

Shorts

Volunteers needed for COVID-19 vaccine clinics

ALAMOSA — Valley-Wide Health Systems and San Luis Valley Health is looking for volunteers as the entities offer COVID-19 vaccines to communities. Vaccination events and the needed number of volunteers are unpredictable, so by submitting your information, there is no guarantee of a reply, but your interest in volunteering is much appreciated. Email Kelly.Gurule@slvrmc.org, call 719-587-5707 or complete a form at vwhs.org/contact-us.

COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Sacred Heart Church

ALAMOSA — Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Collaboration with CDPHE, Los Promotores del Valle de San Luis and the SLV Area Health Education Center, will be hosting a Moderna COVID-19 vaccine clinic on March 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Faistl Hall 715 4th St., Alamosa. It is open to people who fall under the state categories 1.A to 1B.3. To register go to www.sacredheartalamosa.org or for more information, call Lisa Lucero at 719-588-5363.

Del Norte Food Bank distribution is March 20

DEL NORTE — Del Norte Food Bank's March distribution will be held Saturday, March 20, from 9-11 a.m. The Del Norte Food Bank serves the Del Norte and South Fork areas. Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome. For more information, call 657-2872 and leave a message.

Summerfest on the Rio Festival cancelled

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

Man charged with vehicular homicide in death of Vigil pleads guilty

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER SAGUACHE — A Boulder man facing vehicular homicide and other charges, including reckless driving and possession of drugs, will likely not receive jail time after agreeing to a plea deal with the 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office.

Plea deal includes Huntress receiving deferred sentence

Jason Huntress, 26, of Boulder, appeared Tuesday, March 16, in Saguache District Court for a plea

hearing related to charges of vehicular homicide, reckless driving and six other charges resulting from a 2019 car accident in which Huntress was driving and that caused the death of Barbara Vigil, 73, of Saguache. In exchange for pleading guilty to vehicular homicide and careless driving resulting in death, both the defense and the DA's office have agreed upon a plea deal where Huntress receives a deferred sentence

involving no jail time and four years of probation, after which his record will be expunged. Huntress was present with his defense attorneys, Megan Downing and Marnie Adams of Denver. Deputy District Attorney Alex Raines was present, representing the state. Judge Amanda Hopkins asked for statements from family members whom she described as having been "vociferous" in their disagreement with the proposed sentence. Two family members spoke. "We're devastated at the thought

of a deferred sentence," said Tammy Vigil, daughter-in-law of the victim, Barbara Vigil. "My mom died. We don't have her anymore." "We feel that the sentence is very light compared to what happened," said Tony Vigil, Barbara Vigil's son. "I don't want to see Mr. Huntress locked up for the rest of his life, but I want him to think about what he's done. And I don't think that will happen with no jail time." After making sure he understood the charges and what rights he was

Please see GUILTY on Page 4A



Courtesy photo

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

Wolf Creek receives over 24 inches in time for Spring Break

By LYNSIE FERRELL WOLF CREEK — Just in time for Spring Break a large winter storm system hit the San Juans and made for excellent skiing conditions at Wolf Creek over the weekend bringing the end of the season to a near-perfect close. According to co-owner Rosanne Pitcher the 2020-2021 ski season was "the best we could ask for." As the only ski resort in Colorado to open on time for the 2020-2021 ski season, Wolf Creek was not only

blessed with epic snow totals, but it was also navigated the difficulties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and will go down in the history books for the resort. "We had excellent conditions early in the season with snowstorms bringing much-needed moisture to the San Juan Mountains. We had dedicated employees who navigated through the season abiding by state and local guidelines wearing masks for up to eight hours and sometimes longer

during the day. We really couldn't be prouder to have the employees we do, and they have all done really well," said Pitcher. Pitcher stated that on March 14, the resort saw just under 3,000 people who ventured out into winter weather conditions to hit the slopes and just over 4,200 people on Monday, March 15. "A lot of our customers are hardy people," Pitcher said. "They are prepared for those conditions and are See WOLF CREEK on Page 11A

SLV communities selected for Accelerator Program

Downtown Colorado Inc. working with Antonito, Center, La Jara, and San Luis

STAFF REPORT DENVER — Downtown Colorado Inc. selected four San Luis Valley communities to participate in the 2021 Colorado Challenge Accelerator Program as well as the IN THE GAME: Small Town Challenge Studios April

27-30. In 2021, DCI will work with Antonito, Center, La Jara, and San Luis for a full year, with intensive team building and planning during DCI's IN THE GAME: Small Town Challenge, spanning the month of April, virtually on DCI's zoom. Communities are also eligible for ongoing support to build and maintain momentum around implementing solutions to affect their challenge. The purpose of this 2021 SLV Challenge initiative is to inspire the

people of the San Luis Valley to reclaim and restore beloved community places in their region through community connectivity, a cohesive vision, and partnerships to ultimately leverage local and outside investment for local social entrepreneurship. "After years of planning and one crazy pandemic, the SLV is ready to get it done. The Colorado Challenge Program was created as a dynamic approach capable of adapting to specific community needs. The pandemic has showcased how this

program, when paired with amazing community partners, is able to address unexpected challenges. The 2021 SLV Challenge Communities have already demonstrated innovation and we are excited to expand the work surrounding placemaking and community engagement," said Katherine Correll, DCI Executive Director. Since 2017, each year DCI selects a cohort of communities to participate in a five-phase accelerator focused on Please see PROGRAM on Page 11A

COVID-19 vaccination enters Phase 1B.4 on Friday

Final phase before it becomes available to general public

STAFF REPORT SAN LUIS VALLEY — Having COVID-19 illness does not guarantee against getting sick from it again in the future. It is rare, but there have been more than 800 documented second infection cases in Colorado. Local health officials continue to encourage people to get the vaccine when they are eligible, even if they have already had COVID-19 and recovered. People who are currently sick with the virus should wait until after they have recovered to get the vaccine. Those who received antibody or plasma treatment for COVID-19 should wait 90 days before vaccination. Colorado is moving rapidly to expand eligibility for COVID-19 vaccines. Beginning Friday, March 19, the state will move to Phase 1B.4, which is the final phase that limits vaccine eligibility before the vaccines become available to the general public. Please see VACCINE on Page 5A

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OBITUARIES

Chester Van Kimberling

Chester Van Kimberling, 80, of Monte Vista, Colorado passed away on March 10, 2021 at the Rio Grande Hospital in Del Norte, Colorado. He and his twin brother were born in Kilgore, Texas on April 6, 1940 to Chester and Rosabella Kirch Kimberling.

His childhood was spent in the oilfields of Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, ending in California where he and his twin brother enlisted in the United States Marine Corps during their senior year of high school. Van proudly served his country from 1958 to 1962. After completing basic training at Camp Pendleton, he served in Okinawa, Hawaii, and Alameda, California. Following that he went to Kwajalein Island in the Marshall Islands. It was there where he volunteered to start a Boy Scout troop, a love he continued later in life.

He then found his way back to Long Beach, California. He traveled to Denver, Colorado to be the best man at his brother's wedding, where he met the love of his life, Della Marie Sanderson of Monte Vista, Colorado. Ten months later he returned to Colorado to claim residency. Della and Van were married at the Most Precious Blood Catholic Church in Denver, Colorado on April 23, 1966.

In 1970, they moved to the Sargent Community in the San Luis Valley. Here Van established Van's Decorating, his successful paint contracting business. Over the years,

he was known to pass on his values, work ethic, and love of painting to both of his sons and many nieces and nephews by providing summer employment. After 45 years of painting numerous churches, banks, and homes he retired. One of his most satisfying jobs was painting the entirety of the Old Cow Town Resort in Saguache, Colorado.

He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, the Monte Vista Masonic Lodge, Bethlehem Chapter OES, and the Monte Vista American Legion until it disbanded. He served with the Boy Scouts for 25 years as a Scout Master with Cub Scouts in the Sargent area and later with Troop 286 in Monte Vista where he helped numerous boys from the community attain the rank of Eagle Scout on their way to becoming young men.

He was extremely proud to be a United States Marine veteran, continuing through the years to wear his uniform in Color Guards in various parades around the San Luis Valley as well as serving with honor guards at numerous veterans' funerals. Van was a "Once a Marine, always a Marine" man.

Van loved to be in the mountains hunting and fishing with his family and his friends.

He was famously known for his weekly Friday donation of Gaga donuts. Each week he would deliver leftover donuts to various places around Monte Vista, but his number one task each Friday was to make



sure his four grandkids received fresh donuts.

Van was preceded in death by his parents, twin brother Woodrow, a half-brother, three sisters, and his daughter Anne Marie Kimberling Stone.

Van is survived by his wife of 54 years, Della Marie, sons Shane (Laura) and Eric (Jen), grandchildren Kelsey, Clay, Meghan and Eilidh, son-in-law John Stone, step-grandchildren Ricky and Megan, and many beloved in-laws, nieces, and nephews.

Services will be held at a later date. Go rest high on that mountain. Well done, good and faithful servant.

Cremation was selected and a service will be held at a later time. To express condolences, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com.

Berdena Elaine Clark

October 16, 1928 — March 5, 2021

Berdena Elaine Clark was born on October 16, 1928 in Grinnell, Iowa to Edward and Minnie Lincoln.

Growing up on a farm during The Depression gave Elaine the skills and drive to develop many amazing talents. Her music career bloomed early with singing in choirs and playing the French horn in high school and at Doane College. All her life she sang and whistled for various Christian and secular groups. High points in her musical career came in her early twenties singing in the Easter sunrise services at Red Rocks and later when she whistled in numerous international competitions. When in her 70's, she whistled a duet with Claudia, her daughter, on "America's Got Talent," starred as Mother Superior in "The Sound of Music" production in Castle Rock and performed in nursing homes. Age did not prevent her from entering the Ms. Colorado Senior Competition or whistling the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" at Lake George Church to a standing ovation, when she was in her 80's!

Elaine and her husband, Bradford J. Clark, were together in spirit and love for 69 years before he stepped into eternity in 2016. Together they served the Lord in the Nazarene Church and Gideons International. They thrived in organic gardening together, raising chickens and building an earth-bermed house in Sterling, Colorado with the help of their sons. To build their dream house complete with free-flying finches, Elaine received her degree in construction from Northeastern Junior College. Elaine's imaginative spirit and love of color were evidenced in her Tole paintings, homemade soaps, beautiful sewing creations, and in opening her home to guests with luscious, hearty meals. She filled her table and home with fragrant flowers she grew in her garden.

Brad and Elaine's love of travel took them to upstate New York every year to visit their daughter and toured throughout New England and Quebec. She was enthralled with the vibrancy of changing leaves, the delicacy of wildflowers and the



luster, and uniqueness, of rocks she has collected.

High energy characterized every endeavor she undertook from chairing religious and political organizations to making top sales in Amway. Her creative and spiritual legacy lives on in her children, Rebecca Clark-Boll of Del Norte, Colorado, Bradford Jeffery Clark of Castle Rock, Colorado, Timothy Hunter Clark of Mission Bay, California, Debra Jean Mintener (deceased), Daniel Howard Clark (Marilyn) of Wilmore, Kentucky and Claudia Rae Hutcheon of Florence, Colorado. Elaine adored her eleven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Visitation, 10:30-11 a.m., Funeral Service immediately following, 11 a.m., Friday, March 19, 2021, The Connection Church of the Nazarene, 1300 Park St., Castle Rock, Colorado 80109.

Interment, Bear Cañon Cemetery, 397 North Perry Park Rd., Sedalia, Colorado 80135.

Memorial contributions in Elaine's memory may be given to The Gideons International (gideons.org/donate).

Arrangements by The Springs Funeral Services, 3115 East Platte Ave., Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909. www.tsfs.co

Robert Forrest Crow

Robert Forrest Crow, Communications Pioneer in San Luis Valley, Colorado was born February 20, 1934 in Del Norte, Colorado and passed away February 28, 2021 at the age of 87 in Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

He attended Del Norte Schools, and was self-employed for 61 years. His early life was spent on his family farm of 360 acres along the Rio Grande River. The family grew grain and potatoes, and Robert invented and patented a potato cutter at age 17. Robert leased land and farmed for three years before volunteering for the military draft. He joined the Army and was stationed in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. After two years in the Army, he farmed again, while taking a correspondence course for television repair, which was a new vocation.

In 1960, he purchased a TV repair business from Bud DeSautel in Monte Vista, before ever working on a real television. He was very confident in his abilities, which carried through his entire lifetime. His first business was called Crow's Radio and TV, and eventually evolved into a Motorola Service Center, repairing two-way

radios. He completed two more correspondence courses for his Second and First Degree Radio Technicians Licenses.

In 1970, Robert started the first RCC mobile phone service, naming it Valley Communications. He then started the first paging system, naming it Mount View Communications.

In 1981, Robert was appointed a newly formed Motorola Advisory Counsel for two years, which met in different large cities all across the US. Motorola executives with this counsel of 15 Motorola Service Center owners, toured the Texas Motorola Factory, and met Motorola owner Bob Galvin.

