



Shorts



MV Veteran's Day celebration is Nov. 12

Monte Vista will celebrate Veteran's Day on Nov. 12. The day will begin with a parade at 11 a.m. All parade entries will meet at the Bowling Alley starting at 10 a.m. There will be several individuals to organize and line up the entries and the police department will escort the parade route. Registration forms are available by contacting Debbie Garcia at 719-580-5655.

The parade will end on 2nd Avenue with a special ceremony at the Faith Hinkley Veteran's Memorial Park. Entry into the park will display two American flags represented by the Monte Vista and Del Norte Fire departments.

The Monte Vista Community Fund will sponsor the 3rd "LIVE" Veteran's Benefit Concert at the Central Auditorium, 545 2nd Ave., Monte Vista, at 7 p.m. It will be free admission with free will donations. All proceeds will go to the Faith Hinkley Veteran's Memorial Park.

Masks will not be required for any of these events, but we encourage people to do what makes them comfortable.

If you have any questions, contact Garcia or Colette Skeff at 719-852-3435.

Nominations sought for SLV Nightingale Award

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The Colorado Nurses' Association, District 6, is soliciting nominations for the annual SLV Nightingale Award. The event will be held at Adams State University on Friday, Feb. 25, 2022. Nominations are encouraged by community members and other health care professionals.

This event will recognize exceptional nurses who are working or retired from nursing and who have contributed to the San Luis Valley through leadership, education, clinical care of patients or through community involvement. Registered Nurses may also be eligible for the state-wide Nightingale nomination process, sponsored by the Colorado Nurses Foundation on May 7, 2022, in Denver.

Nomination is completed online at <https://nightingaleluminary.awardsplatform.com>. Nominations must be entered online by Friday, Dec. 17, 2021. For more information, call Charlotte Ledonne, SLV AHEC, 719-589-4977.

Rio Grande County releases preliminary election results

BY LYNDIE FERRELL
RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Rio Grande County submitted its preliminary election results for the 2021 coordinated election Tuesday night, Nov. 2 only a few minutes past 8 p.m. The numbers showed that 3,317 ballots were cast out of the 7,831 registered voters in the

county, putting voter turnout at 42.36%.
The focus for this year's election came down to the school districts in Center, Sargent, Monte Vista, and Del Norte. Each district had at least two to three open positions to fill this year and the voters made almost all the races close. The unofficial

results from the election will be certified in the coming weeks.
For Center School District, there was one open seat with two candidates running and an unopposed seat for the Center Board of Education Director in District 26JT. G. Lyn Bogle won the race for the open Board of Education seat

against Miquel Rios. Misty Palacios retained her seat unopposed.
Monte Vista Board of Education had two seats open and four candidates running for the four-year positions. They also had an unopposed seat open for a two-year term. Orlando DeHerrera came in
Please see RESULTS on Page 2A



Sandhill Cranes and Russel Lakes State Wildlife Area.

Photo by Mechel Meek

Migratory birds return to Valley



Snowy Plover Photo by Mike Baird

BY MECHEL MEEK
SAGUACHE COUNTY — The iconic sights and sounds of the San Luis Valley returned in the form of cranes, waterfowl, and other migratory birds.

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

The San Luis Valley is a unique microcosm that migrating birds use. The complex system is comprised of several different types of wetlands,

Please see BIRDS on Page 8A



Cinnamon Teal Photo by NPS/Patrick Myers

Harvest season ends across San Luis Valley

BY MECHEL MEEK
SAGUACHE COUNTY — The sounds of harvest time have faded into the background for another year in the San Luis Valley.

According to harvest reports, 88 percent of the alfalfa fields have been harvested, and all potato fields are now harvested, and the potato harvest has been placed in storage barns or shipped.

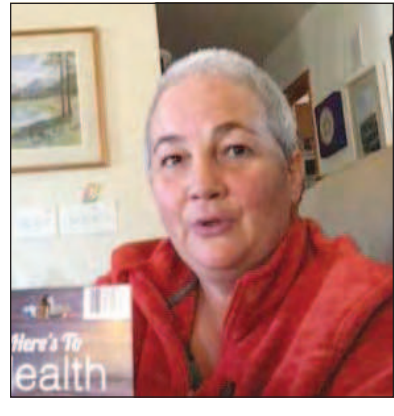
According to the USDA, "Pasture conditions continued to deteriorate due to lack of moisture."

Also, of note in the USDA report, most livestock are in good condition, sheep and cattle deaths were average and pasture conditions are fair to good in most
Please see HARVEST on Page 2A



Photo by Mechel Meek

San Luis Valley farmers are readying their fields for the winter and applying fertilizer to nourish and return nutrients to the soil.



Crestone woman reported missing

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER
CRESTONE — A woman, last seen in the Crestone area, was reported as missing to the Saguache County Sheriff's Office (SCSO).

According to Sheriff Dan Warwick, his office received a report that Jenifer Driver was last seen on Oct. 16 in the North Crestone Campground area in Crestone. It was learned that she had been associating with and was last seen in the company of a member of the Love Has Won group. It is believed that Driver, who also goes by her spiritual name "Mountain Sun," might have hiked to the North Crestone Lake.

Upon receiving the report, SCSO
Please see MISSING on Page 2A

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OBITUARIES

George Eugene (Gene) Morgan

George Eugene (Gene) Morgan, 96, passed away on Sept. 18, 2021, at HomeLake Veterans Center in Monte Vista, Colo. He was born on Feb. 17, 1925, in Salina, Kan. to George W. and Margaret D. (Braddock) Morgan.

When he was a junior in high school, he moved to Monte Vista with his sister and parents. After graduation, he enlisted into the Navy to serve his country in WWII. He was stationed on the USS Morris, a destroyer, where he fought in several battles in the Pacific, including one where a Kamikaze plane hit their ship. He was injured but never reported it as he said there were more serious injuries than his to tend to.

When he returned from the Navy, he went back to Kansas where he worked for Western Electric and met his first love, Eileen Vernon. They were married on April 9, 1949, at the Methodist Church in Oberlin, Kan. After a few years of continued employment, and three children, they decided to move to the family farm in Northwestern Kansas in 1956 where they grew wheat, corn, milo and raised cattle and hogs.

Ten years later, he was convinced to move back to the valley to farm barley with his half-brother. He eventually went to work at MV Co-op and became the parts and petroleum manager until he retired.

After the untimely death of Eileen in 1985, he was given a second chance at love and married Darlene

Glunz on March 21, 1995, in Las Vegas, Nev. They moved to Arboles, Colo., so Gene could be on the lake, fishing in his boat and enjoying the milder weather.

A couple years ago, due to Gene's health, they moved yet again back to Monte Vista into the Legacy. In March, it was decided that he needed 24-hour care and was moved to the VA Center at HomeLake.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Phyllis (Morgan) Christ, half-brother Loyal Morgan and half-sister Elvira (Morgan) Telinde.

Gene is survived by his wife, Darlene, his three children Gordon (Cindy) Morgan of Strausburg, Colo., Sue (Darrel) Plane of Monte Vista, Colo., and Janet (Jim) Gonzales of Oklahoma City, Okla., his stepchildren C.E.(Shari) Glunz and Dawn (Harold) Martin and family. He also had four grandchildren Jennifer (Ryan) Roth of Greeley, Colo., Jeremy (Jeanette) Gonzales of Little Elm, Texas, Russell Plane of Mesa, Ariz., and Gregory Morgan of Strausburg, Colo., who is currently serving in the Army. Gene also was a great-grandfather to Noah, Andrew, Nathanael, Sarabeth Roth and Kyle and Zach Gonzales. He also is survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at the Monte Vista United Methodist Church on Saturday Nov. 6, 2021, at 1 p.m. Officiated by the Rev. Don P.



Strait, retired Navy Chaplain.

Gene loved homemade ice cream so there will be an ice cream social following the services.

Interment will be in the Norcatour Cemetery in Norcatour, Kan., as per his wishes.

Contributions may be made to: Citizens Alliance c/o E. Sue Hillebrand, 6320 Highway 36, Norton, KS 67654. Please designate: for Norcatour Cemetery Tractor Fund.

The family would like to thank the veteran's center for their care for Gene over the last several months.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Madeline LaVene Otts

Madeline LaVene Otts passed away on Oct. 24, 2021. Madeline was born May 7, 1934, in Friars Point, Miss., to Josephine (Sorice) and Dominick LaVene.

In 1958, Madeline married Robert M. Otts of Verona, Miss., and moved to Colorado in 1960. They were the parents of Patti (Otts) Thompson (deceased) and Melanie (Chase) Hoy who reside in Grand Junction, Colo.

Madeline lived a fulfilling life as a mother, sister, wife and enjoyed an abundance of friends. She relished a thorough reading of a newspaper as opposed to watching TV, was known for her handwritten cards and letters, fussed over flower beds, and raised beautiful Christmas cacti.

She collected all sorts of recipes, played the Lotto religiously and delighted at completing Word

Jumble puzzles.

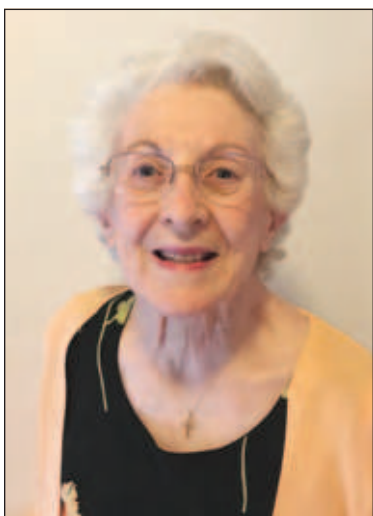
She was gifted when it came to remembering people's names and never forgot one that we know of.

Her southern drawl was iconic. She was a true Southern Belle.

Survivors include Madeline's sister, Maryann (Louis) Cirilli, Foley, Ala.; brother, Charlie LaVene, Greensboro, NC; niece LouAnn (David) Turner, Madison, Miss.; nephew Vic (Berkleigh and daughter Victoria) Cirilli, Foley, Ala.; nephew Brad Otts, Greenwood, Ark.; niece Donna (Mike) Miller, Maumelle, Ark., and Michael (Paula and daughter Lexi) Miller, Humble Texas.

Cremation was chosen and a Memorial Service is planned for the spring in Monte Vista, Colo.

It was Madeline's wish that any memorial tributes to honor her life



be made in the form of charitable donations to Hope West Hospice, 3090 North 12th St., #B, Grand Junction, CO 81506 or to Summit West Care, 2800 Printers Way, #200, Grand Junction, CO 81506.

OBITUARY POLICY

Valley Publishing charges a flat fee of \$50 for each obituary published. Pending arrangements or death notices run for no charge.

This charge affects funeral homes, as well as family or other

representatives, that directly place obituaries. All paid obituaries will continue to be published on our website(s) for no additional fee.

In the event the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will

be made and the obit will be rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed. Obituaries can be emailed to: bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com or call 719-852-3531 for more information.

MISSING

Continued from Page 1A

conducted an extensive search over the weekend, both on the ground and in the air, starting in the area of the campground and then extending all the way to Willow Lake.

"There was no luck finding her," Warwick said. "There was no personal property of hers found on the trail or around the trail or anywhere in the vicinity."

Warwick said SCSO has reached out to local law enforcement, adding, "We're looking for both Driver and the person she was last seen with, hoping that person can

provide us with information on her whereabouts. Our only interest is in finding Driver."

Driver was described as 5-feet-4-inches tall, weighing approximately 170 pounds with shaved gray hair. She is known to wear comfortable, baggy clothing and might have her backpack, sleeping bag and blue tent with her.

Anyone with information on her whereabouts, or the individual from the Love Has Won group last seen in her company, is encouraged to call SCSO at 719-655-2544.

RESULTS

Continued from Page 1A

with the most votes and won a single seat on the board with 650 votes. Kurtis Holland came in with 626 votes while Angela Waggoner came in next with 617 votes. Ruthanna Segar came in with 562 votes. Cliff Kincannon won the Board of Education Director seat unopposed for the next two years.

Sargent School District had three open seats and three candidates running for the Board of Education. Lorena Price came in with 269 votes and Michele Peterson came in with 265 votes. The last candidate Matthew Smartt came in with 246 votes. The Sargent School Board of Education Director race came down to Nathan Burkhart winning the race with 193 votes and Clayton Mitchell falling short with 136 votes.

The Upper Rio Grande School District in Del Norte had two vacant seats open on its Board of Education and six candidates running. The two winning candidates were Bridget Kreutzer with 510 votes and Leroy Trujillo with 423 votes. Donna L. Velasquez came in next with 419 votes, Thomas Tichy with 373 votes, Fedele "Phil" Paccione Jr with 242 votes and Nellianna Edelen with 271 votes.

HARVEST

Continued from Page 1A

locations. Across the Valley, farmers were seen readying their fields for winter and applying fertilizer to nourish and return nutrients to the soil.

With the long-term forecast indicating a low precipitation trend in Colorado, some farmers expressed concern for the spring planting season.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), "There is a 90% chance that La Niña conditions will be in place from December 2021 to February 2022."

La Niña conditions generally result in below-average temperatures in the north of the country while the south experiences higher-than-normal temperatures.

