

Shorts



Marlina Mizell

Vehicle in missing South Fork person case located

By LYNSIE FERRELL
SOUTH FORK — For the past several months law enforcement agencies on the west end of the San Luis Valley have been searching for 49-year-old Marlina Mizell and have had very little to go on. According to a report from South Fork Police Department Chief Hank Weber, the vehicle, a blue 2012, four-door Ford Focus was located.

“We are not releasing a lot of information at this time including the location of the vehicle for safety reasons. We are waiting for weather and snow to change in order to recover the vehicle from its location but as of today, Monday, Feb. 22 Mizell remains missing,” said Weber.

According to reports coming from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Mizell was reported missing by family on Jan. 2 of this year. In reports submitted to investigators it was determined that Mizell was last seen leaving the Rainbow Grocery store in South Fork at around noon on Jan. 2.

Later reports stated that Mizell’s cell phone was pinged through tracking in an area of Dulce, N.M. which is about 40 miles away from where she was last seen. The vehicle that was located is not in the N.M. area but is near South Fork.

“The Colorado State Patrol is in charge of the investigation of the vehicle and are awaiting safer conditions before furthering their search,” said Weber.

Anyone who has further information pertaining to this case should contact South Fork Police Department at 719-873-1040 or the Colorado State Patrol.



Sheriff seeks animal cruelty charges against Mosca man

SCSO spent more than \$14,000 to care for herd of cattle

By PATRICK SHEA
SAGUACHE COUNTY — Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warwick had been aware of Jerry

Brown’s cows breaking through fences to eat another rancher’s feed in January, but he didn’t realize how severely neglected the herd was until he saw videos and visited the pasture on Jan. 28. With the help of local ranchers and officials from multiple agencies, Warwick started feeding the animals before sunset.

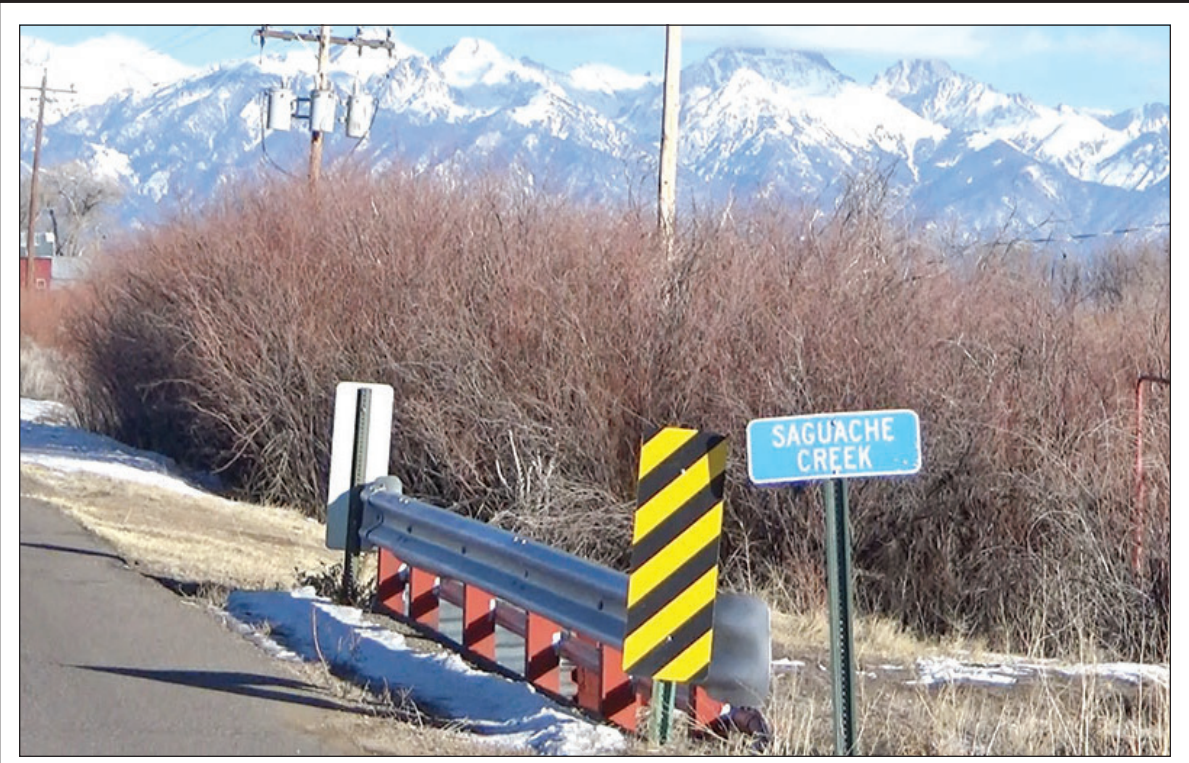
A month later, more of the herd have

died, and Sheriff Warwick continues to care for the estimated 200 head of cattle. In the meantime, he met Brown near the pasture on Feb. 1 while waiting to meet with an agent from the Brand Inspector’s Office, an agent with the Bureau of Animal Protection and a veterinarian from the Colorado Veterinarian’s Office.

Warwick told Brown, 68, how he

fed the animals through the weekend and would charge him with Cruelty to Animals. On Feb. 3, Warwick filed a “Notice and Payment for Cost of Care for Animals” in Saguache County Court.

The story started for the sheriff before midnight on Jan. 25. Warwick received an email with concerns about *Please see CRUELTY on Page 2A*



The proposed pipeline for Subdistrict 5 to meet Colorado Division of Water Resources requirements will discharge water from a well at North Star Farm to another part of Saguache Creek.

Subdistrict 5 considers rock, hard place

By PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE — To comply with Colorado Division of Water Resources requirements on April 1, members of Subdistrict 5 face two difficult choices during March. Do they rush a multi-million-dollar pipeline project along County Roads X and 46? Or do they use money to convince members to accept Well Injury

Payments (WIPs) in lieu of pumping?

The Saguache County Road and Bridge Building filled to a socially-distanced limit on Feb. 18 for a special meeting to discuss the pipeline and WIPs. The Board of Managers shared a strong preference to have 100% participation in the WIP program, repeatedly targeting a

30% reduction in pumping. The compensation value, however, remained in question as water users value water subjectively for their operations.

The questions lack easy answers. Before making decisions, Subdistrict 5 members want real-time flow monitoring, five-year averages for everything from

Please see WATER on Page 5A

Growth surge spurs strategic planning in Baca Grande

By PATRICK SHEA

CRESTONE — The Baca Grande Property Owners Association meeting on Feb. 18 drew a couple dozen members interested in the strategic plan for handling the community’s growth spurt.

Despite shutdowns throughout the economy in 2020, the Baca Grande recorded 34 housing starts during the year. Real estate listings continue to come and go quickly, according to realtors.

The Baca Grande Property Owners Association website (<https://bacapoa.org/>) provides information for curious online visitors and secure access for members. Building projects follow strict guidelines in addition to county regulations. After decades of development, the association provides clear guidelines for construction and compliance with covenants over time.

The strategic planning meeting represented nothing new. Rather, Executive Director Kevin Flewell worked with consultants to consolidate documentation created and updated over the years. On a one-page graphic, Flewell identified seven focus areas, each with corresponding objectives, strategies and action items.

Attached at the hip with Crestone, the Baca Grande collects the highest taxes in Saguache County, primarily to fund special districts. However, *Please see BACA on Page 2A*

Crane Fest gets creative with annual celebration

By REBECCA COPLEY

MONTE VISTA — The regular Monte Vista Crane Festival was cancelled for 2021 due to safety concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with creativity cranes are still going to be celebrated this March in Monte Vista.

On March 12 an online festival will start at 7 p.m. It can be enjoyed from the comfort of your home. Jenny Nehring who is the head of Crane Committee informed Valley Publishing, “Everyone who registers

Please see FEST on Page 2A



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BACA

Continued from Page 1A

subsidized housing is not available, and the cost of living is higher than other parts of the San Luis Valley. With the lowest prices averaging \$350,000, according to Flewell, housing is a challenge for residents and builders alike.

In addition to an elected Board of Directors, paid staff work emergency services, facilities and administration. Volunteers run three association committees, and other members commit to the

community. Their volunteer Search and Rescue participation has the highest percentage in Colorado. One member donated \$500 on a Zoom call to achieve matching funds for the POA. So, when the time for member comments and questions came at the close of Flewell's meeting, participants shared their passion.

First off, many members said they preferred being called "members." More than one asked for a definition of "stakeholder," and others said they

own property but consider themselves community members before property owners.

Maintaining long-term personal relationships with county administrators, Crestone town staff, school district leaders and neighbors echoed through the member comments, too. Some participants on the call said that receiving information like the one-page strategic plan is helpful, but face-to-face communication yields greater understanding.

CRUELTY

Continued from Page 1A

Brown's cows. The sheriff followed up first thing in the morning and began contacting multiple agencies for guidance handling an unusual case. Warwick confirmed the reports of several dead cows two days later when he received footage and visited the pasture to see more dead cattle on the ground.

Warwick counted 11 dead cows during daily visits with food and hay. On Feb. 7, he noticed two cows down but not dead. Neither cow could stand on Feb. 8, and one of them died on Feb. 9.

On Feb. 10, Warwick carried a bucket of water and hay to the downed cow, which he estimated to be about a year old. The bulk of the herd clustered almost a mile away, and the lone calf was surrounded by dead carcasses and circling predators. Before sunset, Warwick loaded the calf in his truck and chauffeured it to a safe residence with two bags of pellet feed and fresh water.

Evaluating animal health follows the same method gymnastics judges use. On a scale of 1-10 with "10" being perfect health, experts from two agencies ranked the bulk of Brown's herd at the bottom. Representing the State Veterinarian's Office, Dr.

Carl Heckendorf said most of the cows rated "1" or "2" with possibly a handful of "3s." Kathy Sorensen from the Farm Service Agency said she saw mostly "1s."

