brooke Hoffstaetter Cavden Larimore Azmarae Lister KayleeAnn Martinez Jordan Rockey Brooke Widger Marissa Floriani Antonio Garcia Burke Temple Kyla Davis Conner Holmes Chinmay Jayanty Antonio Martinez Aiden Price Lindsey Temple Mary Willis

Sargent Junior High First Semester **Superintendent's Honor Roll:**

Makenzie Consaul Sylvia Daugherty Lyza Davis Catherine Deacon

Aiden Ford Madeline Mitchell Durae Naranjo Kandace Pargin Kimberly Pargin Rylee Shirley William Walker Kennidy Askew Jayce Capron Reagan Curtis Kyra Griffin Tanner Houser Addison Roepke

Principal's Honor Roll:

Kaelyn Atencio Carmen Campos Corbin Castillo Payton Chong Amelia Ford Lyla Gesink AlyciaMartinez-Chavez Alihva Orr Anna Pescatore Mitchell Peterson Dietrich Smith Tami Torgler

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Buried Snowcat



Wolf Creek Ski Resort employees spent a considerable amount of time over the last several days digging out the Horseshoe Bowl Snowcat that was buried under several feet of snow.

Photos Courtesy of Augie Sparrow



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Power outage impacts SLV Regional Airport

By Priscilla Waggoner

SANLUIS VALLEY — Recently, large areas of Alamosa, Rio Grande and Conejos counties were plunged into darkness when Xcel Energy was forced to cut power to the area, a decision made in response to the impact the Marshall Fire in Boulder County was having on the natural gas infrastructure system that services some of the mountain communities.

Although communication from Xcel suggested that the power would only be out in a "rolling black-out schedule" with one-hour periods of no power, many homes and businesses in Alamosa experienced an outage lasting approximately three hours.

Since then, in addition to individual stories of deep concerns over family members who rely on electricity to deliver much-needed oxygen or the disorienting effect of having all the lights — including street lights — out in the neighborhoods on the south side of the city of Alamosa, the impact of the outage and discussion of preventative measures to be taken in the future appeared on the agendas

of several agencies, municipalities off — prevented any transports from and operations, including the city which lost power to all but one well, the county and the San Luis Valley Regional Airport, which, to a large degree, went dark.

clearly a challenge.

the only lights available were the emergency lights. While the decision to land or take off was up to the pilot's discretion, there are also obstacles that can pose significant hazard to aircraft if their locations aren't obvious. Those locations were obscured during the power outage since the obstacle lights had gone dark.

AirMed, including its helicopter and their fixed-wing aircraft, was grounded in its hangar as the doors are electrically operated. AirMed is responsible for transport in the area, and the lack of being able to access their aircraft — let alone whether the pilots would opt to take

happening during the outage.

The airport also lost base radio communication, which they rely upon to communicate with pilots. Fortunately, there was a stop-As was reported during the recent gap measure in place. Airport Airport Advisory Board meeting, the personnel were able to monitor and airport stayed open, including the communicate with pilots from the runways, but the lack of power was radios in their vehicles, but it was clearly not an optimal situation given Air carriers could not land because that they had to do that for more than three hours.

Immediately after the outage, there was a notice sent out to flight crews advising them that there were no runway lights. The airport manager, recognizing that there may be emergency situations, also did not prevent any pilot who wanted to take off from doing so. But, as one individual said, "It was an unsafe situation."

The plan for the future is to apply for either funding through grant money available via the infrastructure bill or to apply for a 2022 Homeland Security grant to purchase generators that would prevent another similar

STAFF REPORT

situation occurring in the future.

Three different plans are being considered, including a plan that would provide all power to the facility that would be available in the absence of an outage, a plan that would purchase enough power to provide those services that are required to safely stay open such as air navigation, base communication and others.

There is also a third plan being

Cancer survivors needed for study

considered that involves the purchase of portable generators that could be moved to, for example, individual hangars to open hangar doors as doing that via existing cranks is an extremely long and arduous task.

Although the recent event was reportedly not the first time power had gone out at the airport, it was the first time that the power had been out for such an extended period of time.

High Valley Community Center going full speed in new year

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

DEL NORTE — Hello everyone! Happy New Year! High Valley Community Center is excited to welcome the kiddos and parents back! We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Now that we're open, we are going full speed. K-2 and boys' 3-4 and 5-6 basketball practices and games have begun full-time. Parents and guardians, if you haven't yet signed up for the Procare app, we strongly suggest that you do so. We communicate any schedule changes and other important information on the app and that is the best way to be informed on all things HVCC. We also ask that if your child has been quarantined, please do not send them to any HVCC activities including sports. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 719-657-2172.

This month has a whole new schedule

of Fabulous Friday activities! Each Friday in January, we will be taking the kids bowling at the Stars and Strikes bowling alley in Monte Vista. Lunch and admission are provided. If your child would like to attend, the bus will leave for bowling at 10 a.m. and will be back by 3 p.m. Don't forget your socks! A reminder that our Friday hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Are you a member of the 50plus community and would like to participate in fun activities? We have a program for you! On Wednesdays, we offer art classes and Thursdays we have fitness classes. Both classes are at HVCC and begin at 10 a.m. If you have questions or if you would like to register, we would love to hear from you.

We hope you have a wonderful week! We enjoy visitors and are happy to answer any questions you may have, so please don't hesitate to stop by the office or give us a call.

January. The program studies the effects of exercise on the physical, mental, and social health of cancer survivors. All cancer survivors ages 18-years or older are welcome to

ALAMOSA — The Adams

State University Department of

Kinesiology will continue the

Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer

Survivorship program in late

type, or stage of cancer. There is Adams State campus. no cost to the participant.

encouragedtoattendaninformational meeting 12 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. the Adams State Kinesiology Wednesday, Jan. 26, in the Adams Department graduate program State East Campus Building room coordinator Ines Curti at 859-684-101. The East Campus is located 3511, email curtines@gmail.com on the corner of First Street and La or Peggy Johnson at 719-589-0593,

participate regardless of gender, required in all indoor settings on the

For more information, or for Interested participants are those who can't attend one of the scheduled meetings, please contact Veta Avenue in Alamosa. Masks are email pvjohnson@adams.edu.

FREEDOM. TO BE YOU.

If you think oxygen therapy means slowing down, it's time for a welcome breath of fresh air.

Introducing the Inogen One family of portable oxygen systems. With no need for bulky tanks, each concentrator is designed to keep you active via Inogen's Intelligent Delivery Technology.® Hours of quiet and consistent oxygen flow on a long-lasting battery charge enabling freedom of movement, whether at home or on the road. Every Inogen One meets FAA requirements for travel ensuring the freedom to be you.



- No heavy oxygen tanks
- Ultra quiet operation
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- · Safe for car and air travel
- Full range of options and accessories
- FDA approved and clinically validated

ANNUAL 100 GELBVIEH & BALANCER BULLS LOOK FOR ADDED VALUE WHEN BUYING "POT OF GOLD" BULLS CALVING EASE GROWTHY CALVES DISPOSTION PAP TESTED PROVEN HIGH ALTITUDE CATTLE February 25, 2022 Montrose, Colorado DV/Auction "Providing dependable genetics to commercial and purebred cattlemen for over 31 years." Mark Covington (970) 209-1956 For online catalog and videos visit: Dave Bowman (970) 323-6833 www.gelbviehbulls.net



SCHOOL Continued from Page 1A.

