

Shorts



Free community Easter egg hunt April 3 in Monte Vista

MONTE VISTA — A free community Easter egg hunt will be happening on April 3 in Monte Vista. The event is hosted by Dylan R. Brown Agency — Farmers Insurance which is partnering with the Monte Vista Police Department, and Monte Vista Elks, on this event for the community.

The event will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 3, at Chapman Park.

There will be over 15 vendors and booths at the event. There will also be food trucks, a bouncy house, pony rides, and carnival games. The Easter egg hunt is for children ages infant to 12 years old. They have around 15,000 eggs to be found.

When asked what made them want to put this event together for the community Dylan Brown answered saying, “We really love community events. We like getting people together and just different activities so the community can come together and have something to look forward to and enjoy, especially kids.”

Brown explained that they had their first community Easter egg hunt two years ago in Alamosa when they noticed there wasn't much happening at this time of year, and there weren't any big Easter events in the Valley.

“The first year we did it was actually two years ago, and we thought it would be kind of small but fun, and we ended up having close to 4,500 people show up. It was a huge success. A lot of fun,” said Brown sharing that they hope this will give people something to look forward to and create some free family fun for the community

SLV retail sales up \$105M in 2020

BY KEITH R. CERNY
Regional Publisher

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

Those figures were released Thursday by the San Luis Valley Development Resources Group (DRG) based on sales tax reports from the Colorado Department of Revenue, showing \$1.3 billion in total retail spending in 2020 compared to \$1.2 billion in 2019. Sales

in 2018 were \$57 million less than 2019 but were \$147 million better than 2017 which showed a \$43 million drop from 2016.

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

County-by-county, Conejos actually showed the largest percentage of increase from 2020 to 2019, up by

\$39.6 million with \$133 million in retail sales in 2020 compared to \$93.5 million in 2019.

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

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

million in retail sales in 2020.

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

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

A statistical profile recently completed by the SLV DRG can be viewed and downloaded at: www.slvdrgr.org.

Culvert work underway



Photos by Brian Williams
MONTE VISTA — The Colorado Department of Transportation on Monday, March 29, began repairing an aged culvert on US Highway 285 just north of Monte Vista. The exact location of the US 285 project is at MP 52.3 approximately one mile north of the US 160 and US 285 intersection. The old 18-inch corrugated metal pipe culvert will be replaced with an improved 24-inch reinforced concrete pipe. The work take place through Friday, April 2. Two lanes of traffic — northbound and southbound — will be maintained throughout the duration of the project, however motorists will encounter lane shifts. Travelers will also encounter a speed reduction of 40 mph through the work zone.

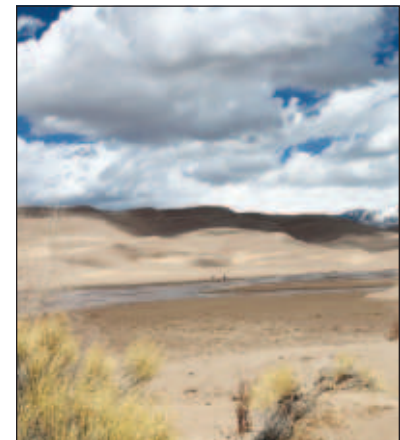


Photo courtesy of Caden Alonzo

Public programs and events planned during Great Sand Dunes Appreciation Month in April

STAFF REPORT

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

Each year in April since 1991, National Parks across the country celebrate National Park Week with special programs, events, social media themes, and fee-free days. This year, National Park Week is April 17-25, which makes April the perfect time

Please see **EVENTS** on Page 2A

San Luis Valley natives publish 1960's memoir

STAFF REPORT

VALLEY — Former San Luis Valley residents Ann and Terry Marshall's newly published memoir, “A Rendezvous to Remember,” “is an extended road trip, a rollicking adventure, and, above all, a love story you'll never forget,” so writes Hope Edelman, the New York Times No. 1 best-selling author of “Motherless Daughters.”

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

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

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

The Midwest Book Review says of their memoir, “The story transcends

Please see **MEMOIR** on Page 4A



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Distracted driving remains a top cause of fatal and injury crashes

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

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

Eighty-five percent of drivers in Colorado admit to driving distracted daily, and it is more than just cell phones causing the problems. Eating,

using the GPS, changing music, dealing with passengers, and pets all contribute to not giving 100% focus behind the wheel.

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

Distracted driving regularly falls



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

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

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

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

Sen. Bennet's staff holding weekly telephone office hours

STAFF REPORT
Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet announced his San Luis staff will be holding weekly telephone office hours this spring. Bennet and his team are committed to answering Coloradans' questions, listening to their concerns, and helping them navigate federal agencies — including the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Social Security Administration (SSA), and more.

"There's no greater responsibility as Colorado's senator than being responsive to the needs of Coloradans across our state. I'm pleased to announce that — even in these challenging and virtual times — our office is holding telephone office hours this spring in every region of Colorado," said Bennet. "If you're having issues navigating a federal agency or receiving benefits, or have any questions, comments, or concerns, I encourage you to schedule time to talk with our team."

Erin Minks, Bennet's Senior

Advisor on Rural Affairs and Regional Representative, will hold telephone office hours for Alamosa County residents on Thursday afternoons in April. Details are available below.

Coloradans who live in Alamosa County are encouraged to schedule an appointment with Erin by emailing: Erin_Minks@bennet.senate.gov or calling: 719-587-0096. Constituents are welcome to call any of the Bennet offices at any time for assistance and do not need to wait for office hours to ask for help or share opinions.

Traditionally, Bennet's staff has held in-person office hours. Due to safety concerns amid the COVID-19 pandemic, his office will be holding 2021 office hours via phone until health concerns are minimized.

For more information about navigating federal agencies, visit the "How Can We Help" page on Bennet's website: www.bennet.senate.gov. For more information about Bennet's 2021 Office Hours, visit www.bennet.senate.gov/office-hours.

Work on Colorado Highway 17 resumes after winter hiatus

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

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

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

Travel impacts for those traveling in the project area include:

- Project work hours are daylight hours, Monday through Friday.

• Motorists will encounter brief closures with single lane alternating traffic.

• The speed limit is reduced to 40 mph through the work zone.

• Flagging personnel will be on sight to direct traffic through the area as construction equipment enters and exits the work zone.

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

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

OBITUARY

Marty D. Heimsoth

Longtime San Luis Valley resident Marty D. Heimsoth, 75, died March 24, 2021, at the Parkview Medical Center in Pueblo, Colo.

Marty was born in Alamosa, Colo., the son of Norman and Odda Jingles Heimsoth on July 7, 1945.

He worked for nearly all his life fixing things and never quit working as a repairman on televisions, appliances and just about anything else. Marty was a devoted member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Alamosa and enjoyed spending time with his family. He also loved to drive, especially in the mountains. He rarely got stuck, just temporarily detained.

Marty is survived by his children Michael (Susie Husmann) Heimsoth of Alamosa, Christine (John) Moran of Kent, Washington, Matthew (Jamie Teckenbrock) Heimsoth of Salida, and Steven Shaw of Buena Vista, Colo.; his grandchildren Nicki Hunter, John Gardner, Tyler Heimsoth, Indie Heimsoth and JJ Moran; his brother Elton (Carol) Heimsoth of Chicago, Ill.; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Norman and Odda, his wife Joy Heimsoth, his stepchildren Rex Shaw and Sheri Shaw.

Cremation was chosen and a Memorial Service will be held 6 p.m. Thursday, April 1, 2021, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Alamosa.

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



EVENTS

Continued from Page 1A

to celebrate and honor the national park's dedication to conserving world-class resources while also showing appreciation to the community that promotes and supports their national park.

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

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

Following the ceremony, park rangers will be available at the Welcome Center to promote the month's events and programs, offer trip planning advice, and share about the park's Junior Ranger Program.

"Great Sand Dunes is honored to be a part of a community that appreciates their national park to a degree that they would designate an entire month towards celebrating it," said Park Superintendent Pamela Rice. "The

City of Alamosa has shown support since before the establishment of the Great Sand Dunes National Monument and continues to promote and value the positive benefits it can bring to a community. We look forward to celebrating during April and look forward to welcoming visitors to their national park this year."

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

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

Hikes, ranger talks, and kid's activities require pre-registration by calling the visitor center at 719-378-6395 during business hours, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The park began taking reservations on Monday, March 29. Visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/grsa/ for a schedule of events and follow Visit Alamosa and Great Sand Dunes on Facebook and Instagram to

stay informed.

April is the perfect time of the year to enjoy a picnic at the Mosca Creek picnic area, splash in Medano Creek, spend the night in Pinon Flats Campground, or rent a sand sled or sand board and experience the dunes. Check the park's website for updated conditions.

For more information about visiting Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, including camping, hiking, Medano Creek conditions, Medano Pass Primitive Road conditions, visitor center hours, and other park news, visit www.nps.gov/grsa.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

It's never what it appears to be

While it seems, the year has barely begun, here we are staring April full in the face. Ol' Dutch is in Texas for another month or two and that means it's 70 degrees every day and sunshine is abundant. This brings on what is known as "happiness" in my life as I am just not a fan of cold weather.

Too many below zero days working outside for 32 years makes a man appreciate a warmer climate and not being downright brittle from the chill. I am just starting to thaw out from all those years working on the railroad and freezing my caboose off.

And it's about time, too, as I was growing tired of her always helping me with everything. You know that kind of person? Always wanting the very best for me, cooking delightful and delicious meals, doing my laundry, finding things I need, making calls for all my important dealings, cleaning the house, walking my dog, loving my kids, grandkids, parents and other misfit relatives and taking care of the world, generally. Yes, a real pain in the neck if not lower.

A man can only take so much of that kind of help and Miss Trixie dragging the elk and deer out of the forest, cutting and packaging said meat and putting that in the larder, fishing and cleaning fish, carrying picnics on our ATV rides and hikes is just annoying. You can imagine, right?

Ol' Dutch can see why she stayed around so long as my handsome good looks, wealthy bankroll lifestyle and cute grandkids are sure draws to any woman seeking a home. Well, one out of three ain't bad, I guess.

I have found that in the splitting of the sheets at least we had more than one set thanks to Miss Trixie's thrifty shopping so Ol' Dutch won't be sleeping on the mattress cover as he had done several times before Trixie came around.

Now Ol' Dutch can get back to the days of free and easy living, limited bathing, conversations with Cooper, and dating young and vivacious women off the Internet. At least with them I can look forward to their bratty kids running around, paying for all sorts of entertainment, hundreds of expensive meals out, wearing clean clothes, combing my hair, missing



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Elk season to make it to the new girlfriend's son's Bar Mitzvah, visiting her parents in Bangor, Maine, hours long conversations about her ex-husband, job and boss. You know, the good life.

I am not sure where Miss Trixie will land but knowing her it will be on her feet and somewhere good albeit not as great as with Ol' Dutch. And NO, all you men out there and some women cannot have her number if you think you might get that same bad treatment and like it.

What sort of masochist are you anyway? I will not subject any of you to that kind of lifestyle as it may cause injuries to your brain from short circuiting. She comes with a warning label strategically placed on her forehead that says "Do not try this at home" so you best just move on as she is not for amateurs.

Having said all that, I hope you have a great April Fools' Day today. As for me and Trixie. Well, a man would have to be more foolish than I to ever let her escape and I do love her so. And as for finding a more foolish man, please don't comment on that as I already know.

Nine years and hope we have many more April Fools' Days together. Please don't tell her about this column or Ol' Dutch will be in more hot water than usual.

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.



Coalition of ag leaders forms to oppose Initiative 16

CENTENNIAL — A coalition of state agriculture leaders and their organizations has formed to oppose Initiative 16, a potential 2022 ballot initiative that would ask voters to criminalize commonly accepted veterinary and animal care practices in Colorado. It would also ban the slaughter of livestock that have not yet lived more than one-quarter of their anticipated lifetime, a standard far longer than consumer and foreign markets demand.

"We've come together to oppose one of the most radical and reactionary ballot initiative proposals this state has ever seen," said Carlyle Carrier, a rancher from Molina and president of Colorado Farm Bureau. "We can't allow such a direct and brazen attack on one of the state's largest and most historic industries to go unanswered."

Coloradans for Animal Care today filed for a motion for rehearing to challenge the title set by the state's Title Board on March 17. The group consists of six Colorado-based livestock organizations including Colorado Farm Bureau, Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Dairy Farmers, Colorado Wool Growers Association, Colorado Livestock Association and

the Colorado Pork Producers Council. "As farmers and ranchers, we are all very concerned about the well-being and humane care of our livestock and pets. Initiative 16's deceptive title belies the irreparable harm this ballot measure will cause," said Terry Snyder Lamers, president of the Colorado Wool Growers Association.

"Dairy farmers are the ultimate cow care providers. Our main job is to provide comfort to our cows. This ballot initiative ignores science and years of animal husbandry practices designed to give the best quality of life for our animals and produce the highest quality nutritional products for our families and consumers," said Chris Kraft, chairman of Colorado Dairy Farmers.

"Initiative 16 addresses animal production practices, but it is more about crippling animal agriculture," said Kenny Rogers, Yuma rancher and president-elect of the Colorado Livestock Association.

"Initiative 16 (PAUSE) would eliminate the exception for accepted husbandry practices for animals, which opens the door to allegations that even the most common practices constitute animal cruelty, said Colorado Cattlemen's Association President and

rancher Janie Van Winkle. "For example, if a court concluded that spaying or neutering livestock was an unjustifiable procedure deeming it mistreatment, the rancher could be convicted — perhaps once for each animal."

Through a spokesperson, Gov. Jared Polis said he, "agrees with farmers and ranchers that the PAUSE ballot initiative would hurt Colorado and destroy jobs, and he opposes it."

"Colorado's farming and livestock businesses are the backbones of Colorado rural communities. This measure is not based on science and will raise food prices for us all; worse yet, it will cost rural jobs and devastate communities. I will be fighting against it," said Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser in a tweet.

