

## Shorts

### Monte Vista Home, Garden, and Outdoor Living Expo set for April 30-May 1

#### STAFF REPORT

**MONTE VISTA** — The Monte Vista Home, Garden, and Outdoor Living Expo is back this year after being cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic guidelines. This year the event will be socially distanced and held April 30 and May 1 at the McMullen building.

Event planners are hoping to have as many as 50 vendors at the show encompassing everything the Valley has to offer for home, garden, and outdoor living needs. They also hope to have some food trucks at the event. The expo will be happening April 30 and May 1 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on both days.

If you are interested in being a vendor at this year's expo you are asked to contact the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce by email at [chamber@montevistachamber.org](mailto:chamber@montevistachamber.org). There is \$50 booth fee. The deadline to register a booth is April 16.

The McMullen building is next to the construction for the new Ski-Hi event center complex, 2389-2499 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista.

### A look at Del Norte's rough and tumble past

*Editor's Note: The LeRoy Brothers part one of a two-part series*

#### BY LYNDIE FERRELL

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — The San Luis Valley has a rich history dating back to the early 1800s thanks to the many characters that lived rough and tumble lives in the great West. Lawlessness was a way of life for many in those early days and like the song by Jim Croce, "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown" the San Luis Valley had a bad, bad LeRoy of its own.

According to accounts provided by the Rio Grande County Museum, this story begins with a troubled youth that would grow into a famous, well-known outlaw that was a bad as they came. The LeRoy Brothers also known as the Colorado Highwaymen, dates to the late-1800s when a young lad by the name of William Pond whose alias later became Billy LeRoy. LeRoy was also known as Billy the Kid, Colorado Highwayman, Sam Pond or Sam Potter.

No matter which name he was using at the time, Billy LeRoy grew up in Indianapolis, Ind. During his childhood, Billy was a

*Please see PAST on Page 2A*

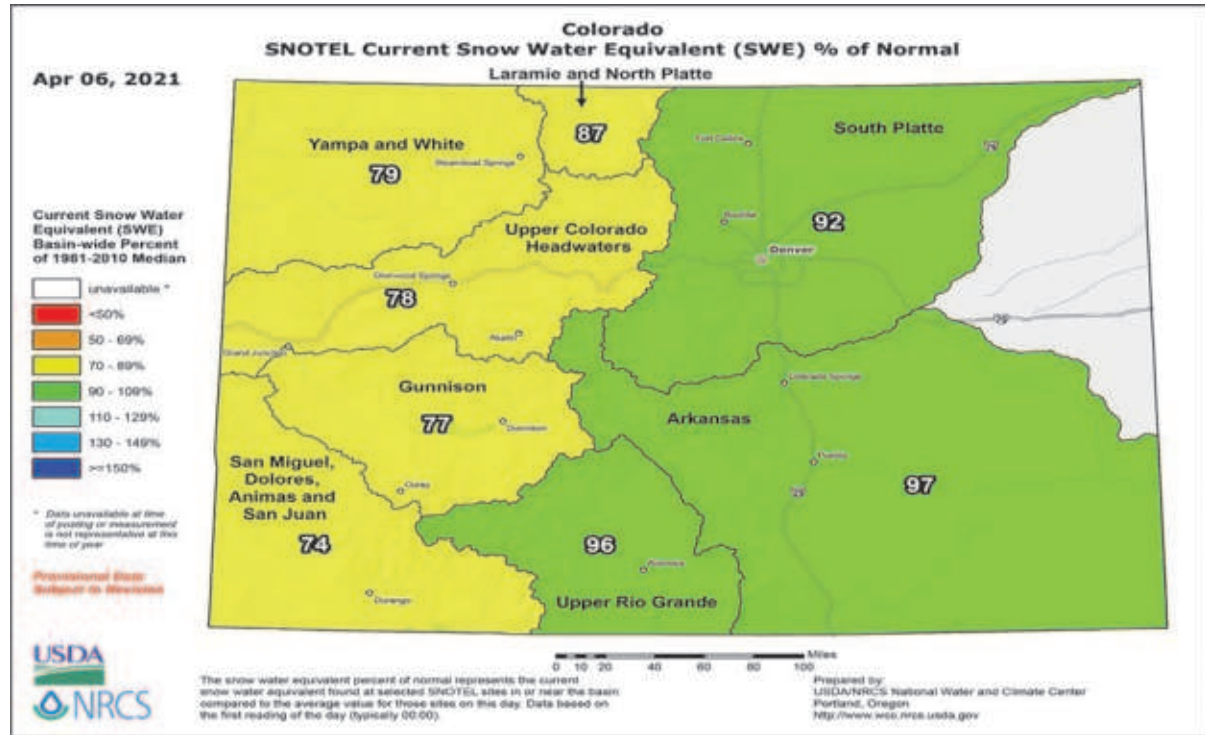
## Snowpack in San Juan Mountains remains on track

#### BY LYNDIE FERRELL

**SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS** — Snowpack in the San Juan Mountains and Rio Grande National Forest is average for this time of year. According to sources from Wolf Creek Ski Resort and private organizations, there is about nine and a half feet of snow still sitting on the San Juan Mountains which brings the annual snow, water equivalent to 99% of average.

Some areas throughout the western part of the state are still sitting below average and are experiencing drought-like conditions but the Upper Rio Grande District remains just below average for the year. One of the main concerns for Rio Grande National Forest lies in whether the snowpack will melt at a slower rate than normal which in turn allows the moisture in the snow to seep into the ground creating better conditions for the forest during

*Please see SNOW on Page 7A*



## Rio Grande Public Health clarifies new mask requirements

#### BY LYNDIE FERRELL

**RIO GRANDE COUNTY** — As of the last week in March, all counties within the San Luis Valley have shifted to Level Green on the State's COVID dial and with that change, Colorado Governor Jared Polis also made some changes to the mask mandate which was also extended for 30 days beginning March 31.

It has been over a year since the first mask mandate hit the State of Colorado and many are wondering how the new changes to the mandate will affect San Luis valley communities now that they are all listed as Green.

To understand the new mask mandate, Rio Grande Public Health Department Director Dr. Kolawole Bankole explained the changes and how it will affect each community if the metrics remain the same and counties remain in Green.

Colorado's mask order was extended and modified last week Saturday, April 3, and many people have questions about what it means to our Rio Grande County, Bankole said.

Local public health authorities continue to recommend and encourage continued mask wearing, social distancing, and other precautions for the time being until a larger percentage of

the population has been vaccinated, regardless of updates to the statewide mask mandate. This will help protect one another over the coming weeks while more and more people in the area get the vaccine, Bankole said.

In all counties, masks are still required for persons 11 and older in preschool through grade 12 schools (including extracurricular activities), childcare centers, indoor children's camps, public-facing government facilities, healthcare settings, personal care services such as hair salons, body art, nail salons, congregate care facilities, prisons, and jails.

In levels other than Green, masks are mandatory in public indoor settings where there are 10 or more unvaccinated individuals or individuals whose vaccination status is unknown.

For more details on the updated mask order, including limited exceptions, visit online <http://slvphp.info/Masks04April2021>. The new modified mask order is automatically in effect, with no special requests needed at the local level. Local jurisdictions have the option to implement more comprehensive



mask requirements if warranted, but at this time Rio Grande County has not chosen to do so, Bankole said.

As of Monday, April 5, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) released an amended public health order that provides updates to the COVID-19 dial framework.

Some key changes include:

Clarifying that 6 feet distancing from non-

*Please see MASKS on Page 7A*

## Friends of Ski Hi seek more funding from RG County



Photo by Lyndie Ferrell

Friends of Ski Hi member Karla Shriver gave a presentation to the Rio Grande County Commissioners on the new event center being built in Monte Vista to show how far the project has come since construction started in July of 2020.

### Group asks commissioners to donate \$100,000

#### BY LYNDIE FERRELL

**RIO GRANDE COUNTY** — The meeting room at the Rio Grande County courthouse was full to the brim on Wednesday, March 31, with representatives from several agricultural organizations and members of the Friends of Ski Hi who are actively working to build an event center in Monte Vista.

For over a year, the Friends of Ski Hi with the help of donations, fundraisers, grants and a one-percent tax increase for the City of Monte Vista have started work on the massive

structure located on Sherman Avenue in Monte Vista.

In December of 2019, while plans for the event center were still underway the Friends of Ski Hi approached the Rio Grande County Commissioners and requested a donation from the county's conservation trust fund to help with costs associated with the project. The money was eventually donated in the amount of \$150,000 after the commissioners at the time tabled the decision pending further research to make sure that the project fit the guidelines of the conservation trust fund.

Project headliner and former Rio Grande County Commissioner Karla Shriver opened the discussion

*Please see FUNDING on Page 4A*

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# OBITUARY

## John D. Baker

November 6, 1941 — March 22, 2021

John Baker completed this final chapter of his earthly life early Monday morning, March 22, 2021, of complications of Parkinson's Disease at Aspyre Rock Creek in Fort Collins where he had been a resident since mid-November. It is a blessing that he no longer is suffering from the symptoms of Parkinsons. We believe he is at peace and has transitioned to a room in God's heavenly mansion.

The family would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Aspyre for their kind, compassionate care during John's stay with them. It was not an easy transition, but they gave their all to him and his comfort. For this we are so appreciative. We also sincerely thank them for the compassion they showed to our family during this time.

John was born to Kenneth and Doris Baker in November 1941 in Del Norte, Colo. He was welcomed at home by an older brother KC. He grew up in Center, Colo., and completed his elementary and high school years there. He attended college for two years at Pueblo Junior College, then transferred to the University of Colorado Boulder to complete his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering.

John and Marilyn McGee were married in Monte Vista, Colo., in 1963 and completed their college education the following spring. They moved to Denver, Colo., where they resided until 2013. Their children, Mark and Vicki, were born in Denver during that time.

John worked for the Colorado Highway Department for five years. He was then with a small energy consulting company, Cameron Engineers, for 12 more. He worked on projects concerning oil shale development on Colorado's Western Slope. He was editor of their quarterly Synthetic Fuels reports. Then, before takeovers were fashionable, the consulting firm was acquired by a large engineering company, Pace Engineers, and things changed. He went with Amoco and its Rio Blanco Oil Shale Project, which almost immediately started losing momentum. A little more than two years later, he got restless and resigned so he could start what he called "his mid-life crisis" on schedule!

John spent a year and a half at home, doing some consulting, golfing, getting familiar with computers, ..oh.. and finishing the basement. He returned to work in



October 1984 as a tariff analyst with Texaco Trading and Transportation in Denver. He spent 14 years with Texaco. It was the most satisfying and rewarding part of his career. During this time, he spent his weekends and short vacations driving his daughter all over the US to compete on her horses. He helped his son get started at Texaco and was so proud of Mark's successful career with Texaco/Shell. When Texaco and Shell merged their downstream operations, including pipelines, and began moving everything to Houston in 1998, John decided on early retirement effective Oct. 1, 1998.

In 2013, John and Marilyn moved to a twin home at Good Samaritan Loveland Village in Loveland to be closer to their daughter and granddaughter.

John is survived by wife Marilyn, son Mark and daughter-in-law Maria, daughter Vicki and granddaughter Kate, two grandsons John and wife Alyssa, and Chris and girlfriend Laura, and step-sister-in-law Betty (son Jim and daughter Pam). He was also proud to be a great-grandfather to Kacie and Micah Baker (children of John and Alyssa).

John enlisted in the Colorado Army National Guard in January 1966 and served in Golden and Aurora for six years, being honorably discharged in January 1972. He began his service as Company Clerk and ended his service in the Military Police Division. He was proud to be considered a veteran.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to:

- The charity of your choice or those close to the hearts of him and his family —
- Parkinson's Association of the Rockies, [www.ParkinsonRockies.org](http://www.ParkinsonRockies.org)
- Disabled Veterans of Fort Collins, <https://www.dav.org>

To send a flower arrangement or to plant trees in memory of John D. Baker, please visit [www.sympathyfloralstore.com](http://www.sympathyfloralstore.com).

# YOUR NIGHT SKY

## Virgo the Maiden

By DARLENE DANKO

When you look along the ecliptic where the Sun, Moon and planets travel, you will see this constellation with its bright star Spica in the southeast.

It's a large constellation, but not very bright except for its brightest star Spica. It also contains many galaxies. The best evening viewing of it is in spring and summer, with May and June being the best months.

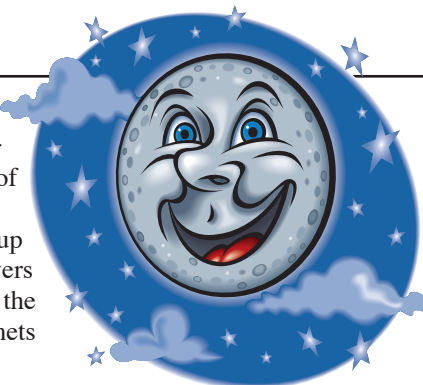
This constellation is known as Virgo the Virgin or Maiden. It's the second-largest constellation in our sky. To find it look for the Big Dipper in the northwest, then follow its tail toward the southeast about 30 degrees until you find the bright orange star Arcturus. Then go straight past it another 30 degrees to find bright blue

Spica. It also has one red star to the right of Spica. All of its other stars are white to make a total of 13 stars.

