

Shorts

Judge rules Joergensen will remain in custody

Suspected arsonist will be evaluated monthly
 BY SYLVIA LOBATO

SAN LUIS — Accused of setting the Spring Creek Fire, Jesper Joergensen will remain in custody after a judge refused to dismiss criminal charges against him following a virtual hearing Monday morning in which the defendant was determined still mentally incompetent to stand trial.

Joergensen, 53, a Danish native who was in the United States on an expired visa at the time of the Spring Creek Fire in 2018, is charged with 349 counts of arson.

Believing Joergensen was being held by International Customs and Enforcement (ICE) agents as an illegal alien from Denmark and would be deported when the arson cases were dealt with, attorneys said ICE has no intention of dealing with Joergensen. Court-appointed attorney Jane Fisher-Byrialsin said attempts to communicate with ICE were unsuccessful.

“How long will we have to wait for his competency to be determined,” Fisher-Byrialsin asked the court.

Presiding Retired District Judge Gregory Lyman of Durango has held numerous hearings by phone and virtually. Retired judges preside on a part-time basis.

More than 108,000 acres burned and at least 141 homes were destroyed in Costilla and Huerfano counties, and Joergensen was declared incompetent to stand trial in July 2019.

Joergensen has been in jail more than eight months and his condition is worsening because he refuses to take medication that might help with a severe delusional disorder. He has been treated by state experts in residential care and in the care of the Colorado Dept. of Health and Human Services. Attempts to move him to the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo have been unsuccessful.

Lyman said he wants to make every effort to ensure that Joergensen can face trial by a jury of his peers. Attorneys and the court have discussed dropping charges against him and deporting him back to Denmark, but a moratorium is in effect and Joergensen cannot be released on his own.

“He will be transported to the State Hospital, Lyman said, closing the hearing.

The judge told the listeners in Monday’s virtual hearing that he decided Joergensen would continue to be held with his case reviewed monthly.

He denied her standing motion to dismiss and set an evaluation for March 29 with a hearing at 10 a.m. April 5

Mother of man who died in Saguache County Jail files federal lawsuit

STAFF REPORT
SAGUACHE COUNTY — The mother of a man who died Nov. 16, 2019, while in the Saguache County Jail has filed a federal lawsuit alleging negligence, according to published reports.

The lawsuit alleges they failed to supervise 27-year-old Jackson Maes, did not let him talk to a mental health professional, or have him transported to a health care facility. It was filed against the Saguache County Commissioners, sheriff’s office, and individuals in the sheriff’s office by his mother, Sarah Lieberenz of Denver.

According to reports, Saguache County Sheriff’s deputies were dispatched to a local establishment to check on a man, Maes, who was intoxicated. The responding deputy learned Maes had an outstanding warrant — \$250 cash bond — for failure to appear on a traffic ticket and was arrested.

Lieberenz claims she could have easily paid the bond.

According to the lawsuit, the booking details state Maes was not suicidal or violent. Witnesses reported some people heard him express the opposite to the arresting deputy.

In jail, Maes reportedly banged his

head on the wall of his cell. A deputy told him to lay down and get some rest. The lawsuit contends Maes told the deputy he was trying to kill himself.

The lawsuit includes an interview with investigators. Shelby Shields, who works in the jail’s booking area, said they called mental health, but no one answered, and no message was left.

Lawyers for Lieberenz stated video from the jail cell shows Maes reaching for a shower curtain, while deputies were in the booking area, and later wrapped it around his neck.

Shields said both Deputy Elke

Wells and then-Deputy Miguel Macias “feared that (Jackson) was suicidal, but nothing was ever done about it.”

According to reports, Maes was not discovered for more than eight hours.

Lawyers reportedly contend the Saguache County Jail has been plagued by staffing and training issues.

The lawsuit states that Macias wrote in a log that he did a jail cell check, but actually didn’t, and was later terminated.

The Saguache County Commissioners stated they do not comment on pending litigation.

Working from the epicenter of Center

Middle School principal helps organize Los Promotores del Valle de San Luis

BY PATRICK SHEA

CENTER — Center’s Skoglund Middle School Principal Luis Murillo responded to the first days of the COVID-19 pandemic during spring break last year at the same time when U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) kicked off a year-long tour of the state’s 64 counties to hear stories from constituents and local leaders.

Bennet recently included input from Murillo and others in legislation he wrote to align with President Joe Biden’s American Rescue Plan. To recap his 364-day tour, Bennet produced a 26-minute video with presentations from a few key leaders he met across the state.

Murillo described the rapid response to the virus, followed by four more minutes of testimony from Maria Villagomez, a Center resident who survived COVID-19. Please see MURILLO on Page 10A

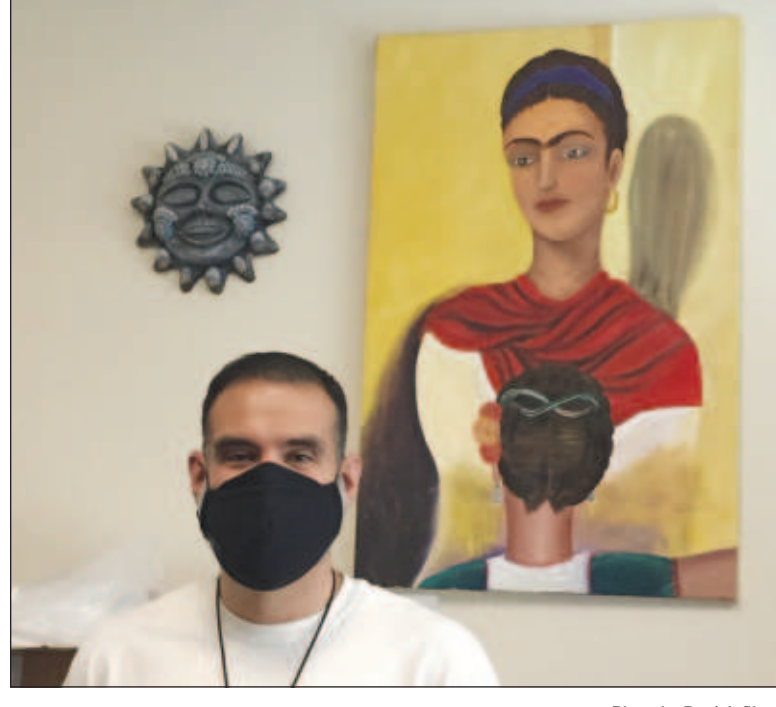


Photo by Patrick Shea
 Between his work as Skoglund Middle School Principal in Center and regional organizer for Los Promotores del Valle de San Luis, Luis Murillo posed in his office in front of a painting he started as a student at Adams State University almost two decades ago.

Mizell daughters speak about efforts to find their mother

BY LYNDSIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — The daughters of Marlana Mizell, recounted their harrowing experience during the search for their mother who was last seen Jan. 4 in South Fork.

On March 1, Local law enforcement and emergency service personnel recovered and positively identified the remains of a body discovered off of Wolf Creek Pass as that of Mizell.

Lead investigator for the case South Fork Police Department Chief Hank Weber stated that

there were no further details to be released at this time and that all law enforcement statements will be issued through a Public Information Officer with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. The case is being handled as an accident and there are no indications of criminal intent at this time.

Daughters Sarah and Megan Mizell spoke with Valley Publishing from their homes in Texas.

“Law enforcement officials began working my mom’s case on Jan. 4, 2021. Colorado State

Patrol Cpl. Jonathan Hart began working on the case and went to Rainbow Lodge in South Fork to look around. Hart did not question anyone or take statements at this time. I called South Fork Police Department at 5:05 p.m. (Texas time) and discussed the case of my mom missing and what they were doing. The officer we spoke with did not seem concerned about my mom at all. We would like it noted that South Fork Police Department never called any of my mom’s family, including myself,” stated Megan.

Four days into the investigation, Mizell’s daughters reached out to several CBI officers asking for assistance in their mother’s case. According to Megan, the sisters wanted to make sure that all agencies were involved in the search. It was later, on Jan. 8, that a friend and neighbor of Mizell contacted the sisters and gave them a brief account of the last time Mizell was seen leaving her home.

The neighbor reported that Mizell, “pulled out of Rainbow Lodge. Please see MIZELL on Page 10A

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OBITUARIES

Ryan Mark Stuebs

Beloved Son, Father, Brother, Spouse, Uncle, and friend, Ryan Mark Stuebs, "Nibbs," age 44, died by his own hand tragically, early the morning of March 1, 2021.

Ryan grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin where he learned family values, hard work, and was grounded in his strong faith in God. Ryan went to St. Peter Lutheran grade school and graduated at Weyauwega-Fremont High School, class of 1995, where he was a talented wrestler known as "purple pie man." He had hunting and fishing in his genes as a young man, bringing home squirrels, black birds, ducks, anything his mother would cook. He ran trap lines before school. He later learned to process game, always said, "I was the son of a butcher," processing deer by the 100's when his family operated "Little River Meats."

Just out of high school, Ryan chased his dream heading west to Southern Colorado, the San Luis Valley. A place he had hunted as a young man. He raised a beautiful daughter Brooke, as you can imagine a daughter of an avid outdoors man, Brooke, Brooks and streams and of course, the colorful and playful, Brooke trout. She was aptly named. Ryan loved outdoor adventures and Brooke even as a toddler came along. Ryan gave the gift of the love he had of the outdoors to so many. His goal was to become the longest and best guide rowing on the Upper Rio Grande, any who knew him or fished with him knew he had achieved that long ago. He loved to teach those who never fished the joy of fly fishing. He taught any young guide willing to listen. Who knows how many fishermen became "hooked." When he wasn't guiding fishing trips, he chased mountain lions, stalked elk, used his gifted talents in carpentry, and played a rancher driving cattle with Rick, Catherine, and many

others. He never walked away from hard work, a friend or challenge.

Ryan was proud of all the generous single acts, his wife's first elk, his family and friends' trophies hang many places, though beautiful the memories surrounding them are priceless and meant so much to him. Many of those trophies hang in households thanks to Ryan's mountain man instincts climbing any elevation, no matter how steep the mountain, deep the ravine, or whatever the push was, putting in time and miles and his famous words of "I'm not lost, I just don't know where I am right now," but he always found his way.

Friends and family in both Wisconsin and Colorado knew Ryan to be happy, humble, generous, hardworking and joyful, but most important to him, a man of God's word. He would always lend a helping hand with a giving heart. His generosity was well known.

His wife Amanda Lewis stole his heart when they met the summer of 2016. He taught her how to catch a trout and kill an elk, not one but two. She loved to watch him fall in love with food and wine to the pleasure of his other friends. He used to say how much he loved it when his mother-in-law would say, "I just love watching you enjoy your food."

Ryan is survived by his wife, Amanda Lewis, daughter Brooke Stuebs (her fiancé Dalton Martinez), Father and step-mother, Mark and Pam Stuebs, Pamela Lewis, his beloved sister Sarah Rhone, her husband Jeremy, his nieces MaKayla and Kendra Lenz, nephews Justin Lenz and Blake Rhone, many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends, too numerous to count.

Ryan was loved by many and cherished memories with his family but also embraced the love of what he called his "Friend Family" — Micah,



Eric, Ryan, Chad, Rick, Lugail, Joel, Kevin, Beau, Chez, Jim, Clinton, Clayton, Rebecca, and so many more.

Ryan was preceded in death by his loving Mother, Barbara Stuebs, Lt. Col. Larry Lewis, Grandparents Neal and Donna Stuebs and Raymond and Joyce Kempf.

Please remember Ryan as living life to the fullest carrying his Mother's legacy of "you gotta have fun" and baby stepping along the way as his favorite movie "What about Bob" would say. We take profound comfort in our time of loss and sadness knowing he is continuing his mountain man journey, into the foothills of heaven with his Savior. In John Denver's words, "Now he walks in quiet solitude, the forest and the streams, seeking grace in every step he takes." — Rocky Mountain High.