On Feb. 1, Warwick told Sorensen he would be impounding the cattle but leaving the relatively healthy horses. Perhaps a dozen mingled with the cows, but their ability to dig gives them access to foliage that cows can't reach. However, Brown will still be required to move the horses. Sorensen said she would seek reimbursement and future care of the animals.

In addition to feeding the animals, the sheriff took other measures to help as calving season approaches. On Feb. 15, Warwick bought fencing materials to gather the herd in a 10-acre area. He also purchased two 250-pound tubs of a 30-percent protein mix for the cows and two 50-pound salt trace mineral blocks. The items cost money, but the sheriff put up the fence himself.

Saving the herd takes top priority, and few calves can realistically survive if their mothers are struggling. Brown said they've been bred and are scheduled to calve in July. In the meantime, the cows are on private property, and Warwick is providing hay and supplemental nutrition. He

also borrowed an 800-gallon stock tank from the United States Forest Service and purchased extra hoses to reach the cows.

During a Show Cause Hearing on Feb. 10, Brown did not contest the cost of care or the cow impoundment. Dr. Heckendorf initially recommended two tons of hay a day. During cold winter months, a cow will usually eat all 30 pounds of feed received. Brown's cows have been receiving about 12 pounds daily since the end of January, and they rarely consume it all.

The projected price to care for the herd up to Feb. 24 was \$14,006. This includes \$2,800 for labor and transportation and other completed purchases — \$295 for protein and mineral feed, \$206 for fencing supplies and \$139 for hoses. The biggest item — \$10,530 for 81 bales of hay — will continue to grow.

Brown said his arrangements with a feed supplier fell through in January, and his cows quickly suffered.

If citizens in the San Luis Valley recognize animals in poor health, they can call 719-691-4435 to contact Gerald Garcia, the Field Inspector for the Colorado Humane Society and SPCA.

FEST

Continued from Page 1A

will have on-demand access until March 17 to watch or re-watch the entire program at their leisure."

Nehring said the event will be about 2 hours long and is pre-recorded. It will feature a "Cranes of the World," presentation by crane naturalist Sandra Noll. It will also include a presentation by professional photographer Ed MacKerrow on wildlife and landscapes of the San Luis Valley. There will also be short video productions about cranes and SLV issues as well as short interviews with refuge staff and local community members.

Tickets for the virtual festival are \$15 and are available online at mvcranefest.org along with other festival and crane information.

In a statement on their website the Monte Vista Crane Committee shared their hopes for a more normal festival next year.

"We look forward to engaging our community for the 2022 festival with events at the Vali-3 theater, the brand-new Ski-Hi event and conference center, and bus tours to the refuge and other local attractions," the committee stated.

There will be a socially distanced craft fair this year at the McMullen building March 19 and 20 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The craft fair promises to have a great selection of unique items ranging from jewelry, books, organic CBD balms, art, home décor, homemade soaps, kettle corn, and more. Masks will be required to attend the socially distanced event.

Swoop of the Cranes will also be happening for the second time this year. The 5-foot steel crane silhouettes transformed into unique masterpieces by local artists, will soon be perched on light poles all

over town. While the cranes are on display citizens and visitors can vote for their favorites.

Cranes have been celebrated in Monte Vista every spring since 1983.

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OBITUARY

Donna Marie Stoeber

Lifelong San Luis Valley resident Donna Marie Stoeber, 86, died Feb. 15, 2021, at the River Valley Inn Nursing Home in Del Norte.

Donna's life began in Del Norte, Colo., on Aug. 15, 1934, the proud daughter of Cornelius "Neil" Smith and Gladys Weiford Smith. She married Ernest "Ernie" John Stoeber on Nov. 29, 1952 in Center, Colo., and they enjoyed 65 years together.

She worked together with Ernie raising their family and working as farmers in the Hooper area. Together they raised their children Harold (Kathy) Stoeber of Monte Vista, Colo., Ken Stoeber of Longmont, Colo., Dan (Karen) Stoeber of Wray, Colo., Lori (Bill) Dooley of Creede, Colo., Joyce Kettleson of Wray, Colo., Ron (Sarah) Stoeber of Mosca, Colo., Randall (Krista) Stoeber of Palm Bay, Fla., and Danette (Eric) Sandvik of Berthoud, Colo.; and were the proud grandparents to numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother Jim (Betsy) Smith of Grand Junction, Colo.

Donna was an accomplished seamstress and operated a business out of her home for many years, making everything from wedding dresses to men's suits. She was very creative and enjoyed hobbies like embroidering and painting. Most of all she loved being with, and doing for, her



family. When her children were in school, Donna rarely missed a football game, basketball game or track meet.

A talented gardener, she provided food for her family year around and delighted many with beautiful flowers. Donna was also a member of the Red Hat Club and attended church at the Monte Vista Church of the Nazarene.

She is preceded in death by her husband Ernie, her siblings Bernard Smith, Janice Jones, Beth Perkins, Kathy Norfleet, her grandson Seth Stoeber, and her son-in-law Phil Kettleson.

Cremation was chosen and services will be announced at a later date.

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



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Pardon me!

Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie survived the Polar blast that arrived last week like a freight train without brakes across America. I am not sure why they call it Polar as it was 55 degrees in Alaska at the same time we almost froze to death in Texas. But regardless, it was a challenging week for all no matter where you live.

Miss Trixie and I woke about 2:30 a.m. last Tuesday morning to no heat, no water, and a record minus 13 below zero temperature here in Texas. And although Ol' Dutch has lived in cold climates before and even worked outside in that freezing kind of weather, the old Conestoga RV is just not made for that kind of frigid.

We, along with Cooper, sat the rest of the night in the truck with the engine running to avoid certain death. Even though Ol' Dutch managed to drift off to sleep, Miss Trixie worried enough for both of us and kept up a lively banter also known as "yakking."

Sunrise finally came and a quick check of the cows revealed they were fine, and I was fortunate that the outside hydrant worked, as all other water sources were frozen solid. I had installed the hydrant myself and disregarded the local recommendations that it be buried one foot deep and, instead, I did a full Kansas four-foot-down bury on the pipes and boy, did that pay off.

About 25 million people found themselves plunged into total darkness and no heat, no food, and no water. It was a disaster in the making and people really suffered as they were not prepared for that kind of weather nor were there nearby resources so they could prepare.

The push to all electric houses really told a tale during this storm as once the electrical grid went down, everyone including the water and sewer plants also went down. Many people literally froze to death and others died from carbon monoxide poisoning as they brought \$2 Hibachi's from Dollar Store into their homes.

Miss Trixie and I were fortunate to be taken in by our neighbor Magic Mike. He has a massive wood stove and generator and we sat snug as a bug in a rug enjoying a king-size bed and good food. Water was in short supply which made for sponge baths at best and even though that works to some degree it requires more social distancing than even the Covid requires.

Miss Trixie tells about being on Mt. Everest for 72 days and how you develop what is called "the Funk." Which means you STINK BAD. Now I know just a tiny bit



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

about what she is talking about. My son Bubs and his family have a fireplace and Ol' Dutch had an ample supply of firewood for them, so they stayed warm albeit without any water. He said they had to develop a system even beyond social distancing. Each time they would get even remotely close to one another they would simply say "Pardon Me" to acknowledge at least that they knew they had become an odiferous family of sorts.

The kids played in the snow of course and sleeping in front of the fire was just an adventure to them and I am glad we had wood to give to them for this event.

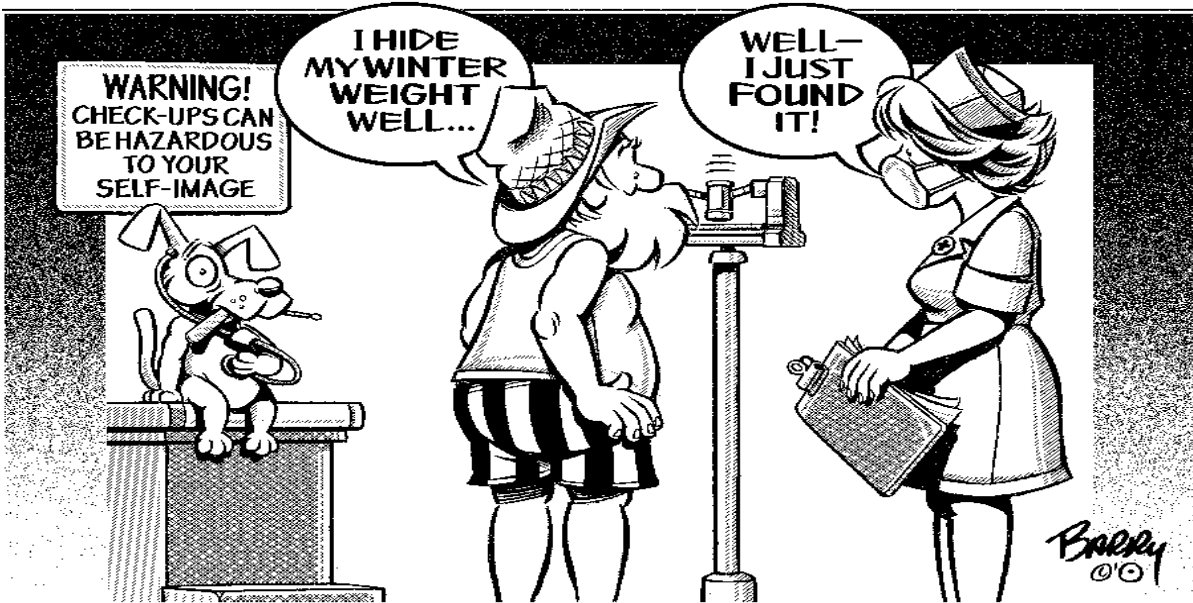
I also gave away loads of wood to people in the neighborhood who had small children and a fireplace. Preparation is the last thing on people's minds when the weather is normal.

There is plenty of blame to go around for the power grid going down and lawsuits are already piling paper up like the recycling center on Earth Day. As usual, the vultures always circle their prey and it's happening here, too.

I would like to think that people would learn some kind of lesson from this event and maybe be prepared a little better for any calamity that comes along. But those that bought generators to weather the storm are already selling them online and so I guess they will not learn.

