

Shorts

US 160 Shaw Creek Rest Area closed for repairs

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — The Shaw Creek Rest Area is closed for repairs. The closure is expected to be in place for the entire week, July 12-16. A complete closure of the facility is required for the safety of the public, maintenance crews and contractors. Maintenance personnel are attempting to make needed repairs as quickly as possible, in time for weekend travel.

All restroom and water amenities are closed. No vehicles are allowed in the rest area. Commercial trucks cannot park in the rest area.

The popular rest area is located on US Highway 160 between South Fork and Del Norte at approximately mile point 191.5.

Saguache Community Players needs cast members

SAGUACHE — The Saguache Community Players were two weeks from presenting "Arsenic and Old Lace" in March of 2020 when COVID-19 hit, stalling the production.

Now the theater group is preparing to produce the play, hoping for a winter opening. However, they lost a few cast members and need to fill those characters.

Parts available are the male lead of Mortimer, a man between the ages of 20 to 40 years, and two to three men in smaller roles as policemen and a doctor.

No previous theater experience is required but it would be helpful.

If interested, text Julia at 719-496-6528, for an interview and reading.

US 285 east of Saguache: Chip seal paving project this week

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The Colorado Department of Transportation will perform chip seal paving operations this week on US Highway 285, three miles east of the community of Saguache, mile points 90-93. Work will take place July 13-15.

The three-day road maintenance operations will take place from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Motorists will encounter full stops, lane shifts and one-lane alternating traffic guided by flagging personnel and pilot vehicles. Travelers can expect delays and should allow themselves extra travel time. A speed reduction of 40 mph will be in place and drivers should slow down and use extreme caution when approaching the work zone. Motorists are urged to be aware of work crews and heavy equipment.

Wild police chase goes through several counties

BY MECHEL MEEK
SAGUACHE COUNTY — On July 11 in the early afternoon, a Saguache County Sheriff's Office deputy attempted to stop a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed on U.S. Highway 285.

The vehicle, described as a dark green Toyota Rav 4, fled from the deputy and a pursuit began. The deputy believed the car may have been stolen.

Stop sticks were deployed on the fleeing vehicle. Stop sticks are designed to deflate the tires of a vehicle so that it is unable to travel at high rates of speed and will eventually be disabled. The suspect was able to

avoid the stop stick deployment.

Sgt. Aaron Fresquez of the Center Police Department joined the pursuit as support. The pursuit moved to the Highway 112 area between Center and Del Norte. The pursuit proceeded south of Highway 112 before going east on both paved and dirt roads and into Alamosa County.

The pursuit lasted approximately 45 minutes and during the pursuit the suspect intentionally rammed

Please see CHASE on Page 2A

A man led law enforcement on a high-speed chase across several counties and rammed a patrol vehicle on July 11.

Photo by Mechel Meek



Police Chief discusses use of force policy

Officers also demonstrated a taser

BY MECHEL MEEK
CENTER — Center Police Chief Dale Meek talked about the department's "use of force policy" during his monthly Coffee with the Chief meeting. The meeting, which is open to all members of the community, opened with freshly brewed coffee and snacks.

Meek began the meeting by asking the people in attendance if they had any questions or concerns regarding the town and law enforcement. Some community members brought up loud music being played within their neighborhoods. Meek explained that music complaints are handled under a Town of Center Ordinance and that loud music is to be off after dark or will be addressed if a complaint is called into the police department.

After the question-and-answer session, Meek explained the Center

Please see COFFEE on Page 7A



Photos by Mechel Meek

Center Police Chief Dale Meek talked about the department's 'use of force policy' during his monthly Coffee with the Chief meeting.



Photo by Mechel Meek

Commissioners discuss trail system, approve budget correction

BY MECHEL MEEK
SAGUACHE — The Saguache County Commissioners met in person and via Zoom on July 6.

The regular board meeting began with a discussion of proposed sites for a maintenance building in the Crestone area. It was eventually tabled until a later time after more research has been completed.

Next up on the agenda was a conversation on the hiking trail system in the Crestone area and a proposed parking area for the trail head. There were many issues brought forth regarding creating a parking area, including locating utilities.

Please see BOCC on Page 2A

CEMA honors Mineral County Emergency Manager

BY LYNSIE FERRELL
MINERAL COUNTY — Emergency Manager Terry Wetherill was recently awarded the Emergency Manager of the Year award through the Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA) due to his work during the COVID-19 incident. Wetherill was honored during a private ceremony with fellow emergency managers from around the state at the end of May.

Due to the COVID 19 Response, the annual Colorado Emergency Management Conference for 2021 was cancelled. However, the Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA) and Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management continued with traditional awards for those members that go above and beyond.

Director Wetherill leads the Emergency Management and Search and Rescue Programs from the Mineral County Sheriff's Office in Creede. "Wetherill is a knowledgeable, focused and committed leader dedicated to the communities he serves and his regional Emergency Management brethren," CEMA stated. "Wetherill has been instrumental during the COVID response, which is now approaching 500 operational periods or 16 months."

Please see CEMA on Page 2A

Mineral County Emergency Manager Terry Wetherill was awarded Emergency Manager of the Year by Colorado Emergency Management Association in May for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell



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BOCC

Continued from Page 1A

easements, driveways and possible required zoning changes.

After a closed-door executive session for legal advice, the Commissioners approved a correction to the 2021 budget. A salary increase was approved in December for the Road and Bridge Department, however, the corresponding funds were not transferred into the budget for Road and Bridge. A line item change to clarify and correct the budget amount was approved unanimously.

Finally, the Commissioners deferred the discussion of the easement for the trail system, parking area and other trail related issues to a work session to be discussed at length on a later date.



Photo by Mechel Meek

Saguache County Commissioners went into closed session to get legal advice during their board meeting on July 6.

CHASE

Continued from Page 1A

Sgt. Fresquez's patrol vehicle while attempting to turn around in a yard in rural Alamosa County.

This led to the Colorado State Police disabling the suspect vehicle using a Tactical Vehicle Intervention (TVI). TVI is a police tactic that causes a vehicle to spin out and stop which allows other patrol vehicles to block in a suspect vehicle to end a pursuit.

The TVI was utilized, the vehicle spun out, entered a potato field and was blocked in by law enforcement. The suspect was taken into custody.

The Center Police Department, Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office,

Alamosa County Sheriff's Office, Del Norte Police Department and the Colorado State Police each assisted at various points during the pursuit.

Fresquez and K9 Officer Kit were not injured as the suspect vehicle struck the larger Tahoe in the front push bar which limited damage to the Tahoe and dispersed the force of the collision.

The suspect was identified as Anthony David Gomez, 56. Gomez was wanted by law enforcement for parole violation with violent tendencies and further charges are pending.

CEMA

Continued from Page 1A

Wetherill is the Chair of the SLV Emergency Coordination Committee (SLV ECC), Co-Chair of the SLV Healthcare Coalition, is a member of the Mineral County Fire District Board and Mineral County Sheriff's Office.

Most recently, Wetherill attended extensive training to become a state certified Operations Section Chief for Emergency Operations Center (EOC) responses. He has deployed to a host of disasters throughout Colorado, including the 2008 Spring Fire, Costilla County Blizzard, Hinsdale County Avalanche and Flood threat to name just a few.

Wetherill is a 30-year Armed Forces Veteran who brings tons of knowledge and experience to Mineral County and the SLV Region.

Wetherill was humbled when interviewed about the award and said that he would have done the same thing no matter the circumstances.

"Our public health department, the Silver Thread Public Health Department, did a fantastic job," he said. "The department was very proactive throughout the entire event. Whether it was information sharing or best practices like social distancing and washing hands. It really was just a team effort. It was a big deal and having all of work together from the beginning, I think made all the difference."

Wetherill worked closely with state and local public health officials and plans to continue to work with them into the future.

"When all of this came down the line, we had to act quickly, and I think everyone knew that we needed to work on our communication between all of the entities that would be working together," he said. "We had the Health Care Coalition, but we strengthened what we had during the COVID-19 incident. I think we as a team worked to make our response to COVID stronger and better than what it initially started out as and I think that communication system will help us in the future."

Wetherill attended all state and local COVID response meetings and passed accurate, timely information on to appropriate sources including law enforcement that were originally kept out of the loop due to HIPPA violation concerns from state and local public health officials.

"Our communications were going to be key, and we needed everyone on board," he said. "At first, case counts weren't accurate due to reporting errors or changes that happened literally minute by minute. It was hard to form a system that was going to work but that is what we did and now that it is in place, we will be that much better in the future."

OBITUARIES

Eutimio "Tim" Atencio

Eutimio "Tim" Atencio, 72, beloved husband, father, and grandpa, passed away peacefully on Feb. 19, 2021, in Richland, Wash., with his loving family by his side.

Tim was born on Sept. 10, 1948, in Del Norte, Colo., to Guillermo "Bill" and Betty (Gallegos) Atencio and was the eldest of 12 children. After graduating from Del Norte High School in 1966, he attended the Holy Family Seminary in Maryland and the University of Colorado in Boulder. In 1971, Tim was drafted by the United States Army, and was stationed at Camp Page in South Korea, where he would meet his lovely and beloved wife, OkSu. After leaving the military, he was employed as an electrician by Bonneville Power Administration, retiring after 42 years of service to the United States Government.

Tim and his wife were long-time residents of Richland, Wash., where they raised their children and enjoyed their retirement years. Tim was happiest when he was spending time with his family, especially his many grandchildren. He was a loyal fan of the Denver Broncos, and enjoyed

coaching soccer in Richland for many years, where he was known as "Coach Tim". He had a huge impact on the youth soccer community in his area and will also be remembered for his work in providing guidance and support in making the sport accessible to all youth. When not coaching, Tim enjoyed visiting with his family, playing Cribbage with his children and grandchildren, listening to music while enjoying a warm sunny day, watching his grandchildren play soccer, and reminiscing about his days growing up in the San Luis Valley. His humor, his warmth, his charm, his wisdom, his generous heart, and his love for his family will be greatly missed.

Tim was preceded in death by his father Bill, mother Betty, sister Della, baby sister Rita Mae, baby brother Lester, and his nephews Jason and Mike.

He is survived by his wife OkSu, and children Claudine (husband Paul), Matthew (wife Lyndsey), Andres (wife Wendi), Cynthia (husband David), Christian (wife Laura), and Greg (wife Julianne), his five brothers Tom, Eddie, Randy,



Paul, and Ben, and his three sisters Charlene, Mildred, and Janet. Tim has 13 grandchildren, and they are Jaden, Josh, Jackson, Olivia, Joaquin, August, Owen, Eilidh, Sylvie, Maddox, Luna, Peyton, and Sydney.

A Memorial Service to remember and honor Tim will be held on Saturday, July 24, at 10 a.m. at the Holy Name of Mary Church in Del Norte, Colo. A graveside service will immediately follow at the Del Norte Cemetery, and afterwards, a reception will be held at the High Valley Community Center in Del Norte. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your local youth soccer association.

Phyllis Emily Martinez Lenzini

Phyllis Emily Martinez Lenzini, 90, Monte Vista, passed away July 5, 2021 at Conejos County Hospital in La Jara, Colo.

Phyllis was born Jan. 7, 1931, near Pagosa Springs, Colo., to Julian and Margarite Martinez. She was the second oldest of five children. She worked at Jackish Drug Store in Pagosa where she met Al Lenzini. They married on Dec 19, 1949, and settled in Monte Vista, Colo., to start their family and open Southwestern Auto Supply, Inc.

Phyllis cherished her family and looked forward to her summers spent at the family cabin surrounded by loved ones.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her parents, Julian and Margaurite Martinez; Peggy Murray, sister; Irene Linse, sister; husband, Al Lenzini; and grandson, James Michael Bearss.

She is survived by her brothers, Joseph Hugh Martinez, Chico, Calif., and Denny Martinez, Pleasanton, Calif.; children, LaRee (Jim) Bearss, Buena Vista, Colo., Peggy Pepper, Monte Vista, Colo.,

Don Lenzini, Monte Vista, Colo., and Steph (Laura) Murphy-Lenzini, Monte Vista, Colo.; grandchildren, Zach (Catherine) Bearss, Buena Vista, Colo., Jessica Bearss, Nampa, Idaho, Josh (Cailin) Bearss, Buena Vista, Colo., Ben (Emily) Bearss, Bozeman, Mont., Justin (Ragen) Pepper, Monte Vista, Colo., David (Kelly) Pepper, Virginia Beach, Va., Allison (Ben) Rue, Monte Vista, Colo., Evan (April) Lenzini, Glendale, Calif., Christina Mace, Lyons, Colo., and Simone (Jesse) Phillips, Salida, Colo.

She also had 17 great-grandchildren, with two on the way, and numerous nieces and nephews, cousins and extended family.

The family has chosen a small, private service. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Inc., a program designed to help veterans, both locally and nationally.

Funeral arrangements have been handled through Rogers Family Mortuary. To leave online words of comfort, remembrances and condolences for Phyllis' family,



please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Don't Eat the Olives

I don't know how or when but at some point, in the nine years of Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie's habitating bliss, certain foods became off limits for Ol' Dutch to eat as a snack.

Now for those of you who don't know me, I am constantly in a battle of the waistline and of late have suffered too many casualties with the belt holes. They used to resist giving up their place in the buckle but lately it seems like they roll over and relinquish their spots almost daily.

And it's a back-and-forth battle where Ol' Dutch gains some territory, but the caloric enemy seems to always find his way back into my bulky self. I wouldn't say I am fat and don't need to as my granddaughters point that out enough. But I am pudgy and trying my best to at least hit the "Large" sizes this year.

And Miss Trixie, ever her helpful self does try and get me some decent snacks to have around the house and that helps a lot. But imagine my surprise when just last week, after three years of eating the olives that Ol' Dutch thought she lovingly brought home for snack time, she informed me that those were for special dishes.

And not only that, but she also had the audacity to suggest that maybe, just maybe I need to curtail my late-night raids on the olive cellar.

So here I am tonight staring at four jars of scrumptious olives in the pantry, all of them calling my name and tempting me almost beyond my ability to resist. But Ol' Dutch still knows which side of the bread is buttered on and so I resist with my normal iron will. Or is that fear of Miss Trixie?

It kind of reminds me of the story about the man who was sick in bed and thought to be dying. His wife was baking cookies and the smell gave him the energy to come down to the kitchen for a fresh homemade cookie. As he feebly reached for a warm cookie his wife swatted his hand away and said "Don't eat those. They are for the wake."

It's a lot like that around here and I think in all fairness women need to get a different place to stash things they want to keep for the Sunday potluck at the church or the women's tea and crumpet affair at the local Eastern Star meeting of the maids.

That way us poor men at least know



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

that what is left in the cupboard is fair game and what we bought we can eat.

Ol' Dutch does understand about having goods available for cooking and with Miss Trixie, she can take some leftover pancakes, a German sweet chocolate cake and a little milk and create everything from bread pudding to tenderloin steaks.

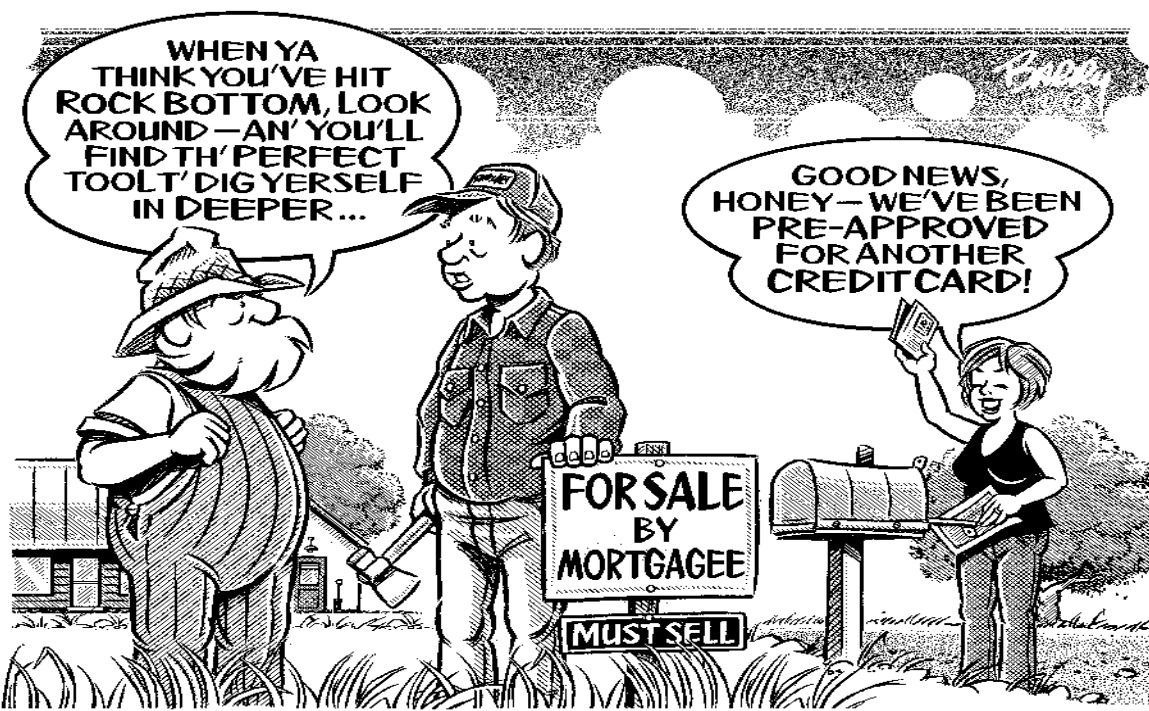
And cooperation from Ol' Dutch and doing what I am told is paramount to harmonious living together. After all, I read this past week that "men who bicker with their wives die younger." Now I am not sure if that means from the stress of arguments or if the wives take that problem into their own hands but Ol' Dutch is not willing to find out.

