

## Shorts

### Del Norte Food Bank distribution Oct. 23

**DEL NORTE** — The Del Norte Food Bank will hold its October distribution on Saturday, Oct. 23, from 9-11 a.m. The Del Norte Food Bank serves residents of the Del Norte and South Fork areas. Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome.

### Commodities distribution in MV on Oct. 27

**MONTE VISTA** — Commodities will be distributed at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 27, at the Church of the Nazarene gym in Monte Vista by the Chapel of South Fork. You must be a resident of Rio Grande County and meet household income guidelines.

### Bahai Faith invites public to Zoom meeting

Curious about who believes in one god, one humanity? Reach out to BahaiFaithFriends@gmail.com for a link to a Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Zoom meet-greet-discussion. All welcome.

### Monte Vista gun show set for Oct. 22-24

**MONTE VISTA** — The Monte Vista Rotary Outdoor and Gun Show will be held on Oct. 22-24 at Ski Hi in Monte Vista. Times are Friday, 4-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

If you're a gun owner or enthusiast, there is something for everyone at this gun show.

There will be guns: handguns, rifles and even some collectible guns.

There will be gun accessories: sites, ammo, concealed carry pouches and purses and maybe even jewelry and shirts.

All federal, state and local firearm ordinances and laws must be obeyed.

One hundred percent of the profits will go back to the community. For more information, see MonteVistaGunShow.com.



## Garcia, accused of killing Jones, heads to trial

*He was charged with first- and second-degree murder*

**BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER**  
**MONTE VISTA** — At the end of a preliminary hearing that lasted most of the day, Judge Martin Gonzales

ruled on Friday, Oct. 15, that the prosecution presented sufficient evidence to charge Monte Vista resident Jimmy Garcia in the 2014 death of Jacque Jones, effectively putting the case on the road to trial.

Garcia, 43, is facing three felony counts related to the alleged crime, including murder in the first degree — indicating the murder was done with

premeditation, murder in the second degree — indicating he knowingly caused her death, and tampering with evidence for the purpose of impeding further potential investigations by the authorities.

Much of the prosecution's case, presented by 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial Deputy District Attorney Alex Raines, relied on the investigative work and

testimony of Monte Vista Police Department Sgt. Michael Martinez.

In the early morning of March 26, 2014, officers with MVPD were dispatched to Garcia's residence in the 400 block of Madison where they found Jones, 23, unconscious and unresponsive. After efforts to resuscitate her failed, she was

*Please see TRIAL on Page 2A*

## Climber's body found on Kit Carson Peak

**SAGUACHE**—A combined agency search team located the body of Madeline Baharlou-Quivey in Class 5 terrain on Kit Carson Peak on Wednesday, according to a Facebook post by Saguache County Search and Rescue.

Saguache County Sheriff's Office received a call on Monday for a climber who was off route and cliffed-out below the standard route on Kit Carson Peak. The reporting party received a text message that the subject needed assistance from search and rescue, and said that the climber was experienced and had summited other 14ers and was well equipped with winter clothing, a bivy sack and a good supply of food and water.

GPS coordinates were obtained from *Please see BODY on Page 7A*

*A photo from the scene as shared by Saguache County Search and Rescue.*



## Center High School celebrates Homecoming Week

*Game-day walk for football team is Friday at 5 p.m.*

**BY MECHEL MEEK**

**CENTER** — The Center High School Vikings began Homecoming Week. With an entire week of activities including costume day and a parade.

On Friday, Oct. 22, starting at 5 p.m., the Vikings

football team will have their game-day walk from the school to the football field.

"The walk is following the traditions of many schools in which fans will line up along the route to the stadium to support their team and offer encouragement. The Center Police will be helping by blocking the roads along the walk (Sylvester and Washington). This is a special moment for our

student-athletes so please come to the event and bring others to support them," stated CPD Chief Dale Meek.

The Vikings will be hosting Monte Vista for their homecoming game starting at 7 p.m. and the Homecoming King and Queen will be announced at halftime.

On Saturday, there will be a Homecoming volleyball game versus South Park at 11 a.m. and the Homecoming Dance will be held that evening from 7-11 p.m.



## DCI continues work with Town of Center

**BY MECHEL MEEK**

**CENTER** — Downtown Colorado Inc. (DCI) announced on Oct. 14 that the Town of Center was selected for a preliminary master planning and anti-displacement policy and code technical advisory team.

According to DCI, "The master planning effort has resulted from a partnership of the American Planning Association Urban Design and Historic Preservation Committee working with Downtown Colorado, Inc. to conduct the First Design and Preservation Rapid Assistance Team (D-PRAT) focused on creating an informed vision for the community in both redevelopment and new development opportunities. The visionary leadership of the Town of Center purchased the Consul Property, and would like to use this land to expand commercial, industrial, housing, workforce development, and healthy living initiatives in the San Luis Valley. Specifically, Center hopes to use 90 Acres to address critical needs for housing and technical capacity throughout the San Luis

*Please see DCI on Page 2A*

The Town of Center purchased the Consul Property.

Photo by Mechel Meek



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# CELEBRATION OF LIFE

## Darrel Asay

A Celebration of Life for Darrel Asay, who passed away in July of 2021, is planned for noon on Oct. 30, 2021, inside Drummond Hall at the United Methodist Church of Center. A light lunch will be available. Dress is business casual to casual. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a charity of your choice. Interment will be a private ceremony at the San Luis Valley Cemetery.

# TRIAL

Continued from Page 1A

pronounced deceased at the scene. At that time, Garcia claimed that when she found Jones, she had committed suicide by hanging herself with an electrical cord looped over the closet door.

In a series of three different, subsequent determinations by three different coroners from two counties, the cause of Jones' death was first ruled as "unknown," then changed to "suicide" then back to "unknown." Officers who were originally on the scene continued to have suspicions about how Jones died and, for a period of time, continued an intensive investigation. But, as years passed, the case eventually grew "cold."

In 2018, Martinez, who had recently been hired by MVPD, was directed by then-Monte Vista Police Chief John Rosecrans to reopen the case.

Over the next two years, Officer Martinez conducted a painstaking review of evidence that had been collected by MVPD and CBI, including numerous files; police reports; medical reports; transcripts and DVDs of interviews conducted with the defendant, his associates, witnesses and other sources of information; footage from a camera at Garcia's residence; text messages between Garcia, Jones and others; Jones' journals and treatment notes from a counsellor when Jones was in rehab receiving treatment.

As part of his investigation, Martinez also re-interviewed MVPD officers originally on the scene or who investigated the case as well as sources of information who had previously been questioned after Jones' death.

"I was putting together pieces of a puzzle," Martinez said under cross-examination by defense counsel in court.

Although DDA Raines has extensive experience as defense counsel in 12th Judicial court, this is presumed to be his first appearance in court as a prosecutor for the state under the current DA administration, questioning a witness in a high profile, major felony case.

Sgt. Martinez's extensive and thorough familiarity with the case made the experience flow smoothly with Raines just walking him through the findings of his own investigation.

Guided by Raines' questioning, several key factors emerged in the case that the prosecution pointed to

as evidence that Jones' death was caused by someone other than herself.

Martinez testified that, according to reports he reviewed, the electrical cord allegedly used by Jones to hang herself, did not show signs of damage consistent with being used to hang someone who weighed approximately 150 pounds, as Jones did.

Upon being questioned several years later, Garcia's associate who had provided him with an alibi the night of Jones' death gave information contradictory to what he had told authorities before.

The fluids present on Jones' clothing that were released upon her death were not consistent with hanging herself. The security camera that was installed at Garcia's residence that showed who was coming and going from the house was "disconnected" in the hours immediately preceding Jones' death.

When Garcia was questioned by MVPD investigators, he was repeatedly unable to recreate how the electrical cord was positioned when he discovered Jones' body.

On cross examination, defense counsel, aided by defense attorney David Lipka, focused on Sgt. Martinez's testimony that relied, to a large degree, on investigations conducted by others instead of himself.

Counsel also brought out factors contained in Martinez's investigative report that were not revealed by the prosecution, but suggested Jones was struggling with depression and substance abuse that would give credence to her committing suicide.

At the conclusion of the preliminary hearing, Judge Gonzales reminded the court that a preliminary hearing was not a trial but was, instead, a gateway to screening out cases that did not meet the criteria to go to trial and simply had to present sufficient evidence to convince the court that a trial is needed.

With that said, Gonzales ruled for the prosecution, citing much of the same specifics that were contained in Martinez's testimony.

The next step in the judicial process is presumably the hearing where Garcia will enter a plea in the case. That is currently scheduled for Jan. 24, 2022.

It is not known if Lipka, who is currently counsel in another high-profile San Luis Valley case and had not appeared in this case prior to Friday, will continue to act as defense co-counsel for Garcia.

# Man dies in rollover crash on Oct. 17

## STAFF REPORT

**ALAMOSA COUNTY** — The Colorado State Patrol is investigating a single-vehicle fatal crash on Alamosa County Road 104 S.

