

Shorts

COVID vaccination bus in Rio Grande County

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment COVID vaccination buses will be available in Rio Grande County next week. Pfizer and Janssen vaccine will be available. Bus will stop:

Thursday, June 24, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Simple Foods, 680 Grand Ave., Del Norte

Friday, June 25, from 1 to 6 p.m. at Center Migrant Head Start, 980 S. Broadway, Center

Saturday, June 26, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Chapman Park, 300-398 W. Prospect Ave., Monte Vista

Anyone 12 years or older is encouraged to get a COVID vaccination. If younger than 18 years, parental consent is required. For more information, contact Rio Grande Public Health at 719-657-3352.

FGRC returns for 2021 Visitor Center operations

STAFF REPORT
FORT GARLAND — Thanks to funding from the Costilla County Commissioners and assistance from the Fort Garland/Dist. 1 shop staff, the Fort Garland Revitalization Committee (FGRC) has opened the Visitor's Center for the summer season.

"The original mission statement still holds today. We are a caring group of residents, volunteers and neighbors of Ft. Garland, Colo., united since 1989 as a non-profit corporation. Our mission is to give our community new life through actions and programs benefiting Ft. Garland's residents, neighbors, visitors and future generations," FGRC stated

FGRC strives to provide services and beautification projects to and for the local community, including donations, maintenance and upkeep of the park and cemetery and of course Visitor Center operations. Based on volunteer availability FGRC opens the Visitor Center Memorial Day-Labor Day and typically filter an average of 3,000 visitors a year.

"Thank you for all of those who continue to volunteer and support us. Stop in sometime, you might find some useful information for your next traveling adventure," FGRC stated.

Subdistrict 5 resumes pumping during judicial review

BY PATRICK SHEA
SANLUIS VALLEY — Following a series of discussions about petitioning for judicial review, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) Board of Managers for Subdistrict 5 voted unanimously on June 17 to leverage wording in the rules that would enable pumping until judgment passes. On June 18, the RGWCD Board of Directors voted 5-4 to pursue a judicial review of

Subdistrict 5's Annual Replacement Plan (ARP) that the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) denied in March.

Since DWR denied the ARP three months ago, a total of 213 wells across 65 farm units in Subdistrict 5 were prohibited from operating. On June 22, however, Division 3 DWR Engineer Craig Cotten notified these well owners. "Therefore,"

Please see WATER on Page 8A



Courtesy photo

Russell Lakes Well Rehab.jpg and Russell Lakes Waterworks

Solstice celebration in Center



Downtown Colorado, Inc. (DCI) and the Town of Center held Solstice in Center on Saturday, June 19. I was billed as a creative event to engage and invite makers, artists, restaurants, and community members to celebrate the changing of season, the creative spirit, and envision the future of Downtown Center. Solstice in Center began at noon and featured a dynamic lineup of San Luis Valley creatives. Some of the entertainment included "Colorado's Best Latin Urban Music Band" 2MX2, the Salida Circus, an artist and maker fair, food trucks, an interactive collage party, Tour of the Frontier Drive-in, as well as a storytelling tour of the town's history.

Photos by Sandra Marquez



Rio Grande County discusses pay raises and supply shortages

BY LYNSIE FERRELL
RIO GRANDE COUNTY — The Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners received an update during its June 16 meeting from Road and Bridge Director Patrick Sullivan on supply shortages and hiring

difficulties due to low wages. Rio Grande County Sheriff Don McDonald also expressed to the board his department was having a difficult time hiring due to wages.

McDonald pointed out that the county is falling short on hiring wages

compared to elsewhere in the Valley and spoke briefly to the board about potential pay raises for the department. McDonald said that the department was having a hard time getting people hired because of how low the hiring wage is at the county at this time.

Sullivan said that he is also having issues getting people to come work for his department and asked the board to consider a raise across the board rather than a raise for specific departments.

"I agree wholeheartedly with the

Please see COUNTY on Page 6A

Biden names Salazar as U.S. Ambassador to Mexico

Sens. Bennet, Hickenlooper applaud nomination

STAFF REPORT
WASHINGTON DC — Ending weeks of speculation, President Joe Biden named Ken Salazar — former Secretary of the Interior under President Barack Obama, former US Senator from Colorado and native of the San Luis Valley — as the new U.S. Ambassador to Mexico.

The announcement was largely expected. But came while Biden was traveling overseas.

Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet (Democrat) and John Hickenlooper (Democrat)

released the following joint statements after President Biden announced his intent to nominate Salazar.

"President Biden has made a terrific choice in nominating Ken Salazar as the next Ambassador to Mexico. Ken is a tremendous public servant with a strong record of bipartisanship in the United States Senate. He has always led with integrity, and I have great confidence in his ability to represent the United States. We, in Colorado, are proud of him and grateful for his service once again."

Please see SALAZAR on Page 5A

Ken Salazar
Courtesy photo



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OBITUARIES

Henry (Hank) Lawrence Nichols

Mr. Henry (Hank) Lawrence Nichols, of Creede, Colo., passed away suddenly on Jan. 6, 2021, at the age of 91.

Hank was born to parents Ralph and Bertha Nichols on July 24, 1929, in Liberal, Kan. He was the youngest of eight and graduated from Moscow High School. Hank's father passed away when Hank was a young child. The entire family pitched in together to make it through the depression.

At the age of 16 Hank started farming for himself and spent the rest of his life working with his hands as a rancher, farmer, machinist, mechanic, and welder. He drove a school bus, he was a Stevens County Kansas County Commissioner, a Moscow Kansas School Board Member, and an active member of the Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his siblings, Gene, Arthur, Russell, Jim, Ruth, Merna and Mya, his oldest son, Casey and his wife, Joy.

He is survived by his daughters Becky Nichols, Ruth Talbott, and Robin Hilsabeck; his two sons, Terry Wetherill, and Mark Wetherill; his grandchildren



Misti, Brooke, Shad, Brady, Mindy, Ashley, Brittany, Tiffany, Brandon, Tyler, Ivy, Avery and great-grandchildren Dylan, Kyler, Zachary Jayden, Jessalyn, Jayce, Liam, Adonika, Izaiah, Aristeia and his great-great-grandchildren Kyla and Lily.

Cremation was chosen. Friends and family are invited to attend Hank's celebration of life at the Creede Congregational Church on June 19 at 2 p.m. The family will have a private burial ceremony immediately following the service.

Ida Pomeroy

Ida Pomeroy, 89, of Aurora, Colo., born Ida Bernard in Saguache, Colo., passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by family members. Ida was a proud, supportive and loving mother.

She is survived by her three children, six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Minnie Bernard, her siblings Joseph, Marie, Francis and Robert and her grandson, Tobias.

Ida will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Memorial donations may be made to Seattle Children's Hospital.



Peggy Atha Cummings

Monday, Dec. 28, 2020, Peggy Atha Cummings went home to with be her Lord Jesus. She was born on Jan. 1, 1942, to Harold and Wilma Atha in Del Norte, Colo.

She was the second of seven children, they lived in Del Norte until 1956 when the family moved to Prescott, Ariz., a year later moved to Flagstaff, Ariz., where she graduated from high school.

While attending college, she married Calvin Cummings, they have four children, after several moves, they ended up in Denver, Colo., where Calvin was the Senior Archeologist Southwest Region for the National Parks Service. In 1995, Peggy pursued her passion and love for Jesus by joining the Mercy ship for nine years. In her travels, she

discovered Sierra Leon Africa where the Lord spoke to her that this was where she was needed, and she left the Mercy ship to create a missionary school-church there for 19 years. She took The Hope of Glory Ministries opened house churches in every Province in this nation and graduated 1,000's students. She trained leaders and pastors while creating agricultural and textile schools.

She is survived by her four children, Michael (Tammy), Russell (Lisa), Karen, and Christoph Wade (Jessica); sisters, DeAnn Dutt and Carol Vernon; brothers, Don and Doug Atha; numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren and many friends; plus, her large missionary family in Africa.

There will be a graveside service June 26, 2021, 10 a.m. at Flagstaff



Cemetery, 1300 S. San Francisco St. Memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the Federated Church, 400 W. Aspen St., Flagstaff, AZ., 86001, 928-774-7383.

Clarence Gordon (Butch) Hammel

Clarence Gordon (Butch) Hammel, 78, of Saguache, Colo., passed away on May 23, 2021, at his home, surrounded by family. Butch was born on Dec. 16, 1942, in Monte Vista, Colo., to Clarence B. and Nellie Hammel.

Butch was married to Leslie Irene Weaver on Jan. 17, 1968. They had four children, Mark, Michele, Michael and Matthew. Butch and Leslie were married for 53 years.

Butch joined the Navy on Jan. 13, 1960, and was honorably discharged on Jan. 12, 1966. Upon his return, he started his own business, Hammel Construction, Inc. He was a heavy construction operator and built timber sale roads. He also built hiking trails, river walks, and did street improvements. He could fix almost everything and above all, he was a hard worker.

Butch loved animals and in his

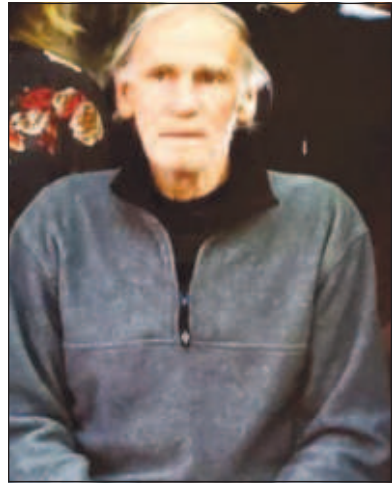
later years his dogs, cats and chickens brought him a lot of joy.

Butch will be deeply missed by his friends, family and all who knew him.

Butch was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Nellie Hammel, his sister Cheryl Hammel, his grandson, Cody Hammel and his daughter-in-law, Shayla Hammel.

Butch is survived by his wife, Leslie; children Mark (Charlene) Hammel, Michele Hammel, Michael (Lisa) Hammel, and Matthew Hammel; brother Rodney (Lynn) Hammel; sister Sharon Lockett Hammel; grandchildren Nicolas, Austyn, Micaela, Jace, Danielle, Sydney, Ripper, Paige, Zane, Gia and Cruz; great-grandchildren Brylee, Lydia, Liam, Lochlyn, and Kamden; and multiple nephews, nieces and cousins.

There will be a rosary at 7 p.m. at the St. Francis Jerome Church in



Center on June 25, 2021.

Funeral arrangements will be held at St. Francis Jerome Church on June 26, 2021, at 10 a.m.

Interment will be at the Hillside Cemetery in Saguache following the service. Food will be provided at the Oasis Restaurant at 1 p.m.

OBITUARY POLICY

Valley Publishing charges a flat fee of \$30 for each obituary published. Pending arrangements or death notices run for no charge.

This charge affects funeral homes, as well as family or other

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In the event the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will

be made and the obit will be rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed. Obituaries can be emailed to: bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com or call 719-852-3531 for more information.

Michael Gallegos

Michael Gallegos passed away on Nov. 19, 2020. Michael was born on Aug. 1, 1983. He grew up in Martinez, Calif. Michael moved to the San Luis Valley with his family in 1993.

He is survived by his mother Rita Gallegos, his two sons Damien and Jacob Gallegos, his brothers Geronimo and Andrew Gallegos, his sister Angela, his cousins Monica and Anthony, his nieces Zana, Zedelia and Terina, and his uncles Lawrence and Augustine (Bernie) Gallegos.

Michael's family is going to have a remembrance for him at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 25, 2021, at 2900 Sherman Ave., No. 48. Whoever remembers "Mikey" is welcome to come and help celebrate his life. Please call his mother Rita at 588-9570, for more information and to let her know you plan to be at Michael's Celebration of Life.



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Busy as a bee

Another week has flown by like the hummingbirds that seem to have bypassed this part of Colorado this year. For some reason, they have either been delayed in coming or fell victim to some primitive tribe hunting them for a feast of "wings" at their next human sacrifice party.

It's been a whirlwind here at the mountain Ponderosa with lots of catching up with friends, Father's Day, grabbing some firewood and church.

And that last part may give some of you hope that Ol' Dutch just may find some sort of redemption in his old age since he has been hanging out with the right sort of people recently.

Arriving here we had so many things to do and Ol' Dutch found himself an unwilling participant in many of them. But before you go so far as to say it's good for me, let me do a little explaining.

Miss Trixie, bless her heart, is the epitome of efficiency and so every time we make a sojourn into the Valley she tries to pack as many stops as she can into the day.

This saves on gas and time but makes for a long day when Ol' Dutch just needs some fishing lures, ammo or other necessities. I have learned to just sit in the car and patiently wait for her to show back up but this past week I may have hit my limit on her basement bargain hunting.

After about our 20th stop — well maybe 4th but you get my drift — Ol' Dutch decided that enough is enough and saving ten cents on a roll of paper towels was just not worth the pain of the wait.

So, I got to watching the women leaving the store and suddenly got the brilliant idea that maybe I would just pick up the next one that came out as the results would probably be about the same in the long run anyway. At least the shopping pain would end which is all men generally want anyway.

But as luck would have it, the next one that did exit the store looked to be of a different religious persuasion than I am and I am not sure Ol' Dutch can make the switch at what Miss Trixie calls, "such an advanced age."

The good part about waiting now for your significant other to exit the store is at least we have the world at our fingertips in the form of a cell phone.

Why, with that you can peruse the shelves of every major sporting goods store, look at new trucks on lots across America and complain about your day via text with your



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

friends all from the comfort of your car.

But what Ol' Dutch has found out of late is every time you click those keys someone, somewhere is tracking that and soon your phone will become a morass of advertising about anything you may have looked at.

Offers to sell me new trucks that the dealers do not even have, hunting supplies that are not even on the shelf and pictures of scantily clad women in new bass boats are now arriving every few minutes and about to drive Ol' Dutch mad as a hatter.

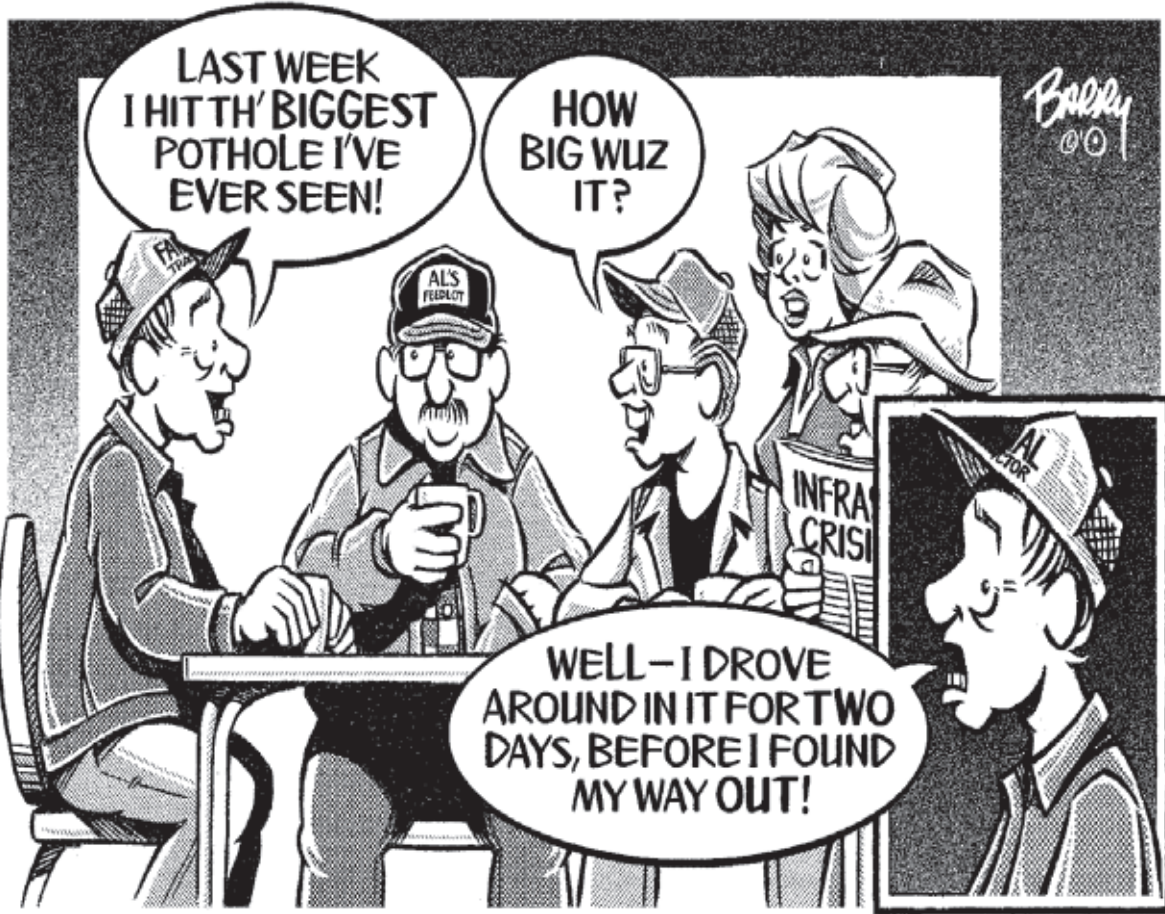
It's bad enough that I do want some of the items that are being jammed down my throat via advertising but it's just plain cruel to send me those that are not even in stock. What kind of cruelty is that?