People are resilient and will survive. Within two days of the subzero weather, basketball games and cheerleading competitions were already happening in gyms across the states. Lord knows we cannot cancel those for a week.

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.



Forgotten what normal is

I sort of expected life to go back to normal after the recent political impeachment trial.

No such luck.

But, then, I think I have forgotten what normal is.

Last night, I turned on a TV sitcom and it was OK. I was getting more laughs out of the news.

I'm not kidding.

Friday's Alamosa Courier was even more interesting. Donald Valdez is seeking to replace Lauren Boebert. That's a good story, worth following, but life is not yet back to normal.

People at the top are still rocking the boat.

Local news is worth following, though it's not gossipy in light of Ted Cruz' trip to Cancun to get warm and drink some clean water. Water in Mexico? We'll see.

I remember the salmonella crisis in Alamosa. People were becoming sick, very sick. One of my favorite veterans died.

I drank water from the tap, cooked with local water and bathed in hot water right at home. True story. I had learned that the salmonella was concentrated in the northwest part of town and took a risk.

Our water came from the 12th Street well and was slightly warm. I

remembered the impromptu swimming hole that drew kids from all over town until the city fathers discovered what was going on.

We have always had a set of city caretakers.

Skating under the black bridge on State Avenue ended one winter when the Bradshaw brothers went through the ice and drowned.

Not that anyone else was going to do it, but parental warnings echoed five miles around the bridge. Parents showed up to watch and help.

I remember Girl and Boy Scouts searching along the riverbanks, while firefighters and other volunteers waded in the river using grappling hooks to search. The sad find was made one or two blocks from the bridge after about a week.

The city returned to normal, but with an aura of concern.

Skating on the river was replaced by city "trinks" and caution became part of our "normal." Now, the city has organized skating.

Dr. Bradshaw and his wife built the Bradshaw Youth Memorial Building next to Cole Park. It was used for a while for youth recreation, then drifted away from that use.



Native Writes
By SYLVIA LOBATO

The intention was to keep kids indoors and out of danger.

Head Start was there in its early years. Kids were safe and received elementary education, but the most important ideals were friendship and cooperation. My oldest son, a member of that first class, still knows people who also were there.

They have all changed, moving on to create the latest version of normal.

Friendship and cooperation will work. I am working on it, for sure.

LETTER

What happened to Republican party?

Editor,

The Republican Party is broken. Its face, a self-styled QAnon "shaman" wearing horns and animal skins. Many within its ranks are neo-Nazis, white supremacists, QAnon and other domestic terrorists. Most Republicans, myself included, detest what the party has become.

We all witnessed the horror of Jan. 6. What has happened to the party of Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan?

Even after the violence incited by former President Donald Trump's lies, Republicans repeated those lies, voting to trash millions of legal ballots to keep the head insurrectionist in office. They betrayed their oaths to defend

our democracy against all threats, both foreign and domestic.

On Feb. 13, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell loudly declared that Trump was guilty of all charges — lying, insurrection, and dereliction of duty. Yet moments before he voted not to impeach. This is justice?

What happened to "Backing the Blue?" Hundreds of brave men and women in uniform upheld their oaths on Jan. 6. Many were injured and one beaten to death. Sure, the Senate gave a round of applause saying thank you for saving us. Yet, 43 Republican Senators gave Trump a pass.

Thank God we have the courts. Criminal investigations have begun

against Trump in Georgia for attempting to influence the election and in New York for bank and tax fraud. There are dozens of civil suits for defamation in the works as well.

This Reagan Republican is joining the hundreds of thousands of other Republicans who have left the party since Jan. 6. I will try to bring a conservative voice to the Democratic Party, hoping to give it balance.

If we conservatives don't stand united against violence and mob rule, who will stand for us when the mob comes for me or you?

God bless America.

Wayne Edelman
South Fork

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Potato growers select 2021 National Potato Council leaders

Monte Vista's Mattive chosen VP of NPC Environmental Affairs Committee

STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON—Monte Vista's Bob Mattive was chosen as Vice President of the National Potato Council Environmental Affairs Committee on Monday, Feb. 22, at NPC's Annual Meeting, held virtually due to travel restrictions. Mattive is the owner of Worley Family Farms in Monte Vista. Dominic LaJoie of Van Buren, Maine, was elected to serve as NPC's 2021 President and to head the grower-led organization's Executive Committee.

"Thanks to the hard work of NPC and our state partners, our industry is on a better footing today than we could have imagined during the pandemic's darkest times," said NPC President LaJoie in his address at the Annual Meeting. "The industry's consistent, relentless focus and coordinated response that helped deliver more than \$250 million in federal pandemic relief will serve as a model as we take on the policy challenges facing NPC and the industry as a whole. I'm honored to take on this new role fighting for the industry as the nation continues to open up and people get back to work."

LaJoie is a fourth-generation potato grower and partner of LaJoie Growers LLC, which operates throughout Aroostook County, Maine. He previously served the NPC Board as First Vice

President and Vice President of the Environmental Affairs Committee. As president, LaJoie will host the 2021 NPC Summer Meeting, July 27-30 in Presque Isle, Maine. The Executive Committee holds office for one calendar year.

- NPC delegates also approved:
- Jared Balcom of Pasco, Wash. as First Vice President and Vice President of the Trade Affairs Committee;
 - R.J. Andrus of Idaho Falls, Idaho as Vice President of the Legislative Affairs Committee;
 - Ben Sklarczyk of Johannesburg, Mich. as Vice President of the Finance Committee; and,
 - Ted Tschirky of Pasco, Wash. as Vice President of the Grower

Outreach and Industry Research Committee.

The 2020 President, Britt Raybould of Rexburg, Idaho, will continue to serve on the Executive Committee as the Immediate Past President.

This week, the 2021 Executive Committee hosts the virtual 2021 Potato D.C. Fly-In, Feb. 24-27, which brings the industry together to "Stand Up for Potatoes on Capitol Hill." This includes leading more than 150 growers and industry partners as they visit with their representatives in Congress to communicate the industry's policy priorities.

In addition to thanking Members of Congress for their role in supporting family potato growers

by directing more than \$250 million in federal aid to the industry throughout the coronavirus pandemic, policy priorities include:

- Aggressively pursuing trade opportunities in Mexico, China, Japan, and other TPP countries;
- Including a complete agricultural labor solution in any viable immigration bill that can be enacted during this Congress;
- Strengthening investments in agricultural research and ensuring that healthy, affordable

potatoes are treated equitably with other vegetables through the appropriations process; and,

- Enhancing the industry's competitiveness through reforms of transportation regulations and making necessary investments in roads, commercial seaports and related intermodal facilities in support of our domestic and international shipments.

FormoreonNPC'spolicy priorities, visit nationalpotatocouncil.org/ advocacy.



Bob Mattive

SLVDRG ready to assist businesses in pandemic recovery

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Bolstered by an increase in funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, San Luis Valley Development Resources Group is mobilizing to assist local businesses recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our objective with the funds from the Economic Development Administration is to help re-ignite commercial lending with our local banks," said Kevin Wilkins, executive director of San Luis Valley Development Resources Group. "We anticipate pent up demand for capital and a lot of movement in business lending once the local economy is in a predictable recovery. This demand will come from businesses exiting the market through sales to new entrepreneurs, startups resulting from an acceleration of trends, and new opportunities responding to market changes caused by the disruption."

The supplemental funding came to San Luis Valley Development Resources Group (SLVDRG) as part of the CARES Act passed by Congress in May of 2020. The funds, totaling \$968,000, further capitalize SLVDRG's Business Loan Fund and are focused on the retention and the recruitment of businesses in the San Luis Valley.

According to Wilkins, the supplemental funds are directed for use in conjunction with local lenders, at a zero percent interest rate, for the dual purpose of providing a lower

blended interest rate for borrowers as an additional incentive to work with banks on reinvesting in business for a stronger survival posture, and to stimulate commercial lending by sharing risk and offering more intensive loan servicing to borrowers through the San Luis Valley Small Business Development Center.

"In short, the goal of the supplemental funds is to strengthen

a local bank's economic disaster recovery efforts and incentivize lending for banks and borrowers by lowering risk and the blended interest rate," explained Wilkins.

Businesses, or banks, interested to learning more about how these funds can be used to boost a business project are urged to contact SLVDRG loan officers Tonya Owsley or Marc Bellantoni at 719-586-6099.

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Anonymous donor surprises nurses

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The holiday season had one more surprise to the nurses who work on the third floor of the San Luis Valley Health Regional Medical Center. An anonymous donor gifted every nurse with a gift card from City Market as a gesture of appreciation for all of their hard work.

The gift cards were handed out to all the 3rd floor nursing staff in January, and they wanted to let the donor know how much they appreciated the gift.

“This anonymous donor dropped off the cards and spoke about the outstanding care they received when they were a patient at SLV Health Regional Medical Center,” explained SLV Health Foundation Director Kelly Gurule.



From left, Tara Reynolds, RN; Jenna Javar, Tele Tech; and Pam Jones, RN

“The nursing staff had done an outstanding job, and the patient

was very grateful for all the care they received.”



From left Anna Velasquez, CNA, and Tina Martinez, Unit Secretary.

For more information on donating to the San Luis Valley Health Foundation, go online to www.sanluisvalleyhealth.org.

WATER

Continued from Page 1A

precipitation through recharge, recalculated restrictions and fair compensation for lost productivity. The water users are business-scientists who face potential head gate closures daily during irrigation season.

Estimated to cost \$4.8 million, the 2.6-mile pipeline is projected to flow west from North Star Farm on County Road X under the highway and dump in Saguache Creek near County Road 46. The project is a proposal, and initial calculations estimate it will yield as little as two percent replacement.

WIPs, on the other hand, carry monetary value defined by lost productivity and revenue. The calculation requires water users to measure usage while watching prices for their products fluctuate and hoping reduced productivity is a cost savings, not a loss. Their priority ranking also steers decisions. Gathering the information requires money.