At approximately 10:57 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 17, a 2012 Chevy Silverado pickup, driven by Corey

Albritton, 29, of Alamosa, was traveling northbound on Alamosa County Road 104 S.

The pickup traveled off the left side of the roadway and rolled multiple times into a field. The driver was ejected during the roll.

The driver was transported by

ambulance to the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center. The driver was later pronounced deceased, due to the injuries sustained in the crash.

The crash is still under investigation. Alcohol, speed, and no seatbelt usage were all contributing factors in the crash, according to CSP.

# SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Oct. 11 and Oct. 17, 2021.

The Sheriff's Department's activity on the road included one crash with property damage, one injury crash, and eight traffic stops. They also assisted ambulances five times, assisted a motorist once, patrolled the Town of Saguache nine times, and conducted four VIN

inspections.

In addition, there were four reports of suspicious activity, one report of threatening, three animal problem reports, one report of trespassing, two reports of theft, four alarm reports, and one property damage report.

They also responded to nine controlled burns, one fire (structure), two search and rescue calls, provided information 14 times, conducted one welfare check, and assisted

neighboring agencies once.

## ARRESTS

- 28-year-old Saguache woman, warrants Saguache.
- 19-year-old Center man, warrant Rio Grande County.
- 39-year-old Moffat woman, warrant Saguache County Sheriff's Office.
- 35-year-old Center man, warrant Pueblo County Sheriff's Office.
- 28-year-old Center man, warrant Saguache County Sheriff's Office.

# YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

## Andromeda Galaxy

The Andromeda Galaxy is autumn's greatest show piece! It is the largest galaxy of our local group of 30, and the single most distant object visible to the naked eye. Andromeda is 2.5 million light years from us, but the fact that it is visible unaided tells you how big it really is. The Milky Way is 100,000 light years across, and Andromeda is 150,000. So, it is a larger twin of our galaxy. In 2006 the Spitzer Space Telescope revealed that it has one trillion stars, more than twice what the Milky Way has.

This great spiral offers it all: a bright nucleus, dust zones, star clouds, globular clusters and eight satellite galaxies (four that are visible to us). Its name comes from the Andromeda constellation in which it appears. That was named after the mythological princess, Andromeda.

Andromeda Galaxy is visible on any clear moonless night from late summer to early spring. To find it, look for the "Great Square of Pegasus" that I wrote about last week. It is about

## DCI

Continued from Page 1A

Valley."

The new focus on anti-displacement policy has grown from DCI's work with the town for the Colorado Challenge Accelerator Program. The Town of Center and DCI are focusing on four objectives — Community Building, Reuse and Activate Spaces, Entrepreneurship, and 90 Acre Vision. Community Building focuses on increasing capacity through training, engagement and adding team members to the group.

Reuse and Activate Spaces focuses on encouraging investment and care of current public spaces and current buildings within Center.

halfway up in the eastern sky. The square looks like a large baseball diamond with a bright star at each corner. The two horizontal streamers flowing to the left of this star are part of the Andromeda constellation. There are three bright stars in each streamer. Find the middle star of each streamer and look slightly above them. The fuzzy patch of light you see is the Andromeda Galaxy! The upper "V" of Cassiopeia's "W" also points down to it.

This elongated smear of gray-green light stretches the diameter of two full moons. Only the bright central region is visible to the naked eye. With a telescope it is six times the width of the full moon, because you also see the spiral arms. Binoculars would show you something in between and make the oval shape more obvious. If you give your eyes at least 1/2 hour to adjust to the dark they will become more sensitive to faint light, and it will be easier to find. Our low humidity also helps. Remember, what you are seeing is how it looked 2.5 million years ago.



The Andromeda Galaxy is racing towards us. The Hubble Telescope showed that in 3-4 billion years it will collide with the Milky Way. The collision will take another 100 million years to complete. The stars are small and far apart, so they will not collide, but what will happen is that the galaxies will merge to form a much larger galaxy. The huge gas clouds will collide and form many new stars. Currently it takes our Sun 200 million years to complete one orbit around the Milky Way. Imagine how long it will take a star/sun to complete an orbit around this new giant galaxy!

The Orion Meteor Shower peaks tonight, but with the full moon, we will not be able to see most of them.

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Falling Back



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

It's fall again and we can now look forward to that brilliant idea of changing our clocks to lengthen the day.

Well, it's kind of like that. An old Indian once commented on daylight savings time by saying, "Only a white man can think that cutting a foot off the end of a blanket and sewing it on the other end will make the blanket longer." And isn't that the truth?

I have heard all kinds of explanations as to why we go through this every year like farmers needing an extra hour to work or kids being able to get on the school bus while it's light, but it still makes about as much sense as a screen door on an outhouse. No matter what, there are going to be flies.

But the fall season does bring about a plethora of activities like pumpkin carving and the ever-present little munchkins coming around on Halloween begging for candy they do not need. It's a fun time.

Last weekend, Miss Trixie and Ol' Dutch took the grandkids to their local Fall Fest. You know the routine. Good people with normally good common sense have been talked into buying booth space to show their wares and hopefully talk others out of their hard-earned dollars. All for things that will be sold at the next garage sale they have. Good stuff.

Of course, I have been to more than my share of these things with the crafty ex-wife as she was sure that she would find the next craft item or decoration that would finally make her happy. So, we were constantly in search of tented craftsmen to fill that void. I know what you are all thinking: being married to Ol' Dutch should be enough for any one woman, but she had a mental deficiency and just could not see how good she had it, I guess.

But regardless I have been to more craft fairs and markets than I could ever count. Now don't get me wrong. I do like to go and watch the people as that is a never-ending parade of crying kids, griping mothers, fighting couples and men carrying rocking chairs back to the car but the wares finally all begin to look the same to me and I get bored.

However, this past weekend I was in for quite the treat as this small town put on a show like nothing I have ever seen. Two city blocks of small pop-up tents filled both sides of the closed off street and there were enough kids to fill two or three good-sized elementary schools all vying for the things offered.

Every tent seemed to have some sort of game or easy win contest for kids and prizes of candy, balloons,

cotton candy, bracelets, balls and other neat things flowed out of there like the red sea coming together after Moses crossed over. It was a real flood of stuff.

Granddaughters Number 1 and Number 2 pulled Miss Trixie and me around for several hours playing every game and collected about three totes each of candy and other toys. Now that was a fair, folks.

I think the most represented business types there were the dental and orthodontist offices as every tooth inspector from miles around had a fancy tent and pretty, monogrammed-shirts girls staffing the booths.

They drew in kids like a moth to a lightbulb with their offerings of candy and Ol' Dutch thinks that really should be illegal. It's kind of like giving out cavities on Saturday just to get a new client on Monday morning. To their credit they did give out toothbrushes, but the kids passed them by and went straight for the candy bars and suckers. Those dentists were smiling like the proverbial Cheshire Cat just thinking about their 401k growing one sucker at a time.

It was a fun time actually and Cooper rode on my shoulder like a parrot and drew more than his share of attention from the adoring crowds, most of whom were young women who smiled and laughed and old ladies who smelled of Chanel #5. And that alone should bring back memories to you of your last sojourn out into the world of street fairs.

So, wherever you are, find street vendors get together and take old grumpy along and enjoy some apple cider and caramel apples if your teeth will allow that. If not, come to this fair as there were enough dentists there to fix all the tooth problems at a hillbilly convention.

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



## LETTER

### Opinions on upcoming election

Editor,  
It has been said that opinions are like armpits. Everybody got a couple and sometimes they stink. Here are my opinions regarding the 2021 election. Maybe you think they stink, but that's OK. If you think mine stinks, I probably think the same about yours.

Amendment 78: "Oversight of Custodial Monies Belongs at the Legislature." As much as I loathe adding amendments to our already overloaded Constitution, I believe this is a needed step. The happenings of last year can be instructive. Much, if not all of the money that came to our state from the federal government related to COVID was spent without legislative oversight. The governor and his crew spent it where they wanted. This Amendment provides for legislative oversight of those "custodial funds." Vote yes!

Prop. 119: "Raise Taxes on Marijuana to Help Education." Not even close! The Democrats continue their modus operandi of raising taxes. The problem with this one is that if you increase taxes on legitimate businesses, those businesses will find

a way to get around it, and those who operate illegitimately will be further encouraged to stay under the radar. On top of that, this is an admission that the public school system in Colorado is failing. This proposition will create yet another state agency staffed with unelected bureaucrats to spend the money. C'mon... "out-of-school learning"??? Why do we have state and federal Departments of Education and taxpayer funded government schools already in place? Vote no!

Prop. 120: "Lower Property Taxes". (...on some, but not all...) One of the problems with this proposition is that if it passes, how it eventually works out depends on the outcome of the challenge to Senate Bill 21-293. Plus, this proposition will give permanent permission to the state to keep and spend \$25 million in "excess revenue." This one has lots of potential for confusion and lots of \$\$\$ to be paid to the lawyers. Vote no!