And if there is one thing Ol' Dutch does know, the last thing a man needs in that new bass boat is a bikini-clad woman complaining about the heat, lack of wine, lack of shade and stinky fish smell to ruin the day. I mean, Ol' Dutch can't help how he smells after all.

So, I guess I will just hang onto Miss Trixie and suffer through the parking lot waits as it's better to know the poison you are used to than to try and switch brands. And we are celebrating five of the happiest years of our lives so there is that too and not bad out of nine years being together.

Some of you have asked if Miss Trixie is real. She is and you can meet her and me Monday, June 28 at the Chapel of the South Fork for a fun evening of music, jokes and laughs. Bring an instrument if you want to play along.

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.troutpublic.com.



YOUR NIGHT SKY

Planets and the Summer Triangle

By DARLENE DANKO

The Summer Triangle is a group of three bright stars in the summer sky. Each is the brightest star of the constellation they are in, and there are three constellations. Although they start in the summer, they last until the end of the year.

The three stars are Deneb, Vega, and Altair. Vega is in the constellation Lyra the Harp, Deneb is the tail star of Cygnus the Swan, and Altair is the eagle eye of Aquila the Eagle. If you hold your arm out straight and make a fist with your hand, the Summer Triangle is three fists wide and two fists high.

In June and July, it is above

the eastern horizon, and in August and September it is high overhead. Then the rest of the year it is in the western sky. The reason it is called the Summer Triangle is because that is when it first appears. Vega is the highest star in the ENE. Altair is to its lower right closer to the east, and Deneb is below Vega to the left in the NE.

Now that summer is here, the full moon is tonight on June 24. Last night Mars popped into the Beehive Cluster M44 and will be there tonight as well. So, look in the west at least ½ hour after sunset to see Mars. Venus is to the lower right of Mars and may not rise for a while. Look as late as you can to see the two planets. Obviously, Venus will be very bright.

Jupiter and Saturn are now rising in the east close to midnight. Saturn



rises first, and Jupiter rises about an hour later. As the night progresses, they move to the south which is where you will see them if you get up around 4:30 in the morning. If the sky is clear and dark, you may also see some of Jupiter's moons.

Mercury is beginning to rise in the early morning starting on June 30. It will be in the east rising about 4:30 a.m. Because we live in the southern US, it will be easier for us to find it. So, have fun looking for the planets.

LETTER

MVCEF thanks community for support

Editor,
Nine utility shutoffs were avoided in April! Thanks to all for your generous support!

The June 12 Community Yard Sale at Fullenweider Park was a success for all.

Monte Vista Community Emergency Funding would like to thank all who assisted and supported the community fundraiser that was hosted on Saturday, June 12. The Community Yard Sale raised a little bit of extra funding for the organization's purposes.

The purpose of the fundraiser was to raise funding for the organization's distributions for the community. Sixty-four boxes of food were distributed. MVCEF would like to thank Los Promotores De Valle De San Luis for supplying and donating the food boxes to the community of Monte Vista.

MVCEF plans to host another event in late August.

MVCEF is a small community organization founded by director Angela Jaramillo, following Vice President Board member Gary

Johnson. The purpose and goals of MVCEF are to provide outreach services by contributing all donated funds to the community emergency needs for families in need of assistance such as rent, utilities, groceries, etc.

All volunteers' ideas and supporters are greatly appreciated. Let us all join hands together in building a strong firm arm to keep our beautiful community of Monte Vista thriving and succeeding in unity to come together as one.

Marisol Jaramillo, Monte Vista

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Creede lights up plans for the 4th of July

BY LYNDIE FERRELL

CREEDE — Creede is gearing up for its annual Fourth of July celebration and the weekend is packed with family-friendly things to do. Creede always honors its mining history and the Fourth of July celebrations allow the town to welcome back the Colorado State Mining Competitions.

Last year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the town kept events small to ensure safety but this year celebrations are expected to be back to normal.

Starting on Friday, July 2, the Creede Farmer's Market will set up on Main Street near San Juan Sports and will offer a variety of veggies and homemade goods. Local businesses will be setting out the welcome mats and be open for the remainder of the day.

The fun is only beginning because the Creede Repertory Theatre is preparing to serve up some fun, not only outdoors at Seime Park, but downtown at the historic Creede Hotel as well. On Friday, guests will have a chance to see a production of "The Illiad" at 7 p.m., a Cabaret production

at the Creede Hotel and a production of "Boomtown" later at 9 p.m.

The weekend is packed with productions by the theatre so be sure to visit their website at www.creederep.org, for a full schedule and more information.

Saturday is the day to bring the family and honor Creede's mining history. For two days, the Colorado State Mining Competitions will take place at Basham Park in the Days of 92 mining competition arena. This event is one not to be missed and includes several different categories where local and out-of-state miners come to show off their skills.

According to the Creede and Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, "It's only fitting that Creede's largest festival of the year centers around preserving the history of mining. Like many Western mining towns, Creede has always had mining competitions. When the area's mines were operational, the events were sponsored by the different mining companies as morale boosters for the miners. With the mines being mostly closed for more than 30 years, the need



File photos

to preserve Creede's mining past is as important as ever. Creede is and always has been a close community whose residents pride themselves on the town's storied past.

"For more than 45 years now, Creede has hosted a privately funded, two-day competition that draws mining competitors from across the Southwest region. The competitors are actual miners who come to Creede for the July 4th each year to battle

for the highly-coveted prize of 'Best Overall Miner of the Year.'"

The Fourth of July starts with more of the state mining competitions and at 10 a.m. the annual City of Creede Fourth of July Parade makes its way down Main Street. Following the parade, there will be beer gardens, food and vendors booths as well

as even more productions from CRT. Later in the evening, there is a rodeo from Burris and Sons at the fairgrounds.

The day wraps up with Creede's famous fireworks display.

For more information and a full schedule of events, visit www.creede.com.



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Delta variant identified in Saguache, Conejos counties

STAFF REPORT
SAN LUIS VALLEY — The Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has been identified in Saguache and Conejos counties, based on a sampling of positive cases, according to San Luis Valley public health officials.
 It is possible, although not yet confirmed, that Delta is also present in other San Luis Valley counties. Delta makes up about 40% of all new

COVID-19 cases in Colorado, and that is expected to rise.
 “Variants of concern have increased transmissibility and increased severity of illness,” officials stated. “Delta is more transmissible, meaning it spreads more easily. If you are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated, there is the possibility of COVID-10 again moving quickly through our community. If you are fully vaccinated, this is your best

protection against sickness.”
 If you have possible symptoms of COVID-19, get tested. While you are waiting for test results, isolate yourself in order to avoid exposing others. If you have been exposed to someone with the virus, follow quarantine instructions. For testing, call one of these providers:
 • Rio Grande Hospital, 719-657-4990
 • SLV Health Respiratory Clinic, 719-589-3000 ext. 9

• Valley-Wide Health Systems, 719-589-3658 ext. 4 (Monday to Friday), 719-589-2562 (Saturday and Sunday)
 In the San Luis Valley, 18,686 people have been fully vaccinated. Of those, about 50-60 people have had a “breakthrough” case, which means they got COVID-19 despite the vaccine.
 “This is to be expected since vaccines do not provide a 100% guarantee, and the numbers we are seeing continue to fall within what we would expect to see,” officials stated. “However, vaccines do greatly reduce the risk of illness, especially severe illness, even

with variants of the virus.”
 Hospitalizations are rare in breakthrough cases. There are over 23,000 eligible Valley residents who have not yet received a first dose of the vaccine.
 As of Tuesday, June 22, there were 76 known active cases of COVID-19 in the San Luis Valley.
 • Alamosa County - 21
 • Conejos County - 26
 • Costilla County - 1
 • Mineral County - 0
 • Rio Grande County - 13
 • Saguache County - 15

Costilla man in custody after going on a rampage with tractor

Mathes rams police vehicle and set house on fire

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER
COSTILLA COUNTY — A Costilla County man is in custody after a rampage Wednesday night, June 16, at a residence about 5 miles southwest of San Luis.

Cimmarron Mathes, approximately 30 years old, used a semi-truck and two tractors to ram numerous vehicles, including a Blanca police car with Police Chief Ricky Rodriguez and an officer inside, a shed and a house belonging to his father, causing partial collapse of both structures. Both Rodriguez and Blanca police officer Josh Sanchez sustained injuries but did not seek treatment at a hospital.

According to Costilla County Sheriff Danny Sanchez, his office received a report of a disturbance around 6:30 p.m. involving a man armed with a knife who was threatening family members. Deputies responded to the home belonging to Mathes’ father, located on County Road P, approximately 5 miles southwest of San Luis.

When CCSO deputies arrived on the scene, Mathes fled from the house, got into a tractor-trailer and used it to ram multiple vehicles owned by individuals on the property.

Sheriff Sanchez stated that Mathes then drove the tractor-trailer to adjoining property owned by his uncle where he stole a tractor. By that time, after receiving a call for “mutual assistance,” Blanca police arrived on the scene and joined the pursuit of Mathes.

Seeing a Blanca police car with both lights and siren engaged, Mathes then used the tractor he was driving to ram the patrol car on the passenger side, injuring both officers and rendering the car undrivable.

“If I hadn’t been able to back out of the way,” Chief Rodriguez said, “he would have hit us with that tractor head-on.”

Mathes, who, according to Sheriff Sanchez, “was also brandishing a knife at times,” then drove back to his father’s property, exited the first tractor, got into a second tractor with a front loader, and drove back to the Blanca police car, lifted it with the front loader and tossed it, causing it to flip multiple times before it came to a stop in a nearby ditch. Fortunately, both Blanca policemen had already exited the car.

Mathes turned the tractor around and headed back toward his father’s house. By that time, Sheriff Sanchez had ordered deputies to evacuate everyone from inside and move them out of harm’s way.

Still using the tractor with the front loader, Mathes continued to ram vehicles and then a shed on the property, causing a partial collapse of the building. He then turned and rammed his father’s house, as well, causing part of the house to collapse.

“Somehow he then managed to turn the tractor on its side,” Sheriff Sanchez said. “I don’t know how he managed to do that, but he did.”

Sanchez said that Mathes then exited the tractor and fled into his father’s house where he barricaded himself inside. CCSO deputies ordered Mathes to come out of the house, but he refused. At that time, Alamosa SWAT was contacted and arrived on the scene around midnight.

SWAT ordered Mathes to come out but again he refused. Unknown to law enforcement officials at the time, Mathes was attempting to set the inside of the house on fire but was unsuccessful. However, shortly after SWAT’s arrival, flames were seen coming through the roof.

At that point, Alamosa SWAT deployed tear gas into the house which



drove Mathes from the building.

“By then,” Sanchez said, “the house was already starting to go up in flames.”

At approximately 1:30 a.m., Mathes was taken into custody and checked out by medical personnel on the scene. After being cleared, he was transported to Costilla County Jail.

Mathes is facing several charges of suspicion of attempted murder of a police officer, first-degree arson, criminal mischief and theft of a vehicle. Other charges may be pending.

Sheriff Sanchez said that Mathes was already known to local law enforcement “but not to this extent.” He had a warrant out of Alamosa Police Department and two warrants in Costilla County, although the details of those warrants were not known before publication.

No gunshots were fired by law enforcement or Mathes during the incident.

Sheriff Sanchez and the Costilla County Sheriff Office extended thanks to the Blanca Police Department, the Alamosa Police Department, Alamosa SWAT, Manassa Police Department and Conejos County Sheriff’s Office for their response and assistance in this incident.

SALAZAR

Continued from Page 1A

said Bennet.

Salazar is a former Colorado state attorney general and a former Democratic senator who left the Senate to join President Barack Obama’s administration in 2009 and lead the Interior Department.

During the 2020 presidential race, Salazar chaired Biden’s Latino Leadership Committee and served as an honorary co-chair of the Biden campaign’s Colorado Latino Leadership Council.

“Ken Salazar is an exceptional leader who has served Colorado and our country at the highest levels. As ambassador to Mexico, he will revitalize the relationship with a neighbor, ally, and one of our biggest trading partners,” said Hickenlooper.

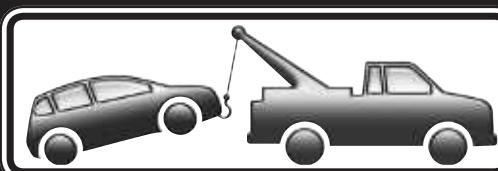
If Salazar is confirmed by the Senate, he will have a difficult task ahead of him, helping to repair a U.S.-Mexico relationship that has become deeply frayed in recent years.
 Salazar, 66, is a lawyer and native

Spanish speaker who was born in Alamosa. He grew up near Manassa,

in the community of Los Rincones in the San Luis Valley.

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HVCC continues field trips

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

Hello everyone from the High Valley Community Center! We hope you have been enjoying summer as much as we have! Our Wednesday field trips have been a big hit this summer.

This week, the kids split into two groups for their offsite activity. The boys visited the Lucky Shoe Riding Club, and the girls swam at Splashland. Next week, both groups will switch places.

If you would like a full list of

upcoming field trips, calendars are located at the HVCC front desk.

The Junior Staff members have been doing a great job helping local businesses with various tasks and doing their community service projects. We are proud of them for all their hard work.

There is still time to join the Junior Staff Program if you know of any seventh-graders and older who are interested. Please call our front desk at 719-657-2172, for



COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

Sheriff when he said that he needed to get his guys up on pay," Sullivan said. "But what I find interesting is that we have a budget that supports it through our side, and we've come to the board many times to try and get our pay elevated to where they should be, we're shut down. I encourage you to stick with the wage across the board, we all have important jobs and so to isolate, pinpoint, you can't do that. We all play an integral part of this county."

Sullivan gave an example of what he recently dealt with while trying to hire for his open position. He said that he had an individual who was qualified for the job walk into the office. He was also the first person to respond to the job opening in over a year, but he ended up walking out because of the lower-than-average hiring pay that was offered.

"He had all the qualifications we needed, we had a gentleman retiring after 48 years of service, and I thought this was going to be perfect," Sullivan said. "The guy turned it down because it wouldn't even cover his bills. With that being said, I ask you to stick with it. We need some help there."

Sullivan moved on to discuss a potential supply shortage that could affect coming projects. According to

Sullivan, Suncor, the main company the county uses to supply performance-grade asphalt, has been shut down for about six weeks. Suncor is the only refinery in the state who supplies materials needed for asphalt and paving projects completed by the county Road and Bridge Department.

"They have been shut down due to maintenance," Sullivan said. "I believe there are some regulation issues they needed to address. They are the main supplier for performance-grade asphalt in the state of Colorado and their supply is next to nothing. They are not producing. They were supposed to start the plant back up sometime this week. With that being said, all the performance-grade asphalt is committed to the Front Range for two reasons. One, because Suncor produces it, and two, because Suncor owns the market on all the trucking. They have tied up all the transport trucking pretty much along the Front Range."

Sullivan explained that at this point, several materials have been ordered from Suncor but that only two items have yet to come in which is less than minimal for some of the projects slated for this summer. He said that he could go either to Kansas or Texas for

more information.

Can you believe baseball is almost ending? We cannot either! Next week is the last week for the T-ball team. Their last game will be a home game against Center on June 23.

Machine-pitch and fast-pitch will last a bit longer. The final fast-pitch game will be on Wednesday, June 30, and the final machine-pitch game will be Thursday, July 1.

Pigtail games will start the week of July 5-9 and tournament finals will be hosted in Monte Vista on July 10. Thank you, parents and volunteers, for your participation!

This is a friendly reminder that HVCC will be closed from June 29-July 1. We will resume the program on July 5. Have a great week!

material but that the cost would go up due to transport.

"What I have opted to do is push back our performance asphalt projects until late August or September to see if Suncor can catch up," Sullivan said. "I have talked with the vice president of operations because he basically called and told me that we are not going to be getting asphalt anytime soon."

Commissioners agreed with Sullivan's wait-and-approach.

Legal Notice:
 "San Luis Valley Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) will be conducting a record and file update this summer. We will be destroying all special education records of students whose files have been closed since July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. This affects students from Alamosa, Centennial, Center Creede, Del Norte, Moffat, Monte Vista, Mountain Valley, North Conejos, Sanford, Sangre de Cristo, Sargent, Sierra Grande and South Conejos school districts. If any students or guardians want their complete file you can request it from the SLV BOCES office at 719 589-5851 on or before July 2nd, 2021. Please include students Name, date of birth and your relationship to the student. Identification will be required".
 No. 1593 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, June 3, 10, 17 and 24 and July 1, 2021.

San Luis author hosting booking signing in Fort Garland

STAFF REPORT

SANLUIS — Have a taste of the historic Hispanic homeland in San Luis Valley through the new book by Teresa de Jesús Vigil, "Herbalist, Storyteller, Poet," at her free book signing event at Rawlings Library, 100 Abriendo Ave., Pueblo, on June 23, 6 p.m. and at Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center on July 10, 1:30 p.m. The events are open to the public



Vigil often gives tours and presentation to health professionals about the herbs that people use to heal themselves. According to

Vigil, some herbs, like osha, are potent and people should know its many uses before ingesting.

