

Shorts



## Moffat School District staff expanding

**BY PATRICK SHEA**  
**MOFFAT** — The Moffat School District added a member to the board, designated a Dean of Students and announced two new positions during their meeting Jan. 18.

Kathy Garcia will become the Dean, and the board officially swore in new member Bill Eastman. During her report, Superintendent Sarah White described a multi-year literacy program funded by the Colorado Department of Education.

“I’m super excited about the Early Literacy Grant that we were awarded in the amount of almost \$500,000,” White said. “It’s going to allow us to hire a literacy coach and an interventionist.”

The grant covers four years and can be extended if the program shows success. Part of the Colorado READ Act, the early literacy program is designed to have students reading at their grade level by the time they reach the third grade. In addition to hiring two new staff members, White said the school will receive resources, training and the services of an external reading consulting company to help create a literacy plan for the whole school.

Later in the meeting, White said the school district might receive more money in response to this unusual school year. After the October enrollment count, legislators acknowledged the drop in numbers across Colorado and drafted a proposal to increase the per-pupil by \$44.

Serving as secretary and treasurer of the board, Dan Hart said the current operating budget is approximately \$11,000 more than the adopted budget. He reported a balance of \$25,467 for the rest of the year.

Since the school will be closed on Presidents’ Day, the board will meet Feb. 22.



# Rio Grande Water Conservation Conservation Board rejects proposal

**BY PATRICK SHEA**  
**SAN LUIS VALLEY** - More than 40 people attended the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) quarterly board meeting Jan. 19 to hear updates from managers, approvals from the board and detailed discussions of water export issues.

Before the meeting, John Mattingly shared his buy-and-bank proposal with board members and sought their reactions. For almost an hour,

the board listened to Mattingly and identified different flaws in the idea.

“This is not really a water export proposal,” Mattingly said. “It’s a bank-and-withdraw. Given that the Valley could use some assistance in restoring the sustainability of the aquifer, it seems to me that there’s enough capital and there’s enough will on the eastern slope to be a partner with the Valley in that restoration project.”