One member shared the hard investment required for real-time knowledge. Installing a transducer runs roughly \$10,000 a well (\$4,000 for the unit and more for monitoring time). With 181 registered wells and approximately 200 total, it would take almost a quarter-million dollars to outfit the entire subdistrict.

Today, Subdistrict 5 floor irrigators pay a \$10.13 fee, and the rate for sprinklers is \$14.50. Each WIP contract is unique, so negotiable payments are part of the paperwork.

According to Subdistrict 5 Manager David Schmittel, “I’m not speaking for everyone here, but I think it has been a general consensus that we would much rather have the subdistrict put out

money for Well Injury Payments to everybody and decrease the amount of water that’s being pumped, which I think will help build up the aquifer more.”

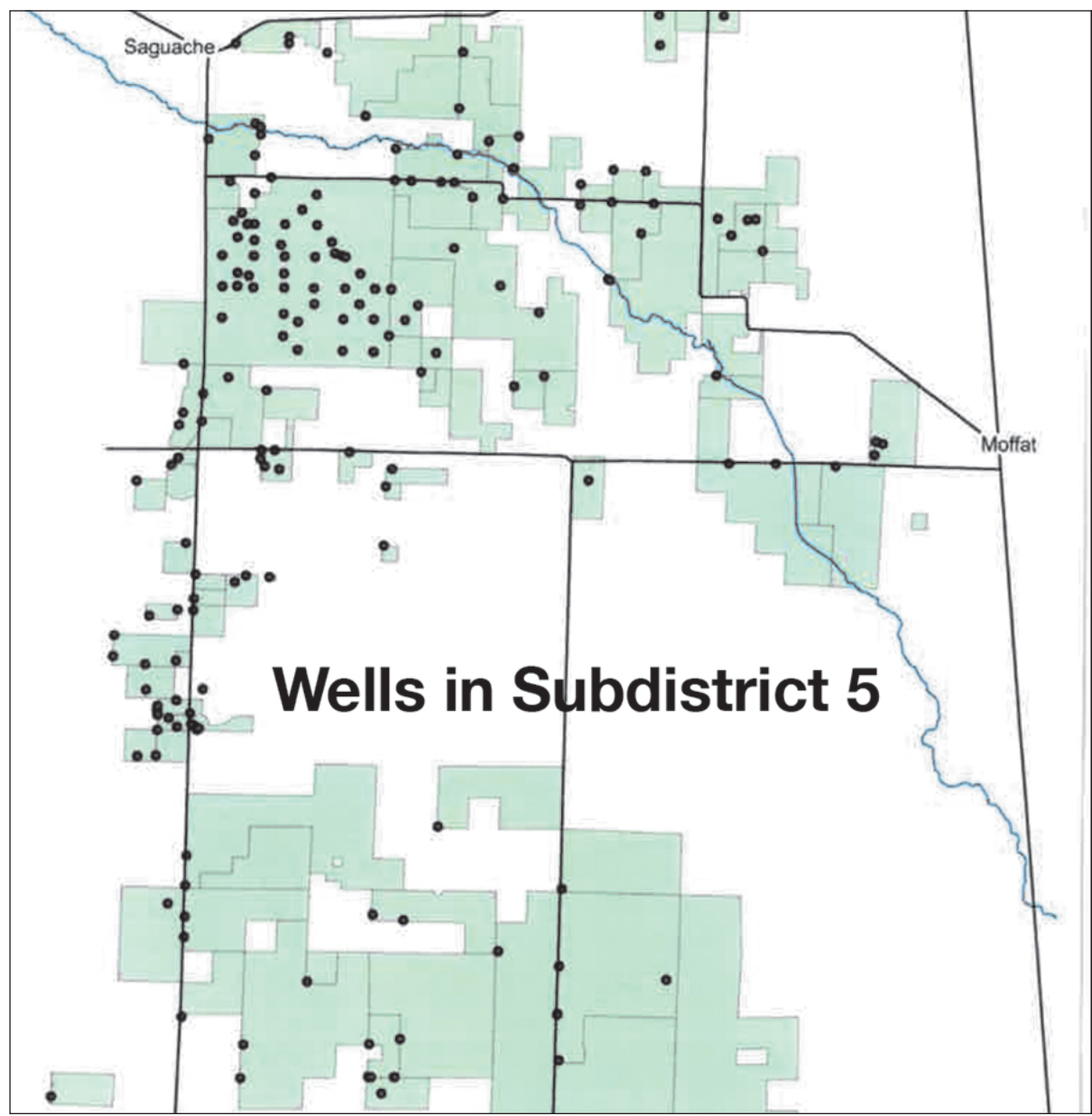
“How is taking a bribe going to refill the aquifer?” one member asked.

“The only way we can put more water in the aquifer is out of the sky,” Schmittel replied.

At the close of the meeting, members heard reminders to look closely for differences in billing as the new rule takes effect. Attending via Zoom, member Scott Alexander said he read a January 2012 edition of the Saguache Crescent before the meeting started.

“It was an article from our late friend John Warner,” Alexander said. “He was talking about a third reduction in pumping. Nine years went by. Did anybody reduce pumping by a third? Did anybody try? No. It’s only now because the state is saying you have to do something. If there was a 33% reduction like John asked for, we might see some progress.”

Subdistrict 5 in the northern part of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District includes more than 181 wells.



PUBLIC NOTICES

Saguache County Government is accepting bids to install 1200 square feet of Grip Strip Flooring at the Saguache County Public Health Building in Center, CO. The flooring is self-sticking and will need to be installed.

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope with “Public Health Flooring” written on the front of the envelope which contains the sealed bid. Bids must include proof of liability and workers compensation insurance coverage.

Bids must be submitted to Saguache County Administration, 505 3rd Street, or PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 and must be submitted by Monday, March 1, 2020 at 3pm.

For further information contact Santiago Garcia at 719-221-3172.
No. 1589 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, February 25, 2021.

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SLV Health employees honored for years of service

By Dawn Krebs
SLV Health
ALAMOSA — Twenty-five years ago, Janet McGinnis started working at San Luis Valley Health. This year, she was honored, along with 78 other employees, who together have logged a total of 760 years of service with the healthcare organization with a special Years of Service celebration. “It doesn’t seem possible it can be 25 years already,” said McGinnis. “When I first started, I pretty much knew everyone that worked here. Today, we have way too many employees to know everyone, but it still feels like a close-knit family.” The event on Thursday, Feb. 11, looked different than in years past, because of the recent epidemic restrictions. Instead of a large banquet, this year the organization honored its employees with a small, private and socially distanced ceremony held in the second-floor ARTrium. Employees achieving service milestones received awards for their service as well as gift cards to their favorite local eatery. “As resilient, understanding, and innovative the SLVH team has been this past year, we are committed to identifying ways to acknowledge them and communicate how thankful we all are for their commitment, the great work they accomplish every day and the service they provide to SLVH staff, leadership, and our community,” said Konnie Martin, Chief Executive Officer for SLV Health. “We know

that the heart of this organization lies with each employee’s dedication to service and commitment, and we would not be able to accomplish our vision and mission without them.” The employees were honored in five-year milestone increments. This year, 39 employees celebrated 5 years, 19 employees celebrated 10 years and 12 employees celebrated 15 years. Six employees were honored for reaching their 20 year milestone: Amy Oaks, Tandra Dunn, Alan Newby, Cindy Jackson, Stephanie Quintana and Karen Christensen. Three employees reached their 25-year anniversary: Conejos County Hospital Purchasing Buyer Terri Lucero; Director of Radiology Janet McGinnis and Registered Nurse Anna Montoya. “This is the main thing about SLV Health: We are family,” said McGinnis, recalling a life-changing event that happened to her and her family this year, and how the SLV Health employees were there. “I will forever remember the kindness and generosity shown to our family during this stressful time. We help each other, support and lift each other up.”

Five-year employees
 Melissa Carrillo
 Jessica Garcia
 Trazana Duran
 Samantha Malouff
 Shannon Uran
 Sulaiman Sultan
 Amy Cheatwood-Johnston

Mallori Gariner
 David Gallegos
 Morgan Cummons
 Beth Jones
 Steve Lobato
 Kaitlyn Larsen
 Joshua Robertson
 Lindsay Barraza
 Terisa Valdez
 Tabitha Gutierrez
 Taryn Ruybal
 Marche DePriest
 Amelia Trujillo
 Jamie King
 David Barclay
 Julie Moreno
 JoAnn Segura
 Jo Archuleta
 Audrey Edgar
 Fallon Crowther
 Jessica Chavez
 Rafelita Atencio
 Megan Brownell
 Stephanie Guillen
 Jenna Hutches
 Felicia Garcia
 Rachel Dooley
 Joshua Koontz
 Debbie Shulsinger
 Ashley Voss
 Thomas Jenks
 Elishia Melgares

10-year employees
 Konnie Martin
 Jane Self
 Rebecca Romero
 Reyna Martinez
 Tish Hollingsworth
 Dennard Ellison



Photo courtesy of SLV Health
Anna Montoya, center, a registered nurse in labor and delivery, is honored by San Luis Valley Health CEO Konnie Martin, left, and Monica Hinds, Director of Emergency Services and Obstetrics/Nursery, on the right. Montoya was one of three employees who reached their 25-year milestone with SLV Health.