Also in 1981, Robert purchased a SMR radio/telephone system for the San Luis Valley, which provided excellent two-way radio and telephone communication for the entire valley.

In 1982 Robert married Shirley Kincannon, and they were married 38 years. In 1996, the couple purchased their first motor home and began traveling, which became a 25-year adventure throughout the US and Canada. In 1998, they bought a home in Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

Robert had an inventive and

creative mind. He loved challenges, technology, friends, family and life in general. He was a unique, quiet, kind, generous and affectionate person.

Preceded in death are Robert's parents, DeForrest Crow, and Ruth Schroeder, his daughter Kari Kincannon, his sister Dorothy Higginson, and brother Howard Crow.

Survivors include wife, Shirley Kincannon, son Cliff Kincannon (Cari), Monte Vista, Colo., Grandchildren Harley Ann Kincannon, Colton Kincannon, Chevy Kincannon, Veronica Kincannon, Max Kincannon and Maribel Kincannon, all of Monte Vista, sister-in-law, Betty Spears, Palmdale, Calif., Ann Hubbard and brother-in-law, Robert Hubbard, Portland, Ore. Nieces include Nancy Cook, Northridge, Cali., Cindi Taylor, Highlands Ranch, Colo., Jackie Higginson, Santa Fe, NM, Joan Boggues (Eric), Pueblo West, Colo., Judy Schkerke (Charlie), Hershey, IL, Joyce Singh (Tony), Le Claire, Iowa, Jannette Young (Kenny), Davenport, Iowa, Wendy Stacy, (Charles), Waco, Ky., and Sheri Randall, (Eugene), Tampa, Fla., and many grand nieces and nephews.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Spring has sprung

Depending on where you live you are either in the throes of spring springing upon us or at least on the foreseeable horizon. Even if you are buried this morning under a new blanket of lofty white snow, there is still that feeling in the air that mud season is just around the corner. Lovely.

There are signs of it everywhere from the nurseries displaying flowers, potting soil and manure in copious amounts. Or is that last one Congress? Well, whatever it is there is enough of it out there to sink a nation for sure.

This past week also found countless colleges beginning their notorious Spring Break and thousands of kids flocked to the beaches to partake in their annual party hardy tradition paid for by parents and student loans. Throngs of them wearing thongs have gathered across the Southern shores and it's a sight to behold.

This past week here in the South also meant a return to outdoor soccer for Granddaughter #2. Miss Trixie and Ol' Dutch lined up on the sideline and watched those little buggers kick one another and even the ball once in a while. It was a nice day and soccer being what it is, Ol' Dutch had plenty of time to watch which is always better than any event you may attend, including church.

The first thing I noticed was just how many young parents were there with their expensive pneumatic cylinder lawn chairs carrying coolers large enough for an Arctic expedition. As the games only last about 45 minutes and having gotten there an hour early due to Miss Trixie's misinformation, Ol' Dutch got to watch the changing of the guard over three games.

They came to the parking lot driving SUVs of every make and color, all of which just screamed "payments." Trucks jacked up to dizzying heights for traversing Dallas potholes were attempting to fit their massive girth into parking spots created for sedans. Stretchy pants seemed to be the norm for the moms and even the grandmas, which was a far cry from the moo-moo wearing matriarchs of days past. Some of the stretchy pants were also trying to contain some sizable girths without bursting at the seams. A tribute for sure to nylon and maybe Raytheon space research.

The fathers of the little soccer neophytes had on blue jeans and a crumpled shirt mainly which meant that they had caught their bride long enough ago that now they just wear whatever is on the top of the pile. No need to impress this woman any longer and she, on the other hand, is just glad that they show up at the right times for any event.

All this activity and parading of parents got Ol' Dutch to thinking — a dangerous proposition according to Miss Trixie — about what it all took to get them to this point on this day in time. How many dates with how many people did they all have to go on to finally settle on the person they



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

will be stuck with for life? And what must that have cost? The numbers have to be too large to even imagine.

Then there is the lead up to the wedding with all the expenses involved, meeting all the relatives and for the men, acting like they care. Now there is a skill that is long undervalued.

Then you have the wedding itself and following honeymoon, rents to pay and finally the looking at houses with pain and suffering period whereby the wives drag each husband around Saturday after Saturday looking at the "perfect" house for them to buy. She knows that if she does this enough that he will finally acquiesce and buy one just to get his Saturday morning fishing, hunting, golf or sleeping back on the schedule. Her challenge is to hold off on the house she really wants until she knows he is about to break.

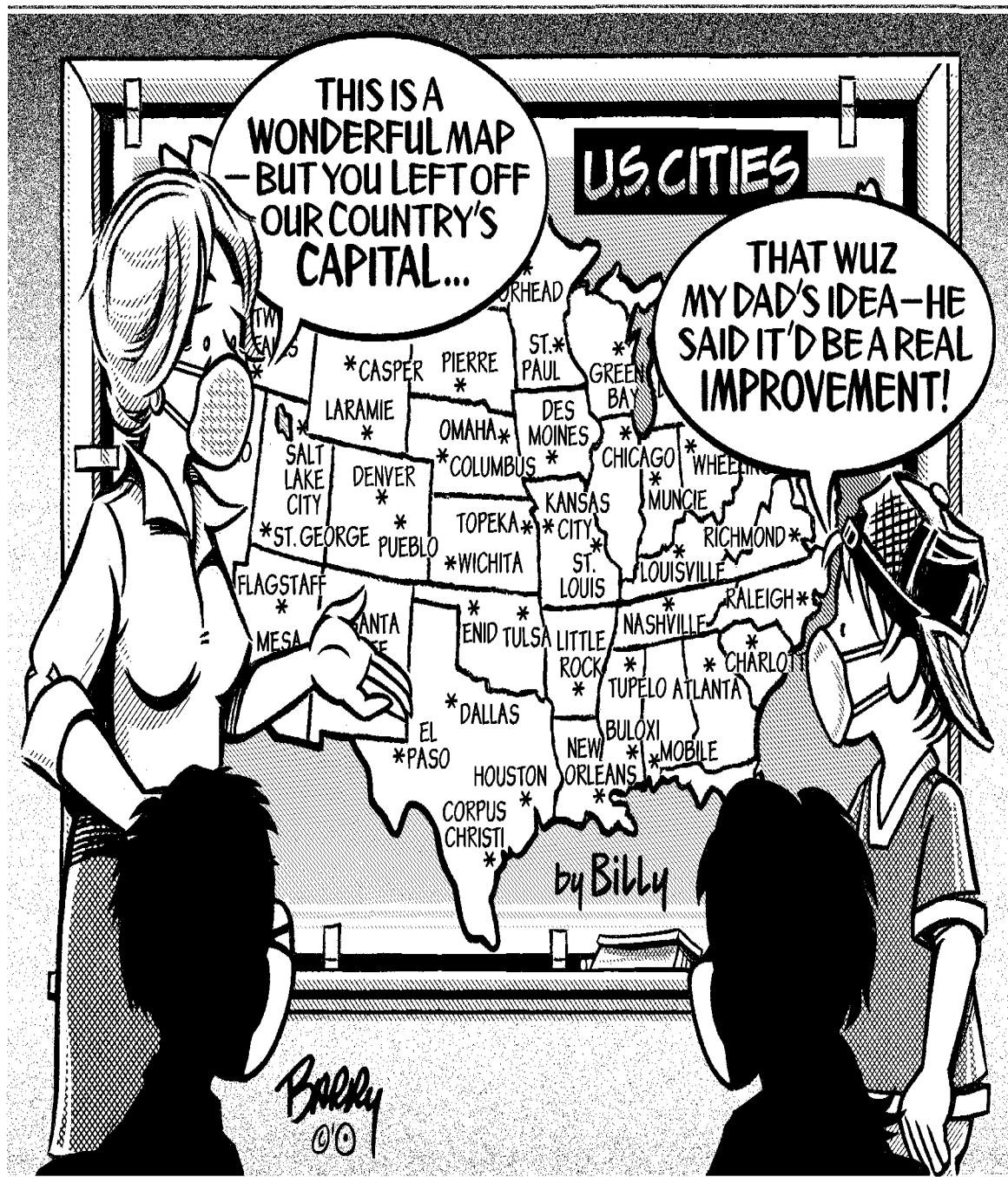
For wives of fishermen in the South, this will coincide with the budding of the Redbud trees as that signals the start of the fishing bite and he is never more vulnerable to do her bidding as on that day. Realtors should also take note of this phenomena and plan on record sales on those days.

So here we sat with hundreds of little tax deductions running all over hell's half acre and parents sitting there wondering just how they got into this mess in such a short time.

Ol' Dutch can recall those days and how it all sounded so good at the time, but little did he know that marriage for women means a house and nest but for most men they pretty much think it means sex. You get enough house and nesting going on and bed playtime pretty much disappears as the female partner is too tired to canoodle any more.

Wherever you may abide this week know that Spring is just around the proverbial corner and will soon come gushing over you like a newborn puking milk. Enjoy the days as they come and maybe canoodle with your sweetie just once more for old times' sake.

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



YOUR NIGHT SKY

Mars and the Pleiades

By DARLENE DANKO

Daylight Saving Time started Sunday, March 14, so now the sky stays light an hour longer, and morning stays dark an hour longer. Spring starts March 20, but we still may get more snow. Never a dull moment! I love snow, and we can always use it.

On March 19, Mars moves away from the Pleiades Star Cluster, and joins up with the moon. The new moon was on the 13th, and the first quarter will be on the 21st, with the full moon on the 28th. So now you'll be able to observe them together.

When you spotted the bright red Mars, did you see the Pleiades, Seven Sisters? When you first see it, they look like a little cloud. But then they clear out and you can see at least 6

of the stars. This cluster is a group of stars moving together in space about 400 light years from us.

It's the most famous and impressive naked-eye star cluster in our sky. They're believed to be hot young stars about 500 million years old. Yes, it takes a while for stars to grown. With binoculars you can see about 50 stars. With a telescope you may be able to see all 500 of them.

Legend has it that the sisters were trying to flee from Orion. The gods took pity on the sisters and turned them into doves. So, they flew away from Orion and landed up in the sky where they sit today. They have nine named stars. The Seven Sisters all have names, and their parents are Atlas and Pleione.

To find the Seven Sisters M45, use Orion's Belt as a pointer. To the right of Orion is the constellation Taurus

the Bull which the Seven Sisters are part of. So, look from Orion to Taurus and just look a little past its main part to find the Pleiades. It's about 35 degrees past Orion.

Taurus is a bull heading toward Orion, and its brightest star is Aldebaran. It's one of the oldest constellations in our sky. The Seven Sisters are some of the brightest stars in this constellation. Another object you would have seen is the Tauris meteor shower in November. It radiates just south of the Pleiades. So, go out and explore the sky.



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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeks input on San Luis Valley Habitat Management Plan

STAFF REPORT
DENVER — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking public input on a draft Habitat Management Plan for the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex in south central Colorado. The comment period on the plan will end Tuesday, March 23.

The Complex includes the Alamosa, Monte Vista and Baca National Wildlife Refuges, which encompass roughly 106,000 acres of grasslands, wetlands and river habitats between the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Located in the Central Flyway for migratory birds, the Complex is well-known for its greater sandhill crane migration, which brings roughly 25,000 birds to the valley in mid-March and mid-October.

The Habitat Management Plan is a stepdown plan tiered from the Complex's 2015 Comprehensive Conservation Plan. It recommends changes to existing management infrastructure to improve efficiency in how, where and when water is used to enhance and restore habitat diversity and meet wildlife population objectives.

By focusing water usage on priority natural wetland areas, this management plan will support healthy fish and wildlife populations by improving nesting, foraging and migration habitat for a wide array of riparian and wetland dependent species including waterfowl, marshbirds, shorebirds and songbirds. These management actions will also improve hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for the public.

infrastructure changes, such as the removal or modification of contour terraces, irrigation ditches and diversion/control structures.

These changes will improve the quality and extent of natural wetland areas allowing some artificially created wetlands to revert to native upland habitat, restore natural creek drainages and reduce drainage of groundwater. New fence construction will improve critical riparian habitat.



Projects proposed in this plan will result in more efficient use of limited water resources and reduce staff time and future maintenance needs, thus saving taxpayer dollars.

Written comments will be accepted via email to alamosa@fws.gov or U.S. Mail to San Luis Valley NWR Complex, Attn: Habitat Management Plan, 9383 El Rancho Lane, Alamosa, CO 81101. For specific questions, please contact Sharon Vaughn at 719-589-4021. The final Habitat Management Plan is anticipated to be published later this spring.

GUILTY

Continued from Page 1A
waiving in pleading guilty, Judge Hopkins asked Huntress how he pled to the charge of vehicular homicide plus careless driving resulting in death.

Huntress said he was guilty of those charges.