Collectively the livestock sector accounts for more than \$5 billion in economic activity, more than \$1 billion in exports and tens of thousands of jobs statewide. Beef cattle and dairy products are the state's two largest ag sectors and create more than \$3.6 billion in receipts.

For more info visit Coloradans for Animal Care at www.ColoradansForAnimalCare.com.

YOUR NIGHT SKY

The Spring Triangle

BY DARLENE DANKO
The last quarter moon is on April 4 and the new moon is on April 12, so this is a good time to look at the night sky. The moon will rise late and be visible in the morning and during the day. You will be able to see it joining up with Saturn and Jupiter in the morning.

Saturn rises about 1/2 hour before Jupiter. They're both fairly low in the SSE, but still visible. I look at them every

morning. On April 6 the moon will be just below Saturn, and on April 7, it will be just below Jupiter. So, when you see the moon on these days, you'll know that you're looking at the planets.

When you look at the sky in the evening, you will see that the Milky Way is getting very low. It still runs from the North to South, but it will continue to get lower this month. The Orion constellation is also getting very low in the SW, but other constellations

are getting high in the sky.

The Spring Triangle is becoming visible. It has the 3 brightest stars in our spring sky, and they're all a part of 3 different constellations. It's a huge 60 degrees long and 30 degrees wide which is the height. It covers most of the SE sky in early spring, and the SW sky in late spring.

Arcturus is the brightest star in the cone shape constellation Bootes the Bear Driver. Spica shows you the head of the constellation Virgo the Maiden.

Regulus shows you the heart of Leo the Lion. When you look at it, Arcturus is the upper left, Spica is lower left, and Regulus is on the right. They make up the Spring Triangle.

Regulus is the first star to rise in the Spring Triangle, and the last to set. It shines blue white in the eastern sky. Arcturus is the next one to pop up above the eastern horizon with the constellation Bootes followed closely by Spica in Virgo. Arcturus is farther to the left closer

to the NE, and Spica will be over to the SE.

This giant triangle covers most of the south eastern sky. As spring breaks the distance from Regulus to Spica is 54 degrees. Spica and Arcturus are the closest at 33 degrees. In May and June, it will raise higher overhead becoming highly visible. So now that the moon is very dim, this is a good time to go out and find it.



CENTER POST-DISPATCH

THE CENTER POST-DISPATCH (USPS 775-900) Published weekly (every Thursday) by Valley Publishing. (719) 852-3531 at 835 First Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado 81144-1423. Official newspaper of the Town of Center, and a legal newspaper in Saguache County.
Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Main office, Want ads and Subscriptions: (719) 852-3531
Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, Colo., 81144
POSTMASTER: Send change of address to P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Subscriptions: \$39 one year in San Luis Valley; \$49 elsewhere. Out of Valley First Class Mailing \$115.00 one year.
Seniors receive 10 percent discount on in county subscriptions only. (719) 852-3531
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Grace and Mercy Bible Fellowship finds new home

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

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

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

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

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

In October of last year, First Christian Church approached Foster about

preaching at their 9:30 a.m. Service.

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

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

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

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

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

“We are excited about sharing our

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

Beginning with Easter on April 4, Grace and Mercy will meet at the First Christian building at 200 Washington St. at 11:15 a.m. First Christian will continue to have its normal 9:30 a.m.

service in the building. On Easter, there will be an additional 7 a.m. service with both congregations together.

More information can be found at the website grace-mercy-bible.church.



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

Photo by Brian Williams

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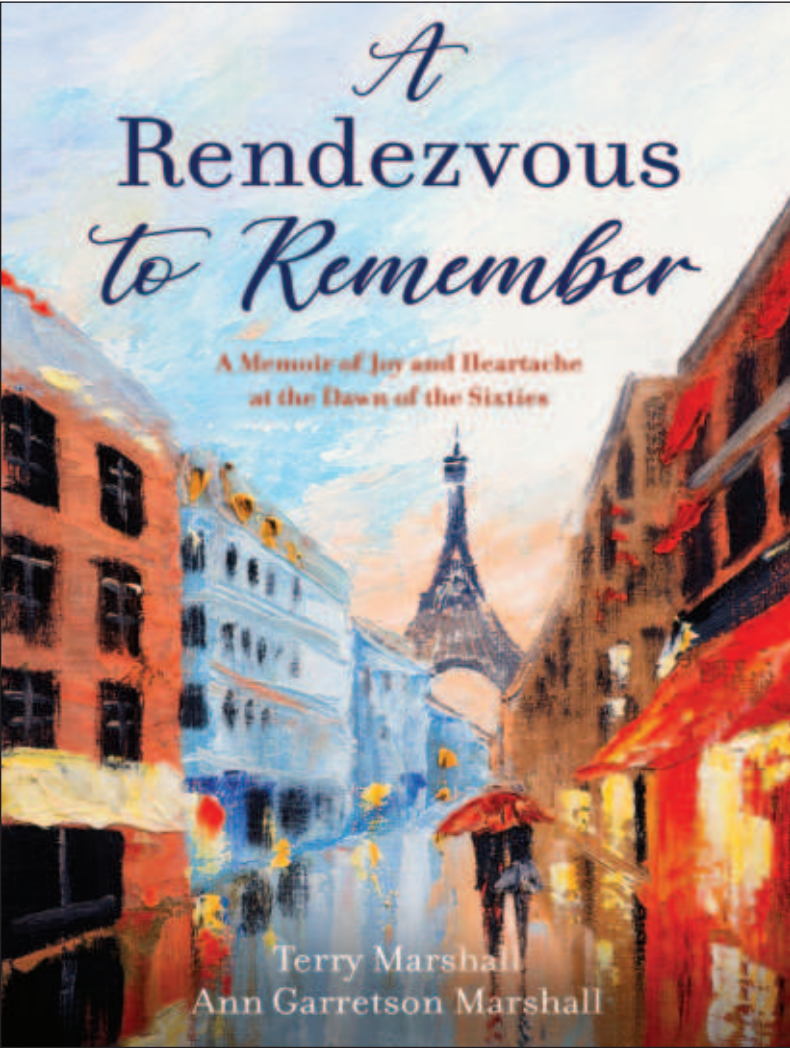
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personal autobiography alone, charting the course of not just two disparate lives, but a nation.”

Samantha Vérant, author of “Seven Letters from Paris,” notes, “Garretson and Marshall reach right into the heart of this beautifully

written memoir. This is a story about what it means to be human . . .

The dueling narrative is stunning, surprising, and inspiring. I sobbed at the end, knowing the right choices were made, and I applaud the authors for their honesty.”



The memoir in brief: Idealists caught in love triangle

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

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

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

he decides he can’t live without her.

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

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

Ann’s dilemma: she loves both men.

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SLV Habitat Partnership Program continues to build relationships

Committee is looking to fill a vacancy — sportsperson representative

By Mick Davis

SLV HPP Committee Chairman

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

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

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



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

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

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

Some of the more common activities engaged in by the SLV HPP committee are: aiding in transaction costs for

conservation easements, closing illegal roads, fence construction or repair, hiring hunt coordinators to accompany hunters into private lands, water developments which have benefited both livestock and wildlife (including drilling wells, solar pumping systems, water delivery systems, pond cleaning and sealing), habitat manipulation (including hydro-axe, hand thinning and manipulation, and controlled burns), and working with CPW in arriving at various big game population objectives.

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

Project proposals are submitted to the committee and, if approved, funded by an assortment of partners including USFS, BLM, NRCS, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, Wild Turkey Federation, CPW, USFW, State Land Board, private land owners and permittees, private citizens, GOCO, RiGHT, Colorado Cattlemen's Assoc., Grazing Associations and HPP.

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

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

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

Committee Vacancy

The San Luis Valley Committee will have a sportsperson vacancy and is seeking a volunteer beginning on July

1. The position requires attendance at meetings — usually 4-5 per year — either in person or virtually.

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

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

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

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



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Interactive Services: ADT Command Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Command") helps you manage your home environment and family lifestyle. Requires purchase of an ADT alarm system with 36 month monitoring contract ranging \$45.99-\$57.99/mo with QSP (24-month monitoring contract in California; total fees ranging \$1,103.76-\$1,391.76), enrollment in ADT Easy Pay, and a compatible device with Internet and email access. These interactive services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Command equipment. All ADT Command services are not available with all interactive service levels. All ADT Command services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the interactive service features you desire.

General: Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. System remains property of ADT. Local permit fees may be required. Prices and offers subject to change and may vary by market. Additional taxes and fees may apply. Satisfactory credit required. A security deposit may be required. Simulated screen images and photos are for illustrative purposes only. ©2021 ADT LLC dba ADT Security Services. All rights reserved. ADT, the ADT logo, 800 ADT ASAP and the product/service names listed in this document are marks and/or registered marks. Unauthorized use is strictly prohibited. Third-party marks are the property of their respective owners. License information available at www.adt.com or by calling 800.ADT.ASAP. CA.ACO7155, 974443, PPO120288; FL.EF0001121; LA.F1639, F1640, F1643, F1654, F1655; MA.172C, NC licensed by the Alarm Systems Licensing Board of the State of North Carolina, 753SP2, 7561P2, 7562P10, 7563P7, 7565P1, 7566P9, 7564P4; NY.12000305615; PA.090797

DF-CD-NP-Q121

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus type 2 confirmed in Garfield, Larimer and Saguache counties

STAFF REPORT

DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife confirmed Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus type 2 (RHDV-2) in dead cottontail rabbits on March 26 submitted from Garfield, and Saguache counties earlier in the month.

CPW has had ongoing surveillance for the disease throughout the state since it was identified in April of 2020. Garfield and Saguache are new counties identified as having RHDV-2. The new discoveries mean that 15 Colorado counties have had positive tests for RHDV-2.

The Colorado counties with positive RHDV-2 cases to date are Adams, Alamosa, Custer, Denver, El Paso, Elbert, Garfield, Huerfano, La Plata, Las Animas, Larimer, Mesa, Prowers, Pueblo, and Saguache. Both cottontails and jackrabbits have been affected.

Suspect cases are reported to local wildlife officers and submitted to CPW's Wildlife Health Laboratory for necropsy and testing. Not all suspect cases will be examined and tested, with priority placed on suspect cases in a new species, county, or season. CPW is particularly concerned for possible emergence of the disease in snowshoe hare and pika. Cottontails are about 16 inches long, weigh about two pounds, have shorter ears and live in brushy habitat. Jackrabbits have lengthy back legs and big ears, are up to two feet long, and can weigh 6-9 pounds and live in open country.

RHDV-2 is considered a foreign

animal disease and is of high concern at the state and federal levels. Until recently, RHDV-2 was not considered a virus that would infect North American cottontails or hares; however, cases have now been reported in numerous states in the Southwest region of the United States, including Colorado. CPW and the Colorado Department of Agriculture have increased efforts to raise awareness of the occurrence and spread of this disease in Colorado.

This virus has significant impacts on domestic rabbits as well as wild rabbits and species that prey upon them in Europe, giving some concern for predators like the Canada lynx that relies heavily on snowshoe hare for prey. RHDV-2 does not affect humans or domestic species other than rabbits. However, multiple dead or sick rabbits can also be a sign of tularemia or plague, diseases that can cause serious illness in people.

Do not handle or consume sick or dead wildlife, and do not allow pets to contact or consume wildlife carcasses. RHDV-2 is not related to COVID-19.

Guidelines for Domestic Rabbits

- Rabbit owners should exercise extreme caution and biosecurity to avoid accidental exposure of domestic rabbits through contaminated feed, bedding, equipment, or clothing.

- Veterinarians and owners must report suspected RHDV2 cases in domestic rabbits to the State Veterinarian's Office at 303-869-9130. Disease investigations will

be completed by a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician.

- Contact your veterinarian for more information about this disease in domestic rabbits.

Guidelines for Wild Cottontails, Hares and Pika

- Please report three or more dead animals within a two-week period, in a neighborhood or other small area; animals seen alive with clinical signs; ANY dead or sick snowshoe hares or pikas.

- Do not handle rabbits or rodents that have been found dead.

- Do not allow pets to feed on found carcasses. Though RHDV-2 is not a risk to pets other than domestic rabbits, a number of other pathogens and parasites from carcasses can affect pets.

- Do not handle or consume rabbits or other game animals that appear to be sick. Instead, report these cases to the nearest CPW office.

- Meat from healthy rabbits harvested by hunters is safe to consume when cooked thoroughly.

Helpful Links on RHDV-2

- https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Wildlife-Health/Rabbit_Hemorrhagic_Disease.pdf
- www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/rabbit_hemorrhagic_disease.pdf
- www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/fs-rhdv2.pdf
- www.colorado.gov/aganimals/rabbit-hemorrhagic-disease-virus-rhdv2



Country Living names Salida one of the '10 best small towns in America'

Country Living magazine recently released its picks for the best small towns in America, and Salida is included in the roundup. Read the recommendation here:

Salida, Colo.

Population: 5,800

Nickname: Heart of the Rockies

What do you get when your town is home to FIBArk, the oldest and biggest white-water festival in the country? A bunch of former river guides running things.

"We're everywhere," jokes

Mike "Diesel" Post, Salida's Director of Parks and Recreation, who says the Arkansas River is central to town life.

"You can ski Monarch Mountain, then kayak, and have time left for mountain biking," adds Mayor P.T. Wood, who is — you guessed it — also a former guide.

More of an artsy soul? Salida is also home to Colorado's first Creative District, with many artist-owned galleries to visit.

DNPD: Vehicle thefts on the rise in town

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — According to reports from Del Norte Police Chief Frank Archuleta, vehicle break-ins and thefts are on the rise in town.

Archuleta stated the department has been busy the past couple of weeks and is urging the public for assistance in curbing the rise in auto thefts.

"Activity is pretty constant right now and we need to remind people to lock their vehicles and to not leave anything of value inside their vehicles," Archuleta said.

Archuleta and his department have been working the cases, trying to find leads to who might be responsible for the thefts.

"Like many departments throughout the Valley, we are short-handed and are asking people to report any suspicious activity," Archuleta said. "Watch out for your neighbors and

help each other curb the rise in thefts. We are asking for any leads that may help us identify the party or parties responsible for these incidences."

