

Shorts



Lookout Mountain Association public meeting Sept. 11

DEL NORTE — The Lookout Mountain Observatory Association will host a public meeting at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Rio Grande County Courthouse Annex, 965 6th St., followed by a star party at the Del Norte Observatory. Attendees are advised to bring a flashlight to better and more safely follow the rocky trail from the Annex to the Observatory.



RGNF offices will be closed Sept. 6-9

MONTE VISTA — The Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) recently announced that its offices will be closed for three days during the week of Sept. 6 to accommodate training the Visitor Information Specialists (VIS) for a new forest products sales system.

Since Monday is the Labor Day holiday, all offices will be closed from Monday, Sept. 6 through Thursday, Sept. 9. Offices will reopen providing normal services on Friday, Sept. 10.

The agency is systematically transitioning to a new electronic sales system that will go online for all RGNF offices beginning Thursday, Sept. 9.

The RGNF encourages all forest users that need to purchase firewood permits, or other forest products, to visit an office as soon as possible to avoid any delays.

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call 719-852-5941.



Marshall pleads guilty to third-degree felony



Victim strongly opposed resolution

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — In a last-minute resolution presented in court shortly before jury selection was scheduled to begin in his trial on Monday, James Marshall pled guilty to committing a third-degree felony in the 2020 Main Street shooting of Danny Von Pruitt in Alamosa.

In Colorado, a third-degree felony carries a minimum of four years to a

maximum of 12 years in prison with a mandatory five-year probation upon parole.

“Mr. Marshall accepts responsibility for what he did,” said Randy Canney, Marshall’s attorney. “He feels very badly that he hurt someone.”

In this case, despite no one having died in the crime, Marshall pled guilty to tampering with the body of a deceased person, a class three felony carrying the 4- to 12-year sentence.

“Mr. Marshall was charged with a third-degree felony. He pled guilty to

a third-degree felony,” 12th Judicial District Attorney Alonzo Payne said of the resolution.

Marshall was charged with a slew of crimes, including two felony three charges, one felony four charge, two felony five charges, a second-degree misdemeanor charge and a third-degree misdemeanor.

Payne’s statement was not referencing the charges Marshall was facing so much as the amount of time Marshall could serve in prison.

Please see MARSHALL on Page 2A

Center End of Summer Extravaganza brings fun

By MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — The Town of Center held its yearly End Of Summer Extravaganza on Saturday, Aug. 28, in Casa Blanca Park.

The festival began with a tie-dye parade at 11 a.m. that included many local businesses and individuals showing off their best tie-dye.

The streets around the park were

Please see SUMMER on Page 5A

People took part in the yearly End of Summer Extravaganza on Saturday, Aug. 28, in Casa Blanca Park in Center. The day began with a parade and included live music and performances by the Salida Circus.

Photo by Mechel Meek



Census shows mix of gains, losses for San Luis Valley

Center’s population fell to 1,929

By MECHEL MEEK

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The 2020 Census legacy files were released to the public on Aug. 12. Some surprising results were seen within the larger picture of Colorado’s population growth.

Colorado has seen a 14.8% increase in total population from 2010 to 2020 with the largest increase in El Paso County which grew by 730,395 people. The San Luis Valley and surrounding

counties were a mix of gains and losses of population since 2010.

2020 SLV population numbers and percent gain or loss are as follows:

- Alamosa County: 16,376 — gain of 6%
- Conejos County: 7,461 — loss of 9.6%
- Costilla County: 3,499 — loss of 0.7%
- Mineral County: 865 — gain of 21.5%
- Rio Grande County: 11,539 — loss of 3.7%
- Saguache County: 6,368 — gain of 4.3%

Mineral County recorded the largest percentage of gains in population within the San Luis Valley area, adding 153 people that now call Mineral

County home. Colorado’s Department of Local Affairs also released information in regards to municipalities.

According to DOLA, “The Town of Center’s historic population numbers in 2000 the population was 2,392. In 2010, the population was 2,230. Finally, in 2020 the population was 1,929. The 2020 population loss for the Town of Center is negative 301 persons, equaling a negative growth of 13.5%.”

Rio Grande County also saw a loss of population overall with Monte Vista losing 197 people which

Please see CENSUS on Page 2A

Mountain Valley School District asks for input on new mascot

New state law says schools can’t use American Indian insignias

By MECHEL MEEK

SAGUACHE — The Mountain Valley School District is asking for community members to help choose a new mascot. They are currently the Indians.

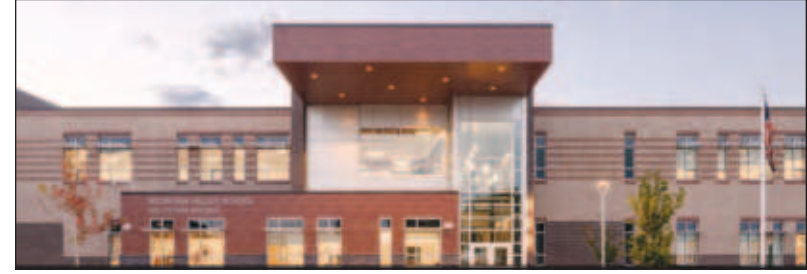
Senate Bill 21-116 was signed into law on June 28 by Governor Jared Polis. According to Mountain Valley School District, “The act prohibits the use of American Indian mascots by public schools, including charter and

institute charter schools, and public institutions of higher education as of June 1, 2022. The act imposes a fine of \$25,000 per month for each month that a public school continues to use a mascot after such date, payable to the state education fund.”



American Indian mascot refers to any name, image, or symbol that refers to any tribe that is used as a nickname, logo, mascot, or team name. The use of American Indian mascots has become a polarizing issue to many Tribes throughout the United States.

In 2018, Mountain Valley School



Courtesy photo

Mountain Valley School District insignia and picture of Mountain Valley School courtesy of Mountain Valley School District

District released a document describing how their mascot and logo were being used to represent the history and culture of Saguache by honoring the seven Ute bands.

The District contacted the Southern Ute Tribe in regards to their mascot in May 2021, however, the Southern

Ute band declined to endorse the current logo and instead requested that the school use another symbol to represent the culture of the Saguache area.

According to a letter to the School District from Chairman *Please see MASCOT on Page 2A*

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YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Capricornus the Sea Goat

The new moon is on Sept. 7, making this an exciting time for sky viewing. Jupiter and Saturn are right in front of the constellation Capricornus. Jupiter is just outside its left side, and Saturn is on the right.

Capricornus has 12 stars and is visible in August and September. So, this is a wonderful time to look for it. It also has the star cluster M30. It is not a very bright constellation, but since we have a new moon, this is a great time to look for it because it is visible when the sky is dark. You also do not need binoculars to see it now.

Deneb Algedi which is Arabic for "the God" is Capricornus alpha star. It is two stars that are closely aligned in our vision, although they are 500 Light Years apart. What is amazing is

that it is only the third-brightest star in the constellation. What is interesting about these two stars is that they are dying yellow stars.

Capricornus is the second-faintest constellation after Cancer. Despite its small size, it is most likely the oldest constellation in our sky. The depictions of a strange goat with the tail of a fish have been found on Babylonian seals more than 4,000 years ago.

In mythology, Capricornus represents the goat-like god Pan who jumped into a river and became a fish to escape the monster Typhon. It lies some distance from the Milky Way in a comparatively empty region of the sky. As a result, it contains few deep sky objects.

Its most interesting target is a globular



cluster M30 which has a magnitude of 7.5 and is 27,000 light years away. Unfortunately, it is only visible with binoculars. You might want to observe the constellation with binoculars so you can see M30 and many other stars. The goat's head is on the upper right with the legs below its head. The tail is on the left where Jupiter is.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Aug. 23 and 29, 2021.

The Sheriff's Department's activity on the road included eight traffic stops, one injury with crash, three traffic complaints and four crashes with property damage. They also assisted with ambulances four times, patrolled the Town of Saguache eight times and the Town of Crestone four times, and conducted one VIN inspection.

In addition, there were three civil dispute reports, four reports of suspicious activity, two reports of harassment, two suicidal subject reports, three alarm reports, one animal cruelty report, one disorderly conduct report, one report of harassing phone calls,

one animal problem report, one report of assault, one theft report, one fraud report and one juvenile problem report. They also monitored six controlled burns, provided information 11 times, assisted with three search and rescue calls, and assisted local agencies two times.

Arrests

- 31-year-old Colorado Springs man, menacing, parole hold.
- 41-year-old Center man, forgery, crimes against at-risk adults and at-risk juveniles theft.
- 42-year-old Center man, warrant.
- 68-year-old Center man, DUI — drugs, alcohol or both, vehicle had no or defective license plate lamp, unlawful distribution, manufacturing, dispensing, sale, possession of illegal drug, parole violation.

CENSUS

Continued from Page 1A

equals a negative growth of 4.4%. Other notable population losses were in Antonito, Manassa, Moffat, Creede, Blanca, La Jara, Hooper, Romeo, San Luis and Del Norte.

Sanford's population remained unchanged from 2010 to 2020.

Crestone, South Fork, Saguache, Alamosa, and Bonanza all gained in population from the 2010 numbers. The Town of Saguache added 54 people to the population since 2010,

which is an 11.1% increase in 10 years.

Population data from the 2020 Census helps to guide decisions for many facets of life in the San Luis Valley. This data is used to determine local, state and federal funding, grant opportunities, health care, education, road construction projects, infrastructure, policing, fire and ambulance services, and political representation.

One of the largest impacts is

to redistricting. The Colorado Independent Redistricting Commission has released a proposed redistricting map. This proposed map impacts both State and Federal representation of regions in Colorado. Colorado is set to gain a Congressional seat in the 2022 election, which is a direct result of the population growth in the state.

The redistricting maps have not been finalized, and are still open

for public comment via the online redistricting portal run by the Redistricting Commission and by public hearings.

According to the Commission, "The Joint Colorado Independent Redistricting Commissions will hold public hearings in Commerce City, Brighton and Colorado Springs this week on the preliminary maps for the state's eight congressional districts, as well as the 65 state house

and 35 senate districts. Colorado residents will have the opportunity to testify about their communities and communicate directly with the Colorado Independent Redistricting Commissions. Coloradans will have the opportunity at each hearing to testify in person and remotely. Coloradans are asked to sign up to testify in advance and can do so by visiting <https://redistricting.colorado.gov/content/meeting-comment/>."

MARSHALL

Continued from Page 1A

Prison time was the top priority for the DA's office in reaching a resolution. "Even if Mr. Marshall had been convicted of all seven charges, there was only one victim, so sentencing would have been concurrent," Payne said, meaning all the sentences would have been served at the same time as opposed to one sentence following another.