Proposition 119 asked Colorado voters to amend the Colorado Constitution and add a change to state statues that would allow an increase in marijuana sales tax for out of school education funding. By early morning on Nov. 3, it was clear state-wide that the measure was not going to pass. In Rio Grande County, constituents voted 1,463 for and 1,790 against.

Proposition 120 asked voters in Colorado to decrease property tax by as much as \$1 billion per year but voter opted to shoot down the measure during the election state-wide. Rio Grande County voted against Proposition 120 in a 1,429 for and 1,792 against vote.

Amendment 78 would have changed the power to appropriate funds from the Colorado State Treasurer to the Colorado State Legislature and was strongly opposed throughout the state. This Amendment needed at least 55% of the votes to pass and according to the data rolling in from across the state 56% voted against the amendment. Rio Grande County voted 1,481 for and 1,744 against.

The new school board members will be sworn in at the next regular meeting at the end of the month.

Precipitation is expected to be drier than average for the Southwest.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

World Series spit fest

Ol' Dutch has never been much of a watcher of sports either live or on television. I am of the old adage that if I cannot play, I don't want to watch, either. That holds true for other things like cooking shows, home remodeling and kissing. I mean honestly people. If you feel the need for the latter, get a room and spare me the details.

But this past week, I suddenly got a whole new interest in watching the World Series of baseball otherwise known as the second-only-to-golf most boring sport to watch.

I am not sure why I began to watch it although Miss Trixie being a Texan and a Texas team participating meant it was going to be on the tube, so I watched, too.

All in all, it's been a pretty good run and lots of home runs and more than average excitement which normally is akin to watching grass grow. And in fact, in years past, I swear I have watched the grass grow on the outfield just to get some action.

In game five, the Houston Astros did really quite impressively to come back from an early four-run deficit to extend the Series. We did miss the scoring inning as we were driving home from the trunk or treat at the grand's church. But there are enough reruns of plays to catch a fellow up on that part if you wait long enough in the broadcast for another boring streak which is sure to manifest itself sooner than later.

One thing I really noticed this time around in my sports watching career was the amount of spit flying around the dugout and on the field. I guess with the COVID thing Ol' Dutch had become somewhat sensitive to the emittance of vapors, sputum and coughs that emanate from people's mouths and so I began to wonder how they were getting by with this in today's anti-expectorate world.

I mean honestly, we have been warned and threatened and even ordered to vaccinate up and mask up to the point of being ridiculous. One thing we do notice more and more is some people are immune to such orders or advice and the hypocrisy of that is starting to get old.

Now personally, I do not mind the player spraying spit all over hell's half acre, the equipment, fans and each other but I did begin to think about who actually cleans up after each spit fest. That has to be a nasty job replete with gobs of snot, dirt,



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

phlegm, bubble gum and tobacco mixed together like some witch's brew of the Dark Ages. Ugh.

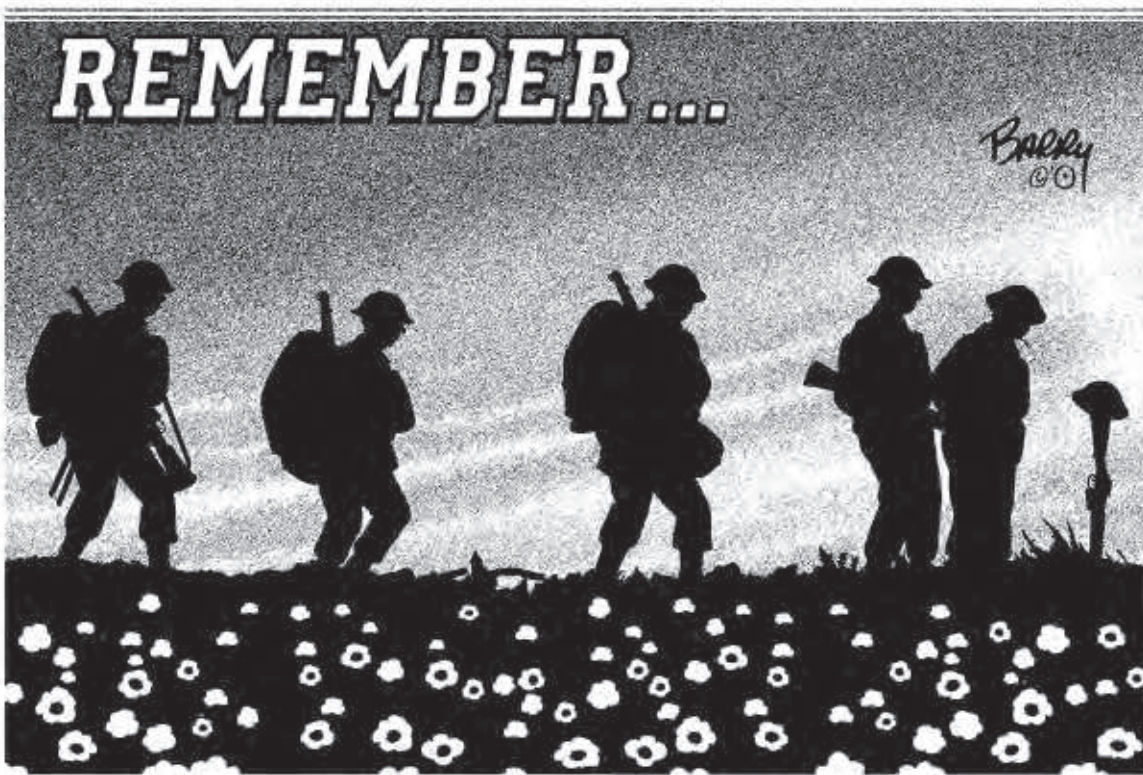
Regardless of your opinion about the mask mandates and or vaccination effectiveness, this display on national TV of blatant spewing is a poor example of what to do in the midst of a pandemic.

Watching the game made me wonder also just how much these guys spit as it seemed to me that no matter when a close-up of a player was shown they were either mid or post spit. I am beginning to wonder if in fact the players are given a cue to let-er-rip when the cameras are focused on them as it's just too regular to be happenstance.

Just like anything else a person sees around him or her, there is always something to learn from every experience in life. And what Ol' Dutch came away from watching the World Series is that baseball is so boring that even COVID has no interest in it. Has to be that or just another case of selective enforcement which we see the rich and famous and politicians live by daily. You see, rules are just for the little guys and made by the big guys.

I don't know about you but Ol' Dutch is going to get out there and do some of his own spitting now that it's been shown to be non-threatening. And it can't come a moment too soon as I have been holding back over a year on that activity and it's starting to back up on me.

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.



YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

New Moon

Since the New Moon is on Nov. 4, this is a perfect time to observe the sky. When you look in the SSW at 6:45 you can see bright Venus. It's the brightest object in our sky, but it's only visible for about 30 minutes. Then it gets low and our mountains block it.

Before Venus disappears, Jupiter becomes visible in the SSE. It's bright too, but not as bright as Venus. Saturn becomes visible when the sky gets a little darker. The Milky Way is close to Venus, but it doesn't become visible until the sky gets really dark.

Fortunately, daylight savings time ends on Nov. 7, so the dark skies begin an hour earlier and you'll see

Venus at 5:45. I really wish that Daylight Savings Time was just a summer event, so it wouldn't go into the fall, too. When the school bus comes through its very dark, so the kids have to get up really early to go to school. It would be better if it was lighter when they have to get up.

The Leonid Meteor Shower is visible Nov. 6-30. So, you'll be able to see them in two days with a very small moon. It peaks on the 17th and the moon sets around 4 a.m. on the 16th, so you'll be able to go out and observe them in the morning. Unfortunately, they only have 10 per hour. Also on Nov. 12, the moon sets at midnight, so you could get up and look then. Just look in the SW for them.

Jupiter and Saturn are sitting in the constellation Capricorn's the Sea Goat. So, when you see them, you'll be able to see the constellation, too. It's a large V and sits in the southern sky. Unfortunately, it's one of the fainter constellations in our sky. So, when you look at the planets, see if you can notice the constellation, too.



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 length and clarity.

All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication).

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 is 5 p.m. Friday.

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Saguache Commissioners hear concerns from citizens about emergency operations

Board discusses camera systems and new jail

BY MECHEL MEEK

SAGUACHE — During the Nov. 2 Saguache County Commissioners meeting, the public expressed concerns with emergency operations and said the Sheriff's Office needs more support.

Michelle Beelendorf, of Crestone, said, "One of the big things I am here to make a comment on, I want to express concern because it seems that the Sheriff needs more support from the council and the emergency manager." She expressed concern that the emergency manager does not live in Saguache County and why he doesn't have a closer connection with the Sheriff's Office. She also said that it would make sense to her to have a local emergency manager.

The commissioners addressed her concern regarding where the emergency manager lives, noting that most employees of Saguache County live in other Valley areas.

Commissioner Tim Lovato said the emergency manager is open to questions from all people.

Commissioner Tom McCracken offered to hold a town hall in Crestone so the community could meet the emergency manager in the next few weeks. Baca Grande resident Jeff Winsett said, "Our Sheriff needs a lot more help, he is on a shoestring budget. He has asked for money to place a camera since graffiti is out of control at the kiosk."

Winsett explained that the residents would like to have a live-in resident

deputy. But the prices of housing are keeping deputies from living in the area.

Winsett also said that the deputies are not paid enough and that keeps them from remaining in the area and makes it difficult to hire people.

During the department head reports, Sheriff Dan Warwick presented a covert pole camera system to address the problems at the kiosk and a portable trailer camera system to monitor other problem areas that would be used to help prevent crime or solve crimes.

Sheriff Warwick said, "The pole camera at the kiosk would be to see people and catch them doing wrong and charge them."

The pole camera system was unanimously approved for purchase by the board.

Commissioners then discussed the portable camera system and asked the Sheriff to send them more information about the different types of capabilities in those types of cameras.

The commissioners and the Sheriff also discussed the jail committee that was recently formed and was comprised of knowledgeable persons regarding law enforcement and jail operations throughout the county, including Center Police Department Chief Dale Meek.

The purpose of the committee is to discuss the options, requirements, location and plans for a possible new jail for Saguache County.

"We need to work on getting funding for the new jail," said Warwick. He also said that it is difficult for the grant writers to apply for a grant without an estimate for the costs for the new jail. The commissioners discussed the different options and budget ideas to fund the proposed jail.



Photo by Mechel Meek

Saguache County Commissioners heard from residents during their regular meeting on Nov. 2.

Alamosa preparing for annual Veterans Day Parade

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The Veterans organizations of Alamosa, Dickey-Springer Post 113 of the American Legion, Post 899 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Ladies Auxiliaries will sponsor the annual Veterans Day Parade on Main Street in Alamosa at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11.

Anyone wanting to participate in the parade to recognize the veterans, past and present, should contact Jack Rudder at 719-588-9838. The parade will form beginning at 9 a.m. at 6th and LaDue streets and will kick off at approximately 10:50. There will be a

short ceremony at Main and State at exactly 11 a.m.

Originally called Armistice Day to celebrate the end of World War I, it is now known as Veterans Day. "The Great War," World War I, officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. However, fighting ceases seven months earlier when an armistice or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, Nov. 11, 1919, at 11 a.m., is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

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San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2021-2022

Football

Centauri 55	Monte Vista 8
Dove Creek 44	Sanford 28
Meeker 47	Center 0
Peyton 47	Del Norte 0
Lamar 28	Alamosa 21
Mountain Valley 48	Kiowa 0
Sierra Grande 51	Kim/Branson 8
COLLEGE	
NM Highlands 58	Adams State 28

STATE FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

6-MAN
#11 Kim/Branson @ #6 Sierra Grande

8-MAN
#11 Sanford @ #6 Sedgwick County

CLASS 1-A
#15 Peyton @ #2 Centauri

CLASS 2-A
#13 Monte Vista @ #4 Florence

#13 Alamosa @ #4 Delta

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Gov. Polis appoints three from SLV to statewide committees

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

SANLUISVALLEY — Governor Polis announced his most recent rounds of appointments to statewide committees and boards on Monday, Nov. 1, naming three individuals from the San Luis Valley to serve in various capacities.

Statewide boards and committees were formed to include individuals with a broad range of perspectives and backgrounds in decisions that have statewide impact as well as to encourage participation from a diversity of communities.

Lori Laske, Alamosa County commissioner, was appointed to serve on the Colorado State Child Fatality Prevention Review Team (CFPS).

The purpose of the CFPS is to conduct multidisciplinary and comprehensive reviews of child fatalities that occur in Colorado in order to better understand how and why children die and to develop and implement strategies to prevent future deaths from occurring. These reviews are conducted by local child fatality prevention and review teams across the state.

The CFPS State Review Team is responsible for reviewing the aggregated data and recommendations submitted by local teams to identify recommendations to prevent child deaths in Colorado, including policy recommendations. Commissioner Laske's term is set to expire Sept. 1, 2024.

David Warsh of Center was

appointed to serve on the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp Committee. Warsh is a landowner actively engaged in agriculture.

The Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp Committee shall annually review proposed projects for expenditure of Colorado wildlife habitat stamp funds and make recommendations to the director and the wildlife commission.