Creede School District School Board. I know personally three of the candidates and am pleased that they decided to jump into the election

and into the hard work of being a member of the School Board. Jennifer Castleberry comes with an extensive background in education and a heart to see students succeed. Matthew Sliwowski brings a successful business background, managing people and making hard decisions to ensure success of the organization. Greg Pearson is a long-time and well-known member of the community, and with his knowledge and background he will certainly contribute much to fixing the problems. I met Leslie Leggett only recently, and she seems to have her heart in the right place. I wish I could have met her and known where she stands on the important issues. It is my sincere belief that if the right three are elected, they will work together with the incumbent directors to help put the Creede School back on track with the focus on education without external influences, and without the agenda of those intent on muddying the educational process with social experiments and other distractions. Vote Castleberry, Sliwowski and Pearson for Creede School District Board of Education.

*Tim Bachicha, Creede*

## 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). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be designated as such. Letters over 300 words and without contact information will be returned to the sender or discarded.

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.

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.

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# URGED hears presentation on forest management bill HR 4302

**By LYNDISIE FERRELL**  
**DELNORTE** — Upper Rio Grande Economic Development members met on Tuesday, Oct. 12, in Del Norte to hear a presentation on the proposed forest management bill HR 4302.

“With the state our forests are in, all you need is a match and things will get bad very quickly,” said Cathy Garcia, Southern Colorado Regional Director for U.S. Congresswoman Lauren Boebert (R-District 3), as she began her presentation on HR 4302. Some people believe the forests

surrounding the San Luis Valley are in dire need of management in some form or another to address the significant number of dead trees in the region. According to Garcia, US Congresswoman Boebert is trying to get bipartisan support for her proposed bill HR 4302. The Active Forest Management, Wildfire Prevention and Community Protection Act is being presented to the House for approval and will address some of the needs of communities like those that border the forests throughout the Valley.

According to Garcia, in 2005 wildfires released more than 125 million tons of carbon dioxide into the air throughout the U.S. and as the forests become more and more congested, wildfires grow more intense, burn hotter and increase damage to soil and watersheds.

“There have been fires that have burned so hot that they burned the soil to the point where nothing can grow without soil transplants or other forest management tactics,” she said.

The bill addresses some of the problem areas that have forced the forests to deteriorate including the mismanagement of insects, disease, the failure to treat high-risk areas and remove hazardous fuels in places like the Rio Grande National Forest in areas such as Creede, Lake City and Wolf Creek Pass.

“According to previous forest supervisors we have over 1 billion acres of land at risk including the areas between Lake City and Creede,” Garcia said.

“2020 was our worst fire season in the nation. There were 10.3 million acres burned and out of that three of the worst fires in recorded history were here in Colorado. The new bill would begin to look at how we can begin to manage our forests and utilize the timber without interfering with

funding from PILT or SRS funds,” added Garcia.

Garcia also said, “And this is not our Forest Service member’s fault. Their hands have been tied by frivolous lawsuits that are addressed in the new bill as well as rules and regulations prohibiting them from doing their jobs. It is something we need to look at and see about changing because as I said before, all it is going to take is a match.”

HR 4302 would require the Forest Service to harvest a minimum of 6 billion board feet per year and establish

the Western Bark Beetle Epidemic Fund to aid with costs associated with projects as well as focusing on areas within 500 feet of power lines to increase the possibility of forest fires. It also authorizes fuel reduction and health projects in high-risk areas.

“It also looks at forest stewardship programs and bioass in some degree. It is an important bill that has received support from both sides, and we plan to see it through approval,” Garcia said.

Garcia concluded by thanking the Upper Rio Grande Economic Development for its time and support.



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Southern Colorado Regional Director for U.S. Congresswoman Lauren Boebert, Cathy Garcia met with Upper Rio Grande Economic Development members on Tuesday, Oct. 12, to discuss the Congresswoman’s forest management bill, HR 4302.

## Hunters act quickly to contain fire from spreading

**STAFF REPORT**  
**SOUTH FORK** — The quick actions of hunters on Oct. 16 stopped a fire from spreading.

At approximately 10:15 a.m. on Oct. 16, a tiki fuel canister was found to be the cause of a small fire on a trail just off of FS 610, according to South Fire Rescue officials. It was located 20 feet from an established fire pit, that clearly had not been used in quite some time. Even in cooler temperatures, fires can still spread quickly through the duff and down timber litter.

Fortunately, three hunters saw the smoke from the fire, and decided to investigate. Using sticks and what little water they had, the hunters formed a perimeter around the fire, and contacted SFFR, who extinguished the remaining smoldering duff.

The actions of the hunters were instrumental in stopping what could have grown into a forest threatening situation, SFFR officials stated.

“This reckless act of arson is unacceptable, and shows complete lack of respect for our forests, and the other patrons that use it,” SFFR stated.

If anyone has information on the parties responsible for this fire, or witness careless actions being committed, contact South Fork Fire Rescue at 719-873-1030. If anyone witnesses an out-of-control fire, dial 911 immediately.



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# Census data shows many SLV students living in poverty

**BY MECHEL MEEK**  
**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — The U.S. Census Bureau released its report on poverty trends for over 13,000 school districts and the surrounding communities on Oct. 19.

According to the date, the San Luis Valley is home to 13 of the top 50 school districts in the state with the highest percentage of children living in poverty.

According to Katherine Ann Willyard of the U.S. Census Bureau, “When communities face rapid change from economic shocks — like those many experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic — timely data is paramount. In response to that need, the U.S. Census Bureau recently released a new data visualization tool that provides statistics of importance to school districts and surrounding communities and answers key questions crucial in the allocation of federal funds.”

This data tool includes school districts from all across the United States including very rural school districts that have fewer than 100 students to large metropolitan districts which have students that number over 1 million.

This data is compiled from publicly available data and enables school districts to use these statistics to help them apply for federal funding, grants and logistic support.

This tool also provides data

regarding access to the internet, health insurance coverage, commuting patterns, and computer ownership.

In the San Luis Valley community at large, the school district with the most children living in poverty in the entire state of Colorado is the Moffat School District, with 47.4% of students living in poverty.

Not far behind was Centennial School District with 34.4%, South Conejos School District with 30.6%, Mountain Valley School District with 30.6%, Sierra Grande School District with 29.6%, Center School District with 29.3%, Sanford School District with 24.8%, Alamosa School District with 24.1%, Monte Vista School District with 23.8%, Sangre de Cristo School District with 22.7%, North Conejos School District with 22.4%, and Sargent School District with 18.4%.

Creede School District and the Upper Rio Grande School District were the only SLV area districts outside the top 50, with 15.6% and 15.2% living in poverty.

The school district with the lowest number of children living in poverty is the Hayden School District with 1.6% which is in the town of Hayden near Steamboat Springs.

With this data, SLV school districts can apply for funding and support through programs available from state and federal governments.

# SHS FBLA hosts Meet the Candidates Forum



Photo courtesy of Sargent High School

Sargent High School Future Business Leaders of America, pictured, hosted the 2021 Meet the Board Candidate Forum on Oct. 18 in the Sargent School District Auditorium. FBLA members planned, organized and hosted the event. Sargent School District has three candidates for three four-year positions. Candidates on the ballot are Michele Peterson, Lorena Price, and Mathew Smartt. One two-year position is open with two candidates running. Candidates on the ballot are Nathan Burkhart and Clayton Mitchell. The event provided an informal evening for candidates and audience members. The election is Nov. 2.

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DF-CD-NP-G421

# Wolf Creek hosts October opening with 14" of snow

**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

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.



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.

## San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2021-2022

### Football

|                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Centauri 41</b>      | <b>Northfield 12</b>        |
| <b>Center 13</b>        | <b>Del Norte 6</b>          |
| <b>Alamosa 39</b>       | <b>Montezuma Cortez 24</b>  |
| <b>Mancos 60</b>        | <b>Sanford 24</b>           |
| <b>Sierra Grande 42</b> | <b>Arickaree Woodlin 26</b> |
| <b>Monte Vista 42</b>   | <b>Ignacio 6</b>            |

### COLLEGE

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Chadron State 45</b> | <b>Adams State 35</b> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|

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CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or broadband service per household, which can be on either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 23 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline telephone or broadband service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit [centurylink.com/lifeline](http://centurylink.com/lifeline) with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



## Imagine Your Life Free from Fear

Do you ever wonder what your life would look like if fear didn't exist? For example, what if you had the confidence to pursue every passion God gave you? Just imagine for a moment what that would look like. Well, God gives us a special gift called *faith* so we can do amazing things for Him. And I want to encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and exercise that gift *full time*.

Faith gives us so much potential because it motivates us to move forward in the plans God has for us. But fear is a feeling Satan uses to keep our focus inward. It makes us feel anxious, causes us to dread the future, and it can keep us from saying and doing things that would reveal more of God's love to the world.

We need to learn to interrupt fear at its onset—before it begins to settle in our spirit. The choice is to either let Satan stop us in our tracks or to go forward in faith, believing God is in control.