On another note, a well-known Christian Comedian, Dennis Swanberg, will appear at the Chapel of the South Fork, 116 Landen Dr. on Saturday, July 17 at 6 p.m. If you would like a night of fun and hilarity, please feel free to come and enjoy yourselves.

He'll also be in service on Sunday, July 18 at 10 a.m. Then on Monday evening at 5:30 p.m., Trixie and I will host Pickin' and Grinnin' where folks will try to remember his jokes and best them.

Miss Trixie will make an appearance at all three and if nothing else, you all can at least see what kind of angel puts up with Ol' Dutch on a daily basis. As a warning, though, keep your hands off the olives.

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

Meteor Showers and Scorpius

The Delta Aquarid Meteor Shower is active from July 12 to Aug. 23. It peaks on July 30. This is a southern meteor shower. So, in the north they will rise only about 30 degrees, and only show about 10. Since we live in Southern Colorado, they will rise a little higher and give us more meteors per hour.

Since this goes on for so long, we have a lot of time to look for them. The best time is actually in the morning 2-3 hours before dawn. They will be in the south along with Jupiter and Saturn.

Mercury is visible in the morning. It rises about 85 minutes before the Sun, and it stands about 3.5 degrees high in the east. Unfortunately, if you have mountains in the east, you won't see it. On July 12, it brightens and reaches its brightest on the 19th, but by then it's closer to the Sun.

In the evening when you look low in

the South, you'll see Scorpius low in the sky. It's a beautiful constellation that's visible June, July and August. The left bottom of it is a rounded loop lying on its side and is his legs. The top right of it is a triangle also lying on its side and is his head. It sits in front of the Milky Way and is highly visible.

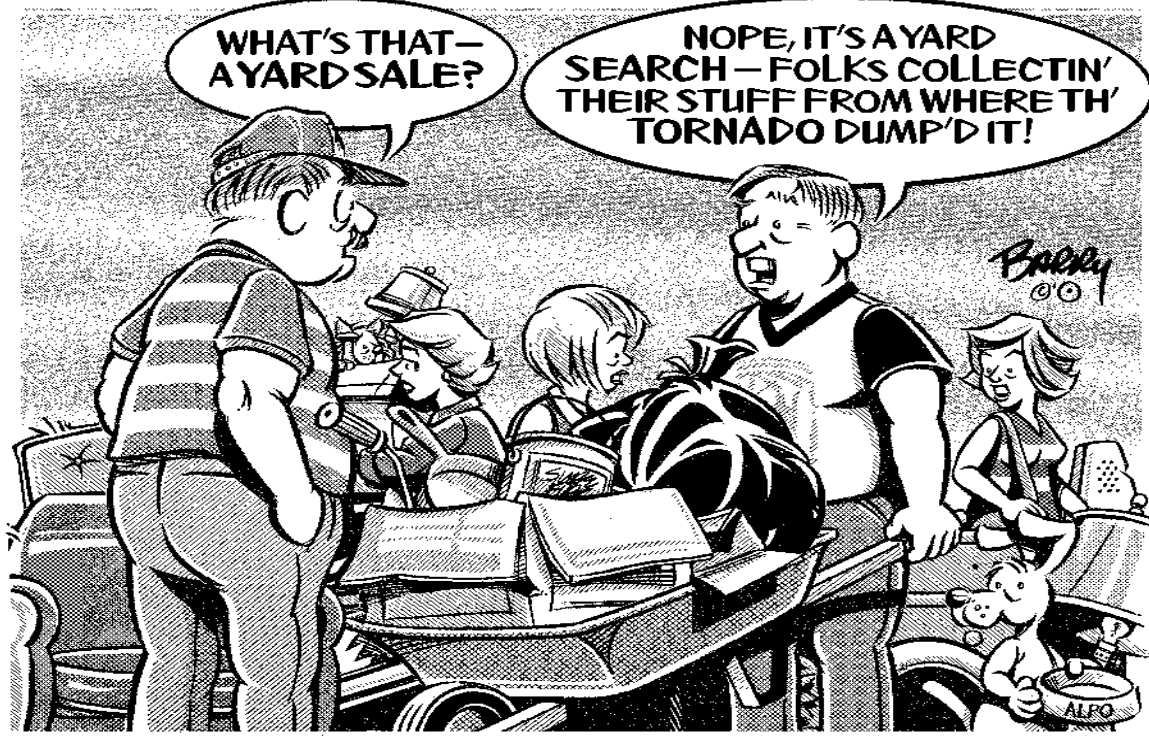
It's a constellation that represents a scorpion sent by the goddess to kill Orion. Fortunately, Orion sets before this constellation rises. When the sky gets dark, look low in the South. It's highly visible. It only rises about 20 degrees high and has 17 stars.

Its brightest star is Antares, and is his heart. Antares is a red super giant star that is hundreds of times larger than our Sun, and 9,000 times brighter. That's an amazing star! It's 600 light years from us. Just above it



is the globular cluster M4. It's 7,000 LY away. You'll most likely need binoculars to see it.

The Globular Cluster M6 is just above his tail and is visible to the naked eye. Like the constellation, it's in the Milky Way. Although it's highly visible, with binoculars you'll see dozens of its stars. It's called the Butterfly Cluster and is 2,000 LY away.



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Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.

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Collaboration for fire mitigation goes a long way

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

SAN LUIS VALLEY— Disaster has struck many parts of Colorado in recent years by way of wildfire, and the San Luis Valley hasn't been immune to the widespread epidemic. The Million Fire, Spring Creek Fire and West Fork Fire Complex burned thousands of acres of land, and while these Valley fires weren't caused by an electric utility, they do show the importance of having a fire mitigation plan in place.

SLV Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) holds wildfire prevention as a high priority and strives to be proactive in keeping mitigation plans accurate and up to date. This is evidenced by the current maintenance project occurring on Highway 160 from mile marker 183.5 to mile marker 178. The three-phase line and 34 poles from Lonesome Dove to the Lucky 7 Subdivision will be replaced with Hendrix Aerial Cable.

"Hendrix Aerial Cable Systems are anchored by a high strength messenger wire that supports the spacers and phase conductors from above. It has the mechanical and electrical strength to weather severe storms," according to a Hendrix product website.

The covered cable can withstand impact from contact, such as a tree falling, without triggering an outage. The resiliency of the line drastically reduces the potential for a fire caused by the electric utility.

"One of the big drivers of this project is wildfire mitigation. We're spending a great amount of effort looking at ways that we can mitigate the risk of wildfires caused by electric lines owned by San Luis Valley Rural Electric," stated REC CEO Loren Howard.

Not only will the new line help with



Courtesy photo

A generator was brought in and is housed in Wolf Creek Ski Area's parking lot.

fire mitigation, but it will also increase reliability. With the difficult terrain in the area, wire and pole repair is more challenging. The Hendrix cable will help prevent outages and blinks on the system.

The project, which has been in the works for two years, couldn't have happened without collaboration and significant coordination between many different entities: Rio Grande National Forest Service (RGNF), Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Wolf Creek Ski Area, United Power, contractor Ward Electric and more.

Under the CDOT permit and traffic control plan, Critters Barricade will be controlling traffic as needed for traveler and worker safety, particularly when the helicopter is used. This will involve possible traffic delays along Highway 160, which will be kept as short as safely possible. "A generator has been brought in for four to six weeks, while we switch the

wires out. It is located in the ski area's parking lot. Davey Pitcher [Wolf Creek Ski Area owner] has been very accommodating with this project. We would have had a very difficult time finding somewhere secure to place that generator and couldn't have done this without Davey's help," stated SLVREC Engineering Manager Terry Daley.

"United Power [covering the northern Front Range] let us preview their projects to learn about Hendrix... co-ops are always great about helping other co-ops. This whole project has been a huge collaboration; there are many partners coordinating to keep everything running smoothly," said Daley.

Approximately 50 REC members will be affected with intermittent electrical outages in July and August, and all will be notified prior. The project will continue through approximately Sept. 1. Call REC with any questions or concerns, 719-852-3538.

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Anthony Cuevas of Monte Vista now on trial for first-degree murder of mother

He was arrested in October of 2019 in Pueblo

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

PUEBLO — The trial has begun in the case of Anthony Cuevas, of Monte Vista, who is charged with first-degree murder in connection with the gruesome death of his mother, Maria “Mary” Cuevas Garcia, in October of 2019.

The story, initially reported by the Pueblo Chieftain and subsequently covered in a series of articles by the Valley Publishing, first made headlines on Oct. 17, 2019, when authorities with the Pueblo Police Department were called to the vicinity of Ivywood and Vinewood where a bloody suitcase was discovered in a dumpster outside of a car wash. Unable to effectively search the suitcase on site, authorities towed the dumpster to a secure location where the suitcase was opened, and Cuevas Garcia’s partial remains were found.

Surveillance video from a camera at the car wash showed a man struggling with the weight of what appeared to be a suitcase as he was removing it from the back of a dark blue 2018 Nissan Versa around 6:42 a.m. on that Thursday morning. Roughly three hours later, authorities received the call about the suitcase. Unable to identify the victim and seeking the public’s assistance, police released the video along with photos of a clown tattoo on the victim’s body Thursday night.

According to a 2019 KRDO exclusive interview, family members were gathered at their home in Monte Vista watching football when the video came on the television. They immediately recognized the car as belonging to 58-year-old Maria “Mary” Cuevas Garcia, but “it was the victim’s tattoo that confirmed their suspicions.”

The Chieftain reports that Destia Rane Hamilton, Cuevas Garcia’s granddaughter, said her brother saw the surveillance footage first.

“He told me to look at it and I did. I recognized the car, the way he walked and how he dresses and the tattoos he has on his neck. We all knew it was him,” Hamilton said. “We were in such shock. We knew my uncle and grandma had fights, but we never knew he would go this far,” she told KRDO.

Cuevas Garcia’s car was found later in the morning of Oct. 17 after having been taken to Dionisio Metal and Iron in Pueblo.

Anthony Cuevas, 37, had a warrant out for his arrest on a parole violation after being sentenced in 2014 in Rio Grande County to 10 years for possession of a schedule II controlled substance in connection with a conspiracy charge.

In October of 2019, after getting several tips from the video and locating Cuevas Garcia’s car, police executed search warrants around the city looking for him, according to Sgt. Franklyn Ortega of the Pueblo Police Department.

That same day, detectives went to Mary Cuevas Garcia’s house on Euclid Avenue — just three miles from where her remains were dumped and where Anthony and Maria Cuevas were living since earlier that fall. Ronald Garcia, Mary’s husband, passed away on July 13 of that year.

According to KRDO, at some point on Friday, Anthony Cuevas returned to his mother’s home on Euclid while investigators were examining the scene. A chase ensued and Anthony Cuevas, driving a different car, was able to elude police, ultimately leaving the car west of Lake Pueblo State Park and getting away on foot. That same day, according to court documents, Anthony Cuevas allegedly entered a motor vehicle with intent to commit theft.

Anthony Cuevas was captured and arrested at 6:15 p.m. Friday night at Adolfo’s Restaurant in Pueblo. He was with his wife, Melanie Cuevas, 38, at the time. She was arrested on a warrant for criminal impersonation and was later released.

On Oct. 21, 2019, the Pueblo County coroner positively identified the body

and released Cuevas Garcia’s name to the media.

What the Pueblo Police Department did not immediately reveal to the public — stating “it’s something only the killer would know” — is that Cuevas Garcia’s head, hands and feet had been severed from her body and dumped in a different location.

For the next five months, police searched for the missing remains, following up on numerous tips, all of which left them with nothing. Anthony Cuevas was of no assistance in the search and was described by Pueblo Police Chief Eric Bravo as being “uncooperative.”

And then, on March 10, 2020, a volunteer group cleaning up the south bank of the Arkansas River found a trash bag containing the remainder of Mary Cuevas Garcia’s body, which they reported to a Park Ranger.

Following a preliminary hearing in April, Anthony Cuevas is being tried for first-degree murder, eluding a police officer and criminal trespass. The Joint Witness List shows the state has 146 witnesses that could appear in court. In contrast, the defense has listed eight names.

Melanie Cuevas was charged with accessory to first-degree murder in Chevas Garcia’s death in April, as well. She has pled not guilty and, should her case go to trial, proceedings are expected to begin sometime in September or October of this year. She is also on the witness list in her husband’s trial but is expected to plead the fifth.

The arrest affidavit providing additional details in the case was sealed by presiding Judge Allison Ernst, Division 404 for the 10th Judicial District. The trial is not available for viewing via webex, and is open court, in-person only.

According to the Pueblo County Clerk of the Court, jury selection continued Wednesday. Once the jury is seated, proceedings are expected to last approximately two weeks.

The obituary for Maria “Mary” Agnes Cuevas Garcia, published in the Valley Courier on Oct. 25, 2019, says she “enjoyed fishing and cooking, bingo, gambling, scratch tickets, dancing, listening to music, gardening, visiting with family and friends. She cherished spending time with her grandchildren, Halloween was her favorite holiday, and she truly loved her husband and her dogs.”

Many of the Cuevas family members — who describe Mary as “generous,” “loving,” “bold, outspoken and with a smile that could bright a room” — have appeared at previous court sessions in the case, and the same is expected with the trial.



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Escape at Saguache County Jail brought to safe conclusion

By MECHEL MEEK

SAGUACHE — An escaped prisoner from the Saguache County Jail was apprehended around 11 p.m. on July 5 without incident on U.S. Highway 285, according to the Saguache County Sheriff's Office. It was unclear how he had escaped from the jail earlier that night.

At 8:06 p.m. on July 5, Omar Prieto, 21, of Center, escaped from the Saguache County Jail from Cell 1. He was in custody for prior warrant arrests.

The Saguache County Sheriff's Office immediately upon discovery of the escape requested help from adjacent law enforcement agencies in the San Luis Valley to find the escaped prisoner. All agencies in the area assisted in searching for the inmate.

At around 11 p.m. that night, the escaped prisoner was located on U.S. Highway 285 and was taken into custody by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office.

It is believed that Prieto was attempting to flee to Monte Vista. There were no injuries, and no other crimes were committed after the escape.

The Saguache County jail is the oldest jail in Colorado and recently the Saguache County Commissioners discussed a location for a new jail facility for the county, provided voters approve the measure.

Originally built as a home for the Sheriff, the jail was built in 1957 and includes the jail facility, Sheriff's office



Photo by Mechel Meek

An inmate escaped from the Saguache County Jail at 8 p.m. on July 5 and was apprehended three hours later.

administration, road patrol deputy offices and Saguache County dispatch in a small building next to the Courthouse.

According to Capt. Ken Wilson of the Saguache Sheriff's Office, "there is no other information regarding the details of the escape at this time, as the investigation is currently ongoing." More information will be released as it becomes available.

Nominations sought for 2021 Potatoes USA Board

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Potatoes USA

recently announced nominations are open for new board members for the 2022-2025 term. The Board is seeking nominees to fill a total of 60 open seats for producers from the following states: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Importers.

Potatoes USA is the nation's potato research and promotion organization and is the central organizing force in implementing programs to strengthen demand for U.S. potatoes. Potatoes USA provides the ideas, information, tools and inspiration for the industry to unite in achieving common goals.

All state potato organizations have received the information and materials

to begin the process of seeking and nominating interested growers. Appointed growers will be seated on the Board at the 2022 Annual Meeting in Denver, March 8-10, 2022.

Board Member Guidelines

It serves the good of both potato production regions and Potatoes USA by recruiting Board members who will take an active interest in participating on the Board. A Board member should communicate the interests of his-her production region to the Board and carry the message of the Board back to his-her farming community.

A nominee for Potatoes USA should be willing to:

- Attend the Board's Annual Meeting held in March each year of the three-year term, 2022-2025.
- Be active in the potato-farming community.
- Be visible in community work, participate in local government, cultural or business affairs — someone who is a leader.
- Be willing to represent and communicate with his-her constituents regularly.
- Take the time to actively support

Potatoes USA programs in his-her area.

• Speak to grower groups, newspaper reporters and interested parties about Potatoes USA programs, relating the value of the Board to all growers, how the 3-cent per hundredweight assessment is invested and ask for input from those interested in becoming active in the promotion of potatoes.

If you are interested in being considered to fill an open spot, contact your state program manager, Jim Ehrlich. Alternatively, contact Carrie Brown at the Potatoes USA office in Denver.

The nominating process closes on Aug. 15.

Commissioners Appoint Maintenance Department Supervisor

By MECHEL MEEK

SAGUACHE — The Saguache County Commissioners met for a work session on July 12 in person and via Zoom to appoint a new Maintenance Supervisor — Evan Samora.

After a closed-door session, the Commissioners announced the appointment of Evan Samora as the new Maintenance Department Supervisor, effective immediately. Samora will have a dual role as both the Housing Director and the Maintenance Department Supervisor. He will be trained in his new role by the outgoing Maintenance Director.



Photo by Mechel Meek

Evan Samora was hired as Saguache County's new Maintenance Supervisor.

After the appointment, the Commissioners discussed a revitalization of the Adopt-a-Highway program. This program benefits both the local business owners and the community. Businesses receive free advertising, and the community is beautified by removing litter from the roadways.