Warsh's term will expire Dec. 31, 2024.

Christine Canaly, a Democrat, non-attorney, member from

Saguache County and resident of Crestone, was appointed to serve on the Twelfth Judicial District Judicial Nominating Commission.

There is a judicial district nominating commission for each of Colorado's 22 judicial districts that selects nominees for district and county judicial vacancies. Each district nominating commission is chaired by a justice of the Supreme Court, who is a non-voting member of the commission. Canaly's term will expire on Dec. 31, 2024.



Photo courtesy of RGH

Rio Grande Hospital CEO Arlene Harms speaks on Oct. 28 during the hospital's first Community Needs Assessment meeting of 2021.

Rio Grande Hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment begins

STAFF REPORT

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Rio Grande Hospital (RGH) had a successful kick-off of its Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) at the Knights of Columbus in Del Norte on Thursday, Oct. 28.

The CHNA is required of tax-exempt hospitals as a result of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It is an ongoing process for the hospital to evaluate the health needs of the communities they serve. This allows them to facilitate the priority of needs then and strategize to address them.

Local partners, stakeholders, and community members joined together for the first of three CHNAs meetings.

Emily Brown, RGH Board member, welcomed the group and explained the

process. The first meeting focused on last year's CHNA outcomes.

RGH CEO Arlene Harms shared with the group how much they have grown, and a lot of it is thanks to the outcome from the last CHNA in 2018, including the many partnerships that have evolved from the 2018 meeting.

CFO Greg Porter reviewed financial information. Then Emily Brown distributed and explained the health data for Rio Grande County and the San Luis Valley.

RGH wants to hear from the community through its survey. This process allows RGH to hear the needs of the community. The survey can be found at riograndehospital/chna. There people can also find more information about the next two meetings on Nov. 11 and Nov. 30.

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DF-CD-NP-G421

Tourism reps hear from new state director

By **KEITH R. CERNY**
Regional Publisher

ALAMOSA — Local representatives of the tourism industry couldn't agree more with the statement that tourism in the San Luis Valley is recovering from the pandemic a lot faster than the rest of the state, particularly the front range.

Timothy Wolfe, recently appointed director of Colorado's Tourism Office, made that assessment while meeting with SLV leaders here Tuesday morning at the Colorado Welcome Center. Kale Mortensen, executive director of Visit Alamosa, who introduced Wolfe to about a dozen in attendance, echoed his feelings when looking at lodging numbers locally.

Kathleen Murphy, director of the Creede-Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, and representatives from Saguache County agreed noting record tourism numbers in 2020 and continuing into 2021.

"City sales taxes in the town of Creede doubled last year from 2019," Murphy said.

Wolfe estimated that tourism on the front range is still down about 35% from historic numbers. He talked about four or five grant programs that he is working on to promote and continue to grow tourism in Colorado.

Gigi Dennis, Alamosa County Administrator, and others encouraged the director to look at a tiered system of awarding grants across the state to avoid loading up larger population zones with funds. Wolfe, who is on a fact-finding mission around Colorado, said he would certainly take that into consideration.

Wolfe, who had planned to visit the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve on Tuesday's trip to the SLV, ran out of time after meeting with those at the welcome center. He called the Dunes a "geologic wonder," and said the industry needs to continue to work on improving the tourism

experience while continuing to be good stewards of the state's resources.

With 25 years experienced in hospitality, Wolfe assumed his new role on Aug. 23 after being appointed by Pat Meyers, executive director of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT).

"Tim is a proven leader with exceptional industry experience, market knowledge and an outstanding record of management success," said Meyers in an announcement about the appointment. "As Colorado's tourism industry continues its economic recovery, Tim's hospitality and event experience will be invaluable in delivering a strong recovery for our urban centers and his understanding of Colorado's local values is critical to effectively serving the diverse needs of our rural destinations across the state. His experience is tailored for this moment."

Before his appointment as tourism



Photo by Keith R. Cerny

Timothy Wolfe, new executive director of the Colorado Tourism Office, met with SLV officials on Tuesday, Oct. 26, at the Alamosa Welcome Center. He is shown with Kale Mortensen, executive director of Visit Alamosa, and Gigi Dennis, Alamosa County Administrator.

director, Wolfe most recently Complex General Manager of the 241-room iconic Brown Palace and the adjacent 231-room Holiday Inn Express Denver Downtown, a post that capped extensive service for multiple hotel groups and

distinguished hospitality properties. A former Colorado Tourism Board chairman and former board member for the Colorado Hotel and Lodging Association, his accolades include a 2015 induction into the CHLA Hall of Fame.

New boat ramps completed on Rio Grande at Collier State Wildlife Area



Photo courtesy of CPW

The new boat ramp at the Upper Access point of Collier State Wildlife Area.

STAFF REPORT

SOUTH FORK — Work was completed this past week on two new boat ramps at the Collier State Wildlife Area on the Rio Grande River between Creede and South Fork.

Previously, the Upper Collier and Middle Collier access points featured dirt ramps, and the upper ramp had a very steep grade that required four-wheel drive vehicles. With the old dirt ramps, wet weather conditions also led to difficult mud and ruts being formed that required

regular maintenance.

The new concrete ramps will increase accessibility for all users and alleviate the higher pressure on the middle ramp that had been used more frequently.

"Both ramps receive quite a bit of use by the public during the summer based on the flows of the Rio Grande River," said South Fork District Wildlife Manager Jeremy Gallegos. "The location of these ramps make them a common launching point or takeout for both anglers and recreational boaters."

Though this stretch of the Rio Grande does not have Gold Medal waters designation, it is a quality fishery and a destination point for those seeking rainbow and brown trout fishing.

Construction of the new ramps took place in the fall to take advantage of lower flows and reduced use.

Collier SWA is a 579-acre property along the Rio Grande River. For more information, go to <https://cpw.state.co.us/swa/Collier%20SWA>.

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Six SLV football teams qualify for state postseason

By **KEN HAMRICK**

ALAMOSA — Six high school football teams from the San Luis Valley have qualified for their respective state playoffs. All the state playoff brackets are posted on the CHSAANow.com web site.

Two of the teams, Centauri and Sierra Grande, will be at home for the first round of the playoffs.

Centauri is the second seed in the Class 1A state bracket. The Falcons will host 15th-seeded Peyton at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Should the Falcons win, they will play either seventh-seeded Strasburg or 10th-seeded Yuma in the state quarterfinals.

Sierra Grande is the sixth seed in the 6-man bracket and the Panthers will host 11th-seeded Branson/Kim Saturday at 1 p.m.

A win by Sierra Grande will see it play either third-seeded Granada or 14th-seeded Hi-Plains in the quarterfinals.

Alamosa is the 13th seed in the Class 2A bracket. It will travel to the Western Slope to take on Delta

Saturday at 1 p.m.

Should the Mean Moose win, they will face either fifth-seeded Moffat County or 12th-seeded University in the quarterfinals.

Monte Vista also qualified for state in Class 1A. The Pirates are the 13th seed and will travel to fourth-seeded Florence. The game will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

A win by Monte Vista will see it face either fifth-seeded Wray or 12th-seeded Highland in the state quarterfinals.

Sanford is the only 8-man team to make the state playoffs and the Indians will enter at the 11th seed. They will travel to sixth-seeded and defending state champion Sedgwick County at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Also qualifying in the 6-man bracket is Mountain Valley. The Indians are the 16th seed and they will travel to top-seeded Cheyenne Wells. Kickoff is at noon on Saturday.

Should Mountain Valley win, it will play either eighth-seeded Prairie or ninth-seeded Genoa- Hugo in

the quarterfinals. The quarterfinals will take place on Nov. 13, and the

semifinals on Nov. 20. The state championship games will take place

the weekend of Nov. 25-27 at CSU-Pueblo's Thunderbowl.

YOU — a hero of the Faith!

Faith in God is an amazing gift. It starts the moment your heart says: I believe Jesus is God's Son and He came to rescue me. But I wonder how many Christians decide that's where their faith ends, when the truth is, God has so much more for us in this life!

One of the reasons this happens is because many people feel they don't measure up to what they think they should be. They get stuck focusing on their weaknesses and mistakes, rather than focusing on who God is and what He's doing in and around them.

John 3:17 (NASB) tells us, "God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him."

Jesus is not only your Savior, He's your advocate. And He wants you to start believing God for more than a trip to heaven.

Faith: The Answer to Every Problem You Face

The Bible says the just shall live by faith (Hebrews 10:38). In other words, faith is an attitude that can become your way of life—and there is no better way to live.

Faith replaces fear and worry with peace and joy. It purifies the heart, cultivates hope, receives provision, and overcomes the attacks of the enemy.

Ephesians 6:16 says that faith is a shield. So when the enemy starts to shoot darts of fear and insecurity, you can get behind your shield of faith and keep going forward with God.

But here's the thing: A shield won't do any good unless it's lifted up. You need to raise up your shield by praying, saying, and doing things that line up with God's Word.

Second Peter 1:5 (AMP) says to "[...] make every effort] in [exercising] your faith to, develop moral excellence...knowledge (insight, understanding)."

If you will exercise your faith to become more like Christ Himself, the way you think will change, and the things you say will change. You will begin to live with greater love and compassion. And it will become very natural for you to encourage others in their

faith.

I want to encourage you to make a habit of getting up in the morning and thanking God for what He's done in your life. Praise Him for what He's going to do. Declare your trust in Him to provide everything you need, and ask Him to prepare you for whatever challenges may come your way.

Faith Becomes a Part of Who You Are

It's important to understand that you cannot change yourself. It's spending time with God that transforms you.

One thing the apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesian church was that the Holy Spirit would reveal Himself in their inner being and personality—that they would see who God had created them to be through Christ.

Ephesians 3:16-17 (AMP) says, "May He grant you out of the riches of His glory, to be strengthened and spiritually energized with power through His Spirit in your inner self, [indwelling your innermost being and personality], so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through your faith. And may you, having been [deeply] rooted and [securely] grounded in love."

God wants us to be firmly rooted in the love of Christ so we can stand in authority against our enemy. And He wants us to be so stirred up in His love that we can't help but share it with others.

Faith Leaves a Footprint for Others to Follow

Ultimately, it's not the things we do but our faith that pleases God (Hebrews 11:6). As we look to the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11, we see how God was able to work in their lives because they believed. And they never stopped believing God for something greater than before (Hebrews 11:13)! The Bible says that they were sustained and controlled by their faith, and their faith still inspires us today.

Noah prepared an ark to save his family. It took him 100 years to build and he was made fun of every single day because where he lived, there was no rain. But he stuck with

Moving Up Higher

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God's plan. The Bible says that by faith Noah "became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith" (Hebrews 11:7 NASB).

By faith, Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac, with the hope that God might raise him from the dead (vv. 17-19).

Rahab was a prostitute but she chose to believe that God could use her in a mighty way. And because of her faith, she and her family were saved (v. 31).

What will be your great story of faith? First John 5:4 (NASB) says, "For whoever has been born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith."

Decide today that, with God, the impossible is possible. Amazing things can happen when you choose to believe. So be bold in asking God to reveal what His promises mean for you, and never stop believing for more than what He's already accomplished in your life.

God created each of us for a specific time, with a specific plan and purpose for our lives...and He wants to make you a real life hero of faith.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching CD series *Overcoming Fear with Faith*. 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 130 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 necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.



Photo by Ken Hamrick

Centauri High School's Deven Brady goes for a long gain in Friday's game at Monte Vista. The Falcons will host Peyton in the first round of the Class 1A State Playoffs while Monte Vista will travel to Florence.

Accepting Bids for Structural Engineer of the Saguache County Museum.

Saguache County is seeking sealed bids for a structural assessment of the Saguache County Museum, an adobe building that was built in 1871. Bids must be submitted by Friday, November 5th, 2021, to: Saguache County Administration Attn: Housing and Maintenance P.O. Box 100 505 3rd Street Saguache, CO 81149 Call or text 719 849 0356 for property walk-through and questions.

No. 1613 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, October 28 and November 4, 2021.

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a 2nd Public Hearing at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Meeting Room located at 305 - 3rd Street, Saguache, Colorado, on the following date:

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD, 2021 FROM 1:00PM TO 2:00PM

to consider proposed changes to the Saguache County Land Development Code changes To view the proposed changes, you may contact the Saguache County Land Use Department - PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov, or by calling 719-655-2321 or you may view the changes on our website at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov. Written comments will be accepted until Friday, November 19th, 2021 at 3pm, and may be sent to Saguache County Land Use Department at PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or email to atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

By: Tim Lovato, Chairman, Saguache County Board of Commissioners

No. 1609 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, October 14, 21 and 28 and November 4 and 11, 2021.

Public Notice

Saguache County is currently accepting proposals for the Saguache County 2021 Fiscal Year audit. The ideal firm or individual will have extensive knowledge and experience related to conducting governmental audits in accordance with generally accepted accounting and auditing standards, and preparing financial statements that conform to all state, federal and industry guidelines.

All interested parties should submit a SEALED letter of interest and a proposal for services by November 30, 2021 at 3:00 PM to: Saguache County Administration office. Sealed envelope must say 2021 Audit on the front of the envelope.

