

Shorts

CDPHE COVID vaccination bus in Monte Vista today

MONTE VISTA — Free COVID-19 vaccination clinic in Monte Vista. No appointments needed except for Pfizer vaccinations. The CDPHE vaccination bus will be available Wednesday, July 7, between 2-4 p.m. at the intersection of Adams and Main streets in Monte Vista.

Children 12-17 years old are encouraged to get vaccinated but will need parental consent. Because children under 18 receive the Pfizer vaccine, call RGPH at 719-657-3352, for information to get scheduled.



Christmas in July FUNdraising Festival is July 10

SAGUACHE — Health Equity Action Resident Team (HEART) of Saguache and KV Estates took the lead in 2018 with the first Christmas in July FUNdraising Festival.

The purpose was to bring the community together; provide an avenue for local artists to showcase their wares and raise funds to help needy families during the December holiday times.

Christmas in July 2021 will continue that tradition on Saturday, July at 10 a.m. at Otto Mears Park.

Live music is being planned; vendors are invited to set up a tent with vendor fees — a donated item to the HEART Silent Auction Tent. Family games are being set up and although the rain clouds are welcomed, planners are hopeful that they stay away until after the FUNdraising activities end.

Christmas in July 2021 is Part 1 of a two-part plan to raise funds to create food boxes for families in December. Part 2 will happen on Saturday, Dec 4., with the Holiday Bazaar at the community building and again, sponsored by HEART and its partners.

Valley celebrates Independence Day

South Fork's July 3rd events lights up the town

BY MARIE MCCOLM

SOUTH FORK — There were plenty of events in the San Luis Valley for people to attend during the Fourth of July weekend — South Fork on Saturday and in Alamosa and Creede on Sunday.

Residents and tourists painted the town red, white and blue at South Fork's annual July

3rd celebration.

The festivities commenced with a tasty pancake breakfast, that was held from 8 to 10 a.m. at the South Fork Community Building. After the breakfast, people were seen window shopping and enjoying the

Please see FOURTH on Page 5A

Celebrating 100 years of existence in 2021, Del Norte Bank showed its patriotism with bank president Mike Hurst at the wheel of this antique car. Del Norte Bank is proud to maintain a branch in Creede, site of Sunday's long 4th of July parade.

Photo by Keith R. Cerny



Center Car Show heats up 4th of July celebrations

BY MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — The Town of Center held its annual Car Show to the delight of the citizens who asked Mayor Tony Garcia to continue the tradition. The original plan was to only hold a Solstice Celebration which was on June 19.

According to Mayor Garcia, "Several people approached me about doing the Car Show on the weekend of the 4th even though people are usually out of town to camp."

The Car Show was sponsored by Garcia Brothers Racing and was followed by a Fireworks Show at Community Park that was sponsored by local business owners. It was a free event for the community, for which they showed up with passion and a festive attitude.

Children and Adults were all smiles as they toured the lovingly polished cars. Some cars had stories and props used to highlight their unique features, and their proud owners were nearby to answer questions.

A Classic 1965 baby blue Ford Thunderbird was a hit with the

Please see SHOW on Page 8A



Photos by Mechel Meek
The annual Center Car Show drew people to downtown Center on July 3. The Fourth of July celebration included vendors and a fireworks show.

Preliminary legislative maps are a starting point

32 meetings planned across state over coming months

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The preliminary maps for redistricting the state legislature were unveiled last week for both the Colorado House of Representatives and the Colorado Senate. Some significant changes have been made in several districts in both bodies of the legislature.

The General Assembly, as the two legislative bodies are collectively called, consists of 35 senators in the Colorado Senate and 65 representatives in the House of Representatives. Unlike the Congressional district map where an 8th district was added due to an increase in population, the number of seats in the Colorado Senate and House have not changed.

Although these maps are preliminary and will certainly change over the coming weeks, using the 2020 election results as a guide and comparing the proposed new districts with the existing districts suggest that the proposed district lines would result in 39 Democrats and 26 Republicans being elected to the Colorado House of Representatives.

Please see MAPS on Page 7A

Chief encourages people to join Neighborhood Watch

BY MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — The Chief of Center Police held his monthly Coffee with the Chief at Center Town Hall in June.

After drinks and doughnuts were served, the atmosphere was relaxed, and an informal update was given by Chief Dale Meek. He spoke at length regarding the state of crime in Center and the steps that the Center Police Department has taken to combat crime in the town, including the Center PD K9 program.

Many people in Center have expressed that they feel drugs and drug-related crimes are the most damaging crime within the city and should be a priority for the Center PD. Meek also invited members of the

community to join the Neighborhood Watch Program. This program is currently about 60 members and allows people to help the police focus by reporting what, where and how crimes are occurring.

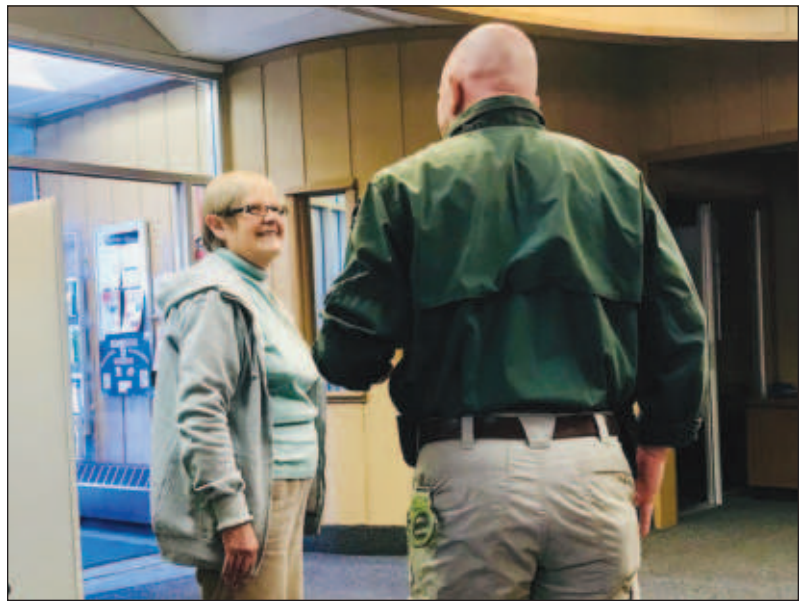
Chief Meek said, "Our citizens are our best resource to combat crime."

He stressed that the Police cannot stop crime if it is not reported and asked the community of Center to take part in helping to make the community

Please see COFFEE on Page 8A

Center Police Department Police Chief Dale Meek visits with people during the monthly Coffee with the Chief in June.

Photo by Mechel Meek



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OBITUARIES

Thomas S. Magness



Thomas S. Magness, 89, Monte Vista, Colo., passed away at home June 22, 2021. Tom was born Jan. 18, 1932, in Rapid City, S.D., to Cedric St. Clair and Martha Haaser Magness. His family settled in Monte Vista in the late 30's.

After graduating from Monte Vista High School in 1950, Tom served in the US Air Force. He then started work as a lineman for the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Association in 1952. The SLVREC turned out to be his lifetime employer. He retired from there in 1994.

In 1966, Tom married Barbara (Ragland) Hargraves of Creede and became dad to her four boys. The family lived in Monte Vista in a house on 1st Avenue, which was always the scene of a famous party during the Stampede Parade.

Barbara and Tom traveled extensively before and after their retirement. They visited Australia, Italy, the UK, Hawaii, Alaska, Mexico, Cuba, and many destinations in the United States.

Tom was active in the American Legion for many years and was a member of the NRA and the Elks. Anyone who knew him easily figured out he was a political conservative.

His friends enjoyed his quick wit. Those who met him for the first time, soon realized that his gruff demeanor was a cover for the "good guy" that he was. Tom dedicated much of his time in retirement to taking care of many of his friends and family members as they aged.

He was preceded in death by

his wife Barbara, his brother Jim Magness and sister Marion Ebel.

He is survived by his sister Catherine Owens; his stepsons Creede Hargraves (Therese) of Creede and son Joshua Hargraves; Orin Hargraves of Niwot, Colo.; Wiley Hargraves (Christina) of Melbourne, Australia, children; Jesse, Jacob, Simon Hargraves, Lily White; and Brian Robinson of Oceanside, Calif. He is also survived by nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank those friends who stayed in touch with Tom as his health failed in the last few years. They would also like to thank those who provided care for him until the end so that he could stay in his home.

Tom donated his body to science. At his request there will be no memorial service, but a Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, July 10, 2021, from 3-5 p.m. at 31 Dunham St. in Monte Vista. All who knew Tom are invited to attend and reminisce.

Jack Eldon Seneff

Jack Eldon Seneff was born in Monte Vista, to Chester and Lucille (Hicks) Seneff. The second of three children, Jack loved treasure hunting and later became a prospector. Jack maintained his love of treasure hunting as an adult, and searched diligently for Montezuma's legendary lost treasure, on Wolf Creek Pass.

Jack survived the Korean Conflict and continued his military career in the National Guard. Afterward, Jack helped place the electrical transmission lines from Salida into the Valley.

Jack worked at many jobs in his lifetime, from well driller and truck driver at M&G Drilling, to heavy equipment mechanic-operator at the Monte Vista starch plant, maintenance-fueler at the Alamosa Airport, and bartender at the American Legion in

Monte and the Elks Lodge in Monte Vista and Alamosa.

Jack loved people, dancing and BINGO! He was the life of the party and had friends all over the Valley.

Jack married Barbara Robins in 1949 and became a father in 1951. Jack was remarried to Marybeth Ekstrom in the 70s. They became snowbirds and made annual pilgrimages from Crestone to Elephant Butte Reservoir and Puerto Penasco, Mexico for 30 years.

In the latter chapters of his life, Jack moved from Crestone to the old Soldier's Home (CSV) in 2009. Jack peacefully passed away in the Rio Grande Hospital on June 30, 2021.

Jack is survived by his five children, Sue, Jane, Neil, Teri and Chris, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great great-grandchildren.

Cremation was selected and



services will be held at a later date. To express condolences, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com.

Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista is in care of the arrangements.

Mary C. Gallegos

Monte Vista resident Mary C. Gallegos, 87, passed away peacefully June 25, 2021, with her loving family by her side. Mary was born on June 2, 1934, in Manassa, Colo., the daughter of Alfredo LeFebre and Ana Padia LeFebre.

After graduating high school, Mary went on to obtain her certification to be a certified nurse's assistant. She worked taking care of others which was her passion in life for many years until she was able to retire and live out her days with her loving husband Charles Gallegos.

She was an exceptional woman, kind, caring and devoted to her family. Mary enjoyed going for walks, exercising, gardening, traveling and cooking meals for her family and friends. She loved the time she was able to spend with family, they were her life.