Archuleta is advising the public to not leave valuables in vehicles especially guns.

"I usually call it eye candy, but it is just anything of value especially guns," Archuleta said. "We have had an overabundance of weapons stolen from vehicles and are asking people to please take them inside or with you if the vehicle is going to be left for an extended period of time. We are working constantly to get to the bottom of this, but we need the public's help."

In the past, Del Norte was a hotspot for home burglaries which were resolved last year thanks to the tireless efforts of the Del Norte Police Department. With the help of the public and Neighborhood Watch, the

perpetrators that were responsible for the incidences were brought to justice.

For more information or to report any suspicious activity, contact the DNPD at 719-657-2600.

The Danger of Strife

We've all experienced the effects of strife in one way or another. Strife can manifest itself through arguing, screaming and yelling. Other times, it can be more subtle, like when someone gives you "the silent treatment" and refuses to talk at all.

The dictionary defines strife as "bickering, arguing, a heated disagreement, or an angry undercurrent."

I think the most dangerous form of strife is an angry undercurrent, because it's not as easy to recognize. It's something you can feel in the atmosphere. You know something's not quite right, but no one wants to address it. Maybe nothing is specifically said, but it's quite clear that everything is not okay.

In the early years of my marriage, I perfected the art of arguing with my husband, Dave, without having to say a word. I spent entire Saturdays stomping around the house and cleaning every room, ignoring him for hours at a time. Thankfully, Dave was a peacemaker and mature enough to not give in to my tantrums.

Our enemy, Satan, works relentlessly to try and fill our lives with strife because he knows how powerful it is when God's children walk in peace and unity.

Psalm 133:1 (NIV) says, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" It goes on, in verses 2-3, to give an illustration of what unity is like.

This psalm tells us that unity brings the anointing and God's blessing. The anointing is the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to help us in every area. We need the anointing to raise our children, perform well at our jobs, have a successful marriage, and simply enjoy our lives.

Conversely, if there is not unity—if your home or business is full of strife—you will not have the anointing and God's blessing.

First Peter 3:11 (AMPC) says, "...[Do not merely desire peaceful relations with God, with your fellowmen, and with

yourself, but pursue, go after them!]"

"Pursue" is a strong word. It implies making an effort and taking action. If we're really going to pursue peace, we can't wait around for everyone to come apologize to us. Chasing after peace means resolving issues quickly and even apologizing to others when we don't feel like it.

Romans 12:16 (AMPC) says, "Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty (snobbish, high-minded, exclusive), but readily adjust yourself to [people, things] and give yourselves to humble tasks. Never overestimate yourself or be wise in your own conceits."

Living in peace requires us to take responsibility for our own thoughts and actions. We're going to have to humble ourselves and do some adapting and adjusting.

I learned a tough lesson in this area. A few years ago, Dave and I were in an art store at the shopping mall. Dave found a picture he really liked for our house, but I didn't like it at all.

He really wanted it, but I wouldn't give in. I argued until he finally said, "All right, just do what you want."

At first, I felt smug and congratulated myself on the victory. Then, right there in the mall, the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and said, "You think you won, but you lost."

It pierced my heart. I knew right then that I was wrong. If Dave really liked that picture, there were plenty of places we could have hung it. At the very least, I could have been more loving in how I handled the entire conversation.

Pursuing peace requires compromise. We should never compromise our beliefs or what God tells us to do, but we will be required to compromise our preferences and desires in order to truly love others and keep strife out of our relationships.

Living in peace will also require us to sacrifice our pride. We all like to be right and win every argument, but being right is highly overrated! We may win the battle, but when we insist on



having our own way at the expense of a relationship, we do tremendous damage.

Always remember, real love gives up its right to be right. If you truly want to have a healthy marriage or strong relationships with others, I recommend that you learn to say (and sincerely mean) this statement: "I think I'm right but I may be wrong."

Even if you know you're right, you don't always have to argue about it and prove your point. It's true that some things are very important and you need to stand your ground, but there are so many things in life that just don't make a difference.

You won't always agree with your spouse, family or friends, but you can still respect and appreciate them. And as you do your part to "keep the peace," God will not only honor your commitment, He will also bless your life in greater ways than you can imagine.

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

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored 120 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and her newest devotional *QUIET TIMES WITH GOD (FaithWords)*. She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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Pioneer women took charge in Monte Vista

Driving force behind town's first public library

By **REBECCA COPLEY**

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

Lillian Lorretta Silsby was a school teacher from Kansas who came to Loveland to teach. While she was there, she fell in love and married James L. Taylor. After they married, they moved to Kokomo which at that time was a new mining town north of Leadville. According to Emma M. Riggenschach's history

book "A Bridge to Yesterday," they left Kokomo after witnessing the brutal killings of two people who had broken a frontier code. The victims were strung up near their cabin by a crowd of masked men.

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

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

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

Undaunted, the young widow proceeded to build a 20 foot by 30-foot frame building, which became Monte Vista's first store.

It also served as the town's post office and Lillian Taylor became the town's first postmistress.

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

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

Lillian Fassett became the town's first librarian when she opened her store to house the town's first library books. There is no doubt that Lillian Fassett was an influential part of Monte Vista's history.

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

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

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



Determined, the women then went about earning money to build a new library building. They published and sold cookbooks, made and sold aprons, and had a booth at the fair. In 1895, they had enough money to build the small stone building which is now home to the Historical Society. The women continued to earn money to buy books and operate the library. "In 1916, the City of Monte Vista began negotiating with the Carnegie Foundation for assistance in erecting a library building to meet the needs of the growing population," recorded Riggenschach in her book.

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

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

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

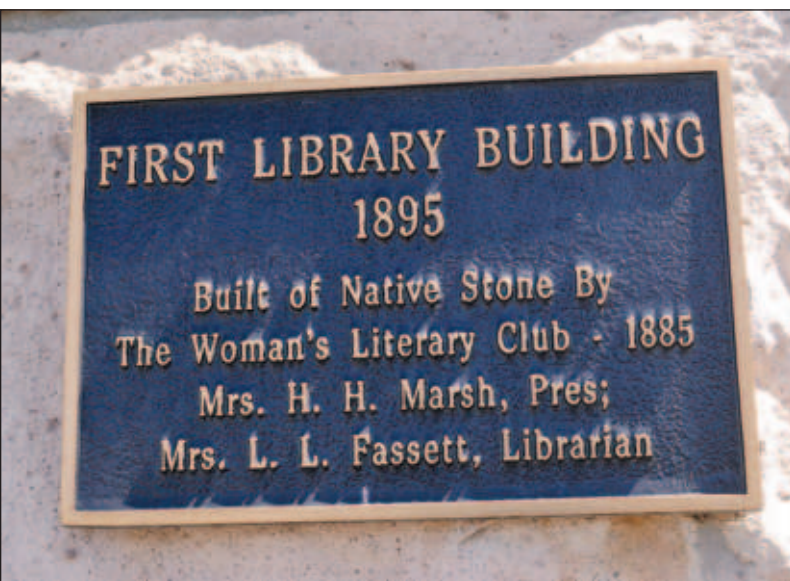


Photo by Brian Williams

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

Public Notice

Rio Grande Water Conservation District Appointment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2021 AUCTION ITEMS

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

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

1st Annual EQUIPMENT & CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021

STARTING AT 10:00 A.M.

Valley Livestock Auction - 5660 E. Hwy. 160 - Monte Vista, CO

TRACTORS & HAY EQUIPMENT

- MX 270 Case IH MFWD
- JD 4650 MFWD 15-Speed Power Shift
- JD 4020 Diesel
- Farmall 806 Diesel
- 1990 JD 4955 15-Speed Powershift duals, Weights, 6540 Hp, excellent condition
- TG 230 NH MFWD
- PIO Rotary Rake
- Hesston 3983 12-Wheel Rake
- NH 2550 Swather, 14-ft. Diesel
- Hesston PT 12 PTO Haybine
- NH 55 Rake
- NH 495 Haybine
- NH1441 Disc Pivot Windrower 15-ft.
- IHI Round Baler
- 2 Case IH LBX 431 ST 3x1 Balers w/ Monitor
- JD 241 Baler PIO
- Freeman 3x4 Baler
- Bale Band-it Bundler

MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

- 24-Ft. Bush Hog Wing Disc
- Bigham Cultivator (like new)
- JD 400 12-Ft. Rotary Hoe
- Doonan Grain Cart 850
- Grain Auger
- Tandem Axle Grain Cart w/Auger
- JD 1940 12-Ft. Landplane
- New 72" Wolverine Brush Hog
- Skidster Attachment
- 3 Pl. 5-Ft. Rotary Bush Hog

- 6-Ft. King Cutter Bush Hog
- JD 14-Ft. Mower
- JD B Grain Drill
- 2 JD 1700 Max Emerge XP Seeder
- Kenca Single Row Transplanter (New)
- Wilson Wheel Wagon Bale Accumulator
- JD Feed Wagon Hyd or PTO
- Farmhand LX 1140 Loader w/Bucket & Grapple
- JD Tool Bar
- Verminator V3 Gopher Bait Machine

TRUCKS • PICKUPS TRAILERS • 4-WHEELERS BOATS

- 25-Ft. Big Tex Flatbed Gooseneck Trailer w/Ramps
- 1979 16-Ft. Bumper Pull Stock Trailer
- 2021 20-Ft. Wesco Bumper Pull Flat Trailer w/Ramps (New)
- 2004 24-Ft. Titan Stock Trailer
- 1995 24 Ft. Diamond D Stock Trailer
- Bumper Pull Flatbed Trailer
- Trailer w/Welder
- 2-Horse Bumper Pull
- 1999 Transcraft 48-Ft. Flatbed w/5-Ft. Extension
- 2007 Dodge Mini Van
- 2001 Dodge 1500 w/Steel Bed
- 95 Ford F250 7.3 Liter Diesel 4x4 6 Speed – Runs
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Bears come out of hibernation and it's time to be 'Bear Aware'

BY LYNDIE FERRELL
SAN LUIS VALLEY — After a high conflict bear year last year, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is reminding the public to continue to be Bear Aware now that the animals are waking from hibernation.

According to CPW, the coming season is expected to be better than last year when food supplies were in short supply for local bears but that doesn't mean residents and visitors can become complacent when it comes to keeping their homes safe from these hungry intruders.

"The main thing to keep in mind this time of year is that even though conditions are looking better for food sources this coming year, everyone still needs to make sure to dispose of trash in a bear safe container, lock up any containers that are not bear safe and to take in bird feeders or any other food sources that are not natural for bears. We cannot become complacent, and we all need to continue to be Bear Aware," said District Wildlife Manager Jeremy Gallegos.

Last summer bears were affected by drought conditions and due to the lack in natural food sources, were eager to find food anywhere they could find it which resulted in an increase in bear activity within town limits throughout the San Juan Mountain Range. Communities like South Fork and Creede both witnessed bears coming close to town looking for food.

"When bears are waking up from hibernation, their natural diet consists of grass and other organic food sources in order to get their digestive systems moving," Gallegos said. "They typically do not go for trash and

other un-natural food sources right away but that doesn't mean that some won't try. If a bear has developed a habitual habit of seeking food from trash cans, they will go back."

In addition to bears coming out of hibernation, some will now have cubs in tow.

"If a person should encounter a bear, it is important to remember to give them their space," Gallegos said. "Cubs will be relying on their mothers for milk and unless the bear has been conditioned to seek food sources from trash and other sources like bird feeders, they will teach their cubs to do the same which is why it is so important to practice Bear Aware measures."

Bears will move back to natural food sources even after a year like last summer.

"There will not be a big difference in temperament or their behavior when it comes to food even though food sources were low last season," Gallegos said. "The bears will choose natural food sources as long as they are available but it always better to be safe than sorry."

Towns like South Fork have ordinances in place that require residents and visitors use bear-safe trash receptacles and CPW works closely with town officials to ensure that those ordinances are enforced.

"South Fork and surrounding towns have done a great job with their ordinances and enforcing those requirements. If an issue arises, we help by working with town officials to make sure those issues are resolved quickly," said Gallegos.

For more information or for tips on how to be Bear Aware, visit cpw.state.co.us.

CSP investigating fatal two-car crash on Saturday

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA COUNTY — The Colorado State Patrol is investigating a two-vehicle crash Saturday afternoon on Highway 160, milepost 245.2, that resulted in a death.

At approximately 4:40 p.m. on Saturday, March 27, a white 2006 Chevrolet Silverado towing a trailer was westbound on Highway 160. A red 2018 Ford Focus was eastbound.

The Chevrolet drove into the eastbound lane and struck the front of the Ford with its front. The Chevrolet continued west on the road before driving off the eastbound side of the road. The Chevrolet came to rest on its wheels off the eastbound side of the road.

The Ford rotated counterclockwise off the eastbound side of the road after impact. The Ford came to rest on its wheels off the eastbound side of the road.

The driver and passengers of the Ford were transported by ambulance to San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center. The driver of the Ford was pronounced dead at SLVRMC.

The passengers of the Ford sustained minor and serious injuries.

The driver and passenger of the Chevrolet were transported to SLVRMC. The driver suffered moderate injuries and the passenger suffered minor injuries.

The crash is still under investigation by the Colorado State Patrol Vehicular Crimes Unit.

CSP: Alcohol and drugs factors in crash Friday night

STAFF REPORT
COSTILLA COUNTY — The Colorado State Patrol says alcohol and drugs contributed to a single-vehicle crash Friday night on Costilla County Road 21.

At approximately 7:26 p.m. on Friday, March 26, a 2007 Dodge Ram driven by Maclovio Deherrera, 64, of San Luis was traveling southbound on Costilla County Road 21.

The Dodge went off the south side

of the roadway and rolled three-quarter times, landing on its right side.

The driver and passenger were extricated from the vehicle.

The driver and passenger were transported by ambulance to the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center for their injuries. The passenger, Tracy Gonzales, 52 of San Luis, sustained serious bodily injury.

Alcohol and drugs were contributing factor in the crash, according to CSP.