Board member Cory Off spoke

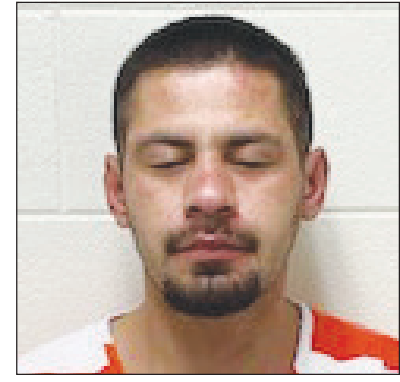
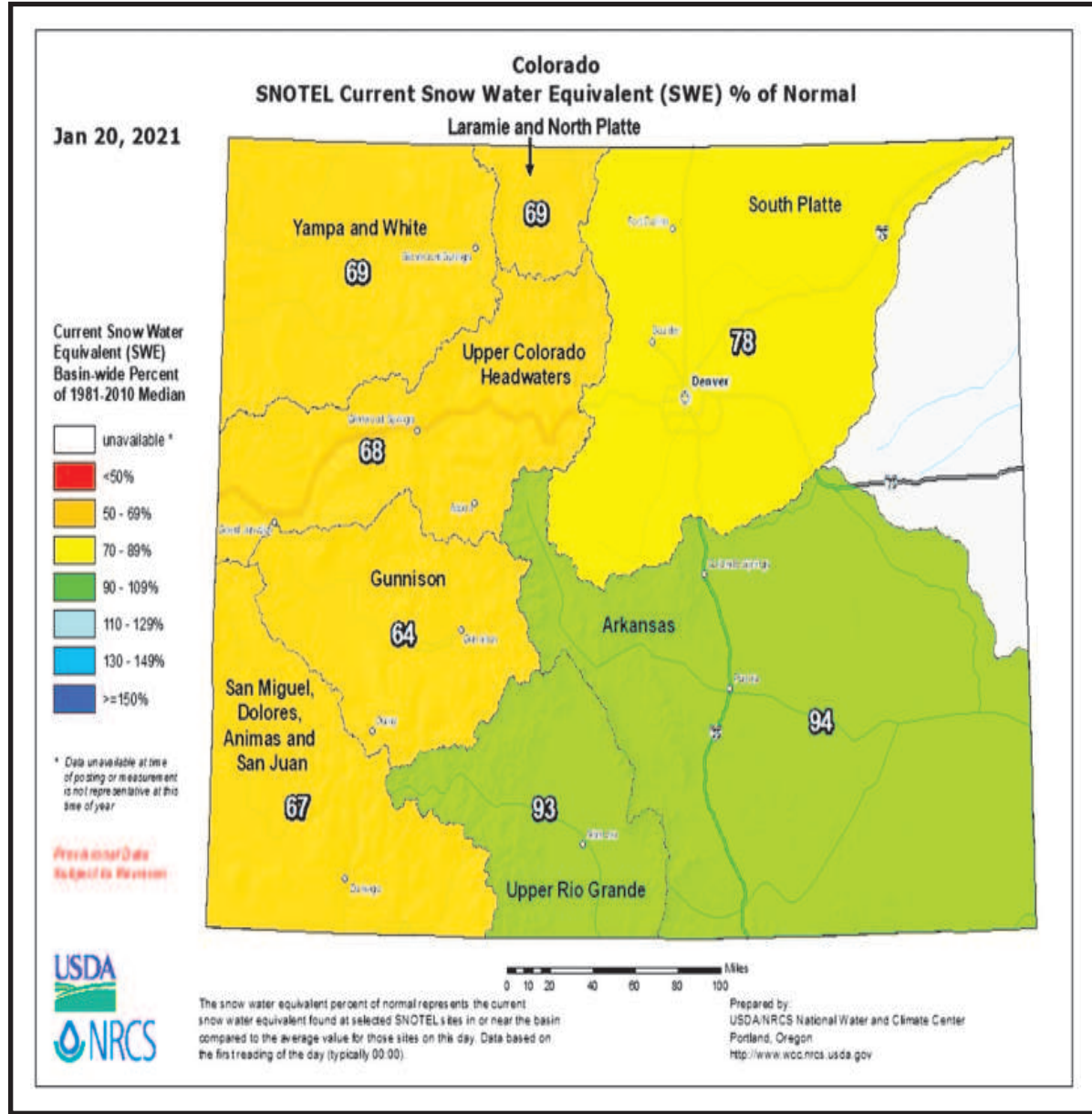
first against the proposal. He said he felt hopeful that the commission would explore the motivations of people who want to export water out of the Valley, something he thinks will help prepare the board for the future. But the concept itself sounded incomplete to him.

Offering views from the southern end of the basin, Armando Valdez favored studying the banking concept within the subdistricts. But he added, “I have fears that if we ever

facilitate water banking and taking water outside of the basin that opens up a whole new level of flow that we don’t currently have right now. And I would not want to be part of that kind of proposal.”

Mike Kruse followed by challenging Mattingly’s characteristic of agricultural economics. “I disagree with your premise, John that the water has a higher value in the city and that

Please see **WATER** on Page 6A



C. J. Walter Dominguez



Julius Anthony Baroz

## Two more arrests in Conejos body case

**ALAMOSA**—Two Alamosa men have been arrested in connection with the investigation involving human remains located in the San Luis Valley in late 2020, while Adre Baroz faces additional charges in the case, according to the Southern Colorado Law

Please see **ARRESTS** on Page 6A

# San Luis Valley COVID update

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** - The SLV COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Task Force held their weekly Tuesday coordination meeting today. Local vaccine providers report that the number of people currently eligible and wanting to be vaccinated, especially those age 70 and above, exceeds the vaccine available. Providers are doing their best to get additional vaccines. The State is not currently able to completely fill every request based on limited supplies. Please be patient, as it will take time to move through each of

the vaccination phases. Providers are working together in an effort to make vaccines available to cover scheduled vaccination events.

The administration of second vaccination doses has begun. Plan to get your second dose from the same provider where you got the first one. If it is getting close to the time for your second dose and you have not heard yet when and where to get it, you can contact the provider listed on the vaccination card that was given to you.

Adams State University held a successful community testing event over the weekend. Testing helps with early identification for those who need to isolate or quarantine to prevent the spread. Testing events also help keep our region’s positivity rate low. The San Luis Valley’s positivity rate is 3.36%. Our goal is to keep the positivity rate under 5%.