She will live on through her husband Charles P. Gallegos of Monte Vista, Colo.; daughter Karla (Richard) Vaccaro of Parker, Colo.; sons James Gallegos of Monte Vista, Colo.; Joey (Beatrice) Gallegos of Monte Vista, Colo.; grandchildren Kelsey (David) White of Monte Vista, Colo.; Brandon Gallegos of Alamosa, Colo.; great-grandchildren

Victoria White, Christopher White, sister Maurine Gallery of Pueblo, Colo.; and brothers

Amos (Sophia) Lefebre and John (Marie) Lefebre both of Pueblo, Colo. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents Alfredo and Ana LeFebre and her brother Alfred Lefebre.

Cremation was chosen and services will be held at a later date. To leave online condolences please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The arrangements have been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home of Monte Vista.



Mary Alire

Albuquerque, N.M.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Joe, and children, Dennis Alire, Joyce Palomino, and Normandy "Pinky" Montano.

She is survived by children, Glen Alire and Camila Alire, and numerous grandchildren, great-, and great-great-grandchildren

She was born July 1, 1923, to Eloy and Bernadita Sisneros and raised in Monte Vista, Colo. Mary worked as a teacher's assistant and high school secretary in the Monte Vista school system; worked as a legal secretary and a sales associate. Mary was active in the Monte Vista VFW and American Legion Women's Auxiliaries serving as president and secretary of both.

Mary's love, wit, wisdom, and

feistiness will be sorely missed by all. May she rest in peace.

A Mass for Mary will be held on July 8 at 10 a.m. at the Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Monte Vista followed by a graveside memorial service at the Monte-Vista Cemetery.

To view information or leave a condolence, please visit www.danielsfuneral.com.



Mary Alire, loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother, passed peacefully with family members at her side on June 21, 2021, in

Woman seriously injured in a car crash in Rio Grande County on July 5

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — A woman was seriously injured in a single-vehicle crash Monday afternoon, July 5, on Colorado Highway 160 near milepost 209 in Rio Grande County, according to the Colorado State Patrol.

On July 5 at 1:11 p.m., a 1999 Ford Mustang was driven by a 33-year-old man from Monte Vista who was eastbound on Colorado 160 when he crossed over the westbound lane and traveled off the north side of the roadway.

The vehicle traveled for 209 feet before it came back onto the

roadway and across both lanes of traffic.

The vehicle traveled off the south side of the roadway while rotating clockwise and came to rest in the barrow ditch facing east.

A 38-year-old woman passenger in the vehicle and the driver were transported to Rio Grande Hospital. The woman sustained serious injuries in the crash and was later transported to a hospital in Colorado Springs.

Alcohol and drugs are suspected to be factors in the crash, CSP reported.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

The Gift Registry

Weddings have long been a tradition celebrated around the world as a time of joyous gatherings for friends and family members of the nuptials. For it is at this time that people can get together and wish the newlyweds well and admire all the gifts that they get and to wager how items will be divided up after the divorce some years later.

Now Ol' Dutch never minded giving friends some kind of token present for daring to even start a matrimonial joining but the Gift Registry is the greatest scam ever foisted upon the adoring public.

For it is at this time that friends are suddenly introduced to a list of "approved" items that the bride has selected for "you" to purchase. And not only are you to select from her list but these same gifts will be opened and displayed for all her friends and yours to see at the wedding venue. Which sets it all up to be some kind of competition whereby people try and "one up" one another to see who loves the lovely bride more and buys her the most expensive item from Tiffany's.

Now Ol' Dutch has long been a victim of said scam and bought countless items for the bride to take when she files for divorce. And the reason I know that is no man is part of choosing the registry location. For if he was, he would choose Cabelas, Golf World, Bass Pro, Big Bob's Jerky Palace or Jim's Bar and Grill to be on the approved list.

Ol' Dutch got to thinking about where this leaning toward the female persuasion of gifts all started and I suppose it may have been way back when Eve, Adam's wife, got the first apple peeler from her friends back in the garden and we all know how that worked out.

But regardless of its source, it's always the women who choose said registry locations as the man stands idly by wondering how he will ever file a fish with the silver handled cake knife that will forever be stored in a drawer somewhere. Of course, said neophyte only cares that the bride is happy, and he will soon be enjoying unlimited sex by making her happy with a ring, house, income and wedding niceties. Boy, are men stupid.

Ol' Dutch is lucky that he has reached the advanced age where my friends are either all married or if marrying anew, already have two households full of toasters and silverware, crystal goblets, candle sticks, salt dishes, cake knives, blenders and other such registry items and so relieves the rest of us from



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

buying them a gift.

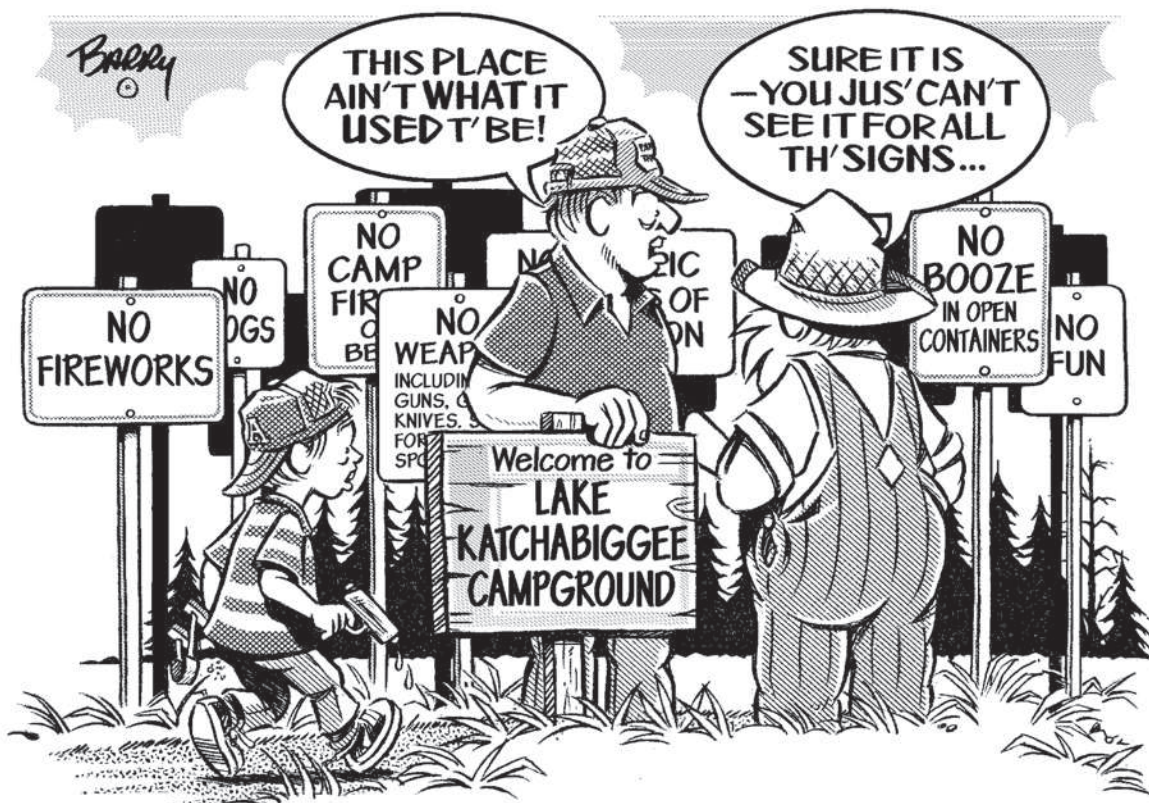
And the invitations usually say no gifts are expected in the invite which lets me off the hook no matter what Miss Trixie says. For you see, she still takes gifts to people for no reason at all. And boy did she ever get messed around as she has never been a bride and never been able to "get even" with all her friends she bought wedding presents for down through the years.

Lately there has been a move by brides to send out detailed announcements about what each person is expected to spend on gifts and the list has included diamonds and jewelry, boats and cars and even houses. Which would send a definite message to Ol' Dutch that they no longer wanted to be friends.

Thankfully most men in these situations have been able to bow out of going to the actual event and can leave that up to their wife and her friends to attend and have a good cry. Which is also where they get their booster shot of wedding cake that has long been known as an inoculation against sex. For it's about the time they first partake of said white scrumptious goodness that they find out that they want a house and cars and not some sweaty man pawing over them all the time.

So, for those of you still stuck in the age where wedding attendance is still a part of your lives or you give gifts to people to buy their friendship, God bless you and your bank account as you are forever in a loop that you cannot escape. And for the wedded couple, enjoy the heartfelt birthday card that I got you for the blessed event since that's all I could find at the Dollar Store on short notice.

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



YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Hercules and our Planets

The new moon is on July 10, so this is a great time for sky viewing. The only problem is that the days are still long, so you either must stay up late or get up early. You can always just get up during the night when you wake up. There are a few things that do happen when the sky is still relatively light.

Tonight 45 minutes after the Sun sets, you can look in the west to see a very thin moon with Mars and Venus. You need to look low in the west to see the two planets side by side. You may also be able to see the thin moon just to the right of them.

On July 11 look low in the west-south-west to see the three together. Mars is getting very dim since Venus is much brighter and just to the right

of it. Then on the next night the moon exits the scene and Venus closes in on Mars.

Hercules is a large but relatively faint constellation. It's currently high overhead in the northern sky between the bright star Arcturus in Bootes, and the bright star Vega in Lyra. It's the fifth-largest constellation in our sky and represents the Greek God Hercules who is standing upside down if you face south. If you face east, he appears to be lying on his side.

It has 20 stars and is 3 hands tall and wide. He carries a club in one hand and the head of the watchdog Cerberus in the other. He's also kneeling with one foot on the head of Draco the Dragon, and he's also called the Kneeler. What's interesting is that his body is four stars making a nice square and it's the Keystone



Asterism which is easy to find.

If you find his four-star body, you may also find M-13 the Hercules cluster, which is in the path of his four-star body. It has about 300,000 stars that stretch almost 170 light years across our galaxy. But since its 2,500 LY away, it's not easy to see. You can always try binoculars or a telescope. Globular clusters are interesting to observe.

This is great to view in June, July and August. So, when you get a chance, look up in the sky to see if you can find it.

LETTER

SLV GOP extends gratitude

Editor,

The newly formed San Luis Valley GOP is grateful for all who contributed to produce the Lincoln Day Dinner 2021, "Stand Up for America." The dinner serves as the SLV GOP's main fundraiser for local and state GOP candidates and would not have been possible without their assistance.

First and foremost, the SLV GOP would like to thank all the speakers who took time out of their busy schedules to share with those in attendance as well as all of those who were a part of the evenings' program.

A huge thank you goes out to the Valley Church of the Nazarene for the

use of its gymnasium. Another hearty thank you goes to RainBrews for hosting an exceptional VIP reception. A gigantic thank you goes to all the businesses and individuals who donated items for the live and silent auctions.

