

Shorts

COVID-19 update from SLV Public Health Partnership

STAFF REPORT

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Data collected as of Feb. 21, shows that approximately 63% of San Luis Valley residents age 70 and above have received at least one dose of vaccine to protect against COVID-19. Colorado's goal is to vaccinate at least 70% of those age 70 and older. COVID-19 related deaths and hospitalizations are higher in this age group than in any other group. Data also shows that significantly more women than men have been vaccinated so far in the San Luis Valley. Vaccinations drastically reduce the chances of COVID-19 illness, hospitalization, and death.

If you are currently eligible to receive the vaccine and have not signed up yet, now is a good time to do so. Those who are currently eligible in Phases 1.A, 1.B.1, and 1.B.2 are high- and moderate-risk health workers, first responders, pre-K thru 12 educators, and individuals age 65 and above. For more information about COVID-19 vaccinations in the San Luis Valley, see www.slvph.com.

New variants of the virus are a concern around the world. The variant of highest concern right now in Colorado is B.1.1.7, which is highly contagious. This variant has been identified in other parts of Colorado, but so far not in the San Luis Valley.

Over the next month officials expect vaccine supplies will increase in the Valley. Part of that increase will likely be the new single-dose vaccine from Johnson and Johnson.

It is estimated that about 30% of COVID-19 cases are tested and reported to public health. As of March 1, there were 83 known active cases of COVID-19 in the San Luis Valley. County-specific case counts are listed below, along with what each county is in on the Dial.

- Alamosa County - 37 - Yellow
- Conejos County - 10 - Yellow
- Costilla County - 8 - Yellow
- Mineral County - 0 - Blue
- Rio Grande County - 20 - Blue
- Saguache County - 8 - Blue

TESTING
To pursue testing for COVID-19 through our regular testing providers call:

- Rio Grande Hospital 719-657-4990
- SLVHealth Respiratory Clinic 719-589-3000 ext. 9
- Valley-Wide Health Systems 719-589-3658 ext. 4 (M-F), 719-589-2562 (Sa/Su)

COVID-19 VACCINE PROVIDERS

In most cases, appointments are required. To sign up to receive a vaccine, contact one of the local providers below. If you have an appointment and you can't make it, please call to cancel so that no vaccine is wasted.

Water board approves partial plan with contingency

BY PATRICK SHEA

ALAMOSA — The Board of Managers representing Subdistrict 5 of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) accepted nine Well Injury Payment (WIP) contracts during their meeting on March 2, and they approved a partial plan to submit to state authorities before the March 15 deadline.

As of March 2, the partial plan to cover April fell short of meeting obligations defined by the Colorado Division of Water Resources. The board's resolution identified a contingency to continue seeking WIP contracts and other solutions before the deadline.

Unlike kicking the can down the road, the board continues dribbling with the problem at their feet while

searching for a solution in less than 10 days. Given the time crunch, they approved a motion to submit a partial-year annual replacement plan with the contingency for remedies to be sought soon.

As RGWCD attorney David Robbins described it to the board, "You are approving the plan contingent upon them fulfilling their responsibilities in terms of either

replacement water or forbearance agreements. If they don't meet that contingency, then the plan is not approved. What you're doing is allowing the plan to go forward to the state and to give them more time to meet your contingency."

While the Subdistrict 5 Board of Managers seeks solutions and the state considers their plan, the threat of red-tag well closures continue.



Courtesy photo

Lisbeth Lino's seventh-grade homeroom classmates at Center Consolidated Schools learned how to install donated smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on March 1.

Buena Vista couple donates detectors to Center students

BY PATRICK SHEA

CENTER — Six days after 13-year-old Lisbeth Lino died from carbon monoxide poisoning in a fire on Jan. 20, the Center Town Board approved funds to buy detectors for all Center residents who didn't have functioning alarms.

A week after hearing about the tragedy during a church service in Buena Vista on Feb. 21, a couple from the congregation spent approximately \$350 to assemble 10 packages for Lisbeth's seventh-grade homeroom classmates at Center Consolidated Schools. Each bag contained two detectors,

a mix of plug-in and battery-powered models for smoke and carbon monoxide.

On March 1, students received installation instructions and homework assignments with practical exposure to fractions, science, drafting and other useful

Please see DONATE on Page 4A

Del Norte Bank celebrating 100 years of service

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Del Norte has a long history here in the Valley and though back in the day when building and loan banks were just beginning to hit the market, they did not generate much interest outside of families that were looking to buy or build a home, now 100 years later, the fact that Del Norte Bank is still offering their services to the community is nothing less than a huge accomplishment and a testament to how far the industry has grown over the years.

Del Norte Bank President Mike Hurst is working on a book that will take readers back in time to when the bank was founded and even highlights the history of the town it was built to serve. The bank was created on May 9, 1921 and has since grown into a substantial financial institution

Please see 100 YEARS on Page 7A



Courtesy photo

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OBITUARIES

Sandra Eileen Kendrick Aug. 7, 1938—Feb. 13, 2021

Sandra Kendrick, 82, passed away Feb. 13, 2021 at her home with her daughters by her side.

She was born on Aug. 7, 1938 in Vinton, Iowa to Ralph Coleson and Nina King Coleson, the oldest of three children. The family moved to Colorado where Sandra attended schools in the towns of Leadville, Center, Westcliffe and graduated high school in Colorado Springs in 1956. Though her family moved several times during her childhood, Sandra always considered Center her home.

After high school, Sandra moved to Denver and began work at Central Power Company where she met many lifetime friends. She met Grant Kendrick in 1961 and they were united in marriage in December of that same year. They settled in Wheat Ridge and were blessed with three children.

Sandra never remarried after her husband passed, instead spending

the rest of her life enjoying her daughters, five grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family and countless close friends.

Sandra was a loving and fun mother and grandmother. Never afraid to play in the dirt, climb a tree, or have picnics in the Louisiana hot summer sun, she is leaving memories that will be treasured forever.

Sandra loved to travel Whether she jumped in a car, hopped on a plane, or boarded a bus or ship, she was always ready for the next adventure.

But mostly, Sandra was a woman of faith. She loved the Lord and trusted him through every step of her life. She faced so many difficult situations throughout her life, but through them all she showed that she could do all things through Christ who strengthened her. As she faced the final battle with ALS, which ultimately took her life, she did so



with grace, dignity and strength with Jesus by her side.

Sandra is survived by her daughter Janet Baker (JD) of Milford, Kan., Jerri Woods (Derek) of Aurora, five grandchildren, Amanda, Danny, Katie, Grant, and Connor, three great-grandchildren, and sister Linda Inglis (Fort Collins).

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Grant, son, Danny, father, Ralph Coleson, mother, Nina Coleson and brother, Dave Coleson.

Galen Ray Harrison

Galen Ray Harrison, 76, of Center, passed away from COVID-19 Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021 in Memorial Hospital, Colorado Springs.

He was born March 3, 1944 in Monte Vista to Ellis (Bid) and Freda Harrison who preceded him in death.

He is survived by Teresa (Carpenter) Harrison, his wife of 52 years; Brian and Terry Harrison, their children Brent and Allison; Tawnya and Nathan Toland, their children Remington, Rhiannon and Ruger; older brother Wesley and Virginia Harrison, younger sister Myrna and Joe Ence, several brother- and sister-in-laws, nieces and nephews, cousins and friends near and far.

Galen graduated from Center High School in 1962 and was active in football and baseball. He attended Adams State. He farmed with his father until he was drafted into the United States Army in 1969. Because of his college education, hard work and people skills, he became an officer and was stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs. He was medically discharged as a 1st Lieutenant in 1972. Galen returned to farm with his dad and brother. He was later joined by his son, Brian and grandson, Brent. Together they were successful raising potatoes and Coors barley.

Galen loved his family and supported them, traveling all over the state watching games in rain, snow and shine. There are many nicknames given in love by Galen. He was an active member of the First Baptist Church in Monte Vista for more than 60 years. Later, he joined Gateway Church in Del Norte. People were never a stranger to him. He visited with everyone. He loved little children and made them feel important and loved.

Galen loved everything about the outdoors. From sunrise to sundown, he loved the Colorado skies and mountains. The farm was very special to him as he could work the dirt but disliked the rocks. He was happy when sprinklers were developed. He considered them the greatest invention of all time. Galen loved spending time in a tractor doing field work and blading snow on Poverty Ridge. He loved dogs and cats and spoiled them rotten. His favorite pastime was hunting geese, coyotes and big game. Seeing geese

Please see **OBITUARY**
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fly in formation gave him great joy. Galen was a member of the NRA, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, North American Hunting Club and Ducks Unlimited.

A visitation will be held on Friday evening, March 5, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista. Services will be on Saturday, March 6, 2021, at Gateway Church in Del Norte at 10 a.m. with military honors at Monte Vista Cemetery following. In light of the pandemic, all are welcome but online streaming will be available on You Tube on the channel for Gateway Church of Del Norte. Please join us online if you are in a high-risk group, aren't feeling well or are uncomfortable joining us in person. There will be an open house at the Harrison Shop, 2031 W. Road 9 North, Center starting at 12:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Children's Ministry Fund, Gateway Church, 975 Grand Ave., Del Norte, CO 81132.