Gibbons retires as Saguache County Attorney after 25 years



Photo courtesy of Saguache County
Benjamin Gibbons retired as Saguache County Attorney after 25 years. A luncheon and reception was held for him at the Road and Bridge Conference Center. About 40 people attended. He was presented a plaque for his years of service.

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Julie Constan

Julie Constan named new Regional Transportation Director for southwest and south-central Colorado

STAFF REPORT

SOUTH-CENTRAL COLORADO — The Colorado Department of Transportation announced recently that Julie Constan was named the new Regional Transportation Director for southwest and south-central Colorado.

Constan will lead the region's team of more than 300 employees who are responsible for planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance of highways in a 15-county area.

"Julie will be leading a strong and

dedicated team with a lot of challenging and exciting work ahead," said CDOT Executive Director, Shoshana Lew. "In her four years with CDOT, she has served as the region's traffic and safety program engineer developing close working relationships with local agency partners to improve safety and multimodal options along the region's state highway system."

In the role as the region's traffic and safety engineer, Constan recently led the effort to secure an Advanced Transportation and Congestion Man-

Please see CONSTAN on Page 3

Local entrepreneur renews hospitality in South Fork

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

SOUTH FORK — Steven Valdez is no stranger to the hospitality industry in the Valley having grown up helping his mother when she worked for a hotel in Alamosa, but the young entrepreneur has taken his future into his own hands and with that has begun to change the hospitality industry in South Fork.

At 21 years old, Valdez was given the opportunity to purchase two hotels in the South Fork area and is currently working to restore and renovate both properties. Valdez now owns the Quality Inn and Four Seasons Hotel and is remodeling rooms in each property.

"I was working for the previous owners and they decided to sell so I saw it as an opportunity to expand on my future and purchased the properties. Now I am working on remodeling and working with other local companies to offer a unique experience," said Valdez.

Valdez grew up in the San Luis Valley and spent a considerable amount of his childhood at a hotel with his mother in Alamosa.



Courtesy photos

The Quality Inn and Four Seasons Lodge in South Fork are receiving a makeover by new owner Steven Valdez. The rooms are getting fresh paint, new furniture and fixtures while Valdez works to enhance hotel services and stay packages this coming summer.

"I liked the industry and was very interested in how things worked," Valdez said. "I graduated from Monte Vista and went to college at CSU for finance before coming back and starting my new career. I worked for Choice Hotels, specifically the

Comfort Inn and liked the company so owning the Quality Inn was an easy transition."

After coming back and making the decision to purchase the hotels, Valdez threw himself into the work

Please see LOCAL on Page 3



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"The only people that I know who'd ride **that** horse, I'd vow. Are too poor to ride a Quarter Horse n' too proud to ride a cow!"

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



South Fork moving forward with summer events

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

SOUTH FORK — As summer approaches, the Valley and surrounding towns are gearing up for the busy season and so far, the outlook is good, according to officials.

South Fork Visitor Center Director Mark Teders announced Monday, March 22, that the Town of South Fork was pretty much in line for most of the annual summer events, but all will remain subject to change depending on state and local COVID-19 guidelines. Teders stated that everyone has high hopes for coming summer events, and everyone is working closely with local and state COVID guidelines to ensure continued public safety.

Typically, this time of year heralds spring with the annual Easter Egg Hunt in South Fork but after reviewing current state and local COVID-19 guidelines, the town has opted

out of the annual event. Teders explained that the event usually draws about 100 participants and there was not enough space in Rickel Park.

“The event is usually shoulder-to-shoulder people and we made our decision based on the fact that there just isn’t enough room for people to spread out enough to be safe,” Teders said.

Though the Easter Egg Hunt was canceled, Teders did have some good news. The annual South Fork Friends Foundation Town-Wide Yard Sale will be taking place in June. The event marks the fifth year the organization has hosted the popular event and offers an opportunity for residents and business owners to get rid of all their unwanted treasures as well as an opportunity for cleaning up after the winter months.

According to a released issued by the orga-

nization, the yard sale event will take place in early June and they urge everyone who wishes to participate to sign up in the coming weeks.

“For our 5th Annual Town-Wide Yard Sale held in early June, the South Fork Friends Foundation would like to be out in the community volunteering able bodies to help other community members out during the event,” foundation officials stated. For more information or to get on the map for the yard sale, email the South Fork Friends Foundation at info@friendsofsouthfork.com.

In addition to the annual yard sale, the South Fork Visitor Center, in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, will be hosting its annual Youth Fishing Clinic around Father’s Day weekend. This clinic is an area favorite bringing families from across the region out for a day of fishing at Tucker Ponds, located

just outside of South Fork. This clinic is an opportunity for young anglers to learn the fundamentals and regulations about fishing in the Rio Grande National Forest and even gives the little anglers a chance to catch their limit in fish after the clinic is over.

Once a date has been chosen, more information about the Youth Fishing Clinic will be updated on the town’s website at www.southfork.org.

The town is also planning to host their annual 3rd of July celebrations which consist of a parade and other activities working up to the big firework show that takes place that night. Teders also stated that as of right now, the annual Logger’s Day Festival is in the works after having been canceled last year due to COVID.

For more information on coming events, visit www.southfork.org.

Creede plans for summer event season

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

CREEDE — Like other Valley communities, Creede relies heavily on the busy summer months for income and after a year of canceled events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Creede and Mineral County are hoping for a better year ahead.

Summer is just around the corner and with it comes hope for a year full of activities and a chance to get back to some form of normalcy for the small mountain town.

In a letter issued to Creede and Mineral County Chamber of Commerce members, Director Kathleen Murphy expressed her hope that events in

Creede will take place this summer. The chamber has worked diligently with local health officials throughout the past year and most of the annual events in the area were canceled out of a precaution of safety.

The letter to members states, “We’re all anticipating that 2021 will surpass the year known as 2020. While it’s a little too early to know how the year will shape up, we are moving forward with plans for our annual events like the Taste of Creede, the Creede Donkey Dash & Gravity Derby Weekend, the Rock and Mineral Show, the Creede Mountain Run, the Salsa Fiesta, Cruisin’ the Canyon Fall Color Car Show, Chocolate

Festival. The list goes on. Be sure to visit the events page for information about the goings on in Creede.”

With the county retaining low COVID-19 numbers, the chamber, local organizations and local businesses are anticipating a much different summer this year compared to the summer of 2020. In an odd turn of events, the Creede and Mineral County area was

inundated with tourism early in the season and though it was a difficult year as far as annual events went, local business remained high thanks to the commerce brought in by guests.

The first event that is on the calendar is the annual Taste of Creede. It takes place during Memorial Day weekend. Though that is a ways off, it is never too soon to begin planning

for summer. This year the festival is celebrating 33 years of delicious food, amazing art and is a great way to say hello to warm days and soft, easy nights in the Colorado mountains.

Mineral County and the chamber have made access to current information easy to find on both www.colorado.gov/mineralcountycolorado and www.creede.com.



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	7	3						
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		2				5		1

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here’s How It Works:

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

Solution to last week’s puzzle

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Native American art fair returning to Monte Vista

By REBECCA COPLEY

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

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

“As you know we did the Native American art show last year. We’re ramping up to make it bigger and better this year. I’ve already got vendors clamoring to be a part of this. I’m

going to look at getting maybe a few, three, or four dancers. I’d like to see if I can get a least one drum group,” Crowwolf told the council.

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

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

“We can put an artist in front of our business. Rain Brews has said in the past they would be willing to work with us on this,” Kelley said. “Maybe get some artists, somebody

outside painting. Maybe a guitarist. You know nothing major but get some artwork going on Adam’s Street, once a month on Friday evening leading into the weekend art fair.”

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

“I’ve talked to elders on the reservations down south, and they’re all for it,” Crowwolf said. “I’ve got the full support of my native elders, on

the different reservations for this.”

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

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

“Last year we had five on a normal basis. I’m already looking at eight

(for this year) and I’m not even hitting social media heavy and hard yet,” said Crowwolf. “I’m going to try this year a lot harder to get at least 15.”

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

LOCAL

Continued from Page 1

and is renewing the hospitality industry.

“We recently began remodeling the four seasons, I have about eight rooms that are completely done,” Valdez said. “We kept things very modern and just what South Fork needs to attract a younger demographic.”

Valdez also worked with his main company to reopen the pool facility to the public during certain hours and is charging a minimal \$5 fee.

“We are also working on building a tiny home that will be up for rent this coming summer,” Valdez said. “It is just another way to bring some of the younger demographic to the area, which is what we need.”

Valdez stated that though the pandemic caused him some difficulties at first, the past year has been one of

the best the young entrepreneur has seen in some time.

“Business over the last year has been great,” Valdez said. “I don’t think anyone expected the business that we saw last summer especially when everything was shut down in March of 2020, but we came out on the positive side and can only hope the coming year will be just as successful.”

Both hotels offer basic amenities as well as ski and rafting packages with details being worked out with local companies and Wolf Creek Ski Resort. Valdez is continuing work on the properties and can now offer a grab-and-go breakfast, jacuzzi suite and invites anyone who may be interested to come and check out the newly remodeled rooms and hotel facilities.

CONSTAN

Continued from Page 1

agement Technologies Deployment (ATCMD) grant to lay fiber optic cable over Wolf Creek Pass and continue to expand access of fiber to southwestern Colorado.

The grant will also allow for the deployment of intelligent transportation devices to communicate with commercial trucks and reduce truck crashes on the west side of Wolf Creek Pass. The fiber optic installation project will begin this spring.

“I was raised in Pagosa Springs and joined CDOT Region 5 with a love for the mountains of southwest Colorado and the beautiful San Luis Valley,” said Constan. “I’m excited to continue to build upon the strong relationships I’ve established with community members and leaders in our region’s communities.”

CDOT replacing culvert on US 285 north of Monte

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

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

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03 Memorials



Dad

It's been 2 years and it's still hard. Mom and I are still learning to go on. Trying every day to make you proud. To keep your work ethic up and fighting spirit but it's hard. If I could turn back time I would just so mom and I could see you again and hear your voice once more. 2 years seem like yesterday and a life time ago. We miss you daily.

Love your caring wife Sandra and your daughter Sandrita

05 Notices

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

WE BUY ANTLER: Winter Prices: Elk Grade A \$14/lb. Deer Grade A \$12/lb. 5 miles west of Del Norte on Hwy 160. 719-657-0942

07 Help Wanted

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

Valley Publishing seeks a temporary, part-time reporter for the Center Post-Dispatch. Writing and photography experience necessary. Send resume and sample writings to Valley Publishing Inc., P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or email to bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com (04/16)

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

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

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

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 Druggies NO tokers, NO exceptions! I'm dead serious, dedicated, honest and fair. If my work generates worthy returns, the more we sell, the more you earn! All my work is about our wonderful fun-filled valley and its many, "orally", exaggerated long-gone myth-riches, Spanish-struggle, faithful-contradictions, romance heartbreak and old wives tales. **If interested, write to (Magical Fiction, PO Box 253, Sanford Colorado 81151).** Mention creativity of your own. Forward a number, I'll call you. I will not call responders who write two weeks after the ad has run! Please, serious inquiry's only! Thank You.

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

Upper Rio Grande School District is looking for an energetic and ex-

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

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

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



PUBLIC AUCTION

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

TUESDAY APRIL 6, 2021

Sale Starting at 10:00 o'clock sharp

TRACTORS - GRAIN - HAY EQUIPMENT

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

POTATO EQUIPMENT

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

GRAIN - TILLAGE - MISCELLANEOUS - EQUIPMENT

15 Great Plains Drill 30' Faldout	2 Spider Cultivator	Chemigation Tank, on Trailer
3000 35-6" Double Disc A-1	VFT Flail Beater	Agitator
Eco-Tiger 530 14' Crumbler - Roller	Land Pride Rmc 5020 Wing Chopper	Chemigation Tank, Agitator
Brillio 30' Roller Packer, Roll	Wag Chopper 16"	3pt 50 gal Chemical Sprayer
JD, 955 Switch Pile, 6' Bottom	Land Pride RCR 1872 Chopper	1000 gal Fertilizer Tank
Koenig 5 Shank Deep Chisel	Land Pride 3pt Blade 5 way	200 gal Fuel Trailer
JD 900 9 Shank Chisel	12' Box Blade	250 gal Water Tank
Kraus 20' Disc	Tire Drag	Fertilizer Saddle Tanks
M&W Dyna Drive 18'	Home made Seed Bedder	Brackets
Dammer Dyker 20'	Planter Junior Planter	Fertilizer Saddle Tanks
Lilliston Rolling Spider Cultivator	Pack Horse Fertilizer Tank on Trailer 5000 gal	Fertilizer Injection Pumps

TRUCKS - PICKUP - TRAILERS - 4 WHEELER

94 Mack Truck 22' Bulk Bed, New Tarp, Tandem	01 Ford F-250 Pickup, Diesel
86 Chevy Kodiak 70 22' Bulk Bed New Tarp, Tandem	96 Arrowhead Goose-neck Flat Bed Trailer Ramps 30'
80 IHC S 22' Bulk Bed, Tandem	04 Carmac Enclosed OHV Snow mobile
79 Mack 24' Bulk Bed, Tandem	Trailer 26', Multiple Doors
71 Ford 8000 22' Bulk Bed, Tandem, New Tarp	71 Shower Horse Trailer
70 GMC 22' Bulk Bed, Tandem	Honda 4x4 4 Wheeler, Winch

SHOP - LIVESTOCK - MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Falcon Power Trailer 3 in 1 6500 Watt Generator	Parts Washer	Oil Barrel Stand
5.2 CFM, Air Compressor, 30A-200A Welder	30-50-Amp Cords	Aluminum Livestock Panels
Electric Remote Start Brand New	Ventilation Tube Straightener	Metal Feeders
Arc Welder	Space Heaters	Snow Fence
North Star Power Washer Heat Cool	2 Water Pumps, Gas 4"	Wheel Barrrows
		Shovels & Rakes