If the plea arrangement had included serving time, the vehicular homicide charge would have involved serving from two to six years in the Department of Corrections with no less than one year and no more than 12 years plus mandatory probation. The reckless driving charge would have brought from 6 to 18 months in the Saguache County Jail.

Judge Hopkins then dismissed the remaining charges numbered two through eight, which included vehicular assault, reckless driving, speeding, two counts of possession of marijuana, possession of a controlled substance and a charge related to a weapon found in the truck.

The judge ordered a pre-sentence investigation into Huntress, which will include a report and surveys conducted by the probation department in Boulder. The purpose is to help the judge "understand a little more" about the defendant. She also told Huntress that he may be required to do a urine analysis and that "coming out clean would be a good idea."

Hopkins addressed the family, saying that she was not currently accepting the sentencing but, based on other people in the area who received deferred sentence offers or similar plea agreements to what Huntress was offered and assuming he did not have an extensive criminal history or a history of excessive drug or alcohol use, she was "likely to accept [the agreement]."

"Part of my job is to treat people in similar situations in similar ways," Judge Hopkins said. "That's not to disregard or discredit what you have to say. I've been in a very similar situation, so I have some insight into how you're feeling. But please know to expect that and tell your family

that, as well."

According to the arrest report, on Nov. 25, 2019, at about 6:30 p.m., a two-vehicle crash involving a fatality and serious bodily injury occurred on Highway 17 at Moffat Way in Moffat.

When Colorado State Patrol arrived on the scene, a 2004 red Chevrolet Blazer was on the southbound side of the road with extensive damage to its front and right side. A 2019 gray Dodge Ram 1500 truck was partially in the southbound lane with heavy front crash damage. The report states there were "large gouges" in the roadway on Highway 17.

Barbara Vigil, who had been driving the Blazer, died at the scene. The passenger of the Dodge truck, Christina Salgado, was transported to San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in an ambulance with serious bodily injuries. The driver of the truck, Huntress, was not injured in the crash.

Huntress told CSP officers on the scene that he and his girlfriend, Salgado, were traveling to Santa Fe to visit family for Thanksgiving.

After examining the crash site, the CSP trooper who investigated the scene determined Huntress was traveling southbound. Vigil was traveling northbound and was turning left onto Moffat Way when her Blazer was struck near the front tire by the Dodge Ram.

The report stated that an examination of the cruise control in the Dodge revealed that Huntress was driving 101 mph up to just a few seconds before the crash. At the time of impact, his speed was 89 mph.

The posted speed limit on that section of Highway 17 is 50 mph.

Huntress told CSP troopers that "he believed there was more than a pound of marijuana in the truck" and a gun that Salgado had brought because "her dad made her carry one." An inventory conducted later also found a black THC container with Psilocybin mushrooms.

According to Lori Lujan, a lifelong family friend, Vigil was beloved by

the community of Saguache, where she lived her entire life.

"She had an infectious smile and a laugh that you didn't forget," Lujan said. "She defined inclusive. Barbara Vigil embraced people like no one else did. We're all more than heartbroken."

Vigil is survived by her four children and their spouses, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

The sentencing hearing was scheduled for May 18. Judge Hopkins said immediate family members, as defined by the Victim Rights Act, would be allowed to speak.

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Monte Vista police arrests three people on drug charges, reckless driving

STAFF REPORT
MONTE VISTA — Three people arrested March 15 on drug and reckless driving charges after trying to flee from officers, the Monte Vista Police Department reported.

On March 15, officers with the Monte Vista Police Department attempted to stop a 2002 GMC Envoy for a traffic violation on Lariat Road. The vehicle refused to stop and a pursuit ensued, reaching speeds over 100 mph as it traveled south of Monte Vista on Colorado Highway 15. The vehicle continued to flee and turned east onto Colorado Highway 370 (County Road 10 South) and into

Alamosa County. Deputies from the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office and troopers from the Colorado State Patrol were positioned along Highway 370 to deploy stop sticks, a tire deflating device to stop the vehicle as it continued to flee into Alamosa County. The vehicle turned into a private driveway that leads to a farm in rural Alamosa County where it stopped and four adults were taken into custody.

Officers also located a 2-year-old child in the vehicle who was unharmed. The child was later released to a grandparent after being checked by Alamosa Emergency Medical Services

to ensure it was uninjured.

Ryan Medina, 22, of Monte Vista, was arrested on suspicion of reckless driving, child abuse and felony vehicular eluding. He was booked into the Rio Grande County Jail. Jessica Martinez, 24, of Del Norte, a passenger in the vehicle was charged with suspicion of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Nancy Trujillo, 53, of Monte Vista, also a passenger, was charged with suspicion of possession of drug paraphernalia. Alexis Cisneros, 21, the third passenger, was released without charges.

Rio Grande County Sheriff Department to host conceal carry course

BY LYNDSIE FERRELL
RIO GRANDE COUNTY — The Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department in partnership with the Rio Grande County Victim's Advocate Courtney Arthur will be hosting another concealed carry class Friday, March 19 at 5 p.m.

The class will take place at the Rio Grande County Annex building located in Del Norte and is open to the public. The course will cover basic gun safety, Colorado State statutes pertaining to gun laws and the best way to conceal carry without incident.

According to Arthur, the course will also focus on the psychological side effects of carrying and the after-effects when a weapon is used against another person.

Most of those interested in concealed carry do not think about the actual moment of use when discharging a

weapon in the act of self-defense. Law enforcement and emergency service members from across the country deal with the after-effects of situations every day, and the general public interested in owning a firearm need to be aware of the risk and consequences of that decision just as much as anyone else who uses a weapon for self-defense.

The second part of the class will take place on Saturday, March 20 at 9 a.m. at the Rio Grande Club gun range located on Highway 160 just east of the 5-mile hill, south of Del Norte. This portion of the class will focus on the safety of handling a firearm, making sure the owner is comfortable with the weapon and fire practice.

For more information, contact Courtney Arthur or Frank at the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department at 719-657-4000 or send an email to rgso@riograndecounty.org.

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MARCH 26 & 27, 2021

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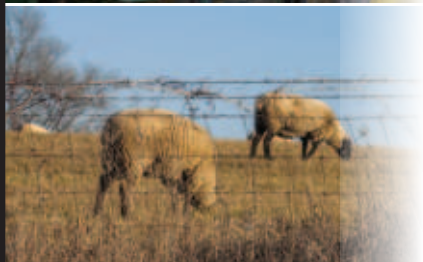
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Resolution Supporting Agriculture in the San Luis Valley, including Farmers, Ranchers and Livestock Producers and Declaring March 20th, 2021 as Know Your Local Producer Day

WHEREAS, Agriculture and livestock production has historically been, and continues to be, one of the key economic drivers in Saguache County; and

WHEREAS, Saguache County ranching and agricultural families are part of a several billiondollar state industries with a very large amount of economic impact; and

WHEREAS Food safety and security is enhanced by local food production and consumption; and

WHEREAS Local food production and consumption contributes to healthy and resilient regional economies; and

WHEREAS Locally produced foods are often of higher quality, nutrition and environmentally friendly; and

WHEREAS Local producers are stewards of the land, protecting our water, wildlife and natural resources; and

WHEREAS employment in the agriculture sector and related industries provides jobs to many citizens of Saguache County and the SL V; and

WHEREAS Local meat producers treat their animals in a humane fashion; and

WHEREAS, Local producers and consumers are changing the paradigm of agricultural production toward a system that will sustain us into the future, and

WHEREAS, grazing on federal lands help with fire mitigation and enhances the ecosystem.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE SAGUACHE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SAGUACHE COUNTY, COLORADO declares its support of the Agricultural Industry including the Local Cattle Ranching and Other Livestock Producers, and

THEREFORE, DECLARING MARCH 20, 2021 as "KNOW YOUR LOCAL PRODUCER DAY, and

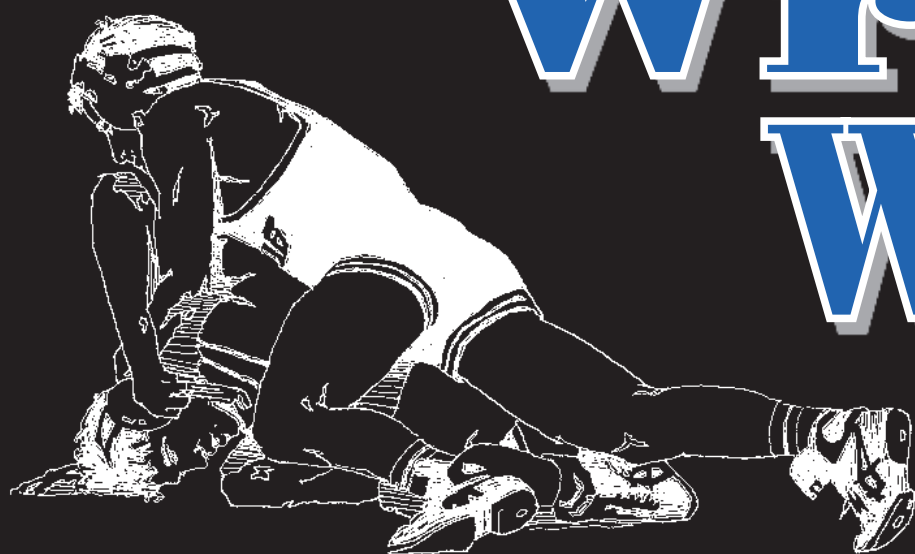
FINALLY, SHALL IT BE RESOLVED, that this Commission supports Senate Bill 21-079 concerning deregulation of direct to customer meat sales in support of ranch to table private enterprise and all other legislative actions that support strengthening Colorado agriculture.

ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Saguache, State of Colorado, at its regular meeting held the 2nd day of March, 2021.



- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Peter and Leah Clark - 7L Diamond Ranch | Big Meadows Ranch | Steve & Treva Carlson | Sam Weaver Fencing |
| Larry and Jorie Scott - L-Bar-S Ranch | Lazy JC Livestock | Rockey Farms, LLC | Eagle Rock Organic Eggs |
| 4 G Ranch | Quarter Circle U Livestock | Jones Farms Organics | Ed and Mary Drake |
| Stillings Ranch Charles Stillings | Hill Land and Livestock | Rito Alto Ranch | Seven Suspended Heart, LLC |
| Mountain Valley Produce | Brown Ranch | Chokurei Ranch | Sky Hi Ranch - Jerry and Ronna Cochran |
| M4 Trucking | Longseth Farm & Ranch | Flying X Cattle Co., Inc. | John Albert Ranches |
| Kyle and Jenny Maez | Colvin Ranch | Curtis Ranch | JT and Jessica Scanga |
| Honeycutt Rodeo | Open A Lazy Land & Cattle Harvesting | DeHerrera Farms | Thirsty Peak Ranch |
| Mosby Farms, Inc. | Curtis Welding | Valley Livestock Auction | Doug Gunnels Farm |
| Alamosa Round-UP | Rory & Arnell McClellan | Rio Grande Farm Park-Alamosa County | Mountain Sun Dairy |
| Oxcart Beef | Garcia Ranches | Rio Grande Farm Park Farmers Cooperative | Greg Peterson |
| Roy Oliver Beef | Corzine Ranch | Valley Roots Food Hub - Mosca, Colorado | Kathleen Curry |
| Consaul Farms, Inc. | Drake Lumber, LLC | Bar 32 Ranch | Flying X Cattle Company, Ed and Anne Nielsen |
| Moonlight Farms, LLC. | Werner Ranch | South 80 Ranch | G&G Farms |
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| Amanda Silva - Silva Farm and Ranch LLC | Benson Limousine | Smalleys Angus Ranch | Farm Service Center |
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| Green Earth, Inc dba Archaic Orchard | Blue and Jeannie Allen | John Malouff | La Garita Creek Ranch |
| Fox Farm | Wilson Ranch | Sabina Malouff | Idaho Pacific |
| N Lazy R | Fishtail Ranch, LLC | Eli Malouff | R.E. Archuleta |
|)Lazy T) | Lamm Ranch | Casey Taylor | Ramstetter Farms |
| Mirage Farms, Sheep and Goats | A & W Ranch | Shelly Taylor | Hollenbeck Ranch LLC |
| Aspen Produce | Double O Brand | CJ Weis | Haugen's Mountain Grown Lamb |
| Ellithorpe Potato | Simpson/Allen Cattle | Saguache Creek Ranch - Dale & Andrea Gerstberger | Colorado Gators |
| Farm Fresh Produce | Edwin & Dani Mondragon | Craig and Michelle Sheppard | Peggy Godfrey (retired) |
| Coleman Ranches | Bear Basin, LLC | Bob and Judy Bunker | Harry Peterson |
| G&G Farms | Iron Ridge LLC | Sutherland Ranches | Jason & Jessica Peterson |
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| Gilliland Farms | Bartee Ranch, LLC | Eagle Valley Ranch - Lee Ridgely | Cunningham Cattle Company |
| Flying M Ranch | Stagner Ranches | Cloud Crest Ranch - Danny and Denise Temple | WindowSash Ranch |
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2021 Wrestling Wrap Up



Wednesday, March 17, 2021
Valley Publishing
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Photos by Stephen Jiron

The Centauri Falcons posted 104 team points during Friday's state tournament at Southwest Motors Event Center in Pueblo to become the 2021 2A Boys State Wrestling Champions.