Her writing is published in "Delmar's Integrative Herb Guide for Nurses" and "Fiesta's Cultural Awareness of Herbal Use." She contributed recipes to "Cocina de la

Familia," published by Touchstone, NY. She is a contributor to "Mexican-origin Foods, Foodways, and Social Movements" by Devon G. Pena published by University of Arkansas Press.

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Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address): Laurie A. Hunter, Atty. Reg.#: 11442 Hayley M. Lambourn, Atty. Reg.#: 43766 Wade Ash Woods Hill & Farley, P.C. 4500 Cherry Creek Dr. S., #600 Denver, CO 80246 Phone Number: (303) 322-8943 FAX Number: (303) 320-7501 E-mail: lhunter@wadeash.com E-mail: hlambourn@wadeash.com		Case Number: 2021PR30011 Division Courtroom
<p align="center">NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO §15-12-801, C.R.S.</p> <p align="center">NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> Estate of George Paul Vaternick, also known as George P. Vaternick, George Vaternick, George Kvatlanek, and George Kvaternick, Deceased Case Number 2021PR30011 All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Saguache County, Colorado on or before October 25, 2021 , or the claims may be forever barred. Paul Vaternick 16135 S.W. Cattail Court Tigard, Oregon 97223 No. 1598 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, June 24 and July 1 and 8, 2021.		

Make Choices That Don't Waste Your Time

God wants us to continually make good choices for our lives. So He's given us the Bible—His Word—as an instruction book to live by. The thing is, once we know what it says, we're responsible to do what it says. Because there's never a time when it's all right to do the wrong thing.

As we study God's Word, we discover wisdom that applies to every area of our lives. And the best thing we can do is promptly obey God when He brings correction or direction to us. But there are times when we make bad choices anyway, and we experience the pain of our mistakes.

God is our Father, and just as earthly parents discipline their children to keep them from harm and help them see what is in their best interest, God sometimes requires us to face the consequences of our disobedience.

It's important to understand that when God corrects us, it's not because He's mad at us, but because He loves us. And if we follow His instructions, then we're going to have a life that's full of peace, joy, and emotional stability.

God cares about every area of our lives and He wants to be involved in everything we do. He wants to help us make good choices in how we dress, what we eat, who we hang out with, how we spend our money...about everything in our life.

Even if you have a lot of areas where you need to change and grow, you don't have to feel discouraged. As you become more deeply rooted in God's love, it gets easier to do what He asks because you know He has your best interests at heart.

The question is: Do you value His opinion? Will you allow Him to continually work in your life?

because you love Him, not just to try to earn God's love or a reward from Him.

The good news is we never have to worry about earning God's love. Romans 5:8 says, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." God loved us before we were born again and made the righteousness of God in Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21). He'll always love us, and we don't have to wonder, *Am I doing enough?*

The truth is, you are not responsible for the results. God is responsible for that. Your responsibility is to keep doing the right thing all the time, no matter what.

It isn't always easy, but it's always worth it. There are going to be times when we'd rather do the wrong thing. But we'll just regret it later. We need to decide that no matter what our circumstances look like or how hard doing the right thing might be, we're going to hold on to our joy because our joy is in Jesus.

Here's a practical example of what I'm saying: Even if I lose my job and the car breaks down and my child comes home with a bad report from school and I've gained five pounds and nothing seems to be working out in my life...even then, I will "rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4). *Even then, I will do what is right before the Lord.*

We don't have to settle for letting our circumstances determine the level of our joy and peace. We can decide today: I'm going to continue doing right whether it's easy or not, and I'm going to trust God to give me the grace to do it.



calm you down. Find scriptures about the strength we have in Christ, and then just rest in God's presence and receive His strength. Whatever you need, just go to God's Word.

I've seen God do amazing things in me and through me because I've let Him continually work in my life—and you can have that kind of relationship, too.

I encourage you to pray like this: "God, today I'm giving You permission to keep working in my life until You are finished doing all that You need to do. So when I start begging You to back off, please don't. The truth is, I want to do whatever You are calling me to do."

Your relationship with God can be an amazing journey that brings you peace, joy and contentment in every area of life, if you will simply choose to follow Him.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching CD series Using Your Time Wisely. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored 130 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and her newest devotional QUIET TIMES WITH GOD (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

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 saguache-county.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. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Date: 6 - 15 - 21

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

When you really love Jesus, you're committed to righteousness. You want to do the right thing because it's right...

Mountain Shootout winners



STAFF REPORT

CREEDE — The Creede Arts Council announced the winners of its 2021 Mountain Shootout photography show. They had a record 18 entrants and 42 photos.

An opening reception is slated for 5 p.m. on June 25 at the Creede Visitors Center.

Susan Urrutia of Little Elaine Photography in Creede was the judge.

- First place, Night Sky Over Creede by Cheryl Dietmeyer
- Second place, Moving by Ryan Curley
- Third place, Winters Last Hurrah by John Lawley
- Best Wintry Photograph — Choosing a Line by Ryan Curley
- Honorable Mention — Main Street Creede by Amber Newhouse, Da Moose by Sophia Collins and Orange Dahlia by Cheryl Dietmeyer

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Courtesy photos

On June 18, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board of Directors voted 5-4 to pursue a judicial review of the Annual Replacement Plan that the Colorado Division of Water Resources denied for Subdistrict 5.

WATER

Continued from Page 1A

Cotten noted in his letter, "until the Judicial review of the State Engineer's disapproval of the SD5 ARP is concluded, wells which have contracted and/or petitioned into SD5 can legally operate. However, they must meet all other decree and permit conditions, irrigation season limits, etc."

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

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

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

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

Outlining history, Simpson recalled helping form Subdistrict 5 in January 2014. The Subdistrict became official in December 2017, followed by an approved water plan in March 2020. This gave them a year to craft their first ARP.

But as Simpson explained, "We

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

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

The Board of Managers continues to seek solutions for Subdistrict 5. In addition to pursuing Well Injury Payments (WIPs), a pipeline proposed at the start of 2021 is still under consideration. Also, the managers requested bids to drill an augmentation well 100 feet deep in Saguache County. With a deadline of June 25, the bids should also consider 450 yards of pipe and 550 yards of buried electrical wire. Drill experts can contact the District office at (719) 589-6301 for more information. Subdistrict 5 managers will gather at RGWCD headquarters in Alamosa (and online) for a 5:00 meeting to review the bids on June 25.

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



East of Highway 285 between Center and Saguache, wells in the Russell Lakes State Wildlife Area are also part of Subdistrict 5.

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Covered Wagon Days to return in August

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Covered Wagon Days has been a part of Del Norte's history, but like many events throughout the world, the town's beloved event was canceled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce and several partnering organizations announced that Covered Wagon Days will be taking place later this summer. Beginning Aug. 5 through Aug. 8, the town of Del Norte will be hopping with something fun every day. All the

events honor Del Norte's rich history and rough-and-tumble past as well as raise money for local veteran services.

The following is the schedule of events that was announced by the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce. There will be some changes to the events, out of an abundance of caution for safety with local COVID restrictions.

The weekend begins Thursday night, Aug. 5, with a Quilt Show at Kathy's Fabric Trunk that will run throughout the weekend.

Later that evening will be the annual *Please see DAYS on Page 7*



File photo

Recovery Roadmap team in Costilla County

OEDIT and DOLA identify 16 regional teams for program

STAFF REPORT

DENVER — The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) have announced 16 regional

teams, representing 169 rural communities, as participants in the Colorado Rural Resiliency and Recovery Roadmap program. Two teams are in the San Luis Valley — Center and Costilla County.

• Town of Center (Partners: Saguache County, Town of Saguache, Town of La Jara, Town of Center, Town of Del Norte, Upper Rio Grande Economic Development, Center Consolidated

School District, Action Lab 360, San Luis Valley Housing Coalition).

• Costilla County Economic Development Council (Partners: Costilla County, Town of San Luis, Town of Blanca, Costilla County Economic Development Council, Fort Garland Revitalization Committee, Costilla County Conservancy District).

The Colorado Rural Resiliency and Recovery

Roadmaps program ("Roadmaps Program") provides technical assistance for regional teams of rural communities to drive economic relief, recovery, diversification and long-term resilience. This program is funded by a \$2.3 million U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant.

The Program is a partnership comprised of *Please see RECOVERY on Page 7*

SLVREC looking at ways to provide rebates to members

Annual meeting also includes 'partial contract requirements'

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — The San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (SLVREC) held its annual meeting on Wednesday, June 9, and one of the topics was the goal to cut wholesale rates by 8% by 2023. The



goal was from a 2020 announcement by the board of directors for Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association.

The first step in reaching that goal was a 2% reduction in wholesale rates that was announced in April of this

year and will be retroactive to March. There are three components of the initial 2% rate cut — transmission demand, generation demand and energy.

The reduction in wholesale rates translates into a reduction in cost for SLVREC.

"We just got these numbers in April so we're still working [on how

this will translate into savings]," stated Loren Howard, CEO of SLVREC, "but because we are not for profit, any money that is saved will go back to our members."

The specifics of how those savings will be rebated to customers is currently under discussion. Howard stated that a recommendation is being developed and will be presented to

the board of directors of SLVREC at their meeting on June 29, after which members will be notified of plans going forward.

"The savings will be given back to members," Howard emphasized.

On the topic of savings to members, SLVREC has stated that its use of renewable energy sources is *Please see SLVREC on Page 3*

Animal Bonding

Today there is an increased recognition of the bonding process between man and animals. Pets are now referred to in politically correct circles as companion animals. Companion. By definition; an associate, a comrade. It's not a bad choice of words in a world where families get fractionated, children leave home, neighbors don't know each other and people get lonely. A pet can be a good companion.

Of course, when the word 'bonding' is used, they are almost always speaking of the bonding between humans and dogs or cats. Wait . . . maybe not cats. I'm not sure one can bond with a cat. But, be that as it may, they are never referring to livestock people and the animals in their care. Livestock bonding does occur infrequently in fiction. Babe, the sheepherding pig, bonded with Farmer Hoggett. Mary had her little lamb. Colonel Sanders . . . well, that might be a bad example. I contend that in real life, there is a bonding



between stockmen and their creatures. I have got a lot of miles out of pickin' on cowmen who keep an old cow "one more year".

As a vet I have stood at the squeeze chute every fall as the cows are worked. My job is to give the cow a quick 'going over' for physi-

cal fitness and do a pregnancy examination. Typical deal; this ol' mama comes stumbling in the chute at the speed of a sloth on Valium. The head gate clangs shut, never touches the cow. Run a stick down her side, sounds like a prod pole across a picket fence. Her tail head is stickin' up like a shark's fin, she's draggin' one tit on the ground. I'm thinkin' to myself, 'is there any point in putting on a plastic sleeve and torturing this poor beast anymore?'

Then I look up to the headgate and there is that good cowman, rubbing his chin and lookin' at that old cow like he's in a jewelry store. 'Am I missing something here?' I ask myself, dumbfounded. I finally realized I was missing something. That good cowman and me were not looking at the same cow! See, I was looking at an economic unit. Will she have a calf, breed back and bring another one home next fall?

He on the other hand was looking at an animal that had taken him to the pay window for ten years. He might know her even bet-

ter than that. She might have put him over a fence, or he might have helped her throughout a bad calving. But he knows her and owes her. He wants to make sure she gets the benefit of the doubt.

And that's a bond. As genuine as a cat or dog. Granted he doesn't think of her as an associate or a comrade, as in "git along little comrade" or "let's go to the pasture and gather our associates". But it is a bond just the same, built on respect.

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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Derry is SOIL Sangre de Cristo speaker for June

VALLEY — Jeff Derry, with the Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies will be the guest speaker for SOIL Sangre de Cristo's June "Speaker Series." The event will be held virtually at 7 p.m. on June 24, via Zoom.

The Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies (CSAS) is a non-profit devoted to serving the mountain science community and regional resource managers by hosting and conducting interdisciplinary research and sustaining integrative round-the-clock, year-round monitoring that captures weather, snowpack, radiation, soils, plant communities and hydrologic signals of regional climate trends. Located in the San Juan Mountains of Southwest Colorado, CSAS provides one of the highest altitude, continuously monitored mountain dataset available.

About 80 percent of Colorado's water supply comes from snowmelt. This presentation briefly discusses snow data collection, the challenges of monitoring the snowpack, and general snowpack trends.

From here, the discussion shifts to CSAS's Colorado Dust-on-Snow program, an applied science program serving stakeholders in all major Colorado watersheds. Desert dust transported from adjacent arid regions is deposited on the Colorado snowpack, drastically altering spring runoff and storage of water in mountain snow.

With changing climate and



Courtesy photo

Jeff Derry

increased development in the desert southwest, aridification and dust transport will continue to be a major driver of change. These factors will be summarized as to what it means for runoff forecasts and water resources.

The virtual event will be simultaneously translated into Spanish by Diego Pons.

SOIL Sangre de Cristo started in

the South-Central region of Colorado in early 2020 and has grown to 64 members. It encompasses five counties, including the San Luis Valley and south to the border of New Mexico. Within its first year \$20,000 was loaned to three area food producers in the SLV region.

For more information, visit soilsangreecristo.org.



File photo

SLVPHP provides tips for coping with smoky skies

STAFF REPORT

SANLUISVALLEY—Another dry summer means increased wildfire activity and potentially smoky skies in the San Luis Valley. The San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership encourages residents to be proactive in protecting their health when wildfire smoke or dust is present in the air. Be informed and take action to protect yourself if conditions are unhealthy, whether an official warning or advisory has been issued.

Keeping windows open during nice weather in order to increase ventilation while the pandemic continues is a smart idea. But, when there is smoke, it's better to use other ways to clean indoor air. See some ideas below.

• Use a portable air cleaner in one or more rooms. Portable

air cleaners work best when run continuously with doors and windows closed.

• Whenever you can, use air conditioners, heat pumps, fans, and window shades to keep your cleaner air space comfortably cool on hot days.

• If you have a forced-air system in your home, you may need to speak with a qualified heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) professional about different filters (HEPA or MERV-13 or higher) and settings ("Recirculate" and "On" rather than "Auto") you can use to reduce indoor smoke.

• Avoid activities that create more indoor and outdoor air pollution, such as frying foods, sweeping, vacuuming, and using

Please see SLVPHP on Page 3

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SLV REC directors to serve another four years

MONTE VISTA — SLV Rural Electric Cooperative's incumbents Keenan Anderson, Saguache County (District 3) and Stephen Valdez, Conejos County (District 5) will

both serve another four-year term. Anderson received more votes than opponent Chris Tolian Morrisette to retain his seat, while Valdez ran unopposed.

The annual business meeting was held Tuesday, June 8; a video link can be found online at slvrec.com/annual-meeting (About Us tab, Annual Meeting).

SLVREC

Continued from Page 1

designed to save members on their energy bills. When asked to provide specifics about the amount of savings involved, Howard stated that SLVREC has two power purchase agreements.

hours provided for members and results in, roughly, a 1% savings.

"We support renewable energy," Howard stated. "We have an active net meter member program for those members who want to put solar on their house. Our rates are also designed to make sure the people who put solar on their house are paying their fair share and other members of REC are not subsidizing those members [who are installing solar]. But if members want to put solar on their house, we support that. Almost every day, I get a new application where someone wants to put solar on their house or business. And Penitente does save us money. To the extent that we can find installations like that or negotiate those agreements like that, we will."

One power purchase agreement is with a small hydro facility located northwest of South Fork. According to Howard, that agreement, under which SLVREC purchases power at a wholesale cost, accounts for about 1% of the power SLVREC provides. According to Howard, that small hydro facility does not save members any money.

A second announcement made in

2020 by Tri-State Generation and Transmission addressed "partial-requirement contracts" that would allow member cooperatives to potentially self-supply more power than what their contracts with Tri-State currently allow.

SLVREC is currently allowed to self-supply a maximum of 5%. The two power purchase agreements with the hydro facility and Penitente Solar provide 4% of their kilowatt hours.

Howard stated that SLVREC is currently looking for other installations to provide the 1% self-supply usage SLVREC is currently allowed but operational considerations limit choices due to the inability of the Tri-State system to put excess power "on the grid," resulting in the need for all power to be consumed.

Health Tip - Movement Matters



Benefits: Neurological stimulation, proprioception, cardiovascular, improvement, muscle tone, mood management, sleep improvement, mental acuity, digestive regularity

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Mountain View Manor

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SLVPHP

Continued from Page 2

gas-powered appliances.

- People who have difficulty breathing indoors on smoky days may want to try wearing an N95 or P100 respirator indoors.

or get to an area with better air quality. Some symptoms, like dry cough, sore throat, and difficulty breathing can be caused by both wildfire smoke exposure and COVID-19. Other symptoms like fever or chills, muscle or body aches, and diarrhea are not related to smoke exposure. Check with your doctor as needed. If you have severe symptoms like difficulty breathing or chest pain, immediately call 911.