Letters can be mailed to Saguache County PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 or hand delivered to 505 3rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149.

For additional information contact Saguache County Administration at 719-655-2231 or wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

No. 1611 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, October 28 and November 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2021.

PLEASE JOIN US AT AN OPEN HOUSE TO LEARN ABOUT THE ALAMOSA TO ANTONITO TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT

A reliability project to improve safety and grid resiliency

Xcel Energy is proposing to replace the 60-year-old Alamosa to Antonito 69-kiloVolt transmission line in the San Luis Valley to increase electric reliability and reduce potential safety risks associated with aging poles and equipment. We are hosting a public open house for you to learn about this important project and provide input on issues we should consider when developing new route options.

The 39-mile line is critical to providing reliable service to customers in the San Luis Valley, and cannot be taken out of service to be replaced. For that reason, we need to build a new power line in the area, either in a new corridor adjacent to the existing line or in a separate corridor near the current location.

Xcel Energy is currently studying preliminary route options to relocate the existing line. Your input is important to the study process and we want to hear from you. Please join us at one of the open house events to learn more, ask questions and offer comments. There will not be a formal presentation and both meetings will have the same information, so attend any time.

XCEL MEETING OPTION 1:	XCEL MEETING OPTION 2:
Tuesday Nov. 16 4-7 pm Knights of Columbus #5512 521 Spruce St. La Jara, Colo. 81140	Wednesday Nov. 17 4-7 pm Society Hall 711 State St. Alamosa, Colo. 81101

Contact us: alamosatoantonito@xcelenergy.com
Toll-free 1-855-839-8865

Learn more at: xcelenergy.com/alamosatoantonito



Manners weekly focus at High Valley Community Center

SUBMITTED ARTICLE
DEL NORTE — Hi, community members! We hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe Halloween! We will be taking the kiddos swimming at the Sand Dunes Pool every Friday until Nov. 19. Following Thanksgiving break, we will have new Fabulous Friday activities planned. Stay tuned!
 This past week, the theme of after-school activities was, "Manners." The goal of the week was to show the children that learning good manners is a great way to make a good first impression and reflect positively on a person's character. In the HVCC sports world, the Del Norte Orange and Black girls' basketball teams are doing well! Games will continue throughout November, finishing with a tournament from Nov.

15-20. Basketball schedules are posted on our website, www.TheHVCC.org. Boys' basketball and K-2nd grade co-ed basketball registration is available on our website as well. Registration will close on Nov. 15.
 We are excited to announce an art opportunity for HVCC students in the sixth grade and above! Students will complete a two-part art project, including one piece of art and a video presentation. The art will then be auctioned off and proceeds will go toward an all-expenses paid overnight trip to Denver. Keep an eye on our website to check out the pieces as they are posted. If you have any questions, we are happy to answer them! Stop by our front desk or give us a call at 719-657-2172.
 We hope everyone has a great week!



Photos courtesy of HVCC
Students at the High Valley Community Center are spending their coming month learning about manners and swimming at the local Sand Dunes Pool. With Halloween in the rearview, students will be focusing on more projects in coming weeks.



BIRDS

Continued from Page 1A
 agriculture, and the most endangered wetland, riparian wetlands. The health of stopover habitat is dependent on water, which highlights the importance of thoughtful management of water resources throughout the Valley. These migratory birds are a vital part of the local ecosystem, as they distribute seeds, pollen, and food chain balance which helps the overall health of this complex and interdependent system.



Photo by Mechel Meek

As the migratory birds consume a large amount of energy to migrate, the health of these stopover areas is vital to their populations. Without the habitat to nourish these birds, they may not make it to their wintering grounds, or arrive underweight and undernourished. Over 400 different bird species depend on the various Valley wetlands to make their biannual migrations from Canada to the Gulf Coast.

The iconic Sandhill Crane depends heavily on the San Luis Valley to support their migration. The cranes use this habitat as a sort of "rest stop" to regain their energy and stock up on easily available food to continue their long journey. The Rocky Mountain Greater Sandhill Crane migration attracts numerous visitors to the San Luis Valley to marvel at these majestic, boisterous and dynamic birds.

According to the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council, "Upon reaching the SLV, they scatter themselves throughout barley fields, lakes, wetlands, and the Rio Grande, feeding on high-calorie grains and nutrient-dense aquatic invertebrates."

Waste from grain harvesting provides the birds with carbohydrates, while the nutrients they derive from hunting invertebrates help these birds form healthy eggshells.

The current population of the Rocky Mountain Sandhill Crane is stable, which is an encouraging sign for future flights of these majestic birds.

Other migratory birds, including waterfowl like the Pintail duck also use the SLV to rest before moving on.

The SLV is also home to what is termed a playa wetland, which is critical because it hosts several species that cannot survive in other environments.

The Snowy Plover, which is threatened due to habitat loss, depends on these playa wetlands that are saturated with water and have high soil alkalinity. The numerous refuges, state parks, and national parks also are vital to support these graceful additions to the Valley.

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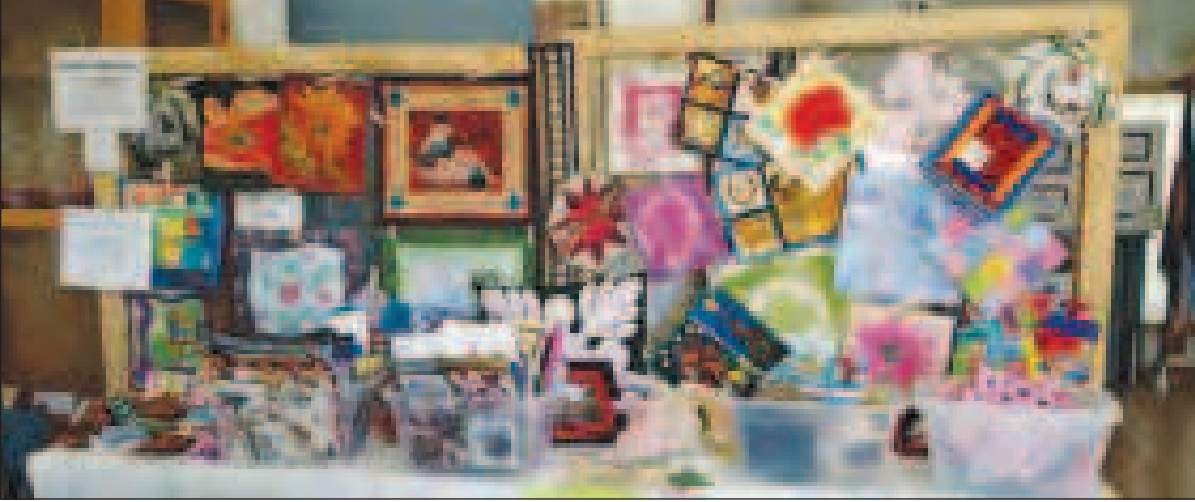
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Photos courtesy of Rio Grande County Museum

Local artwork and crafts will be on display and for sale during the Rio Grande County Museum's third annual Holiday at the Museum Art Show beginning on Nov. 20. Photos from 2020 show.

RG Museum hosting Holiday at the Museum

STAFF REPORT

DEL NORTE — The holidays are quickly coming and time to think about those unusual gifts that our local artists, quilters and crafters can provide. Rio Grande County Museum will again host the Holiday at the Museum Art Show for the third year.

Students from Sargent and Del Norte schools' art programs will be showing their work for sale along with the professional artists. The San Luis Valley Quilt Guild which supports various charities in the area will have small quilted items available for sale.

The museum staff will develop exhibits with some of the traditions of the holiday season, including a menorah with the story of the Jewish families who helped build the Rio Grande County communities and to an extent have disappeared only to be remembered by history. A Christmas

tree will be decorated with stockings which will be the gift bag for the event with Swedish woven stars decorating the stockings.

The artists work in diverse media. Their personalities show in their paintings, metal art, pottery, and stained glass work. The quilters also show a wide variety of work with color, shapes and form with small pieces that would be perfect for a special touch to a table or wall. Martha Kennedy will be doing a reading and a story about her experience of a Christmas in China.

The opening reception will be Nov. 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. COVID restrictions at the time will be observed to protect the artists, the public and museum staff.

For more information, contact Rio Grande County Museum at 719-657-2847 or check its Facebook page. Rio Grande County Museum is at 580 Oak St. in Del Norte.

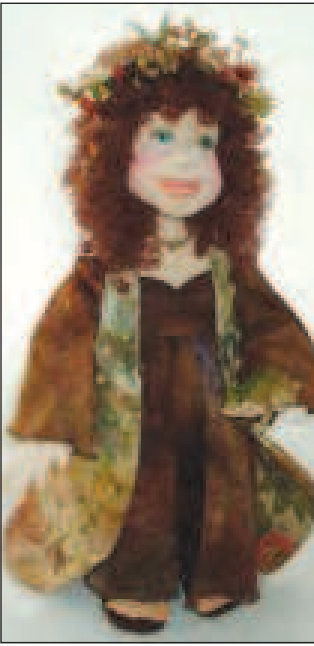


Photo by Marie Mccolm

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held after the new playground at Sanchez Park was completed on Oct. 21 in Monte Vista.

Community comes together for Sanchez Park

Ribbon-cutting ceremony for new playground held Oct. 21

BY MARIE MCCOLM MONTE VISTA — Construction of the new playground at Sanchez Park is complete.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Thursday, Oct. 21. Monte Vista Mayor Dale Becker spoke at the ceremony.

"This project was started with the application process in October of 2020, and since then the City of Monte Vista along with Kaboom has been working hand-in-hand to make this project come true," Becker said. "Here we are today, and none of this would have been possible without the

community support, Kaboom, and the Colorado Health Foundation. We want to thank all of the volunteers, the community, every one of you that are here, and were here these past three days."

Sanchez Park is located on Pennsylvania Avenue in Monte Vista and has been a play space for many children who live in the community. The effort to bring in new playground equipment was led by City Recreation Director Jaime Hurtado.

The City of Monte Vista partnered with Kaboom, a national nonprofit organization that works to end play space inequity along with the Colorado Health Foundation, to create this new kid-designed play space.

Please see PARK on Page 11

The Dreaded Blue Box

I had just finished loading 184 seven-foot steel T-posts, old ones, by the way, in my pickup and was unloading a mere 24 bales of hay from the front section of my gooseneck stock trailer. It was a hot, humid afternoon in early fall when the dead branches begin to stick out of the cottonwood greenery, and the garden starts goin' to heck and no one cares. #6 Combination Plate being distilled in my sweat from lunch earlier. Then I saw the blue box.

The dreaded blue box. It was still in the stock trailer. It needed to be moved.

The blue box is a metal toolbox I have had since I bought my first set of "made in America" sidecutters, thinking they would last longer. I have now realized that all sidecutters have the sharpness longevity of fresh fruit. They should be thrown out about as often as you empty the trash barrel in the shop.

Anyway, over the years, the blue box has



become my chain holder. It will hold four or five good log chains. I have always said that a hundred pounds of salt weighs more than a hundred pounds of anything else. But a 10 by 10 by 18-inch metal tool box full of log chains

is harder to carry than a sheet of plywood in a hurricane.

There are other things that can stimulate a similar sinking feeling, e.g., the same cow prolapsing for the third time, somebody commenting that my horse seems to be favoring his left front or the phone ringing in the deep of night.

I don't know exactly what it is about the old blue tool box that I dread. I've heaved it, moved it, loaded it, dropped it, pushed it and cussed it through a lifetime succession of jobs and homes, horses, and kids, and ups and downs.

Maybe it's not because it's heavier than God's own anvil, clumsier than an ostrich in a Porta Potty or uglier than a '58 Buick. No, maybe it's because I realize it's gonna outlive me by a long time. By its earthly clock, I'm just a temporary passerby, while it will still be here when men are walking on Pluto.

I have thoughts of storing my chains in a gunny sack, takin' the ole tool box to the dump and reestablishing the peckin' order in my life. But every time I get as far as step one, I see it layin' there like a concrete loaf of bread, like a 200-pound rattlesnake, and the dread sweeps over me in a wave.

So, I let it lay or move it if I have to. I've come to realize there are some things you just can't do anything about.

Baxter Black, former large animal veterinarian and irregular commentator on National Public Radio, is America's best-selling cowboy poet. He is a frequent performer at national stock shows and rodeos as well as in many smaller local events. He is author of several books, including Cactus Tracks, Croutons on a Cow Pie, Hey, Cowboy, Wanna Get Lucky? and Dunny and the Duck. Baxter Black can be contacted via e-mail at: vikki@baxterblack.com

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Millions of men and women serve in the military and make the sacrifices that such service requires. Risking their lives to serve their countries, veterans sometimes endure mental and physical trauma, returning home to face uphill battles as they deal with their injuries.

Many veterans in need are not just in need of medical attention. Learning that their efforts and sacrifices are recognized and appreciated by the ordinary citizens they protect can make a world of difference to veterans as they recover from their injuries. Men, women and children who want to help veterans in need can do so in various ways.