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

Eutimio "Tim" Joseph Atencio

Eutimio "Tim" Joseph Atencio, of Richland, Wash., beloved husband, father, Grandpa, brother, and uncle, passed away peacefully at the age of 72 on Feb. 19, 2021, with family by his side.

Tim was born on Sept. 10, 1948 in Del Norte to Guillermo "Bill" Atencio and Betty (Gallegos) Atencio. He was the eldest of 12 children, graduated from Del Norte High School in 1966, and attended the Holy Family Seminary in Maryland, University of Colorado Boulder, and Clark College.

Tim spent eight years in the United States Army and was stationed at Camp Page in South Korea, where he met his lovely and beloved wife, Ok Su. After leaving the service, he was employed by Bonneville Power Administration, retiring after 42 years of service to the United States

government.

Tim was happiest when he was spending time with all of his family members, especially his many grandchildren. He was a loyal Denver Broncos fan and he enjoyed coaching soccer in the Tri-Cities, Washington for many years. His humor, his warmth, his charm, his wisdom, and his generous heart will be greatly missed.

Tim was preceded in death by his father, Bill, mother, Betty, sister, Della, baby sister, Rita Mae, and baby brother, Lester, and his nephews, Jason and Mike.

Tim is survived by his wife, Ok Su, and children, Claudine (husband Paul), Matthew (wife Lyndsey), Andres (wife Wendi), Cynthia (husband David), Christian (wife Laura), and Greg (wife Julianne), his five brothers, Tom,



Eddie, Randy, Paul, and Ben, and three sisters, Charlene, Mildred, and Janet. Tim has 13 grandchildren, Jaden, Josh, Jackson, Olivia, Joaquin, August, Owen, Eilidh, Sylvie, Maddox, Luna, Peyton, and Sydney.

David G. Colville

Lifetime Colorado resident and rancher, David G. Colville, 86, of Del Norte, passed away at home surrounded by family on Feb. 12, 2021.

He was born May 26, 1934 to Alexander M. Colville and Ruth Marie Samuels. He graduated from Del Norte High School in 1952, then received his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business in 1956 from Colorado State University. He married Maretta Wilbur Colville on Oct. 14, 1956, and had three children.

He was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his brother, Alexander (Louise) Colville, sister, Suzanne (Gordon) Off, daughters, Jodi C. (Duane) Anderson, and Julie

M. Graeter (Brian Christenson) and son, David A. Colville (Amy Engle). He has seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He had a thirst for life. He enjoyed skiing, hiking, canyoneering, playing the guitar, piano, and reading. He was on the Wolf Creek Ski Patrol and belonged to the Gray Wolf Ski Club. He was involved in the SLV Cattlemen's Association, a member of the board of Directors at the MV Co-op, and he was on the Rio Grande County Bank Board.

His greatest joy was being active and working in the great outdoors on the Corset Ranch for his entire life, leaving only to serve four years in the US Army. He will greatly be



missed by all who knew him.

Cremation was chosen and a Celebration of Life will be May 29, 2021, at the home where he was born.

Arrangements in care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

South end of a northbound mule

There is an old Southern saying about being hungry enough to eat the south end of a northbound mule. And if you still do not know which end that is, it's the one where the hay comes out.

Of course, that's a play of words to conjure a distasteful image, but, in all honesty if we quit eating that end on most animals there would be no ham for Easter and no sirloins at the barbecues.

The old cowboys used to remark about staring at the south end of northbound cattle as they herded them North to market. And it was a bad thing in those days as that meant you were riding "drag" (not to be confused with RuPaul) and were in the dirt and grime behind the main herd.

I often read the veterinarian/cowboy/poet Baxter Black and he spends an inordinate amount of time writing about prolapsed cows and such. Having had a few of those myself, I prefer to just limit my exposure to that even in print, if possible. So, when his columns ease in that direction, I set aside the paper for the week.

Of late, Miss Trixie and Ol' Dutch have been perusing the south end of northbound cows looking for signs of impending calving.

There are several signs of impending birth one of which is they start to "bag" which means their udders fill up with milk. Nature has a wonderful way in preparing the momma for any birth and it's miraculous and amazing to experience. This happens to all warm-blooded animals but Ol' Dutch found it best not to talk about "bagging up" around expectant mothers, just FYI.

Another thing that happens in cows is they start to show signs with a swelling vulva. Now I don't know about you but in the past two weeks I have about seen all the vulvas I care to look at. And if Miss Trixie makes one more comment about vaginal cow discharge during our meals, I am going to have to throw her out on her ear.

One thing I do know, cow watching is much like waiting for a wife to go into labor. Men have to sit around and wait for that with bated breath also. No hunting or fishing trips are allowed during that time no matter how many times you try and explain that you are not needed. And it's never a good time to interject "well, you are the one that wanted a baby" anytime in the swelling period.

At least childbirth signals an end to the wife's constant griping about being big as a cow and we can then begin the "can't seem to lose the baby



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

weight" phase of our relationship. I mean honestly. Ol' Dutch is still carrying around some baby weight, but you don't hear me complaining. Childbirth also signals an end to vacations as we knew it. There are constant reminders of that for Ol' Dutch when you see people online asking what there is for an infant, 4-year-old twins, a 9-year-old and a know-it-all-teenager to do while the parents are on vacation.

Gone for them are the days when they got together with four other couples for a weekend of skiing, eating out, drinking margaritas and dancing long into the night. Now, their trips are filled with breast pumping, keeping the twins away from snakes, the 9-year-old from killing the twins and snakes, plus the teen from "dying" of boredom.

It's really not as bad as it sounds. It's worse. Well, maybe not but sometimes a person faced with such a scenario will just stop and wonder what they were thinking at the time of conception to this tribe. Lust can ruin a good thing for sure.

Now instead of the nice sleek sporty convertible you are condemned to driving the short bus and have calloused fingers from buckling and unbuckling seat belts for the entire crew.

Miss Trixie never had any children, so she does not get the same feelings of terror as Ol' Dutch each time he has to strap in a grandchild. She goes about it with no pain whatsoever and that, my friends, ain't right.

So, my wisdom for all you young ones out there, if that the next time you find yourself looking at the south end of a northbound heifer, just remember vacations will never be the same.

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.



COMMENTARY

The importance of landscape connectivity for wildlife

BY CHRIS CANALY
Director of San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
ERIC TIMLIN
Public Lands Associate with Environment Colorado

For generations, the San Luis Valley has astounded both locals and visitors with its abundant wildlife and unrivaled scenery. From the San Juans to the Great Sand Dunes, there is perhaps no better place to witness the raw beauty of our state. Thousands of sandhill cranes come to the valley every spring on their migration. Like many bird species, they migrate over thousands of miles from Mexico to the northern tundra of Canada. The cranes visit the San Luis Valley in February and March before travelling onward to Nebraska or Yellowstone National Park.

Their beauty and gracefulness is such a natural spectacle that for nearly four decades bird watchers and outdoor enthusiasts have flocked to our valley's annual Monte Vista Crane Festival. However, despite that love and the general appreciation most of us have for nature, wildlife — and our winged friends in particular — has never been more imperiled than today. Since 1970, we've lost one-quarter of all birds in North America. That's approximately 3 billion less birds in the sky than 50 years ago. Part of this problem comes from the ruin of wild spaces. In Colorado alone, we've lost more than a half-a-million acres to development. This land use is suffocating biodiversity on land and in the air.

Thankfully, there is a plan that can protect an abundance and diversity of species: We need to protect 30 percent of the world's land and water by the end of the decade. Sure, reaching this goal by 2030, which is colloquially known as the "30 by 30 Resolution," just introduced by Sen. Michael Bennet,

is ambitious, but it's also attainable if we start taking immediate steps now.

At present, Colorado — despite being roughly one-third public land — has just an estimated 10 percent, or roughly 6 million acres of its total land adequately protected. This means that we have to protect another 14 million acres to reach 30 percent by 2030. For the San Luis Valley, that should include protecting and expanding wilderness or creating other special designations for our valley's public lands.

That said, developing protected areas is only one of the many ways we reach our target. Private landowners can also play a major role in conservation by ensuring safe migration corridors for birds and mammals. A federal bill called the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act would establish a wildlife movements grant program to encourage the movement of wildlife across their habitats.

In our region, these habitat areas that connect larger protected areas to each other can play a meaningful role in keeping herds of elk and bighorn sheep healthy and prosperous. When land is broken up into disconnected pockets of nature, it leads to disease and a limited gene pool, making these species more vulnerable.

The San Luis Valley has long served as a wildlife migration corridor and we should incentivize landowners in the Valley to continue to prioritize that important role. We know how to do this. When it comes to local wildlife corridors that could serve as perfect candidates for protection, many were already identified during the Rio Grande National Forest Planning process. They include: Antora Meadows, Elkhorn, Saguache Creek, Pole Creek, Sheep Mountain, Snowshoe Mountain, Wason Park, the North Fork of Rock Creek, Lake Fork, Wannamaker/Deep Creek, Summit Peak, Adams Fork/Three Forks and Elk Creek, which is next to the South

San Juan Wilderness.