The good news is, when we're struggling with fear, we can turn to God's Word for an inspiring, encouraging reality check. Romans 8:31 (NIV) says, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" And Psalm 27:1 says, "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?"

These scriptures are basically saying that if we believe God's Word, then we have already won the battle we're facing.

Jesus tells us in Mark 11:22 (AMPC), "Have faith in God [constantly]." God doesn't want you to be fearful at any time. He wants you to be bold, confident, courageous and full of faith every day of your life—not just *until* you have a problem or *until* someone mistreats you. There's no *until*. And no one can stop God from answering a prayer that lines

up with His Word and His will for our life

### Keeping the Faith While You're Waiting

Throughout the course of a lifetime, we spend a lot of time waiting. And that is often the case with prayer. We can spend *years* praying for something to happen. And during that time, Satan will do everything he can to discourage us. He will try to convince us that God doesn't love us, that God's promises are for more worthy people, or that we didn't really hear from God in the first place. But if we will choose to trust God continually, we can keep moving forward in His plans for us.

The truth is, even if you don't see the fulfillment of every dream or desire of your heart here on earth, God will be pleased as you continue to believe in His perfect plan. And in the meantime, your *faith* will fill you with hope, joy and peace (see Romans 15:13).

Now if you knew me years ago, you would know that I wasn't always filled with hope. In fact, I was miserable whenever God made me wait for anything, so I would try to make things happen on my own. And it eventually wore me out! I remember lying on the floor, crying, saying, "God, I've tried everything and nothing's working. I just give up!" At that moment, the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and said: *Really, Joyce? You mean, you're going to let Me take it from here?*

You see, when we're ready to let go, God is right there to fight our battles. We just need to learn to trust Him...and that comes through experience, as we take each new step of faith.

### Overcoming Opposition with Consistency

Today, instead of trying to pray my problems away, I've learned to pray



for things like strength and courage, and for the power to endure whatever comes with a good temper. With God's help, I can choose faith every time I'm confronted with feelings of fear or intimidation.

Philippians 1:28 says not to be "frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God."

With God's help, we can remain stable in the face of fear, putting one foot in front of the other...walking by faith *full time*.

Imagine again what it would be like to pursue your God-given passions in life. Don't let fear stop you! Keep seeking God. Stir yourself up with scriptures on faith. And boldly say, "God is bigger. He's is working on my behalf, and I trust Him *constantly*."

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](http://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 HOW TO AGE WITHOUT GETTING OLD (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](http://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.

# SLV REC offering 11 scholarships to students

## STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — San Luis Valley REC makes secondary education a priority when giving back to the Valley. With just over \$235,000 given in the past seven years, REC annually awards up to 11 scholarships to local students.

The awards are primarily reserved for REC members, although a few of the scholarships are available to other Valley students as well.

“My college experience is going great. I am very grateful for the scholarship and the opportunities that it gives me. ASU is a great fit for me while I earn my biology degree due to how personable the professors are and the comforting sense of community,” said Adams State freshman Desiray Tolsma.

Tolsma was awarded the 2021 SLV REC Adams State University Four-Year Scholarship, which is renewable for up to a maximum of four years.

The value of the scholarship equals the total of in-state tuition, some fees and a book allowance for the award year.

“Receiving the REC 4-year scholarship has impacted my college experience because I am now able to afford living on campus,

which has allowed me to be more present for extracurricular activities. For example, I am the treasurer for the Tri-Beta biology club, where I will be given the chance to volunteer for my community. Overall, this scholarship has given me the chance to pursue my passion, and I am enjoying my time so far,” she said.

In addition to the four-year scholarship, REC awards the Martin Christensen Electric Lineworker Scholarship, which may be used at any accredited lineworker school. The value of the scholarship is \$4,000 and may be used to cover tuition costs, required textbooks or minimal basic tools for the program. Although first consideration will be given to graduating high school seniors, this scholarship is open to all individuals.

Other scholarships include the following:

The \$1,000 Robert Wolfe Scholarship was established for students furthering their education in an agricultural or engineering field and may be used at any trade school, college or university.

A student looking to further their education at any trade school, college or university should apply for the



Courtesy photo

### 2021 SLV REC Adams State University Four-Year Scholarship recipient Desiray Tolsma.

SLVREC Past Director Scholarship and the SLVREC Past Retired GM Ray Villyard & CEO John Villyard Scholarship, both of which are valued at \$1,000/each.

In addition, six Tri-State G&T Scholarships are offered at \$500 each. Dependents of employees and directors of SLVREC are eligible for one of these scholarships, as are members.

For full requirements and details, see the scholarship application online at <https://slvrec.com/scholarships>.

## BODY

### Continued from Page 1A

the subject by text and communicated to Saguache Sheriff Office Dispatch center.

At the time of the call, Saguache SAR personnel were at the dispatch center training dispatchers in computer mapping techniques. It was determined that the climber's location was in Class 5 terrain and technical SAR personnel trained in winter alpine conditions would be required to reach the subject.

The Colorado Search and Rescue Association was notified of the mission and mutual aid requests were made to surrounding SAR teams. Plans were made to deploy ground teams in the pre-dawn hours of October 12th. Helicopter assets were coordinated through CSRA, and plans were made to have a Blackhawk helicopter with hoist capability available at dawn. An approaching winter storm to the rescue area, provided a narrow window of time for rescue operations.

The Colorado National Guard (CONG) deployed a Blackhawk helicopter to the search area just after dawn with rescue technicians from Alpine Rescue Team on board. An aerial search of the given GPS coordinates and immediate surrounding area was conducted. The aerial search was unable to locate the subject.

The helicopter left the scene to refuel but was unable to return due to rapidly deteriorating weather at the search location. Two ground teams had deployed to the area before dawn.

Alamosa Volunteer SAR was able to reach the summit ridge of Challenger Point but was forced to turn back by very strong winds, blowing snow, limited visibility, and air temperatures below freezing. Chaffee SAR South climbed to the bottom of the Kirk Couloir to attempt to visually locate the subject from below and searched much of the upper Willow Creek basin in visibility conditions of less than 100 yards.

Chaffee SAR – North deployed to the area and searched the Spanish Creek basin to the base of the southern slopes of Kit Carson Peak. Search efforts were unsuccessful in locating the subject. All teams left the field

due to inclement winter weather in the search area.

Search efforts resumed at dawn Wednesday with air assets from Colorado Air National Guard, Alpine Rescue and Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (Cañon Helitac). Multiple SAR ground teams deployed to the search area. A Custer County SAR team was airlifted from Westcliffe to the Willow Creek Basin and attempted to reach the summit of Challenger Point, but was turned back by thigh deep, unconsolidated snow.

Teams from Saguache SAR, Alamosa Vol. SAR, Chaffee SAR – South, Chaffee SAR – North and Western Mountain Rescue were airlifted into the Spanish Creek Basin to attempt to reach the climber's last known location and search the south slopes of Kit Carson Peak.

A combined AVSAR/Western Mountain Rescue Team visually located the subject at approximately 3 p.m. Wednesday. Both CONG and Helitac air crews were able to confirm that the climber was deceased from an apparent fall. The CONG Blackhawk approached for a hoist operation, but the subject's proximity to a vertical wall made that maneuver unsafe.

Western Mtn. Rescue climbed to within 100 vertical feet of the subject's location, but there was not adequate time before nightfall to make the recovery. Recovery operations will resume as weather and rescuer safety permit.

According to a report from FOX21, Madeline Baharlou-Quivey was 29 years old and had recently graduated from nursing school in Denver.

Saguache County Search and Rescue and the Saguache County Sheriff's Office offered their sincere condolences to Madeline's family and friends.

Thanks to all who are involved in this mission in extremely challenging conditions: Saguache County Search and Rescue, Saguache County Sheriff's Office and dispatch, Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue, Alpine Rescue Team, Chaffee County Search and Rescue - South and North, Custer County SAR, Western Mountain Rescue Team, Colorado Search and Rescue Association - CSAR, Colorado National Guard, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and Colorado State Patrol - Alamosa Regional Communications Center.

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

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>, 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](mailto:atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov), or by calling 719-655-2321 or you may view the changes on our website at [www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov](http://www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov). Written comments will be accepted until Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 3pm, and may be sent to [atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto: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.

### CENTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NOTICE OF PROPOSED 2022 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

A notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Center Fire Protection District Board for the ensuing year 2022; a copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the office of the Center Fire Protection District, where the same is open for public inspection. The proposed budget will be considered at a public hearing scheduled at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors, on November 9, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. Any interested elector within the Center Fire Protection District may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto, at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget. The budget is available for review by appointment at the Center Firehouse, located at 360 E. 8th Street, Center, CO.

Center Fire Protection District  
Kimberlee Schuett, Board Secretary

No. 1610 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, October 21, 2021.