Currently, the Adopt-a-Highway program is not functioning as the signs have either been removed due to road construction or are out of date.

There was also a discussion regarding the current state of the maintenance building in

Sargent and the need to inspect the building for needed repairs.

Commissioner Tom McCracken said, "We need to be budgeting for capital expenditures."

This proclamation by McCracken was regarding the current state of several county owned buildings that may need repairs or replacement.

The next County Commissioners meeting is set for July 20, at 9:30 a.m. in person at the Saguache County Courthouse or via Zoom with the agenda to be announced on the County Commissioners website at a later time.

Are You Ready for an Upgrade?

Do you enjoy your life? Are you living with real peace, joy and fulfillment? Or are you stuck in the pain of past mistakes, abuse, injustices or some other hurt you've endured?

I know what it's like to live in "survival mode," just getting through each day and dreading a lot of what I had to do. I also know how life-changing it can be to discover the truth that God wants us to enjoy our lives. John 10:10 says, "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]" (AMP).

Before I discovered this scripture, I didn't understand that God meant for me to have a joy-filled life. I loved God and was a born-again Christian, and yet I was miserable! But John 10:10 clearly shows us that Jesus didn't die for us just so we could be miserable until we go to Heaven. He came so we can "have and enjoy life" now...in this life. And we can have this life if we'll choose to trust God and do what He shows us to do to become healed in our soul—our mind, will and emotions.

Face the Truth and Find Freedom

We all experience heartache or wounds from abuse or injustices of some kind. Getting hurt, hurts. But getting well hurts, too. One reason people stay broken is because there is pain in the healing process. It requires us to face the truth about ourselves—where we are and how we got there. And I know how hard this can be.

Because of the severe abuse I experienced for years before I left home at the age of 18, I was angry, insecure, suspicious, manipulative and controlling. I wasn't able to have healthy relationships because I didn't

like myself, which made me critical and judgmental of everyone else. I used my past to justify my bad behavior until God spoke to my heart and said, "Your past is the reason you are the way you are, but don't let it be the excuse to stay that way."

As I grew in my relationship with Christ, I learned the truth about His love for me...that He knew all about me and He loved me anyway. I was no surprise to God—He knew what He was getting when He chose me. And the same is true for you. The truth is we will always have some imperfections, but Jesus didn't come for the healthy—He came for the sick! That means we all qualify for help from God.

Pick Your Pain

The healing process is not easy; it takes time and we often make progress little by little. But the truth is you'll either have the pain of change or the pain of staying the same. The question is: *Are you tired of putting your energy into being miserable and mad all the time? Or are you ready for an upgrade?*

The thought of staying the same is scary to me. It makes me shiver to think I could still be the way I used to be more than 40 years ago now. Even though there was a lot of pain getting from there to where I am today, I can honestly say there has been more joy than pain. God gave me the grace to never give up, and if He did it for me, He'll do it for you!

Ephesians 2:10 says, "We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (NIV). God's plan for you is good, and He wants to help you take your journey through the healing process so you can become everything He created you to be. You



can trust Him to always be with you and to give you the strength to do everything you need to do (Philippians 4:13).

I really want to encourage you today to refuse to settle for less than the joy-filled life Jesus wants you to have. Face the truth about yourself and understand that if your soul has been severely damaged by abuse, abandonment, rejection, loss or anything else, the journey to wholeness won't be easy. But I promise you the joy you'll gain on the other side—the upgraded life you'll have in the end—will far outweigh the pain of the process!

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 more than 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.

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Planning ahead is key to selling a business

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Most businesses in the San Luis Valley are small, family-owned and family-run operations with much of the family's wealth invested in that business. When it comes time to sale the business or transfer ownership to a family member, the decision can be difficult. There may be years of work and sacrifice invested in the business' success. Taking planned and deliberate steps toward this transition can ease the process.

"It is important — well ahead of time — to have a succession plan," according to Jason Medina, director of the San Luis Valley Small Business Development Center in Alamosa. "To quote Benjamin Franklin, 'If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail!'"

Here are a few suggested actions gleaned from several sources that can help with a business transition:

Analyze the Current Economic Climate

Evaluate what is happening in the overall economy, locally, and in your business sector that could affect the sale of your business. Are interest rates high or low? Is your industry growing and what is the potential for growth in your region? Put together a list of potential buyers that should include family members, current employees, and competitors

According to Medina, it is important to include others who may be effected by your business transition, particularly employees. "Be inclusive. Train employees to know what you know. They have an interest in your business and no one wants to see a business fail."

Build a Group of Advisors

Most businesses already have a small group of professionals that help steer you and your business. People like an accountant, banker, insurance agent, attorney, financial advisor, or trusted business associate. Bring them together as an advisory group to help guide your transition. Each member will bring expertise from their field that can be valuable in developing your transition

strategy. Seek their advice on possible deals and impacts on assets, taxes, and legal issues.

Prepare Your Business
The goal is to maximize the value of your business. Is it "exit-ready"? Look for issues that might negatively affect the sale. Review tax documents; confirm that financial documents are up-to-date, accurate, and provide transparency of financial condition; and be sure corporate papers are current.

Value Your Business
This is perhaps the most critical step in business transition planning. Work with a business broker, your banker, or your accountant to do an estimated valuation of your business. A valuation early in the process will give you an idea of the value of your business and give you time to address issues.

In determining the value of your business, consider more than the value of inventory and real estate. "Try to monetize the reputation, respect, and good name your business has earned over the years," advised Medina. "They are valuable to you and the buyer."

Determine Personal Financial Needs

Decide how much money you need to meet your financial goals after the business sale. Do expected net proceeds meet those goals? Include tax obligations in that calculation.

"It is really important, years ahead, to plan your retirement. Don't sell yourself short," Medina offered.

Talk With Your Family

Let your family know you plans as soon as possible. Especially if family members are involved in the business. Failure to keep them informed can cause lasting conflict in the family.

The San Luis Valley Small Business Development Center can assist business owners in planning the sale of their business by one-on-one counselling with a strategic planning consultant and a business succession planning template. Contact Medina at the SLV-SBDC at 719-589-0312, or go online to www.slv-sbdc.com.

COFFEE

Continued from Page 1A

Police use of force policy. The policy is specific to Center and is based on state law and federal code. The policy must conform to these standards and that Lexipol, a law enforcement-based system, helps the town follow all the necessary guidelines for a proper policy. Use of force is governed by Supreme Court case law and is based on a reasonableness standard.

The reaction to a suspect and the use of force upon a suspect, is determined by policy, officer training and officer experience. Meek explained how use of force is viewed and judged stating, "It's not through my eyes, it's not through your eyes. It is through the eyes of the officer who is there, their Guadamma training and experience."

He went on to explain that each officer has differing amounts of experience, training and abilities. Each use of force situation is unique and needs to be viewed that way. After the discussion, the chairs were pulled away, mats were set up and a demonstration of the taser, a less lethal device, was given.

Officer Christian Guadamma volunteered to be "tased" in front of the group.

Before the demonstration, a taser "probe" was passed around for the attendees to view. It looks like a small silver cylinder with tiny fishhook style ends that attach to the person.

The taser device is deployed with a mechanism that fires two probes attached to wires, which strikes the suspect. This creates an electrical closed loop and the device delivers an electrical current through the wires to incapacitate the person. This electrical current, which is 5 seconds long, makes the muscles seize between the two connection points of the probes and thus the person is incapacitated.

After setting up safely, Sgt. Aaron Fresquez deployed the taser on Guadamma. First there was a loud pop as the cartridge fired, followed by the sound of electrical current. Guardaramma's muscles seized, and he was lowered to the mats by the officers assisting in the demonstration.

The muscle contractions created by the taser are described as extremely painful. This pain compliance can help to end a violent reaction by the suspect, and therefore less force would need to be used by the police.

After the completion of the demonstration, Meek and Fresquez fielded questions regarding the device. The next Coffee with the Chief will be in August, the date to be announced later on the Center Police Facebook page.



Photos by Mechel Meek
The monthly Coffee with the Chief meeting included a taser demonstration.



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.

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.

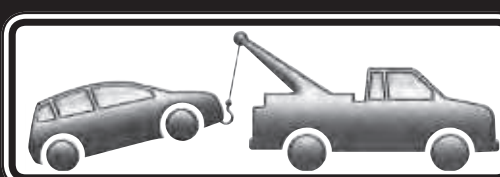
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Date: 6 - 15 - 21

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

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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 form5" 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.

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Fiesta de Santiago y Santa Ana is set for July 23-25

STAFF REPORT

SAN LUIS — The Town of San Luis invites you to the 170th year old tradition of celebrating the feast days of San Luis' patron saints, Santiago and Santa Ana. The Fiesta de Santiago y Santa Ana is a gathering of local generations to enjoy church events, authentic food, traditional music and most importantly, fun and community fellowship, while honoring the cultural uniqueness and heritage of San Luis, the oldest town in Colorado, and its surrounding villages.

The 2021 Fiesta is set for July 23 through 25, and kicks off on Friday, July 23, with Cuarenta Y Cinco performing at the San Luis Community Park. Saturday's band performances are Jerry Dean from 2 to 6 p.m. and Blue Ventures

from 8 p.m. to midnight.

The Feast of Santiago begins in Chama and includes a procession on Saturday, July 24, at 4:30 p.m. with a Mass at 5 p.m. and potluck following Mass. On Sunday, July 25, the Sangre de Cristo Parish will host the Mariachi Mass at 11 a.m. with food and musical Entertainment after Mass.

The Fiesta Car Show will be held on Saturday, July 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sangre de Cristo Parish. The annual Stations of the Cross 10K run-walk begins at 7 a.m. on Sunday, July 25. Sign up at www.raceentry.com.

If you are interested in being a vendor during this family fun-filled event, would like to enter a float for the parade contest, have a classic car to enter into the Classic Car Show or enter to walk or run in the Stations of the Cross 10K contact the San Luis Town Hall at 719-672-3321 or visit www.townofsanluisco.org, for more information.



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

Please see RAILS on Page 2

Part-owner Rob Hart explained how the rail bike works to participants this weekend at the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Depot in South Fork.



The Cowboy Way

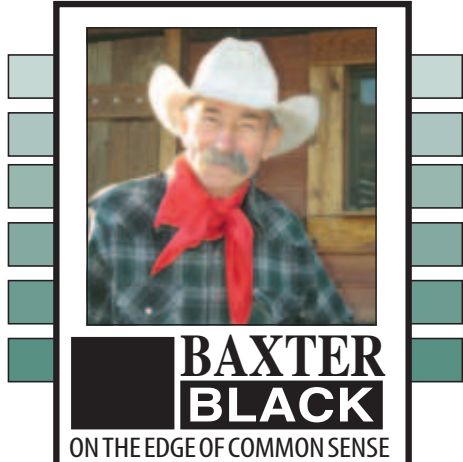
A good cowboy will go beyond the call of duty and even put himself in harm's way to help a suffering beast.

Doug and Patty run a ranch in that big wide country in eastern New Mexico. They'd received several loads of cow/calf pairs. The weather was against 'em and the calves went to scourin'.

The cows were turned out in a big pasture. Treating the calves wasn't easy. The morning of the incident, their neighbor, Caleb, came to help. He was ridin' a big mule. They trailed through the cows and spotted a good sized calf lookin' humped up. They watched for a minute and confirmed he was, in fact, afflicted.

Doug eased up and dropped a lazy loop around his neck.

It is a strange but almost predictable occurrence that a calf, who appears to be on the edge of his last breath can suddenly become a dynamo of jackrabbit speed and mad dog energy when suddenly caught with a rope.



BAXTER BLACK
ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Doug pulled the horn knot tight on his saddle as the calf slashed back and forth like a 200-pound marlin on the end of his line. Caleb was haulin' back on his mule to git outta the way. Not in time. The calf went around the outside of the mule and dang near toppled

him before they jumped clear. The mule took off in high gear! Caleb was mashin' on the brakes. You could smell 'em burnin' as he disappeared over a swell.

Doug kept his pony facin' the calf till it tangled the rope in some brush.

"Quick, Patty," Doug instructed. "Flank him and give him a Sudafed and some L.A. 200!"

Patty, who's a good cowboy herself, dismounted, went down the rope and flanked the calf just as the calf's mamma arrived, registering her disapproval. She was blowin' snot as Patty maneuvered around tryin' to keep the calf between herself and mama.

Doug saw Caleb out of his peripheral vision, racing back to the scene. "Great," he thought. "Help's on the way."

The mule was still out of control, on autopilot, so to speak. He never slowed but jumped the stretched rope like a steeple chaser. Caleb never shifted in his seat and disappeared out the other direction.

Patty had managed to give the shot and peel off the rope but the cow gave her a good roll anyway before chasing off after her darlin' baby.

I was lookin' at Patty while Doug was tellin' me this story. She nodded with that resigned look I often see in ranch women's eyes.

I said, "By gosh, Doug. Yer a heck'uva cowboy. You did all that and never got off yer horse."

"Yup," he said, "I was trainin' him."

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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Appeal to firewood cutters to scatter slash appropriately

Earlier this year, staff members brought to my attention an increasing problem that may be solved by a little public education. The problem is that some of the folks cutting/gathering firewood on the Rio Grande National Forest are leaving or scattering the slash generated by their activities in the wrong places along system roads. I have been recently advised that the firewood permits are going out the door relatively fast now, so it is time to address this growing problem.

This slash issue is contributing to more time and effort towards unplanned road maintenance which is substantially increasing the costs associated with those activities. Of particular concern to me is when the slash is purposely placed into the roadside ditches. There are a couple of reasons why this causes problems. First, it is important to

understand the function of what are often called "borrow ditches." They are designed to collect the water runoff from the roads and either distribute the water out into an acceptable area of the land where it will soak in, or the ditch will channel it to a culvert, where the water can cross back under the road and flow in a more natural manner down to a specific drainage, stream or river.

When the ditches are blocked by debris such as slash from firewood cutting, they are likely to overflow and distribute water back onto the roadbed, often at a higher velocity than desirable, or plug the needed relief culverts. This blockage creates a domino effect on destructive road erosion and sediment flows into our most precious streams. Most roads are, typically, designed to have the water slowly flow off the road to

minimize the amount of sediment transferred to the ditch and ultimately the streams. With higher flow rates, the water has the potential to cut into the roadbed and create unwanted and dangerous ruts, ditches or pools. The pools eventually become potholes and make the aggregate surface much rougher than it needs to be. Our maintenance operators are spending more time than usual on cleaning ditch's and trying to separate the debris from the roadway. In addition to reducing sedimentation, the goal is to prevent voids in the roadway that eventually lead to erosion issues. This all adds to increased maintenance time and costs.

A secondary concern of the slash piling up in the ditches is related to wildfires. Roadsides are often the

Land, Water and People

BY DAN DALLAS

place where we can make a stand against larger fires. If the ditches are full of stockpiled debris, the firefighters face a higher risk of embers crossing the road when these fuels eventually ignite, whether it be the advancing fire or during a purposely set backfire.

If these roadside areas have less burnable debris along them, firefighters can more readily and safely conduct firing operations designed to starve an advancing fire front of fuels that will facilitate it jumping across the road.

Over the years, I've been impressed by the immediate responses to my request for help on issues similar to this. Once again, I'm asking for our great communities to help us keep maintenance costs down and manage our fire risk. By dragging slash generated by firewood cutting activities, a few feet into the forest where it will not be a risk to drainage or fire operations, we can minimize the potential for that slash to cause larger problems.

Dan Dallas is the Forest Supervisor of the Rio Grande National Forest.

RAILS

Continued from Page 1

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 Schaffer.

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.

ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

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

Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates Shown (in./day)				Accumulated Water Use (ET) (inches)				
		7/11	7/10	7/9	7/8	From 2day	7/11 3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.17	0.23	0.17	0.22	0.41	0.58	0.79	1.02	1.46
Moravian 69	05/05	0.21	0.28	0.20	0.24	0.49	0.69	0.93	1.17	1.63
Early Wheat	04/05	0.20	0.27	0.20	0.24	0.47	0.67	0.91	1.15	1.61
Early Wheat	05/05	0.21	0.28	0.20	0.24	0.49	0.69	0.93	1.17	1.63
White Wheat	04/05	0.21	0.28	0.20	0.24	0.49	0.69	0.93	1.17	1.63
White Wheat	05/05	0.21	0.28	0.20	0.24	0.49	0.69	0.93	1.17	1.63
WinterWheat	10/01	0.13	0.18	0.13	0.17	0.32	0.45	0.62	0.79	1.14
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.22	0.29	0.21	0.25	0.51	0.72	0.97	1.23	1.71
Centennial	05/05	0.19	0.24	0.16	0.19	0.43	0.59	0.78	0.97	1.29
Nugget	05/05	0.18	0.23	0.16	0.19	0.42	0.58	0.77	0.96	1.29
Alfalfa	Est.	0.24	0.32	0.22	0.28	0.56	0.78	1.06	1.34	1.86
Lawgrass	Est.	0.20	0.26	0.19	0.23	0.47	0.65	0.88	1.12	1.55

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 14 and weather station closest to your own. Find this up July 14d table each day at this web address: <http://aes-slvrc.agsci.colostate.edu/daily-crop-water-use-report/>
 This information is provided by the SLV Research Center (Colorado State University) and the Colorado Potato Certification Service. For info, call 754-3494 x26 or e-mail: andrew.houser@colostate.edu

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~ B.Gullette

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Hagood donates weaving to Adams State Luther Bean Museum



ALAMOSA — Nancy Hagood donated a Rio Grande weaving to the Adams State University Luther Bean Museum. The family inheritance has been passed down for over 100 years.