Once a month the moon cozies up to Spica, and sometimes even covers it. That's because it sits along the ecliptic. Also, sometimes the planets visit Spica.

Spica is a whirling double star. They orbit each other every 4 days. It's located about 262 light years from us and looks like a single star even though it's two. Both are larger and hotter than our Sun. They're separated by 11 million miles. Earth is 93.3 million miles from our Sun. So now you know how close they are.

Because these stars are so close, they orbit quickly around each other. Their mutual gravity distorts each star into an egg shape. Their light is more



than 2.20 times brighter than our Sun. It's the 15<sup>th</sup> brightest star in our sky that we can see.

If you have a telescope, you can observe the galaxies that Virgo contains. M 104, the Sombrero Galaxy is bright and easily seen with a telescope. You may even be able to see it with binoculars. It's just to the right of Spica. The other constellations are mostly to the upper right of Virgo. So I would even check her out with binoculars to see what I can see.

# Elk killed illegally in Alamosa County

ALAMOSA — Colorado Parks and Wildlife is seeking information about two elk killed illegally near Alamosa County Road 102 South. CPW officer Tyler Cerny found eight quarters in a ditch after a report from a local landowner on April 2. Anyone with information is asked to call the Monte Vista CPW office at 719-587-6900 or Operation Game Thief at 877-265-6648. Tips can be made anonymously.



Photo courtesy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife

## PAST

Continued from Page 1A

neighborhood nuisance. He was the first to raid neighborhood hen roosts and orchards according to a historical account of Billy's life written by a local historian.

After developing a taste for a life of crime, Billy quickly moved from bothering his neighborhood to a juvenile outlaw. Many who recounted Billy's younger years often said they wished he would do time in prison or even become what they referred to as a "juvenile angel," meaning they wanted him dead. All of this sent Billy down a road that ultimately led him and his brother to an early death.

Billy came to the San Luis Valley after a strange and wavering path. Once Indianapolis law enforcement had it out to arrest of Billy, he decided it was high time to hit the rails and head West, where he planned to become a famous outlaw. Billy was arrested by law enforcement in Indianapolis but weaseled out of the handcuffs that held him and escaped by jumping out of a two-story window.

On his way to Colorado, Billy encountered several hardened criminals that not only helped him reach his destination, but also taught him the ins and outs of a life of crime. During his trek heading West, Billy met an unsavory character who named himself California Bill also known as William Miner. Miner lit a spark inside Billy and taught him the

fundamentals of theft and later the two stopped the Alpine-Gunnison stage but only got away with \$50 in cash.

The next stage the two robbed was on Slumgullion Pass on Oct. 7, 1880 and this time, they made out with \$100 which back then was quite an accomplishment. Back in these days, many of the roads we travel today began as stagecoach routes. Trains had yet to make a huge impact on communities like those in the San Luis Valley.

Only one week later, Billy and his partner in crime the infamous California Bill first showed their faces in the San Luis Valley robbing the stage between Alamosa and Del Norte. It was during this robbery that Billy made a name for himself and was now a wanted man. The two made out with \$4,000 in cash and other priceless trinkets. It was at this time that the two split ways and Billy, knowing the law was hot on his tail headed back East to Chicago after a brief stop in Pueblo.

It wasn't long before Billy made his way back to Denver and then eventually back to the San Luis Valley. Billy had a bad habit of gambling that resulted in trouble for the young lad more than once. Billy moseyed his way back to Alamosa and headed straight to a local gambling fraternity. The local population consisted of the western characters we have all come

to know and love; many of which would see a sharp young man like Billy and take advantage of them as often as they could.

During his stay in Alamosa and through a rough night of gambling, Billy was taken for all he was worth, which wasn't much at the time. Billy ended up spending the night drinking heavily and woke the next morning hungover and broke. This was in early January of 1881, barely a year after Billy had adopted his life of hard crime. What he chose to do next would shape the end for the young Colorado Highwayman. Please see next week's edition of the Del Norte Prospector for the rest of the story.

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Break out the Eggs

Easter came and went like a thief in the night this year for Ol' Dutch. But thankfully a friend sent me a photo of the tomb where they placed Jesus after he was crucified, and it was empty. So, that saved me a long trip to the Middle East to make sure. Seems to me that every year they announce that "He Is Risen" and that always makes me wonder who keeps putting him back in that cave to have to announce it again? Or maybe my friends are just some of the last to know? You know people like that. Just not mentally astute.



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

I guess by the time you read this you all will be eating the hard-boiled eggs that you dyed last Sunday. Nothing like a blue or pinkish colored rubbery textured oval to bring on some real appetite.

Ol' Dutch didn't get a chance to dye eggs this year and I really do miss that vinegar smell of the old coloring concoction from my childhood. Those things must have been plenty potent as the color went all the way through the shell and whites and yokes of those hard-boiled chicken droppings. It was so strong that it would even stain the old white porcelain sinks where we dumped out the dunking dippings after we were done.

There is no telling what was in those old dyes but back in those days Red Dye #2 was considered not only safe but essential to about everything we ate and drank, colored and painted with. And the wax pencil that was included in each store-bought kit often was used as a replacement for double bubble gum amongst the dippers of white ovals. Not that Ol' Dutch would ever have eaten those white marking pencils, but they did taste a bit like smokey glue.

I also did not get to the Big Box Store this year to see all the Easter decorations, candy and the ever-present displays of the old whiskered Bunny himself as I have been avoiding it like the plague which you can get from shopping there.

But I still always wonder how Mr. Rabbit, or shall we assume Mrs. Rabbit ever got to laying eggs, but I think it goes back to the old fertility rights practiced in some ancient religions in the springtime. And I guess that there isn't a single soul around that doesn't understand the volatility of having rabbits around and their prolific tendency toward procreation. So, I guess eggs and rabbits do symbolize that aspect of Spring the best.

One thing Ol' Dutch does appreciate about this holiday is that

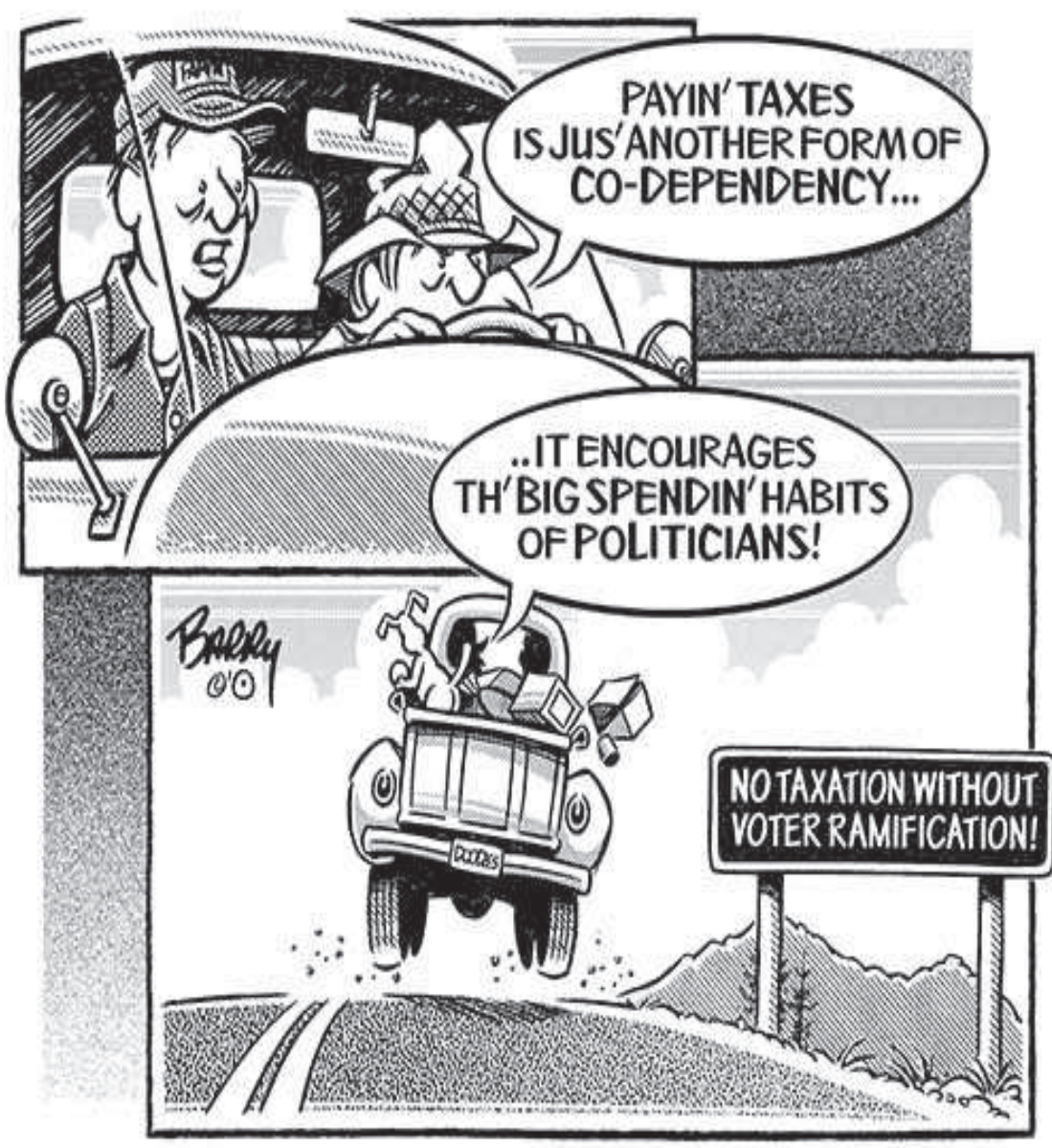
the granddaughters get candy, and they are still young enough to believe that sharing with Grandpa seems like the right thing to do. Their mother, Tinkerbell, does not often let them indulge in too much of the sweet nectars from heaven. Halloween and Easter, though, seem to be a free for all holiday to scrumptious goodness for them and me.

I would imagine there were more family gatherings this holiday season than last year at this time as people are pretty much tired of the whole Covid thing and are just going to take their chances like they do with everything else in life. The constant changing of ideas about Corona's volatility and being told what we can and cannot do has about run its course for most people, so I think ham and pineapple sauce was probably consumed once again in groups of more than one.

One thing that Easter does bring to each of us is a hope for new beginnings no matter if you celebrate it as a religious time of joy or a secular celebration of Springtime rebirth. For it's the hope of Spring that keeps us all going during a long and difficult Winter and most certainly through the past trying year of social distancing.

And I can imagine that as people give up the quarantining and begin to date once again and co-mingle amongst the sexes that a lot of new births are going to be on the rise too. Poor souls. But with each new birth remember that also means more Easter baskets bought for kids and grandkids and it becomes a great day for grandpas everywhere. Long live The Bunny.

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



## LETTER

### Easter Egg Hunt a success

Editor,

The Monte Vista Elks Lodge would like to thank the Monte Vista Police Department and the Dylan Brown Agency - Farmers Insurance for all that they did and provided to make the annual Community Easter Egg Hunt a big success.

Thanks to everyone who set up a booth, had food and donated what they did to make our hunt turn out so well.

It takes a village was proven this weekend by all the people, businesses, and churches that donated time, money and

resources, and all of our amazing volunteers that spent hours before the event to make the Easter Egg Hunt happen.

And a big thanks to everyone for attending and bringing their kids.  
*Monte Vista PD, Monte Vista Elks and Dylan Brown Agency*

## LETTERS POLICY

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

All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be designated as such. Letters over 300 words and without contact information will be returned to

the sender or discarded.

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

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.



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# Sargent COVID vaccination event a success

## STAFF REPORT

**MONTE VISTA** — The mood was cheerful as a broad network of community members gathered at Sargent School to provide COVID-19 vaccinations on Friday, March 26.

The event organizers' top priority was to provide vaccines to agricultural workers, a group that has been at high risk for COVID-19 and is underserved when it comes to vaccines. It was also open to all community members who were eligible for the vaccine through Phase 1B.4.

There were 335 people who received a vaccine, of which almost 40% were Spanish-speakers. There was no vaccine wasted. Planning for a second-dose clinic is underway for Friday April 23, at the same Sargent Schools location.

Primary sponsors of the event were Rio Grande County Public Health, Colorado Potato Administrative Committee (CPAC), Sargent Schools, Valley-Wide Health Systems, and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

Additional partners and volunteers were also critical to the success of the event. A total of 86 people worked on

Spanish interpreting, vaccine administration, traffic control, safety/security, and a host of other tasks.

CPAC provided lunch for volunteers and snacks for attendees. Snack bags donated by SLV Area Health Education Center and the Boys and Girls Club of the San Luis Valley were distributed by the Migrant Education Program Rising Scholars and two youth from the Boys and Girls Club to celebrate agricultural week.

"It was great to see this kind of support from the community. We are grateful to everyone who helped, and to Sargent School for the use of their facility," said Dr. Kolawole Bankole, Director of Rio Grande County Public Health.