A Visitation will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. followed by a Funeral Service 1 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2021 at the Rogers Family Mortuary, 404 Morris St. in Monte Vista. Interment will follow services near his hometown in Wisconsin at a later date.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, remembrances and words of strength for Ryan's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

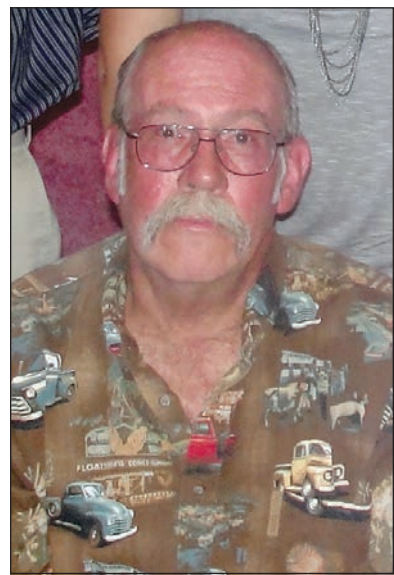
Larry Kent Bennis July 25, 1951-March 1, 2021

LOWRY — A quiet and unassuming man with countless talents and abilities, who only recently moved to South Dakota, left this life March 1 and will be sorely missed and cherished always by his loving wife and four children.

Larry Kent Bennis was born July 25, 1951 in Denver, Colo., the second son of William H. and Maxine Bennis. He won awards in leather crafting and industrial arts in his high school years at Abraham Lincoln High School in Denver and early on showed talent in the auto mechanics field, building racing engines as a hobby. After marrying his high school sweetheart Teresa Stanfill in Denver in 1969, he worked as a millwright at a local foundry and later worked for Monaghan Corporation in Littleton, Colo., a manufacturer of medical respirators, as a precision machinist. During a brief stint as a modelmaker he also helped create the prototype for the first artificial kidney in a briefcase. He left the company to serve as a Machinery Repairman second class on the USS Coral Sea (1974 -1975), assisting in the evacuation of Vietnam and participating in the Mayaguez incident. He is a lifetime member of Disabled American Veterans.

Following his service in the Navy, he worked at Sterling Stainless Tube in Englewood, Colo., a hypodermic needle manufacturer, from 1977-1984. In 1984 he was hired as a preventive maintenance technician at Golden Aluminum Recycling (a division of Coors) in Ft. Lupton, Colo. supervising the repair of machinery used to manufacture and recycle aluminum cans. In 1991, he was transferred to the new Golden Aluminum rolling mill in San Antonio, Texas (ACX Technologies) as preventive maintenance supervisor. He later trained to serve as a vibration analyst for the company in the field of predictive maintenance and also was the department's purchasing agent. He traveled nationally and internationally to keep abreast of the latest technology involving aluminum rolling mills and their furnace systems. He retired from the company in March, 1999.

During his working years, Larry dabbled in woodcarving and jewelry making. He also became a skilled blacksmith, studying under Al Morgan who replicated ironwork for the San Antonio missions and taught him the basics of creating Damascus knives. Following his retirement to La Garita, Colo. he built a solar-



powered strawbale home, with the help of family and friends, from the ground up. He later added a garage/shop, undertaking amazing wood projects, handcrafting log furniture and creating Monet-style and other paintings, portraying the idyllic scenery of his native Colorado mountains. He also enjoyed collecting and building classic cars. He sold his Colorado property in 2020 to move to Lowry to be close to his two sons during his final illness.

Larry is survived by his wife of 51 years, Teresa (Terri), of Lowry; son Shane of Selby; son Eathan of La Garita, Colo; son Josiah of Java, daughter Aimee (Russell) Bartlett of San Antonio, Texas and brother Gary (Denise) Bennis of Littleton, Colorado. He also leaves behind 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a beloved grandson, Tristen Kent Bennis.

Larry will be laid to rest at St. Anthony of Padua Cemetery in Hoven, S.D. at 2 p.m. Monday, March 8. In lieu of flowers, he wishes donations to be made to St. Jude's Hospital or the Tunnel to Towers organization.

Rebecca Kay Aultman

San Luis Valley resident Rebecca Kay Aultman, 66, died March 6, 2021 at the Conejos County Hospital in La Jara.

Rebecca was born in Texas on Nov. 25, 1954 the loving daughter of William Tayloe and Gretta Jo Brown Tayloe. She attended schools in Texas.

Following her time in Texas, she moved to California and spent most of her working life there, working as a secretary and in Human Resources for a technology company.

She loved going to the hot springs in Napa Valley. She later moved to Washington state for several years and then wanted to be closer to family, thus living the rest of her days near her daughter in the San

Luis Valley.

Rebecca loved to flower and vegetable garden. She canned as many of her home-grown vegetables as she could. She was such a beautiful soul. The time spent with her grandchildren was cherished often.

She is survived by her daughter Sara (John) Hinder of Monte Vista, Colo., and her grandchildren Zachary, Chloe and Cole Hinder.

Rebecca was preceded in death by her parents and her siblings Jennifer Tayloe, Bryan Tayloe and William Tayloe.

Cremation was chosen and private services will be held.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online words of comfort,



remembrances and condolences for Rebecca's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Poor Little Rich Girl

On Sunday night, Ol' Dutch came dragging his exhausted self in the door expecting a delicious meal, hot shower and an evening of quiet solitude. Well, I expected at least the meal and shower part as living with Miss Trixie never guarantees quiet. But two out of three ain't bad for most men and you throw in a little television on the side, and you have the makings of a great evening.

Little did I know that I was going to be subjected to two hours of whining from some poor little rich girl about how hard of a life she has it being rich and famous. If you were lucky enough to miss it, Meghan Markle took center stage for the acting role of her life with none other than that other poor woman, Oprah.

Thankfully Ol' Dutch is hard of hearing and could not hear the complaining about how the ages-old British Monarchy refused to change for this spoiled brat from America, but I got the lowdown from Miss Trixie every time there was an advertisement.

It seems that Poor Little Rich Girl, PLRG from henceforth, just was mistreated awfully with having maids and butlers, private jets, luxury trips abroad, vast sums of money, an adoring public, a Prince for a husband and the life of Riley handed to her on a literal silver platter.

She played this role with Oprah with great aplomb as she stroked her baby bump repeatedly while talking about how unfair it was that her son was not a Prince and how people mistreated her with comments. I am not sure about you but where I come from name calling and rude comments are pretty much an everyday event in our lives, but you don't see Ol' Dutch on Oprah complaining about it.

All PLRG and Prince Charming ever wanted as a couple was to live a life of relative obscurity with peace and quiet, so left the British hustle and bustle for a life in the vast Canadian west. But that wasn't quiet enough, so they bought a \$15 million mansion in California amid the rich and the famous all the while putting on the hustle for the quiet life pursuing fame and fortune.

First, it was her dad abusing her then her half-sister and then the Royals so I am not sure what her next move might be to try and gain airtime, National Enquirer column inches or magazine print but we are sure to be inundated with more non-



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

news about her, her baby bump or Harry not finding any friends here.

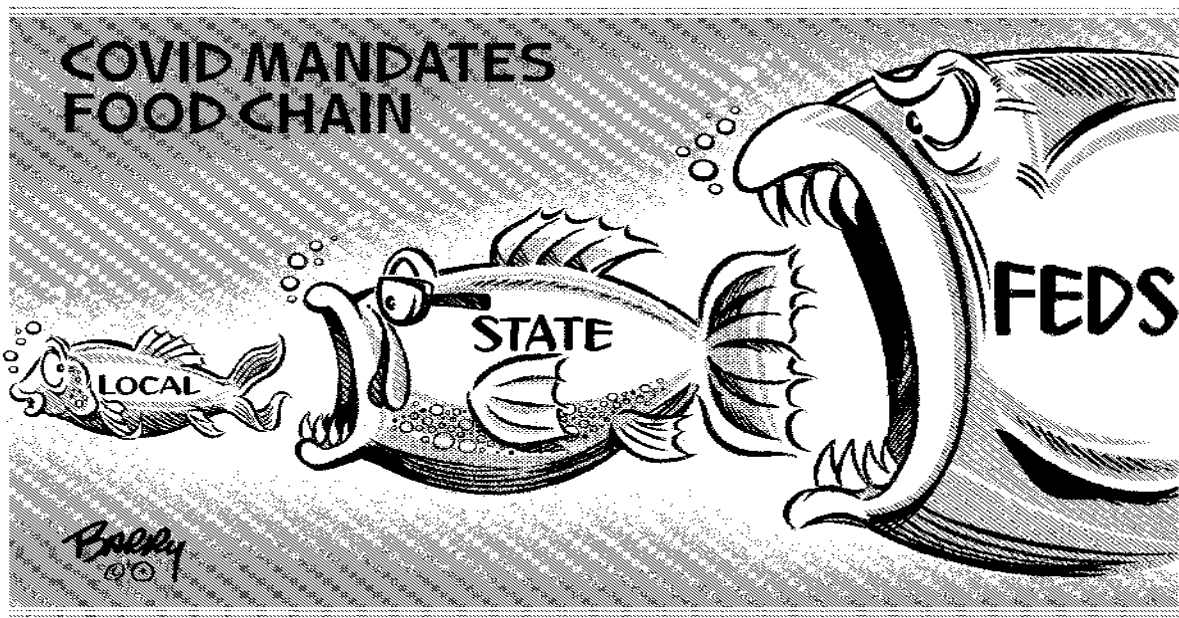
This past year has been filled with struggles and trauma with the COVID-19 and many people have suffered physically, emotionally and financially with that so it's a bit of a stretch for me to believe anyone really can feel sorry for a PLRG worth over 150 million clams.

I mean honestly, her biggest complaints were things that the average person goes through each day without the funds to solve even the most mundane of problems. If you want a real hard luck story, talk to the woman who has four kids, a dead-beat ex-husband and she works three jobs. Now that's a story of survival.

Ol' Dutch did glance up a few times from his Internet perusing to see PLRG put her hand on Prince Charming's to calm him down. Pundits on body language will tell you that she is exerting her dominance by having her hand on top of his, but we already knew who ran the show in that house from her actions in the last year. Once a mighty hunter, Prince Charming has had to give up that passion and all of his guns just to keep her happy and let me tell you from experience, once you give up your guns you are subject to tyranny.

On a parting note, we ended the conversation about the PLRG and Prince Charming at least in our household with me telling Miss Trixie to "never put her hand over mine." At least I learned something from that wasted of two hours.

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.



LETTERS

Large broken promise from DA Payne

Editor,

There is a two-fold intent to writing this letter. First and foremost, to honor and uphold the beautiful memory of beloved community member Barbara Vigil. Barbara was senselessly killed in an automobile crash in Moffat, Colo., on Nov. 25, 2019, by a driver who reportedly was driving 100 mph until seconds before the crash, which destroyed the familiar old red Blazer that Barbara drove.

Second, to shine a large spotlight on the intention of newly elected 12th Judicial District District Attorney Alonzo Payne to offer a plea deal to the driver that fails to hold the driver to a single day of jail-prison time. The plea will give the accused a deferred sentence. The DA's office has grossly neglected the family and their rights.

DA Payne ran for public office on the promise that he would serve the Valley community including victims in supporting their rights and ensuring that those charged with crimes would be treated fairly and justly. Is this what justice in the Valley looks like under his administration?

In this case, and possibly in others to follow, to allow the accused to "kill" a beloved member of the Saguache/Moffat/Crestone communities without appropriate consequences is not only a travesty, but a large broken promise from DA Payne.

The family was recently made aware that newly elected DA Payne offered a deferred sentence plea that includes no jail time for the driver of the vehicle who was charged with:

- Vehicular Homicide

- Vehicular Assault
- Reckless Driving
- Speeding 40 mph over the posted speed limit

- Possession of more than 12 oz of Marijuana

- Possession of no more than 3 oz of marijuana concentrate

- Unlawful possession of Sch I or Sch II Substance

- Special Offender Firearm in vehicle

The driver reportedly was also driving a rental car that he purchased a special insurance rider for.

All I am asking is that the Jason Huntress face his charges and not be allowed a deferred sentence and that justice be served for Barbara, family, friends and our community.

*Lori Lujan
Colorado Springs*

We need to advocate for our educators

Editor,

I have been hearing people discuss how they are mad at our teachers' unions. The fact that people who educate our children have the legal right to unionize, gain better work environments and pay are deeply connected to the Ludlow Massacre.

