

Shorts

Commissioners preview Center annexation plan

BY PATRICK SHEA
SAGUACHE — Center town representatives previewed a 92-acre annexation plan with Saguache County Commissioners during their regular meeting at the courthouse on Feb. 16.

The expansion efforts started when Center acquired property north of town in 2007. Last year, Center Town Administrator Brian Lujan asked if the commissioners would waive an impact study for the project. They denied his request. So, Lujan received help from Davis Engineering and returned with an impact assessment for a preliminary review.

Lujan said, "We have certain
Please see ANNEX on Page 2A



Center Town Administrator Brian Lujan showed Saguache County Commissioners a few maps of the town's 92-acre annexation plan during their regular meeting on Feb. 16.

Photo by Patrick Shea



Presenting at the school board meeting on Feb. 16, Mountain Valley School District Athletic Director Larry Hunt shared data from middle and high school sports since 2019, an even ratio of teammates from Moffat Schools and MVS in Saguache.

Photo by Patrick Shea

Sports, snow days dominate Mountain Valley School Board meeting

BY PATRICK SHEA
SAGUACHE — The regular Mountain Valley School District Board of Education meeting on Feb.

16 highlighted sports programs and Superintendent Travis Garoutte's new snow-day procedure. Kicking off the meeting, Athletic

Director Larry Hunt said the first middle school basketball game was originally scheduled for Feb. *Please see SCHOOL on Page 7A*



Officials seek clues in 2002 'John Doe' homicide in Saguache County

STAFF REPORT
SAGUACHE COUNTY — Law enforcement officials have released new facial reconstruction images of a man only known as "John Doe," whose body was discovered off Colorado State Highway 114 in Saguache County nearly 19 years ago, in hopes of identifying the man. *Please see CLUES on Page 4A*

Del Norte Food Bank distribution on Feb. 20

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

Law enforcement seeks information in San Luis homicide investigation

STAFF REPORT
SAN LUIS — The public is being asked to provide information related to a homicide investigation in San Luis on Feb. 3. Just before midnight on Wednesday, Feb. 3, Costilla County Sheriff's Office deputies were sent to a home in the 900 block of Alfonso Street on a call of a shooting. Responding deputies discovered a 47-year-old man shot inside the home who was pronounced dead at the scene. The victim has been identified as Christopher Patrick Lopez, who is known to live in the San Luis area. Anyone with information related to this incident or may have seen anything suspicious in the area is asked to call San Luis Valley CrimeStoppers at 719-589-4111. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) continues to assist the Costilla County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) in the homicide investigation. No arrests have been made to date.

Building soil in high plateau of Central Colorado

STAFF REPORT
 Tiffany Colette turns dry, sandy soil into her working partner while coaxing delicious, beautiful vegetables out of the ground in the high, desert of Central Colorado. Tiffany will be the SOIL Sangre de Cristo guest speaker at 7 p.m. on Feb. 25 for the SOIL Sangre de Cristo "Speaker Series." The co-owner of Rocky Mountain Garlic will discuss how she and her husband, Mike, turned a neglected horse pasture into a bio intensive, no till, permanent bed, vegetable cropping system. These are the techniques known as "regenerative farming." By incorporating manure, compost, mulch, cover crops and

Honoring past Stampede Queens

BY REBECCA COPLEY
MONTEVISTA — A special project is underway to set up a program to donate to the new Ski-Hi building, in honor or in memory of a past Stampede Queen. In the future organizers of the project would also like to set up a permanent monument to the past Stampede Queens in the new Ski-Hi building.

With the help of Peg Schall and Karen Deacon, photos of the past Queens have been found at the Transportation museum spanning 1919 to the late 1980s. They would like to get these photos permanently displayed as part of the monument.

In an article written by Marian Fennell Colwell and Dorothy Dorris Wilson in 1970 they wrote, "Selection as Queen of the Ski-Hi Stampede has long been

Please see QUEENS on Page 2A



1982 Daruys DeHerrera



1966 Loretta Morgan



1935 Marjorie Gross

Courtesy Photos

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OBITUARIES

Dorothy Ann Cochran

Dorothy Ann Cochran, 87, formerly of Monte Vista, Colo., passed away on Feb. 3, 2021, in Colorado Springs of natural causes after a three-year degenerative illness.

Dorothy and her late husband Dick Cochran had lived on their Monte Vista ranch since 1982, enjoying their cattle and horses as well as hunting, fishing, and skiing.

Dorothy was born on Nov. 10, 1933, the second of three daughters to John R. and Twilla Pasha in Bozeman, Mont. She grew up on the family farm-ranch learning how to work outdoors, and appreciate animals, nature, and winter sports.

Dorothy had a bright inquisitive mind and earned her RN degree in 1957 and her BRN in 1974. She worked in the challenging departments of Neuro ICU and Orthopedic Surgery among other areas in health care.

Dorothy had an adventurous spirit and an artistic eye. She loved music of all types and was an accomplished piano player. She had a wide variety of interests and talents including being a skilled taxidermist, an excellent cook, a cross country ski racer, and learned to train and compete on her home-grown cutting horse well into her 60's.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband Bill Kezar of Bozeman, Mont., in 1955; her parents in 1976 and 1988; her brother-in-law Grant Woolley and sister Mary Lou Woolley of Bend, Ore., in 2007 and 2008



respectively; as well as her husband Richard Cochran in 2013.

She is survived by her sister Emilee Dekam (Ken) of Helena, Mont.; her former husband Dale White (Donna) of Butte, Mont.; and her daughters: JoLynn Perry (Kevin) of Colorado Springs; Diana Reavis (Andy) of Fort Collins; and Lisa Lorenz (Jimmy) of Steamboat Springs. Dorothy had four grandchildren: Aleks Reavis (Jessica) of Seattle, Wash.; Bailey Reavis of Washington D.C.; Cierra Ireland (Nick) of Loveland; and Sawyer Lorenz of Steamboat Springs.

Dorothy was a wonderful Mother and will be missed by her family. Services to be determined later in 2021.

Michael J. Fuchs

April 5, 1949 – Jan. 30, 2021

Michael Joseph Fuchs, the fourth son of Hugh and Margaret Fuchs, passed away Jan. 30, 2021, at Rio Grande Hospital.

Mike grew up on the family farm-ranch and was active in animal projects through our local 4-H organization. He entered his fat steer in the livestock show in Phoenix, Ariz., in December 1963 and registered Hereford bulls at the National Western Stock Show in Denver in 1980.

Mike attended Del Norte High School and graduated in 1967 during which he was active in sports and had an excellent academic record. He attended Colorado School of Mines in Golden and the University of Colorado in Boulder where he received a BS in Civil Engineering in 1974.

After graduation, Mike worked on various water projects in Dillon; Dallas, Texas; and Lincoln, Neb. He decided that ranching was his first love and returned to the family ranch, Fuchs Ranches, Inc. in 1981. He assumed the role of ranch manager in 1982.

Mike's interest in ranching was complemented by his interest in agricultural and engineering expertise. This was demonstrated by his supervision of the spillway construction

at Fuchs Reservoir in the mid 1980's. His ability was also seen in various irrigation structures, namely the Pinos Creek Division where the east and west branches of Pinos Creek are formed. He received the honor of Water User of the Year in 2002. Mike was always interested in improvements with excellent choices in methods and equipment including installing a pivot sprinkler on the original Fuchs homestead to raise hay with less water.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Hugh and Margaret and his oldest brother, Fred.

Fred's wife Charlotte of Del Norte; niece Julie (Bill) Lohr of Rangely, and children; nephew Stace (Loni) Fuchs of Del Norte and children also survive. Surviving brothers are Hugh Lee Roy (Gayle Toombs) Fuchs of Del Norte; niece Erica Ronska and son of California and Richard Fuchs of Tarzana, Calif.; niece Margaret (Russell) Montano and children; niece Laura (Rob) Dolan and children all of California.

Mike will be missed by family members and many friends. Cremation was chosen and no services are planned. Arrangements in care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home.

QUEENS

Continued from Page 1A

considered one of the highest honors attainable by a young lady in the San Luis Valley and Southern Colorado."

This honor also had a great deal of responsibility attached to it. Jim Clare who is also working on the project and whose mother was Miss Stampede in 1935 said, "One of the gals said it wasn't one of those deals where you ride in during Stampede, and wave she said that there was a lot more to it than that."

Verla Honeycutt who was Stampede Queen 1988, and the alternate in 1987 remembers there were tryouts and interviews, the young women had to go through to be selected as the Stampede Queen. With different categories covering everything from horsemanship to congeniality. Horsemanship being the most important thing.

Once chosen to be the Stampede Queen their main job was to promote the Ski-Hi rodeo. Honeycutt remembers how they had to travel to different places, and rodeos. They would be introduced at these events and then hand out pamphlets to crowds to promote that year's Ski-Hi Stampede. They were also expected to tell people things like when events would be happening or who the band would be at the dances. The Queens also promoted the event by talking on the radio.

During Stampede itself they had a lot to do as Queen. Honeycutt said, "When we were Miss Stampede or part of the court, we were expected to help run out cattle. We went to the parade every day. We went to the dances each night then they would introduce us at the dances, and we would just explain kind of what we'd been doing and welcome people."

Honeycutt also shared that the queens were expected to participate in the calf dressing. Honeycutt remembered it was a fun part of their duties.

Today they no longer have a Stampede Queen. The last Stampede Queen was crowned in 2005.

"It has definitely changed over the

years. Now they don't even have a Stampede Queen or have that process. But they have the internet. They have Facebook and they have social media. It's a whole different process than what it used to be when word of mouth and that kind of thing was important," said Honeycutt.

When asked what her favorite part of being the Stampede Queen was Honeycutt said it was the skills she cultivated, the traveling she did, and the friendships she made.

"It didn't seem like I was building any skills, or experiences at the time. In retrospect I see how valuable it is, to me today," said Honeycutt.