HOUSE HOLD - ANTIQUES

Player Piano, Converted Electric	Collection Plates, Carousel, Musical Horse Boxes
9 Rolls Christmas, Rag Time	ProForm Elliptical w/Fan & CD Player
Butter Churn	Tread Mill
Collection Plates, Ducks Unlimited, Boxes	Metal Desk Glass Top
Collection Plates, Carousel Horse, Boxes	Set Boat Down Riggers

GUNS

Beretta o/v 12ga w/Ducks Unlimited Aluminum Gun Case	Ruger Vaquero Pistol, 45 Cal
Mossberg 12ga, Pump, Ducks Unlimited	Ruger Mark 11 Pistol, 22 Cal, 2 Clips
Siam Ruger o/v, 20ga	Martin Model 42, 22 Rifle, Scope
Beretta Model A 302 20 Ga, Auto	

NOTE: Buyers of Fire Arms Must Have a Valid Copy Certified Background Check

TERMS CASH OR GOOD CHECK

Nothing Removed Until Settled for Not Responsible For Loss or Accident
Lunch Will Be Available

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Auctioneer: Art Goehl 719-588-1812 Cole Larsen 719-480-3414 Clerk of Sales: Jim Higel 719-589-2116

Seasonal Openings

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

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

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

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



DISCLAIMER

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

Valley Wide Classifieds

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

Elementary Teacher needed at Del Norte Elementary School. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4030. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co (03/31)

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

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)

Rio Grande Hospital has a full-time clinic receptionist position available for our Del Norte & Creede Clinic. Clinic experience and computer skills preferred. Applications can be filled out on our website at www.riograndehospital.org. Please contact Jennelle Gallegos at 719-657-4114 for further information. RGH is an EOE. (04/07)

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

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

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

2bd/1bth downstairs apartment 4 rent in Del Norte. 1145 French St. Washer/dryer on premise. NO pets, or tobacco/pot smoking. \$475/month includes utilities except electricity. Credit check required. 719-849-1942

17 Real Estate For Sale

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 Lawn and Garden Sprinkler repair. Done at reasonable

rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (04/17)

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

36 Miscellaneous Wanted: Beef Tallow and Pork Lard 849-5252.(04/21)

Wanted: Dead Standing Aspen Poles. Please call Edwin Hochstetler 719-588-

5780. (04/21)

Propane Refrigerators Sold Here. Call For Options and Prices. We Also Stock Solar Powered Refrigerators and Freezers. Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road 3E, Monte Vista. (719)852-0500 (0/21)

STEEL STORAGE CONTAINERS – Sales, Rentals & Modifications! Containers are water & rodent proof. 8' wide, 8' -53' in length. Call for more information and pricing. **Healdworks, Inc. – Your Total Storage Solution!**



MOUNTAIN PIZZA & TAPROOM

We got the Hawaiian pizza with jalapenos and bacon (I think it was the Hawaiian cowboy!?) Either way it was delicious and the staff was very friendly. Pretty much everybody was wearing their masks so I felt comfortable for the most part. I liked the self serve tap as well. Definitely recommend and will eat here again when I'm in the area!
~ Kelsey B. Google Reviews

Fresh Ingredients, BIG ON TASTE!
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Reply by: **April 15, 2021**

We're available 24/7. See if you qualify for same-day service!

*\$19.99/month + \$100 off installation: Requires 36-month monitoring contract with a minimum charge of \$28.99/mo. (before instant savings) (24-month monitoring contract in California, total fees from \$695.76 (before instant savings) and enrollment in Easy Pay. Service and installation charges vary depending on system configuration, equipment and services selected. Offer includes: (i) \$9.00 instant savings per month applicable only towards monthly monitoring charge for the first 12 months of initial contract term (total value of \$108.00) and (ii) \$100 instant savings on installation with minimum purchase of \$449 after promotion is applied. Traditional Service Level requires landline phone. Excludes ADT's Extended Limited Warranty. Upon early termination by Customer, ADT may charge 75% of the remaining monthly service charges for the balance of the initial contract term. Limit one offer per new ADT customer contract. Not valid on purchases from ADT Authorized Dealers. Expires 4/15/2021.

Interactive Services: ADT Command Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Command") helps you manage your home environment and family lifestyle. Requires purchase of an ADT alarm system with 36 month monitoring contract ranging \$45.99-\$57.99/mo with QSP (24-month monitoring contract in California; total fees ranging \$1,103.76-\$1,391.76), enrollment in ADT Easy Pay, and a compatible device with Internet and email access. These interactive services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Command equipment. All ADT Command services are not available with all interactive service levels. All ADT Command services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the interactive service features you desire.

General: Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. System remains property of ADT. Local permit fees may be required. Prices and offers subject to change and may vary by market. Additional taxes and fees may apply. Satisfactory credit required. A security deposit may be required. Simulated screen images and photos are for illustrative purposes only. ©2021 ADT LLC dba ADT Security Services. All rights reserved. ADT, the ADT logo, 800 ADT.ASAP and the product/service names listed in this document are marks and/or registered marks. Unauthorized use is strictly prohibited. Third-party marks are the property of their respective owners. License information available at www.ADT.com or by calling 800.ADT.ASAP. CA.ACO7155, 974443, PPO120288; FL.EF0001121; LA.F1639, F1640, F1643, F1654, F1655; MA.172C, NC.licensed by the Alarm Systems Licensing Board of the State of North Carolina, 753SP2, 7561P2, 7562P10, 7563P7, 7565P1, 7566P9, 7564P4; NY.12000305615; PA.090797

Valley Wide Classifieds

719-850-0346 (03/24 TFN)
SOLAR PANELS! 240 WATT AND SMALLER. We Stock Inverters, Charge Controllors and Batteries in Brand Names of Outback, Magnum, Rolls, More. We Also Carry Cable and PV Wire. Thank you for Buying Bontrager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. (TFN) (04/22)

38 Machinery, Tools, and Equipment
 For Sale: 10" Rockwell Table Saw Heavy Duty \$250.00. Sewer drain cleaner, 100 feet. Please Call 719-850-2027 for pricing. (04/14)

For Sale: 4910 Hesston baler great condition and a Steven 550 Ford Backhoe Call 719 580 1852. (03/31)

43 Farm Products
 2-Butcher Ready Steers Foliage with Gran Mix Added for 30 plus days \$12.00 each 1 fat burger cow \$900. Call 970-376-6047. (4/21)

48 Pets & Supplies
 Free boxer-mix puppies, a variety, near Mosca. 720-483-2725. (04/07)

For Sale: Beagle Cross Puppies very cute. Call 849-8252. (04/21)

50 Livestock
 High Altitude Angus/Limousine yearling bulls. \$1500 or \$2000 if testing required. Call Steven 719-588-3027 (04/21)

Small Feeder Pigs Just Weaned Ready April 1st. Call 719-849-5252. (4/21)

2-Butcher Ready Steers Forage fed with Grain Mix Added for 30 plus days \$1200 each 1 fat burger cow \$900. 970-376-6047. Please Leave Message.

59 Vehicles Wanted
CASH ON THE SPOT FOR JUNK CARS & TRUCKS: We pickup, no title ok. 719-937-7935. (TFN6-21)

64 Autos for Sale
 2004 Subaru Outback, low miles, dependable \$3,400. 719-850-2027 (04/07)

65 Professional Services
 We Landscape and Deliver Gravel. We fill in mud holes, mend fences, we do cement work, we do retaining walls, we repair sidewalks and we do Cleanouts. Call 719-850-2027 (3/31)

Clean Home, Fair Price for the San Luis Valley. House Cleaner ready to clean out your house not your wallet. Call 719-850-2027 for more Information. (3/31)

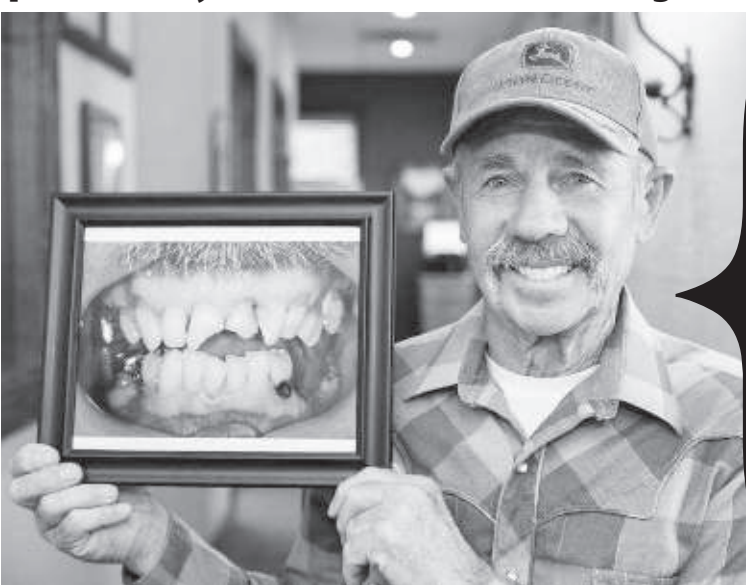
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Dr. Thornell helped save my life. I was having constant health problems that were getting worse every day. My diseased teeth and gums were draining me of my energy and it was impossible to stay healthy. After removing all of my bad teeth, Dr. Thornell placed dental implants and I got a new set of teeth in just one day. I am now healthier and feel better than I have in a long time. I also have a great smile. Dr. Thornell you are a life saver! I can't thank you enough.
 ~ B.Gullette

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Celebrate Communion at this year's
EASTER Sunrise Service
 April 4 @ 7:10am
 at Sunnyside Cutoff
 Brought to you by
 Creede Community Church, UCC

Gateway Church
 975 Grand Ave
 Del Norte
 (719)657-3681

Easter Service
 10 a.m.

www.churchatgateway.com
 Facebook: Gateway Church of Del Norte Co
 YouTube: Gateway Church of Del Norte Colorado

Summer on the Rio Grande 2021

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 P.O. Box 607 • 835 1st Ave. • Monte Vista • 719-852-3531

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- We deliver your message to a broad audience for a small investment.
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History of San Rafael Presbyterian Church

MOGOTE — With Easter on the horizon, the San Luis Valley's religion comes into focus.

Located in the southern San Luis Valley, San Rafael Presbyterian Church was probably built in 1895-97 and used regularly until 1965. It is the second-oldest church in Conejos County and one of the few historically Spanish-speaking Presbyterian churches in Colorado. In 1999 it was listed on the State Register of Historic Properties, and in the early 2000s it was restored with the help of grants from the State Historical Fund.

When the San Luis Valley was first settled by Hispano migrants from New Mexico in the 1850s and 1860s, its new residents were largely if not entirely Catholic. Presbyterians did not make inroads in the region until about 1875, when they organized a church in Del Norte. From there, Presbyterianism began to spread west to the San Juan Mountains as well as to other towns in the San Luis Valley. From 1875 to 1877, the Rev. Alexander Darley was stationed in Del Norte and distributed copies of the Bible throughout the valley. Soon, churches were organized in Antonito, Cenicero and Alamosa.

In 1854 Hispano migrants moving up the Conejos River from Guadalupe first settled the town of Mogote. Presbyterian missionaries arrived in the 1880s. In 1893, 27 Presbyterian converts in town formed San Rafael Presbyterian Church. In 1895 a Presbyterian mission school opened, and the congregation acquired land on the south side of town for the construction of an adobe church.

Completed in 1897, the church was a territorial adobe building that employed an unusual mix of architectural features. The main entrance was in a bell tower set at a 45-degree angle on the northeast corner of the church. The lower portion of the tower was adobe, like the rest of the church, but the upper portion had clapboard siding. The main body of the building had a hipped roof instead of the front-gabled roof that is typical for San Luis Valley churches. Inside, the church had plaster walls, wood floors, and twenty-two pews that the congregation fashioned from local timber. Outside, a gate leading from the road had an arch with the words "DIOS ES AMOR" (God is love) painted in large letters.

The congregation expanded San Rafael Presbyterian three times in the first half of the 20th century. In 1911 the rear of the building was lengthened by about 20 feet to add extra space. Sometime in the next two decades a small southern addition was built. In 1950 the congregation added a north annex, giving the building a T shape.

Presbyterianism spread even more widely in the San Luis Valley after 1878, when the Colorado Presbytery decided to establish 30 mission schools in southern Colorado over the next 15 years, including six in the Valley. The mission schools taught Hispanic children English and also gave them scriptural lessons. The schools were popular for about a generation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, since they offered an easy way to learn English (and thus entry into the new Anglo economic order in the Valley) in the years before a strong local public school system was established. During that period, Presbyterian mission schools operated in San Luis, La Costilla, Capulin, San Pablo, Ortiz, and Mogote, and Presbyterian churches were established in Capulin, La Jara, Ortiz, San Pablo and Mogote.

At its height in 1920, San Rafael Presbyterian had about 140 members. The congregation declined after the local Presbyterian school closed in 1922, and it shrank even more as younger residents moved to larger cities during the Great Depression and in the decades after World War II. By 1965, the congregation numbered only 30 members and decided to merge with United Presby-

terian Church in Antonito, about five miles away. San Rafael Presbyterian continued to be used occasionally into the 1970s.

In the 1990s, locals held an annual summer service and picnic in the San Rafael Presbyterian churchyard. By 1998, a committee of former church members led by Margie Garcia started to work toward a full restoration of the building. In 1999 the group got the church listed as a state historic property, and in 2001 the nonprofit Colorado Preservation Inc. named the church one of the state's "Most Endangered Places"

to draw attention to its preservation. Over the next decade, the church was able to secure more than \$300,000 in grants from the State Historical Fund. The money went toward the installation of electricity and indoor plumbing as well as repairs to the ceiling, wood floor, and adobe walls. The restoration was finished in July 2010.

Today the restored church is used during the summer for religious services and other events.

This information comes from the online Colorado Encyclopedia



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SLV Health trauma services put patients first

PROVIDED BY SLV HEALTH

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

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

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

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

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

They went on to say that the SLVH's trauma team, led by Julie Ramstetter, RN and Trauma Services Coordinator,

and David Geiger, MD, offer "a very solid resource for our region."

