

Shorts

Lookout Mountain meeting, star party planned for Oct. 2

DEL NORTE — The Lookout Mountain Observatory Association will host a public meeting on Saturday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande County Courthouse Annex, 965 6th St., followed by a star party at the Del Norte Observatory. Bring a flashlight to better and more safely follow the rocky trail from the Annex to the Observatory

Saguache Democratic Central Committee meeting is Oct. 14

SAGUACHE — There will be a meeting of the Saguache County Democratic Central Committee on Thursday, Oct. 14, at 6 p.m. The meeting will be at the Road and Bridge Building in Saguache. The agenda will include planning for the Caucuses in March of 2022 and any necessary reorg. The meeting is open to the public, but only Central Committee Members can vote.

D Mountain Park and Rec District meeting set for Sept. 28

DELNORTE — The D Mountain Park and Recreation District is having a public meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Rio Grande County Annex Building, 965 Sixth St., Del Norte, to hear people's views on building an indoor recreation center in Del Norte.

D Mountain Park and Recreation District has hired consultants Ballard*King and Associates to conduct a feasibility study. Public input is critical to the success of the process, D Mountain Park and Recreation District officials stated.

CAC release name of 'People's Choice' photo winner

CREEDE — The Creede Arts Council closed this year's Mountain Shoot Photography Show at the Creede Visitor's Center. Throughout the show, patrons voted on a People's Choice Award photo. The Creede Arts Council announced that Ryan Curley's photograph "Moving" was selected for this award. The CAC will purchase this photo for display at the Creede Visitor's Center.

This year, the Creede Visitor's Center launched a new award for "Best Wintery Photo" to help with promoting winter tourism in the area. Curley's photograph, "Choosing the Line" won this distinction this year.

For submission instructions for the next Mountain Shootout, or to learn more about CAC programs, visit its website at www.creedeartscouncil.com.

Hours-long chase ends with arrest

BY MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — A burglary suspect who eluded officers for hours was tased and arrested at the CSU San Luis Valley Research Center on Sept. 16, according to the Center Police Department.

On Sept. 16, CPD received a call about suspicious activity in the Central Avenue area. The call was from two separate concerned persons who believed that an older woman was being intimidated by two people. The two suspects were identified as Sarah Rodriguez, 30, and Gabriel Sandoval, 32.

CPD placed an alert call to the *Please see ARREST on Page 7A*



Photo by Mechel Meek

Gabriel Sandoval was arrested at the CSU San Luis Valley Research Center outside of Center after evading officers for hours on Sept. 16.



Photos by Mechel Meek

The 28th annual Fall Festival and Quilt Show was held Saturday, Sept. 18, at Otto Mears Park in Saguache.

Fall Festival brings live music, quilts

BY MECHEL MEEK

SAGUACHE — On Saturday, Sept. 18, the Saguache Chamber of Commerce held the 28th annual Fall Festival and Quilt Show in Otto Mears Park. It is held every year on the third weekend in September.

The festival began at 9 a.m. with vendors and live music all day for the enjoyment of the crowds. Hay bales were set up around the pavilion for people to sit and listen to a variety of live bands, including Sandy Wells, the Dusty Mountain Boys, Andy Hackbarth, *Please see FESTIVAL on Page 4A*



Charges dropped in 'Love Has Won' case

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

SAGUACHE — A Saguache County case that captured national headlines and shone a brief but broad spotlight on a controversial religious group known as "Love Has Won" came to a sudden end in court last week when the case was dismissed by the district attorney's office for the 12th Judicial District.

Initially, seven defendants were charged with abuse of a corpse, a class six felony, when local law enforcement — acting on a report from someone involved with the group — were led to a residence in Moffat where the defendants were staying. While on the scene, law enforcement discovered the deceased remains of a woman in one of the bedrooms. Known to her followers as "Mother God" and later identified as Amy Carlson, the body of the woman was wrapped in Christmas lights and appeared to be positioned in what was *Please see CASE on Page 5A*

Trustees discuss future development plans

BY MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — The Town of Center held its regular monthly town Trustee's meeting on Sept. 14 at Center Town Hall.

The Police Department report was delivered by Center Chief of Police Dale Meek. Meek shared that the Neighborhood Watch email chain will be upping the number of emails delivered to the members of Neighborhood Watch so that citizens can be informed about current crime trends.

He also shared that a CPD officer resigned and that the department will be beginning a hiring process to find *Please see TRUSTEES on Page 2A*



Photo by Mechel Meek

Housing is considered the greatest need according to a Town of Center community survey. Results of the survey were presented to Town of Center Trustees on Sept. 14.

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SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Sept. 13 and 19, 2021.

The Sheriff's Department's activity on the road included three crashes with property damage, two crashes with injuries, six traffic stops, one traffic complaint, one abandoned vehicle, and one stolen vehicle. They also assisted with ambulances four times, assisted motorists three times, patrolled the Town of Saguache 11 times, and conducted two VIN inspections.

In addition, there were seven civil dispute reports, one report of threatening, two reports of suspicious activity, two reports of harassment, three alarm reports, six animal problem reports, three reports of assault, one missing person report, one citizen assist, one lost property report, one report of stolen property, two reports of trespassing, one sex offense report, one burglary report,

one fraud report, one harassment report, and one welfare check.

They also monitored three controlled burns, two structure fires, provided information six times, assisted with two search and rescue calls, assisted neighboring agencies four times, and one warrant check.

Arrests

- 38-year-old Moffat woman, warrant Chaffee County.
- 42-year-old Center man, contempt of court, intimidating a witness or victim and warrant Alamosa County.
- 30-year-old Center woman, warrants Saguache County, warrants Alamosa city and county.
- 34-year-old Saguache man, third-degree assault, domestic violence summons and complaint.
- 28-year-old Saguache woman, violation of protection order, domestic violence summons and complaint, third-degree assault.

TRUSTEES

Continued from Page 1A

a replacement and to create a list of potential hires for the future.

Meek said, "We are going to create a hiring list of the top five candidates that will be used whenever we need to fill a position."

Meek also requested approval to purchase two dogs that the department will train and then sell to other law enforcement agencies. The money from this will be used to support CPD's K-9 program. Trustees approved \$11,900 to purchase the dogs. The CPD K-9 program would earn around \$7,000 by reselling the police-trained dogs.

"I like the idea that the program will be bringing money into the K-9 program," Trustee Adeline Sanchez stated.

Meek explained that "the program is moving fast because we didn't foresee the demand by other agencies for dogs."

The CPD is one of only a small number of agencies in Colorado that have a K-9 training program.

The Public Works report was delivered by Dave Mehaffie who explained that the water meter project is still being worked out. Broken lids on several meters are set to be fixed.

However, the water meter programming for calculating bills has had issues. This month they cannot charge by water use because of the computer programming issue, and billing will be done the old way until the programming issue is fixed for these meters.

Mehaffie also discussed that natural gas wholesale prices continue to rise and that prices may be an ongoing issue.

Town Manager Brian Lujan delivered the Managers report and stated that the town is still focusing on housing, skilled labor, and youth entrepreneurship regarding development. Once the first phase, which is mostly research and planning, is done, next year's focus will be on the implementation of these plans. Money will be coming into the town

budget from the opioid settlement, which will be used to combat drug-related problems in the town.

Initial survey results were given by VISTA volunteer Keith Brockhurst.

"This is the first of several surveys that I hope to complete this year, to hear the community's thoughts and desires about future development," Brockhurst said.

Housing is considered the greatest need according to the survey respondents. Another focus of the survey was what people want to see brought into town, specifically restaurants, coffee shops, and a recreation center.

The survey also noted that residents want to see more trade and skilled jobs for workers.

Currently, money leaves the town because people leave for food and entertainment, according to Brockhurst.

"It's great to get everyone thinking about it and talking about it," stated Trustee Mary McClure.

Lujan said that the town needs to set dynamic goals for the future that grow and change depending on the community's desires for future development.

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OBITUARY

Lawrence (L.D.) Wallace

Lawrence (L.D.) Wallace, 77 of Monte Vista, Colo., passed away in May 2021 at his home after a lengthy battle with Inclusion Body Myositis.

L.D. was born in Springfield, Colo., in July 1943 to Lester and Wilma Wallace. After graduating from Adams State College in 1965 he began his 30-year Industrial Arts teaching career in Pagosa Springs and later moved to Del Norte where he retired in 1995. He also owned a prominent roofing business for many years.

Spending time with his family and friends, snow skiing, water skiing, rafting, camping, and just being outdoors is what he enjoyed most. Cooking, trying new recipes, and having dinner parties with his friends was another of his favorite pastimes. His creative passion for woodworking gave him opportunities to build many pieces of furniture that we all cherish.

The beautiful home that he

built near Monte Vista was his pride and joy. He loved his surrounding views of the San Juan and the Sangre de Cristo ranges. Watching the elk, deer, fox, and other wildlife from his windows brought him much peace and serenity, especially when he became homebound.

L.D. was preceded in death by his father Lester Wallace, his mother Wilma Wallace, his brothers Bill, and Bob Wallace.

He is survived by his three children, Kelli (Brent) Theyson of Austin, Texas, Kevin (Teresa) Wallace of Littleton, Colo., and Kirk (Micayla) of Littleton, Colo.; grandchildren Blake, Cailin, Ryker and Kota Wallace; brother Leslie (Wally) Wallace of Springfield, Colo., and many nieces and nephews and so many wonderful friends.

A celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021, from 1-3 p.m. at Dos Rios Restaurant, 1635 US Hwy 285,



Monte Vista, CO 81144. Please join the family for an open house including lunch. We invite you to come share joyful memories and stories of the man we love and admire.

Arrangements in care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home.



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

65 is not the new 39



YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Formalhaut

The "Lonely Star", Formalhaut is also called the "Autumn Star".