Aguilar, and Lloyd Garcia.

spend countless hours of unpaid time working to provide the best possible education for our students," said CCSD Superintendent Carrie

She explained that they are the head of one of the Center community's largest employers, the school district. The goal of the school board is to represent the citizens of the school district and provide local control of the public education system.

"Too often the efforts of school "Our school board members board members go unrecognized," said Zimmerman.

According to Center Consolidated School District, the school board's goal is to support the students of the school on a path to success. To help achieve this goal, the current board focuses on specific needs. These are creating a vision for the school informed by what citizens and parents envision and make student achievement the priority, set standards for learning, tracking

progress and results, aligning the use of the human and financial resources, solving problems and supporting successes through collaboration, focusing on improvement by questioning, examining, revising, refining and revisiting issues of student achievement.

The CCSD School Board was recognized during the monthly board meeting with the reading of the state proclamation recognizing the work of the board.

Zimmerman said that even though

January is set as School Board She praised the efforts of the board Recognition Month, the efforts of for their commitment to student the board are a year-round effort. achievement.



Photo by Mechel Meek

to the primary office of Monte Vista Coop on the east end of town. Marcus Construction is leading the build.

COOP

Hampel said that the building will provide faster and more efficient times for mixing, loading, and dropping fertilizer than the old building. Hampel said the old fertilizer

Continued from Page 1A

building, like many in town, is old, about 60 years old to be exact. And while tried and true, it is also slow with inbound fertilizer and slow with outbound fertilizer.

For example, Hampel said at the old facility it would take about threefourths of a day to unload one rail

car, which carries 100 tons of dry fertilizer. The new facility will do the same amount in less than an hour.

Hampel said unloading a semitruck would take about an hour in the old building, and in the new building, unloading could be accomplished in about 10 minutes.

Hampel said the efficiency will be seen for loads going out. Depending on the size of the order, it would take most of a workday at the old building to fill it. At the new building, that same order could be filled in about an hour.

Hampel said the facility is also set up to electronically blend. Although the hoppers in the facility must be loaded manually, something as simple as a cell phone could be used to order and start the blend.

Hampel is excited about the building.

"This building will serve our community, with high-quality fertilizers and chemicals and more," he said.

Hampel said that the efficiency of the new building is great, but they will still need skilled employees to run the machinery and connect with valued customers.

"Employees are the heart of MV Coop," Hampel said, adding that with the new building MV Coop is expecting it to be busier than ever.



Now Is the Time for Your Breakthrough!

Do you need a breakthrough in your life—in your health, relationships, finances or any other area? Have you been asking God to give you a breakthrough?

Needing a breakthrough basically means you've come up against something that is preventing you from doing what you really want to do, being who you really want to be, or having what you really want to have.

The first step to getting a

The first step to getting a breakthrough is to pray and ask God for help. But it's important to understand that when you pray and wait on God, you need to be prepared to listen to what He may speak to your heart because He will likely give you

something to do.
As believers in Christ, we have a personal relationship with Him and we are partners with God. The Holy Spirit lives in our spirit and He speaks to our hearts. John 16:13 (NIV) says, "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."

One way He communicates with us is through our thoughts; He gives us an idea or desire that sticks with us and won't go away. It could be something you're supposed to do for someone, a change you need to make in your daily routine, or something that seems too

hard for you to handle. In our day-to-day journey of walking out God's plan for our lives, we have part and He has a part. We can't do His part, and He won't do ours. But we can be confident that whatever God shows us to do, He will always be faithful to give us the grace, the ability, to do it.

So when we pray, instead of just asking God to fix our problems, we need to pray for Him to show us the truth about the real issue. Jesus said in John 8:31-32, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'

It takes courage to pray for truth to be revealed. I believe that facing the truth about ourselves is one of the hardest things we'll ever have to do; however, facing the truth is the key to being set free and moving forward into

Subject to Credit Approval

the life Jesus came to give us.

I remember when convinced that all of my problems—my unhappiness, bad temper my unhappiness, bad temper, dissatisfaction with life—was ALL my husband Dave's fault. He played golf too much, wasn't aggressive enough, watched sports too much, didn't help me around the house enough, and on

and on.

One day I was praying about this and said, "God, You've got to change Dave!" When I finished complaining and let God get my attention, He spoke to my heart and clearly said, "Joyce, the problem is not Dave" the problem is not Dave."
Well, I couldn't even begin to

conceive in my wildest imagination that the problem was ME! I was deceived.

So I prayed for God to show me the truth, and for the next three days, God revealed to me what it was like to live with me. I cried for three days.

This experience was painful, and it took time for me to walk out the changes I needed to make, with God's help. But choosing to trust God and obey His leading in my life so He could change my heart and I could do my part in the process was the key to getting my breakthrough. I can honestly say that choosing the pain of change was totally worth it, because today I have a life filled with God's love peace and joy love, peace and joy.

I really want to encourage you to make a determined decision to seek God in prayer and by studying His Word. Humble yourself and tell Him how much you need Him. Ask Him to help you see the truth that you need to face and show you the wisdom in Scripture that you need to make right



desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part [of my heart] You will make me know wisdom."

Remember that God doesn't expect you to do it all in your own strength. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose—I self-sufficient sufficiency; I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.]" (AMP).

That is an amazing promise from

God! And I can tell you from personal experience that if you will do what God tells you to do, you can have everything God says you can have. Don't waste another day waiting for your breakthrough. It's time for you to start doing the things God is telling you to do and get your life headed in the right direction. It's time for your breakthrough!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's two-teaching CD resource Keys to Breakthrough. 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 AUTHENTICALLY, UNIQUELY 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 choices. He will answer you because Psalm 51:6 (AMP) says, "Behold, You Meyer Ministries."

Photos courtesy of MV Coop

PKUFESSIUNAL SERVICES



5 Action Steps for Helping Someone in Emotional Pain



"Are you thinking yourself?"

SAFE Reduce access to places.



and acknowledge

their feelings.



Suicide Prevention Lifeline number

CONNECTED Follow up and



www.nimh.nih.gov/suicideprevention

1-800-273-8255

Courtesy of National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

SUICIDE

Continued from Page 1A speak to them while referring them to other resources," Chief Meek said. "This incident led to the successful de-escalation and transport of the person to the hospital so they could meet with a mental health specialist, a highly desired conclusion. No one outside of the residence was in danger and this incident ended well but I want the community to understand something very important. A lone suicidal person who is armed will typically not be contacted in person by law enforcement. You have to consider two main factors in this decision by CPD. One, it is not a crime to harm yourself. Two, we do not want to add to the ability of a person to commit suicide by rushing

It is important for people to be aware of the signs that someone you know may be contemplating suicide. The warning signs to watch for suicide include talking about wanting to die or wanting to kill themselves, talking about feeling hopeless, feeling empty or having no reason to live, talking about feeling trapped or having no hope, feeling unbearable pain either emotional or physical, stating they are a burden to others, withdrawing from friends and family, saying goodbye to family and friends including giving away important possessions, talking or thinking about death and dying often, taking risks that could lead to death, and putting their affairs in order such as making a will.

Other signs include extreme mood swings, making a plan to kill themselves including researching suicide methods or buying a gun or stockpiling pills, excess emotions of rage, anxiety, agitation, guilt or shame, and excessive drug or alcohol

To learn more about suicide prevention or to get help go to https:// suicidepreventionlifeline.org/.