There are currently 199 known active cases of COVID-19 in the San Luis Valley.

- Alamosa County - 117
- Conejos County - 15
- Costilla County - 3
- Mineral County - 5
- Rio Grande County - 50
- Saguache County - 9

More information about our active case counts, dial status, capacity restrictions at each level, as well as other San Luis Valley COVID information, can be found on the SLV Public Health Partnership website at <https://www.slvphp.com/slv-regional-covid-dial/>.

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# OBITUARIES

## Ellen Faye Jones, 99

Ellen Faye Jones passed away on Jan. 7, 2021, after a blessed 99 years of life. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Stephen Tisdal Jones, and siblings Era, Lelon, Marie, Jessie and Mary Ethel. She is survived by her sister, Doris Hales, two daughters, Tisa Wiens and Teri Burnett, and three granddaughters, Jennifer Clutter, Carissa Gariss and Chelsea Vigil. She is also survived by five great-grandchildren, Stephen who is named after his great-grandfather, David, Dustin, Isaiah and Lukas.

Ellen was born on Dec. 11, 1921, to parents, Luke Daniel and Hattie Jones-Daniel in Walters, Oklahoma. Ellen went to work at Fort Sill Air Force Base when WWII broke out. During this time, she got her pilot's license, something she was very proud of. Her sister, Doris, recalls that after Ellen went to work at Fort Sill, Ellen was blessed with an income that allowed her to joyfully share with her parents and siblings. Doris also recalls that being 10 years younger than Ellen, she learned to tell time by watching the clock waiting for Ellen to come home from school.

In 1948, Ellen moved to Cordell where she got a job working for Rural Electric Association. She met Tisdal not long after moving to Cordell. Ellen loved to tell the story of Tisdal asking one day while working at Thornton's Drugstore, if he could help her with anything and she asked if he "had anything for homesickness." That started the love story of Tis and Ellen, and they were married shortly after this, July 25, 1949, in Cordell. Tisdal and Ellen honeymooned in Creede, Colorado, where Tisdal had vacationed with his parents most of his life.

While living in Cordell, Ellen assisted in Tisdal's medical clinic. Additionally, the couple were very active in the community, were proud supporters of the Republican Party, active members of the Methodist Church, belonged to the local bowling leagues and hosted many bridge parties. They were avid Sooner fans and attended football games as often as they could. Tis and Ellen anxiously looked forward to their annual two-week vacations to Creede.

Because of the couple's love of Creede, they moved there in the mid-1970s. During their time in Creede, they loved to snow-ski, fly fish, and entertain their beloved Oklahoma visitors. While in Creede, they also opened the Mineral County Health Clinic, where Tisdal



perfected his skill at removing fishing hooks from various body parts, and Ellen assisted in minor surgeries, insurance billing and greeting patients that Tis and Ellen grew to love.

In 1983, due to the high altitude in Creede, they moved to Sun City, Arizona where they continued their active lifestyle by golfing, dancing and playing tennis. They were active members of the United Methodist Church in Sun City. After Tisdal's death in 1988, Ellen remained active in the Sun City community. She volunteered with Meals-on-Wheels, served on the communion committee at her church, attended biweekly aerobics classes and took ballroom dancing lessons.

In 2008, Ellen moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to live with Tisa. In Albuquerque, Ellen and Tisa, enjoyed going dancing at the local country dance palace, attending Calvary Church, and going to lunch and shopping. She also loved her annual trips with Teri and Tisa to warm and sunny locales including six trips to Maui and trips to Huntington Beach, San Diego and Laguna Beach, California.

Ellen will be remembered for her devotion and love of her family, love of sports, quick wit, great generosity, honesty and impeccable fashion sense.

Ellen's Memorial Service and a true celebration of her life will be held Friday, Jan. 15, 2021 at 1 p.m. at the Lawnview Cemetery

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Please see **MORE OBITUARIES** on Page 6A

## Juan Antonio Sandoval, Jr.

Juan Antonio Sandoval, Jr. passed away peacefully in his home in El Paso, Texas on Jan. 3, 2021. He was born Jan. 7, 1946 in Monte Vista, Colo.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Juan A. Sandoval, Sr., his mother, Isidora M. Sandoval (née Sanchez); and his sisters, Neva, Felima, Evila, Nora and Rebecca. He is survived by his sisters Loni, Liz, and Gloria; his brothers Daniel and Carlos; and dozens of nieces and nephews.

