

Shorts

SLV REC, Ciello and SLV Foundation meetings March 30

The regular meeting of the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Ciello and SLV Energy Foundation Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, March 30, at 9:30 a.m. The Ciello meeting will immediately follow the SLVREC meeting and the Foundation Meeting to follow the Ciello meeting. If anyone is interested in listening to or attending this meeting, contact Michelle at 719-852-3538 ext. 6640, for more information.

CDOT replacing culvert on US 285 north of Monte Vista

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — The Colorado Department of Transportation will repair an aged culvert on US Highway 285 just north of Monte Vista. The exact location of the US 285 project is at MP 52.3 approximately one mile north of the US 160 and US 285 intersection. The old 18-inch corrugated metal pipe culvert will be replaced with an improved 24-inch reinforced concrete pipe. The work, scheduled to begin Monday, March 29, will take place the entire week, through Friday, April 2.

Two lanes of traffic — northbound and southbound — will be maintained throughout the duration of the project, however motorists will encounter lane shifts. Travelers will also encounter a speed reduction of 40 mph through the work zone.

Income tax filing deadline moved to May 17

DENVER — Internal Revenue Service (IRS) said Wednesday, March 17, the due date for the 2020 tax year for individuals was being moved from April 15 to May 17. The agency said it would provide formal guidance in the coming days.

The Colorado Department of Revenue announced Thursday that it will also extend the individual income tax payment and filing deadline to May 17.



San Luis Valley Seed Exchange set

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

Please see SEED on Page 2A

Wi-Fi hotspot opens at Center's Community Park

Ciello technicians installed a public Wi-Fi hotspot at Center Community Park in early March

STAFF REPORT

CENTER — Ciello technicians installed a public Wi-Fi hotspot on March 4 at Center Community Park.

The Wi-Fi connection is available to the public for free and can be used during events or games held at the park or anytime community members or students are in need of an Internet connection. The password for the public Wi-Fi is ciellowifi.

Center School District's Director of Technology Julio Paez commented, "We are very grateful to Ciello for all of the services they've provided to the Center School District and the Town of Center. Ciello has been a great

Please see WI-FI on Page 4A



Native American art fair returning to Monte Vista

BY REBECCA COPLEY

MONTE VISTA — Douglas Crowwolf and Kate Kelley, owners of FaeMoon Wolf Designs, presented their plans to hold a second Native American art fair this year in the Fassett parking lot at the City Council meeting on March 18.

Last year was the first year they held the event. Encouraged by the success of the fair last year, they are hoping to make it even bigger and better this year but will also be making sure to stay within COVID-19 safety guidelines.

"As you know we did the Native American art show last year. We're ramping up to make it bigger and better this year. I've already got vendors clamoring to be a part of this. I'm going to look at getting maybe a few, three, or four dancers. I'd like to see if I can get a least one drum group," Crowwolf told the council.

Please see FAIR on Page 6A

Valley counties support livestock producers

BY KEITH R. CERNY

Regional Publisher

SAN LUIS VALLEY — At least five of the six counties in the San Luis Valley passed resolutions recently decrying the move of Governor Jared Polis' declaration of March 20 as "Meat-OUT Day," asking the state's residents to avoid eating animal products on that day.

County commissioners in Alamosa, Rio Grande, Saguache, Conejos and Mineral counties joined more than 25 counties across the state passing resolutions opposing Polis' move. The resolutions ranged from declaring March 20 "MEAT-IN" day in Alamosa County to "Know Your Local Producer" day in Saguache County.

Please see MEAT on Page 6A



Photo by Rebecca Copley

In response to Colorado Gov. Jared Polis', 'Meat-Out Day,' proclamation encouraging Coloradans to go meatless for a day, thousands answered by having a 'Meat-In Day.' Many enjoyed barbecue and steak dinners in response to the governor's vegan request and supported the livestock industry in the state. The Monte Vista Coop hosted a hamburger fry on March 20 to support Colorado ag and livestock industries.

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OBITUARIES

Franklin Bruce Bassett

Franklin Bruce Bassett, 85, passed away peacefully on Feb. 12, 2021, at home surrounded by his family. He was born on Dec. 17, 1935 in Tampa, Fla., to Franklin Oak Bassett and Alliene Tuggle Bassett.

Frank graduated from Rockhurst High School in Kansas City, Mo., and went on to attend Rice University, at the age of 16, where he obtained a bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering and was a member of the Rice Owls Golf Team.

In 1961, he married Mary Lou in Borger, Texas.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou Bassett; his five children Skip Bassett (Becky), Kathlene Bassett (Khanh), Linda Cannon, Michael Bassett (Anne), Mary Scott (Mark), 11 grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

After college, Frank worked at Phillips 66 for 39 years where his career took him and his family around the world. In 1973, he moved his family to Stavanger, Norway where he worked offshore in the North Sea where oil was being produced for the first time. As he continued his work with Phillips 66, Frank moved with Mary Lou and their children to

London, England; Bartlesville, Okla.; Bountiful, Utah; Kansas City, Kan.; and Lake Jackson, Texas.

Frank loved playing golf and was a low handicap player who was known for several hole in one's. He taught Mary Lou how to play and this became one of their hobbies that continued throughout his retirement years. He also taught all five of his children how to play the game and when they were growing up it was not unusual to see all of them on the course every Sunday where he would be coaching them.

He also loved his cabin in Creede, Colo., and would spend the summer months at the cabin fly fishing for trout, hiking, enjoying the wildlife and having coffee with his buddies in town. He loved when his children visited and brought the grandkids so he could spend time with them fishing and hiking. He even experienced a time when a bear walked up behind him while he was fishing in the river next to his cabin. He loved exploring the history of Creede being a silver mining town and could tell you many stories about that and how the area was actually the crater of a volcano.

In lieu of flowers, memorial



donations may be made to the Rice University Alumni Association online at giving.rice.edu or by mailing to the following address: Rice University Development and Alumni Relations, P.O. Box 1892, M.S. 81, Houston, Texas 77251.

Condolence messages may be written for the family at www.garmanycarden.com.

Arrangements were under the direction of Garmany and Carden Funeral Directors, 1201 Fourth St., Rosenberg, TX 77471, 281-342-4671.

Elsie Maxine Ward

May 8, 1930 – February 17, 2021

Elsie Maxine (Zanetell) Ward, 90, a long-time Monte Vista resident, passed away peacefully at the River Valley Inn, on Feb. 17, 2021, three weeks after a debilitating stroke. Born to Henry and Elsie Zanetell, in Aguilar, Colo., Maxine was the fourth of five children.

The family moved to Pueblo, Colorado, in 1941 and she graduated from Central High School, Class of 1948. Her first job was a switch board operator for Bell Telephone Company.

On Sept. 2, 1949, she married Kirby Ward, who had graduated from Central High a few years earlier and had been serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. A year later the couple had their first of three children on the same day Kirby got recalled to active duty for the Korean War. They lived in base housing at El Toro Air Base until Discharged from active duty and returned to Pueblo.

In 1965 the Ward family moved to Monte Vista where they quickly made the San Luis Valley their home and lived there for 40 years. During that time Maxine, worked for Fassett's Department Store and when they closed, she worked for Southwestern Auto Supply.

For many years she taught Sunday School for the younger kids at the Church of Christ. She always managed to have delicious snacks for the kids because as she put it, "Kids have a hard time paying attention when they are hungry."

On doctor's advice that a lower altitude would be beneficial to Kirby's health, they moved to Meridian, Idaho, near daughter Debby, her children and grandchildren where they lived for 15 years. Upon the passing of her husband in April of 2020, Maxine moved, "back



home to the Valley," as she called it, and was in residence at the River Valley Inn until her passing.

Many who knew Maxine over the years have commented that no matter what their association with her, employee, co-worker, friend, wife, mother, Sunday School teacher, that she will always be remembered as "kind, gracious, loving, and considerate."

Maxine was preceded in death by her husband of 70 years, Kirby, her three older brothers Larry, Tom and Marvin Zanetell, and her younger sister Gloria Antonelli.

She is survived by her three children, Marvin "Zeke" Ward, Debby Fraker, and Dallas Ward, six grandchildren, a bunch of great-grandchildren, and a couple great-great-grandchildren and extended family.

There are no plans for a memorial service at this time, but the family is considering a memorial service for both Kirby and Maxine sometime in June.

El Pomar approves \$55,000 to SLV nonprofits

STAFF REPORT

COLORADOSPRINGS — Grant funding of \$55,000 will support the work of nonprofit organizations in the San Luis Valley region.

El Pomar Trustees approved grant allocations to two nonprofit organizations in the San Luis Valley region at the Foundation's February Trustees meeting. Through the Foundation's grant process, the following organizations were awarded grants:

- Care and Share, Inc. of Colorado Springs — \$50,000 for Alamosa distribution center; regional council

- Creede Repertory Theatre, Inc. — \$5,000 for LED lights in the Ruth

Theatre; competitive

Founded by Spencer and Julie Penrose in 1937, El Pomar Foundation has an established legacy of general-purpose grant making throughout the state of Colorado. The competitive process remains the Foundation's primary vehicle for organizations to receive funding, which accepts applications on a rolling basis.

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

To increase impact and establish

connections across the entire state, the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the Foundation's eleven regional councils advises El Pomar Trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities.

The San Luis Valley Regional Council recommends grants in Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache counties. Council members are regional leaders in the business, nonprofit and public sectors and provide first-hand information about current needs in their communities.

To view a full listing of El Pomar's funds and grant making areas, visit their website at www.elpomar.org/grant-making/.

SEEDS

Continued from Page 1A

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, InfiniTea Farm, 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. 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.

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March 27

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

LETTERS

Colorado agriculture unites to celebrate the industry and support under-served Coloradans

It was a weekend of reconnecting, celebrating our livestock production, and uplifting those in need throughout Colorado and neighboring states as the agriculture industry celebrated "Meat-In Day" on March 20. Rather than villainizing meat protein sources, producers and consumers alike rallied to show their support for agriculture and livestock production.

Across all of Colorado, March 20 was a day of celebration and appreciation for the agriculture industry. More than 35 cities and counties signed proclamations in order to promote the importance of agriculture in Colorado; designating March 20 as "Cattlemen's Day," "Meat-In Day," or other similar designations. Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) expresses our sincere gratitude for all those who hosted and participated in the various gatherings around the state. The strength of the industry is rooted in your communities, and your voices were heard, and your contributions are recognized statewide.

To this extent, this movement and support for the agricultural industry transcended beyond rural areas as urban communities and consumers also rose to the occasion to unite behind

the contributions of agriculture.

"While we saw rural Colorado turn out in record numbers and with record donations collected, we were also encouraged by the strengthening of a bond between metropolitan and rural voices around this effort," said Janie VanWinkle, CCA President. "We are appreciative of the support around the Meat In movement and look forward to continuing to strengthen this partnership across the state and nation into the future."

With more than 75 events, plus countless restaurant and retailer specials, meat was on the menu and tables across the state. At the 75 events alone, more than 25,000 people were offered complimentary barbecue meals, including more than 1,200 food insecure Denver residents. However, a Meat-In Day meant more than just enjoying a delicious meal with friends, family, and neighbors.

"Many events emphasized supporting and feeding the food insecure. Donations were collected at varying events to support their local communities and the broader beef industry," said Terry Fankhauser, CCA Executive Vice President. "The tally is ongoing, but as of late, over \$300,000, supporting need-based

causes, has been collected in the name of Meat-In day."