SLVREC scholarship deadline approaching

MONTE VISTA — San Luis Valley REC makes secondary education a priority when giving back to the Valley. With just over \$235,000 given in the past seven years, REC annually awards up to 11 scholarships to local students. The 2022 scholarship deadline is quickly approaching; for full requirements and details, see the application online at slvrec.com/scholarships. The deadline to apply is Feb. 3.



ValleyPublishing

Saguache County Sales Tax Grants now available!

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners will be taking Grant Applications for

Saguache County Sales Tax Grants until 3:00PM, Friday, February 14, 2022 To be eligible grant applications must be for either: Emergency Services/Public Health and Safety; Youth and Senior programs, projects, or organizations; or Renewable Energy

projects/Business Opportunities and Job Creation. Grant applications are available on our website at saguachecounty.colorado.gov - use "sales tax grant applicationform5" or you can contact the Saguache County Administration office at 719-655-2231 to request a copy of the grant application.

No. 1620 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, January 13, 20 and 27 and

Saguache County Road and Bridge is Accepting Bids for the following item. Trailer with a pintle hitch to Haul rubber tire Paver/ Backhoe 1. Deck length 24 foo long, 102 inches OD wide wood rumber inlay, cross members 9 " on center min. Or 1.½ oak rumber inlaid 16" oc or less. 2. BeaverTail - 6 foot wood with rumber inlay with min. 9 inch crossmembers 3. Ramps Rear- 7 foot min.. min 3 foot wide plus tapered approach, wood crossmembers 3. Ramps Rear- / foot min.. min 3 foot wide plus tapered approach,wood, Rumber inlaid ,air operated w/ bolt on legs ,Cross member 9 inches on center min. Self contained electric /hydraulic is acceptable , longer ramps are acceptable. 4. Deck Height-Less than 37 inches 5. Tie Downs On the Deck- min. every two foot on both sides 1" D rings, 6. Tie Downs on Beavertail - min. 1 on each side 1" D rings 7. Brakes - Air , ABS 2s/1M, Meritor WABO 9 Parking Brakes on all axles 8. Axles - 25000 lb. oil bath, Two Axles 9. Suspension - 49" Spread Spring 9700 Hutch 25000 lb. Heavy Duty 3 leaf springs, for hutch 9700 10. Tires & Wheels - 235/75R 17.5 J., 8 Bolt (17.5 x 6.75) outboard Hub Pilot 11. Hitch Length - Center of Coupler to Headboard , Appx. 5.3 Feet 12. Hitch Type - 3" Adjustable Lunette Eye/ Pintle, (C) 66000 lb Plate Mount 3/4" Bolts 13. Jack- Twin 2 speed (39000 lb Lift Capacity) 14. Plug - 7 plug Semi 15. Lights - LED lights Sealed 2 speed (39000 lb Lift Capacity) 14. Plug - 7 plug Semi 15. Lights - LED lights Sealed wiring Harness, Meeting All DOT, regs. 16. Color - Black, DOT, tape installed 17. Toolbox - Lockable in the Hitch 18. Steps - 3 steps, 1 on the Hitch, one in front of both axles on both sides 19. Safety Chains - ½ " Grade 70 20. GVWR - min. 53,900 lbs. 21. Mud Flaps - Behind Rear Tires 22. Spare Tire and wheel - 1 23. Safety headboard on main deck - min. 4" 24. Delivered To Saguache Colorado 81149

> Trailer Bid Page 2 Bid Deadline February 3 /2022 At 4:00pm Sealed Bids TO: Saguache County Board of County Commissioner ATT. Wendi Maez PO. Box 100 Saguache CO. 81149 Bids good for 45 days after Bid deadline Company Name Phone Number_ Price Deliv-Signature Print Name_

No. 1618 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, January 13 and 20, 2022.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard **Basketball 2021-2022**

BOYS BASKETBALL

Centauri 70...... St. Mary's 64 Sierra Grande 58 Trinidad 47 Sanford 55......Buena Vista 33 Alamosa 47Pagosa Springs 43 Centauri 53..... Montezuma-Cortez 42 Alamosa 48Florence 36 Custer County 57 Centennial 46 Del Norte 62...... Center 43 Springfield 58.....Centennial 40 Sanford 65.....South Park 14 Center 62 Dolores Huerta 52

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Alamosa 38Pagosa Springs 32 Monte Vista 65......Bayfield 20 Centennial 34......Custer County 33 Del Norte 38 Center 24 St. Mary's 55...... Centauri 43 Springfield 52.....Centennial 24 Questa NM 34......Centennial 27 Center 41 Dolores Huerta 23 Sanford 74South Park 3

Thanks to these businesses for supporting SLV sports!



facebook.com/





Saguache County - Request for Proposals Re: Tandem Axle Snowplow Truck

Saguache County is requesting price quotes on a Tandem Axle Snowplow Truck

Bid specifications may be obtained by contacting Joe Gilbert, Asst. Road Supervisor, at the Saguache County Road & Bridge 719-655-2554, 719-221-2135 cell.

Copies of the Proposal (inclusive of the specifications checklist and company information sheet) must be sent in a sealed envelope with the title and mailed or hand-delivered to: Saguache County Board of County Commissioner Wendi Maez - hand delivered to 505 3rd Street or mailed to PO Box 100 Saguache, CO 81149.719-655-2231,* BIDS ARE DO 02/03/ 2022 By 4:00 PM

Awarding of this bid is not based solely upon low quote price, but on an overall service, quality and "best value' to the county in accordance with the Saguache County Purchasing Manual. Saguache County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, as deemed in the best interest of the county.

Specifications for: Tandem Axle Snowplow Truck

The following conventional non-sleeper cab/chassis will be bid (no exceptions). Check the model you will be bidding:
__x_ Western Star 49X _x__ International HX, _x_ Kenworth T800,

Check If Specifications Can Be Met - please put a checkmark on any line before all numbers below if you can meet or exceed the listed requirements. (**note – exceptions and variations to the specifications of "Equal to or Better than" quality may be considered and may be listed in the table provided on the Company Information Page.)

x_Cummins X15 or Detroit DD15 (Front Engine Power Take Off) _x 1850 Foot Pounds Torque (minimum)

x Turbocharged, no exceptions

x Engine must meet latest EPA regulations

3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. _x__ HP (horsepower) being bid 510 -565 _x__ Torque being bid 1850

Engine Manufacturer Cummins X15, Detroit DD 15

_x__ Engine Compression Brake Factory _ Cruise Control Electronic

10. Fuel Filter Primary and secondary fuel with Davco Heated water Seperator DPF Filter With initiate on demand switch

_x__ DPF Filter Located on the right side under the cab between frame and

13. Air Cleaner Outside/inside hood air intake for snow, in -cab restriction

monitor 14. _ Lubrication System Full flow with spin on filters

16. 17. ___x__ Cooling System _x__ Block Heater ___x __ Transmission Fuller RTLO – 18918B 18 Speed UltraShift Plus 18.