“The Rio Grande blanket is in excellent shape,” said Tawney Becker, museum collections manager. “We appreciate Nancy taking the time to contact us and offer the weaving, which is an excellent addition to our current textile collection.”

Several of the Rio Grande blankets are on display, curated by the former Salazar Rio Grande del Norte intern, Pati Rodriguez.

Hagood, from Corvallis, Ore., has deep roots in the San Luis Valley. Her great-grandparents, Horace and Mary Curtis Campbell, were early settlers in the Saguache area before moving to Oregon in the late 1890s. The Rio Grande weaving made the trip west with the couple.

The Adams State Luther Bean Museum is located on the second floor of Richardson Hall and is open from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, closed on July 5.

Nancy Hagood with the Rio Grande blanket she donated .

Courtesy photo

Future engineers accelerate their college career

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Lora Ortega and Gabe Heersink are among high-achieving high school students who received their Associates Degree from Adams State before their high school diploma. Ortega and Heersink are part of a rising trend of associate degree attainment among local high schoolers.

“I am very excited to have earned my associates degree before graduating high school because it just shows how hard I worked throughout high school,” Ortega said.

Heersink shares the same sentiment, hard work pays off.

“I pursued my associates to gain college level experience at a much lower cost,” Heersink said.

Through dual enrollment San Luis Valley high school students take Adams State courses, which count as both college and high school credits. Tuition is covered by the high school as long as students meet the requirements. It is also possible for credits to transfer to any public Colorado college or university through the Colorado Department of Higher Education guaranteed transfer curriculum, and some institutions outside those parameters may accept credits as well.

Ortega and Heersink, two Alamosa High School seniors, have more in common. Both were accepted to South Dakota School of Mines. Ortega will pursue a degree in biomedical engineering and Heersink in mechanical engineering.

“Having my associates degree will assist me in reaching my future goals,” Heersink added. “I will not have to take as many courses to achieve the degree I desire and move on to the field.”

Ortega was recruited to play golf for SD School of Mines. She also appreciates the benefits of moving to higher level courses sooner.

“Having my associates will help to have more of a science background going into college,” Ortega said.

There are four different ways that high school students can take courses including on-campus, online, live-stream video (Zoom) or at their high school with an approved instructor.

According to Renae Haslett, Extended Studies program director, 247 students were enrolled in concurrent classes this spring and four completed their associates degree.

“We work with all 14 valley school districts though not all of them have students taking courses

every semester,” Haslett said.

Adams State is a COVID-19 College Challenge Champion

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The White House and the U.S. Department of Education declared Adams State University a COVID-19 College Challenge Champion.

The White House and the U.S. Department of Education invited colleges and universities across the country to join them in efforts to end the pandemic by signing up for the COVID-19 College Challenge.

Adams State has hosted five COVID-19 vaccination clinics since March, including three through the mobile clinic. The mobile clinic will

be back on campus several more times throughout the summer.

On June 11, the Adams State Board of Trustees voted to require all students, faculty, and staff to be vaccinated, after at least one of the current emergency-use authorized vaccines receive full approval by the FDA.

Adams State plans to return all classrooms, labs, and research spaces to 100 percent, in-person, capacity for the fall semester. In addition, housing and dining areas will return to full usage with the vaccine requirement in place.

Health Tip - The Typical Suspects



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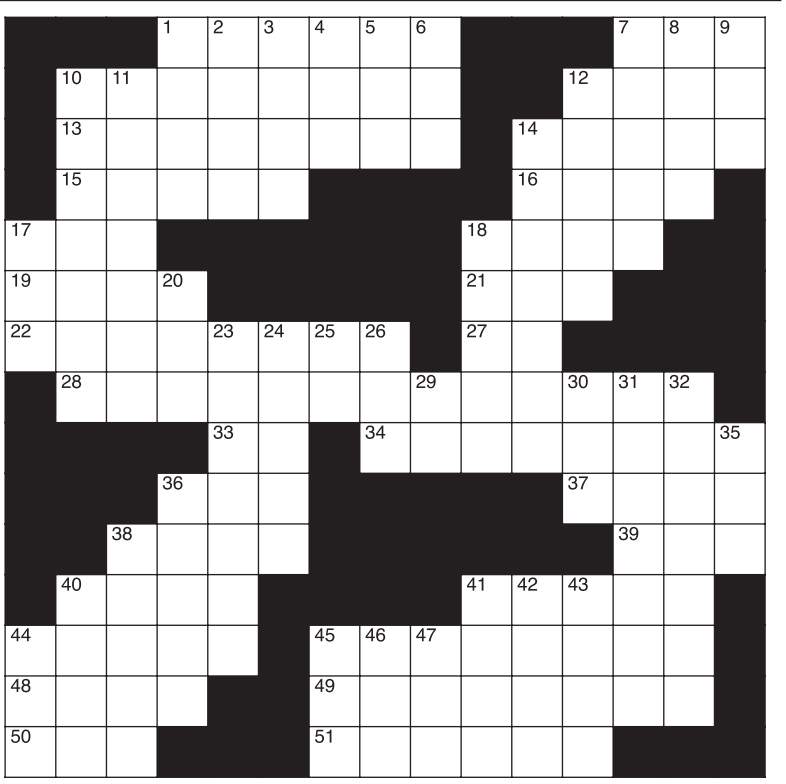
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CLUES ACROSS

1. African nation
7. ___ fi (slang)
10. Not arranged according to size
12. A demand for a show of hands in a card game
13. Having a play of lustrous rainbowlike colors
14. Panama has one
15. Taking legal action
16. Top of the body
17. Part of (abbr.)
18. Soul and calypso song
19. Murres
21. Irish river
22. Accepts as true
27. The Bay State
28. 1950s Hollywood icon
33. Blood type
34. In a way, became lost
36. Large primate
37. A spongelike cake leavened with yeast
38. Mama ___, folk singer
39. Visual metaphor (computers)
40. Trim by cutting
41. Small group of people
44. Pulitzer-winning scientist
45. Unique S. American mammal
48. Energy, style and enthusiasm
49. One who works for you



50. Snakelike fish
51. Consumers

23. Goes by
24. Ambience
25. Video game manufacturer
26. Surplus Marketing Administration
29. Football position
30. Electronic musical style (abbr.)
31. Furniture with open shelves
32. Clouds of gas in outer space
35. Indian midwife
36. Packers' signal caller
38. Secret political clique
40. Cry weakly
41. Gomer ___, marine
42. Academic Bill of Rights
43. Negatives
44. Hip hop icon Kool Moe ___
45. Soul singer ___ Lo
46. Doctors' group
47. Parts per thousand (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. Cylindrical sacs
2. Extinct North Germanic language
3. Late rocker Allman
4. Word element meaning ear
5. Amino acid (abbr.)
6. Promotions
7. Actress Lathan
8. Clothed
9. Unwell
10. Loosen
11. Cephalopod mollusks
12. ___ at Obdurata: Harmful papal bull
14. Musical composition
17. Irish bar
18. Greek island
20. Afflict

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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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)

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

The San Luis Valley Healthcare Coalition (SLV HCC) is seeking an independent contractor to provide professional operational coordinator services. The contractor is responsible for providing a wide range of HCC program operational coordination for the following the San Luis Valley counties: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and, Saguache. The Operational Coordinator will serve as a co-liaison between the SLV HCC, local and state counterparts, federal agencies, and all appropriate stakeholders provid-

ing activities related to the Statement of Work (SOW), especially with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (CDPHEOEP) Healthcare Coalition program. The Operational Coordinator along with the Readiness & Response Coordinator (R&R Coordinator), will handle day-to-day activities of the SLVHCC and provide coordination to complete funding grant deliverables. This position works closely with the R&R Coordinator, the SLVHCC Leadership/Steering Committee, and the fiscal agent for the SLVHCC; for guidance and decision-making. Responses should be submitted electronically as a pdf document to: coordinator@slvhcc.org. Requests for additional information and/or questions should be coordinated through coordinator@slvhcc.org. Please visit www.riograndecounty.org for more information. Deadline for proposals is July 21, 2021 (7/21)

Rio Grande County Public Health, serving as the fiscal agent for the San Luis Valley Healthcare Coalition, is seeking a Readiness and Response Coordinator. The Readiness and Response Coordinator will serve as the primary liaison between the SLVHCC, local and state counterparts, federal agencies,

and all appropriate stakeholders providing activities related to the Statement of Work (SOW), especially with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (CDPHE-OEP) Healthcare Coalition program. The Coordinator will handle day-to-day activities of the SLVHCC and provide coordination to complete funded grant deliverables. This position reports to the Public Health Department Director or designee Program Manager at Rio Grande County Public Health Department for supervision, guidance and decision-making. This is

a grant funded position through the Healthcare Preparedness Program funding from CDPHE and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). Required Experience Minimum of 5 years' experience in healthcare emergency management, planning and response. Certification in Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and experience designing, facilitating, and evaluating all types of HSEEP exercises, previous work with adult learners, including training development and facilitation and incident Command System (ICS) or HICS 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 800 certifications.

Please take the time to find out more about Rio Grande County Public Health at <https://www.riograndecounty.org/public-health>, <https://www.riograndecounty.org> and the coalition at www.slvhcc.org before applying for this position. This is a .75 FTE position no benefits. \$40,000. Resumes can be sent to humanresources@riograndecounty.org or mailed to 925 6th Street #200, Del Norte, CO 81132. (7/21)

District Special Education Teacher Description: The Mof-fat Consolidated School District #2 has a position for a full-time special education teacher. Inter-

Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society

www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org

If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366
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We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.

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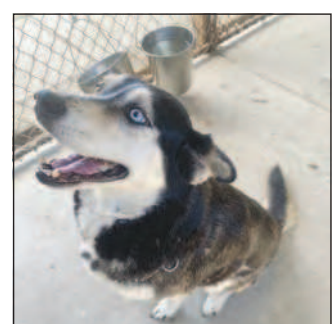
LOST DOGS:

The Shelter is totally full! We have had a large influx of strays this past week. If you are missing your dog please call us at 719-852-3366 so we can let you know if animal control has brought us a dog that matches yours!

Bart was found in Rio Grande County off of West County Rd 9 North



Eddie was found running in the Community Park in Center.



Emelia and Bolt were both found running together off Madison Rd in Monte Vista.



This week we had 9 - 5 month old Border collie mix puppies surrendered. These dogs are looking for great homes to help them learn how to be good canine citizens and are going to be loving members of your family. They are all clean slates on training and have lived with other dogs before.

Please note we are on a first come first serve basis.

All breeds & ages of animals are a "best guess" and are not guaranteed to be accurate. Adoption fee includes: neuter/spay, vaccinations, de-worming and micro-chipping. *This ad space donated by Valley Publishing Inc.*

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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, 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. MCSD #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. MCSD #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

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
- 1979 45' Utility Van Trailer, Good Condition
- 2012 Big Tex Lowboy - 30 Ton - Like New
- Several 28' Van Trailers, all in good Condition
- Jeep Rock Crawler - Very Good Condition
- Several Van Bodies (storage) - 16' to 40' in Length
- Honda VTXV-Twin Motorcycle
- Literally hundreds of antique farm implements - plows, disks, mowers, rakes, etc.
- 1986 Winnebago Camper, 53,000 original miles - Good Condition
- Lots of shop tools, bolts bins, power tools, cutting torch, etc. - too numerous to mention
- 6x6 Army Truck - Good Condition
- (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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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. Th 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 DOE, plus full benefits. To apply please visit www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov or applications can be picked up at City Hall, 95 W. 1st Ave Monte Vista, CO 81144. Position will remain open until filled, first review 1 July 2021. EEO ADA (7/23)

South Fork Visitor Center is looking for Summer Assistant, non-smoker, weekends plus, send

photo and resume to vcdirector@southfork.org. (7/23)

Del Norte Elementary School is seeking an energetic, caring candidate to serve as a Para Educator. Applicants must have a high school diploma. Please submit your application to Amy Duda, DNES Principal at 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO 81132; aduda@urtigers.co; or call at 719-657-4030. The position will be open until filled. You can pick up an application at the District Office or on-line. (7/14)

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2 BDRM, 1 bath duplex in Monte Vista. W/D included. \$750 per month - includes water, sewer, and trash. NO PETS Call 303-589-5455 for more details (8/4)

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Sprinkler repair. Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (07/23)

24 Garage Sales
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36 Miscellaneous
WANTED: Butter Churn in good working condition. Please Contact 719-849-8742. (7/28)

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HVCC visits Rio Grande County Museum

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

DEL NORTE — The High Valley Community Center has been busy this summer, working throughout the community of Del Norte, going on field trips and everything in between. During the last month, students with the center visited the Rio Grande County Museum and worked with Director Louise Colville to create exhibits, learn about history in the area and learned about the museum.

So far, students helped create the World War II exhibit that is on display at the museum until mid-November. The exhibit features artwork from local student Joseph Trujillo and the rest was put together by HVCC students and museum staff. Students learned about World War II while completing the exhibit.

“It has been such a pleasure to have these students coming to help us this summer. We enjoy having their enthusiasm and new ideas. They are such a huge help when they come and we are very happy to have them,” said Colville.

During their time at the museum, students learned about World War II and some of the local heroes that fought in the war, including Dr. V.V. Anderson. Anderson was one of the few who survived the 85-mile death march after being captured by the Japanese. His uniform and some of his artifacts are on display with others that called the San Luis Valley and specifically Rio Grande County home.

In addition to some of the local heroes, students also learned about

the Monte Vista prisoner of war camp where captives from the war came to work for local farmers. These men spent up to two years working the fields in the San Luis Valley making sure that supplies for the war were sent overseas and some spoke about their time here as some of the best years they had ever had.

On Thursday, June 24, students from High Valley came to participate in a scavenger hunt, seeking specially picked artifacts through out the museum. Over 100 students and their chaperones came to enjoy an afternoon of fun.

Students will continue to visit the museum and will be working to create displays for future displays for the rest of the summer. The opening for the World War II exhibit is on July 10 at 10 a.m. with refreshments to follow. The museum is located at 580 Oak St., Del Norte.



High Valley Community Center students search for hidden artifacts at the Rio Grande County Museum on June 24 during a scavenger hunt.



Photos courtesy of High Valley Community Center

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County: OHVs prohibited on Bee McClure Drive

MINERAL COUNTY — After a vote by Mineral County Commissioners on July 6, the county is prohibiting OHVs on Bee McClure Drive between Bachelor Loop Road and Creede city limits.

For more information, contact the county office at 719-658-2331.

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El Pomar Foundation approves \$50K to nonprofit in SLV

STAFF REPORT
COLORADO SPRINGS — Grant funding of \$50,000 will go to support the work of Care and Share of Colorado Springs in the San Luis Valley region.

El Pomar Trustees approved the \$50,000 competitive grant at the Foundation's May Trustees meeting to support a new Alamosa warehouse.

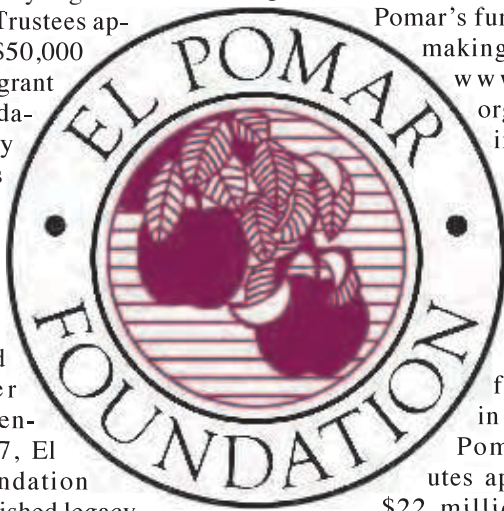
Founded by Spencer and Julie Penrose in 1937, El Pomar Foundation has an established legacy of general-purpose grant making throughout the state of Colorado.

The competitive process remains the Foundation's primary vehicle for organizations to receive funding, which accepts applicants on a rolling basis.

Additionally, over the last 80 years, El Pomar has either developed or been entrusted with the stewardship of several other funds, as well as presenting Trustee merit grants. To view a full listing of El

Pomar's funds and grant making areas, visit www.elpomar.org/grant-making/el-pomar-funds/.

El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado. El Pomar contributes approximately \$22 million annually through grants and community stewardship programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations involved in health, human services, education, arts and humanities and civic and community initiatives.



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ASU's Marquez inspires students long after graduation

By LINDA RELYEA
SLV Healthy

ALAMOŒA — As an Adams State student athlete, Ken Marquez propelled himself through the air, cleared the bar and then free-fell onto the thick pit. His pole-vaulting technique, skill and success were future indicators of his approach to his life and profession.

Marquez, Class of 1987 and 1994, still moves with quick precision, sees obstacles ahead as challenges to overcome, and knows when to relax his grip and follow his instincts, talents he has used the last 10 years as Vice President of Student Affairs at his alma mater. He retired on April 30.

"I love it and I will miss it so much," he says of his former job and Adams State.

His impact on students continues long after their graduation. Patrick Cleary, Adams State Class of 2017, is currently a practicing attorney with Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt in Portland, Ore.

"I was fortunate enough to learn from Ken in multiple settings and witnessed him speak up for what he thought was right, regardless of popularity," Cleary says. "This is something easy to preach and hard to practice. I specifically remember cabinet meeting votes or resolutions where Ken was the only one to call out flaws in otherwise popular opinions. I was impressed then, remain impressed now, and strive to emulate him as I shape my career."