On the backside of this celebratory movement is a proposed ballot initiative that would drastically harm animal agriculture and consumer access to affordable food in Colorado. Initiative #16 would limit beneficial animal husbandry practices and stipulate unrealistic harvest requirements for livestock. Now more than ever, livestock producers and consumers need to come together and support Colorado from pasture to plate.

The unity that was showcased with the Meat-In movement across the entire state is encouraging for bridging between agriculture and urban audiences. Let this momentum around the Meat-In movement serve as an example for how Coloradans can work together for a viable, beneficial future.

Colorado Cattlemen's Association's (CCA) is the state's premier cattlemen's association serving as the principal voice and advocate for Colorado beef production. CCA accomplishes this through its vision of "advancing the legacy" of beef production for its members by ensuring a dynamic and profitable industry that provides growth and opportunity for future generations.

Rural Colorado Needs a Voice

As a fifth-generation Coloradan farmer and rancher, I know how important agriculture is to the state of Colorado. Supporting nearly 200,000 jobs and generating an estimated \$47 billion of economic activity annually, it is one of the biggest drivers of our economy. In fact, Colorado is one of the top agricultural producers in the entire country, exporting over \$2 billion worth of food and agricultural products annually. That is no small feat.

However, as fewer Coloradans choose to work the family farm and society becomes more disconnected from the land, agriculture production could decline. At a time when global demand for food is expected to double by 2050, our Colorado producers will have the opportunity to play a key role in sustainably feeding the world. We cannot let this opportunity pass us by, so we must do everything we can to support farmers and ranchers and their critical contribution to our daily lives.

In 2016, I was elected to the Colorado

House of Representatives to be a voice for rural Coloradans. As a farmer and rancher from La Jara, the people know that I understand the unique problems facing rural communities today, especially for farming families. I understand their problems because I have lived their problems. Because of that, I have been a consistent voice for agriculture in the state legislature, supporting policies that cut red tape for producers, allowing them to increase output while keeping more money in their pockets, and coming out against policies that put undue burdens on our farming and ranching communities.

That said, we can do more for those who bring food from the fields to our tables. I applauded the creation of the Colorado Farm & Food Systems Respond & Rebuild Fund, which has provided much-needed grants to producers hit hard by the COVID-19 epidemic. Similarly, the Colorado Farm & Food Systems Response Team has been a vital resource for historically

underserved communities, providing help to small- and mid-sized farms, beginning farmers/ranchers, BIPOC producers, and others. I plan to expand funding for these programs and make them more accessible to the larger Colorado agricultural community.

My name is Donald Valdez. I am a fifth-generation Coloradan farmer, rancher, and community leader who is running for US Congress to be a voice for rural Colorado in our nation's Capitol. I have planted crops, raised calves, and mended a lot of fences in my day. But one thing we've all learned on the ranch is sometimes a fence just needs to be replaced. I'm running for Congress, and I'm asking for your support.

Donald Valdez is a fifth-generation Coloradan rancher and farmer, who currently represents HD-62 in the Colorado House of Representatives. He is running for Congress in Colorado's 3rd Congressional District. His website is donaldvaldez.com and his Twitter handle is @DonaldValdezCO.

AHA deplores violence against Asians and Asian Americans

The American Historical Association deplores the recent incidents of violence and harassment aimed at Asians and Asian Americans. This hostility against particular groups because of their ethnic origins — expressed via cultural stereotypes, scapegoating, physical aggression, and bloodshed — has deep roots in our nation's past. To stem this persistent form of inequity and hate, we would do well to understand its history.

Asians in the United States have been subject to discriminatory legislation since large numbers of Chinese immigrants began arriving in the 1850s. The false charge that they were responsible for the loss of white people's jobs sounds eerily familiar to accusations leveled against current immigrants from around the world. In 1850 and 1852, California imposed a foreign miners' tax on Chinese immigrants to exclude them from a "Gold Rush" that attracted prospectors from many other countries as well. During the same decade, California also passed a law prohibiting Chinese witnesses from testifying against whites in court.

The Chinese men who helped build the transcontinental railroad in the 1860s performed dangerous labor for long hours at low pay, using explosives to blast tunnels and smooth mountain grades. Yet they were considered expendable and deemed unworthy of wages and working conditions that would meet even the very low standards of the era.

Across the American West, Chinese immigrant communities in this period were vulnerable to vicious attacks in which victims were killed and their homes burned (e.g., Los Angeles in 1871 and Rock Springs, Wyoming Territory, in 1882) amid claims that Chinese immigrants willing to work for starvation wages were thereby taking jobs that would otherwise go to white men.

Anti-immigration legislation served not only to block Chinese hopefuls from entering the country but to promote dangerous stereotypes that gave whites license to assault them with impunity. The 1875 Page Act prohibited entry by Chinese women — portrayed in the legislation as "prostitutes" or women imported for illicit purposes — severely reducing the immigration of Chinese women and fueling stereotypes that their inherent immorality invited sin.

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the only immigration restriction in US history based solely on a specific racial group (as the Chinese were considered at the time), remained on the books until 1943. Its immediate effects included the Tacoma/Seattle expulsion campaigns that targeted Chinese immigrants in 1885-86, attempting to drive out any who dared remain in the region after passage of the 1882 law.

Hostility to immigrants from Asia and their descendants is not limited to Chinese Americans. California passed legislation in 1913 prohibiting Japanese immigrants from owning land. A decade later, federal legislation

barring immigration to all "aliens ineligible to citizenship" effectively extended the Chinese Exclusion Act to emigrants from Japan, Korea, and South Asia. During World War II, through Executive Order 9066, the federal government incarcerated approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans (two-thirds of them US-born citizens) in internment camps and seized their property in a blatant abrogation of due-process and civil rights guarantees.

These moments of crisis punctuated the continued targeting of Asian Americans on the grounds of local business competition and allegations of employment displacement. When this misdirected sense of economic competition turned international, violence followed once again.

In 1982, automobile workers in Detroit murdered Vincent Chin, a Chinese American 27-year-old whom they assumed was Japanese, and hence culpable for the declining fortunes of the region's auto industry. During the same decade, Vietnamese immigrants found their shrimping boats burned off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana.

By the time Korean Americans' shops were destroyed in Los Angeles in 1992, popular media had been promoting vicious stereotypes for more than a century, while depicting Asian American women in hypersexualized ways that left them more vulnerable to abuse.

The racialized misogyny explicit in the Atlanta killings is the product of generations-long stereotyping and cultural denigration against Asian American women in particular. A study conducted by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, has concluded that hate crimes in the United States declined overall by 7 percent in 2020 compared to 2019. At the same time, such crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders increased by 150 percent.

For months, high-level federal officials in the United States referred to COVID-19 as the "China virus" and the "Kung Flu." This baseless and irresponsible scapegoating evokes the assaults in San Francisco 121 years ago, when members of the Chinese community were blamed for an outbreak of an epidemic, their property seized and homes destroyed.

Indeed, the spurious association of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community with COVID-19 is another example of Americans blaming their fellow Americans for larger social ills. The murder in Atlanta of eight people on March 16, including six women of Asian descent, suggests that we have not transcended this history.

The American Historical Association is a nonprofit membership organization founded in 1884 and incorporated by Congress in 1889 for the promotion of historical studies. The AHA provides leadership for the discipline by protecting academic freedom, developing professional standards, supporting scholarship and innovative teaching, and helping to sustain and enhance the work of historians.

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.

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We will accept one letter per person, per subject, per four issues. We reserve the right to reject letters for reasons we

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Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.



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The lost generation

Not a day goes by that Ol' Dutch is not amazed at just how inept a good share of the younger generation really is.

Now by younger I mean about 50 and below because that is the age group which failed to learn geography and history and were, instead, taught Social Studies.

And, boy, can you tell it. People seem to have no idea where we come from as a nation and what exactly happened to get us here. Even such recent history as WWII is unknown to them, which is sad given the importance of that war for America.

There is one thing they do know about that war, however, is it involved a man named Adolf Hitler.

Well, they don't know his first name, but they do know that he was evil and bring that up when anything they don't agree with happens. (This, by the way, is known as Godwin's Law. The originator of said law is a college friend of Miss Trixie, so now don't you see what I suffer with daily?)

Just let some politician suggest controlling our borders and yep, you guessed it. He is just like Hitler. Or maybe cutting taxes. Park your boat too close to the neighbor and you become a card-carrying Nazi yourself as some "Karen" will jump you like a storm trooper on the night of the long knives — a Hitler event.

Or maybe some parent does not want their child taught about alternate lifestyles and suddenly, the Hitler card is rushed front and center.

It's running a close second of course to the race card which is kept handy for any circumstances where a person is losing an argument. Now Ol' Dutch does agree that there is some racism out there in our nation and certainly the world in general persecutes millions of people for their race. So, there is that. But it cheapens the real issues when it is used for every little reason.

But the Hitler card is just too far out there even for me. For if these people had any idea about history and what Ol' Adolf did they would not think to compare the atrocities he committed to anyone at least in the America that they know.

And this same lack of basic understanding carries through into so much of their lives as they have trouble spelling, use grammar worse than a sailor's mate and their math skills resemble a broken abacus adding up firecrackers on the Chinese New Year.

Just this past week Ol' Dutch was perusing the sale ads and found



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

someone willing to part with a "Hardy Broad." Now I don't know about you, but I already have one of those so am not really in the market for another. Miss Trixie was quick to point out they meant Hardy BOARD, which is a type of building material, but I am not so sure about that. And honestly, what man can't use one of those anyway?

"Playwood" is also listed quite often, and I have to wonder what kind of wood that may be, but it certainly sounds like a fun time even to Ol' Dutch.

This week I have also seen "farwood" for sale, and "A State" Sale listed plus a "Grudge" Sale sign. Which I guess is some woman selling her ex-husbands tools after splitting the sheets?

A local restaurant sign recently boasted of "Jalapenis Chicken Poopers" for \$3.99; another proclaimed the opening of Kidsexchange, which is a clothing swap, not a surgical ward. To top it all off someone did post that shoplifters would be "prostituted" and who needs to see that? Combine that with the ever present misuse of your, you're and their and there and it's more than a guy can take.

For consolation, I am going to get one of those "roast history" chickens at Wal-mart and call it a day.

With Easter fast-approaching I am sure we will have to suffer through more of this misspelling nightmare and grammatical hell. I just saw a "anal" Easter egg hunt listed locally and let me tell you something, I don't care who you are that's Hitler for sure if I ever saw it.

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

WI-FI

Continued from Page 1A

partner since the beginning of our working relationship and particularly throughout this pandemic. No matter how small of a request, Cielo has helped us with things such as providing Wi-Fi services to stream our football games on short notice, coordinating Internet installs for students' homes at the start of Center Schools switching to remote learning, and most importantly, providing us with reliable and fast Internet connections to our facilities. The most recent service was the public Wi-Fi connection at our Community Park. This will be very beneficial to our students and our community as a whole. We thank Cielo for having "our backs!"

The newest location in Center joins Cielo's other two public Wi-Fi hotspots — Chapman Park in Monte Vista (password: ciellowifi) and La Jara Town Park (password: ciellowifi2).

Cielo believes in giving back to the communities it serves. In these challenging times, Internet connections have become more important than ever.