Juan graduated from North Denver Public High School and earned his undergraduate degree from Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado. He worked as a social worker, travelling throughout the San Luis Valley before pursuing a career as a librarian, earning his Master of Library Science at the University of Denver.

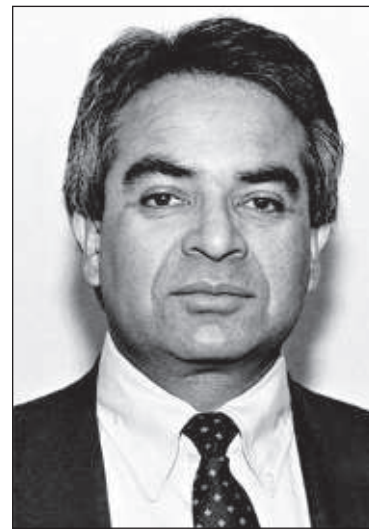
He moved to Eugene, Ore. in the early 1980's, then to El Paso, where he became a valued fixture at the University of Texas at El Paso library, guiding thousands of

students throughout the years as he helped them expand their minds, and more importantly to him, their souls and spirits. One of the best indications of the impact he had on the lives of the students is that former students would send their children to look him up when they went to the university to help shepherd them into adulthood.

He was a passionate patron of the arts, amassing what many call the most extensive and important collection of Hispanic art in the Southwest. His artistic legacy lives on at the Mexic-Arte museum in Austin, Texas, where he generously donated his entire collection where it is currently being exhibited. His true legacy lives on in the hearts of those who were fortunate to know him.

Juan's ashes will be interred next to his parents in Monte Vista.

Please visit the Juan Sandoval Memorial Facebook group page to share stories and pictures of Juan as we virtually celebrate his life. When it is safe to do so, probably this fall, the family will organize a



memorial fiesta in El Paso where we will gather and laugh, cry, hug, dance, and sing in honor of this remarkable man who touched so many lives.

He would appreciate any donations in his name to the Mexic-Arte Museum, 419 Congress Ave Austin, TX 78701 (512)480-9373 info@mexic-artemuseum.org



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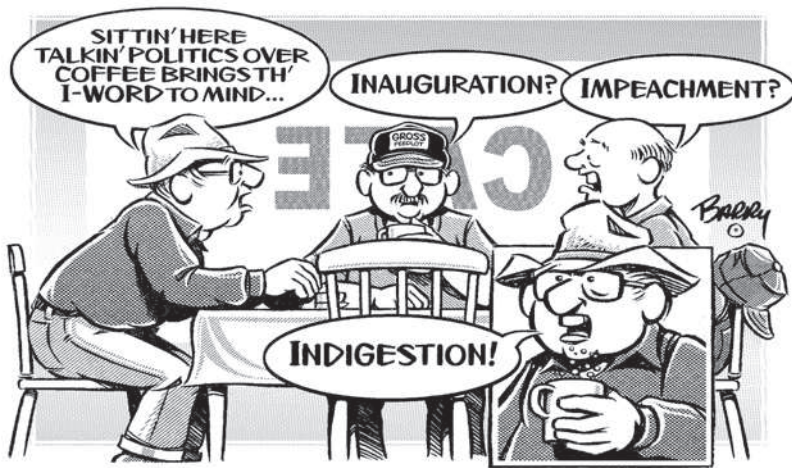


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# OPINION & EDITORIAL



## Tiny homes are all the rage

I am sure you have noticed all the news and advertising about the new rage in housing called tiny homes. These are usually cute as a button small boxes on trailers that can be moved about anywhere you can get a truck and you can set up housekeeping quickly. If you are unfamiliar with these new fangled constructs of tiny dimensions, they are a house in a box with all the comforts of a house albeit on a tiny scale. Usually the bed is in a loft over the sink which is next to toilet/shower combination that folds out into a breakfast table with a camping stool for seating. Everything is neat and orderly and the pictures make them look amazing.



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

That reminds me of the man who went out to a restaurant to eat dinner and after perusing the menu and the gorgeous looking meals ordered one. When it came it didn't look anything like the picture of course and all he could say was "My compliments to the photographer." We all have been there, done that. I am not sure where the fast food joints get their advertising pics but the flat stale sandwich, I get from them looks nothing like the menu item as pictured.