Gratitude is also extended to the Rio Grande County Color Guard, which includes Capt. Eugene Farris, US Army Special Forces; Sgt. 1st Class (R) Joseph "Joe" Baca, US Army 4th Infantry Division; and Command Sgt. Major Larry Heersink (R), US Army for presenting the colors, Corliss T.D. Crabtree for her rich inspiring rendition of the National Anthem, and Pastor Chris Yocum of the Nazarene

Church for the opening prayer.

Thank you to the members of "Youth of America," led by Parker Ford and Mitchell Plane, for providing excellent help as servers. Thank you to the Sunflour Café for providing a delicious meal.

Last, but not least, the evening would not have been possible without all the generous people who attended. Thank you for supporting the cause of freedom and standing up for America!

For more information on how you can get involved with the SLV GOP or Youth of America, please contact: stepupslvgop@gmail.com.

San Luis Valley GOP

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Gaining some 'Insights'

SPECIAL TO VALLEY PUBLISHING

ALAMOSA — Clinic leadership and the Human Resources team came together for a few hours in June to learn more about themselves, and the best way to communicate with each other.

At the end of December 2019, Angie Werner and Mandy Crockett obtained accreditation as practitioners for Insights Discovery.

Based on the work of Carl Jung and Jolande Jacobi, Insights uses psychometric models to develop awareness of self and others that can be used to make practical improvements in the workplace and in relationships. This work is similar to Myers-Briggs, but instead uses color energies that arise from the Rational Functions of Extroversion-Introversion, Thinking-Feeling, and Irrational Functions of Sensation and Intuition.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Werner and Crockett delivered their first Insights training to the Senior Team but then the program was put on hold. Until now. The two were able to convene members of the clinic leadership and human resources team this past Friday for a training session.

Ahead of the training, assigned team members completed an evaluation answering various questions. A formula within the questionnaire assessed everyone's preferences based on how they answered the questions, and a report was produced outlining the behaviors, approach, and use of color energies the team member tends to lead with in the conscious and unconscious persona, at their best, and yes, even at their not-so-best.

Each color energy is broken down into four primary areas of Fiery Red, Earth Green, Sunshine Yellow, and Cool Blue. Using the profiles as a springboard, knowledge and awareness helps teams and leaders tackle the challenges that are standing between them



The SLV Health Clinic team showed off their Insights — and celebrated the end of a session learning about themselves and their coworkers — with a group photo.

Photo courtesy of SLV Health

and peak performance, such as effective communication, management and work styles, and finding an environment that inspires them to do their best work. The work of Insights is all about understanding perception, building individual awareness, and providing a framework for people to understand and connect better with others, both personally and professionally.

As part of the training, the team members had an opportunity to learn more about the philosophy of Insights, become familiarized with their personalized profile, and share in some hands-on exercises and discussion with their teammates.

The training was a great success and wonderful way to end a busy workweek. Audrey Reich-Loy, Director of Primary Care Clinic Operations, said about the training, "The team came away with a much better understanding of one another, and seemed to really see the strengths our team possesses, along with some key conversations on how we can work better together through challenges and discord."

Werner and Crockett look forward to working with additional members of our provider and leadership teams this year.

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FOURTH

Continued from Page 1A

blue skies and fresh breeze, in this pleasant historical town.

The annual Catfish fry soon followed at the South Fork Fire and Rescue building, with firefighters as well as the Chief of the Fire Department Tyler Off in attendance.

Off was extremely enthusiastic about the event, stating, "We've served fish for about 18 years now. When we first started it, we actually started this event as a pig roast, but we only did that for two years, and then we started serving the fish, that seemed to be what most people liked better anyway."

Off added that "this event has been going on for a full 20 years now, and we average about 900 people a year, but because this year the event is on a weekend, I really think we are going to break a thousand this year."

The line that was seen outside of the fish fry, was indicative of the numbers Off mentioned.

At 3 p.m., hundreds of people lined the streets to enjoy the South Fork July 3rd Parade, as it slowly started to come down the Frontage Road in the middle of South Fork.

Many of the people at the parade cheered loudly, when the big fire truck in the parade, came through and sprayed everyone with water.

Children up and down the streets ran happily, as float after float threw candy and Popsicles into their eager little hands.

Two of the children, Ember and River Young enjoyed the parade

"It's so much fun, we love when we get the candy," they said.

Horses with buggies, South Fork's finest EMS and Fire and Rescue trucks, along with ATV's, tractors and local business vehicles all lined up and donned both American and Colorado flags proudly, in conjunction with the theme of the parade "She's a Grand Old Flag."

The Kiwanis BBQ was held from 3 to 5 p.m., and a flag retirement ceremony was also held at 5:30 p.m. by the Fort Carson Color Guard, at the Rickel Rodeo Arena, and rodeo events soon followed with many people in attendance.

At dusk a splendor of fireworks was seen and heard, concluding South Fork's July 3rd celebration, with a brilliant display of colors, lighting up night sky over South Fork.



Photo by Marie McColm

Hundreds of people watched the annual July 3rd Parade in South Fork on Saturday. The theme of the parade was 'She's a Grand Old Flag.'



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Photo by Keith R. Cerny

One of two bagpipers in the Creede Independence Day parade, Damian Richendence followed wife Michelle who was sporting sheet music on the back of her shirt.

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Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Revolution Rail hit South Fork this past weekend and opened its adventure rail bike experience to the community.

Adventure rolls onto the rails in South Fork

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — For the past several years the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad leading out of South Fork has been closed since owner Don Shank put the line up for sale. Through the years, many efforts have been made to either purchase the line or revert it back to its natural state with none coming to fruition. Now, through combined efforts with a new venture, Shank has announced and started an adventure biking opportunity.

Shank made it clear when he put the line up for sale that he wanted to see the tourism opportunity it presents continue. Through the years, Shank has looked for every opportunity to see that the line be used for pretty much anything besides storage of rail cars and found a chance to do just that. Shank found a company out of New York that has created special bikes that can be used on the rail for tourism and the results are everything anyone could ask for.

“We always came to South Fork to ride the train going up towards Creede and when the line stopped, we were really sad about it. But this year when we came up and heard that there was another way to enjoy the scenery from town going up the canyon, we were over the moon,” said part-time South Fork resident Molly Schafer.

This was the sentiment throughout the weekend in South Fork as hundreds of guests gathered everyday at the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Station just north of town to experience Revolution Rail. Founders Rob Hart and Mike Dupee came up with the idea of using abandoned rail lines to promote tourism and offer a unique opportunity for guests to experience the rails through their own power. The company has four locations back east and now their newest addition in South Fork.

Right now, the trip is about two

hours long and takes riders up to the Collier River access area roughly three miles out of town. Guests gather at the depot station and hit the tracks on easy ride rail bikes that can be adjusted and ridden by just about anyone of any age and ability.

Director of Operations and partner, Ed LaScala talked about the company’s history and how they got started, “Our headquarters is in North Creek, New York and that is where we started in 2017 and now, we have about 100 bikes spread out between all five locations. Just in North Creek location alone last year, we did over 30,000 rides. It has really taken off and now we have collaborated with Don Shank to expand here in South Fork. People really love rail biking. Its easy, fun and leisurely. It also gives people a chance to see the rails like never before.

“This is such a multi-generational recreation activity. What I mean by that is, we can have a grandfather that is here with his children and his grandchildren, and they can all get out and enjoy this with each other. They can do it together. That’s a memory they will have forever. They may not be able to ski with grandpa or raft with him, but they can do this and that is what matters. That is what we are about.”

LaScala stated that while out on the rides, they have a historian on board that talks about the history of the rails and the area and they allow a decent amount of time for each ride so that guests can really enjoy the experience.

“Guests can stop and take pictures, see the geological scenery and hear about the history and as we get going, we will start to add to the experience,” LaScala said.

Revolution Rails changed South Fork over the weekend. For more information or to book a trip, visit www.revrail.com.

Trade Your Pain for God’s Promise

Everyone deals with emotional pain to some degree. Whether it’s a difficult relationship, an addiction, abuse, depression...it can cripple us and prevent us from moving forward. But regardless of what’s happened in our past, God still wants us to have a great future.

For years, I thought I had to settle for a second-rate life because I had been sexually abused by my father. I thought my future would never be as good as it *could* have been.

That’s what our enemy, Satan, wants us to believe. He wants us to believe that our past pain has permanently damaged what God can do with our future.

Maybe that’s where you are today. You look at everything you’ve been through and think, *My situation’s just a hopeless mess. Maybe it would be different if God had done something sooner, but now it’s beyond repair.*

If so, I want you to know that God can fix the unfixable and bring dead things back to life! (See Matthew 19:26.)

If you are brokenhearted—if you’ve been hurt, abused, disappointed or unfairly treated in any way—it doesn’t limit what God can do in your life. In fact, God can give you a future that’s *better* than it would have been if you had never gone through painful experiences.

Isaiah 61:7-8 has meant so much to me over the years. It says, “Instead of your [former] shame you will have a double portion; and instead of humiliation your people will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore in their land they will possess double [what they had forfeited]; everlasting joy will be theirs. For I, the Lord, love justice...” (AMP).

This scripture helped me understand that no person could pay me back for what I’d gone through—but God could! And He’d even give me *double* for all the pain I’d been through.

I’ve witnessed this firsthand in my own life. God has used His Word to transform me from the inside out.

Instead of anger and bitterness, I now have peace and joy. Instead of being a victim of past abuse, He is using my experiences to help many find healing and total restoration from emotional pain.

Leave It All Behind

Isaiah 61:1-3 says Jesus came “to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound...to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...” (NKJV).

Jesus has already opened the prison doors! We no longer have to stay in the “prisons” of emotional pain, rejection, disappointment, worry, depression, anger, addictions or bad habits.

If you’ve ever dealt with any of these things, you know they can have long-lasting consequences. Pain from the past has a way of lingering and even affecting your future.

But you don’t have to live stuck in the pain of your past. You can make an exchange—you can trade your pain for God’s promise and have *beauty* instead of ashes.

God offers each one of us healing and restoration, but we also have a part to play in the process. We can’t expect to keep our “ashes” and still receive God’s beauty. We have to choose to move forward and leave things like bitterness, resentment, and self-pity behind.

Self-pity was a hard thing for me to give up. I used it for years to comfort myself when I was hurting; however, the Lord showed me that it’s actually idolatry—it’s turning inward and pitying *ourselves* when we should have compassion flowing out of us to other people.

Self-pity is a major trap that will keep us stuck in our pain. It’s the same with bitterness and resentment. It took me a long time to get past the point of thinking, *Someone owes me*. I was bitter and angry about my past, and I ended up taking it out on the people around me, trying to “collect” from those who had no way of paying me back.



I had to decide to let go of my anger and resentment and trust God to restore what I had lost. He alone could make wrong things right...in His way and in His timing.