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

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

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



Photo provided by SLV Health
Oscar Martinez, a senior at Adams State, stands near the emergency room at SLV Health.

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

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

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Lawn & Garden

How ergonomic tools can help gardeners

Gardening is a rewarding activity that has been found to provide a host of benefits beyond ensuring readily available access to fresh fruits, vegetables and awe-inspiring blooms.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says many gardening tasks qualify as light to moderate exercise, which means raking the leaves and cutting the grass can be just as beneficial as cardiovascular activities like brisk walking or jogging. In addition, a 2017 study published in the journal Preventive Medicine Reports found that gardening can help aging men and women offset age-related weight gain. And the health benefits of gardening go beyond the physical. In 2014, a systematic review of randomized controlled trials published in Complementary Therapies in Medicine concluded that horticultural therapy may be an effective treatment for people with dementia.

Gardeners have a host of tools at their disposal to help turn their lawns and gardens into awe-inspiring landscapes. Among those options are ergonomic tools. Ergonomic tools can benefit gardeners of all ages, but they may prove especially valuable for aging men and women.

How ergonomic tools differ from traditional gardening tools

Ergonomic gardening tools are designed to ensure that using them has as little effect on the

body as possible. Ergonomic tools align with how a person naturally moves his or her body, which can reduce the likelihood that gardeners will suffer any strains or sprains while gardening or experience any aches and pains after a day spent tending to their landscapes.

Choosing the right tools

The West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities notes that gardeners will know they have chosen the right ergonomic gardening tool for the job when they do not have to adapt the tool. Ergonomic tools should match gardeners' heights, fit their grip and feel comfortable when in use.

Specific benefits of ergonomic tools

Ergonomic gardening tools are designed in a way that can reduce stress on the body while performing various tasks. Gardeners know that aches and pains can add up after a day spent kneeling in the garden, raking soil and carrying supplies from a shed or garage around the property. But the WVUCED notes that ergonomic tools do more than just reduce gardeners' risk of injury.

- Ergonomic tools increase efficiency. Wasted motions are less likely when using ergonomic tools. That can improve efficiency in the garden, allowing gardeners to get more done in the same amount of time. And because ergonomic tools



Courtesy photo

are designed to work with the body, gardeners likely won't need to take breaks due to aches and pains, which also makes it easier to be more efficient when working in the garden.

- Ergonomic tools increase gardeners' capabilities. The WVUCED notes that principles behind ergonomics keep gardeners using the tools in natural positions. That means garden-

ers won't lose power to bending and twisting, enabling them to do more in the garden than they might be able to do when using non-ergonomic tools.

Gardening is a rewarding and beneficial activity. The right ergonomic tools for the job can enhance those benefits and make gardening even more enjoyable.



Low-maintenance lawn alternatives

A traditional lawn may not be right for every property nor desired by every homeowner. There is no denying that lawns take time and effort to establish and daily or weekly maintenance to thrive. Homeowners who find that a traditional lawn is not practical can explore some low-maintenance alternatives.

Wildflower meadow

Homeowners with wide swaths of property may discover meadows are cost- and time-efficient. Stores sell special wildflower meadow mixes of seeds or homeowners can use wildflower plug plants throughout areas where grasses are left to grow longer. This natural area can be a home to wildlife and an idyllic backdrop to a home. Most meadows only require a spring or summer and autumn cut to thrive and look good.

Ornamental grasses

Partition areas of the property for ornamental grasses to grow. The gardening resource Elemental Green says ornamental grasses tend to be drought-resistant and low-maintenance. They won't need much fertilizer and are often resistant to pests as well. Ornamental grasses grow in tufts or sprays and will not require mowing. However, they are not ideal for areas that get foot traffic.

Moss

Moss can thrive in shady areas and ones where the soil tends to stay a bit damp. Moss is velvety soft and green, so it can mimic the look of a traditional lawn but won't require mowing and other upkeep. Because it spreads quickly, moss can take over quite rapidly. You will need to protect areas where you do not want moss by creating barriers to stop spread.

Gravel

Stone and gravel areas can reduce maintenance in the landscape and require very little upkeep. When gravel is installed correctly, weeds may not grow readily. Gravel installation may include laying heavy-duty, semi-permeable landscape fabric, which is available in home improvement centers. Gravel is cheaper than pavers and can be just as beautiful.

Artificial turf

If the desired look is a lawn without all the upkeep, there are various artificial grass options on the market. Homeowners who opt for artificial turf can save money and space devoted to lawn mowers and other lawn tools.

Grass may be ideal for some, but there are alternatives for people who have troublesome landscapes or desire a low-maintenance product for their homes.

Did you know?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, air currents can carry pesticides that were applied to nearby properties. That means even people who do not apply pesticides in their lawns and gardens can still be at risk of exposure to these potentially harmful chemicals. People concerned by the prospect of being exposed to the pesticides being applied by their neighbors can stay indoors with their children and pets

while the substances are being applied. Those who live near fields and parks where pesticides are routinely applied can plant hardy, thick-branched trees to reduce their risk of airborne exposure. The EPA notes that such plants and shrubs can serve as buffers against airborne pesticides, essentially acting as walls around a property that prevent gusty winds from blowing pesticides into yards and gardens.

How to garden from a wheelchair

Gardening is a wonderful activity that people from all walks of life enjoy. A garden full of fresh fruits and vegetables and/or beautiful blooms can instill a sense of pride in gardeners and turn their backyards into colorful, peaceful respites.

Anyone with the will to do so can plant their own garden, and that includes people who are confined to wheelchairs. Gardening from a wheelchair may present some unique challenges, but such obstacles are no reason for wheelchair-bound gardening enthusiasts to steer clear of this rewarding activity.

In recognition of the challenges of gardening from a wheelchair, the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation offers the following tips to wheelchair-bound gardening enthusiasts.

- Match the garden to your abilities. The Reeve Foundation notes that trying to push beyond your limits can affect how much you enjoy gardening. Address issues that may impair how you can function in the garden, such as accessibility. For example, if the garden is far away from the physical structure of your home, you may feel exhausted by the time you get to the garden, which can affect your productivity and progress. Prior to starting a garden, consider the potential that such issues may arise and then try to build a garden that makes it easy to overcome them.
- Consider raised beds. The Reeve Foundation highly recommends raised beds for anyone gardening from a wheelchair. When designing such beds, make sure they're narrow so they can be conveniently accessed from your wheelchair.
- Consider hanging baskets. Hanging baskets also can be a great option for anyone gardening from a wheelchair. Hanging baskets can provide



aesthetic appeal inside and outside of a home, and such baskets can be accessed with a pulley system that makes it easy for gardeners to prune and water plants.

- Use specialized tools. The online medical resource Verywell Health notes that various manufacturers have recognized there's a market for adaptive gardening tools. Such tools make it easier for people in wheelchairs to indulge their passion for planting. Adaptive tools like trowels, cultivators and hoes can make it easier for gardeners to perform all the standard gardening tasks. Ergonomic adaptive gardening tools can help gardeners avoid the joint pain that can arise from using more traditional, non-ergonomic tools.
- Make it a team effort. Gardening with a loved one can make the hobby even more enjoyable for anyone, including people gardening from their wheelchairs. Seniors can garden alongside their grandchildren and/or friends who also have mobility issues, ensuring no one gets too tired or falls behind.

Anyone can enjoy gardening, and that includes people in wheelchairs.

Lawn & Garden



Courtesy photo

Stay safe when working in the yard this spring and summer

A day spent working in the yard is an ideal way to pass the time on spring and summer afternoons. A pristine landscape can add value to a property and instill pride in homeowners who put a lot of thought and effort into their lawns and gardens.

A sun-soaked day can make it easy to overlook potential threats when working in a lawn or garden. But safety precautions are of the utmost necessity when working in the yard, where the risk for serious injury is considerable. For example, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons reports that, in 2016, more than 90,000 patients, including nearly 5,000 children, were treated in hospital emergency rooms for lawn mower-related injuries.

Lawn- and garden-related injuries can be prevented without going to great lengths.

- Know your terrain before mowing. Knowing the terrain in your own yard can reduce the risk for accident or injury. This can be especially important when mowing the lawn with a riding mower. Adhere to manufacturers' recommendations regarding inclines to reduce tip-over accidents that can pin riders beneath the mower. Study hilly areas of the yard prior to mowing so you know which areas are safe to mow with a riding mower and which areas are best mowed with a walk-behind mower. For greater control when using a walk-behind mower on an incline, mow parallel to the slope.

- Apply and reapply sunscreen. Sunburns may not require trips to the emergency room, but they can still be serious. In fact, the Skin Cancer Foundation notes that sunburn is a leading cause in the majority of cases of basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma, which is the deadliest form of skin cancer. The SCF recommends applying sunscreen 30 minutes before

going outside to allow the sunscreen to bond to your skin. Reapply sunscreen at least every two hours, and more often if you're sweating excessively. The SCF recommends broad spectrum sunscreens, which protect the skin from both UVA and UVB rays. Though a product with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 is acceptable when walking the dog or driving to work, the SCF advises using a product with an SPF of 30 or higher when engaging in extended outdoor activities like gardening or mowing.

- Employ the buddy system. Use the buddy system when pruning tall trees or performing any tasks that require a ladder. The Orthopedic Institute of Pennsylvania reports that more than 164,000 people are injured each year falling off a ladder. Ask a significant other or neighbor to hold the ladder in place while you climb up to reduce your risk of falling. If cutting large branches, cut them piecemeal to reduce the risk of being injured by heavy falling branches.

- Inspect the property for insect hives. The OIP notes that the most common insect stings in spring come from bees, wasps and hornets. Homeowners who are not careful can inadvertently come across hives when doing spring cleanup, making them vulnerable to bites and stings. That can be very dangerous for anyone, and especially so for people with a history of allergic reactions to insect bites or stings. Inspect areas where you'll be working to make sure insects haven't put down roots in your property. If you discover any hives and are hesitant to remove them on your own, contact a local landscaping firm.

Lawn and garden accidents and injuries can be serious. Thankfully, accidents and injuries are easily prevented when homeowners take a few simple safety precautions while tending to their lawns and gardens.

Did you know?

Disinfecting garden tools can help ensure the long-term health of plants and vegetables. According to the University of Minnesota Extension, plant pathogens, including bacteria, fungi and viruses, cause diseases that can damage and even kill plants. These pathogens can be transferred to plants and infect them through bits of soil and plant debris that get stuck on common gardening tools, including shovels and pruners. Pathogens are microscopic and invisible to the naked eye, which is why even tools that appear clean may still contain harmful substances on their surfaces that can prove life-threatening to plants. Disinfecting tools at the appropriate time, such as when the tools are being stored in fall or before using them in spring or after using them to remove infected plants, can prevent the damage

caused by invisible pathogens. Avoid using strictly bleach to disinfect garden tools, as the UME notes that bleach corrodes metal and can therefore render tools that require sharp edges ineffective. A homemade solution that's nine parts water and one part bleach can be used to effectively clean shovels, spades and rakes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol) in concentrations of 70 percent or more can effectively disinfect surfaces for bacteria, fungi and viruses. Such a solution can be used to disinfect hand pruners and other small hand tools. Store-bought cleaners with an active ingredient that is .1 percent alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium saccharinate also can be effective when disinfecting small hand tools as well as small pots and saucers.

Shade trees that can make yards more comfortable

Various factors motivate the decisions homeowners make when designing their landscapes. Some may be motivated by the ways additions will affect the resale value of their homes, while others may be guided by a love for a particular type of plant. Comfort is yet another motivator, and shade trees can make yards more comfortable as the mercury rises. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, the following are some popular shade trees that can add beauty to a landscape and make it more comfortable come the dog days of summer.

- Quaking aspen: The quaking aspen has the widest natural range of any tree in North America, spanning 47 degrees of latitude, 110 degrees of longitude (nine time zones) and elevations from sea level to timberline. That impressive range is no doubt why the United States Forest Service notes that the quaking aspen can grow in greatly diverse regions, environments and communities.

- Northern catalpa: The Arbor Day Foundation notes that the northern catalpa is easily identifiable thanks to its heart-shaped leaves and twisting trunks and branches. Nature enthusiasts, and particularly those who enjoy birdwatching, may be happy to learn that the flowers of the catalpa are frequently visited by hummingbirds.

- Red sunset maple: Its name alone makes many people think of lazy summer days spent lounging in the yard. The red sunset maple provides ample shade and comes with the added benefit of producing an awe-inspiring blend of red and orange leaves come the fall. Red sunset maples can survive in a range of habitats and their adaptable roots means they can thrive in various soil types.

- Northern red oak: The state tree of New Jersey, the northern red oak is, according to the Arbor Day Foundation, both beloved for its aesthetic appeal and valued for its adaptability and usefulness. Northern red oaks can tolerate urban conditions, but they do not do well in hot climates.

- Sawtooth oak: Another tree that produces some awe-inspiring color, the sawtooth oak is a durable, adaptable shade tree. Golden yellow leaves in the spring will give way to dark green in summer, only to turn yellow and golden brown in the fall. The Tree Center Plant Supply Co. notes that the sawtooth oak can thrive in warmer climates where shade trees that can coexist with high temperatures can be hard to find.

Shade trees can add beauty to a property and make a yard more comfortable. Homeowners are urged to discuss shade trees with a local lawn and garden professional prior to planting.



How to prepare a garden for spring planting

The final weeks of winter, and even the first few weeks of spring, are still chilly in many parts of the world. Despite those last vestiges of winter chills, late winter is a great time to begin preparing gardens for the coming planting season.

Gardens may have to withstand months of harsh weather each winter, and such conditions can take a toll. Gardeners can consider the following tips as they try to restore their gardens and get them ready for spring planting.

- Disinfect your tools. It's common to clean tools in late fall or whenever they're typically placed in storage for the winter. But cleaning and disinfecting are not necessarily the same thing. If tools were not disinfected at the end of the previous gardening season, disinfect them before doing any work on the garden. Doing so can ensure any lingering bacteria or fungi on tool surfaces are killed prior to the beginning of gardening season. According to the University of Minnesota Extension, plant pathogens, including bacteria and viruses, can be transferred to and infect plants through bits of soil and plant debris left on shovels and pruner blades. Thoroughly disinfecting such tools prior to using them in the spring is a great way to reduce the risk of disease in your garden.