But back to the tiny homes, they are really kind of neat in a way. There are even some near South Fork that you can rent nightly and people seem to enjoy that.

Ol' Dutch has watched this phenomenon grow by leaps and bounds and the most amazing thing to me about that is the way that marketing has made these the must have item so quickly. People of every stroke seem to want to have one now.

One of my wealthy relatives goes on and on talking about how she would love to live in one but I have noticed she has two massive houses and enough "stuff" to fill a warehouse of massive proportions. This is the same person that says she just could not ever have a camper even for just the summer as they are "too small."

That my friends is the power of advertising as most of the RV's that I see on the road today are twice as big as a tiny home and the toilet is even separate from the kitchen unlike these new contraptions which also include a not so tiny price tag.

Having said all that Miss Trixie and I are fast approaching our ninth year of living butt-cheek-to-butt-cheek in an RV. We started out that way so it was not like we went from having space to bumping into one another overnight but it's been OK and if more marriages would start that way, I am sure there would be, well, more divorces.

There is nothing like having to share a one-butt-kitchen with your beloved and it takes a two-step-tango most days to keep from meeting in the small hallway and having a corn field derailment. That's where the locomotive on a train takes a sudden detour into Mr. O'Malley's Green Giant corn patch. Never a good thing. Of course, a lot of the success of this living arrangement and lack of a wreck of massive proportions can be attributed to Ol' Dutch's stunning personality, easygoing nature, handsome good looks, quiet and unassuming self.

With that last statement I will close for this week and request that you send me recommendations for a good optometrist as Miss Trixie has this terrible eye rolling affliction every time, I open my mouth. I wonder if contacts can fix that.

*Kevin Kirkpatrick and his yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV of hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com or on Twitter at TroutRepublic*

## The loss of a great friend

My great friend Juan left us right before his Jan. 7 birthday. He would have a real comment about the intro sentence, left us right.

Mourning in the darkness, I have yet to run out of many unhappy times. We became friends in 1967 and remained so. I commented to him right after he was forced to move to a place without stairs that I can't remember when we weren't friends. It was a long time.

"Somehow, we survived," he said. Having no love for the government, he believed we would all be killed.

I'm still here, Juan, and I mourn losing you,

You were my buddy, confidante and once in a while, source of irritation.

Our last phone call was right before the pandemic, when he had donated his extensive art collection to an art museum in Austin, Texas.

He was my linguist and helped me decipher comments that were made in unusual (to me) Spanish, always reminding me that the dialect spoken here predates English.

After a few years in the library at Eugene, Ore, Juan became a valued fixture at the University of Texas (UTEP) at El Paso library, guiding thousands of students throughout the years as he helped them expand their minds, and more importantly to him, their souls and spirits. One of the best indications of the impact he had on the lives of the students is that former students would send

their children to look him up when they went to the university to help shepherd them into adulthood.

He was a passionate patron of the arts, amassing what many call the most extensive and important collection of Hispanic art in the Southwest. His artistic legacy lives on at the Mexic-Arte museum in Austin, Texas, where he generously donated his entire collection where it is currently being exhibited. His true legacy lives on in the hearts of those who were fortunate to know him.

Many SLV residents will remember him as a caseworker in Costilla County.

My sons were shaped and helped by him, though it was mostly long distance

My youngest earned his master's degree in pure mathematics at the University of New Mexico in Las Cruces and developed a close friendship with him. When I called to give him the bad news, he began reminiscing. Stories from Eugene and a tour of filming locations for "Animal House," unique restaurants and art galleries and always with his great sense of humor.

When my eldest moved to Las Cruces, he immediately got in touch with Juan. The day came that snow fell in El Paso and I got a phone call from Juan. "Do you know if Rich brought a snow shovel?" He and the two brothers were close.

I told him I didn't think so. How



Native Writes  
By SYLVIA LOBATO

much snow had fallen?

About a half inch.

I told him to sweep it off with a broom.

Eugene had confused his thoughts and temperate El Paso wasn't helping.

That same year, temperatures dipped in El Paso and Ciudad Juarez and he got busy helping people avoid freezing. Childhood memories awakened. One of 11 children raised in "Lariata" at Monte Vista, he knew how to survive.