In addition, approximately 47,000 acres in the lower reaches of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains have been recommended as lands that could help contribute to the 30 percent total.

Turning these areas into corridors can be a win-win for all members of our community. For local landowners, it can occur by incentivizing such acts as reducing crop production in a drought.

This kind of management supports seasonal wetlands of the valley that have become valuable and critical habitat for migratory birds and refills aquifers. We should provide incentives to landowners to protect their land as a shared resource with wildlife — like the sandhill cranes — which would help them contribute to 30 by 30.

Collaboration between agriculture and conservation has a history of success in our own community. For example, when the Great Sand Dunes was upgraded to a national park status in 2004, it was a boon for the area. In 2018 alone, visitors to the park spent more than \$27 million in nearby communities and supported nearly 400 jobs. However, it is still vitally important to protect wildlife and nature for its own sake — we are running short on wild places.

Residents of the San Luis Valley have a unique opportunity to help achieve our 30 by 30 goals by leaning into wildlife corridors. The fact that we bear witness to the migration of the sandhill cranes, along with hundreds of other species of birds, should be a reminder of just how connected our valley is to our continent's vibrant biodiversity.

To ensure future generations can experience this important connection to nature, we must get Colorado's Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper to prioritize the protection of the important landscapes of our state by passing the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act. It's what's right for our Valley, state and country.

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United Methodist Church 137 years of history

BY REBECCA COPLEY

MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista is home to many beautiful and historic buildings. One of the most noticeable is the United Methodist Church that sits on 215 Washington St. The large church and the stately building stands out as you drive by. The United Methodist Church of Monte Vista has a long history that began when the town was still called Henry. It was founded in 1884 and was the first church in the town itself.

The first church that they built was a small stone chapel that was completed in 1892 at the cost of \$5,406. The stone chapel featured a tower and bell and was dedicated on Dec. 11, 1892. While the church was being built the Methodists met each Sunday morning in the back of the Henry Mercantile Company on Jefferson Street. They also met for a time in a little schoolhouse on Monroe Street.

However, the stone chapel burned during the Sunday School hours on April 22, 1922. The fire was caused by a defective stove. After the first chapel burned, they set to work on a new modern church that would lend to the social history of Monte Vista. They wanted a large seating capacity, auditorium-stage space, and kitchen facilities, to be able to hold a wide variety of community activities, events, and meetings. The architect for the building was Charles J. Anderson, from Alamosa. The General Contractors for the church building were local

contractors Frank and Wellington Worth. Wellington fell off a scaffold and was disabled for the rest of his life.

The new church was dedicated on March 16, 1924 and cost approximately \$65,000. The new building featured unique designs and represents an architectural classification of the last 19th and early 20th century American movements: Prairie-School Style. One of the innovate elements is the sanctuary of the church connects with an overflow fellowship hall which can be separated by three one-ton overhead vertical sliding partitions. The two rooms have a 500-person seating capacity collectively. There are also hidden rooms throughout the church many under stairwells.

The outside of the church features an unusual face brick, purple tapestry finish pressed brick. This arrived in three carloads from the Pueblo Brick and Tile Company. There is no other building in Monte Vista or the San Luis Valley that was built with this kind of brick.

The church also has 55 stained glass windows shipped from the Kansas City Stained Glass Co. These were purchased in 1922 for \$1,500. The glass was cut to various sizes and shapes and put together with lead. After that they were cemented to hold the glass firmly in place. The four large beautiful windows make a statement of the church's faith and are significant from the life of Jesus.

The church sanctuary also has a



Photos By Rebecca Copley

The United Methodist Church was founded in 1884.

magnificent Estey Pipe Organ and chimes which were dedicated on March 9, 1924. The total cost came to \$6,625. The Priscilla Society donated \$5,742. They also held many fundraising events which were mostly chicken dinners.

Today like it was originally intended the church is still used for various community use. Different groups including the quilting guild, PEO, and other groups meet here. The building also continues to be used for funerals and graduations and other events. However, over the course of the last year some regular events and meetings have not happened due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The church is listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places. After 137 years, it continues to hold services as a place of worship. Its congregation adding more layers of history to this beautiful and enduring, church.

Special thanks to Colette Skeff and Pastor Steve Dunkel for all their help with this article.



Some of the beautiful stained glass windows that were bought in 1922 for the church.



The sanctuary of the United Methodist Church. It's fun to wonder how many people have filled those pews over the last decades.

DONATE

Continued from Page 1A

skills. After testing batteries and dating each unit, they learned proper placement because smoke rises and carbon monoxide sinks. For their first assignment for the night, they had to draw a floorplan of their home and mark proposed placement. All but one of the 10 students in the class live in one-story dwellings.

The Buena Vista couple wished to remain anonymous, yet their story

shows more about the complicated issue. Having exhausted the supply in Buena Vista, they had to drive to Woodland Park to fill the 10th paper sack. Models varied as much as the electrical systems and structural differences in old and new homes across Center's neighborhoods.

Big R offers options in Center, but no other store in town carries detectors. None of the models are

cheap and hoping to save money by buying a single-unit detector for both hazards compromises efficiency. A carbon monoxide detector should be no more than a foot off the ground while smoke rises above head height.

The Buena Vista couple hopes to raise enough funds to acquire devices for Lisbeth's entire seventh-grade class.



One of Lisbeth Lino's homeroom classmates repurposed the sack from the donated detectors he received during an installation instruction session at Center Consolidated Schools on March 1.



A couple from Buena Vista donated 10 packages with smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for Lisbeth Lino's seventh-grade homeroom classmates at Center Consolidated Schools.

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Vikings and Tigers take battle to the court



Center's Abraham Echaury tied the game at 43 with 2 minutes and 26 seconds remaining against Del Norte on March 2.



Del Norte's Ben Parra scored three free throws and teammate Tyler Gallegos added another to complete a comeback in Center and win 47-43.



Fans cleared out of the Center High School gym between the girls and boys basketball games when the Vikings and Del Norte Tigers battled on March 2.



Center's Diego Velez drained four three-pointers to put the Vikings ahead 18-7 at the end of the first quarter against the Del Norte Tigers on March 2.



Above: A combination celebration crowned royalty for all four Center High School classes after the basketball game against Del Norte on March 2.

Right: The Del Norte Tigers clawed back from a 24-15 halftime deficit to cut the score to 35-33 at the end of the third quarter against the Vikings in Center.



Photos by Patrick Shea

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Elementary school art teacher continues art lessons during pandemic

STAFF REPORT

DEL NORTE — The coronavirus pandemic has created hurdles for art educators. Del Norte Elementary School art instructor Suzie Carrasco continued to exercise her students' creativity.

A year ago, Carrasco could not have imagined all the struggles she would face this school year. Del Norte Elementary School opted for an in-person learning model this school year. Student and faculty absences due to COVID-19 exposures has been an obstacle.

"We have tried to have as much in-school learning as possible this year, but it has not been without struggle," Carrasco said. "We have had many days and weeks where we had to switch to online due to

exposure to the virus. I have had to quarantine and leave my students with a sub."

Carrasco adjusted how she manages her art room. Keeping her classroom sanitized and following COVID-19 protocols is major priority.

"I have to have art kits for each class, and I have to switch them out quickly with each class change," Carrasco said. "I also have to clean the tables and chairs and surfaces between classes. This is a huge struggle."

Carrasco is utilizing an online art education platform called Artsonia.com — the world's largest collection of online student art portfolios — to communicate with parents, raise funds for the art room, display

student artwork, and maintain digital student art portfolios.

"Artsonia is a place where parents can realize how important the chance to create is to their children," Carrasco said.

Artsonia helps thousands of teachers in over 100 countries worldwide reach students electronically while creating online student art portfolios. Parents and relatives can view the art online, leave comments and order keepsakes featuring the artwork. As part of its mission, Artsonia donates 20 percent of merchandise revenue directly back to local classrooms and has given back more than \$11 million to local classrooms since 2000.

"Our mission at Artsonia is

to bring communities together to celebrate children's artistic expressions," said Jim Meyers, CEO and co-founder of the company. "It has been amazing to watch teachers like Suzie — who are passionate about the process of creating, recognizing and cherishing student art — persevere during a time when the arts are being vastly overlooked."

Art education equips students with fundamental skills they need throughout their lives. It aids in the essential development of problem-solving skills, decision-making, motor skills, creativity, and cultural understanding. Carrasco's students have truly benefitted from her art classes this school year.

"Children need a place to express



Suzie Carrasco

all of the crazy emotions they are going through," Carrasco said. "It's also a place where they can have a break from the stress."

To learn more, visit artsonia.com.

Military Parents with a Purpose host first military sendoff

BY REBECCA COPLEY

MONTE VISTA — Military Parents with a Purpose (MPwP) will be hosting its first military sendoff ceremony March 6 at the Faith Hinkley Memorial and Veterans park at 11 a.m. The ceremony will be to send off 20-year-old Amanda Avila who will be leaving to serve in the National Guard. Avila is a 2019 Monte Vista High School graduate.