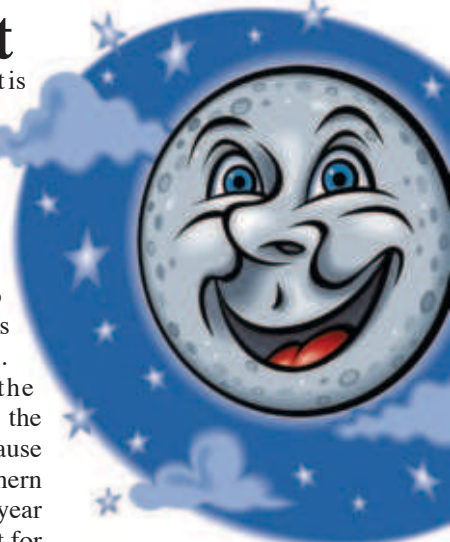
It's the brightest star visible in the otherwise empty and dark southeastern sky. Above Formalhaut about 1/3 of the way up is the bright planet Jupiter which is very easy to see. To its right is Saturn which is not as bright as Jupiter, but still visible.

Formalhaut is part of the constellation Piscis Austrinus, the southern fish. It's called this because it's mostly visible in the southern hemisphere. But this time of year the Earth's tilt allows us to see it for a few months. It's never higher than about 1/3 of the way up in the sky.

Piscis Austrinus is not a very bright constellation, and may be difficult to see. The fish is lying on its back with Formalhaut being its open mouth. Above it is the constellation Aquarius, a man holding a jug that's pouring water into the mouth of the fish. See if you can find the water flowing down to the fish's mouth.

There's another reason that Formalhaut is famous. Orbiting it is the first extra solar, or exosolar, planet visible to the eye in photographic images. In 2008 when this planet became visible, scientists realized that there were other planets orbiting distant suns.

Known as Formalhaut "B" this



planet was photographed by the Hubble Space Telescope. These photos also showed that Formalhaut is one of the first stars known to have a disk of dust around it like our Sun. This disk suggests that other planets might be forming.

Even though it's considerably hotter and heavier than our Sun, because it's 25 light years from us, Formalhaut is only the 18th brightest star in the sky. Side by side it would outshine our Sun by 17 times!

To find this lonely star, just look in the southeast sky after 8 PM. It'll reach its highest elevation around 11 PM. The full moon was on September 20 and the new moon is on October 6, so the sky will soon be getting darker for good viewing.

This week found number one Son Bubs, his wife Tinkerbell and the two granddaughters #1 and #2 arriving for their yearly sojourn in the gorgeous mountains of Colorado. The last few years they have made camp way up in the middle of nowhere so Bubs can hunt the elusive elk.

The American Indians called the elk Wapiti and the Ghost of the Forest for their ability to suddenly appear seemingly out of nowhere. And, boy, is that right. Of course, Ol' Dutch got his elk already after much sitting and 4 a.m. risings but now it's time to help Bubs get his, too.

The week started out perfect and Bubs was able to call in a spike which is not legal but at least he saw elk. With the early promise of elk, Bubs' friend decided to drive out from Kansas for the hunt, too. And, that is how Ol' Dutch found himself traipsing up and down hill and dale through dark timber trying to keep up with them younger boys. For you see, somehow it became my job to call while the younger ones hid. So far, though, all I have been able to call in is two desperate hunters.

Even the two granddaughters, ages nine and seven, have walked some huge miles and they love to hunt. Grandpa could not let those two down by not going. Until, about five days into the hunt, Ol' Dutch hit the wall. Sunburn, dehydration, too many footsteps and stubbornness, left me far away from the truck and almost unable to get there. I have been sick ever since. My face is as red as an Irishman on Saint Paddy's day, my legs are leaden as an anchor off the

Titanic and poor Miss Trixie has had to endure the endless moaning and complaining of a man who thinks he is dying.

I was able to drag this old body out to lead singing at The Chapel Sunday and am now trying to recover so I can help those boys hunt. As you fathers already have concluded, those boys don't know what they are doing and need my help to score some scrumptious tenderloins and backstrap.

When I was napping and trying to recover on Day Six, Bubs called and said he and his buddy were laid up, too, due to the over excretion on Day Five. Man, did that ever make me feel good. Nothing like news of those young guys being tired out to make an old guy feel relevant.

My ears perked up like a bird dog on point and I suddenly felt at least some level of accomplishment in going 16 days straight and walking so far. Suddenly the extreme tiredness didn't seem quite so bad and with Miss Trixie making turkey and dressing, life took on a whole new level of goodness.

Now I am not saying that 65 is the new 39 as that would be foolishness at the least but maybe, just maybe this old guy gave those young bucks a run for the money. Of course they are still up there and going out while Ol' Dutch is laid up.

Of late, a lot of people are trying to hang onto the fountain of youth with diets, exercise and stretchy pants. The grandmas of today certainly don't look like my grandma did in her moo-moo dress. No siree Bob, these women today all want to at least look



Trout Republic by Kevin Kirkpatrick

young and so push and pull, nip and tuck and take all sorts of vitamins and supplements to keep younger as much as is humanly possible.

But no matter how much you do, the yearly birthday comes around and sooner or later starts to catch up with a guy. Or gal or that matter.

The Hollywood elite are constantly doing everything under the Sun to look younger and remain relevant to their fans. I mean look at Jennifer Anniston. She must be 90 years old as I watched her on Friends when I was just a kid it seems. Whatever she is doing Ol' Dutch wants a dose or two of that miracle drug, at least before elk season next year.

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

LETTER

Another view on vaccination mandates

Editor,

In the Sept. 15 issue of the Monte Vista Journal, the "Freedom Rally" was the leading article. Because two prominent community leaders were quoted, it is important to offer another view on the vaccination mandates for health care workers. "Freedom Rally" is the short name. A more accurate name is "Freedom to Get Sick, to Endanger the Health of Others, and Die Rally."

The executive director of an assisted living facility stated we have a right to make choices. It's fascinating to say, "We do everything possible for our residents, except when it doesn't align with our political views." The families expect that every tool is used including requiring vaccinated caregivers. Being a spokesperson for the rally compromises confidence in the quality of care.

An elected city leader stated, "You can't tell people that they have to do something like this." We do it all the

time. As people drive around, they wear seatbelts, stop at STOP signs, and obey the speed limit. We are all safer. This isn't denying freedoms, it's paying attention to our communal safety. The philosophy of the city: "We do everything possible for the well-being of our residents except when it doesn't align with our political views." He oversees the budget for the city.

When you disagree with governmental policy, it's political.

Getting vaccinated is a personal decision that impacts others. It shows concern for your health and the health of others. If you decide not to, your commentary is that you don't care about others.

We have over 660,000 deaths in the USA. Studies indicate that no one has died from the vaccine, according to the CDC.

Over 380 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been given in the United States from Dec. 14, 2020, through Sept. 13, 2021.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials.

There is misinformation from dubious sources that report deaths linked to the vaccination. Those that believe this are doing us all a disservice.

The number of active cases in the San Luis Valley is increasing. On Sept. 17, there were 160 cases. At the end of August, there were 114. We need to aggressively protect our community.

I feel strongly about this. My 98-year-old father got COVID and passed last December. The nursing home gave him exceptional care and worked diligently to protect the residents.

Please add this vaccination to the list of the many vaccinations you have gotten over the years. They have kept you healthier. This one will, too.

*Roger Capron
Monte Vista*

LETTERS POLICY

Letters are welcome and encouraged. They should be fewer than 300 words, unless arranged beforehand with the editor, and they are subject to editing for length and clarity.

All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be designated as such. Letters over 300 words and

without contact information will be returned to the sender or discarded.

We will accept one letter per person, per subject, per four issues. We reserve the right to reject letters for reasons we believe are appropriate. Please send letters to Letter to the Editor/c/o Valley Publishing, PO Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail to bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com (Attention: Letter to the Editor). Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. Friday.

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.

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FESTIVAL Continued from Page 1A



Photos by Mechel Meek

and Ahgadaze.

Food, art, crafts, and other items were for sale by local vendors from throughout the San Luis Valley.

The Saguache volunteer firefighters also had a food booth set up with the proceeds going to the department.

The Salida Circus was also seen entertaining the crowd with juggling acts and stilt walking.

The family-friendly event was a break

from the pressures of the harvest season, with many expressing their enjoyment of the sunny day.

"It's great to be out here socializing again," an attendee commented.

Several vendors also commented how good it was to be able to sell their goods at a live festival.

Inside the community building were many fine quilts on display, with some available for purchase, and the work of

the Saguache Sagebrush Quilters was shown as well. The quilts ranged from traditional to more modern themed in design.

Asilent auction was also held and is the only annual fundraiser for the Saguache Chamber of Commerce. A drawing was held for a handmade quilt, which was beautifully displayed.

Happy faces were seen enjoying the variety of food, music, art and fun all day.

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Throughout the years I've been teaching God's Word, people have asked me, "Joyce, how do you live the Christian life?" My answer surprises a lot of people. I tell them, "You can't live the Christian life, but God can live it through you!"

One of the greatest lessons I have ever learned is that we can't change ourselves—it is only by God's grace that we can overcome our weaknesses and become more like Him.

In John 15:5, Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (NIV).

When we try to do things apart from God's grace and strength, we will just struggle. One of the best prayers we can pray is, "God, help me!"

Years ago, when I first started reading the Bible and getting serious about my relationship with God, I began seeing all of the things I needed to change—there were so many! I needed to clean up my mind and my mouth; I had to overcome being so negative and judgmental; and my behavior toward my husband, Dave, also needed to improve.

I immediately went to work trying to do it myself, but I just ended up very frustrated and made little progress because I was spending all of my own energy trying to something only God can do.

It was so wonderful when I finally got this revelation: *God doesn't expect me to do it alone.*

As John 15:5 says, I needed to abide, or remain, in Christ.

When we abide in Him, we study God's Word, especially in the areas where we have weaknesses, and spend as much time with the Lord as we can—whether it's talking to Him in prayer or even just sitting quietly in His presence.

As we diligently and humbly seek the Lord and receive His grace, the Bible says we will be "transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory" (2

Corinthians 3:18).