For the Stampede Queen monument display they are collecting any information about the past queens and their experiences. If you have any information, contact the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce at chamber@montevistachamber.org or 719-852-2731. A list has been compiled of all the past queens and is listed below:

To make a donation to the new Ski-Hi building in memory of a past Stampede Queen, visit www.friendsofskihi.org/how-you-can-help.html. Or call the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce, for more information on how you can donate to the Ski-Hi building project.

1919 Kitty Halferty
1920-1927 No queens
1928 Ester Godfrey
1929-1932 No queens
1933 Agness Aust
1934 Dorothy Dorris
1935 Marjorie Gross
1936 Vivian Goff
1937 Marian Fennell
1938 Betty Trueblood
1939 Bonnie Hocker
1940 Louise Johnston
1941 Dorothy Haigler
1942 Cathrine Lague
1943-1945 No queen
1946 Eleanor Linger
1947 Virginia Whitten
1948 Lycille Ryan
1949 Donna Glee McOllough

1950 Mary Anne Finl
1951 Betty Jane Johnson
1952 Loretta Wiescamp
1953 Charlene Wright
1954 Ella Mae Noffsinger
1955 Beverly Mann
1956 Sue Shroeder
1957 Gretchen Shellabarger
1958 Kathleen Grimwood
1959 Sylvia Claunch
1960 Diane Selters
1961 Ann Ulstrom
1962 Barbara Roberson
1963 Janice Haws
1964 Donna Selters
1965 Jody Phillips
1966 Loretta Morgan
1967 Laraine Claunch
1968 Nancy Rodus
1969 Marcia Wright
1970 Cheryl Wright
1971 Cindy Kane
1972 Rita Curtis
1973 Debbie Beiriger
1974 Jackie Pavlovsky
1975 Renee Smith
1976 Cindy Wallac
1977 Tammy Wiescamp
1978 Anita Hunter
1979 Carol Crate
1980 Laura Wiescamp
1981 Taina Andre
1982 Darius DeHerrera
1984 Betty Claunch
1985 Brenda Rippe
1986 Frances Slane
1987 Janelle Booth
1988 Verla Rutgers
1989 Christy Wintz
1990 Isabel Jaramillo
1991 Robin Rae Stagner
1992 Ester Sanchez
1993 Michelle Claunch
1994 Misty Brook Stagner
1995 No queen
1996, 1997 Tammy Aldridge
1998 Jennifer Edwards
1999 Marcia Berggren
2000 Holly Binnian
2001 Jeanie Andreatta
2002 Corin Crowther
2003 Jaelyn Gabbel
2004 Kristin Prator
2005 Johanna Steffens

ANNEX

Continued from Page 1A

timelines we have to meet once we petition for annexation, and we wouldn't want anything to trip us up if you guys kick it back."

Currently, the town houses the "Streets and Park" shop on the property, but otherwise it's empty for citizens to drop off brush in the spring. The plot contains two wells, and the town has surface water rights, too. It is currently zoned for agriculture, but they have been in touch with the Colorado Division of Water

SOIL

Continued from Page 1A

rotating into a system to feed the soil and suppress weeds, a high-quality desert crop can be produced. Benefits to the environment are added by reversing climate change with rebuilding soil organic matter and

Resources to convert the designation.

In the past, alfalfa flourished in the fields, followed by lettuce for a while. Another few crops of alfalfa became the last on the property.

Lujan asked commissioners to notify him, "if there is anything, we're missing that we need to add prior to our petition for annexation." Once they receive the petition, commissioners have between 60 and 90 days to respond.

The Center Town Board will

restoring degraded soil biodiversity, resulting in both carbon drawdown and improving the water cycle.

Visit soilsangredecristo.org to RSVP and receive the link for the virtual event.

meet on Feb. 23 to finish preparing documents for the annexation petition.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Not a fit night out for man nor beast

I guess it's only fitting to address the record cold this week that has plunged even the Deep South into a morass of frozen pipes, electricity blackouts and firewood hoarding. Moments before the snow hit in the DFW area, Miss Trixie and I were out and about. On a major highway, we came upon a half-mile long traffic jam of folks trying to score wood to burn. Of course, people waited until the last second and that is what is called "The American Way."

Yes, you could have bought all you could carry for a decent price just last week, but no one even considers that. Some neighbors to us here in Texas are without heat and even hard-hearted, old mountain man Ol' Dutch is going to brave the 20-below wind chill and grab some for them off my pile.

I know, getting soft, aren't I? We have been fortunate to still have electricity and propane and so far, this RV has kept us warm albeit the water finally froze off last night. We have a hydrant outside and can get water there for coffee and to flush, to which I say, what else is needed?

It looks like all the new houses built in DFW are all electric and have caused a huge strain on the infrastructure as demand is just too high for the power lines. The plumbers, however, are sure to benefit once this passes as people all over have frozen and broken lines to contend with.

Ol' Dutch was perusing the online ads just this morning and saw a want ad placed by a Miss Amanda. She posted ever so clearly that she is looking for a "HANDSY MAN." And no, I did not spell that wrong but am wondering just what she had in mind. Now while I do know a "handyman" is hard to find most of the time, most women have no trouble finding a "handsy" one and Miss Trixie would be quick to testify as to Ol' Dutch's abilities in that arena.

And Ol' Dutch, ever the one to go to the rescue of a damsel in distress might even be able to help this gal out if Miss Trixie would only see the crisis that this poor woman is in?

I suppose however that what this dear lady really wanted was someone to fix her pipes and I can certainly understand that in this cold weather.

Way back in 1933 a comedic legend



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

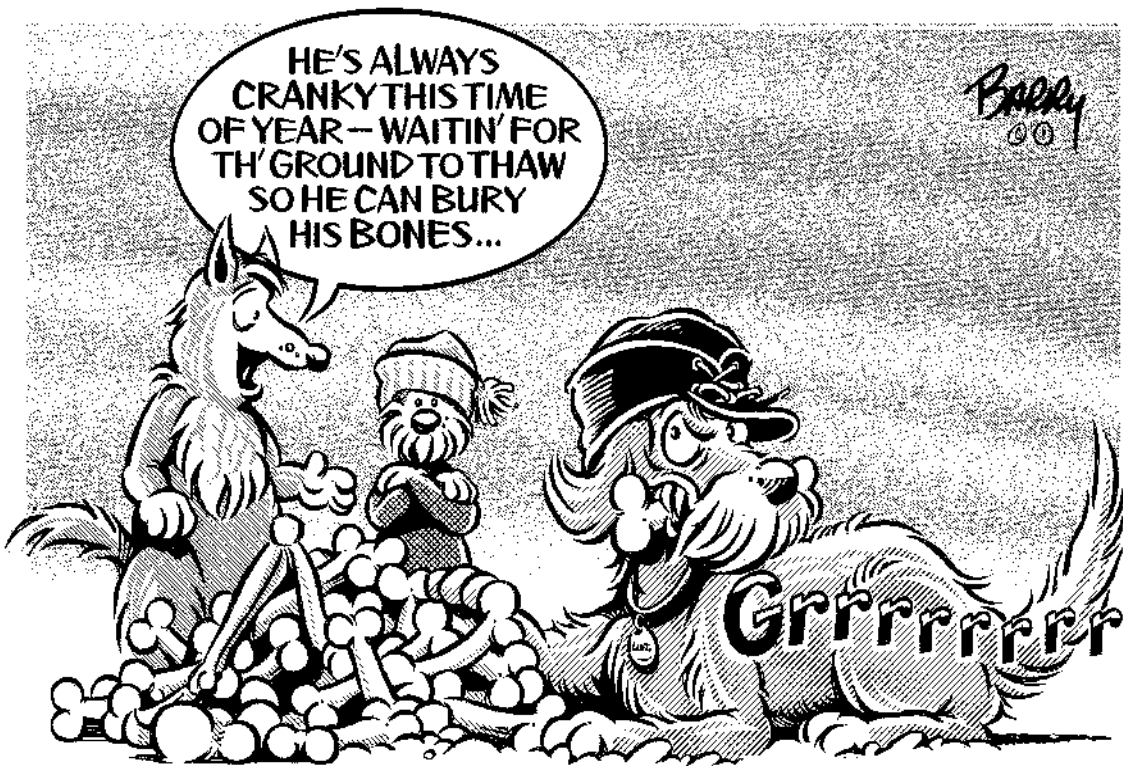
by the name of W.C. Fields starred in a movie called "The Fatal Glass of Beer." It is set in the far North of the Yukon and all I can really recall about the story is Fields keeps opening the door to the cabin and exclaiming "ain't a fit night out for man nor beast." At that point, a bucket of studio snow is tossed in his face and he shuts the door. Finally, the last time he says the same line, no snow comes in, but he flinches waiting for some surprise off-camera.

Feeding and watering cows on my farm this week feels like the north Yukon in the dead of winter, and I can tell you for certain, W.C. Fields was right. It's just too darned cold.

This cold weather has also caused another problem as people are stuck inside with one another and as Jerry Clower once said, "too much of anything ain't good."

If not for Ol' Dutch's cheery and wonderful disposition plus handsome good looks, Miss Trixie and I might be headed for the inevitable splitting of the sheets. Although now that I think about it, who would want to divide up blankets in this cold weather? Best to just hunker down and suffer with the one you have. And where else will Miss Trixie find herself a "handsy man" or at least one with warm hands this time of year?

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

Zodiacal Light and Orion's Nebula

By DARLENE DANKO

The Zodiacal Light is back for February, March and early April. It just won't be visible when the moon is shining, so you'll have to wait until the moon comes up later. The full Snow Moon occurs on Feb. 26 and 27, so you'll have to wait for a few days after that occurs to see this. It's only visible when the moon isn't out, and most likely won't be visible in cities where the light is bright.