When asked why she wanted to serve in the National Guard Avila answered saying, "I wanted to join the National Guard to get help with college tuition and to help find a lifelong career path."

Avila shared that she has wanted to join the National Guard since she was a junior in high school.

When asked what she hopes to accomplish as a member of the National Guard Avila said, "I hope to gain experience as a combat medic as well as become a leader to future soldiers. I hope to become a great asset to the civilian world with my medic background."

Avila has a history of military service in her family.

"I have great grandparents, uncles and cousins who have served, and my brother Ty is currently serving in the Army. Shoutout to Big Bro T," said Avila.

The Military Parents with a Purpose group started in September of 2019, as a group of parents from Monte Vista who have children that are active military members. The group raises funds and

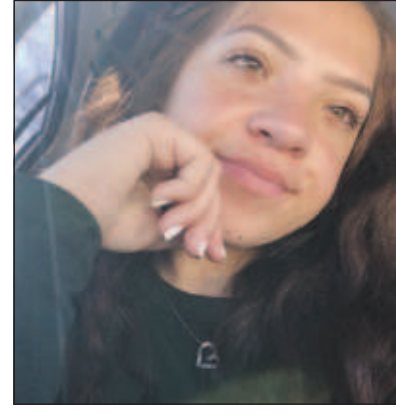
collects donations to send Christmas care packages to their local military members who are currently serving. They sent out 40 care packages to local military members from Monte Vista and to surrounding military members from other communities, with the support of donations from the community and businesses.

"This past Christmas we decided not to ask for donations due to COVID-19. But we were able to send Christmas cards to the Monte Vista military members. We will be doing the care packages this coming Christmas and hope to be able to provide for care packages for our local and surrounding military members. With the help and support of our community we are able to

continue sending these care packages," said Amanda's mother, Kelly Avila, who is also the president of MPwP.

For their first-ever military sendoff ceremony they are inviting the community to come and show their appreciation for Amanda Avila and her family's sacrifice. Masks will be required, and there will be no seating available.

"We are wanting to get the community involved in showing support to the shipper and wanting the shipper to know that their community is behind them. There will be different community members that will speak and there will be support from our local first responders," Kelly Avila told Valley Publishing.



Courtesy photo

Monte Vista High School 2019 graduate, 20-year-old Amanda Avila will soon be leaving to serve as a member of the National Guard.

Sargent Elementary Kindergarten Enrollment April 6-7

STAFF REPORT

Sargent Elementary is having kindergarten enrollment for the 2021-22 school year on April 6-7. Schedule an appointment by calling 719-852-4024.

Parents can register their kindergartener and meet the teacher and principal. Prospective kindergarteners must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 1, 2021, to be eligible for the 2021-22 school year.

Parents will need to bring child's birth certificate and immunization record to appointment.



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Press Past Guilt and Shame

How do you feel about yourself? Do you waste time feeling guilty about things in the past that you can't change?

I used to live with a constant, underlying sense of guilt. Because I was sexually abused by my father during my childhood, I grew up feeling that something must be wrong with me for him to want to do the things he did to me. This damage in my soul caused me to become ashamed of myself.

Guilt and shame are dangerous. Because when you live this way, you aren't just ashamed of something you've done or that's been done to you, you're ashamed of yourself. And it poisons everything else in your life.

But Romans 8:1 says, "There is now no condemnation [no guilty verdict, no punishment] for those who are in Christ Jesus [who believe in Him as personal Lord and Savior]" (AMP). This means it is *not* God's will for us to live with guilt and shame every day of our lives!

Facing the Truth That Led Me to Freedom

Giving up guilt and shame was not easy for me. I had a really hard time believing that God loved me and that He wanted me to love myself. I don't mean that He wanted me to love myself in a selfish, self-centered, prideful way, but I had to accept God's love for me and love myself in a healthy way before I could love others. I came to realize that most of the problems I had—the personality issues and unhealthy relationships—stemmed from the fact that I was ashamed of myself. The truth is when you don't like yourself, it's very difficult to get along with anyone else.

It was a life-changing revelation when God showed me that it was *religion*—not relationship with Christ—that makes us believe that it's right or good to feel bad about

ourselves...to beat ourselves up for our mistakes and weaknesses.

God doesn't want us to live under the burden of guilt and condemnation because all this does is make us believe that we need to pay for our sin. And Jesus has already paid for it!

The Path to Move Forward

Second Corinthians 5:17 says, "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (NIV). And verse 21 says that "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

When we come to God and confess our sin, asking Him to forgive us, we become new creations in Him because of what Jesus has done. Jesus, who was perfect and never sinned, took the punishment for our sin so we could be made right with God and have a personal relationship with Him.

So when we refuse to give up guilt and shame by believing in what He's done for us, we're essentially saying, "Jesus, I don't think You did a good enough job, so I need to add my effort to try and make up for the mistakes I've made and get over this guilt." Our way of "paying" is feeling miserable and guilty.

The tragedy is, as long as we live this way, we will never enjoy the freedom we can have in Christ of being forgiven of our sin, and enjoy the good life He came to give us (John 10:10).

The Power to Change

The key to pressing past guilt and shame was discovering the power in God's Word to overcome it. Eventually, as I spent time in prayer and Bible study, the truth renewed my mind and set me free (Romans 12:2; John 8:32).

I want to encourage you to read the scriptures I've shared in this teaching.



Pray and ask God to help you agree with what He says more than how you feel or what you think about yourself based on your past. Study verses about His love for you, like John 3:16-17 and 1 John 4:8-16. Confess what God says about you: He loves you; He forgives you; He created you to be a unique, special, one-of-a-kind individual; and He has a wonderful plan for your life! (See Psalm 139:13-14; Jeremiah 29:11; Ephesians 2:8-10.)

If you will embrace who you are as a new creation in Christ and do your best each day to grow in your faith in God by studying His Word and seeking Him in prayer, you will make progress in becoming everything He made you to be. You will be free from guilt and shame...and have the life Jesus died to give you!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-CD series *Pressing In and Pressing On*. 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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YOUR NIGHT SKY

Winter planet viewing

By Darlene Danko

Currently the only planet visible in the evening is Mars. On March 4, Mars is close to the Pleiades Star Cluster for the first time since 2006, and they won't be together again until 2038. Look in the southwest about halfway up. Mars is the first planet to see after sunset. It's the bright orange thing you'll see in the sky.

Don't forget to look for the Zodiacal light, too. It's visible where the Sun sets at least 1/2 hour after sunset. I would most likely look for it an hour after sunset. This glow comes up from our planet into the sky. Since the new moon is on March 13, this is a great time to look at the night sky.

Some of the planets are now in the morning sky. In the ESE Saturn comes up about 1 1/2 hours before the Sun. A half hour later, Jupiter and Mercury come up to the lower left of Saturn. Mercury is just to the left of Jupiter in the ESE. On March 5 and 6 of this month, they will be close

together. Mercury is at its greatest elongation from the Sun right now making it great to view. On Tuesday, March 9, the moon joins the 3 planets in the morning. Obviously, it's very thin since the new moon is on March 13.

When you observe the Winter Circle around Orion, you look at Gemini, the Twins. It's one of the oldest and easiest constellations to observe in the sky. The two brightest stars Pollux and Castor which are part of the Winter Circle to the upper left of Orion, are the heads of the twins that stand side by side and face each other.

Pollux is yellow orange and the brighter of the two. Castor is blue white and a little dimmer. Orion is currently in the South and the Milky Way starts at Betelgeuse and covers the lower part of the twins with these stars on the other side of the Milky Way from Orion. Pollux is a giant orange star that's about 9X wider and about 43 times more luminous than our Sun. It's about 34 light years from us. Castor is about



51 light years from us which makes it dimmer, and is actually a group of 6 stars that orbit each other. The word Gemini in Latin means twins.

They are the brightest stars in the constellation Gemini, the Twins. To find it, first find Orion's bright star Betelgeuse and continue to look through the Milky Way for about 30 degrees from Orion. These two stars are the heads, and the body goes through the Milky Way to get close to Orion. There are 13 stars in this constellation. Its 2-hands wide and 2-hands tall. So go out and have fun looking for it.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Feb. 22-28.

The sheriff's department transported one person to a detention facility in Canon City, and other activity on the road included one hit-and-run car crash, one traffic complaint and 10 traffic stops.

In addition to responding to one civil dispute, staff recorded one theft, one case of harassment, one assault, one case of trespassing and five cases of suspicious activity. They also monitored five controlled burns.

Staff made three victims advocate visits in Monte Vista, on top of motorist assistance, four welfare checks and help with one ambulance ride. Property found in Moffat and one abandoned vehicle required attention, too.

Arrests

- Galen Poole, 26, Saguache, driving with suspended license, protection order violation.
- Nathan Castillo, 44, Center, fugitive of justice.
- Dylan Phelps, 24, Salida, contempt of court (failure to comply), parole hold.
- Robert Ware, 46, Gunnison,



pedestrian in roadway under influence of alcohol or drugs, resisting arrest, criminal mischief.

100 YEARS

Continued from Page 1A

that has two branches in Del Norte and Creede.