The apostle Paul, who wrote a large part of the New Testament and is widely regarded as a great leader of the early Church, realized he could do nothing without God's help. In Romans 7:15, 18 (NIV) he says, "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."

Have you ever *wanted* to do the right thing but still struggled and couldn't make it happen regardless of how hard you tried? Paul was going through the very same thing, but he provides us with the answer in verses 24 and 25: "... Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!..."

Paul is saying we can't do it on our own, but God will do it *for us* if we let Him.

This same principle applies to our relationships with other people—we can't change them, but God can.

When my children were young, I was certain that a couple of them would never make it on their own. My daughter Laura was extremely messy, unorganized and seemingly couldn't keep track of anything. My youngest son, Daniel, struggled his way through school, and I was convinced I would be taking care of him the rest of my life.

I spent so much time *worrying* and *trying* to change them on my own. Most of the time my efforts only seemed to make things worse! Yes, I needed to be a good mother and help them in every way I could. But instead of worrying, struggling, and making us all miserable, I could have been praying, trusting God, and choosing to believe everything would work out well in the end.

Today, my daughter Laura is so organized that one of her jobs is to help keep my life organized! And Daniel? The



boy who barely made it through school is now the CEO of *Joyce Meyer Ministries*, and he does a fantastic job! Now I look back and realize how much time and effort I wasted worrying and struggling when God had things under control all along!

You see, whether it's ourselves or someone else, the Lord wants us to seek His help, then rest in the knowledge that He is on the case. God doesn't want us to struggle; He wants us to *believe*. He wants us to relax and enjoy our lives even while we're waiting for change.

What are you struggling with today? Your behavior, your finances, your kids, or maybe other people? Here's the best advice I can give you: Run to God for help, receive His grace, then make a firm decision to relax and enjoy your life while you trust Him to change things. As you do, you will find freedom from struggling and have God's peace and joy in the process.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching CD series *Living a Life of Total Freedom*. 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.

SEPT 22nd thru SEPT 29th

CLOSED

The Staff is taking a break so we are recharged and ready to continue to serve you with great products and service into the upcoming winter season.

We would like to say THANK YOU to all our wonderful customers for their support, patience, and understanding during these unprecedented times. **See you on September 30th!**



**** please note we will be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays the month of October**

Extension says 'Thank You, Maxine'

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

After 35 years of exceptional service and contribution to the citizens of the San Luis Valley, Maxine Lujan, SLV Area Extension office manager and administrative assistant is taking a well-earned retirement.

If you or your kids were ever in 4-H, Maxine enrolled you in 4-H, registered you for the SLV Fair, advanced your projects to the state fair, took your reservations for 4-H Achievement Night, and answered your calls for help. If you ever attended the Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference or its predecessor the Potato and Grain School, Maxine registered you. If you ever came to the Extension office with a weed, a bug, or just needed a hug, Maxine always welcomed you and steered you in the right direction.

Maxine joined the SLV Extension team as the 4-H secretary in October of 1986. Before this, she had been a police officer working especially with

juveniles. Her story of switching from a career of dealing with youth after they were in trouble to a career of fostering healthy youth and developing kids into strong, confident leaders will warm your heart. She indeed has helped raise two generations of productive, San Luis Valley citizens.

In 2002, Maxine was promoted to office manager, which means she still did 4-H, but also now ran the office, kept Extension agents in line, served any citizen who called or came in the office for any reason, and became the one consistent force holding everything together in a changing organization.

When asked what she has in mind for her retirement, three things are always on her mind. Family, fishing, and starting an Abuela program at her church so she can take young children who need an extra grandparent in their lives under her wing and teach them how to sew buttons back on their jackets instead of throwing them away.



Maxine Lujan

If you are one of the thousands of people Maxine has served in the past 35 years, come share a memory, have ice cream and cake, and show your appreciation for her, this is your chance. The Extension staff is hosting an open house in her honor Friday, Sept. 24. It will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. at the SLV Area Extension office, 1899 East Highway 160 by the Monte Vista Coop.

CASE Continued from Page 1A

described as a shrine.

Each defendant was also charged with two counts of child abuse related to the presence of two children in the house.

In the initial proceedings, Deputy District Attorney Alex Raines indicated to the court his intention to amend the charges against all seven defendants from abuse of a corpse, a class six felony, to tampering with a corpse, a class three felony, and a more serious charge. However, as proceedings went on, amended charges only applied to four of the seven defendants, including Jason Castillo, known to followers as "Father God" and Carlson's partner while she was alive.

Court proceedings over the months that followed were largely devoted to matters related to bonds, ankle monitor bracelets, and expanded media coverage requested by, among others, NBC News and HBO.

However, in August and roughly four months after their first appearance in court, David Hoag, defense counsel for Castillo, informed the court that Raines was working on compliance with the Victims' Rights Act for possible dismissal of charges. At that time, Hoag requested Castillo be allowed to enter a plea of not guilty and the case proceed to trial. The judge granted the request, and a hearing was set for Sept. 14.

On that day, Raines moved to dismiss all charges, which were granted. Defense counsel moved that records be sealed, also granted, and the case that initially grabbed headlines came to a rather abrupt and unspectacular end. It was subsequently reported that Raines had expressed constitutional concerns related to religious freedom.

Court records reveal that all charges against all seven defendants have been dropped.

This case was not the first time "Love Has Won" and its leader had been in the media. Carlson initially appeared on the "Dr. Phil Show" along with family members who attempted to confront her about the "cult-like" group she had founded. Gurumag has written a series of stories about the group that has appeared in a variety of different publications. Members of the group also made headlines when they were asked to leave one of the Hawaiian Islands where they had set up residence.

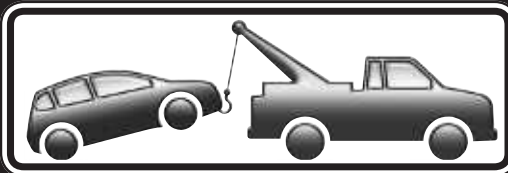
Since Carlson's death, "Love Has Won", which had at one time boasted thousands of members across the globe, has largely split apart with "Father God" Castillo allegedly rebranding the group under the name "Joy Rains".

Members of "Love Has Won" have been known to reside in the Moffat area for at least several years. While court proceedings were ongoing, some of the defendants charged in the case had been largely prohibited from leaving the San Luis Valley without permission of the court. Now that all charges have been dropped, the case dismissed, and records sealed, it is not known if any or all those individuals will either remain in the SLV or seek residence and regroup elsewhere.



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Officials secure win for Valley: Weather radar system online

Staff Report
SAN LUIS VALLEY — U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-District 3) and local leaders secured a win for the San Luis Valley by ensuring data from its new radar system is now incorporated into National Weather Service systems.

“Ensuring the San Luis Valley’s Radar data is fully integrated into National Weather Service systems will improve weather forecasting and warnings across southern Colorado for the benefit of farmers, ranchers, tourists, first responders, water district managers, and the general population. I am grateful to community leaders for bringing this issue to my attention and am thrilled that the system is finally up and running,” Boebert stated.

Community organizations and local governments in Colorado partnered to raise \$1.8 million to build the San Luis Valley radar system to improve weather data for the entire region.

The radar was fully operational for over a year but delays at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration prevented the radar’s data from being integrated into the National Weather Service’s forecasting system.

Boebert partnered with Colorado

State Senator Cleve Simpson, Alamosa County Chairman of the Board Michael Yohn, Conejos Water Conservancy District General Manager Nathan Coombs, San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District Manager Heather Dutton, and other state and local leaders to ensure the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration assimilated the radar’s data as quickly as possible.

“The Rio Grande Water Conservation District greatly appreciates Congresswoman Boebert’s assistance bringing stakeholders together to assure incorporation of the valuable data generated by our new Doppler radar unit. The information assists all residents of the San Luis Valley and the state of Colorado in a variety of different ways, streamflow forecasting as the centerpiece of that information for our water users. Thank you again to Congresswoman Boebert,” Simpson stated

The National Weather Service responded to Rep. Boebert’s inquiry and fully integrated the radar data, and it reports that the data generated by the San Luis Valley Radar is now being “used by NWS meteorologists to better inform our forecasts and warnings for... the benefit of individuals and local

economies across southern Colorado.”

“A diverse coalition of partners came together to build the San Luis Valley Weather Radar because we recognized the broad benefits to the San Luis Valley and neighboring communities,” Dutton stated. “Integrating the data from the radar into regional weather forecasts

allows us to have improved travel management, emergency response, and water supply forecasting. I am grateful for Congresswoman Boebert’s work as a liaison between the stakeholders that built the radar and the federal agencies that utilize the data. This is a tremendous benefit for Southern Colorado.”

Alamosa County Chairman of the Board Michael Yohn added, “Finally, we can get the full benefit of the radar across our region for our water community, our locals, and the visitors coming to the San Luis Valley. Now the media can accurately give a forecast that has meaning.”



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Fall is nearly here in the San Luis Valley and now is the time to plan for fall drives in and around South Fork. The South Fork Visitor Center is providing guests with free maps showing travelers some great places to view the fall colors.

PUBLIC NOTICE
2021 COORDINATED ELECTION LAT
 (Logic & Accuracy Test)
OCTOBER 6, 2021

Notice is hereby given that a public Logic and Accuracy Test of Saguache County’s voting equipment will take place on October 6, 2021, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Saguache County Courthouse, 501 4th St., Saguache. Information about the test may be obtained by calling County Clerk, Trish Gilbert at (719) 655-2512.

AVISO PÚBLICO
PRUEBA DE LÓGICA Y EXACTITUD (LAT)
PARA LAS ELECCIONES COORDINADAS
6 DE OCTUBRE DE 2021

Por medio del presente se informa que el 6 de octubre de 2021, a partir de las 8:30 a.m., se realizará la prueba pública de lógica y exactitud de los equipos de votación del condado de Saguache en el Tribunal (501 4th St., Saguache). Puede obtener información sobre la prueba llamando a la secretaria del condado, Trish Gilbert, al teléfono (719) 655-2512.