It looks like a hazy pyramid of light in the southwest after the Sun sets and the sky gets dark. This time of year, the ecliptic path of the Sun, moon and planets stands nearly straight up with respect to the horizon after the Sun sets. When you see it, you're looking edgewise into the plane of our star system.

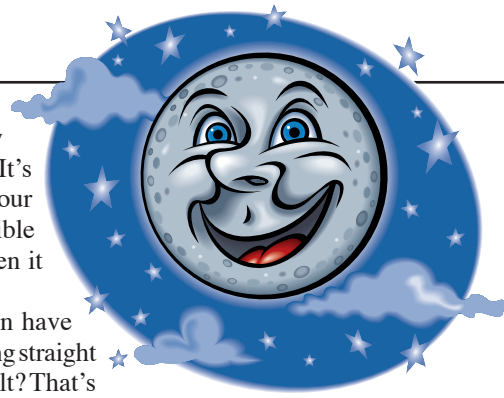
What you'll see is the Sun reflecting off dust particles that move in the same plane as all the planets orbiting

our Sun. Look in the WSW for a pyramid shape glow rising from the ground. It's milkier in appearance than our Milky Way and will be visible for about an hour. I've seen it many times.

When you look at Orion have you noticed something going straight down slightly below his belt? That's his sword of 3 stars, and the middle one is M-42. It's a little fuzzy since it's a star cluster called Orion's Nebula which has enough material to create about 2,000 stars.

It's a cloud of gas and dust about 24LY wide that is creating new stars. So, it's a huge star factory. It's about 1,344 LY from us and is the closest star forming region to us. You'll be able to see all 3 objects, but obviously binoculars or a telescope will let you see more of M-42.

When you look at the Winter Circle and observe the lowest and brightest star Sirius, you may see an object just below it and slightly to the right.



That's a star cluster M-41 and it's only 4 degrees from Sirius. It contains about 100 stars and is estimated to be between 190 and 240 million years old. It should be easily visible, but obviously binoculars or a telescope will show you more.

By the 25th you should be able to see the planets coming up in the ESE before the Sun rises. They will be Jupiter, Mercury and Saturn. So, look out a window at least a half hour before the Sun rises. Jupiter will be the lowest and on the left. It's also the brightest. Obviously, you can also go outside if you don't have a window facing that area.

LETTER

Think of becoming a Democrat

Editor,
I'm sure we are all aware that the new POTUS has been inaugurated and that his cabinet is slowly getting filled. This should have been done months ago, but due to Donald Trump and his "belief" that the election was stolen, President Joe Biden is still trying to get Senate approval for his cabinet nominees. As a result of this, we are facing issues rolling out the vaccination efforts across the country. We are still having issues finding guidance from the CDC to get our kids back to school and we are finding it challenging to come together with a

second impeachment trial of Trump taking place today.

I write to you to inform you that we rural Coloradoans are a lot more alike than we think. I had the chance to speak with students of two rural schools this fall and describe my role as a Democrat candidate to students who might not normally see Democrats. I was enthused to hear them say that they were glad to hear my perspective as they have only heard one-sided stories from peers, family members and their religious leaders.

If you are a Republican who is not happy with the way the extreme right

has commandeered your party, not followed facts or been held accountable, think of being a Democrat. Most Democrats in rural Colorado want the same things as you do...good jobs, good schools, quality accessible healthcare that's affordable and the ability to pass on their values to their heirs. Most Democrats here are strong in faith, community and responsible gun owners who hard work.

So, if you are having issues with your party and how it is changing, think of becoming a Democrat.

Carlos R Lopez Trinidad

LETTERS POLICY

Letters are welcome and encouraged. They should be fewer than 300 words, unless arranged beforehand with the editor, and they are subject to editing for length and clarity.

All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be designated as such. Letters over 300 words and without contact information will be returned to the

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Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.

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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 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.



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.

CLUES

Continued from Page 1A



A forensic artist completed the facial recognition sketches of the victim.

“We are hoping the updated digital reconstruction images will result in new information that will lead to the identification of this individual and to help solve this case,” said CBI Deputy Director Chris Schaefer.

On Oct. 19, 2002, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation assisted the Saguache County Sheriff’s Office in the recovery of the remains of an unidentified man found wrapped in a blanket and or quilt.

A coroner’s examination concluded that the cause of death was homicide and provided the following information about the victim:

- Unknown male, unknown age — possibly between 40 and 60.
- 225-300 pounds, 6-foot-5-inches tall
- No tattoos or obvious scars

Additionally, the remains were clad in black boxer shorts and a black Harley Davidson T-shirt from Fort Washington, Maryland.

If you have any information on this case or believe you may know the victim, contact the CBI at 719-647-5999 or the SCSO at 719-655-2525.



Courtesy photos

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation released new images related to a 2002 'John Doe' homicide investigation in Saguache County.

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Pancaked



Center's Jordon Duran goes for a pin — achieved in only 19 seconds — of Ignacio's Cayle Montoya at 106 pounds during a Del Norte High School-hosted triangular on Friday, Feb. 12. The Vikings are combining forces this winter with Sierra Grande, similar to DNHS with Monte Vista — meaning five schools were represented at the event, which featured just 13 bouts. C-SG competed in 10 of those, winning seven — Duran dropped his second bout at 106 by 13-3 major decision to DNHS' Malachi Gallegos — and is scheduled to see more action this weekend. Up first is a Feb. 19 triangular hosted by Trinidad, followed by a tri the next day all the way out at easternmost CHSAA outpost Holly. Results from a slated Feb. 17 dual at Walsenburg John Mall, however, were unavailable at press time.

Photos by Joel Priest, Souther Ute Drum

Chin check



Center's Jesus Valadez, rear, calculates how to possibly uproot Monte Vista's Jaxon Martinez during their bout at 182 pounds on Friday, Feb. 12, at Del Norte High School. Valadez won 12-4 after three two-minute periods, with Martinez wrestling through an injury sustained with 0:36 left in the second following a Valadez takedown. The Vikings are combining forces this winter with Sierra Grande, similar to DNHS with Monte Vista — meaning five schools were actually represented at the triangular (Ignacio also attended), which featured just 13 bouts. C-SG competed in 10 of those, winning seven, and is scheduled to see more action this weekend. Up first is a Feb. 19 triangular hosted by Trinidad, followed by a tri the next day all the way out at easternmost CHSAA outpost Holly. Results from a slated Feb. 17 dual at Walsenburg John Mall, however, were unavailable at press time.

Vikings, Panthers at triangular in Del Norte

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY —

The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Feb. 8 and Feb. 14, 2021. On top of routine patrols, Sheriff's Office staff conducted two welfare checks, assisted with seven ambulance rides, one suicidal person and a deceased person. Two reports of suspicious activity and criminal mischief, an abandoned vehicle, loose livestock and four controlled burns required attention. Deputies also issued one warrant, responded to four thefts, one case of fraud, three civil disputes and one sexual offense. On the road, staff made 11 traffic stops, issued five tickets, responded to a hit-and-run car crash and issued one REDDI Report (Report Every



Drunk Driver Immediately).

Arrests

James Hendrickson, 37, Crestone, failure to appear, fugitive of justice. Miriam Roman, 28, Center, false imprisonment, domestic violence, child abuse, menacing, abuse of telephone and telegraph service.



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Saguache Commissioners field requests, discuss options

By PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE — Department heads provided updates for Saguache County Commissioners during their regular meeting on Feb. 16, and representatives from Center previewed plans to annex 92 acres.

Center Town Administrator Brian Lujan delivered an annexation impact study before the meeting to see if it raised issues with the commissioners. The expansion efforts started when Center acquired property north of town in 2007. Last year, Lujan asked if the commissioners would waive an impact study for the project. His request denied, Lujan returned with an impact assessment for preliminary review to identify roadblocks “prior to our petition for annexation.”

Although the board expressed no immediate concerns, they agreed to provide extensive feedback before the Center Town Board meeting on Feb. 23.

During the morning portion of the meeting, Housing Authority Director Evan Samora asked for approval to continue participating in Colorado’s Property Owner Preservation Program. A tenant whose income dropped as a result of COVID-19 can request payment coverage for rent. Samora added that only one tenant sought help through social services, and only three people approached him for rent assistance during 2020.

The board approved Samora’s application process, which extends participation in the program beyond June 30. Samora also received approval for new equipment to maintain lawns at the county’s two properties.

County Attorney Ben Gibbons addressed legal options for blight issues. Forcing property owners to clean sites becomes a bigger problem if higher courts don’t support legal challenges. Commissioners expressed interest in meeting the new District Attorney, Alonzo Payne, to get acquainted. Saguache County directs \$120,000 a year to the DA’s office.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Randy Arredondo discussed offering a Free Dump Day for residents, considering it was cancelled in 2020. Commissioners suggested stretching it out over a few days, one during the week and one on the weekend. Targeting Earth Day on April 22, they discussed communications in advance to guide residents. For example, if they separate burn items like unpainted wood, it will save space.

Arredondo also described road signage projects on county roads in the KV Estates subdivision. The county is responsible for marking county roads, yet they will work with municipalities to streamline the process.



Photo by Patrick Shea

Saguache County Commissioners received department updates and discussed county-owned assets during their regular meeting at the courthouse on Feb. 16.

County Treasurer Connie Trujillo provided an update on foreclosures in the county. During a typical year, she would see 15 to 17 foreclosures, although it has been as high as 30.

But in 2020, the county only had five. County Attorney Gibbons said he anticipated an increase, recalling a backlog of foreclosures that hit together in 2008.

In the afternoon, the board approved four land-use issues. Land Use Administrator Amber Wilson presented business ownership changes, compliance mitigation and a lot swap for a trade with no deed.

Commissioners announced ending Zoom connections for their meetings. But after discussing the issue, they agreed to continue the process for the foreseeable future as COVID-19 continues. Although attending via Zoom saves gas for

some participants, commissioners shared concerns about county employees attending online instead of in-person at the courthouse. Online access allows employees to complete other tasks during the meeting while working from their offices. Yet they can’t do other work in the meeting room. While they weigh pros and cons, commissioners agreed to ask Zoom participants to identify themselves when they join the meeting.