Visit a veterans hospital. Contact a local veterans hospital to inquire about their volunteer programs. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notes that each year more than 75,000 volunteers spend more than 11 million hours in service to America's veterans. Visiting veterans at the hospital to hear their stories can lift their spirits and aid in their

recoveries. In addition, veterans hospitals may have volunteer opportunities that make it easier for hospitals to operate at optimal capacity.

Help a neighbor. Unfortunately, many veterans return home with injuries that affect their ability to make it through a typical day without assistance.

Disabled veterans may be unable to do their own grocery shopping or maintain their homes. If a neighbor or nearby veteran is facing such hurdles, offer to do his or her shopping or mow his or her lawn. Such tasks won't take much time, but can make a world of difference to veterans.

Offer professional services free of charge. Professionals who want to help veterans can offer their services free of charge. Accountants can offer to prepare veterans' tax returns for free, while attorneys can provide legal advice to veterans who need it. Contractors can help disabled veterans by offering to make alterations to their homes for free or at cost.



Employ social media to help local veterans. Many people who want to help local veterans might not be able to do so more than one day per week. But some veterans may require daily assistance. Men and women can start a locally based Facebook group for fellow members of their community who want to pitch in to help local veterans. Such a group can make it easier to share information and arrange help for veterans in need.

Many veterans return home from serving overseas in need of help. Offering such help can improve veterans' lives while letting them know their efforts and sacrifices are appreciated.

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Land, Water and People

BY HANNA FAKE

Coming to the Rio Grande National Forest you realize it is a special place. It is a living forest. The forest itself is alive, but people are also living alongside it. They work on the forest, earn their livelihoods, they rely upon it to heat their homes and provide their meat. It is also a place to play and explore with so many opportunities for recreation.

I grew up with very little public land around me, but I was fortunate to have kind neighbors that let me hike and explore more than my own backyard. Heading west I realized the immense benefit that public lands provide. For the last three years, I have spent my time working on public lands and for organizations that help protect them.

Across the US there are many different land management agencies and strategies. Some are highly protected wilderness areas, other areas like our National Parks are managed to conserve lands and resources and make them available for the public to visit. The Forest Service, under the USDA, manages the 'land of many uses.' It is land where cattle are grazed, wood is harvested, and people can recreate.

While the Forest Service manages about 47% of Colorado's forests, they can't do it alone. They rely upon users to help steward the land, as well as other cooperative organizations, like interpretive associations. Interpretive associations support and provide education, programs, and information to visitors and users of public lands. These non-profit organizations provide grants, staff, research funding, and many other educational activities to our public lands. Organizations like the San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) support public lands through memberships, donations, and sale of books, maps, and gifts. Without the public's support, their work would not be possible.

Founded in 1988, the San Juan Mountains Association, promotes the exploration and protection of public lands in Southwest Colorado through stewardship and conservation education for people of all ages. SJMA partners

with the Rio Grande National Forest, the San Juan National Forest, and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests. Across all of these Forests, SJMA staff and volunteers host a variety of programs. SJMA's wilderness steward crew assists the San Juan NF and Rio Grande NF in educating visitors on "Leave No Trace" practices and maintaining many trails throughout the Forest. This summer, Forest and Alpine Ambassadors hiked and drove to popular locations to promote proper use and stewardship of popular trails and educate visitors.

This past summer SJMA had five staff members spread across the Rio Grande NF district offices providing information, selling fuelwood permits, books, and maps. As an SJMA staff member I realize that working alongside our Forest Service partners provides increased collaboration and support for the Forest. The two organizations

have slightly different approaches and strengths, but they complement each other in working towards the end goal of managing and protecting these public lands for future generations. I am excited to continue my career in helping to steward public lands here on the Rio Grande National Forest.

To learn more about the San Juan

Mountains Association, or to support them, visit sjma.org.

Hannah Fake grew up in Maine but fell in love with the public lands of the west. After spending three seasons in central Idaho, she is excited to make her new home in the San Luis Valley and explore the surrounding area.

Coloradans could save 24% on health insurance next year, governor's office says

(The Center Square) — Coloradans could save on average around 24% on their health insurance premiums next year because of the state's reinsurance plan, Gov. Jared Polis's office said on Thursday.

The announcement comes after federal regulators approved the state's final insurance and health care premium plan for 2022 individual plans — which are not purchased through an employer — and small group plans, which serve small businesses with less than 100 employees. "The reinsurance program continues to save Coloradans even more money on health care," the governor's office said. "For 2022, for individual plans, the reinsurance program will save people across the state an average of 24.1% over what the premiums would have been without the program."

Despite the overall savings, Coloradans purchasing individual plans this year will see a 1.1% increase to their premiums compared to last year, Polis said. However, the number of individual plans offered in Colorado increased to 527 from 326.

The program was approved by the General Assembly in 2019, with Coloradans saving 20% on premiums

in 2020, the first year of reinsurance, and 21% last year.

The average annual savings could be greater for people living in rural Colorado. Polis's administration estimates that savings could be as high as 36.5% in places like Summit County and 36% in the Grand Junction area.

"Coloradans in rural, suburban, and urban communities are tired of paying too much for health care and our reinsurance program delivers real relief and real savings for small businesses and people who don't get their insurance through their employer," Polis said in a statement.

The same eight insurers — Anthem, Bright Health, Cigna Health, Denver Health, Friday Health, Kaiser, Rocky Mountain Health Plans and Oscar Insurance Company — who carry individual plans in Colorado will offer plans in 2022, according to the governor's office.

Low-income Coloradans who earn between 1.5-times and 2.5-times the federal poverty limit may qualify for financial assistance through a new program called the Colorado Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise. Individuals who enroll in silver-level

plans through Connect Colorado can access this feature.

"Colorado's reinsurance program has been, and will continue to be, an incredibly powerful tool in helping people save money on health care," said Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera. "Our administration is committed to tackling health care reform from every angle, and the success of the reinsurance program is an important part of our work to ensure that easy access to high-quality, affordable, equitable care can be a reality for every Coloradan."

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Groundbreaking technology brings broadband access to Manassa

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

MANASSA — Last week, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in the small town of Manassa, celebrating a long-awaited high-speed road that you can't see and a much-needed new community on top of a community that already exists. Put more directly, it was the celebration of this 900-plus person community getting access to broadband, the fastest of its kind, that will take the town into the future via groundbreaking "mesh technology."

The event was the culmination of a two-year-long partnership between Alamosa's Jade Communications and the Town of Manassa. According to Jade Communications co-owner and Director of Marketing Jordan Wehe, Manassa is now "officially, the fastest city in Colorado."

That's quite a claim. The initial conversation between Jade Communications and members of the Town Board of Manassa started as many other similar conversations held in rural communities. There was a serious need for broadband, but there were also very real and significant challenges in providing it to small, rural and remote towns.

According to Wehe, Manassa has had historic struggles with technology. Those struggles were now impacting their businesses, their residents who were considering moving and students, whose lack of accessibility to technology was having a negative impact on their education. High-stakes stuff.

As Megan Martinez, long-time Manassa resident and member of the Town Board, describes it, "Jade wanted to be able to supply our town with their best version of a broadband outlet. As a town board, we went back and forth with Jade for nearly two years discussing the best way to bring in a fiber optic option, but the board all agreed that burying lines wouldn't work. We have a very old sewer and water system that runs through our town, and that made it nearly

impossible for us to locate those lines at the magnitude needed to allow in-ground wiring."

"[We] grew up here," Jordan says, referring to himself and Jade co-owner Josh Wehe, who is the Director of Operations. "Our company believes in families, community anchors and schools and we want to promote economic development in southern Colorado. So, we just kept at it until we found the answer."

After two years of trying to find the right solution, Jordan and Josh Wehe presented the board with that answer to their problems — a "multi-gig system" that, as Martinez puts it, could be installed without touching "a pole, street or road, ensuring no need for damage and follow-up repairs."

The solution comes in a box "the size of a glove" installed on the roof of a house. Instead of one box sending network signals via cables to other boxes, Jade's "mesh technology" creates its own network of broadband communication as each box communicates with the other boxes in the vicinity. "Think of a spiderweb in the sky," says Josh. The result is a "stable, resilient, intelligent network" that continues to be operational, even if one of those boxes "takes a hit."

The technology is revolutionary, but the capacity (that is, the speed) is what users reportedly enjoy at a rate that, according to Josh Wehe, "is 20x to 40x faster than any other type of internet in Colorado" and provides such "insane clarity" that "on a Zoom call, a person's face just jumps out of the screen, as if you're in the same room."

"As a town citizen and board member I couldn't be more pleased with this outcome," says Martinez. "I have this multi-gig system and my service has grown. I'm able to help kids with homework, have the TV streaming and do a zoom call all at once. Before this system, that wouldn't be possible."

For more information, visit <https://gojade.org>.



Photo courtesy of North Conejos School District

A ribbon-cutting ceremony with students from the North Conejos School District. Pictured in the front (on the left), Rick Garcia, Executive Director of Colorado Dept of Local Affairs, and (right) Josh Wehe, Jade Communications co-owner and Director of Operations

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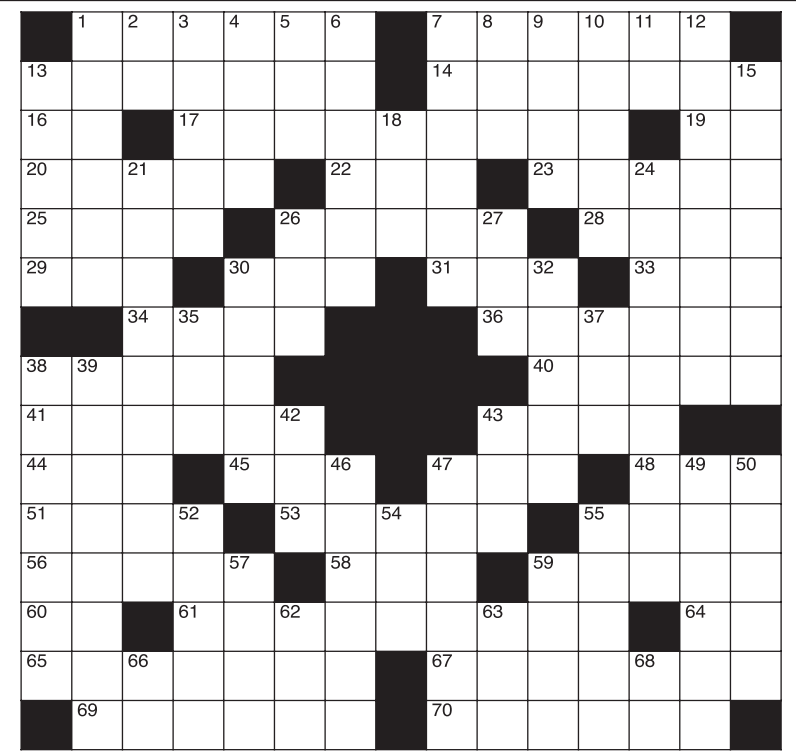
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Slopes
- 7. Attacks
- 13. One who has left prison
- 14. Goes against
- 16. Atomic #37
- 17. Home of The Beatles
- 19. Mac alternative
- 20. A common boundary with
- 22. Fluid in a plant
- 23. Genus that includes scads
- 25. Longer of the forearm bones
- 26. Gradually disappears
- 28. At risk assessor
- 29. Type of whale
- 30. Jaws of a voracious animal
- 31. Patriotic women (abbr.)
- 33. Ancient Egyptian God
- 34. Obsessed with one's appearance
- 36. Erase
- 38. A type of smartie
- 40. Nostrils
- 41. Influential French thinker
- 43. Popular K-pop singer
- 44. One point south of due east
- 45. Payroll company
- 47. Moved quickly on foot
- 48. Bar bill
- 51. An idiot
- 53. Indicates silence
- 55. Protein-rich liquids
- 56. Rhythmic patterns
- 58. Scatter
- 59. Belongs to bottom layer
- 60. Impulsive part of the mind
- 61. Carousel

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



- 64. Type of degree
- 65. Ornamental molding
- 67. Locks in again
- 69. Sounds the same
- 70. Come into view
- 26. An enthusiastic devotee of sports
- 27. Unhappy
- 30. Alternate term for Holy Scripture
- 32. Influential French scholar
- 35. What thespians do
- 37. Local area network
- 38. Free from contamination
- 39. Coastal region of Canada
- 42. Sun up in New York
- 43. High schoolers' exam
- 46. Fathers
- 47. Call it a career
- 49. Suitable for growing crops
- 50. Rose-red variety of spinel
- 52. Orange-brown in color
- 54. Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks
- 55. Late TNT sportscaster
- 57. A way to wedge
- 59. Cold, dry Swiss wind
- 62. Hockey players need it
- 63. Something highly prized
- 66. Atomic #45
- 68. Top lawyer

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Speak rapidly
- 2. Trauma center
- 3. River in W. Africa
- 4. Ancient Greek district
- 5. Bulgaria's monetary unit
- 6. Children's ride
- 7. Absorbed liquid
- 8. Markets term
- 9. Retail term recording sales
- 10. Automaton
- 11. Spanish form of "be"
- 12. Divide
- 13. Malaysian sailing boat
- 15. Writers
- 18. Cool!
- 21. Popular tourist attraction studio
- 24. Sets free

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Wolf Creek Ski Area hosts October opening

STAFF REPORT

WOLF CREEK — Though weather in the San Luis Valley has been warm for mid-October, the San Juan Mountains received 14 inches of snow last week and Wolf Creek Ski Area spent the weekend welcoming guests to the resort for the opening of the ski season.