By Marshall agreeing to plead guilty to a third-degree felony, the "highest charge" of all charges that were filed, he was agreeing to the maximum range of sentencing possible.

DA Payne readily admits that concessions were made to reach the deal.

Three of the charges were filed along with "sentence enhancers", a legal term which notes that the crime committed was one of violence and deserving of a longer potential maximum sentence. The crime of violence attached to the two felony three charges would have increased the maximum sentence to 16 years instead of 12.

DA Payne also agreed to an "Alford Plea" which included a "waiver of factual basis." This is a frequent but not commonly known legal agreement that allows for the defendant to plead guilty to a crime he did not commit while

also agreeing to accept the punishment handed down by the court without going through the entire process of a trial by a jury.

This case has been controversial from the beginning as the crime was committed in the early evening in early summer in full view of a large group of people. It was also captured on at least one, if not more, video cameras.

Marshall was, at least initially, convinced that Pruitt had — or was going to — hit Marshall's wife with his Dodge Ram pickup truck when she was among a group of protesters at a busy intersection in downtown Alamosa. Marshall's claim when he was put under arrest is that he shot Pruitt to stop him from injuring his wife and others. However, the videotape allegedly showed something different.

Likewise, Canney had indicated, months ago, that he planned on "the defense of others" in his defense of Marshall.

While Canney never veered from that defense in his conversations with the Valley Courier over the following months, the persistent effort to find a resolution suggests that at least the defense did not want the case to go to trial.

In a conversation just hours after

the resolution, DA Payne voiced some hesitation, too, not about the case itself, but about the circumstances under which it was going to be held.

"We put in certain conditions because of COVID — separating the jury pools, social distancing, the requirement to wear masks. All of those factors are appealable," he said. If Marshall had been found guilty, those circumstances in court could have paved the way for Marshall to appeal the verdict.

Also, while Marshall took responsibility for his actions and expressed regret for his actions, the Alford Plea suggests that he was unwilling to plead guilty to the crime. It is only speculation as to why.

"If he might be thinking about his future," Payne said, "I think that most

MASCOT

Continued from Page 1A

Melvin J. Baker of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, "Tribal Council did discuss other symbols that reflect Ute culture which are not anthropomorphic in nature and would not run afoul of SB 21-116. In particular, animals of cultural significance to the Tribe include

people look at a person's history and see a felony three. That's it. Not too many people ask, 'how many felony threes did he have?'"

The victim, Pruitt, was in court at the plea hearing and was not quite so accepting. According to people who were present in the courtroom, Pruitt strongly opposed the resolution and made a fierce and "lengthy statement" to the judge.

"Danny is very angry," Payne said. "He wanted more. And he'll be able to make that same statement at the sentencing hearing."

Sentencing is up to Judge Gilbert Martinez.

When asked about his perspective of the case, Canney paused before answering.

"This was a very tough case.

Nobody's happy," Canney said.

When asked the same question, Payne was more pragmatic.

"Marshall is going to spend time in prison. That was my stipulation — it's even stated in the plea deal, and both parties have agreed. He's going to spend time in prison. It's up to the judge to decide how long. Aside from that, all I can say is that it's over. It's done. And it can't be appealed," Payne said.

The sentencing hearing is scheduled for Oct. 25.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

What doesn't kill you...

There is an adage that says, "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger" and to some extent that is true in a lot of situations. We can all think of things we have gone through that were horrible at the time but living through the experience seemed to make us stronger in some fashion.

This could be an illness or an emotional turmoil that we experienced and at the time we were not sure we could even survive it but somehow, through the Grace of God, we made it through and because of the struggle, came out stronger on the other side.

And Ol' Dutch got to thinking, which seems to be connected to Miss Trixie's involuntary eye rolling illness. Do we need to find a good doctor to see about that?

You do not have to watch very much television to find yourself inundated by advertising for medicines that pharmaceutical companies want you to try. They are so bold as to tell you to ask your doctor for some of it as if that alone will make him or her prescribe said magic potion.

Now Ol' Dutch has taken a lot of cure-all elixirs and pills in my life, and I guess they have probably extended my stay here on planet earth at least for the present time and I am thankful for that. The one thing I try and not do when taking any medication is read the possible side effects of taking said drug as sure as the world. If I know of any, I begin to feel like I am having those same ones.

And the old saying that "the treatment is worse than the disease" came to mind yesterday when I saw an ad for a medicine like what I used to imbibe daily. Of course, the brightly colored advertisement on the boob tube included a gorgeous young model of the female persuasion and that got Ol' Dutch's attention right away. So, I stayed tuned to that channel for the moment and to learn about how taking said drug would get me a younger woman replete with a new car, house, and boat.

Watching her dance around the open fields and picking flowers in the sunshine, healthy due to the use of this new wonder medicine made me want to just run out and find a doctor who would provide me with this fountain of youth miracle concoction.

I was all set to call my local provider when the ad suddenly switched to the possible side effects of taking said pills. This information was given in a rapid-



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

fire combination of words so fast and in a lower tone, so it was almost impossible to follow. Of course, with anything you ingest from beer to nuts, there are possible risks but the list they provided did get my attention quickly.

It appears that if you take this new medicine, you may experience the following symptoms: "Low blood sugar, headache, drowsiness, irritability, hunger, dizziness, confusion, sweating, feeling jittery, weakness, fast heartbeat, kidney problems, sometimes requiring dialysis, joint pain, skin reaction that can require hospitalization, upper respiratory infection, stuffy or runny nose and sore throat, and headache, stomach upset and diarrhea, and swelling of the hands or legs. Be warned, these are not all possible side effects of taking this drug."

Talk about a disclaimer. So, trying to ignore such things and get back to normal Ol' Dutch did the most obvious thing to take my mind off the dangers around me and ordered some new arrows from Amazon. Happy as a kid in a candy store, I was until a huge disclaimer popped up onto my screen of eternal bliss. For it seems that materials used in the manufacture of said pointed projectiles have been found to cause cancer in California.

All of which Ol' Dutch finds kind of stupid as I have no intention of using them in California anyway and they should know that from my mailing address. Maybe that is why so many people are moving out of the Golden State, too. It is a matter of life or death.

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



LETTERS

Remembering unions on Labor Day

Editor,
Labor Day is upon us, with parties and parades. This year, we celebrate the proud history of our American labor movement. Mother Jones advised, "Mourn the dead — and fight like hell for the living!"

We at the Western Colorado Trades and Labor Assembly intend to do both. We hope to educate others about the roots of Labor Day, to understand why we have so much to celebrate — and so much to fight for.

The long weekend we're celebrating was paid for by the blood of striking workers. In 1894, it was common for employees to work 12 or more hours per day, seven days a week. Despite

early child labor laws, children as young as 5 years old still worked in mines, mills and factories. When the American Railroad Union called for a nationwide boycott of Pullman cars, President Grover Cleveland called in 12,000 federal troops to break the strike. Resulting riots led to the deaths of dozens of workers. In 1894, Labor Day was created to heal the breach between the government and the American worker.

As we mourn our fallen, we see a dawning hope in the rise of unionism in our country. New unions are organized daily, and union membership is on the rise. This generation of workers understands union membership is a pathway to

a solid career, great benefits, and a living wage. Unions fight for all of us, and create safe workplaces where workers are treated with respect. We will always fight for workers' rights.

The Western Colorado Trades and Labor Assembly would like to welcome all Western Slope unionists to join our organization, to strengthen the Labor movement in Colorado. For more information, please contact manderson@coafclcio.org.

Wishing you a safe and happy Labor Day — from our family to yours.

*Molly J. Anderson
Affiliate Union and Allies
Organizer Colorado AFL-CIO
Western Trades and Labor
Assembly*

Projects for Monte Vista

Editor,
I am a former Councilor for Monte Vista and am writing this letter to inform the new Council of projects that I had envisioned in my time in public office, that would enhance the community for residents and visitors to the community. I feel that Monte Vista must keep pace with surrounding towns and distinguish itself with unique features.

First, the town desperately needs an RV park like the ones in Del Norte and South Fork. The ideal location would be near or adjacent to the golf course. Sites could be

leased or sold to the many RV visitors the San Luis Valley.

Second, the town should consider turning Adams Street between First and Second streets into a walking mall for visitors to enjoy dining and movies and fun without worrying about traffic. This was successfully done in Denver and rejuvenated the downtown area.

Third, a trail system in town using the existing ditch system roads would offer endless enjoyment for residents and visitors to the community. The new trail behind Big R is a start and could be easily expanded using GOCO funding.

Finally, RV parking in town near the depot would be an incentive for travelers to stop and enjoy the many opportunities for shopping and fun that Monte Vista has to offer.

I just want the momentum for change to keep going like it has been the last several years with the Ski Hi project, movie theater, and skate park, all of which were being accomplished or completed during my term in office. Hopefully, cooperation with landowners and people with the same vision can make these changes a reality.

Greg Spangler, Monte Vista

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Britney Gallegos rides for Team USA

Monte Vista woman taking part in world-renowned ISDE

By Marie Mccolm
MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista's Britney Gallegos is in Italy for the International Six Days of Enduro (ISDE). The 28-year-old is a part of a team that is representing the USA in Italy.

Team USA won the ISDE World Trophy and the ISDE Women's Trophy in 2019 but was unable to defend the titles in 2020 as the event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Team USA's junior team placed second in 2019.

"This has been a dream of mine, and I have been chasing this race, for as long as I have known about it," Gallegos said.

An enduro motorcycle is an off-road racing motorcycle used in enduros, which are long-distance cross-country time trial competitions. Enduro motorcycles closely resemble motocross motorcycles.

"I have been racing since I was about 6 years old, so roughly about 20 years," Gallegos said. "My dad (Louis) got me into racing, he used to race professionally and when I was old enough to get on a dirt bike around 4 years old, it just all took off and I started racing."

ISDE is the oldest "off-road" motorcycle event on the International Motorcycling Federation (IMF) calendar. The event is intense, consisting of 8 hours of racing per day for six days straight. Participants are given required routes, with timed tests that they must meet along the routes.

ISDE began in 1913 as the World Trophy for teams consisting

of three riders who had to use bikes manufactured in their own countries, according to the ISDE website. Later, the famous Silver Vase Trophy was introduced. This Trophy was competed for by groups of four riders and, unlike the World Trophy, the riders were allowed to ride motorcycles from anywhere in the world.