Angie Werner
 Linda Vaughan
 Crystal Kechter
 Brian Heersink
 Michelle Gay
 Adam Lawrence
 Linda Cordova
 Antonio Gurule
 Lucia Gaspar-Nicolas
 Natasha Cerny
 Anthony Madrid
 Randi Martinez
 Angie Gallegos

15-year employees
 Ben Gonzales
 Svetlana Bresnitz
 Tiffanie Hoover
 Chrystal Gallegos
 Susanna Martinez

Hannah Espinoza
 Angel Cervantez
 Felicia Gutierrez
 Roberta Valdez
 Shannon Hostetter
 Gloria Medina
 Ben Hendriks

20-year employees
 Amy Oaks
 Tandra Dunn
 Alan Newby
 Cindy Jackson
 Stephanie Quintana
 Karen Christensen

25-year employees
 Terri Lucero
 Janet McGinnis
 Anna Montoya

Mental health advocates introduce bill to support people in recovery, address health care workforce shortage

With bipartisan support, HB 21-1021 seeks to improve peer-support services

in recovery from mental health or substance use conditions who help others experiencing similar situations. The problem, according to Mental Health Colorado, is that Medicaid only reimburses peer support services in a very limited range of settings, which limits the scope of peer support services in other settings such as OB/GYN clinics and emergency departments. “Peers are an essential component of Colorado’s health care workforce and contribute to better outcomes for people with mental health and substance use conditions,” said Mental Health Colorado President & CEO Vincent Atchity. “Their lived experience and training enable them to relate to and connect with people in powerful ways.” Data shows that peer support services cut hospitalizations in half, increase engagement in self-care and wellbeing, and decrease

psychotic symptoms. The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities found that using peer support services in treatment saved an average of \$5,494/person for the state. House Bill 21-1021, introduced

on Feb. 16, would improve how peer support services are billed under Medicaid, clarify that peer support professionals can utilize telehealth in providing and billing for services, among other improvements to peer-delivered services. Efforts to pass

the bill are led by Mental Health Colorado, with support from the Colorado Children’s Campaign, the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, the Colorado Mental Wellness Network, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness Colorado.

STAFF REPORT
DENVER — In the past two years, the number of Coloradans who didn’t receive mental health or substance use care that they needed nearly doubled — yet, in 2019, Colorado’s behavioral health workforce only met 30% of the state’s need. Mental Health Colorado, Representative Rod Pelton (R), and Representative Yadira Caraveo (D) just introduced House Bill 21-1021 to significantly alleviate the workforce gap through peer support services. Peer supporters are individuals

Finding Determination to Fulfill Your Dreams

God is the Chief of Change. He is always doing a new thing...always working in our lives. However, His promises for us don’t just automatically happen. All things are possible with God, but not all things will positively happen. There are some things that can hinder us from moving forward in life. One is an old mindset. Mark 2:22 says, “No one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour the new wine into new wineskins” (NIV). In other words, your mind needs to be renewed. You need a fresh new outlook based on God’s Word and His promises. Because knowing God’s will for your life will help you in your determination to keep moving.

Opportunity and Opposition
 When you decide to move forward, be prepared because you will be opposed. The apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 16:9 that “a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.” I like to call these adversaries “giants.” Whatever you call it, the enemy will not make it easy for you to do God’s will. It will be up to you to stay determined and keep pressing on.

One of the tactics of the enemy is to lie to you. For example, he may tell you, “It’s too late.” You may be thinking of going back to school after many years. Or maybe you need to make up for some past mistakes. It’s not too late. You might have had a big dream at one time that you never fulfilled. It’s never too late for you to follow your passion. Don’t believe Satan’s lies. You can always begin again!

Be Steadfast
 One word of caution: Don’t start if

you aren’t determined to finish. The reason I say this is because the enemy certainly won’t stop fighting your advancement. He is determined to stop you, so you must be unwavering about moving forward. I will never forget when I first started talking about the call of God on my life. Some of my friends decided I must be mistaken. They told me I didn’t have the personality to do this kind of ministry. It was discouraging to say the least, and I was eventually asked to leave my church, I lost friends, and even some family members turned their backs on me. But I knew God had spoken to me about the ministry He was calling me to do, and I was determined to see it through. I had to press through quite a few obstacles to do what I do now. But what if I had given up when I felt that rejection? I would not be fulfilling God’s call on my life today—and I would be miserable, because this is my passion. Have you asked God to use you? If you are feeling a real passion to do something that aids or brings peace and encouragement to other people, it’s very likely that this desire is from God. And if you don’t do it, you will probably live a frustrated life. Also, as you move forward, beware: The devil wants to set you up to get upset. That is another part of his strategy to stop you from making progress. He will use people to distract you, criticize you, or outright reject you. And if that doesn’t stop you, he will likely attack other areas of your life to try and discourage you.

Keep Moving
 Just remember, greater is He that is in you! (See 1 John 4:4.) You have all you need, through Christ, to endure and outlast the devil. As you press in and press on, don’t look at yourself... look at God. Ignore others’ criticism



and unbelief and follow your God-given dream. Be determined to press past every lie of the enemy, every discouragement, and even rejection from others. Whatever you do, just keep moving! When you feel disheartened...keep moving. When others condemn you...keep moving. Never give up! Take a lesson from David who was anointed 20 years before he became king (see 1 Samuel 17). He endured and overcame many obstacles in the meantime, including a bear, a lion and a giant! Like David, don’t be afraid to face your enemy. Remember the things God has brought you through and talk about your past victories, knowing that He is with you now. As long as you lean on, trust in, and depend on God, it will never be too late for your victory!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-CD series Pressing In and Pressing On. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org. Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored 120 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and her newest devotional QUIET TIMES WITH GOD (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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A telescopic historical view of Del Norte

Editor's note: This is part one of two-part series on the Del Norte Observatory.

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — The town of Del Norte is wrapped in a rich history that few know about. The small mountain town once contended to be the capital of Colorado only to lose to Denver in the early days of the town's history.

One fun story that highlights the changing times of the mid-to late 1800s is the fact that Del Norte was once home to one of the largest observatories in the nation which was built by the Presbyterian College of the Southwest.

Now to understand the history, it would be apt to begin with how the college came to be in Del Norte. According to documents provided by the Rio Grande County Museum, Reverend George M. Darley met with the Synod of the Colorado Presbyterian Church sometime between Oct. 10 and 14 of 1883. The Synod was looking to choose a site for the new college and had to choose between three locations. Del Norte was once again pitted against Denver for the chance to be home to the new college.

According to records, George M. Darley offered the Synod, which consisted of 41 delegates, a total of \$40,000 if they would agree to have the college built in Del Norte.

"One of the delegates felt Del Norte was not suitable and it was at this time that Reverend Darley, believing as he did, jerked the dissenting delegate over a pew by his coat collar and shook his fist in the delegates face until the man realized Del Norte was an excellent choice for the college," records indicated.

It was at this time that Del Norte was

given the honor of having the college.

In 1883, the San Luis Valley did not have any high schools and because of this the college continued to struggle until the day it was closed with low student attendance. The college was home to six teachers the year it opened and included a boarding house which was donated by a wealthy woman by the name of Mrs. Stuart. The building is still in use today but is now comprised of private apartments.

It was in 1885 that college workers began building an observatory at the top of Lookout Mountain which provided an excellent location for viewing stars and planets.

"Everyone helped. The town built a road near the top and burros packed timbers up a long winding path." In an article submitted by the Rev. Darley in the San Juan Prospector he stated, "I will be at the bottom of the Mount Lookout with tools and I expect to work 10 hours a day, six days a week until it is done. Any citizen wishing to join me will be welcome."

The telescope, driving clock and other instruments reached Del Norte in December of that same year. The telescope that was housed in the observatory was built in Pittsburgh, Pa., and was 10-feet long with 9 1/2 inch glass. The driving clock could be timed with planetary bodies so that it would automatically aim the telescope to the appropriate place in the sky.

"The dome of the observatory was comprised of heavy imported tin which was soldered by Frank Hanna Sr.," records stated. "The dome was constructed so the window or slit through which the telescope was sighted could be turned in such a fashion that any point in the sky could be scanned."

News of the new observatory traveled by horseback to all of the surrounding San Juan communities and it was said that the observatory was, "Thought to be one of the finest west of the Mississippi."

Once the structure was completed, an astrologer and mathematician, Dr. Notenstein, took charge of the observatory and the college quickly became known as one of the top institutions for astronomy and theology.

The college closed its doors in 1901 due to a myriad of issues that kept it from reaching its full potential. Some of those issues included difficult transportation, lack of students, and the Spanish American War. When the college closed, the telescope was shipped to California and placed in the Mount Wilson Observatory.

Please see next week's edition for the rest of the story.

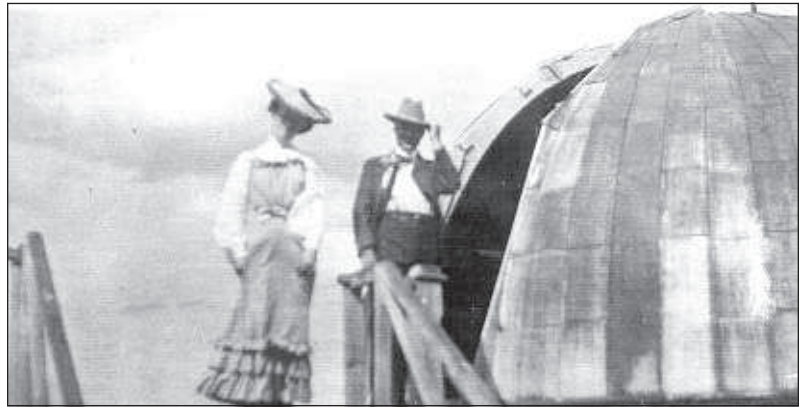
Two visitors stand just outside of the 1885 Del Norte Observatory which no longer resides in Del Norte. At one time, the observatory was the talk of the town and known as one of the finest observatories west of the Mississippi.

Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

The Del Norte Observatory was located on top of Lookout Mountain and was built by the Presbyterian College in the late 1800s.