No. 1606 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, September 23, 2021.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2021 -2022

Football

Centauri 48	Strasburg 3
Sanford 62	Sargent 0
Rye 30	Center 8
Del Norte 58	Trinidad 8
Monte Vista 28	Platte Canyon 6
Primero 55	Sangre de Cristo 8
Sierra Grande 33	Mountain Valley 0
COLLEGE	
Western College 24	Adams State 10

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Dr. Jackson Petty, originally from a small town in Tennessee, has recently joined our dental team. He came to rural Colorado to fulfill his commitment to the underserved in a small town. He values care that considers the patient’s experience, and meet them where they are. He has a love for learning and finds sanctification in serving others. Dr. Petty has special interests in wisdom teeth removal/oral surgery, root canals, periodontal surgery and clinic photography. In his free time he enjoys reading his Bible, spending time with his wife and 11-month old son, hiking, photography, singing and playing the guitar.

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Dr. Lauren Sonderegger provides prenatal care in the Center Clinic.



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Crash claims driver's life Sunday night in Conejos County

STAFF REPORT
CONEJOS COUNTY — The driver of a car that hit a telephone pole Sunday night, Sept. 19, died in the single-vehicle crash, Colorado State Patrol reported.

At approximately 10:57 p.m. on Sept. 19, CSP responded to a crash on US Highway 285 at Conejos County Road L. The driver, whose name was not released, was pronounced dead at a local hospital.

According to CSP, a gold 2006

Pontiac G6 was traveling north on Highway 285, drove off the right side of the road and struck a telephone pole. The car continued through the pole and began to rotate.

The vehicle went up an embankment to Road L, hit a delineator post and became airborne. It landed on the north side of Road L and rolled onto its roof facing southeast, according to CSP.

The crash was being investigated by CSP.

ARREST

Continued from Page 1A

surrounding community in the form of a reverse 911 call, Facebook message and a push notification radio app.

The suspects fled from CPD on foot into Community Park. Officers located Rodriguez in the park where she was placed under arrest.

Another officer continued the search for the second suspect. A chase ensued of the suspect from Community Park, through Casa de Cortez and into the Frontier Trailer Park on State Highway 112.

The suspect eluded the officer who chased him over fences and through the trailer park. It was thought by CPD that the suspect was hiding somewhere within Frontier Trailer Park.

CPD called for assistance from neighboring law enforcement agencies including the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office, the Saguache County Sheriff's Office and the Colorado Highway Patrol who all responded to the area to help with the search.

Officers conducted a door-to-door search but did not find the second suspect. A credible source informed CPD that the suspect was in possession of a 9mm handgun.

A separate tip also provided video from surveillance cameras of the suspect carrying a bag.

The suspect eventually emerged from where he was hiding and was tracked by officers and by citizens calling in sightings for around 2 hours.

The suspect apparently had been asking various people for rides to Monte Vista but was unable to obtain a ride. He eventually made his way to the CSU San Luis Valley Research Center on the 9N near U.S. Highway 285 south of Center.

Rio Grande County Deputies were notified of the suspect's location and officers arrived at the research center. The suspect ran from the facility but was unable to outrun officers a second time. The suspect was tased after resisting and taken into custody, according to CPD. A handgun was not located, although several stolen items were recovered.

Sandoval was charged with suspicion of several burglaries committed while fleeing including the burglary of an occupied dwelling. A fourth burglary charge is pending in Monte Vista Police from a previous incident.

Center Police Chief Dale Meek said, "The initial bag Gabriel was carrying when he first ran was not recovered. Please advise law enforcement if anyone finds an unusual bag in the areas of Central Avenue, Center Community Park, the Frontier Trailer Park or any area south of town to the CSU Facility."

Rodriguez was jailed with four warrants from Alamosa, two warrants from Saguache County, and the new charges from CPD of suspicion of criminal mischief, from kicking out a window of a CPD patrol car while


being transported after arrest.

Sandoval was jailed with four warrants from Alamosa, a warrant from Saguache County, and new charges from CPD for suspicion of resisting arrest, burglary from Saguache County, two burglaries from Rio Grande County, and possible charges from Monte Vista for burglary.

Meek said, "As you can see, we have a problem with these two committing multiple felony offenses, being released, not appearing, and committing more felony offenses but we will not be deterred."

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SUPERSAVER PASSES — -41 Blackout Dates —

	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate
Adult	\$723 / \$903
Senior (65 & older)	\$318 / \$397
Student (13-18 in school)	\$558 / \$697
Child (6-12)	\$285 / \$356
Tot (5 & under)	\$41 / \$50

SUPERSAVER BLACKOUT DATES
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Feb. 12-13, 19-20, 26; Mar. 5, 7-9, 12-17

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SUPERSAVER FAMILY PASSES

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NOTICE OF CHANGE IN TARIFFS ON LESS THAN 30-DAYS' NOTICE

Date of Notice: September 10, 2021

Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos Energy")
1555 Blake Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

You are hereby notified that Atmos Energy has filed with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission of the State of Colorado ("PUC"), in compliance with the Public Utilities Law, an application for permission to file certain changes in tariffs, affecting all residential, commercial, interruptible and other consumers in its Colorado divisions to become effective October 1, 2021, if the application is granted by the PUC.

The purpose for this filing is to change rates by revising the Company's existing gas cost adjustment tariff to reflect changes in the rates charged Atmos Energy by its suppliers for natural gas purchases. The present and proposed natural gas rates are as follows:

<u>Class of Service by Division</u>	<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates¹</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
	<u>Total Volumetric</u>	<u>Total Volumetric</u>	
North Colorado*			
Residential	\$0.70527	\$0.84286	20%
Small Commercial, Commercial	\$0.59327	\$0.73086	23%
Irrigation	\$0.57866	\$0.71625	24%
Transportation	\$0.13817	\$0.13795	0%
	<u>Average Monthly</u>	<u>Bill Projected Average</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
		<u>Monthly Bill</u>	
North Colorado*			
Residential	\$55.53	\$64.06	15%
Small Commercial, Commercial	\$253.74	\$05.89	21%
Irrigation	\$237.84	\$283.80	19%
	<u>Prior Year's Peak</u>	<u>Projected Peak</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
	<u>Month Bill</u>	<u>Month Bill</u>	
North Colorado*			
Residential	\$103.49	\$121.37	17%
Small Commercial, Commercial	\$491.64	\$598.96	22%
Irrigation	\$757.48	\$926.99	22%

*Notification Published in our North Rate Area Newspaper

The proposed and present rates and tariffs are available for examination at the business office of Atmos Energy Corporation located at 1555 Blake Street, Suite 400, Denver, Colorado, or at the Public Utilities Commission at 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, Colorado, 80202.

Anyone who desires may either file written objection or seek to intervene as a party in this filing. If you only wish to object to the proposed action, you may file a written objection with the Commission. The filing of a written objection by itself will not allow you to participate as a party in any proceeding on the proposed action. If you wish to participate as a party in this matter, you must file written intervention documents under the Commission's rules.

Anyone who desires to file written objection or written intervention documents to the proposed action shall file them with the PUC, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, Colorado, 80202 at least one day before the proposed effective date.

Members of the public may attend any hearing and may make a statement under oath about the proposed change whether or not a written objection or request to intervene has been filed.

Atmos Energy Corporation has filed a separate gas purchase report in accordance with Rule 4607 of the Commission's Rules Regulating Gas Utilities and Pipeline Operators to begin the initial prudence review evaluation for the gas purchase year ended June 30, 2021.

Atmos Energy Corporation
Colorado-Kansas Division
By: Bart W. Armstrong, \\
President

'It could have been a whole lot worse'

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER
SAGUACHE — When asked to describe the fire event that destroyed a house in the Baca Grande subdivision last week, Robert Woelsz's answer was a little unexpected.

"It could have been a whole lot worse," he said.

The response was not meant to diminish what the homeowner experienced. Far from it. Woelsz readily acknowledged the significant loss suffered by the homeowner multiple times throughout his description of the scene.

But, in his role as Director of Saguache County Office of Emergency Preparedness, Woelsz knows what could have happened had the property — and, even more so, the effort of the man who lived there — been different than it was. And what could have happened is nothing short of catastrophic.

Baca Grande is similar to many subdivisions. Houses built on 1-, 2- and 5-acre lots. Stunning views surrounded by thick stands of pinyon pine and juniper trees.

"It's beautiful country," he says. "It really is beautiful."

And clearly, others agree. Woelsz says the area is "exploding" with "new houses being built all the time."

But soaking in the ambiance of mountain living while surrounded by trees, sometimes standing right next to the house, carries with it a significant measure of risk. And in multiple areas of Saguache County and other areas in the San Luis Valley, that risk is extreme.

"We had good monsoonal moisture, but that's all dried up now," Woelsz says. "Everybody is focused on California and other places, but Colorado has just been very, very lucky. The fuel indices are very, very high. Fire danger is going to be high to extreme this fall. And, as much as I hate to say this, it's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when."

The "it" Woelsz speaks of is a massive wildfire.

Woelsz estimates there are several thousand homes in the area, so any fire would have spread very quickly, but the homeowner's work stopped that.

"That's the bigger story here. Mitigation. If that owner had not done the mitigation he had done, this fire would very quickly have spread to adjacent properties."

When Woelsz speaks of mitigation, there are specific things a homeowner can do to protect his or her property. Surrounding each home is an area firefighters refer to as the home ignition zone — an area that extends 30 feet from the house. In the case of this individual's property, there was no debris near to the structure and that ignition zone was "well cleared of vegetation, and his trees were nicely pruned."

Some of the work was done with the help of the Saguache Firewise team,

a grant-funded program staffed with individuals who — at no cost — assess a property's risks and, sometimes, do the work themselves.

"His property was beautiful," Woelsz says, "especially compared to some of the other property we've seen. This man lost his home, but what he did save the homes of his neighbors."