"We were formed in 1921 as Del Norte Building Loan. It was formed with a lot of fan fair because half the buildings here in the Valley were built by these building and loan institutions that were around. Building and loans were formed about the time of the founding of the country in Massachusetts to help people build homes and it didn't really take hold in the San Luis Valley until the early 1900s," said Hurst.

In an excerpt from the coming book about the history of Del Norte Bank it states, "Del Norte Bank has been through many transitions and transformations over its 100-year history. Incorporated on May 9, 1921 as Del Norte Building and Loan, it began with much fanfare as the best way to assure a robust housing expansion.

As laws and the banking system changed, the Building and Loan changed too. While incorporated in 1921, the Del Norte Building and Loan began its long evolution with its first change through the Federal Home Loan Bank System and the Home Owners Loan Act of 1933. On May 14, 1934, Del Norte Building and Loan Association modified its charter to become Del

Norte Federal Savings and Loan Association. While this signaled a modernization of the Building and Loan system, the mission remained the same. Assuring access to capital to build adequate housing was to be the association's sole mission for another 70 years."

Through the years, the bank found its home in several locations including law offices, the Windsor Hotel at one point but it was not until later in the 1960 when the bank moved into its own building next to the Del Norte Post Office and later into the building where it now reside to this day in 2007.

From another excerpt of the book, it talks about some of the struggles the bank was able to overcome in recent years, marking the growth of the establishment and its resiliency here in the Valley, "The nation's banking environment continued to weaken, with hundreds of banks closing each year, but Del Norte Federal Bank continued to perform adequately throughout 2009. There was a stable income stream and Return on Assets of .36 percent and assets of \$45.8 million. Asset quality now began to show more stress, as people were impacted by the nation's economic problems. While past-due and classified loans increased, they remained manageable, with

the lending staff making individual contact with each struggling household to form appropriate plans and strategies to make it through the difficult times. That personal contact resonated throughout the community, with the slogan 'True. Local. Bank.' becoming a real asset that carried more and more weight. The Mutual Holding Company was completed on November 16, 2009."

Hurst is hopeful to hear more stories from local people and to add to the book in coming years, "I can see this book growing as more and more people come forward with their family stories and we are hoping to have more people come in to share their stories for another edition of the book. We would like to have this be a growing account of Del Norte history as well as the history of the bank," said Hurst.

Del Norte Bank is planning to host a celebration later in the summer to coincide with Covered Wagon Days at the beginning of August. Hurst stated that more details will be reported as they come available as far as specific dates and times. The event would be subject to change depending on state and local COVID restrictions at that time, but Hurst remains optimistic for a summer celebration. Stay tuned for coming details!

OBITUARY

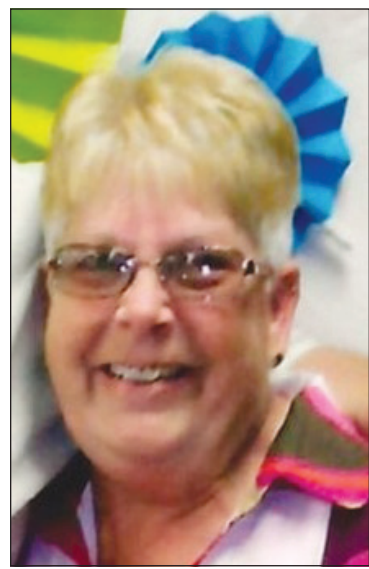
Glenda Ann Johnson

Glenda Ann (nee Price) Johnson, of Cedar Hill, Mo., was born July 22, 1952 in Leadville to Idos and Sally (nee Ray) Price and entered into rest Monday, Feb. 15, 2021 at her residence at the age of 68 years 6 months and 24 days.

She was preceded in death by, her parents.

She is survived by, her loving husband, William "Bill" Johnson, married Sept. 18, 1972, three (3) daughters, LeeAnn (Rob) Loreman, of Goldsboro, N.C., Angela (Jason) Puhr, of St. Peters, Mo., Michelle Johnson, of Arnold, Mo., 11 grandchildren, Tiffany, Kristen, Riley, Hayden, Keegan, Courtney, Heather, Jordan, Makayla, Leevi, and Karisa, two great-grandchildren, Lillianna and Evander, two sisters, Edna Knight, of Salem, Mo., and Claudia Shirley, of Colorado Springs along with numerous extended family and friends.

Glenda lived a happy life and was loved by so many. She had a spunky personality and enjoyed bringing smiles to everyone by playfully being ornery. She was a hard worker and a dedicated mother and grandmother. She was a loving wife and took great care of her husband Bill. She will be fondly remembered and



dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Funeral service will be held Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021, 2 p.m. at Chapel Hill Mortuary, 6300 Highway 30, Cedar Hill, MO 63016. Private interment at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to American Lung Association. Family and friends can review and share stories, photos and condolences online at www.stlfuneral.com and follow details of this event and others in the community at www.facebook.com/stlchapelhill.

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San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2021-2021

Girls

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Del Norte 43..... | Sangre de Cristo 32 |
| Pueblo County 39 | Alamosa 36 |
| Creede 63..... | Mountain Valley/Moffat 29 |
| Antonito 67 | Sargent 41 |
| Alamosa 40 | Centauri 39 |
| Cotopaxi 47 | Mountain Valley/Moffat 42 |
| Sangre de Cristo 65 | Sierra Grande 41 |
| Del Norte 42..... | Crested Butte 26 |
| Sanford 68..... | Sargent 9 |
| Centauri 46..... | Sanford 38 |
| Antonito 69 | Creede 60 |
| Sangre de Cristo 71 | Swink 19 |
| Monte Vista 46 | Crested Butte 52 |
| Alamosa 50 | Bayfield 47 |

Boys

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Center 37 | Monte Vista 28 |
| Sangre de Cristo 57 | Del Norte 37 |
| Mountain Valley/Moffat 59 | Creede 26 |
| Sargent 51..... | Antonito 14 |
| Sanford 78..... | South Park 14 |
| Cotopaxi 55 | Mountain Valley/Moffat 34 |
| Sangre de Cristo 53 | Sierra Grande 20 |
| Center 45 | Custer County 35 |
| Del Norte 38 | Crested Butte 31 |
| Centauri 56..... | Alamosa 18 |
| Cotopaxi 50..... | Center 38 |
| Kim/Branson 48 | Sierra Grande 35 |
| Sangre de Cristo 45 | Swink 24 |
| Monte Vista 56..... | Crested Butte 55 |
| Sargent 53..... | South Park 13 |
| Alamosa 42 | Bayfield 37 |
| Centauri 64..... | Sanford 45 |

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San Luis Valley Mock Trial Team holds scrimmage

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The 12th Judicial District Access to Justice Committee came together and was able to assemble 11 students from area high schools and coached them over a six-week period.

Although they did not compete this year with other Colorado High Schools, they did hold a scrimmage at the Alamosa Justice Center on Feb. 12.

They had 12 coaches that volunteered their time to get the students ready for the scrimmage.

During the scrimmage there were six community volunteers who were members of the jury and retired Chief Judge Patti Swift was the Judge for the Mock Trial.

Students on the SLV Mock Trial Team for 2021:

- Aani Hardesty - Alamosa High School - Sophomore
- Brooke Gonzales - Alamosa High School - Sophomore
- Damian Garcia - Alamosa High School - Sophomore
- Dhara Patel - Alamosa High School - Freshman
- Estevan Vega - Centauri High School - Sophomore
- Hiral Patel - Alamosa High School - Sophomore

- Jude Walzl - Alamosa High School - Sophomore
- Lauren Manzanares - Alamosa High School - Senior
- Matayay Karuna - Crestone Charter School - Junior
- Victoria Scheibe - Sanford High School - Junior
- Whitney Thong - Alamosa High School - Sophomore

Coaches for the SLV Mock Trial Team 2021:

- Attorney Alex Raines
- District Court Judge Amanda Hopkins
- Rio Grande County Court Judge Barbara Zollars
- Attorney Byron Miller
- District Court Judge Crista Newmyer-Olsen
- Attorney Elizabeth Young
- Attorney James Valenti
- Attorney John Hoag
- Attorney Kate Mattern
- Conejos County Court Judge Kimberly Cortez-Rodriguez
- Attorney Mark Jackson
- District Court Judge Martin Gonzales
- Shereen Gonzales and Kaylene Guymon



Courtesy photos

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OptyMystics update council on progress

Plans underway to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Cinco De Mayo

BY REBECCA COPLEY

MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista City Council received an update from the citizen's action group, the OptyMystics, was presented by co-founder Adam Lock. During last week's council meeting, Lock shared with council that as the weather starts to warm up, they are focusing on revitalization projects.

Lock said they secured the funding needed for new light bulbs on Adams Street.

"The 100 block to start. This falls under chamber funding that already exists and has been earmarked for projects that we're working on. It's still within our original budget projections too. We've also secured a commitment from SLV REC to help us install the lights for free," Lock told the council.

Lock also said they continue to build their online presence.

"We've added several more

pages," Lock said. "As a quick recap, since we've launched the site in Sept., we've had over 1,500 unique visitors, over 4,000 total visitors and over 12,000 total page views. We're pretty happy with that in the short amount of time it's been up."