Whatever you’ve gone through or wherever you are today, your pain doesn’t have the final say in your life. God can take any situation and turn it around for His good.

If your life is a fragmented mess let Jesus gather up the pieces. Be determined to maintain a positive, grateful attitude, focusing on God’s blessings and the great things He is doing in your life.

As you do, your pain will become someone else’s gain, your mess will become your message, and what you’ve walked through will become someone else’s miracle. You’ll have a life of beauty, joy, and praise!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s teaching resource **Healing the Soul of a Woman Action Plan**. 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 her newest devotional **QUIET TIMES WITH GOD (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.



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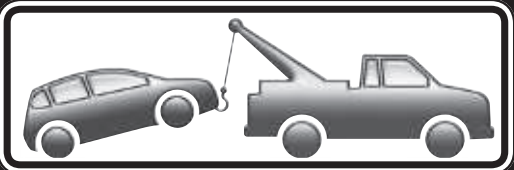
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Early morning warehouse fire 'significantly' damages building

By **MECHEL MEEK**
CENTER — A warehouse was

significantly damaged by a fire on July 3, according to the Center Police

Department. At approximately 4:50 a.m., on July

3, a warehouse fire was reported on the south side of Highway 112 near Torres and Miles streets. Smoke from the fire was visible as far away as County Road G.

The building, located near the railroad tracks, was used for storage for the Canon Potato complex.

The fire started near the southeast corner of the building, according to officials. Fire and police responded to the call. The area was blocked off to allow firefighters to extinguish the fire.

Notifications of the situation were relayed by radio app notification, email, text, and phone to the public.

The cause of the fire is unknown at the time of publication and is currently under investigation.

Due to the quick report and response, no other buildings were damaged, and no one was injured.

There was significant damage to the warehouse and a nearby railroad car, according to officials. Information will be released as it becomes available.



Photos courtesy of Center Police Department

A warehouse near Torres and Miles streets in Center was damaged by a fire on July 3. The fire burned the warehouse and nearby railroad car.

The Saguache County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Meeting Room located at 305 – 3rd Street, Saguache, Colorado, on the following date:

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28th, 2021 at 4 PM

to consider proposed changes to the Saguache County Land Development Code changes

To view the proposed changes BEGINNING MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021, you may contact the Saguache County Land Use Department – PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov, or by calling 719-655-2321 or you may also view the changes on our website at www.saguachecounty.net.

Written comments will be accepted until Friday, July 23rd, 2021 at 3pm, and may be sent to Saguache County Land Use Department at PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or email to atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

No. 1599 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, July 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2021.

MAPS Continued from Page 1A

Those figures reflect a loss of two seats for the Democrats but suggest that Democratic control of the House would continue. Using the same tools for analysis, the makeup of the Senate — 20 Democrats and 15 Republicans — would not change.

But, again, that is based on the map, which was released last week, which is just a preliminary map that is certain to change.

As was true with the staff working on the redistricting of Congressional districts, the staff charged with drawing new district boundaries were nonpartisan legislative staff, and the process for redrawing the districts was guided by specific criteria as stated in the Colorado Constitution.

Specifically, the districts must contain equal numbers of people with no more than a 5% deviation between the district with the most people and the district with the least. The district lines must also be drawn to contain contiguous geographic areas and be as compact as possible.

The district lines were to be drawn ensuring constitutionally guaranteed voting rights, including the protection of minority group voting, as well as fair and effective representation of constituents using politically neutral criteria.

They were also to be drawn to preserve whole towns, cities and counties and only allowed for dividing those towns, cities and counties if it was necessary to preserve “communities of interest,” such as shared public policy for concerns related to urban, rural or agricultural areas or concerns related to education,

employment, environment, public health, transportation, water needs and supplies or issues of demonstrable regional significance.

The map was also to be drawn to maximize the number of competitive districts where the election of a specific candidate or party was not a foregone conclusion.

Applying such directed, specific criteria to redrawing a district map with numerous districts could create some new challenges, which is exactly what happened. For example, in the preliminary map for the House of Representatives, there are now at least two districts where there are two current incumbents, an issue that will have to be worked out as the process moves along.

As far as specific proposed changes to the San Luis Valley, the bottom line is that the SLV, at this point, remains intact and contained within a single district at both the Senate and House level.

What is currently called District 62, represented by Rep. Donald Valdez, a Democrat, stays largely the same. However, the district currently known as District 35, represented by Sen. Cleave Simpson, a Republican, is now labeled as District 8 and has changed substantially. As the map shows, current District 35 contains all the counties in the southern part of Colorado from the western edge of the San Luis Valley to the Kansas state line. The proposed new district stops at the eastern boundary of Las Animas County and picks up Custer, Fremont and Teller.

At this point, it is also important to

remember that a total of 32 meetings will be held across the state to solicit public feedback on the legislative map, and that meeting will be conducted in Alamosa on Aug. 6.

Saguache County Sales Tax Grants now available!

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners will be taking Grant Applications for Saguache County Sales Tax Grants until 3:00PM, Friday, August 13, 2021.

To be eligible grant applications must be for either: Emergency Services/Public Health and Safety; Youth and Senior programs, projects, or organizations; or Renewable Energy projects/Business Opportunities and Job Creation.

Grant applications are available on our website at saguachecounty.colorado.gov - use “sales tax grant application form 5” or you can contact the Saguache County Administration office at 719-655-2231 to request a copy of the grant application.

No. 1600 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, July 8, 15, 22 and 29 and August 5, 12 and 19, 2021.

INVITATION TO BID

The Saguache Board of County Commissioners are seeking competitive Bids for the following work:

2021 GRAVEL CRUSHING SERVICES

Work under this project involves gravel crushing operation on location at a County owned and permitted pit. The County is requesting two (2) useable products. The County will assume all reclamation responsibilities. The following is a breakdown of the quantities planned at each location:

Location: Cooper Pit **HBP (EX) (MOD): 75,000 tons 1/2” Chips: 7,500 tons**

The County intends to award the contract to the responsible bidder whose submittal, conforming to the Invitation to Bid, will be most advantageous to the County of Saguache, price and other factors considered.

Bid Submission: One (1) unbound copy of your submittal in a sealed envelope, clearly marked

BID# 21-001 - Attn: Wendi Maez, County Administrator

Submittals are due at: Saguache County Board of Commissioners
PO Box 100
505 3rd Street
Saguache, CO 81149

Until: 12:00 PM, Local Time
Monday August 2, 2021

*Sole responsibility rests with the Offerer to see that their Bid is received on time Bids received after this date and/or time will not be accepted and will be returned unopened to the sender. One (1) unbound copy of your submittal in a sealed envelope, clearly marked

Specification and bidding documents may be obtained in the office of the Saguache County Road and Bridge Department, 305 3rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149 or online at saguachecounty.colorado.gov under the Road & Bridge tab. Phone requests for documents can be made to (719) 655-2554 and email requests for documents can be made to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov

A contract for this work shall be let to the lowest reliable and responsible bidder or bidders. Saguache County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids, to waive any informalities or irregularities therein, and to accept the proposal in whole, or portions of the proposal that, in the opinion of the Board, is in the best interest of the Board and of the County of Saguache, State of Colorado.

A 5% bidder's preference shall be given to bidders whose business address is located within Saguache County as of December 1, 2000. Such preference shall be at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners.

A bid bond and performance bond will not be required for this contract.

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Date: 6 - 15 - 21

No. 1597 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, June 24 and July 1, 8 and 15, 2021.

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SHOW Continued from Page 1A

children who stared at it in delight.

The Car Show was not limited to just the usual classic cars. All types of entries were welcome, including motorcycles, trucks and muscle cars.

A dunk tank and the water feature in Casa Blanca Park were filled with people enjoying the hot summer day and inspecting the vehicles. Food vendors supplied a variety of food and cold drinks to the crowd.

A dance contest was organized with the winner receiving a cooler as the prize and the Car Show winners received trophies sponsored by Skyline Potato. The deejay kept the crowds rocking with classic American hits playing all day.



Photos by Mechel Meek

COFFEE

Continued from Page 1A

a safer place to live and work.

Contact the Center Police Department to join the Neighborhood Watch or to report crimes.

The next Coffee with the Chief will be held in Town Hall on Friday, July 9, starting at 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. Chief Meek is expected to discuss the Center Police Use of Force Policy, Supreme Court case law governing officer use of force, and two officers will be "tased" in a demonstration of the effectiveness of the less-lethal tool.



Photos by Mechel Meek

A portion of the Coffee with the Chief in Center was dedicated to Center Police Department's K9 program.



The Center Police Department blocked off the streets, so there was plenty of room for people to gather and celebrate in block-party style.

As the sun started to set, the mood mellowed, and people moved from the show to Community Park. The anticipation ramped up again as the

sun completely set and the fireworks were set ablaze to the delight of all in attendance.

After the trials of the last year due

the COVID-19 pandemic, it was clear that the citizens and businesses of Center were more than ready to get back to normal.



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CRT unveils 2021 season print



Photo by Keith Cerny

A first-ever 'all outdoor' season kicked off Friday night for the Creede Repertory Theatre as the weekend saw the opening performances of 'Dear Jack, Dear Louise,' 'Little Red Riding Hood,' and 'An Iliad,' all in Seime Park just above downtown. Producing Artistic Director John DiAntonio, right, fist-bumps 56th season artist Nathaniel D. Anderson prior to Friday's



opener and unveiled his charcoal drawing of aspen trunks, one of which features a 'carving' of CRT and 1966, the year the theatre was founded. Prints will be available for purchase at the main theatre gift shop while supplies last.

Stargazers back at Lookout Mountain

STAFF REPORT

DEL NORTE — On June 19, the Lookout Mountain Observatory Association held a long-awaited meeting of amateur astronomers.

A small group of club members and curious public attended the stargazing party with participants from Creede, Monte Vista, and Del Norte.

At the conclusion of the meeting portion of the evening, the group ascended the trail to the observatory, a specialty shed for the telescope, and through breaks in the clouds enjoyed spectacular views of the Moon before the usually clear, dark skies deteriorated to a solid overcast and brought an end to the activity.

Owners of the new General Specific Store out on a walk noticed the observatory open and stopped by to take a peek.

Corey Hubbard noted to a friend with excitement, "you can see the pores on the face of the Moon."

Other enthusiasts enjoyed a slideshow of astronomical images taken by Robert Grover, vice president of the Lookout Mountain Observatory Association.

The group plans to meet monthly through the summer. All levels of experience in astronomy are welcome. Interested parties are



©2019 Robert Grover



Aunt Effie and The Virus

Aunt Effie was the 'Neighborhood Healer' in her community of Noble, OK. When I was visiting and scraped my arm or had a stomachache, she always had the right poultice, roots, soak or fern to treat the ailment. Her husband, Uncle Leonard, was an authority on the ailments of cows and mules. That was 20 years before the widespread availability of penicillin in 1939. The lifespan of the average person was 47 years old. Today, it is 78 years old (pre-Covid).