We here in Trinidad live in the shadow of Ludlow and its historic significance. The statue of Louis Tikkas, a miner and activist, stands in our downtown area reminding us of the man who paid the ultimate price in order to have a voice and control of his own work environment.

The very first school district of Colorado is here in Trinidad and

our mascot is the Miner, a proud reflection of our culture and union past. Now that our teachers across the country are fighting for better work environments during a deadly pandemic and getting flack for it, well... it saddens me.

I am so grateful that President Joe Biden has declared to all states' governors that teachers need to be considered essential employees and therefore will have immediate access to vaccinations. This will help get our kids back to school and provide our teachers with the protection they deserve. We entrust our most precious possessions with these educators, we in turn should advocate for their

personal safety while they provide an invaluable service for our youth and our parents.

It has been a tough year for all of us, kids especially; but the light is starting to get brighter at the end of the tunnel. We as Americans have seen hard times before and we will get through this like we have other struggles in the past; but we must do this with solutions and not finger pointing.

We need to advocate for our educators to make sure they get what they need so our youth can get back to a proper learning environment... classrooms.

*Carlos R. Lopez
Trinidad*

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SLV REC lineworker scholarship renamed in honor of Martin Christensen

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — With the recent passing of former REC lineman, Martin Christensen, SLV REC Board of Directors voted to name the lineworker scholarship in his honor. The Martin Christensen Memorial Lineworker Scholarship is valued at \$4,000 and covers tuition costs for one Valley student at any accredited lineworker school.

Christensen began work at SLV REC in 1963 following the death of his father, Edward. At that time, REC's manager called him to see if he would return to the Valley to take his dad's place. Christensen agreed and began work right away. In 1971 he became the south area serviceman; after 35 years of service, he retired in June 1998, although members continued to call him for the next several years.



Martin Christensen, 1996

responsible for everything from fixing outages and maintaining yard lights to collecting bills and checking meters. He is the doctor who still makes house calls.

Sometimes Martin works with line crews, but usually he works alone. He travels in a well-equipped bucket truck that has proven to be safer and more economical than two linemen in a regular truck. He also knows he's a radio call away from all of the REC's resources. (He never works alone on 'hot wire' jobs.)

Martin knows his 1,500 square mile territory with its REC consumers like the back of his hand. For many, he is the only contact with

REC members have. If they experience an outage, they call him. If they're late paying a bill, they call him. Or if they call the office and are asked what their meter number is, they reply "Oh, Martin knows where it is."

One of Martin's job requirements is that he be on call 24 hours a day. With pagers and radios, life has gotten easier — in the beginning Martin or his wife Barbara had to be near a phone all the time.

Throughout Martin's career, he personified REC's commitment to service. His boots will be large ones to fill.



SLV REC trucks formed an archway at the cemetery prior to Martin Christensen's burial in January.

Courtesy photos

Christensen's son and current REC Foreman Ryan Christensen said, "This is a great honor for him. He mentored a lot of people who became linemen because of my dad — myself, my son

Riley works at La Plata. I have two nephews that are linemen — one at San Miguel and one in California. They followed in his footsteps."

Christensen's commitment to

members of REC will be remembered for years to come; with the naming of the lineworker scholarship, generations of future lineworkers will be touched by his commitment.

Giving a face to the co-op: Martin Christensen

From the November 1996 Newsboy: "If you're a member of the SLV REC's southern part (from the 8 mile south of Monte Vista to the New Mexico border), it's a good bet that you know Martin Christensen. Martin is a troubleshooter

CBI releases 2020 statewide crime statistics

Total crimes in Colorado increases 3.9% from 2019

STAFF REPORT

LAKEWOOD — The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has posted the 2020 crime data for hundreds of statewide law enforcement agencies through the Colorado Crime Stats website.

Some of the highlights from this year's Colorado Crime Stats report include:

353,528 total crimes reported in Colorado in 2020, reflecting a 3.9% increase from last year. Much of that increase is due to a surge in property crimes during the year.

There were a total of 31,275 crimes against society reports in 2020, showing a 26.1% decrease over 2019.

While overall crimes against persons has remained relatively flat, violent crime incidents increased by 6.5% compared to 2019 reports.

There were a total of 258,132 crimes against property reports in 2020, showing a 10.4% increase over 2019.

Colorado reported 30,942 incidents of motor vehicle theft in 2020, reflecting a 38.6% increase compared to 2019 numbers. On direction from Gov. Jared Polis, the Department of Public Safety will soon announce a Statewide Task Force to work with the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority to better understand the underlying causes of increases in motor vehicle theft and to develop a statewide strategy to reduce motor

vehicle thefts.

The data set for 2020 may contain incomplete information due to the fact not all law enforcement agencies may have submitted crime statistics for this reporting period, according to CBI. Colorado Crime Stats is a fluid system with updates being made by law enforcement agencies on a daily basis. Additionally, the data set and comparisons from year to year may not take into account data anomalies from agencies that upgrade or switch record management systems from one year to the next.

The CBI does not offer analysis as to the reasons for changes in the crime rates or any other interpretation of the data; rather, those questions should be directed to individual law enforcement agencies.

The 2020 statewide crime data release marks an improvement in the timeliness for which the CBI will provide statistics to the public in the future. Moving forward, Colorado Crime Stats will be available with a one-month lag before becoming accessible to the public. For example, crime stats for April 2021 will be accessible to the public at the beginning of June 2021.

"This shift in the availability of the statistics not only ensures Colorado is more aligned with the FBI's quarterly reporting practices, but more importantly it provides increased transparency involving statewide crime data, and eliminates the lag that occurred in the past," said CBI Director John Camper.



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Rio Grande County administers 777 COVID-19 vaccines

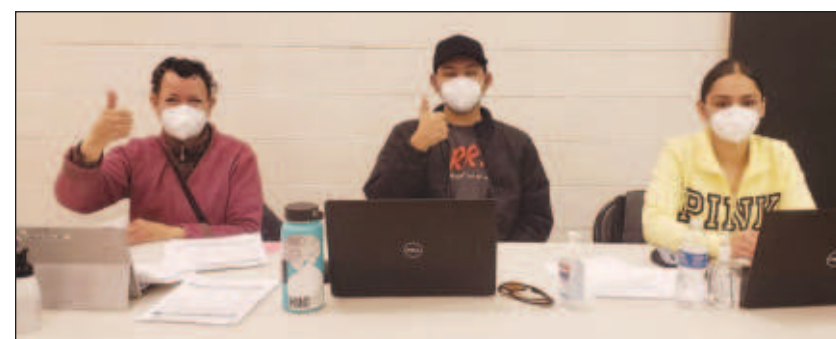
By LYNSIE FERRELL
RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Rio Grande County Public Health Department in partnership with Rio Grande Hospital and Rio Grande Hospital Clinics continue to issue COVID-19 vaccines for people in the San Luis Valley.

According to reports, the last vaccination clinic held on Friday, March 5 volunteers from several organizations issued 777 vaccines to people in the 1B1 through 1B3 phases which are people in the 60 and older age range, frontline essential workers in grocery and agriculture, as well as people 16-59 with two or more high-risk conditions.

Rio Grande Public Health Department Director Dr. Kolawole Bankole issued the following update on March 5 and shared all of the positive news, "To date, we have received 1,600 cumulative total doses (added 300 more) which have been all Moderna vaccines. We have not received any Johnson & Johnson vaccines yet.

"Phase 1B3 which includes agricultural workers, we have ongoing discussions happening valley-wide to outreach and coordinate vaccination for this specific population," Bankole said. "Some of the suggestions to further finetune coordination to ensure we reach the correct people include using a farmer's warehouse located close to the Sargent School. And as well to take advantage of our mass vaccination clinics to get vaccines to this unique set of our population."

Getting in contact with the agricultural workers in the Valley has been one of the top priorities for several of the public health agencies throughout the region since the beginning of the pandemic. Many of the agricultural workers that come to the area specifically during summer



Photos courtesy of Rio Grande Hospital

Rio Grande Hospital, Rio Grande Hospital Clinics and Rio Grande Public Health Department held another mass vaccination clinic on Friday, March 5, in Del Norte. To date, through the combined efforts of several organizations, health care workers and volunteers, there have been a total of 2,053 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine here in the San Luis Valley.



and fall months come from out of state and many others from out of the country who are on work visas.

Dr. Bankole and his department are working with local health officials to help spread the word about vaccination and are working to educate the general and agricultural public as much as possible on best practices to ensure safety.

"We are working with Valley Wide Health Systems outreach coordination and liaison with the state on the need for vaccines," Bankole said. "According to the National Center for Farmworker Health, Colorado estimates, Rio Grande County has the highest number in the San Luis Valley region with an estimated total number of workers around 1,348 (1,086 direct hire and 262 contract workers); which underlines the importance of streamlining focus to this unique population."

Rio Grande Public Health Department will continue to work with local organizations and partners to host mass vaccination clinics well into the future to ensure the health and safety of this community.

The Rio Grande Public Health Department thanked all the partners,

collaborators and volunteers that made the mass vaccination clinic successful, ranging from the Rio Grande Hospital and Clinics, EMS, EM, police, to student nurse volunteers.

It also thanked the community

members coming out to take advantage of the available vaccines, to protect themselves from the COVID-19 infection. The county remains in Blue status on the state's COVID-19 dial and will be working through the suggested

phases, hopefully bringing the vaccine to the general public by summer.

For more information or to get on the waiting list for the vaccine, visit the county's website at www.riograndecounty.org.

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Adams State Nursing Program waives application fee

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The Adams State Nursing Program will waive its application fee for the spring 2022 cohort. Applications are due April 30. Notifications will be sent out between June 1 and June 15, 2021. Visit adams.edu/academics/undergraduate/nursing to apply online or call 719-587-8171, for more information.



County Clerk's Association seeks scholarship applicants

STAFF REPORT

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — The Colorado County Clerk's Association offers several scholarships to Colorado high school seniors. Five scholarships for \$1,000 each and four for \$500 will be awarded statewide.

The scholarship application is available on the Rio Grande County's website at www.riograndecounty.org. Applications have also been sent to all Rio Grande County schools. Interested individuals may contact their school administration for an application or call the Rio Grande County Clerk's office at 719-657-3334. Students who reside in other Colorado counties should submit

their application to their County Clerk.

Rio Grande County high school students can email (preferred) their application packets to clerk@riograndecounty.org or mail them to the Rio Grande County Clerk at P. O. Box 160, Del Norte, CO 81132. Packets can also be returned to the Clerk's office at 965 Sixth St., Del Norte. All packets must be received by the Clerk no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, March 26.

A winner will be selected from each county and then forwarded to the region for the regional winner. Awards will be announced by May 1. For more information, call the Rio Grande County Clerk's office at 719-657-3334.

Celebrate Colorado "Meat-In Day" Saturday, March 20 by Dining at any SLV Restaurant!



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OptiMystics holding St. Patrick's Day parade on March 17

BY REBECCA COPLEY
 MONTE VISTA — Citizen action group the OptiMystics is putting together a St. Patrick's Day Parade in Monte Vista on March 17. The parade will start at 5:30 p.m.

For the parade route participants marching or driving in the parade will line up at the Stars and Strikes bowling alley and go from 2nd Street up north on Adams, then they will turn west onto 1st Avenue, and then go down Washington as they return to the Stars and Strikes bowling alley.

The group has already received over 12 parade entries for the celebration, and are still taking more. The deadline for parade entries is March 12. Late entries may be accepted if they still have openings.

Prizes will be given to the best parade entries/floats with first, second, and third places for the parade participants. Prizes have been donated for the parade by FaeMoon Wolf Designs, Quincy's, and Rancho

de Animales.

The OptiMystics are asking for a \$10 donation to be in the parade. The money will go to the group's beautification and revitalization projects is appreciated and requested.

Some local businesses will also have an assortment of St. Patrick's Day themed novelty hats and tiaras available for purchase in the days leading up to St. Patrick's Day. These hats and tiaras are available for purchase at FaeMoon Wolf Designs and the Polished Bean. Proceeds from purchasing the festive gear goes to fund the OptiMystic's beautification and revitalization projects.