Wolf Creek Ski Area was excited for another early season opening with a 14-inch winter storm that blew in on the heels of Columbus Day.

Wolf Creek opened Saturday, Oct. 16 and Sunday, Oct. 17, with Treasure Stoke (detachable quad), Nova (beginner double chairlift) and the Lynx (beginner conveyer lift). The slopes are closed during the week but will reopen the following weekend.

Lifts will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Conditions are early season with unmarked obstacles. The mountain landscape is beautiful with fall colors coming up from both sides of Wolf Creek Pass. Lift tickets will be at Local Appreciation Rates of \$60 for adults, \$41 for seniors and \$31 for children. Lift tickets to the Lynx and Nova Lifts only will be \$40 for all ages.

Guests can enjoy the hard work of Wolf Creek's key employees who have been moving snow and shoveling to make this early season opening happen. Trails that will be open from top to bottom are Tranquility, Treasure, Navajo Trail, and Summer Days. Other partial trails that will be available include: Bonanza Road, Powder Puff and Charisma. A scenic hike from the top of Treasure across Exhibition to



Courtesy photo

Wolf Creek Ski Area opened its doors for the first of the season's skiers this past weekend after receiving 14 inches of snow. The resort was one of the first to open in the state.

Divide Trail will give access to Divide Trail and Kelly Boyce. Nova, Susan's and Foxy will be open for beginners. This variety of open terrain may change depending on weather and snow for the following weekends.

Wolf Creek wants to educate skiers and riders that early season conditions warrant extra cautious

skiing and riding; terrain can be more difficult than expected if obstacles need to be avoided or snowpack is thin. Private lessons in the ski school are available for all ages and abilities. Wolf Pups for children ages 5 to 8 years old will be available as well. Pre-purchasing lift tickets is available, but not necessary as walk-

up sales will be possible. Online lift tickets can be purchased for the following day up to 8 p.m. daily. In-person lift tickets can be purchased the morning of at the Ticket Office beginning at 8 a.m.

The Upper Lodge will be open, serving a limited menu. Pathfinder Bar will also be open. The Continental

Espresso Bar, located at the top of the Treasure Stoke Lift, will be open at 9 a.m. Ski and snowboard rentals will be available through Wolf Creek's Ski Rental Shop and Boarder Dome.

Face coverings will be required in all indoor public settings. A full 2021-22 COVID-19 Operating Plan can be found at WolfCreekSki.com.

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Public Health to revamp COVID communications

By LYNSIE FERRELL
RIO GRANDE COUNTY — In the last two weeks since the Rio Grande County Commissioner meeting, which was held at the end of September, Rio Grande Public Health Department (RGPHD) staff have been compiling data from active COVID cases in the county and supplying the Board of Commissioners with daily reports which include additional information pertaining to COVID in the county.

RGPHD Director Dr. Bankole attended the commissioner meeting on Oct. 13 via phone and spoke with the board about how to move forward

RGBOCC approves resolutions from Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office

By LYNSIE FERRELL
RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department Undersheriff Chris Crown met with county commissioners on Wednesday, Oct. 13, to request that the board make a specific resolution recognizing the K-9 program in the sheriff's department, and one to specifically mention that service animals are allowed at work in county facilities when needed.

Crown stated in a letter submitted to the board that the employee manual that was redrafted and approved in March did state that service animals were exempt from the "No Pets Allowed at Work Section" of the manual but Crown requested the board pass a specific resolution that showed support of service animals in the workplace.

Investigator Heath Hart also sent a request to commissioners about recognizing the K-9 program through another specific resolution that was started in 2020.

"The K-9 program is to combat the drug issue that is within Rio Grande County. As of this day, we have a single-purpose K-9 that is a black lab. We have used him within the jail to ensure that the facility is safe and there are no narcotics. The single-purpose K-9 has been certified on marijuana at one point so we are unable to use him on the streets in our county," the request stated.

Hart states that he has worked in the K-9 program for several years and has been a certified handler since 2018 through the National Police Canine Association and is looking to purchase a new K-9 for the program.

"We will be attempting to purchase a new K-9 through a training organization out of Colorado Springs that I have worked with for years," Hart stated.

Hart stated that the new K-9 would be trained to detect narcotics and be trained to apprehend criminals and tracking which could prove to be a huge benefit to search and rescue teams throughout the Valley as it would be one of the closest dogs trained to search for a missing individual.

According to Hart, "This would be of great assistance to search and rescue operations not only within Rio Grande County but the San Luis Valley. The nearest dual-purpose K-9 is in Canon City, so we would be the easier call to assist other agencies in our area. The K-9 will also be an asset to the US Marshal's Fugitive Apprehension Task Force that the Rio Grande Sheriff's Office has taken part in."

Hart also explained that the task force is utilized to apprehend dangerous and high-profile fugitives and that the sheriff's department plans to start a non-profit organization to help fund the K-9 program and

and how to get the information to the public. Dr Bankole was instructed to create a more accurate report by commissioners in September in hopes of alleviating some of the vagueness of the data that is currently being reported. "We want the most accurate, up to date data we can possibly get," said Commissioner John Noffske.

"In retrospect, in the last meeting, there was a request from the board that we should have local numbers for COVID cases, and we should have a daily submitted report of those numbers. We started from that same day and went two weeks to today. The reports that we are

more extensive equipment that will be needed. Commissioners voted to approve and draft both resolutions unanimously.

tracking, actually shows us number of active cases each day, number of people coming off of isolation and number of new cases that not only showed up on the Colorado Electronic Reporting System but those that we are getting from the hospitals, mobile testing locations and from all other testing sites," explained Dr. Bankole.

Dr. Bankole continued to state that the reports were very successful and that the department was able to track the number of the cases listed above in a more effective way which allowed his department to respond to the specific COVID situation in the county. "Not only were we able to track data from the county, the local community but also those who are between the ages of zero and 17. We could also capture the vaccination rate."

As of the time of the meeting, Dr. Bankole reported 106 active cases and five outbreaks in the county.

"We have outbreaks at the Legacy Inn, and the Monte Vista Coop, just to name a few. It is my job today to bring this item back for discussion and see how to move forward."

Dr. Bankole stated that when the data collection began, a lot of the cases were coming in from the schools in the county and from those ages zero to 17. Once the data was collected it was apparent that the data was all over the board and in those who had been vaccinated as well because the virus was coming home to families. "The San Luis Valley is seeing a surge in cases but even though numbers are up they are also trending downwards."

Commissioners agreed that the new report was beneficial and successful and that now it was time to get the information out to the public. "Those reports were very extensive, and I think it needs to be something that we get out to the general public. I studied the report

pretty well and I think we need to run it for longer if that works for you," stated Commissioner Chairman Gene Glover.

Dr. Bankole agreed that the report should probably be a weekly report that is generated and then placed on the county's website for the public to access. He also stated that though the report was generated during a surge, he was hopeful that a lot of the cases are starting to dissipate.

Commissioners requested that Dr. Bankole continue to generate the report and send it out daily to the commissioners, other public health agencies and to post a weekly report on the county's website but to also include locations of outbreaks as far as generalized regions like southwest or northwest in order to remain within HIPPA guidelines. For more information or to view the coming report, please visit www.riograndecounty.org under the public health tab at the top of the page.

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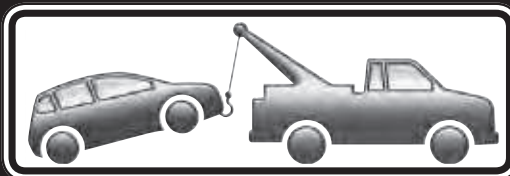
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Senior CONNECTIONS

Questions older drivers can ask themselves to see if it's safe to drive

Men and women know that adjustments must be made as they get older. Athletes nearing their golden years may not be able to push themselves as hard at the gym as they once did. Professionals nearing retirement age might not be able to pull long hours at the office like they used to.

But aging affects more than just work and play. As men and women age, their ability to perform everyday tasks, including driving, may diminish as well.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration notes that, as people age, certain changes they experience can affect their ability to safely operate an automobile. Changes in eyesight, physical fitness and reflexes may require aging drivers to reassess their skills behind the wheel. The NHTSA notes that drivers can ask themselves the following questions as they try to assess their driving abilities.

How is my eyesight?

The American Optometric Association notes that vision changes naturally occur as a person ages. Such changes do not necessarily

mean drivers have to give up the keys to their vehicles. In fact, they may just require more routine eye examinations. The NHTSA says having trouble reading signs easily, recognizing someone from across the street, seeing streets signs and pedestrians, and handling headlight glare are common signs of age-related eye problems.

Can I control my vehicle?

Age-related loss of strength, coordination and flexibility can make it hard for aging men and women to control their vehicles. Some signs that drivers might be having trouble controlling their vehicles include trouble looking over shoulders to change lanes, difficulty moving foot from the gas pedal to the brake pedal and difficulty turning the steering wheel. Pain in the knees, legs or ankles also can make it difficult for drivers to control their vehicles.

Does driving make me nervous, scared or overwhelmed?

Drivers who feel confused by traffic signs and traffic (including pedestrian traffic) should stop driving until they can discuss the issue

with their physicians. Medication can sometimes make drivers feel sleepy or confused, and some aging drivers even find themselves overwhelmed in otherwise normal driving situations.

Are my loved ones concerned about my driving?

Aging drivers may feel offended when family members question their ability to drive. However, the NHTSA notes that sometimes other people notice things about a person's driving that the person does not. The concern expressed by loved ones should not be taken lightly.

Do I drive with passengers?

Drivers who routinely drive with passengers, especially young children, carry extra responsibility. As a result, such drivers owe it to themselves and their passengers to honestly assess their driving abilities.

Various remedies can address age-related driving issues, and drivers should discuss them with their doctors the moment they feel as though their skills behind the wheel are starting to diminish.



Tips for dementia caregivers

Caregivers play vital roles in the lives of the people they look after. That's especially true for people caring for dementia patients, many of whom require round-the-clock help every day. A caregiver's role is never easy, but the demands have been even greater during the global COVID-19 pandemic. Despite social distancing guidelines and recommendations to reduce interactions with those vulnerable to COVID-19, including the elderly, dementia caregivers must continue to help patients in need.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that older adults are at the highest risk of severe illness from COVID-19. That puts dementia caregivers in difficult positions, as data from the World Health Organization indicates that age is the strongest known risk factor for dementia. The Alzheimer's Association urges dementia caregivers to follow guidelines established by the CDC as they continue to provide care for dementia patients.

• Wear face masks or cloth coverings. Face masks or cloth coverings should be worn when tending to dementia patients. This includes when preparing meals for dementia patients or cleaning

their homes. The CDC urges caregivers to wear personal protective equipment when providing personal or medical services to people with dementia, including when helping them bathe.

• Arrange for a substitute caregiver if you are ill or exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19. Caregivers should have a backup caregiver lined up in case they feel ill or if they are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 or if they have been exposed to anyone with the virus. The CDC notes that symptoms of COVID-19 include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, and muscle or body aches. A full list of COVID-19 symptoms can be found at www.cdc.gov.

• Wash your hands frequently. Frequent handwashing can help dementia caregivers keep their patients safe. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds upon arriving at your patient's home, and continue to wash your hands frequently throughout the day. If visitors arrive, insist they follow the same handwashing routine. If you cough or sneeze during the day, wash your hands immediately, and always wash hands before preparing meals.

• Look for virtual programs that

encourage social engagement. Virtual gatherings have become the new normal as people try to maintain connections with family and friends while respecting social distancing guidelines. The Alzheimer's Association urges dementia caregivers to consider programs that offer virtual activities that encourage dementia patients to engage socially. Such engagement can lift patients' spirits and remaining socially active supports brain health.

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Rio Grande County Commissioners rescind emergency plan

People voice concerns with document in place since 2017

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Rio Grande County Commissioners met on Wednesday, Oct. 13, for their regular monthly meeting and were greeted by several members of the public who voiced their opposition to an emergency operations document that was created and signed in 2017 by a previous board.

The Rio Grande County Civil Emergency, Emergency, or Local Disaster Regulations, was enacted and approved based on the suggestion from Homeland Security but in light of recent events, it was brought to the attention of the public that one section of the document possibly violated constitutional rights.

According to the document, the purpose was to provide basic governmental functions of maintaining public peace, health, and safety before, during and after an emergency or disaster.

“Including mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery as contemplated by the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act of 1992, (Part 21 of Article 32, Title 24, Colorado Revised Statutes, 1996 as amended),” the document states.

Though it is Colorado law to have this type of document in place in case of emergencies there were several regulations in the document that concerned the public. Case in point, Section E of the document states that the Board of County Commissioners has the authority to “issue an order for controlling, restricting, allocating or regulating the use, sale, production or distribution of food, water, clothing and other commodities, materials, goods, services and resources.”