Plenty of podiums give Centauri a state title

*Valley 2A
wrestlers
make most of
opportunities at
2021 state*

By STEPHEN JIRON

PUEBLO – With 104 team points the Falcons did what only two other Centauri Wrestling teams have been able to accomplish, they took state. The last team to accomplish the task was the 2010 Falcons.

Individually the Falcons also crowned a state champion in junior Eyan Chavez who earned the first state title of his career. Chavez entered the state tournament as the number one seed. In the state final, Chavez met Clint Brown of Peyton. Both wrestled a careful match that went scoreless through three periods. In overtime, Chavez scored a takedown to win by sudden victory and help put the Falcons over the top as a team. The Falcons also climbed the rankings with three other wrestlers placing runners-up in championship matches, among them were Riley Valdez, Jordan



The Falcons celebrate after claiming their third state boys wrestling team title.

Martin and Erik Mestas. Freshman Valdez faced undefeated Caleb Camp in the 106-pound final. Camp controlled the pace and pinned Valdez at 5:05. Senior Martin took on Tyler Collins of Wray and went

down 7-1. Sophomore Mestas faced the No. 1 seed in the 160-weight class Traycer Hall of Hotchkiss and struggled to generate points falling by an 8-0 major decision. Though all three journeys ended on a low

note they were valuable to the team whole achieving glory as a group.

Centauri also had a third placer in Mario Vigil at 113 who met a familiar opponent in Malachi Gallegos
Please see STATE on Page 9A

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Alamosa High senior Davion Chavez defeated Eaton's Alex Castaneda by sudden victory, 5-3, in the 120 pound 3A boys state final. Chavez was a state champion as freshman.

Photo by Stephen Jiron

Chavez earns second state title

BY STEPHEN JIRON

PUEBLO – The Alamosa Mean Moose were at the Southwest Motors Event Center for the 2021 3A State Wrestling Championship. Alamosa podiumed three wrestlers at Friday's events with Davion Chavez being the highlight of the bunch. Chavez made his triumphant return to the top

of the podium after having missed it his sophomore and junior year. In Friday's match Chavez took on Alex Castaneda of Eaton. The two went to overtime tied at 3-all. Chavez struck first scoring a sudden victory to end his high school wrestling career on a high note.

Alamosa also had two other

wrestlers achieve podiums on Friday, junior Trevor Maestas made it to a championship match at 132 pounds and took home silver with a 3-1 record at the tournament his lone loss coming to Zach Marrero of Strasburg.

And Zaquorya Bernal went on to finish in sixth place for Alamosa in the 220 pound weight class.

STATE

Continued from Page 8A

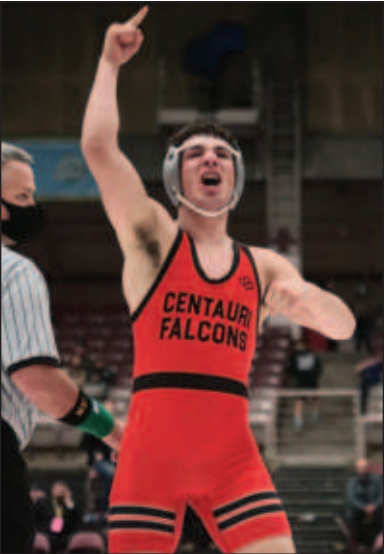
of Del Norte. The series was split at 1-1 until the pair's state tournament meeting which Vigil took by a 13-4 decision. Both boys will have another year of eligibility.

The Falcons got plenty of contributions elsewhere as well with Zach Buhr and Byron Shawcroft each taking home fifth-place finishes to help boost the team score.

From Monte Vista, Damian Lopez got his time on the podium going home with a sixth-place finish after going 1-3 at the tournament with a consolation quarterfinal round pin to his credit.

Representing Sierra Grande-Centennial, Richard Atencio picked up a fifth-place finish securing both tournament wins over Mancos' Ty Everett.

This year was an abridged state tournament due to COVID-19 guidelines. Rather than the Pepsi Center in Denver it was located at the Southwest Motors Event Center in Pueblo and hit the ground running with eight attendees per weight class starting off immediately in the quarterfinals.




Eyan Chavez of Centauri celebrates after completing his first state title. The junior took a sudden victory over Clint Brown of Peyton.



Erik Mestas sizes up his opponent Traycer Hall of Hotchkiss during the 160 pound championship. Mestas took second place.




Jordan Martin weighs on Adrian Nieto in the 2A semifinals on Friday. Martin went on to finish in second place in 152 pounds.



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Monte Vista Coop Agriculture Week Coloring Contest

March 22-26, 2021

"Loving Livestock"

Eligibility:

- Child must be between the ages of 3-13 years.
- Child must be a resident of the San Luis Valley.

Coloring Contest Guidelines

- The picture provided by the Monte Vista Coop should be used as the official entry into the coloring contest.
- Coloring must be the original work of the child submitting the entry.
- The child's (artist) name, age, address, phone number, and email (opt), parent/guardian name(s) should be written on the back of the entry.
- Age categories will include: 6 and under, 7-10, 11-13.

- There will be one winner from each category.
- Only one entry per child.

Timeline

- The coloring contest is in correspondence with the Monte Vista Coop Ag Week celebration March 22-26, 2021.
- Deadline to submit entries will be March 31, 2021.
- Winners will be announced April 2, 2021.
- Entries submitted to the Monte Vista Coop can be submitted in hard copy form via mail, dropped off at the Monte Vista Coop main office, or electronic format (email), and must be received by the March 31, 2021 deadline.

Contest Prize

- **\$50 gift card to the Monte Vista Coop**



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Mail entries to:

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Attn: Stephanie Schaefer
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Monte Vista, CO 81144

Email to:

mvcads@mvcoop.com

WOLF CREEK

Continued from Page 1A

just happy to have the chance to get out and ski. We love that we have that customer base and are grateful to all of them for helping us get through this difficult year. They're just excited to be here and for the chance to enjoy a day of skiing."

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

those out, we were pleased with how things ran during Spring Break," Pitcher said. "Now that Spring Break is coming to an end, we have started opening onsite ticket sales in the afternoons, just in case some people just wander off the beaten path to come ski. All in all, everything has worked out great."

With another storm system forecasted for Southern Colorado later this week, the resort hopes to end the season after the Easter holiday but may decide to keep things open on the weekends if snow conditions remain decent. "This time of year, is hard to navigate

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

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

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

Courtesy photo



PROGRAM

Continued from Page 1A

turning challenges to opportunities. DCI partners with the University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs Program Economic Development class. The program includes participating in IN THE GAME: Small Town Challenge Studio Workshops where DCI invites peer communities, consultants, and state and federal resources to create an action plan to move from idea to implementation.

"We are proud to partner with this program to give our students a dynamic, hands-on economic development experience that also helps Colorado local governments find solutions," said Randy Harrison, CU Denver Senior Fellow-Director of the Certified Public Manager Program. "These Student Project Coordinators are thrilled to use the skills they are learning to help a Colorado community and to network with so many professionals from Colorado state and consulting agencies."

The 2021 Colorado Challenge cohort will also work on a placemaking and activation event to be unveiled in June 2021. The 2021 Challenge Communities have each received a \$20,000 grant from Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) to support creation of a placemaking

installation for each community. This group of dynamic, small, and rural San Luis Valley communities is ready to engage through place as the SLV dives into implementing the future.

"It's exciting to see this investment in San Luis Valley and CHFA is proud to support this effort," said communities." Jeff Owsley, CHFA's south central Colorado community relationship manager. "Not only will the selected communities and the students they'll be working with benefit from this program, but the entire region will be strengthened as a result."

DCI's 2021 IN THE GAME: Small Town Challenge San Luis Valley Edition will be virtual and deliver four days of immersive and upbeat workshops for two hours each morning to dive into a topic and turn challenges into opportunities for our small rural towns.

- April 27 — Engagement + Inclusivity in La Jara
 - April 28 — Design + Activating Space in San Luis
 - April 29 — Connectivity + Activity in Antonito
 - April 30 — Entrepreneurship + Building Reuse in Center Knowledge Marketplace
- Participants will hear from Colorado community leaders,

leading Downtown experts, and local practitioners on strategies for building local ecosystems, encouraging local investors, supporting your small businesses, and telling your story.

- April 1 — Downtown Programming Clearinghouse
- April 8 — Telling Your Story: Marketing 3-4-5™
- April 15 — Small Town Entrepreneurship + Access to Capital
- April 22 — Repurposing Downtown: Small Scale Manufacturing
- April 26 — The State of Colorado: Demographics for Colorado + the San Luis Valley

Since its creation in 2017, the Colorado Challenge Accelerator Program has worked with 30 Colorado communities to consider solutions for challenges including housing, historic building rehabilitation, business attraction, seasonal economies, and more.

Upon conclusion, Challenge Studio Communities will receive a written report with action steps for overcoming their challenge and accessing resources. DCI and CU Denver School of Public Affairs will plan to hold educational events in the Challenge Studio Communities to showcase the process for problem-solving and implementing action plans in the community.

The Key to Being Truly Content

It seems there are very few people who are consistently content with life. It's more common to be up and down mentally and emotionally, depending on what our circumstances are. So I want to ask you: How content are you? Are you consistently enjoying your life?

In the book of Philippians, the apostle Paul not only teaches about the importance of having the joy Jesus gives, but he says that he learned "how to be content (satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or disquieted) in whatever state I am" (Philippians 4:11 AMP). And it was a life-changing revelation for me when I understood that my joy and contentment don't have to be based on my circumstances.

What does it mean to really be content? Being content doesn't mean you never want anything to change or to have anything else in your life. It means you can be satisfied to wait with a good attitude for whatever God chooses to do in your life. It means that even when you want something to happen, you still trust God enough to believe that if He doesn't give you what you want, He has your best interest at heart. And you'll find that what He gives you is better than what you thought you wanted to begin with.

What does God want to do for you? Ephesians 3:20 says that God's power that is working in us "is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]" (AMP). I love these words: superabundantly, far over and above ALL that we dare to ask or think!

It's so important for us to put our expectations in the right place—in God. We serve an awesome God, and I want to encourage you to ask Him to do great things in you and through you.

What are you asking God to do for you? Do you believe He loves you unconditionally and He has great plans for you? Do you trust Him to take care of your needs and that everything He asks you to do is for your good?

We need to resist thinking that God can't do anything for us because of our weaknesses and faults. He isn't expecting us to be perfect; He wants us to have faith in Him. God wants us to put ALL of our hope and ALL of our expectation in Him. He wants us to trust Him to do what's best for us in the way He chooses to do it. He wants us to give Him the credit for the good things He does in our lives.



sensitive and thoughtful and when they don't do what we want, we get mad at them. We need to look to God to provide what we need and what we want. This means we trust Him, no matter what other people do or what circumstances look like. It's not wrong to put realistic expectations in the people we have relationships with, but no one is perfect, and people will disappoint us sometimes. We can get rid of a lot of disappointment and discontentment by learning how to put our hope and expectation in God first and foremost. God cares about everything about you and everything that concerns you. He wants to be good to you and He will never disappoint you. Give Him all of your heart and put all of your hope and expectation in Him. You can have true contentment and satisfaction in Christ!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's teaching resource *A Bible Study of Philippians Action Plan*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org. Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored 120 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and her newest devotional QUIET TIMES WITH GOD (Faith Words). 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.

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.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2021-2021 State Basketball Scores

Girls

Class 2A

- #15 Del Norte 47..... #18 Plateau Valley 37
- #19 Sargent 52..... #14 Olathe 56
- #13 Burlington 67..... #20 Center 51

Thursday Class 1A

- Sangre de Cristo 54 Elbert 37

Class 2A

- Cedaridge 60..... Del Norte 28
- Sanford 52..... Olathe 35

Class 3A

- Centauri 64..... Coal Ridge 44

Boys

Class 1A

- #12 Sangre de Cristo 59..... #21 Pikes Peak Christian 28

Class 2A

- #16 Monte Vista 59..... #17 Lyons 52
- #15 Del Norte 45..... #22 Dayspring Christian 25

Class 3A

- #12 Colorado Academy 57..... #21 Alamosa 24

Thursday Class 1A

- Cheraw 34 Sangre de Cristo 24
- Wray 86..... Monte Vista 57
- Ignacio 51..... Sanford 39
- Denver Christian 56 Del Norte 39

Class 3A

- Colorado Academy 71 Centauri 62 OT

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Courtesy photos

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

SLV REC lineworker scholarship renamed in honor of Martin Christensen

STAFF REPORT

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

Christensen began work at SLV REC in 1963 following the death of his father, Edward. At that time, REC's manager called him to see if he would return to the Valley to take his dad's place. Christensen agreed and began work right away.