In the early 80s, the name of the event was changed from International Six Days of Trials to International Six Days of Enduro. In 1985, the Junior Trophy, exclusively for riders up to the age of 23, was renamed the Silver Vase. The World Trophy took on its current configuration, with teams of six members, free to choose their own bikes.

In 2007, the Women's Trophy for teams of three riders was introduced. Today, in addition to the World Trophy, the Junior Trophy, and the Women's Trophy, there is also Club Trophy for three-member teams representing their clubs.

Gallegos had a win in the National Hare and Hound Championship held last year.

"I feel this win is what really got me recognized and helped me get here to Italy this year," she said.

Gallegos said that she was one of the women that were chosen based on her finishes in previous races, and her racing abilities.

Gallegos is excited to be in Italy representing Team USA. Gallegos said her mother is an enormous influence in her racing.

"My mother always let me do what I needed to do with my dad and allowed me to be with him in order to participate in my racing," Gallegos said.

Louis Gallegos is proud of his daughter for going as far as she



Photos courtesy of Gallegos family
Pictured left to right are Brandy Richards, Rachel Gutish, and Monte Vista's Britney Gallegos, who will be representing the United States at the International Six Days of Enduro (ISDE) in Italy.

Monte Vista's Britney Gallegos, 28, has been racing motorcycles since the age of 6. She credits her father, Louis Gallegos, who was a racer, for her start in the international sport.

has gone.

"She really wanted this, she went after it, and she's doing it," he said.

Louis Gallegos said that he and his daughter have been racing together for years, and he hopes she wins.

"She has the spirit for it and has really pushed herself out of her comfort zone to do this," Louis Gallegos said.

ISDE began Aug. 30 and concludes Sept. 4 in Italy.

Britney Gallegos thanked everyone who has supported her, especially her parents.



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SUMMER

Continued from Page 1A

blocked off, which created a safe and fun block-party feel. A stage was set up in front of the park on the street, and a trapeze was erected in the open grassy area.

Food vendors were plentiful, offering all types of dishes and there was a beer tent for the adults to enjoy. Tacos, popcorn, hot dogs and snow cones were consumed by people in attendance.

The water park portion of the park was filled with children and some adults taking the chance to cool off on the hot summer day.

There were vendors from around the Valley offering their goods for sale. Homemade items, fine art, crafts, beauty products, boutique clothing and other items were bought by those enjoying the day.

"It's wonderful to be out on this fine day," stated one vendor.

Some vendors reported robust sales, and expressed that they were happy to participate. The vendors were sourced specifically from local businesses and individuals, which helps to support Center's economic growth.

The Salida Circus performed on the trapeze, with high-flying athleticism on display. One member of the circus rode around the festival on a unicycle while juggling, to the delight of the families in attendance.

According to their website, the "Salida Circus is Colorado's most unique troupe of stilt walkers, aerialists, acrobats, magicians, jugglers and balloon twisters! Established in 2007, Salida Circus has performed throughout Colorado."

There were several live music performances, including Valiboyz, DJ Big Sexy, Slo Burn, and Tino Y Su Marka.

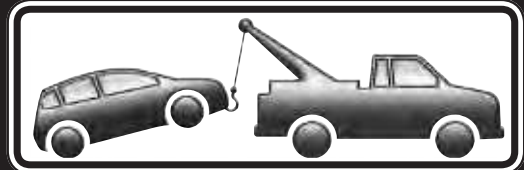


Photos by Mechel Meek



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Potato Festival to feature ag tours

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — It's that time of year again. The 2021 Potato Festival will be Saturday, Sept. 11 at Chapman Park in Monte Vista.

There is another exciting opportunity available at the Potato Festival for people who want an in-depth look at the potato industry. The annual agriculture tour will be departing from Chapman Park by bus in Monte Vista at 8 a.m. and returning at 11 a.m.

Hosted by the Executive Director of Colorado Potatoes, Jim Ehrlich, this tour will visit the San Luis Valley Research Center and a local grower's field. Passengers will get to talk directly with growers and researchers and get to see firsthand how potatoes are grown in the San Luis Valley.

This year we will have a second tour departing at 1 p.m. from Chapman Park; this tour will stop at a local grower's field. Guided by a local grower, we're excited to offer a second tour.

These tours are free of charge as well, but spots are limited. People who are interested should visit coloradopotato.org/potatofestival or contact Colorado Potatoes at 719-

852-3322 or info@coloradopotato.org to reserve a space.

After the tour, passengers can stay for the 2021 San Luis Valley Potato Festival at Chapman Park, and all the other fun activities it has to offer. All day at Chapman Park there will be a 5K race, kid's games, the famous mashed potato dunk tank, professional chef demo, bouncy houses, and a trampoline quad jumper.

There will also be food and craft vendors, games for the family, live animals, an antique tractor display with homemade ice cream, a truck and semi show and much, much more.

That evening, as an added feature, there will be a motorsport aerial freestyle show featuring X-Game medalists. This will be at the Ski-Hi Park Arena, and tickets can be purchased at potatofest.eventbrite.com.



Photo courtesy of Potato Festival
Ag tours are being offered during the annual Potato Festival on Sept. 11 in Monte Vista.

HVCC afterschool program resumes

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

DEL NORTE — Hello community members! As September approaches, we are eagerly awaiting the children's return to High Valley Community Center. Our afterschool program will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 7 from 4-6:30 p.m.

Our Fabulous Fridays will also resume! For the month of September, Fabulous Fridays will be spent at the Sand Dunes Swimming Pool enjoying the water and learning how to swim. More information to come.

Please note that the kiddos are required to wear their masks on the bus or vans. We recommend that the children wear their masks during the program, but they are not currently required.

Volleyball games are underway! Third through sixth grade volleyball games began on Aug. 23 and will continue until the end of September. Schedules are available on our website, thehvcc.org. Flag football games will be Tuesdays and Thursdays and began on Aug. 31. The kiddos involved with Rise Above Football will have games on Saturdays beginning on Sept. 11. If your child is playing either volleyball or flag football and has yet to receive an HVCC jersey, please notify the HVCC front office at 719-657-2172.

We are accepting registrations throughout the year, but please note that children must be registered before they can join us. Visit www.thehvcc.org and the registration form will be under the "Register" tab. If your child is a new attendee, there is a good chance you have a lot of questions. Please reach out with questions or stop by our office for a tour of the facility. Parents and guardians are always welcome to check out the activities. We love to share what we're working on with the kids!



San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2021-2022

Football

Sanford 52	Crowley County 14
Fowler 54	Sargent 6
Centauri 28	Wray 14
Monte Vista 30	Rocky Ford 0
North Fork 42	Center 8
Classical Academy 38	Alamosa 13

Thanks to these businesses for supporting SLV sports!



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Monte Vista

Who's Who in FINANCE

Aventa CREDIT UNION

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- Jean has been with Aventa Credit Union 9 years.
- Jean is currently Serving on the Board of Saguache Chamber of Commerce and has for the past 7 years
- She has lived in the San Luis Valley off and on for over 22 years and can trace her family roots in SLV to the late 1800's and they have run the Saguache Crescent Newspaper for over 100 years.
- She has a 13 year old son.

Jean Collier- SLV Area Branch Manager



- Lupita has been with Aventa Credit Union for 6.5 years
- Her bilingual skills allow her to serve our Spanish-speaking members with ease.
- Lupita has been a Center resident for 28 years.
- She is a proud mom of two children.

Lupita Majalca-Consumer Lending Specialist



- Joel has been in banking for 8 years, including 5 years with Aventa Credit Union.
- He is currently in his second term on the board for the Northern Saguache County Library District.
- Joel is a writer, artist, vocal artist, jewelry designer and leather goods and accessories maker and has lived in the Saguache County area for 6 years.

Joel Weston- Mortgage Loan Officer NMLS#1861581

Nighttime closures on U.S. 160 begin Sept. 13, east of the CO 151 intersection

STAFF REPORT

PAGOSA SPRINGS — U.S. Highway 160 will be fully closed nightly for one week in mid-September, according to the Colorado Department of Transportation. The five nights of closures will begin on Sept. 13 and continue through Sept. 17, from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. The section of U.S. 160 to be closed is located just east of the Colorado Highway 151 junction, near Chimney Rock National Monument and Lake Capote, near mile point 127.

The intersection of U.S. 160 and Colorado Highway 151 will remain open; however, motorists will only

be able to travel westbound toward Bayfield and Durango during nighttime closure times. Eastbound travel toward Pagosa Springs will not be allowed, as the closure area is just east of the intersection.

During the nighttime closures, motorists seeking eastbound-westbound access on U.S. 160 are

advised to arrive at the closure point before 9 p.m. Otherwise, travelers may consider an alternate southern route via U.S. Highways 84, 64 and 550, through N.M. A detour at the work zone is not available. Additionally, vehicles are not permitted to stop or wait overnight on U.S. 160 while the highway is closed.



“Closing U.S. 160 is necessary to set the wildlife overpass structure into place,” said Julie Constan, CDOT Southwest Regional Transportation Director. “Large precast concrete arches will be placed over the roadway. Keeping the traveling public safe during these crane operations is a priority and dictates the need for the closure.” Wildlife-vehicle collisions make up more than 60 percent of crashes along this stretch of highway. The \$11.3 million dollar project is expected to reduce those collisions by at least 80-90 percent, potentially mirroring success

rates of other wildlife mitigation projects in Colorado. The project is expected to conclude in late fall. Project Milestones

- More than three-quarters of the wildlife fencing is completed.
- Paving of the Colorado Highway 151 and U.S. 160 intersection is completed, and a deer guard installed.
- The south side of the underpass is completed, with the north side being set in the next two weeks.
- Paving and widening of the highway is completed from the west end of Colorado Highway 151 in the eastbound lanes.

Bikers' peace rally Sept. 9-11

STAFF REPORT

MOSCA — The San Luis Valley is the perfect place for the second annual Pilot 4 Peace Biker's Rally. First, the High Desert Ranch will host this year's Rally in the Valley Veteran's Biker Run and Party for Peace.

As always, the Rally will be held Sept. 9-11. This date is picked with a specific desire to turn sacrifices into gain. People are invited to come join in the intention of a “Call for Peace” and a “Call for Action” to unify communities to use resources better and use force multiplier to “get-er-done.”

This unique 3-day event is designed to help the community learn how to work together as part of a community.

• Sept. 9 features The Gathering, coming together and progresses to a scavenger hunt and tour of Crestone's Spirituality and Scenic Nature. A ribbon cutting

will be held at Mosca Pit Stop at noon to kick off the weekend welcome.