The OptyMystics continue to work with the state tourism office, Colorado.com, as they help local tourism-related businesses get listed on the frequently visited website. Lock said they are still developing road trips focusing on Monte Vista first and expanding out to other areas, then returning to Monte Vista for the evening.

"It's our intent to have these road trips actually up on the CTO (Colorado Tourism Office) website by this spring," Lock said.

Lock also shared with the council that the group continues to receive positive feedback from the community.

"We continue to receive really positive feedback when we talk to people about what we're doing and our efforts. Very encouraging," he said. "We obviously welcome anybody else to come on board with us."

See **OPTYMYSTICS** on Page 2



Photos by Kaitlyn Kelley

Adams State Gives Day 2021 ends with a bang as total raised peaks \$168,000. Pictured, co-hosts John Taylor, Ph.D., and Diane Arias, Class of 2020, celebrate the success of the event.

Harriet Dalzell Hester Endowed Scholarship established during Adams State Gives Day

ALAMOSA — Harriet Dalzell Hester lives in lore on the campus of Adams State University as the first student to ever cross the graduation stage and the first librarian in the school's 100-year history. Now her name will be forever tied to the Harriett Dalzell Hester Endowed Scholarship thanks to the generosity of Adams State President Cheryl D. Lovell.

Lovell announced the establishment of the endowed scholarship

Please see **GIVES** on Page 2



ASU President Cheryl D Lovell announces creation of Harriet Dalzell Hester Endowed Scholarship at the Adams State Gives Day on Feb. 15

Best and Worst of Times

It is the best of times.

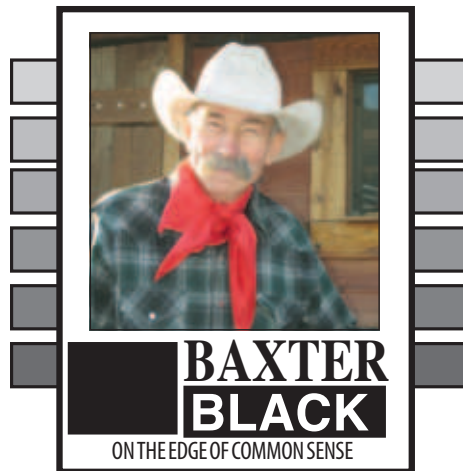
Calving at its finest. The calling of those chosen to tend God's creatures. To take part in simple miracles. To alter the balance of life on earth by one small addition.

It is the worst of times.

Calving in the midst of a winter when one needs a depth finder to see the top of the market. When it is less worrisome to lose oneself in the task of daily responsibilities easing the burden of birth, than thinking about the price of next fall's over-crowded weaner crop.

A dilemma, some would say.

But does knowing the decreased value of beef make a cowman think less of that heifer in trouble or that new calf layin' in the straw? Does her dollar price somehow affect her value as a creation? As a work of art planned, worked on and created by a cowman, a cow and God?



Does the price of a first calf heifer affect a cowman's responsibility to her well-being? Does his effort, concentration and skill decrease when she's calving as the market price decreases? Does he try harder to get a live

calf if she's worth more at the sale?

These questions are best answered, not philosophically or hypothetically, but in reality. At 3:00 a.m. when you hook the chains to newborn feet and start to pull, does cost cross your mind? When you rub the calf down and push him under her flank do you see dollar signs?

When you gaze over the turn out field and cows grazing contentedly while calves chase each other around'em, do you get a good feeling? Smile maybe and relax for a moment, thankful all is well. Or are you too occupied with their price to appreciate what you're seeing?

The dilemma I'm presenting really isn't much of a problem for most cow people I know. The calving barn is a long way in time and miles and thought from the auction ring.

After all, we tend to our flocks in bad weather, hard times, illness, chapped hands,

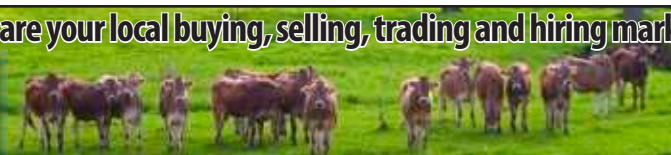
achin' backs, mad patients and yes, bad markets.

I think when we lay down in the straw or mud behind a heifer needin' help, the price per pound is the farthest thing from our mind. So, in spite of all the well meaning (and correct) consultants who keep reminding us that what we do is a business, it is also, beyond any doubt, a way of life.

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

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OPTYMYSTICS

Continued from Page 1

Lock also said the group is currently working on plans to put on a parade for St. Patrick's Day. The exact route and time are still to be determined. They would also like to work on a celebration for Cinco de Mayo.

With Rio Grande County recently moving to level Blue on the COVID-19 dial, the group is hopeful they can hold these events.

"Obviously, we'll still follow whatever health guidelines are in place at the time," said Lock.

Lock also said that they are talking with local restaurants to see if they would like to offer any special foods that would typically be associated with these holidays.

"The OptyMystics are heading up both of these projects with the intent of bringing people downtown for a bit of celebration for both of these days. And also it allows us an opportunity to raise a little bit of funding toward the beautification projects that we're working on," said Lock.

For people interested in participating in the St. Patrick's Day parade, the Optymysites are asking for a \$10 donation to enter to help with their beautification and revitalization efforts for downtown Monte Vista. The donation is requested and appreciated but not required to participate. There will also be prizes awarded to the best floats — first through third places.

Lock said they would report more on the parade as details are finalized. Lock told the council that the ideas for the celebrations came together recently and there is still more planning to do. If you are interested in participating in the event, you are asked to email Adam@slvoices.com or call lock at 719-239-1819.

The group can also be reached on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/313980823023727.

To learn more about the OptyMystics and find out about other projects, visit their website at <https://OptyMystics.org/>.

Adams State mourns death of Val Vigil

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Adams State University mourns the death of Valentin "Val" Vigil, who died unexpectedly on at the age of 73 on Feb. 5, 2021, in Thornton.

Vigil served on the Board of Trustees for Adams State University from December, 2011, until Dec. 31, 2019. He was most recently an active member of the Adams State Denver Alumni

Chapter.

Vigil earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and secondary education from Adams State in 1971. He served in the Colorado State Legislature from 1999-2006, spending eight years on the Finance Committee, as chairman for two years; eight years in the Appropriations Committee; and six years in the Legislative Audit Committee, as chairman two years. He also

served for two years as the Assistant Minority Leader.

An advocate for education, Vigil volunteered many hours at local schools as guest speaker. He was in much demand to speak on immigration issues and is considered an expert in this topic, as he was the first legislator in Colorado to introduce the in-state tuition legislation in 2000, reintroducing it three additional years.

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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SUDOKU

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| 3 | | 8 | | | 9 | | 4 | 6 |

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: Beginner

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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GIVES

Continued from Page 1

during the second annual Adams State Gives Day held on Feb. 15. The talent show and telethon event raised more than \$168,000 for the University, and it was Lovell's announcement in establishing the Dalzell Hester Endowed Scholarship that added even more buzz to the evening.

"The impact of Harriet on Adams State is immense," said President Lovell. "Her contributions shaped education in this Valley, in this community, and at this institution. Her name and memory are very important to the institution and I believe she needs to be recognized and held in the highest regard."

"Women have been involved in the proud history of Adams State since the institution first opened its doors as a teacher's college," President Lovell said.

The scholarship will benefit first generation undergraduate female students who are attending Adams State full time, Pell eligible, in good academic standing, and who are in need of additional financial support to assist with tuition, books, and room and board.

The endowed scholarship currently is at \$50,000 after Dr. Lovell and Nancy Clark committed \$20,000 during the first Adams

State Gives Day in 2020 and then added another \$30,000 during the 2021 event.

"Nancy and I are so pleased to be the first to honor her in this manner. Our personal goal is to increase our contributions every year."

"Honoring such a legacy, that's what Adams State is about," said Adams State Theatre Director John Taylor, who hosted the event for the second year. "We have this great history here and each generation keeps giving back and honoring as we move forward into our next century."

A re-run of the 2021 Adams State Gives Day Talent Show and Telethon can be viewed at adams.edu/live. The Feb. 15 event marked the kickoff to Adams State's 100th birthday celebration. Additional 100-year activities are planned in the fall and winter months of 2021.

Established in 1921 by the Colorado legislature, Adams State is named for Billy Adams, who sponsored the legislation and ultimately became the 25th governor of Colorado.

Gifts can be made to the University in recognition of its 100th year by visiting adams.edu/adams100 or adams.edu/foundation.

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Rio Grande Sheriff's Department welcomes a new deputy... Wally II

BY LYNSIE FERRELL
RIO GRANDE COUNTY — The Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department has welcomed a new deputy to their law enforcement family, but it's not quite like anyone else that works there. Sheriff Don McDonald was pleased to announce the department was recently awarded an iRobot 510 PackBot to assist in dangerous situations.

The 510 PackBot is a multi-mission tactical mobile robot developed by Endeavor Robotics, formerly iRobot. It is designed for use by troops and first responders to carry out dangerous missions in high-threat battlefield scenarios.