In 1971 he became the south area serviceman; after 35 years of service, he retired in June 1998, although members continued to call him for the next several years.

Giving a face to the co-op: Martin Christensen

From the November 1996 Newsboy:

"If you're a member of the SLVREC's southern part (from the 8 mile south of Monte Vista to the New Mexico border), it's a good bet that you know Martin Christensen. Martin is a troubleshooter responsible for everything from fixing outages

Please see SLV REC on Page 2

Working from the epicenter of Center

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

By **PATRICK SHEA**

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

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

Murillo described the rapid response to the virus, followed by four more minutes of testimony from Maria Villagomez, a Center resident who survived COVID-19 and subsequently joined Murillo and Los Promotores del Valle de San Luis to educate the community.

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

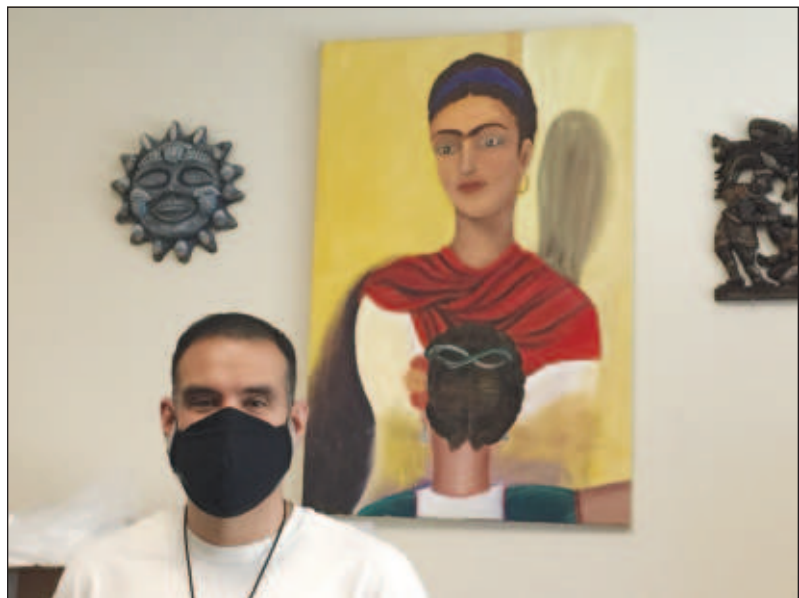


Photo by Patrick Shea

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

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

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

Working with a core group of five that

grew to 17, Murillo took a three-phase approach to the problem.

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

Phased Approach

The first phase entailed recording presentations in English and Spanish.

"In the videos from back then," the 38-year-old Murillo recalled, "I was

Please see MURILLO on Page 3

Camp Cookie

He's the tumbleweed chef and rides with the wagon
Ahead of the thunderin' herd.
His pots and pans clack like a diamondback's rattle.
He growls or he don't say a word.

His face is a roadmap. Looks like a carcass
Hung too many days in the sun.
He smells like a mule and cooks with a shovel,
And his fly is always undone.

The riders kin tell when he's in the kitchen,
The buzzards all come onto view.
He spits in the pan and shaves in the taters,
And clips his toenails in the stew.

His gunpowder biscuits explode in the fire.
His beans explode in yer bowel.
His medda lark soufflé is hard on the belly,
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And duel with the hooves and the horns.

But many a cowboy who follered the wagon
Has joined the 'last roundup club'
Not from Indians, gunfights or even bad whiskey
But from eatin' ole Camp Cookies grub.

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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Annual spring forest road closures are coming soon

The annual spring road closures on the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) will begin on March 15. Last year, I asked the RGNF Forest Roads Manager, Joseph Pacheco, to write about this annual event. Joe provided a great account of “why” these forest roads are closed each year. It will be worth revisiting those points again.

Short term closures of soft roadbeds allow forest roads to endure the spring thaw without tires creating ruts that will collect or channel water. These ruts are likely to encourage pooling on the roadbed or promote higher velocity run off. Faster runoff has the potential to increase sedimentation that can reach waterways and have detrimental effects on microorganisms. Drastic changes to microorganisms can potentially lead to negative effects on the fish and wildlife that thrive in the habitat these waters provide.

It can be quite costly to fix the ruts and mud pits caused by motor vehicles. In addition, most forest roads are maintained on a schedule that takes up to 7 or more years to return. Should road damage occur in the first year after scheduled maintenance, the damage has a high potential to become severe and result in more time consuming and costly repairs.

I often hear comments that the RGNF closes the roads to prohibit deer and elk antler shed hunting. This is simply not true. Colorado Parks & Wildlife manages the shed hunting activity, and the only connection is that our road closures happen to occur at the same time.

Another comment I hear is based on local knowledge. Many are confident that their activities will not damage a road and feel that they should be allowed access. I understand this, but the whole situation needs to be understood during these times. Yes, the road may look dry right where the closure gate is, but the road doesn't just stop there either. We must consider the entire length of road AND all the connecting side roads before we open a gate for access. Many roads pass through north aspects that may experience prolonged muddy areas in places where the rutting will be difficult to

Land, Water and People

By GREGG GOODLAND

repair or access.

Most roads will be closed with a gate. However, some roads are only closed with barricades. Forest users should still respect these barricade closures. There is no difference in the need for the closure and the closure laws still apply.

These closures should never be interpreted as “the government closing me out just because they can.” That is not even remotely the case. The issue isn't just about no-access at this moment, the closures are about the long-term sustainable access to the resource that so many of us love and count on for clean water and abundant recreational opportunities.

If we all do our part to keep our forest roads in good condition, we stand a better chance of avoiding the need to close roads because they no longer are safe or meet standards. This is the option that I want to see. I really like to spend my summers exploring forest roads. I want to see those roads stay in as good of condition as possible, for as long as possible.

I mentioned our Forest Roads Manager earlier and want to invite folks to join him on Wednesday, March 17, at 5 p.m. in an online Zoom session dedicated to forest road management. Please visit our website or Facebook page for the details.

Spring closures always vary depending upon conditions but, generally, are in place from mid-March until mid-May. Some years the snow might melt faster and allow roads to be re-opened sooner. This year may be one of those years. Some roads will likely be closed early as well. Until they DO re-open, you might consider just taking a walk along some of these roads. You never know what treasures lie in wait.

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

SLV REC

Continued from Page 1

and maintaining yard lights to collecting bills and checking meters. He is the doctor who still makes house calls.

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

Martin knows his 1,500 square mile territory with its REC consumers like the back of his hand. For many, he is the only contact with REC members have. If they experience an outage, they call him. If they're late paying a bill, they call him. Or if they call the office and are asked what their meter number is, they reply “Oh,

Martin knows where it is.”

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

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

Christensen's son and current REC Foreman Ryan Christensen said, “This is a great honor for him. He mentored a lot of people who became linemen because of my dad — myself, my son Riley works at La Plata. I have two nephews that are linemen — one at San Miguel and one in California. They followed in his footsteps.”

Christensen's commitment to members of REC will be remembered for years to come;



Martin Christensen, 1996

with the naming of the lineworker scholarship, generations of future lineworkers will be touched by his commitment.



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

Level: Intermediate

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!

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

		M	A	S	T		S	O	F	T	Y					
	A	P	A	C	H	E		A	B	R	A	D	E			
	D	E	S	T	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	M	D			
M	I	N				S	B	E		E	I	D	E	R		
I	O	U			F	E	M	E	S		S	I	N	E		
A	S	L		A	A	R		N	A	E		A	D	S		
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L	I	E	N	S		L	I	N				C	R	Y		
L	F		S	A	L	M	O	N	E	L	L	A	E			
	F	R	A	N	C	A		I	D	E	A	L	S			
		D	Y	A	D	S			S	P	E	C				



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MURILLO

Continued from Page 1 —

heavier, and it was either here [Center Consolidated School campus] or my garage. I was just straight-up reading and translating the information given to me.”

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

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

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

“I wanted to put a face to it. This was taking people’s lives,” Murillo said.

Phase two included approximately 300 phone calls with neighbors calling neighbors.

Murillo described the common reaction when “you get a message saying, ‘hey! This is the department of health, whatever...’”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and workplaces.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

County Clerk’s Association seeking scholarship applicants

STAFF REPORT

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

The scholarship application is available on the Rio Grande County’s website at www.riograndecounty.org. Applications have also been sent to all Rio Grande County schools. Interested

individuals may contact their school administration for an application or call the Rio Grande County Clerk’s office at 719-657-3334. Students who reside in other Colorado counties should submit their application to their County Clerk.

Rio Grande County high school students can email (preferred) their application packets to clerk@riograndecounty.org or mail them to the Rio Grande County Clerk at P.

O. Box 160, Del Norte, CO 81132. Packets can also be returned to the Clerk’s office at 965 Sixth St., Del Norte. All packets must be received by the Clerk no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, March 26.

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

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- 16 VACATION
- REAL ESTATE**
- 17 REAL ESTATE
- 18 LOTS & ACREAGE
- 19 FARM & FARMLAND
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- 21 MOBILE HOMES
- 22 PROPERTY WANTED

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

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

DEADLINE

Thursday 5:00 pm

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

Easy Payment Options

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



05 Notices

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: Special Temporary Price: Elk Grade A \$16/lb. Deer Grade A \$13/lb. 5 miles west of Del Norte on Hwy 160. 719-657-0942 (3/24)

Deer voucher wanted for 2021. Willing to pay going rate. Not a broker, this is for myself and possibly wife. Call or text Curran at 320-291-9297.

07 Help Wanted

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

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

Moffat School District is seeking a track coach for both MS & HS. Start date for MS is April 19th and HS is April 26th. A non-certified application can be found @ www.moffatschools.org or contact Dale

Harrison@ 719-298-2559 for more information. (04/07)

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.

Rio Grande Hospital, located in Del Norte, Colo., needs one Medical Laboratory Scientist. Duties: Performs laboratory procedures, operates lab instruments, collects specimens, and obtains body fluid/blood samples, cultures from patients of all ages for interpretation in the treatment and diagnosis of disease. Requirements:

Bachelor's Degree in Medical Technology or related Laboratory Sciences, AMT or ASCP or equivalent certification, full-time employment. Send application to Rio Grande Hospital, Attn: Human Resources Dept., 310 County Road 14, Del Norte, CO 81132. (03/17)

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

worthy returns, the more we sell, the 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. (03/31)

Equipment Operator – Mineral County in Creede, Colorado is seeking PT-YR equipment operator at the Mineral County Landfill. Dozer experience necessary. Background check and pre-employment drug/alcohol test required, Mineral County

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

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Cremation Service: Cats, Dogs, Ferrets, Birds...

Animal Weight	Semi-Private/Group Fee	Private Fee	Vessel Size needed
0 - 15 lbs.	\$40.00		Mini - Small vessel needed
15 - 25 lbs.	\$100.00		Petite - Small vessel needed
26 - 50 lbs	\$140.00		Small-Medium Vessel needed
51 - 75 lbs.	\$175.00	\$200.00	Medium-Large Vessel needed
76 - 100 lbs.	\$200.00	\$275.00	Large Vessel needed
101 lbs. & up	Animals over 101 lbs. are ineligible for Group fee	\$300.00	Extra Large Vessel Needed

Payment is required at time the animal is dropped off. Animal may be dropped off during business hours only. Please allow 7 working days from drop off date for animal's return. Ashes not picked up after 60 days will respectfully be spread over our Conour Garden.

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It is important that all pet owners have their dogs & cats spayed or neutered to control the pet overpopulation and vaccinate to prevent the spread of disease.

All breeds & ages of animals are a "best guess" and are not guaranteed to be accurate. Adoption fee includes: neuter/spay, vaccinations, de-worming and micro-chipping.
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Or Text

Valley Wide Classifieds

residency required. 25 hours or less per week. Starting wage commensurate with experience, not to exceed \$18/hr. Required application available at HR Office, 1201 N Main, Creede, CO or on mineralcountycolorado.com. Application needs to be returned to Mineral County, Attn: HR, PO Box 70, Creede, CO 81130, emailed to finance@mincoco.com or dropped off at 1201 N Main St., Creede. Position open until filled. (03/24)

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

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

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

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

Cafeteria workers needed at Upper Rio Grande School District C7. Must have high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or be willing to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. (3/31)

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.**

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.**

Alpine Achievers Initiative (AAI) seeks full time Administrative Assis-

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

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

Laborer Wanted for Construction Business: Much be dependable. Call ZTEC Construction for more details (719)992-1396 (03/24)

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)

17 Real Estate For Sale 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. (03/17)

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

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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

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 huge amount of gravel on the property \$525,000.00 call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770. (TFN)

23 Lawn and Garden

Sprinkler repair. Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (03/17)

24 Garage Sales

March 19 and 20 at 4521 East Country Road 125. Repair shop items, weed eater, mower, generator, small chainsaw, bicycles, pop-up camper, furniture and household items. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. (03/17)

32 Fuel & Heating

100,000 BTU Boiler. Set for propane, can be converted to Natural Gas. \$475.00 Call 719-379-3921 for details.