Most healthy people exposed to light wildfire smoke recover quickly and don't suffer long-term problems. However, some factors can increase this likelihood, such as,

- Exposure to very heavy smoke or exposure over a longer period of time
- Children, elderly and pregnant women
- Those with pre-existing asthma, COPD, or other chronic lung or heart diseases

For more information on air quality in your area, go to the following website <https://fire.airnow.gov/> and put in your zip code to see data from air quality sensors and monitors near you. Each sensor/monitor location provides an air quality index (AQI) based on the amount of particulate matter in the air. It will also show how far away certain fires are, and whether a smoke plume is in the area.

One way to gauge risk is by checking visibility. If visibility is less than 5 miles, levels are unhealthy, and people should stay indoors if possible. The 5-3-1 method can be a helpful guide, and it can be found at nmfireinfo.com/smoke-management.

For more information on COVID19 and Wildfire Smoke, see www.cdc.gov/disasters/covid-19/wildfire_smoke_covid-19.html.

Use good judgment to take care of your body. If you feel bad, no matter the visibility, make sure to stay inside

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



"Just got the classic pepperoni and it was fantastic! Love the assortment of beer, too. Just take your Fob to any of the taps and you can pour a full serving or try a sample. Highly recommend it! Plus they have a live DJ here on a Thursday night."
~ Chris T., Google reviews

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\$7 Combo Deal: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Everyday!

Come Try Out New Pagosa Cheese Steak Sub and our New Pizzas!

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



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\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.

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Our ad policy: Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

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or email: awelch@valleypublishinginc.com

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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)

GUN/KNIFE SHOW PAGOSA SPRINGS: Tables \$60, Food Trucks \$80. Archuleta Fairgrounds. June 18-20. Mike (970)946-2841 (6/23)

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

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

St. Peter's Lutheran School is open for enrollment. Call 719-852-5449 or email splschooll931@gmail.com for information. 6/23

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

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 posi-

tion will be open until filled. You can pick up an application at the District Office or on-line. (7/14)

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

The Del Norte Jr/Sr High School is accepting applications for a Secondary Foreign Language Teacher and English Language Learner (ELL) K-12 Site Coordinator. The applicant will need to be able to teach Spanish and support students studying other foreign languages through an online program. The applicant will also be responsible for managing the ELL requirements of CDE including ACCESS testing for ELLs, ELL identification, and ELL classroom supports. If interested please send a completed application, resume, and cover letter to Aaron Horrocks at ahorrocks@urtigers.co or call (719) 657 - 4040 for more information. Applications can be downloaded from www.urtigers.co. (6/30)

The Upper Rio Grande School District is accepting applications for a Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Special Programs position. Applicants should be experienced in utilizing data to drive instruction, the Colorado Department of Education's testing requirements and procedures, grant writing, managing curriculum resources, and managing programming such as Gifted and Talented and online programming. If interested please send a completed ap-

ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

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

Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates				Accumulated Water Use (ET)				
		Shown (in./day)				(inches)				
		6/20	6/19	6/18	6/17	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.23	0.15	0.21	0.24	0.38	0.59	0.83	1.09	1.65
Moravian 69	05/05	0.23	0.15	0.21	0.24	0.38	0.59	0.83	1.09	1.65
Early Wheat	04/05	0.23	0.15	0.21	0.24	0.38	0.59	0.83	1.09	1.65
Early Wheat	05/05	0.23	0.15	0.21	0.24	0.38	0.59	0.83	1.09	1.65
White Wheat	04/05	0.23	0.15	0.21	0.24	0.38	0.59	0.83	1.09	1.65
White Wheat	05/05	0.23	0.15	0.21	0.24	0.38	0.59	0.83	1.09	1.65
WinterWheat	10/01	0.23	0.15	0.21	0.24	0.38	0.59	0.83	1.09	1.65
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.15	0.09	0.12	0.13	0.24	0.37	0.49	0.62	0.86
Centennial	05/05	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.07	0.11	0.16	0.21	0.32
Nugget	05/05	0.07	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.11	0.16	0.21	0.26	0.37
Alfalfa	Est.	0.26	0.17	0.24	0.28	0.43	0.67	0.95	1.25	1.89
Lawngress	Est.	0.21	0.14	0.20	0.23	0.36	0.56	0.79	1.04	1.58

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 June 23 and weather station closest to your own. Find this up June 23d 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

Conour *Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society*
www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org

If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366
Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.
Monday & non-business hours by appointment only
2825 Sherman Ave. • Monte Vista

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.

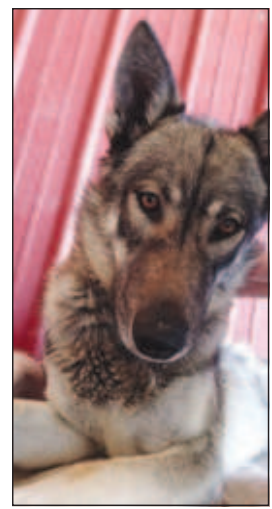


PUPPIES!!! This week we have 4 puppies looking for great homes!

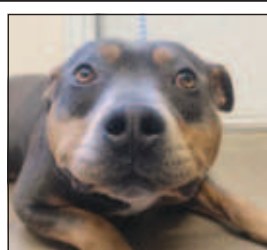


Ursula, Melody and Daisy are all 3 and a half months old. These siblings are very loving and playful and just want to be the center of everything that is going on. They are still very much a young puppies and are looking for a home that is prepared to give them the training and support they need to become good canine citizens.

Maximus is a very large, shy, sweet boy. This Husky German Shepherd mix came to us as a stray, and it was clear that he had not had much time around people. Maximus is looking for a very patient home that will give him the time he needs to come out of his shell. He is smart, playful and loves attention once he gets to know you!



Biggie is strong and energetic young male. He came in with another dog but doesn't get along with all dogs and his play style is very physical. He is loving and sweet and wants to be held constantly. Please bring any other dogs in the home to meet Biggie to make sure it is a good fit.



Tupac is a playful young puppy who loves to wrestle. He is very energetic and likes to play with other dogs, toys and anyone who will give him a chance. He is a clean slate on training so he is looking for a patient home that will give him all the lessons he needs to be a good canine citizen.

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.
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Valley Wide Classifieds

application, resume, and cover letter to Aaron Horrocks at ahorrocks@urtigers.co or call (719) 657 - 4040 for more information. Applications can be downloaded from www.urtigers.co.(6/30)

Del Norte Bank is seeking to fill a full-time position for a Teller in the Creede Branch. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is permanent, full-time, M - F, 8am - 4:30pm with 1/2 hour lunch and a robust benefits package. Application available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or inquire at 117 N. Main, Creede or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (6/23)

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION SPECIALIST - Health Equity Program Specialist Seeking qualified individual to serve as a Health Equity Program Specialist (a Community Health Promotion Specialist - Equity Lead), in our COVID Response Program for Rio Grande County Public Health Department. This grant-funded position addresses health access and information issues, related COVID-19 and health equity within the Rio Grande County. Responsibilities include assisting program coordination and grant's implementation, working with community members and organizational partners to achieve grant deliverables. Associate (preferred Bachelor)'s degree in a public health or related field. Experience in community-based program development, grassroots organizing, and knowledge of racial/ethnic minority groups preferred. Must have excellent interpersonal skills and ability to communicate effectively including good group process, facilitation, negotiation and presentation skills. Pay starts at \$40,081.60. Please see full job description and application at www.riograndecounty.org. Send resumes humanresources@riograndecounty.org or 925 6th St. Del Norte, CO 81132 (6/23)

17 Real Estate For Sale
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Saguache County Landfill RATE INCREASE NOTICE

NEW RATES EFFECTIVE: JULY 1, 2021

Services	Current Rate	New Rate
Min. Trash Charge (200 lbs. and under)	\$5.00	\$6.00
*Add'l Charge/100lbs - (201 lbs. and above)	\$1.82	\$2.00
Untarped or Uncontained Charge	\$10.00	\$10.00
*Burnables	\$0.98	\$1.20
*Construction Debris (non-compactable)	\$1.82	\$2.00
*Freon Unit	\$36.42	\$37.00
Junk Vehicle	No Charge with Title	No Charge with Title
*Mobile Home – In County	\$145.66	\$500.00
*Mobile Home – Out of County	\$436.98	\$1000.00
*Small Animal (400 lbs. and under)	\$9.10	\$10.00
*Large Animal (401 lbs. and above)	\$18.21	\$19.00
Small Tires (no rim)	\$5.00	\$5.00
Small Tires (with rim)	\$10.00	\$10.00
*Truck/Large Tires (no rim)	\$9.95	\$10.00
*Truck/Large Tires (with rim)	\$20.15	\$21.00
*Tractor Tires (no rim)	\$12.15	\$20.00
*Tractor Tires (with rim)	\$26.75	\$27.00
Recyclables (see website for accepted items)	Regular Trash Rates Apply	Regular Trash Rates Apply
Metal	No Charge	No Charge
Non-Friable Asbestos	\$1.89 per 100 lbs.	NO LONGER ACCEPTING

Mixed loads will be charged as trash
 THE FOLLOWING WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE SAGUACHE COUNTY LANDFILL:
 No Hot/Smoldering Trash, No Electronics, No Paint Cans (Wet or Dry)
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DAYS

Continued from Page 1

“Meet your Neighbor” potluck at 6 p.m. at the River Valley Inn Nursing Home. Come meet the community with this fun and interactive event, that not only showcases homemade recipes but allows guests to interact with neighbors and friends. River Valley Inn is hosting this year’s event and invites the community to come and tour the home, meet the staff, and say hello to residents.

Friday, Aug. 6, at 6 p.m. come out and enjoy some barbecue with a pig roast at the big tent next to Lowe’s Market on Highway 160 and support local veterans. The center hosts this annual event as one of its main fundraisers, with all proceeds going towards the center and activities for local veterans. There will be live entertainment provided by The Dean Family.

Saturday, Aug. 7, is jam-packed with events for the entire family as Del Norte prepares to honor the people of the west with their annual parade. The day starts early with the annual Del Norte Library Book Sale that begins at 7 a.m. The sale is the library’s only fundraising event, and all proceeds go to the library to help purchase new books, update computer equipment

and pay for activities offered by the library. The library is 103 years old this year and has come a long way in the last two years.

Also beginning at 7 a.m. the Val Alto pancake breakfast will be at the High Valley Community Center. The Bee’s Knees 5K walk and run will take place at 7:30 a.m. It takes participants from the High Valley Community Center up around D Mountain and back to Del Norte.

At 8 a.m. that annual Pie Sale will take place at the Ruth Marie Center where people can come and purchase pies with proceeds going to activities held at the center. The parade kicks off with opening ceremonies on Grande Avenue at 10 a.m. The annual Del Norte Fire Department barbecue lunch starts immediately after at the firehouse on Grande Avenue. All proceeds go to help with training and equipment costs for the department.

While out enjoying the day and everything there is to do, don’t forget to swing into the Rio Grande County Museum to learn about the Woman of the West and enjoy an ice cream social that will take place at 11 a.m.

A full list of activities can be found at www.coveredwagondays.com.

RECOVERY

Continued from Page 1

DOLA, OEDIT, and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), along with the nonprofit Community Builders, and consists of three stages:

- curriculum to connect the regional team and assess the current situation of the communities
- roadmap planning and strategizing
- implementation matchmaking

The Program, in addition to the \$2.3 million EDA grant, received \$869,723 in matching funds from the state and is expected to create more than 100 jobs and up to \$50 million in private investments.

“We are excited to have the 16 regional teams identified and begin working with them,” said Katharina Papenbrock, Deputy Director of Rural Opportunity at OEDIT. “The economic impact of COVID-19 was especially felt in Colorado’s rural communities, where it exacerbated existing challenges for key industries, businesses and the local workforce. This grant allows us to match our rural communities with the right resources and programs within OEDIT and our partners so that they can advance and realize their short- and long-term economic resiliency strategies.”

“The Roadmaps Program is coming at a time when our local governments need to swiftly recover from the impacts from COVID-19. The pandemic has shown that we can govern and do business in a new way. These Roadmaps will help ensure coordination regionally, strategically and efficiently, in order to maximize once-in-a-lifetime stimulus dollars

that are flowing into Colorado communities,” said DOLA Division of Local Government Director Chantal Unfug.



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RGNF provides tips for visitors to recreation areas

STAFF REPORT
MONTE VISTA — With visitation to National Forest recreation sites and trails expected to increase over the next several weeks, the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) would like to remind visitors to recreate responsibly on area public lands. Recreating outdoors is an important way of life for Coloradans and visitors alike, and the RGNF needs everyone's cooperation to help us sustain enjoyable outdoor experiences and preserve natural areas for future generations.

With visitation continuing to increase, the agencies remind visitors to do their part to help protect land, wildlife, water and plants. Numerous small disturbances can quickly harm sensitive natural resources and have a lasting impact on shared public lands. Remember to "Leave No Trace" and be prepared to pack out all trash when receptacles are full or not available.

Going armed with reliable information and reservations is now critical to having a good experience in this current pandemic-driven outdoor recreation frenzy. The RGNF reminds visitors to "KNOW BEFORE YOU

GO," plan ahead, and remember several essential responsible recreation guidelines over Memorial Day weekend and throughout the summer, including:

- Plan ahead and know your limits. Local public land agencies continue to see sustained high numbers of rescues. Don't take unnecessary risks. Look at the weather forecast and trail and trailhead information. Visit public lands with a friend or a family member. Tell people where you're going and when you plan on returning. Make sure to bring food and water. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes for cold, wet or changing weather conditions.
- Have a "Plan B." If you're coming and spending the night, do you know where you're spending the night? And if you don't, do you have a plan B? Many developed sites that are reservable are filling up rapidly or are already fully booked. In addition, dispersed sites are becoming more occupied than ever before.
- Use existing dispersed campsites whenever possible. These sites have already been impacted. By using them, you protect other sites from the impacts of camping and high foot

or vehicle traffic that can lead to area resource degradation.

- Bury all human and pet waste. Leaving it on the surface can lead to unsanitary conditions in high use areas. Leave the area in a condition that you would want to find it.
- Be fire safe. Have campfires in safe locations only. Use existing fire rings when possible. Never leave any campfire unattended. Use the drown, stir and feel method to ensure your campfires are dead out, before you leave.
- Don't park illegally at full trailheads and follow all rules and regulations. Have an alternate plan in case the parking lot is full. Trailhead parking lots are often full early in the morning on weekends. Carpool to popular recreation areas, if possible. Rangers may issue tickets for illegally parked vehicles.
- Stay on trails and walk through the mud.

If you need to step off-trail to let others pass, avoid stepping on vegetation. Step back on the trail immediately after people pass. Please don't travel off trail. Help protect sensitive plants and wildlife habitats by staying out of wildlife closure areas.

• Operate Off-Highway Vehicles in a responsible manner. Respect trail closures. They exist for a reason. Use appropriate speeds, especially in high use areas. Stay on roads and trails. Just one off-road user can lead to multiple operators following tracks and damage to the resource. Visit the Travel



Management page for RGNF Motor Vehicle Use Maps. These maps advise users on the legal routes for all motorized uses.

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call 719-852-5941, visit the forest website, or follow us on our Facebook page or Twitter.

HVCC excited about summer session

SUBMITTED ARTICLE
DEL NORTE — Hello community members! Summer session at High Valley Community Center has officially started! We are so happy to see the kids again and meet new friends as well.

Tuesdays and Thursdays the kids spent time drawing chalk art on the sidewalk, painting planets, participating in scavenger hunts and of course, playing outside on our playground.

The kids visited the Great Sand Dunes National Park and swam at the Sand Dunes Swimming Pool. Next week, the kids' fieldtrip is to be determined. We will be in touch with caretakers when we find out more information.

The junior staff members were set loose on the community this past Thursday. The junior staff typically will be helping with various community service projects in the morning and will assist local businesses in the afternoon.

The goal of the project is to integrate the older youths into

the community through hands on experience and community service. If your child is seventh grade or older, they are welcome to sign up for junior staff. They must also be registered through HVCC. More information is on our website, thehvcc.org.

We are also excited to announce that our summer baseball games have begun. We have games scheduled with Sargent, Monte Vista and Center. Baseball game schedules are located on our website, theHVCC.org under the heading, "Baseball Updates!". If you are unsure of where your child needs to be or if you have any other questions, please give us a call at 719-657-2172.

We would like to acknowledge Isaac and Max for their good deeds this past week. Both boys helped wipe down tables so the other kids could eat off a clean surface. Thank you, boys! Great job. Enjoy your week, everyone! Please stop by and say hi if you are in the neighborhood.

Warm weather, steady water and guest demand driving Colorado river outfitters outlook for 2021 season

STAFF REPORT
DENVER — Late season moisture across most of the state and warming summer temperatures are combining to drive pent-up guest demand for rafters to get out on the state's rivers early this summer. The Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA) is predicting a return to a "normal" rafting season, projected to run through the end of July or mid-August on most rivers across the state.

"We are incredibly encouraged by the advanced reservations we're seeing from customers wanting to enjoy a traditional Colorado summer activity," said David Costlow, CROA Executive Director. "We predict that river flows this summer will be perfect for families to get out and discover a new favorite

adventure together." Based on current conditions, CROA forecasts the following outlook for rivers across the state:

• **Western Slope (Taylor & Animas):** With snowpack at 70% this year, lower water levels may hit earlier than normal, but outfitters are expecting great family runs through mid-August and perhaps later.