Courtesy photo

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2021-2021

Girls

Sangre de Cristo 49	Monte Vista 33
Sargent 49	Crested Butte 19
Sierra Grande 52	Trinidad 24
Vanguard 62	Centauri 58
Monte Vista 77	John Mall 13
Del Norte 58	Trinidad 19
Antonito 43	Creede 36
Sangre de Cristo 64	Mountain/Valley 25
Cotopaxi 64	Sierra Grande 31
Sanford 74	Crested Butte 24
Center 36	South Park 33
Monte Vista 60	Custer County 37
Ignacio 49	Sargent 36
Centauri 61	Bayfield 12
Alamosa 59	Montezuma-Cortez 24
Centauri 70	Montezuma-Cortez 14
Sanford 71	Trinidad 17
Sangre de Cristo 61	Creede 12
Pagosa Springs 52	Alamosa 27
Del Norte 39	Sargent 27
Center 55	Dolores Huerta 29
Cotopaxi 53	Antonito 24
Sierra Grande 53	John Mall 20

Boys

Monte Vista 47	Sangre de Cristo 45
Crested Butte 60	Sargent 12
Sierra Grande 49	Trinidad 23
Centauri 53	Gunnison 39
Centauri 48	Bayfield 36
Ignacio 64	Sargent 23
Creede 54	Antonito 51
Sangre de Cristo 67	Mountain Valley/Moffat 35
Cotopaxi 64	Sierra Grande 31
Center 75	South Park 48
Monte Vista 57	Custer County 46
Sanford 62	Crested Butte 55
Ignacio 64	Montezuma-Cortez 55
Centauri 81	Montezuma-Cortez 49
Del Norte 57	Sargent 32
Sangre de Cristo 70	Creede 21
Center 63	Dolores Huerta 30
Pagosa Springs 54	Alamosa 42
Sanford 77	Trinidad 28
Del Norte 46	Trinidad 31

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~ Shon R. Davis, President & CEO

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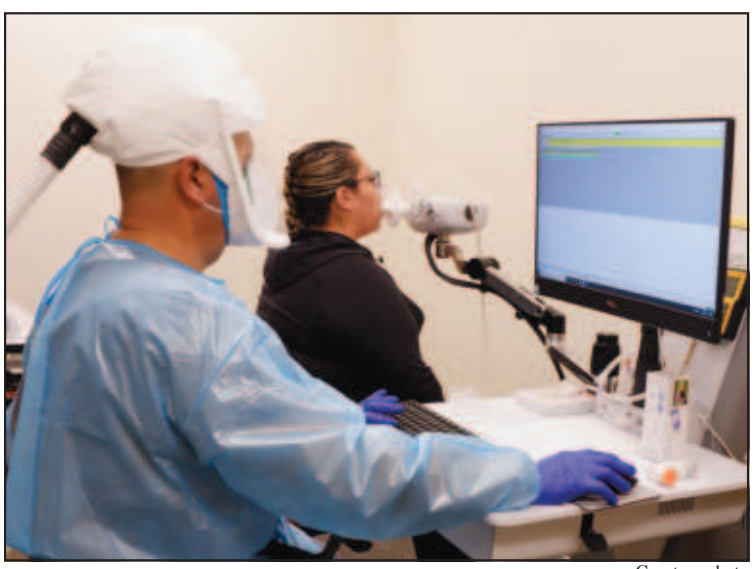


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Courtesy photo

Miguel Ybarra performs pulmonary function testing at Rio Grande Hospital. Thanks to a generous donation, RGH was able to purchase state-of-the-art PFT equipment.

RGH continues to fulfill community needs

STAFF REPORT

DEL NORTE — Rio Grande Hospital (RGH) continues to grow its services to meet the needs of the community. Thanks to an anonymous donor, RGH was able to purchase a state-of-the-art machine for Pulmonary Function Testing (PFT).

In addition to routine pulmonary function testing, RGH can also preforms N2Washouts, Diffusing Capacity for Carbon Monoxide (DLCO) included in the panel.

These help those with advanced lung disease or who are experiencing new lung-related symptoms. Many people having lung damage issues from the illnesses such as asthma, allergies, chronic bronchitis, respiratory infections, lung fibrosis, bronchiectasis, COPD, asbestosis, sarcoidosis, scleroderma, lung cancer, not to mention the increase of lingering issues from

people who had COVID-19. RGH knew that PFT is proving to be a need. Some patients suffer from lung damage, extreme fatigue, heart problems, liver problems, kidney problems, blood clots, etc. This PFT helps determine how much air moves in and out of your lungs and how fast it moves.

The DLCO gives an overall assessment of functional lung surface area for gas exchange and can be assessed using various methods. Where the N2Washouts tests for measuring anatomic dead space in the lung during a respiratory cycle, as well as some parameters related to the closure of airways.

These new tests provide additional detail and diagnostic information for those who have advanced lung disease or are experiencing new lung-related

Please see NEEDS on Page 6



Courtesy photos

Conejos River Partnership project to address multiple issues

STAFF REPORT

MOGOTE — One of the exciting opportunities to emerge from the Conejos River Stream Management Plan (SMP) was the development of partnerships and projects along the Conejos River.

With new information from the SMP, the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project is working with stakeholders on multi-benefit projects similar to their longstanding efforts on the mainstem Rio Grande.

Most of the irrigation diversion structures on the Conejos River are located between Mogote and the confluence with the Rio Grande.

This infrastructure is critical to the agricultural community, however many of the diversions were built in the early 1900s and cannot be operated efficiently. Some structures have difficulty diverting their decreed rates during low flow conditions, and very few have automated head gates.

In addition to impacting irrigators, degraded structures can negatively affect stream health and aquatic habitat

connectivity by fragmenting habitat, altering sediment transport and impacting channel geomorphology through frequent instream maintenance. Further, poorly functioning diversion structures and head gates negatively impact the ability of Colorado Division of Water Resources to administer water rights and meet Rio Grande Compact water delivery obligations.

The Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project has partnered with the Conejos Water Conservancy District

and other local stakeholders to plan and implement The Conejos River Partnership Project (CRPP), a multi-phased project focused on improving irrigation efficiency, stabilizing streambanks, and enhancing riparian and aquatic habitat along the Conejos River.

Phase 1 of the CRPP includes the rehabilitation of five irrigation ditches and the restoration of adjacent aquatic and riparian habitat. The ditches in-

Please see RIVER on Page 6



Calving Quiz

This is a quiz to determine your calving sanity (or help you pass time in the calving barn). Match the columns.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Aching | A. Tongues |
| 2. Black | B. Back |
| 3. C | C. Batteries |
| 4. Cold | D. Boots |
| 5. Cracked | E. Calves |
| 6. Dead | F. Breath |
| 7. Dry | G. Buckets |
| 8. Full | H. Checks |
| 9. Hot | I. Squeeze |
| 10. Leg | J. Hands |
| 11. Midnight | K. Feet |

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 12. Muddy | L. Fingers |
| 13. Round | M. Forearms |
| 14. Slick | N. Eyes |
| 15. Soft | O. Heads |
| 16. Steamy | P. Hooves |
| 17. Sticky | Q. Knees |
| 18. Stiff | R. Moons |
| 19. Swollen | S. Section |
| 20. Tight | T. Coffee |
| 21. Wet | U. Arms |

Answers: 1-U / 2-G / 3-S / 4-K / 5-J / 6-C / 7-N / 8-R / 9-T / 10-B / 11-H / 12-D / 13-O /

- | |
|---|
| 14-E / 15-P / 16-F / 17-M / 18-L / 19-A / 20-I / 21-Q / |
|---|

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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~ Shon R. Davis, President & CEO

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~ Donn Vigil, Chair of the Board of Directors

“This is strictly a name change for marketing purposes. There is no change in ownership or stock issuance, we will remain a mutual and we will remain true to our mission of serving our customers and our communities with commitment and pride.”



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A bad year for avalanches around Colorado

Land, Water and People

BY GREGG GOODLAND

Current conditions in Colorado highlight the urgency of avalanche awareness and safety for current backcountry users. I've decided to write about avalanches again because of the very deadly month we've had here in Colorado and the western US. Each year, hundreds of thousands of avalanches sweep down mountains across the United States, unfortunately causing an average of 28 deaths per year. While most occur naturally and well away from people, sometimes winter sports enthusiasts trigger, get caught, and are killed by avalanches. There have already been 27 fatalities during this 2020-2021 season, which is high compared to the 2019-2020 season total of 23. Out of that total, 11 of those deaths have been here in Colorado.

For several weeks now, forecasters at the Colorado Avalanche Information Center have warned us daily that snow conditions are very unusual this season. They use statements such as "nothing is as you may have experienced it before," and "places that have seemed safe

in recent years may not be safe today or the rest of this season." To make the situation worse, they are warning that "avalanches may break very wide and run the full length of the avalanche path," and "even low angle slopes are not as safe as normal." These warnings should be taken very seriously by anyone venturing out into the backcountry right now. Simply put, this is the year to use extreme caution in the backcountry.

Although an avalanche can occur whenever there is snow and a slope to slide on, avalanches most often occur between the months of December and April. It is important for backcountry users to be equipped with the current avalanche forecast, the proper avalanche rescue equipment, and avalanche training.

With several months remaining in the peak avalanche season, visitors should exercise extreme

caution when traveling into the backcountry. Visitors can mitigate their avalanche risk by doing the following:

Get the forecast – access the latest avalanche forecast for your area at <https://www.avalanche.state.co.us/>. Professional avalanche forecasts provide daily snow and weather observations and highlight the level of risk in an area on a scale from 1-Low, to 5-Extreme.

Get the gear – Another critical component of avalanche safety is having the appropriate gear. There are three essential pieces of gear: an avalanche beacon, a probe, and a shovel. Additional gear such as avalanche airbag packs are available from many knowledgeable retailers.

Get the training – Find an avalanche course provider at avalanche.org and get trained in avalanche awareness and rescue. Start your training online by watching

the Know Before You Go safety video at <https://kbyg.org/>

I've written in the past about user group dynamics and how that can change good decision making. Now, more than ever, it is important to listen to your gut, avoid pitfalls in backcountry travel and above all, err on the side of caution. The Colorado snowpack is not very forgiving and is likely to surprise even the most seasoned experts this year. This is evidenced by the numerous naturally and human triggered avalanches that are being documented in locations with wider and longer than normal events.

Again, to safely recreate in ava-

lanche country, attend an avalanche education session and carry avalanche safety gear. I've had many fun days training to use this gear with my friends and colleagues. But this year, I haven't yet ventured into avalanche prone areas. I'm not sure that I will until the snowpack shows significant evidence of widespread stabilization.

For more information, visit the Colorado Avalanche Information Center website at <http://avalanche.state.co.us>.