• Sept. 10 is Community Training Day. Learn how to self-organize, evaluate, initiate and work together on a Community Project. Skills that can be applied for self-accomplishment, and for working with a larger group.

A music and comedy show at 7 p.m. features Miss Bubbles and Ron Ferguson.

• Sept. 11 features games, poker run, concert and the “Party for Peace,” featuring “Society Burning.”

For more information, visit online www.societyburning.com.

Juliet Schaub and Black Rose Dance Studio's offers a Fire Dancing Workshop on Friday, Sept. 10, with final Performance on Sept. 11. Interested people are asked to contact 720-366-6684.

Stephanie L. Miner 5K Walk and Run is set for Sept. 18

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

ALAMOSA — “On the path of life we are looking to up our game.” The San Luis Valley Health Foundation is asking people to put those words into action by attending and participating in the 18th annual Stephanie L. Miner 5K Walk and Run with a theme of Game On!

It takes place at Cole Park, on Sept. 18, with all proceeds benefiting SLV Health's pharmacy, which will score big with the cancer patients.

Get a Clue and meet at Cole Park in Alamosa at 9:30 a.m. for announcements and the quilt auction. At 10 a.m., get your game on. Wear your SLM shirt, good running-walking shoes, stay out of Trouble and take off toward a Trivial Pursuit to put a Check mate on cancer. There are no Chutes and Ladders to climb, just a Start and Finish line.

There are three paths available —



take a 1-mile healthy walk, 2.5-mile walk-run or the full stretch, 5K walk-run. This is a Risk worth taking toward The Cure.

Call or email Kelly Gurule at 719-587-5707, kelly.gurule@slvrmc.org or Jamie Mortensen 719-587-6359, Jamie.Mortensen@slvrmc.org to register.

Registration is \$30 per person, and teams of 10 or more can register for \$25 per person. Shirts are available starting Sept. 1, at SLV Health Foundation, located at the SLV Health Education and Conference Center, 1921 Main St., or starting Sept. 3 at City Market. Day of event registration is \$35 per person.

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 at 2:30 PM

to consider proposed changes to the Saguache County Land Development Code changes. To view the proposed changes, you may contact the Saguache County Land Use Department - PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov, or by calling 719-655-2321 or you may view the changes on our website at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov. Written comments will be accepted until Friday, September 24, 2021 at 3pm, and may be sent to Saguache County Land Use Department at PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or email to atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

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

No. 1604 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, September 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2021.

The Secret to Overcoming Every Attack of Your Enemy

Isaiah 54:17 gives us a wonderful promise from God. It says, “No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment you shall show to be in the wrong. This [peace, righteousness, security, triumph over opposition] is the heritage of the servants of the Lord [those in whom the ideal Servant of the Lord is reproduced]; this is the righteousness or the vindication which they obtain from Me...says the Lord” (AMPC).

No one likes to be judged or criticized by others, and this verse clearly says “every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment you shall show to be in the wrong.” The question is, how do we show those who judge and criticize us unjustly that they are wrong? Do we defend ourselves? Do we get mad at them and say equally bad things about them, trying to get back at them? No, none of that works and it's not what this scripture is talking about.

Jesus is our ultimate example of how we should live, and the Bible says in 1 Peter 2:23 (NIV), “When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges fairly.”

When someone comes against us, we're often tempted to defend ourselves and say something like, “You're not going to talk to me like that!” Or “If you think you're going to treat me that way, then I'm going to do this to you!” But the way we show those who judge and criticize us that they are wrong is by behaving in a godly way instead of letting what the enemy - the devil - did through them cause us to act the same way.

It's Spiritual Warfare

As believers in Jesus Christ, we are in a war, but it's not a war against human beings. Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) says, “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

I realize that talking about the devil is unpleasant, and many people don't want to do it. I attended church for years and, although I knew the devil was real, I didn't understand that he could be a real problem in my life.

The truth is that the source of all of the evil in this world is our enemy, the devil. It's so important for us to really get this if we want to effectively fight and get victory in the spiritual warfare we face.

The Way It Works...

Sometimes we take a verse, like Isaiah 54:17, and focus on the part that we like, expecting to reap the benefits of the whole thing. For example, we like saying, “No weapon formed against me will prosper, and everyone who says wrong things about me will be proven wrong!” But we need to take the rest of the verse to heart. It says, “This [peace, righteousness, security, triumph over opposition] is the heritage of the servants of the Lord [those in whom the ideal Servant of the Lord is reproduced]...” (AMPC).

The heritage we have in Christ - His peace, righteousness, security and triumph over opposition - is experienced by those who follow the example of “the ideal Servant of the Lord,” which is Jesus Christ. This means that true faith in Christ produces a lifestyle that represents His heart... His character and His behavior.

When you're born again - when you have a real relationship with Jesus - His Spirit comes to live in your spirit and shows you how to live right; He changes you little by little, from glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:18). And you won't be comfortable with an ungodly lifestyle as you grow closer to Him.

The Best Retaliation

So, practically speaking, what does it mean to act like Jesus in these situations? The first thing we need to do when someone comes against us is pray for them. They need to have an understanding of how dangerous it is to treat others this way. Matthew 7:2



(NIV) says, “For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged.”

We need to keep our eyes on Jesus and trust Him to give us the wisdom and strength to do what He would do. Remember the greatest commandment God gives us: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind.”; and, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27 NIV).

I want to encourage you to be a wholehearted believer in Christ who lives for Him in every area of your life! Commit yourself completely to Him and pray, “Lord, I give You every part of my life - there's nothing that is closed off to You. Do what You want to do in me and make me everything You've created me to be.”

Loving God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength is the secret to certain victory in spiritual warfare. In Christ, no weapon that's formed against you will prosper!

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

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored 130 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *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.

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.

Saguache County is requesting comments on a proposed resolution to support wildlife habitat preservation and mitigation and migration corridors.

The Board would like to hear from the public on how you feel about this proposed resolution! Draft Resolution included!

Let us know what ya'll think!!

Your written public comment needs to be back to the Administrator by Friday September 20, 2021 at 3pm.

You can mail the comments to PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 or email to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov. Comments can also be hand delivered to 505 3rd Street, Saguache, CO.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT WILDLIFE HABITAT PRESERVATION AND MIGRATION CORRIDORS

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Saguache County, Colorado is concerned with the health safety and welfare of the citizens of Saguache County; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Saguache County, Colorado is concerned about declining populations of wildlife and beneficial insects locally, nationally and globally.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Saguache County Colorado declare their support for:

- 1) actions that preserve wildlife habitat in Saguache County on Private lands, Conservation Easements, State and Federal Lands.
- 2) actions that minimize human impact in areas that are critical to maintain Wildlife populations.
- 3) actions that maintain or enhance Wildlife Migration Corridors that may cross political and or Managing Agency Boundaries.
- 4) Work with various Non-Profit, County, State, and Federal Agencies to accomplish the aforementioned goals.

READ, MOVED and APPROVED this _____ day of August, 2021.

Voted as follows: Commissioner Tim Lovato: _____
Commissioner Lynne Thompson: _____
Commissioner Tom McCracken: _____

Chairman Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

No. 1605 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, September 2, 9 and 16, 2021.



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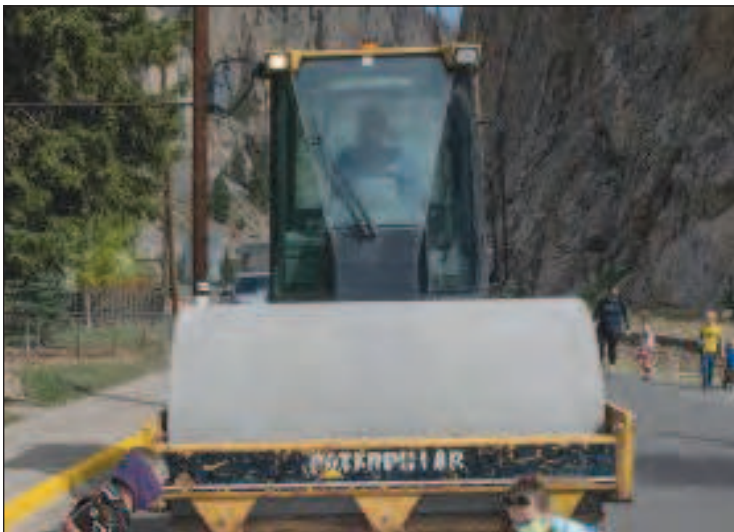
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Annual Steamroller Printmaking Event is Sept. 18

STAFF REPORT
CREEDE — The 2nd Annual Steamroller Printmaking Event is scheduled for Sept. 18. It is hosted by the Creede Arts Council, a non-profit organization in Creede.

This event takes place outdoors on Main Street Creede during the Crusin' the Canyon Car Show. "Our goal is to fulfill our mission. Please see **STEAMROLLER** on Page 2



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Del Norte celebrates the opening of the Del Norte Riverfront Park and Playwave on Friday, Aug. 20. Community members gathered at the new park for an afternoon of fun and sun by the Rio Grande.

Del Norte celebrates Riverfront project

BY LYNDSIE FERRELL
DEL NORTE — The community of Del Norte came out Friday afternoon, Aug. 20, to celebrate the new additions to the Del Norte Riverfront Project and to thank the many people involved in making this long-time dream a reality. The playwave and first initial phase of the
See PROJECT on Page 11

Rubber ducks hit the waves on the Rio Grande on Friday during the opening celebration of the Del Norte Riverfront Park and Playwave. Children splashed in the river while their rubber ducks floated to the finish line.



Antonito Labor Day Festival is set for Sept. 4

ANTONITO — The Antonito Labor Day Festival is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 4 in Antonito. The festivities begin with a free pancake breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. at the Antonito Town Hall site. The site will also host entertainment

throughout the day, including Salida Circus, the Flaming Obsidians, petting zoo, music and more. Youth activities will take place throughout the day. The Labor Day Parade will be held at 10 a.m. on Main Street.
Please see FESTIVAL on Page 2

R.C. & Bud

R.C. is an animal lover. Maybe not the kind of animal lover that the term has come to mean in this era, but the kind that requires a greater commitment.

He would tell you he's a farmer. But he's a horseman and trainer, cattleman, hog producer, corn grower and great-grandfather. He's also a dog man, with the patience and persistence to deserve a good stock dog.

R.C. has had a wide variety of dogs in his life. One day he asked his wife, Doris to keep an eye out for a Blue Heeler. They appealed to him but he'd never had one. 'Kinda rough dogs,' he thought.