Commissioners scheduled working sessions for next week and interviews with candidates for the open County Attorney and Social Services Director positions.

CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

By TRISH GILBERT

Saguache County Clerk-Recorder

Heavy Vehicle Use Tax (HVUT)

SAGUACHE COUNTY — Heavy Vehicle Use Tax (HVUT) is assessed by the Federal Internal Revenue Service on a fiscal-year basis. The taxes collected are used to fund national highway construction and maintenance of public roads. The Federal government passed a law in 1982 that requires all states to verify payment of HVUT prior to initial registration or when renewing motor vehicle registrations.

Failure to require this proof of payment could result in the State of Colorado losing up to 25% of our Federal Highway Funds.

Heavy Vehicle Use Tax (HVUT) payments are transferable when a vehicle is sold. The new purchaser will need a copy of the IRS Tax form 2290 with the specific vehicle

identification number listed in order to credit the payment acknowledgment to their registration record.

Qualifying Vehicles HVUT will be required on the following vehicle types:

All Trucks
Gross weight of 55,000 pounds and over.

Empty weight of vehicle, plus the maximum weight of the load that can be carried.

All Truck-Tractors
Combined gross weight of 55,000 pounds and over.

Empty weight of truck-tractor, plus. The empty weight of trailer, plus. The maximum weight of the load that can be carried.

Buses
Most buses are exempt from HVUT

Gross weight of a bus is its actual unloaded weight plus 150 pounds for each seat provided for passengers and driver.

All city, county and state are not required to pay the HVUT fees.

Questions concerning the eligibility

of certain vehicles may be directed to the following

office by walk-in or phone:
Internal Revenue Service, 1999 Broadway, Denver, CO 80202, 303-446-1675.



Refuse to Settle for Less Than God Has for You

Many years ago, when God gave me a revelation of His promise for my life in John 10:10, it was literally life-changing. The truth that Jesus came “that they may have life, and have it to the full” (NIV) gave me a determination to no longer settle for just barely getting by in my everyday life.

As I became more serious about my relationship with God and discovered how to really “do life” with Him, the more I experienced the peace and joy that only Jesus can give. And it made me passionate about helping others take hold of everything God has for their lives, too.

So many people are hurting, struggling to find joy, peace and fulfillment. They’re missing out on the good plan God has for them because they don’t know that He wants them to have life in Christ “to the full” now, in this life. Sadly, many who get this realization often settle for less than God’s best because it requires determination and diligence to get there.

Hard Things Can Bring Good Results

These days, with all the modern technology we have, it’s easy to be lazy and expect to just glide through life. Some people don’t have the tenacity to press through challenges because so much of life is automated and convenient.

I remember when simply making a phone call required some effort. And when I first started studying the Bible and teaching, it was quite a job to put even one message together because we didn’t have the Internet to get all of our information from.

We like things to be easy, but when things are too easy, it isn’t necessarily good for us because we lack perseverance and determination to press through them. When hard times and challenges come (and they will come),

we will need to do some pressing or we’ll give up.

Never Give Up!

When I talk about “pressing,” what I mean is we have to press against the pressure that’s coming against us, holding us back from doing what God is leading us to do. For example, maybe you’ve experienced rejection, betrayal, abandonment, injustices, discouragement or disappointment. You need to forgive someone, but it feels impossible to do it and move on.

In His Word, God says, “If you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Matthew 6:15 NIV). And in John 13:34, Jesus says, “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” Romans 12:21 clearly says, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

You may be thinking, “Joyce, it’s too hard. You don’t know what they did to me!” I understand. And I know it’s not easy to press through your pain and fear to do what God is showing you to do. It took time and determination for me to forgive my father for abusing me and my mother for knowing about it but not having the courage to get me out of that situation. But God helped me to do it, and ultimately, it set me free to move forward in His call on my life to minister to people all over the world.

Press Past Feelings and Put Your Trust in God

The key to getting your breakthrough is making a determined decision to press past the pain of feelings and do what you know you should do even while you’re hurting. In other words, you can’t wait until you feel like doing what is right.

God wants you to move forward in His plan for your life. But the only way you are going to do that is by starting now to do what you need to do, the things you’ve been putting off because you don’t feel like doing them. Choose

Moving Up Higher
with
Joyce Meyer



to believe that by God’s grace and with His help, you can do what you know in your heart you should do, not just what feels good.

If you’re struggling with this, let me encourage you. Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose...]” (AMP). And 2 Peter 1:3 (NIV) says that God’s “divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”

Whatever your challenge may be—getting out of debt, strengthening your marriage, pursuing a new job, getting in better physical health, etc.—God’s grace can empower you to do it. Ask Him to help you. Trust Him to be with you, and start taking steps of faith, doing what you know you can do today. Press on to the great things Jesus came to give you!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-CD series *Pressing In and Pressing On*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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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."

Vigil stated that his stocking schedule will begin sometime in late spring, early summer and will consist of 10-inch rainbow trout. The schedule for the west end of the San Luis Valley will remain pretty much the same as previous years and will begin around May.

Big Meadows reservoir will be restocked every two weeks beginning

around May 15. This is one of the area's favorite locations for anglers of any experience. It is located on Forest Service Road 410 just outside of South Fork along Highway 160 and Wolf Creek Pass. This reservoir is easily accessible, and anglers can fish offshore or by boat.

Beaver Creek will also be stocked every two weeks beginning in mid-

May and is located on County Road 360 about 10 miles from South Fork. This reservoir is also easily accessible and is a great location to snag salmon.

On the way to Beaver Creek, anglers can veer off County Road 360 toward Millions Reservoir and find a quiet, small lake that is stocked beginning in June and continuing every two weeks until

late fall. This location is great for small rainbow trout and is fairly easy to access. This lake is great for a small raft or canoe, but shore fishing is best. Anglers must park in the parking lot and walk about a third of a mile to reach the lake.

Tucker Ponds will be stocked beginning in July, right around the time that South Fork Visitor Center and CPW host their annual Youth Fishing Clinic. The ponds are located on Pass Creek Road

that is about 20 miles up Wolf Creek Pass. These ponds offer the perfect location for little anglers wanting to learn the fundamentals of fishing.

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.



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell
Big Meadows and Millions Reservoirs are two of the many locations on the west end of the Valley which offer great fishing opportunities for anglers of all experiences.

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1A

16, but it would have been their first time on the court. Instead, it was the first official day of practice, and they rescheduled to play two games this week. They have enough players for two teams. The high school teams are in season already.

Next, Hunt presented a breakdown of athletes from MVS and Moffat schools. About 20 years ago, the schools combined forces to field a football team. Programs have evolved since then to include other sports. Hunt's presentation showed data from 2019 to the present.

In general, participation has increased. But fewer boys in Saguache register to compete. To augment the pool, Hunt said new rules allow eighth-graders to train with varsity teams twice a week.

Attending virtually, Board member Lisa Hammel asked, "Can we have track in Saguache this year?"

Hunt listed equipment to acquire, for example, starting blocks and a high jump pit. Although some of it is weathered, equipment in Moffat may be useful. Hunt volunteered to investigate possibilities.

More than 17 miles separate the schools, which presents challenges for sharing facilities and equipment. Basketball teams wait in Moffat while teams play games on the single court. Meanwhile, two new gyms in Saguache sit unused. Scheduling

referees and traveling between towns are not feasible.

The next abbreviated season starts on March 8 — high school volleyball. Wrestling season also starts, but no one signed up from either school district. On March 22, middle schoolers will begin wrestling and volleyball.

Principal Kathy Hill described last week's parent-teacher conferences. Parents made appointments to meet in-person or virtually. She said it was good to see families come to the school, and many preferred to be in the building.

In the future, Hill suggested spreading the conferences over two weeks instead of two nights in one week. Teachers still need to make lesson plans and prepare while maximizing time for students.

On a general note, based on 2020, Hill described difficulty supporting online students. She wondered how many will stay home next year, even after vaccinations reach a majority of people.

"We don't want to lose those kids," Hill said. "We need to give them the time and support they need, especially the younger students."

On Feb. 25, the high schoolers will head to Creede for a day off campus and take a mine tour. Also during the week, the entire middle school will design their own sleds

and snowshoes to try out at Buffalo Pass Campground.

The third quarter ends on March 11, followed by spring break on March 15.

Superintendent Garoutte presented a Hazardous Weather Rubric for making decisions for snow days and delayed starts. Modeled after a decision matrix from La Veta, Garoutte's plan is a point system for ranking different parts of the decision.

If all the students lived in Saguache, planning would be easier. But Garoutte said some come from the top of Poncha Pass, Alamosa, Crestone, South Fork and Del Norte. Travel conditions vary throughout the Valley. So "road conditions" is one category in the decision matrix. Garoutte demonstrated how he accesses road cameras to evaluate conditions in different areas.

Starting between 4 and 5 in the morning, Garoutte examines roads and tracks snow accumulation using the National Weather Service website. His matrix also considers wind speed, temperatures and current visibility.

If the Moffat, Center and Sargent school districts close, Garoutte's matrix factors combinations of one, two or all three of them closing.

"This takes guesswork out of the process," Garoutte explained. "It's never going to be perfect, but it allows us to explain our decision."