20. 21.

x Power Steering 20,000 # capacity, four -quart power steering reservoir, dual gear and power steering cooler

_x__ Steering Column Adjustable tilt, telescope x Electrical System 12 volt with four (3) low maintenance 2800 cold crank batteries, battery box shall be complete enclosure front, side ,bottom with steel

Exhaust Systems 6" verical exhaust pipe and muffler cab mounted with

cover, battery disconnect 22. _Electric Circuit Protection 12 volt automatic self- reset circuit braker in main dash power distribution box

23. _x_ Diagnostic Tool Software for trouble shooting and interpreting codes _x__ Alternator Software for trouble shooting and interpreting codes 24.

Windshield 1-piece tinted curved gasket mounted heated windshield

25. 26. 27. __x___ Windshield Wipers 2-speed electric moto with intermittent feature

 Gauge Instrumentation Transmission oil, primary and secondary air pressure gauges, speedometer, engine tack, hour meter, turbo temp, water temp, oil pressure and fuel level, Both diff. temps. (all gauges graduated type)

28. Dash Mounted Switches Four dash -mounted switches to be mounted at factory for use with work lights and miscellaneous attachments (no exceptions)

29

__x_ Horns Dual electric and air (2) two -cabmounted air horns __x_ Brakes ABS self- adjusting, full air "s" cam type, rear brakes to include four (4) spring-loaded 30/30 air chambers, spring parking brake (all brake drums

to be outboard) _x__ Hub Pilot Front bearings oil bath Brake Chamber Location Chambers on rear most carrier/axle shall be 32.

mounted on the top or front side or rear axle carrier to permit dumping into hoppers

on lay-down machines and chip spreaders 33. _Air System 18.7 C.F.M. compressor min., Wabco Heated dryer, automatic Wabco drain valve heated

x Front Axle Set back 20,000 # w shock absorbers, multileaf suspension 34 ___x_ Rear Axle 46,000 # capacity to include two magnetic drain plugs, power divider lock/lockout with in cab control and lube pump, (filled synthetic oil) full 35.

locking front/rear carries with individual front and rear switches 36. Rear Axle Ratio Geared for city or highway use with top speed 75 MPH

4.11 gear ratio __x_ Rear Axle Suspension 46,000lb capacity Hendrickson haul max, Tuf Trac or Chalmers suspension with 54" axle suspension spacing with four (4) heavy duty 37.

38. ___x_ Frame Heat treated alloy steel, clean frame left and right side from back of cab to rear axle , 4,800,000 RBM minimum from front of 12" parent front frame extension to rear of frame rails

__x_ Wheelbase Approximately 212".

___x Cab Suspension Dual frame mounted air suspension system 41. x_ Cab passenger daylight doors conventioal cab with stainless exterior sun

42. 43. Steering Wheel 18" diameter

Seats Driver seat to be air-ride, high back with lumbar support and upper backrest, dual armrests, passenger seat to be mid back, both cloth upholstery

44. 45. _x__ Air Conditioning Factory installed x__ Radio am/fm, axillary input, with speakers and antenna and Hands free

and prep kit for auxiliary CB radio w mirror mounted antennas. UHF/VHF har-Radio Brackets additional bracket/base for cb and county radio

Mirrors heated west coast bright finish, full view, door mounted motor-47.

ized both sides and convex mirrors
__x __ Tires and Wheels steel wheels w 315/80R22.5 Michelin XZU S2 20 ply, load range L, radial front tires. Steel wheel w 11R24.5 Michelin XDs2 16ply, load 48. rating H, traction rear tires. All tires to be tubeless Hub pioletd

49. Front Bumper Heavy duty chrome plated/or powder coated with two (2) tow hooks

Rear Tow Hooks Two (2) mounted to the frame

51. Tilt Hood Front tilting fiberglass, heavy duty tilt w closing mechanism. 52. Fuel Tank side step mount, non polished aluminum driver side, 100 gallon

53. _x____Lights No day time running lights, led to meet DOT. specs x_____ Trailer Towing Pintle hitch with air and electric to rear of chassis and hydraulic lines (2) to run pup 54.

55. Paint Exterior color White with base coat/clear coat and black frame single 56. Manuals Operator manual, shop repair maul, parts manual, and electric

system manual in paper form or electronic manual, provisions for engine operation software for engine diagnostic Can you provide yes or no

57. Warranty Vendor shall provide price on extended warranty . Engine emission, clutch, transmission and rear carries for 5 years and 200,000 miles.

Please provide detailed warranty information and optional pricing <u>x</u> Hitch Pintle hook 24" off ground. Bottom of hitch plate 16" – 19" 58.

59. _dump box 14ft steel, 1/4" Tailgate, 1/4" Floor, and 3/16" Sides, Double acting high-lift tailgate, spreader chains, body props, air latch tailgate, ¼ cab shield, trap arm brackets 8" spreader apron, hoist/cylinder, tarp, steel side boards, pintle hook, Plate ,glade hands, electric plug, vibrator x Bids good for 45 days after final BID date

60.

Hydraulics hydraulics ran for front plow (lift, .and turn), rear v box sander. (2) lines to run pup. Manual levers to run those functions. Hydraulics will be Force and have options for plow and sander controls to run pup trailer will need hydraulic diverter, hoses, and cab controls. Sloping tail gate to keep Material off Note plow and V box sander will not be added at this time.

62.

No. 1619 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, January 13 adn 20, 2022.

OPENILOCAL Support Local Suppo

From hot new shops to great restaurant specials, entertainment, services and more, our Local Businesses have you covered, don't miss out on a thing!











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(north of Dos Rio Restaurant)

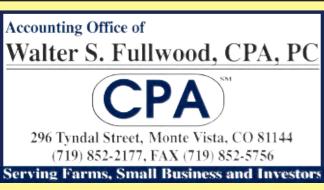
Five Years Strong and Still Going!

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Supplement to The Monte Vista Journal, Center Post-Dispatch, The Conejos County Citizen, The Mineral County Miner, The South Fork Tines, and The Del Norte Prospector. BOXHOLDER LOCAL-RURAL CAR-RT SORT STANDARD MAIL RATE U.S. Postage PAID

Charitable acts mark holiday season for Center School District

Vikings wrestlers grab fifth place at Pagosa

By Mechel Meek

CENTER — In the latest edition of Center of Focus, Center Consolidated School District Superintendent Carrie Zimmerman outlined some of the first half of the school year.

Zimmerman stated, "2021 is in the rearview mirror and I know some people are happy to see it behind us. Even though the year presented some bright spots along the way. It's

in all the negativity that seems to other charitable acts. surround us."

staff, such as in-person instruction and sports programs resuming activities after the COVID-related restrictions of the 2020-21 school year.

activities and accomplishments of the new buses to better serve the student population.

> Also, several grants were applied for and received to help the school address the needs of the students.

and students. Several students and important to take the time to look teachers helped families with the

for the good and not get caught up holidays by collecting donations and

The students also received help Zimmerman discussed some of from local organizations to help the achievements of the students and them succeed, including donations of winter coats.

"We had a generous donation from the Knights of Columbus. The district would like to recognize and thank The school system has ordered two Claude Trujillo and the Knights of Columbus for their gracious donation of 30 winter coats for our students. We appreciate the support and partnership that we have with this organization. We still have some coats The superintendent also discussed available, so if you have a need or a number of challenges, there were some of the altruistic acts of staff know of one, please come over to the administration office," she stated. The

Please see VIKINGS on Page 2



Photo courtesy of Center Consolidated School Districtç

Center Consolidated School District received donations for a coat drive from the Knights of Columbus.