He didn't make it through this one, but the hereafter now has a singer, dancer and ethnic educator to enlighten the souls there.

Hasta luego, mi amigo. Life is, as you loved to sing, "an impossible dream"

## LETTER

### Lauren Boebert must step down immediately

To the Editor:

I am a former resident of Alamosa Colorado, and was deeply embarrassed to learn the Third Congressional District saw fit to elect a secessionist and traitor as their Congressional Representative. Add that to her fascist tendencies and her penchant for violence, and all of the Third District, (including Alamosa, the SLV and Pueblo), are forever besmirched.

I have to wonder what was going through people's minds to elect someone like Boebert? She is clearly ignorant, treasonous and driven by hate. I realize education is lacking and "American History" is largely taught to support white supremacy. I understand

she adheres to "Trump Truth" and has long lost her connection to objective reality, but to believe that HER election was legitimate but an election on the same ballot was not is the height of absurdity. The fact is, Boebert spreading the "big lie" regarding "election fraud" shows a fundamental lack of integrity, character, intellectualism and moral compass.

I live in Nevada's Second Congressional District and voted by mail to protect my wife and I from COVID exposure. Lauren Boebert sought to nullify our votes. Representative Mark Amodei of NV-2 didn't tell the big lie, he just said nothing. He is also a Republican and

also voted to give King Trump a pass on sedition, but at least he didn't go onto the floor, continue telling lies while acting like an angry, entitled, privileged little thirteen year old girl in a snit.

I have faith in my "homeland" and am proud to be from there. Regardless, Lauren Boebert has to go. If she continues her lack of integrity and refuses to step down, then I will contribute all I can to see she is electorally defeated in 2022, and then tried and convicted for treason. This is how we make change in the United States of America.

*Bill Gallegos  
Reno Nevada*

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# Rocky Mountain Ag Conference is still a go

BY REBECCA COPLEY

**MONTE VISTA** - The 2021 Rocky Mountain Ag Conference will still be happening this year although due to the COVID-19 pandemic it will look a little different than in years past. A statement from the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce's website explained how both the pandemic and the construction of the new Ski-Hi Complex has affected this year's conference saying, "As we

are all painfully aware, COVID-19 has affected many events and this conference has been no exception. This year's conference will be a scaled down version due to health restrictions and the effect that COVID-19 delays have had on the construction of the new Ski-Hi Multipurpose building."



Despite these challenges the annual conference will still be happening Feb. 2-Feb.4. Presentations and classes will be held virtually. For those interested in attending the cost for one day will be \$30.00 and \$60.00 for three days. The conference will only be accepting PayPal

payment and those wishing to register can do so at: <https://www.coloradopotato.org/agconference/>. There will be a trade show on Feb. 2 and Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The trade show will be held in the McMullen Building at Ski-Hi Park and CSU extension will be conducting a virtual conference. The trade show will be open to the public. All booths will be 10X10 and there will be at least 6 feet

between booths. Masks will be required, and will also be available at the Chamber of Commerce booth right at the door when entering. Meals will not be provided this year, however there will be a food truck available outside for the public to purchase food. For more information on this year's Rocky Mountain Ag Conference go to: <https://www.montevistachamber.org/ag-conference-2021.html>

# Special elk hunt scheduled for the Valley

**MONTE VISTA** — A special elk-hunting opportunity at the Monte Vista National Wildlife refuge is being planned for this winter. Hunters who are interested must apply for the hunt by submitting information to Colorado Parks and Wildlife at [montevista.wildlife@state.co.us](mailto:montevista.wildlife@state.co.us).

Elk are heavily concentrated on the wildlife refuge now. The purpose of the hunt is to reduce the population of that herd and to force the elk to distribute more widely.

To apply, hunters must submit this information by Jan. 20: name, email address, phone number and their CPW customer identification number.

Only a limited number of hunters will be allowed on the refuge at one time and not all hunters who apply will be selected. CPW's Monte Vista office will conduct a random drawing and place the names on a list. Hunters will be called as needed through Feb. 28. Those selected will be provided more information regarding access points and other rules governing this hunt.

The refuge is located about 10 miles south of Monte Vista in the San Luis Valley.



# SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF REPORT

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** —

The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Jan. 10 and Jan. 19, 2021.

The Sheriff's Office handled more than 80 calls and issued one speeding ticket. Staff monitored 15 controlled burns and made 14 traffic stops. They received five reports of



suspicious activity, fraud at First Southwest Bank in Saguache, a harassment call, a protection order violation, an intoxicated person, one REDDI report (report every drunk driver immediately), a civil dispute and one report of elder abuse in Center. They also issued one warrant.

In addition to community outreach in Crestone, assistance for other agencies and two welfare checks, the sheriff and deputies responded to alarms and performed VIN inspections and routine patrols.

They also encountered three animal problems and assisted three ambulance rides.

### Arrests

Troy Bridges, 35, Moffat, drove vehicle when licensed restrained and failed to present proof of insurance

Ronald Paulson, 57, Byers, violating restrictions regarding Interlock device and driving under influence (.08 blood alcohol level or above)

Cheryle Ray, 55, Del Norte, on hold for Rio Grande County

## Rio Frio Ice Fest

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**schedule**

- Ice Sculptures on Main Street
- Beginning Friday, January 29
- Virtual Rio Frio 5K
- Saturday, January 30 at 10AM
- Fat Bike Race at Alamosa Riparian Park
- Sunday, January 31 at 10AM
- Rio Frio Bingo at Alamosa Businesses
- January 11-31
- Virtual Reverse Polar Plunge
- January 1-31
- Virtual Kid's Costume Contest
- Friday-Sunday, January 29-31.

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## 2020 Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Awards will support rehabilitation efforts across Colorado

**DENVER** – Ten recipients of Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s third annual Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants have been announced. The grants are offered by CPW to support wildlife rehabilitation efforts across the state.

“These ten grants reach across the state,” said CPW Director Dan Prenzl. “They include investments to expand rehabilitation facilities for the long-term and funding to help keep existing facilities open to meet public demand.”

“We had more than \$48,000 in funding requests but only \$16,200 in funding available,” said Jim Guthrie, Program Coordinator for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants Program. “There’s a big need out there. A lot of Colorado rehabbers run on shoestring budgets. They put in tremendous personal effort for the love of helping animals recover from accidents or injury.”

“The rehabilitation of Colorado’s wildlife species often happens quietly, by a relatively few number of qualified and licensed professionals around the state,” said John Gale, Chair of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants Board. “They provide critical services across a diversity of species - large and small - often at great personal expense. Colorado’s grant program provides important support to wildlife rehabilitators, increasing resources and allowing them to help more animals.”

The work supported through this year’s Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants includes:

- Flight cages and equipment to overwinter bats at the Colorado Bat-CREW facility in Conifer
- Continued construction of a new rehabilitation facility at the SonFlower Ranch in Brighton
- Food and medical supplies at the Rocky Mountain WildHeart center in Colorado Springs
- Veterinary and medical expenses at the Rocky Mountain Raptor center in Fort Collins

The grant program was created through House Bill 17-1250. Funding for the grant program comes primarily from the nongame tax check-off program, along with fines from nongame wildlife-based offenses and interest income. For the first \$250,000 raised annually, 10 percent is allocated to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant

Program, which aims to provide funding specifically for wildlife rehabilitation centers. For many rehabbers, this kind of funding fills a critical gap.

“On behalf of my fellow committee members and Colorado Parks and Wildlife professionals,” said Gale, “I want to extend our appreciation to Colorado taxpayers for their generous donations and continued investment in this highly successful grant program.”

Applications for Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Awards are due each year in early November. For more information on the grant program and application materials, please visit the Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants page.

### 2020 Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Awards

Rocky Mountain Wild- Heart – Colorado Springs  
Food, supplies, medical supplies  
Grant Award: \$2,000  
Lynette Carson – Beulah Raccoon enclosure  
Grant Award: \$3,000