• **Colorado River:** The river near Glenwood Springs is currently seeing higher flows due to contributions from the Eagle River and Roaring Fork. Flows are currently slightly lower than normal near Kremmling due to early season water being held in the reservoirs. When the reservoir water is released later in June, levels will come up and runs will last through

September. • **Clear Creek:** Clear Creek is currently running strong and anticipated to run through the end of July and perhaps into early August if weekly moisture continues. *Current access restrictions are in place for tubing-type activities only near Golden; not commercial rafting outfitters.

• **Poudre:** Benefiting from great late-season moisture, the Poudre River will likely provide strong runs through August. *Current access restrictions are in place in Fort Collins for tubing-type activities only; not commercial rafting outfitters in Poudre Canyon.

• **Arkansas River:** The Arkansas' Controlled Flow program should ensure water for recreation through mid-August.

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Saturday 10:00 am

Location: 552 E County Road 7N, Monte Vista, CO.

Auctioneer's Note: This is an offering of Unique Collectibles, Antiques and Household Items that are in good condition. If you are a Collector or just appreciate Antiques there are several treasures to be had at this auction.

Antique Furniture Mirrored Armoire Victorian Lampshade Forms w/ Fabric & Beads Handredon Twin Headboards Rocking Chair "unique" Oak High Boy Dresser w/Mirror Dresser w/Mirror Carved Walnut WA Hathaway Co Twin Poster Bed Victorian Oval Side Table Victorian Square Side Table Victorian Floor Lamp w/Shade 2-Alabaster Lamps w/Shades Oil Lamp Conv. to Elec. 2-Coal Oil Lamps	Glassware 12-piece Nontake China "Mangot Pattern" Johnson Bros. China "English Rose" Green Depression Glass Several Serving Pieces Set of 10 Plates Ruby Red Glass Cream Soup Bowls Candy Dish w/ lid Heisey Glass Sahara Serving Pieces Several Stemware Pieces Many Hatsay Glass Pieces Plating/Yorktown	Pictures & Décor Cedar Horse Shoe Bench Horse Shoe Coat Rack 4- Southwest Prints Signed & Numbered by Geore Ongley Several Antique Pictures Several Pictures Oils, Prints, & Photographs Christmas Decorations Outdoor Christmas Garland & Wreaths w/ Lights Lots of Nice Indoor Christmas Decorations
Tools Pick Ax Maul Lot of Shovels Propane Weed Burner 6000W Hyd. Jack 24" Tall Misc. Garden Tools Several Towels & Edgers Blk. & Decker Elec. Edger Several Pipe Wood Clamps Lot Tools & Wrenches Craftsman Router w/Table	Sporting Goods 23- Goose Decoy Shells w/Heads 1- Full Body Goose Decoy 1- Set Fabric Goose Decoys Coleman Gas Lantern Gas Heater/Stove	Storage/Hardware 4-36" 2-Drawer Cabinets 1-40" Glass Front Cabinet 2-60" 4-Drawer Cabinets 1- Storage Locker 2-4' Glass Separating Shelves 1-6' Glass Separating Shelf Metal Adj. Shelf Unit Wood Piano Bench 15- 6' & 8' Folding Tables 1- 5' Tray Table 1-48" Round Table 1-Lot Crown Molding 1-Lot of Baseboard 7-Hollow Core Doors 28" & 30" 2-Sets of Saw Horses 12" Decorative Blocks

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Wednesday, June 23 2021

Conejos and Costilla County summer happenings

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad opening day, May 29

Antonito celebrates the beginning of the scenic railroad's season at the depot with music, ceremonies and family fun beginning on May 29 — with bells clanging, whistles blowing, and surrounded by clouds of steam. Free refreshments, ceremonial festivities with the traditional blessing of the train, music, statements and introductions of state and local dignitaries before passengers embark on a ride of a lifetime.

The TSA has mandated that all passengers wear masks. Masks will be required regardless of the current State or Local Health Department regulations. If you or someone in your party is unable to wear a mask, we, unfortunately, will not be able to accommodate you because

of this regulation.

Info: 1-888-286-2737, www.cumbrestoltec.com

Sanford Pioneer Days, July 24

This small town celebrates its history, rooted deeply in the lives of the pioneers who settled here between 1880 and 1890. Mormon pioneers of Sanford came from Utah in covered wagons, first living in Ephraim and Richfield until Sanford was located. Info: 719-274-4024

Manassa Pioneer Days, July 16-17

The Pioneer Days Celebration started with its namesake—the pioneers. From Spanish



explorers in the late 1500s, to Mormon pioneers in the 1800s, Manassa's settlement history rings true to the Southwestern spirit of intellectual innovation, spiritual perseverance and the ceaselessly American trait of discovery. Experience yesterday and today in this small town. Generations of Manassa's families descend on the town from far and wide for the two-day celebration of history, legacy and family. The town bustles with carnival rides, food, bands, Miss Pioneer and her princesses and a parade so great it runs up and down Main Street twice. At nighttime Saturday, it's the gritty, grinding demolition derby, long-awaited and filled with thrills and excitement. Info: www.manassa.com
Santa Ana y Santiago Fiesta, July 23-25

San Luis, Colorado's oldest town, honors and celebrates the area's faith and culture as it plays host to mariachis, local bands, spectacular parades, traditional singers, fabulous food and more. Info: 719-672-2080

Antonito Labor Day Celebration, Sept. 4-5

Labor Day is always the first Monday in September, but no place welcomes it in like Antonito, with celebrations Saturday and Sunday. The day begins with a pancake next to the mansion town hall, followed by a parade at 10 a.m. on the street in front of the building and grounds, where vendors, information and souvenir booths will be set up. Live entertainment will be included on the mansion porch all day and into the night. Info: 719-376-2355



Cumbres & Toltec simplifies offerings for 51st season

The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad will begin its 51st season on June 5, running coal-fired steam locomotives from Antonito, Colorado and Chama, New Mexico through Oct. 24.

The historic steam railroad, owned by the states of Colorado and New Mexico, will offer all new route schedules. New this year are simplified all-day trips, shorter options and a thrilling, new, once a month special historic consist, the San Juan & New Mexico Express, pulled by the newly refurbished 1883 engine No. 168.

"Because of the pandemic, we simplified our offerings so riders will return to the same station they originated from," said Eric Mason, Interim CEO of the C&TSRR. "The new schedule makes it easier for passengers on our full-day trains who will now park at either Antonito or Chama, ride the train to Osier, have a delicious lunch stop with panoramic views, and return back to the station where their car is parked. We're also adding shorter rides, special Friday noon trains and the highly anticipated San Juan & New Mexico Express pulled by historic engine No. 168 and sure to thrill railfans and history buffs."

NEW IN 2021: SIX NEW CONVENIENT TICKET OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR FULL-DAY, HALF-DAY AND SPECIAL HISTORIC RIDES

FULL-DAY: The standard, full-day trips are the Chama All-Aboard and Antonito All-Aboard. Both trains pass through forests of aspens and conifers with breathtaking Rocky Mountain scenery on a full day of steam railroading adventure that includes a delicious lunch at Osier Station.

Chama All-Aboard! From June 5-Sept. 12, round-trip trains will depart five days a week from Chama at 10 a.m. to Osier, then return to

Chama at 4:05 p.m. Starting on Sept. 13, an additional trip will be added for six departures a week. All full day round-trip trains will climb the steep grade to the summit of Cumbres Pass at 10,015 feet, steam over Cascade Trestle and include a full lunch stop at beautiful Osier Station.

Antonito All-Aboard! From June 8- Sept. 12, round-trip trains will depart five days a week from Antonito at 10 a.m. to Osier, then return to Antonito by 4:40 p.m. Starting Sept. 13-Oct. 24, the roundtrip train from Antonito will operate daily, seven days a week. All full day round trips will steam through two tunnels, pass through Phantom Canyon and along the lip of Toltec Gorge and include a full lunch stop at beautiful Osier Station.

SHORTER TRIPS: The C&TSRR is introducing three new shorter trip options, perfect for day-trippers, families and those who want more time to explore the beauty and attractions along the New Mexico and Colorado border. These are:

Cumbres Express — This shorter new route will depart from the top of Cumbres Pass at 11:10 a.m., steam to Osier Station for a full lunch and return to Cumbres Depot at 2:45 p.m. Trains will operate five days a week from June 5-Sept. 12 and six days a week from Sept 13-Oct 24. Located at an elevation of 10,015 feet, the Cumbres Depot is the highest point reached by any steam train in North America and this shorter version ride will give you a wonderful taste of steam railroading in the Rockies, along with a delicious lunch.

Chama High Noon — What could be more exciting than listening for the train whistle at High Noon in Chama and catching a thrilling ride to the top of Cumbres Pass and back? This quick excursion train will operate on Fridays

Please see C&TSRR on Page 11

PIZZERIA 8852'

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www.conejosriveranglers.com



Summer in the South

Enjoy a religious journey at the Stations of the Cross Shrine

SAN LUIS— Strikingly life-like bronze sculptures take visitors along a re-creation of the path trod by Christ during the last journey of His life, the Stations of the Cross near San Luis. Created by renowned artist Huberto Maestas, the site is an especially popular tourist attraction just before Easter.

The shrine was constructed in 1986 and dedicated in 1990. The sculptures were created as an act of love and devotion by the faithful of Sangre de Cristo Catholic Parish at San Luis, reflecting their spiritual traditions.

The shrine embodies the vital role of religion in southern communities. Locals come to the shrine throughout the year for prayer, reflection and celebration.

Visitors can find the stations along a one-mile walking trail that begins just off Highway 159, 19 miles south of Fort Garland and just west of San Luis.

Fifteen art pieces can be found along the trail depicting the 12 stations of His journey, Calvary

and Crucifixion.

At the top is the shrine known as La Mesa de la Piedad y de la Misericordia (The Mesa of Piety and Mercy); the grotto features pink sandstone statues of the Virgin Mary and Saint Juan Diego. The mesa top pathway is also lined with many statues of the saints.

As visitors walk up the trail, they are afforded spectacular views of several of Colorado's mountain peaks that tower over 14,000 feet above sea level, while San Luis and the San Luis Valley are spread at their feet.

Complete the journey with a visit to the Memorial de los Martires Mexicanos, at the top of journey.

The shrine draws an average of 40,000 visitors annually.

Access to the shrine can be found at the northern portion of San Luis. There is no charge to visit the shrine.

Please follow local COVID-19 restrictions. Info: 719-672-3685, www.sdcparrish.org



Visit Fort Garland Museum

Fort Garland was established in 1858 to protect San Luis Valley settlers from Indian raids. At that time Colorado was still part of New Mexico Territory.

Fort Garland was built to replace Fort Massachusetts, just six miles to the north, because the other fort was vulnerable to attack and the land around it was too swamp-like. Fort Garland was named in honor of Brevet Brigadier General John Garland, who then was the commander for the Dept. of New Mexico.

The fort's 20 adobe buildings could accommodate two companies of 100 men and officers. Various companies of infantrymen, mounted riflemen and volunteers would eventually call the fort home. The fort even sported its own laundry and laundresses.

Only two forts existed in Colorado when the Civil War broke out in 1861, because at that time the Indians were behaving peaceably. Once the war broke out, the 200 men stationed at Fort Garland were put on alert and eventually were called into service in 1862 to assist Texas Confederates in fighting the battle at Glorieta Pass.

The pass is located at the southern tip of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains southeast of Santa Fe. This battle proved to be the turning point of the Civil War, fought in New Mexico Territory.

Following the war, Kit Carson took command of the post as a Brigadier General, in recognition of his valor at the Battle of Valverde, also in New Mexico Territory. Carson was well known for his successful work with the Indians and while at Fort Garland was asked to negotiate with the Ute Indians. For a time, Carson's efforts were successful and the Indians lived in peace with Colorado settlers. He retired for health reasons in 1867.

The Ninth Cavalry was brought to the fort during the gold and silver rush days because the Indians were rebelling against the arrival of so many prospectors searching for their fortunes in the state. In 1876, the fort became home to the Buffalo Soldiers.

The Indian threat was curtailed in 1880, when the Utes were forced by the Army to retire to reservations created for them in southwestern Colorado. Troops at the fort were then reassigned, and by 1883 the fort was abandoned. It was purchased in 1930 by the Colorado Historical Society and since that time it has operated as a military museum.

The fort is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Info: 719-379-3512, www.museumtrail.org/fort-garland-museum

C&TSRR Continued from Page 1

from June 11-Oct 22, departing Chama Station at 12 p.m. and returning at 2:30 p.m., steaming across meadows, through forests and over rivers to Cumbres Pass and back. Lunch is not included on this ride.

Antonito Express — This shorter, family friendly ride chugs along the high mountain desert and offers views of a shield volcano just miles away. This trip departs Antonito at 11 a.m. and travels to Big Horn, returning back to Antonito at 2:30 p.m. Lunch is not provided on this trip but there are snacks, beverages, and a full bar available in the concession car. The Antonito Express will depart daily from May 29-June 4 and then will run three Sundays per month through mid-September. (June 6, 13, 20; July 4, 11, 18; Aug. 1, 8, 22, 29 and Sept. 5, 12).

SPECIAL TRIPS: Rail fans and history buffs will want to reserve a spot soon for a ride on the San Juan & New Mexico Express, which will run once a month and offer the most authentic experience of 19th Century Railroading.

San Juan & New Mexico Express For train buffs around the world, this is an unprecedented historic railroading experience. Historic 1883 steam locomotive No. 168 will pull a train of all authentic 19th century Denver & Rio Grande cars on the exact same tracks across the Rocky Mountains that it originally did from 1883-1938. What is truly remarkable is that engine No. 168 sat outside in Antlers Park, Colorado Springs for 75 years. The engine was completely exposed to the elements of snow, hail and rain. It has been completely restored to its original 1883 brilliant appearance and is one of only two locomotives of its class left in the world. These special excursions

from Antonito will be "bucket list" trips with an historic locomotive and historic cars and are limited to just 60 people. Departures are scheduled for one Sunday each month — June 27, July 25, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 24. The train will depart Antonito at 10 a.m., traveling to Osier Station for a delicious lunch and return

to Antonito at 4:40 p.m. This trip will sell out quickly so make reservations!

A RAIL FAN FANTASY – RENT YOUR OWN PRIVATE CAR: Also available in 2021, get together with up to 20 friends and rent your own private rail car. Perfect for family reunions, special birthdays and anniversaries, or for those

who want more privacy. By renting a private car, you can save significantly on regular full ticket prices (depending on class of service and number of riders). This year, private cars of any class can be reserved with lunch included.

Info: www.cumbrestoltec.com or call 1-888-286-2737.

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

FOR SALE

Custom built, impeccable quality, full log home located just minutes from the town of South Fork, Colorado. The 4443 sq. ft. home and 1015 sq. ft. bunkhouse provides a total sq. ft. of 5458. Features in the home include a massive rock fireplace, 3 bedrooms, 3-1/2 bathrooms, loft that boasts a futon plus two-window beds, office, playroom, and a large living room for you to enjoy with family and friends. The wrap around deck will allow you to experience world-class high mountain views. Above the garage is a custom log guest quarters with a spectacular kitchen, bath, large living room, and bedroom combined into one unit. Bear Creek subdivision offers controlled access through a gated entrance. MLS #738155



107 Marmot Lane • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

FOR SALE

Your Stunning Colorado Mountain Oasis!

Beautiful 3,140 SQ. FT. 3 bedroom 3 bath home located on 9.59 Acres in Beautiful South Fork Ranches Bear Creek. The large master suite/bath is on the main floor. Open dining room, kitchen and living room with propane fireplace and windows from floor to ceiling with amazing mountain and Rio Grande river views. The beautiful kitchen includes an eat in island with custom countertop and large soft close storage drawers. Convenient large inside laundry room and foyer is right off the kitchen and the 4 car attached garage/workshop. The upstairs has two bedrooms, full bath with jet tub and office loft area. Start your Colorado Adventure and schedule your showing today! \$639,900 MLS#781345
3313 CO RD 15 Road, South Fork



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FOR SALE

LOOK IMPROVED PRICE \$66,900 Seller Motivated!

This Parcel is located in the mountain town of South Fork, Colorado. Located in the majestic San Juan Mountains. You will find a variety of historic motels, hotels, medical clinic, grocery store, repair shops, restaurants, shopping for the active sportsman, RV and ATV dealers. The avid golfer will enjoy the play at Rio Grande Golf Club and Resort. The winter sport opportunities are boundless as well. Wolf Creek Ski Area is famous for the most snow in the country and only 20 minutes away. South Fork, Co is a popular destination for skiing and those who love snowmobiling, four wheeling, hiking and camping. Come enjoy this majestic place. MLS #781184



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LOOK IMPROVED PRICE!