That is just one example of the uncountable human lives science has saved by diseases cured and prevented, not to mention those of domestic animals. My time practicing veterinary medicine was mostly in feedlots, on big ranches and dairies, on range ewes and saddle horses. I spent and used millions and millions of dollars to save animal lives and prevent disease. All my medicines were approved by the USDA (vaccines) and the FDA (pharmaceuticals),



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and took years of testing to prove that it did what it said on their labels.

I, as a DVM, am responsible for medicine I use on the patient. If I misuse a product, I am liable to be sued...but not the salesman, the layman doc, the actor in the commercial,

the entire "alternative medicine" industry that is mandated to confess on their label "This product has not been evaluated by the United States Food and Drug Administration and is not approved to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent disease." The FDA...the one team that can protect the public from what used to be called "quacks."

If the expert medical doctors that we have been seeing on TV regarding the Covid virus seem hesitant to answer the questions that the raving media asks, there is a reason...they are stalling, waiting.

In most cases of nature, there is constant change. You are asking the doctors to predict specific outcomes. They can only compare similar past consequences. Oh, and they are responsible for what they say, unlike the newspaper columnist, the television commentators, all politicians and my sweet Aunt Effie.

Regarding those of you of the rural community who have been my 'family' all my

life and are afraid to get your Covid vaccination, ask yourself "Am I afraid to vaccinate my calves for IBR, BVD, Lepto, BRD, red water, Blackleg? Am I afraid to vaccinate my horses for tetanus, sleeping sickness? My dogs for parvo, rabies...and my kids for measles, mumps, rubella and chicken pox?"

As a friend, it would make my life a lot easier.

P.S. Ivermectin is a horse wormer

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



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RG National Forest official talks fire, update on new home

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST — Gregg Goodland, the Public Information Officer with Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF), gave updates on the current fire season and on how construction is progressing at the future home of RGNF in Del Norte. According to Goodland, the fire season in the forest has been quiet.

“We are still watching things very closely but so far with the recent rains we have had, our conditions are favorable. We have not joined the rest of our Southwest Region in fire restrictions but as always we need everyone to be vigilant and to remember to be fire wise,” he said.

Goodland said that at this time the forest is looking green and lush thanks to the recent storms that have passed over the region.

“Unlike other forest that surround RGNF, like Gunnison, Grand Mesa and other districts throughout the state, we have not needed to place any restrictions on our forest yet,” he said. “We still want people out recreating to use designated fire pits in campgrounds and even out on the forest itself when possible. Put your fires out when you leave and make sure that it is extinguished.”

Goodland continued saying that even though the forest is looking good right now, conditions could change quickly and that there is always that one chance that someone starts a fire in a dry location.

“There is always that chance but for now we are experiencing a wetter than normal beginning to our season. Hopefully the trend continues, and we will have a successful year,” he said.

With the fire season looking positive for now, Goodland also gave a brief update on the construction happening at the old Del Norte High School building that is in the process of becoming their new home.

“We are being told that construction is right on schedule

and even a little ahead, but we do not expect that to last long with a shortage of materials in our near future,” he said. “Everyone is experiencing a shortage and we expect to see it soon. Hopefully we will have it closer to wintertime when construction slows down anyway.”

Goodland stated that the walls are being built, electrical, plumbing and the roof are all being constructed, and the main gas line has been installed.

“In coming months, there will be heavy equipment on site to work on the parking lot and access road to the building. So far, things are going to plan, and we hope to finish on time,” he said.

Beyond that Goodland wanted to encourage people to stay the trail this summer by not avoiding snow or mud that may be on the trail to keep surrounding areas intact.

“Please continue to use good forest

stewardship while out recreating this summer. If snow-mud blocks the road or trail — then turn around. Come back another day. Do not go off-road. This creates visible side trails that can be difficult and costly to repair. Other folks might follow those tracks. Just because the OHV can make it, doesn't mean it should make it. And last but by no means least, if you pack it in, pack it out. Take your trash with you and dispose of materials properly. We think this is shaping up to be a great summer,” he said.



Health Tip - Posture, Movement Disorders & Pain

Forward bearing of the head, rounded shoulders, flat lower back leads to asymmetrical muscle tension, abnormal joint motion early joint degeneration and PAIN.



Monte Vista Chiropractic & Wellness, LLC
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Christmas in July FUNdraising Festival is July 10

STAFF REPORT
SAGUACHE — Health Equity Action Resident Team (HEART) of Saguache and KV Estates took the lead in 2018 with the first Christmas in July FUNdraising Festival.

The purpose was to bring the community together; provide an avenue for local artists to showcase their wares and raise funds to help needy families during the December holiday times.

Christmas in July 2021 will continue that tradition on Saturday, July at 10 a.m. at Otto Mears Park.

Live music is being planned; vendors are invited to set up a tent with vendor fees — a donated item to the HEART Silent Auction Tent. Family games are being set up and although the rain clouds are welcomed, planners are hopeful that they stay away until after the FUNdraising activities end.

Christmas in July 2021 is Part 1 of a two-part plan to raise funds to create food boxes for families in December. Part 2 will happen on Saturday, Dec 4., with the Holiday Bazaar at the community building and again, sponsored by HEART and its partners.

Vendors can contact Caroline at 719-850-0051.



JULY 10

8 AM - 4 PM

In the parking lot of the MVC Farm Store

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Jack-Goodwin to retire after 35-year career with FSWB

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — First Southwest Bank (FSWB) reported this week that Jeni Jack-Goodwin, the bank's president, has announced her retirement effective Aug. 6.

Kent Curtis, CEO of FSWB, praised Jack-Goodwin's performance stating, "Jeni's service to FSWB is beyond compare, and her role as president allowed us to grow as a community bank, develop our Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) program and support our mission of providing the greatest impact possible in the communities we serve in the valley. First Southwest Bank certainly has come a long way during her 35 years."

Jack-Goodwin has served as bank president and on the Board of Directors since 2016.

Jack-Goodwin joined the bank (then First National Bank in Alamosa) in 1986 as a bookkeeper. Over the years, she progressed and served as New Accounts Representative, Installment and Commercial Loan Secretaries, and Associate VP and VP Commercial Lender.

At Vectra Bank, Jack-Goodwin served as Senior Credit Officer and VP Branch Manager, and at First Southwest Bank, she has served as Executive VP Chief Operating Officer-Human Resources Director and President.

Reflecting on her time with the bank, Jack-Goodwin said, "I have truly loved my time with the bank. Going from a true small-town community bank primarily owned by two local businessmen in Alamosa, to one where we had no local decision-making ability and lost many valued customers,



back to our roots as a locally owned community bank has been wonderful. I have seen many changes and pleased to have been involved in the growth and success of the bank."

Jack-Goodwin said she will miss the people she has worked with and mentored and is hopeful that the friendships she has developed will continue into her retirement. She said she will miss the opportunity to contribute to worthy and needy non-profits in our community but knows the bank's CDFI commitment, combined with the First Southwest Community Fund, will continue to take care of our communities and the people in them. She looks forward to her new role as a community ambassador, spending time with her beloved family and traveling.

Curtis wished Jack-Goodwin a happy, fulfilling retirement and announced a retirement party for bank staff and customers on July 29. Details will follow.

Creede Repertory Theatre receives Colorado USDA Rural Development grant for \$35K

STAFF REPORT

DENVER — United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Acting Colorado State Director Irene Etsitty on June 23 announced the awarding of \$122,600 in grant funding to assist the towns of Creede, La Veta, and Silver Cliff.

"USDA Rural Development is in a unique position to help rural communities rebuild and provide essential services. When we invest in these services, we build opportunity and prosperity for rural Colorado," said Etsitty.

The investments are part of 233 projects funded nationwide through the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program totaling \$185 million. More than 100 types of projects are eligible for Community Facilities funding.

The grants awarded in Colorado are:

- The Creede Repertory Theatre will use a \$35,000 grant to upgrade the theatre building's lighting system to support bringing the LED

theatre lighting to a modern standard, enhance performance by utilizing color mixing properties, eliminate safety concerns, and reduce energy costs by approximately 15 percent. Founded in 1966, the theatre is a professional company and is one of the main economic drivers for the community.

- The La Veta Fire Protection District will use a \$50,000 grant to purchase additional public safety equipment.

- The Town of Silver Cliff will utilize a \$37,600 grant for a new public works service truck. Replacing the town's 13-year-old vehicle will allow for cost savings and provide additional services for residents.



ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

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

Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates				Accumulated Water Use (ET)				
		Shown (in./day)				From	7/4	7/4 (inches)		
		7/4	7/3	7/2	7/1			2day	3day	4day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.24	0.21	0.21	0.22	0.45	0.66	0.88	1.05	1.44
Moravian 69	05/05	0.24	0.21	0.21	0.22	0.45	0.66	0.88	1.05	1.44
Early Wheat	04/05	0.24	0.21	0.21	0.22	0.45	0.66	0.88	1.05	1.44
Early Wheat	05/05	0.24	0.21	0.21	0.22	0.45	0.66	0.88	1.05	1.44
White Wheat	04/05	0.24	0.21	0.21	0.22	0.45	0.66	0.88	1.05	1.44
White Wheat	05/05	0.24	0.21	0.21	0.22	0.45	0.66	0.88	1.05	1.44
Winter Wheat	10/01	0.19	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.35	0.52	0.71	0.86	1.20
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.25	0.22	0.22	0.23	0.47	0.69	0.92	1.10	1.50
Centennial	05/05	0.16	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.28	0.40	0.52	0.61	0.79
Nugget	05/05	0.16	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.30	0.43	0.56	0.66	0.87
Alfalfa	Est.	0.28	0.24	0.24	0.25	0.52	0.75	1.00	1.20	1.65
Lawnglass	Est.	0.23	0.20	0.20	0.21	0.43	0.63	0.83	1.00	1.37

For the latest ET information, call 754-3494 extension x40 for Center, x36 for Center #2, and x38 for San Acacio. Use the crop maturity and planting July 7 and weather station closest to your own. Find this up July 7d table each day at this web address: <http://aes-slvrc.agsci.colostate.edu/daily-crop-water-use-report/>

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

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

B	A	T	A			S	I	D		E	B	B
C	L	E	G	G		A	M	U		M	A	L
E	A	G	A	N		I	P	O		O	S	A
S	U	S	U	S		L	A	D		A	E	R
					A	T	O	N	E	A	B	L
T	R	A	N	S	P	A	R	E	N	T		
A	B	S	C	I	S	E		L	A	O		
O	C	H	R	E					N	A	J	A
					R	M	A		T	R	A	D
					R	E	U	P	H	O	L	S
					D	I	S	A	R	R	A	Y
E	A	C	H			C	O	L		S	A	B
A	C	H	E			I	R	A		A	I	L
S	C	O	W			E	A	T		R	A	B
E	A	R				S	S	E		S	A	S