SARGENT SCHOOL DISTRICT IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

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Varsity Head Track Coach

Substitute Teachers

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Please see FISHING on Page 6A



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San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2021-2021

Girls

Sanford 48	Sangre de Cristo 37
Center 34	Sargent 30
Centauri 88	Montezuma-Cortez 23
Center 45	Trinidad 38
Alamosa 34	Bayfield 11
Sanford 65	Holly 6
Sangre de Cristo 57	Antonito 15
Sierra Grande 57	Centennial 46
Monte Vista 45	Trinidad 38
Sargent 44	Swink 33
Cotopaxi 49	Centennial 17
Sierra Grande 68	Creede 32
Center 54	Calhan 53
Sanford 44	Fowler 42
Monte Vista 54	Gunnison 38
Centauri 53	Pagosa Springs 48

Boys

Sanford 52	Sangre de Cristo 42
Center 55	Sargent 19
Centauri 76	Montezuma-Cortez 49
Sanford 49	Holly 31
Alamosa 43	Bayfield 36
Sangre de Cristo 60	Antonito 24
Sierra Grande 73	Centennial 43
Monte Vista 47	Del Norte 31
Swink 60	Sargent 41
Cotopaxi 68	Centennial 46
Creede 62	Sierra Grande 45
Center 63	Calhan 60
Del Norte 59	Custer County 49
Peyton 33	Sanford 28
Centauri 44	Pagosa Springs 32
Gunnison 61	Monte Vista 50
Center 61	Trinidad 30

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Local business launches body and home botanical line with a mission

By REBECCA COPLEY

DEL NORTE — Wendi's Good Things Market, has recently introduced a body and home care line, called, "Noel Botanicals."

Owner and founder of Wendi's Good Things Market, Wendi Seger shared with Valley Publishing what inspired them to create this new product line.

Seger shared that when their daughter Noelle was born 11 weeks early in 2002, they both barely survived the experience.

"She was really tiny," Seger said. "She was born really early, and it affected her learning. She had a lot of difficulties in school but what she lacks in her ability in school she really picked up with amazing abilities with animals, insects, and birds."

Seger said that Noelle was the complete inspiration behind this skin care line saying, "We've always said if we could bottle up her ability to just really commune with nature and to find such beauty in simple surroundings it would change the world."

The new Noel Botanical line is a family venture, and their entire family is involved in the making of the products, packaging, and shipping. Seger shared this is not the first time she's done skin care. Twenty-five years ago, she had a business selling homemade soap called, "Seger's Soaps." Today they've reworked an outbuilding on their farm to create a small production facility in Del Norte.

Currently the new product line offers, scent diffusers, soap, hand cream, and body cream. They plan on releasing more products in the future.

"We plan on rolling out different products quite regularly," Seger said. "Definitely seasonally. We'll also do candles. We plan on expanding quite a bit."

They use as much all-natural ingredients as possible in their products.

"We use high-quality ingredients. It's also really important to us to use high-quality ingredients that are non-toxic," said Seger.

A portion of their revenue from the line will also go toward experiential learning opportunities in nature for children and young adults with different learning styles.

"I think one of the things we found for Noelle is that there was not a lot of, in the Valley at least, different experiential learning for kids that don't learn like other kids do. They have the ability to learn, they just learn differently. So, we feel like there's a huge gap in the Valley for experiential learning. Hands on, for kids that really use their senses to learn. So, being able to help fund programs that support that is really important," said Seger adding, "Right now we're learning what there is. We would really like to fund programs that are in the San Luis Valley just because there's such a need here. Perhaps as we get larger, we could donate elsewhere but our heart is really in the Valley, giving to programs in the Valley."

Noel Botanical products are available at Wendi's Good Things Market located inside Seger's restaurant Locavores in Alamosa. They can also be found online at <https://wendismarket.com/collections/body-care>.

They are in the process of wholesaling their products to other stores across the country.

"Our intention is to grow it outside the Valley. I think we continue to be as owners of Locavores, and the



Courtesy photos

The New Noel Botanicals body and home care line from Wendi's Good Things Market.

Market, and now this brand, a real advocate for creating products in the Valley and exporting them out. Not just agriculture, but we have a lot of creativity and ideas here in the Valley and instead of us only being consumers of things we really like the idea of creating products that are exported out of the Valley. Then that income stays in the Valley," said Seger.

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.

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Mountain Lighthouse and Boutique celebrates 13 years in business

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — Mountain Lighthouse and Boutique owner Glynn Polter is pleased to announce that the once small business will be celebrating 13 years in South Fork. Polter moved to the South Fork area with her husband and now town Manager Dan Hicks in search of a place to vacation 17 years ago. It wasn't but four years later that they made their second home their only home and moved to South Fork full-time.

"We were looking for a place to vacation and to build a second home and we wanted mountains. I think it was the gorgeous Rio Grande Club Golf Course and the Gold Medal waters that did it for us. We built our second home and that was it. We both had corporate jobs and when we decided to retire,

we moved here full-time and that was when I opened the store," said Polter.

Polter and Hicks both came out of retirement when they moved to South Fork fulltime, Hicks went to work for the town and Polter decided she wanted to keep working as well so she opened her Mountain Lighthouse.

"In 2007, 2008, I got into lighting and home décor, so I decided to open a shop," Polter said. "Things were good for the first few years. People were building in the area and came to me with their lighting and home needs, but then things switched and those were some hard years."

Polter stated that she was not about to let that stop her from keeping her business afloat.

See **BOUTIQUE** on Page 10



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Simple Foods Market owner David Kephart and his wife Laura are pleased to announce that the market is open and ready for the community. The small grocery store opened last week in Del Norte so be sure to come by and welcome them to the area.

Simple Foods opens doors

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — A new business has hit the streets of Del Norte and has quickly become the talk of the town. Simple Foods Market opened its door last week, welcoming excited patrons to the new establishment. The small-town market offers a healthy, organic alternative that has been sorely missed in the area since the Organic Peddler closed its doors several years ago.

David and Laura Kephart spent the last seven months moving their 18-year-old business to the Del Norte area and opened the doors last week to the community.

"We opened last Monday, and it has been great so far. We are working on stocking shelves and look forward to offering more services, like our artisan deli once we are fully stocked," said David Kephart.

Kephart and his wife started their

business in Salida and after 18 years in the community and struggling to compete with a larger health-food chain, decided to close their doors just days before the pandemic hit.

"It was kind of perfect timing. We decided to close just three days before the pandemic hit which would have caused us to close anyway. Everything just worked out really smoothly for us and it has been great," said Kephart.

It was at this time that friend and fellow business owner Jessica Lovelace told the Kephart's about

Everything from fresh produce to organic and locally sourced merchandise, Simple Foods Market in Del Norte has all your needs and if you can't find what you're looking for, just ask because special orders are available.



Mr. Washington

Lee Trevino has a street named after him in El Paso. Abraham Lincoln has a town named after him in Nebraska. Monty Montana has his namesake state and I've even got some hills named in my honor in South Dakota. But there is one feller who left his mark all over these United States. He's got more towns and cities and counties and streets and states named after him than anyone else. An ex-president. No, not Jimmy Carter. It's ol' George Washington.

I've noticed in most every town of any size there's a Washington Street or Washington Avenue. I dug out my Rand McNally and looked. Thirty-one states have Washington counties. I found nineteen states that have cities called Washington, not counting Washington, D.C. Of course, we have Washington state.

From what I recall from my dusty history books, ol' George was a modest man. They



BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

wanted to make him a king but he refused. They wound up making him first in a long line of presidents. I'm sure there's a Fidel Castro Boulevard in Havana. They probably

had to twist Fidel's arm to let 'em name it after him. We have a whole raft of politicians who get dams, buildings, airports and other pork barrel projects named after them. They might have even insisted on it. But we've named our hometowns and counties after George because we admired him, not because he suggested it.

It's not regional either. There's plenty of states in the northeast with his moniker; NY, PA, RI, VT, MD and MA. You'd expect it there. But the south is covered with 'em. Too; AL, AR, KY, LA, MS, MO, NC, FL, GA, TN, TX and VA.

In the Midwest, which was still a wilderness when our young fought the battle and ran the British back to London, you can find lots of Washington's. They're in IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, NE, OH, OK, and WS.

And as if that wasn't enough, just to show you his stayin' power he's represented in CO,

ID, OR, UT and the folks in Seattle named their state after him.

Yes sir, he left his mark. But what if his name had been Bum garner or Svenson or Alvarez. We'd probably have still used it. Or what if his opponent in the election primary had won. Every April we'd have to send our checks to our nation's capital on the banks of the Potomac, Dewey, D.C.

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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RGNF hosts groundbreaking ceremony at old Del Norte High School

BY LYNDISIE FERRELL
DEL NORTE — The Upper Rio Grande School District (URGSD) in partnership with Rio Grande National Forest Service (RGNF) held a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, Feb. 4, to mark the beginning of the construction phase of the new RGNF supervisor's office located in the old Del Norte High School building. The project has been underway for some time now after the RGNF accepted the building as a gift from the URGSD two years ago.

The initiative started after the Del Norte School District was approved for the BEST grant to build a new school. During this time, the current school board and several local individuals started a repurposing committee dedicated to finding a way to repurpose the old school buildings rather than having them demolished. In this fashion, the school was able to save an exponential amount of money as well as offer some great opportunities to local organizations including the RGNF.

The groundbreaking ceremony kicked off with keynote speaker and Public Affairs Officer Gregg Goodland who welcomed everyone in attendance. Several key players in the project were attending the ceremony by Zoom as well as a small group of individuals who

were able to attend in person. "I really appreciate everyone taking their time to come out and help us celebrate this very important milestone for us. This is a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of the construction phase of our new supervisor's office and our move from Monte Vista to Del Norte," said Goodland.

Goodland welcomed guests from the URGSD including school board President Neal Walters, board member Bridget Kreutzer, Del Norte Chamber representative Will Kreutzer as well as Superintendent Chris Burr. Others that were not in attendance were members from the RGNF including Tom Malecek Former RGNF Deputy Forest Supervisor, Shoshana Cooper Former acting RGNF Deputy Forest Supervisor, Andrew Peterson Lands and Realty Specialist RGNF Patricia Hesch Regional Land Ownership Adjustment Program Manager who all were instrumental in making it possible for the project to finally get off the ground.