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# San Luis Renegades Black Powder Club returns after hiatus

## SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The San Luis Renegades Black Powder Club is back after a 25-year hiatus and is looking for anyone that would enjoy black powder shooting and any other mountain man activity — like cooking in Dutch ovens, setting up a tent and sleeping outside, wearing primitive garb, knife throwing, or archery.

“We want you — from kids to adults, men and women,” club officials stated. “Join our club of really fun people! We meet once a month at Carther’s in Del Norte on the third Thursday of the month and our shoots are generally the Sunday before our meeting in case something comes up during the shoot that we should talk about in the meeting. During the summer months, our shoots are fun and we combine a short meeting and sometimes a potluck. We’re hoping to start planning next year’s rendezvous here pretty soon and if you have some good ideas, please share. Our last one in 2019 was a blast. Our Pres brought his guitar to play in the evening around the campfire. He came out of his tent to be surprised with hard rain, snow,



Holiday potluck with all the fixings.



Camp at first rendezvous 2019.

Courtesy photos

frozen tent. And so goes Colorado weather.”

The club is seeking new folks to bring more ideas. Meetings and events are open to the public. For shoots, the club stated it was a good idea to bring a chair and dress for Colorado weather.

For more information, call Earl Wilson at 719-580-9750 or Karen Miller at 720-313-4834.

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

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## Mineral County SAR gives tips on winter preparedness

By LYNDIE FERRELL

**MINERAL COUNTY** — Mineral County Search and Rescue Director Terry Wetherill looks out his window as he considers the coming winter and what it may mean for the team.

“As I am thinking about this article the first snowstorm of the season looms with an anticipated foot of snow possible on Wolf Creek Pass which leads me to wonder how many of us are ready for winter travel and winter recreation,” Wetherill said. “I learned some time ago a person who is properly prepared for an emergency can end up just having a difficult camping experience instead of a life-or-death situation.”

Wetherill is a seasoned Colorado local who deals with the repercussions of non-preparedness in the wintertime and for that matter, throughout the year. Colorado, unlike other states, can be difficult to navigate in the wintertime and those who are new to the area should consider some of his tips and tricks to stay safe either just while out on icy roads or heading to the backcountry to recreate in



the snow. “The cold weather makes small issues become big problems. To verify your vehicles are ready for winter, inspect the battery and inspect and clean connections, if necessary,” Wetherill said.

“Have the anti-freeze tested. A 50/50 mix of antifreeze and distilled water should equate to about minus-35 F° before it starts to freeze which is adequate for Mineral County. Keep your fuel tank above ½ full.

This will be very important to you if you slide off the road and need to wait an extended amount of time for help to arrive. You will only need to crack a window and ensure your exhaust is clear of snow while running your vehicle to stay warm.”

In times of emergency, especially during winter, it is important to carry extra supplies such as blankets, water and warm clothes. Snowstorms can come on suddenly at high altitudes and mountain passes. Being prepared before heading out on the road can save a life or those of others.

“Equipment to always keep in your vehicle should consist of a  
**Please see SAR on Page 2**



The SLV G.O.A.T.s stand in front of the newly planted cottonwoods.

Courtesy Photo

## Floodplain restoration is full steam ahead

**SUBMITTED ARTICLE**

**CREEDE** — What can trees really do? We all know they provide shade, take in carbon dioxide, and exhale oxygen, right? But what else can these stolid giants provide?

For years, the lower Willow Creek floodplain just south of Creede has been devoid of most trees due to generally unfavorable conditions — acidic

water, heavy metals, and a lack of soil. However, restoration work can push the floodplain into a new future — one in which trees have a healthy home. Headwaters Alliance made numerous strides this summer on the floodplain, transplanting willow bundles and stakes, hosting an ecological restoration training through Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and just last week, planting

more than 200 new trees ranging from spruces to aspens.

In collaboration with Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust and San Luis Valley Great Outdoors Action Team (G.O.A.T.s), Headwaters Alliance spent four days strategically planting trees in key areas on the floodplain. The project was funded by a Five Star grant from the

**See FLOODPLAIN on Page 11**

## Boot Camp

Do you ever give much thought to where your weaner steers and heifers go when you load 'em on the truck or take 'm to the sale?

You think maybe it's like goin' off to college? Stay in the dormitory, have a nice roommate who doesn't bawl or stay up all night talking about the cute Charolais they met in the cafeteria.

Maybe join a fraternity or sorority, Milka Dama Cow. Play intramural head butting, horn wrestling or pin the tail on the Holstein? They can learn a foreign language like Corriente, Water Buffalo or Emu. And eventually graduate Phi Beta Moo and go on to Hi Concentrate Feedlot Graduate School eventually attaining a Ph D in Hi Choice. Sounds idyllic, doesn't it? Just like you imagine for your own kid going off to college. But the feedlot hands are reading this dreamy scenario like a



**BAXTER BLACK**  
ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

drill sergeant listening to an Army recruiting ad; “Be all that you can be.”

A growing yard or feedlot is more like boot

camp. No hallowed halls of ivy here. Does the name Powder River, WW or Bowman ring a bell? Indoctrination for recruits involves standing in line for hours, being shouted at and vaccinated for things you can't pronounce. Sound familiar? The intimate dormitory sleeps 260.

Courses studied include Feed Ingredient Identification, Cowboy Outer Wear, Mud 101 and 102, and Hot Shot Evasion. Sports that are available for participation are Intramural Pneumonia, Find the Water Tank, Coughing Practice and Long Distance Diarrhea.

Within a month the successful recruits are moved up to a better class of grub from the mess hall kitchen and are left alone. So when you watch yer little weaners scamper on the truck with the untroubled mind of a high school graduate, remember their next few

weeks are not gonna be easy.

But you can be comforted in the fact that almost all of them will get through boot camp and most of them will achieve knighthood; as in Sir Loin.

Whereas the most a weaner chicken can hope for is colonel.

*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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# Friendly forest interactions during hunting season

In the not too far distance, on a steep, timbered hillside here in the San Luis Valley, a bull Elk sounds his distinct call. Nestled in a large aspen grove in the late evening hours, I hunker down and marvel at the eeriness of the sound the large animal emits. As impressive as it is, I find it almost scary, knowing it either means he is angry with an intruder or he's calling me to join his harem. I want part of neither!

The colors of the aspen trees are fading, and many have lost all but a few of their leaves. Like the ending of the changing trees, the less-frequent bugling signals the end of the elk rut is near. Each year, the ending of these two events signals the coming of Colorado's several big game rifle hunting seasons. With each hunting season, staged over the course of the next two months, comes a large influx of hunters to the San Luis Valley and Upper Rio Grande.

They come with tons of gear. You can't miss them. Trucks the size of my house pulling campers bigger than my house that are pulling OHV trailers bigger than my car! All are chock full of all the support gear needed for two weeks of the typically unpredictable Colorado weather found in late fall.

## SAR Continued from Page 1

snow shovel, chains, ice scraper, jumper cables, coat, gloves, blanket, flashlight, water, food and multiple ways to start a fire," explained Wetherill.

When considering traveling into the backcountry to recreate in the winter Wetherill suggests these tips before heading out.

"Before traveling and getting into the backcountry, check the weather and avalanche forecast," he said. "Let a responsible party know your expected travel plans and the best method to get ahold of you. Ensure your phone is fully charged and you know how to

## Land, Water and People

BY GREGG GOODLAND

Of course, I'm exaggerating, but the fact is, I get it. I'm one of them and I know that hunters are one of the most prepared groups of recreational users that you'll find on our public lands.

With this large influx of hunters comes the potential for more interactions between the various user groups on the Rio Grande National Forest and indeed, other public lands. The hunting season dates are designated by Colorado Parks & Wildlife for very specific reasons. However, I think it is important to remind hunters that there are still plenty of non-hunting visitors to the Forest. I would ask that they be respectful to those folks as there is no implied exclusive hunting use of public lands during those dates.

The converse goes for the non-hunters. I would ask that they be considerate of hunters since they have such a limited amount of time to participate in an age-old activity that provides for a fine and thrilling recreational experience as well as a basic function of harvesting an animal that may serve to provide year-round

meat for a family.

The types of interactions we commonly hear about among different user groups this time of year typically have similar characteristics. A hiker or biker (could be me) stumbles on a hunter decked out in their required orange and is uncertain of what to do. Do you call out to the hunter? Do you attempt to quietly sneak past her? Or do you turn around and run in the opposite direction you came? All are options you are likely to think of, but I don't recommend. Rather, you should attempt to make eye contact with the hunter, so they'll be aware of your presence. Slow movements with a quiet wave will likely capture their attention. There may be animals in close proximity and if they indicate that, it would be best to try to determine your best path out of the area.

It is most likely, however, that the hunter is well-aware of your presence. Their activity is typically much slower and quieter than most hikers and bikers are, and the sounds produced in a quiet forest travel well ahead of the

determine your GPS coordinates on your phone."

There are many beautiful places to see around the San Luis Valley and Mineral County during the winter but always remember to be prepared when leaving a vehicle and heading out for an extended period of time.