\$69,900 Beautiful 8.01 Acre parcel located in Crow's Nest subdivision in South Fork, CO. Paved roads, city water and sewer with water tap that is currently paid. Wonderful mountain views over looking the Rio Grande River and the town of South Fork. Your perfect location to build your dream home. Moments away from Gold medal fly fishing, hiking, camping, skiing, 4 wheeling, hunting and everything outdoors. Call and schedule your showing today! MLS #775764
0 Escondida Drive • South Fork

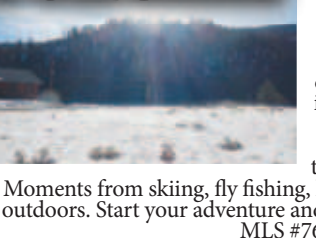


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FOR SALE

Look Improved Price! \$54,000

Beautiful parcels, Lot 11 and 12 with scenic views of the surrounding mountains in Deer Park. Paved roads with water / city water and sewer and utilities in place and ready to build. Minutes from the Rio Grande River. Enjoy the mule deer and wild turkeys that visit Deer Park often. Moments from skiing, fly fishing, hiking, hunting and everything outdoors. Start your adventure and schedule your showing today!
MLS #766836



431 and 443 Deer Run • South Fork
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FOR SALE

Look, Back On Market, Improved Price!

Mountain Retreat - Your perfect get a way in the mountains. This beautiful 3 bedroom 2 bath 2,204 SQ FT home on 2 acres with attached 952 SQ Ft. Garage and 740 SQ Ft. Workshop is tucked in the mountain and borders the National Forest. Two guest bedrooms on the main floor with nice size laundry room and large master bedroom and bath with balcony upstairs to relax with your hot cup of coffee and watch the morning sunrise. Three heat sources wood burning fireplace, radiate floor heat and electric baseboard. Furnished with all kitchen appliances, washer and dryer and most furniture. Complete with water and sewer system on paved roads. Call and schedule your showing today! Price \$649,900
MLS#778857 • 220 N Skyline Drive

Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

Look New Price - THIS HOME YOU HAVE TO SEE TO BELIEVE!

• 3 bedroom • 2 bathroom • \$698,000
This could be your new home. Amazing Custom - Built Full log Home - Entry room, living room, large kitchen with island, lots of cabinet space, laundry. This home has beautiful wrap around porches that offer great views of the mountains and cliffs. The attached double garage is 576 Sq. Ft. with concrete floor. The home is fully fenced. Additional 2,000 sq. ft. workshop. MLS#772697



181 Doe Circle • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



LOOK IMPROVED PRICE!

• 2 bedroom • 2 bathroom • \$335,000
Charming 1,518 SQ FT Home with attached 672 SQ FT Cement Floor Garage with Workshop and additional 2 storage units. Bright and cheery with large living area with fire place and large windows with beautiful view's of Beaver Mountain and plenty of sun shine. This home is complete with 4 heat sources! 2 ETS systems, Base board heating (all rooms), Solar heat and Fireplace. Complete with water and sewer system on paved roads. MLS#777866
171 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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Stunning 3.03 Acres on the Rio Grande River with 134 feet of river front! Build your dream home- and bring horses! Just minutes from world class skiing and championship golf in South Fork surrounded by National forest. Very unique property- not much left like this one! \$190,000
MLS#775564



Legends Premier Properties
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Great Business Opportunity with this Car Wash! Located right on Highway 285 in Monte Vista. Good income generator! The car wash has some updates, and there is plenty of room on the lot for anything additional. All books and records are available with signed confidentiality agreement. Additionally you can package the other car wash and laundromat in Del Norte, and South Fork. Inquire within for those details! \$423,000
MLS#780151



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Beautiful Charming Custom Home! Situated on 12.69 Acres in the country but close to town. Lots of open space, large family area with custom fireplace. Great kitchen for the gourmet cook, stainless appliances, and great for entertaining. Office, wood floors, tile & granite. Master Suite, and walk in closets. radiant heat floors, beautiful windows, and doors. 2 Car attached garage, and additional garages/RV Garage. Established yard with sprinkler system. Outdoor patio area to enjoy the views of the San Juans! Call to preview this very special custom home that offers living in style, and comfort! \$835,000 MLS#781327

Legends Premier Properties
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Two bedroom 1 bath home on 2 plus large lots! Sits on a quiet road yet is so close to the town of Del Norte and to the new high school! Lookout mountain is within walking distance with a walking path to the top. The house has a large kitchen with newer appliances. One of the bedrooms has a sliding door to the back patio area. Wood stove in the living room keeps the house warm during winter time! Newer hot water heater. Roof is metal and the large yard is fenced. Two car garage plus a green house and storage shed and small shop area. Nice big fenced area perfect for a garden! Lots of trees! \$199,000 MLS#782178

Legends Premier Properties
Tracy Gosar, Broker/Owner
810 First Ave. • Monte Vista
719-850-1815(cell) • 719-852-0450 www.legendspremierproperties.com

Spacious 2756 square foot manufactured home with beautiful mountain views on 3.5 acres. The home has four bedrooms, 2.5 baths, living room, great room, formal entrance, and formal dining area. Very nice kitchen with full walk in pantry and breakfast nook opens onto a back deck. Property is fully fenced for horses. Well is augmented for two horses. Metal garage 18' X 21' with an 8' wide door and a second storage shed. Property is located 3 miles east of South Fork. Seller is in the process of finishing a remodel in one of the bathrooms. \$319,000 MLS#783014

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Hugely successful retail, food and flower shop with prime location in darling mountain town. Sale includes all inventory, equipment and delivery van. Turn key operation is growing every year. Unique original accents with original wood floors and storage galore. Ready to own your own business in a quaint historical town? Ready to get out of the city? Don't miss out on this opportunity! \$385,000 Call today. MLS#783036

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Great business opportunity located in the town of Platoro. The Gold Pan offers many different opportunities, and is surrounded by the Rio Grande National Forest where you can have access to trails, lakes, streams, and is close to Platoro Reservoir. The Gold Pan has seven cabins that can be used for rentals, a general store, a café, twenty rv sites with W/S/E 30amp full hookups, and open stalls and corrals available. Call for more information on this outstanding business in God's Country! 1,395,000 MLS#783164

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Charming Turn of Century Brick Home! This home is updated with beautiful wood floors, kitchen has maple cabinets with granite counters, open to dining area, and living space. Updated heating with hot water base board heat. The living room has a fireplace, high ceilings, bathroom downstairs updated with jetted soaking tub, and very spacious.. One bedroom downstairs. Upstairs is 3 bedrooms, and the master has been added on with high vaulted ceilings, and bath. Lots of large windows for great light. This home is very comfortable and charming. The yard is established, and has a carport, and one car garage. Located on Westside of Monte Vista close to parks, and golf course. Call for more details, and preview this special home! \$295,000 MLS#783408

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WELCOME Newcomers! Summer 2021

Pull-Out Section

A Relocation Guide for New Residents in the San Luis Valley of Colorado

Valley Publishing

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HOSPITALS AND CLINICS

- Alamosa County**
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 1710 1st St., Alamosa
- Sierra Blanca Medical Center**
 106 Blanca Ave., Alamosa
 589-3658
- Convenient Care Community Clinic**
 1131 Main St., Alamosa
 589-2562
- San Luis Valley Health**
 589-2511 • www.slvrhc.org
 106 Blanca Ave., Alamosa
- RMC Clinic**
 106 Blanca Ave., Alamosa
 589-3000
- SLV Behavioral Health Group (SLV BHG)**
 8745 Cty. Rd. 9 South, Alamosa
 589-3671
- SLVBHG Mi Esperanza Wellness Walk-in Clinic**
 311 San Juan, Alamosa
 589-3671
- San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center**
 106 Blanca Ave., Alamosa
 589-2511
- Stuart Avenue Clinic**
 2115 Stuart Ave., Alamosa
 589-3000
- Adolescent Health Program**
 201 Carson Ave., Alamosa
 589-5860
- Davita Dialysis**
 612 Del Sol Dr., Alamosa
 1-800-424-6589
- Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic**
 622 Del Sol Dr., Alamosa
 587-6800
- Rio Grande County**
Rio Grande Hospital
 657-2510
 www.riograndehospital.org
 310 Cty. Rd. 14, Del Norte
- RGH Clinic-Del Norte**
 0310C Cty. Rd. 14, Del Norte
 657-2418
- Edward M. Kennedy Health Clinic - Valleywide**
 925 Second Ave., Monte Vista
 852-2512
- RGH Clinic- Monte Vista**
 1033 Second Ave., Monte Vista
 852-8827
- Monte Vista Community Clinic**
 103 Chico Court, Monte Vista
 852-9400
- RGH Clinic- South Fork**
 62 Park Drive, South Fork
 873-5494
- SLV BHG**
 402 4th Ave., Monte Vista
 589-3671
- SLVBHG Del Norte**
 14443 HWY 160, Del Norte
 589-3671
- SLVBHG South Fork**
 20 Lodge Dr. E, South Fork
 589-3671
- Saguache County**
Cesar E. Chavez Family Medical Center
 186 N. Hurt St., Center
 754-2778
- HRRMC Saguache Health Center**
 405 Denver Ave., Saguache
 530-2000
- SLV BHG**
 260 Worth St., Center
 589-3671
- Moffat Family Health Center**
 545 Moffat Way, Moffat
 256-4025
- Conejos County**
Antonito Medical Clinic
 115 Main St., Antonito
 376-2308
- Conejos County Hospital**
 19021 S. Hwy. 285, La Jara
 274-5121
- La Jara Medical Clinic**
 509 Main St., La Jara
 274-5000
- Guadalupe Health Center**
 10th and Dalia St., Antonito
 376-5426
- SLV BHG**
 322 Walnut St., La Jara
 589-3671
- SLV BHG**
 9th & Dahlia, Antonito
 589-3671
- Costilla County**
San Luis Health Center
 233 Main St., San Luis
 672-3352
- SLV BHG**
 409 Trinchera, San Luis
 589-3671
- Mineral County**
RGH Family Practice-Creede
 802 Rio Grande Ave., Creede
 658-0929

Dialing 9-1-1

9-1-1 is for true emergencies when every second counts, to save a life, to report a fire or to stop a crime.

Dial 9-1-1 to report child abuse, domestic violence, a robbery in progress, a traffic accident with injuries or another crisis situation. When calling 9-1-1, remain calm, provide an exact location of the emergency situation.

Do not hang up until the operator says to, even if you or a child has dialed 9-1-1 by mistake.

Do not dial 9-1-1 to ask about weather, report a barking dog, complain about trash in the road or report loud music. Dial 589-5807, 376-5921, 672-3302, 658-2600, 657-4000 or 754-2442.

ALAMOSA

- Size: 723 square miles
Population: 15,445*
- GOVERNMENT**
 www.alamosacounty.org
- Courthouse**
 8955 Independence Way, 589-4996
Open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
- Commissioner meetings**
 Second and last Wednesdays of every month
- Commissioners**
 Lori Laske, Michael Yohn, and Vern Heersink
- County Administrator**
 Gigi Dennis
- County Clerk**
 Nicole Jaramillo
- Assessor**
 Sandra Hostetter
- Coroner**
 Trace Larson
- County Attorney**
 Jason Kelly
- Treasurer/Public Trustee**
 Amy McKinley
- Sheriff**
 Robert Jackson
 County Jail
 1315 17th St., 589-6608
- MUNICIPALITY**
Alamosa
 www.cityofalamosa.org
 City Hall
 300 Hunt Ave., 589-2593
Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon. through Fri.
- Mayor**
 Ty Coleman
- Councilors**
 Charles Griego, Jan Vigil, Kristina Daniel, Liz Hensley, David Broyles and Michael Carson
- City Manager**
 Heather Brooks
- City Clerk**
 Holly Martinez
- Police Department**
 425 4th St., 589-2548
 Chief Ken Anderson
- Volunteer Fire Department**
 Chief Don Chapman
 587-2530
- Finance**
 Lisa Sandoval
- Parks and Recreation**
 Alamosa Family Recreation Center
 2222 Old Sanford Rd.
 589-2105 • alamosarec.org
- Library**
 300 Hunt Ave.
 589-6592 • alamosalibrary.org
- EDUCATION**
Alamosa School Dist.
 www.alamosa.k12.co.us
- Administration**
 209 Victoria Ave., 587-1600
- Alamosa Elementary School**
 Two buildings, K-2 and 3-5
 1707 W. 10th St., 587-6600/587-6650
- Ortega Middle School**
 401 Victoria Ave., 587-1650
- Alamosa High School**
 805 Craft Dr., 587-6000
- Sangre de Cristo School District**
 www.sdc.schools.net
 8751 Lane 7 N.
 Mosca, Colo., 378-2321
- Adams State University**
 www.adams.edu • 587-7011
- Trinidad State, Valley Campus**
 www.trinidadstate.edu • 589-7000
- COMMUNITY SERVICES**
- Chamber of Commerce/ Colorado Welcome Center**
 Historic depot building
 610 State Ave., 589-3681/589-4840
 www.alamosa.org
- Convention and Visitors Bureau**
 589-4840
 1-800-258-7597
- La Puente Homeless Shelter**
 913 State Ave.
 589-5909
- Food Bank**
- 513 6th St.
 589-4567
- Tu Casa**
 Violence, sexual assault
 589-2465 (24-hours)
- Basic information for every newcomer:**
- Driver's licenses**
 715 6th St.
 Alamosa
 589-4274
- Motor vehicle and voter registration at county courthouses
- Veterans affairs**
 Each county has a Veterans Service Officer on staff.
- Social Security**
 602 Del Sol Dr. No. 1A
 Alamosa
 589-2953
- Electricity**
San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative
 3625 West U.S. Hwy. 160
 Monte Vista
 852-3538
- Center Town Government**
 294 S. Worth
 754-3497
- Xcel Energy**
 1-800-895-4999
- Telephone**
CenturyLink
 Residential
 1-800-244-1111
 Business
 1-800-603-6000
Charter Communications
 877-906-9121
- Trash**
City of Alamosa
 589-6631
Waste Management
 852-6392
GT's Trash Service
 672-3601
MDS Waste & Recycle
 658-3060
South Fork Water, Sanitation District
 873-5860
Silver Mountain Disposal
 843-5354

Colorado State Patrol/Non-Emergency Dispatch
589-5807

CONEJOS COUNTY

Population in: 8,256
Land Area: 1290 Square Miles

GOVERNMENT

376-5772 • www.conejoscounty.org

Courthouse

Open 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Located within Conejos

Commissioner meetings

First & Third Thursday and 15th of each month

Commissioners

Carlos Garcia and Mitchell Jarvies
376-5772

Administrator

Tressesa Martinez
376-5772 Ext 1

Accountant

Gary Gurule
376-5772 Ext 2

Accounts Payable

Cheryl Ruybal
376-5772 Ext. 3

Social Services

376-5455

Assessor

Naomi Keys
376-5585

Clerk & Recorder

Nathan Ruybal
376-5422

Coroner

Richard Martin
Cell 588-5019, Home 843-5815

Sheriff

Garth Crowther
376-2196

Treasurer/Public Trustee

Mack Crowther
376-5919

EDUCATION

North Conejos School District

northconejos.com
17890 U.S. Hwy. 285, La Jara
274-5174

La Jara Elementary

214 Poplar Ave., La Jara
274-5791

Centaury Middle School

17891 U.S. Hwy. 285, La Jara
274-4301

Centaury High School

17889 U.S. Hwy. 285, La Jara
274-5178

North Conejos Alternative Program

615 Main St., La Jara
274-4220

Manassa Elementary

200 S. 5th St., Manassa
843-5277

Sanford School District

www.sanfordschools.org
755 2nd St., 274-5167

South Conejos School District

13099 County Road G, Antonito
376-7001 • southconejos.com

Veterans Affairs

376-6725

MUNICIPALITIES

Antonito

Town Hall

515 River St., 376-2355

Police Department

376-5421

La Jara

Town Hall

221 Broadway, 274-5363
Colorado.gov/townoflajara

Police Department

274-5886

Manassa

Town Hall

401 Main St., 843-5207

Police Department

843-5207

Romeo

Town Hall

149 2nd Ave., 843-5785

Sanford

Town Hall

390 Greenleaf, 274-4024

Police Department

274-4040

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Conejos County Chamber of Commerce

376-2277

Capulin Community Center

274-5520



COSTILLA COUNTY

Population: 3,524
Size: 1,227 Square Miles

Courthouse

Open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., weekdays
352 Main St., San Luis
672-3681

GOVERNMENT

costillacounty-co.gov/

Commissioner meetings

First and Third Tuesdays of every month

Chief Administrative Officer

Ben Doon

Chief Financial Officer

Julie Albert

Commissioners

Michael Gallegos, Robert Espinoza and Steven Romero
672-3372

Assessor

Thomas Aragon
937-7670

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Blanca/ Fort Garland Community Center

17591 E. Hwy. 160
Blanca
379-3450

Fort Garland Museum

29477 Hwy. 159
Fort Garland
379-3512

Clerk & Recorder

Najondine Placek
937-7671

Coroner

Sherri Vigil
580-3426

Sheriff

Danny Sanchez
672-0673

Treasurer/Public Trustee

Lorraine Medina
937-7672

Social Services

Tommy Vigil
672-4131

MUNICIPALITIES

San Luis

Municipal offices

408 Main St.
672-3321 • townofsanluisco.org

Mayor

Tiffany Gallegos

San Luis Visitors Center

408 Main St.
San Luis
672-3002

San Luis Museum and Cultural Center

401 Church Place
San Luis
672-0999

Town Trustees

Roberta Romero, Jessica Durgan, Shantae Martinez, Brian Valdez

Blanca

Municipal offices

Main Street
379-3461 • goade.org/~blancaco

Town Clerk/Court Clerk

Rayna Sanchez

Mayor

Myrrl Smith

Trustees

Paul Wiescamp, Nancy Escalante, Edgar Martinez, Darlene Burns, June Welch and Lawrence Kawanabe