Goodland also recognized those who were attending via Zoom which included, Meg Sullivan Forest Engineer, Doug Wise Regional Engineer, Todd Michael Regional Mechanical Engineer, Roger Pritchett Regional Architect and Christina Schofield Contracting Officer.

"It is a really exciting time for us.



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

RGNF Supervisor Dan Dallas, URGSD Superintendent Chris Burr, Rio Grande Commissioner Gene Glover and Del Norte Mayor Chris Trujillo broke ground at the old Del Norte High School building Thursday, marking the start of construction for the new Rio Grande National Forest Service Supervisor's Office.

This is the final phase of construction for our new supervisor's office. Some real big changes are about to start, and people will see some portions of this building getting blown out and remodeled. It will be really cool. I have set up a webpage that will allow people to track the construction as it moves forward and if you haven't seen that yet, please come visit."

Goodland welcomed RGNF Supervisor Dan Dallas to the podium for a few words, "This has been a long, long process to get to this milestone. It has been a

complex endeavor to do this. Our agency is accustomed to getting bare land and when we said we were being gifted a building, it came as a shock. There was a bunch of perseverance by a whole bunch of people both within and outside our agency but particularly Chris Burr and the school board for just hanging with us."

Burr was the next to speak, "What a wonderful and exciting time for the Del Norte community. This is without question, the second-best groundbreaking that I have attended, the new school being the first. I am

happy to speak on behalf of the current school board, and the previous board for working to make this a reality. Neal Waters, Bridget Kruetzer, Veronica Climey, Keith Brown, Cory Off, Donna Velasquez all played roles to keeping this alive over the years. Thank you all for tireless efforts and faith in this project."

At the end of the ceremony, Del Norte Mayor Chris Trujillo, Chris Burr, Rio Grande District 3 Commissioner Gene Glover and Dan Dallas used shovels to mark the occasion. The remodel is expected to finish in the fall of 2022.

Avalanche dangers increases in San Juan Mountains

BY LYNDISIE FERRELL
WOLF CREEK — Over the past several weeks, the San Juan Mountains have undergone constant change between sporadic snowstorms and warmer temperatures in the high country, these changes have created dangerous avalanche conditions and caution is urged by state and local officials for anyone out in the back country.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has been watching conditions on Wolf Creek Pass and closed Highway 160 three times in the past three weeks in order to conduct avalanche mitigation work. CDOT uses these closures to secure dangerous snow conditions along the Wolf Creek Pass corridor and will remove debris if necessary.

"Wolf Creek Pass is best known for consistently receiving more average snowfall than other passes and ski areas in the state. That claim keeps us (CDOT maintenance crews) on our toes and in the cabs of plows and snow removal equipment," said Wolf Creek Pass Maintenance Supervisor George Hudran.

Hudran and his crew work closely with the Colorado Avalanche Information Center who monitor avalanche conditions throughout the state. Wolf Creek Pass and surrounding San Juan Mountains have received significant snow in a short period of time creating perfect conditions for avalanches to occur.

"The significant and consistent

snowfall also requires CDOT to work very closely with our sister agency the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC). CAIC's forecasters are stationed throughout the state to "read" the snow conditions in the back country and along highways, like U.S. 160 Wolf Creek Pass. The forecasters assist our CDOT maintenance crews with determining if avalanche control operations are required to keep mountain passes safe for the traveling public. The last thing we want is a natural avalanche falling on the highway," continued Hudran.

"Regarding our current highway avalanche conditions along the pass, we've had more than five feet of snowfall since mid-January," he said. "According to our CAIC forecasters, natural avalanches will likely not impact the highway, but for safe measure we will continue to schedule avalanche control missions periodically to prevent any natural slides, so folks need to be prepared for some travel delays if any missions get scheduled."

Extreme caution is advised to anyone seeking outdoor recreation at this time in the region from CAIC and CDOT. According to several sources, avalanches have taken the lives of more than 10 individuals this year, a majority of them experienced back country outdoorsman including experienced skiers and snowmobilers. Dangerous conditions exist in the most unlikely places, often catching those unaware.

If heading out to the backcountry, be prepared! Have proper clothing and equipment including avalanche beacons and survival gear for emergencies. Be sure to check current conditions and if need be, call local officials to receive the

most up to date information and always let someone know where you are going.

For the best source of information about road closures please visit the CDOT website at www.COTrip.org. The public can also

subscribe to the CDOT Alerts system <http://subscription.cotrip.org>. Subscribers can choose to receive alerts via email or text and select specific regions or highways. For backcountry conditions visit www.avalanche.state.co.us.

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~ B.Gullette

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Special enrollment for Connect for Health Insurance Exchange

STAFF REPORT

Coloradans without health insurance will be able to enroll in coverage through ConnectforHealthCO.com between Feb. 8 and May 15. Re-

opening the exchanges is an effort to help uninsured Coloradans connect to affordable coverage, especially those who have lost their jobs during this economic downturn.



Courtesy photos

Historic depot restoration complete

ANTONITO — Full restoration of the historic depot was completed recently when staff from the town of Antonito restored and polished the original wood floors. The building has been preserved with an eye toward keeping it as original as possible.

The Antonito depot was built in 1880 and served for more than 60 years as the junction point for the branch line to Santa Fe, N.M. as well as the San Juan Extension from Alamosa to Durango and Silverton. It provided passenger and express package services and housed the local office of the Western Union telegraph.

It also was the office for railroad freight operations originating or terminating in the Antonito area.

The town of Antonito purchased the depot from Union Pacific in 2006 and has taken steps to preserve the building ever since. The depot was placed on Colorado's Most Endangered Places list in 2007 and declared a save in 2020.

The Denver & Rio Grande Antonito Depot is listed in both the State and National Registers for being a contributing building in the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad San Juan Extension Historic District. It is historically significant for both its

architectural style and elements and in the area of transportation for the important role it played in the operations of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad in the San Luis Valley.

In 2016, CPI, the Town of Antonito and the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area partnered to obtain a State Historical Fund grant for restoration of the depot. Work began in late summer 2016 to repair windows, doors, and woodwork, replace the roof and to rebuild the chimneys.

Schuber-Darden Architects and Empire Carpentry are the able contractors on the project. In 2017, CPI was the recipient of another State Historical Fund grant of \$74,806, matched with \$25,001 in funding from the town of Antonito, to continue exterior rehabilitation.

This phase included stucco repairs, masonry repointing, custom storm windows, and exterior lighting. The rehabilitated depot is now the centerpiece of beautification efforts meant to revitalize the town's downtown district.

The new tenant in the depot is Conejos Clean Water, a regional non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of water resources in the San Luis Valley.

Ash Wednesday service at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

STAFF REPORT
MONTE VISTA — An Ash Wednesday service will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church located at 3rd and Washington streets in Monte Vista at noon on Feb. 17.

The service of imposition of ashes will be conducted by Lay Pastoral Leader Diane Parker. In keeping

with all COVID-19 safety guidelines, the service will be brief with the contactless imposition of ashes.

Each participant will be given a small bag of ashes that can be individually used at the appropriate time in the service. Attendees are asked to wear a mask and follow social distancing recommendations.

Rio Grande Savings and Loan Association changes name

BY REBECCA COPLEY

MONTE VISTA — Rio Grande Savings and Loan Association is changing its name to, "RG Bank."

The establishment has seen a few name changes since it first opened in 1905.

When it originally opened it was called, "Monte Vista Building Association." In 1963 they changed the name to, "Monte Vista Savings and Loan Association."

In 1974 they became, "Rio Grande Savings and Loan Association." And now in 2021, they are changing their name again to, "RG Bank, a Savings and Loan Association." Which they plan to market as RG Bank.

When asked what prompted this new name change President and CEO Shon Davis answered saying, "Many years ago, a savings and loan operated differently than a bank. Over the years, the rules and regulations have changed and now we can offer products and services that a bank can. We want to send that message, that

we can offer products and services you will find at any bank, to our current customers and to the communities we serve."

Davis also made it clear that this new name is strictly for marketing purposes.

"This name change is strictly for marketing purposes," Davis said. "We have not sold. We are not merging. We will remain a mutual form of ownership, there will be no stock issuance."

Davis also shared that customers will still be able to use their existing checks and debit cards. "We will be issuing new debit cards with the new name and logo, but do not have confirmation on the date. Until then, the exist-

ing cards will work. ACH transactions into and out of their account that are set up will also continue to work," said Davis. State rules will require the formal name to be "RG Bank, a Savings and Loan Association," but the shortened RG Bank will be used for marketing purposes.

"Our annual Meeting of Members is Feb. 10," Davis said. "Members have to approve the formal name change at this meeting. Once members approve the name change, we will have to gain State of Colorado approval. However, for marketing purposes, we can begin to use RG Bank quickly and customers and community will begin to see the changes almost immediately."



The new RG Bank logo.