Additional organizations that helped in planning and putting on the event include Los Promotores del Valle de San Luis, San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center, SLV Health, Rio Grande Hospital, Rio Grande County Office of Emergency Management, Rio Grande National Forest Service, Pine Fire, Center Migrant Headstart, Monte Vista School District, Red Cross, Adams State University, public health staff from Alamosa, Rio Grande, and



Courtesy photos

Saguache Counties, Rio Grande Ambulance Agency, Colorado SLV Agricultural Council, SLV Sheriff's Office, Colorado State Division of Homeland Security Cattlemen's Association, and Patrol, CDLE, Monte Vista and Emergency Management, unaffiliated individuals.

## FUNDING

Continued from Page 1A

with commissioners on March 31 with a presentation to show the board what has been completed so far on the event center. The old building at the rodeo grounds was demolished in July of 2020 and construction began immediately after debris was cleared from the site.

Shriver included a number of facts chosen specifically to show the economic impacts events that happen throughout the year like the annual Agricultural Conference, the Crane Festival and Stampede at the location of the new event center and how much money those events draw into each community. Shriver provided graphs and other material that showed increases in revenue both in sales tax as well as lodging tax when an event takes place in the Valley.

Shriver introduced Friends of the San Luis Valley Wildlife Conservation member Deb Callahan who spoke about the impacts the annual Monte Vista Crane Festival has on the local economy each year and how the new event center would be a huge benefit to the Valley once it was finished.

"A group called Colorado open lands approached us and wanted to do an economic study of the Crane Festival because they are interested in doing and already have several conservation easements here in the San Luis Valley that are focused on providing habitat for the Sandhill Cranes," explained Callahan. "Ski Hi is very important to the Crane Festival. We have information booths, vendors, the arts and craft fair as



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

**Deb Callahan with the San Luis Valley Wildlife Conservation group spoke to commissioners about the economic impacts of the Monte Vista Crane Festival and how important the event center will be to the survival of the festival in the future.**

well as in the back we have all the public land folks who are talking to the visitors about all the things they can do while they are here."

Callahan explained how the festival continues to enrich all of the communities in the San Luis Valley from South Fork to Alamosa and pointed out where most of the money is generated, specifically in hotels. It was after this presentation that each organization representative voiced support for the project and Shriver made a request to the county to donate \$100,000 in additional funds to help with costs.

Commissioners tabled a decision until the next regular meeting in April, pending a request for additional information about other funding related to COVID-19 with a potential to find additional funding.



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# Valdez-Lopez receives 2021 Visiting Angel Caregiver of Year honor

**STAFF REPORT**  
**MONTE VISTA** — Juana Valdez-Lopez received the local 2021 Visiting Angel Caregiver of the Year award.

The Visiting Angel Caregiver of the Year Award is to recognize a caregiver from a Visiting Angels franchise location who demonstrates extraordinary commitment to their clients, families, and the Visiting Angels mission.

Valdez-Lopez, who works at the Monte Vista Visiting Angels location, has been a caregiver for nearly 30 years, and over 9 years with Visiting Angels.

Visiting Angels says she is loved by her clients and coworkers, and she is a dedicated role model for new caregivers. She has all the characteristics of an amazing Angel caregiver — she is teachable, has integrity, strong initiative, communicates well, and the utmost compassion.

Valdez-Lopez says “you have to love this work” and she shows it, every single day.

“We are so proud of Juana and the great work she does in our



**Juana Valdez-Lopez**

community,” Visiting Angels stated. She advances to the second round of the Caregiver of the Year competition at a national level, competing with over 600 Visiting Angels franchises.

# Officials: Body of missing Hooper woman found in Saguache County

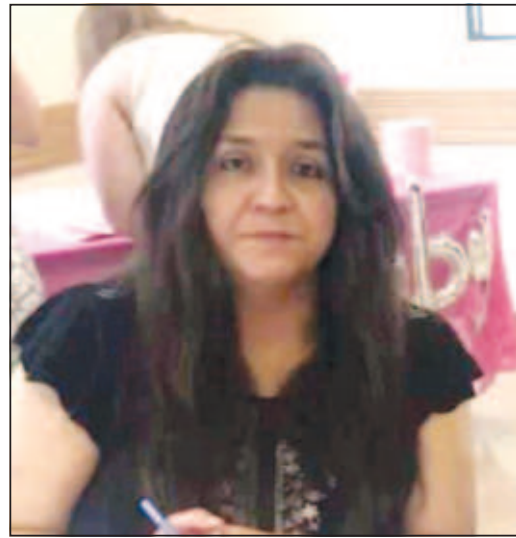
**STAFF REPORT**  
**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — The body of a missing Hooper woman was found in Saguache County, the Alamosa County Sheriff’s Office reported.

On April 1, Jacqueline Christine Stephens was found deceased in Saguache County. There is currently no threat to the community.

Officials have not indicated if the death was a result of foul play. The investigation is ongoing.

“We would like to thank Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warwick and his Deputies, as well as REACH Helicopter for their assistance in this investigation,” the Alamosa County Sheriff’s Office stated. “The Alamosa Sheriff’s Office would like to express our condolences to the family and friends of Jacqueline Stephens.”

Stephens, 52, of Hooper, was last seen at approximately noon on March 26, leaving work from the area of 17th and Ross in Alamosa County.



# The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area 2022 Grant Cycle Now Open

**STAFF REPORT**  
**ALAMOSA** — The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) recently announced the opening of its 2022 grant application cycle.

Grants awarded from SdCNHA are intended to encourage local cultural and historic heritage preservation activities, educational programs and support Heritage Tourism within the heritage area. Past grantees have used funds to restore historic buildings; provide historical and cultural interpretation; restore or promote scenic, artistic and recreational resources; and to document culturally significant components of the way of life in the heritage area.

Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area is administered by a non-profit board of volunteers who represent Alamosa, Conejos and Costilla counties.

Heritage area grants are available to local schools, municipalities, and non-profits annually. Visit the SdCNHA website for more information about its mission, vision, and a list of past grants awarded.

The selection process is competitive, and applicants are encouraged to develop proposals carefully utilizing SdCNHA’s Management Plan Goals and Objectives. Resources are available on management plan page at [www.sangreheritage.org/management-plan/](http://www.sangreheritage.org/management-plan/).

Funding is available up to \$25,000. Applications and Guidelines can be found at [www.sangreheritage.org/collaborate/](http://www.sangreheritage.org/collaborate/)

For more information on the efforts and mission of the SdCNHA, or to see more completed projects in its 10-year report, visit [sangreheritage.org](http://sangreheritage.org).

If you have an idea for a grant or have any questions about the grant process, email SdCNHA at [info@sdcnha.org](mailto:info@sdcnha.org), call 719-580-7366 or visit their office located at 623 4th St. in Alamosa.

Applicants will be notified of status in September of 2021 and funding will be available in 2022.

Application submission deadline is June 1 by 5 p.m. or postmarked: SdCNHA, P.O. Box 844, Alamosa, CO 81101, or delivered by hand – 623 4th St., Alamosa.

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# Parks and Wildlife Commission approves new pass for state wildlife areas

DENVER—At its virtual meeting last week, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission voted unanimously to approve a new Colorado State Wildlife Area Pass as an option to access state wildlife areas. The new pass will go on sale May 1, 2021.

“This is an important step in ensuring everyone who visits our state wildlife areas is contributing to their management and maintenance,” said CPW Director Dan Prenzl.

The annual Colorado SWA Pass will be available on May 1, 2021 by visiting any CPW office or online at cpwshop.com. The pass will be priced similarly to a resident annual fishing license and revenue from the new SWA pass will be used to manage and maintain SWAs.

Colorado State Wildlife Area Pass annual: \$36.08\*  
1 day: \$9  
Youth (ages 16-17) annual: \$10.07  
Senior (ages 65 and older) annual: \$10.07

Low-income annual: \$10.07  
(Fees include a \$1.50 Wildlife Education Fund surcharge)

\*Plus a fee of \$10.40 for a Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp

The annual pass is valid from March 1–March 31 of the following year, also aligning with the 13-month season for fishing licenses in Colorado.

History and funding of state wildlife areas in Colorado

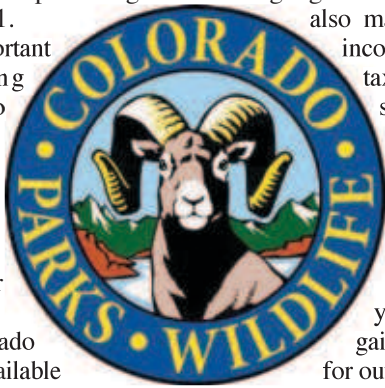
CPW now manages more than 350 SWAs, all set aside to conserve wildlife habitat with dollars from hunting and angling licenses. Those funds are also matched with federal income from the excise taxes collected on the sale of hunting and fishing equipment.

While these properties have been identified as critical wildlife habitat, over the years they have also gained significant value for outdoor recreationists.

Because these properties have always been open to the public, not just to the hunters and anglers that purchased them and pay for their maintenance, many people now visit these properties and use them as they would any other public land.

As Colorado’s population - and desire for outdoor recreation - has continued to grow, a significant increase in traffic to these SWAs has disrupted wildlife, the habitat the areas were acquired to protect, and the hunters and anglers whose contributions were critical to acquiring these properties.

That’s why in July of 2020, new regulations went into effect requiring all visitors 18 or older to possess a valid hunting or fishing license to access any SWA leased by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.



CPW had historically been bound by stringent guidance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on how income earned from these properties could be accounted for, making the creation of another kind of pass to access these areas financially unfeasible. But in late 2020, CPW received approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a new accounting approach that made adding a pass as an option for access to these properties feasible.

In November 2020, an SWA Working

Group was created with CPW staff and stakeholders from around the state to determine what a new pass might look like.

### Recommendations:

The group recommended pricing the annual pass at a similar level to the annual fishing license, offering discounted passes to youth and seniors priced comparably to youth and senior fishing licenses, offering a 1-day pass option priced comparably to the 1-day parks pass, requiring a Habitat

Stamp and a surcharge for the Wildlife Management Public Education Fund in addition to the pass, and offering a discounted low-income annual pass option. The age at which a hunting license, fishing license or SWA pass is required to access SWAs was reduced to all persons 16 years and older to better correspond to the youth pass and license options.

More information and SWA FAQ about CPW’s state wildlife areas is available on CPW’s website.

## Lucero faces drug, car theft charges

### STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA—A 26-year-old Alamosa man was taken into custody Friday on numerous drug and motor vehicle theft charges.

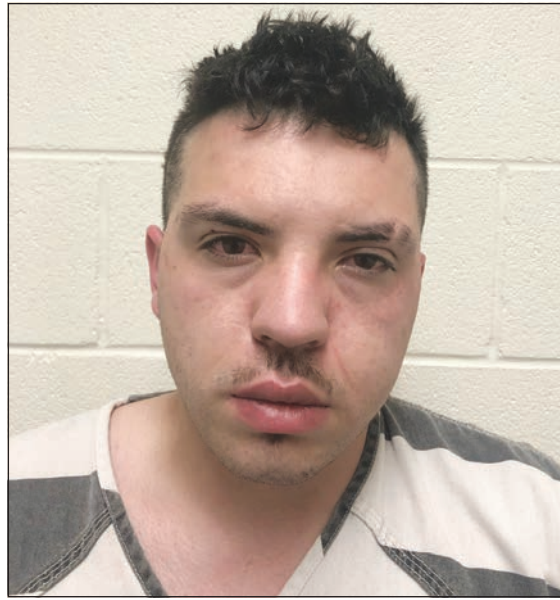
Phil Lucero was arrested by the Alamosa Police Department (APD) at 10 La Veta Avenue here about 9:10 a.m. Friday during a narcotics operation. While executing a search warrant, several subjects were contacted within the residence.

APD detectives located a 2014 Dodge Challenger and a 2015 Hyundai sedan which were confirmed stolen out of Aurora, Colo. Also discovered was a large quantity of currency, methamphetamine and heroin within the residence.

Lucero was arrested on charges of aggravated motor vehicle theft X 2 a class 6 felony, unlawful possession of a controlled substance schedule I and II, a class 4 drug felony, and unlawful distribution of a schedule I and II a class 3 drug felony.

Based on the items located by APD Detectives, it is alleged Lucero was distributing heroin and methamphetamine from the residence. Lucero was transported to the Alamosa County Detention Center where he is being held on the felony charges.

“These operations could not be done without the assistance and cooperation from our community,” the



Phil Lucero

APD said in a press release Friday.

If you suspect illegal activity occurring within your neighborhood, you are encouraged to contact our investigations division or leave an anonymous tip through our city website at <https://cityofalamosa.org/>

## Prescribed fires planned on Rio Grande National Forest

### STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — The San Luis Valley Interagency Fire Management Unit plans to conduct several prescribed fires this Spring on the Rio Grande National Forest. Ignitions will take place only if conditions are favorable and will meet burn plan parameters. These burns include:

• English Valley: This 1200-acre prescribed fire will take place on the Divide Ranger District approximately five miles north of Del Norte. The purpose of this burn is to rejuvenate grass and shrub cover to improve pronghorn habitat.

• Conejos Canyon Unit 1: This 200-acre fire area is located on the Conejos Peak Ranger District one mile north of the Fox Creek subdivision. The prescribed burn is designed to reduce fuels buildup adjacent to the subdivision.