Photo by Adam Lopez

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Jan. 8 for the new Sierra Grande School in Fort Garland.

Sierra Grande celebrates new school

By Dominoue Lopez *Special to the Citizen*

FORT GARLAND — Despite below-freezing temperatures, and Parrill, community member students, teachers, families, and Bernadette Cisneros traced the community supporters gathered journey from memorandum to to participate in the ribbon-cutting realization in her speech, conveying ceremony for Sierra Grande School just how hard the community worked District. Students, faculty, and staff and came together to see this dream proudly wore smiles and t-shirts to fruition. boasting, New Year. New School. New Memories.

The event on Jan. 8 commenced with students Samuel Gonzalez, Aleigha Sanchez, and Lindsy Paine, stepping up to a podium that was nearly too tall for some of them, to proclaim their excitement and to express pride in their new school. The moment spoke to Sierra Grande's values — emphasizing that this school was for the students.

As staff member Chris Parrill succinctly said, "Our collective dream came true...everybody

deserves the chance to become a back into the school, community better student."

Along with eager students

Roybal proclaimed this moment as a "milestone in Sierra Grande's heritage" and he spoke with pride about the "strong heart[s] of the community" that will "carry Sierra Grande's heritage forward."

To close the ceremony, Superintendent Darren Edgar explained that each student will take part in the ribbon cutting, each receiving a small piece of the ribbon as a valuable artifact of this

As students made their way Please see SCHOOL on Page 2

members and partners alike awaited the opportunity to tour the school. With a welcoming, open floorplan and large windows exposing the mountainous land, Sierra Grande students now have a beautiful school in which to grow and flourish. A new school that has been built as Edgar said "for not only current students School Board President Walter but also for those who will follow in (their) footsteps.'

> "This event is symbolic of our state's commitment to educational excellence for every child in Colorado and marks the beginning of a new era in how we educate children in our community here in Blanca,' said Colorado State Treasurer and former K-12 educator Dave Young. "Preparing our students for the rest of their lives has never been more important than right now.

"This is a place where our children



Photos by Marie Mccolm

An impromptu car show was held Saturday for long-time Monte Vista resident Leroy Maestas, who is battling stage-four cancer.



Car show held for long-time Monte Vista resident battling cancer

By Marie Mccolm

MONTE VISTA — Many people from the San Luis Valley attended an impromptu car show for long-time Monte Vista resident Leroy Maestas.

The car show was held at Stars and Strikes bowling alley in Monte Vista on Saturday, Jan. 8 at 2 p.m. Maestas has been battling stage-four cancer and was recently told that his classic cars, and many people drove battle will end soon.

With this news, people in the community pulled together a car show that he could see from his backyard. Dozens of people shook Maestas's hand and gave him hugs, as he was pushed around in a wheelchair with a big smile on his face, looking from one classic car to the next.

Maestas has always been a lover of Please see SHOW on Page 3





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Photo courtesy of Center Consolidated School District

Center Vikings wrestling team took fifth place overall in Pagosa Springs with 130.5 points. Individual results were as follows; Jordan Duran, first place, Omar Hernandez, first place, Aaron Valadez, second place, Jesus Valadez, second place, Martin Palma,

Continued from Page 1

fifth place, Andree Meraz, sixth place, Fransisco Villa, seventh place, and Manny Morales, eighth place.

The Center Vikings basketball teams are also in the midst of their season. The athletic calendar can be viewed on the district website.

will have the tools to realize their dreams and potential, and the focus will be on enhancing education through rich content and innovative hands-on and minds-on activities. The new, safer school will be a game-changer in how we educate children and will make Blanca appealing to families for decades to come."

In 2019, Sierra Grande School District received a grant of \$35.2 million to replace the school. The school district contributed a \$13.78 million match, with the total project just short of \$49 million. Construction began in June or supporting 4,095 jobs.

Continued from Page 1

2020. Students will move into start next semester, then the existing facility will be demolished and site work completed through the summer.

BEST is the only K-12 capital construction grant program in the state

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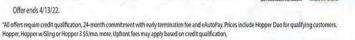




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Photos courtesy of Wolf Creek Ski Area

Wolf Creek Ski Area hosted its first Fun Race of the season on Sunday, Jan. 9, with a turnout of 53 racers.



Horrocks wins Wolf Creek Ski Area Fun Race

STAFF REPORT

WOLF CREEK — Wolf Creek Ski Area hosted its first Fun Race of the season on Sunday, Jan. 9, with a turnout of 53 racers from local towns to as far away as North Carolina and Arkansas.

The overall winner for the day was Corbin Horrocks, of South Fork, with the fastest time of 27.33 seconds. The men's race was close, with Chris Foti of Pagosa Springs taking second place at 27.57 seconds, followed closely by David Sciole of South Fork in third place with a time of 27.97 seconds.

In the women's race, the gold medal winner was Izzy Ratcliff of Pagosa and gender category.

Springs, with a time of 29.92 seconds. She was followed in second place by Nikki Horrocks of South Fork with a time of 33.09 seconds, and third place went to Casey Ziller of Santa Fe, N.M.

Wolf Creek will be hosting its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Race on Sunday, Jan. 16. The racecourse will be a modified grand slalom course on the lower Charisma run. It is free with the purchase of a lift ticket. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. at the top of the racecourse, and the course will be open between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Medals will be awarded to the three fastest racers in each age

When asked what car his favorite

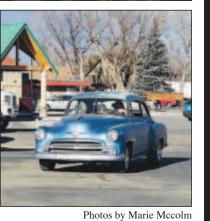
you, everyone.'

Continued from Page 1

and parked their classic cars at the prayers and for caring about him event for Maestas. He is well known so much. throughout the San Luis Valley as a musician, and a member of a local was, Maestas said, "All of them. I band, that played together for many am enjoying this very much. Thank years in the Valley.

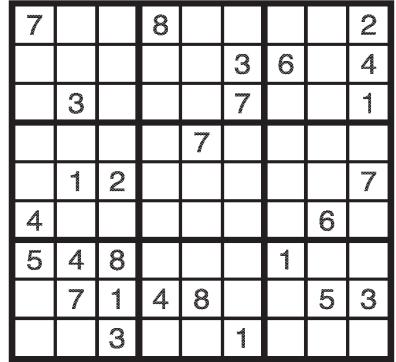
Local resident Monica Aragon said, "It's great to see so many people turn out to support him. He's an amazing man, and he has a lot of people who love him and are praying for him, too."





Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle

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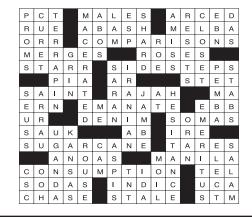
Fun By The Numbers

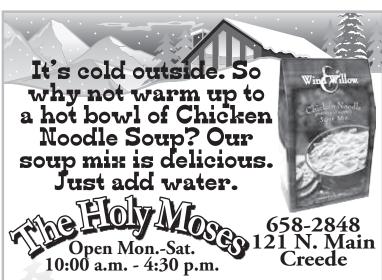
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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!

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05 Notices

If you believe in: the oneness of humanity, equality of men and women, elimination of prejudice, harmony of science and religion; contact BahaiFaithFriends@gmail. com for Zoomlink Casual conversation, second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.(01/26)

For information on meetings for ALANON NARCOTICS ANON-YMOUS AND ALCOHOLICS **ANONYMOUS** Please visit slvaa. org or call 719-937-5083.