Marquez's story is one of paying it forward. What Marquez did for Cleary and hundreds of other students came from kindness shown by a resident assistant his first semester at college.

"He took the time to pay attention to me and bring me out of my shell and I knew that was the kind of person I wanted to be," Marquez says. "Someone who sees and really cares about others, who is compassionate and takes the time to listen and really give them your time."

Students first

In college, Marquez became a resident assistant and after graduation a resident director before leaving for Northern Arizona University in 1994 to gain additional experience in housing and student life.

Fortunately for Adams State, Marquez accepted the position of associate director of housing and residence life in 2000 and was promoted to the director position when it became available.

His supervisors saw nothing but promise in Marquez, whose positive attitude and energy are his hallmarks. In 2004, he was responsible for the overall operations of Adams State's campus housing system and broad overall program of the Student Union Building as director of auxiliary services.

His skill set and welcoming personality truly found their place when he accepted the full-time Dean of Student Affairs, eventually promoted to Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, and retiring as VP of Student Affairs.

"Often the higher up you go in administration the further you get from students. I was not going to let that happen," he says.

He stayed in touch with students' needs and expectations as the Associated Students and Faculty (AS&F) advisor.

"I can't advocate for them if I don't know what is happening from their perspective," he says.

AS&F Presidents say 'true that'

Mariah McDermott, Class of 2020, appreciated Marquez as a down-to-earth and approachable advisor when she was AS&F president.

"Ken genuinely cared for everyone on the team, and he made an effort to get to know each team member," she says. "He was available and present during each meeting, event, retreat and interaction I shared with him. Ken went above and beyond to make sure students knew who he was and stood out compared to all other administrators."

Cleary served as AS&F president from 2015 through 2017.

"Ken inspired me during my time at Adams and continues to serve as an inspiration today," the attorney says. "Ken's deep caring nature, not only for the university, but the development of each student, was contagious and unmatched. He took a genuine interest in the success of students and always encouraged continued growth through extracurricular activities, which he ardently supported. If it mattered to a student, it mattered to Ken and that permeated throughout everything he was involved in, and AS&F was no exception."

After decades of working with college students, Marquez has seen many of the same issues arise repeatedly.

"Here is the deal: I treat everyone like an individual. I really take the



Photo by Linda Relyea

Known for his positive attitude, Ken Marquez (fourth from left) joins the 2019-2020 Adams State AS&F officers in an energetic leap. He retired as VP of Student Affairs on April 30.

time to listen and give them my time. Every situation is different, and everyone needs to be heard," he says.

His dedication inspired Cleary.

"There is no one who cares more about Adams State and its students than Ken. It is difficult to explain the magnitude of the impact Ken has had on me," he says. "He is a huge part of where I am today and I hope to one day be the leader he is. As a corporate lawyer, I encounter difficult decisions daily and am able to maneuver each [one] thanks to the guidance that Ken provided during my time at Adams State. Throughout my career, I strive

to emulate his traits of leadership, amicability, and passion."

Marquez earned his master's in Community Guidance and Counseling from Adams State in 1994, which he says was invaluable during his career working in higher education.

"Ken's empathy and genuine interest in the lives of students inspired me," McDermott adds. "Ken is a good person, and that makes him a good leader and I was inspired to try to do the same."



Photo by Jonah Bricker

Ken Marquez retired as VP of Student Affairs from Adams State after decades of putting students first. Pictured, he presents Sheniqua Griffith with the 2019 Vice President for Student Affairs Outstanding Leadership Award at the annual banquet.

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Junior events will have payout on entries and buckles. Age for all events is as of January 1, 2021.

All open events have an incentive for San Luis Valley Contestants! (must be able to verify residency with two forms of ID)

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 10:00 am: Parade (Main Street)
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COME JOIN THE FUN!

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 10:00 am-11:59 pm: Carnival
 11:00 am-10:00 pm: Free Entertainment (Jack Dempsey Park)

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 8:00 am Rodeo Slack Events (Fairgrounds)
 10:00 am: Parade (Main Street)
 12:30 pm: Rodeo (Fairgrounds)
 6:00 pm: Demolition Derby (Fairgrounds)
 9:00 pm: Lighting of the "M" (M Mountain)

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President Lovell's new role with NCAA vaults ASU to national arena

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA — Adams State University President Cheryl D. Lovell was appointed to the NCAA Division II President's Council for a six-year term, beginning this summer. She will join other presidents or chancellors from across the nation on the 18-member Council.

President Lovell is filling one of the At-large positions.

"I am excited and proud to represent Adams State at this national organization," she said.

Student-athletes make up one-third of Adams State's student body and it makes sense for President Lovell to focus on national organizations and national advocacy groups that represent significant student populations of the campus.

"It is amazing how many know about Adams State University because of our athletic standing, especially our running programs, and I believe we need to be represented at the national level," she said.

According to ncaa.org, the Presidents Council is Division III's highest governance office. Its members are charged with setting the strategic direction for the division in

all areas, including its financial affairs and championships administration. The President's Council is also the primary sponsor of legislative proposals at the NCAA Convention, and the chair of the Council moderates the Division II Business Session at the annual Convention.

President Lovell plans on continuing advocating for the students, as she did on the NCAA Division II Academic Council.

"I spoke up with any new policy being introduced to ask how it would impact the student athlete experience and enhance their ability to earn a degree," she said. "We have to think

from the student athlete's experience. They have to do well in the classroom or what they do on the track, on the court or in the field doesn't matter."

The Council's composition is based on a weighted regional representation that includes one president or chancellor per region for every 22 institutions in that region. In addition, two At-large positions exist to help achieve diversity of representation and to accommodate independent institutions.

"I think of it as elevating Adams State and moving its name and reputation into a national arena, where it should be," President Lovell said.



Photo courtesy of Adams State University
Adams State University Professor of Counselor Education Laura Bruneau, Ph.D., recently contributed to a published book on the roles of dogs in college students' lives. Pictured, Bruneau with her retired therapy dog, Moose.

Adams State professor helps tell the tale of canine connection for college students

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA — Laura Bruneau, Adams State professor of counselor education, co-authored a chapter in the new book, "Bringing Postsecondary Students Together with Dogs: Dog Welfare, Health, Safety, and Liability Considerations."

Bruneau's chapter, "The Canine-Campus Connection: Roles for Dogs in the Lives of College Students," is just one of the offerings in the book, edited by Mary Renck Jalongo, a professor emerita from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and which is published by Purdue University Press. The book provides evidence-based guidance on bringing college students and canines together in mutually beneficial ways.

Bruneau's co-author is Amy Johnson, director of the Center for Human Animal Interventions at Oakland University and senior coordinator of continuing education in OU's School of Nursing.

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Pre-Sale At Door	General Admission \$35 \$40	Reserved \$45 \$50	Premium Reserved \$50
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Friday & Saturday - 9 p.m.
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Stampede Ticket Office, 852-2055

Ticket Information

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Reserve Seating - Child	\$10	\$12
General Admission - Adult	\$15	\$17
General Admission - Child	\$10	\$10
Arena Seats Reserved	\$18	\$20
Country Western Dance	\$10	\$10
Sunday, July 25th		
Senior Citizen Day	\$7	\$7
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Youth Night

at Ski-Hi Stampede Dance

Saturday, July 24

First 100 Youth (under 21 years old) with paid admission will receive a FREE Commemorative Stampede T-Shirt!

Family Day at the Rodeo

Friday, July 23
 7 p.m.
 Local SLV Amateur Events & Professional Slack at 1 p.m.



Wright's Amusements Carnival

Canned Food Drive

Bring 2 cans of food items to the Carnival & you can buy an all-day carnival pass for \$25
 Wednesday, July 21



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Photo by Vibrant Valley Photography

Ski-Hi Stampede Committee: back row, left to right, Cliff Edwards, Greg Metz, Brandon Rogers, Charlie Burd, and Nick Malone; front row, left to right, Keith Rogers, Mark Deacon, Eric Kimberling, Helen Smith, Karla Willschau, Jason Tillman, CE Glunz and John Willschau. Committee members not pictured: David Cooper, Derek Cooper, Bob Carlucci and Rocky Southway.

Ski-Hi Stampede ready to celebrate 99th year

MONTE VISTA — Colorado's Oldest Pro Rodeo is celebrating its 99th anniversary in 2021. The San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede will return to Monte Vista July 22-25. Described as having "roots as deep as the San Luis Valley itself," the event continues to be a key feature of the Professional Rodeo landscape in Colorado and beyond.

Founded in 1919, the Ski-Hi Stampede has continued for nine decades with three years deducted — two during World War II and one during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to old newspaper reports, the

first Stampede was held on Aug. 11-13, 1919, with more than 10,000 attending the event. Since that time, the Ski-Hi Stampede has received four nominations for PRCA Small Rodeo of the Year and has come to be recognized as a mainstay of San Luis Valley history and culture.

The annual Stampede festivities feature a kick-off concert, three performances of PRCA rodeo, a carnival, parades and dances. The event continues to gain in popularity and remains the premier event of the summer for the San Luis Valley.

The Stampede concert attracts the

largest crowds in the Valley and has featured numerous high-profile county music artists including Josh Turner, Thomas Rhett and Old Dominion. Over the years, icons such as Chris LeDoux and the Charlie Daniels Band have also made stops in Monte Vista. The 2021 concert is set to feature Scotty McCreery and Ned LeDoux.

The Ski-Hi Stampede also provides opportunities for the SLV community. Those opportunities include the chance for local amateurs to compete for trophy saddles in team roping, tie-down roping

and barrel racing. Furthermore, the Stampede Committee partners with Adams State University to provide scholarships to local students who demonstrate community involvement. The event is relatively unique in that it features a variety of entertainment choices and remains a social gathering that families have been known to return to annually.

The tradition of Stampede is expected to continue well into the future with no signs of slowing down. It has been hailed as a testament to what can be accomplished when a community comes together.

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Welcome to the 99th Ski-Hi Stampede Rodeo

We've missed the wonderful people of the San Luis Valley! We are so excited to be back this year, and we know you are, too! On Thursday, July 22, the Monte Vista Rotary Club will be doing a baked potato and chili supper. After the supper, we are pleased to announce another spectacular concert featuring Ned LeDoux and Scotty McCreery. Immediately after the concert, make sure to stay and watch the fireworks, and then join us for the first dance featuring Shotgun Jefferson.



Photo by Vibrant Valley Photography

On Friday, July 23, the first rodeo of the event will kick off at 7 p.m. with the world-class stock contractor Stace Smith and rodeo announcer Andy Seiler. We will also have Rodeos on Saturday the 24th at 7 p.m., and Sunday the 25th at 2 p.m. There will be a parade on Saturday, July 24th at 10 a.m. This year's parade theme is "On the Road Again".

Don't forget to take your family to Wright's Amusement Carnival as they exceed our expectations every year with new rides. They promise to have a full slate of rides this year.

We hope you don't miss this opportunity to get out and spend time with friends and family and enjoy what the San Luis Valley community has to offer. For more information, check out our website at skihistampede.com, like us on Facebook and Instagram, or add us on Snapchat!

Have a great time at the 99th Ski Hi Stampede!

~ Greg Metz, President



Photo by Brian Williams

Still time to donate to Ski Hi complex project

MONTE VISTA — The Friends of Ski Hi have been able to pull off what seemed to be impossible by raising \$8.5 million-plus from various foundations, local governments and local citizens that all care deeply about our San Luis Valley.

The old building benefited thousands of San Luis Valley residents and visitors over the years and now the new building will benefit thousands more of future generations of our friends and families. Just think of all the good times that occurred for you and your families over the years.

The project is short approximately \$200,000 and we the Ski-Hi Stampede Committee are encouraging you

to think about the many years you used this facility and the many years to come that you will be using this facility.

If you have not donated, please consider doing so by seeing Karla Shriver and Kathy Woods inside of this beautiful new building today.

We have the power of multiplying on our side. If every person that had a good time at the Ski-Hi Stampede donates any amount it will fill the gap. No amount is too small, as it all adds up!

Please make an investment in your family's future by stopping in to see the Friends of Ski Hi, Karla and Kathy.

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Stampede, ASU partner on annual scholarships

MONTE VISTA — San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede, Inc. and Adams State University Foundation both know the importance of being involved in local communities and supporting local youth.

The San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede and Adams State University Foundation have teamed up to provide three \$3,500 scholarships to any male or female San Luis Valley resident. The scholarships will be awarded to qualifying applicants during the 2021 Stampede rodeo. Qualifications include in the year of scholarship application, the applicant must have or will be participating either in the San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede Rodeo, San Luis Valley High School Rodeo, San Luis Valley Little Britches Rodeo, or the San Luis Valley Fair as a 4-H or FFA participant; or be a stockholder or child of a San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede shareholder or be a volunteer during the Stampede.



Courtesy photo
Adams State Foundation Scholarship winners Dr. Cheryl D. Lovell (left) was at the 2019 Ski-Hi Stampede Rodeo in Monte Vista to present the Adams State Foundation Scholarship to recipients, from left, Lexi Metz, Sarah Shoeller and Sara Brunelli. Each receives a \$3,500 scholarship to Adams State University.

Contractor Smith Pro Rodeos provides quality stock

MONTE VISTA — If the bulls look meaner, the horses rougher and the calves and steers more agile, thank perennial Stampede favorite stock contractor Stace Smith.

Stace Smith produces more PRCA rodeos than any other PRCA stock contractor. In addition to PRCA rodeos, Smith Pro Rodeos produces PBR and Bronc Match events throughout the year. It is in large part to his experience that

Stace Smith has been named PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. This consecutive 11-year accomplishment has never been achieved in PRCA history.

Stace has worked at every level of rodeo, beginning as a contestant, then spending time as chute boss, and pickup man. Smith was chosen as pickup man for the Texas Circuit

finals in both 2005 and 2007, and continues to pickup at a number of our events.

In 2009, Stace Smith became a shareholder in Mesquite Championship Rodeo, and in 2014, Smith Pro Rodeos has served as the committee or partners with the committee at 26 of the 39 events produced. This one-of-a-kind experience gives them an inside edge on what it takes to help

the committees achieve one of the ultimate goals of spectator sports, putting spectators in the seats. In 2014, Smith Pro Rodeos had seven PRCA rodeos nominated in the four “Rodeo of the Year” categories. Smith Pro Rodeos produces rodeos across nine different states from Mississippi through Texas, Colorado, North Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

Each performance is carefully planned, from building equal,

exciting pens of livestock, to planning the order they will be presented according to the stock and rider’s attributes. All timed event livestock come directly from the Smith ranch, so there are no mismatched pens or delivery issues. Because of these efforts, turnouts are at a minimum, so each rodeo is a balanced representation of the sport.

For more information, go online to www.smithprorodeos.com.



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Andy Seiler to announce Ski-Hi Stampede

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — The oldest rodeo in Colorado will be welcoming a new voice to announce the goings-on in the arena, this year. Andy Seiler will be heading up the announcing duties for Ski-Hi Stampede.

Seiler has been in the business for just over a decade and his career has followed an ascendant path being branded “an up-and-coming voice for professional rodeo,” by Boyd Polhamus and according to former NIRA Commissioner John Smith. “I honestly believe Andy will be one of the best-recognized announcers in the sport of rodeo.”

Rodeo is a family affair for Seiler as he and both parents competed in rodeo. In his high school competition days, he was a three-time champion team roper in the National High School Finals Rodeo. From there he qualified three times for the College National Finals Rodeo during his time at Troy College in Alabama.

To earn some extra money for college expenses, Seiler used his first-hand experience to take up gigs announcing at amateur rodeos. After winning the Walt Garrison Award of the

National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA), Seiler’s first big break came in the form of an invitation from announcer Boyd Polhamus for Seiler to be his co-announcer at the National College Rodeo Finals in 2008.

After three years of working various rodeos including Rodeo Houston, Cervi Championship Rodeo and Harry Vold, he stepped away from the scene to get a “real” job, working for a feed supply company in Florida. During that time, he married his childhood sweetheart. Bringing about his next big break, in the form of another phone call from Polhamus asking Seiler to fill in as the announcer at Rodeo Houston.

From there, his announcing career took off as he was in demand at rodeos across the nation. All of this eventually leading to a prestigious spot at-mic for the National Finals Rodeo.

Seiler is well suited for his profession as he has plenty of experience with rodeo as well as a broadcast journalism degree. He also knows a thing or two about making the event fun for all ages as Seiler is a husband and a father.

He has announced all over the country in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA).



Bring canned food to carnival on Wednesday

MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista Food Bank is once again partnering with Ski-Hi Stampede and Wright’s Amusements for the annual food drive.

Come down to the carnival Wednesday, July 21, for opening night and get a discount on ride bracelets for 2 cans of food per bracelet.

They will be set up toward the

east end of the carnival. Look for a horse trailer with the banner.

This offer will only be available Wednesday, July 21.

Please make sure any food you bring is unopened and unexpired.

Thank you for supporting the Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank and have a safe and fun Stampede.