• Bighorn/Stateline Units 5 and 6: These two units, totaling 1,225 acres, are located on the Conejos Peak Ranger District four miles southwest of Mogote and will take several days to complete. The purpose of the burn is to improve elk and deer winter

range and reduce woody debris left from forest thinning projects.

• Squaw Creek: Located approximately 17 miles west of Saguache, this 550-acre burn is on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands. The purpose of the burn is to reduce fuel loading and improve timber stand health by reducing spruce budworm and mistletoe infected trees.

Residents and visitors will likely see smoke coming from these areas for several hours each day during burn operations. Burn area maps will be posted on the roads leading into the project areas. Residents will be contacted prior to initiation of the prescribed burns.

Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information, see [www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health).

For more information on the prescribed fires, contact Kent Smith at 719-850-1064.

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

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## How You Can Grow in Christ

As a young woman, I went to church for years, but I really didn’t know much about spiritual maturity. I loved God with all of my heart, but I wasn’t changing—I was still as critical, judgmental and rebellious as ever. And even though I knew my life should be getting better, I was still miserable from dealing with all of the same problems.

I believe this is one of Satan’s greatest strategies. If he can’t keep people from hearing the Gospel and accepting Christ, he will do everything he can to make sure they never grow spiritually and experience the peace and joy that’s promised to them in the Bible.

You see, when we’re born again, the Holy Spirit comes to live in our heart—God plants a seed of everything He is in our spirit, giving us everything we need to live a great life.

For instance, Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV) says, “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...”

Did you know all of these things already exist on the inside of you? You may wonder, Well, if that’s the case, then why aren’t I experiencing any of it in my life?

When it comes to the maturity process, we have a part to play. Our part is to cooperate with God to cultivate and develop His character in our lives so we can grow and become more like Him. How do we do that?

It all begins by spending regular time in God’s Word. Hebrews 4:12 (AMPC) says, “The Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]...”

When we spend time in God’s Word, we are spending time with God. His Word changes us—it changes how we think and how we act. It changes

how we see God, ourselves and the world around us.

Romans 12:2 is a great scripture that shows us how we grow spiritually: “Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God...”

God has a “good and acceptable and perfect” plan for our lives, but we must renew our minds with His Word before we can experience it.

It’s important to remember that growing spiritually is a process. When I first began to read and study God’s Word, I immediately saw things I needed to change. For a while, I felt guilty and condemned that I wasn’t “measuring up.”

However, God helped me to understand that He never shows us these things to condemn us and make us feel guilty. He convicts us of our behavior in order to help us grow and come up higher in that area.

For example, I was extremely rebellious in the early years of my marriage. Because my father sexually abused me when I was growing up, I had developed a distrust of men. I vowed that no man would ever again push me around.

But as I studied God’s Word, I saw that my behavior toward my husband, Dave, was wrong. The Lord was asking me to walk in love with Dave in my speech, attitudes and actions. This was easier said than done! But God always gives us the grace to do what He is asking us to do. He doesn’t expect us to do it all on our own.

So, little by little, by God’s grace, I began to change. The Lord transformed me from being rude, critical, harsh



and rebellious into someone who has real peace, love and joy. But it was a process—it didn’t happen overnight.

Second Corinthians 3:18 says we “are constantly being transformed into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another.”

The Lord changes us a little at a time. None of us will ever be perfect until we get to Heaven, and that’s okay. But as long as we’re here on this earth, God desires for us to continually learn more about Him and grow in our faith.

As we do—as we continue to grow spiritually—we will experience the amazing peace, joy and fulfillment that only God can give us. And we will show the world what God is really like.

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-teaching CD series *The Beauty of Spiritual Maturity*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored 120 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](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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

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# Haskin Elementary early registration April 27

## STAFF REPORT

**CENTER** — Haskin Elementary will have its annual early registration for pre-k and kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year on the evening of Tuesday, April 27, from 5-7 p.m. Parents are asked to bring child's immunization record and birth certificate. The school is located at 500 S. Broadway St. in Center.

Child must be 3 years old before June 1 to be eligible for pre-kindergarten and be 5 years old before June 1 for kindergarten.

Parents can also come by the elementary office starting on Monday, April 19 to pick up a registration packet.

For more information, call the elementary office at 719-754-3982.



## MASKS

### Continued from Page 1A

household members remains required in Level Green.

Specifying that only unseated, rather than seated, Indoor Events are subject to the 50% capacity limit not to exceed 500 people in Level Green.

Authorizing counties in Level Green to determine masks requirements as authorized in Executive Order D 2021 079.

Authorizing seated Indoor Events in Level Green to operate at 100% capacity with 6 feet distancing, allowing seating of up to 10 people together including non-household members, and requiring organizers or operators of any such events

that exceed 500 people to consult with CDPHE.

Updating to allow seated Indoor Events in Level Blue to seat up to 10 people together including non-household members and require organizers or operators of any such events that exceed 500 people to consult with CDPHE.

Clarifying that bars in Level Blue may operate and are not required to sell or provide food.

Removing the prohibition on dance floors and games in restaurants and bars.

For more information, visit the state's COVID information page at [www.covid19.colorado.gov](http://www.covid19.colorado.gov).

## SNOW

### Continued from Page 1A

the summer.

At this time, the Valley will most likely not experience high levels of runoff or dangerous conditions like the flooding that occurred in 2019. For the most part, hydrologists are predicting an average runoff that will melt faster than most years due to higher temperatures hitting the Valley in coming weeks.

Wolf Creek Ski Resort closed out its 2020-2021 season with a total of 362 inches which put them just shy of their annual totals of 400 inches or more. The ski resort closed their doors and stopped their lifts after one interesting season to say the least, but they ended

on a high note as one of the only ski resorts in Colorado to remain open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

"After a very unique, yet successful ski season Wolf Creek Ski Area closed Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021," Wolf Creek officials stated. "The 2020-2021 ski season was one of social distancing and mask wearing. Snowfall was consistent from October thru the end of March with a number of prolific powder days, exceptional conditions and 362 inches of snowfall."

The resort will now switch gears and begin preparing for next season while completing projects throughout the summer.

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners are accepting sealed bids for the following County Owned items. The sealed bid will be accepted by the Commissioners, at their discretion until Monday, April 12, 2021 by 3PM.

If you would like to submit a sealed bid offer for any available items, a bid packet and a list of items up for bid is available on the Saguache County website at [www.saguachecounty.net](http://www.saguachecounty.net) or you can call the Administration office at 719-655-2231 or by email request to [administration@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:administration@saguachecounty-co.gov).

Bids must be submitted on a County bid form and must be in a sealed envelope with the item listed on the outside of the envelope. ONE ITEM PER BID SHEET please.

Funds must accompany bids. NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED. If bid is not accepted bid and funds will be returned.

To view items for bid please contact the Saguache County Road and Bridge office at 719-655-2534.

### 2021 AUCTION ITEMS

1. Black & Decker Radial Arm Saw – Minimum bid amount - \$50 – works great
2. Tecumseh Snow Blower – Minimum bid \$25 - Works just small
3. Yard Man Mower – Minimum bid amount \$25 - Comes with bag, self-propelled feature is disabled
4. Husqvarna Weedwhacker – Minimum bid amount \$20 - Does not stay running
5. Truck Tool Box – Minimum bid \$50 - Fits standard width box
6. Ford F250 Fleet #121 – Minimum bid amount \$500 - 2WD, front gas tank does not work, tank switch needs to be replaced, shifts hard, U joints need to be replaced
7. Truck Tool Box – Minimum bid amount - \$50 – fits standard width box
8. 2000 Ford Escort – Minimum bid amount \$250 - VIN – 3FAKP1139YR211153 - Color – Gold - Mileage – 176,702 Condition – not good needs a lot of work
9. 2006 - Ford Crown Victoria – Minimum bid amount \$200
10. 1984 - White Chevrolet Van - Minimum bid amount \$200
11. 2009 - Black Ford Crown Victoria - Minimum bid amount \$200
12. 2011 - Black Ford Crown Victoria - Minimum bid amount \$200
13. 1998 - 4-Wheeler Trailer - Minimum bid amount \$500
14. 2012 - Black Dodge Charger - Minimum bid amount \$500
15. #203 – 1979 Ford F600 Truck – bad motor - Minimum bid amount \$3000
16. #208 – 1989 IHC S1700 Truck SA (single axle) Plow – bad motor - Minimum bid amount \$2500
17. #209 – 1989 IHC S1700 Truck SA (single axle) Plow – bad motor, clutch and transmission - Minimum bid amount \$2500
18. #306 – 1980 Chevrolet Bruin TA Truck (no bed) – bad engine - Minimum bid amount \$1000
19. 1998 – Mercury will not start (title) - Minimum bid amount \$250
20. 1975 International Scout will not start (no title/has VIN Inspection) – Minimum bid amount \$2000
21. 1972 International PV (no title/has VIN Inspection) - Minimum bid amount \$1000
22. 1977 VOG Motorhome – (no title/has VIN Inspection) - Minimum bid amount \$500

No. 1590 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, March 11, 18, and 25 and April 1 and 8, 2021.

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## Hantavirus awareness for spring

**STAFF REPORT**

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a rare but severe respiratory disease in humans caused by infection with sin nombre hantavirus.

Most cases of HPS occur in early spring and summer in conjunction with activities like spring cleaning, especially in places such as sheds or cabins that may have been closed for most of the winter.

HPS is serious. It is fatal for more than one-third of individuals who develop the disease. In the San Luis Valley, hantavirus is carried by deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*). Humans can be exposed by breathing in the virus when rodent urine and droppings containing the virus are stirred up into the air, or by touching rodents, their droppings, or their nesting materials. Rodent control in and around homes and outbuildings is the best way to prevent hantavirus infection.

Before cleaning an area that

may have had rodents present, open doors and windows to let the space air out first. Spray droppings and nesting materials with a bleach solution and let them sit for a few minutes before gently scooping them into a plastic bag for disposal.

Symptoms of HPS may show up 1-8 weeks after exposure. Early universal symptoms always include fatigue, fever, and muscle aches

— especially in the large muscle groups — thighs, hips, back, and sometimes shoulders.

In about half of all cases there are additional symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, chills, and abdominal problems. Late symptoms of coughing and difficulty breathing may appear 4-10 days later, as the lungs fill with fluid. Rapid medical care is critical at this stage.

If you experience symptoms, especially after activities that may have exposed you to the virus, seek medical care and be sure to tell your medical provider about your possible exposure.



## San Luis Valley Seed Exchange set for April 17-18

**STAFF REPORT**

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — The 11th annual San Luis Valley Seed Exchange will be held April 17 and 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa.

The SLV Seed Exchange is a community event focused on cultivating sustainability in the San Luis Valley. This year's theme is Food Sovereignty, Storage and Security. There will be a two-day speaker series on this topic, including individual speakers, panel discussions, and project updates from local community members who are working to help make our valley more sustainable. Some of the speakers include:

- Aaron Perry — Y On Earth: Biodynamic Restoration and Healing
  - Addelina Lucero — SLV Local Foods Coalition: Seeds are our Past, Present and Future
  - Melinda Bateman — Morning Start Farm: Preserve and Store your Fruits and Veggies
  - Chris Pieper — Flourish Farms: Optimizing Diversity on Small Farms
  - Micah Roseberry — Growing Community Now: Food Security in Rural Areas
- With forums on "What is Food Sovereignty and Why Should I



Care" and "Making Money as a Small Producer," as well as updates from the community, including from High Grounds Garden, Miss Penn's Seed Vault, Crestone Mercantile, Heart of Saguache, Crestone Garden Group, Cho Ku Rei, White

Mountain Farm, Rio Grande Farm Park, Crestone Energy Fair, and more.

There will be limited seating to watch the presentations in person and participate in audience questions. You can view the presentations virtually via livestream on SLVSeedExchange.com, or on the Facebook page of Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa. The speaker presentations will also be

recorded and can be viewed after the event in high-resolution video on SLVSeedExchange.com or the YouTube channel of the Crestone Energy Fair, which is partnering with the Seed Exchange.

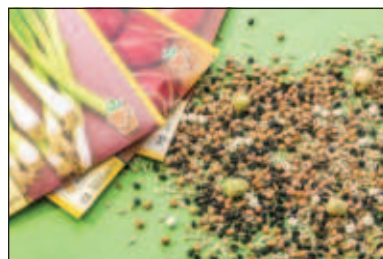
**Vendor Booths**

Booths from local vendors will be inside and next to a large, outdoor tent. Vendors include Sol Mountain Farm, SLV Local Foods Coalition, Growing Spaces, InfiniTeaFarm, Sunflower Station, Nola Naturals, and many more. Mandala Pizza will also be selling food from its food truck, and there will be door prizes available.

**Seed Swap**

And, of course, bring seeds to share. The large community seed swap table is a tradition at the event.

*Please see SEED on Page 2*



## Springtime in the Rockies

When it's springtime in the Rockies  
And my lips are turning blue  
I'll be slogging through the blizzard  
like a brain dead caribou...

Ah, springtime.  
That first hint of life beginning anew, the annual transformation,  
its throat in long tubercular coughs that turn rain into birdshot, sleet into ice,  
ice into snowflakes shaped like goatheds or bob wire,  
Not falling but slicing by you like shrapnel, sandblasting your face,  
freezing your rein hand into a claw and turning forty-five degrees and balmy into assault with intent to stupefy.