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Farm assistant needed for hay and grain operation near Center, CO. Person needs to be versatile, willing to help where and when needed in all areas of the operation including farming, maintenance and general repairs, cleaning equipment, pivot irrigation, burning ditches, trucking, etc. Responsibilities include operating tractors with various tillage implements and hay equipment to put up hay and straw. Grain operation requires work in

grain using augers and grain vacs, shoveling and sweeping grain. Person will also haul grain to and from on-farm storage; having a CDL is not required, but good driving record with experience Starting pay is \$14.42 per hour. by calling 719-655-2544. Saguche and ability to drive tractor/trailer is needed. Pay range depends on experience, \$14-\$20 per hour. Call 303-319-9830 (2/9)

The Saguache County Sheriff's Office, Jail Division, is accepting applications for Full-Time And Part-Time Dispatcher/Jailer. Applicants must be at least 21 Years of age and have a high school education or GED. Must be proficient in Computers, be able to multi-task

and around grain bins transferring and be a problem solver. Requires Applicants must pass a criminal working with County Jail inmates and have a valid Colorado Driver's License. Medical and Dental benefits and 401 K Options are available for Full-Time Employees.

background check as well as a drug screening test. Applications may be picked up at the Sagauche County Sheriff's Office located at 530 5th Street, Saguache, CO. or

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MEDICAL RECORD DESTRUCTION San Luis Valley Health

San Luis Valley Health - Notice is hereby given that on February 1, 2022, San Luis Valley Health will begin destroying paper medical records related to visits and/or test results performed at San Luis Health facilities prior to January 1,



2012. SLV Health facilities include San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center and Physicians Services Clinic located in Alamosa, Colorado; Conejos County Hospital and La Jara Clinic located in La Jara, Colorado; Antonito Clinic located in Antonito, Colorado; and the Monte Vista Medical Clinic, Monte Vista, Colorado. Records for patients over 18 years of age at the time of treatment dating from December 31, 2011 and prior will be subject to this scheduled destruction. Additionally, records of minor children at the time of treatment December 31, 2011 and prior, who are now 28 years of age or greater are scheduled for destruction.

The scheduled medical records destruction will begin February 1, 2022. If any of the above information pertains to you, and you would like to collect your medical records scheduled to be destroyed, you must contact the San Luis Valley Health Medical Records Department at (719) 587-1392 prior to February 11, 2022. In order to receive such records, you will be required to provide valid photo identification and sign a release form at the San Luis Valley Health Regional Medical Center in Alamosa.

If you have any questions regarding the destruction of medical records please contact the Medical Records Department at (719)

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76 - 100 lbs.	\$200.00	\$275.00	Large Vessel needed
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Applicants please read the full job description and apply at: https:// jobs.colostate.edu/postings/97687 For full consideration, all materials must be received directly at this link no later than 11:59 PM MST on Monday, January **17, 2022.** (1/12)

WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge is hiring for Operator I positions....\$18.22/ hour REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must possess a current Class-A CDL license with heavy semi-truck endorsement and a current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED and six months or more of relevant experience. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check. Operator I is a full time position – applicants must be able to operate light and heavy equipment and perform manual labor in the maintenance, repair and minor construction of roads, streets, bridges, signs, markings and related facilities. Applicants must be physically capable of periods of sustained physical exertion and may be required to lift and move up to 75 lbs. to 150 lbs. Applications are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 -719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website – saguachecounty. colorado.gov under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill

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at the address listed above, skills and can multi-task. Candidate should have an accounting background with current experience in AR and AP. A working knowledge of Excel & MS Word. Benefits include paid vacation, insurance and 401(K). Wages will be based on experience. E-Mail resumes and questions to mtnkingResumes@mtnking.com (1/19)

> The Saguache County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for Full-Time Dispatch/Jailer. Applicants must be 21 years old and have a high school education or GED. Applicants must be proficient in computers, be able to multi-task, a problem solver and requires working with county Jail





Ssifieds information and pricing. Heald- 719.298.2504 (2/2)

Inmates. Applications must pass a criminal background check as well as a drug Test. Applications may be picked up at the Saguache County Sheriff's Office located at 530 5th St., Saguache, CO. Phone 719-655-2544. The Sagauche County Sheriff's Office is an equal opportunity employer. Positions are open until filled. (1/19)

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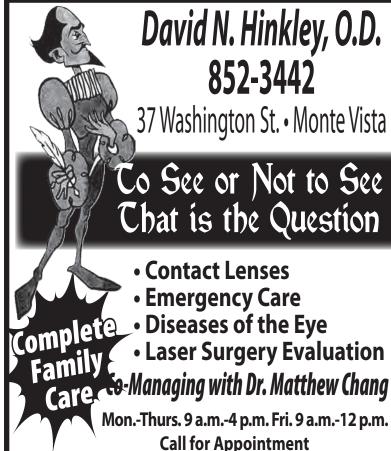
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WITH APPROVED CREDIT 200 East Park, Ste. 200, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054; NY 12000305615; PA 090797; MS 1501951.

San Luis Valley receives \$150,000 for behavioral health at expanding and supporting the investments in the behavioral health collaboration between no fewer than that reform effort."

DENVER — The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) on Thursday announced \$9 million in funding awarded to county departments of human or social services across the state. The funding is for the expansion or improvement of local or regional behavioral health disorder treatment

The San Luis Valley was awarded \$150,000 through the Rio Grande County Department of Social Services Collaboration involving all six SLV counties. The award is targeted

continuation of the SafeCare Colorado behavioral health service program in

Eighteen proposals were awarded funding, ranging from \$90,640 to \$1,080,984, through a competitive application process.

The county behavioral health grant program was established through Senate Bill 21-137 to provide grants to counties for purposes including peer training; augmentation of direct therapy; acute treatment units; inpatient treatment programs; outreach and education; navigation or care coordination; capital

infrastructure; services for individuals for who do not speak English; culturally responsive and attuned services; suicide prevention and intervention; crisis response; workforce development; supporting regional service delivery; or other purposes that would expand behavioral health programs.

Counties had to provide either matching funding or in-kind resources, or they had to submit a plan for regional three counties to be eligible for the grant program.

"We are glad to put this funding into the hands of counties to invest in their communities," said Robert Werthwein, Office of Behavioral Health director. "Colorado's behavioral health system is undergoing a transformation, thanks to leadership by Governor Polis and partners statewide, and expanding services to Coloradans is a key part of

The \$9 million in funding came from the American Rescue Plan Act and can be spent through June 30, 2023, per statute. Applicants were required to have a sustainability plan for how services will continue beyond the grant period. If the grant money is to be used for capital projects, applicants demonstrated how they would continue those services past the grant cycle for at least an additional five years.





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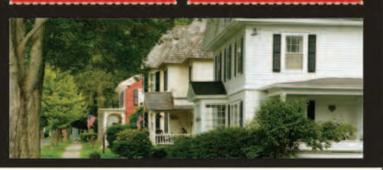


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Farm Bureau opposes changes to Navigable Waters Protection Rule

STAFF REPORT

LA JARA — Colorado Farm Bureau leadership participated in a federal roundtable about the impact of the proposal to repeal and replace the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR) Thursday morning, Jan. 6. The event was hosted by the Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Advocacy.