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

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



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RATES

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05 Notices

"The Tourism Board is seeking motivated and energetic individuals, from Monte Vista and Del Norte areas, to volunteer as part of their marketing team. If interested but want more information please contact Linda @ 719-852-2731 or submit a letter of interest to Rio Grande County Commissioners, 925 6th St. Room 207, Del Norte, CO 81132 or email bhatton@riograndecounty.org (7/15)

Wanted: Previous South Fork Crafters. Will be in Creede next to Post Office on Friday 8-2PM. Call 831-524-0072 for more information. (7/1)

Wanted: a unit wide Unit 68, 2nd season deer/buck landowner voucher. Please respond to 530-968-5634 or mk.landini@gmail.com (7/7)

WE BUY ANTLER: New Spring Prices: Elk Grade A \$15/lb. Deer Grade A \$10/lb. 5 miles west of Del Norte on Hwy 160. 719-657-0942 (TFN)

07 Help Wanted

District Special Education Teacher Description: The Mof-

fat Consolidated School District #2 has a position for a full-time special education teacher. Interested applicants should hold a valid Colorado Teaching license with a Special Education Endorsement or be eligible for Special Education Eligibility. The Special Education Teacher provides instruction, assessment and program planning for special education students with a resource-room focus. Other responsibilities include: monitoring, documenting, and evaluating student progress and behavior for approximately 18 IEPs; researching, obtaining and providing instructional materials for special education services; preparing for and facilitating IEP meetings; serving as a resource for teachers, students and parents; working collaboratively with classroom teachers; and coordinating and developing 504 plans for students with a qualifying disability. Evaluated by: Moffat School Principal, Crestone Charter School Director, Superintendent The Special Education Teacher instructs special education students in settings that provide a continuum of services in the regular classroom,

1-1 and resource room settings in both Moffat School and Crestone Charter School. The Special Education Teacher works directly with service providers, families, teachers and administration to create, monitor and implement IEPs and 504s to ensure that regular and special education services are designed to meet the student's individual educational needs. Observes, evaluates, reports and records students' academic performance, behavior, social development, and physical health for 504s and IEPs. Helps all students develop competence and confidence simultaneously through a balance of acquiring basic skills and developing conceptual understanding. Monitors, supervises,

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51 - 75 lbs.	\$175.00	\$200.00	Medium-Large Vessel needed
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101 lbs. & up	Animals over 101 lbs. are ineligible for Group fee	\$300.00	Extra Large Vessel Needed

Payment is required at time the animal is dropped off.
Animal may be dropped off during business hours only.
Please allow 7 working days from drop off date for animal's return.
Ashes not picked up after 60 days will respectfully be spread over our Conour Garden.

Vaccinate! Your Pets

It is important that all pet owners have their dogs & cats spayed or neutered to control the pet overpopulation and vaccinate to prevent the spread of disease.

The Rio Grande Club and Resort is looking for an outstanding individual to join our Senior Staff as our Office Manager.

About Rio Grande Club and Resort: We are in the "happiness" business! The Club prides itself as the premier golf club and resort in Southern Colorado. Founded in 2000, our Club provides members and guests incredible experiences on our championship golf course, Gold Medal fishing on the Rio Grande, River Club Vacation Rentals, exceptional dining, our well-appointed Fitness Center as well as sun and fun at the Swimming Pool and Racquet Sports courts. Regardless of the needs of our Members and Guests, we meet them with the personalized attention only our fantastic Team Members can provide.

What it's Like to Work Here: The one word our Team Members use to describe working at Rio Grande Club and Resort is "exciting." Our Team Members all share a positive attitude, problem solving abilities and patience, enabling them to provide excellent Member and Guest service even during fast-paced shifts. Our culture, plus continuous opportunities for growth, have resulted in low turnover rate. Don't miss out on this rare opening with us!

A Day in the Life as our Office Manager: This Full-Time Team Member will engage with Members and Guests either in-person, by telephone or electronic communication. Accounting and financial duties include maintaining journals, check registers, bank reconciliations, accounts receivable, accounts payable, inventories, payroll and personnel files, etc.

Qualifications to be our Office Manager: Either 2 years experience in accounting or a 2 year Associate Degree is required and working knowledge of QuickBooks is a plus. Additional qualifications include:

- Caring attitude
- Knowledge of core computer programs and aptitude for working with new systems and software
- Detail oriented
- Cash handling skills
- Good communications skills

If this position sounds like a fit for you, please submit a cover letter and resume to michael@rgcresort.com or apply in person Tuesday - Friday between 10am and 3pm. 0285 Rio Grande Club Trail, South Fork, CO. NO PHONE CALLS. Best wishes!



Rio Grande Club & Resort

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Valley Wide

Classifieds

coordinates and enforces rules of conduct and behavior for assigned students, and reinforces positive student behaviors in accordance with school and District policy. Communicates with parents or guardians, teachers, counselors, and administrators to resolve students' behavioral and academic problems. Develops, coordinates and supports the development of 504 plans to ensure the district provides a "free appropriate public education" to each qualified student with a qualifying disability. Salary: Based on school's teacher pay scale with extra-duty contract negotiable

Knowledge, Experience, & Other Qualifications: - Must possess a current Colorado Department of Education Teachers License with an endorsement in Special Education Generalist or Special Education Specialist or be able to obtain the endorsement within the first year of employment. Previous experience working with special needs students and their parents preferred. Moderate Needs Position:

- Serves students from multiple eligibility categories. May need to teach literacy, math, language skills, behavioral skills, daily living skills, and/or adaptive skills, and may also provide physical care needs. Provides instruction at the large group, small group, and individual level. Collaborates with general education staff for the successful inclusion of students. MCS#2 is an equal opportunity employer (7/14)

Moffat Consolidated School District #2 is accepting applicants for our 1st Grade Teaching position. Come and join our outstanding Elementary Team The successful candidate shall possess a Colorado Teaching License and previous experience is preferred. This is a full-time position and includes District paid medical insurance as well as other benefits paid for by the school. If you are interested in applying, please go to www.moffatschools.org and select employment and certified position or contact the school at 719-745-0500.

MCS#2 is an equal opportunity employee. (7/14)

Moffat Consolidated School District is now hiring for a part time middle school Math teacher. The successful applicant must either possess a Colorado teaching license or have the ability and desire

to obtain one. If interested, please go to www.moffatschools.org and complete an online application or call 719-745-0500. MCS#2 is an equal opportunity employer. (7/14)

HELP WANTED: GRANT WRITING Specialist Saguache

County is searching for a grant writing specialist that will take charge of the search of grants for all Saguache County departments by searching for and administering any grants awarded. With the ability to research grants for various county departments, all grant reporting requirements, manage and track all financial and award requirements assure all requirements are met. Starting pay depending on experience. Applications available at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov or in the Saguache County Administration Office. Please contact Wendi Maez at 719-655-2231 or email wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov for more information. Applications close on Friday, July 23, 2021 at 3:00 P. M. Saguache County is an EEO employer. Drug testing including marijuana and background check will be required for final applicants. (7/21)

The City of Monte Vista is accepting applications for the position of Finance Director. The Finance Director has direct responsibility and supervision of all aspects of the Finance Department which includes fund accounting, financial reporting, payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, pension and retirement accounting, revenue collections, purchasing, auditing, budgeting, preparation of the Annual Finance Report, and monitors the financial position of the municipality. Five (5) years progressively responsible experience in Accounting and Finance and a Bachelor's Degree in Public or Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting, financial management or a related field is preferred. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. This is full time employment. The general hiring minimum salary is \$71,000

Auction for The Estate of Donavon Moss Saturday, July 24 @ 9:00 a.m. 7006 CR 76, Parlin, CO 81239

From Parlin, CO (12 miles East of Gunnison on Hwy 50), turn NE on County Road 76 and go 7 miles to auction site - watch for the signs!

Items to be sold:

- 1970 Peterbilt 281 w/ Cummins Motor - Excellent Condition
- ~20 older collectible vehicles - Jeeps, Plymouths, Studebakers, etc.
- Ford 3930 Diesel Tractor w/ Loader and Box Blade - Good Condition
- Several International Scouts, Pickups
- 2000 Volvo Semi, Conventional w/ Sleeper, Bad Motor
- 1994 50' Utility Van Trailer, Aluminum Floor - Good Condition
- 2012 Big Tex Lowboy - 35 Ton - Like New
- 1979 45' Utility Van Trailer, Good Condition
- Jeep Rock Crawler - Very Good Condition
- Several 28' Van Trailers, all in good Condition
- Honda VTXV-Twin Motorcycle (year)
- Several Van Bodies (storage) - 16' to 40' in Length
- 1986 Winnebago Camper, 53,000 original miles - Good Condition
- Literally hundreds of antique farm implements - plows, disks, mowers, rakes, etc.
- 6x6 Army Truck - Good Condition
- Lots of shop tools, bolts bins, power tools, cutting torch, etc. - too numerous to mention
- (2) Army Trailers - Good Condition
- 1993 International 4100 Boom Truck with Grapple and 18' Steel Bed
- Desoto Suburban

We will run two auctioneers to get through all of the antique implements and shop tools as quickly as possible and then finish the vehicles and other equipment with one auctioneer. This should be a fast-moving sale so be on time and bring a friend so you can watch both auction rings.

Auction preview on 7/23 onsite and the day of the auction. Lunch will be served. Please be advised that we will have loaders and loadout assistance on 7/24 and 7/25 ONLY! Items not removed from the auction site by August 9, 2021 will be hauled off as scrap at the buyer's expense.

For additional information, more pictures and descriptions, please visit our website at www.flowersfarmmachinery.com, text us at jimmy@flowersfarmmachinery.com or call Jimmy at 970-210-6149

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Valley Publishing seeks a part-time reporter, 30 hours per week, to cover the Monte Vista and Center areas. Writing and photography experience necessary. Send resume and writing and photography samples to Valley Publishing Inc., P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or email to bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com (7/7)

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Klayton Gosar named Rookie of the Year

By REBECCA COPLEY

MONTE VISTA — Klayton Gosar was named Rookie of the Year by the Pagosa Springs Area Association of Realtors for 2020.

“I felt very honored and was truly excited to receive this award. It was a great accomplishment for starting my career in real estate. I have worked hard to progress my education and career. I was honored to be recognized,” said Gosar of Legends Premier Properties in Monte Vista. Gosar has been a realtor for nearly two years.

“I feel very lucky to be able to work with an outstanding real estate company Legends Premier Properties Inc. I have wonderful mentorship and years of experience to learn from. It is also wonderful to keep the business in our family,” said Gosar.