Crestone and the Baca Grande area are two places Woelsz focuses on because of characteristics that are common in catastrophic situations. "When there are roads that aren't marked and twist around like a maze with only one road for egress and people trying to leave when it's dark and smoky...that's a perfect storm for a catastrophic fire event."

Saguache County also has limited resources.

"We only have about 10 volunteers with the fire department," he says. "We only have four or five trucks, including tenders that bring the water. We're only going to be able to save the homes where it's safe to do so. We'll concentrate on getting people out first and then we'll focus on saving the homes where it's safe."

"That is why fire mitigation is so very crucial," he says.

Woelsz has held fire education events in the past, but they fall short of providing the education people need. The Spring Creek fire prompted a lot of interest from people, but "those are things that people easily forget because they turn their attention to the next big thing, like COVID. Plus, we have new people moving in who haven't lived in a setting like this before. The area is also exploding, and brand-new residents may not realize the risk inherent in the area they've just moved into."

Woelsz encourages people to sign up for emergency alerts.

"It's the biggest way we can save lives," he says. "The SLV relies on an opt-in emergency notification system, so people have to register to receive the notifications. You can register your email, your cell phone, your work phone. I recommend people register where they work, where they live and where they play. We recently tested the emergency alert system in Crestone, and we had a huge response. That's the way to get the message out to folks if there is imminent threat to life or property."

Information about contacting the Saguache Firewise team or registering for the emergency alerts can all be found on the Saguache County website.

"People need to be educated, to



Courtesy photos

Saguache County Office of Emergency Preparedness Director Robert Woelsz said following a fire in the Baca Grande subdivision that the region and the state have been very lucky this year.

keep themselves informed with doing whatever they can to mitigate adaptive community. We have to learn notifications. Plus, they need to be their property. We live in a fire to live with it."

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Lifestyles

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Scarecrow Bash is back in Del Norte

By LYNSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — It is time to pull out the fall attire and use it to dress up a scarecrow for the return of the Scarecrow Bash. Autumn is here, evident by the foliage of the trees beginning to change color and now is the time to enjoy the last few days of summer warmth.

The annual Scarecrow Bash has been an area favorite for the past four years and every year it gets bigger and better.

The rules are simple. Local businesses and residents decorate their porches, sidewalks, lawns, windows and more with scarecrows and fall decorations to be included in the contest. In previous years, the Scarecrow Bash has painted the streets of Del Norte in shades of orange,

Please see BASH on Page 2



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

The annual Scarecrow Bash in Del Norte kicks off Sept. 22. Del Norte will be adorned with festive displays through Oct. 9 and the public is invited to help pick the winning display.



Saguache County asks for bids for survey of Sargents

Commissioners seeking public comment on Firewise Projects

By MECHEL MEEK

SAGUACHE — Saguache County is accepting bids for a survey of the Town of Sargents. The request for bids is a result of public comments regarding the roads and right of way in Sargents and the need for a comprehensive survey.

According to Saguache County, “Bids must be submitted in a

sealed envelope with ‘Town of Sargents Survey’ written on the front of the envelope which contains the sealed bid. Bids must include proof of liability and workers’ compensation insurance coverage. Bids are to be submitted to the Saguache County Administration, 505 3rd Street, or PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 and must be submitted by Friday, Oct. 1, 2021 at 3 p.m.”

Public comment is also being requested by the County on three different wildfire mitigation programs that would use forest service funds to expand the Crestone

See SARGENTS on Page 2

Feedlot Heroes

Now and then I get to thinkin’ I should quit this feedlot job.

Go and ride with Buster, what’s-his-name, his Texas wagon mob.

Maybe move to old Montana, wear them bat wings for a while

Or do California day work in the old vaquero style.

I get my western magazines, shoot, I keep ’em by my chair

And I read ’em after lunchin’, sometimes wishin’ I was there.

See, it all looks so romantic. All they do is brand and ride

Maybe gather up some wild ones, push ’em down the other side

While the cameras keep on snappin’, set against a scenic view

Lookin’ picturesque and western, quintessential buckaroo.

It’s not often that reporters come by here and spend a day

And the stories that they usually write are mostly exposé

And I really can’t remember any artist incidents.

All the painters that I’ve ever seen were workin’ on the fence.

‘Cause nobody wants to see us cowboys dressed in overshoes

In our insulated covies on a feedlot winter cruise,

Sortin’ fats in some bleak alley with the mud up to our knees,

Shovelin’ bunks or treatin’ sick ones, fightin’ flies or allergies.

I take a little nap sometimes, in my chair there after lunch

And I dream that I am workin’ for some rope and ride ’em bunch

Where a roaming photo graffer lookin’ for the real thing

Is dazzled by my cowboyness, the essence of my being.

And he poses me majestic by the River Babylon

Mounted on my paint caballo, conchos glistening in the sun.

But at five till one I waken with the image in my mind

Of the picture he has taken for the cover, but I find

I’m portrayed in all my glory standin’ in the chronic pen

Lookin’ at a scruffy lump jaw that needs lancin’ once again.

I get up and grab my jacket that’s the color of manure

And I head back to the feedlot, catch some horses for the shoer,

But I worry if my heroes in that cowboy magazine

Ever get a lick of work done, ‘cause they always look so clean.

Baxter Black, former large animal veterinarian and irregular commentator on Na-



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

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Photographing the fall colors contest

Right on time, the coming fall has prompted the trees and shrubs of the high country to conduct their annual “I can present a better color display than you” contest. It’s a long and widespread contest with millions of contestants. We’ll probably never know who won but, if you are like me, you won’t care. This is the time of year many contest judges like me will jump into our cars, SUV’s and trucks to make our annual trek to places we haven’t seen since this time last year. We secretly hope to find that contest winner through the windows of our cars and in the lens’ of our cameras, cell phones, binoculars and spotting scopes.

Hundreds of spectacular colorful landscapes await those willing to drive a little and hundreds more await those willing to venture off the beaten path to seek those less viewed but equally stunning locations. And we all want to bring home at least one great photo.

I once took a seminar hosted by the amazing John Fielder who taught me many principles of capturing great images. I’ll share a couple of those basics in hopes we’ll all have a more enjoyable leaf-peeping and great photo capturing experience.

One of the first concepts Mr. Fielder taught us was that light is everything. The harsh sunlight of midday will tend to wash out what are normally very vibrant colors. The recommendation is to take your trip early or late in the day to take advantage of the softer light. Some of my best color shots have been when I was out hunting in the wee-morning hours and found myself in the middle of a brilliant display of potential fall color contest winners. As the first light of morning increases, you find that every minute is a potential new photo with every direction adding more choices to the mix. Then, the first rays of sun break the horizon and

Land, Water and People

BY GREG GOODLAND

light up your world with a brilliant but soft light to further stimulate your senses and lenses. Even more contest winners emerge.

A second concept is the rule of thirds in the frame. For landscape images, I like to try to provide the viewer with a near equal scale of sky, trees and foreground. Most of us tend to center our primary feature of the image. Break away from that mold and capture the feature off to the sides sometimes. The supporting landscape may actually enhance your feature and capture it just as you are physically seeing it. Keep the thirds structure concept in mind still. Once you master the thirds concept, experiment with it a bit by reducing one side and increasing the opposite. An example would be to

increase the sky portion and reduce the foreground, especially if there are white puffy clouds providing a great contrast in the sky.

Another concept to remember is that not all photos should be landscape scale. Don’t forget that our eyes see the little things too. There may be one beautiful shrub that is displaying contest winning colors but is surrounded by a very bland environment. Mike Blakeman calls these the “intimate landscape.” Get close to that feature and let it shine alone by letting its surroundings provide a faded contrast to the amazing colors it offers. You may just be surprised when you get back home and see that photo on the larger screen and wonder who took it!

Finally, use clouds, shadows,

cliffs, and even manmade features to your advantage. A beautiful group of trees right next to an ugly pole barn are still beautiful. Position your feature in the frame with the structure a mere millimeter outside of the frame. No one will know but you. In a few years, you might even find that image and have no idea of where you took it!

No matter where you go and what time of day, there are always opportunities to capture great images of the wonderful fall landscapes Colorado offers. The tree and shrub contestants are calling all judges. Get out there and cast your vote and take lots of photos of their best efforts to win the annual Fall colors contest.

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

D Mountain Park and Rec District meeting is Sept. 28

DELNORTE — The D Mountain Park and Recreation District is having a public meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Rio Grande County Annex Building, 965 Sixth St., Del Norte, to hear people’s views on building an indoor recreation center in Del

Norte. D Mountain Park and Recreation District has hired consultants Ballard*King and Associates to conduct a feasibility study. Public input is critical to the success of the process, D Mountain Park and Recreation District officials stated.

SARGENTS

Continued from Page 1

Mountain Firewise Community, to continue the Saguache Firewise program and the E3 KFM Kundalini Fire Management.

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners is soliciting public comment on a proposal to spend Forest Service Title III funds for the following project: Crestone Mountain Zen Center, is requesting funding to be used to enhance and expand the Crestone Mountain Firewise Community.

Public comment is requested on a proposal to spend Forest Service Title III funds for the following project: Daniel S. Johnson — Saguache County Firewise Program, to continue running the Saguache County

Firewise Team to do free wildfire hazard assessments, educational presentations and hands-on mitigation projects in Saguache County.

The final program that public comment is requested on is the project: E3 KFM Kundalini Fire Management, requesting funding to continue to reduce hazardous fuels, support of the creation of a new Firewise Community, initiating local prescribed burning for lowering fire danger, increasing biodiversity, and raising the health of the land.

Firewise programs are a voluntary program that communities can join to help them reduce wildfire risk.

According to the National Fire

Protection Association, “The national Firewise USA recognition program provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors in a geographic area get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community and to reduce wildfire risks at the local level.”

All written comments may be addressed to the Saguache Board of County Commissioners and are to be submitted to the Saguache County Administration office before Oct. 29 at 3 p.m. The Commissioners will be discussing these projects and any public comment during their regular monthly meeting on Nov. 2.