Soon she found one advertised in the Albia paper; a two year old male lookin' for a home. R.C. was suspicious. Takin' on a dog that old was risky. Bad habits would be developed, old loyalties established. One just never knew. "Well, it wouldn't hurt to look," Doris chided him.

Finally, three weeks later R.C. went by to



look at the dog. As Doris was introducing themselves to the lady of the house, the two-year-old blue merle walked right up to R.C. and looked at him. They exchanged studious looks - something unspoken passed between them. R.C. picked the dog up under his arm

and took him to the truck. He just knew. The way some people know when a guitar string is in tune or a steak is cooked just right. R.C. knew the dog would be fine. And, I think the dog must have come to the same conclusion because they became constant outdoor companions. He named him Bud.

Two months after Bud had moved in with them, R.C. was out feeding. He slung a bushel basket of ear corn over his shoulder and walked into the pigpen. Bud was dawdling by the gate.

Sixteen sows came squealing from the corner as R.C. approached. His foot hit something. He slipped, went down on his back, cracked his head on a rock, and was knocked unconscious. His last memory as he fell was a three-ton wall of hungry sows charging.

He woke to find himself looking skyward in the pigpen with sticky blood on his face, in his hair and on his shirt. Bud had worn a circle around his sprawled out body. Just a

few feet away the sows waited, watching, a dark look in their eyes. Several ears of corn still lay by his head. Bud stood guard.

Another true dog story like we hear so often. If R.C. had not been an animal lover, would it have had a different ending?

But from their first meeting, dog and man somehow sensed that they would be there for each other. I can't explain how it works, it's beyond me. But it wasn't beyond Bud. . . he just knew.

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

SOIL Sangre de Cristo 'Celebration' event is Sept. 21

VALLEY — On Sept. 21 SOIL Sangre de Cristo will be hosting an event to celebrate its heritage, the harvest and the benefits of investing in the community. Woody Tasch, the founder of the Slow Money Institute and SOIL model, will speak on the topics of his three books: investing locally and supporting local, regenerative agriculture.

producers in the region with 0% interest loans. Since its founding, SOIL Sangre de Cristo has loaned \$20,000 to three farms and ranches in the region to support the local food economy and strengthen its resilience.

The next round of loan applications will be accepted in December of 2021. Members of the community become investors by building the revolving loan fund to support this effort. Farmers and food producers

can join SOIL for \$25 annually. General memberships start at \$250

per person and up, it includes a vote on loan distributions.

The mission of SOIL Sangre de Cristo is to unite the communities of

FESTIVAL Continued from Page 1

A meal or snacks can be purchased from local restaurants or visiting food vendors.

There will be a car show on Sunday, Sept. 5.

The festival is sponsored by Antonito Together and the Town of Antonito. For more information, contact Francine at 719-580-8360, Theresa at 719-992-8254 or Angela at 719-580-8175.

STEAMROLLER Continued from Page 1

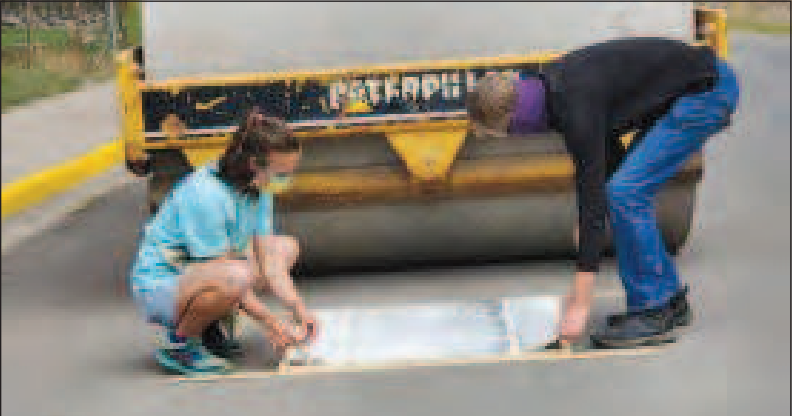
to promote the arts and humanities in our community through education, exhibition and performance and to foster local artistic talent," CAC officials stated.

a steamroller (road-bed compactor) will roll over them pressing the paper onto the board.

All works will be offered for sale the day of the event if the artist chooses to do so with 50 percent going to the artist and 50 percent to support the Creede Arts Council programs.

The Creede Arts Council extended thanks to sponsors: Quiller Gallery, Creede Hotel and Restaurant, Del Norte Bank, Chuck and Kay Harbert and El Pomar Foundation.

The Creede Arts Council will be following CDC guidelines related to COVID the day of the event.



ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

Weather Data from SLV Research Center located on the 9N and Hwy 285

Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates Shown (in./day)				Accumulated Water Use (ET)				
		8/29	8/28	8/27	8/26	From	(inches)			
						2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Moravian 69	05/05	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.08	0.13	0.17	0.24	0.39
Early Wheat	04/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Early Wheat	05/05	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.13	0.19	0.25	0.34	0.55
White Wheat	04/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04
White Wheat	05/05	0.10	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.21	0.31	0.41	0.55	0.85
WinterWheat	10/01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23
Centennial	05/05	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.15	0.34	0.50	0.65	0.85	1.28
Nugget	05/05	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.16	0.36	0.53	0.69	0.89	1.34
Alfalfa	Est.	0.21	0.23	0.20	0.18	0.44	0.63	0.82	1.06	1.57
Lawnglass	Est.	0.19	0.20	0.17	0.16	0.38	0.56	0.72	0.93	1.38

For the latest ET information, call 754-3494 extension x40 for Center, x36 for Center #2, and x38 for San Acacio. Use the crop maturity and planting date and weather station closest to your own. Find this updated table each day at this web address: <http://aes-slvrc.agsci.colostate.edu/daily-crop-water-use-report/>

This information is provided by the SLV Research Center (Colorado State University) and the Colorado Potato Certification Service. For info, call 754-3494 x26 or e-mail: andrew.houser@colostate.edu

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SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Beginner

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

		U	S	S	R		O	C	A	L	A	
S	A	M	A	R	A		U	P	L	I	F	T
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Enjoy fall fishing on the west end of the Valley

BY LYNSIE FERRELL
SAN LUIS VALLEY — As summer ends there are still several activities to do in the San Juan Mountain Range which include more than site seeing the fall colors. The Gold Medal waters of the Rio Grande are a great place to start and there are several locations along the river to stop and drop a line for those who wish to fish from the shore. River fishing trips are also available through numerous river rafting companies based out of South Fork and Creede.

This time of year, the Rio Grande waters are running at lower depths now that the last of the winter runoff has completed from the higher tributaries and fishing along the banks of the river is best in the early morning or later evening hours. Local fish tend to be less hungry and sluggish during the warmer parts of the day but are extremely active when the water is a cooler temperature. Anglers will have the best luck just as the sun rises above the San Juan and La Garita Mountain ranges, which is a sight to be seen during the fall months from now moving forward.

Just outside of South Fork is Beaver Creek Reservoir located along Forest Service Road 360 which is about two miles southwest of town heading up Wolf Creek Pass. The reservoir is an area favorite and has been stocked with Brook Trout, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout and Kokanee Salmon. Fall is an excellent time of year to fish at the reservoir either by boat or shore fishing as temperatures drop and the salmon spawn. The reservoir is very popular during the salmon snagging season and there is plenty to be had by all.

Tucked away just before Beaver Creek Reservoir on Forest Service Road 360, anglers would do well to visit Million Reservoir. This four-acre high alpine lake is about a quarter mile walk from the main trail head but is a great location for shore fishing for those seeking Rainbow Trout. The steep slopes surrounding the lake make it challenging to reach, but once a spot is located, hang on to your poles! The reservoir is surrounded by a rich forest that was once the site of the Million fire. The vegetation surrounding the lake is thick and provides excellent hiding locations for aquatic life and fish.

While traveling further up Wolf Creek Pass, anglers can turn on Forest Service Road 410 which is 11 miles outside of South Fork. This beautiful mountain reservoir is not only picturesque, but it is great for

fishing. Big Meadows is stocked throughout the summer with Brook, Cutthroat and Rainbow Trout, some of which have grown to record size due to the cold-water habitat and depth of the lake. At just over 9,000 feet in elevation, this fishing destination tops the charts and seldom disappoints.

No matter what direction an angler chooses to go this fall, each location listed above will be abundant in fall foliage and offers anglers a chance to fish while enjoying autumn in all her glory. For more information about fishing location in and around the San Luis Valley, visit www.cpw.state.co.us.



Tucked away off Forest Service Road 360 is Million Reservoir which after a short hike, is a great location for shore fishing and a beautiful place to view fall foliage.
 Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell



Big Meadows Reservoir on Forest Service 410 is a great place to take the family for fall fishing. There is easy access to the shore and an easy-to-use boat ramp for people to head out on the water for a beautiful fall day of fishing above 9,000 feet.



The banks of the Rio Grande are an excellent place to drop a line in the fall and with several locations to choose from beginning in South Fork, up to Creede these Gold Medal waters offer excellent fishing conditions in the early morning or late evening.

Monte Vista Chiropractic & Wellness, LLC
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 Monte Vista JOURNAL
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 The Hot Spot Properties
 Gateway to the San Juans
CENTER POST - DISPATCH
 Mineral County Miner
 1892 - 2020 ...there is no night in Creede.
 Valley Publishing
719-852-3531

Business Showcase
 Sunflowers are a great way to brighten up your home. We have a great selection of dish ware, napkins, framed art, and stems for your decorating needs.
 We are closed on Sunday in August.
The Holy Moses 658-2848
 Open Mon.-Sat. 121 N. Main
 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Creede

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Valley-Wide Classified **FREE!** ON LINE! **MARKETPLACE**

Sell your household items for FREE. Total value of items must be \$50 or less. See details below.