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

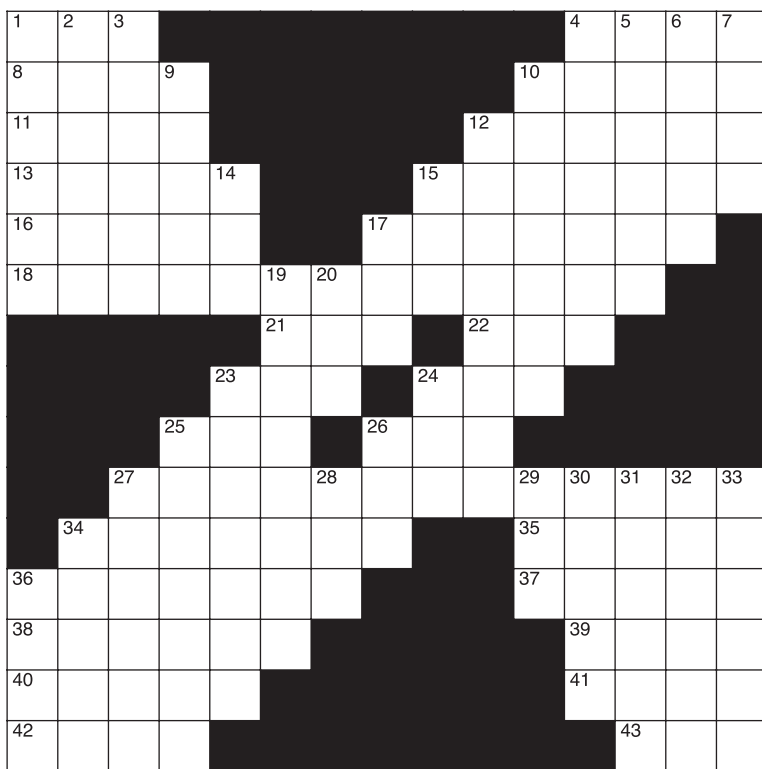
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Engine additive
- 4. Undemanding
- 8. "___ your enthusiasm"
- 10. Well-known island
- 11. Not saintly
- 12. Habitual
- 13. Central parts of church buildings
- 15. Trust
- 16. Intestinal
- 17. Deep-bodied fish
- 18. Live up to expectations
- 21. Snag
- 22. Partner to haw
- 23. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 24. Sheep disease
- 25. Male term of endearment
- 26. United
- 27. Popular TV host
- 34. Overnighters
- 35. Beloved British princess
- 36. Obtains from
- 37. Third Mughal Emperor
- 38. Shares the opinion of
- 39. Central European river
- 40. Feudal estates



- 41. KU hoops coach Bill
- 42. Spreads out for drying
- 43. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
- 15. Type of lettuce
- 17. Place to call a pint
- 19. Backs
- 20. Partner to cheese
- 23. Makes it there
- 24. Value
- 25. One's convictions
- 26. Former CIA
- 27. Clashed
- 28. Affirmative
- 29. Journalist Tarbell
- 30. Athletic shoes
- 31. Roof style
- 32. Make possible
- 33. Make less dense
- 34. Healthy food
- 36. Silly

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Picturesque
- 2. South Pacific island country
- 3. Shrub of the olive family
- 4. Establish the truth of
- 5. Unfettered
- 6. Originations
- 7. Famed English park
- 9. Sheep's cry
- 10. Danced
- 12. More upstanding
- 14. Upstate NY airport (abbr.)

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



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CLASSIFIED INDEX

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 01 TICKETS
- 02 CARD OF THANKS
- 03 MEMORIALS
- 04 LOST & FOUND
- 05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
- 06 PERSONALS
- EMPLOYMENT**
- 07 HELP WANTED
- 08 WORK WANTED
- 09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
- FOR RENT**
- 10 APARTMENTS
- 11 ROOMS
- 12 HOUSES

- 13 MOBILE HOMES
- 14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
- 15 WANTED TO RENT
- 16 VACATION
- REAL ESTATE**
- 17 REAL ESTATE
- 18 LOTS & ACREAGE
- 19 FARM & FARMLAND
- 20 BUSINESS PROPERTY
- 21 MOBILE HOMES
- 22 PROPERTY WANTED
- MERCHANDISE**
- 23 LAWN & GARDEN
- 24 GARAGE SALES
- 25 AUCTIONS
- 26 ANTIQUES

- 27 APPLIANCES
- 28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS
- 29 MUSICAL ITEMS
- 30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS
- 31 HEALTH
- 32 FUEL & HEATING
- 33 BUILDING MATERIALS
- 34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT
- 35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT
- 36 MISCELLANEOUS
- 37 WANTED
- 38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
- 39 SPORTING GOODS
- 40 AUTO PARTS
- FARMER MARKET**
- 41 FARM EQUIPMENT

- 42 FEED & SEED
- 43 FARM PRODUCTS
- 44 FARM SERVICES
- ANIMALS**
- 45 ANIMAL BREEDING
- 46 PASTURE FOR RENT
- 47 HORSES & CATTLE
- 48 PETS & SUPPLIES
- 49 ANIMAL CARE
- 50 LIVESTOCK
- RECREATIONAL**
- 51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT
- 52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT
- 53 TRAILERS
- 54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S
- 55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS

- FINANCIAL**
- 56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
- 57 INVESTMENTS
- TRANSPORTATION**
- 58 MOTORCYCLES
- 59 VEHICLES WANTED
- 60 CLASSIC CARS
- 61 4X4'S
- 62 VANS
- 63 TRUCKS
- 64 AUTOS FOR SALE
- SERVICES**
- 65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
- 66 CHILD CARE

05 Notices

WE BUY ANTLER: Winter Prices:
Elk Grade A \$14/lb. Deer Grade A \$12/lb. 5 miles west of Del Norte on Hwy 160. 719-657-0942 (03/10)

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. (3/17)

07 Help Wanted

Intensive Wraparound Case Managers-Center for Restorative Programs is seeking Intensive Wraparound Case Managers (IWC) who will be responsible for providing specialized case management/ Wraparound services and supports and working closely with community partners such as justice systems, law enforcement, behavioral health, medical, housing, human services, schools, and workforce development. Ability to work independently, strong organizational skills, establish strong supportive Wraparound service plans, and help navigate systems. Successful candidates will have experience providing Wraparound services, intensive case management, advocating and working with adults with substance use and/or mental health disorders, homeless population, recovery supports, and collaboration with community partners and families. Must be willing to travel, work some nights and weekends. Applicants need at least 3 years relevant experience, Spanish speaking a plus. See restorativeprograms.org for salary range and full job description. CRP is an EOC. **Email resume and cover letter to carey@restorativeprograms.org.** (3/17)

cover letter to carey@restorativeprograms.org. (3/17)

Clinical Team Lead Position-Center for Restorative Programs is seeking a Clinical team lead will be responsible for providing clinical oversight for case managers providing specialized case management/ wraparound services and support to adults in the SLV. Position works closely with community partners such as justice systems, law enforcement, behavioral health, medical, housing, human services, schools and workforce development. Ability to establish strong supportive wraparound service plans and help navigate systems. Provide wraparound services, intensive case management, advocating and working with adults with behavioral health issues and/or substance use disorders, collaborate with community partners and families. This position will also maintain a case load. Minimum of 3 years' experience providing clinical case management, crisis services, high intensity supports or related services with individuals/families with mental health/substance abuse issues, community agencies including DSS, law enforcement and judicial. MA preferred. See restorativeprograms.org for salary range and full job description. CRP is an EOC. **Email resume and cover letter to carey@restorativeprograms.org.** (3/17)

Saguache County Public Health is looking for a full-time person to help during the Covid19 pandemic. Person will need to be proficient on phones, with excel spreadsheets

and be able to file things as needed. Person will need to sign a HIPPA agreement. The position will be 40 hours per week. Starting salary is \$12.75/hr. with an increase to \$13.50/hr. after 90 days Saguache County is an EOE and requires drug testing and background check before hiring. Applications can be picked up at Saguache County Public Health in Center or online on the Saguache County website. Applications should be returned to April Quintana at the Administration Office location deadline is 3:00 p.m. on Monday 3/1/2021. For any questions, please call 719-655-2533 (02/24)

Saguache County Department of Social Services is now accepting applications for the position of Commodities Manager. Position determines eligibility, documentation and benefit delivery, inventory maintenance, and state and county reporting for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and Colorado Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). Must be able to drive a pickup and trailer. No degree or specialized training necessary, but



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This week we have 5 Australian Shepherd/Lab mixes up for adoption at the shelter! All five of these kids are around 6 months old and a little on the timid side. They do come out of their shells very quickly and are very loving to people. They are cautious of new dogs but are used to being around other dogs so they would just need a proper introduction to a new canine friend. Neptune is the largest of the group and will probably be a larger dog. Matilda and Rose are the smallest and will probably be around the standard size for an Australian Shepherd with the other two sizing somewhere in between. These are energetic puppies who are clean slates on training. Please call the shelter if you would like to set up a time to meet them!
Please note we are on a first come first serve basis.



Avery



Beatrice



Neptune



Rose



Matilda

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. This ad space donated by Valley Publishing Inc.

Valley Wide Classifieds

good working knowledge of Word and Excel is necessary. Some lifting is required. Bilingual ability is preferred and given consideration, but not required. Starting salary is \$12.75/hr. with an increase to \$13.50/hr. after 90 days. **Applications and complete job descriptions are available at 505 3rd Street., Saguache, Colorado, by visiting the Saguache County website at SaguacheCounty.net or by calling (719) 655-2231 and requesting one be mailed.** Completed applications must be received by Saguache County no later than 3:00 pm. on Friday, February 26, 2021. Saguache is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

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

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

12 House for Rent
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17 Real Estate For Sale
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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. (TFN)

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

Pastureland, 397 acres in north of Monte Vista Airport on County Line Road with good grass and location. Also contains a huge amount of gravel on the property \$525,000.00 call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-

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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.