BASH

Continued from Page 1

yellow, brown, red and more.

According to the press release provided by the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce, the Scarecrow Bash is a community-wide event that invites businesses and residents to use their creativity to build a scarecrow that suits their unique style.

Registration will begin on Sept. 22 and the contest will conclude on Oct. 8. Beginning on Sept. 29, there will be a map of scarecrows available on the Chamber’s website and physical copies will be available at the front desk at High Valley Community Center, 595 Grand Ave.

Voting will begin on Sept. 29 and will end on Oct. 8. To vote, people will need to take a picture next to the scarecrow of their choosing — one residential and or one business. Text the photo(s), with their name and DN FALL2021 to 1-833-455-0652.

People should receive a confirmation text. If people do not receive the confirmation text, they are asked to call the Chamber to confirm their vote. Reminder, the photo must be a picture of you next to the scarecrow to be a valid vote.

This year, the Chamber will award the top three residential winners a \$50 gift card. Businesses will receive a prize valued at \$100. Winners will be announced on Friday, Oct. 8, on the Chamber’s website.

For more information or voting assistance, contact the Chamber. • Registration: Begins on Sept. 22 • Scarecrow building: Sept. 22-

Oct. 8
• Voting: Sept. 29-Oct. 8
• Prizes: three \$50 gift certificates

to residential winners; one prize valued at \$100 for the business winner.

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Healing images speak a language people of the Valley understand

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Over the last 18-plus months, professionals in the health community have reached out to engage with the public perhaps more than anyone can recall in recent memory. Messages on billboards. Articles in local newspapers. Catchy phrases that can be easily remembered. All created to communicate key information related to people's health.

Now, the Colorado Area Health Education Center (COAHEC) in association with the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center has envisioned a unique way of speaking to people. Remember the phrase "a picture speaks a thousand words?"

Yeah. That. In communities throughout Colorado, COAHEC is commissioning the creation of "informative and beautiful murals" bearing health-related messages. But the organization is going one step further. Instead of a one-mural-fits-all approach, they are seeking to "speak" in a language people identify with and understand, a powerful, evocative, visual language that culturally resonates with who people are and reflects the specific community where those people live.

And they're using the hands and imaginations of exceptionally talented, local artists to do it.

"The dovetailing between art and medicine... speaks to traditions of healing that are deeply imbedded in unique cultures and helps western medicine and cultural healing to not only co-exist but to become one," the website says.

The woman behind the work

When sculptor, painter and designer Bianca Maestas says she has "always had art in her life," she's not exaggerating. Born in San Luis into a family of well-known artists, Bianca's earliest memories are of, as a baby, being placed beneath a pottery wheel, hearing it turn and smelling the clay. She remembers hearing her father teach a class on color theory when she couldn't have been more than 3 years old. At the age of 12 years old, she was already working alongside her father in his foundry.

"By the time I was doing my own artwork," Maestas says, "it wasn't something I had to really even learn. It was almost like a muscle memory in my hands."

If there is a case to be made for the power of both nature and nurture in influencing who people become, Maestas is it. But this native of the San Luis Valley is much more than a sum total of her genes and early immersion into the world of art. The land where she grew up also played, and continues to play, a significant role in her work.

"I was always around art, but I was also around a lot of farming," she says. "My grandmother was an amazing gardener, and I grew up knowing all the herbs and eating healthy food that came from the earth. There's a lot of history here. That's why I like the Lady of Guadalupe — not in a religious sense but because she reminds me of my grandma. When I think of her and this area, I think of healing plants. Healing plants portray the Valley to me."

And the harmony of those elements — her inherent understanding of color that can be seen in her painting, her sense of space that comes from sculpting and her history of a personal connection to healing plants reminiscent of her grandmother — run throughout the vibrant, engaging mural Maestas was commissioned to create on the walls of the AHEC building on Ross Street in Alamosa.

The project was truly collective with several community meetings held where people were asked what colors they wanted to use and what symbols they wanted to see in the mural. Bianca also collaborated with COAHEC and incorporated their medical messaging into the design.

But, at the organic level, the mural embraces what Maestas sees as symbolic of the SLV.

"I wanted to portray those medicinal plants that grow here — herbs and flowers," Maestas says. "And, of course, the medicine wheel. I also know a lot of people who are healers and used a photograph of a friend who practices healing."

Her overall concept of "old medicine and new medicine" is not only reflective of the marriage

between traditional healing and western medicine but something that she has witnessed growing up in San Luis.

"I'm definitely a believer in science and modern medicine," she says, "But it always comes back to drinking the teas and using the herbs that keep people alive. It really is...like a circle. And there were so many different ways to represent that."

The project was funded with money from COVID relief, requiring images related to COVID be part of the mural. It was a requirement Bianca endorsed. The pandemic is a historic event. Also, a significant loss her family suffered likely because of the virus, made it personally imperative. And, so, she did it in her own way.

"I wanted it to be easy on the eyes. Easy on the spirit," she says.

The mural, which covers all four walls of the building, was completed after 10 days of intense work, thanks to help from a small, diverse group of locals who stopped by and contributed their time.

When asked how the whole project came together so quickly and still resulted in a mural that is genuinely "informative and beautiful" and born of her own imagination, Bianca thinks for a moment before answering. "I had a vision of what I wanted to do and then...I just let my hands take over."

Due to concerns related to COVID, the ribbon cutting ceremony has been postponed until further notice with more information coming. In the meantime, the mural can be seen at SLV AHEC located at 300 Ross Ave. in Alamosa.

Maestas wishes to express her deepest gratitude to Leslie Minnis



Courtesy photos

Bianca Maestas was commissioned to create the colorful mural on the walls of the AHEC building on Ross Street in Alamosa.



of Taos, her niece, Soleil Maestas, com

Jeremiah Benton, Augustina Briones, Davion Fisher, and Roy and Jaydan Sanchez who contributed their time and energy to helping complete the mural. She also thanked COAHEC and SLV AHEC who made the project possible.

Her other works can be seen on Instagram @bianca_sketchgarden or her website www.biancamaestas.com

To learn more about the mural project, go to murals-overview.pdf (cuanschutz.edu).

This project was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$190,910 with 50 percent funded by HRSA/HHS.

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05 Notices

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07 Help Wanted

Creede School District has an immediate opening for a Kindergarten Teacher. Apply at www.creedek12.net or call 719-658-2220. (10/13)

HELP WANTED PART TIME VSO Officer -Experienced individual needed for part time Veterans Service Officer. The position will be approximately 3 days per week. You must be a veteran to apply for this position. Please contact April Quintana with the Saguache County Administration office for an application and complete job description or printable at www.saguache-county.colorado.gov. Salary is part time at a rate of \$15,735 per year. Call 719-655-2231 for more information and job description. Applications close on Friday, September 30, 2021 at 3:00 P.M. Saguache County is an EEO employer. Drug testing which

includes marijuana and a background check will be required for final applicants. (9/30)

Long standing South Fork Real Estate firm seeks experienced and efficient secretary/office manager. Excellent pay, flexible hours if needed, fantastic work environment in a beautiful location with beautiful people. Our ideal candidate is self-motivated, creative, at least one year experience as a secretary or administrative assistant and proficient in Microsoft Office. Call 719-873-1700 for an appointment today. (10/13)

Carpentry workers needed for remodeling and painting. Pay depending on experience. Call 719-849-1796 (9/29)

Nonprofit Alamosa company seeking 40 hrs per week Field Coordinator to market & as-

sist families w/ self-help home construction. Some evening and weekend work. \$17-\$18 p/h. Email resume and cover letter to melanie@crhdc.org See description at www.crhdc.org (9/29)

The City of Creede Public Works Department is now accepting a Public Works Full Time Operator/Laborer position that includes the maintenance of various City-owned streets, parks, and/or buildings, along with maintenance of water, wastewater, and stormwater systems. General supervision is provided by the Public Works Director. Hours of work: 6:00am – 2:00 pm M-F (may vary based upon season). For application and more information please visit <https://cityofcreede.colorado.gov/news-article/city-of-creede-hiring-full-time-pw->

maintenance-position or call the City of Creede Public Works Director at 719.658.2276 ex4. (9/29)

Community Banks of Colorado is currently seeking a candidate

to fill a Universal Banker position in our South Fork Banking Center. For position details and to apply, please visit www.cobnks.com. NBH Bank is an equal opportunity employer. (10/06)

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ONE FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE Person needed for apartment complex in Monte Vista. Interested persons will have a minimum 2 years maintenance experience, valid driver's license, clean background check and pass a drug test. Maintenance duties include but not limited to minor plumbing & electrical, grounds keeping, maintaining buildings & common areas, and painting, etc. Interested persons should pick up an application at 551 Monroe Street, Monte Vista CO 81144. If any questions or further information is needed, please call 719-852-5505 or send resume to mvha04@yahoo.com Attn: Alonzo or John. Equal Employment Opportunity Provider and Employer.(9/22)

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 weekends. 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. (10/6)

Wolf Creek Ski Area is accepting applications for all departments: retail, ski school, lifts, ski patrol, base operations, ticket office, food and beverage, rental, vehicle maintenance and snow reporting. Please see details of job descriptions on Wolf Creek's employment page. Applications can be downloaded from WolfCreekSki.com employment page. Send resumes and applications to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com or P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. All jobs are winter seasonal (November - April) with competitive wages.