"Anytime you depart your vehicle to explore in the backcountry it's vital to have a hat, coat, gloves, emergency blanket, flashlight, water, food and multiple ways to start a fire and a fully charged phone," Wetherill said. "Hypothermia and dehydration can

set in quick if you are not prepared. Of course, this is not an all-inclusive list but it's certainly representing the minimum preparations you will want to do, to have a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience this winter in Mineral County."

Below are some helpful links with good information on winter preparedness provided by Wetherill:

- [www.cotrip.org/home#notifications](http://www.cotrip.org/home#notifications)
- <https://avalanche.state.co.us/>
- <https://mineralcounty.colorado.gov/departments/office-of-emergency-management>

person or thing producing them. If you are the hunter faced with this scenario, give your fellow forest user a friendly wave and maybe even offer a greeting if the situation permits. If you do approach a non-hunter, I recommend tucking your firearm well under your arm or slinging it on your back. It shows a sign of respect.

The Rio Grande National Forest is managed for multiple uses. This includes non-recreational uses. We support all forest users when doing it appropriately and encourage a

friendly, gracious and accommodating mentality when on your public lands. Your choice method of enjoying the national forest is assuredly different than another's. We'll all have a better experience when we all participate with this very easy to adopt attitude.

*Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest. An avid outdoor enthusiast, you'll find him enjoying all public lands as often as possible.*

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# Colorado AG urges Congress to regulate social media giants

(The Center Square) – Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser and Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro sent a joint letter to congressional leadership on Wednesday urging lawmakers to enact tougher regulations against social media companies.

In the letter, both Weiser and Shapiro outline several steps to establish “responsible oversight” of social media platforms, such as creating a social media regulatory agency, writing laws that require transparency from the companies, and developing a better understanding of how the algorithms on each platform work.

“It is clear – from your hearings, academic research, and recent investigative reporting – that social media companies and their platforms have a unique ability to harm both the mental health of youth and the stability of our democratic institutions,” the letter reads in

part. “Protecting our children, our democracy, our privacy, and competition are critical priorities and are worthy of congressional action.”

The letter was to Sens. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., who serve as chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security, respectively.

The letter comes on the heels of U.S. Senate hearings about Facebook’s tactics to attract young users and its practice of allowing its top profiles to skirt Facebook’s rules.

Last week, senators accused Facebook of concealing data about how its app impacts the mental health of young people who use it during a hearing on Capitol Hill following a series of investigative reports by the Wall Street Journal that found Facebook was aware of these issues and failed to stop them.

Frances Haugen, a Facebook

whistleblower, told a Senate committee this week that Facebook should declare “moral bankruptcy” for failing to address the platform’s many ills, according to ABC News.

In the letter, Weiser and Shapiro argue that one way to break the cycle is to treat social media content in a similar fashion as political advertisements on television, which are subject to both regulatory oversight and transparency requirements.

“The importance of overseeing the actions of social media companies is not limited to the impact on kids and our democracy,” the letter reads.

“The protection of consumer privacy and competition in the online world also would benefit from a regulatory agency with the necessary authority to take appropriate action, as would strengthening tools to limit disinformation and combat online hate speech that is fueling an increase in hate crimes nationwide.”

# HVCC invites parents, guardians to join fun

## SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Hello, community members! Happy October! Girls’ basketball officially began on Oct. 5. Due to the low number of 3rd-4th grade participants, we have moved the younger girls up to the 5th-6th grade level. We have evenly divided the girls up into two teams – Orange and Black. Practices are currently every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. HVCC will provide transportation from HVCC to the HVCC gym at 6:30 p.m., but please be advised that parents and guardians are responsible for picking their child up from the gym after practice. We are currently working on a game schedule and will provide it soon! Keep an eye on your Procure App for updates.

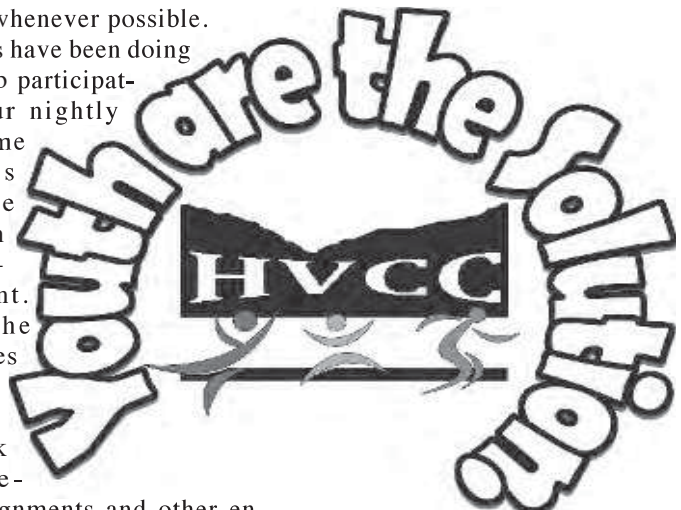
This week the kids learned about “Responsibility” during their after-school activities. Responsibility can be incorporated into a child’s daily routine in small ways such as making the bed, tidying spaces, or setting the table. HVCC staff strive to build self-esteem in the kiddos by giving them respon-

sibilities whenever possible.

The kids have been doing a great job participating in our nightly Brain Time sessions and we have seen much improvement. During the 30 minutes of Brain Time, the kids work on homework assignments and other engaging materials. The goal of Brain Time is to help the kids with homework and to promote problem-solving skills.

Interested in seeing what goes on during our after-school program? Parents and guardians are welcome to join in on the fun any time! For those of you who are interested in helping with activities, we happily accept volunteers as well. Please reach out to us at 719-657-2172, for more information.

Enjoy your week, everyone!



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Rio Grande Public Health (RGPH) will be offering flu shot clinics in Del Norte at the Del Norte Annex on the two consecutive days listed below. Del Norte Annex is located at 965 6th St in Del Norte. These clinics will provide both regular and high dose flu shots. RGPH can bill several insurances including Medicare. These clinics are providing increased social distancing and disinfection measures to help reduce COVID exposure. Masks are required.

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RIO GRANDE County Public Health

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The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) Board of Directors provides the opportunity for local residents to become engaged in a leadership role. Volunteers in these positions represent the voice of citizens in support of local heritage, preservation efforts, and the community-oriented mission of the Heritage Area. Must be willing to commit to one meeting per month and participation on sub-committees.

Applications can be found on the website: <https://www.sangreheritage.org/board-member-application/>

Completed application, a letter of interest, and a resume should be mailed or hand delivered to SdCNHA at the address noted below:

Mail to: Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area  
 Attention: “Board Application”  
 P.O. Box 844  
 Alamosa, CO 81101

You can also hand deliver to: 231 State Avenue in Alamosa, or email to [info@sdcnha.org](mailto:info@sdcnha.org)

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Full-time **Custodian/Maintenance** position open at the Upper Rio Grande School District. This is a 4-10 hour day (Monday-Thursday) position with a salary range of \$25,000-32,000, based on experience. Applicant must pass a

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**Substitutes Teachers needed at the Upper Rio Grande School District in Del Norte!** Call or email: Terri at 719-657-4040, x4000 (tdudley@urtigers.co) for more information, go on-line: urtigers.co, or stop by the district office at: 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO to pick up an application. You do not have to hold a col-

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**Cafeteria workers needed at Upper Rio Grande School District C7.** Must have high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or willing to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co.

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family with needs, and that family may have a business with needs, and they live in a community with needs. Because of your unique relationship with these families and your community, you will play a key role in helping Agents identify the specific physical, emotional, and social needs of your constituents as they emerge from the pandemic and re-socialize, and in selecting the most appropriate, impactful Extension programming to serve these needs. Compensation & Hours: \$16.00 - \$18.00 per hour for a maximum of 30 hours per week. Minimum educational requirement is High School Diploma or GED. Applicants please read the full job description and apply at: <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/92824> **For full consideration, all materials must be received directly at <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/92824> no later than 11:59 PM Mountain Time on Sunday, October 3, 2021.** For questions regarding the program, the position, qualifications, or job duties please contact Larry Brown, Area Extension Director of the San Luis Valley Area, at (719) 852-7381, 719-850-2139 or [L.Brown@colostate.edu](mailto:L.Brown@colostate.edu). (10/20)

**Rio Grande County, Road and Bridge** is accepting applications for full time Equipment Operators I and II. Class B CDL at the minimum, Class A preferred. Certification assistance is available. Applicants must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen, including marijuana. These positions offer a full benefit package including life insurance and retirement. Applications are available online at [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org) or at the Road and Bridge Department at 168 N Washington Street, Monte Vista, CO 81144 between the hours of 6 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Thursday. Applications must be submitted, in person, to the same address. (10/20)

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# URGED welcomes new executive director, receives community updates

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

**DEL NORTE** — Tom Monaco was elected to be the new executive director of the Upper Rio Grande Economic Development group by its membership on Tuesday, Oct. 12. He plans to continue his service through the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and the SLV Small Business Development Center in his spare time.