Courtesy photo

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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	4						6	
6		7	2	4			5	
7			9		5	4		3
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	7		5					
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Level: Beginner

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

E	A	R	E	D	A	L	M	A	O	S	L	O		
A	N	U	R	A	T	O	I	L	E	T	T	E	S	
C	O	N	G	R	A	T	U	L	A	T	I	O	N	S
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M	A	S	A		T	A	W			E	A	R	L	S

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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. (3/3)

07 Help Wanted

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)

Center for Restorative Programs seeks: Intensive Wraparound Case Managers (IWCM) will be responsible for providing spe-

cialized case management/wrap-around services and supports; working closely with community partners such as criminal 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 support, collaborate 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. Email resume and cover letter to carey@restorativeprograms.org. (03/10)

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)

Adams State University is looking to hire an Activity Coordinator for our Next 50 Initiative Grant Project. This is a one year, half-time, benefits eligible position with a competitive salary. The primary responsibility of the position is to manage the recruitment, enrollment, develop-

ment and delivery of courses and workshops designed to improve and sustain quality of life for people in their second 50 years. A bachelor's degree with relevant experience is required. For more information, please visit [https://www.adams.edu/hr/administrative-positions/\(02/18\)](https://www.adams.edu/hr/administrative-positions/(02/18))

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 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. (02/24)

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2-Sat 9-5), 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 (03/10)

12 House for Rent

Monte Vista Two Story, Two bath, Two bedroom. \$1200 month plus utilities. \$1200 deposit. 849-1316 (02/24)

17 Real Estate For Sale

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 719-580-0770. (TFN)

36 Miscellaneous

For Sale: 4 Wall Mounted Ventless Heaters and a Plumbers drum Augur. We also have 2 beautiful Pugs for sale. Please call 719-937-3868 for pricing. (01/27)

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South Fork Chamber rides to promote local businesses

Board took the Pronghorn Shuttle from South Fork to Alamosa

STAFF REPORT
SOUTH FORK — The South Fork Chamber of Commerce Board took a ride on Thursday, Feb. 4, on the new Pronghorn Shuttle from South Fork to Alamosa, with the aim of highlighting the newest Chamber member — The Chaffee Shuttle. The company's Pronghorn Shuttle travels from South Fork to Alamosa every Thursday — stopping along the way in Del Norte, Monte Vista, Center, Hooper and Mosca — at a cost of only \$5 per rider.

"It's a great way to get to any of those towns without having to drive," said driver Richard Duran. "If you have a doctor's appointment, need to shop or want to have lunch or even visit a friend, it's inexpensive and convenient."

Duran is more like an Uber driver than a bus driver, catering to passenger's special requests, such as lunch in downtown Alamosa and then shopping at Walmart or getting dropped off and picked up at a doctor's office. He provides riders with his cell phone number so they can call for the

pick-up location and time. The Pronghorn Shuttle is one of several routes through the Chaffee Shuttle, which expanded its routes from Salida and Buena Vista to include San Luis Valley towns. The Pronghorn Shuttle is the newest SLV route.

The South Fork Chamber Board — including administrator Suz Phillip, president L. Van Osdol and board members Ruthanne Johnson and Elizabeth Secor — held its February meeting on the shuttle as a way of supporting and learning more about the service, with the bonus of having a day to shop, eat lunch in Alamosa and conduct Chamber business while taking in the stunning San Luis Valley vistas along the drive.

Van Osdol and Secor ended their ride in Monte Vista, while Phillips and Johnson continued to Alamosa.

"We had a blast," said Johnson, who works as marketing manager at the Rio Grande Club. "Mr. Duran was a

great host, and it was so nice to kick back and enjoy the ride."

Alamosa highlights included Happy Mountain Antiques, Treasure Alley gift store, Alamosa Home and Mattress and Firedworks Gallery, which offers original artwork by local artists.

Johnson and Phillips ate lunch at the Rubi Slipper and happily discovered the restaurant's "Adams State University Special" — two tacos and a cup of green chili for \$5.

"The food was delicious," Johnson said. "We couldn't have had a better Board meeting, or at least one that was so much fun."

Chaffee Shuttle's Pronghorn route travels from South Fork to Alamosa and stops in between each Thursday. The South Fork Chamber of Commerce Board rode the shuttle on Feb. 4.

Courtesy photo



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EDUCATION 2021

SAN LUIS VALLEY PROGRESS



Getting to school in the 21st Century

By PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE COUNTY — Parents throughout the 20th Century repeated variations of an old joke about their youth, allegedly “walking five miles to school in three feet of snow every day — uphill both ways.”

Two decades into the 21st Century, students in Saguache County will benefit soon from the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, a national initiative to rejuvenate walking or “rolling” to school. Parents tend to exaggerate, but statistics show that approximately half the kids from kindergarten through high school walked or biked to school in 1969. The percentage today is much lower.

The health benefits of walking or riding to school extend beyond fitness. No matter how slowly a student moves, riding a bike, scooting, skating or walking count as exercise. Even if they catch a ride in the morning or afternoon, their single trip reduces congestion in the air and streets. The reduced traffic reduces maintenance costs for local governments too. But the big boost in budget health comes from significant state and federal SRTS funding. Savvy planners in Crestone, Saguache and Center recognized their chance to move back-burner trail projects to current work schedules when STRS funds became available.

While the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) drives the SRTS program, the mutual interest among school boards, town boards, county commissioners and trails coalitions generated partnerships to push projects

across the San Luis Valley.

Between Crestone and the Baca Grande, students currently navigate roadways to get to the Crestone Charter School. Considering skimpy shoulders and rapid traffic, a car ride is arguably the safest option along the route today. But once the trail plan is cleared for passage through potentially sensitive archaeological areas, the route will provide more than safety. Separate trails now snake throughout the community, and the SRTS design will enable future connections in all directions.

Across the state, some students prefer to travel alone while others walk or ride in groups. With or without parents, other kids create “walking school buses” and “bicycle trains” for the journey.

While bridges and paths under construction show brick-and-mortar commitment to children, this is only part of their journey today. Unlike students from the 20th Century, kids need Internet access in the house too. Door-to-door limousine rides would still leave an uneven playing field for people who lack the hardware, software and service required to meet online commitments from home. Parking outside laundromats and other free Wi-Fi hotspots is not the same as parking on the couch.

According to data reported in December 2020, the Colorado Department of Education estimated that 15% of students in southwestern Colorado did not have a Wi-Fi-enabled device, and 11% cannot access the Internet from home. In metropolitan areas of the state, by com-

parison, the numbers are 3% and 6%. Statewide averages are 6% and 8%.

Like other school leaders in the Valley, district administrators in Saguache, Center and Mofat tried to connect every student. Mountain Valley School, for example, sought to ensure equitable Internet access by forging a partnership with Cielo, a division within the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative. The company waived installation fees and equipment fees for families without connectivity at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Looking beyond Internet traffic, motorists should expect more student traffic as spring approaches, the footbridge in Center is completed and kids tune up their rides for Bike to School Day on Wednesday, Cinco de Mayo. Colorado celebrates National Bike Month in June while



Photo by Patrick Shea

Crews from the Center Consolidated School District recently set the foundations on both ends of a footbridge, the final phase of construction for the Safe Routes to School project in Center.

the rest of the country devotes all of May for cycling. The first national Bike to School Day dates back to May 9, 2012.

Upper Rio Grande School joins Valley in allowing spectators at sporting events

By LYNDIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — The Upper Rio Grande School District (URGSD) announced recently that they are allowing up to 50 people in to watch sporting events. According to a statement released by Athletic Director Richie Madrid, the school will be allowing two people

per athlete to come and watch games when playing at home.

“CDPHE has stated that we do not need to include players, coaches, officials, and game workers in the 50-person capacity limit. So, with that being clarified by CDPHE, we will

Please see EVENTS on Page 10

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Why should we celebrate National FFA Week?

Each year, FFA chapters around the country celebrate National FFA Week. It's a time to share the story of what FFA is and how FFA is preparing future leaders through agricultural education. Currently, FFA has over 700,000 student members as part of 8,600 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the organization is supported by 8 million+ alumni members throughout the U.S. What better way to show your support of FFA than to get involved in FFA Week? Whether it's in person, on the phone or via social media, be sure to share your FFA stories. #FFAWeek

What are the roots of National FFA Week?



Designated as a national week in 1947, the week of George Washington's birthday, National FFA Week runs from Saturday to Saturday. The week of George Washington's birthday was selected to celebrate the impact he had on agriculture. FFA Week gives FFA members an opportunity to educate the public about agriculture and show their local impact and story. During the week, chapters conduct a variety of activities to help others in their school and community learn about FFA and agricultural education.

How can celebrating National FFA Week support my chapter, school and community?

By celebrating National FFA Week, the local chapter is able to engage all FFA members, students in the local school corporation, administration, faculty and staff, businesses in the community, alumni and supporters to bring awareness of the positive impact FFA and agricultural education has and will have on its members. Sharing each chapter's story only helps to share the positive impact members will have as world-changing future leaders.

Did you know? —

Each year, FFA chapters around the country celebrate National FFA Week. The week-long tradition began in 1947 when the National FFA Board of Directors designated the week of George Washington's birthday as National FFA Week in recognition of his legacy as an agriculturist and farmer. The first National FFA Week was held in 1948. Today, FFA Week always runs Saturday to Saturday and encompasses Feb. 22, Washington's birthday.

associations could perhaps plan special state broadcasts also on that day and that chapters might plan their father and son banquets on the date specified. The idea seemed to meet with general delegate approval and after some discussion it was moved by Stewart that the Board of Trustees arrange for such a day; motion passed."

Reference: www.ffa.org/events/ffa-week/Pages/default.aspx



National FFA Week did not start out as a week-long event. At first it was National FFA Day. The 1933 National FFA Convention proceedings records the beginning of FFA Day in this way: "Stewart of Montana requested the floor at this time to present a matter of general interest. He suggested the idea of having a special Future Farmer Day some time during 1934, preferably on one of the regular national FFA broadcasting days. It was pointed out that the various state




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FEBRUARY IS POTATO LOVER'S MONTH

Each month, the Colorado Department of Agriculture features a different product to highlight the variety and quality of products grown, raised or processed in the state. February is Potato Lover's Month! From well-known varieties such as Russet and Yukon Gold to specialty potatoes like Purple Majesty and French Fingerling, Colorado grows over 70 different varieties of potatoes. Colorado produces more than two billion pounds of potatoes annually, making the state the fifth largest producer in the nation. Avoid potatoes with wrinkled skins, soft dark spots, cut surfaces or a green appearance. All varieties should be uniformly sized, fairly clean, firm, and smooth. Potatoes are gluten free, fat free, sodium free and are high in potassium and Vitamin C. Look for Colorado potatoes at your local grocery store or at restaurants across the state.