36 Miscellaneous

For Sale: A Plumbers drum Augur. We also have 2 beautiful Pugs for sale. Please call 719-937-3868 for pricing.

Miscellaneous for sale: Wood Fire-Place, Scooter, Stacked Washer/Dryer, Refrigerator/Freezer 8x8x8' Storage Building, Kawasaki ATV 4x4, 1,000 Gallon Water Tank, 2001 Ford Explorer (Parts), HD Vehicle Tow Dolly, 80" TV. Call 719-588-0573

King bedroom set, 2 night-

stands, headboard dresser with mirror box springs no mattress \$175. Call 208-906-9871 (03/31)

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 (03/24)

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38 Machinery, Tools, and Equipment

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

48 Pets & Supplies

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

50 Livestock

Fancy Replacement Heifers & Yearling Bulls. In the Valley. Please Leave a Message at 970-376-6047. (03/24)

Savanna Fullblood Bucks. 8 months old. 2 CD&T vaccinations. On hay feed. 719-480-1862. (03/10)

Heritage Breed Turkeys, Burbon Red breeding pairs - \$50, get 2 Hens and 1 Tom for \$60. Call 849-8331

53 Trailers

Stock Trailer 2003 WW. Covered, 14', 6'6" tall. Escape, center, combo gates, spare. Great condition. \$4,800 719-480-8823 (03/31)

59 Vehicles Wanted

CASH ON THE SPOT FOR JUNK CARS & TRUCKS: We pickup, no title ok. 719-937-7935. (TFN2-21)

64 Autos for Sale

2004 Subaru Outback, low miles, dependable \$3,400. 719-850-2027

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! Sewer drain cleaner, 100 feet. Call 719-850-2027 (3/31)

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1ST ANNUAL EQUIPMENT & MISC. CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

April 10, 2021 • Starts at 10 a.m.
Consignments will be accepted on April 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 until 12 p.m.

To have items listed on sale bill, please call by March 29:
Please no electronics or junk

Marlin 719-588-3980 or John 719-298-2648

VALLEY LIVESTOCK AUCTION
5660 E. Hwy. 160 • Monte Vista



Photo courtesy of Adams State University

Nicole Kasper is ready to expand the Adams State Food Studies program for students and the community, thanks to an Outcalt Foundation grant to renovate the East Campus kitchen.

Look What's Cooking

Adams State food studies program to boost San Luis Valley local food economy

BY SARAH KUTA

Adams State University

ALAMOSA — Chase Smith has always enjoyed working with food. Since graduating from high school, he's made sandwiches at Subway, worked in catering and rose through the ranks at a grocery store deli, eventually becoming a manager. But he didn't always love the food-

service industry's long hours, early morning and late-night shifts and low pay. When the coronavirus pandemic hit, 24-year-old Smith decided it was the right time to go back to school and earn a bachelor's degree.

Smith, a self-described "foodie" who grew up in Pueblo, enrolled in Adams State's new food studies program. Now in his second semester, Smith hopes to someday work for a food aid organization or pursue a food-related career in business.

"Food is a basic necessity and it's **Please see FOOD on Page 11**

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4 bedrooms • 4.5 baths • 4,504 sq. ft.
• 6 acres • \$888,000

SOLD

Custom-built home in River Island Ranch with a built in theater, 5 car heated garage and 2 car separate garage, screened-in porch, safe room, wet bar and much more! The yard has a sprinkler system and a fire pit, perfect for entertaining! POA includes access to fishing on the Rio Grande, road maintenance and snow removal. MLS #765728
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SOLD

Beautiful Home on the Range!
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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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
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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 heat 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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SOLD

Majestic Mountain Home in Beaver Mountain Estates!
• 5 bedrooms 5 bathrooms • 2,912 sq. ft. • 3-car heated garage • \$745,900
A beautiful home with charm and elegance in Beaver Mountain Estates!
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 ETF 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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Look New Price - THIS HOME YOU HAVE TO SEE TO BELIEVE!
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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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HEALTH & RECREATION 2021

SAN LUIS VALLEY PROGRESS



Paramedic program at TSJC offers options for first responders

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Twenty-nine-year-old Stefan Ortega has always been fascinated with medicine.

“When I was going to school, my two favorite subjects were math and science. And like any kid growing up, I was attracted to sirens. When you mix math and science and sirens, you’re pretty much pointed at EMS,” said Ortega.

Ortega began his Emergency Medical Services training at the age of 18 while taking concurrent courses at Monte Vista High School and earned his EMT (Emergency Medical Training) basic certification. Concurrent courses allow a teenager to earn high school and college credit at the same time. Traditionally, high schools pay most or all the college tuition expenses.

Ortega is the first paramedic to graduate from the Trinidad State program and is certified in Colorado and New Mexico as well as nationally registered. In Colorado, paramedics are required to pass the national registry before they can practice.

Although he has only been practicing as a paramedic since last November, he was the Ambulance Director for the town of Monte Vista for the past five years and started working for the ambulance service while still in high school 10 years ago.

“When I was directing the ambulance, I loved seeing the high school students... getting their EMT. It’s a really cool program. If it weren’t for the concurrent program I took in high school, I don’t know if I would be in EMS (Emergency Medical Services) now,” said Ortega.

After his high school graduation in 2010, Ortega earned his Intermediate certificate at Trinidad State while getting a bachelor’s from Adams State University (2015) in cellular and molecular biology with pre-med being his intention at that time. But, as he interviewed at several medical schools, he realized he felt “more at home” pursuing a career as a paramedic.

He explained up until now it has been hard for people in the Valley to get a paramedic certificate because the closest program was in Pueblo and most people here work full-time jobs.

“When Trinidad brought that program to the Valley,” he said, “I jumped right on it and I’ve had fun doing it.”

“I’ve always liked the challenge of medicine,” Ortega said.

A paramedic has more training than an EMT. They can administer medications and start IV lines, among other things EMTs cannot do. They can also perform endotracheal intubation, intravenous access and drug administration and manual defibrillation. Paramedics train in the use of 30-40 medications, depending on the state.

“The way I like to think of an ambulance service is bringing the emergency room to the patient before the patient gets to the hospital,” said Ortega. If that team includes a paramedic, there are more treatment options for the patient.

In addition to directing the ambulance, Ortega also served for eight years on the SLV RETAC (Regional Emergency Trauma Advisory Council), a state-appointed board, having moved into the chair position last October.

“Their goal is to improve trauma times and trauma outcomes in the pre-hospital environment,” said Ortega. The paramedic program offered by Trinidad State is helping them to accomplish their goal.

Ortega’s wife, Randi, graduated from Trinidad State with her LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) certificate in 2017. Subsequently, she found work in Albuquerque, N.M. Ortega wanted to support her as she has supported him. He has taken a paramedic job in the Albuquerque area. He also wanted to be closer to family. Ortega, originally from New Mexico, was the only family member living in Colorado. The pandemic caused him to reevaluate his life.

“Family is very important to me,” said Ortega. “2020 was challenging. The hardest part of the entire pandemic was the fear of the unknown — protecting not only ourselves and our patients but our families as well because we didn’t know what this was.”

He added, “The community support throughout the Valley has been strong with people donating supplies (masks and gloves) and equipment to help us. It definitely touched me.”

As an ambulance director, one of the difficulties Ortega had in the Valley was getting and retaining ALS (Advanced Life Support) certified providers.

In Colorado, the two ALS levels of EMT were the intermediate and the paramedic but Colorado no longer certifies the intermediate level which places a greater strain on the

Please see TSJC on Page 9



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HEALTH & RECREATION 2021

SAN LUIS VALLEY PROGRESS

Rio Grande Hospital wound care expert, limb loss due to diabetes can be avoided

STAFF REPORT
DEL NORTE — It is estimated that every 30 seconds a lower limb is lost as a consequence of diabetes. Uncontrolled blood sugar levels can deprive blood vessels of much-needed oxygen and nutrients, turning a simple cut or scrape into a severely infected wound that does not heal and may threaten the life of the patient. To complicate things further, many individuals with diabetes have a loss of sensation in the lower limbs stemming from diabetic neuropathy. They are unaware of the wound until someone notices it, or they develop a fever from the infection and seek medical help. Sometimes a trip to the Emergency Room (ER) for a high fever results in the discovery of a non-healing wound. If a wound festers for more than 30 days it's considered non-healing and needs to be evaluated to avoid infection, sepsis, or amputation. "People need to know that a chronic wound can quickly turn into a life-threatening situation," said Patrick Thompson, M.D., co-medical director of the Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine Center at Rio Grande Hospital. "If someone has a wound that isn't healing, and especially if they have diabetes or cardiovascular disease, it needs to be examined by a wound care specialist as soon as possible. We can avoid amputation if the patient seeks treatment early enough and is compliant with the treatment plan."

healing wounds:

- **Diabetic ulcers:** Approximately 25 percent of individuals with diabetes will experience a non-healing open wound, or diabetic ulcer, caused by pressure or trauma on the lower limb or foot.
- **Arterial ulcers:** Also referred to as ischemic ulcers, these are caused by damaged or blocked arteries which are unable to get nutrient-rich blood and oxygen to the lower extremities. This causes an ulcer or break in the skin, typically on the foot or ankle.
- **Venous ulcers:** When a patient has poor blood circulation in the legs, the blood backs up and "pools" in the veins, eventually causing an ulceration. This can cause a painful open wound and edema, or swelling, on the ankle or lower leg.

Tips for Chronic Wound Healing

If you have diabetes, it's important to check your feet regularly, including the bottoms. If you're in treatment for a non-healing wound, it's critical to keep your appointments and follow your physician's instructions. It's also advisable to pay attention to your diet. A nutritious diet with an appropriate mix of protein, fruits and vegetables, healthy fats and whole grains helps promote faster healing and can prevent the development of additional wounds. We also encourage all wound care patients to avoid smoking and limit alcohol consumption. At the Rio Grande Hospital Wound Care &



Hyperbaric Medicine Center we're using advanced wound care modalities and hyperbaric oxygen therapy to quickly and successfully treat non-healing wounds. Chronic wounds can be diagnosed, effectively managed and ul-

timately healed, oftentimes within eight weeks. If you or someone you love has a non-healing wound give us a call at 719-657-3277 or visit www.riograndehospital.org, for more information and assistance.

Common Wound Types
 Here are the three of most common non-

Valley-Wide Health looks back at coronavirus response

BY VALLEY-WIDE HEALTH
 As we begin the 1B.3 vaccination phase, Valley-Wide Health Systems is looking back at the past year of coronavirus response and ahead at the future of this pandemic. There's no doubt that the past 12 months have been hard on our communities, our patients, and our staff. However, at the same time, there are many milestones and successes to celebrate. Early in the pandemic, our staff learned to be flexible as the changing situation forced us to adjust our daily processes. Valley-Wide concentrated on ensuring our patients were safely provided for – doing our best to keep our dental clinics open for emergency patients and our medical clinics open for urgent needs and those with chronic illnesses, despite the global Personal Protective Equipment shortage. Our support staff created a triage line for people who thought they might have COVID symptoms. Our Facilities Maintenance staff made hundreds of cloth masks in-between their normal projects. When testing became available in communities, we adjusted once again to ensure that potential COVID patients had access to care that kept

both themselves and our other patients and staff safe. To date, Valley-Wide Health Systems has administered more than 8,000 COVID-19 tests. Although we waited anxiously for news of a vaccine becoming available to the public, our first vaccine clinic was a surprise to us as well as the public. We received a phone call on New Year's Eve - when many of our staff were getting our offices ready to be closed on the holiday - telling us we'd be receiving vaccine doses. We needed to hold our first clinic as soon as possible. Our staff worked quickly and tirelessly to schedule a mass vaccination event that Sunday, January 3, where we vaccinated 232 people. As of this writing, Valley-Wide Health Systems has now administered 6,425 vaccine doses. We were thrilled when Governor Polis announced recently that 70% of all Coloradans aged 70 or older had been vaccinated and proud to be part of that effort. With the opening of Phase 1B.3, we're gearing up to provide thousands of more doses. We can't wait to see Colorado reach a point when the lives of our patients and our communities can open once again. Finally, we'd like to say some thank-yous. To

our employees and leadership team: thank you for your tireless efforts, late nights, and early mornings. We see you doing your best for our patients every day, and we are impressed. To our patients: thank you for being patient with our staff as we navigate the new ways, we work with COVID-19. To our partner organizations like county public health offices, San Luis Valley Health and Rio Grande Hospital: thank you for your help sharing resources and information. We couldn't have done this without your partnership. And finally, to our communities: thank you for your endless support. We've received donations of hand-sewn masks, volunteered time, thank you cards, smiles, kind words, and 5-star

reviews. You spread the word amongst your friends and neighbors each time we've held a vaccine clinic or a testing event. Colorado is emerging from this pandemic period with a few bruises but stronger for what we've been through together. **Where can I go to get a vaccine?** Valley-Wide Health Systems has vaccine events in all three of our regions, San Luis Valley, Upper and Lower Arkansas Valley. To find the most convenient event for you, you can schedule an appointment by visiting our website at vwhs.org, click the orange "COVID vaccine appointments" button at the top right of the page or call 719-587-9610.