Ah, springtime.  
Brave wild flowers bursting from winter's blanket, the trill of the mountain bluebird,

the exultation of a rushing brook, the whine of a spinning tire,  
the splock of pliers dropped from your hand, the rattle of mudtags on a feedlot steer

that make him sound when he walks like a limping Moroccan bride.  
That half brave, half scared elation of aiming your truck toward the muddy dirt road ruts

like a boat captain docking with the current, like fast eddy runnin' one down the rail.

Ah, springtime.  
The anticipation of a new bride or a butterfly waking in his cocoon.  
Like Christmas Eve with all the presents of summer waiting to be opened,  
The weatherman declaring winter's over. Angels celebrating the vernal equinox by hosing out Gabriel's hog confinement

shed,  
Drip drying their laundry between the mountain tops and revving up the wind-chill machine  
for one last recalibration.

Ah, springtime,  
for me it's best viewed through a picture window settin' by the fire.

Once again you'll hear me promise  
You'll be hearing from me soon.  
When it's springtime in the Rockies  
I'll be calling from Cancun...

*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*



**BAXTER BLACK**  
ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE  
*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*



**A Salute TO OUR HOMETOWN GRADUATES**

**Coming April 28, 2021**  
Advertising information **719-852-3531**  
Sandra Marquez - smarquez@valleypublishinginc.com  
Brian Williams - bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com

# Introducing our new SLV Volunteer & Partnership Coordinator

## Land, Water and People

BY GREGG GOODLAND

Hi, I'm Katie Goodleaf. I'm excited to introduce myself as the new Volunteer and Partnership Coordinator here in the San Luis Valley.

Growing up on a tiny island off the coast of New York, I could not have imagined a journey that would lead me out to the state of Colorado, let alone to the San Luis Valley. A landscape with such stark contrast to the beaches and humid sea air I had known growing up. And oh, what a journey it was that brought me to where I am today.

Back in 2010, I decided to do what any carefree, nature loving, college graduate would do. I threw a mattress into the back of a minivan and began a cross country journey with one suitcase and no real destination in mind. All I knew is that I would find, what I thought to be, the most beautiful place in the country and I would call it home. Unbeknownst to me, this epic road trip would shape the future of my life for the next decade and counting. It was during this trip that I started to truly appreciate the unique and breathtaking landscapes that our country has to offer and how important it is to preserve and care for these places. I had traveled to Europe, Central America and even around the world to live in Australia while studying at the University of Sydney. How had I neglected to see

all these astounding natural wonders in my own backyard? It was truly a mind-boggling realization!

I made some of the best memories I have experienced in my entire life on this trip but living from camp spot to camp spot can be tiring after a while. So, six months and 23 states later, I was ready to park the van and start somewhere new, and that somewhere ended up being Denver. When it came time to find a job, I couldn't help but reflect on my trip and my new appreciation for our public lands. Aside from the occasional Walmart parking lot I had camped out in National Parks, Forest Service campgrounds, or on BLM lands my entire trip. So, after doing a little research I signed up for an AmeriCorps program in Land Conservation and have been working in the outdoors ever since.

My decision to move down to the valley is rooted in the connection I've built with the area over the past decade I've been in Colorado. After moving here in 2011, I was immediately drawn to the San Luis Valley as I began exploring the state. It quickly became one of my favorite places to

visit, even if it meant driving 8 hours just to enjoy a weekend of camping down here. In my years working for Colorado Parks and Wildlife I was lucky enough to be assigned to this region, which led to many more opportunities to enjoy and appreciate the valley. When the Volunteer and Partnership Coordinator position

became available this February, I knew it was finally my opportunity to get out of Denver and make the big move. Here I am, day 5 of my new life and all I keep thinking is, I can't believe it took me this long!

While I work directly for Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, my position is hosted by the Rio Grande National Forest. I look forward to working with my new colleagues on the RGNF, at the BLM, and the many wonderful community members who have made the volunteer

program so great over the years. As well as the many new volunteers to come! If you are interested in volunteering on your public lands, please reach out to me at the Forest headquarters in Monte Vista. You can also visit our dedicated volunteering page at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/riogrande/workingtogether/volunteering>

*Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest.*

## Work on Colorado Highway 17 resumes after winter hiatus

STAFF REPORT

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — Crews are back to work on Colorado Highway 17 after the winter hiatus. While work has progressed well ahead of schedule, and crews have completed most of the construction they will begin work on final projects tasks.

For the week of March 28, motorists traveling in the area will find crews working throughout the project installing guardrail and should experience only temporary delays.

There will be a mobile work zone that motorists will have to navigate this week as crews begin shoulder seeding. This work will be going on throughout the project area, MP 84.5 to MP 118.4. Motorists are asked to use caution when approaching the work zone.

Travel impacts for those traveling in the project area include:

- Project work hours are daylight hours, Monday through Friday.
- Motorists will encounter brief closures with single lane alternating traffic.
- The speed limit is reduced to 40 mph through the work zone.
- Flagging personnel will be on sight to direct traffic through the area

## SEED

Continued from Page 1

Bring seeds to give away and pick up new ones to plant for spring. Do not bring any cannabis seeds. The event does not allow any seeds, plants, food, etcetera above .03% THC.

### Free Admission

The entire event is free to the public, although donations are appreciated. The event does not make any money, and all proceeds of the event will be donated to the Moffat PK-12 Greenhouse Program. The event is fueled by sponsors, who generously donate to make the SLV Seed Exchange possible.

If you would like to help the event as a volunteer or sponsor, reach out to Joyful Journey Hot Springs at 719-256-4328 and ask for Cherie.

as construction equipment enters and exits the work zone.

CDOT is improving approximately 36 miles of Colorado Highway 17, from Hooper to the US 285 junction. The work has included widening the existing roadway followed with a new asphalt overlay.

The project also has minor culvert extensions, erosion control, guardrail, signing, and striping. The project is expected to enhance safety for travelers on this narrow two-lane highway, with wider shoulders that provide a larger recoverable area on the side of the road and reduce the potential of crashes from vehicles veering off the roadway.

## 11th Annual SAN LUIS VALLEY SEED EXCHANGE

LOCAL MARKET • TRADE • LEARN • SOAK & STAY

Saturday & Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa, Moffat, CO

Speaker Series: Food Sovereignty, Security & Storage

Annual Seed Swap • \$2 Off Soaking at Joyful Journey

Local Vendors • Food Vendors • Door Prizes

### SOAK & STAY

In addition to consistently hot, mineral-rich water to soak in, there are camp sites, yurts and hotel rooms available.



All donations and proceeds of this event will be donated to the Student Greenhouse Project at the PK-12 Moffat Consolidated School in Moffat, CO.

[WWW.SLVSEEDEXCHANGE.COM](http://WWW.SLVSEEDEXCHANGE.COM)

# Business Showcase



**SPRING IS HERE!**

Great time to select new garlands and flower stems  
New items arriving daily!



**The Holy Moses** Please wear a mask.  
NEW HOURS 658-2848  
Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 121 N. Main Creede

## This Week's Feature



## THE HOLY MOSES

An enchanting Collection of Cabin Decor, Colorado Pottery, Quilts, Linens & Specialty Foods!

It's Worth The Drive

Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Nick & Vicki Kulyk  
121 N. Main • 658-2848 • Creede

# San Luis Valley natives publish 1960's memoir

**STAFF REPORT**

**VALLEY** – Former San Luis Valley residents Ann and Terry

Marshall's newly published memoir, "A Rendezvous to Remember," "is an extended road trip, a rollicking

adventure, and, above all, a love story you'll never forget," so writes Hope Edelman, the New York Times No. 1 best-selling author of "Motherless Daughters."

The seeds for this adventure-turned-love-story sprouted after high school seniors Terry Marshall (Center) and Ann Garretson (Alamosa) won paid trips to represent Colorado at the national Ford Teenage Press conference 60-plus years ago — then became best friends as journalism students at the University of Colorado.

Their long careers as writers, activists, and international travelers included two stints in Terry's hometown of Center, where he served as Head Start director, and Ann as Saguache County Medical Center deputy director, among other jobs.

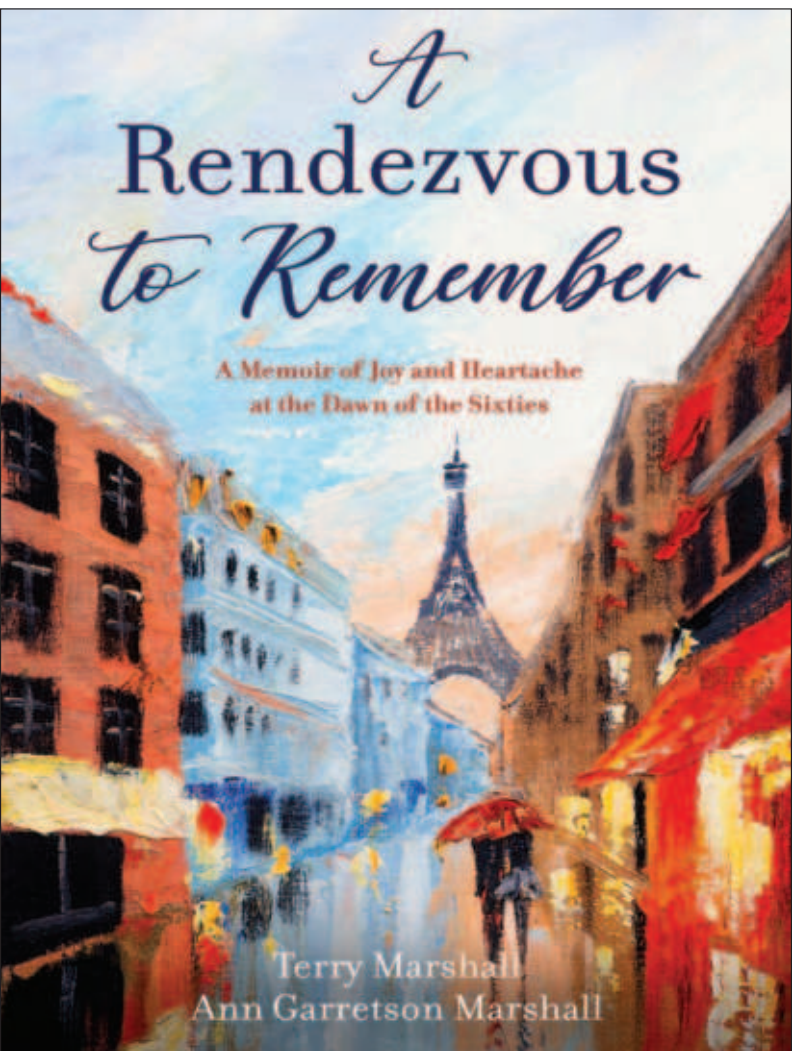
Most recently, the couple turned their attention to nonfiction storytelling, starting with "A Rendezvous to Remember," which documents their rocky road to marriage.

The Midwest Book Review says of their memoir, "The story transcends personal autobiography alone, charting the course of not just two disparate lives, but a nation."



Ann and Terry Marshall

Samantha Vérant, author of "Seven Letters from Paris," notes, "Garretson and Marshall reach right into the heart of this beautifully written memoir. This is a story about what it means to be human . . . The dueling narrative is stunning, surprising, and inspiring. I sobbed at the end, knowing the right choices were made, and I applaud the authors for their honesty."



## The memoir in brief: Idealists caught in love triangle

In the early 1960s, Ann Garretson sparks an airmail romance with her brother's best friend, Jack Sigg, a West Point graduate stationed in Germany guarding the Czech-German border during the Cold War.

Ann and Jack's correspondence heats up, and they hatch a rendezvous in Germany for the summer of 1964 to seal their budding love. She hopes to return as his fiancée.

But wait . . . Even though Ann's best friend at the university, Terry Marshall, helps her plan the European escapade, in the final weeks before her trip, they realize they are more than just friends. In June, Terry bids a wistful goodbye. A month later,

he decides he can't live without her.

After Jack and Ann take a whirlwind "grand tour" of Europe in his Corvette Sting Ray, Ann receives this proposal—by mail from Terry: "Marry me. This summer." His letter throws all three of their lives into turmoil.

Jack offers the military life Ann knows as an army brat. He anticipates duty in the Vietnam War — and ultimately a distinguished career. Terry, a conscientious objector, will leave for the Peace Corps at summer's end — unless the draft board intervenes and sends him to jail.

Ann's dilemma: she loves both men.

## ASU builds bridges for community college students

**STAFF REPORT**

**ALAMOSA** — It's easier than ever for community college graduates to continue their education. The Bridge to Bachelor's Degree program paves the way for Trinidad State Junior College students to seamlessly continue on at Adams State University.

New, first-time students attending any Colorado Community College System school are guaranteed admission upon completion of an associate degree through the collaboration between CCCS and Adams State.

Adams State Executive Director of Enrollment Management Karla Hardesty is pleased with the possibilities for working students.

"We are really excited to be a part of the Bridge to Bachelor's Degree program," Hardesty said. "It will open more pathways to a bachelor's degree at Adams State and creates more opportunities for working students who want to continue their education beyond their community college experience."

It's easy for students in the Colorado Community College System to transfer credits. They will also receive personalized student advising

and guidance with Adams State's admission counselors, as well as access to qualifying institutional scholarship opportunities, and a no-hassle transfer process.