The Polished Bean will be having special St. Patrick Day drinks, and the Polished Edge will be running a sale that day. Rain Brews will also be serving some traditional St. Patrick's Day food on its menu. Other businesses like FaeMoon Wolf Designs will be open for the parade. The Vali-3 Theater will also be open for concessions.

Crane Fest!



Photos by Rebecca Copley

The 2021 Swoop of the Cranes have landed just in time for the 38th annual Monte Vista Crane Festival. Crews from Monte Vista Public Work's put up the unique art works on Monday, March 8. People can check out the over 50 decorated metal cranes perched on light poles all over Monte Vista. Local artists transformed the metal crane silhouettes. People can vote for their favorites. Cranes will be up through the summer and then sold at auction this fall at the Potato Festival if health guidelines allow. For more information on the Monte Vista Crane Festival, visit <https://mvcranefest.org>.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between March 1-7.

Deputies made 13 traffic stops and issued 10 speeding tickets between Feb. 19 to March 5, one a repeat offender driving under restriction. They responded to two fires, seven controlled burns, two animal problems, one case of fraud, four suspicions of suspicious activity and three cases of trespassing. They also helped with two ambulance rides, conducted four welfare checks, advocated for a victim, gave a courtesy ride, resolved a civil dispute and helped other agencies.

Arrests

- Justin Gonzales, 28, Center, unlawful possession of a controlled substance.
- Victor Najera, 38, Del Norte, violation of protection order, violation of bond conditions.

PARADE

Continued from Page 1A — second, and third places for the parade participants. Prizes have been donated for the parade by FaeMoon Wolf Designs, Quincy's, and Rancho de Animales.

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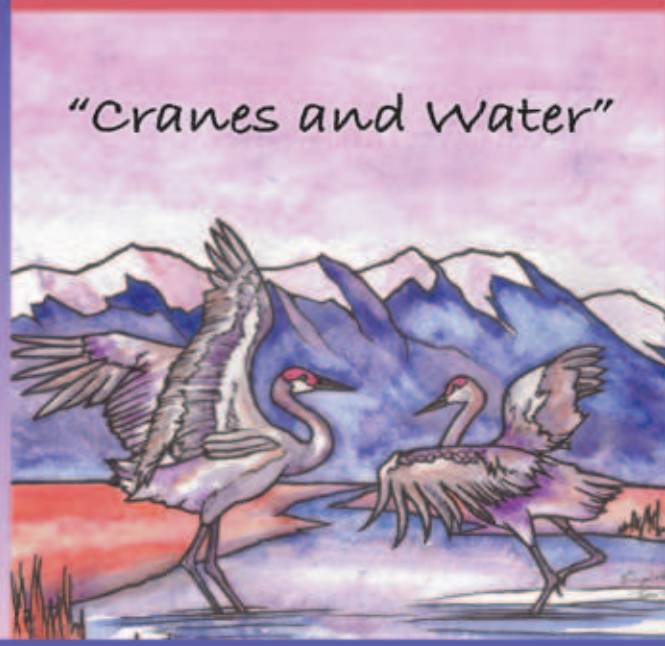
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2021

Wednesday, March 10

Wrestling Preview

Valley Publishing



Centauri Wrestling took home a regional title with 198.5 points as a team.

Courtesy photo by Kalee Buhr

Regional wrestling in the rearview, wrestlers prepare for state

By **STEPHEN JIRON**

It was a wild weekend of regional action on the slate for valley wrestlers.

At the 2A Region 2 finals at Dolores Huerta High School in Pueblo, Centauri crowned five first-place finishers in Mario Vigil, Eyan Chavez, Jordan Martin, Erik Mestas, Zach Buhr and collected 198.5 points as a team to become regional champions. Also in Pueblo, Sierra Grande-Centennial's Richard Atencio topped the podium at 138 pounds and Monte Vista and Del Norte each placed a runner up in Damian Lopez and Malachi Gallegos

respectively. Meanwhile, in 3A, Alamosa's boys had two wrestlers reach the top of the podium in Davion Chavez in Brandon Reveles and collected 142 team points to take third place. First place went to host Pagosa Springs with 217.5 points.

The coming weekend promises an equally wild finish to the wrestling season. With the regional tournaments in the books, it is now all steam ahead toward a COVID abridged state final. According to the CHSAA releases it will be three separate events at the Southwest Motors Center in Pueblo – Thursday will be all


Girls wrestling, Friday 2A/3A and Saturday 4A/5A all events beginning at the quarterfinals with 8 wrestlers invited per weight class.

In boys wrestling, there will be 15 wrestlers representing five


schools at the state tournament. Girls wrestling saw one girl qualify for the state tournament.

Alamosa will be sending 5 wrestlers, 4 boys and a girl. The lone

Please see STATE on Page 9A




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Centauri, Monte Vista, Alamosa boys wrestlers advance to state tournament

STATT REPORT
Centauri High School had eight wrestlers advance to the 2A boys state wrestling tournament and Monte Vista High School had one. Alamosa High School qualified five wrestlers to the 3A boys and girls state wrestling tournament. Regionals were held March 6. The top two wrestlers from each boys weight class in each region moved on, while the top five girls qualified. There will be eight competitors in each bracket for the state tournament. The Falcons had four individual regional champions and won the team regional with 198.5 points. Monte Vista was fifth, Sargent was ninth and Del Norte was 10th. Centauri was ranked third in 2A boys and Alamosa was ranked ninth in 3A boys on March 5 by Tim Yount of On The Mat. The three-day state wrestling tournament event, scheduled for March 11-13, will be held at Southwest Motors Events Center in Pueblo. It includes the first-ever

sanctioned state tournament for girls wrestling on the Thursday of Championship Weekend. Due to capacity limitations, the event is not open to general public. Tickets will be distributed to schools of the student-athletes who qualified. **The event will be live-streamed.** “We’re excited to provide a state culminating event for student-athletes in Season B,” said CHSAA assistant commissioner Adam Bright, who oversees wrestling. “While we’re at a different venue, the tradition of the CHSAA state wrestling tournament continues. “We started the conversation from a dual-only format, but with the tradition of wrestling being an individual and team competition, we fought hard to secure a variance that allows for a more traditional format with an expanded capacity,” Bright added. **State wrestling schedule:** Thursday, March 11

2 p.m. Girls quarterfinals
3:45 p.m. Girls semifinals, consolation begins
6:15 p.m. Girls Parade of Champions
6:30 p.m. Girls Finals
Friday, March 12
9 a.m. 2A quarterfinals
10:30 a.m. 3A quarterfinals
12:30 p.m. 2A semifinals, consolation begins
2:30 p.m. 3A semifinals, consolation begins
5 p.m. 2A Parade of Champions
5:15 p.m. 2A Finals
7 p.m. 3A Parade of Champions
7:15 p.m. 3A Finals
Saturday, March 13
9 a.m. 4A quarterfinals
10:30 a.m. 5A quarterfinals
12:30 p.m. 4A semifinals, consolation begins
2:30 p.m. 5A semifinals, consolation begins
5 p.m. 4A Parade of Champions
5:15 p.m. 4A Finals
7 p.m. 5A Parade of Champions
7:15 p.m. 5A Finals

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Rio Grande Hospital... more than an emergency room

STATE
Continued from Page 8A
girl from the valley to qualify for state was Alamosa freshman Sarah DeLaCerde she owns a 22-2 record in the 105 weight class and will take on Loveland junior 11 Kelly Clingan (10-1) in the first round. For the 3A boys, it begins at 120 pounds with Alamosa senior Davion Chavez. Chavez is 21-1 and will open his quest for a second state title against Logan Erickson of Holy Family. At 126 pounds, Alamosa senior Brandon Reveles (19-4) will have the difficult job of opening the state tournament against Jefferson junior Angelo Lozado 22-2 who is in search of his third straight state title. At 132 pounds Alamosa’s Trevor Maestas will face the No. 2 wrestler in the state in Will Money Penny of Berthod (20-0). Senior Zaqurya Bernal (17-5) will represent Alamosa at 132 pounds. Bernal will face No. 1 Jeremiah Garcia (18-0) of Platte Valley 18-0. And in the heavyweight class, Alamosa will have James Sanchez taking

on James Irwin senior, James Hustoles (17-0). Centauri will have a great chance to compete for the team state title with 8 wrestlers in attendance. At 106 pounds it will be Centauri’s Riley Valdez facing Beau Clouse (19-2) in the first round. At 113 pounds Mario Vigil (16-4) will begin his quest for glory against Miguel Sanchez (18-2) of John Mall. Centauri’s 132 pounder will be Cyrus Sandoval. Sandoval will take on Lyon’s Oran Huff (18-1). Eyan Chavez will enter the state finals as the No. 1 wrestler in the 145-pound bracket. Chavez (18-1) will face Greg Coy of Highland in his first match of the day at state. Centauri senior Jordan Martin (16-3) will take on Wyatt Murphy (15-3) in his first meeting. Sophomore Erik Mestas (16-1) will represent the Falcons at 160 pounds and will take on Michael Gutierrez (19-2) of Burleson. Junior Zach Buhr (17-2) will face Payton Wade (18-5) of Wray in the first round

of the 170-pound bracket. Byron Shawcroft (14-6) will round out the group for Centauri. Shawcroft will meet Ty Walck (13-6) of Cedaredge in the first round. For Del Norte, it will be junior Malachi Gallegos at 113 pounds facing Levi Martin (18-1) of Mancos. Damian Lopez (14-5), a Monte Vista sophomore will wrestle at 126 opening his 2021 campaign against No. 2 Dale VanMatre (23-0) of John Mall. Wrestling for Sierra Grande-Centennial will be Richard Atencio (20-1). Atencio will wrestle at 138 pounds and will begin 2021 state finals against Ty Everett (17-2) of Mancos. State championships for valley wrestlers will begin on Thursday and wrap up on Friday. All matches will be streamed on the NFHS Network (www.NFHSNetwork.com).

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MURILLO

Continued from Page 1A

and subsequently joined Murillo and Los Promotores del Valle de San Luis to educate the community.

After hearing about the virus, said Murillo, "We went to remote learning. Of course, that's my position as a principal. Our front-line workers and our farm workers continued to work, and then the cases started going up. I saw it as an issue of education and equity, so I decided to get involved. Luckily, I have a parental involvement group, and that's who I called."

The Center volunteers reached out to the community by posting videos, making phone calls and visiting door-to-door. In the span of eight months, the group grew to become Los Promotores del Valle de San Luis. They contacted roughly 3,000 families in all six San Luis Valley counties. Beyond English and Spanish, they also explained everything in the Mayan language shared by the Guatemalan community in and around Center.

"The sorting line in the potato cellars and the rows in the lettuce fields did not allow for distancing," Murillo explained. "Pretty soon we had outbreaks in our area. We had people dying."

Working with a core group of five that grew to 17, Murillo took a three-phase approach to the problem.

"Farm workers were not receiving information and resources to protect

themselves and their families. They were not getting paid if they got sick and missed work," Murillo continued. "We heard, and I quote, 'I would rather die of COVID than my family die of hunger.' They were afraid of speaking up because they feared retaliation and losing their job."

Phased Approach

The first phase entailed recording presentations in English and Spanish.

"In the videos from back then," the 38-year-old Murillo recalled, "I was heavier, and it was either here [Center Consolidated School campus] or my garage. I was just straight-up reading and translating the information given to me."

They posted on Facebook and leveraged WhatsApp, a popular messaging application also owned by Facebook and popular in the Latino community. Some of the videos registered more than 3,000 views.

"I'm 6-9 and brown," noted Murillo, a football player who arrived from California 18 years ago to play for Adams State University. "That's not very common, so people recognize me."

One of the most poignant videos Murillo recorded told stories from families who lost loved ones.

"I wanted to put a face to it. This was taking people's lives," Murillo said.

Phase two included approximately

300 phone calls with neighbors calling neighbors.

Murillo described the common reaction when "you get a message saying, 'hey! This is the department of health, whatever...'"

As the seventh-year principal put it, "In the Latino culture, we just don't trust too many systems. But when a neighbor calls and asks, 'Did you get this information,'" people listen.

For the last phase, the group took a map of Center and broke down zones for knocking door-to-door wearing N-95s, face shields and gloves.

"We had information from the department of health. And we had kits with masks, gloves and hand sanitizers," he said.