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SERVICES
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RATES

15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications
\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.
Garage Sale Ads: 15 Words or less for 1 week
\$12 + 35¢ each additional word.
Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Limited to private party only, 2 ads per person, 4 weeks.)
Convenient ad placement:
To place your ad in person come to the office at 835 First Ave. in Monte Vista, or call (719) 852-3531. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also fax your classified to (719) 852-3387 or email at montevisaclass@gmail.com
Check your ad the first day:
To ensure your ad is correct, check it the first day it appears in the paper. If there is an error in your ad, call us right away so we can correct it. If an error appears in your ad, Valley Publishing will credit you with one additional day of advertising.
Our ad policy: Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

DEADLINE

Thursday 5:00 pm
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Easy Payment Options

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05 Notices

FREE: Old Upright Piano from the Princess Theater in Del Norte. Call 719-433-2980.(9/1)

WE BUY ANTLER: New Summer Price Bonus: Use the code "ELK16" and you will get \$16/lb for Elk Grade A and \$12/lb for Deer Grade A. 5 miles west of Del Norte on Hwy 160. 719-657-0942(TFN)

07 Help Wanted

Warehouse-Ranch hand: Need hardy individual for ranch chores and warehouse duties west of Del Norte. Must work at least 8 to 10-hour, 4-5 day/week flexible schedule, sometimes including week-ends. We train. Computer skills a plus. Wage range: +\$13/hr, as per work and wage history. Send to: antler333@gmail.com or drop at 19612 US-160, Del Norte, CO

81132. (9/23)

Alamosa County Treasurer is seeking a skilled accounting person to join their team. Position is Accounting Tech I. This person must have 2-3 years experience in bookkeeping and cash manage-

ment. Prefer 2 years banking experience. Must have good clerical and customer service skills. Proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel. Familiarity with Treasurer's Deeds and Releases of Deeds of Trust preferred. \$15 per hour, nego-

table depending on qualifications, full time which is 37.5 hours per week, eligible for vacation and sick leave and health insurance benefits. Background check and drug screening required. (9/23)

Rio Grande County Department

DISCLAIMER

Please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes notify us **IMMEDIATELY**. We will make changes for errors and adjust your credit **but only if we receive notice on the first day the ad is published.** We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper which reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. All classified advertising must be pre-paid.

Zapata Seed Company

Hiring Full-Time Harvest Crew

Hooper • \$13 - \$17 / hour
It's that time of year again! We are hiring a crew for potato harvest. Experience is beneficial but not required. Sorters, unloaders and drivers needed starting at \$13/hr - \$17/hr DOE. Harvest starts after Labor Day and will last approximately a month.

Please call the office for more information at 719.754.9048 or apply in person at 10539 North 104 Road, Hooper {on the 104 N. between the 10 N and the 11 N}.

Looking to Hire Nurses, CNA'S

RN's \$30.00 - \$40.00 Hr
LPN's \$24.00 - \$32.00 Hr
CNA's \$14.50 - \$19.49 Hr
Night-Shift Differential \$1.00 an Hr
Other Positions Available!!!
Please APPLY In-Person

River Valley Inn Nursing Home
1335 Sixth Street • Del Norte, Colorado 81132 • 7 19-657-1105

Write your own Classified Ad

Regular Classified Ad Deadline-Thursday 5 p.m.
15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications
\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.
Garage Sale Ads: 15 words or less for 1 week
\$12 + 35¢ each additional word.
Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Private party only) Call 719-852-3531 for details.

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Valley Publishing Classifieds, P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144
Or drop by at 835 First Avenue

All Classified Advertising must be pre-paid

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Class: _____ Start Date: _____

Valley Wide

Classifieds

of Social Services is accepting applications for a Full-Time Case Aide to assist the Child Protection Team. \$14.55-\$15.12 hour/37.5 hours per week. Full benefit package offered. Pre-employment drug screening, including testing for marijuana, will be required. Application and additional information are listed in the job description which is available online at www.riograndecounty.org or pick-up/submit applications to Human Resources 925 6th Street Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. (9/8)

“Trout Club between Creed and Lake City needs Caretakers for next season, inquiries to rocknredfish@yahoo.com” (9/23)

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 atlmartinez@urtigers.co. 9/1

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 \$23,881-\$28,228, based on experience. Applicant must pass a background check and be able to work independently, be a forward-thinking individual with an overall team approach to all tasks at hand. Applicant must also be able to work in all weather conditions (snow removal/general landscaping). If interested, please contact Demo Trujillo, 719-657-4040 x4007, dtrujillo@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. 9/1

Mechanical Engineer, Monte Vista, CO: Design new parts & equipment for various mechanical applications. Req. Bach. in Engineering or Foreign Academic Equiv. Min. 2 yrs. exp. in mechanical Eng. & machinery design, incl. exposure to agricultural implement design. Req. exp. w/ 2D & 3D modeling in Solid works PDM or similar. Req. full competency in MS Office & related software. Req. relocation to the San Luis Valley of CO (no relocation package provided). Must be able to communicate effectively in English. Formation Ag Inc., 1021 US HWY 285 N, Monte Vista, CO 81144. Application is by Resume only. For consideration, email resume to randyw@formation-ag.com. This position qualifies for our employee referral program w/ incentives. (9/1)

Retail Position-Wolf Creek Ski Area is accepting applications for a Treasure/Noel Sports Supervisor. Full time, seasonal position; October thru April. Must have prior retail and managerial experience. Knowledge of frontend and backend of POS system (RTP preferable). Understanding of inventory control, sales reporting and scheduling is critical. Full job description and duties at WolfCreekSki.com. Send resumes and applications to treasuresports@wolfcreekski.com or P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Position requires an in-

dividual to be friendly, hard working, flexible, organized with good communication and managerial skills. Reliable transportation necessary. Competitive wages based on experience. (9/8)

ACCOUNTING/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK-Farm Fresh Direct is accepting applications for an Accounting/Accounts Payable Clerk. Requirements would entail: 2 years of bookkeeping experience and/or an intermediate understanding of accounting concepts and Accounts Payable; Computer skills; Proficiency in Excel, Word, Outlook. Attention to detail is a must; ability to multi-task in fast paced, sales oriented environment. Knowledge and experience in potato industry, shipping procedures and Famous software is a plus. Salary commensurate w/ experience & education; benefits package. Send resumes/Pick up applications to/at the Monte Vista Workforce Center. (9/8)

WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge is hiring for Operator I positions....\$18.22/hour REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must possess a current Class-A CDL license with heavy semi-truck endorsement and a current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED and six months or more of relevant experience. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check. Operator I is a full time position – applicants must be able to operate light and heavy equipment and perform manual labor in the maintenance, repair and minor construction of roads, streets, bridges, signs, markings and related facilities. Applicants must be physically capable of periods of sustained physical exertion and may be required to lift and move up to 75 lbs. to 150 lbs. Applications are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 – 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website – saguachecounty.colorado.gov under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit the Drivers-Application. A complete job description is available at the Road and Bridge Office. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge – at the address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until qualified candidates are hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (9/8)

12 Houses for Rent
Del Norte, Country Living, 3-bedroom, 2-bath, all appliances including washer / dryer, new cabinets, countertops, luxury vinyl plank and carpet, No Pets. \$1,150 per month plus utilities. Mark 719-873-1078 (9/1)

23 Lawn and Garden
Sprinkler repair. Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (09/25)

24 Garage Sales
Huge Yard Sale-Kayak, 3-One Man Pontoons, 2-Trolling Motors, Fishing Gear, Camping Gear, Tools, Electric Widger New In Box. Clean Water Tanks 1-150 Gallon and 1-65 Gallon. Household items, Crafts and many more items. 3373 Hartgrave Road. From Fort Garland Hwy 160 to Trincherra Ranch Road to Schifflign Road Follow Signs. September 3rd and 4th. Friday from 8-3 and Saturday 7-3. Call For directions 719-379-4241.

31 Health
Leaf Medical Three Positon Recliner W/Table Trey unlocking Wheels. Fully Electric Hospital Bed, both only used a couple of times. Call 719-640-7954. (9/8)

35 Heavy Equipment
Semi-Trucks and Belley Dump Trailers 10K and Up. Call 719-

Back TO SCHOOL



How to prepare kids to go back to school

The end of summer can be a bitter-sweet time for students. While many students look forward to seeing their friends, few want to say goodbye to the relaxing days of summer.

Parents know that getting their children back in the school day swing of things can be a challenge. The following are some ways to make that transition go smoothly.

- Introduce more structure as summer vacation winds down. The chance to unwind in a structure-free setting can benefit students at the onset of summer vacation. Many parents grapple with the notion that their children’s lives are overscheduled, and the Cleveland Clinic notes that limiting organized activities clears up down time for kids to play and relax and spend time with their families. So it’s important that parents afford their children this down time during summer vacation, only gradually introducing more structure as the school year draws closer. In the weeks before the school year is slated to begin, start waking kids up a little earlier and reintroducing bedtimes for younger children who may have been staying up later over the last couple of months. This can be an effective way to begin slowly preparing youngsters for the structure of the school year.

- Encourage children to read throughout the summer. A report from the education publishing company Scholastic found that 47 percent of parents are unaware of the “summer slide,” which refers to the loss of academic skills that occurs when school is not in session.



Scholastic notes that the slide is largely attributed to a lack of reading when school is not in session. By encouraging kids to read during their summer vacations, parents can make sure youngsters’ brains stay sharp and are ready to learn once the school year begins.

- Focus on the positive. Even kids who love school may be apprehensive about returning to the classroom. After all, summer vacation is fun. Parents can confront that apprehension by focusing on the positives of returning to school. Emphasize the chance to see friends every day or participate in a beloved extracurricular activity, like sports, band or a favorite academic club.

- Let kids do some of their own back-to-school shopping. The items that constitute back to school supplies may have changed since parents were in school. But many parents still take their children on back-to-school clothes shopping excursions. Let kids choose their own clothes, as an opportunity to wear clothes they picked themselves might make them excited for the new school year.

Parents can take various steps to make the transition back to school a successful one for their young students.

SLUU
San Luis UniServ Unit

Would like to wish a safe and healthy 2021-22 school year to all students, educators and staff!
719-589-5188

CEA SLUU is 1 of 18 regional Colorado Education Association UniServ offices. CEA is the largest union of educators in the state with more than 38,000 K-12 educators, higher ed faculty and education support professionals. <https://www.coloradoea.org/>

EARLY DEADLINES

Due to Labor Day!
September 8 & 9 issues:

Display, Classified & Legal Advertising for Lifestyles & All Paid Papers - Wed., Sept. 1 • 12 noon.
Editorial - Thurs., Sept. 2 • 5 p.m.

Our office will be closed on Monday, September 6

Valley Publishing
835 First Ave. • Monte Vista
(719) 852-3531

Have a Safe & Happy Labor Day Weekend!