To be eligible to receive this award the realtor must meet several criteria. They must be an active licensee for no longer than two years. They must participate in association activities, including tours, membership meetings, and or committee work. They must demonstrate faithfulness and willingness to support the articles and principles designated to distinguish realtors as professionals of real estate to others in business and the public. They must also be active in producing sales.

Gosar said helping people realize

their dream of homeownership was one reason for becoming a realtor.

“I wanted to become a Real Estate Broker because I enjoy working with people, helping them achieve their dreams if it is buying their first home, starting a business, or investing in their future,” he said. “It is very rewarding to create these relationships. I grew up in real estate my whole life and always admired how involved you are with the community.”

When asked what his favorite part of his job is Gosar said, “My favorite thing about being a realtor is establishing relationships with people and getting to see all the different places.”

Gosar is a Valley native and was born and raised in Monte Vista. He graduated from Monte Vista High School, attended College at Adams State University, and received his bachelor’s degree in Business.

When he is not working, Gosar enjoys filling his time with lots of outdoor activities, including mountain biking, fishing, snowboarding, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.

“I like living in the Valley for many reasons. I love the outdoors and the sense of community that the Valley has. It is a very special place and I enjoy being close to family,” Gosar said.

Rio Grande County Museum and SLV Quilt Guild collaborate on Quilt Show

STAFF REPORT

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Have you heard of the book “The Quilt That Walked to Golden,” by Sandra Dallas? Weight and space in a Conestoga wagon were precious, so women wore multiple dresses, layered one on top of the other, as they journeyed with their families to remote areas in the West, such as Del Norte.

Once the dresses were too worn to wear, the salvageable pieces of cloth were carefully cut and hand-sewn into what would become a beautiful quilt ready for use along the prairie and in the mountains for warmth, comfort and a soft touch of home.

The Rio Grande County Museum in Del Norte, in collaboration with the San Luis Valley Quilt Guild, will feature an exciting quilt show — vintage reproduction quilts as well as modern contemporary patterns, colors and designs — that make one wonder how such treasures ever could have been stitched along the trail and preserved in Conestoga wagons, trunks and flour barrels.

The quilt show will be at the Rio Grande County Museum, 580 Oak St., from Tuesday, Aug. 3 through



Courtesy photo

Quilters donate hundreds of quilts and tote bag ensembles for the SLV Health Oncology Center.

Saturday, Aug. 13, in association with the Del Norte Covered Wagon Days, Aug. 5-8.

Quilters will be available at the museum during the town’s festivities on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 6 and 7. Dozens of quilts will be on display and some items will be available for purchase.

The museum’s hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Call the museum at 719-657-2847, for more information.



Saturday, July 17, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Pictures posted on our website.

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Preliminary redistricting map puts SLV with eastern plains

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The preliminary map displaying the boundaries of Colorado's new eight Congressional districts was made public on June 23, and it shows the San Luis Valley being removed from Congressional District 3 and included in District 4, along with Pueblo County, the southeastern part of El Paso County and all the counties in the southeastern, central eastern and northeastern plains of the state.

District 4 is currently represented by Ken Buck, a Republican from Windsor who is serving his fourth term in Congress. District 3 is represented by Lauren Boebert of Garfield County, who was elected to office in 2020.

The district boundaries are being redrawn to create Colorado's new 8th seat in the House of Representatives, allocated to the state based on a 14.2% increase in population since 2010 when the districts were last drawn.

In this initial map, the 8th Congressional District would include the cities of Arvada, Westminster, Broomfield, Thornton, Brighton and Platteville, all located in counties that are north of Denver and identified as one of the fastest-growing areas in the state.

The map shows all of Colorado's seven existing Congressional districts had some boundary changes, including Congressional District 3 which picked up Eagle, Summit, Grand, Park, Teller, Fremont and part of western Boulder County. However, adding the San Luis Valley to a Congressional district that extends across the plains to Colorado's borders with Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming was one of the more significant changes to be suggested.

Redistricting is done once every 10 years, and the preliminary map was drawn by non-partisan staffers based on the 2019 Census, the results of the 2018 attorney general contest — chosen because it was the most recent and closest statewide race in a nonpresidential election — as well as voter registration figures to measure the political competitiveness of the redrawn districts.

The 2020 census figures are scheduled to be released in August. When those numbers become available, the redistricting staff will adjust the map.

The redistricting process is the result of constitutional amendments approved by the overwhelming majority of Colorado voters. Those amendments called for a non-partisan commission to do the redistricting and for the redistricting to adhere to specific requirements: creating districts based on equal population and in adherence to the Federal Voting Rights Act which protects minority voters from gerrymandering.

With that in mind, the preliminary map creates three districts with more than 28% Hispanic voters: District 1, District 4 and District 8.

The map was also drawn to keep rural areas together as much as possible, to keep the San Luis Valley together (as opposed to splitting the Valley into two different districts) and to keep Boulder and Fort Collins together as both cities have research facilities.

Although political competitiveness was a consideration, the constitutional requirements were the primary guidelines the redistricting staffers followed.

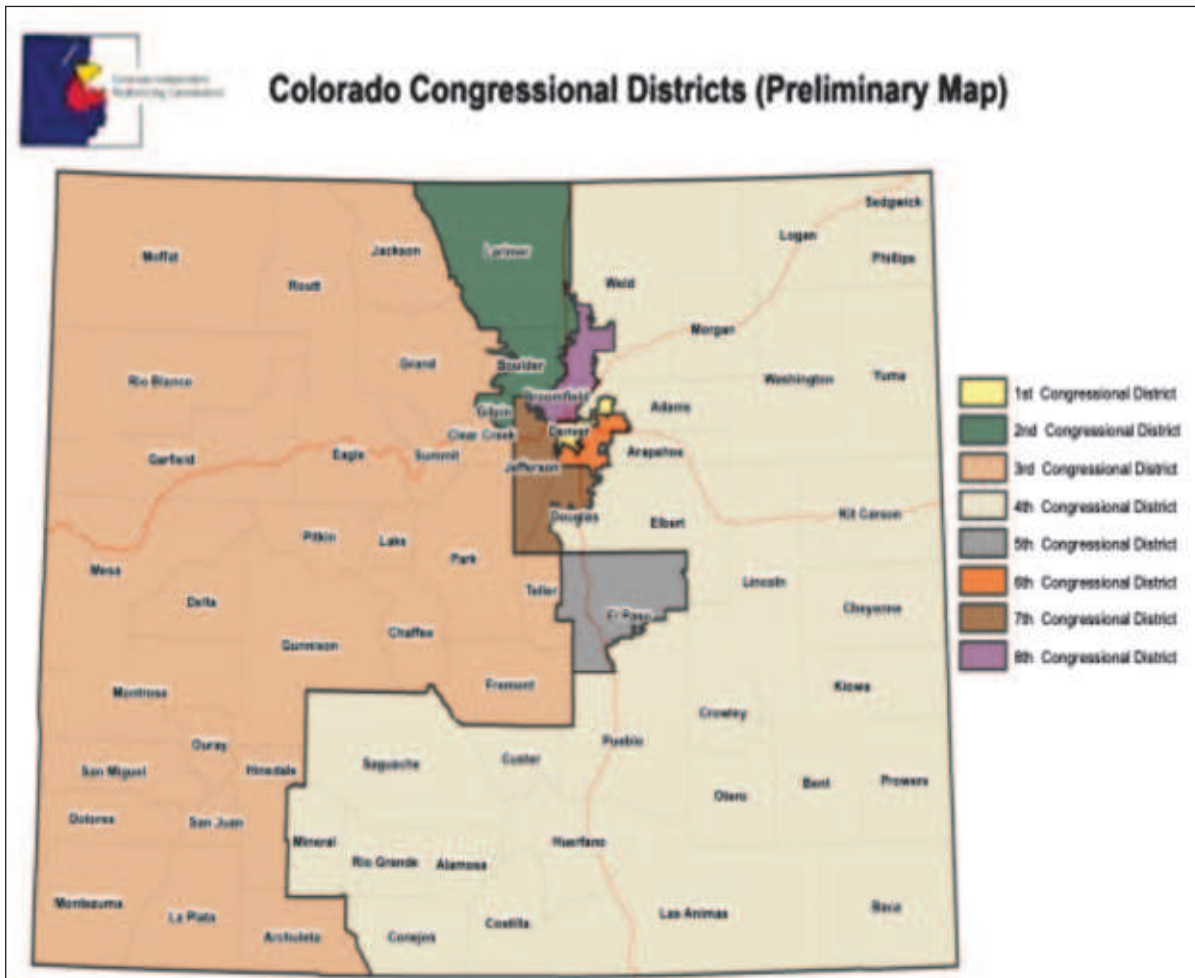
This preliminary map is the first critical step in the process and may or may not closely resemble the final map that is approved. Over the next weeks, members of the redistricting commission will be conducting multiple meetings with the public throughout the state, soliciting input on the map as it now stands.

At this point, it can't be known how much public input will be considered in revising the current map, but the behavior of the commission suggests that public input is taken very seriously in their considerations.

The commission will be in Alamosa on Aug. 6 to meet with the public. Time and place will be published when that is known.

This commission is only addressing the redrawing of Congressional districts for representatives to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The commission addressing the redrawing of state legislative and senatorial districts is due to release its preliminary map on June 29.



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Book by Monte Vista author King receives praise

SUBMITTED ARTICLE
MONTE VISTA — People are taking notice of first-time author Marianna King's "The Crisis of School Violence: A New Perspective."
 The Monte Vista resident's 300-plus page book was published in December of 2020 and is available from Michigan State University Press through its website at www.msupress.org and at fine bookstores. "The Crisis of School Violence" is the only interdisciplinary book about school violence, according to MSU Press. It presents a broad and in-depth approach to the key questions about why bullying continues at an unprecedentedly high rate and why rampage school shootings continue to shock the nation.
 Based on extensive research, "The Crisis of School Violence" investigates human nature and its relation to aggressive behavior, with a special focus on the culture of violence that predates school violence, including rampage shootings, and perpetuates industries that profit from violence. King presents the considerable psychological and neuroscientific research that investigates the effects of violent entertainment media on the brain and, subsequently, on

behavior, which clearly reveals a causal connection between exposure to violent electronic entertainment media — especially violent video games — and increased aggressive and violent behavior.
 The book also reveals a more specific connection between exposure to violent video games and rampage school shootings. Ultimately this volume is a call to action that includes recommendations for parents, teachers, decision makers, and citizens alike.
 King's book, "The Crisis of School Violence," is a "must-read for anyone interested in the level of violence in American schools. This is not an opinion piece; it is grounded in research evidence. It also treats this important topic with the complexity it deserves, covering multiple risk factors for school violence. No single factor can account for violence in schools," stated Brad J. Bushman, Professor of Communication and Margaret Hall and Robert Randal Rinehart Chair of Mass Communication, Ohio State University.
 Because of her groundbreaking work in violence prevention, she was honored with a New Mexico Woman of the Year award in 2000.