Communication and contact continue today for Los Promotores del Valle de San Luis after the Center group completed their first three phases between May and July. Like the stacks of boxes with hygiene kits, cleaning supplies, protective equipment and key items that still stood as tall as the principal in his office on March 3, quantifiable results piled up. Murillo's team started to receive attention.

Group Getting Noticed

Center Town Administrator Brian Lujan invited Murillo to present during town board meetings via Zoom.

MIZELL

Continued from Page 1A

around 11:50 a.m. and looked like she was headed to the gas station or grocery store. The neighbor described Marlana wearing a black jacket and she also said Marlana didn't look frantic or like she would be going somewhere long."

The neighbor's husband saw Mizell not much later headed toward Pagosa Springs in her vehicle and told law enforcement that she waved and honked at him before driving on.

For the next several days, Megan and her sister traveled to South Fork from their homes in Texas. It was at this time that the two sat down with law enforcement and CBI investigators to discuss the status of the case and to give DNA samples that could potentially help later in the case.

The sisters then traveled to Wolf Creek Pass and were searching along the highway when they thought they saw a car down the cliff face near Mile Marker 162.

"We were off Wolf Creek Pass and saw what looked to be a car roughly 500 feet down the cliff side. We could not see due to the dark of night but when we asked Jonathon Hart (the lead investigator at the time) he said could not go out there and look with us," Megan stated.

"Sarah and I then called 911 and the State Patrol arrived soon after. One officer went down the side of the mountain because they thought it was a car as well. Turns out it was not. However, at this time these patrol officers said they were aware of the case and they assured us they have been looking."

It was at this time that the sisters reached out to South Fork Fire Rescue (SFFR) and asked for their assistance in the case. SFFR Chief Tyler Off who after speaking with investigator Hart, decided not to aid in the search with drones until a more precise location could be identified, Megan said.

That same day and while they were at the SFFR station in South Fork, CBI contacted Megan and stated that they executed a warrant for Mizell's cell phone and that the information received said that the cell phone had taken a southerly route into New Mexico on Highway 84 and then along Highway 64

heading west.

The daughters gathered a search party and searched several locations in New Mexico between Dulce and Navajo City.

"Sarah and I began gathering a search team with the Hickoria/Jicarilla Apache reservation. Once we arrived, we had volunteers, a fish and game warden, the oil field 'patrol,' and Rio Arriba Deputy Epling searching with us," Megan said. "We did not find anything. However, Deputy Epling said he would check the cameras in the area and especially the travel center gas station off of Highway 64 heading west. These cameras unfortunately re-record every 3 days."

From that point until Jan. 18, the sisters tried to do their own investigation asking gas station clerks and other local individuals in the Pagosa Springs area if they had seen their mother. The search was met with difficulties as those they questioned needed to be contacted by law enforcement before turning over any evidence they might have.

The case investigation was at this time turned over to South Fork Chief of Police Hank Weber.

Megan stated that she did not hear from Weber for nine days after trying to reach him several times. On Feb. 20, Weber contacted Megan and informed her that they may have found her mother's car off of Wolf Creek Pass but that she was not to release that information to anyone. Two days later, Weber released the information to Valley Publishing and an article printed within hours.

Over the next several days, local law enforcement in partnership with local ski patrol and search and rescue teams worked to reach the vehicle to no avail. On Feb. 24 CBI released a statement that a body was located off of Wolf Creek Pass by a skier which was later confirmed by El Paso Coroner to be that of Mizell.

The black box was retrieved from the vehicle and is being investigated for pertinent information which according to CBI will be released when it comes available.

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 axel) Plow - bad motor - Minimum bid amount \$2500
17. #209 - 1989 IHC S1700 Truck SA (single axel) 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.

"I was so out of my element," Murillo humbly explained. "Obviously, I'm an educator. But I just told them what we did."

Lujan relayed the message of success to other small communities. Word reached Sen. Bennet beyond the Valley. The senator visited Center to meet the principal when school started in August.

Murillo received a call from Project Protect, a statewide organization in charge of an \$870,000 grant to establish a community health promotion network. The principal jumped at the chance because it would allow their programs to expand throughout the Valley and he could pay the people who had already put in many long hours to help reduce infections.

"If I'm asking people to literally risk their lives," Murillo explained, "there should be some money in their pockets."

As the regional organizer, Murillo expanded the group to include 17 people. Four "promotores" promote the project with education initiatives in Center, Alamosa, Blanca and through a woman who speaks a Mayan dialect.

Providing Basic Needs

Project Protect specifically targets farm workers. Staff working out of Alamosa help sheep handlers near La Jara and Sanford while others also travel to cover all six Valley counties. But Murillo said they help anyone they meet who needs assistance.

To quantify the project, the group aligned problems with results. For example, they addressed food insecurity by delivering 1,200 food boxes to homes, school pick-up sites and workplaces.

"One thing we realized that was kind of ridiculous," Murillo explained, "we pretty quickly found out that we were giving food to the people that make the food. That just blew my mind. This is broken. They were getting bags of potatoes they already touched."

Like sharing food, the group distributed about 500 medicinal kits with aspirin, ginger root and other basic remedies because people were not prepared to be quarantined. They also created cleaning kits with bleach, gloves and wipes. They distributed sleeping bags, duffel bags, shirts, gloves and socks.

Beyond the quantifiable, Murillo said he felt that the most valuable contribution from his team was the human contact.

"To me," Murillo said, "it was the checking in, the phone calls, the answering text messages late at night when someone is going through anxiety. Delivering a food box and seeing a person through the window and just waving was what I call being a ray of hope."

Vaccination Effort

The Los Promotores del Valle de San Luis team will provide translation on March 15 when the agriculture sector is eligible to receive vaccinations throughout Colorado. In Murillo's opinion, he would prioritize people who handle the crops, which is perhaps 20 percent of the estimated 5,000 farm workers in the Valley. The H2A workers due to arrive in May to manage lettuce fields and perform other jobs will likely amplify attention.

Recognizing the strain on a group that quickly expanded from five to 17, Murillo hosted a retreat at the school in Center on Feb. 27.

"We just sat in a circle," the principal recounted. "I talked about my wife. We ate, and then we told stories."

Los Promotores del Valle de San Luis was the first to form in Colorado, followed by other regional groups over a few months. Modeling their structure based on Center's success managing the pandemic, the other groups grew to include a staff of 72 statewide who concentrate on COVID-19 response for the farming and ranching communities.

Colorado Nonprofit Week

Planting Seeds of Community

MARCH 2021

In our community, the key to success is togetherness. As a team, we have to unite to promote the San Luis Valley and all that we have to offer. Valley Courier and Valley Publishing are proud to present a publication in which we will be doing just that!

In honor of Nonprofits in the San Luis Valley, we'll be publishing a special edition on March 17th. This publication will be created and distributed through the Valley Courier, Monte Vista Journal, Del Norte Prospector, South Fork Times, Mineral County Miner, Center Post Dispatch, Conejos County Citizen, and the Valley Community Fund along with its member organizations.

Special advertising rates have been developed for this once-a-year event, and include other incredible benefits. We will match your purchased advertising space and provide an equal amount of space for your organization to submit an article, photo, or combination of both. Or you can simply double the size of your ad!

This tabloid section which will be delivered to more than 7,000 Valley homes will also be overprinted for each organization to have copies to use to promote their own interests.

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1/2 Pg. \$399
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Full \$599
(2 Full Pgs. with the Matching Space)

For More Information, Contact the Valley Courier at 589-2553 or Valley Publishing at 852-3531.

Deadline Tues., Mar. 9th

Colorado Nonprofit Week

Spring fishing clinics at the Rio Grande Club

STAFF REPORT

SOUTH FORK — The Rio Grande Club and Resort in South Fork is hosting a series of fly-fishing clinics beginning Saturday, March 13, and slated to run on Saturdays through May 22.

The clinics are aimed at educating folks interested in fly fishing, from beginners to advanced anglers. Part of the proceeds will benefit Trout Unlimited SLV, a nonprofit dedicated to the conservation, preservation and restoration of local and regional watersheds.

Local fly-fishing guide Bradley Powers is heading up the innovative program, which takes attendees from the basics of equipment and casting to entomology, fish biology, reading the river, advanced casting techniques, fly tying and more.

Powers says he has been fishing the Upper Rio Grande since 2008. He is currently heading into his second season as a guide. "It's a great feeling being in nature and landing that monster trout," he said. "But for me, it's also about teaching the science and art of fly fishing. That is by far the most rewarding part of being a guide."

The first clinic — Fly Fishing 101 — will cover topics such as how to confidently buy equipment and tackle, selecting flies, the science of casting and how to fish dry and

wet flies. "Our first clinic is for anyone with an interest in fly fishing who wants to learn the fundamentals of the sport," Powers said. "Basically, someone could come into this class never having heard of fly fishing

Local fly-fishing guide Bradley Powers is heading up the innovative program

and walk out to confidently set themselves up with equipment and tackle and get on the water knowing how to catch a fish."

Attendees are encouraged to bring whatever fishing equipment they have to the clinics.

The second and third clinics will cover casting techniques and aquatic insects, respectively. "Casting 101 is for newcomers to the sport, as well as anglers looking to improve their casting fundamentals," Powers said. The third clinic will teach how to "match the hatch" with flies. "There is a lot of nuance to the aquatic insect life cycle & behavior. Folks will walk out of this class with the appropriate knowledge to feel more confident in their fly selection out on the water."

The fishing clinic series is slated for every Saturday from 1–2:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Club, beginning March 13 through May 22 (excluding Easter weekend).



The cost will vary per class, based on necessary supplies. The first three clinics — Fly Fishing 101, Casting 101 and Entomology — are \$20 per person. Call 719-873-1995 or 512-415-1454, for more information and to sign up. Space is limited.

The Secret to Supernatural Joy in Your Life

Although Jesus was "a man of suffering, and familiar with pain" (Isaiah 53:3 NIV), He possessed a deep joy beyond anything the world could offer. As He faced a terrible death on the cross, He spoke to His disciples and said, "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete" (John 15:11 NIV).

Jesus also said in John 10:10, "I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)" (AMPC). It's clearly God's desire for us to enjoy our lives, not just get through each day with an occasional plan to do something that we're excited about.

The book of Philippians is known as the epistle of joy because the author, the apostle Paul, mentions joy 19 times throughout the four chapters.

It's interesting to note that Paul wrote Philippians while he was in prison. This shows us that no matter what our circumstances are, as believers in Christ, we can experience the joy of the Lord. The joy Jesus gives is a joy that we can have even when things are not going well in our lives.

Paul's Secret to Supernatural Joy
You may be wondering, like I did, "What was Paul's secret? How could he have joy when he was in prison?"

As you read through Philippians, you will find that he mentions the mind or functions of the mind 16 times. The thoughts you choose to think about or meditate on have a lot to do with your level of joy. You can think yourself into being miserable or you can think yourself happy!

For example, if you sit around thinking about what you don't have or what people don't do for you that you think they should do, then you will have a miserable day and feel sorry for yourself. Or you can decide, "No! I'm not going to think like that. I know my thoughts will affect my moods and actions, so I'm going to

think about what people do for me and what I do have. No matter what is going on in my life, I know Jesus loves me and He's with me. If I have Him, I don't really need anything else to make me happy!"

Jesus didn't die for us just so we can have a religion; He wants us to have a personal, intimate relationship with Him so we can experience His joy.

Perspective Is Key
In Philippians 1:1, Paul identifies himself and Timothy as "servants of Christ Jesus" (NIV). In this greeting, Paul didn't call himself by a fancy or impressive title, but as a servant. And "servants of Christ Jesus" is what we're all supposed to be as Christians.

It's important to understand that we cannot be self-centered and selfish and be happy and filled with joy at the same time. I know from personal experience that it's impossible to be selfish and happy.

Years ago I was in leadership at our church, teaching a Bible study, and yet I was not happy. I asked the Lord, "Why am I not happy?" God spoke to my heart and said, "You're selfish."

This was not easy to hear, but I had to face it before I could really "have and enjoy" the life Jesus came to give me. It was a life-changing revelation to realize that I couldn't really serve God and not serve people.