It also states that an order can be made to “suspend or limit the sale, distribution, dispensing, or transportation of alcoholic

beverages, firearms, explosives and/or combustible products and requiring the closing of those businesses or parts of businesses insofar as the sale, distribution, dispensing or transportation of these items is concerned.”

Many people at the meeting said that this authority violated second amendment rights and basic human rights.

The following portion of the document though was the main reason many were in attendance for the meeting.

It states, “During the period of a declared civil emergency, emergency, or local disaster, a county employee or authorized agent may enter onto or upon private property if the employee or authorized agent has reasonable grounds to believe that there is a true emergency and an immediate need for assistance for the protection of life or property, and that entering onto the private land will allow the person to take such steps to alleviate or minimize the emergency or disaster or to prevent or minimize danger to lives or property from the declared civil emergency, emergency, or local disaster.”

Those in attendance spoke about their rights and how the document could be a gross over-reach of power if mishandled by unlawful people. One resident of Rio Grande County compared what was contained in the document to the mistreatment of seniors in senior centers and nursing homes stating that documents such as this could be misinterpreted “all in the name of safety.”

Commissioner Chairman Gene Glover and Commissioner Scott Deacon were both ready to rescind the document though Commissioner John Noffske said that another document should be created prior to rescinding the current one so that the county would not be left without an emergency regulation guideline. The board voted to rescind the document with a 2-1 vote.

The action in Rio Grande County came on the heels of the Saguache County Board of Commissioners doing the same with their emergency operations plan after people voiced their concerns, calling it an overreach.

Supply chain issues impact local businesses

By **MECHEL MEEK**

CENTER — Supply chain issues have been the focus of national news, and these issues are also impacting many small businesses throughout the San Luis Valley.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s Small Business Pulse Survey, which measures small business disruptions, “The survey shows that 38.8% of U.S. small business respondents reported domestic supplier delays in the most recent and final week.”

These businesses are from across the spectrum, including retail, construction, manufacturing and foodservice. Some businesses owners reported being unable to purchase needed supplies to fill their shelves or fulfill customer orders and this has led to a corresponding lack of revenue at a time when they need the income the most.

One small business owner in Saguache County said, “I am not able to get the things I need to create my products, like I can order jars

but not the lids that fit them. I am so frustrated, and I have no way to find what I need and so my customers have to go without which leaves me with less sales.”

This business owner was not the only one to remark that supply chain issues have impacted their ability to keep their stores stocked. Many of the larger business and government entities have also been impacted by these issues. Many grocery stores have empty shelves, and consumers are forced to go without some of the usual products that they would buy.

Another example has been the various Road and Bridge departments throughout the Valley. Oil that is used to seal the streets has been difficult to obtain. It is unclear the exact reason for the issues with the U.S. supply chain, although many think that it is a “perfect storm” from a combination of problems including worker shortages, an increase in demand for goods, shipping delays and COVID delays in manufacturing.

HVCC theme of week was ‘Decision Making’

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Hello, community members. How are we more than halfway through October? Time is flying by.

This past week the kiddos have been busy with sports and after-school activities. The theme for our activities was, “Decision Making.” The HVCC staff wanted to instill in the kiddos the importance of decision-making and how our decisions shape our experiences.

For example, in our “Found Fashion” activity, the kids had the opportunity to design and make their own clothes out of materials on hand. This exercise prompts the kiddos to consider how they choose the clothes they wear and what those choices say about themselves. Also, clothes are difficult to make.

The girls basketball season is still going strong. We are proud of both the Black and Orange Del Norte girls teams. There are still three weeks left of games followed by

an end-of-season tournament from Nov. 15-20. Game schedules for each team are available to view or download on the HVCC website, TheHVCC.org.

Registration for 3rd-4th and 5th-6th boys and K-2 co-ed basketball teams are currently available online under the “Sports” heading. The registration deadline is Nov. 15.

Please note that you will also need to register through HVCC, if you have not already done so. The online registration form is available on our website under the “Register” heading. You are welcome to call the front desk at 719-657-2172 with any questions.

HVCC is open Tuesday-Thursday from 4-6:30 p.m., and Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. There are no fees to participate in HVCC activities or sports, but we do accept donations. Children are



welcome to join us as little or as much as they’d like, but obviously, we would love to see them every day. Parents and guardians, if you are curious to see what your child does during activity time, please stop by.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns we are only a visit or a phone call away. Contact us at 719-657-2172 or email us at HVCC@thehvcc.org. Enjoy your week.



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PARK Continued from Page 1

Hunter Stevens, the Community Build Manager for Kaboom, also spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“This process started in October when Jaime submitted the application and three months ago we actually got the ball rolling, met with the kids in the community, asked them to draw their dream play space, and we met with the adults thereafter, and said this is what the kids want, this is what we can offer as an organization, let’s meet in the middle and figure out how we can deliver on these kids’ dream play space,” Stevens said. “It’s been a great project. I wanted to take the opportunity from myself and Kaboom to thank the town of Monte Vista. You all have been great partners. We also want to thank all of the volunteer community members involved and the Colorado Department of Health.”

Sanchez Park was named after Joe D. Sanchez. Sanchez served as a past City Council member of Monte Vista and a former Mayor of Monte Vista. Sanchez was a prominent San Luis Valley contractor and owned J.D. Sanchez Construction Company in Monte Vista.

His son, Greg Sanchez, made the trip from New York and attended the ceremony at the park. He was given the honor of cutting the ribbon.

“It was an honor and I thank the community for keeping up with the park,” Greg Sanchez said.

The playground was constructed Oct. 18-21. Volunteers from the community aided in the build along with community businesses.

For more information, visit the City of Monte Vista’s Recreations Facebook page.



Photos by Marie Mccolm





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This home sits on a very large lot that equals almost 1 acre! Lots of potential for this home to be just as you love it with some TLC. Large living room with a fireplace and big windows with lots of light! Two bedrooms with a 3rd room that was a bedroom at one time and could be turned back into a bedroom or used as an office area. Storage room with lots of space. \$158,500 MLS#788147

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How to pray the rosary

Religious milestones can be fun and memorable and are commonly celebrated with family and friends. Children typically receive gifts upon fulfilling the sacraments, such as First Holy Communion or the sacrament of confirmation.

Rosaries are popular religious gifts, and some churches or religious education departments give rosaries as part of their own commemorations of these significant events.

Devout Christians may amass quite a collection of rosaries — from simple plastic rosaries to more ornate gem-enhanced alternatives — and never really put them to use. But reciting the rosary is an important way for Christians to express their faith, and families can make such expressions by reciting the rosary together.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops says the rosary is a scripture-based prayer that begins with the “Apostles’ Creed,” continues with the “Our Father,” and then the “Hail Mary.” “Glory Be” is prayed at the end. The first prayer summarizes the great mysteries of the Catholic faith. Praying the “Our Father” introduces each mystery from the Biblical Gospels. Finally, the “Hail Mary” announces the birth of Christ.

In addition to the prayers, saying the rosary includes announcing the Divine Mysteries of Contemplation. These include the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous mysteries. There are five mysteries for each category. These mysteries are usually prayed on particular days of the week.

When getting started, you may not be familiar with the rosary. But with practice, you soon will have the repetition of prayers set to memory.

To begin, hold the rosary in your hand at the crucifix. Make the Sign of the Cross and start with the “Apostles’ Creed.”



- At the first bead say the “Our Father.”
- The next three beads are where you recite the “Hail Mary.”
- At this point on the chain, pray the “Glory Be.”
- On the next bead announce the mystery; then say the “Our Father.”
- Pray the “Hail Mary” for the next 10 consecutive beads, while also meditating on the recited mystery.

At this point in chain, pray the “Glory Be” again.

After that prayer is complete, then recite “Hail, Holy Queen.”

The 10 “Hail Marys” that follow the announcing of each mystery are called a decade. There are five decades that make up a Chaplet of the Rosary. You can choose to pray the five decades (including announcing all of the mysteries) in one sitting or do so on different days.

Reciting the rosary is intended to lead the faithful into calm, restorative and contemplative prayer. It can be an ideal way to remove stress and fully immerse oneself in faith while growing a stronger connection with God.

Celebrate with religious sights and sounds

In many ways, secular celebrations garner more attention than religious gatherings during the holiday season. But all it takes is a little digging to find religious services to fill our calendars come the month of December.

Midnight Mass

Many Christian churches commemorate Jesus Christ’s birth with a special midnight Mass on December 24th. Some Christians wait until the clock strikes midnight to place baby Jesus figurines into their Nativity scenes at home. Midnight Mass may bring entire communities together to share the holiday season message of joy and peace. Midnight Mass also may feature awe-inspiring performances by church choirs or private performers who lend their talents to the festivities.

Living Nativity

Area houses of worship and community centers may produce their own Living Nativity performances. Costumed volunteers and actors present the story of Christ’s birth and the good news that followed. This can be an especially exciting experience for children and may also be a creative way to reinforce religious beliefs, especially to children who may have difficulty otherwise relating to written text.

Christmas pageants

In some areas, children play integral roles in recreating the story of Christmas. Private Catholic schools may offer performances of Christmas pageants that explain the Nativity and other events leading up to the birth of Christ. Parents and extended members of the family can enjoy a religious experience while also sharing praise for their youngest performers.

Volunteer efforts

Houses of worship may organize clothing drives, holiday meals, toy donation collections, and many other community events this time of year. Volunteer to lend a hand at such events, which can help to remind you that the holiday season is one of giving.

Community candle lighting

Jewish celebrants may participate in a community-sponsored hanukkiyah (Chanukah menorah) lighting ceremony. Although candles or oil is



Courtesy photo

Nativity scenes are popular in time for Christmas. Some may be filled with statuettes, but some communities sponsor a live Nativity show.

traditionally burned for Chanukah, many public places use an electric system for safety and convenience. The lighting has a schedule based on tradition and ritual. A Chanukah candle lighting service can bring the religious experience alive for many involved.

Caroling

Christmas caroling, which likely evolved from the British tradition of wassailing, has largely fallen out of favor. However, many close-knit towns and communities still include caroling among their traditions. Caroling can be a great way to spread holiday share cheer. Although carols are often a blend of religious and secular tunes, many people find their faith is revitalized by joining their friends and neighbors to carol during the holiday season.

Print your listings in the Summer on the Rio Grande 2022 Church Directory!

Let Faith Be Your Guide

Walking by Faith

These area houses of worship invite you to join them. It could be the start of a beautiful relationship.

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 Sunday Worship 10:15a.m.
 1861 County Road 10 S, Alamosa
 (719)589-3493
 www.alamosacrc.org

Calvary Baptist Church
 Southern Baptist
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
 Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
 2160 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista
 (719)852-5090

Call today to find out how!

Int...
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 Dal...
 Site Tour...
 3000 East...
 www...

Valley Publishing

719-852-3531
 Sandra Marquez
 smarquez@valleypublishinginc.com
 Brian Williams
 bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com

An abundant life, full of joy and hope! Who doesn't want that?!

Ever since I found out that Jesus Christ is the source of that kind of life, I have enjoyed a growing peace, confidence and fulfillment with Him. And at New Hope Community Church in South Fork, the goal of everything we do is to encourage people to know and trust God so they also can enjoy Him, not only in daily life, but for eternity.

The great thing about this whole arrangement is that you don't have to be perfect to participate! New Hope Church is a group of imperfect people loving our perfect God. We realize, living in this world, there are temptations of every kind surrounding us, and that sadly, too often we give in. This is why Jesus Christ gave His life, His blood, for us over 2000 years ago. He knew we needed to be saved from ourselves. He loves us so much.

We believe the Bible is the complete true and living word of God. This is what you will hear in the Sunday School Classes for children, youth and adults, the nursery, in Children's Church, and in relevant sermons, as well as in the various mid-week studies of the Bible, even in the music. Seeking to honor and please our Creator is our focus. We know that this current generation coming behind us faces tough decisions almost every day, and we are eager to compassionately help them navigate through, using the strength God offers His children.

Come worship with us! We only have one expectation of people when they come through our doors:

Come as you are.

Your friend, John Jayne
Pastor, New Hope Church



Weekly Schedule

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
10 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery Provided)
Kids dismissed after music for Children's Church
Also on FB Live

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Soup
6:30 p.m. Bible Study
Followed by pickle ball in the gym

Last Saturday of the Month

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Family Fun Nights

Check Website Calendar for Schedule



"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" John 10:10



25258 US Hwy 160 in South Fork, CO 81154
719-873-1202 www.newhopesf.com
Check our Website for Calendar of Events,
Statement of Faith, or Listen to Available Sermons
The church on the hill

Creede Baptist Church



Creede Baptist Church is located in the historic mining town of Creede. It is nestled between South Fork to the east and Lake City to the west on Highway 149. If you are ever in Creede, we would love to have you stop in and worship with us.

Reflecting God's love, one verse at a time, by preaching and teaching the gospel, winning the lost, promoting spiritual growth, encouraging Christian fellowship and effective outreach in order to bring honor and glory to our Lord Jesus Christ. In short, we want to invite you to join us as we

Love God, Love People, Serve the World.