Cafeteria workers needed at Upper Rio Grande School District C7. Must have high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or willing to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact

Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. (9/22)

Del Norte Jr./Sr. High School is seeking an energetic, caring individual to serve as a Special Education ParaEducator. Applicants must have a high school diploma and prior experience working with students with special needs is preferred. Please submit your application to David Grabowski, DNHS Principal at 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO 81132; dgrabowski@urtigers.co; or contact David at 719-657-4020. The position will be open until filled. You can pick up an application at the District Office or on-line at urtigers.co. (9/29)

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 management. 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, negotiable 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)

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

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 individual to be friendly, hard working, flexible, organized with good communication and managerial skills. Reliable transportation necessary. Competitive wages based on experience. (9/29)

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Opposite of on
- 4. Creator
- 10. No seats available
- 11. About springtime
- 12. Flagship ESPN show (abbr.)
- 14. Automobile
- 15. A matchup
- 16. Porous volcanic rock
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Not written in any key
- 23. Revolved
- 24. Archrival
- 26. Within
- 27. Smoker's accessory
- 28. Disfigure
- 30. Primordial matter
- 31. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- 34. Kisses
- 36. Some is iced
- 37. A way to derive
- 39. Unaccompanied by others
- 40. Discontinued Google app
- 41. Tony B. left his heart there
- 42. Condiment
- 48. Ancient Italian city
- 50. One who distributes payoff money
- 51. Guarantees
- 52. Highly decorative
- 53. Strike with a stick
- 54. Pie ___ mode

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48					49					50					
51										52					
					53					54				55	
					56				57	58					
					59					60					

- 55. Spanish be
- 56. Glued
- 58. A way to drench
- 59. Part of the body
- 60. Changes the color
- 20. Portable conical tent
- 21. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 25. Fish with high dorsal fins
- 29. Equal (prefix)
- 31. Aquatic plant genus
- 32. Choppers
- 33. Hand parts
- 35. Region bordering the sea
- 38. Well-liked
- 41. Nap
- 43. It's used to make beer
- 44. Related on the father's side
- 45. Senior officer
- 46. Delicacy (archaic)
- 47. Figures
- 49. A way to take away
- 56. Beloved sandwich ___&J
- 57. Symptom typical of withdrawal (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Passerine birds
- 2. Noisy quarrel
- 3. The front arm or leg of an animal
- 4. Early multimedia
- 5. Golden years
- 6. Large mollusk
- 7. Small arm of the sea
- 8. Persian jurisdiction
- 9. Atomic #81
- 12. From end to end
- 13. Adorable
- 17. Ma
- 19. Nearly falling

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45

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23 Lawn and Garden

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32 Fuel & Heating

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35 Heavy Equipment

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36 Miscellaneous

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\$75. 719-221-9339

42 Feed & Seed

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46 Pasture for Rent

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BACK ON THE MARKET

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Antonito native honored as rising leader in public health



STAFF REPORT

ANTONITO— San Luis Valley native Justin Garoutte is listed among the second list of “40 Under 40 in Public Health” announced Tuesday by the de Beaumont Foundation.

Garoutte, originally from Antonito and is with the New Mexico Environment Department, is recognized as a rising leader who is improving the health of communities across the country. The new honorees include epidemiologists,

emergency responders, researchers, and policy analysts in state and local health departments, colleges and universities, and nonprofit organizations.

“At a time when public health professionals are being required to adapt and take on monumental challenges, we are incredibly proud of these leaders,” said Brian C. Castrucci, DrPH, president and CEO of the de Beaumont Foundation. “We created the 40 Under 40 program to recognize

and tell the stories of rising leaders who are making a difference in communities across the country. By promoting their work and accomplishments, we hope to attract and inspire a new generation of leaders.”

A distinguished panel of public health leaders evaluated applicants for their leadership and impact on their community’s health. The de Beaumont Foundation announced the first class of 40 Under 40 in May 2019.

“Public health practitioners have always operated behind the scenes,” Dr. Castrucci said, “but as we continue to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, public health has become top of mind, which creates an opportunity to recognize their vital work and show that public health is an exciting, rewarding, and meaningful career.”

For more information about the honorees and their accomplishments, visit www.debeaumont.org/40Under40.

Bill could do big things for SLV farmers and ranchers

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

SAN LUIS VALLEY — This past week, 167 new bills went into effect in Colorado. Nestled in among legislation related to affordable housing, gender identity and reporting stolen firearms is a bill named the “Agricultural Soil Health Program.” And while the bill might not grab big headlines in Denver, it could give a significant and much needed boost to farmers and ranchers in the San Luis Valley who recognize the value of healthy soil.

“I think we all recognize and understand the importance of healthy soil,” says Sen. Cleave Simpson (R-District 35), the SLV farmer and rancher who sponsored the bill. “But we don’t always have the resources to either measure and track soil health or have access to all the newest information and practices. I expect the Soil Health Program to highlight the importance and the value as well as connect producers with the most appropriate resources.”

As Simpson explains it, the concept of a specific Soil Health Program has been around for some time, and many of the state’s soil conservation districts already provide a variety of services and support for healthy soil programs. But not all soil conservation districts do that, and they’re not done consistently across the state.

However, there is federal funding available to address that inconsistency. According to Simpson, Congress has funding in place to support healthy soil practices, but there was a catch. States are required to stand up specific Soil Health Programs to take advantage of the funds and give the Department of Agriculture authority to receive dollars from private and governmental sources.

Simpson’s bill being passed into law paves the way to meet that requirement. The \$4,500 approved with the bill will be used to stand up the advisory committee to the Commissioner of Agriculture to set up the details of the program as well as the mechanism to potentially award grant dollars to ag producers who apply.

With the bill now in effect, Simpson says the Department of Agriculture will be seeking grant dollars from both federal and private sources, while the advisory committee is being organized.

Sen. Simpson suggests that any producers interested in taking part in this program stay in contact with their local soil conservation district or visit the Colorado Department of Agriculture website at <https://ag.colorado.gov> for details as the program gets organized and funded.

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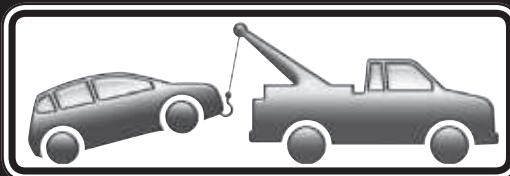
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FALL Harvest

Tips for safer farming

Tractor accidents, grain entrapment and injuries from ornery livestock are just some of the dangers agricultural workers face every day. In fact, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health says agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries in the United States.

In 2016, the agricultural industry had a rate of 21.4 deaths per 100,000 workers, and each day agricultural workers experienced 100 non-fatal, lost-work-time injuries.

Agricultural dangers are not limited to North America. In Ireland, farm accidents have increased by 13 percent in the last five years and by 31 percent in the last decade, according to a national survey of farm accidents conducted by the Teagasc National Farm Survey. Furthermore, 97 percent of all farm accident victims required medical treatment.

Farms are dangerous places, and while carelessness can and does contribute to many incidents, accidents also take place during routine, seemingly safe activities. These farm safety guidelines can help lower the risk of injuries.

- Know farm equipment. Read and follow all instructions in the equipment operation manuals. In addition, attend local farm safety workshops to learn more about specific equipment and products.

- Conduct routine safety checks. Look around buildings and grounds for obvious hazards, such as fire hazards and hazardous materials, including farm chemicals that are not stored correctly.

- Practice cleanliness. Maintain



clean and neat work areas with tools stored properly and out of the way after use.

- Be mindful of your clothing and hair. Many accidents involve a power take-off system, or PTO, which is a common component of large rotary mowers, tractors and forage choppers. Clothing can easily get caught in an engaged but unguarded PTO stub. It's easy for laces or coveralls to become wrapped around a spinning stub shaft. The PTO driveline and other protrusion points also can be dangerous if people do not pay attention.

- Use rollover protection structures. ROPS can be used on tractors and other equipment to prevent injuries. In addition, wear seat belts and employ other safety equipment as advised.

- Avoid extra passengers. It can be tempting to take the kids for a spin, but do not allow additional passengers to ride on agricultural equipment.

- Exercise caution when handling chemicals. Take extra precautions when handling any chemicals, including pesticides.

- Wear protective gear. Wear appropriate gear and equipment as outlined by NIOSH or the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Make sure the skin, feet, ears, eyes, and hands are protected at all times.

- Employ lock out/tag out control. This is a process where one can work on equipment only after every energy source has been controlled, such as hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, and electrical, according to Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Turning off equipment and using certain controls or locks on devices can prevent equipment from restarting before it is safe to do so.

Farm safety should be a priority for owners, their families and employees so that agricultural injuries can be reduced.

What is sustainable agriculture?

Many transitions have taken place in the agricultural industry over the last several decades. The widespread adoption of various technologies over the last 20-plus years has helped farmers streamline their operations, making their farms more efficient and less wasteful as a result. In addition, many farmers have embraced sustainable farming, which is a relatively recent approach to agriculture. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, sustainable agriculture is

a complex, multi-faceted concept. Sustainable agriculture intends to contribute to a robust economy by making farms profitable. Farmers who embrace sustainable agriculture also aim to have a positive effect on the environment and their surrounding ecosystems. That's accomplished by embracing strategies that focus on building and maintaining healthy soil, managing water wisely, minimizing pollution, and promoting biodiversity. The National Institute

of Food and Agriculture notes that sustainable agriculture encompasses a wide range of production practices, including some associated with conventional farming and some linked to organic farming. As a result, sustainable farming should not be mistaken for organic farming, or vice versa. However, the UCS notes there's a strong likelihood that certified organic produce at local grocery stores are byproducts of farms that embrace sustainable agriculture.

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Lindquist to provide care at La Jara Clinic

STAFF REPORT

LA JARA — San Luis Valley Health announced that Dr. Samuel Lindquist will be joining the primary care team at the La Jara Clinic.

Lindquist is accepting new patients of all ages. He said he looks forward to meeting local community members while serving a wide range of medical conditions.

He graduated from the University of South Alabama and completed his Doctor of Medicine Degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham. His residency was at the McLennan County Family Medicine Center in Waco, Texas and included a Global Health Track.

His most recent career path was providing a full spectrum of family medicine at the Greeley County Health Services Center in Tribune, Kan.

He has experience working in emergent and hospital care and is looking forward to the clinic setting in a rural setting.

He has a long list of academic achievements and volunteer services. His approach to health care is to be a “trusted partner” with the patient



in obtaining a healthier outcome.