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)

32 Fuel & Heating
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36 Miscellaneous
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Miscellaneous for sale: Wood FirePlace, Scooter, Stacked Washer/Dryer, Refrigerator/Freezer 8x8x8' Storage Building, Kawasaki ATV 4x4, 1,000 Gallon Water Tank, 2001 Ford Explorer (Parts),

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

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Valentine's for our Vets



Courtesy of Kimberly Pargin, Blue Spruce 4-H Club reporter

Last week the Blue Spruce 4-H Club made individual valentines for each of the Veterans at Home Lake. On the valentine, they told the veterans about themselves, hobbies, and about their 4-H project.

RIVER

Continued from Page 1

cluded in Phase 1 are the North Eastern, New JB Romero, Sabine School Section, Fuerticitos, and Elledges.

Funding for Phase 1 of the CRPP includes the Restoration and Stewardship of Outdoor Resources, or RESTORE, Colorado grant program and the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF). The CRPP was selected from a large pool of applicants, highlighting the large-scale benefits associated with the project. Financial contributions from the Conejos Water Conservancy District and ditch shareholders also make this project possible.

The identified issues and restoration plans for each ditch are listed below.

North Eastern and New JB Romero Ditches

Needs Identified: The diversions and head gates servicing these ditches are in poor condition. The main issues include trash/debris build-up, high levels of maintenance, and inefficient infrastructure.

Components: Consolidate the point of diversion for both ditches and construct a new fish-passable diversion structure, •new head gates on river and carrier •Headgate automation • Channel shaping, streambank stabilization • Improve riparian habitat

Fuerticitos Ditch

Needs Identified: The diversion dam and head gate are in poor condition. Challenges include trash/debris build-up and streambank instability. The diversion creates a fish barrier.

Components: Replace the diversion with a fish-passable structure • Replace the head gate • Channel shaping and streambank stabilization, • Improve riparian habitat

Sabine School Section Ditch

Needs Identified: The diversion dam and head gate are in poor condition. Challenges include inefficient infrastructure, high maintenance needs, and streambank instability. The diversion creates a fish barrier at low flows.

Components: Replace the head gate; • Replace the diversion with a fish-passable structure • Channel shaping and streambank stabilization • Improve riparian habitat

Elledges Ditch

Needs identified: The diversion dam and head gate are in poor condition, the diversion creates fish barrier at low flows, and streambank instability upstream threatens the ditch's functionality.

Components: Replace diversion with a fish-passable structure, • Replace the existing head gate • Channel shaping and streambank stabilization • Improve riparian habitat

NEEDS

Continued from Page 1

symptoms. They help determine the efficiency and can assist in determining any potential problems. People having symptoms of lung problems, been exposed to substances in the environment or workplace, to monitor the course of chronic lung diseases, such as asthma and chronic inflammatory lung disease (COPD), or to assess lungs before surgery can go to RGH.

All they need is an order from their health care provider. Once they have the order, the provider will forward that information to Respiratory Therapy, where an appointment will be set-up. When they come to get the test, they will be in the capable hands of Miguel Ybarra. Ybarra has been helping people with their respiratory issues for many years. He is also bilingual.

“Thank you so much to all the donors for your generosity and

continued support throughout all these years. You not only provide funds for equipment but most importantly, your contributions allow us to continue to provide services to Del Norte and the surrounding communities that otherwise would not be possible. The Pulmonary Function Machine purchased not only allows us to perform basic spirometry but also more advanced studies that would otherwise not be possible. Again, on behalf of Rio Grande Hospital and the Respiratory Therapy Department, thank you very much,” Ybarra said.

Once they obtain their results, their clinician can better assist them in diagnosing and treating many conditions. RGH has seen patient success in their Pulmonary Rehabilitation program.

For more information, talk to your clinician or call RGH at 719-657-2418.



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REAL ESTATE 2021

SAN LUIS VALLEY PROGRESS



Steffens Realty is more than what it seems

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

SOUTH FORK — Long-time business owner Bruce Steffens and his family moved to the South Fork area 12 years ago and opened Steffens Realty after selling their family ranch where he grew up near Monte Vista. Steffens has been part of selling large heritage ranches, farms and agricultural land in the San Luis Valley but that is not all he has done in his years growing up in the area.

“I was a professional cowboy. That was how we made our living. After that was no longer a means of income, we had to make the choice to do something different,” said Steffens. “We were caught in a drought and that was when we sold and moved to South Fork.”

Steffens employs six agents in his realty business and each one handles all types of real estate. In the summer, during a three-day period, Steffens spends his time teaching his grandchildren and neighborhood children outdoor survival techniques.

“It is something I really enjoy,” Bruce said. “We have up to 22 people ranging in ages from 4 to 70, just anyone who wants to learn. It is by invitation only. I don’t have the space or time to teach it openly to the public though it would be something I would love to do.”

Steffens has been teaching his survival course for eight years and has no plans on slowing down.

“I could do this fulltime, but I think it would take away from the enjoyment,” he said. Steffens focuses on outdoor survival techniques like building traps, learning to build a fire with minimal materials, knife throwing and other survival techniques.

In his younger days, Steffens was a two-time national champion calf roper and professional cowboy. He was at one point in the top 50 in the world championships. He trained horses for over 50 years but hasn’t done any training work in some time now.

“It was how we made our living back then,” Steffens said.

Steffens Realty is one of the largest real estate companies in the Valley and can help people seeking to purchase a home or anyone looking to sell a home or land on any scale.



Courtesy photo

Steffens Realty in South Fork offers a wide-range of listing for home-seekers and home buyers. The company has served in the San Luis Valley for many years.

“We are your go-to company and are able to help with everyone’s needs,” Steffens said.

During the COVID pandemic, South Fork saw an increase in sales and people moving to the area from out of state which made for a decent business opportunity for both the community and Steffens Realty. Their listings are on over 1,000 websites word-wide and have been recognized as the number two best realty company in the Valley. Their agents were also recognized in the top six in South Fork for 2020.

For more information or to seek help buying or selling a property, call 719-873-1700 or visit their website at www.steffenscorealty.com.



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

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


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

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

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

LEAP is not intended to pay the entire cost of home heating. For questions, inquiries, broken heater/furnace issues, contact **HEAT HELP.**

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Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Many locations on the west end of the Valley which offer great fishing opportunities for anglers of all experiences.

Springtime temperatures mark coming fishing season

BY LYNDISIE FERRELL

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Though it is hard to believe, winter in the San Luis Valley is slowly coming to an end and with that comes spring fishing. The Gold Medal water of the Rio Grande river is reason enough to bring people to the Valley and this year is projected to be an excellent year for fishing.

With warmer days and nights, the past week, ice around the west end of the Valley has been giving up its hold on the Rio Grande and open waters can be seen all along the winding path of the river. Even reservoirs such as Beaver Creek and Big Meadows are beginning to taste spring's sweet embrace and the ice is beginning to thin.

Though this means that summer fishing is just around the corner, it also means that ice anglers need to be cautious when heading out. This time of the year makes it difficult to navigate safely on the ice when out for a day of epic fishing. Be sure to

look for open water, thin ice and be prepared for adverse weather conditions that can and will change at a moment's notice.

According to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Aquatic Biologist Estevan Vigil precipitation reports so far this year show signs that the coming summer will offer some great fishing opportunities.

"So far, this are looking pretty good for the coming year and fishing should be pretty good," Vigil said. "Of course, things can change, and we could end up not getting the moisture we need but as of February, things are looking great."

With spring just around the corner, it is never too soon to start planning for the summer fishing trip. For more information, to purchase fishing licenses or to find stocking reports for all Colorado fishing locations visit www.cpw.state.co.us and click on the link for fishing information.



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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

Look New Price - THIS HOME YOU HAVE TO SEE TO BELIEVE!
• 3 bedroom • 2 bathroom • \$698,000
This could be your new home. Amazing Custom - Built Full log Home - Entry room, living room, large kitchen with island, lots of cabinet space, laundry. This home has beautiful wrap around porches that offer great views of the mountains and cliffs. The attached double garage is 576 Sq. Ft. with concrete floor. The home is fully fenced. Additional 2,000 sq. ft. workshop. MLS#772697
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LOOK IMPROVED PRICE!
• 2 bedroom • 2 bathroom • \$335,000
Charming 1,518 SQ FT Home with attached 672 SQ FT Cement Floor Garage with Workshop and additional 2 storage units. Bright and cheery with large living area with fire place and large windows with beautiful views of Beaver Mountain and plenty of sun shine. This home is complete with 4 heat sources! 2 ETS systems, Base board heating (all rooms), Solar heat and Fireplace. Complete with water and sewer system on paved roads. MLS#777866
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3 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 2,0978 sq. ft. • \$379,000
Stunning views in all directions with huge windows, luxurious master suite, rock propane fireplace, high-end Jenn Air appliances, custom cabinetry, large stone patio for entertaining, 2-car garage and so much more! Rio Grande Club Membership and Home Furnishings negotiable. MLS #767109
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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 EIF electrical heating that can heat the home and dining area with custom light fixture with dining seating 10 for all your entertaining. Custom Kitchen with two sinks and two dishwashers for quick clean up after entertaining with beautiful Knotty Alder wood cabinets and new refrigerator and microwave. This home is beautifully hand troweled on ceilings/walls with tall ceilings and tall solid wood interior doors and Pella double-hung windows for easy cleaning. This home comes mostly furnished with additional tools and the following equipment in the garage including snow blower, air compressor, battery chargers all this and more with beautiful mountain views with Rocky Mountain Elk and other wildlife right out your back door.
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SOLD
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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SOLD
Finely Crafted Mountain Home!
• 2 Bedroom • 2 Bathroom • 2-car Garage • 1,388 sq. ft. • \$389,900
Delightful Ranch Style Mountain Home with 2 car garage and an additional detached cement floor garage/workshop. Nice size kitchen with custom cabinets containing large lazy Susans, Large Pantry and lots of storage. Open dining and large living area with large Sunny Bay window and beautiful mountain views. This kitchen is complete with refrigerator, cookstove, dishwasher and trash compactor. Large Laundry room with tons of storage. Living room with wood burning stove and additional 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
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.
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