Monaco has been a member with URGED for several years and is pleased to step into his new position to help increase economic development in the western end of the San Luis Valley.

According to his bio through OEDIT, “Thomas Monaco comes to OEDIT from the San Luis Valley Small Business Development Center where he served as the director. Prior to that, he was the Production Manager and an Assistant Professor at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM. Monaco’s primary areas of expertise are in design/fabrication, manufacturing and facility logistics. As an entrepreneur, he ran his own custom design and fabrication company in central Florida for 11 years and served as a consultant to numerous businesses, arts organizations and universities. Monaco also taught in higher education for 14 years at Ohio Northern University and the University of Florida. He holds a BFA in Technical Theatre Production from the University of Arizona and an MFA in Design & Technology from the University of Missouri/Kansas City.”

Monaco said he was going to miss previous executive directors Marty and Bonnie Asplin and he was eager to continue the forward progress of URGED and economic growth in the San Luis Valley.

After a presentation on forest management and HR 4302, URGED members gave brief updates on current happenings throughout the San Luis Valley. Rio Grande County Administrator Craig Barraclough said that the county is working on the 2022 budget and is meeting with department heads to finalize the document for the coming year.

Del Norte Town Administrator Bernadette Martinez stated that the town was also working on its budget and that they would possibly be looking at a sales tax increase that would be for the roads in town. Martinez said that the town is also working with Element Engineering to complete a water study and will be looking at a youth entrepreneurship program through the Department of Local Affairs.

South Fork Town Attorney Gene Farish updated the group on the town’s water project, stating that construction and installation is going well and that it is taking up most of the town’s time and effort but that it was moving along smoothly.

Kathy Woods gave a brief update on the Ski Hi building in Monte Vista,

stating that the project was held back slightly due to COVID-19 but that it was back on track. Woods stated that Friends of Ski Hi was looking at funding options to purchase furniture and equipment for the building but that they hoped to have it finished by February next year.

Rio Grande County Commissioner Gene Glover finished the updates by stating that the new school crossing bridge in Center was completed and that the project was a success in getting school students to and from school safely.

**Tom Monaco was elected to be the new Executive Director for the Upper Rio Grande Economic group on Tuesday, Oct. 12.**

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell



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Charming home on Oversized Lot! This nice 2 bedroom home sits on an oversized lot, so there is plenty of room to add on if you wanted. Has good space, and some updates. Has been a rental, so great for the investor looking for a rental investment. Some outbuildings, and established yard. Call today for more details. **\$153,000** MLS#786169

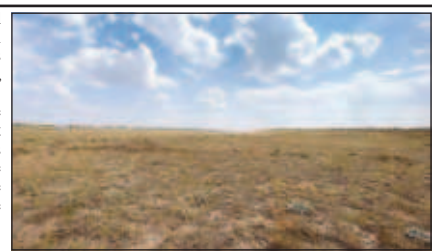
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Immaculate & charming home! This lovely 4 bedroom, 2 bath home has been in a family for several decades, and loved and cared for as you can see in the pictures. It has open spaces, wood laminate floors, lots of storage, and a big kitchen that is great for cooking and entertaining. There is a laundry area with closets, a pellet stove hot water baseboard heat, a 2 car garage, a nice patio area, and an additional shed in the back. Call today to preview! **\$289,000** MLS#787149



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This lot has beautiful views all around with year round access, and is close to the Alamosa River, Rio Grande National Forest, La Jara Reservoir State Wildlife area, and Hot Creek SWA for easy access to hunting and fishing. The area would be a great place to build a comfortable home on. Call to view! **\$5,999** MLS#787432



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**FOR SALE**  
 winter sport opportunities are boundless as well. Wolf Creek Ski Area is famous for the most snow in the country and only 20 minutes away. South Fork, Co is a popular destination for skiing and those who love snowmobiling, four wheeling, hiking and camping. Come enjoy this majestic place. MLS #781184  
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 Beautiful 3,140 SQ. FT. 3 bedroom 3 bath home located on 9.59 Acres in Beautiful South Fork Ranches Bear Creek. The large master suite/bath is on the main floor. Open dining room, kitchen and living room with propane fireplace and windows from floor to ceiling with amazing mountain and Rio Grande river views. The beautiful kitchen includes an eat in island with custom countertop and large soft close storage drawers. Convenient large inside laundry room and foyer is right off the kitchen and the 4 car attached garage/workshop. The upstairs has two bedrooms, full bath with jet tub and office loft area. Start your Colorado Adventure and schedule your showing today! **\$639,900** MLS#781345  
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Look Improved Price! **\$649,900 THIS HOME YOU HAVE TO SEE TO BELIEVE!**  
 • 3 bedroom • 2 bathroom  
 This could be your new home. Amazing Custom - Built Full log Home - Entry room, living room, large kitchen with island, lots of cabinet space, laundry. This home has beautiful wrap around porches that offer great views of the mountains and cliffs. The attached double garage is 576 Sq. Ft. with concrete floor. The home is fully fenced. Additional 2,000 sq. ft. workshop. MLS#772697  
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 • 3 bedroom • 2 bathroom  
 This could be your new home. Amazing Custom - Built Full log Home - Entry room, living room, large kitchen with island, lots of cabinet space, laundry. This home has beautiful wrap around porches that offer great views of the mountains and cliffs. The attached double garage is 576 Sq. Ft. with concrete floor. The home is fully fenced. Additional 2,000 sq. ft. workshop. MLS#772697  
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 This 4 bedroom 4 bath 2,800 SQ FT home with large 4 car heated attached garage and an additional 2 car heated detached garage, workshop and studio apartment is located in this wonderful neighborhood with no HOA. This is your home-a-way from home, vacation rental or permanent home. Complete with well and sewer system on paved roads. **\$375,900** MLS #778054  
 2 Ponderosa Country Estates • South Fork  
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Photos courtesy of Center United Methodist Church  
**Jeff Wahl playing guitar at Center United Methodist Church. Beaver Creek Youth Camp Open House was on Oct. 9 at the church.**

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# Center United Methodist Church holds community events

**BY MECHEL MEEK**  
**CENTER** — The Center United Methodist Church has several events for the community this Fall. Every Monday through Friday from 2 to 5 p.m., Drummond Hall is open for their Soulful Sweets and Sips Coffeeshop. The Rev. Debria Upton said, “It has been a treat to have folks wander in and have a spot of tea or coffee and a muffin and have good conversation.” The church is hosting a Teen Night every Friday from 7 to 10 p.m. which will feature games, food and activities for teens in the community. Upcoming events at the Center United Methodist Church include Center Movie Night on Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. will be showing “Addams Family

2” with free snacks and a family-friendly atmosphere, traditional Oyster Stew, Chili and Soup Dinner will be held on Sunday, Oct. 24 at 5 p.m., a fundraiser for the Beaver Creek Youth Camp will be held on Sunday, Nov. 7 with food, an auction, a pie auction, and other activities. On Saturday, Oct. 9, there was an open house at the Beaver Creek Youth Camp. Upton said, “A special thanks to those who attended and especially to the amazing Beaver Creek Youth Camp manager Gene Haning for his hospitality and for Rev. Nancy Mead for being our spiritual director and to Charleen Schaeffer for her teaching leadership and to Jeff Wahl for sharing his amazing musical talent on the guitar.”

All members of the community are invited to the upcoming events, people do not need to be a member of the church to participate.

## YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

### Pegasus, the Flying Horse



A good constellation to view now is Pegasus, the Flying Horse. It’s one of the largest constellations in our sky, and the best time to observe it is September and October. It’s just east and slightly below Cassiopeia with the Andromeda galaxy between them. The story is that Pegasus rode this flying horse to save Andromeda from Cetus the Sea Monster. To find it, look in the NE for the Milky Way, then look to the right toward the east. Imagine Pegasus flying upside down from our view, because that’s how it appears. Look for the big square shape of semi-bright stars as a diagonal with stars on the top, bottom, right and left. This is his body. His front legs are to the right of the top star, and his head comes off the right star. His legs come off the left star that actually forms the Andromeda constellation with the galaxy just above the middle of it. The four stars that make up the Great Square of Pegasus are interesting to look at. The star on the left is Alpheratz which is Andromeda’s head. The top middle star is Scheat, the right star is Markab, and the lower center star is Algenib. These names are Arabic to illustrate different parts of the horse. Scheat means shoulder or upper arm,

Markab means saddle, and Algenib means the side or the wing. These stars are different colors and distances from us. Alpheratz is blue-white and is 97 light years from us, Scheat is red and 196 light years, Markab is bluish-white and 133 light years, and Algenib is deep light years away. It’s always amazing how stars so far apart can form a constellation, but when they’re so bright it can easily happen. This is an easy constellation for find in the ENE. There are very few naked-eye stars in the center of this large constellation, making it very easy for us to identify. It contains a total of 15 stars making the upper and right body parts that I told you about. He’s one of the largest constellations in our sky. When you look at him, remember that he’s upside down and his back legs on the left are the Andromeda constellation.

## Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Popular musical awards show
5. Speech in one’s honor
11. A state of poor nutrition
14. Not ingested
15. More lacking in taste
18. “Popeye” cartoonist
19. Helps to reduce speed
21. January 1 greeting (abbr.)
23. Georgian currency
24. Proverb expressing a truth
28. Jewish calendar month
29. Volume measurement
30. Fair-skinned
32. Patti Hearst’s captors
33. Have already done
35. Touch lightly
36. Autonomic nervous system
39. Plant part
41. College degree
42. Military alliance
44. Tokyo’s former name
46. Carpenter’s tool
47. Before
49. Consent to receive
52. Passages
56. The Duke of Edinburgh
58. Utter repeatedly
60. Linked together in a chain
62. Quality that evokes pity
63. Maintained possession of

**Solution to last week’s puzzle**

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

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|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|----|----|----|----|--|--|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |    |    |  |    |    |    |    |  |  |    |
| 11 |    |    |    | 12 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  | 13 |    |    |    |  |  |    |
| 14 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |  |    |    | 16 | 17 |  |  |    |
|    | 18 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |  |    |    |    |    |  |  | 20 |
|    |    |    |    |    | 21 |    | 22 |    |    |    |    |  | 23 |    |    |    |  |  |    |
|    |    |    |    |    |    | 24 |    | 25 | 26 | 27 |    |  | 28 |    |    |    |  |  |    |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 29 |    |    | 30 |    |  | 31 |    | 32 |    |  |  |    |
| 36 | 37 | 38 |    |    | 39 |    |    | 40 |    | 41 |    |  |    |    |    |    |  |  |    |
| 42 |    |    | 43 |    |    | 44 |    |    | 45 |    |    |  |    |    |    |    |  |  |    |
| 46 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 47 |    | 48 |  |    |    |    |    |  |  |    |
| 49 |    |    |    |    | 50 | 51 |    |    |    |    | 52 |  | 53 | 54 | 55 |    |  |  |    |
|    | 56 |    |    |    |    |    | 57 |    | 58 |    |    |  |    |    |    |    |  |  | 59 |
|    |    |    |    |    | 60 |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |    |    |    |    |  |  |    |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |    |  |    |    |    |    |  |  |    |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |    |    | 63 |    |  |  |    |

**CLUES DOWN**

1. U.S. military school
2. Controls
3. Away from wind
4. Grab quickly
5. Being everlasting
6. Vase
7. Atomic #3
8. Type of medication
9. Encircle with a belt
10. Belonging to you
12. American state
13. City in Zambia
16. Good Gosh!
17. Of the country
20. Helsinki district
22. 36 inches
25. Reporters’ group
26. The voice of Olaf
27. Explains in detail

29. Tooth caregiver
31. One point south of due east
34. Scottish river
36. Elsa’s sister
37. Civil Rights group
38. Line of poetry
40. Doctor
43. Fatty acid
45. Avatar (abbr.)
48. Awe-inspiring garden
50. Fall down
51. Rock icon Turner
53. Asian country (alt. sp.)
54. UK museum network
55. Stairs have at least one
57. Part of (abbr.)
58. Simpson trial judge
59. Sun up in New York
61. Exclamation of surprise

# Rural businesses are focus for new funding opportunities

By **MECHEL MEEK**

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — In a virtual event, hosted by 1st SouthWest Community Fund and the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), small business owners were presented some of the non-traditional methods of securing funding for their business.

Also discussed was how to secure financing for start-ups and several resources were given for people wanting to open a business in the San Luis Valley.

According to its website, "RCAC is a non-profit organization that provides training, technical and financial resources, and advocacy so rural communities can achieve their goals and visions."

RCAC small business loans help businesses retain or create jobs in our area by providing working capital, equipment loans, expansion loans, construction loans, capital improvements, and help with cash flow issues. The 1st SouthWest Community Fund is a non-profit organization that is connected to 1st SouthWest Bank.

Cass Walker of 1st SouthWest Community Fund said, "We help businesses access affordable capital, primarily done through loans, which range from \$5,000 to \$50,000."

General funding is available including working capital, and funding is also available for specific areas of interest including woman-owned, minority-owned, or veteran-owned businesses. The non-profit partners with the bank to help these businesses gain access to capital, a process that can be confusing or even intimidating to small business owners. There are lots of different loan programs available for small businesses across all types of industries.

Currently, they have a reemerging loan program, as a direct response to COVID-19 shutdowns which is called the Relief Loan. This loan is for currently operating businesses, for up to \$25,000 at 3% interest and for 6 months the payments are deferred. After the deferment period, the business will be evaluated to see if they are able to repay, have the payments deferred again, or have the loan forgiven.

An opportunity for start-up businesses to get access to funding is the KIVA loan which is a 0%, no-fee loan that is crowd-funded. To gain access to this type of non-traditional funding, the start-up is community funded with each person in the community needing to contribute \$25 each, with a minimum of at least 40 people.

After this initial community investment, the start-up idea is then offered to international and domestic investors. Any money the businesses are able to raise through this crowd-funding is matched. RCAC helps the start-ups manage this process.

Non-traditional funding sources are often the most common funding for small businesses as many people do not have access to traditional loans such as startups, those who do not have enough collateral or those who have credit issues. Many of their small business loans do not have a minimum credit score, and they also offer credit counseling to help raise an individual's credit score since business loans are often denied by traditional lenders due to poor credit. They also offer business coaching to help businesses look at their



Photo by Mechel Meek

**Funding opportunities for small businesses were the focus of a virtual event hosted by 1st SouthWest Community Fund and the Rural Community Assistance Corporation.**

finances in order to help them be successful. They also noted that small business centers are now offering most of their services free of charge including help with business plans and logistics.

People with current small businesses or wanting to start a business in the SLV are encouraged to go to the RCAC website and the 1st SouthWest Community Fund website to obtain more information.

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Courtesy Photos  
**Above: Cloe Dickson records information on the newly planted trees for long-term monitoring.**

**Top left: New aspens and willows adorn the east bank of Willow Creek.**

**FLOODPLAIN**  
 Continued from Page 1

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a non-profit working to protect and restore habitat, and by American Forests, a non-profit focused on creating healthy and resilient forests. Locations for the new trees were chosen based on soil conditions and future engineering plans for the floodplain in an effort to maximize their survival and proliferation.

- The team planted:
- 100 Coyote Willow clumps that were dug from nearby sites;
  - 25 Rocky Mountain Willows;
  - 25 Blue Stem Willows;
  - 25 Coyote Willows;
  - 8 Aspens;
  - 8 Blue Spruce;
  - 8 Colorado Spruce; and
  - 10 Cottonwoods.

Yes, these new trees will provide shade and serenity, but more importantly, they will help shape the future of the floodplain. Trees have amazing qualities beyond the obvious:

- Tree roots stabilize streambanks, reducing erosion and providing habitat and soil for more plants;
- As more plants colonize newly stabilized regions, more animals find habitat and food;
- Roots, especially willow roots, can help filter water by removing toxic compounds which can lead to better habitat for bugs and fish;
- Tree roots and the stabilized soil absorb extra water, releasing it more slowly which can help slow flood waters, making them less erosive while also holding water as a defense against drought; and
- How can we forget about the shade!

The trees not only provide shade for people, but that shade also helps the stream stay cooler, providing better habitat for fish.

Trees are amazing living creatures, as beautiful as they are varied. Headwaters Alliance is proud to help secure a better future for our shared floodplain — one that is resistant against floods and drought, helps clean our water, and provides habitat for bugs, fish, and deer. Trees are vital for that future! Take a moment to walk the multi-use floodplain trail in Creede and observe the newly planted neighbors who may just be the tipping point, pushing the floodplain into a new existence.

Stay tuned for more restoration events from Headwaters Alliance.

For more information on this topic, contact the Development and Engagement Coordinator, Alex Handloff, at the Headwaters Alliance at [coordinator@headwatersalliance.org](mailto:coordinator@headwatersalliance.org).



# Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Standing Together in the Fight Against Breast Cancer

Statistics indicate there will be more than 256,000 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed in American and Canadian women this year, and breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women of both countries. Thanks to early detection and treatment advances, survival rates have improved dramatically, but much room for progress remains. As diagnosis and treatment options continue to evolve, medical experts agree that early detection is a key factor in overcoming the disease, and performing a monthly breast self-exam is often vital to detecting abnormalities, including lumps or tenderness, in the breasts that may indicate illness. Take steps to protect yourself against breast cancer during Breast Cancer Awareness Month by initiating healthy lifestyle changes, beginning monthly breast self-exams, and talking to your doctor about the appropriate clinical breast exam and screening mammogram schedule for you.

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**Breast Cancer awareness** 

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**Breast Cancer Prevention & Awareness**



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 **Early detection is the best treatment.**

On October 22, join us and get your pink on in support of the fight against breast cancer!

40% of diagnosed breast cancers are detected by women who feel a lump, so establishing a regular breast self-exam is very important.

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