Antonio Gurule, Clinic Administrator for SLV Health, commented, “We are pleased to welcome Dr. Lindquist. His experience in full scope family medicine will be an asset to our community. He will be an incredible addition to our team and their commitment to meeting patients’ needs.”

Dr. Lindquist’s interests include piano, running, biking, and anything to do with cars. He looks forward to establishing long-lasting relationships with the local community members.

Temporary area closure for the Poage Lake

STAFF REPORT

DEL NORTE — The Rio Grande National Forest’s Divide Ranger District announced Tuesday, Sept. 14, that an area closure around Poage Lake would go into effect immediately.

The closure is needed to provide for public safety during logging operations, according to RGNF.

The closure affects the area adjacent to the north and east sides of Poage Lake including the road up to the parking area.

This is a full-area closure which means both being on the road or in the restricted area are prohibited.

“This closure is necessary to keep the public safe while logging operations harvest the dead trees from areas adjacent to the lake,” said Martha Williamson, the Divide Ranger District’s district ranger. “The

heavy logging equipment used can be very dangerous to people unfamiliar with those operations. It is best to allow the operator to conduct the activities more safely and efficiently, without the risk of unsuspecting visitors in the area.”

The district is pleased to be making progress towards removing dead trees, despite the short-term impact on recreation at the lake. Nearby fishing opportunities include Beaver Creek and Million Reservoirs.

The operator will begin logging immediately and plans to finish in the area by the end of the year. Should the operations be completed earlier, officials will evaluate the closure order and rescind it, if it is deemed safe to do so.

For information on the closure, call the Divide Ranger District at 719-850-2374.

VFW Scholarship Program honors local students

STAFF REPORT

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The Veterans of Foreign War Posts and Auxiliaries of District 7 recently announced the winners of the 2020-21 “Voice of Democracy” essays.

VFW Auxiliary 8121 had four winners. Each student received a certificate of participation and money.

The theme was “Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?” The first-place winner was Sargent High School senior Caleb U. Rabon. He received \$100. The second-place winner was Del Norte High School senior Soren K. Wheeler Bailey. She received \$50. The third-place winner was Sargent High School senior Autumn L. Yocom. She received \$25. The fourth-place winner was Sargent High School senior Christopher Brandt. He received \$15.

For the Patriots Pens Essay in the middle schools, there were no local entries.

“VFW and its Auxiliaries would like to encourage high school and middle

school students to participate in our scholarship programs,” local officials stated. “These essays are open to public, private and parochial schools and home-schooled students.”

VFW will be going to schools at the beginning of the school year with posters and entry forms. The 2021-22 theme for Voice of Democracy is “America: Where Do We Go From Here?” And the theme for Patriots Pen is “How Can I Be A Good American?”

“Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliaries would like to thank all of the winners and all the participants who entered these scholarship programs. And a special thanks to the teachers for encouraging the students,” officials stated.

For more information, contact Peggy Martinez, chairman Auxiliary 8121 Del Norte/South Fork, at 719-850-3066; Nadia Florez, chairman Auxiliary 899 Alamosa, at 719-580-4949; or Sharon Chavez, chairman Auxiliary 4849 Antonito, at 719-580-2217.

FGRC Supports Stations of Suicide Awareness and Prevention



Courtesy photo

The Fort Garland Revitalization Committee (FGRC) extended its condolences to those who have lost loved ones to suicide. FGRC is supporting the Friday, Sept. 24, Stations of Suicide Awareness and Prevention community walk in San Luis by donating fruit and water for people who attend. These types of community events are necessary to enrich community life and educate individuals that there is help and support, FGRC stated. Suggested arrival time is 9:30 a.m. and the walk begins at 10 a.m., Costilla County Public Health Agency Building.

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Potato Festival celebrates harvest

By **MARIE MCCOLM**

MONTE VISTA — The Potato Festival was at Chapman Park on Saturday, Sept. 11, with many booths, games, fun-filled rides for the children, and local farmers in attendance.

The annual festival is an opportunity for residents, farmers, workers, and community members to celebrate the local potato harvest.

Local farmer Ben Martinez said it has been a good year for potatoes.

“Our crops have done well, and we are excited about the event, and excited about the harvest,” Martinez said.

Chef Jason Morse hosted a potato barbecue class on Friday at Chapman Park.

Saturday morning a 5K Tater Trot was held at the park, with many potato obstacles included in the trot, making it fun for everyone involved. An agricultural tour

followed the trot.

Residents could be seen all over the park enjoying the views of the many tractors and large farm machinery on display at the park, along with semi-trucks and large harvesters.

Children were running from one bouncy house to the next and enjoying the tiny train that traveled around the park. A giant quad jumper was also at the event.

“This is a really great event,” said Christina Lopez, a resident of Monte Vista. “Every year I really enjoy bringing my children to this event. Colorado is all about potatoes. I have some family members that work in agriculture and have worked in agriculture a lot of their lives, this gives us a chance to really celebrate what our community grows and what we thrive on. My kids enjoy this event because of all of the food and rides, and I enjoy

the event because it makes me feel proud to live in Colorado and be a part of it all.”

There were many food booths at the festival, that included baked potatoes and food made from potatoes, along with various candy and home-baked goods.

Brenna Rivale, manager of the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce, was at the festival. Rivale was selling raffle tickets at the Chamber’s booth. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the new Ski-Hi building.

“Tom Lockhart painted the crane for us that we are raffling, and the drawing will be held for the painting, at the grand opening of the Ski-Hi complex.”

The Potato Festival concluded with a motorsport aerial freestyle show by “Octane Addictions” at the Ski-Hi Park Arena on Saturday night.



Photos by Marie Mccolm

The Potato Festival was at Chapman Park on Saturday, Sept. 11, with many booths, games, fun-filled rides for the children, and local farmers in attendance.





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Hunting IN THE San Luis Valley

2021

CPW has programs to help new hunters

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has several programs to encourage new outdoors enthusiasts to learn the ropes.

HUNTING IN COLORADO AND THE HUNTER OUTREACH PROGRAM

They created the Hunter Outreach Program for this purpose. It's the easiest way for beginners and those without a family background in hunting to hone their skills and learn from experienced outdoor aficionados. Skills clinics, youth programs, mentored hunts and seminars are offered on a regular basis.

A weekend, evening or online hunter education course is also a great introduction to hunting, firearm safety and outdoor skills. Courses are offered nearly every week somewhere in the state. Passing this course is required prior to applying for or buying a Colorado hunting license for anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1949.

The CPW programs focus on hunting heritage and tradition and promote the vast opportunities for hunting throughout the state. They also create mentorship programs for youth and novice

hunters and develop educational programs for the general public. Everyone who participates comes away with a new appreciation for Colorado's natural lands and an attitude of stewardship that helps ensure they stay intact.

Women Afield

An integral part of the Hunter Outreach Program is Women Afield, which provides opportunities for women to learn about hunting big game, waterfowl and upland birds from experienced volunteers and DOW staff. Summer and fall workshops focus on both shooting and fishing. The clinics and seminars feature basic instruction in the fundamentals, from shotgun shooting to fly-fishing.

Youth Hunting Program

The youth hunting program is also popular and provides a chance for youth between the ages of 12 and 17 to learn from experienced hunters during annual excursions. Accompanied by huntmasters and volunteers, the groups focus on either big game (elk, pronghorn and deer) or birds (waterfowl, pheasant and turkey). Available to Colorado residents, participants receive training in firearm safety, field safety, hunting skills and techniques as well as hunter

ethics and responsibility.

RESOURCES

Find hunting outfitters in Colorado; for information on other education programs, wildlife-viewing sites, in- and out-of-state hunting and fishing licenses and more, visit Colorado Parks & Wildlife.

ABOUT COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

As one of Colorado's advocates for environmental and wildlife habitat conservation, Colorado Parks & Wildlife manages 42 state parks, more than 300 state wildlife areas, all the state's wildlife and many recreational programs.



Hunting in Colorado

Here's a quick rundown of the steps one can take when hunting in Colorado.

1. Choose

- Species: Mule deer in the mountains, white-tail on the plains or the legendary elk of the Rockies — these are only some of many species that call Colorado home.
- Method of Take: Go primitive with a long-bow, stay modern with a centerfire rifle or split the difference with muzzle-loading. Colorado is accommodating to most types and styles of take as long as you have that handy hunter education card (from Colorado or your home state).
- Season: It's hard to resist hunting among golden aspen leaves in early season bow-and-muzzle-loading seasons, but cool weather and snow often help in a successful hunt. Big-game seasons run from August through January.

2. Location

- Scout It Out: Make a pre-season basecamp in one of Colorado's welcoming small towns and bring friends or family along. Staying stealthy any time of year can reveal the secret side of wilderness, which loud or talking hikers rarely encounter.
- Fish Side Dish: Big-game habitat almost always overlaps with small-game and fish habitat. Bring along that shotgun or fishing rod and experience the richness of Colorado's varied terrain.

3. Tools

- Love at First Site: Adherence to Colorado's

hunting and fishing guidelines are extremely important to the overall health of the wilderness. The first responsibility on any trip is to read up on rules and regs online or pick up a printed manual to stay up to date on changes in the law.

- Learn: Colorado Parks and Wildlife offers Elk Hunting University, instructional videos and a whole lot more to get you ready for the hunt. And find information on outdoor survival, a guide to Colorado's game management units, scouting tips and numbers to call when you have questions.

- Plan: Apply by mail or online for limited-draw licenses, always due on the first Tuesday in April. For more information on dates and fees, visit Colorado Parks & Wildlife.

- Find a directory of Colorado hunting outfitters, who can lead you on guided or semi-guided hunts, as well as Colorado Parks and Wildlife field offices.

- Colorado Parks & Wildlife offers both in-person and online hunting and fishing skills-building classes throughout the year. If you'd like news and event notices delivered to your inbox, you can sign-up for one of the CPW e-newsletters tailored with information to your interests. If you don't find the right learning opportunity on their event calendar, call the service center and perhaps one of their staff can help find what you are looking for. The main call center number is 303-297-1192 and is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.







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