"We hope this service is helpful to the residents of Center. We highly value our relationship with the Center School District and the Town of Center and applaud their efforts to help the community cope with these trying times," stated Cielo's Chief Technology Officer Monroe Johnson.



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Photo by Keith R. Cerny

Members of the SLV Cattlemen's Association donated 500 pounds of ground beef to La Puente Homeless Shelter on Friday in recognition of Colorado "Meat-IN" day. Pictured are, from left, Caleigh Payne with Alamosa County Farm Bureau, local livestock producer Chad Cochran, Graham Hunt, case manager with La Puente, Katy Dickey, president of the SLV Cattlemen's, and local producer Jeb Stoltzfus.

SLV Cattlemen's donates 500 pounds of beef

BY KEITH R. CERNY
Regional Publisher

ALAMOSA — In recognition of Colorado "Meat-In" day, members of the San Luis Valley Cattlemen's Association donated 500 pounds of ground beef to La Puente Homeless Shelter on Friday, March 19.

"We appreciate the livestock industry in the San Luis Valley," said Chad Cochran, livestock producer and Rio Grande County director for the association. "We are proud to produce sustainable and nutritious beef."

"Meat-In" day was declared by county commissioners in more than 20 Colorado counties in reaction to Gov. Jared Polis' declaration of "Meat-Out" day, discouraging the consumption of meat on March 20.

Among the donors were Shane

and Beth Temple with the T Heart Ranch, Timberline Cattle, Jeb and Marylin Stoltzfus, Darius and Judy Allen, Senator Cleave Simpson, Chad and Amy Cochran, Blue and Jeannie Allen, Caleigh Payne and Alamosa County Farm Bureau.

In an email to the Valley Courier, Payne said the governor's move "greatly upset many in the farming and ranching community, as the livestock industry contributes more than \$6 billion to the Colorado economy each year."

The burger donated Friday to La Puente came from the T Heart Ranch in La Garita, as well as Simpson-Allen Beef near Alamosa.

Graham Hunt, a case manager with La Puente, said the beef will be used at the shelter as well as the SLV Food Bank.

Monte Vista Crane Festival Craft Fair supports small business



Photo by Rebecca Copley

Although the regular Monte Vista Crane Festival shifted mostly online this year due to COVID-19 concerns, the Monte Vista Crane Festival Craft Fair still took place. The socially distanced event was an opportunity to support small businesses and find unique, handmade goods. Many returning vendors remembered how last March the Crane Festival was one of the last events they went to before COVID-19 restrictions went into place.

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Go North of Buena Vista on HWY 24 Past the snow peaks RV Park approx. 1/2 mile to CR 356 Turn to west, travel approx. .7 mile to 356-6 to 356-6 turn South and Sale site will be approx. .4 of a mile and on the right.

House Hold	Guns	Vehicles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meat Grinder Deer mounts Glass Door curio cabinets Dog Kennel Dinner table with 6 chairs Claw foot dinner table Buffet Secretary Grills Sofa set very nice End Tables Trundle Day Bed Huge collection of Louis Lamour Books approx.. 300 Linen closet Fish tank China Set 4post king size bed with two night stands 2 dressers and TV stand set Mirrors Pictures Christmas Decorations Glassware Antiques Too many items to mention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-64 win. Mod 680-243 3" Tarus Judge S-R-22 Semi auto Remington 12ga Pump 20 gauge pump Ammo: 15 boxes of new 243 8 boxes of 9mm 11 boxes of 45 cowboy colt ammo Liberty 21 gun Safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2007 Hyundai Entourage 112,338 miles 2013 Toyota pickup 4x4 127,538 miles
	<h3 style="color: red;">Tools</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snap on Tool box Cobalt tool box Chain saws Heater Gas cans Nuts and Bolts Items too numerous 	<h3 style="color: red;">Equipment</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2017 1739E Massey Ferguson with loader 81 hrs. 2015 Texas Pride 16000lb Dump trailer 2012 Yanmar EX3200 tractor with loader snowplow/backhoe and chains 571 hours Artic Cat 550 4 wheeler Limited edition approx. 900 miles 2006 Suzuki Boulevard C50t 4330 Miles Post hole auger Brush mower 3pt Disc Concrete Mixer Stock tank 8ft 3pt Finishing Mower 3 point Box Blade DR Chipper Husqvarna Riding Lawn Mower Yth24k48 Generators Fuel transfer pump and barrel Too many items to mention
	<h3 style="color: red;">Miscellaneous</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propane Bottles most are full Fishing poles and Tackle Garden tools Horse trailer matts Shelving, wood and metal Fish tank. 6ft x 8ft. Bay Window Items too numerous to mention 	

Auctioneer's Note: Many items too numerous to mention. The Earing's have sold their home and are selling the great items listed and many others. Don't miss this sale as the items are well taken care of and of high quality.

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Beum appointed regional forester of USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region

STAFF REPORT

DENVER — USDA Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen announced the appointment of Frank Beum as the new regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region, effective April 12. Beum will lead more than 2,000 permanent and seasonal employees and share stewardship of 22 million acres of national forests and grasslands with partners and 48 affiliated tribes in Colo., Kan., Neb., SD and Wyo.

“Frank will provide essential leadership carrying out agency

and regional goals to work across landscapes with partners to regain ecological function, reduce the risks of damage to forests and grasslands and the surrounding communities, enhance the user experience, and manage the multiple uses and interests of these public lands,” said Christiansen. “His work will support national priorities such as our role in containing the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring racial justice and equity, rebuilding the rural economy, and addressing the impacts of climate change.”

Beum is currently the deputy regional forester for natural resources for the Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service in Atlanta, overseeing 13 southern states and Puerto Rico. He has also served in acting roles as the associate deputy chief of the national forest system and the national director of forest management in Washington, DC, as well as the acting regional forester in the Intermountain Region in Ogden.

Beum has worked in forestry for 40 years in various roles on seven national forests and five ranger districts in the Rocky Mountain and Southern Regions, as well as in the Southern Regional Office, the Washington Office, the Ohio Division of Forestry, and a college fellowship with the Wilderness Society. He began his Forest Service career in the Rocky Mountain Region as a seasonal forestry technician in 1981. After six summers of seasonal work on the Rio Grande, San Juan, and Shoshone National Forests, his first permanent job was on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, serving for eight years in both Colo. and Wyo.

Beum holds a bachelor’s degree in forestry at Ohio State University and a master’s degree in recreation resource management from Colorado State University. He and his wife, Jan, have two grown sons, who were born



in Wyoming, a daughter-in-law, and one grandson.

Beum replaces Tammy Angel, who has served as acting regional forester

for the Rocky Mountain Region since January. Angel will return to her position as deputy regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region.

FAIR

Continued from Page 1A

They plan to have the art fair the third weekend of each month in the Fassett parking lot, starting April 16-18, weather permitting. They plan to continue each month through September. The event will take place on Friday evening through Sunday on those weekends.

Kelley also shared with the council that they would like to have an art walk this year with the fair.

“We can put an artist in front of our business. Rain Brews has said in the past they would be willing to work with us on this,” Kelley said. “Maybe get some artists, somebody outside painting. Maybe a guitarist. You know nothing major but get some artwork going on Adam’s Street, once a month on Friday evening leading into the weekend art fair.”

Crowwolf also shared that they have received the support of native elders for the event.

“I’ve talked to elders on the reservations down south, and they’re

all for it,” Crowwolf said. “I’ve got the full support of my native elders, on the different reservations for this.”

Crowwolf also said they hope to hold a powwow in Monte Vista in 2022. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they hope that by waiting a year it will be a safer time to hold that event.

During their presentation, Mayor Pro Tem Victor Sigala asked how many vendors they had for the art fair last year.

“Last year we had five on a normal basis. I’m already looking at eight (for this year) and I’m not even hitting social media heavy and hard yet,” said Crowwolf. “I’m going to try this year a lot harder to get at least 15.”

They shared with the council how they hope to continue to make it bigger and better every year. They received approval from the city council to hold the art fair in the Fassett parking lot. The Fassett parking lot is on the corner of Highway 160 and Jefferson.

MEAT

Continued from Page 1A

Conejos County commissioners proclaimed the day as the annual “Cattlemen’s, Ranchers and Farmers” day.

Ben Doon, county administrator for Costilla County, said his commissioners continue to support local agriculture through direct action, such as leasing the 1,200-acre Carpenter Ranch for grazing for local ranchers every April.

The county provides in-kind support to local acequias (irrigation ditches) by supporting infrastructure projects with equipment and operators, and the county provides high protein canola feed to local ranchers, a by-product of the county’s biodiesel production.

With \$2 billion in livestock sales in 2018, Weld County in the northeast quarter of the state, was the first to pass a resolution.

Various counties across the state have passed resolutions recognizing the “contributions of cattlemen and other livestock producers” in their areas.

Alamosa’s resolution proclaims March 20, 2021 as Alamosa County Ranching and Agricultural Day, and Alamosa County “MEAT-IN” day, and encourages the community to continue to support local businesses by celebrating “MEAT-IN” day at your local restaurant of choice.

The statement goes on to say, “the Board of County Commissioners expresses its concern that the Governor of Colorado would call for the boycott, even for one day, of an industry that is so vital to our local and state economy.”

The commission also supports Senate Bill 21-079 concerning deregulation of direct to customer meat sales in support of ranch to table private enterprise and for all other legislative actions that support strengthening Colorado agriculture.

Alamosa County’s resolution quotes dietary guidelines issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recognizing “that a variety of animal

and plant proteins is important to a healthy diet. Cattle, livestock, and the production of crops supporting the livestock industry has historically been, and continues to be, one of the key economic drivers in Alamosa County.”

Statistics quoted in the resolution show, “in 2016, the North American Meat Institute reported a direct economic impact to the state of Colorado of \$3.7 billion, and a total economic impact of \$13.2 billion. This generated nearly \$32 million in taxes to the State of Colorado.”

The USDA 2017 Census of Agriculture reported all animal sales in the San Luis Valley totaled nearly \$57 million, of which approximately \$39 million was the result of cattle sales. According to the USDA, the San Luis Valley has a current cattle inventory of 85,300 head.

Additional documentation shown is the number of jobs in agribusiness in the San Luis Valley is 4,984, which represents 25.6% of all traditional base jobs and is the largest traditional base industry employer of the San Luis Valley.

Alamosa County is declared a “Right to Farm and Ranch” county and fully supports the agriculture community by its support of Colorado State University Extension Services, youth 4-H programs, and the San Luis Valley Fair Board.

According to statistics from the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Alamosa County ranked 18th of the state’s 63 counties in 2018 in total agricultural production at \$89.3 million. Saguache County ranked 13th at \$105.4 million, followed by Rio Grande County at \$99 million. Conejos was 35th at \$53.9 million, followed by Costilla at 39th with \$22.1 million. Mineral County did not report.

The total ag production of the SLV in 2018 was nearly \$370 million.



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SLV Health trauma services put patients first

PROVIDED BY SLV HEALTH

In 2019, Oscar Martinez, an Adams State student, was in the garage working on the family car. His mother was planning a trip, and he wanted to check and make sure everything was functioning properly. What the family wasn't planning on was a frantic trip to SLV Health Regional Medical Center's emergency room just a short time later.

While checking the brakes, the jack holding up the front of car gave out, sending the car down on Martinez's upper body and head, resulting in multiple fractures. His father lifted the car enough for his mother to pull out Martinez's unconscious body, and the couple drove him straight to the hospital.