Real Joy Comes When You're Serving Others

I've had good opportunities to practice being a servant. One time Dave hurt his back and he needed a lot of help for a while. He couldn't fully dress himself or bend over to put on his shoes and socks.

We treated his condition with ice and pain medication, but he still couldn't function completely on his own, so I had to help him. In the morning I would hear him say, "Where is my helper?" I had become Dave's valet! (And he was enjoying it a bit too much.)

There are many ways we can serve



God by helping others. When we're spending time in prayer each day, we should ask Him, "What can I do for You today, Lord? Who can I help today?" I've found that when I do this, He will put someone on my mind that I can encourage or reach out to in some way that day.

I may call them or send a text, letting them know how much I appreciate them. Or I may see a way I can help meet a need someone has. Living this way has greatly increased the joy of the Lord in my soul. I find that I'm the happiest I could be when I'm helping to make someone else's life better.

I want to encourage you to get your mind off of yourself and onto what you can do for others. See yourself as a servant of Jesus Christ, and spend more time thinking about how you can encourage someone or meet someone's need. As you do, you'll discover more of the joy Jesus wants to give you!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's teaching resource **A Bible Study of Philippians Action Plan**. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2021-2021

Girls

Del Norte 44.....	Center 26
Sargent 44.....	Monte Vista 36
Hoehne 42.....	Sierra Grande 24
Centennial 2.....	Creede 0
Rocky Ford 48.....	Sangre de Cristo 43
Sierra Grande 61.....	Primero 4
Centennial 52.....	Moffat 49
Sanford 62.....	Center 21
Monte Vista 37.....	Bayfield 32
Centauri 47.....	Pagosa Springs 25
Sanford 62.....	Center 21
Monte Vista 37.....	Bayfield 32
Alamosa 62.....	Montezuma-Cortez 16
Monte Vista 49.....	Trinidad 12
Sanford 50.....	Del Norte 27
Sargent 45.....	Custer County 42
Sierra Grande 63.....	Manzanola 22

Boys

Sierra Grande 60.....	Cotapaxi 46
Del Norte 47.....	Center 43
Monte Vista 69.....	Sargent 14
Sierra Grande 47.....	Hoehne 30
Monte Vista 69.....	Center 43
Sanford 58.....	Center 40
Primero 79.....	Sierra Grande 38
Sangre de Cristo 72.....	Rocky Ford 45
Bayfield 47.....	Monte Vista 45
Centauri 50.....	Pagosa Springs 26
Del Norte 54.....	Sanford 39
Centauri 68.....	Bayfield 40
Alamosa 53.....	Montezuma-Cortez 42
Custer County 63.....	Sargent 43
Sierra Grande 70.....	Manzanola 54
Monte Vista 68.....	Trinidad 25
Mountain Valley/Moffat 50.....	Centennial 42

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On the road to recovery — one heartbeat at a time

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Vivian Jones realized something was wrong last year when she couldn't catch her breath. A visit to SLV Health Regional Medical Center revealed that she had a clogged artery and needed heart surgery to save her life. Now, thanks to the cardiac rehabilitation team at SLV Health Regional Medical Center, this Blanca resident is on the road to recovery.

It was doing simple things like walking that made Jones realize there was an issue.

"Just walking made my heart race and I became very short of breath," she explained. She visited SLV Health to find out what was going on. "That's when I took — and failed — two stress tests."

Dr. James Grigsby and Physician Assistant Brendan Simenc discovered that Jones had a clogged artery and referred her to have surgery in November to have a stent inserted.

"They were very helpful and caring," she said.

After her surgery, an important part of Jones' recovery now is cardiac rehabilitation. She chose to complete her recovery at the cardiac rehabilitation center at SLV Health in Alamosa, where trained staff are taking her through a medically supervised program tailored to her strengths and weaknesses. This is done on an outpatient basis, so Jones visits the cardio rehabilitation department two to three times a week for 12 weeks.

The department has a multitude of different equipment designed to help strengthen the cardiovascular system. It is there, after a small warm up, she lifts weights before doing short stints on the exercise bike and treadmill. But the program is more than just physical activity. There is also plenty of educational opportunities about how to eat healthy foods, taking medicine correctly, reducing stress and other healthy living counseling.

This is her first time experiencing cardiac rehabilitation, and Jones says it feels good.

"I am learning a lot," she said. She went on to credit the staff for being very helpful and caring. "They work hard to make everyone here feel comfortable."

Jones had especially kind words for one particular exercise physiologist — Michelle Crowther. "She is just awesome," she said. "I can't really express how wonderful Michelle is."

Born and raised in Sanford, Crowther was hired by SLV Health in 2019. While at Adams State working towards her degree in exercise science, she worked in the cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation department for her practicum and loved it.

"Cardiopulmonary Rehab has been my dream job ever since, and I am very grateful to be here now."

As a cardiopulmonary rehab exercise physiologist, she enjoys meeting and learning from all the individuals who participate in the rehabilitation programs.

"I love helping people feel better," she explained. "We spend several weeks together, so we get

to know each other very well."

Crowther especially enjoys seeing a patient's energy return while going through the program.

"I love seeing and hearing about each patient's progress and successes they have had due to their hard work and efforts," she said. "While we work, we listen to good music, share stories, tell jokes and most importantly, heal both physically and mentally. It is an absolutely beautiful experience."

For more information about the SLV Health Cardiac Rehab department, go online to www.sanluisvalleyhealth.org or call 719-587-6391.

Blanca resident Vivian Jones works on her cardiac rehab with Cardiopulmonary Rehab Exercise Physiologist Michelle Crowther at SLV Health in Alamosa.

Photo courtesy of San Luis Valley Health



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Courtesy photo

Harbor Freight Tools to open new store in Alamosa March 13

CALABASAS, Calif.—Harbor Freight Tools, America’s go-to store for quality tools at the lowest prices, will grand open its new store in Alamosa on Saturday, March 13 at 8 a.m.

The Alamosa store, located at 177 Craft Drive, is the 18th Harbor Freight Tools store in Colorado. The new store brings approximately 25-30 new jobs to the community. As a designated essential service, the store will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. It will resume its regular hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday after the COVID-19 crisis has passed. Store photos and logo available upon request.

“We’re ready to serve and deliver value to customers in Alamosa and

all of Alamosa County,” said Annette Chavez, store manager. “At Harbor Freight, we recognize that now, more than ever, our customers depend on Harbor Freight for the tools they need to get the job done at an affordable price. We are the place for quality tools at the lowest prices for mechanics, contractors, homeowners and hobbyists—any tool user who cares about value.”

The store will stock a full selection of tools and equipment in categories including automotive, air and power tools, storage, outdoor power equipment, generators, welding supplies, shop equipment, hand tools (which come with a lifetime warranty) and much more. At 13,750-square-feet, the stores are much easier to shop than the huge home centers.

Harbor Freight recently introduced

the Harbor Freight Credit Card, which customers can apply for in-store. Once customers apply for a Harbor Freight Credit Card, if approved, they can earn 10% off their first purchase, and 5% back on their future purchases in Harbor Freight Money to spend on anything in the store. Or, they can choose 0% interest with equal monthly payments on purchases of \$299 or more ... that means no interest ever on their promotional purchase amount. Details can be found at www.harborfreight.com/credit.

During the COVID-19 crisis, all Harbor Freight stores have implemented more frequent cleaning and are following the guidelines from the Center for Disease Control, including social distancing to protect the health

Please see TOOLS on Page 2



Courtesy of Adams State University

Acting together Adams State University students, faculty and staff ceremoniously tear down a wall of hurtful words during the 2020 Women’s Week in March. This year events are held via zoom from March 8-12.

ASU celebrates Women’s Week 2021

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The seventh annual Women’s Week, geared toward celebrating women and their accomplishments and struggles, will be held from March 8 through March 10. For all online/zoom events visit <https://adams-edu.zoom.us/j/6656117398#success>.

Here is a list of activities:

Monday, March 8

International Women’s Day

• 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tapestry of Resilience/el Tapiz de Resiliencia

Japanese-American Memorial Garden (continues throughout the week)

• 3 to 4 p.m.

Panel: COVID and Gender Inequities

Male Advocates for Gender

Equity

Zoom

Tuesday, March 9

• 3 to 4 p.m.

Male Allies and Advocates Workshop

Male Advocates for Gender Equity

Zoom

Wednesday, March 10

• 3 to 4 p.m.

Taller de Resiliencia y de Manejo del estrés

Resiliency/Stress Management Workshop

Zoom

Thursday, March 11

• 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Please see ASU on Page 2

The horse show conversation

“A fine lookin’ horse you’ve got there (if yer into modern art)

I had a horse like that one time (but he wasn’t very smart)

I’d guess that he’s part thoroughbred (and part Catahoula hound)

You get him in a claiming race? (or at the lost and found)

Oh, really, you’ve got the papers (I’d use ‘em to train the dog)

And he’s outta He’s California! (No wonder he smells like smog)

He seems a little bit feisty (to have one foot in the grave)

Yup, I’ve used Ace myself sometimes

(when there’s somethin’ left to save)

What kinda bit have you got there? (it looks like a calving tool)

Oh, you invented it yourself (Do them Vise Grips make him drool?)

Yeah, I’ll bet it sure does stop him (like runnin’ into a train)

You must’ve built that tie-down, too (Never seen one made outta chain)

And where did you get those leggin’s? (from a circus refugee)

Well, most people like ‘m longer (At least down to the knee)

Good luck. I reckon yer up soon (I’d hate

to be in that wreck)

You’ve already finished your class? (And haven’t broken yer neck)

Two firsts and honorable mention! (Whoa up! I’m way off the trail!)

A fine lookin’ horse you’ve got there (maybe that sucker’s for sale...)

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



BAXTER BLACK
ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Dunny and the Duck. Baxter Black can be contacted via e-mail at: vikki@baxterblack.com

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Regional emergency managers complete tabletop exercise

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

MINERAL COUNTY — Mineral County Emergency Manager Terry Wetherill held their Annual Operation Plan meeting with regional law enforcement, emergency personnel and emergency managers from around the Valley on Thursday, Feb. 25.

This annual meeting allows emergency response teams and managers to run through their emergency preparedness plan and to ensure that they know how to respond to emergencies in Mineral County.

Wetherill opened the meeting with a brief update on emergency response in Mineral County and moved on to a tabletop exercise with the attending group. Devin Hanie, Battalion Chief of Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control and the San Luis Valley Region Battalion Chief helped conduct the meeting. The meeting opened with an update from Wetherill who stated that he was always in contact with what was happening in the county because of his unique position as a full-time emergency manager within the Mineral County Sheriff's Department.

"Being full-time with the sheriff's department makes sure that I am always in connection with the department, state patrol, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Rio Grande National Forest Supervisor Martha Williamson. We are connected with Search and Rescue in Mineral County as well as Archuleta/Upper San Juan Search and Rescue and I am a fireman, so I see our fire Chief at least once a week. A good number of EMTs and ambulance members are on search and rescue team, so we are well connected up here," said Wetherill.

Once all in attendance gave brief updates about their work in emergency management and fire protection, Haynie opened the tabletop exercise with an imaginary emergency in Mineral County for the purpose of running through the county's protocol and annual operation plan or AOP.

"The exercise today is that we have a wildfire in Mineral County," Haynie said. "I will open with a question to Mineral County Commissioner Jesse Albright. What kind of plans does the county have in place



Courtesy photo

for a wildfire in the community?"

Albright referenced the AOP and stated that the first call would be to Haynie reporting the fire and beginning the protocol response from neighboring officials. Wetherill also referenced the county's emergency operations plan and a community wildfire protection plan.

"These are our main guiding documents that starts the process of responding to the wildfire or any other emergency," stated Haynie.

The remainder of the meeting

was a walkthrough of each step the county will take if and when a fire occurs. Some questions that were answered during the tabletop exercise will help Wetherill with updating the plan in relation to how county officials respond in the event of an emergency including whether or not the fire in question was on public land and who takes control of the incident once crews respond to an emergency.

Wetherill and all of the attending personnel worked through the steps

that will be taken during the event of an emergency and have updated plans in place to ensure public safety. The meeting usually occurs once a year, depending on circumstances in order to keep everyone up to date on current operations.