Tentative schedule of events

Thursday, July 22

Wright’s Amusement Carnival
7:30 p.m.: Concert
11 p.m. – 1 a.m.: Dance

Friday, July 23

Wright’s Amusement Carnival
1 p.m.: Local Rodeo, amateur events and professional slack
7 p.m.: PRCA Rodeo
9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Dance

Saturday, July 24

Wright’s Amusement Carnival
10 a.m.: Parade
7 p.m.: PRCA Rodeo
9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Dance

Sunday, July 25

Wright’s Amusement Carnival
2 p.m.: PRCA Rodeo
Saddle Awards

For more information, visit www.skihistampede.com

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JOHN PAYNE
The One Arm Bandit and his Mule

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Famous One-Armed Bandit slated to perform at this year's Ski-Hi Stampede

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

MONTE VISTA — John Payne, a.k.a. the One-Armed Bandit, will be appearing at the upcoming Ski-Hi Stampede rodeo in Monte Vista. Payne is hardly a new name in the rodeo circuit.

Over the last 30-plus years, Payne, 67, has garnered quite a reputation for himself, his mule, Moe, and the buffalo, Watusi cattle and zebra who make up his act, earning him the award for best specialty act from the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association more than 15 times.

But it's the story that took place before Payne ever became a rodeo performer that, in many ways, defines the man.

Payne grew up as one of five sons to a rancher near the small town of Shidler in Osage County, Okla. At the age of 20, he was helping his father tear down a house. Thinking the power had been turned off, Payne grabbed ahold of a wire only to have 7,200 volts of electricity course through his body, dropping him 25 feet to the ground where, as he tells it, he was "dead" for five minutes before being resuscitated.

Payne suffered severe and extensive burns over much of his body, resulting in the amputation of his right arm below the shoulder and a five week stay in a burn treatment center in Oklahoma City. Nonetheless, despite the massive electrocution and a long and painful rehabilitation, Payne "got right back on the horse," as the saying goes.

"Anything can be accomplished through sheer nerve, determination and the drive to excel," he's quoted as saying.

In 1987, while at a rodeo and watching a "low talent act," Payne decided he could do better and told the announcer exactly that. As the story goes, the announcer told him to show him up the next year and he would give him a try. Payne showed up, and the rest is history.

Payne now averages between 35 and 40 shows a year as he and his wife, Judy, travel throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The Ski-Hi Stampede, Colorado's oldest



Courtesy photo
John Payne, a.k.a. the One-Armed Bandit preforms his speciality act during a rodeo.

professional rodeo, will run from Thursday, July 22 through Sunday, July 25 at the Ski Hi Convention Center, 2330 Sherman Ave. in Monte Vista. Tickets are available on the Ski-Hi Stampede Facebook page or on their website at www.skihistampede.com.

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Stampede parade basic information

Saturday, July 24

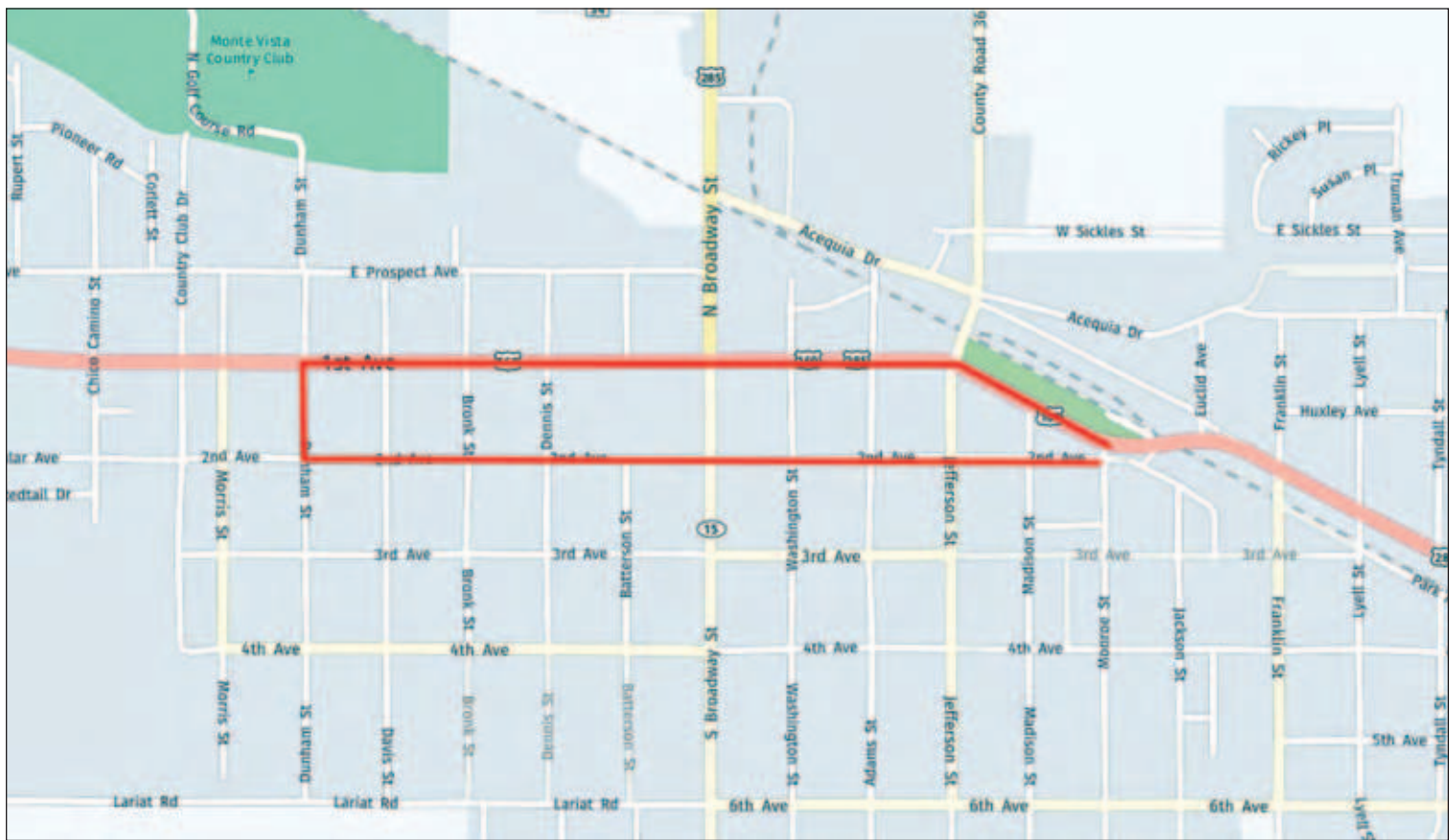
Lineup will begin at 8:30 a.m. Floats and antique vehicles will assemble by the First Stop store, east of the railroad tracks on Highway 160. Drivers should remain with their entry in case it needs to be moved. Bikes, 3/4 wheelers, walkers, etc. will assemble at the west end of Fullenwider Park by the Sugar Shack. Horses/riders will assemble between the convenience store and the Information Center. Please no horses in the area of floats and vehicles.

Highway 160 closes at 9 a.m. and the line moves forward. The parade starts at 10 a.m. Be prepared to lineup early and wait.

The parade route travels west on 1st Avenue (Highway 160), turns south on Davis Street, then turns east on 2nd Avenue and returns to Safeway.

Parade entry numbers will be issued when the entry form is returned to the Colorado Potato Administration Office, 1305 Park Ave., Monte Vista. FAX 719-852-4684. Place the number on the left front (driver side) of your entry. Horse entry numbers are to be placed on the left side of your horse. Please secure all four corners so judges can identify your entry quickly. Entry numbers are not required for bands, entries not wanting to be judged. Award winners will be announced Saturday.

During the parades: no group or individual may stop to perform or hold up the parade. All performances must be done while moving forward. Groups with small children must be able to keep up with the parade pace to avoid gaps. No candy or trinkets may be thrown from your entry. Nothing can be shot from an entry. If you wish to hand out items, you must have walkers that walk along the edge of the street and distribute them. These rules are in place for the safety of children who may run into the street.



Parade route

Sand Dunes Shrine Club — A Favorite in the Parade
For those who have been attending the Ski-Hi Stampede parade for years or even those who have just been fans for a little while, one of the most memorable entrants is the Sand Dunes Shrine Club, as well as Shriners from throughout this part of the state.

It looks like fun, but there is a greater purpose.

The Shrine's charitable arm is the Shriners Hospitals for Children, a network of 22 hospitals in the United States, Mexico and Canada. It was originally formed to treat young victims of polio, but as that disease was controlled, they broadened their scope. They now deal with orthopedic care, burn treatment, cleft lip and palate care, and spinal cord injury rehabilitation.

All treatment offered at Shriners' Hospitals

for Children is offered without any financial obligation to patients and their families, and there is no requirement for religion, race, or relationship to a Shriner.

Patients must be under the age of 18 and treatable. In 2008, Shriners Hospitals had a total budget of \$826 million. In 2007, they approved 39,454 new patient applications and attended to the needs of 125,125 patients.

Renowned rodeo champions compete at Stampede

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association has produced its fair share of memorable performers over the years. One of the more prestigious honors a rodeo rider can earn is the PRCA All-Around Cowboy Champion, which is given to the rodeo competitors who are most successful in two or more events. The following are a handful of rodeo competitors to win multiple All-Around PRCA All-Around championships.

- **Trevor Brazile:** The record holder for most all-around titles, Brazile eclipsed former record holder Ty Murray in 2010 when he won his eighth all-around championship. The 2014 season marked the ninth straight year the Tex-

as-born Brazile was named the PRCA All-Around Cowboy Champion.

- **Ty Murray:** Though Murray's record for most all-around championships has been eclipsed, he remains one of professional bull riding's most recognizable faces, having crossed over into popular culture with appearances on television shows such as "Walker, Texas Ranger," "WWE Raw" and "Dancing With the Stars."

- **Lewis Feild:** A member of the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, Feild is a three-time winner of the PRCA All-Around Cowboy Championship, with three consecutive wins from 1985 to 1987. Feild's

son, Kaycee, is an accomplished rider as well.

- **Tom R. Ferguson:** The Oklahoma-born Ferguson is another legend of rodeo, having won six all-around championships during the 1970s. Ferguson was also something of a trailblazer in rodeo, as he was the first rodeo competitor to earn more than \$100,000 in the arena in a single year, a feat he accomplished in 1978.

- **Larry Mahan:** Upon winning the PRCA All-Around Cowboy Championship in 1970, Mahan became the first rodeo competitor to win five such championships in a row. Mahan's 1973 comeback even garnered him some acclaim and

attention in an unlikely place: Hollywood. "The Great American Cowboy," a documentary film from Kieth Merrill, focused on Mahan's comeback and battle with Phil Lyne for the world championship. The film would win the 1973 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.

- **Jim Shoulders:** The first competitor to ever win the bareback, bull riding and all-around events at the PRCA Championships, Shoulders also had a successful career outside of the rodeo arena, where he was a notable presence in print and television advertisements for jeans, boots and beer.



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Stampede amateur events announced

MONTE VISTA — The Ski-Hi Stampede Committee announces the 2021 amateur events and rules.

All amateur contestants will participate in the slack-qualifying round of the Ski-Hi Stampede rodeo on Friday, July 23 following the PRCA slack at 1 p.m. Please be present by 1:30 p.m. for local entry events.

All participants must be residents of the San Luis Valley — no exceptions.

- Entry fees will be \$100 per person per event.
- Calf Roping - \$100
- Barrel Racing - \$100
- Team Roping - \$200
- An individual may enter only once per event.
- Event will be a one go round timed trials.
- The 8 (eight) fastest times, who were successful in the qualifying round, will advance to the Ski-Hi Pro Rodeo performances on Saturday and Sunday, bottom four Saturday and top four Sunday.

• Amateur monies will be paid to the fastest four contestants during Friday's qualifier.

Stock, secretary and judges fees will be deducted. Pay off will be as follows:

1st-40 percent; 2nd-30 percent; 3rd-20 percent and 4th-10 percent

• There will be no additional entry fee for participation in the Stampede Pro Rodeo. The fastest time in each event will be the winner of the amateur saddle for the event. The amateur saddle will be presented to the winner at the Sunday performance of the San Luis Valley Ski Hi Rodeo. In the event of a tie for the saddle, tie-breaker will be the best time from the qualifying round.

Individuals and teams will be scheduled in the Ski-Hi Pro Rodeo as follows:

- Number of individuals and teams will be divided equally for each of the two days (Saturday and Sunday) of the Ski-Hi Pro Rodeo.
- Competition order will be from slowest times from qualifier at the Saturday performance to the fastest times at the Sunday performance.
- Example (with eight maximum qualifiers with performance date and running order): Saturday,



July 24 – Qualifiers 8,7,6,5; Sunday, July 25 – Qualifiers 4,3,2,1

• Once individuals and teams have qualified, and performance times have been set, there will be no changes or additions even if a qualifier must draw out for any reason.

• All communications about complaints or grievances shall be directed to the Ski-Hi Stampede Board of Directors at a monthly meeting by asking for a spot on the agenda to express the concerns. At no time will sponsors or other individuals be approached about grievances. Any violations of this clause may result in disqualification in this year's eligibility as well as all future year's eligibility in

Ski Hi Stampede Rodeo events.

• Registration will be from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday, July 19 at the Ski-Hi Stampede Committee Building, 2330 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista. Contestants must have the following for registration: Entry fee (cash or check; if a participant's check bounces, they will not be allowed to compete for the saddle in the pro rodeo); proof of health insurance; proof of residency (driver's license of 90 days in the Valley)

• Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a legal guardian or have a notarized release from your legal guardians.

• Team Roping – Must be the complete team!

• All participants must enter in person!

Mutton busting

Participants must be between ages of 5 and 7 years old and less than 50 pounds. They must be a San Luis Valley resident and show proof of age and insurance. Child must be present at entry office to weigh in. There will be a limit of 10 mutton busters per day. All mutton busters must report to the west end of the grandstand before the saddle bronc riding begins. Contestants not reporting on time will not be allowed to compete.

See website for more information and all the rules, www.skihistampede.com.

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Still tough enough to wear pink

SANLUIS VALLEY — For nearly 100 years, the Ski-Hi Stampede has entertained crowds from all over the country and provided one of the best pro-rodeo events in the state. Not only has the Ski-Hi Stampede brought joy to the Valley, guests to the area and fun for all who attend, they have also provided donations to a local cause and have helped save the lives of many through their generosity.

The Stephanie L. Miner Women's Imaging Center at San Luis Valley Health in Alamosa was created when Miner, a local teacher, was diagnosed with breast cancer after her fourth child was born. When Miner lost her fight with cancer, her family approached SLV Health with the idea and starting funds for a center where women could go for early detection, prevention and all the state-of-the-art equipment needed to fight the disease.

It was in 2006 that the members of Ski Hi Stampede board of directors approached the hospital and asked if they could help by becoming a part of a nation-wide program known as "Tough Enough to Wear Pink." The program is an initiative supported by

Wrangler and has participants from around the country.

"The Ski Hi Stampede committee's commitment to the TETWP campaign has raised more than \$100,000 to directly benefit the Stephanie L. Miner Women's Imaging Center," stated Kelly Gurule, SLV Health Foundation director.

The Stampede committee, in conjunction with the San Luis Valley Health Foundation, is encouraging everyone to participate. All staff and volunteers for the event will be wearing pink throughout the festivities. "We know everyone is proud to be 'Tough Enough to Wear Pink,'" said Gurule.

Tough Enough to Wear Pink was created by project founder Terry Wheatley in 2004. Wrangler presented the pink western shirts during the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo that same year and has continued on as the head sponsor for events nationwide. The program has raised cancer awareness as well as raised funds for research, equipment and to help families with financial assistance. The amount of money



raised is staggering in the 17 years since the program's inception.

Wrangler donates all funds raised that come through their program to the national Breast Cancer Research Foundation that has been dubbed one of the best charitable programs in the nation. According to the website, "The Breast Cancer Research Foundation® (BCRF) was founded in 1993 by Evelyn H. Lauder as an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to funding innovative clinical and translational research. In 2010, BCRF awarded \$33 million to 172 scientists

across the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and Australia. Currently, more than 90 cents of every dollar donated is directed to breast cancer research and awareness programs."

Gurule was pleased to talk about the things the donations have done for the center to date. Funds from previous years have been used to purchase equipment and maintain the center so the services provided there can be available to those that need them.

"There is one thing that people really need to understand," said

Gurule. "The money that is raised here stays here in the Valley to help local residents and provide local services."

The women's imaging center in Alamosa directly benefits from the funds raised during Ski Hi Stampede, so keeping the money local is of the utmost importance. Breast cancer awareness, prevention and early detection is paramount in the fight against this disease.

Through these efforts, women from all over the world have the tools and support necessary to overcome the disease and find new hope in life.

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Ski-Hi Parade to be marshaled by Valdez's

By **STEPHEN JIRON**

MONTE VISTA — A year shy of their centennial anniversary Ski-Hi Stampede has named their marshals for the annual parade, for the theme 'On The Road Again' local hardware shop owners Harold and Norma Valdez have been named to lead the parade.

The local couple are both natives of the San Luis Valley. Harold was born and raised in Monte Vista and is one of 9 siblings complete with four brothers, three half-sisters and a half-brother. He graduated from Monte Vista High School in 1962.

Norma was born in the Cañon area of Antonito. She and her family moved to Monte Vista for work because her father was a farm laborer in the Sargent area. Norma graduated from Monte Vista High School in 1960. The two were married in 1963. Norma went on to Adams State College and graduated in 1969. She would go back to school and ten years later earned her Master's degree in Education and taught 27 years as a kindergarten teacher in Monte Vista.

Harold went straight to work with the Forest Service spending 33 years in that career — surveying, designing and doing construction of the roads for the Rio Grande National Forest. Harold also served 2 years in the military during the Vietnam War.