CCCS colleges include Trinidad State Junior College, Arapahoe Community College, Community College of Aurora, Community College of Denver, Colorado Northwestern Community College, Front Range Community College, Lamar Community College, Morgan Community College, Northeastern Junior College, Otero Junior College, Pikes Peak Community College, Red Rocks Community College and Pueblo Community College.

The Bridge to Bachelor's Degree program is made possible through collaborative agreements between CCCS and select Colorado four-year universities.

For more information about the Bridge to Bachelor's Degree program or transferring to Adams State, visit [adams.edu/admissions/transfer](http://adams.edu/admissions/transfer) or contact Jeff Storm, transfer student coordinator at [transferstudents@adams.edu](mailto:transferstudents@adams.edu) or 719-587-7528.

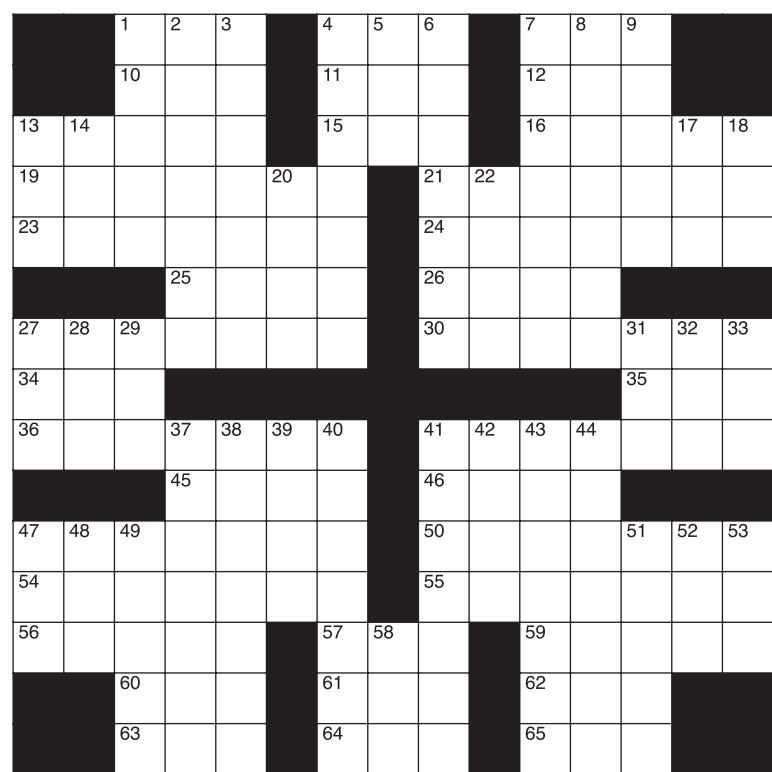
## Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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RECYCLING • DUMPSTERS • ROLL-OFFS  
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(719)658-3060 • [www.MDSWasteAndRecycle.com](http://www.MDSWasteAndRecycle.com)**

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Autonomic nervous system
4. At or near the stern
7. Adenosine triphosphate
10. Polynesian garland of flowers
11. Chinese revolutionary
12. Green veggie
13. Large group
15. Swiss river
16. Semiaquatic mammal
19. Wrongdoers
21. Home to Disney World
23. Spanish doctors
24. Newborn child
25. Absence of difficulty
26. Large, stocky lizard
27. Earned top billing
30. A long wandering and eventful journey
34. Water (French)
35. Brew
36. Winged horse
41. A usually malignant tumor
45. Alfred \_\_, American actor
46. Austrian river
47. A reminder of past events
50. Connected with
54. Status
55. Dean residence
56. Egyptian city
57. Boxing's GOAT
59. Straits along the Red Sea
60. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan



61. Get some color
62. Facilitates hearing
63. Commercials
64. A team's best pitcher
65. Patti Hearst's captors

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Speak up
2. More informative
3. Where passengers sit
4. Gathered
5. Supervises flying
6. Home of the Blue Jays
7. Public statement of regret
8. Lockjaw
9. Indian city
13. Patriots' Newton
14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
17. Sun up in New York
18. Eggs in female fish
20. Stood up
22. NBA legend Willis
27. Calendar month (abbr.)
28. Exercise regimen \_\_-bo
29. The 8th month (abbr.)
31. \_\_ Paulo, city
32. Tall deciduous tree
33. Affirmative
37. Notified of danger
38. NFL game days
39. Archaic term for "to"
40. Plant pores
41. Canned fish
42. Phil \_\_, former CIA
43. Connects with
44. Of the skull
47. Time zone (abbr.)
48. When you hope to get there
49. Hindu goddess
51. Land
52. Pitching stat
53. Field force unit
58. Lakers' crosstown rivals

**Solution to last week's puzzle**

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

# Valley-Wide Classified MARKETPLACE

**FREE!**

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



## CLASSIFIED INDEX

- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
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- 02 CARD OF THANKS
- 03 MEMORIALS
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- 07 HELP WANTED
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- 09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
- FOR RENT**
- 10 APARTMENTS
- 11 ROOMS
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## RATES

**15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications \$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.**

**Garage Sale Ads: 15 Words or less for 1 week \$12 + 35¢ each additional word.**

**Free ads:** Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Limited to private party only, 2 ads per person, 4 weeks.)

**Convenient ad placement:** To place your ad in person come to the office at 835 First Ave. in Monte Vista, or call (719) 852-3531. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also fax your classified to (719) 852-3387 or email at montevisitaclass@gmail.com

**Check your ad the first day:** To ensure your ad is correct, check it the first day it appears in the paper. If there is an error in your ad, call us right away so we can correct it. If an error appears in your ad, Valley Publishing will credit you with one additional day of advertising.

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

## DEADLINE

**Thursday 5:00 pm**

**Call 719-852-3531 or email: MonteVistaClass@gmail.com**

## Easy Payment Options

**We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express, Discover, Checks, Money Orders & Cash**



**05 Notices**  
**WE BUY ANTLER: New Spring**  
Prices: Elk Grade A \$14/lb. Deer Grade A \$11/lb. 5 miles west of Del Norte on Hwy 160. 719-657-0942. (TFN)

**Do you have vintage clothing?**  
I will buy your vintage clothing from the 1920s-1970s. If you have any vintage dresses please contact Molly McAlpine at 719-588-7063. (4/28)

**Wanted: Landowner voucher (unit-wide) for archery deer in unit 76.** Will pay top dollar as well as pay half in advance. Please contact me at huntergrf@msn.com. 602-803-0480. (04/07)

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

**07 Help Wanted**  
**Rio Grande County Public Health (RGCPH)** is hiring a paid part time Youth Internship position to begin ASAP. The position pays 12.35 /hr. Working hours are 4 hours a day but can be negotiated to work with school/work schedule. The hours will be 20 hours a week, with the possibility of more if needed. If interested, please submit your resume to humanresources@riograndecounty.org or 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. (04/07)

**Rio Grande Hospital has a full-time clinic receptionist position available for our Del Norte & Creede Clinic.** Clinic experience and computer skills preferred. Ap-

plications can be filled out on our website at www.riograndehospital.org. Please contact Jennelle Gallegos at 719-657-4114 for further information. RGH is an EOE. (04/07)

**Rio Grande Hospital has an opening for a full-time LPN or RN position available in our Creede Clinic.** Contact Ted Anderson at teda@riograndehospital.org for more information or application can be filled out on our website at www.riograndehospital.org RGH is an EOE.(04/07)

**Rio Grande Hospital has a full-time opening for a Clinic Medical Assistant (MA) for all four clinics.** Must have a Colorado License MA with Phlebotomy Skills and CPR. Contact Ted Anderson at teda@riograndehospital.net for more information or application can be filled out on our website at www.riograndehospital.org RGH is an EOE.(04/07)

**A Research Associate I position is available with the Potato Breeding and Selection Program at Colorado State University's San Luis Valley Research Center near Center, Colorado.** Minimum requirements include a BS/BA degree. Read full job announcement/apply online by 04/15/2021 for full consideration at: https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/84654 CSU is an EO/EA/AA employer and conducts background checks on all final candidates. (04/17)

**Valley Publishing seeks a temporary, part-time reporter for the Center Post-Dispatch.** Writing and photography experience nec-

essary. Send resume and sample writings to Valley Publishing Inc., P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or email to bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com (04/16)

**The Monte Vista Coop Equipment Division is currently hiring for the position of Shop Mechanic. Job Duties include inspect, maintain, repairs, assembles and overhauls farm machinery, equipment and vehicles such as tractors, harvesters, pumps, tilling equipment, trucks and other mechanized equipment.** Wages between \$12.32 and \$15.00 per hour depending on experience. To apply you may apply online via Indeed, Facebook, in person or send resume to sdavid@mvcoop.com. For further information please call Stan at 719-852-5565. (04/07)

**Moffat School District is seeking a track coach for both MS & HS. Start date for MS is April 19th and HS is April 26th.** A non-certified application can be found @ www.moffatschools.org or contact Dale Harrison@ 719-298-2559 for more information. (04/07)

**Beautiful young lady needs a loving, trustworthy, and dependable caregiver part-time, (Tue. 7 a.m.-4 p.m.— 2-Sat 9a.m.-5 p.m.), and some overnight on weekend (when needed) in the Antonito area.** Transfers are required, light housekeeping, meal prep and feeding are some duties. Serious inquires only, and background check is required. Contact 719-588-9430. (04/07)

**10 Apartments for Rent**  
**Del Norte: Furnished 1 Bedroom/ 1 Bath, Very Nice! Single Adult, Non-Smoker, No Pets, All Utilities Paid, Inc. Dish TV. \$625 Mo/\$625 Deposit. 719-850-2738. (04/07)**

**2bd/1bth downstairs apartment 4 rent in Del Norte.** 1145 French St. Washer/dryer on premise. NO pets, or tobacco/pot smoking. \$475/month includes utilities except electricity. Credit check

required. 719-849-1942(04/21)

**17 Real Estate For Sale**  
**Farm quarter Located in Center area with center pivot, 2200 gpm wells, 10 shares of Rio Grande Canal, 10 shares of Santa Maria, 1750 sq. ft. steel shop, 1672 sq. ft. home, barn, corrals and located on Hwy 285. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc. 719-580-0770.(TFN)**

**Alamosa five acres, vacant land,**

## The Rio Grande Club and Resort is seeking an Executive Chef to join our team!

You will thrive in a semi-private club and resort environment and dedicate time to expanding the frequency of our members and guests. Your contributions will be an intricate part of establishing the club and resort's brand and reputation. You will oversee day-to-day culinary operations and work with management to create a memorable experience. A two-year Culinary Degree from a reputable program is preferred plus previous experience at a high-end dining venue or private club. Your passion for food and strong leadership qualities will enable you to take the Club's culinary program to the next level.

If these positions sound like a fit for you, then request an application at info@rgcresort.com or apply in person Tuesday - Friday between 10 am and 3 pm. 0285 Rio Grande Club Trail, South Fork, CO  
**NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE Good luck! Rio Grande Club & Resort**



*I love a good woodfired crust, and they are really generous with the toppings. My son felt they used too much sauce, but he always requests light sauce and we were all sharing the pizza so he was overruled. I have never had so much sausage and pepperoni and cheese on one pizza. Their garlic bread and salads were great, too. We will definitely visit again the next time we go skiing. ~ Matt, Flower Mound, Texas, Yelp*

## Fresh Ingredients, BIG ON TASTE!

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

**Buffet is Back! Sundays only from 11a.m.-8 p.m. \$15 (includes all you can eat, drink, salad and dessert)**

**We are now hiring for all positions, please come in and see Angela!**

**Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMTs and our Veterans always receive 20% off!**

**30483 Highway 160, South Fork 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. DAILY**  
**EASY online To-Go Orders: MountainPizzaTapRoom.com**  
**Thank you for supporting our employees during this difficult time**

## Seasonal Openings

The Rio Grande Club and Resort is also looking for outstanding individuals for seasonal opportunities. If you would like to be part of our exciting growth please consider the following positions:

Servers/Bartenders and Beverage Cart Drivers, Golf Shop and Outside Services, Line Cook, Prep Cook, Warewasher and Golf Course Maintenance.

Seasonal Team Members enjoy complimentary golf, access to Gold Medal fishing, discounted meals, and fun team bonding activities!