"At the end of the day, we want the county to be successful, that's all we want," finished Haynie. The meeting ended with an updated Annual Operations Plan for Mineral County and plans for the coming meeting at the beginning of 2022.

ASU Continued from Page 1

Open Mic. Poetry Slam & Spoken Word

Richardson Hall Auditorium (limited capacity 25 people)
Also on Zoom

Friday, March 12

• 12 to 1 p.m.
Book Discussion: "Heart Berries"
Led by Natasha Liebig, Ph.D.

Women's Week is sponsored by Adams State University: Women of Higher Education, Male Advocates for Gender Equity, the School of Social Sciences, Model United Nations, and the Community for Inclusion, Equity, Leadership and Opportunity (CIELO).

TOOLS Continued from Page 1

and safety of our customers and associates. Any individual who has any COVID-19 symptoms is asked to shop on our website, www.harborfreight.com rather than in our stores.

Company Background

Harbor Freight Tools was founded in Southern California in 1977, when 17-year-old Eric Smidt began transforming his father's small sales business into a successful mail order company. That first year, Eric cut out the middlemen and sourced tools directly from the factories, realizing that if he could buy tools directly for less, he could pass the savings on to the customer.

Today, Harbor Freight has over 1,100 stores across the country with over 21,000 employees. The company is still family owned and remains true to its humble beginnings while serving more than 40 million customers who depend on Harbor Freight's quality and value to earn a living, repair their homes and cars, and pursue their hobbies.

With core values of excellence, continuous improvement and doing the right thing, Harbor Freight Tools is working to constantly improve the quality of its products and is introducing hundreds of new tools and accessories each year with the features, performance and durability of the best brands on the market—but at a fraction of the price.

Harbor Freight Tools offers customers even deeper discounts with special coupon pricing. Customers can sign up to receive a monthly coupon book by mail with dozens of product coupons and additional discounts. Customers can also receive additional discounts by email. To sign up, visit HarborFreightSignUp.

com.

Giving Back

Another of the company's core values is giving back to the communities it serves.

In order to help protect healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients, Harbor Freight recently donated its entire stock of nitrile gloves, N-95 masks and face shields to hospitals in every community served by a Harbor Freight Tools store.

Harbor Freight Tools is also a major supporter of Harbor Freight Tools for Schools, an initiative of The Smidt Foundation, established by Harbor Freight's founder Eric Smidt, to advance excellent skilled trades education in public high schools across America. The program's flagship program is the annual Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence, which honors 18 outstanding public high school skilled trades teachers and their programs with \$1 million in cash awards. High school skilled trades teachers are encouraged to apply for this year's prize at hffforschoolsprize.org. The Prize will launch on March 24, 2021 and applications will be accepted until May 21, 2021. Winners will be announced in October 2021.

Harbor Freight Tools also supports non-profit organizations that serve K-12 public education, first responders and veterans. For more information on the gift card donations program, visit harborfreightgivingback.org.

For more information about Harbor Freight Tools, visit harborfreight.com. Follow the company on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



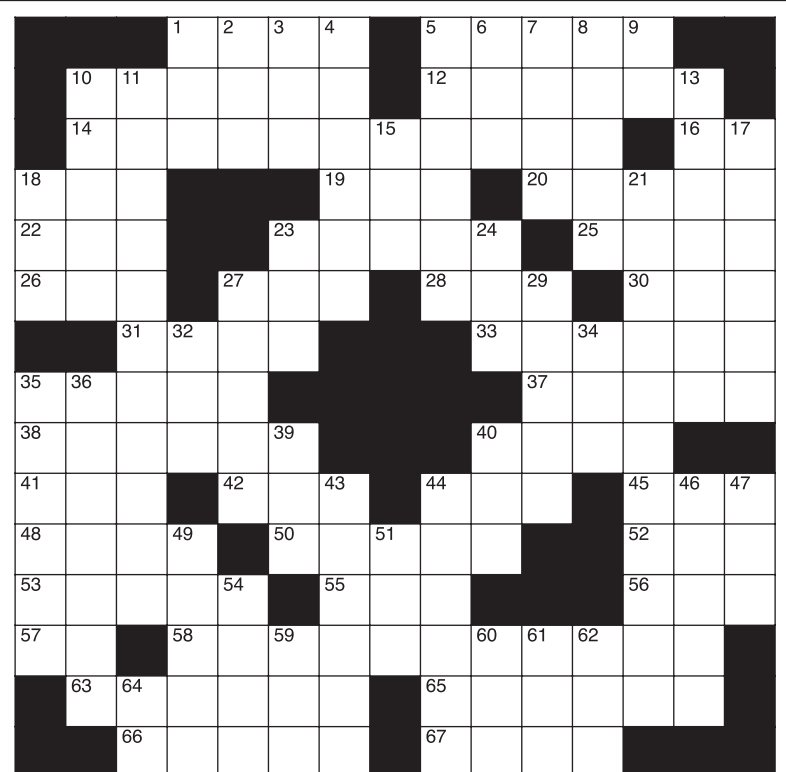
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Upright post on a boat
5. Sentimental person
10. Native American tribe
12. Wear away
14. Where you're going
16. Doctor
18. Popular Chinese dialect
19. One point east of due south
20. Northern sea duck
22. Note
23. Wives (law)
25. Trigonometric function
26. A way to communicate (abbr.)
27. Swiss river
28. No (Scottish)
30. Commercials
31. Large instrument
33. ___ Chantilly, ___ de Menthe
35. Small, saclike cavities
37. High and thin in tone
38. Treat extremely well
40. Famed track star Usain
41. Secure web connection (abbr.)
42. Rob of energy
44. Paving material
45. Cool!
48. Tip of Aleutian Islands
50. Indicates silence
52. Water in the solid state
53. Security interests
55. Popular hoopster Jeremy
56. Shed tears
57. Low frequency

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



58. Harmful bacterium
63. Common language: lingua ___
65. Standards of perfection
66. They consist of two parts
67. A detailed description of design
23. Supervises flying
24. Pouch
27. True firs
29. Mistake
32. Computing platform (abbr.)
34. Snakelike fish
35. Greatly horrify
36. Despicable person
39. Tell on
40. Ballplayer's tool
43. Central Brazilian town
44. Court game
46. Land
47. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
49. Retract a statement
51. Data executive
54. Capital of Yemen
59. Portable computer screen material
60. Electronic data processing
61. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
62. Resinous substance
64. Rural delivery

CLUES DOWN

1. More (Spanish)
2. A subdivision of a play
3. Japanese title
4. More jittery
5. Fabric
6. Luke's mentor ___-Wan
7. Cleaving tool
8. Ancient city of Egypt
9. 36 inches
10. Farewell
11. Second to last
13. Improved by critical editing
15. Defensive weapon (abbr.)
17. Fancy attire
18. ___ Farrow, actress
21. Completely opposed

Bleakney Advances Career to Family Nurse Practitioner at SLV Health

Editor's note: This is part of SLV Health's 'Grow Your Own' Series.

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Health Family Nurse Practitioner



Courtesy of San Luis Valley Health
Kelly Bleakney is now San Luis Valley Health Family Nurse Practitioner at the Stuart Avenue Clinic in Alamosa.

Kelly Bleakney started her position at SLV Health this January after almost 20 years as a nurse.

Born in Washington, she lived briefly in Oregon before moving to the Valley as a child, attending Sargent High School and Adams State University.

Initially, she wanted to be a teacher, and started taking classes as an elementary education major before changing her track to nursing at Trinidad State College in Alamosa. After graduating in 2002 with an associate's degree, she was hired by SLV Health.

Bleakney later went on to receive her bachelor's degree in nursing from Grand Canyon University in 2018.

After working with SLV Health for almost 20 years, she realized she wanted to go back to school.

"I was struggling to find my place in nursing," she said. "I had the years of experience to share, but lacked the further education

that allowed for moving forward. I also wanted to be a positive example for my children and grandchildren."

In 2020, she graduated from Regis University after completing a master's program in nursing.

"I feel grateful to have had the opportunity to further my education and am hopeful for the future," Bleakney said.

She is now employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner Clinic in the Respiratory-Acute Care Clinic at SLV Health Stuart Avenue Clinic in Alamosa and is thankful for the support she received along the way.

"I would have to thank my significant other Cody, and also my children and grandchildren for understanding my time for them was

limited over the past few years," Bleakney said.

For those considering continuing their education, Bleakney offers a few words of advice.

"We get a lot more from formal education than many may realize," she said. "Education allows for a solid platform that nobody can ever take from you — they can only gain from you."

Alamosa Presbyterian becomes Sanctuary Church, supported by local faith leaders

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — By unanimous vote on Jan. 17, the congregation of Alamosa Presbyterian Church (APC) declared itself a Sanctuary Church, according to APC officials. This declaration means that the church is prepared to consider requests for refuge for an undocumented immigrant to lower the risk of deportation while she or he awaits further processing of their legal status.

Places of worship are among those settings honored by Immigration and Customs Enforcement policy as "sensitive locations" that are typically free from ICE enforcement actions.

A faith-driven Sanctuary Movement, which first began in the U.S. in the 1980's, has gained renewed interest in recent years in response to increasingly restrictive immigration policies and rising deportations.

APC's decision came after a period of congregational study and discernment, fitting well with Biblical teachings from the Christian tradition during the recent seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

The congregation's process has had the close support and encouragement of representatives from other local faith communities. This has included two Alamosa congregations — the Anabaptist (Mennonite) Fellowship and the Unitarian Fellowship — which also meet in the Presbyterian church building, as well as First United Methodist Church.

All four congregations have been active in an SLV Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights that began meeting in late 2016, to address a range of concerns identified by the San Luis Valley's immigrant communities and the non-profit SLV Immigrant Resource Center.

Other faith communities who have joined the Coalition's efforts over the years include the Church of God — Cristo Salva, as well as members of area Catholic and Episcopal congregations. Recently the local Coalition also benefited from expertise shared by the Accompaniment and Sanctuary Coalition Colorado Springs (ASC COS), a group of diverse faith leaders who support the immigrant communities of Colorado Springs with a range of services, including a Sanctuary Church in that city.

No one is actively seeking refuge at Alamosa Presbyterian at this time, but as such requests can arise quickly the congregation wants to be prepared.

Like the Colorado Springs group, the local Coalition is seeking additional faith allies to stand with the Presbyterian congregation and, if requested, to contribute in practical ways to a range

of needs — from financial support to in-kind provision of meals, and laundry — that may come up for an individual and their family while living in a refuge setting.

As the nation begins to grapple again with immigration reform, APC hopes that there will be policies put in place where sanctuary becomes less of a need. Support for reform can be seen from across the political spectrum, including in areas like the SLV that depend on the contributions of immigrant communities.

To this end, APC and the local Coalition are seeking to reach out to other denominations and faith traditions in the Valley to develop a shared faith statement around immigrant justice and to encourage legislators to work together to enact more humane immigration policies.

If other local churches, faith organizations, or individual faith-community members are interested in taking part in this effort, they can contact the SLV Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights at SLVICIR@gmail.com.

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~ B.Gullette

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05 Notices

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07 Help Wanted

An old-school writer seeks help. I've written many novels, novelettes and children's stories but know absolutely nothing about computers, E-mailing, computer language or electronic communications. I'd fairly compensate someone for support with proofreading publishing research, suggested publishing tips, other publishing information, maybe even contact Amazon Publishing. You must be serious. NO Alkies, NO Druggys NO tokers, NO exceptions! I'm dead serious, dedicated, honest and fair. If my work generates worthy returns, the more we sell, the

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Equipment Operator - Mineral County in Creede, Colorado is seeking PT-YR equipment operator at the Mineral County Landfill. Dozer experience necessary. Background check and pre-employment drug/alcohol test required. Mineral County residency required. 25 hours or less per week. Starting wage commensurate with experience, not to exceed \$18/hr. Required application available at HR Office, 1201 N Main, Creede, CO or on mineralcountycolorado.com. Application needs to be returned to Mineral County, Attn: HR, PO Box 70, Creede, CO 81130, emailed to finance@mincocolo.com or dropped off at 1201 N Main St., Creede. Position open until filled. (03/24)

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

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)

Intensive Wraparound Case Managers-Center for Restorative Programs is seeking Intensive Wraparound Case Managers (IWCN) who will be responsible for providing specialized case management/Wraparound services and supports and working closely with community partners such as justice systems, law enforcement, behavioral health, medical, housing, human services, schools, and workforce development. Ability to work independently, strong organizational skills, establish strong supportive Wraparound service plans, and help navigate systems. Successful candidates will have experience provid-

ing Wraparound services, intensive case management, advocating and working with adults with substance use and/or mental health disorders, homeless population, recovery supports, and collaboration with community partners and families. Must be willing to travel, work some nights and weekends. Applicants need at least 3 years relevant experience, Spanish speaking a plus. See restorativeprograms.org for salary range and full job description. CRP is an EOC. **Email resume and cover letter to carey@restorativeprograms.org. (3/17)**

Clinical Team Lead Position-Center for Restorative Programs is seeking a Clinical team lead will be responsible for providing clinical oversight for case

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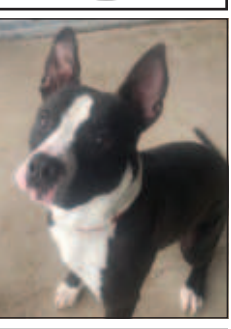
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We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.