The department was chosen through the 1033 program for the robot along with over 180 other departments to receive one nation-

wide and was one of 14 departments in Colorado.

"This is a \$78,000 piece of equipment and all we had to do was sign for it. It will be used in situations that otherwise could be potentially dangerous for our deputies as well as cut down response times for unidentified objects and potential bomb situations. It can take the Pueblo Bomb Squad roughly two hours to get here from their location and now with our new deputy, we can send pictures and video before they even have to dispatch," explained McDonald.

Lt. Tyler Dean and one other officer have been training to operate the robot for the past several weeks and have about another month to go. Dean explained that the robot can go upstairs, reach out with a claw like mechanism called a

pincer and grab objects as well as reach about four feet in height to look through windows and has infrared capabilities.

"The remote for the device is similar to an Xbox remote and is fairly easy to navigate," McDonald said. "We still have some more training to do to become efficient, but we have gotten the hang of it."

McDonald has focused on many things since he was elected to his

position as Rio Grande County Sheriff and bringing the department into the 21st century has been one of the main tasks.

"With this device we can ensure the safety of our deputies and the community," he said. "We will be able to use this robot to go into dangerous hostage situations should they arise or respond safely to reports of suspicious packages like the one we handled last sum-

mer at the local grocery store. It is another way to keep our people safe."

McDonald named the robot Wally II and will decorate the new deputy with stickers depicting the department's deputy badge.

"It will become part of our department just like anything or anyone else and we are grateful for the opportunity to have one," McDonald said.



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department has welcomed a new deputy on board; one that will keep deputies safe.

New Teeth in Just One Day No More Dentures!

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~ B.Gullette

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 04 LOST & FOUND
 05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
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05 Notices

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07 Help Wanted

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

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

Clinical Team Lead Position-Center for Restorative Programs is seeking a Clinical team lead will be responsible for providing clinical oversight for case managers providing specialized case management/wraparound services and support to adults in the SLV. Position works closely with community partners such as justice systems, law enforcement, behavioral health, medical, housing, human services, schools and workforce development. Ability to establish strong supportive wraparound service plans and help navigate systems. Provide wraparound services, intensive case management, advocating and working with adults with behavioral health issues and/or substance use disorders, collaborate with community partners and families.

This position will also maintain a case load. Minimum of 3 years' experience providing clinical case management, crisis services, high intensity supports or related services with individuals/families with mental health/substance abuse issues, community agencies including DSS, law enforcement and judicial. MA preferred. See restorativeprograms.org for salary range and full job description. CRP is an EOC. **Email resume and cover letter to carey@restorativeprograms.org.** (3/17)

Alpine Achievers Initiative (AAI) seeks full time Administrative Assistant for Monte Vista office. This position supports the daily functioning of AAI by performing basic administra-

tive and office tasks. They will oversee the childcare licensing requirements and food service programs for multiple AmeriCorps partner sites. Position may involve driving for long periods. May include some marketing and outreach tasks. For full position description, please contact Linnaea Renz office@alpineachievers.org or send resume/cover letter to apply. (03/24)

3B Family Construction looking for carpenters for framing in Creede Colorado. Must have reliable transportation and must have all hand tools. Call: John Bankston 830-310-2379 (03/10)

Laborer Wanted for Construction Business: Much be dependable. Call ZTEC Construction for more details

(719)992-1396 (03/24)
Creede Arts Council seeking part-time Program Coordinator. Administrative and computer skills required. Information at creedeartscouncil.com. Send resume and references to: PO Box 392, Creede, CO 81130 or email to creedearts@outlook.com Deadline: February 20th or until position is filled. (03/03)

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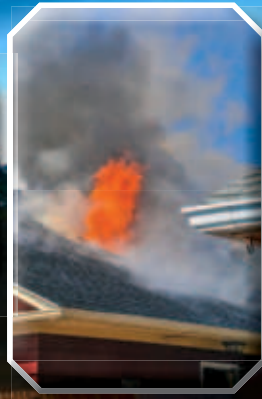
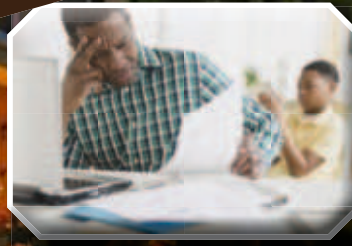
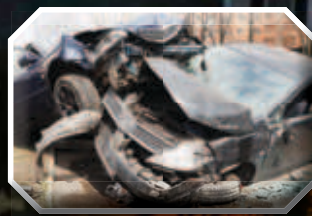
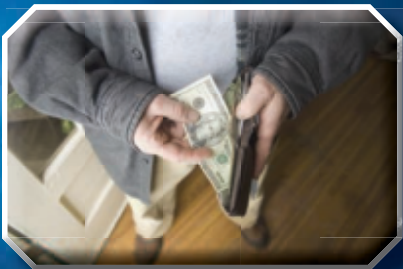
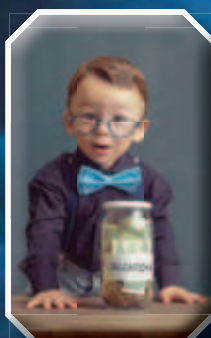
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FINANCE & INSURANCE 2021

SAN LUIS VALLEY PROGRESS



A strong partnership — San Luis Valley Federal Bank and Trinidad State

STAFF REPORT
SAN LUIS VALLEY — San Luis Valley Federal Bank CEO Duane Bussey, and the Bank's board of directors are grateful to Trinidad State for its physical campus in the San Luis Valley — one that meets the educational needs of so many San Luis Valley residents.

"While online education is a great tool for many," Bussey said, "the Valley Campus allows students to engage face-to-face with faculty and staff, which builds stronger learning relationships. The Bank also understands how important education is to increasing a person's job opportunities, and their life success."

"Our support of Trinidad State is a great investment for the individual and the community," he added, "which ultimately helps the bank grow and be successful."

San Luis Valley Federal Bank began supporting the College shortly after TSJC created the Valley Campus. Since 2004, the Bank has contributed \$183,000 for scholarships and the Student Emergency Fund. It recognizes that many people don't need a four-year degree, and instead need an educational program they can complete more quickly so they can enter the job market faster.

Attending a two-year college, Valley residents can obtain skills in the trade programs that are so important to the Valley's economy, along with general business skills needed to fill job opportunities at the Bank and at other local businesses.

"TSJC fills an important need by providing vocational training, both for adults and new high school graduates," Bussey said. "It also provides a college experience to students who may not feel comfortable attending a four-year school to begin their college life. A large number of Bank employees have also attended Trinidad State, gaining basic business skills that reduce the training and orientation times needed for our employees."

Scholarships funded by the Bank also give priority to its customers.

"This provides a benefit for Bank members, supports the College, and creates a win-win outcome," said Bussey.

The awards are meant to supplement expenses, not cover the full cost to attend.

"We've learned that many students encounter a small shortfall, but it can be enough to prevent a student from attending," he said. "The Bank helps fill those gaps."

In 2016, Foundation Executive Director, Toni DeAngelis, advised the Bank about available matching funds to increase donor contributions.

"This opportunity helped the Bank grow our endowment faster than we could have, otherwise," said Bussey. "We made larger donations over that two-year period, which were matched dollar for dollar."

Earnings from this endowment now fund most of the Bank's scholarship awards, with the endowment projected to grow and continue meeting student needs into the future.

The Bank also decided to increase its support in 2020, after recognizing how many people and organizations were hurt by the Coronavirus pandemic. Large commitments were made by the board to organizations like the Food Bank Network, local hospitals and both Trinidad State and Adams State University. The \$33,000 gift for TSJC was divided between the Student Emergency Fund, the Bank's endowment, and classes that provide enrichment training for the



Left to right: Mark Bechaver, SLV Federal Bank President, Jim Kynor, TSJC Vice President — Valley Campus, Duane Bussey, SLV Federal Bank Chief Executive Officer.

Valley's agricultural industry. The Bank intends to support Trinidad State long into the future.

"Our board believes the TSJC Foundation has been good stewards of our investment in the College," said Bussey. "We also believe there's no better way to support the success

of the Valley community than by investing in people's education."

"Trinidad State is grateful to the San Luis Valley Federal Bank for its generous support," said Toni DeAngelis, Executive Director at TSJCEF. "They've been a terrific partner in our efforts to serve students in the San Luis Valley."



The Colorado LEAP program is a federally funded state-supervised, county-administered system and is designed to *assist* with your winter heating costs. The LEAP Program eligibility period runs from **November 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021**

Eligibility Requirements, you may be eligible for LEAP assistance if:

1. You are a U.S. Citizen and a resident of Colorado
2. You pay heating fuel costs directly to an energy provider or pay the cost of heating your dwelling with your rent, or in addition to rent in a non-subsidized dwelling
3. Your **gross** monthly household income is within the guidelines set annually (see below). "Household" means the people who reside with you within your dwelling at which you reside and apply for assistance and for whom you, as applicant, are financially responsible for. The maximum **gross** monthly income is based on 60% of the State Median Income level as listed in the table below.

| Household Size | Monthly Gross Income 60% of State Median Income Level |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 | \$2,619 |
| 2 | \$3,425 |
| 3 | \$4,231 |
| 4 | \$5,038 |
| 5 | \$5,844 |
| 6 | \$6,650 |
| 7 | \$6,157 |
| 8 | \$6,801 |
| 8 | \$6,952 |
| Each additional person | \$151 |

LEAP is designed to help eligible households with winter home heating costs.