Martinez was quickly evaluated and stabilized by the trauma team at SLV Health and transferred to a higher level-of-care facility for continued treatment.

"The doctors and staff were honest

and upfront about my injuries when speaking to my family," Martinez said. "They didn't sugarcoat it, and my family appreciated how honest they were with them."

The patient-centered care that Martinez and his family received that day is just one example of the level of care that takes place during some individual's worst moments. A recent trauma survey done at the regional medical center affirmed the hospital's Level III trauma standing for the next three years, indicating that the trauma services offered are patient-centered and provide appropriate trauma services on a local level. Comments from the survey team with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment included supportive statements such as, "You have an incredibly robust trauma program."

They went on to say that the SLVH's trauma team, led by Julie Ramstetter, RN and Trauma Services Coordinator, and David Geiger, MD, offer "a very solid resource for our region."

"This survey reassures our direction under the capable leadership of Julie Ramstetter and Dr. Geiger," said Konnie Martin, CEO of SLV Health. "A special thank you goes out to our staff in responding to this survey, especially by making it interactive using remote technology, as the review utilized a combination of onsite, offsite and teleconferencing interviews. The results mirror our commitment to providing excellent service close to home and affirms our Level III trauma standing for the next three years."

Now, Oscar Martinez only has a small recollection of that fateful day. Some lingering nerve damage to the left side of his face took a short time to correct and now, two years later, he's doing well. Currently a senior in business administration at Adams State, he is looking forward to graduation in the summer.

"I remember waking up, and asking what happened," Martinez said. "The

nurse told me, 'You're lucky to be alive.' comes next."

Now I'm looking forward to whatever For more information on SLV

Health's services, visit www.slvhealth.org.



Photo provided by SLV Health

Cutline: Oscar Martinez, a senior at Adams State, stands near the emergency room at SLV Health. In 2019, Martinez was involved in an accident, and the trauma team was able to stabilize him until he was flown out. The trauma team recently received high marks during its trauma survey, affirming Level III trauma standing for the next three years.

Escape the Trap of Offense

It seems these days that people are easily offended by opinions or ways of thinking that they disagree with or simply don't understand. The result is often strife and anger that causes strained or damaged relationships.

Some offenses are minor, like someone cutting you off in traffic or taking a parking spot you were waiting on. Others are harder to overcome, such as a rude, critical comment from a close friend.

We need to understand that offense is one of Satan's greatest tools to steal our peace and keep us from the good things God has planned for our lives.

our attitude, thinking, *If you didn't upset me, then I wouldn't feel this way or If you would just do this, then I would be happy.*

But the truth is we will never be free from any problem as long as we're blaming somebody else. I'm not saying other people don't do anything wrong; however, we can't control what everyone else does, but we can choose how we are going to react!

God's love is the key.

First Corinthians 13:5 says love "is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs" (NIV). Love is a choice! I can choose to forgive and let it go, or I can hold on to the offense and let the hurt turn into something even worse.

For example, sometimes an offense starts out like a paper cut. It's seemingly small, but if you don't take care of it properly, it can begin to fester. In time, it can become infected and cause you a lot of pain.

I can tell you from personal experience that it's so much better to take care of a problem when it's little, before it has an opportunity to take root and turn into something more serious. I've learned that the quicker I can forgive somebody, the easier it's going to be. Sometimes this means being the first one to apologize and make peace—even if it's not my fault.

However, the more we do the right thing, the easier it gets. The quicker I forgive others and get rid of any offense, the more peace I have in my life. After a while, you realize that staying offended doesn't change other people or solve your problems—it only makes you bitter and angry.

I often say that staying mad at someone who has hurt you is like taking poison and hoping your enemy will die. You don't hurt them at all—you only hurt yourself!

What does "offense" really mean?

The word "offense" comes from the Greek word *scandalon*; it literally describes a trap used to hold bait in order to lure animals.

Similarly, offense is the bait the enemy uses to trap us. He uses people's words and actions to get our minds churning and stir up our emotions. This is the bait that leads to situations filled with bitterness, resentment, unforgiveness, hatred and revenge.

I often say that Satan sets us up to get us upset. He knows our weaknesses and what buttons to push to send us over the edge. The good news is, through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we can know the truth of God's Word and refuse to take his bait.

In other words, when somebody tries to give you offense, you can decide whether to take it or not.

The choice is yours to make.

I understand that choosing to not be offended is not easy, but we can refuse to be offended because God gives us self-control, which is a fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23). This means we can control ourselves with God's help and take responsibility for how we respond to life's situations.

It's easy to blame someone else for



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Psalm 34:14 tells us to "seek peace and pursue it" (NIV). I've learned over the years (many times the hard way) just how valuable God's supernatural peace really is. Now, I absolutely refuse to live without it! It is so much greater than living with the toxic results of holding unforgiveness in my heart.

Opportunities to be offended will never go away, but we can grow wise to the enemy's tactics and learn how to respond in a godly way.

So, the next time you are tempted to be offended, don't take the bait! Always remember that you have a choice. You can choose to be angry and bitter...or you can decide to forgive, believe the best of others, and enjoy God's supernatural peace.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-CD series *Understanding Your Triggers & Avoiding the Trap of Offense*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored 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.

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.

Public Notice

Rio Grande Water Conservation District Appointment

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners is again accepting letters of interest for appointment from an individual who would like to serve as the Saguache County representative to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board who resides NORTH of Saguache County Road L. This is a three-year term ending in April 2024.

Letters of Interest may be addressed to the Board of County Commissioners and submitted to the Saguache County Administration office – 505 3rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149 or mailed to PO Box 100, Saguache CO 81149.

The deadline for letters of interest is Friday, April 2, 2021. The Board of County Commissioners will review comments and make a decision on this request at their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

No. 1591 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, March 25 and April 1, 2021.

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 or you can call the Administration office at 719-655-2231 or by email request to 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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SOIL Sangre de Cristo members award zero-interest loans to Valley ranchers

STAFF REPORT

SAN LUIS VALLEY — SOIL Sangre de Cristo membership awarded its second round of zero-interest farm/ranch loans Badger Creek Ranch and Jumpin' Good Goat Dairy on March 14. To date, SOIL Sangre de Cristo has awarded \$20,000 in its first year.

Dave and Chrissy McFarren, and Andrea Evers, the owners of Badger Creek Ranch, purchased the ranch in 2015. Their goals are to practice regenerative agriculture and

to raise livestock humanely and organically. The ranch was overgrazed in previous years. The goal now is to restore the pastures through managed grazing on the land.

The McFarrens will use the \$5,000 loan to purchase a small, used, tractor for a new farm garden project hauling compost and spreading. It will also be used for dragging the pastures and doing "the heavy lifting" to save on manual labor. The garden will be farmed using the regenerative farming methods using no tilling or plowing.

Badger Creek Ranch sells its products at the Salida Winter and Summer Markets and through their online store. www.badgercreekranch.com

Jumpin' Good Goat Dairy was founded in 2002 by Dawn Jump as a farmstead goat cheese creamery with three does and one buck. By 2014, it had grown to a herd of over 200 milking does, producing 35,000 pounds of cheese a year. Today, Jumpin' Good Goat Dairy has partnerships with two Amish dairies providing quality produced milk from humanely raised animals. They have shifted the focus to sustain and grow the artisan creamery with the same quality Colorado milk supply and farming methods intact.

Loan funds will be used in conjunction with other funds to add

an additional 320 sq.ft. to the south facing side of the existing store. Specifically, they will be used to finish the interior of the prefab building and retail fixtures such as shelving and coolers. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the focus of in-house dining declined, shifting to the retail market.

This market will continue to increase through 2021 and beyond. Expanding the retail area of the store will assist in this growth.

SOIL Sangre de Cristo members voted at the membership meeting to disburse the funds, which are raised from membership contributions. Local farmers and food producers who are members of SOIL are eligible to apply for the no-interest loans. Loan-application finalists pitched their proposals live at the virtual March 14 meeting. The loans are repayable over three years and as they're repaid the money will roll back into the available funds for future loans.

Farmers and food producers can join SOIL for \$25 annually. General memberships start at \$250 per person and include a vote on loan distributions. The loan fund is generously supported by The Mighty Arrow Family Foundation with a 50% match to each contribution.

The mission of SOIL Sangre de Cristo is to unite the communities of South-Central Colorado through direct support for local farmers, ranchers and food producers, improving food security and resiliency for all residents.

SOIL Sangre de Cristo's member-funded zero-interest lending model is based on the Slow Money Principles developed by author and activist Woody Tasch. In Colorado, SOIL-affiliated groups are creating more resilient food systems in the communities around Boulder, Durango, and Carbondale, with

more than \$900,000 in loans for crucial items such as tractors, worker housing, and irrigation, season

extenders and other farming aids to reach maximum success.

For information on becoming a

member, visit www.soilsangredecristo.org/. You can also reach PJ Bergin soilsangredecristo@gmail.com.



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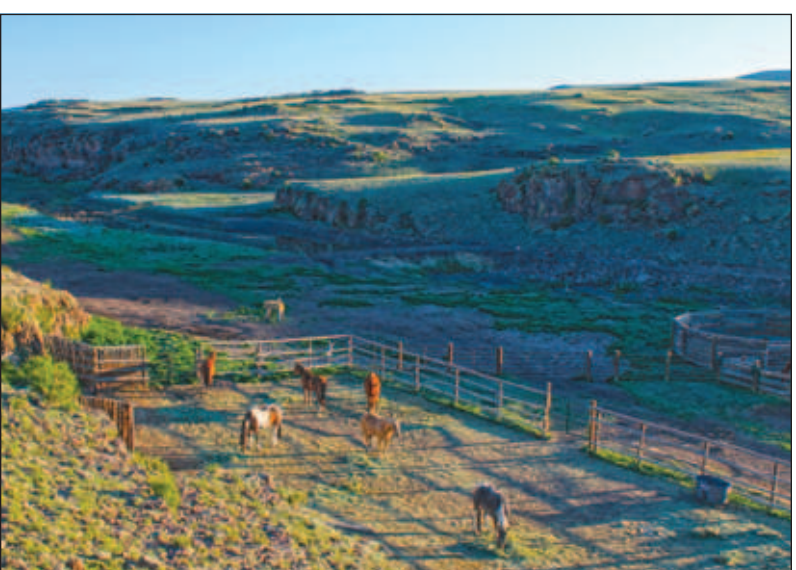
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Students at Centauri High get involved in the medical world



Courtesy photo

Alamosa native to be honored as 'Who's Who in Ag' March 18

STAFF REPORT

DENVER— Alamosa native Kole Kelley will be among a number of people honored as “Who’s Who in Agriculture” by the Denver Business Journal and Farm Bureau of Colorado at a ceremony here on Thursday, March 18.

Kelley, son of Nikol and the late Mike Kelley, is a 2013 graduate of Alamosa High School where he was class valedictorian. He graduated from Adams State University after studying Agri-Business and later from the Sturm College of Law.

He is an associate with Jewell Jimmerson Natural Resources Law, LLC, based in Englewood, and is one of three individuals being honored under the category of water resources.

In his responses to a questionnaire from the Denver Business Journal, Kelley said the biggest challenges faced by he and his firm in 2020 was “trying to advocate to closed minded people.”