Neptune is a young seven month old Australian Shepherd/Lab 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. Buster is young and would love to meet any other dogs who he would be living with.



Buster is looking for a home that can give him plenty of attention because he is not a fan of being left alone. He is cautious of men at first but opens up quickly and loves to get attention and to be played with. Buster is young and hasn't been taught very many manners but he is eager to learn. If you do have another dog at home, it will be required to bring that dog to the shelter to allow Buster to meet them.



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". Stubbs is not used to other dogs so a meet and greet is required for all current dogs in the home.

Harley is a 3 year old Staffordshire Terrier Mix who is affectionate and loving. She loves to get attention and would happily jump in your lap and spend the rest of the afternoon in it. She is polite and well-tempered. She wants to say hello to everyone she meets. She does well with other dogs as long as they are polite and would love to meet them.



Valiant is a sweet hearted love bug who is looking for a home where he can get as much love as he gives. He has had some negative experiences in his past with large male dogs, so he would love to meet any dogs in the home before adoption. Valiant is very sweet but doesn't always know his own strength but is great with kids. Valiant is already Neutered so he is ready to go home today!!!



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managers providing specialized case management/wraparound services and support to adults in the SLV. Position works closely with community partners such as justice systems, law enforcement, behavioral health, medical, housing, human services, schools and workforce development. Ability to establish strong supportive wraparound service plans and help navigate systems. Provide wraparound services, intensive case management, advocating and working with adults with behavioral health issues and/or substance use disorders, collaborate with community partners and families. This position will also maintain a case load. Minimum of 3 years' experience providing clinical case management, crisis services, high intensity supports or related services with individuals/families with mental health/substance abuse issues, community agencies including DSS, law enforcement and judicial. MA preferred. See restorativeprograms.org for salary range and full job description. CRP is an EOC. **Email resume and cover letter to carey@restorativeprograms.org.**

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)

3B Family Construction looking for carpenters for framing in Creede Colorado. Must have reliable transportation and must have all hand tools. Call: John Bankston 830-310-2379 (03/17)

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Researchers continue to gather earthquake data near Sangre de Cristo Fault

STAFF REPORT

MOSCA — The Sangre de Cristo Fault is a major west-dipping normal fault within the Rio Grande Rift in south-central Colorado and north-central New Mexico. Although the fault is capable of generating Magnitude 7 or greater earthquakes, no earthquakes were felt that originated in the San Luis Valley or Northern Sangre de Cristo Mountains between 1870 and 2003.

In December of 2003, earthquakes of M3.5 and M3.1 were recorded 30km southeast of Great Sand Dunes National Park. After these events, no additional events were recorded until March 2014, when an earthquake of M2.7 occurred 10km south of the National Park. Activity died down again until 2018 when four earthquakes were recorded in the last two months of the year.

Sporadic activity continued, and four smaller events were recorded in the same location in January of 2019. On Feb. 27, a significant increase in activity occurred, and 27 events were recorded over the next two days, with the vast majority of these events being located roughly 10km south of the National Park.

This increased activity has continued sporadically through the present, with 166 events having been recorded by the USGS in the area so far. When the significant increase in seismicity was recorded in late February of 2019, there was only one seismometer (US.SDCO) in the area.

University of Boulder researchers Jackson Bell and Anne Sheehan decided that in order to accurately detect the smaller events in the region they would need to install more seismometers around the region of activity. With the help of the Portable Array Seismic Studies of the Continental Lithosphere Instrument Center (Passcal), on April 13, 2019, they installed an L22 seismometer (Z2. SD01) in the Zapata subdivision, which was as close to the epicenter of previously detected earthquakes as could be reasonably reached due to topography.

They installed a second L22 seismometer (Z2.SD03) southeast of the first, on Trinchera Ranch, on May 31. On June 11 they installed the third and final L22 seismometer (Z2.SD02) southwest of the first, on the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge.

The three locations were chosen with the intent to form a triangle of coverage around the activity, using the permanent seismometer, US.SDCO, as the top point of the triangle, and Z2.SD01 as an additional seismometer as close to the activity as possible.

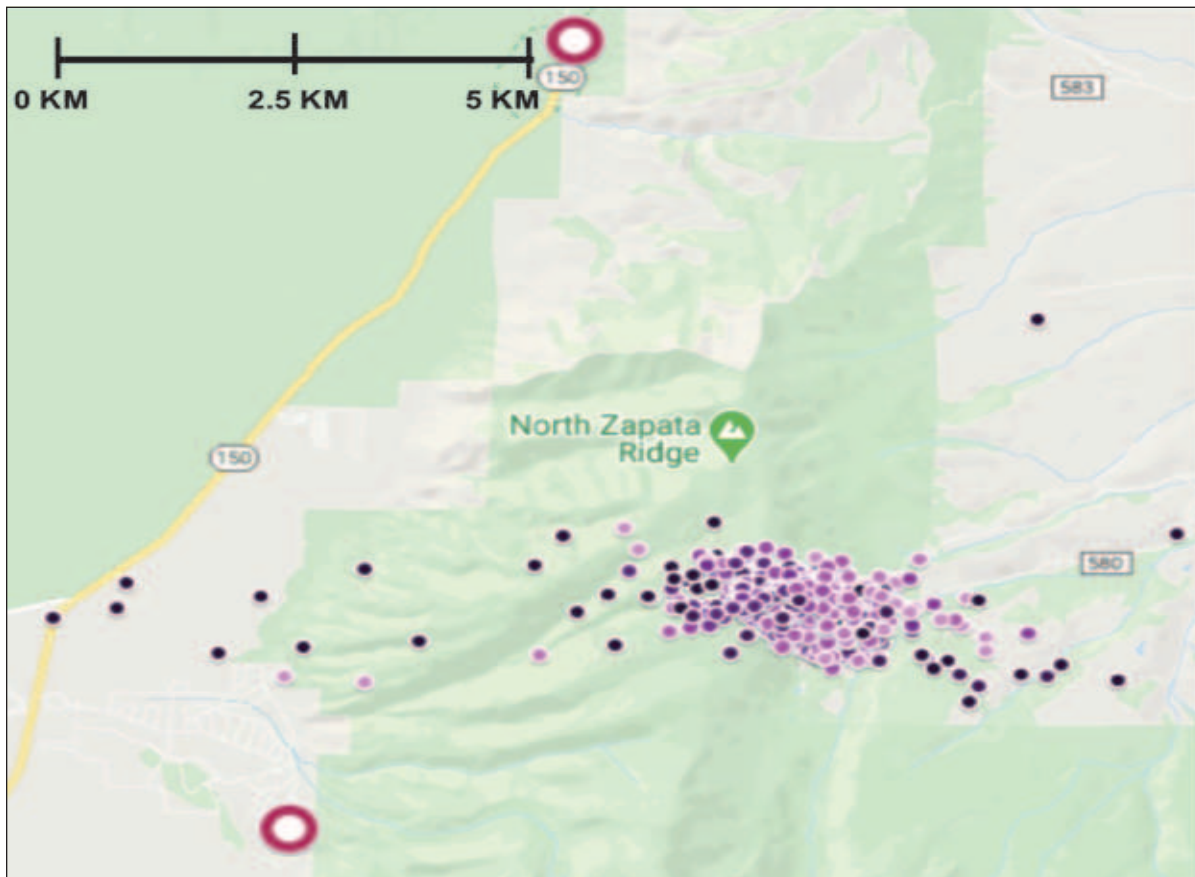
The researchers analyzed roughly 3.5 months of data from June 12 through Sept. 30, 2019 for all four stations and were able to detect and accurately locate over 700 earthquakes, only 44 of which were previously detected by the USGS.

The vast majority of the events appear to correspond to a west-dipping normal fault located in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, located approximately 12km east of the Sangre de Cristo Fault. The repeating nature of these events could signal the involvement of fluids in the seismic mechanisms

at hand, as has been seen in other studies, although no known human-induced fluid-related activities have occurred in the immediate vicinity of the fault.

After conducting this analysis, the seismometers remained in place until June 2020. Bell and Sheehan are in the process of analyzing the data from September 2019-June 2020. Initial results appear to show an additional 1,300 potential earthquakes from this 10-month time period.

Map of the location of the earthquakes detected between June 12 and Sept. 30, 2019. The color of the dots represents the earthquake's depth, with darker circles corresponding to deeper events. Earthquake depths ranged from 4-8 km and magnitudes ranged from -0.5 to 2.8. Ring icons are locations of seismometers. Pictured are, permanent seismometer US.SDCO (above), and one of three temporary seismometers Z2.SD01 (below).



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Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad season begins June 5

STAFF REPORT

The Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad (C&TSRR) will begin its 51st season on June 5, running coal-fired steam locomotives from Antonito and Chama, N.M., through Oct. 24.

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

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

The railroad has been featured in more than 40 motion pictures, including “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.” The railroad also has the country’s largest collection of narrow gauge locomotives and cars.

In 2021, passengers must wear masks, however they can still move between cars, ride outdoors on a gondola car, listen to a steam whistle echo down a canyon, enjoy mile after mile of aspen and conifer forest, see wildlife such as elk, deer and sometimes even bear from their seats, or visit the bar and snack car — all at a pleasant top speed of 12 mph.

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Courtesy photo

SLV Health, NextFifty Initiative donate funds to add wheelchair accessible van to 'Valley-Wide' program

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA — Donations from San Luis Valley Health (SLV Health) and the NextFifty Initiative, enabled Valley-Wide Health Systems to purchase a wheelchair-accessible van for the "Valley-Wide Ride" program.

The SLV Health Board of Trustees approved a donation of \$25,000 toward purchasing a new transport vehicle that is specially equipped to accommodate patients in wheelchairs. The NextFifty Initiative provided a grant for the remaining \$25,000 needed to purchase the van. NextFifty Initiative is a Colorado-based private foundation dedicated to funding mission-driven initiatives that improve the lives of the older adult population and their caregivers.

"Transportation will probably always be a huge barrier to our patients in the San Luis Valley," said SLV Health Care Coordinator Manager Larecia Smith. "This collaboration makes it a little easier to help all of our patients with both medical and non-medical transportation needs." This vehicle allows the Valley-

Wide Ride to provide safe, comfortable transportation to people who use a wheelchair. Valley-Wide is deeply grateful for the partnership of other non-profit organizations that made this possible.

"I am so excited that Valley-Wide has been able to add this valuable service to our Transportation Department," said Valley-Wide Chief Executive Officer Jania Arnoldi. "Valley-Wide is grateful to SLV Health and NextFifty Initiative for their generous donation to support this effort."

The Valley-Wide Ride is a free service that offers transportation to wellness-related businesses for anyone in the Alamosa and Monte Vista areas. Transportation services are currently limited to pick-ups and drop-offs within the city limits of Alamosa and Monte Vista but will expand to San Luis, Antonito, and the Lower Arkansas Valley area in March.

To schedule a ride, please call 1-833-350-1113 and select "transportation" from the phone menu. To guarantee on-time pick-up and drop-off, please schedule your ride at least 24 hours in advance.

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