Town Marshal

Paul Quintana

Fire Department

379-3461

EDUCATION

Centennial

School District R-1

centennial.k12.co.us
14644 Hwy. 159, San Luis
672-3322

Sierra Grande

School District

www.sierragrandeschool.net
17523 U.S. Hwy. 160, Blanca
379-3259

SAGUACHE COUNTY

Size: 3,168 square miles
Population: 6,108

Courthouse

202 3rd Street, Saguache
Open: 8 a.m.- 4 p.m., weekdays

Commissioner meetings

First, second and third Tuesday

GOVERNMENT

www.saguachecounty.net

Commissioners

Lynne Thompson and Tom McCracken

Assessor

Peter Peterson, 655-2521

Treasurer/Public Trustee

Connie Trujillo, 655-2656

Clerk and Recorder

Trish Gilbert, 655-2512

Attorney

Ben Gibbons

Sheriff

Dan Warwick, 655-2544

Coroner

Tom Perrin, 850-2219

Administrator

Wendi Maez, 655-2231

Land Use

Amber Wilson, 655-2321

MUNICIPALITIES

Moffat

moffatcolorado.com

Mayor

Cassandra Foxx, 256-4538

Town Hall

401 Lincoln • 256-4538
Open 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Thursday (closed 12-1 p.m.)

Clerk/Treasurer

Amy Hardin, 256-4538

Town Trustees

Tyler Berger, Kristin Ecklund, Ken Skoglund, Jon Lopez and Ricardo Ellis

Saguache

www.townofsaguache.org
(county seat)

Town Hall

504 San Juan, 655-2232
Open 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays

Mayor

Elvie Samora

Town Clerk

Iris Garcia

Deputy Clerk

Tina Sanchez

Town Trustees

Jim Jaminet, Janice Torrez, Loren Aldrich, Susan Collins, Wyoma Hansen and Amber Wilson

Center

www.centerco.gov

Town Hall

294 S. Worth, 754-3497

Mayor

Tony Garcia

Town Trustees

Mary McClure, Peggy Martinez, Daniel (Archie) Gallegos, Nivek Beiriger, Adeline Sanchez, Bill McClure

Town Administrator

Brian Lujan

Fire Department

754-3333

Police Chief

Dale Gene Meek
754-3497

Crestone

Town Hall

108 West Galena Ave., 256-4313
Townofcrestone.colorado.gov
Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Mayor

Kairina Danforth

Town Trustees

Diane Birstow, Benjamin Byer, Stephen Hume, Kizzen Laki, Kimberly Martinez and Daya Scheide

Clerk

Allyson Ransom, 256-4313

Treasurer

Gwynn Busby



RIO GRANDE COUNTY

Size: 913 square miles
Population: 11,982

Courthouse
925 6th Street, Del Norte
657-3394
Open 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. weekdays

Commissioner meetings
Second and fourth Wednesdays

GOVERNMENT

www.riograndecounty.org
Commissioners
Scott Deacon, Gene Glover and John Noffsger

Coroner
Stephen Hunzeker
588-1289

Administrator
657-2744

Clerk & Recorder
Cindy Hill
657-3334

Assessor
J.J. Mondragon
657-3326

Treasurer/Public Trustee
Cherilyn Rue
657-2747

Sheriff
Don McDonald
657-4000

Social Services
1015 6th St.
Jody Kern
657-3381

Public Health Director
Dr. Kolawole Bankole
657-3352

MUNICIPALITIES

Monte Vista
www.cityofmontevista.com
City Hall
95 W. First Ave., 852-2692

Mayor
Dale Becker

Councilors
Victor Sigala Larry Foster, Martha Lock

Police Department
95 W. First Ave.
852-6161

Police Chief
John Rosecrams

Fire Chief
Patrick Sullivan
401 Broadway St.
852-3371

Administration
City Manager
Forrest Neuerburg

City Clerk
Unita Vance

Recreation
Jamie Hurtado

Public Works
Rob Vance

Del Norte

delnortecolorado.com
Town Hall
140 Spruce
657-2708

Administrator Clerk
Bernadette Martinez

Police Chief
George Dingfelder
719-852-1190

Mayor
Chris Trujillo

Board of Trustees
Shelly Burnett, Joe Archuleta, Louie Velasquez, Bob Muncy, Laura Anzalone, Leigh Anne Lobato

South Fork

www.southfork.org
Town Hall
100 Silver Thread Lane
South Fork, 719-873-0152

Mayor
Rodney Reed

Board of Trustees
Tyler Schmidt, Sarah Sparrow, Jim Patterson, Michele Cruse, Rick Morgan, Kevin Stickens

Town Administrator
Dan Hicks

South Fork Fire Rescue
Chief Tyler Off
719-873-0095

Police Department
Chief Hank Weber
873-1040

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Tri-County Senior Citizens Center
311 Washington Ave.
852-0386, 852-5778

Monte Vista Kids Connection
134 Washington
852-6966

High Valley Community Center
595 Grand Ave.
Del Norte
657-2172

Rio Grande County Museum
595 Oak St.
Del Norte
657-2847

EDUCATION

Monte Vista School District

www.monte.k12.co.us
Monte Vista High School
295 E. Prospect Ave.
852-3586

Monte Vista Middle School
3720 Sherman Ave.
852-5984

Bill Metz Elementary
545 2nd Ave.
852-4041

Marsh Elementary
215 Lyell St.
852-3231

Byron Syring Delta Center and Online Academy
345 Prospect Ave.
852-2212

Sargent School District
www.sargent.k12.co.us
7090 N. Cty. Rd. 2E
852-4025

Upper Rio Grande School District

www.dncsd.org
950 French St.

Del Norte Elementary
657-4030

SAGUACHE COUNTY

Continued from Page 2

EDUCATION

Center Consolidated School District

www.center.k12.co.us
500 Broadway, 754-3442

Academic Recovery Center
754-2859

Center High School
754-2232

Skoglund Middle School
754-2232

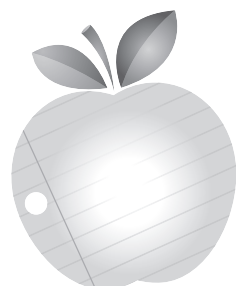
Haskin Elementary School
754-3982

Crestone Charter School
crestone-charter-school.org
330 Lime Ave., Crestone, 256-4907

Moffat Consolidated School District
www.moffatschools.org
501 Garfield Ave., Moffat, 754-0500

Mountain Valley School District


www.mountainvalleyschool.org
403 Pitkin Ave.
Saguache
655-2578



COMMUNITY SERVICES


Saguache Chamber of Commerce
www.saguachechamber.org
849-0240

Crestone Chamber of Commerce
256-4313





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MINERAL COUNTY

Size: 876 square miles
Population: 712

County Land Use Office
Roger Duncan
658-2360

GOVERNMENT

www.mineralcountycolorado.com
1201 N. Main St., 658-2331

Silver Thread Public Health
Tara Hardy
658-2416

Courthouse
1201 N. Main St.,
Open 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., weekdays

Mineral County Volunteer Fire Department
Chief Robert Hosselkus
658-2600

Commissioner meetings
First Monday and third Tuesday of every month

MUNICIPALITY Creede

Commissioners
Ramona Weber, Jesse Albright and Scott Lamb

City Hall
2223 Main St.
658-2276
www.colorado.gov/creede

County Administrator
Janelle Kukuk
658-2360

Mayor
Jeffrey Larson

County Assessor
Libby Lamb
658-2669

Trustees
Teresa Wall, Joel O'Connell, Dana Brink, Lori Dooley, Jack Wyatt Hannah, James Kehr

County Clerk/Recorder
Eryn K. Wintz
658-2440

Town Manager
Louis Fineberg

County Treasurer
Patti Payne
658-2325

Town Clerk
Sarah Efthim-Williamson

Court Clerk
Hollie Wheelwright
658-2575

Recreation
Kathryn Short Ash

Coroner
Jim Adelman
658-2600

Public Works
Scott Johnson
658-2003

The Mineral County Sheriff's Department serves both the county and Creede.
1201 N. Main St.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Chamber of Commerce
www.creede.com
904 S. Main St.
658-2374

Sheriff
Fred Hosselkus
658-2600

EDUCATION Creede School District

www.creedek12.net
450 Corsair Drive
658-2220

Library
658-2220

Road and Bridge
Danny Rogers
658-2329

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Alamosa County
8900A Independence Way, Alamosa
589-4848

Silver Thread
802 Rio Grande, Creede
658-2416

Conejos County
19023 Hwy. 285, La Jara
274-4307

Rio Grande County
925 6th St., Del Norte
657-3352

Costilla County
233 Main St., San Luis
672-3332

Saguache County
505 3rd St., Saguache, 655-2533
220 Worth St., Center, 754-2773

Ambulance Services

Alamosa - 589-5807
Del Norte - 657-4000
Monte Vista - 852-5111

South Fork - 873-5544
Creede - 658-2211
Conejos County - 376-5921

The area code for all phone numbers in the San Luis Valley is 719.

Editors Note

**We've made every attempt to verify the information in this edition; we apologize if there are any mistakes and/or omissions.*



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5 miles South of Antonito on Highway 17
www.conejosriveranglers.com

HOW TO GUIDE



A Publication of Valley Publishing, Inc. and Valley Courier
Summer 2021

*Consumer***How****To****CHOOSE BANKING SERVICES***— Get the most bank for your buck!*

There are many factors to consider when choosing a bank. Some consumers think that all banks are the same; others are lured by free checking offers and giveaways. But there's a lot more to think about than what you can get for free. What else should you be looking for in a bank?

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

Banks have most of the basics in common – checking, savings, loans. But it's important to think about what you'll need from your bank now and in the future. Ask your banker what types of different accounts they offer, but also look for other things you might need, such as

- A checking account that lets you write all the checks you need
- Availability of accounts and services for your business
- Loans for your business, home or personal use
- Retirement and investment accounts
- Monthly account maintenance fees
- Minimum balance requirements
- Overdraft protection
- Online banking
- Direct deposit

WHAT ARE YOU REALLY PAYING?

Some banks will offer free checking accounts – and some of these accounts can really work well for people. But be sure to check the small print. Often times, you'll pay no maintenance fee for the checking account but much more than usual if you bounce a check. Watch out for hidden fees, too, like those charged for talking to a banker in a branch or on the phone.

PERSONAL SERVICE

When looking for a bank, it's important that

they treat you like a person and care about what happens to you and your financial life. Banking is a very personal thing, and your money is nothing to take lightly. Be aware of the service that you receive when choosing a bank, and make sure you feel comfortable with the people delivering that service. It's essential that your bank values the person carrying the wallet more than how much is in that wallet.

CONVENIENCE

Convenience is a matter of taste. Some people need an ATM on every corner; others never visit a branch and do all their banking online. Think about how you do your banking. If you use a check or write checks for the most of your purchases, then you may want easy deposit options like direct deposit or a branch close to your work. If you use a lot of cash, you may be looking for local ATMs. Decide how you like to bank – and if you're not sure if your bank is convenient enough, tell them what you want and see if they can offer suggestions.

COMMUNITY DRIVEN

The character of a bank is often reflected in how they give back to the community. And not just any community – yours. If your bank offers financial support to local organizations and events, and encourages volunteerism among its employees, they're displaying their commitment and care for the community. And choosing a bank based on local community support is important, because it allows that bank to continue its good works.

Consider what's important to you before you choose a bank. Look for an organization that provides the products you need, the service you want, and the dedication you and your family deserve.

Top five things you should know about your bank...

1. Do they have the financial products and services you need?
2. Are there hidden fees?
3. Do they care about you, not just your money?
4. Are they convenient enough for your lifestyle?
5. Do they support your community?

**A bank
is a bank
is a bank
and other
tall tales.**



All banks are not created equal. And that's no exaggeration. Because at Alamosa State Bank we're focused in investing in this community, whether it's through loans, monetary contributions, or volunteering. Where you bank matters. We wrote the book on it.

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2225 Main St.
Alamosa
589-2564

601 Main St.
Alamosa
589-2564



Consumer **How To** CHOOSE THE RIGHT UNIVERSITY FOR YOU

Tips for Finding the Right University

While a fresh crop of high school graduates is set to walk across the stage at high school commencement ceremonies across the country, for the many students about to become high school seniors now is an important time to start thinking ahead. That's because the college application process is about to begin.

Choosing a college is a big choice for parents and children alike. For parents, it's a financial commitment they've likely been preparing to make since the day their child was born. For kids, it's more than likely the biggest decision they've ever faced. Before the process begins, consider the following tips for choosing the right college.

- Consider a possible career path. Most 18-year-olds have no idea what they might want to do for a living, and that's perfectly fine. When looking at colleges, kids should look at all of the programs they offer, and make a list of the programs that most interest them. This isn't choosing a career (as many students change majors while in college), but rather doing some preliminary research about what you may want to study. For students who really have no idea what they might want to study, consider applying to a larger state school, as those often offer the most programs of study, meaning a student won't have to transfer once they do decide on a course of study.

- Make a list of what you want out of a school. For some kids, going to school too far away from home is a frightening prospect, while others might embrace the freedom. Also, schools vary greatly depending on the size of the college. Some students might prefer a smaller, more close-knit college community, while others might prefer a larger school with more students. Students should make a list of what their personal preferences are and seek out schools that match those preferences.

- Discuss finances. Thanks to the ever-increasing costs associated with higher education, finances figure heavily into the college decision. While parents would love to send their children to their first choices, sometimes finances mandate otherwise. Parents and children should discuss how much they can afford to spend, and how realistic some college choices might be. While financial aid and scholarships are options, they aren't always enough to cover tuition and room and board costs. Rather than risk a heated argument when it comes time to make a decision, parents and children should get on the same page with respect to what's affordable as soon as possible.

Most high school students dread junior year. Not only is it one of the most difficult, but it is also one of the most important years when it comes to applying to colleges. Students have to take the SATs, visit schools and make other college-related decisions. With so many colleges out there, how do you know which ones to apply to, let alone know which one to finally go to? Believe it or not, you can make these decisions stress free. Here are a few simple steps for kids to follow that will make the whole process easier on everyone.

- Write down reasons for wanting to attend college. Though your reasons can be to become a doctor or study art history, they don't have to be limited to getting a degree. You might want to live in another part of the country or be in a community with a lot of artists. Then, prioritize the list of criteria. (Revise the list a few times during your search since your priorities are likely to change.) By deciding what's important to you and what takes priority, it will be easier to find schools that interest you.

And if this still sounds overwhelming, many students also factor in school size, location, academic philosophy, courses of study, reputation and extracurricular activities when applying to various colleges.

- Make a list of ideal colleges. Once you've established why you want to go to a school, try to find schools that offer what you're looking for. Michael Fleischner, vice president of college guide publisher Peterson's, says you should apply to between four and seven schools. You want to name at least seven schools, preferably more. Place schools that meet all of your criteria towards the top of the list and colleges that only have one towards the bottom. However, don't disregard the schools at the bottom of the list. What's important to you might change as you go through the process. If this school has a great architecture program and is within your price range (we'll get to that in a minute), it might end up being a better possibility than you first thought.

- Get information. See as many colleges as you can in person. Though a cafeteria might look really fun and full of life in an online virtual tour, you'll never get its real vibe until you have lunch there. While at the school, take advantage of it as much as you can. Take a tour of the campus, ask current students questions, and sit in on a class. Some schools even offer a chance to stay in the dorms with a current student — a great opportunity to experience dormitory life firsthand.

Of course, if it's completely unrealistic to head cross-country just to visit one campus, a virtual tour is better than nothing. Also, many university Web sites include student pages and blogs by current and former students which can provide insight into campus life. Read the college paper online to get in the loop on campus happenings and issues. On top of that, there are numerous books and magazines that describe campuses and schools. College fairs enable you to pick up information and chat with alumni. And local alumni branches can put you in touch

with previous students.

- Think about money. Figure out who will be paying for college. If you, the parent, will be paying for everything, establish how much you are willing to spend. If the student will be responsible for part of or all of his educational costs, he or she will need to figure out how to pay for it, such as taking out student loans, applying for financial aid or working a part-time job while going to school. Whoever is responsible, it's important to get an early start on researching financial aid since federal forms are usually due in January of a student's senior year in high school. In the end, be realistic about how much you want to spend on education. But if you love one school that is out of your price range, apply to it anyway. Check out [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafs.ed.gov) for information on federal loans and college Web sites for financial aid information on individual schools. You might be surprised by how much merit-based financial aid you may receive and end up paying less than you would if you attend a state school.