After his career with the Forest Service, Harold's son Michael convinced him to go into business together on a store on Adams Street in Monte Vista. The father-son duo purchased the store from the previous owner in 1993. Since then V & V TruValue Hardware has been a stalwart in the downtown Monte Vista area. For the past 28 years, the local store has been a consistent sponsor of the Ski-Hi Stampede as well as assisting high school organizations to raise money with rodeo season cookouts. Harold and Norma would eventually take full ownership and he and his wife have been working it ever since.

Then came 2020. This past year was a tumultuous year for everyone, facing a pandemic and the ensuing health restrictions designed to keep at-risk populations safe has taken a toll on people's physical as well as mental health.

As small business owners, Harold and Norma were not spared the financial crisis COVID caused.

V & V has had to remove 16 hours of operation from their week which includes no more Sundays.

"We didn't buy non-essentials, we watched

what we were selling and that's what we were replenishing. We stick strictly to what the homeowner needs and what the homeowner wants," says Harold of store adjustments from last year.

"There was no real surge of customers it was a trickle. And then you also have a lot of people who go to Alamosa and do a lot of business over there, so it makes it harder on small store owners."

A little over a year and a half removed from the first confirmed case of COVID in Colorado and we are still feeling the effects. There may not be statewide health suggestions but some areas are still being heavily impacted while we all try to get our lives back in order. The process back towards any sense of normalcy for all phases is a gradual one.

Business-wise the couple says that COVID stopped a lot of the manufacturing. Norma remarks, "The warehouse was out of a lot of stuff, still is."

"Now they're starting to get the ball moving again to start manufacturing and importing stuff in," Harold comments but he doesn't mince words about the comeback process.

"Slow, real slow." Discussing the recovery Harold is reminded of something his father used to say 'Watch your pennies and your dollars will take care of themselves' and is sure to inject some of his own wisdom with a laugh, "It's hard to watch



pennies now."

All of the struggles of this past year have taken their toll and the Valdez's have taken a step towards the next chapter of their lives having contacted a real estate agent regarding the sale of V & V Tru Value.

Despite everything, the couple has not lost their optimism. They still are sure to take advantage of the outdoors that Colorado is known for including local stops La Manga Pass and Trujillo Meadows. The couple is also sure to hold onto their faith. Harold and Norma

are musical ministers for the Catholic Church and can have performed at churches all over the Valley.

"We're back, and we're well, we're alive. That's what we have to look at also" says Norma, "a lot of people lost family members, thankful that we're here."

This year the parade will take place on July 24, and will begin at 10 a.m. proceeding west on 1st Avenue (Highway 160), turning south on Davis Street, then east on 2nd Avenue and terminating at Safeway.

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McCreery, LeDoux set for Stampede concert

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Celebrating the 10th anniversary last month of winning “American Idol,” country star Scotty McCreery has been announced as the headliner for the annual Ski-Hi Stampede rodeo concert on Thursday, July 22.

Ned LeDoux, son of legendary music and rodeo performer Chris LeDoux, will open for McCreery, the Stampede board announced this week. LeDoux recently released his second full-length album, “Next in Line.”

McCreery is currently No. 23 on Mediabase/Country Aircheck and No. 28 on Music Row’s Country Breakout radio chart with his single “You Time.” He’s finishing work on a new album to come out later this year and will start his “You Time Tour” later this month and will also be direct support for select dates on the Old

Dominion “Live from the Ball Park Tour.” Delivering more than 130 online performances for fans, country radio, charitable events and media outlets, McCreery had one thought in the back of his mind last year — readying new music for fans when he could again return to the road.

Between his live stream concert on Sept. 4, 2020, “Live from the Ryman,” with his full band being the first to welcome any audience back into the Ryman with limited capacity and their Dec. 2, 2020, stripped-acoustic live stream from Raleigh’s Lincoln Theatre, McCreery has been thinking a lot about what his show will look and feel like when in-person again and especially what he wants to say.

According to LeDoux’s website, “as a songwriter, he has a knack for bringing people, places and emotions vibrantly to life



Scotty McCreery



Chris LeDoux



File photo

The 2019 Concert drew a huge crowd.

with his insightful lyrics, and warm, strong voice that makes him sound like a beloved friend you always want to hang out with.”

LeDoux has good reason to be proud of “Next In Line.” It’s populated with songs that reflect his roots and honor the hard-working characters who have influenced his life, like his grandfather, Bud Rhoads,

whom he tips his cowboy hat to with the earnest tribute “Worth It.” He celebrates his brother Beau on the upbeat “A Cowboy is All” and he closes the album by putting his spin on his famous father, Chris LeDoux’s “Homegrown Western Saturday Night.”

For ticketing information, go to www.skihistampede.com.

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Mutton Busting, an unforgettable experience

MONTE VISTA — Nobody expects to break or ride a sheep, but it has a benefit. It's a chance for little kids to get a taste of adventure, a feel for what it's like to be a cowboy. They might get bruised and they'll definitely get dirty, but it's an experience they will never forget. Mutton busting is the sport of bareback sheep riding. Kiddie competitors challenge themselves and the sheep to see who can hold on the longest as they try for a qualifying time in the rodeo arena.

Mutton busting is similar to bull riding, except that the contestants wear more protective gear and are closer to the ground.

A sheep is held still, either in a small chute or by an adult handler, while a child is placed on top in a riding position. Once the child is seated, the sheep is released and usually starts to run in an attempt to get the child off. Often small prizes or ribbons are given out to the children who can stay on the longest.

There are no set rules for mutton busting, no national organization, and most events are organized at the local level. However, children who begin as mutton busters could go on to be top Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) money winners or, at least, tops on the hometown rodeo circuit. The vast majority of

children participating in the event fall off in less than 8 seconds. Age, height and weight restrictions on participants generally prevent injuries to the sheep, and implements such as spurs are banned from use. In most cases, children are required to wear helmets and parents are often asked to sign waivers to protect the rodeo from legal action.

The practice has been documented as having been introduced to the National Western Stock Show in Denver, at least by the 1980s when an event was sponsored by Nancy Stockdale Cervi, a former rodeo queen. At that event, children ages five to seven who

weighed less than 55 pounds could apply, and ultimately seven contestants were selected to each ride a sheep for six seconds.

There are no statistics about the popularity of the sport, but anecdotal reports suggest thousands of children participate in such events every year in the U.S. Supporters consider the event both entertaining and a way to introduce young children to the adult rodeo "rough stock" riding events of bull riding, saddle bronc, and bareback riding, and they may liken its rough-and-tumble nature to the way youth sports such as football are played.

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Barrel racing is an exciting sport

Sports fans and athletes have a plethora of sports to enjoy in this country and around the world, and those options include equestrian events. Equestrian sports have a deep-rooted history and have inspired some avid fans, including those enamored with the sport of barrel racing.

Barrel racing originally was established as an event for women on the rodeo circuit. While men rode bucking broncos and bulls and competed in roping events, women displayed horse speed and stamina in barrel racing competitions. Today, barrel racing primarily is a female sport at both the collegiate and professional levels.

Barrel racing can be an entertaining experience for spectators and a rewarding one for riders. The goal of the barrel race is to complete a perfect pattern in the least amount of time, so the rider who completes the pattern the fastest wins the competition.

The pattern riders face is a complicated cloverleaf design. Riders can choose to enter the first barrel to the left or the right. They circle the barrel and proceed across to barrel number two, then finish out at the third barrel, where they will complete the pattern and exit the course. The approach to the first barrel should be carefully timed and executed to set the stage for the rest of the course.

An official distance between barrels exists for professional races. Riders cover 90 feet between barrel one and two. There is 105 feet between barrels one and three and between barrels two and three. Finally, 60 feet marks the distance between barrels one and two and the entry/exit "score" line.

According to Michigan State University Extension, barrel racing requires a mild-tempered horse with natural athletic ability. Horses need to be fast, agile and intelligent. A hot-headed horse is not a good choice because he may fight the rider and cause injury. Riders also must be in tune with their horses' movements and sit correctly in the saddle to allow the horse to hug the sides of each barrel. Riders need to be both physically fit and capable of planning ahead to accommodate for their horses' speed.

Experts advise riders run horses through repetitive drills to improve their performance. A

horse learns by release and will think he's done a good job if a rider moves on to a new task. If riders are unhappy with a turn, they should return to the same barrel over and over until it is mastered, as riders need their horses to remember the good techniques. Horses can do drills running straight lines as well as circles. Soon both horse and rider should develop a feel for each other and move more intuitively together.

Although barrel racing has been around for a long time, one of the premier governing bodies of the sport was only established 66 years ago. The Girl's Rodeo Association was formed when 38 cowgirls came together in San Angelo, Texas, to create an organization dedicated to the promotion and advancement of women in the sport of rodeo. In 1981, the association changed its name to the Women's Professional Rodeo Association, and it remains one of the most influential sanctioning bodies in the sport. It also is the oldest women's sports association in the United States and the only one governed entirely by women.

In 2007, the WPRA instituted the My Horse's Choice Junior Division for girls ages 17 and under. The junior division introduces a whole new group of members to the ranks of professional competition and allows mothers and daughters to compete for world points at some of the same events.

Barrel racing is most popular in the western and southern areas of the United States and some parts of Canada. To learn more about a particular racing circuit or the sport of barrel racing, visit www.wpra.com.

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Bull riders' gear protective, functional

Many fans of sports like baseball, basketball and football enjoy wearing jerseys of their favorite players when attending a game, watching at home or gathering with fellow fans to watch somewhere in public. While it's nearly impossible to attend a professional sporting event today without seeing someone decked out in the same attire as their favorite player, such sightings are less likely to occur within the sport of rodeo. Unlike baseball and basketball uniforms, the gear worn by many professional bull riders has more practical applications, namely to protect riders as much as possible. The following is a rundown of the gear professional bull riders wear during competition.

* **Headgear:** While many professional bull riders are allowed to wear cowboy hats during competitions, the Professional Bull Riders, Inc., mandates that all new members who turned 18 years of age on or after October 15, 2012 wear helmets. Those born before that date do not have to wear helmets, but some choose to do so to protect their heads from potentially threatening blows. In addition, bull riders can wear face masks to shield their faces and jaws from injury.

* **Vest:** A protective vest is worn by bull riders to absorb shock and dissipate any blows to the body. The vest also was designed to

protect riders' torsos from punctures caused by direct contact with the bulls' hooves and horns during competition.

* **Glove:** Bull riders only wear one glove, which is on the hand they use to grip the bull rope. This leather glove makes it easier to grip the rope and offers some measure of protection to riders' hands and fingers.

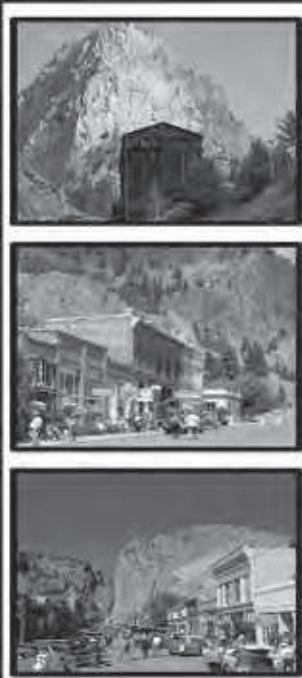
* **Chaps:** Riders wear chaps on their legs, and professionals often wear chaps emblazoned with logos of sponsors. Chaps offer extra protection for a rider's legs against the hooves and horns of the bull.

* **Bull rope:** The bull rope, which is equipped with a handle braided into the rope, is a rider's only anchor during a ride. The rope is flat and braided from nylon or grass and goes around the bull's girth area behind the animal's front legs.

* **Boots:** Bull riders' boots include a special spur ridge on the heel, and this helps their spurs to remain in place. Some riders wear pull-on boots, while others prefer boots that lace up.

* **Spurs:** Spurs help bull riders stay in position once the ride begins. These spurs come equipped with dull rowels, which are the revolving disks at the end of spurs. The rowels are dull so they do not injure or cut the skin of the bull.

More information about bull riding is available at www.pbr.com.



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The First Rodeo

Some allege that the first official rodeo was born in 1869 in Deer Trail, Colorado, when two groups of cowboys from neighboring ranches met to settle an argument over who was best at performing everyday cowboy tasks, including breaking wild horses, which is today's saddle bronc riding event.

While many consider this event to be the first rodeo, over the years, a culmination of skills and techniques from Spanish-speaking cowboys, vaqueros, and cowboys from the East combined to bring us today's modern rodeo.

Many others claim to be the first rodeo in the U.S., including Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1872; Winfield, Kansas, in 1882; and Pecos, Texas, in 1883. Still, these early contests were primarily simple displays of riding and roping skills and not the organized events now standard in today's rodeo industry.

From the 1880s through the 1920s, frontier days, stampedes, and cowboy contests were the most popular names of what we now call the rodeo. Buffalo Bill Cody and his Fourth of July Wild West show in North Platte, Nebraska, in 1882 was the first competition to offer prize money, with Prescott, Arizona, claiming to hold the "first formalized rodeo" on July 4, 1888. From there, Cheyenne Frontier Days in 1897, the Pendleton Round-Up in 1910, and the Calgary Stampede in 1912 followed as popular rodeo venues.

Katie Murray is a lifelong promoter of agriculture and lover of good stories. She enjoys communicating the story of agriculture and of the people behind our industry. www.agdaily.com

Dance the nights away with Shotgun Jefferson

MONTE VISTA — Thursday, Friday and Saturday night's dances will feature country rock band Shotgun Jefferson.

Shotgun Jefferson is a Southern California-based country band that draws its musical inspiration from its rock and roll roots. Fronted by Jeff Zazueta, their high-energy, danceable songs transcend age and resonate with a large audience.

The band is well known for their energetic "Rock Show" performances..."We aren't your

Grandpa's country band."

Self-described "non-country" fans have become converts of their California Country Style — powerful vocals coupled with guitar solos and blended harmonies. In 2020, Shotgun Jefferson won the award for Country Band of the Year for the JMA's.

They have also been part of several charity events for Route 91 Survivors, Veterans, supporting our servicemen and women, and a Livestream for Covid Relief with The Red

Cross.

No stranger to the spotlight, Shotgun Jefferson has shared bills with country superstars like Lindsay Ell, The Lacs, Brooke Eden, Moonshine Bandits, Jordan Rager, Jessica Lynn, and Pop Acts Missing Persons and Bow Wow Wow, Aaron Watson, Meghan Lindsey, and Confederate Railroad.

Their ultimate goal is to perform at the Grand Ole Opry and Stagecoach Festival, as well as to tour nationally.

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While in the Valley

Sand Dunes

The Great Sand Dunes National Park features the tallest sand dunes in the United States. The dune field rising above the San Luis Valley is framed with the blue peaks of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range.

During the summer, park rangers organize a number of nature walks and interpretive programs exploring the dunes' geology, history and wildlife. For a more challenging walk, head into the dune field itself. Whether hiking, sliding, exploring in a dunes wheelchair — or simply playing — the Great Sand Dunes are a unique area for all to enjoy.

The visitors center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The center offers an inspiring film presentation, interactive exhibits, bookstore, first aid room and back porch with viewing scope.

A number of camping sites, ranging from car and RV areas to primitive backpacking sites on and off the dune field, are available.

For more information, call 719-378-6300 or log onto www.nps.gov/grsa/

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad

The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad was built in 1880 with three feet — narrow gauge — between the tracks instead of four feet, eight and a half inches, the standard in the United States.

The railroad's locomotives burn hand-shoveled coal pulling trains along the highest and longest narrow gauge track in the United States from Antonito to Chama, N.M. The railroad gives passengers a unique view of the beauty of the San Juan Mountains, taking them on a twisty ride that crosses the Colorado-New Mexico border 11 times and carries them over 10,015-foot-high Cumbres Pass and through two tunnels.

The Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad offers daily scenic train rides from Chama, New Mexico and Antonito, Colorado, crossing at historic Osier Station.

Schedules and details about specials and all train rides are available at www.cumbrestoltec.com or by calling 1-888-Cumbres (286-2737).

Early Iron Festival

Hundreds of vehicles from America's "early" years in its love affair with the automobile arrive in Alamosa from all over the United States for their annual Labor Day weekend San Luis Valley Early Iron Festival, one of the San Luis Valley's largest events featuring more than 500 cars.

This year marks the 40th anniversary from Sept. 3-5. Early Iron welcomes a variety of vehicles including pickups, custom, street rods, classics and street machines. See www.earlyironclub.com/.

Ski-Hi Stampede

Colorado's oldest outdoor rodeo, the Ski-Hi Stampede in Monte Vista is a delight for the entire family. This year marks the 99th anniversary of the San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede planned July 22-25. There will be parades beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday. The rodeo brings major entertainment and many of the best cowboys in the country to Monte Vista's Ski-Hi Arena. Also enjoy dances, fireworks, carnival and chuckwagon dinner. For information, call 719-852-2055 or see www.skihistampede.com

Alamosa Round-Up

The 2021 Alamosa Round-Up, sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA), is scheduled from June 26-29 with most events at the Alamosa fairgrounds. Events include ranch rodeo, barbecue, mutton bustin, cattle drive and parade, PRCA rodeo, rodeo block party, demolition derby and cowboy church. The highlight will be Saturday with a round-UP Concert featuring Chancey Williams and the Younger Brothers Band. Buy tickets at

www.alamosaroundup.com

Creede Repertory Theatre

Creede Repertory Theatre is a professional theatre company located in the historic town of Creede. CRT's award-winning company produces the best of contemporary and classic theatre from the end of May through September. Each year, CRT produces several plays in rotation, hosts numerous musical events and concerts, exhibits the best regional artists in its two lobby galleries, and offers exciting educational programming. This year CRT celebrates its 56th season outdoors. Plays include "Dear Jack, Dear Louise," "Red Riding Hood," "An Iliad," "BOOMTOWN! and Cabaret at the Creede Hotel. Tickets are available at the box office on 124 N. Main St., in Creede, calling toll free: 866-658-2540 or going to the web site: www.creederep.org.