TSJC Continued from Page 1

smaller areas. "Having a local paramedic program will serve the Valley well. The people who are teaching grew up in and understand the area and the difficulties students face within small rural areas," he said. The Paramedic coordinator and lead instructor for Trinidad State, Brent Place, is a critical care flight paramedic who flies with Eagle Air in Alamosa. "He comes with a ton of experience and he's extremely knowledgeable. The education he provides is top-notch," says Ortega. LoriRae Hamilton, Dean of Instruction for Trinidad State, said Angie Medina, who also instructs for the program is a seasoned nursing faculty who has several years as a flight nurse with a heavy EMS background before instructing nursing and paramedics. "I felt at home at Trinidad State," said Ortega. "I knew my instructors and my classmates. It felt like I was going through the program with my friends. I wasn't just a number. I think Trinidad does a really good job of making you feel included. I am a big advocate for community colleges and vocational programs."

Ortega explained that career options for paramedics are growing. They can serve in doctor's offices, work in ERs, and even do follow-up patient care for hospital patients who have returned home. "I definitely want to move into critical care in the next few years," said Ortega. "I like the increased challenge and increased knowledge. Education has always been a big thing for me." The program was created with the rural EMS districts in mind, said Hamilton. "Lectures are two evenings per week and can be attended either face to face or via video conference. Every other Saturday the students meet for 10 hours for testing and hands-on practice," Hamilton said. "After completion of two semesters and 270 clinical hours, the students are sent out for a 500-hour internship which can be set up anywhere in the state. Trinidad State looks forward to continuing to serve the needs of the EMS districts and is very proud of Stefan's completion of the program and national registry." To learn more about the paramedic program at Trinidad State or to apply, go to <https://trinidadstate.edu/paramedic/index.html>.

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Monte Vista Coop Agriculture Week Coloring Contest

March 22-26, 2021

"Loving Livestock"

Eligibility:

- Child must be between the ages of 3-13 years.
- Child must be a resident of the San Luis Valley.

Coloring Contest Guidelines

- The picture provided by the Monte Vista Coop should be used as the official entry into the coloring contest.
- Coloring must be the original work of the child submitting the entry.
- The child's (artist) name, age, address, phone number, and email (opt), parent/guardian name(s) should be written on the back of the entry.
- Age categories will include: 6 and under, 7-10, 11-13.

- There will be one winner from each category.
- Only one entry per child.

Timeline

- The coloring contest is in correspondence with the Monte Vista Coop Ag Week celebration March 22-26, 2021.
- Deadline to submit entries will be March 31, 2021.
- Winners will be announced April 2, 2021.
- Entries submitted to the Monte Vista Coop can be submitted in hard copy form via mail, dropped off at the Monte Vista Coop main office, or electronic format (email), and must be received by the March 31, 2021 deadline.

Contest Prize

- **\$50 gift card to the Monte Vista Coop**



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FOOD

Continued from Page 7

the foundation of everything we do,” he said. “You always hear about the people who were grouchy because they’re hungry and stuff like that. The difference of going into a job interview being hungry or on a full and healthy stomach is a pretty big difference. If I can help other people cover that necessity and also be able to improve themselves, I’ll feel like I’ve done my part to help other people.”

Smith is one of seven students taking advantage of Adams State’s innovative new degree program, which held its first classes in spring 2020. The interdisciplinary food studies program brings together every facet of food, including agriculture, nutrition, social justice, production, food systems, business and sustainability, just to name a few.

With a \$125,000 grant from the Outcalt Foundation, the program will become even more robust over the summer, when crews will finish work updating a commercial kitchen in the East Campus building. The generous grant is also funding a classroom renovation to create a dedicated space for cooking classes and demonstrations.

The foundation supports the growth and prosperity of the San Luis Valley and serves as the lasting legacy of Ralph Outcalt, the long-time local philanthropist and businessman who died in 2014.

“Ralph was committed to the San Luis Valley way of life and, particularly, the agricultural community,” said Karla Shriver, one of the foundation’s trustees. “This Adams State project aligns with that goal. If we can help educate people about their food, food sources, where it comes from, how it’s prepared, that helps the agricultural industry and also supports the health and wellness of the Valley.”

Adams State first began considering a potential new food studies program five years ago. With the Valley’s long-standing agricultural roots, popular farmers’ market, and many local foods organizations, it felt like the right fit.

University leaders convened an advisory group of community members working in food-related industries and began researching related programs at other universities.

“There were a number of them that were growing and thriving, but they were almost all on the East and West coasts, and primarily in urban areas,” said Margaret Doell, associate vice president for academic affairs. “There really wasn’t anything in the central part of the country and nothing in Colorado. It seemed like a potential niche area where Adams State could really shine. We have all the pieces with our rural setting and this vibrant local foods economy around us.”

The food studies program helps fill a void for students and the community. Graduates will have a bottom-to-top understanding of food, with more intensive knowledge and training in their chosen area of emphasis: health and wellness, sustainability, business and food policy or sociology/social justice. They’ll be able to hit the ground running after graduation, whether they choose to work for an existing company, start their own business or support a nonprofit.

“Food touches so many different things that students really need to learn about all these different realms to understand the whole system,” said Nicole Kasper, a food studies professor who also helped develop

the program. “It’s one of the biggest sectors of the economy. It’s one of the biggest influences on our health. It’s one of the biggest influences on the environment.”

Local employers get a fresh infusion of talent, with graduates who are top-notch critical thinkers and have both theoretical and applied knowledge of food. As part of the program, students tend to an on-campus garden, complete internships, interact with guest lecturers and take hands-on lab classes.

San Luis Valley residents will also benefit from the commercial kitchen and cooking classroom, which will be available for events, courses, workshops and other needs. Those community events may even someday lead to continuing education classes at Adams State, Doell said.

“We really want to foster opportunities and collaboration — the goal really was to create a community kitchen,” she said.

For more information about the food studies program at Adams State, contact Nicole Kasper at nmkasper@adams.edu or visit the program’s website www.adams.edu/academics/undergraduate/food-studies/.

Ellison joins Center for African American Health board



Photo courtesy of San Luis Valley Health

Dr. Dennard Ellison, Ear, Nose and Throat Otolaryngologist for San Luis Valley Health in Alamosa, has joined the Center for African American Health’s board. ‘As a board member, I hope to continue to contribute to my community in an impactful way. I hope my involvement will empower the health and well-being of our targeted communities.’ Dr. Ellison has been with SLV Health since 2010 and completed his residency at the Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital in Los Angeles, Calif. Not only is he a pioneer in performing Balloon Sinuplasty, but he has also joined his African-American colleagues in promoting access to health care initiatives, and recently, promoting access to and information about the COVID-19 vaccine — visit <https://caahealth.org/>.





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Adams State student honored as Newman Civic Fellow

Diana Gonzalez Gonzalez recognized for commitment to solving public problems

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Campus Compact, a Boston-based non-profit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education, has announced the 290 students who will make up the organization's 2021-2022 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows. Diana Gonzalez Gonzalez, a student at Adams State University, will join 212 students from 39 states, Washington, D.C., and Mexico to form the 2021 cohort.

The Newman Civic Fellowship is a year-long program for students from Campus Compact member institutions. The students selected for the fellowship are leaders on their campuses who demonstrate a commitment to finding solutions for challenges facing communities lo-

cally, nationally, and internationally.

Gonzalez, Class of 2022, is a first-generation student, farmworker, a political science major/Spanish minor, and a graduate from Alamosa High School. Gonzalez addresses issues of just pathways to citizenship and language justice within her community.

A bilingual daughter of immigrant farmworkers, she understands many of the inequities faced by those who are not born in the U.S., who work in the fields and warehouses to feed the nation, and whose first language is not English.

She seeks to bring a greater cultural awareness and opportunity to the campus and local community through her work with the Spanish Club, College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), and the Sacred Heart Church.

She teaches religion to the Spanish and Q'anjob'al speaking members of her church in their native language, provides tutoring in Spanish for CAMP student in various subject

areas, and continues to provide culturally relevant programming during the pandemic.

Citizenship carries double meaning for Gonzalez, as she strives to be a responsible and equitable member of society and prepare herself to support others in their pursuit of a legal status in the United States.

The fellowship is named for the late Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact's founders, who was a tireless advocate for civic engagement in higher education. In the spirit of Dr. Newman's leadership, Campus Compact member presidents and chancellors nominate student leaders from their campuses to be named Newman Civic Fellows.

Jasmine Camponeschi, Adams State University CAMP project director, is proud to have Gonzalez as part of the CAMP team as a scholar, mentor, and tutor.

"Diana dreams big, but ever so quietly," Camponeschi said. "Her smile is warm and tells you that

she will be there for you but pushes you to do your best at the same time. She advocates for her fellow CAMP students, honors her culture and language, and hopes one day to serve the immigrant population on a professional level. I know she will rise high in life, giving her all for her family and her community."

Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides Fellows with a variety of learning and networking opportunities that emphasize personal, professional, and civic growth. Each year, fellows participate in numerous virtual training and networking opportunities to help provide them with the skills and connections they need to create large-scale positive change.

The cornerstone of the fellowship is the Annual Convening of Fellows, which offers intensive skill-building and networking over the course of two days. The fellowship also provides fellows with pathways to apply for exclusive scholarship and post-graduate opportunities.

"We are proud to recognize these extraordinary student leaders and thrilled to engage with them," said Campus Compact President Andrew Seligsohn. "The experience of the



Diana Gonzalez Gonzalez

last year has driven home to all of us that we need open-minded, innovative, public-spirited thinkers and doers. That is what Campus Compact is about, and the stories of our Newman Civic Fellows demonstrate it's who they are."

Learn more at compact.org/newman-civic-fellowship. You can read more about each of the student leaders selected for this year's cohort at compact.org/newman-civic-fellowship/2021-2022-newman-civic-fellows.

Adams State Nursing Program waives application fee

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The Adams State Nursing Program will waive its application fee for the spring 2022 cohort.

Applications are due April 30. Notifications will be sent out between June 1 and June 15, 2021. Visit adams.edu/academics/undergraduate/nursing to apply online or call 719-587-8171, for more information.



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• Trout Unlimited(TU) is America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organization

- San Luis Valley Chapter of TU is an entirely volunteer organization with members from across the country
- Often mistaken for a fishing club, TU is composed of dedicated anglers and conservationists
- We work closely with many local, state and national organizations, government agencies and businesses.

• Recent SLV Trout Unlimited Projects

- **Hidden Mile of the Conejos River** - Goals are to improve habitat in the river and reduce trespass grazing.
- **Rio Grande Map** - Fishing and floating access map.
- **Jim Creek** - An on-going project to protect habitat of this Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout stream. Jim Creek is home to a core conservation population of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, and this project continues to build on previous and ongoing efforts that have protected and restored over two miles of riparian habitat and enhanced stream habitat on over one mile of Jim Creek to date.
- **Rio Grande Boat Ramp** - Improve access to the river; two ramps completed at Rio Grande and Palisades Campgrounds.
- **River Temperature Sensors** - Partnered with Colorado Division of Water Resources to provide real-time water temperature on gages on the Rio Grande and Conejos.

• Conejos Meadows Resilient Habitat Project - Our major project for 2021

- Located a few miles downstream from Platoro this project will enhance wintertime/refuge habitat, and connectivity between habitat during low flow conditions on a 2-mile section of the Conejos. Work will begin in the fall of 2021.
- The Conejos Meadows Resilient Habitat project is a model for projects that benefit fish habitat and wild self-maintaining trout populations all while providing benefits to irrigation water users below a working reservoir.
- This project is possible thanks to Conejos River Anglers and donations through their annual Superfly contest.
- Over \$31,000 raised and donated to SLV TU since the Superfly began in 2008.
- Using an additional \$12,000 raised by the chapter the total of \$43,000 has been leveraged and multiplied almost 7 times!
- This project recently received two grants leveraged with Superfly donations, one from the Colorado Water Conservation Board and a second grant from the Fishing is Fun program, for a total of \$219,000.

• Conejos River Anglers - Partners on all of our Conejos River projects.

- The San Luis Valley Chapter of TU is incredibly grateful to the folks at Conejos River Anglers for their generous support over the years.

- The fly shop, located in Mogote, Colorado, is owned and operated by the Blankenship family and features a full-service fly shop including guide operations and also offers comfortable lodging on site.
- The shop does 100% of the work to organize and host the Superfly event, to give back to the resource and enjoy it at the same time.
- For more information on Conejos River Anglers visit www.conejosriveranglers.com or call 719-376-5660

- **For more information about SLV TU or to get involved please email slytroutunlimited@gmail.com or Visit our Facebook page or our website at <https://troutunlimitedslv.org/>**

Trout Unlimited's Mission - To conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.