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Thunderbird Pride!
First Day of School August 23
Accepting Out of District Students!!
719-378-2321 sdc.schooldesk.net

Valley Wide

588-4415 (9/25)

36 Miscellaneous

Prepair for the Winter Months 10% off all efco Chainsaws. Sale ends September 30th. County Line Small Engine Repair, 4521 E County Rd 125 La Jara, CO 81140. (9/8)

For Sale: 10'x10' chain link dog kennel \$400 firm 10' green metal pasture gate \$80 firm Cash only on both Call 719-588-5615 for more information. (9/23)

For Sale: Tomatoes, Fresh Home Grown Sweet Corn & Other Produce. Place Your order now! 719-851-0926. (9/15)

WANTED: 10-16 Tons Lump or Egg 2021 Mined Coal. Call 719-580-1215 (9/29)

Propane Refrigerators Sold Here. Call For Options and Prices. We Also Stock Solar Powered Refrigerators and Freezers. Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road 3E, Monte Vista. (719)852-0500 (9/25)

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42 Feed & Seed

For Sale: All Types of Hay Big and Small Squares Located at HVFM 10475 US Hwy 285 Antonito (570) 395-0184. (11/10)

Classifieds

46 Pasture for Rent

WINTER HORSE PASTURE: 160 acres, Supervised, alfalfa and grass pasture, heated water, wind shelter, \$55/head per month, November thru early-May. Also Alfalfa-grass horse hay 720# bales, \$80 each. West of Del Norte 719-657-0942 (5/22TFN)

48 Pets & Supplies

Puppies for sale \$200.00 The father is a Sibearian Husky & female is a Brindle Boxer. Unique Markings Call 727-315-3323. I will send pictures. (9/15)

59 Vehicles Wanted

CASH ON THE SPOT FOR JUNK AND UNWANTED VEHICLES We pickup, no title ok. 719-937-7935. 719-849-8491(TFN11-21)

64 Autos for Sale

2004 Sonata \$800.00 269k Miles Good Conditon. Easy Start. Call 303-809-6539. Good Tires, No Rust. (9/15)

65 Professional Services

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RELIABLE CARPENTRY - 46 years-experience in carpentry, painting, stucco, tile, drywall, roofing, etc. Drug/Alcohol free. Free Estimates 719-496-7630.(10/06)

LICENSED PLUMBER does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable rates. Quick service. Call anytime, available week-ends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (09/25) TFN)

THE BLIND GUY window coverings. Free measuring, free estimates. Professional installation. Guaranteed lowest prices. Call Tony, 970-903-1403. (08/01/2021 TFN)

Labor Day Weekend

in **Colorful Creede**

Friday

7:00 pm - CRT, An Iliad
7:00 pm - CRT, Hotel Cabaret
9:00 pm - CRT, Boomtown!
Dark Thirty - Outdoor Movie, The Princess Bride, Ed Hargraves Park (Ball Field)

Saturday

7:30 am - Creede Mountain Run (50k, 22 mile Start), Loma
9:00 am - Creede Mountain Run (12 mile, 2 mile Walk/Run Start), Loma
11:00 am - 2:00 pm Music/DJ, Basham Park
1:00 pm - CRT, Red Riding Hood
7:00 pm - CRT, Dear Jack, Dear Louise
9:00 pm - CRT, Boomtown!

Take a Hike | Enjoy A Show, Shop on Main Street Eat Out.

Visit Creede.com for more Info
Questions? Cal 719.658.2374

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New 4-H agent introduced at Saguache County Commissioner's Board Meeting

By MECHEL MEEK

SAGUACHE — During a special meeting of the Saguache County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, Aug. 24, Morgan Young introduced herself as the new 4-H agent for the San Luis Valley area.

Young began by explaining her previous experience and background in 4-H and FFA.

"I really wanted to be a 4-H agent," Young said.

She was previously a 4-H agent for Chaffee County and explained that she learned a lot about how to run a 4-H program in her time there. She went on to explain that every county and area has their own unique challenges and opportunities.

"Here I have a unique opportunity as I am serving six counties and not just one," she said.

Saguache County sent 20 participants with 4-H projects to the state fair. Historically, Saguache County has had a large amount of youth involved in 4-H.

"I think if we could get to 400 members that would be a success for

me," Young said.

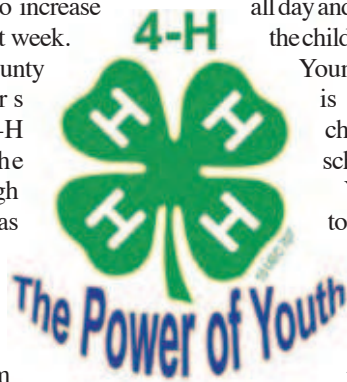
National 4-H week is the first week of October, and the San Luis Valley 4-H program would like to increase enrollment during that week.

The Saguache County Commissioners discussed adding 4-H information to the county website, though no final decision was reached about what information should be included.

4-H is a development program for youth from ages 8-18.

There are 4-H programs in all types of agricultural areas, not just the typical raising of animals. These include various programs, from robotics to cooking, which gives participants the chance to learn about subjects that interest them.

Schools are currently the best source for recruiting 4-H members. Young also addressed the need for volunteers to help 4-H participants with their projects and that local people are the best source for these.



"I think the decline in children participating, is the lack of volunteers as the parents are tired after working all day and don't have time to help the children with their projects,"

Young said, adding there is benefit and value for children in having an after-school program for 4-H.

Young has plans to speak to the schools to work on implementing after-school programs and wants to work on realizing an in-school program. The in-school curriculum could include hands-on educational opportunities, such as an embryology program, which is hatching chickens in the classroom while studying the stages of the life cycle from embryo to chick.

Other programs could also be implemented in-school, including education on water conservation or other areas of interest to local concern regarding agriculture.

She also discussed that some parents and children are hesitant to join 4-H due to financial concerns. In regard to this issue, she stated that there is funding available to help kids with funding for their projects, and it is currently underutilized. The SLV 4-H program is run through the Colorado State University Extension office located in Monte Vista.

Entry details for Saguache Photo Competition

STAFF REPORT

SAGUACHE — Entry information for the Saguache Photo Competition has been released.

- There are over 10 categories:
- Historic Buildings
 - Local (people or activities)
 - Best Buddies (two or more animals, children, adults, or mix of each)
 - Landscapes
 - Skyscapes (sunrise, sunsets, rainbows, storm clouds, lightning)
 - Wildlife
 - Miscellaneous (still life, or any topic not fitting into the other categories)
 - Miscellaneous Organics (floral, trees, vegetables, plant life)
 - Action (working cowboys, rodeo, rafting sporting events, etc.)
 - Pets (domestic animals such as dogs, cats, horses, chickens, cows, etc.)
 - Series (2 to 4 related photos)
 - Black and White (any subject)
 - Professional category

Some categories may be grouped together if the total number of entries are low.

All photos must have been taken within the San Luis Valley. No repeat photos from previous years' competitions will be accepted. Each person is limited to two photos in any category. Entries must be suitably framed or matted.

There will be ribbons for places 1-6 in each category as well as an overall Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, and Teacher's Choice (technical winner) awarded to amateurs only.

The professional category will have the same categories, same rules and may be grouped with amateurs if not enough entries are submitted. A professional is described as "a person taking and showing photographs specifically for profit."

Entries are due Thursday, Sept. 9 and Friday, Sept. 10 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church at 6th and Christy streets in Saguache.

If you cannot submit during these times, call Sara at 719-239-0366 to make special arrangements.

Public voting will be Thursday, Sept. 16 and Friday, Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on both days.

The photos will be on display with their awards on Saturday, Sept. 18 at 9 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall. Entries must be picked up between 3:30 and 4 p.m. Organizers are not responsible for

unclaimed photos.

Entry forms may be filled out the day photos are submitted. There is no entry fee.

High Valley Community Center sports underway

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Hello community members! Happy first week back to school, kiddos!

We are happy to report that football and volleyball have started! Volleyball practices will be held at the HVCC Gym at 810 Oak St. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Third and fourth grades practice from 5-6 p.m. and fifth and sixth grades will practice from 6-7 p.m. Games will be played on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning the week of Aug. 23. Game schedules will be posted on our website, thehvcc.org.

First and second grades registered for flag football will practice Mondays and Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m. at Voss Field. Games will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning the week of Aug. 23. Please look on our website for game information.

Grades third through sixth playing tackle football will have their own schedule with Rise Above Football. Reach out to Dan Roesch at 719-850-8690 with any questions.

In other news, we had our open house on Thursday, Aug. 19. We

had a great turn out and it was nice to interact with community members in person. Thank you to all that attended!

We would like to remind parents and guardians to register your child with HVCC if you have not done so in a year. A link to the registration form is on our website, thehvcc.org under the "Register" tab. If you have any questions about the program, please contact HVCC at 719-657-2172.

HVCC will re-open for fall program on Tuesday, Sept. 7. During programming hours, we provide the kids with a homecooked meal, a variety of planned activities onsite, homework help and the option to join after-school sports.

During Fabulous Fridays the kids enjoy time offsite all day. In the past, we have taken the kids to the Great Sand Dunes National Park, the Sand Dunes Swimming Pool, Splashland, the ASU climbing wall, Lucky Shoe Riding Club, Lucky Strike Bowling Alley, sledding in South Fork, etc.

We are looking forward to seeing the kiddos after Labor Day vacation.

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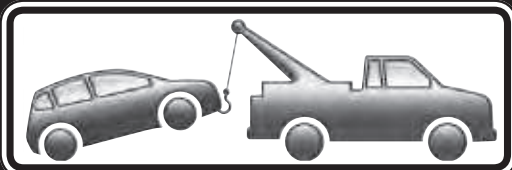
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Farm-to-table is changing the restaurant business

Farm-to-table is a movement that promotes serving local products, preferably food and beverages acquired directly from a producer.

Farm-to-table eateries source ingredients locally as much as possible, and diners are increasingly expressing a preference for these establishments. According to the National Restaurant Association's "What's Hot in 2015" survey, locally sourced meats and seafood, locally grown produce, environmental sustainability, and natural ingredients/minimally processed foods were among the most popular food trends.

Farm-to-table establishments reduce carbon footprints by cutting back on the amount of resources necessary to get food from the farm to the restaurant. The farm-to-table movement began as a countermeasure to big agriculture and chemically controlled produce. Although there is no hard data on just how many restaurants can be considered farm-to-table, organic farming in general is big business. In its 2014 Organic Survey, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agriculture Statistics Service reported that sales of organic products increased by 72 percent since 2008. California, Washington, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Wisconsin were the top five states for organic farming, accounting for 78 percent of organic sales in the United States at the time of the survey.

Supporting farm-to-table estab-



Courtesy photo

Fresh, local foods are the hallmark of farm-to-table restaurants.

lishments can benefit the planet, but consumers should know that there are additional advantages to patronizing such businesses.