Los Caminos Antiguos

Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic Byway connects many of the San Luis Valley's attractions, such as the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railway and the Great Sand Dunes National Park.

The journey begins on Highway 17 on Cumbres Pass. As Highway 17 descends into the San Luis Valley, it follows the Conejos River and several perfect fishing spots. The byway continues through Conejos, home of the oldest church in Colorado, then to the De Vargas petroglyph crossing site. It then leads to Manassa, the home of Jack Dempsey, and continues east through the foothills of the Sangre de Cristos.

The byway continues into San Luis, the first town in Colorado. The byway then journeys north to Fort Garland. As the byway follows the Sangre de Cristo mountain range, several natural wonders await: Zapata Falls; the Great Sand Dunes National Park; the historic Medano Ranch; and the San Luis Lakes State Park and Wildlife Area.

The byway then turns south near two of the Valley's more colorful attractions, the UFO Watchtower and the Colorado Gators, an alligator farm just north of Alamosa on Highway 17. The "ancient road" ends its journey in Alamosa.

Silver Thread

The Silver Thread Scenic Byway passes through some of the most scenic areas and towns in the San Juan Mountains. Leaving the town of South Fork, the byway begins its journey along the Rio Grande. The byway then enters the Rio Grande National Forest, where it travels through steep cañons of volcanic tuff before crossing an alpine valley, home to herds of deer and elk.

Miners built the town of Creede in the spirit of exploration. Outside the town, a driving tour of the area's mining heritage winds through the rugged geologic formations. Between Creede and Lake City, the highway passes The Slumgullion Earthflow, a geologic form that began 700 years ago. The Silver Thread ends at a second mining town, Lake City.

Fort Garland

The historic Fort Garland Museum takes visitors back in time to the era of Kit Carson, commandant of the fort from 1866-1867, and earlier commanders.

The museum features displays of the life of officers and enlisted men during the years the fort served southern Colorado.

Walk the parade ground of the fort and tour the adobe buildings, which feature a re-creation of the commandant's quarters during Carson's time. Rich in military history, Fort Garland also highlights the folk art and culture of the Hispanic community in southern Colorado.

The Fort Garland Museum and Visitor Center is located in Fort Garland, 25 miles east of Alamosa off U.S. Highway 160. For more information, call 719-379-3512.



Stampede carnival offers fun for all

MONTE VISTA — The Wright's Amusements Carnival is expected to be at full capacity for 2021.

Based out of Elbert, Colo., Wright's Amusements has been in operation for over 50 years. The carnival is a part of Stampede tradition and features a variety of attractions from children's rides to newer varieties of thrill rides.

In 1962, Floyd Wright and his two brothers, Frank and Charles, launched a traveling carnival that put family fun first. A half century later, Floyd Wright's nephew, John Ring, runs the show in the same treasured tradition. "My life — my heritage — is all about making sure

people have a great time," says Ring. "What better 'job' is there?"

There are several options that are available for purchasing carnival tickets. Pre-order armbands are available at the Ski-Hi Stampede Office for \$25 and at the carnival ticket offices for \$30. On Wednesday, July 21, the carnival will hold a canned food drive. Those who bring two canned food items will receive a \$10 discount on the purchase of an armband. On Thursday, July 22, \$1 rides will be offered from 3 to 7 p.m.

There will be fun for all ages at the 99th Ski-Hi Stampede and the attractions that Wright's Amusements provides will be no exception.

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Enjoy national forests & wildlife refuges

Those who travel to the Valley to photograph or view wildlife and native plant species have come to the right place. Bring on the cameras and binoculars and enjoy.

Alamosa, Monte Vista and Baca national wildlife refuges

Visitors to the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge will discover a wide variety of water birds, raptors, songbirds including the endangered Southwest Willow Flycatcher, mule deer, beaver and coyotes. The Rio Grande Nature Trail begins at the visitor center and takes visitors along the river. There is an auto tour route around a wetland. Travel east and south about nine miles to the Bluff Overlook where there is a picnic table, interpretive site, a second hiking trail and excellent views into the Rio Grande valley. The Alamosa Refuge's Visitor Center, open intermittently, is located four miles east of Alamosa on Highway 160 and two miles south on El Rancho Lane. An information kiosk with maps are available there. Info: 719-589-4021

The Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge boasts many species of waterfowl, American Avocets, White-faced Ibis and Killdeer, plus songbirds, mule deer and muskrats. During spring and fall migrations, 20,000 Sandhill Cranes come thru the San Luis Valley and most of them spend their time on the refuge roosting in the safety of the wetlands at night and foraging in the grain fields during the day. Viewing of cranes and other wildlife can be done safely by using the pullouts along the refuge on Highway 15. To reach the Monte Vista main office travel six miles south of the town of Monte Vista on Highway 15. There is an information kiosk and the start of an auto tour route through the wetlands at the office. Info: www.fws.gov/refuge/monte_vista/

At this time, visitor opportunities on the Baca National Wildlife Refuge are limited to the Visitor Contact Station at the office. From Highway 17 in Moffat, take CR T east for 10.5 miles to the turn right into the office. Info: 719-256-5527

Blanca Wetlands

There are 158 species of shorebirds take refuge at the Blanca Wetlands, birds one would normally expect to find along the seashore. In addition to the birds, visitors also will find

amphibians, mammals, fish and insects. Trails are wheelchair accessible so that handicapped individuals also can enjoy birdwatching at the salty marshlands.

The Blanca Wetlands are located 11 miles northeast of Alamosa on County Road 2S. Info: 719-274-8971

Zapata Ranch/Refuge

The 100,000-acre Zapata Ranch next door to the Great Sand Dunes National Park is home to buffalo, bobcats, coyotes and a plethora of bird species, mule deer, elk and horned lizards. Those staying as guests at the ranch can also take advantage of guided horseback tours of the sand dunes. Rare plants and insects native to the area will be of interest and nature lovers will delight in the cactus varieties and wildflowers abundant in the spring.

The ranch is located just off Highway 150 near the Great Sand Dunes National Park in Mosca. Info: 719-378-2356, www.zranch.org

Russell Lakes

To reach Russell Lakes from Saguache, go nine miles south on U.S. 285 to CR R, then 1.5 miles east to the property, spread across 793 luscious acres. The lakes are open from July 16 to Feb. 14. Hunting is permitted for rabbit, dove and waterfowl. The lakes are an excellent choice for wildlife observation.

Restrictions:

- Camping is prohibited except in self-contained units in designated areas.
- Field trials may be authorized in February, March, August and September only.
- Visitors may park only in established parking areas.
- The lakes are closed except as posted and are closed after 1 p.m. during the first waterfowl season. Section 29 is closed during waterfowl season.

National forests

The Rio Grande National Forest on the Valley's west side encompasses 1.86 million acres and is one of the primo wilderness treasures in the state. High up in the San Juan Mountains, the Rio Grande begins its 1,800 mile trek to the Gulf of Mexico, located in the far western part of the forest. The Continental Divide runs for 236



miles along most of the western border of the forest and the 14-ers and lower peaks topping the Sangre de Cristo Mountain range forms the eastern border. The San Luis Valley, one of the largest agricultural alpine valleys in the world, lies between these two ranges.

The Rio Grande National Forest is open, free of charge, for visitor use and enjoyment, although fees may be charged and permits required for some activities and locations. Info: 719-852-5941

BLM land

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) purpose is to preserve wildlife and riparian areas, protect ecosystems, manage river resources, supervise permitted grazing and allow for recreational activities on its lands. It encompasses 33 miles of the Rio Grande River banks, from the southern border of the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge to the Colorado/New Mexico border. The natural area extends out 1/4 mile on either side of the river, totaling over 10,000 acres. Approximately 35 percent is BLM and the remainder is private land.

The BLM prepares public participation plans and involves citizens in implementing these plans for use of the lands. The Rio Grande Natural Area, signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2006, consists of nine members with an interest or responsibility in public land management, including such individuals as conservationists, ranchers, outdoor recreationists, state and

local government officials, Tribal officials and academics.

The Rio Grande NAC will consist of nine members with an interest or responsibility for public land management, including such individuals as conservationists, ranchers, outdoor recreationists, state and local government officials, Tribal officials, and academics.

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See the stars at the Great Sand Dunes

In May of 2019 the Great Sand Dunes National Park was designated an International Dark Sky Park by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). The following is from an IDA Press Release.

Great Sand Dunes joins three other national park sites in Colorado and approximately two dozen national parks around the country that have been designated as International Dark Sky Parks. "It's no surprise that Great Sand Dunes has been building a reputation for good night sky viewing," says Great Sand Dunes Superintendent Pamela Rice, "The dry air, high elevation, and lack of light pollution all make the park an ideal dark-sky destination. We are

thrilled with receiving this recognition as an International Dark Sky Park."

The Great Sand Dunes has served as an astronomy destination for decades. "A starlit night at Great Sand Dunes can bring opportunities for wonder, perspective, and a more intimate connection with the natural world than we have in the daytime," says Park Ranger Patrick Myers. "Besides seeing countless stars, our other senses open up and we become aware of the unique sounds of owls and toads, the scent of piñon pines, and the soft feel of polished grains of sand."

For more information on the IDA, visit www.DarkSky.org and for more information about the Great Sand Dunes visit www.nps.gov/grsa

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CRT moving outdoors for 56th season

Creede Repertory Theatre (CRT) has announced its 56th Season, which will consist of CRT in the Park, CRT at the Creede Hotel & Restaurant, and robust offerings for young audiences and students. It will also be the company's first entirely outdoor season.

"The past year at CRT has been about reframing the limitations of a pandemic into opportunities for innovation and joyful renewal," says Producing Artistic Director John DiAntonio. "Piloted beautifully by 2020's innovative outdoor KID Show, CRT is taking our whole season to the great outdoors for the very first time."

CRT in the Park will be performed in beautiful Seime Park, overlooking the town of Creede, and will feature three plays in rotating repertory: Ken Ludwig's "Dear Jack, Dear Louise," a romantic comedy about love across great distance during WWII, directed by Michael Perlman, starring Caitlin Wise and Graham Ward; "Red Riding Hood" by Allison Gregory, a family friendly modern spin on a classic fairytale, directed by John DiAntonio; and "An Iliad" by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare, a modern retelling of Homer's classic tale of the Trojan War, directed by Betty Hart, starring Lavour Addison. Performances begin June 25 and run through Sept. 4, with six shows per week — see all three shows in just two days.

CRT will partner with The Creede Hotel & Restaurant to present Cabaret at The Creede Hotel and the 15th season of Boomtown! Improv Comedy from July 1 through Sept. 4 in their newly renovated outdoor venue. Enjoy a meal while serenaded by your CRT favorites Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 7 p.m., and a belly-laugh with a cocktail in-hand at Boomtown! Friday nights at 9 p.m.

Education at CRT is ready for another amazing season! Every year, The KID Show offers a professional theatrical experience for students ages 10 and older through the creation of an original show; this year CRT will carry on this 19-year tradition with "The Tree Watcher," a magical conservation journey devised and directed by Bethany Eilean Talley, performing July 8-10.

The 38th season of CRT's flagship program, The Young Audience Outreach Tour, will offer "The Guava Tree/El Guayabo," a tale of displacement and resilience with an anti-bullying message performed in English and Spanish. "The Guava Tree" will have two performances at

the Virginia Christensen Multi-Use Facility in Creede on Aug. 27-28 before traveling to rural and underserved communities across the Southwest through November.

Day Camps run from July 12-30 exploring design, stage combat, theatre creation, and literacy for students ages 3 and older. If you have a student who wants to join in on the fun, visit our website to learn more about CRT's summer programming and register!

In August, CRT will present its 9th Annual Headwaters New Play Festival in a digital format. Get a front row seat (in your own living room) to the process of bringing new plays to life, including readings of brand-new work and an interactive talk back with festival playwrights and directors. The two festival readings will take place on Aug. 27-28 and will include a stream of the in-person World Premiere of our Young Audience Outreach Tour, "The Guava Tree/El Guayabo."

Info: www.creederep.com and 719-658-2540
Covid-19 Safety

CRT's COVID-19 Safety protocols are crafted in partnership with public health officials with adherence to government recommendations and union requirements to protect the health of staff, artists, students, and patrons. To learn about CRT's response to COVID-19 and what will be required of patrons at performances, visit www.creederep.com/covid19safety.

Tickets

- CRT in the Park – Boxes start at \$60 and can seat 1-4 people

- CRT Cabaret at the Creede Hotel – \$20

- Boomtown! at the Creede Hotel – \$10

- The KID Show – Free

- Headwaters New Play Festival Pass – \$25

For tickets, visit www.creederep.org, call the box office at 719-658-2540 opt 1, or email boxoffice@creederep.com.

Season Shows & Performances

- "Dear Jack, Dear Louise" by Ken Ludwig's — June 25 through Sept. 4

- "Red Riding Hood" by Allison Gregory — June 25 through Sept. 4

- "An Iliad" by Lisa Petersen and Denis O'Hare — June 26 through Sept. 3

- The KID Show: "The Tree Watcher" — July 8, 9, and 10 (World Premiere)

- Boomtown! at The Creede Hotel: Fridays at 9 p.m., July 2 through Sept. 2

- Cabaret at The Creede Hotel: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 7 p.m., July 1 through Sept. 4



- Headwaters New Play Festival: Virtual Readings on Aug. 27 and 28.

- Young Audience Outreach Tour "El Guayabo/The Guava Tree" — Aug. 27 and 28 (World Premiere)

About Creede Repertory Theatre

Founded in 1966, Creede Repertory Theatre (CRT) is a professional theatre company located at 9,000 feet of elevation in the historic town of Creede, CO, which offers beautiful mountain views, hiking trails, and stunning campsites in a county comprised of 97% public land. From its Rocky Mountain

roots, CRT serves as an artistic home to our rural community and beyond, through the creation of repertory seasons, dynamic educational programs, and compelling new works. In a typical season, CRT produces six plays in rotating repertory, hosts numerous musical events and concerts, develops new works through the Headwaters New Play Program, and creates nationally recognized educational programs. With deeply rooted values in diversity, equity, and inclusion, CRT is committed to creating a culture of belonging where everyone can thrive.

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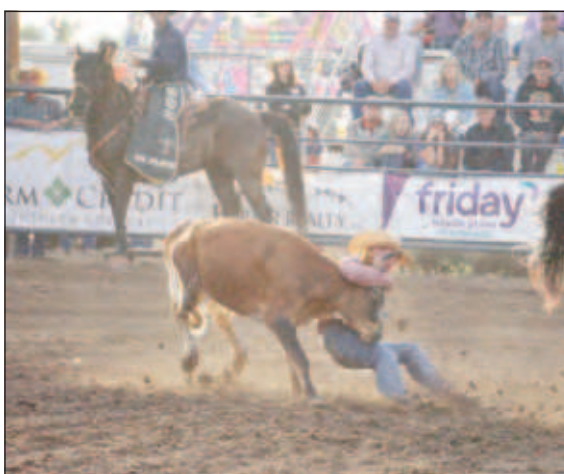
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Ski-Hi Park**



Rotary Chuck Wagon Dinner Thursday, July 22nd 5:30 p.m.	Parade July 24 10 a.m.
Stampede Dances July 22, 23 & 24 • 9 p.m. \$10 at the door	Monte Vista Band Booster Hamburger Fry July 24 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Sunflower Bank parking garage
Christian Cowboys' Service Sunday, July 25th • 10 a.m. • Ski-Hi Park	

Concert Tickets:

Pre-Sale At Door	General Admission \$35 \$40	Reserved \$45 \$50	Premium Reserved \$50
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Dances

Friday & Saturday - 9 p.m.
\$10 at the Door

Rodeo Tickets Available At:

www.skihistampede.com

Stampede Ticket Office, 852-2055

Ticket Information

719-852-2055

	Presale	Door
Friday & Saturday, July 23rd & 24th		
Family Day	\$32	\$37
(Husband, wife and up to 5 children under 18)		
Box Seats	\$18	\$20
Reserve Seating - Adult	\$17	\$19
Reserve Seating - Child	\$10	\$12
General Admission - Adult	\$15	\$17
General Admission - Child	\$10	\$10
Arena Seats Reserved	\$18	\$20
Country Western Dance	\$10	\$10
Sunday, July 25th		
Senior Citizen Day	\$7	\$7
(General Admission - 65 & over)		

PINK SATURDAY

TOUGH ENOUGH TO WEAR PINK?

Help support the Stephanie & Miner Women's Imaging Center for the SLV Regional Medical Center

Youth Night

at Ski-Hi Stampede Dance

Saturday, July 24

First 100 Youth (under 21 years old) with paid admission will receive a FREE Commemorative Stampede T-Shirt!



Family Day at

the Rodeo

**Friday, July 23
7 p.m.**

Local SLV Amateur Events & Professional Slack at 1 p.m.



Wright's Amusements Carnival

Canned Food Drive

Bring 2 cans of food items to the Carnival & you can buy an all-day carnival pass for \$25

Wednesday, July 21