There is more to the potato than meets the eye. Potatoes can be more than just French fries or a stuffed baked potato. They provide your body with essential nutrients and their versatility is hard to beat! Explore what the potato has to offer and the different methods of preparation. You may be surprised just how delicious a healthier cooking method may be! Here are some fun facts, nutrition information, and quick cooking tips for potatoes!

A little bit about the potato:

- The Incans in Peru were the first to grow the potato
- The slang term for potato, "spud", come from the spade-like tool that is used to harvest potatoes
- Potatoes were introduced to America in 1621
- There are over 100 different varieties of potatoes

Potatoes are packed with nutrition:

- Good source of potassium and vitamin C
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- High in vitamin B6 which aids in building cells and protects

- your heart
 - Have antioxidant properties
- Delicious, nutritious ways to enjoy potatoes:**
- Roast, steam, microwave or bake potatoes to keep in more nutrients
 - Trade in the salt for olive oil and your favorite herbs and spices to season your potatoes
 - Top your baked potato with turkey or vegetarian chili
 - When preparing potatoes, do not peel the skin off

Reference: <http://sfadiningrd.blogspot.com/2014/02/national-potato-lovers-month.html>



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Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

BOUTIQUE

Continued from Page 1

"I knew that we could change and expand the business because women would still want to buy clothes and jewelry even though the housing market wasn't doing so well, so I expanded and opened the boutique part of the shop," she said.

In the years since, Polter has added to the building subleasing it to renters and consignment artists that sell everything from watercolor paintings to homemade jewelry.

"This past year hasn't been horrible. It hasn't been great, but it hasn't been horrible," Polter said. "I have about 50 artists on consignment and the renters throughout the building, plus the housing market was slammed this year. People really wanted to get out and since they were working remotely in most cases, I think they came here."

Polter said that she was pleased most of all with her return customers. "I have several loyal customers both locally and from out of town.

Even though we don't have an online presence, which I did on purpose, we do complete a lot of shipping for clients," Polter said. "We also started to offer staging for homes that are on the market whether they are rentals or homes for sale, and we do decorating as well for anyone wanting that service. It has worked out wonderfully so far and we have even had some customers purchase the decorations we put in homes, which is great.

"I am very thankful to my summer guests as well as my local customers. We celebrate every anniversary with a sale, and we will be doing that again this year. It will be sometime in June. We try to keep our inventory as unique as possible and if we don't have it, we will help you find it," she said.

The Mountain Lighthouse and Boutique is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at 23 Buck St. in South Fork.

EVENTS

be allowing 50 spectators in the gym for each game. Each player, home and visitor, will be allowed 2 guests. As for Del Norte Staff who would like to watch the game, you will be allowed to watch the game from the commons area where we are allowed to have up to 50 people. Games that are played on the main court will continue to be live streamed on the NFHS Network (nfhsnetwork.com). We will continue to keep you updated on any changes to our capacity level as basketball and wrestling season progresses," wrote Madrid.

This comes as a huge change for the school after the beginning of the 2020/2021 school year when at first it seemed as though the state was not going to allow sporting events for the duration of the school year. Several school officials state-wide gathered and worked with CDPHE to get approval for sports like Volleyball and basketball which only just started a few weeks ago. "We have had massive struggles working with CDPHE to allow basketball this season, so being able to have spectators in the gym was a big win," said URGSD Superintendent Chris Burr.

Burr continued to state that the season has been difficult on players due to the mask mandate that requires players to wear masks during games.

"I am a pro-mask advocate as are many in this district but having athletes wear masks while they play sports seems over the top to me," Burr said. "We will continue to meet state guidelines for the chance to have our students active in sports, but I think that some of the restrictions need to be reconsidered."

Due to the new school in Del

Continued from Page 7 — Norte, the URGSD will also be allowing 50 people to watch games from the front commons room located just outside the gym.

"We are very fortunate here at this district because we have room for more than the allotted 50-person limit. Our commons area has a glass wall separating it from the gym so teachers and staff who wish to come and watch games can do so without taking away from the parents, family and friends that are watching the game in the gym," Burr said.

Some Valley schools are not as fortunate due to the limited space. CDPHE guidelines state that spectators of no more than 50 must be 25 feet away from the nearest player which is triple what is required outside of sporting events when considering the 6-foot rule.

"It's tough. It's tough on students, tough on parents, teachers and staff. We are trying to follow guidelines, but they change rapidly, and it makes it very hard," Burr said.

Superintendent of Monte Vista School District Scott Wiedeman is also allowing spectators at sporting events in accordance with state guidelines.

"We are doing alright so far with basketball this season," Wiedeman said. "We have a boys game, allow 50 people, clean the gym and then host the girl's game. It is a lot of work but it worth it to be able to offer sports for our students."

For more information or to see about attending a sporting event please contact the respective school prior to attending without a previous invitation. The URGSD can be reached at 719-657-4040.

CRT planning for shows in 2021

STAFF REPORT

CREEDE — What a year it has been. Nearly 12 months ago, Broadway dimmed its lights and theatres around the world, including Creede Repertory Theatre, rushed to reimagine performing arts in the time of a pandemic.

Looking ahead to summer 2021, CRT is filled with hope and excitement. While the logistics are still being determined, CRT is collaborating with Silver Thread Public Health District and community partners to create a season that protects the health and wellness of company and patrons; complies with government mandates; and meets the safety standards set by Actor's Equity Association (AEA), the union of actors and stage managers.

CRT will not be moving forward

with the original 2020 Summer Season lineup ("Grounded," "Fully Committed," "The Roommate," "Annie," "Oklahoma!" and "The Importance of Being Earnest"), looking instead toward a season of small-cast plays, cabarets, and more, in various outdoor locations. The season will open later in the summer than usual and likely run a little longer. Details on shows, dates, and performance locations will be announced in the spring.

CRT is scheduled to hold its usual Educational Programming in 2021, including camps, the KID Show, and Young Audience Outreach Tour in the fall. Details will be announced this spring. In the meantime, check out new online content, including Cozy Corner, Craft Time, and Season 2 of The Adventures of Sunny & Blue — something new every weekday.

The process of getting back onstage has been frustratingly slow, but CRT hopes to provide a safe space for artists and patrons to enjoy the artistry, passion, and excitement of creating theatre.

"We're doing our part, but there are factors, like volume of cases in our region and availability of tests, outside of our control," CRT officials stated. "You can help us by wearing a mask, distancing, and following other safety protocols to help keep our community healthy and our theatre open. Thank you for all of your support through this difficult year. We say that this is 'your theatre, always,' because through thick and thin this community has always stood by CRT."

For more information, contact CRT at 719-658-2540 or by visiting its website at www.creederep.org.

SIMPLE

Continued from Page 1

her hotel in Del Norte The Mellow Moon and both David and Laura decided to come down and check out the location.

"It was just kind of a perfect fit and so we started the process of packing everything up and moving," Kephart said.

David and Laura have had a passion for organic, healthy food and supplements for many years beginning with their personal habits.

"We loved a health food co-op in Juno, Alaska that we frequented in our 20s. We also worked for Wild Oats in Albuquerque, New Mexico while we played with the idea of opening our own store. It was something we both developed a passion for. Salida was a

place we really enjoyed visiting and that was where we decided to start our business," said Kephart.

The new store will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the possibility of extended hours come summer. While the Kephart's are waiting for their stock to come in they will be preparing to open their artisan deli which will feature artisan sandwiches, fresh greens, soups, curries and coffee options.


"This is a mom-and-pop business and fits perfectly in the small-town setting," Kephart said.

Simple Foods Market also offers locally sourced products from several area businesses, including Laz Ewe 2 Bar Goat Dairy, Grande Premium

Meats, Sol Mountain Farm, Gosar Sausage and many more. Many of these products are already on the shelves with much more coming as produce comes into season.

"We have worked with many of these companies over the years and now we can almost cut out the middle-man because now we are so close. It has been great to finally meet the people behind our products," Kephart said.

The store has a homey feel with amazing scents floating through the air and a quiet ambiance that makes shopping peaceful and enjoyable. Come by and greet the new business owners and grab some organic and healthy merchandise.



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HVCC celebrates Fabulous Friday activities

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Happy new month! With the new month comes a change in our Fabulous Friday activities. All of February, we will be playing outside in the snow. All HVCC kiddos who attend on Fridays will be enjoying snow activities from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is going to be chilly, so make sure that children bring their warmest clothes. Lunch and fun activities await the kiddos at HVCC when they return. Snow activities are subject to change every Friday. Basketball for co-ed K-2 grades and boys' 3-6 grades is coming to a close. Next Thursday, Feb. 11, will be the final session for those groups. Girls' 3-4 and 5-6 grades will start on Feb. 9 and will continue until March 5. Third-fourth grade girls' sessions are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-6 p.m. and the 5-6 grade girls' sessions will follow from 6-7 p.m. Information regarding the basketball skill-building sessions is located on the HVCC website. In closing, we would like to share this week's theme, "Having a Positive Attitude." The kiddos were given positive thoughts to consider such as, "I am smart" and "I am liked." They were also prompted to respond with something positive they knew about themselves.



We are also happy to report this week's group of Breaking News children. Ms. Toni recognized Mariah for being a great helper during the painting activity, Ms. Brisa acknowledged Preston for being very respectful at basketball practice and for leading his team and Ms. Carla was impressed that Damon G. helped clean up all the balls outside without being asked. Thank you, kiddos for demonstrating ethics and good citizenship. Keep up the good work!



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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
181 Doe Circle • South Fork

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LOOK IMPROVED PRICE!

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

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SOLD

New Listing! Golf Course Living at its finest!

- 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
6827 Snead Ln • South Fork

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Everything you could want from mountain living!

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

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
104 Explorer Way • South Fork

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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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SOLD

You won't believe your eyes! Stunning Views, Lots of Wildlife!

- 3 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 2,900 sq. ft. • **\$549,000**

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

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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!

MLS#772014 • 193 Whispering Pines Drive
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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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