- Clear debris from garden beds. Leaves, twigs, sticks, and other debris may have gathered in the garden over the winter. Such debris can inhibit the growth of plants and vegetables, so make sure all of it is removed prior to planting. Weeds might even begin to sprout up in late winter and early spring, so remove them



Courtesy photo

before they go to seed.

- Test the soil. Testing the soil prior to planting can help gardeners determine what their gardens will need to thrive in the coming months. Garden centers and home improvement stores sell home testing kits that are effective and easy to use. Once the results are in, speak with a professional at your local garden center about the best time to amend the soil.

- Loosen compacted soil. Soil can become compacted over winter. If compacted soil is not loosened prior to planting, plants will have a hard time getting the water and nutrients they need to thrive. Loosening the soil also provides another opportunity to inspect the garden for any underlying issues, such as fungi or weed growth, that you may have missed when clearing debris or testing the soil.

Late winter is a good time to assess a garden and address any issues that developed over the winter so plants and vegetables can thrive come the spring planting season.

Finance & Real Estate

What are the differences between real estate agents and brokers?

Real estate transactions often involve significant amounts of money. As a result, it's common for both buyers and sellers to enlist the services of a host of professionals with real estate experience.

Both buyers and sellers may work with real estate agents and/or real estate brokers en route to buying or selling their homes. Agents and brokers are not one and the same, and there are some important distinctions between the two.

Real estate agent

According to Realtor.com, real estate agents are professionally licensed individuals who can help both buyers and sellers. Agents also may help property owners rent their homes. The amount of training real estate agents need to earn their licenses varies by state. Once individuals finish their required training, they must take a written exam that tests their knowledge of federal real estate laws and general principles as well as the laws specific to the state in which they want to become licensed. Only after passing this exam do individuals become recognized real estate agents. Investopedia notes that achieving agent status is the starting point for most real estate professionals.

Real estate broker

Real estate brokers are those professionals who have continued their education past the agent level and obtained a broker's license. Each state has its own requirements in regard to becoming a licensed broker, but education and examinations are necessary regardless of where a person lives.

Realtor.com notes that the extra coursework to earn a broker's license focuses on various topics, including ethics, contracts, taxes, and insurance. Agents may learn about these topics as well, but coursework for prospective brokers goes into more depth than it does at the agent level.

Brokers also will study and learn about legal issues in regard to real estate. The legal issues brokers may learn about include brokerage operations, real estate investments, construction, and property management. Requirements vary, but Realtor.com notes that brokers often must work as licensed real estate agents for no less than three years before they can earn their broker's license.

There is more than one type of real estate broker. Principal/designated brokers oversee all agents at a given firm and ensure the agents act in compliance with all real estate laws. Managing brokers tend to focus on the hiring and training of agents. Associate brokers



Courtesy photo

have their broker's license but work directly under a managing broker.

Real estate agents and brokers can help

buyers, sellers and investors successfully navigate real estate transactions, and each can serve their clients in different ways.



Courtesy photo

Custom home-buying tips for first timers

(MS) — Even considering being able to design your own custom home is an exciting prospect. Whether you're ready to take the plunge or just exploring your options, here are tips to keep in mind.

Know what you're signing up for. Building a custom home is a significant undertaking and a major life decision. It's a big commitment in terms of time, money and energy. While this shouldn't scare you away from your dream home, it's important to know what you're getting into. If you're feeling overwhelmed with the kids or busy caring for an ailing parent, it may be best to start this later.

Hire the right professionals. You may be a DIY pro, but this isn't a project you want to take on yourself, even partly. Key professionals you'll need to work with include an architect, plumber, electrician and more. Consider also working with a designer who can help with the interiors to make sure the space is as functional as it is beautiful. Do your research to find quality pros — this isn't the time to skimp on labor.

Think about furniture layout early. While it may seem a bit premature to start decorating your living room before the foundation is laid, knowing how you'll want to use and lay out each room can help you during the building and design process. For

example, you can save time and money down the line when you know from the get-go you'll want a window seat and two large couches to face the fireplace.

Know where to save and spend. Costs can quickly add up, so it's important for you to decide early on what matters most to you, and what's worth investing in. You can always upgrade your flooring or cabinetry, but you can never change the foundation. Build your home to last longer and perform better with innovative building materials like insulated custom forms (ICFs) from Nudura. This alternative to wood framing can withstand fire and high winds and provides superior insulation, leading to significant savings on your energy bills year after year.

Prepare for the unexpected. Building a new home is a process, and you can minimize stress by embracing that it will be unpredictable and can change throughout the journey. Plan for things like weather delays and higher costs. The unexpected can also lead to positive changes in your plans. For example, you might come across a new flooring material that's more eco-friendly, or a smart home automation system might hit the market and you'll want to integrate it into the design. Be flexible.

Find more information about building your new home with insulated concrete forms at nudura.com.

Simple strategies to meet the neighbors after moving

A lot goes into building safe, strong communities. While no single factor can be highlighted as more important than another in regard to building strong communities, a willingness on the part of residents to connect with their neighbors can greatly benefit local neighborhoods and the people who call those communities home.

According to Mental Health America®, a community-based nonprofit dedicated to promoting the mental health of all Americans, research has shown that social connections increase happiness and lead to improved overall health and even longer lives. Adults may find that establishing a connection with their communities, and maintaining that connection while juggling the responsibilities of work and a family, is not always so easy. That's especially so for adults who have recently relocated to new areas. Reaching out to neighbors can be a great way for adults to build new relationships that can benefit them as individuals and strengthen their communities.

- Don't be shy. People often want to know who's living next door, so adults who have recently moved need not be shy about introducing themselves to their new neighbors. Introduce yourself and share what inspired you to move to your new neighborhood.

- Answer and ask questions. Neighbors will no doubt ask questions when you introduce yourself, so be ready to answer these questions. Questions may focus on your career and where you grew up. If you grew up in the area where you recently moved, some of your neighbors likely did as well. Sharing stories about your school days and/or local hotspots can be a great way to break the ice. Don't hesitate to ask some questions of your own as well. Asking ques-



Courtesy photo

tions might reveal some common interests that can serve as strong foundations for budding relationships.

- Host a backyard barbecue. Backyard barbecues are laid back affairs, and that pressure-free atmosphere is perfect for meeting new neighbors. Once you have settled in, invite a handful of your neighbors over for the barbecue. If you have children, invite neighbors who also are parents, ideally ones whose children are the same age as your own. Kids have sparked many a conversation, and discussions about local schools, parks and programs for youngsters can be great ice breakers.

- Volunteer. Volunteering with community-based organizations is another great way to meet new neighbors. Volunteering with an organization whose mission you identify with may be even better, as you're likely to find like-minded neighbors who share your passions when working with such groups.

Strong communities are built around people. When moving to a new community, adults can overcome the challenges such relocations present by taking various steps to connect with their new neighbors.



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New Construction

Responsible building decisions deserve benefits, too

(MS) — Beauty, spaciousness and interior design are all important when building a personal dream home. Today, however, with the reality of energy and environmental concerns, homeowners also insist their forever home must be as eco-responsible as possible. And it turns out many decisions initially based on being environmentally friendly can deliver unexpected aesthetic results, too.

“Sometimes the least glamorous decisions can be the ones that give your lifestyle far more quality and value — and a good case in point is the use of concrete to build the walls, instead of traditional wood framing,” says Natalie Rodgers of Nudura, a leading name in this field.

“Our technology has advanced the development of the insulated concrete form, a system that interlocks like Lego to erect a building. For the occupants, the benefits of improved comfort, energy efficiency, safety and interior air quality are delivered immediately with ICF construction. For the homeowner-investor, all those benefits assure top resale value.”

In addition, an ICF structure can be finished on the exterior just like traditional wood frame structures. Stone, stucco, brick or whatever material is envisioned can be used with the insulated concrete forms.

Building the walls with concrete needs to be decided early in the planning, Rodgers explains. The method discards wood framing in favor of pre-assembled, interlocking concrete forms filled with concrete. Take a look at a few more of the benefits of concrete:

Fuel savings. Compared to wooden walls, solid concrete walls vastly reduce air infiltration, optimizing energy performance and reducing the carbon footprint.

Comfort. Outside cold easily travels through wood-framed walls, causing thermal bridging and creating uncomfortable chilly spots inside your home. Walls with a solid concrete core address and prevent thermal bridging to deliver even temperatures throughout the house.

Quiet. Solid concrete is an effective sound barrier. It dampens sound vibrations from outside noise such as traffic, trains and neighborhood parties.

Safety. ICF has a fire protection rating of up to four hours. If high wind in your community is a concern, data shows that Nudura homes demonstrate impact resistance up to 250 miles per hour.

Improved value. A stronger, safer, greener home that is more cost-efficient and needs less maintenance and repair is generally expected to build and hold its value.



Courtesy photo

If not properly addressed, ground water can affect an existing foundation and the ability to build successfully.

What is the water table, and how does it affect homes?

The groundwater table plays a role in home construction, foundation stability and home comfort. Because the groundwater table is so significant, it behooves homeowners to understand how it works.

National Geographic defines a water table as the boundary between water-saturated ground and unsaturated ground. Well beneath the ground, at various depths depending on geography, topography and weather conditions, pockets of water, called aquifers, exist. The water table marks the boundary between that available water and the dry surface.

Ground water is impacted by precipitation, irrigation and ground cover. It also may be affected by land use and tides. The water table can fluctuate with the seasons and from year to year because it is affected by climatic variations, as well as how much water may be drawn from underground, advises Encyclopedia Britannica. The water table where one person lives may be several inches or feet below the surface of the ground and follow the topography of the land. For others, it may be much higher, even coming above the surface of the soil.

The water table as well as local soil conditions and drainage can impact homes and their foundations. If soil drains efficiently and there is a relatively low water table, it may not be problematic. However, if soil is dense and absorbent and the water table is high, the ground around a home may swell and become saturated. This can exert significant

pressure against the foundation walls, states Rytech, a water damage and mold rehabilitation company.

In areas where a local water table rises near the surface, water can push against the underside of the foundation in a condition known as “hydrostatic pressure.” This may cause water to infiltrate through the bottom of the foundation — even permeating solid concrete over time. If hydrostatic pressure is severe, it could lift certain portions of the foundation out of the ground, but this is very unlikely. But it could cause shifting of foundation walls and structures like fencing and decks.

Even if ground water does not cause foundation cracking or shifting, it could lead to humidity issues, resulting in rust, bacteria and mold. Wood structures in a home may be compromised by a high level of humidity.

The home improvement resource Angie’s List says certain steps may need to be taken to protect against damage from a water table and abundant ground water. Basement and foundation waterproofing professionals can help homeowners develop a plan to mitigate water damage. This can include grading changes and the installation of drains and pumps to move water away from the house. Special paints and sealants also can protect the foundation.

Ground water can be a hindrance when it affects the home, but homeowners who learn about it can be in a position to confront any ground water issues.



Courtesy photo

6 home trends to consider

Home design and real estate trends come and go, but once in awhile certain concepts exhibit considerable staying power. Staying abreast of what’s hot and what’s not can be a bit overwhelming. This list breaks down some of the trends that have made a splash and figure to be around for some time.

1. Open concept spaces: Watch the DIY Network or HGTV and you’ll quickly understand that open floor plans remain highly coveted. Many modern, newly built homes have a large multi-purpose area that blurs the borders of the kitchen, dining area and family room. These homes make it easy to entertain and keep an eye on youngsters.

2. Patterned fabrics and upholstery: Solids will always have their place in home decor, but patterned furnishings are making a name for themselves as well. Today’s homeowners are not afraid to experiment with geometric and floral patterns alongside neutral colors to showcase their personalities, advises the real estate industry resource The Lighter Side of Real Estate.

3. Farmhouse chic: Many people want the ambiance of a rustic, antique farmhouse even if they live miles away from the country. Reclaimed wood on the walls, exposed beams, eclectic accessories, and a big wood table in the dining room are

hallmarks of farmhouse style. This is a fun design trend that can be personalized for cozy appeal.

4. Hidden appliances: Making appliances disappear into the background is a growing trend. This is achieved with products that blend in with or are hidden behind cabinetry.

5. Row homes: Popularized in the 19th century and then again in the 1960s and 1980s, townhomes are making another comeback. Townhomes made up about 12.4 percent of all new construction in the single-family home market last year, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau. According to a Realtor.com® survey released in October 2017, townhomes were the most popular form of housing after single-family homes. They were especially popular among millennial buyers, about one-third of whom planned to purchase a townhouse in 2017.

6. Multigenerational homes: Buyers between the ages of 53 and 62 are increasingly looking at homes that can accommodate children older than 18, with a room or apartment available to care for an aging parent, states the National Association of REALTORS®.

Home trends continue to evolve, and some trends have exhibited more staying power than others.

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Remodel & Repair

Design a more functional pantry

Many homeowners wish they had more storage space, and kitchens are one area where people seemingly can always use more storage.

Despite a desire for more kitchen space, until recently, kitchen pantries fell out of favor. Builders and architects may have thought that close proximity to supermarkets as well as multi-use cabinets in kitchens would offset the need for pantries. But according to a recent survey from the National Association of Home Builders, a kitchen pantry is the most desirable kitchen feature for buyers in the market for a new home.

According to a 2016 survey from Report-Linker, 98 percent of Americans say cooking at home is their preferred way to prepare a meal. And despite the wide array of restaurants, prepared meals and fast food options nearby, more than one-third of people cook at home daily, with nearly 50 percent cooking between three and six days a week.

In order to accommodate for spending more time in the kitchen, homeowners are directing additional attention to kitchen preparation and storage features. In fact, one recent trend in kitchen renovations is creating custom-designed pantries.