“I feel like as a society we can sometimes dig our feet in and refuse to listen or try to understand others, and for the most part everyone



has the same end goal: to feed the world in a safe way; to have good quality water where it’s needed and when it’s needed, and making sure everyone receives the energy they need in a reliable and safe manner,” he wrote. “We

just disagree with the way we reach those end goals.

“That is the hardest part about each day, its finding ways to bridge past the gap and turn a closed mind

Please see KELLEY on Page 2

Monte Vista Recreation Department is now on Heja app

BY REBECCA COPLEY

MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista Recreation Department is improving its ability to communicate with the community and is now on the popular app Heja.

According to the app’s descrip-

tion in the Google Play Store, “Heja is the simple tool to help teams grow while bringing them together in a shared love for team sports. Easily organize and communicate with everyone on your sports team in one free and simple app.”

Recreation Director Jaime Hurtado said that with this app users can receive any announcements about upcoming events—programs, the recreation department’s newsletter, and more.

“Also, if anyone has any ques-

tions or concerns, they can reach out to me directly through this app,” said Hurtado. “Once we get our coaches set up with a code, they will be able to send out messages to parents, set up practice schedules, cancelations of games-

practices, etc.”

The app will also give updates on when registration for different sports is open and when it’s closed. The recreation department also has a Facebook page.

Please see HEJA on Page 2

Progress

Imagine you were a livestock man in medieval England a thousand years ago. It’s early spring. Snow on the ground, mud in the cow lot. You walk the small pasture where the heavy heifers are kept. It’s hard to see much with just the moonlight. But you spot one that’s down in a swale. She’s on her side in the process of calving. One foot is showing.

You check the rest of the cows the best you can and go back to the heifer. No progress. You wait a little longer, then resigned to your duty, you walk back to the cow lot and set the gates.

On your way back to get the heifer the wind blows down your neck and you shiver. Using a long stick you got the heifer up and drive her into the cow lot. There’s some straw scattered behind the windbreak. She finds it and lays down.

You walk to the earthen roofed shed to collect your tools. You manage to ease up on her and drop a homemade halter over her head and tie her loosely to a post on the



windbreak.

There is tepid water in your oaken bucket. After takin’ off your tunic you wash yer arms and kneel down behind her.

Taking a three-foot leather thong, you slip a noose around the protruding foot. Following yer father’s advice, you next slip a hand

inside and search for the other foot. You attach a second thong to it, take a wrap around each hand and begin to pull.

By pulling when she pushes, resting when she rests, you and she finally deliver the calf two hours later.

You rub him down, get him under the flank to suck and get to bed at daybreak.

Sound familiar? However, we have made some progress in a thousand years. We’ve traded the moonlight for a flashlight, a (grass-hemp) rope for a nylon, wool underwear for goose down, leather shoes for rubber boots, leather thongs for chrome plated O.B. chains and we’ve traded patience for a ratchet calf puller.

But for the most part much of the process remains the same. Cold feet, bare arms, sweat in your eyes, small heifers and big calves, manual labor and dogged determination.

Progress has mechanized, modernized and computerized much of our world from

farming to pharmacy, from coal mining to dentistry, from astronomy to architecture.

But those of us who practice the ancient art of birthing livestock could trade places with our counterparts

a thousand years ago, or even two thousand years ago, and we’d be interchangeable almost immediately.

Sorta like horseshoers, acupuncturists, dog trainers and herbal medicine salesmen.

Makes ya think, doesn’t it?

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

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USDA Forest Service plans to fund three projects in Rio Grande National Forest

STAFF REPORT

DENVER — The USDA Forest Service recently announced the investment of \$285 million to fund Great American Outdoors Act projects in 2021. Of this amount, approximately \$31.5M will go to the Rocky Mountain Region, which includes Colorado, four other states, to fund 90 projects.

This is a five-year program and similar dollar amounts are expected over the next five years. This significant influx of funding will be used to address infrastructure and deferred maintenance needs, enhance economic benefits, and improve recreation and public access on national forests by leveraging National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Funds provided by Congress.

Three of the projects are at existing

recreation sites in the Rio Grande National Forest and included on the 2021 fiscal year project list.

Specifically, the funds will be used to modernize recreation facilities, improve roadways, upgrade campgrounds, design and build new trails or rehabilitate existing trails, repair water systems and update toilets, to name just a few of the wide range of projects slated for the Rocky Mountain Region.

- The Rio Grande Alamosa Guard Station Cabin Rental Repairs project completes phase 3 for Alamosa guard stations, including the purchase and installation of the remaining amenities. Specifically, this project will finish flooring, propane lighting, cabinets and furniture and replacement of the toilet building.
- The Rio Grande Stunner Bridge

project would replace an old road bridge that has spalling concrete and exposed rebar. The design process is 99% complete and ready for contracting.

- The Rio Grande Mix Lake Campground Upgrades project will replace fire rings and picnic tables within the campground.

“The Legacy Restoration Funds will allow us to address a backlog of maintenance projects across the region,” said Tammy Angel, Acting Regional Forester. “We are thrilled to be moving forward with much needed improvements to transportation infrastructure and recreation facilities and we are committed to accomplishing all of the funded projects,” she added.

This year’s \$31.5 million investment is made possible by the

newly created National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, established in 2020 by the Great American Outdoors Act. These funds will allow the Forest Service’s Rocky Mountain Region to implement more than ninety infrastructure improvement projects essential to the continued use and enjoyment of national forests lands.

The projects will also serve as a catalyst for economic development and employment opportunities in rural communities. These new investments will strengthen shared stewardship of national forests and

grasslands by expanding the Forest Service work with public and private partners.

Projects funded by the Legacy Restoration Fund will contribute to efforts to develop more sustainable infrastructure resilient to climate change impacts. Projects may also address Administration objectives to provide improved recreational opportunities and access to underserved communities.

For more information on these projects in the Rocky Mountain Region, visit the Rocky Mountain Region GAOA website.



HEJA

Continued from Page 1

If you are interested in downloading the app you can find it in both the Apple Store, and Google Play Store. The app is free and can be deleted at any time if you no longer want to use it.

To connect with the Monte Vista Recreation Department on the app and to receive and send them messages use their team code — RU656822.



KELLEY

Continued from Page 1

into a helping mind, regardless of what we are advocating for. To combat that we take great pride in really focusing not only on understanding client positions and goals, but understanding the proposed manners of those who don’t agree with our clients approach to meeting their goals. By doing that I feel like our team has managed to help push the limit on what can be accomplished in the pursuit of a better Colorado.”

Kelley went on to say that the pandemic has forced more online meetings, but fortunately they have been able to continue providing services for clients. He wrote that the

biggest challenge facing Colorado’s ag industry right now is increasing stress on the state’s water system due to increasing population and expansion of municipalities into rural areas.

“Ultimately, we need creativity and flexibility in the water system which will help ensure agriculturists have water when it is needed and where it is needed,” Kelley wrote. “The best way to do this is to decrease the disconnect between state legislators and the producers in the state. The more unified we are in understanding the state’s problems the better we will be able to create solutions.”

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History

Nature

Events

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MONTE VISTA COOP FARM STORE



CHICK DAYS

chicks — ducks — geese

MARCH 26 & 27, 2021

I wonder if chickens do the "people dance" at their weddings?

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Monte Vista Rotary Dick Boyce Memorial Book Scholarship deadline approaching

STAFF REPORT
MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista Rotary Club is once again offering the Dick Boyce Memorial Book Scholarship to a qualifying high school senior from either the Monte Vista or Sargent high schools. It is also open to a Monte Vista Rotary member's child who is a graduating senior attending a high school elsewhere in the San Luis Valley. One scholarship is awarded annually. The application deadline is April 6.

"We strongly encourage all Monte Vista and Sargent high school seniors to apply for this scholarship opportunity," says MV Rotary President Gene Farish. "We really want to have a strong slate of candidates to choose from."

This scholarship is designed to pay book fees for a 2021 graduating high school senior who will be attending either Adams State University or Trinidad Jr. College on a full-time basis. More specifically, it will pay book fees for up to and including the sum of \$500 per year for a total of four consecutive years.

It is eligible for Adams State University for four consecutive years or Trinidad Jr. College for two years and

then Adams State University for the subsequent two years if the student transfers to Adams State University from Trinidad Jr. College.

"I so encourage eligible students to apply for this scholarship," said Gracie Burkhardt, 2019 recipient. "This scholarship has financially helped me so much with the purchase of my books, and it is not a difficult application to complete."

Dick Boyce was an active Rotarian from the Sargent area who believed in his local community and the education of its youth.

Monte Vista Rotary is a civic club that has been in existence since 1920, serving the Monte Vista community in many ways. It annually completes two highway clean-ups, a cemetery clean-up, and supports financially many other community projects throughout the year. The Ski Hi Stampede BBQ is the club's largest fundraiser.

For more detailed information, contact either the Monte Vista or Sargent high school councilors or you can also contact Monte Vista Rotary members David Hinkley at 852-3442, Diana Paulson at 850-2004, Linda Weyers at 850-1767, or Karla Shriver at 850-5808, or any other Monte Vista Rotarian.

South Fork Fire Rescue Ladies Auxiliary seeking scholarship applicants

STAFF REPORT
SOUTH FORK — Volunteer and professional firefighters stand at the ready; to apply highly specialized training and education in life-saving capacities. Classroom and practical learning are paramount to success in careers that require split-second action, such as firefighting.

In today's complex world, fire and emergency service personnel need to be constantly learning. It is not always easy to pursue the education or professional development opportunities. College costs for firefighters are on par with other technical vocations, espe-

cially when bachelor's degrees are sought. Scholarship opportunities are available to help you achieve your educational goals.

The South Fork Fire Rescue Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship is awarded once a year to individuals looking for a career in EMS, Paramedic, Fire or Rescue. In order to apply, you must be a resident of Alamosa, Rio Grande, Conejos, Costilla, Saguache, Mineral, Archuleta, or La Plata county and be a high school graduate or possess a G.E.D.

For more information or to apply, visit www.southforkfirerescue.com/scholarship.



Courtesy photo

Fourth-grade teacher Sabina Malouff was chosen as Monte Vista School District's Teacher of the Year and was recognized at the district's school board meeting. Before presenting Malouff with the certificate, Superintendent Scott Wiedeman read a letter outlining some of the many reasons Malouff was chosen. Part of the letter read, 'Sabina is a teacher who exemplifies what it means to be a teacher. And has been able to reach and help students grow by differentiating instruction for them no matter what point, no matter what background they come from.'