Colorado Farm Bureau Vice President James Henderson, a rancher from La Jara, joined several other farmers and ranchers attending the roundtable to explain why this rule is so consequential for agriculture.

The Biden administration recently proposed a "step 1" Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule. Despite claims to the opposite from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers, a new WOTUS rule will have a significant impact on small businesses and family farms. The "significant nexus" test, particularly, will greatly expand federal jurisdiction onto private lands and make it difficult for farmers and ranchers to decipher where their property is impacted. "EPA's proposal would again extend federal rules to the driest parts of the West," said Henderson while standing in a ditch that remains dry most years but would be subject to federal authority as a navigable federal waterway under the new rules. "The rules would force ranchers like me to hire lawyers to seek approval for everyday tasks in areas where water runs only a handful of times every decade." Additionally, Henderson explained that because his irrigation water is delivered through mutual ditch associations, he would need to hire attorneys to interpret rules and gain permits for multiple entities, all for the same routine farm and ranch activities like clearing brush from ditch banks. "Farmers are dedicated to protecting the resources they're entrusted with while raising the food our country relies on," said



AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "We support responsible rules that protect the environment, but we shouldn't need a team of lawyers to interpret those rules just to farm our land. The NWPR brought clarity to water regulations, yet farmers and ranchers are again caught in the middle of changing regulations. We urge EPA to return to commonsense protections for the nation's waterways. Our goal is simple - clean water and clear rules." CFB applauds the SBA for scheduling roundtables to hear from families who will be directly affected by a change in water regulations. The changes come following years of changes to existing Clean Water Act rules. A 2015 rule greatly expanded the jurisdiction of federal authority but was vacated by the courts nationwide. Similarly, the Trump Administration's Navigable Waters Protection Rule was also held up by the courts.bbn

Reinke

Central Pump recognized by Reinke with dealer award

DESHLER, Neb. — Reinke Manufacturing, a global leader in irrigation systems and technology, has recognized Central Pump, LLC, in Center with a Diamond award in recognition of their success in the past year.

"We are proud to honor the team at Central Pump with this award," said Chris Roth, Reinke president. "They've dedicated themselves to supporting the growers in their area. We appreciate those efforts as Reinke continues to develop and implement irrigation equipment and technology designed to increase agriculture production."

Reinke dealerships from across the United States and Canada come together annually for the company's sales convention to recognize select Reinke dealers for their hard work and commitment to serve growers. The Reinke Pride awards are determined as part of an incentive program that distinguishes superior achievement levels according to an evaluation based

on a dealership's exterior and interior housekeeping and maintenance, indoor and outdoor displays, safety, retail environment, merchandising, professionalism, promotions, event participation and market share.

With hundreds of dealers in more than 40 countries, Reinke Manufacturing is the world's largest privately held manufacturer of center pivot and lateral move irrigation systems. Family owned since 1954 and headquartered in Deshler, Neb., Reinke develops products and technology designed to increase agriculture production while providing labor savings and environmental efficiencies. Reinke is a continued leader in industry advancements as the first to incorporate GPS, satellite-based communications, and touchscreen panel capabilities into mechanized irrigation system management. For more information on Reinke or to locate a dealership, visit Reinke.com.

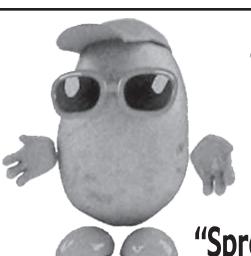


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Green Acre Hemp Farm offers new strains

By Lyndsie Ferrell

SAN LUIS VALLEY — For the past 11-plus years, Green Acres Hemp Farm has offered top-of-the-line CBD products to consumers nationwide, bringing the reported healing powers of hemp to those in need.

Owners Jim and Lisa Strang have always done their best to offer pure, healing products to people suffering from a wide range of ailments including cancer.

"We definitely feel like this was our calling. We do this for all the right reasons, and we are always here for those that are seeking help," said Jim.

Strang's 2021 harvest of two acres of hemp was a huge success bringing in 100s of pounds of CBD for his products.

"The hemp harvest last year was a huge success. We harvested two acres of hemp by hand as usual. It is a lot of hard work, and it is even harder to sometimes get help bringing in the harvest, but the end results are always worth the effort. We grew two new strains, the Blackjack and Boax strain which yielded really well here at the farm. The products we create are all the top of the line and we extract from the leaf and test regularly through the state and federal requirements." Jim said.

themselves in possession of 12,000 pounds of biomass, which is the end product after each harvest is completed.

'We are looking to sell the biomass which can be used for a bunch of different things including garden fertilizer," Jim said. "You can cook with it, add it to smoothies and you can even make your own medicine from the oil. It is comprised of the shake, flowers and buds and is 139 percent CBD from the Cherry Wine strain. It is great stuff."

The Strangs have always prided themselves in the fact that they provide top-of-the-line hemp products to customers from around the US and even discourage people who come to him with doubts until he has gained their trust.

"There is so much awful stuff out there on the market today. It's so important to know your providers. Know the people farming the hemp for you because honestly, the fake stuff can get you pretty sick or it won't work, and people will give up on a really great opportunity for medicinal help," Jim said.

This coming season, the Strangs plan to do another planting of the Boax and to try a new hemp strain called Sunset Sherbert.

"We stick with two acres every year unless we

In addition to the hemp, the Strangs also found grow inside. The reason for that is because we only grow what can be used for the market we deal with," Jim said. "When hemp started to become popular just a few years ago, people flooded the market and had to waste a lot of products because they grew more than could be sold. We stick with what we know we can harvest and sell."

Jim is hopeful that more farmer markets will open to the public this year in the Valley. For the past two years, markets have been one of the many areas of the economy that suffered from the recent pandemic and other issues, but hopes are high at Green Acre Hemp Farm for a successful year.

All products are available year-round on their website at www.greenacreshempfarm.com including some of their newer products like their smokable hemp.

The Strangs have been hearing from customers that they are wanting to try a smokable hemp that has been making waves on the market for about two years now after gaining popularity. Jim hit the books and learned what he could about the new strains.

"We have been getting several requests for smokable hemp," Jim said. "Usually, it is either topical or edible and that is what we have al-

decided to give it a shot this year and so far, things have turned out great."

Jim stated that their strains are high in CBDs and that he will start to offer his product once the test results come back from the state



which ensures that the strains are low in THC.

"People are not smoking this to get high like you would off of a marijuana strain," Jim said. "The low THC in the hemp plant prevents that effect but those who have tried the smokable hemp say it is all day long pain relief for a wide variety of ailments. And I believe them.'

The Strangs are ready to begin the next planting as soon as the weather breaks in the spring.

We are here to stay and we are here to help people however we can with the best product we

The future of potato farming in the San Luis Valley

True Potato Sed

Photo by Mechel Meek

By MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — The San Luis Valley is home to one of the largest areas for growing potatoes in the United States, with Colorado coming in fifth overall in the United States with the largest amount of potatoes produced by weight.

The future trends of potato production are

difficult to determine, however, new trends in sales are leading to the crossbreeding of potato types to create more nutritious varieties, and still fulfill the needs of the consumer and restaurants.

Last year, the San Luis Valley Research Center reopened to the public after the forced closure due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The SLV Research Center was not idle with its time. New varieties of potatoes are available every year for purchase by farmers.