- Narrow down your options. Now that it's time to figure out where you'll actually apply, take a look back at your initial list and assess if your priorities are still the same. If they're not, juggle your list as well as the ranking of schools based on your criteria. Also, you might be able to eliminate some schools based on what you found out when you were gathering information. For example, if you want to go to a school with a football team and found out that George Washington University doesn't have one, it would be a waste of money and time to apply there.

Now is also the time to assess how your academic standing matches up with that of the university and how your financial situation factors in. Keeping all of these things in mind, you should now be able to select four to seven schools that you would like to apply to. According to CNN Money, it's a good idea to choose both an academic and financial "safety" school. That way, even before your acceptance letters and financial aid packages are sent out, you will not only have a school on your list that you will most likely get into, but it will be one that you can afford as well.

- Reevaluate acceptance schools. After the applications were sent in and you've received your acceptance letters, there's one more big step: Deciding on which school to attend. Reevaluate the schools you were accepted to based on your list of priorities and financial situation, considering how much financial aid you've received, student loans, and whether you'll have to work during school. If you can, revisit the colleges. It might sound silly, but it's different looking at a school once you've been accepted, and a second visit can answer any last-minute questions or concerns.

Whatever college you finally decide on, make sure that it is your decision and that you feel good about it. Don't go to a school just because a friend, boyfriend/girlfriend or even a parent wants you to go there. If you listen to your inner voice, you'll make the right decision for you.

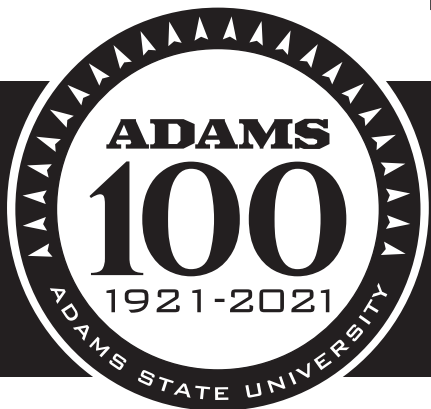


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Consumer

How To CHOOSE A MEDICAL FACILITY

Award winning facility...

Another way to determine the best facilities is by the types of awards they earn.

The American medical industry is always looking for ways to improve health care, and one way they recognize excellent quality is by giving awards to professionals and facilities that deserve it.

If the facility has a good reputation in your community and recognition by national health organizations, that can be a good sign.

In May of 2020, Rio Grande Hospital (RGH) was recognized by The Chartis Center for Rural Health and the National Rural Health Association as one of the Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals in the nation, Colorado's only representative on this prestigious list.

In February of 2020, RGH also received a five-star ranking from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), one of only two Critical Access Hospitals in the state to receive this distinction and the only one in the San Luis Valley. The rankings are based on seven measures: safety of care, readmission rates, patient experiences, effectiveness of care, timeliness of care, and efficient use of medical imaging.

— *How can you tell which facilities are top-notch, though? Here are some things to look for.*

Picking the right medical clinic can yield far-reaching benefits for your mind and body, so shop carefully to find one that can deliver the health services you need in a professional and friendly way. Medical clinics are often busy places with lots of patients who need care. The best clinics, however, don't make you feel rushed and take the time to make sure your needs are fully being met.

Here are some things to consider when choosing a health clinic.

Credentials

Like with many services in the health-care field, you want to make sure the doctors, providers, and nurses at the clinic hold the right credentials to practice in your state.

Check with your state's medical board to make sure your clinicians records are listed there. Most medical boards have a way of searching online to see which degrees and board certifications medical professionals hold, making it easy for patients to verify their background and specialties.

The medical staff's experience and reputation in your community matter, too. The best clinicians have a long track record of happy patients and good medical outcomes, so ask your friends, family, and coworkers about which clinician or clinics they recommend. Chances are, it's one of RGH's award winning clinics.

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The Compliance Team, a nationally recognized accreditation organization authorized by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to confer comprehensive accreditation to Medicare-approved health care providers, also named RGH's Monte Vista Medical Clinic an

Exemplary Provider.

High Standards

While most medical clinics can provide the same basic services, the best ones have high expectations for how they run their operation and care for patients. In most cases, after your first visit you'll be able to tell how much pride the clinic takes in its services.

Is the office, including the waiting area, kept clean and organized?

Do the employees and medical staff have a professional appearance and demeanor?

Do they respect your time by keeping appointments on schedule and communicating clearly when there's a delay?

Do the employees seem to enjoy their work?

Well-run clinics value the personal lives of the people who work there, something that can lead to a better overall experience for patients. When you see a clinic that sets high standards for taking care of their staff, they'll be likely to have high standards for how they treat you, too.

Community Wellness

Finally, a good medical clinic will have a bigger goal in mind: making the whole community a happier, healthier place to live.

RGH sponsors community health fairs, Lunch & Learn forums, health and wellness events, Women's Health forums and has hosted experts in different fields for community events and medical trainings. They also strive to meet the needs of their patients, including implementing a delivery process for prescriptions for patients who live far from the nearest pharmacy.

RGH had world-renowned plastic microvascular surgeon, Dr. Pulikkottil, of the Burn and Reconstructive Centers of Colorado at Swedish Medical Center talk to their clinical staff about different scenarios and examples of some of his many success stories, including the recent viral story of a man being mauled by a grizzly bear who credits Dr. Pulikkottil and staff for helping to reconstruct his face and reattach his nose. Dr. Pulikkottil has been asked to fly to other areas to help with such surgeries. His insight and education will help the clinical staff at RGH take measures to help save extremities.

Additionally, RGH partnered with a leading national provider of hospital wound care and

There's nothing more important than your health and the health of your loved ones. So when choosing a medical care facility you should accept nothing but the highest standards.

hyperbaric oxygen therapy programs, Wound Care Advantage (WCA). WCA helps educate and train many of the best Wound Care programs in the US. They help with a variety of wound care and continuum of care with systems in place to monitor each case precisely. WCA helped RGH help patients heal below the national average time. RGH has been saving limbs in its Wound Care Department for over a year now and has exceeded 1100 wound visits.

Furthermore, in order to meet the needs of the community and to address limited pharmacy access in the area, the Monte Vista Medical Clinic Pharmacy, which also features a drive-thru is now open Monday thru Friday 9am to 6pm and Saturday from 9am to 2pm. For the convenience of the community, people can also pick up most prescriptions at one of our clinics in Creede, Del Norte, South Fork.

RGH's Development & Communications Officer Eva Timberlake said, "Investing in these types of relationships is an investment to our community. We enjoy offering educational services to our staff and the community. It will only make us and our community stronger. Many of these external groups have come back with their families to enjoy our beautiful area. Once they come to our Valley, they fall in love." Interactions like this help the economic development of the San Luis Valley, just some of the many essential benefits and services Rio Grande Hospital brings to the community outside of medical care.

When you find a clinic filled with caring, highly competent, and community-minded medical professionals, you'll know you've picked a good one.



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Consumer

How To SAVE BIG AT TRINIDAD STATE

— *eSports comes to Trinidad State*

20% off for local residents who take at least 15 credit-hours

From Center to San Luis, from Aguilar to Weston, southern Colorado residents are taking advantage of **Trinidad State's Learn Local Scholarship**. The scholarship, backed by the Trinidad State College Educational Foundation, helped pay tuition during the fall 2020 semester for 92 full-time students who live Las Animas, Huerfano, Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties. Their total savings was \$42,320.



1011 Main Street
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trinidadstate.edu

eSports is an explosive industry encompassing the world of competitive, organized video gaming representing the next generation of sports and entertainment. Trinidad State College is excited to present the first collegiate eSports team in Colorado at the community college level and part of the National Junior College Athletic Association eSports (NJCAA). Equivalent to traditional sports offered at Trinidad State, such as cross country and softball, eSports offers digital gaming experiences to promote teamwork, social skills, strategic thinking and planning, managing success and failure, maintaining academic standing, and promoting pro-social values. Competition is fierce, and the Trinidad State team will be playing in tournaments with colleges from around the country for prizes and championships. Games will be streamed with a live streaming service called Twitch, in addition to opening up the arena for in-person spectators during competitions.

In the fall of 2021, eSports players will be invited to play in Trinidad State's new, state-of-the-art gaming area. The well-equipped

eSports arena will be furnished with heavy-duty gaming computers, ergonomic furniture, and a comfortable atmosphere to enhance the players' gaming experience. eSports is a growing industry; the U.S. experienced an increase of 118 percent in full-time jobs in 2019, and the eSports market is on track to surpass \$1.5 billion by 2023. Players can also begin to prepare for a career in eSports. Jobs in eSports include playing professionally, marketing, coaching, advertising, arena maintenance, shout casters, videographers, reporters, influencers, video game design, consultants, and owners. Collegiate eSports

players are the new generation of sports athletes, gaining attention and momentum worldwide.

Trinidad State will also offer computing and technology courses in fall 2021, including computer networking. Computer networking courses will start students on a path towards cybersecurity, network administration, cloud computing, or preparing to be a computer information systems specialist. Technology and careers in technology are only growing in demand; education, industry certifications, and hands-on learning will prepare students for well-paying and stable employment in technology.

Please contact Serena "Sully" Sullivan by email at serena.sullivan@trinidadstate.edu for more information. An interest form for eSports is available at trinidadstate.edu/esports/index.html



Classes begin August 16th **REGISTER TODAY!**

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Consumer

How To

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING

— Why Newspapers?

Targeting customers in a media-fragmented marketplace is a continual challenge for many advertisers.

The abundance of advertising sources has overwhelmed and divided consumer attention. This means media planners and buyers need the right tools to help them decide on the best allocation of advertising

dollars. As advertisers strive for an effective media mix, they should know there is one medium that can deliver strength to advertising and marketing strategies.

The newspaper continues to be a powerful medium for reaching shoppers in the market for a broad range of products and services. It is a portable and convenient source

of advertising information -- helping consumers decide where to shop and what to buy. The newspaper delivers customers unlike any other medium each and every day, reaching an array of traditional and emerging markets with unsurpassed advertising impact.

Universal coverage, utility and power are the driving forces behind newspapers. And that is why they add value for advertisers!

Opportunities in Newspapers

ROP: Run of Press advertising means an ad placed on the pages of a newspaper. This best-known newspaper advertising option offers short deadlines and proximity of editorial that enhances visibility.

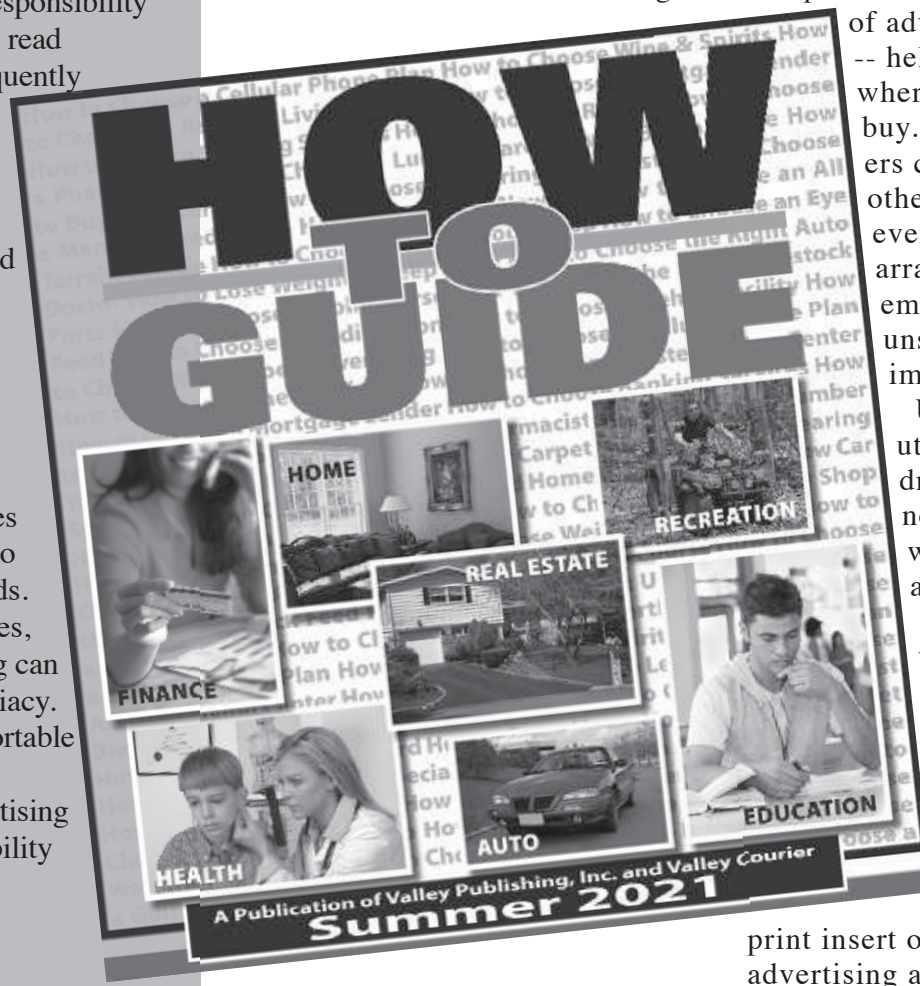
Preprints: Preprinted inserts offer advertisers the flexibility and control of creating and printing advertising that the newspaper distributes.

Commercial Printing: Newspapers offer customers who need major printing the opportunity and cost efficiency of using their presses to print catalogs, inserts and other commercial print needs.

Niche products/special sections: Newspapers offer a myriad of opportunities where a special marketplace is created to help in targeting an advertiser's best prospects. These products may be inserted into the newspaper or may be distributed in other ways needed to best attract the niche audience.

Top 10 Reasons to Advertise in Newspaper

1. Newspapers reach the majority of adults daily and on Sundays.
2. Higher-income-earning adults are more avid newspaper readers.
3. People with higher education are more likely to read newspapers.
4. People in higher responsibility professional positions read newspapers more frequently than the average person.
5. Newspaper advertising can be targeted by section and reader.
6. Newspaper advertising can target specific geographic locations.
7. You can select advertising alternatives from preprint inserts to full- or partial-page ads.
8. With short deadlines, newspaper advertising can be tailored for immediacy.
9. Newspapers are portable and convenient.
10. Newspaper advertising builds business credibility and momentum.



Newspapers offer advertisers alternatives to reach customers -- new and potential -- with effective messages for long-term awareness or immediate call-to-action responses.

Whether it's a pre-print insert or run-of-paper (ROP) advertising adjacent to select edito-

Consumer

How To CHOOSE IN-HOME CARE

In-home care options have become a popular option for people requiring ongoing medical care in recent years. Allowing family members who need medical care and assistance navigating their daily lives the ability to remain in familiar surroundings works wonders for quality of life.

Depending on the severity of their conditions, seniors and others with incapacitating ailments can live at home with assistance. This kind of care is often the perfect compromise.

Professionals visit the home of the patient to provide services. Not only is it convenient and comfortable, it is typically less expensive than the care offered at a full-time facility.

Many in-home care companies also offer services ranging from housekeeping and errand running to food prep.

After speaking to several in-home care providers, you can compare the range of services they offer. Typically, they will fall into three categories:

Medical Care vs. Non-Medical care

Providers vary greatly in terms of the types of the care they provide. Some may specialize in medical (or skilled) care, where others may offer up 24-hour care and oversight, with tasks such as meal preparation, personal hygiene care, errands, and reminding patients to take medication.

Always inquire about the qualifications of any in-home care providers you are considering. All workers should have the proper training, degrees and certifications, and the agency should be insured and bonded.

If you are unclear about the exact level of care your loved one will require, speak to your doctor. You can also call the home care agency to get more information about the level of care they can provide.

Personal Care

Caregivers can help with daily grooming, mobility and any special diet requirements. They can help prepare meals or run simple errands.

Companionship

Homebound people often need companionship. An in-home care professional will provide a friendly face and good conversation as well as general care. It might be a matter of reading aloud to your loved one, discussing the daily news or playing a game of cards. Quality in-home care providers understand that patients also need mental stimulation and human contact in order to stay well.

Before entering a contract, understand the services that will be provided. You want to make sure you are getting what you need without paying for services that are not required. If personal care is all that is needed, you should not have to pay for medical care as well.

Everyone, including you, should be comfortable with the people who work for the company. In-home caregivers will quickly become part of your life, especially as they enter and exit the house.

Visiting Angels of SW Colorado has received the distinguished 2020 Best of Home Care –Leader in Excellence Award from Home Care Pulse, the leading firm in qual-

ity assurance for home care. The Leader in Excellence Award is the highest recognition awarded by Home Care Pulse and is given to select home care businesses that consistently rank among the very highest in 10 or more quality metrics. As a Leader in Excellence, Visiting Angels is now ranked among the top 15 percent of home care providers participating in the nationwide Home Care Pulse Satisfaction Management Program.

This accomplishment demonstrates Visiting Angel's long-term dedication to excellent care and quality improvement. To qualify for this award, 10% of Visiting Angel's clients and caregivers were interviewed each month by Home Care Pulse. Over a 12-month period, Visiting Angel's received high client and caregiver satisfaction ratings in areas such as caregiver training, compassion of caregivers, communication, scheduling, client/caregiver compatibility, etc. Using feedback from clients and employees, as well as quality benchmarks from Home Care Pulse, the Visiting Angel's management team set goals to reach the highest level of excellence possible.

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