Sunday Worship Schedule:

9:30 a.m. Welcome time in the Fellowship Hall
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School-We offer classes for children, youth, younger adults and older adults
 11 a.m. Nursery, Children's Church and Worship Service

Wednesday Evening:

6 p.m. Bring and Share Pot Luck Dinner
 7 p.m. Children/Youth Group Adult Bible Study

Sunday Evening:

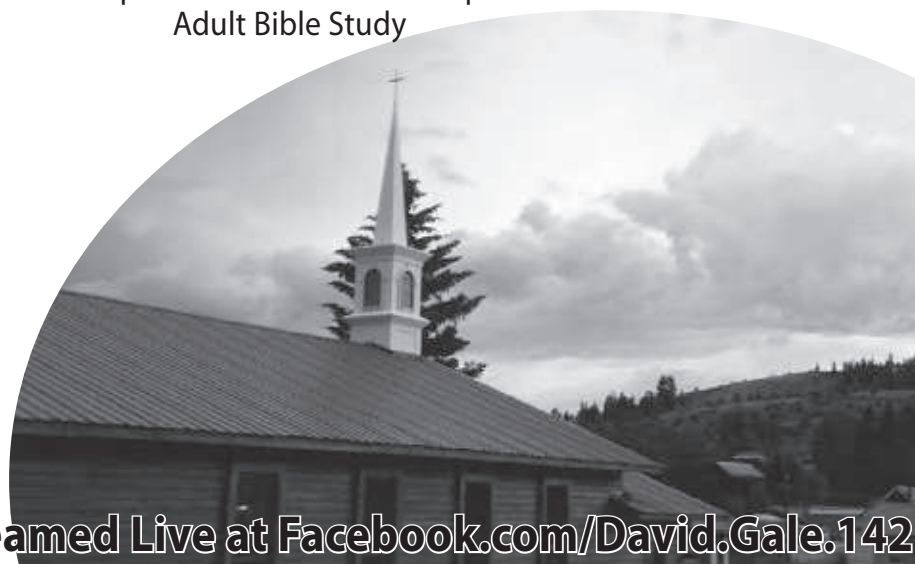
6 p.m. Bible Study

If you would like to know more about us, please visit our website at www.creedebaptistchurch.org or contact us at

**P.O. Box 151 Creede, Co 81130
 719.658.2312**

**Email: info@credebaptistchurch.org
 Pastor David Gale • davidgale99@yahoo.com**

Sunday Worship and Wednesday Bible Study streamed Live at [Facebook.com/David.Gale.142](https://www.facebook.com/David.Gale.142)



Monte Vista United Methodist Church



**215 Washington Street
 Monte Vista, CO 81144
 (719) 852-2853
montevistaandbowenumc@gmail.com**

11:00 AM Sunday Service
 MVUMC Sunday Services are being held at the church (face masks and physical distancing are required) and broadcast via Zoom video conferencing. To join worship online go to www.gettogetheronline.org.



“Open Minds, Open Hearts, and Open Doors”

Mission Statement: “To be a compassionate community reaching out with open hearts to all, and supporting each person's journey with God.”

We are a Missional Ministry Church and welcome all to worship with us.

United Methodists affirm the historic Christian faith as Summarized in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.

We Believe in the Triune God, the Trinity — Father, Son and Holy Spirit;

We Believe every person is a beloved child of God;

We Believe in the church as the community called to be instruments of God's presence and coming reign in Jesus Christ;

We Believe the Bible reveals the Word of God;

We Believe in the final triumph of God's reign of compassion, justice, generosity, and peace.

The church has been an architectural and cultural landmark in the Monte Vista community since its construction in 1922.



The Feed Store Church

4900 East County Road 2 South • Monte Vista

Building Families & Strengthening Our Communities Through Jesus Christ

Vision

To help each person that comes through the doors grow in their relationship with the Lord Jesus. To see people saved, healed, disciplined, equipped and empowered through the Word of God. Our Church is much more than a service on the weekend. We want it to be about connecting with other people, growing in our faith and building a strong foundation for our families based on God's Word and Presence.

Sunday services 10 a.m.

Wednesday nights 7 p.m.

Children's and youth ministries are available at all service times.

**You can join us live online as well for all service times at
www.thefeedstorechurch.com**

Man to Man Men's Ministry 2nd & 4th Tuesday mornings 6 a.m.

Conquer Connect Women's Ministry 1st Saturday of the month 10 a.m.

Mom's Connect (Mom's of children from infant to high school. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 6-8 p.m. Childcare provided.



**For more
information**

www.thefeedstorechurch.com

or 719-852-2361

morgan
MINISTRIES



Calvary Bible Chapel of Alamosa

The Calvary Bible Chapel is an independent body of believers founded in 1973 in Mosca, CO, later moving to Alamosa. We now are located in a beautiful hexagonal building at 7160 Brush Lane in East Alamosa. We believe in the Holy Spirit inspired Word of God. We believe in the virgin birth of our Jesus; the death, burial and bodily resurrection of Him, the Messiah, beholding the Lord Jesus Christ as fully God and fully man. Since every human is fallen, sinful and lost, the gift of salvation is offered, by faith in the person, Jesus Christ, as our only hope of the future in a literal heaven, possessing eternal life. We practice immersion baptism as an outward sign of an inward change. And our earthly mission is given in Mark 16:15..."Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."

Sunday Services

10:30 a.m. Breaking of Bread
11:30 a.m. Sunday School
/ Preaching Time

Mid-week prayer time

Weekly small group Bible studies

Neighborhood outreach

**Calvary Bible
Chapel of Alamosa**

7160 Brush Lane

Alamosa

719-588-4280

719-588-5011



"You will find Calvary Bible Chapel to be a very warm, welcoming and supportive Church body. Won't you join us this Sunday morning?"

Center & Saguache United Methodist Churches

Center United Methodist has fellowship at 8:30 am and worship at 9 am which is in person, Zoom, Facebook Live, YouTube. Our website is www.umcofcenter.com for more information.

Weekly we have yoga at 9:30 am on Fridays

Soulful Sweets and Sips Coffeeshop Monday-Friday 2-5 pm

Teen Nights Friday nights 7-10 pm

First Thursday of every month Cookin' with Your Neighbor 5:30 pm

Third Thursday of every month Movie Night 6 pm.

Saguache United Methodist has fellowship at 10:30 am and worship at 11 am followed by a lite lunch and fellowship after church. Due to COVID we've had to postpone our regular community dinners the second Thursday of every month.

Advent devotions will be on both Center and Saguache United Methodist Churches Facebook live at noon each day of advent beginning November 28th.

Blue Christmas service will be at Center United Methodist, December 21, 2021 at 6 pm

Candlelight Christmas Eve service at Center United Methodist will be at 7 pm

Candlelight Christmas Eve service at Saguache United Methodist will be at 5 pm.

We hope you'll join us.

Shumei International Institute

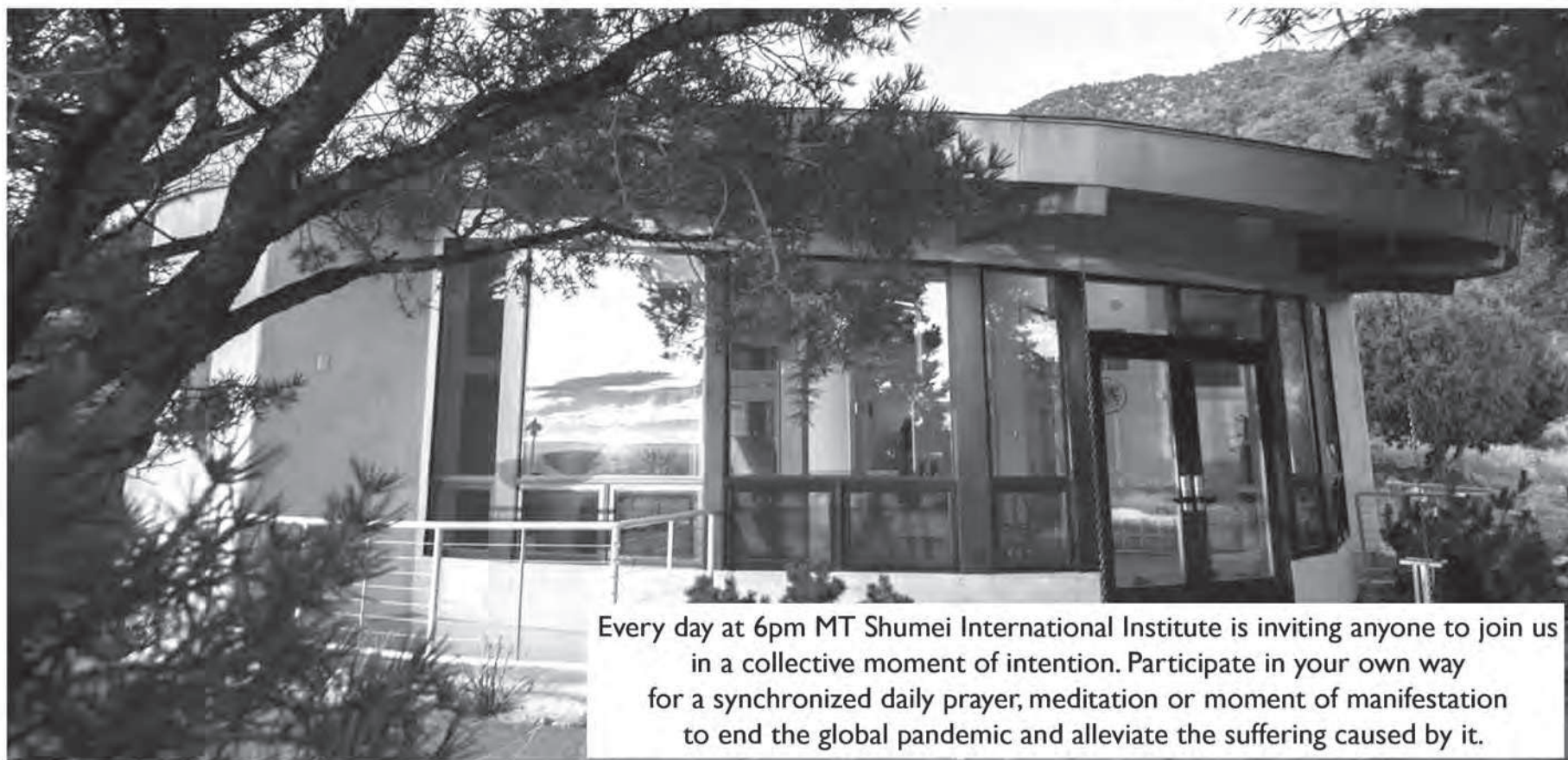
Sharing Natural Agriculture, Art, Beauty and Healing Jyorei

with the World...

Our Monthly Sampai (typically the 2nd Sunday of the month) is now available virtually! Please visit www.shumeicrestone.org to RSVP

Regular Jyorei classes are available virtually as well, visit our website for a schedule and to RSVP

The purpose of sampai and jyorei is to generate spiritual light, purification, healing and spiritual transformation.



Every day at 6pm MT Shumei International Institute is inviting anyone to join us in a collective moment of intention. Participate in your own way for a synchronized daily prayer, meditation or moment of manifestation to end the global pandemic and alleviate the suffering caused by it.

Shumei is a spiritual group - whatever your beliefs and path, all are always welcome

To sign up to our event email list visit www.shumeicrestone.org and select the Contact page

Shumei International Institute - PO Box 998, Crestone, CO 81131 - 719-256-5284

We are excited about what God is doing in our church and community. At Gateway, our mission is to know Christ and to make Him Known. Gateway Church is a gathering of believers that meet to glorify God. We are defined by God's command to put Him first and love each other as we would love ourselves. Many call Gateway their church home because of this. If you are looking for a Bible believing Church that values living out their faith, then we encourage you to consider joining us. You can check us out at www.churchatgateway.com

(Matthew 28:16-20; Matthew 22:37-40)

WELCOME TO GATEWAY CHURCH Come worship with us.

Church Services:

Sunday School/Small Group 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Family Night: Bible Study, Team Kids
(Children's ministry) Student ministry 6:30-7:30p.m.

www.churchatgateway.com • 719-657-3681 • 975 Grande Ave. • Del Norte, Co 81132

SBC Affiliated





SACRED HEART CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT: Sacred Heart Parish is a family blessed by God with His different faces expressed in our diverse cultures. We respond to give of our time, talents and treasures in return for blessings received from God. We continue to celebrate these blessings through our liturgy, social activities, faith formation and the response to our brothers and sisters in need.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 am—4:00 pm (Lunch 12:30 pm-1:30 pm) & Friday 9:00 am—12:00 pm. Closed Friday afternoon, Saturday & Sunday

Daily Mass Schedule: Church —Tuesday, 5:15 pm, Wednesday, 12:00 pm, Thursday & Friday 8:00 am

Weekend Mass Schedule: Church—Saturday, 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm (Spanish), Sunday, 8:00 am, 10:30 am and 5:00 p.m (Youth Mass)

Confession (Reconciliation): Saturday 3:30 pm—4:45 pm or by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday, 12:30 pm—3:00 pm

Masses Live Streamed at www.sacredheartalamosa.org

Find recorded Liturgies on Youtube and Facebook @Sacred Heart Alamosa