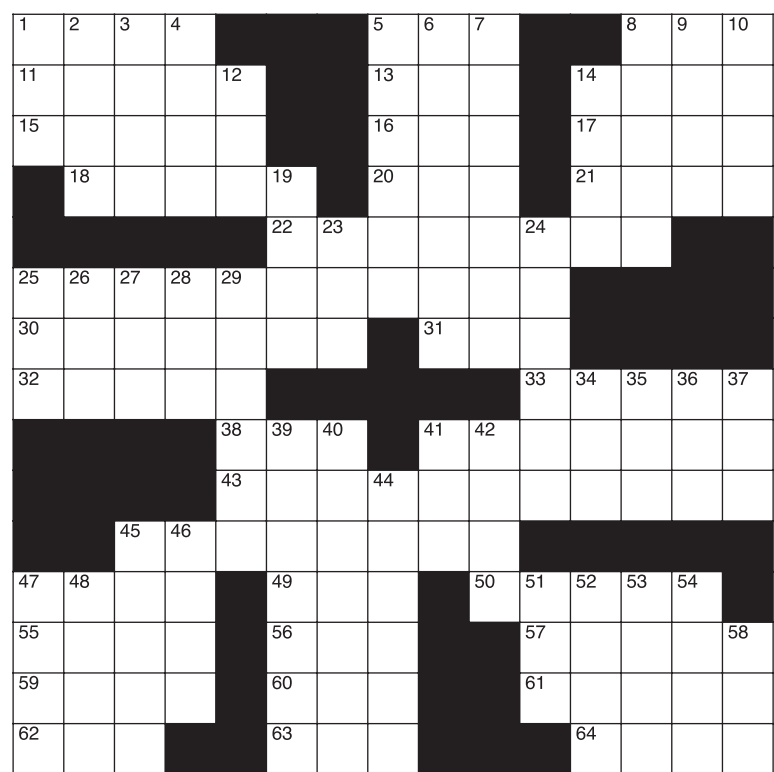
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Dutch word for "language"
5. Popular music style
8. Body part
11. Largely dry valleys
13. Brew
14. Ancient Greek sophist
15. Where rockers play
16. Human gene
17. One point east of northeast
18. Adversary
20. Small cask or barrel
21. About ear
22. Benign tumors
25. In a different way
30. One charged with a crime
31. Chinese principle underlying the universe
32. Long, narrow straps
33. Passover
38. Ottoman military commander
41. One who does not succeed
43. Data
45. 3D image
47. Whale ship captain
49. Japanese title
50. Made of wood
55. Yokel
56. Exercise system ___-bo
57. Supreme being
59. Playing card with three spots
60. Hostelry
61. Spiritual leader
62. Single lens reflex



63. Time of the 90th meridian, used in the central U.S.
64. Thomas ___, American cartoonist
26. Decorate a cake with frosting
27. ___ fi (slang)
28. A joke rooted in wordplay
29. Attack violently
34. Keyboard key
35. ___ juris: independent
36. Corporate executive (abbr.)
37. Adult female bird
39. Pertains to knowledge
40. Pashtoes
41. Prefixed title for Italian monks
42. To be fired from a gun
44. A way to position
45. ___ process: produces ammonia
46. Follow instructions
47. Humanistic discipline
48. Throw
51. Swiss river
52. American hate group
53. Actor Idris
54. Seizes
58. Baseball stat

CLUES DOWN

1. Shattered airline
2. Swiss river
3. Port city in Yemen
4. It can be straight
5. Tennis player's tool
6. Estranged
7. Garden archway
8. Assists
9. Grain crop
10. Millisecond
12. U.S. Founding Father Adams
14. Small, deerlike buffalo
19. Easily manageable
23. Male parent
24. Nearsightedness
25. Patriotic women

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

COVID-19 EQUITY CLINIC

Mass Vaccination Clinic for Agricultural Workers
****Event Open to the Public****

When: March 26th, 2021
 Time: 8:30 am - 4:00pm

Where: 7090 N County Rd 2 E, Monte Vista, CO 81144

Please call to Register
 Phone number (CPAC)- 719-852-3322.

Or go to This Link to Register
<https://forms.gle/vqkFpe4SLmVbTqa9>

8

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Valley-Wide Classified MARKETPLACE

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



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FOR RENT
 10 APARTMENTS
 11 ROOMS
 12 HOUSES
 13 MOBILE HOMES
 14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
 15 WANTED TO RENT
 16 VACATION
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 17 REAL ESTATE
 18 LOTS & ACREAGE
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TRANSPORTATION
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SERVICES
 65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
 66 CHILD CARE

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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

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05 Notices

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07 Help Wanted

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 necessary. 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)

South Central Colorado Seniors, Inc. the Local Area Agency on Aging is looking for a Meal Server in Center. MUST HAVE training and

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CLIP & SAVE

PUBLIC AUCTION

We have changed our Farming and Lensed our land therefore we will offer the following Equipment, Vehicles and Miscellaneous Items at Public Auction. Located from Monte Vista, CO East on HWY 160, 6 miles to Road 106 (County Line) then North 1.6 miles to Road 1 S then West 1/2 mile. From Alamosa CO West on HWY 160, 8 miles to Road 100 (Valley Tractor Repair) then North 1.6 miles to Road 1 S then West 1/2 mile.

TUESDAY APRIL 6, 2021
 Sale Starting at 10:00 o'clock sharp

TRACTORS - GRAIN - HAY EQUIPMENT

JD 8410 MFWD, Duals, Greenstar Gps, 8576 hrs	NH TR 96 Combine 3454 Hrs
JD 4960, MFWD, Duals, Quick Hitch, 5131 hrs	973 NH 20' Flex Head Steel Floor
JD 4450, FWA, Duals, Quick Hitch, 15 Sp	NH 30' Header, NH 971 Pickup Header
White 135, Duals	Heston 4790 Baler 3x4
Ford Tw 35, Duals	HDS HD 11 Wheel Rake, A1
Mac Don 9000 Swather 972 Grain Head 2781 Hrs	Pequea 710 Hay Fluffer, Teatren
	JD Side Delivery Bale

POTATO EQUIPMENT

Mile Stone, Seed Cutter 36" A-1	Double L 813 Telescope Piler 30" x 60 Remote
Mile Stone Sizer, Sort Table 72" 2 Stingers	Spedack Piler 24" x 48'
Double L 853 4 Row Harvester	Spedack Piler 24" x 20'
Double L 851 4 Row Harvester	Field Seed Loader
2 Double L 425 2 Row Harvesters Diggers	2 Milestone Telescope Conveyors 36" x 60' W/Stinger
Kverland 6 Row Planter, Model 3000	2 Milestone Telescope Conveyors 24" x 60' W/Stinger
Double L 813 Telescope Piler 32" x 60' Remote	

GRAIN - TILLAGE - MISCELLANEOUS - EQUIPMENT

15 Great Plains Drill 30' Foldout	2 Spider Cultivator	Chemigation Tank, on Trailer
3000 35-60" Double Disc A-1	VFT Flail Beater	Agitator
Eco-Tiger 530 14' Crumbler - Roller	Land Pride Rnc 5020 Wing Chopper	Chemigation Tank, Agitator
Brillio 30" Roller Packer, Fold	Wing Chopper 16'	3pt 50 gal Chemical Sprayer
JD, 955 Switch Plow, 6' Bottom	Land Pride RCR 1872 Chopper	1000 gal Fertilizer Tank
Koenig 5 Shank Deep Chisel	Land Pride 3pt Blade 5 way	200 gal Fuel Trailer
JD 900 9 Shank Chisel	12' Box Blade	250 gal Water Tank
Kraus 20' Disc	Tire Drag	Fertilizer Saddle Tanks
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Lilliston Rolling Spider Cultivator	Pack Horse Fertilizer Tank on Trailer 5000 gal	Fertilizer Injection Pumps

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86 Chevy Kodiak 70 22' Bulk Bed New Tarp, Tandem	96 Arrowhead Goose-neck Flat Bed Trailer Ramps 30'
80 IHC S 22' Bulk Bed, Tandem	04 Carmac Enclosed OHV Snow mobile Trailer 26', Multiple Doors
79 Mack 24' Bulk Bed, Tandem	71 Shower Horse Trailer
71 Ford 8000 22' Bulk Bed, Tandem, New Tarp	Honda 4x4 4 Wheeler, Winch
70 GMC 22' Bulk Bed, Tandem	

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5.2 CFM, Air Compressor, 90A-200A Welder	20-30 Amp Cards	Aluminum Livestock Panels
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We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.

Chiquita is a sweet 6 month old American Staffordshire Terrier who is playful and shy. She doesn't like toys too much but loves attention. She is still learning how to be a good canine citizen so is looking for a family to continue her training.

Neptune is a young Australian Shepherd mix who is still growing into his own body! While he is a little clumsy, he is playful and social and loves to be with people. He has the softest fur and loves getting brushed. Neptune is still learning how to be a good canine citizen and is looking for a home to provide him the exercise and training he still needs

Stubbs is a very active English Bulldog Mix. He has not been socialized with very many people or animals but is very friendly. He has is still learning not to use his mouth for his exploration and is looking for a home that will be patient and is experienced with working on the socialization that he needs. He is lovable and strong and has an amazing "bulldog smile".

Diamond is a 3 year old American Staffordshire Terrier mix. She is the mother of Chiquita and is very playful. She loves people and absolutely loves to go for walks. She is curious and wants to check out every smell she can. She is not always a fan of other dogs so please bring any other dogs to do a meet with her at the shelter.

Beau is a sweet Border Collie mix who is not quite a year old. He is smart and very treat motivated and thus will be very easy to train. He has not been socialized much, but in his time at the shelter he has been introduced to multiple other dogs and is learning how to be a good canine citizen. He loves to get attention and be taken for walks.

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

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Valley Wide Classifieds

experience in food preparation and nutrition. 3 hours per day, Monday through Friday. This position is responsible for Food Preparation according to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and must be familiar with Colorado Retail Food Establishments Rules and Regulations and certification Food Safety and Handling. **Ideal Candidates:** Must maintain meal-site according to Food Safety Regulations and be prepared and ready for inspection by State Health Inspector at any time. Will prepare for food delivery; warming of food, thermometer calibrations, etc. Will safely serve meals to incoming consumers at the meal-site and clean the meal-site location to Food Safety Inspection standards. South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc. is an EOE. Applications and Full Job Descriptions are available at South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc., 1116 3rd St. Alamosa CO or call 719-589-4511 for more information. (03/24)

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)

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Teaching opportunities at Creede School District. See our website (creedek12.net) or call 719-658-2220. (3/31)

Upper Rio Grande School District

is looking for an energetic and experienced candidate to serve as the district's Director of Bands. This position will oversee the development of our elementary instrumental music appreciation program, as well as conducting our middle and high school band programs. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher in Music or Music Education. The applicant must also possess or be able to obtain an appropriate Colorado teaching license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Aaron Horrocks, Jr/Sr High Principal at ahorrocks@urtiers or Amy Duda, Elementary Principal at aduda@urtigers.co. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtiers.co. (03/31)

Elementary Teacher needed at Del Norte Elementary School. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional

to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4030. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co (03/31)

Superintendent of School Vacancy at Upper Rio Grande School District C7 in Del Norte, CO. Please go to: www.urtigers.co to find more information about the position. The application deadline is March 25, with a start date of July 1, 2021. Questions may be directed to Terri Dudley at 719-657-4040, x4000, or emailed to tdudley@urtigers.co. (03/31)

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

experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. (3/31)

Alpine Achievers Initiative (AAI) seeks full time Administrative Assistant for Monte Vista office. This position supports the daily functioning of AAI by performing basic administrative and office tasks. They will oversee the childcare licensing requirements and food service programs for multiple AmeriCorps partner sites. Position may involve driving for long periods. May include some marketing and outreach tasks. For full position description, please contact Linnaea Renz office@alpineachievers.org or send resume/cover letter to apply. (03/24)

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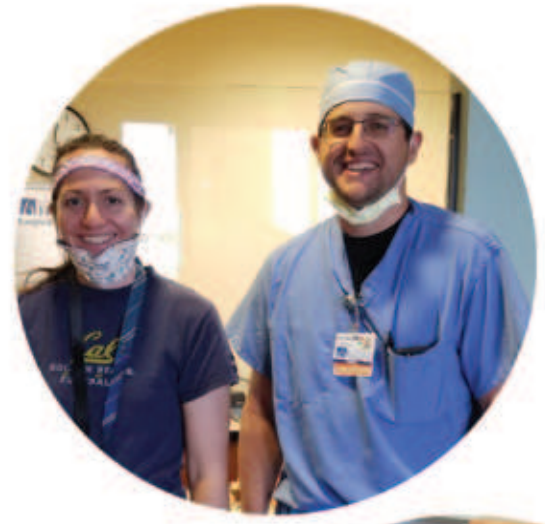
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Wolf Creek receives over 24 inches in time for Spring Break

By LYNSIE FERRELL

WOLF CREEK — Just in time for Spring Break a large winter storm system hit the San Juan Mountains and made for excellent skiing conditions at Wolf Creek over the weekend bringing the end of the season to a near-perfect close.