If these positions sound like a fit for you, then request an application at info@rgcresort.com or apply in person Tuesday - Friday between 10 am and 3 pm. 0285 Rio Grande Club Trail, South Fork, CO  
**NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE Good luck! Rio Grande Club & Resort**



## DISCLAIMER

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

# Valley Wide Classifieds

**Highway 160 105 Rd.** Perfect for home site. All fenced in. \$25,000 OBO. Two miles from Walmart. 720-217-7886. (04/07)

**Colorado, San Luis Valley farm, 933 acres with 5 center pivots in alfalfa and small grain, excellent well water 6,380 gpm and 37.5 shares Rio Grande Canal ditch water, 2 metal buildings with top productions. Borders BLM & San Juan Mt. Range \$2,000,000. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc. 719-580-0770 (TFN)**

**Farm for lease: 315 acres under center pivot, 5700 gpm wells, 37.5 shares of Rio Grande Canal, 617 acres of pasture land, and two steel storage sheds. Located on Hwy 285 in Saguache County. Call Bruce Steffens at 719-580-0770 for information. (TFN)**

**PERFECT SMALL FARM: 59 acres with center pivot, new 60X120 steel shop, 2 1/2 shares of Rio Grande Canal, 2000 GPM well, 2 miles from Center. Priced to Sell, Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc. 719-580-0770. (TFN)**

**Pastureland, 397 acres in north of Monte Vista Airport on County Line Road with good grass and location. Also contains a hens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770. (TFN)**

**23 Lawn and Garden**  
Sprinkler repair. Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends,

evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (04/17)

**32 Fuel & Heating**  
**Firewood for Sale: \$165 per cord** Delivery Available Call Atlee Jay Hochstetler 719-850-4012. (04/28)

**36 Miscellaneous**  
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# Public programs and events planned during Great Sand Dunes Appreciation Month in April

**STAFF REPORT**

**MOSCA** — April has been proclaimed by the City of Alamosa as the Great Sand Dunes Appreciation Month, celebrating Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

Each year in April since 1991, National Parks across the country celebrate National Park Week with special programs, events, social media themes, and fee-free days. This year, National Park Week is April 17-25, which makes April the perfect time to celebrate and honor the national park's dedication to conserving world-class resources while also showing appreciation to the community that promotes and supports their national park.

Great Sand Dunes is planning events, social media posts and programs to align with Visit Alamosa's campaign, "We Love Our National Park." The City of Alamosa will feature posters and flags displayed downtown and offer digital promotions and stickers for visitors who visit Alamosa during April 2021.

The month's long celebration began with a ceremony at the Alamosa Welcome Center at 10:30 a.m. on April 3. Mayor Ty Coleman presented Park Superintendent Pamela Rice with the official proclamation devoting the month of April as "Great Sand Dunes Appreciation Month."

Following the ceremony, park rangers were available at the Welcome Center to promote the month's events and programs, offer

trip planning advice, and share about the park's Junior Ranger Program.

"Great Sand Dunes is honored to be a part of a community that appreciates their national park to a degree that they would designate an entire month towards celebrating it," said Park Superintendent Pamela Rice. "The City of Alamosa has shown support since before the establishment of the Great Sand Dunes National Monument and continues to promote and value the positive benefits it can bring to a community. We look forward to celebrating during April and look forward to welcoming visitors to their national park this year."

The park has a variety of free programs and events planned during the month including ranger-guided hikes at the park and in Alamosa, information tables and kids' activities at the park visitor center and the Alamosa Welcome Center, and ranger talks at the park's outdoor amphitheater. To kick off National Park Week, April 17-25, 2021, entrance fees will be waived on Saturday, April 17.

The park will also have daily programs and events planned throughout National Park Week. Follow the park's Facebook and Instagram pages to participate virtually throughout the month.

Hikes, ranger talks, and kid's activities require pre-registration by calling the visitor center at 719-378-6395 during business hours, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The park began taking reservations on Monday, March 29.



Photo courtesy of Caden Alonzo

Visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grsa/](http://www.nps.gov/grsa/) for a schedule of events and follow Visit Alamosa and Great Sand Dunes on Facebook and Instagram to stay informed.

April is the perfect time of the year to enjoy a picnic at the Mosca

Creek picnic area, splash in Medano Creek, spend the night in Pinon Flats Campground, or rent a sand sled or sand board and experience the dunes. Check the park's website for updated conditions.

For more information about

visiting Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, including camping, hiking, Medano Creek conditions, Medano Pass Primitive Road conditions, visitor center hours, and other park news, visit [www.nps.gov/grsa](http://www.nps.gov/grsa).

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# New owners breathe life into historic Creede Hotel

By **LYNSIE FERRELL**

**CREEDE** — Shelly Dee and her family have been coming to the Creede area for well over 60 years. The couple purchased the property known as the Creede Hotel and have big plans to restore the original structure and add to the outdoor dining experience in Creede. “I have been coming to the Creede area for 60 years,” Dee said. “My family has been coming every summer to Spar City, a nearby ghost town community. Now that our children are grown, my husband and I have started coming and staying later into the fall and winter. We lived overseas for 22 years in London, Hong Kong, Singapore and Beijing. Creede was our home in America and our kids grew up thinking all of America was like Spar City and Creede.”

Once the property was purchased, Dee partnered with John Arp who owns Arp’s Restaurant that has resided in the old hotel for the past year and who has been serving up delectable, worldly cuisine for the small mountain town for six years.

“I was so happy to hear that John and Arp’s were willing to stay on board and help us bring the hotel to its full glory with a menu that fits the diversity we are seeking,” said Dee.

Arp and Dee have been busy visualizing the possibilities that the hotel could bring to the area and are looking at a five-year restoration and construction plan that when finished, would breathe life back into the once-famous hotel.

“I can see this place becoming the hotspot for Creede with live music and outdoor dining that the entire family can enjoy,” said Arp.

Dee has spent many years traveling overseas and though her degree isn’t

in hospitality per se, she feels that her experience will bring a unique and universal spark to the life of the Creede Hotel.

“My background is in finance not hospitality but having lived and traveled overseas (to over 100 countries), we know great restaurants and hotels,” Dee said. “That’s our ambition for The Creede Hotel. Also, I was a waitress, hostess and bartender in college, so I remember what it’s like to work in a restaurant.”

The Creede Hotel, first known as the Zang Hotel was built in early 1892 and is one of the only buildings that has lasted through the years since Creede’s inception. The hotel was a grand location in the early boom days of Creede and Dee’s hope is to bring it back to its prime through careful historical restoration and expansion over a five-year period.

“The hotel is a Creede institution, and I have been eating there my entire life. We have plans to expand outdoor dining and will be adding a stage for live entertainment,” Dee said. “Having only closed on the property March 5, not much has happened yet but we have hired a historic preservation architect firm and they have come up with a five-phase plan that will bring the old building back to its historic beauty and modernize the other parts of the building.”

The Mineral County Miner will be working close with Dee and Arp to follow the restoration and construction project as it gets off the ground. Currently there are four rooms in the hotel, each named for a famous historical figure and two with balcony access that overlooks the downtown area.

Dee plans to have the hotel open for business by the end of May and is looking forward to the adventure that awaits.



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell  
**Above: The dining room-bar area in the Creede Hotel offers a unique historical dining experience and was one of the first areas to be restored in the old hotel.**

**Left: New owners have purchased the Creede Hotel and plan to restore the beloved building to its original glory over the next five years.**



**Four of the rooms at the Creede Hotel offer a historical and whimsical experience for guests and the new owners hope to expand the hotel with additional rooms in the future.**

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# CRT considers outdoor venue

*City needs more information on proposal*

**BY LYNDISIE FERRELL**  
**CREEDE** — The Creede Repertory Theatre is looking at a potential outdoor venue for its 2021 season and sought approval from the City of Creede during a special meeting on March 16.

During the meeting, CRT Artistic Director John DiAntonio opened with a letter explaining the process by which the theatre would perform shows and asked that the \$25 a day fee be waived to help with additional expense to the theatre.

In a letter submitted by DiAntonio and Managing Director Morgan M. Manfredi it stated, "Given the limitations of indoor capacity and strict regulations from Actors Equity Association, Creede Repertory Theatre (CRT) is seeking an outdoor venue for our 2021 Summer Season. Sieme Park would be an ideal location for CRT. CRT is seeking an exclusive rental of Sieme Park from Monday, June 7 through Tuesday, September 7, 2021 — a total of 93 days. CRT requests that the City of Creede waives the \$25 daily park rental fee, a total of \$2,325.

"Performances would take place from on or about June 24 through September 5, 2021. CRT plans

for six performances per week between Wednesday and Sunday, primarily evening shows (7 p.m. curtain) with one or two matinees (11 a.m. and or 2 p.m.) per week. Amplified sound-music will occur only between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 p.m.; CRT will adhere to any other City noise ordinances."

The theatre closed for the 2020 season due to concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic and though hundreds of donations were made to the theatre during the year,

the organization suffered through the closure like many business and organizations nation-wide.

With vaccines spreading throughout the community and with the help of community members and travelers alike, the theatre is optimistic for a smaller 2021 season in an outdoor venue.

"CRT would like to erect a temporary stage on the dirt patch on the far east side of the park," theatre officials stated. "Four Port-o-Potties will be on site from June 21 through September 6, 2021 — they will be serviced regularly. Avery Augur has given permission for patrons to park vehicles on the dirt lot across the street to the west — CRT will staff the parking lot and the crosswalk between the lot and the park to ensure safety.

CRT is adhering to strict regulations from Actors Equity Association and working with Silver Thread Public Health to develop COVID safety plans with appropriate distancing, egress,

and cleaning protocols. Avery Augur, owner of Creede America, is in enthusiastic support of this endeavor, CRT officials stated.

DiAntonio also stated that the theatre is considering a discounted ticket price to help bring people to the area and though they will be wading through both state and local guidelines as well as guidelines set by the Actors Equity Association, Sieme Park would be an appropriate venue for the vision they have for the coming season.

Some concerns brought up by the board was making sure the theatre had people to clean the park before and after shows without

burdening the city's Public Works department. DiAntonio explained that the theatre would have a full front of house team designated to complete those tasks before and after every show.

Other concerns from the board included whether or not the theatre would be serving beverages or food during performances and would they place signage on the road next to the park to warn people that there were pedestrians as well as increased vehicles during showtimes.

DiAntonio stated that the theatre would not be serving any kind of food or beverages besides

water during performances at this time and that proper signs would be placed before and during performances on the main road beside the park.

The board approved the continuation of plans for the possibility of having CRT perform at Sieme Park and to return with plans in place that would contain more details such as capacity limits, electrical connection needs and other specifics before issuing a final approval. The city is in full support of the theatre's endeavor and will continue to work with them in order to see this season become a success.



## Polis: General public eligible for COVID-19 vaccine on April 1

**DENVER** — Gov. Jared Polis said Monday that the general public will be eligible for COVID-19 vaccines starting on April 1.

While eligibility will be expanded to every Coloradan age 16 and up, it will still take six to eight weeks for distribution, the governor said.

The governor previously estimated the general public's vaccine eligibility would be mid-April.

The expansion comes as the federal government continues to distribute

vaccines, with Colorado receiving more than 400,000 vaccines this week to distribute, Polis said.

Almost 80% of Coloradans ages 70 and up have been vaccinated already, according to the governor, while nearly 1 million people have been fully vaccinated.

Polis also said mobile vaccination buses will begin to launch in the coming weeks with a focus on underserved rural or urban populations.

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# SLV Habitat Partnership Program continues to build relationships

Committee is looking to fill a vacancy — sportsperson representative

By MICK DAVIS  
SLVHPP Committee Chairman

In 1990, the Colorado Division of Wildlife created a program entitled the Habitat Partnership Program (HPP), the initial purpose of which was to deal with fence and forage issues with deer, elk, pronghorn and moose.

In 2002, the program was expanded to resolve wildlife conflicts, particularly those associated with fence and forage, and to aid the agency in achieving game management objectives. Since that time, 19 local committees have been formed to administer funds and projects for the program, which Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) continues to this day.

The San Luis Valley (SLV HPP) Committee was formed in 1994 and approved by the Wildlife Commission in 1995. Originally the SLV committee was responsible for the entire San Luis Valley. In 1998, the Mount Blanca



Committee was formed to deal with issues along the eastern side of the Valley — approximately 2,750 square miles — leaving the western portion under the jurisdiction of the SLV committee — approximately 4,800 square miles.

Membership on SLV HPP committee is composed of three livestock growers, one sportsperson, and one each from Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service (USFS), CPW and US Fish and Wildlife (USFW). Funding for the HPP program is derived from 5% of the license fees sold for pronghorn, deer, elk and moose within the committee boundary.

While early projects dealt with fence and forage, over the years the emphasis has changed allowing for a wide range of activities to aid in reducing conflicts between deer, elk, pronghorn, moose and agriculture and additionally allowing for aiding CPW to manage the wildlife in the local area.

Some of the more common activities engaged in by the SLV HPP committee are: aiding in transaction costs for conservation easements, closing illegal roads, fence construction or repair, hiring hunt coordinators to accompany hunters into private lands, water developments which have benefited both livestock and wildlife (including drilling wells, solar pumping systems, water delivery systems, pond cleaning and sealing), habitat manipulation (including hydro-axe, hand thinning and manipulation, and controlled burns), and working with CPW in arriving at various big game population objectives.

Many of the projects have been designed to keep big game animals on the public lands as much as possible.

Project proposals are submitted to the committee and, if approved, funded by an assortment of partners including USFS, BLM, NRCS, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, Wild Turkey Federation, CPW, USFW, State Land Board, private land owners and permittees,

private citizens, GOCO, RiGHT, Colorado Cattlemen's Assoc., Grazing Associations and HPP.

The SLV committee has established a guideline that they will not pay more than half of the cost of a project in most cases, however the balance of the project costs can come from any of the partners in that particular project, but it is expected that the owner or permittee will participate in the costs of the project.

Having kept records of project participation since 2002, the SLV HPP committee has utilized \$2,060,727 of HPP funds to participate in projects totaling \$65,296,155.