Ladies Aid Bazaar will be packed with treasures

By LYNDIE FERRELL
CREEDE — After a year off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Creede Ladies Aid Society is pleased to announce that they will be hosting their annual rummage sale in July. The society was formed many years ago to help the Creede community in several different ways from making quilts for new parents, to offering meals and other services to those in need and everything in between.

According to the press release issued by the society, "The Creede Ladies Aid Society is thrilled to announce the return of their annual Rummage Sale and Bazaar on Wednesday, July 14, and Thursday, July 15.
 Wednesday's schedule, July 14, begins with doors opening at 8:00 a.m. This day will include the rummage sale, as well as the Bazaar, featuring homemade baked goods and crafts.

A popular item, the Ladies Aid's famous chile relleno casserole, will be available for purchase. In addition, at 10:30 a.m. there will be an auction of a select pick of the most special and interesting donated items. The day ends at 2 p.m.
 Thursday, July 15, will feature the rummage sale only, beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at noon. There will be refreshments for sale in the kitchen area on both days as well.

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Delta variant in Alamosa County

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The Delta variant of the SARS CoV-2 virus was identified in Alamosa County, according to San Luis Valley public health officials.
 Last week SLV public health officials reported that it was found in Saguache and Conejos counties. It is transmitted easily among unvaccinated persons, and it is likely that it is present in additional San Luis Valley locations but has not yet been documented, officials added.
 "Delta can spread to vaccinated people, although vaccines protect against severe illness in most cases. Unvaccinated persons are most likely to get it, spread it, and get very sick from it. If you have not yet been vaccinated, please continue to wear a mask in public indoor spaces," officials stated.
 Seventy-three percent of San Luis Valley residents above the age of 65 are fully vaccinated. Young people, who were not initially eligible for vaccines, are the group with the lowest COVID-19 vaccination rates at this time.
 "The past year and a half has been very challenging for students and everyone involved with schools. Public health authorities strongly encourage families to get their eligible children ages 12 and up vaccinated to help them have a more normal school experience next year," officials stated.
 If you have questions or concerns about vaccine safety, talk to your doctor or visit <https://covid19.colorado.gov/learn-about-covid-19-vaccines>.
 There are many opportunities for teens to get their vaccines. Youth ages 12 and up can get the Pfizer vaccine with parental consent. Pfizer is offered by mobile vaccine buses, public health agencies, and others. SLV Health recently began offering the vaccine through their pediatric clinic.
 For more information on local vaccine providers, see www.slvphp.com/vaccination or call 719-480-8719.
 This week's mobile vaccine bus clinics are as follows:
 • June 29: 12-7 p.m., Early Childhood

Council, 401 Santa Fe in Alamosa
 • June 30: 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Family Dollar in La Jara
 • July 1: 2-7 p.m., Boyd Park in Alamosa
 • July 2: 9 a.m.-noon, Blanca-Fort Garland Community Center
 As of Monday, June 28, there were 57 known active cases of COVID-19 in the San Luis Valley.
 • Alamosa County — 22
 • Conejos County — 8
 • Costilla County — 0
 • Mineral County — 0
 • Rio Grande County — 7
 • Saguache County — 20

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First Christian Church 134 years of history

By REBECCA COPLEY

MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista is home to many beautiful old buildings. During my time at the Monte Vista Journal, I have loved getting to share some of the histories of these beautiful buildings in town. First Christian Church has 134 years of history.

First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, located at the corner of Second and Washington, was started on March 17, 1887. According to Emma M. Riggenbach's book, "A Bridge to Yesterday: An early history of Monte Vista, Colorado," T.J. Smith called a meeting of all the known members in the area at the home of George Jacobs. After this, they continued weekly meetings at the Jacob's house for a while.

The church grew and J.T. Sharrard, a state evangelist, organized the church with 15 members. At this time, they still did not have a building and used a tent for a while. Later, they went on to rent a room in the old Armory.

"On May 15, 1893, three warranty deeds, or indentures, were consummated by Lewis H. Cheney, Will Tewalt and J.F. Long, trustees of the Christian Church, for Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Block 10, description of the present property. The total price was \$410," wrote Riggenbach in her book.

They met in a frame building for a while until 1909, when the beautiful sanctuary was finished. It still stands today. The sanctuary features gorgeous stained-glass windows that are memorials to the deceased.

"(They) are very meaningful and known far and wide. The name of the contractor is unknown," wrote Riggenbach.

The building was expanded in 1953 when the congregation voted to have a two-story education unit added to the church. It also featured a banquet hall, parlor, and office space for the minister.

Riggenbach's book also records that in 1916 the Rev. L.C. Anderson published a directory of members, listing 209 on the church roll plus 126 non-resident members. It also noted that the average attendance in Sunday school was over 125 pupils.

Over the years, the church has seen membership drop. Current member Doris Cossel said they have had many dear members who have passed away in recent times. The late Judge and Annamae Hancock gave a generous donation to the church that enabled them to do much work on the building and keep the church going.

Cossel said how grateful they were and how blessed this gift has been. Through the years, they restored their pews, put in new carpet, new sidewalks, redid their parsonage, painting, and much more. Cossel also shared when they painted the fellowship area of the church.

"We had a lot of people from the different churches come and help us. It was so much fun. We would all do that on a Saturday and we had old people, young people, it was really nice. The community just came together which was really nice," Cossel said

Over its history, the church has also had many pastors. According to "A History of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Colorado," by Bryant D. Badger, the church has had over 44 ministers. Current member Don Noland said that their most recent and one of their longest-serving pastors was Wayne Wittner. He served at the church from 1998 to 2020, when he retired.

Today the church also shares the building with Grace and Mercy Bible Fellowship. Grace and Mercy, Pastor Larry Foster has also been filling in for First Christian and does both their service, which starts at 9:30 a.m. and Grace and Mercy's, which begins at 11:15 a.m.

The two congregations come together for Grace and Mercy's monthly free community dinners. The community dinner happens on the second Tuesday of every month from 5-7 p.m. For more information about Grace and Mercy Bible Fellowship, visit its website: <https://grace-mercy-bible.church/>. The congregations also plan to come together for a July 4 special service.

When asked what they hope the impact of the church will be on the community, Foster answered, "Our

goal and vision is to reach people for Christ and reach those who have strayed from Him. That's really what our goal is. We're not here to build a country club, we're here to reach people and that's what our vision is."

— A special thanks to Doris Cossel, Don Noland, and Larry Foster for their help with this article.

One of the beautiful stained-glass windows at First Christian Church.

Photo by Rebecca Copley



The beautiful sanctuary of First Christian Church has had many worshippers in its pews since 1909.



Some early photos of the church hang on the wall today.

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Subdistrict 5 resumes pumping during judicial review

By **PATRICK SHEA**

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Following a series of discussions about petitioning for judicial review, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) Board of Managers for Subdistrict 5 voted unanimously on June 17 to leverage wording in the rules that would enable pumping until judgment passes. On June 18, the RGWCD Board of Directors voted 5-4 to pursue a judicial review of Subdistrict 5's Annual Replacement Plan (ARP) that the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) denied in March.

Since DWR denied the ARP three months ago, a total of 213 wells across 65 farm units in Subdistrict 5 were prohibited from operating. On June 22, however, Division 3 DWR Engineer Craig Cotten notified these well owners. "Therefore," Cotten noted in his letter, "until the Judicial review of the State Engineer's disapproval of the SD5 ARP is concluded, wells which have contracted and/or petitioned into SD5 can legally operate. However, they must meet all other decree and permit conditions, irrigation season limits, etc."

According to RGWCD General Manager Cleave Simpson, "There was a recognition when the rules were crafted that this is an arduous process, particularly for first-time efforts."

Considering other options during the second week of June, Simpson met with Subdistrict 5 attorney Peter Ampe and representatives from the Division and the Attorney General's office.

"We started looking closer at the rules and regulations for groundwater withdrawals," Simpson said. "Written in the rules and regulations under Article 21, under benchmarks and phase-ins, it says, 'In order to allow well users the time necessary to come into compliance with these rules, well users are not in violation of Rule 6 if they meet the following criteria.'"

The list of criteria is long, and Simpson cited Rule 21.1.2.3 in particular, which states, "A Subdistrict's first ARP is approved by the state engineer within one year of the approval of the Subdistrict's groundwater management plan OR if the state engineer disapproves an ARP and is under judicial review."

But as Simpson explained, "We knew Saguache Creek was probably more challenging than the other Subdistricts, in some respects because there is no storage vessel on the top of Saguache Creek where we can store it and release it as required to mitigate injurious depletions."

The Subdistrict 5 water plan presented in 2020 met requirements for San Luis Creek and the Rio Grande, but the inadequate portfolio of replacement options for Saguache Creek doomed approval. Kevin Rein, DWR's State Engineer, cited the Saguache Creek shortfall when he rejected the ARP. On March 15, 2021, Cotten notified the Subdistrict 5 members who did not have alternate replacement plans. They could not operate their wells.

The Board of Managers continues to seek solutions for Subdistrict 5. In addition to pursuing Well Injury Payments (WIPs), a pipeline proposed at the start of 2021 is still under consideration. Also, the managers requested bids to drill an augmentation well 100 feet deep in Saguache County. With a deadline of June 25, the bids should also consider 450 yards of pipe and 550 yards of buried electrical wire. Drill experts can contact the District office at (719) 589-6301 for more information.

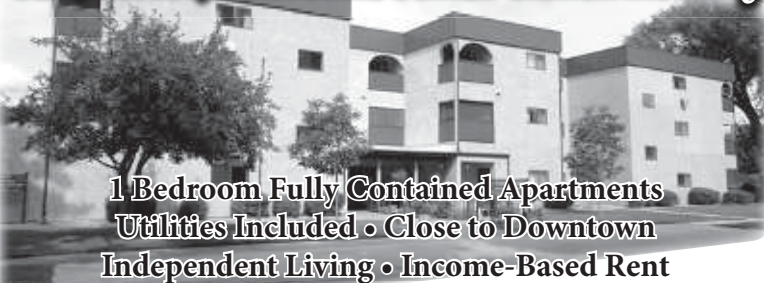
Also, during the Subdistrict 5 meeting on June 17, Peggy Godfrey stepped down from her ex-officio position for the Subdistrict. Godfrey represents Saguache County on the RGWCD Board of Directors along with Bill McClure and will continue in that capacity. McClure agreed to fill the ex-officio position.



Photo by Patrick Shea

The Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) Board of Managers for Subdistrict 5 voted unanimously on June 17 to leverage wording in the rules that would enable pumping until judgment passes.

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July 24
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General Admission - Child	\$10	\$10
Arena Seats Reserved	\$18	\$20
Country Western Dance	\$10	\$10
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Wednesday, July 21