According to co-owner Rosanne Pitcher the 2020-2021 ski season was “the best we could ask for.”

As the only ski resort in Colorado to open on time for the 2020-2021 ski season, Wolf Creek was not only blessed with epic snow totals, but it was also navigated the difficulties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and will go down in the history books for the resort.

“We had excellent conditions early in the season with snowstorms bringing much-needed moisture to the San Juan Mountains. We had dedicated

employees who navigated through the season abiding by state and local guidelines wearing masks for up to eight hours and sometimes longer during the day. We really couldn’t be prouder to have the employees we do, and they have all done really well,” said Pitcher.

Pitcher stated that on March 14, the resort saw just under 3,000 people who ventured out into winter weather conditions to hit the slopes and just over 4,200 people on Monday, March 15.

“A lot of our customers are hardy people,” Pitcher said. “They are prepared for those conditions and are just happy to have the chance to get out and ski. We love that we have that customer base and are grateful to all of them for helping us get through this difficult year. They’re just excited to be here and for the chance to enjoy a



Courtesy photos

Wolf Creek Ski Resort celebrated Spring Break week with 24 inches of fresh powder and will be closing out its season at the beginning of April unless snow conditions continue to improve.

day of skiing.”

For the past several weeks, the resort required all ticket sales to be reserved beforehand online and though there were some initial difficulties with the online sales during the holiday season, the resort worked out the kinks and was back on track in time for Spring Break.

“We had some technical difficulties around Christmas but after we worked those out, we were pleased with how things ran during Spring Break,”

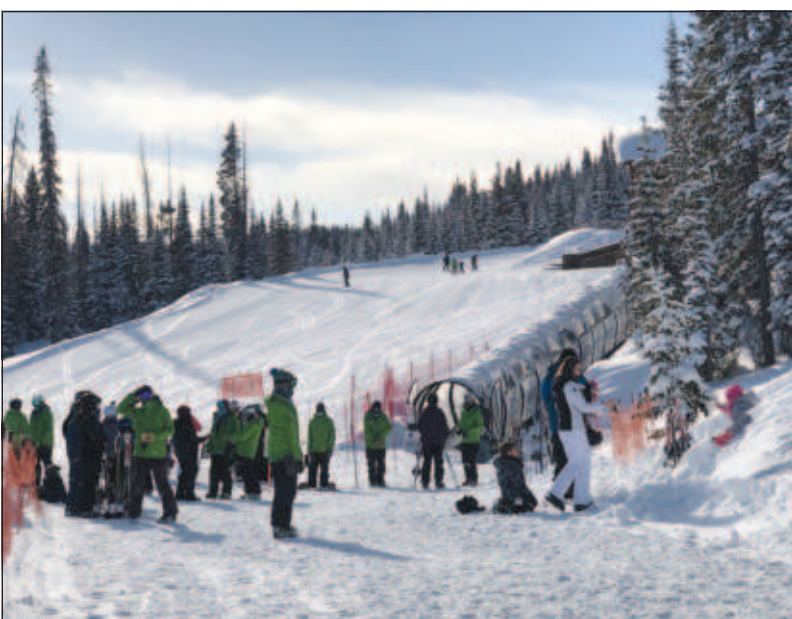
Pitcher said. “Now that Spring Break is coming to an end, we have started opening onsite ticket sales in the afternoons, just in case some people just wander off the beaten path to come ski. All in all, everything has worked out great.”

With another storm system forecasted for Southern Colorado later this week, the resort hopes to end the season after the Easter holiday but may decide to keep things open on the weekends if snow conditions

remain decent.

“This time of year, is hard to navigate just because of the warmer days and colder nights, we have to monitor snow conditions and make sure that they are good enough for skiing. We may decide to stay open for as long as possible on the weekends only until snow conditions change,” Pitcher said.

For more information or to book a last-minute, late-season ticket visit www.wolfcreekski.com.



Crowds of people flocked to Wolf Creek over the weekend, braving the pending snowstorm for a weekend ski trip in the San Juan Mountains.



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Rio Grande County Commissioners support agricultural community

BY LYNSIE FERRELL
RIO GRANDE COUNTY — In a special meeting on Wednesday, March 10, Rio Grande County Commissioners passed a resolution solidifying support for state and local agricultural communities in the Valley and throughout the surrounding region.

In the resolution it states, “the Governor of Colorado has proclaimed a boycott of meat products, referred to as a ‘MeatOut’ in order to encourage meatless diets as promoted by the Farm Animal Rights Movement (FARM), to be observed by Coloradans on March 20, 2021; and WHEREAS, cattle and other livestock production has historically been, and continues to be, one of the key economic drivers in Rio Grande County.”

Rio Grande Commissioner Chairman Gene Glover said, “I pushed for this resolution in partnership with surrounding counties in the Valley because our agricultural community is a huge part of our economy and it is important that our board shows them the support they need. We wanted to show our support for state and local ranchers and farmers because they are one of the largest economic drivers in Colorado.”

‘Agriculture is very important in the San Luis Valley and the State of Colorado and I was actually disappointed in the Governor’s decision to make his executive order.’

~ John Noffsler

The resolution continues to state, “WHEREAS, Rio Grande County Cattleman and our ranching families are part of a \$4.2B state industry with a \$40B economic impact and accounts for 10% of the states total export sales; and WHEREAS, employment in the agriculture sector and related industries provides a significant number of jobs to its citizens involved in ranching and livestock production; and WHEREAS, Rio Grande County is a declared ‘Right to Farm’ county and has taken regulatory steps to protect our active farms and ranches.”

Commissioner John Noffsler also commented on the passing of Resolution 2021-09, “Agriculture is very important in the San Luis Valley and the State of Colorado and I was actually disappointed in the Governor’s decision to make his executive order. We wanted to make a statement about how important it is to us. People need to understand how this all comes together and the need for agricultural ecology in the wider picture of our economy.”

Resolution 2021-09 also addresses coming state legislature, “WHEREAS, the Colorado General Assembly is considering passage of

Senate Bill 21-079 which concerns deregulation of direct to customer meat sales in support of ranch to table private enterprise. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Rio Grande County Board of County Commissioners expresses their concern that the Governor of Colorado would call for a boycott, even of one-day duration, of an industry that is key and essential to both our lo-

cal and state economy; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission supports Senate Bill 21-079 concerning deregulation of direct to customer meat sales in support of ranch to table private enterprise and all other legislative actions that support strengthening Colorado agriculture.”

Newly appointed Commissioner Scott Deacon stated, “We felt the need to support this effort because

the cattle industry in the Valley is detrimental to us. It ties into our water and other economic drivers that make up the basis of our communities. We need to make a stand and show support for what is right.”

The board solidly stands behind and supports the production agriculture in the Valley and will continue to help strengthen efforts to protect this detrimental resource throughout the state.

Volunteers needed for COVID-19 vaccine clinics

ALAMOSA — Valley-Wide Health Systems and San Luis Valley Health is looking for volunteers as the entities offer COVID-19 vaccines to communities. Vaccination events and the needed number of volunteers are unpredictable, so

by submitting your information, there is no guarantee of a reply, but your interest in volunteering is much appreciated. Email Kelly.Gurule@slvrhc.org, call 719-587-5707 or complete a form at vwhs.org/contact-us.

Summerfest on the Rio Festival cancelled

Due to ongoing Covid 19 pandemic-related impacts, the Summerfest on the Rio Committee has made the difficult decision to cancel this year’s edition of the Festival. The Summerfest Committee would like to thank you for your support, wish you and yours the best and we look forward to the 2022 Festival. For more information please visit www.summerfestontherio.org or contact

us at info@summerfestontherio.org. See you next year on the Rio!

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Kent Rominger Airport moves onward and upward

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

RIO GRANDE COUNTY —

During a work session held by Rio Grande County Commissioners on March 10, board members welcomed newly appointed Kent Rominger Airport Director Earl Robinson to hear and discuss updates pertaining to the airport. Commissioners are eager to see the expansion of the airport come to life and are working through the details in hopes of intriguing the right pilots to come to the area.

The commissioners are beginning discussions pertaining to the expansion of the airport through various projects that will include additional hangar spaces, improvements to the existing runway and adding additional taxiways to make the airport user friendly for a wide range of aircrafts and pilots.

According to commissioners and airport board members, there is only one hangar space left on the property and that now is the time to take advantage of state and federal funding to aid in the cost associated with an expansion. Commissioners stated that there is plenty of space on the property, it was just a matter of getting details in place to add additional hangar space.

The board also discussed the possibility of bringing Jet A fuel to the airport and talked about the process of adding it to the fuel service. Several factors come into play when bringing this type of fuel to the airport including mak-

ing sure that fuel services either include a tow service or tanker fuel truck to deliver fuel to planes in order to minimize the amount of engine cycles a pilot does. Having either or both services would allow larger aircrafts to come to the airport for fuel.

The board also looked at the possibility of expanding the taxiway by creating a packed dirt taxi that connected with hangars. This would allow for easy access to and from the runway for pilots.

Discussions also included improvements to the existing runway to improve the life of the pavement by adding two additional inches of asphalt and fog seal which extends the life of the asphalt for several years. Commissioners stated that both state and federal money is available to help with the costs associated with this phase of the project.

The improvements to the runway would also allow for larger, heavier aircraft to land at the airport bringing in more diverse pilots that would otherwise not be able to come to the Del Norte area. Currently the airport has a pilot's shelter that is equipped with sleeping arrangements, access to a courtesy vehicle so that a pilot staying the night can go to town if needed and shower facilities.

Though plans are only in the beginning stages, both boards are hard at work figuring out the details that will keep the Kent Rominger Airport moving onward and upward.



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Kent Rominger Airport is an essential but underused resource in Del Norte and the Rio Grande County Commissioners in partnership with the airport board are looking at expanding.



Photo courtesy of Wilbur-Ellis

The Wilbur-Ellis team recently contributed \$10,000 toward the San Luis Valley Ski Hi Regional Event and Conference Center. 'This truly is a San Luis Valley Community project,' said local manager Dale Becker. 'Wilbur-Ellis is proud to contribute these funds for the benefit of the Valley Community. Our local employees and their families benefit from this complex.' Contributions are still needed and can be sent to Friends of Ski Hi Park, P.O. Box 262, Monte Vista, CO 81144. This is an Enterprise Zone Tax Credit project, and qualified Colorado donors can obtain a 25% tax credit.