Lately, the Research Center has been focusing on improving the nutrition, growing aspects, flavor, and marketability of their hybrids. Each crossbred variety is tested for at least eight years before going to

growers to provide feedback and possible use in commercial applications.

Several exciting new varieties are being developed, such as purple, yellows and the tasty Masquerade bi-color. Several deep purple varieties have been crossbred to create a potato that is beautiful in color and nutritious.

In regards to the Glycemic Index of potatoes, which is the extent a food raises blood sugar, Healthline stated, "A comparison study in humans found that purple potatoes have a GI of 77, yellow potatoes have a GI of 81, and white potatoes have a GI of 93. While all potato varieties impact blood sugar levels because of their carbohydrate content, purple potatoes may exert less of an effect than other types due

minimizing purple potato's impact on blood sugar levels.'

The Research Center is also test growing a darker yellow-fleshed potato variety, that contains more of the useful anti-oxidant carotene. Carotene is a yellow-orange pigment that is found in yellow-orange vegetables such as car-

> rots. Carotene is converted into vitamin A when eaten, and is important for eye health and improves immune cell number and activity.

> The darker yellow-fleshed potato is being tested and bred to increase this nutrient and create a better and healthier product for consumers. The Research Center shares its discoveries and seed throughout the United States and Canada with partnerships among other universities, with the goal to provide a superior potato for consumers and companies.

According to Dr. David Holm of the San Luis Valley Research Center, "Anything that is selected goes on for further research, then we grow more."

Each variety is grown and crossbred to create characteristics that are needed for their commercial application. These applications can be wide-ranging, such as creating a superior potato to make French fries or if a particular variety can be stored for long periods and still retain its quality.

The Research Center also studies how resistant to disease, water consumption, hardiness and growth rate. This enables growers to plant the most effective variety for their land and enables them to be at the cutting edge of potato farming.

The Research Center has also been holding workshops for local growers, with the goal to increase their knowledge of the best growing practices, storage concerns and how to select the



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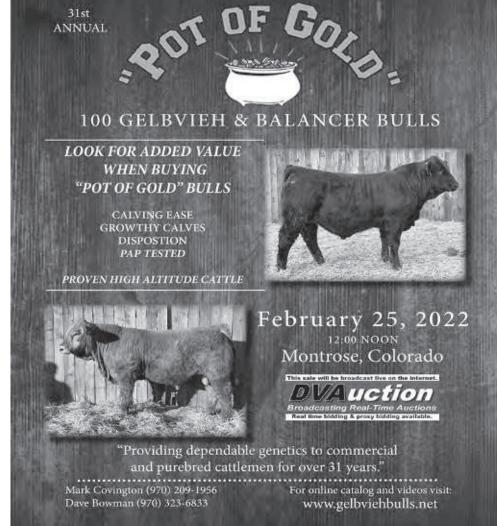
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January is Stalking Awareness Month

By Lyndsie Ferrell

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department is reminding the community that January is Stalking Awareness Month and will be requesting that Rio Grande County Commissioners sign a proclamation, designating this nationally observed period that focuses on the dangers and reality of stalking.

According to statistics from the Stalking Prevention, Awareness and Resource Center, stalking occurs all over the country. One in 8 employed individuals dealing with a stalker loses time from work and 1 in 7 individuals dealing with a stalker will relocate or move. Stalking often occurs together with domestic violence and includes physical violence. It can also include cases where there is sexual violence,

In addition, it is stated that 20% of stalkers use weapons as a means to intimidate or threaten their victims and 76% of femicides were found to have some type of stalking by intimate partners a year prior to the end result. These numbers are staggering in relation to domestic violence cases that have been on the rise over the course of 2020 due to families remaining at home because of the pandemic and though these numbers are not focused on local cases, it shows how dangerous stalking can be.

"We all hope that stalking isn't a common thing. An estimated 25 million people have been stalked in their lifetime in the United States alone. In a one-year period, 6 to 7.5 million people are stalked throughout the U.S. which includes about 1 in 6 women as well as 1 in 17 men who have fallen victim to stalking. So, this isn't just something that you hope never happens to you or your family, but it's probably happening to someone you know. We want to stress that victims aren't just women; they are male, female, and gender non-conforming individuals," explained Rio Grande County Sheriff representative and Victim's Advocate Courtney Arthur.

The majority of the time the victim knows who the perpetrator is in some capacity, most commonly it's a former or current intimate partner, but that doesn't mean that it can't be an acquaintance. Stalking isn't just an action; it takes a huge mental toll on the victims. Forty-six percent of stalking victims fear not knowing what will happen next. The fear is you never know where they might show up or what they might do. Twenty-nine percent of stalking victims think that it will never stop. Even with the fear and thinking it will never stop less than 40% of victims report stalking. Some don't think what is going on is a big deal, some might not realize that it's stalking, they could be embarrassed that it is happening.

Stalking is serious and dangerous. Intimate partner stalkers, on average, pose the greatest threats to their victims. All stalkers can be dangerous. Intimate partner stalkers are the most likely to threaten and harm their victims. Stalking can include other criminal and violent acts as well. Statistics show 31% of women stalked by an intimate partner were also sexually assaulted and 46% of victims experienced one or more violent incidents by their stalker.

"Fifty-seven percent of stalking victims were stalked during the relationship, so stalking isn't just something that happens after a relationship ends, it can be during the relationship as well," explained being stalked during the same period

"Stalking also increases the risk of a homicide, or femicide, meaning the killing of a woman or girl. Seventy-six percent of intimate partner femicide victims have been stalked by their intimate partner. Eighty-nine percent of femicide victims who had been physically assaulted had also been stalked in the 12 months before their murder. Seventy-nine percent of abused femicide victims reported of danger.

that they were abused. Fifty-four percent of femicide victims reported stalking to police before they were killed by their stalkers," she added.

If you or someone you know is dealing with or may be dealing with a stalking situation, contact the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department at 719-657-4000 or any local law enforcement agency to seek help and resources that may alleviate a threat



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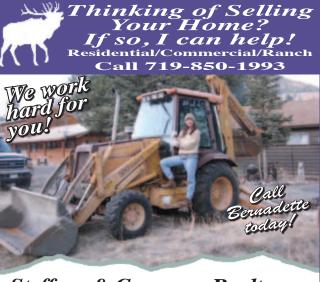


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Great possibil-ities to build! This 4 lot parcel is located inside city limits. It has some trees, and a nice view! Not many lots of this size are available in town Inquire for more details! \$40,000 MLS#789152



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3.4" wide x 2" tall -----\$35 per week 3.4" wide x 4" tall -----\$70 per week 3.4" wide x 6" -----\$105 per week

7" wide x 2" tall



Sandra Marquez — smarquez@valleypublishinginc.com Brian Williams — bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com



of exposure just off of US Highway 160! This property offers multiple options! It would work great for mo-bile homes, developments, or a commercial building All utilities are available but would need to be tapped into. This is the perfect property for your next proj-ect! Call to view! \$175,500 MLS#789021



Commercial Property! Awesome building on Highway 285 that would work great for any type of business. This building is insulated, heated, and has a beautiful office space with huge hang-ing doors on both ends of the building. The building is located on a 0.75 acre commercial lot! \$179,000 MLS#787380



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Perfect level build ing spot in desirable location. Just minutes from world class skiing, championship golf and gold medal fishing on the Rio Grande River. Time to build your dream home in Colorado's best kept secret!. \$49,000 MLS#775795



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