- **Support for local businesses:** Local restaurateurs who embrace farm-to-table can support and promote other local operations. Restaurants can help farmers by purchasing excess crops or simply providing the demand for farmers' products.

- **Greater control over ingredients:** In some instances, chefs can travel to nearby farms during harvest to personally select items for their restaurants, ensuring excellent quality.

- **Better taste and quality:** Fresh food is picked at its peak instead of being

forced to ripen during a long journey. This typically translates to more flavorful foods.

- **Evolving and updated menus:** Because farm-to-table means sourcing in-season ingredients, restaurants must have fluid menus that change based on the availability of ingredients and fishing and harvesting quotas. This can lead to greater variety and prevent menus from becoming dated or overly familiar.

Hyper-local sourcing that fuels farm-to-table operations continues to be an in-demand restaurant trend. Diners can rest easy knowing that patronizing such establishments benefits both the environment and the local economy.

Maintenance key to functioning farms

The family automobile is not the only piece of equipment that requires routine upkeep to ensure it is operating properly.

Life on a farm can come to a screeching halt if farm equipment is not properly maintained. Farmers invest hundreds of thousands of dollars on agricultural equipment, such as tractors, tillers, hoppers, and dozers. Adhering to maintenance schedules can prevent breakdowns and decrease the need for potentially costly emergency repairs.

Keep it clean

Cleaning the surface of equipment can go a long way toward keeping it operating smoothly. Use a pressure washer to remove caked-on mud and other debris. Titan iron suppliers recommend quickly washing equipment after usage so that substances do not have the chance to harden.

Learn the equipment

Over time, it is possible to employ your senses of sight, sound and even smell to determine if equipment is working properly. Familiarize yourself with the owner's manual so you can troubleshoot minor problems. Any unusual sounds, odors or responses from the gear should be noted.

Routine maintenance checks

Routinely inspect hoses, fittings, and seals to ensure they are in good working condition. Be sure fluids, such as coolant and oil, are at the proper levels. Check and replace filters as needed. Tires need to be properly inflated, and inspect the



battery for corrosion or other signs that it may need to be replaced. Check belts for cracks. Tour the exterior of the equipment looking at signals and lights to ensure they are in proper working order. Hardware should be tightened and any missing pieces replaced.

Heavy farm equipment needs motor oil, hydraulic oil and filters changed more frequently than automobiles. Such equipment also may need more frequent lubrication of chains and cables. Always check and inspect equipment prior to jobs requiring heavy and extended usage.

Expect some welding

Have a knowledgeable welder on call to make repairs as needed, or develop your skills to a point where you feel comfortable making your own spot repairs. The experts at Miller, producers of welding equipment, say cleaning the surface area and removing any paint, oil or corrosion from the metal area that needs repairing can make for smooth, durable welds. Multi-process welding generators and accessories can ensure the right

welds for repairs in the field or in the shop.

Maintenance on farm equipment helps keep operations running along and protects expensive investments.



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Joint Chiefs Amendment takes unprecedented step for forests

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER
SAN LUIS VALLEY — Friday marked the one-year anniversary of the Cameron Peak Fire, the worst in Colorado history that would ultimately scorch 208,913 acres in Rocky Mountain National Park, leaving a burn scar that continues to threaten flash floods in thunderstorms that, in other areas, would pass through without incident.

Wildfires are nothing new to people living in the mountain states, and those living in the San Luis Valley are no exception. The 2018 Spring Creek fire that raced across the forested high mountains along La Veta Pass ultimately destroyed 108,045 acres of land and 141 structures. The cost to fight the fire was an estimated \$32 million.

While horrific images of a world on fire grab, albeit briefly, the attention of Americans online or watching nightly news, the destruction left in the wake of those fires largely goes uncovered. Paid crews or, as was true with the Spring Creek fire, volunteers displaying herculean efforts to clean up the damage are far from the minds of the average American.

The assumption made by most people is that the forests that burn are on federal land, making it the responsibility of the federal government to mitigate, as funding allows, whatever damage was caused. But, as those familiar with the Spring Creek fire know too well, wildfires don't distinguish between federal land and "non-federal land". As the old saying goes, "It all burns the same."

In 2020, a total of 10.1 million acres of land was lost to wild and wildland fires. However, of those 10.1 million acres, only 7.1 million acres were on federal land — 4.8 million acres were Forest Service land and 2.3 million, Department of Interior. The remaining land was "non-federal", some of which was state land but much of which was private.

As the staggering, far-reaching ramifications of climate change that are literally fueling the wildfires currently ravaging the nation become increasingly apparent, more and more voices are calling for preventative measures.

Colorado U.S. Sen. Michael

Bennet (D) has been one of the leading voices in that effort for years. When discussing wildfires, Bennet frequently brings out the numbers that tell the story: it takes \$50,000 an acre to fight a wildfire but \$1,500 an acre to prevent it.

But what good are mitigation efforts if they are limited to federal land when wildfires cross public — private land boundaries in, as was true in 2020, more than 30% of the time?

The solution to that problem resides in the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Amendment, based upon an act by the same name. Senator Bennet and Senator Hoeven's (R-N.D.) bicameral, bipartisan amendment passed by the U.S. Senate and included in the Infrastructure and Jobs Act also passed this week by the U.S. Senate in a vote of 69-30.

The amendment takes steps that have not been taken before by formally authorizing support of forest and grassland restoration projects across public and private land, effectively maximizing the impact of every federal dollar spent by recognizing that preventative, restorative efforts are only truly effective when entire areas of land are addressed.

"This amendment responds directly to the growing wildfire risk we face out West by investing in a broadly supported program that has been a clear success," Bennet said upon passage of the amendment.

Since USDA launched Joint Chiefs in 2014, the initiative has supported 93 projects, including two in Colorado, and treated 300,000 acres of hazardous fuels, restored 29,000 acres in priority watersheds, and enhanced 200,000 acres of wildlife habitat.

Specifically, the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership Amendment Formally authorize the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership between the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to improve the health and resilience of forest landscapes and grasslands across federal and non-federal land.

It supports voluntary activities and projects across public and private land that reduce wildfire risk,



File photo

The 2018 Spring Fire destroyed 108,045 acres of land and 141 structures. The cost to fight the fire was an estimated \$32 million. Legislation is working its way through Congress that could help prevent future wildfires.

protect water supplies or improve wildlife habitat for at-risk species.

Prioritize projects that reduce wildfire risk in municipal watersheds or the wildland-urban interface, are developed through a collaborative process, or increase forest business and workforce opportunities.

It also improves accountability by requiring a review of program delivery, data, and outcomes, and establishing annual reporting requirements to Congress.

Finally, it authorizes \$90 million annually for the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership, to be split between the USFS (at least 40%) and the NRCS (at

least 40%). The remaining funds may also be used for technical assistance, project development, or local capacity.

Too often, legislation passed in Washington seems distant from the issues people are facing at a given moment in time. With that said, at the time of this writing, more than 25,000 wildland firefighters and support personnel are working to contain 103 large fires, 96 of which are uncontained and have burned more than 2.4 million acres.

So far in 2021, 40,090 wildfires have burned 3,893,239 acres in the United States, and that number of acres burned will be higher before this story has even gone to press.

The crisis, according to the National Interagency Fire Center, has resulted in the nation's emergency preparedness being raised to a level 5, the highest level there is, indicating there is the potential of exhausting national wildland firefighting resources to the point that some fires will not — cannot — be fought and contained.

That 2021 total of 3,893,239 acres reflects where we are barely more than seven months into the year.

The Infrastructure and Jobs Act is currently in the House of Representatives where passage is required before it can be signed into law.

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This is Diamond. She's a 4 year old blue nose, boxer mix. She's great with kids, lots of energy. Her favorite things to do are chew on her nyla-bone and play in the water!

Wendy is about 2 years old, and believed to be a Shepherd/Pittie mix. She loves to go on adventures and play her days away. Does good with other dogs and children, but absolutely NO CATS.



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Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

PROJECT

Continued from Page 1 —

Riverfront Park has been completed for just over a year now but due to COVID-19, the celebration had to wait until Friday afternoon.

Community members, guests, partners and members of the Town of Del Norte put the week's business aside and set out to have a great time in the park. The day started off with a rubber duck race along the Rio Grande. The race was a tradition of the town until recent years. There were several winners who received prizes from Del Norte Town Manager Bernadette Martinez.

"This was really great. It was a great little party we had going on and it was a great way to celebrate our new playwave and park," Martinez said.

Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP) Executive Director Emma Reesor announced the new Del Norte Playwave open to the public in July of 2020. The playwave, located in the Rio Grande river is part of the Del Norte Riverfront project, a grassroots effort to address community needs like access to the river, recreational opportunities, economic diversity, and to improve the environmental condition of the river corridor.

"From several conversations came the vision of the project, which is to create connectivity between the community of the San Luis Valley and the river," Reesor said. "By doing that, we created recreation opportunities, improved access and improved the ecological condition of the aquatic and riparian habitat."

The RGHRP is a local nonprofit organization with the mission to restore the health of the river for all who use it, including ecosystems and wildlife, agriculture, recreation and community safety.

"We accomplish this through partnerships to implement

multipurpose projects and the Del Norte Riverfront project is a great example of that," Reesor said.

The project was identified as a priority in 2008 with the Del Norte Trails masterplan which identified the need for river recreation in the area.

"The Del Norte Trails masterplan identified the important need of the community to have river recreational opportunities and the SLVGO masterplan identified that need as well," Reesor said. "Those two documents really highlighted that the communities of the Valley wanted to focus on river recreation."

The playwave is only the beginning of the Riverfront Project which will also include improvements to the River Park, a playground area and picnic pavilion is scheduled to be built soon.

The river is home to several types of aquatic life and the park is an excellent place to access the river through the newly built boat ramp which is located on the North side of the Highway 112 bridge.

Rafters, kayakers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts have already been out on the river this summer, eager to enjoy the new playwave. The playwave is not deep, but parents are advised to supervise their children and exercise caution when they are in the area, as this is still part of a fast-moving river. Water levels can vary from day to day, so it is always best to check weather forecasts and be familiar with river recreation responsibilities before heading out on the water.

Adams State Adventure Program students were also on hand to show the crowd some safety tips for using the playwave and the town provided food from Gosar Sausage, refreshments from Three Barrell Brewing and toys to be used in the river.



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Autumn Beauty



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Late summer afternoons are best spent on lonely roads in the backcountry just outside of South Fork. The last of the wildflowers are showing off their colors as fall moves in.



Summitville never ceases to amaze, especially on an August afternoon with clear skies and gorgeous views, it is a great photo opportunity no matter what.



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