COVID-19 vaccination enters Phase 1B.4

Final phase before it becomes available to general public

STAFF REPORT

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Having COVID-19 illness does not guarantee against getting sick from it again in the future. It is rare, but there have been more than 800 documented second infection cases in Colorado.

Local health officials continue to encourage people to get the vaccine when they are eligible, even if they have already had COVID-19 and recovered. People who are currently sick with the virus should wait until after they have recovered to get the vaccine. Those who received antibody or plasma treatment for COVID-19 should wait 90 days before vaccination.

Colorado is moving rapidly to expand eligibility for COVID-19 vaccines. Beginning Friday, March 19, the state will move to Phase 1B.4, which is the final phase that limits vaccine eligibility before the vaccines become available to the general public.

Phase 1B.4 is a broad phase which includes people age 50 and older; frontline workers in higher education, manufacturing, US postal services, public transit and specialized transportation, public health, human services, faith leaders, direct care providers for Coloradans experiencing homelessness, and journalists; continuity of local and state government; adults who received a placebo during a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial; and people age 16 to 49

with at least one higher risk condition.

More details about who becomes eligible at Phase 1B.4 can be found at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/for-coloradans/vaccine/find-out-when-youre-eligible-for-a-covid-19-vaccine>.

To sign up for a vaccine, contact your local public health agency, pharmacy, hospital, or Valley-Wide Health Systems. Online vaccine signup links and phone contacts for these providers can be found at www.slvphp.com/vaccination. If you have an appointment and you can't make it, call to cancel so that no vaccine is wasted.

All counties in the San Luis Valley are currently in Level Blue on the COVID-19 Dial. More information about the Dial is available at www.slvphp.com.

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Great Sand Dunes begins recruitment for Conservation Internship Program

STAFF REPORT

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Great Sand Dunes is actively recruiting energetic, committed young adults who are interested in a career with a federal land agency for this year's Conservation Internship Program.

The internship program recruits young adults from San Luis Valley communities to work at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve to learn skills, contribute to meaningful park projects, and create experiences that will make them marketable in a career with a public land agency. Since the program was piloted in the summer 2019, the park has hired 8 interns to support resource management projects, work alongside rangers in the visitor center, and complete important facility management projects. The program is administered in partnership with Conservation Legacy, an organization committed to fostering conservation service in support of communities and ecosystems.

This year, the park will offer multiple internship positions working alongside the Branch of Interpretation and Visitor Services as well as the Branch of Facility Management. The park will select multiple candidates for the following opportunities:

- 12-week (3 month) internships, starting mid-May and ending in mid-August receiving a weekly stipend of \$480. This internship is ideal for a recent high school graduate or degree seeking college student. Interns will provide customer service at the visitor center, make connections with visitors on park trails, and assist with event planning and social media posts.

- 13-week (3.5 months) internships, starting early May and ending early August receiving a \$520 weekly stipend. This internship is ideal for college students seeking a degree or certification in a trade school program. Interns

will work alongside Facility Management employees performing routine maintenance such as: waste management at high visitor use areas; equipment maintenance, repair historic park structures, provide a full range of sanitation duties, and trail and road maintenance.

- 18-week (4.5 months) internships, starting late April and ending mid-August receiving a weekly stipend of \$560. This internship is ideal for college students or recent college graduates looking to apply their coursework in a professional work environment. Interns will work with the park's seasonal Education Technician to offer virtual educational programs, outdoor education during school field trips, and plan and implement the park's Youth Archeology Summer Camp in June and July. Interns will also have opportunities to work at the visitor center and present ranger programs.

- 24-week (6 months) internships, starting in June and ending in December receiving a weekly stipend of \$580. This internship is ideal for recent college graduates looking to apply their certification or degree with a public land agency. Intern will work within the Branch of Facility Management assisting with general maintenance repairs and needs throughout the park, while also advancing the park's backlog of maintenance projects.

Upon completion of the program, interns will receive an educational award, varying in amounts and based on the length of their term. Individuals who complete an internship that is 18 weeks or more will also qualify for Direct Hire Authority. Direct Hire Authority allows students who excel in their internships and meet any other job-specific education or training requirements to be hired without competition into permanent positions within the National Park Service and other select



bureaus of the Department of the Interior for which they are qualified. The park will cover uniform and training costs.

The park will train and mentor interns to prepare them for a career in public lands management and offer them professional development to put on their resume. Trainings will cover resume building, federal government job application process, interviewing tips and techniques, and public speaking. Opportunities to learn more about the various jobs at Great Sand Dunes and within other federal agencies in the San Luis Valley will be covered during field trips, job shadowing or presentations. Networking and mentoring opportunities with National Park Service and other public lands management staff will be made available to further inspire a career interest with a federal land agency.

Eligible applicants must meet the requirements outlined in each job description. How-

ever, all applicants must:

- Be a US citizen, 18 to 30 years of age (or a veteran up to age 35)
- Have reliable transportation
- Must live within the commuting area and reside in the San Luis Valley
- Be willing to complete a state and federal background investigation

To apply for these internship positions, visit: https://sccorps-openhire.silkroad.com/epostings/index.cfm?version=1&company_id=16984 and Search "Great Sand Dunes." Applicants must have an updated resume and complete the online application process to qualify. The application period for each internship varies and can be extended to ensure a good sampling of candidates.

For more information, contact Great Sand Dunes Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services, Kathy Faz, by email at Kathy_Faz@nps.gov or by phone at 719-582-0258.

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RETIREMENT 2021

SAN LUIS VALLEY PROGRESS



Visiting Angels of SW Colorado Receives 2021 Best of Home Care — Leader in Excellence Award

STAFF REPORT
PAGOSA SPRINGS — Visiting Angels of SW Colorado learned in January that it received the distinguished 2021 Best of Home Care – Leader in Excellence Award from Home Care Pulse, the leading firm in quality assurance for home care. The Leader in Excellence Award is the highest recognition awarded by Home Care Pulse and is given to select home care businesses that consistently rank among the very highest in 10 or more quality metrics. As a Leader in Excellence, Visiting Angels is now ranked among the top 10% of home care providers participating in the nationwide Home Care Pulse Satisfaction Management Program.

This accomplishment demonstrates Visiting Angel's long-term dedication to excellent care and quality improvement. To qualify for this award, 10% of Visiting Angel's clients

and caregivers were interviewed each month by Home Care Pulse. Over a 12-month period, Visiting Angels received high client and caregiver satisfaction ratings in areas such as caregiver training, compassion of caregivers, communication, scheduling, client/caregiver compatibility, etc. Using feedback from clients and employees, as well as quality benchmarks from Home Care Pulse, the Visiting Angels management team set goals to reach the highest level of excellence possible.

"We once again are so proud of our agency, and what hard work it has taken everyone on the team to receive this award, for four years in a row. We know that it takes our clients, our caregivers, and our management staff to achieve this. We are humbled and so appreciative of the level of service displayed to others," said Michelle Johnson, COO

The Best of Home Care – Leader in Excel-

lence Award highlights the top-performing home care businesses in the nation. Home Care Pulse believes that by honoring these providers, families looking for in-home care for a loved one will be able to recognize and choose a trusted home care provider.

"At Home Care Pulse, our mission is to help home care businesses create an experience that goes beyond client and caregiver expectations," says Erik Madsen, CEO of Home Care Pulse. "When we see agencies like Visiting Angels that have made an effort to provide outstanding care and employment experiences, we know we're on the right track. Visiting Angels has worked extremely hard to provide high-quality care and employ-

ment, and their work hasn't gone unnoticed. This award allows them to provide proof of quality to potential and new clients and caregivers."

To find out more about Visiting Angels commitment to excellence, visit Visitingangels.com/southwestcolorado or call 970-264-5991.

Visiting Angels of SW Colorado

The agency was founded on core values and principles that focus on excellence and the utmost respect of our clients and caregivers.

We believe in higher purpose that compels us to serve others with excellence. We aim to brighten the home and better the health of each client we serve! – Serving the San Luis Valley, Farmington NM, and all of SW Colorado.



How can home care help seniors with chronic pain?

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

Chronic pain is, unfortunately, a part of daily life for many older adults. The National Institute of Health (NIH) estimates approximately two-thirds of people over 65 are dealing with chronic pain. Some older adults experience pain from conditions, including arthritis, diabetes, nerve disorders, and cardiovascular diseases. Others struggle with persistent symptoms related to injuries from a fall or accident or from recovery after surgery.

Although common in seniors, chronic pain can disrupt daily life and lead to a decreased ability to sleep, focus, and manage stress. It could contribute to memory problems in some older adults. Chronic pain may also cause older adults to stop engaging in activities they previously enjoyed and become isolated from family, friends, or community.

In-Home Caregivers Can Be a Welcome Relief for Seniors with Chronic Pain

Many seniors with chronic pain have difficulty safely caring for themselves, handling their day-to-day affairs, and properly managing their health. Visiting Angels in-home care workers are available to help your elderly loved one age in place and improve pain management through services including:

Medication and exercise reminders
 Our in-home caregivers will remind older adults to perform recommended exercises as well as supervise their regimens. Proper pain management also involves carefully following a doctor's prescription on when and how to take medication. An in-home caregiver will alert an older adult to take their medication and make sure it is done safely.

Watching for symptoms and side effects
 Sometimes, pain medications can have unexpected side effects. An in-home caregiver can inform your loved one's care team when this happens, which could make a huge difference in care, comfort, and safety. In-home caregiv-

ers will observe worsening symptoms, such as reduced mobility. They'll also suggest when additional safety measures – such as installing railings to help prevent a fall – could be necessary.

Emotional support and socialization
 Senior care can offer emotional support your loved one needs on a bad day or just be someone to help pass the time more pleasantly. Home companion services may help your elderly loved one begin socializing again. This could be especially important for older adults with limited mobility or those homebound because of chronic pain.

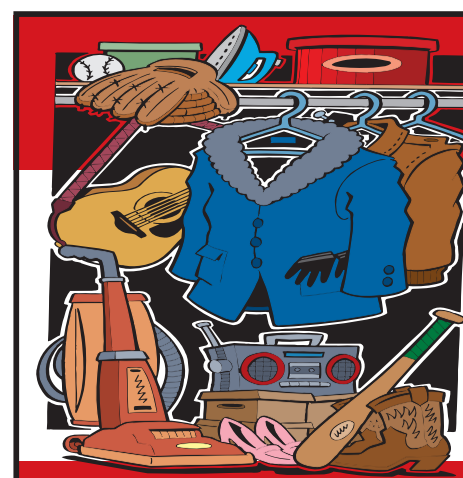
Help around the home

In-home caregivers can assist with a variety of light housekeeping duties, including cleaning and meal preparation. For older adults with more seriously impaired mobility, in-home caregivers can assist with personal care tasks, including transferring, toileting, and dressing.

Transportation and scheduling assistance
 An in-home caregiver can help your loved one keep track of their appointments and provide transportation to and from the destination. Transportation assistance can include helping your loved one get to the grocery store or going for a walk to a local park they enjoy.

Respite care for primary caregivers
 Caring for a loved one can be rewarding but also exhausting. In-home caregivers can provide respite care to help primary caregivers take time for themselves. They can also reduce the strain in family relationships.

If your senior loved one struggles with chronic pain and needs help at home, contact your nearest Visiting Angels home care location for assistance. Our coordinators are available to discuss how our compassionate caregivers can make a difference during a free home care consultation.



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