LEAP is not intended to pay the entire cost of home heating.

For questions, inquiries, broken heater/furnace issues, contact **HEAT HELP.**

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Insuring livestock in the San Luis Valley

By **PATRICK SHEA**

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The weather and market forces that challenge livestock producers apply extra pressure in the San Luis Valley, so farmers and ranchers weigh multiple options when they choose insurance.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the headcount for cattle throughout the United States was 93.595 million on Jan. 1, 2021. Roughly a third (35.136 million) represent the calf crop from the first six months of 2020.

Each cow requires protection until it is ready for sale or no longer producing. Without insurance, ranchers risk losing investment from birth to death with nothing to show for it. But a farmer also needs insurance coverage if the cow causes damage to people or property. Beyond basic liability, additional insurance options cover market risks and, if found innocent, allegations of animal neglect.

Administered through the Risk Management Agency of the USDA, three programs help producers manage when costs exceed market price. The Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) insurance plan ties feed prices to projected sales prices according to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. If the cost to feed animals is greater than the market value of the milk or meat, the expected gross margin is covered. At the end of the insurance period, if a producer's actual gross margin is less, the program reimburses the difference.

Another USDA risk-management insurance program called Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) also tracks declining livestock prices and provides multiple options based on the projected sale date. Similarly, dairy producers can buy Dairy Revenue Protection (Dairy-RP). Based on quarterly milk production, farmers can pick a price to protect and choose among different rates for coverage.

Some insurance companies also offer liability protection against allegations of animal cruelty. If a farmer or rancher goes to court and is found not guilty, the insurance



A rancher's animals are business assets insured per-head or by the herd to protect against multiple liabilities.

Courtesy photos

plan covers attorney fees.

Allegations of neglect can hurt a livestock producer already under duress. If conditions are dry and water supply shrinks, it does not take long for the herd to hurt. Compared to alfalfa and other products, livestock use less water. But in the arid San Luis Valley, every drop counts. If livestock lose 10% of their body water, they usually die. By some estimates, bulls drink 10–20 gallons a day, depending on temperature throughout the year. Nursing cows need 15 to 18 gallons daily, and calves consume four to 10 as they grow.

Thirsty, hungry cows require resources, but court appearances take time and money too. Add labor for delivery to the cost of hay, extra protein and mineral feed. During winter, a cow will usually eat 30 pounds of feed in a day, if available. If livestock cannot access water tanks, delivering water is not cheap. If proven innocent, the livestock producer can receive reimbursement for attorney's fees.

The bulk of insurance options cover the livestock itself. Loading and unloading animals can cause injury or death, and insurance also considers electrocution, fire, smoke, explosions and natural disasters. Poachers hurt the bottom line too, so farmers insure against theft as well. Random misfortunes include drowning, accidental shooting, a building collapse or attacks from dogs or wild animals. Neglect, however, is not covered.

The Colorado Farm Bureau (CFB) consists of 10 districts covering every county in the state. The CFB Vice President, James Hen-

derson, hails from La Jara. Elected in November 2020, Mosca's David Brown sits on the CFB board to represent the six counties of District 7 — Saguache, Mineral, Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla and Rio Grande.

According to CFB president Carlyle Currier, "Agriculture is the second largest contributor to the state's economy."

The CFB membership includes more than 24,000 members across the state. Whether they need insurance for cantaloupes or cattle, the farmers and ranchers of Colorado have multiple coverages available.



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Silver Thread receives National Scenic Byway for Colorado designation

STAFF REPORT

The Federal Highway Administration announced on Feb. 16 the Silver Thread Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway received National Byway designation. Sixty-four Byways applied for nomination to America's Byways — 34 received National Byway designation and 15 received All-American Roads designation. With this announcement, the new total of American Byways is 189 in 48 states.

In 1989, the Silver Thread was established as a US Forest Service Byway and then in 1990 became a Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway. The National Scenic Byways Programs began in 1991 as a way to honor America's roadways with various attributes such as historical, recreational, archaeological, natural,

cultural, and scenery.

The Silver Thread's application highlighted the various historic aspects along the Byway such as Wagon Wheel Gap, the City of Creede, the Bachelor Loop Tour, North Clear Creek Falls, the Alfred Packer Massacre Site, and Lake City.

The Silver Thread averages one state or nationally registered historical landmark for every six miles of Byway.

The Congressional passage of The Reviving America's Scenic Byways Act in September of 2019 enabled the Secretary of Transportation to open the nomination process.

"I experienced the history and natural beauty of the Silver Thread Scenic Byway when I visited Rio Grande, Mineral, and Hinsdale counties last August," said Colorado Sen.

Michael Bennet. "The Silver Thread Scenic Byway connects some of our most remote communities in Colorado. This elevated designation will help increase tourism in the area and raise awareness of its scenic views and rich mining history."

This designation will help protect the beauty along the Byway while providing an economic boost to the Byway communities of South Fork, Creede, Lake City, and Gunnison with increased tourism.

In addition to focusing on the history along the Byway, the Silver Thread's application also highlighted fall events along the Byway including South Fork's Color Fest, Creede's Car Show, and Lake City's Wine Festival. Photos that accompanied the application showcased the beauty of the Byway's fall and winter seasons.

Kathleen Murphy, President of the Silver Thread Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway, acknowledges that there are countless folks to thank that helped make this happen.

"There were so many parts and pieces to the application, from selecting the points of interest, the multitude of narrative questions, the photographs, letters of support, maps, the review process, the edits. Every person that submitted a letter of support, that allowed us to use their photo(s), to the reviewers on the Colorado Council; they all helped make this happen. I will forever be grateful for this effort," she noted.

The Silver Thread Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway is a registered non-profit working to promote the Silver Thread Scenic Byway and enable the public to enjoy and protect



all the inherent qualities that make their experiences as memorable as the Byway itself.

For information about the Byway visit SilverThreadByway.com or email office@creede.com.



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3 bedroom • 3 bathroom • 1,808 sq. ft. • ~~\$449,000~~

This meticulous, comfortable, well-maintained ranch style log home is located on 6+ acres with reach out and touch mountain views and moments from the Rio Grande National Forest. Open Great Room, Living, Dining, and Kitchen with wood floors and a beautiful stone fireplace. Wonderful split floor plan with a Master Bedroom on one side of the home and guest rooms on the other. Attached cement floor two car garage large enough for storage of four-wheelers, fishing gear, tools, and more. Large deck out back and fireplace ring sitting area, large covered front porch.

1104 Expedition drive • South Fork
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4 bedrooms • 4.5 baths • 4,504 sq. ft.
• 6 acres • \$888,000

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SOLD

You won't believe your eyes! Stunning Views, Lots of Wildlife!
3 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 2,900 sq. ft. • \$549,000

Check out some of the best, 360 degree, hilltop views in South Fork from your deck! Open kitchen, dining and living area, vaulted ceilings, Jacuzzi tub, finished basement with a rec room! MLS #767631

852 Soaring Eagle Lane • South Fork
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• 3 bedroom • 2 bathroom • \$698,000

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

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LOOK IMPROVED PRICE!
• 2 bedroom • 2 bathroom • \$335,000

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

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Majestic Mountain Home in Beaver Mountain Estates!
• 5 bedrooms • 5 bathrooms • 2,912 sq. ft. • 3-car heated garage • \$745,900

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This Home borders the national forest with beautiful mountain views from the wrap around front deck and outdoor propane fireplace with additional large rear covered porch. Large living room with Lennox propane fireplace and ET electrical heating that can heat the home and dining area with custom light fixture with dining seating 10 for all your entertaining. Custom Kitchen with two sinks and two dishwashers for quick clean up after entertaining with beautiful Knotty Alder wood cabinets and new refrigerator and microwave. This home is beautifully hand troweled on ceilings/walls with tall ceilings and tall solid wood interior doors and Pella double-hung windows for easy cleaning. This home comes mostly furnished with additional tools and the following equipment in the garage including snow blower, air compressor, battery chargers all this and more with beautiful mountain views with Rocky Mountain Elk and other wildlife right out your back door.

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SOLD

Finely Crafted Mountain Home!
• 2 Bedroom • 2 Bathroom • 2-car Garage • 1,388 sq. ft. • \$389,900

Delightful Ranch Style Mountain Home with 2 car garage and an additional detached cement floor garage/workshop. Nice size kitchen with custom cabinets containing large lazy Susans, Large Pantry and lots of storage. Open dining and large living area with large Sunny Bay window and beautiful mountain views. This kitchen is complete with refrigerator, cookstove, dishwasher and trash compactor. Large Laundry room with tons of storage. Living room with wood burning stove and additional heated source and home is well insulated throughout. Off the living room entry is a wonderful sitting porch. Perfect place to have that morning cup of coffee and watch the mule deer and wild turkeys!

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