Locate the appropriate space

Ideally, pantries should be in or adjacent to



Courtesy photo

the kitchen. But not every home layout allows for this setup. Some homeowners need to move storage pantries into the garage, the basement or a mud/laundry room.

Various factors should be considered before placing a pantry outside a kitchen. What is the climate? Will food spoil? Is there a possibility that vermin or insects can infiltrate the room and access food? These factors will dictate whether to have closed cabinets, air-tight bins or open shelves or if other modifications must be made to the room prior to building.

Choose the type of pantry

Accessibility is essential in a pantry. Everything should be easily reached and grabbed as needed without having to move too many things. Ideally, foods should be arranged in a single layer so that all items can be viewed at a glance. Shelves of various depths and heights can accommodate items of different sizes. Adjustable shelves are ideal because they can be modified as foods change. Sliding drawers can improve reach in cabinets.

In smaller spaces, French door-style reach-in cabinets are convenient and flexible. In complete kitchen remodels or new constructions, walk-in pantries offer the most space and flexibility.

Must-have features

Pantries serve different functions in different homes. For the bulk shopper, a pantry with plenty of room for large items will be needed.

Lighting can be beneficial in all pantries. Lights can improve visibility when trying to locate items. Others prefer an outlet for charging hand-held vacuums or other small appliances. Counter space in the pantry enables homeowners to unload groceries directly onto pantry shelves.

For pantries located outside of the kitchen, built-in freezers can maximize storage possi-

bilities, especially for those who freeze-and-eat after bulk shopping ventures.

Pantries are popular features that homeown-

ers can customize depending on their storage needs and the amount of time they spend in their kitchens.

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Minimize dust while renovating

Even though dust is ever-present both inside and outside of a home, when renovations are in full swing, dusty conditions are often exacerbated. Whether a home is new or old, numerous substances can be stirred up when removing walls, refinishing floors, removing tile, or expanding living spaces. These include silica from drywall, lead, asbestos, paint particles, and even waste from bugs or rodents.

Homeowners who want to remodel with minimal construction debris floating through the air — both for health purposes and general cleanliness — may find these proactive steps helpful.

- Prepare dust-containment plans. If a contractor is involved, it is often his or her responsibility to minimize dust. Do-it-yourselfers must make dust containment a priority. Protecting the floor and keeping the dust confined only to work areas can be achieved with plastic sheeting and other barriers.

- Designate an entrance and exit. The experts at This Old House say it is best to choose one doorway as the only means in and out of a work area. Ideally, this doorway should lead to the outdoors. All other doorways should be sealed on both sides.

- Remove extraneous items. It's best to remove clutter from the room, including any furniture that can be taken out of the space. This helps items from becoming dirty and hazardous particles from settling into nooks and crannies.

- Close vents and registers. If forced air systems are part of the home, it's best to divert air



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Cutting renovation materials outdoors can minimize dust generated in work areas.

away from the work area. Block vents and intake registers so that dust does not clog the system or transfer to other rooms.

- Cut items outside. Design advice site Houzz says that some power tools have vacuum extractors to suck up dust at the point of contact, removing 90 percent of dust where it is generated. For those who do not have access to these tools, cutting and sanding can be done outdoors to keep dust outside.

- Open a window. If weather permits, an open window can provide ventilation. Another idea is to create an air vacuum in the work area. Picking a window at the far end of the work area and mounting a window fan blowing outward can suck dust out and away from other areas of the house.

- Clean up daily. By keeping on top of dust, including sweeping and vacuuming the work area frequently, dust will not accumulate and migrate elsewhere.

Dust is a common side effect of home renovation projects, but it can be minimized.

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Interior Design

How to choose the right lighting inside your home

Lighting in a home serves both practical and aesthetic purposes. It's easy to maneuver around a well-lit home, reducing the risk of slips and falls, and the right lighting can help homeowners create their desired ambiance, which typically changes depending on which room you're in.

When choosing lighting for their homes, homeowners must walk a fine line between appearance and functionality. A fixture in the foyer that instantly impresses visitors likely won't prove as awe-inspiring if it's installed in the living room. When choosing lighting for a home, some general rules about what works in each room can help homeowners make the most informed decision.

Kitchen

Kitchens are often the busiest room in a home, so lighting here can be especially important. A kitchen often benefits, both practically and aesthetically, from different types of lighting. For example, pendant lighting above kitchen islands can make meal preparation easier and safer, but such lighting likely won't work in breakfast nooks and informal dining areas in the kitchen. Recessed lighting works best in such areas. In kitchens with no island, under-cabinet lighting can be used to illuminate countertops and simplify meal preparation.

Formal dining room

Many people enjoy the look of chandeliers in formal dining rooms, and such fixtures can be installed directly above the dinner table. The interior design experts at Better Homes & Gardens advise hanging chandeliers roughly 33 inches above the table in dining rooms with eight-foot ceilings, adding three inches for each additional foot above eight feet. Darkened dining areas may be ideal in restaurants, but homeowners may want to split the difference

at home and choose dimmable chandeliers for their dining rooms. This allows homeowners to dim the lights for romantic dinners but turn them up for family gatherings with lots of people around the table.

Living room

Adaptability also is important in the living room, where homeowners may host anything from movie nights to book clubs to parties for the big game. It can be a tall order to accommodate such a wide range of activities, and many homeowners come down to deciding between recessed lighting and track lighting. If the living room currently has neither style, homeowners should recognize that it will cost considerably less to install track lighting than recessed lighting. Better Homes & Gardens notes that flexible track lighting provides ambient, task or accent lighting, and track lights can even be moved to change lighting schemes at any time, making them a budget-friendly option for homeowners whose living rooms are multi-purpose spaces. Recessed lighting also works well in living rooms, especially ones with low ceilings. That's because recessed lighting is installed into the ceiling, meaning it does not take up any visual space in the room. That can help living rooms feel bigger.

Bedroom

The home improvement experts at BobVila.com note that bedroom lighting should provide enough light when getting dressed, but also be able to be toned down as residents prepare for their bedtime routines. Both portable and installed lighting can be used in bedrooms to serve these various functions. Recessed fixtures that dim can ensure there's ample light to get dressed in the morning, but they also can be dimmed at night as residents try to get ready



Courtesy photo

to sleep. Portable nightstand lights can make it easier for couples sharing a bedroom, allowing one person to stay up and read while the other goes to sleep.

Homeowners have many options and many

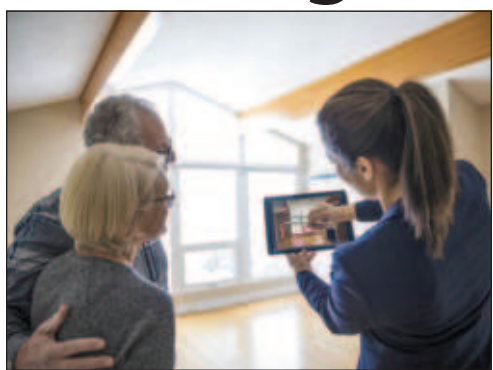
needs when choosing lighting for their homes. A professional consultation with a lighting expert or interior decorator can help homeowners find lights that provide both practical and aesthetic appeal.

The benefits of working with an interior designer

Home is where the heart is, and it's also where homeowners express their style. Though interior design may come naturally to some homeowners, many more can benefit from a little help defining their style and translating that style into a beautiful home. In such instances, interior designers can be the most valuable investments homeowners make in their homes.

Homeowners may hear "interior designer" and immediately hear the sound of cash registers ringing in their heads. However, many interior designers offer various services, including hourly consultations, that can make them cost-effective, especially for homeowners who are still trying to define their style and decide just how they want their homes to look. That's just one of the many benefits of working with interior design professionals.

- Interior designers can save homeowners money. Much like it's best for homeowners with no DIY experience to hire professional contractors when renovating their homes, paying an interior designer when you have little experience with design can help you avoid potentially costly mistakes. Interior designers are skilled at transforming homeowners' visions into finished products, and that's a valuable skill homeowners don't necessarily have. Trial and error when designing a home's interior can be costly, even if you're not knocking down any walls or swinging any hammers. For example, after renovating on their own, homeowners may find they need to replace a new couch or dining table that they realize contradicts their design scheme. Interior designers can help homeowners avoid such costly mistakes and get it right the first time.
- Interior designers can help you coordinate your style. Each and every component of a home's interior says something about its owner. Whether it's their choice of lighting fixtures, furniture or even appliances,



Courtesy photo

homeowners make a statement any time they choose a design component for their homes. Interior designers can help homeowners coordinate their styles so each room seamlessly transitions to the next one. An ultra-modern living room may stick out like a sore thumb in a home that's predominantly rustic, and interior designers can help homeowners avoid such mistakes.

- Interior designers recognize what's trending. Interior designers tend to be up-to-date on the latest trends. That can be incredibly valuable, especially for homeowners who are anticipating putting their homes on the market in the near future. In such instances, designers can help homeowners invest in updates or renovations that will appeal to today's buyers, increasing the likelihood that their homes will sell more quickly, and potentially for more money.
- Interior designers are well-connected. Interior designers often collaborate with contractors. Those professional relationships can help homeowners avoid the headaches of finding the right professionals to work with when renovating their homes.

Many a homeowner has benefitted from working with interior designers. Such partnerships can help homeowners transform their residences into the home of their dreams.

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8	\$6,801
8	\$6,952
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Interior Design



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How home design trends are evolving for social distancing

(MS) — COVID-19 has brought changes to everything, and home design is no exception. Experts are expecting to see lasting impacts on everything from the materials we use to the rooms we prioritize. Check out these and other noteworthy trends:

Houses over apartments: Many people who live in condos or apartments do so to be closer to the action — work, entertainment and shops — and never planned on spending much time at home. But the pandemic has changed that, and more people are going to want a home that offers plenty of room and outdoor space in case they need to self-isolate again.

Self-sufficiency: A hard lesson we've learned is that things and services we thought we could count on aren't necessarily a sure thing, so items that increase self-reliance will become very popular. Expect to see more homes with sources of energy like solar panels, sources of heat like fireplaces and stoves, and even urban and indoor gardens that allow you to grow your own produce.

Outdoor living: Between playgrounds closing and parks becoming overcrowded, many of us are turning to our balconies, patios and backyards for fresh air and nature. This means we're going to be investing more in our outdoor spaces, with functional kitchens, soothing water features, cozy firepits, and high-quality outdoor furniture

to create a much-needed escape.

Healthier spaces: Thanks to spending more time indoors and reprioritizing our health, we'll turn to design to help ensure our homes are safe and healthy for our families. We'll see a rise in products like water filtration systems as well as materials that improve indoor air quality. For new homes and additions, alternatives to wood-framing like insulated concrete forms from Nudura, which offer improved ventilation for healthier indoor air quality and an environment that's less susceptible to mold, will be key.

Home office space: Business experts are suggesting many companies will see that working from home is not only possible but offers tangible benefits, like saving money on office space rent. With working from home on the rise, creating a home office space that inspires productivity will be a major project many of us tackle. Luxury home office furniture that feels chic and blends into your décor as well as ergonomic chairs and desks will see a major boost.

Custom and quality: With the hit to the economy, people are going to be buying less, but what they do buy will be better quality, while at the same time making an effort to support American businesses. When it comes to design, trends will shift to locally made furniture, custom-built homes and pieces and materials that stand the test of time.

Find more information at nudura.com.

Did you know?

Social distancing recommendations issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic compelled people to spend more time at home than ever before. As the pandemic wore on, people looked for ways to enjoy activities in their backyards so they would not become overwhelmed by cabin fever. Home theater projectors afford homeowners the chance to bring the magic of family movie nights outdoors. The tech experts at Digital Trends® note that modern projectors are a great way to enjoy a true cinematic experience at home, even if your "theater" is under the stars in the backyard. Some projectors are designed to remain outdoors so long as homeowners take the steps necessary to protect the devices from the weather. In fact, projectors are small and so easily moved that homeowners can take them inside at the

end of each movie to ensure they're not damaged by the elements. In such instances, only the screen and the audio components, like speakers, will require protection from the elements. But even interior projectors can be taken outdoors when homeowners decide to watch a movie outdoors. Projectors can even be used to watch television outdoors, making them options worth considering for sports fans who may be restricted from seeing their favorite teams in person this season. Watching television on a projector without a cable box may require a little extra effort and a few more accessories than streaming a movie outdoors, and homeowners would be wise to consult a home entertainment professional to ensure their setup is good to go before inviting anyone over to watch the big game under the stars.

Turn your new house into a home

Historically low mortgage interest rates are helping to drive a new wave of home sales. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates roughly 14 percent of the population, or around 40 million people, move every year for various reasons. Statistics Canada's Canadian Housing Survey found about half of Canadian households have either moved within the past five years or intend to do so within the next five.

While people may be inclined to move far from their current residences, the moving resource Move.org notes that some U.S. states are seeing an influx in people leaving while others are absorbing new residents. Illinois, Alaska, New Jersey, New York, and West Virginia are the top five states Americans are leaving, while Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Oregon, and Montana are gaining residents.

People relocate for various reasons. After moving into a new house, it can take some effort to turn that house into a true home and feel comfortable in your new environs. These steps can help that process along.

- Create at least one complete and serene space. Focus on setting up the bedroom so you can retreat at the end of the day. Invest in new furniture or get new bedding to give the room this comforting feeling.

- Create an organizational plan. It can be tempting to want to throw everything in closets and unpack quickly, but give yourself time to fully analyze where you want to store items, where you may need to paint or reconfigure spaces, as well as any home improvements



Courtesy photo

you want to make before taking out all of your stuff. When you fully unpack, you can immediately enjoy your hard work.

- Hang artwork. Hang a few select pieces of artwork or family photos shortly after moving in. Surround yourself with things that make you feel good.

- Bring mementos. Your first home may bring about warm feelings. While you can't recreate it entirely, you can use a piece of furniture or a few family heirlooms to make your new space feel homey.

- Rely on familiar scents. Break in the new space with familiar aromas, whether it's preferential air fresheners, scented candles or baking your favorite chocolate chip cookie recipe.

Moving into a new home can be exciting. Certain touches can help make the new space feel more like home.

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