Since 2007 there have been 11,875 donated hours to the projects. The vast majority of funds for these projects came from outside the local area but were spent locally. The projects have greatly aided local agricultural producers to secure funding for needed projects as well as enhancing conditions for local big game.

have a sportsperson vacancy and is seeking a volunteer beginning on July 1. The position requires attendance at meetings — usually 4-5 per year — either in person or virtually.

A person interested in the position should have knowledge of much of the western portion of the Valley, purchase a big game hunting license on a regular basis, and be willing to aid in securing projects and, at times, funding.

If you are interested in applying for the position you can contact Hanna Cook, the administrative assistant for the committee at [hanna.cook@state.co.us](mailto:hanna.cook@state.co.us) or by phone at 719-227-5221.

A letter expressing interest in the position and listing qualifications needs to be received by May 15, as the committee needs to select who they want the wildlife commission to consider for approval of their appointment to the committee, all of which takes time.

HPP information as well as specific SLV HPP committee information can be found on CPW's website, <http://cpw.state.co.us/hpp>.

### Committee Vacancy

The San Luis Valley Committee will

## Rio Grande National Forest to host San Luis Valley land management agencies in online session

### STAFF REPORT

MONTEVISTA — The Rio Grande National Forest announced March 22 that a special session of its "Forest Specialist Series," is planned for 5 p.m. on April 7.

This installment of the online customer engagement sessions will feature representatives from land management agencies operating in the San Luis Valley. Guest speakers will highlight their agencies in brief presentations with the goal of creating an understanding of the similar, yet different, roles each agency serves.

As part of their commitment to public education, the San Juan Mountains Association provides the Zoom platform for the monthly engagement sessions, which begin promptly at 5 p.m. Formal agency presentations will be followed by the opportunity for participants to ask questions.

"This innovative customer engagement session will provide a unique opportunity to hear from all

of your land management agencies at one time," said Dan Dallas, Rio Grande National Forest supervisor. "This session may provide even the most informed public lands user, some insights on different agency roles."

Representatives from the following agencies are planning to attend:

- Bureau of Land Management — San Luis Valley Field Office
- Colorado State Forest Service — Alamosa Field Office
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife — Monte Vista Office
- National Park Service — Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve
- US Fish and Wildlife Service — San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex
- US Forest Service — Rio Grande National Forest

To learn more about the "Forest Specialist Series," visit the Rio Grande National Forest web page and look for the Feature — Online Customer Engagement Sessions at the bottom

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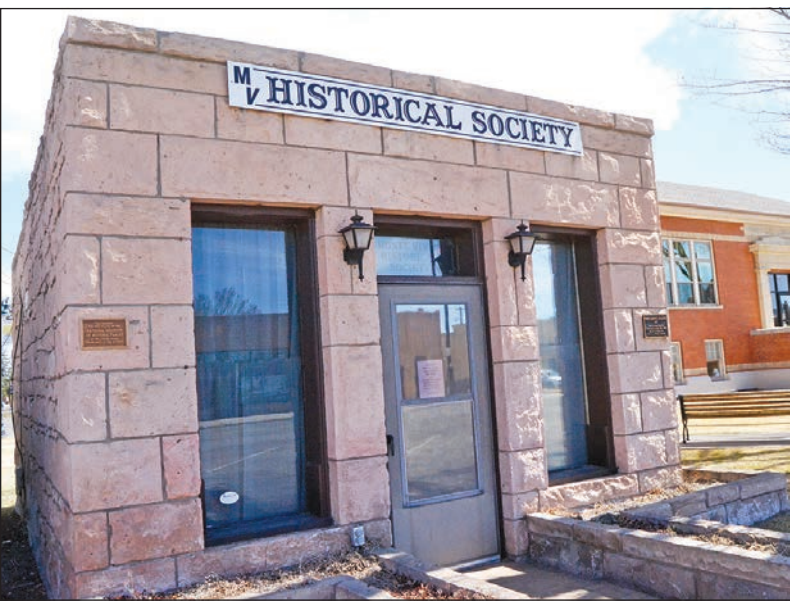
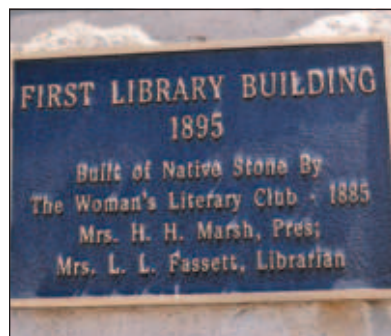


Photo by Brian Williams

In 1895, the Women's Literary Club raised enough money to build the small stone building that housed Monte Vista's Public Library. This building is now the home of the Monte Vista Historical Society and sits next to the Monte Vista Carnegie Library.

# Pioneer women took charge

*Driving force behind town's first public library*



BY REBECCA COPLEY

MONTE VISTA — March was declared National Women's History Month in 1987. Since then, every year March has been dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the achievements of women in our nation's history. Doing a little digging into the history of Monte Vista you will find that women have played a huge role in the founding of this community as well.

Lillian Lorretta Silsby was a school teacher from Kansas who came to Loveland to teach. While she was there, she fell in love and married James L. Taylor. After they married, they moved to Kokomo which at that time was a new mining town north of Leadville. According to Emma M. Rigenbach's history book "A Bridge to Yesterday," they left Kokomo after witnessing the brutal killings of two people who had broken a frontier code. The victims were strung up near their cabin by a crowd of masked men.

After this experience, her husband found work on the railroad but tragically died in a railroad accident. The widow spent a winter in Alamosa and then went to live with a relative of her husband's.

In August of 1881, Lillian Taylor and her children made their way to Lariat — the former name of Monte Vista — with merchandise to set up a store.

"There was nothing but chico and sagebrush for miles around. It was the most unpromising place for a business venture one could imagine," Rigenbach wrote in her book.

Undaunted, the young widow proceeded to build a 20 foot by 30-foot frame building, which became Monte Vista's first store. It also served as the town's post office and Lillian Taylor became the town's first postmistress.

A little while later, her mother joined her to help run the store and take care of the children. Together they started the enterprise that became L. L. Fassett store.

"It was called Fassett's Store because Lillian Loretta Taylor and Charles S. Fassett were married on Jan. 10, 1882," Rigenbach wrote.

Lillian Fassett became the town's first librarian when she opened her store to house the town's first library

books. There is no doubt that Lillian Fassett was an influential part of Monte Vista's history.

Monte Vista's Public Library was another women-led effort.

"Monte Vista's Public Library grew from the dream of a group of pioneer women in this little-known spot in 1885. Colorado was but nine years old at the time," Rigenbach wrote in her book.

The ladies formed the Women's Literary Club and started a circulating library. The library books were kept at the Fassett's store. Over time as the library accumulated more books, it was moved to the Bonner Mead building which was on the north side of First Avenue. This is where the library remained until a fire in 1894 destroyed all of the books as well as the building.

Determined, the women then went about earning money to build a new library building. They published and sold cookbooks, made and sold aprons, and had a booth at the fair. In 1895, they had enough money to build the small stone building which is now home to the Historical Society. The women continued to earn money to buy books and operate the library.

"In 1916, the City of Monte Vista began negotiating with the Carnegie Foundation for assistance in erecting a library building to meet the needs of the growing population," recorded Rigenbach in her book.

Later on that same page, Rigenbach wrote how in 1918 the first mill levy was placed on property within the city limits of Monte Vista for library operation and books.

"But additional funds were needed. Never underestimate the power of a woman! The first year of the Ski-Hi Stampede the women ran the Stampede Carnival. They netted \$967.49 for library use," wrote Rigenbach.

These are just a couple of examples out of many from Monte Vista highlighting the tremendous impacts women had in the history of this community.

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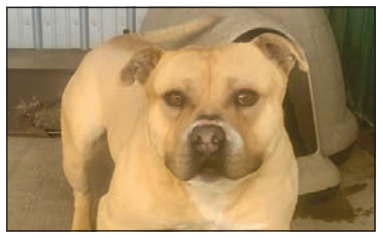
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# Grace and Mercy Bible Fellowship finds new home

**SUBMITTED ARTICLE**

**MONTE VISTA** — Grace and Mercy Bible Fellowship will soon be holding worship services and Bible studies at 200 Washington St., inside the First Christian Church building in Monte Vista.

“We never expected to be in the Adams Street location for an extended length of time. We just needed a small space to help us get gain enough members that we could go somewhere else,” said Grace and Mercy Pastor Larry Foster.

In May of last year, Grace and Mercy opened at 212 Adams St. in a vacant commercial storefront that drew criticism and concerns about how commercial spaces should be used. After a four-month special review process with the City, Grace and Mercy was allowed to occupy the space.

“Our goal was to outgrow our space in a year, and we have done that,” Foster said.

In October of last year, First Christian Church approached Foster about preaching at their 9:30 a.m. Service.

First Christian had been without a pastor since Wayne Wittner retired in July of 2020. This started a relationship with First Christian that resulted in the two churches working together on several projects, including the community soup night held on the second Tuesday of every month.

“We work really well together and several of the First Christian members have started attending our Women’s Wednesday Bible Study,” said Foster.

A discussion began about where Grace

and Mercy would meet after their lease at Adams Street expired and First Christian offered to share its building with the new, growing church.

Easter services were being planned and it was decided to hold those services at the First Christian building. It was an easy decision to move all the services to the First Christian building.

“They have a beautiful facility, and we are excited about being able to use it,” Foster said.

“We are excited about sharing our facility with Grace and Mercy. We have

seen their heart for the community and have worked with them on a couple of events,” said Don Noland, trustee for First Christian.

Beginning with Easter on April 4, Grace and Mercy will meet at the First Christian building at 200 Washington St. at 11:15 a.m. First Christian will continue to have its normal 9:30 a.m. service in the building. On Easter, there will be an additional 7 a.m. service with both congregations together.

More information can be found at the website [grace-mercy-bible.church](http://grace-mercy-bible.church).



Grace and Mercy Bible Fellowship will be holding services inside the First Christian Church on Washington Street in Monte Vista. Photo by Brian Williams

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### SLV retail sales up \$105M in 2020

By **KEITH R. CERNY**  
Regional Publisher

**VALLEY**—In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic which started just over a year ago, the San Luis Valley saw an increase of over \$105 million in retail sales in 2020 over the previous year.

Those figures were released Thursday by the San Luis Valley Development Resources Group (DRG) based on sales tax reports from the Colorado Department of Revenue, showing \$1.3 billion in total retail spending in 2020 compared to \$1.2 billion in 2019. Sales in 2018 were \$57 million less than 2019 but were \$147 million better than 2017 which showed a \$43 million drop from 2016.

The decline in 2018 retail sales is largely attributed to the Spring Creek Fire which shut down access to the SLV from the east for several weeks. The cause of the five-year low in 2017 of \$991 million has not been determined.

County-by-county, Conejos actually showed the largest percentage of increase from 2020 to 2019, up by \$39.6 million with \$133 million in retail sales in 2020 compared to \$93.5 million in 2019.

Alamosa County was up \$29 million, \$579 million in 2020 and \$550 million in 2019, while Costilla was up \$19 million, \$69.5 million to \$50.6 in 2019. Rio Grande saw an increase of \$13.4 million (\$337 million to \$324) and Mineral County increased \$4.6 million (\$55.4 million to \$50.7 in 2019).

Saguache County was the only SLV county showing a decrease from 2019 to 2020, down \$637,000 with \$126 million in retail sales in 2020.

Month by month, the San Luis Valley saw its' highest 2020 retail sales in December (\$154 million), September (\$123 million), June (\$121 million) and July (\$120 million).

Retail sales determined by sales tax data by county and city-by-city can be found at: <https://cdor.colorado.gov/retail-sales-reports>.

A statistical profile recently completed by the SLV DRG can be viewed and downloaded at: [www.slvdrg.org](http://www.slvdrg.org).

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## Distracted driving remains a top cause of fatal and injury crashes

**STAFF REPORT**  
**COLORADO** — Distractions behind the wheel didn't start with cell phones, and with every interruption comes an increase in risk for a preventable crash.

Often viewed as a young-person problem, Colorado drivers admit distracted driving transcends generations.

Eighty-five percent of drivers in Colorado admit to driving distracted daily, and it is more than just cell phones causing the problems. Eating, using the GPS, changing music, dealing with passengers, and pets all contribute to not giving 100% focus behind the wheel.

"Every driver has a role in making Colorado roadways safer," says Col. Matthew Packard, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Our troopers and local enforcement partners cannot be everywhere at once, so make the smart decision to save a life, possibly your own. When it comes to distractions: drop it and drive."

Distracted driving regularly falls

into one of the top three causal factors for injury and fatal crashes along with speeding and driving under the influence. Even without injury, a distracted driving crash can have serious consequences, including citations, damaged property, and higher insurance premiums that can last for years.

The Colorado Department of Transportation estimates that 42 crashes happen on Colorado roadway every day due to distracted driving. Fortunately, the solutions can be relatively simple, if the driver makes the decision to drive distraction-free.

Most mobile devices have "do not disturb while driving" settings that will send calls to voicemail or auto-respond to incoming text messages. If you have a passenger, let them control the music or GPS, or preprogram those items before putting the vehicle in motion.

Passengers should feel obligated to speak up if their driver is distracted behind the wheel; after all, their safety is at risk, too. Drop It and Drive!

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