Alamosa FFA OMJ Auction (One Man's Junk...)

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Where?

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Why Ag Education is Important

We hope that all students, parents, and community members find this useful in understanding what the Ag Department and FFA Chapter are doing here in Alamosa. By seeing what we are doing/offering students you are better able to develop your ideas on the importance of these classes and programs for high school students. However, just seeing what is offered may not tell the story as to why Agriculture Education is vitally important for high school students.

Ag Education is made up of 3 crucial components: Classroom, FFA, and SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience). The reason for 3 components within Ag Ed is to allow students to take what is learned in the classroom and apply that knowledge

and those skills in the FFA Chapter and then to actually apply them to their own life in a real-world setting through an internship like program known as SAE. SAE can be a business that student either works at by being hired or they may choose to become entrepreneurs and develop their own business. These 3 components begin to mold young people into adults that are able to function and succeed in today's society. While many students may never have a career remotely related to agriculture, the skills they learn from Ag Education are easily applied to any career. Skills in job interviewing, public speaking, written communication, basic business and economic knowledge, handyman skills, and the ability to

think for themselves are all skills that are learned and enforced in Ag Education but can be used in any setting of their life, agriculture or not.

Whether you come from a farm, live in the country but not on a farm, or have spent your entire life in a town/city, all are welcome and fit right into the curriculum and purpose of Ag Education and is to encourage students to take a class or two. If anything else, students are able to better respect and understand the industry that feeds and clothes them (and also dictates the economies in our local communities and the state of Colorado). Please feel free to contact the Agriculture Education Department at your high school with any questions.

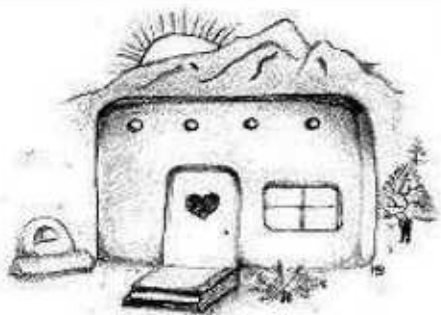
Alamosa FFA Bedding Plant Sale

May 10th-29th • Flowers & Vegetables

Ag Ed Greenhouse South of High School

Many varieties to choose from - **Supplies are limited**

Weekdays- 8:00a.m-5:30p.m Saturday 9:00a.m-2:00p.m call 587-6061



Tu Casa, Inc.

Empowering all children and adults to live healthy, violence-free

About Tu Casa, Inc.

Tu Casa, Inc. is the umbrella organization for the SLV Children's Advocacy Center and Tu Casa. Tu Casa, Inc. has a hotline that is staffed 24/7 to provide callers with advocacy and crisis intervention. The hotline number is (719) 589-2465.

Tu Casa provides free, confidential, bilingual advocacy and outreach services to adult victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, elder abuse and hate crimes throughout the six counties in the San Luis Valley.

The SLV CAC provides forensic interviews, advocacy services, outreach, and SANE exams. The goal of the SLV CAC is

to ensure that children are not further victimized by the intervention systems designed to protect them.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering is a great way to make connections and give back to the community. Tu Casa, Inc. is currently looking for volunteers.

For more information about how to apply to be a volunteer, please contact the volunteer coordinators at Tu Casa, Inc.

Tu Casa — Michelle Resendiz

micheller@slvtucasa.net

CAC — Shelly Martinez

shelly@slvtucasa.net

More Information

For more information about Tu Casa, Inc. and the services provided or job listings, please contact Theresa Ortega at (719)

589-2465 or visit our website at www.slvtucasa.net.



Tu Casa, Inc. staff.

SAN LUIS VALLEY IMMIGRANT RESOURCE CENTER

225 6th Street, Suite B, Alamosa CO 81101

(719) 587-3225 www.slvirc.org



Providing services to residents of the San Luis Valley since 2002

Our mission is to connect and empower immigrants with resources to achieve legal documentation, fulfill their economic needs, and integrate into the community.



Legal Assistance Program

- Family petitions, naturalization, and more
- BIA Accredited; Minimum-fee basis

Por Ti Misma Program for Crime Victims

- Immigration legal assistance – U-Visa and VAWA Self-Petition
- Housing and Utility assistance

Punto de Vista Education Program

- English and Citizenship Prep classes

CRP Focuses on Core Work During Pandemic

Center for Restorative Programs has utilized the changing environment of the past year to undertake some important behind the scenes work. The staff and board of directors worked with an outside expert to review and update the organization's mission, vision, and values. In addition, CRP's website and logo underwent an overhaul. We are excited for this first public opportunity to showcase this hard work.

In addition to doing this behind the scenes work, CRP continued to effectively serve the community. CRP staff worked closely with Creede and Alamosa School Districts, collaborated with numerous local justice system partners to divert youth and adults out of the justice system through Restorative Justice interventions, and continued to collaborate on community-wide initiatives such as High-Fidelity Wraparound, and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD). Many thanks community partners and local supporters for helping us navigate this year of transition.

Please visit our newly redesigned website at www.restorativeprograms.org to learn more about our work in the community.



Center *for*
Restorative
Programs

Mission

Strengthen community in the San Luis Valley by building connection, transforming conflict, and healing relationships

Vision

Restorative Practices are the foundation of a healthy and just community throughout the San Luis Valley.

Values

Relationship

We all have a need for healthy connection and relationship with others. All people deserve the opportunity to build healthy relationships rooted in deep understanding.

Community

Community is built on complex and interdependent relationships, including interpersonal, organizational, and systemic. A healthy community requires mutual understanding and respect rooted in deep listening and authentic communication.

Meaningful Accountability

Our words and actions have ripples of impact. True accountability is possible when we own the impact of our words and actions; when we take responsibility for our own behaviors and allow others to take responsibility for theirs; and when we strive to repair harms as meaningfully as possible.

Equity and Justness

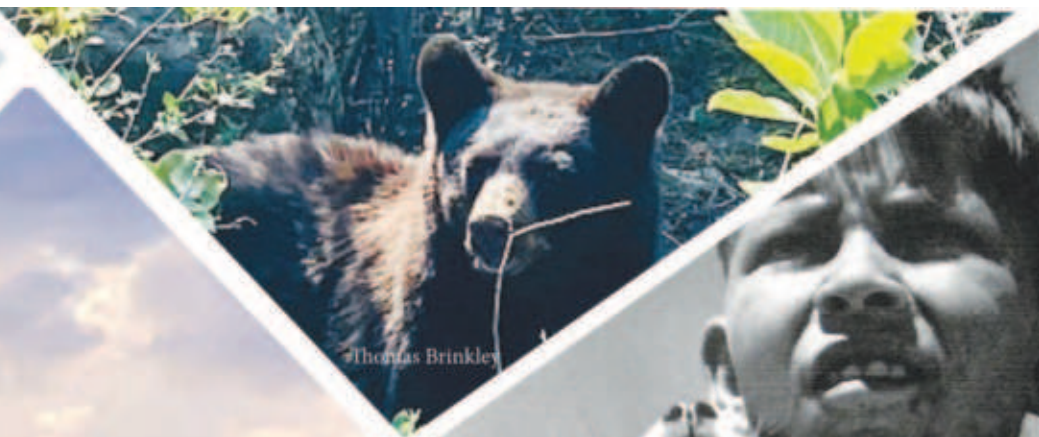
We currently live in a society where systemic obstacles in the justice system, education, and access to resources often negatively impact marginalized groups. Preventing and repairing harm in individual relationships and within systems helps interrupt racism, misogyny, homophobia, and other forms of oppression, allowing everyone to have greater access to achieving their full potential.

Empowerment

We all have the right to transform our lives and heal from the impact of harm we have caused or experienced. When we have agency to act and speak on our own behalf we grow stronger and more resilient.

Dignity

Every person has dignity and value. Our community is stronger when each person has an opportunity to be heard and respected, particularly those that have been historically marginalized.



Thomas Brinkley



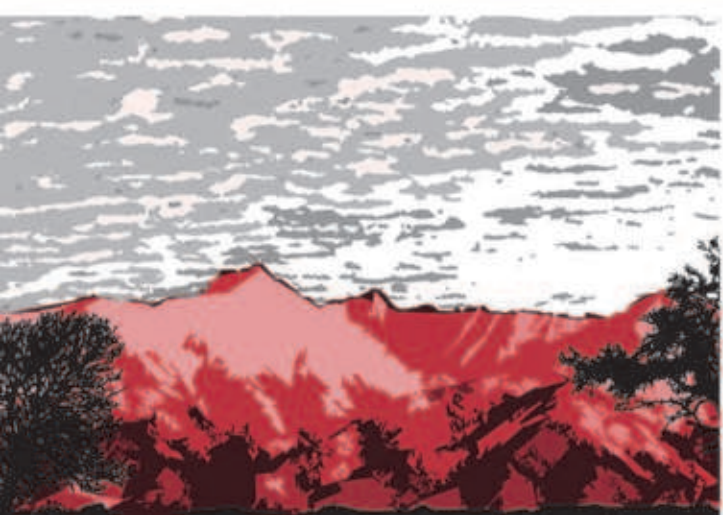
Jeremy Elliot



Jeremy Elliot



Katie Dokson



SANGRE ♦ DE ♦ CRISTO
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

sangreheritage.org



CRHDC is taking Applications for the Mutual Self-Help Program. We have building sites in Monte Vista, San Luis and Alamosa.

The Vision of Community Resources and Housing Development Corporation (CRHDC) "Where every place in Colorado is an opportunity for safe, affordable and attainable housing for all". CRHDC developed phase 6 of Montana Azul Estates in Alamosa which has 48 buildable lots for its Mutual Self-Help Program and phase 7 is in the early stages of development.

The Mission of CRHDC "To provide a pathway to home and asset building

opportunities to benefit low-moderate income communities throughout Colorado". USDA Rural Development is the lender for the 502 Direct home loan programs. Applicants must qualify for the mutual self-help program. Eligibility results in 100% financing with no down payment.

Participants work 30 hours per week; this is called "Sweat Equity" building their homes with their team of 5 to 6 families. Families attend preconstruction

meetings, select their house plans, lot, cabinets, flooring, paint colors and have other individual choices. Families commit to build 65% of their home and learn invaluable lessons about homeownership, construction and maintenance. Once the homes are complete, everyone gets a key to their new home.

CRHDC offers programs statewide around homeownership. A Home Buyers Education class is offered monthly at no or minimal cost including

Counseling services, and Financial Literacy Education. All our programs are committed to helping very low, low- and moderate-income families achieve homeownership goals.

Our Core Value TRUST initiates all that we do daily. We believe in developing motivated teams who respect each other, have uplifting attitudes, a strong work ethic, and talent and organizational commitment.

CRHDC has educated over 800

individual/families in homeownership and financial literacy our combined efforts help maintain and create safe affordable communities throughout Colorado.

"Your Path to Home Ownership" begins with a phone call for more information from any of our team members: Ramona, Rachel, Robert and Janet or stop by our office for an application to see if you qualify.

CRHDC is located at 1016 West Avenue Unit 5, in Alamosa. 719 589-1680



Serving the San Luis Valley with:

- Homeownership Opportunities
- Homebuyer Education
- Pre-Purchase Counseling
- Foreclosure Counseling
- Lending
- Small Business Loans



Dream It. Wake Up in It.

Get on your path to homeownership with CRHDC

"On the other homes I helped build, I wasn't as anxious to finish as I was with my own. I learned something new with each group; I was always doing something different. My favorite part was getting to know every one in my neighborhood, because my daughter now has friends all around her. We all trust each other and really get to know everyone."

- Liz Gifford, CRHDC client, new homeowner



Community Resources
& Housing Development
CORPORATION

La Puente is our community's response to address the effects of poverty by providing a safety net of services, where individuals and families get what they need to stabilize, heal, strengthen, and ultimately thrive.



LA PUENTE
endeavors to
meet immediate
needs and empower
people to live independently
with dignity.

**You can support us,
we offer hope to those who need it most, by:**

- Volunteering on a regular or one-time basis
- Taking on a special project
- Participating in an annual holiday or event
- Giving financially
- Donating material goods



Learn More:
719-589-5909
www.lapuentehome.org
@lapuentehome



LA PUENTE



Together, We Are Family



THE DEPOT

610 STATE AVENUE
ALAMOSA, CO

**San Luis Valley Development
Resources Group and
Council of Governments**
SLVDRG.ORG

Department of Local Affairs
CDOLA.COLORADO.GOV

San Luis Valley Great Outdoors
SLVGO.COM

Visit Alamosa
ALAMOSA.ORG

Alamosa Chamber of Commerce
ALAMOSACHAMBER.COM

**San Luis Valley Small Business
Development Center**
SLV-SBDC.COM

**Community Foundation
of the San Luis Valley**
CFSLV.ORG



*Alamosa's economic, community and tourism
development organizations—in one central location.*