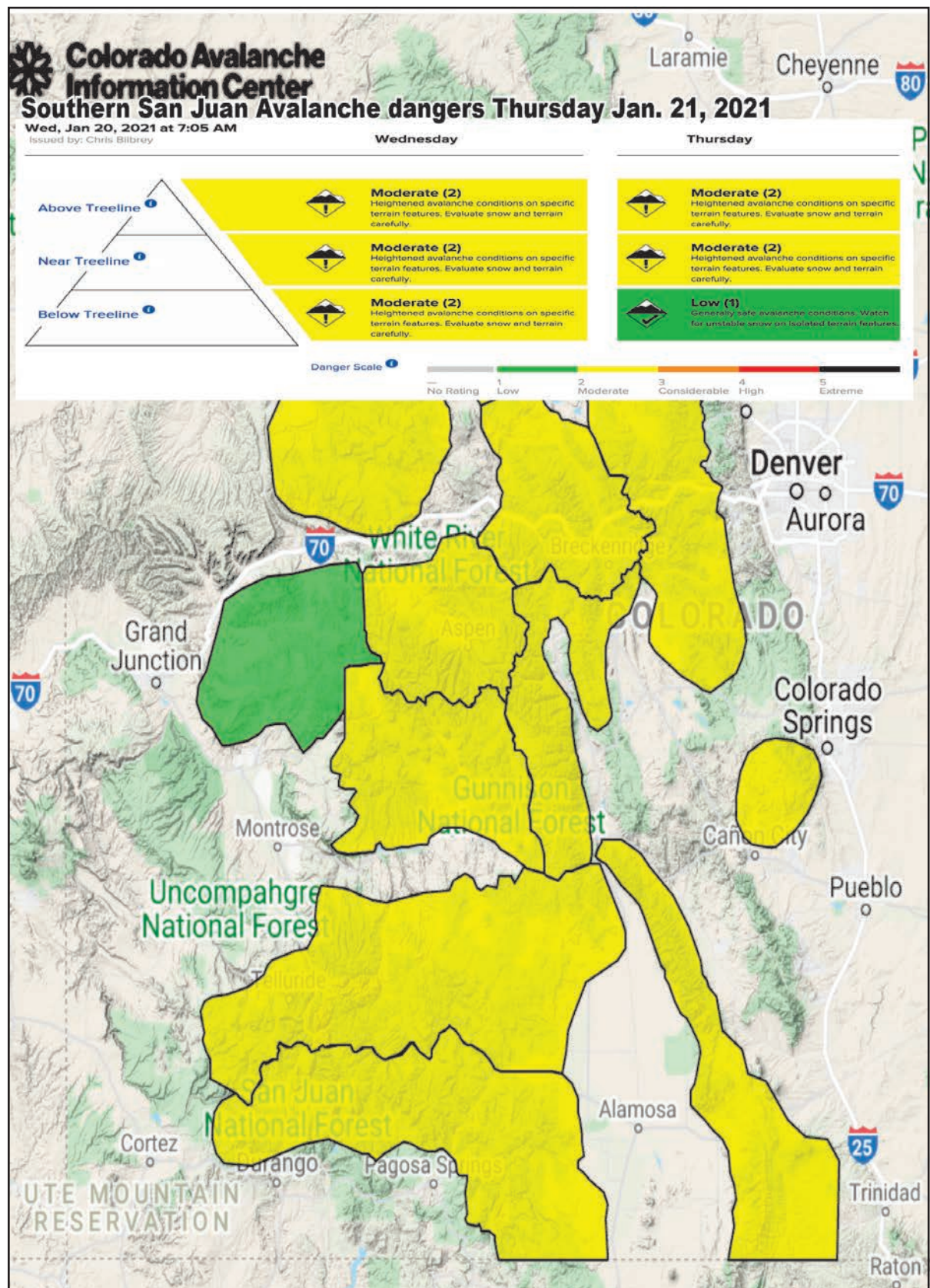
Colorado BatCREW - Conifer  
Flight cages and equipment to overwinter bats  
Grant Award: \$2,000  
Emily Davenport - Sedalia  
Lead testing equipment  
Grant Award: \$2,000

North Park Wildlife Rehabilitation  
Food, medical supplies, veterinary services, travel, caging materials  
Grant Award: \$1,200  
Wild Bird Rescue – Englewood  
Facility operations – rent, food, medical supplies  
Grant Award: \$2,000

Shellee Lawson – Bailey  
Food and supplies  
Grant Award: \$1,000  
Rocky Mountain Raptor Program – Fort Collins  
Veterinary and medical supply expenses  
Grant Award: \$1,000

SonFlower Ranch Wildlife Rehabilitation - Brighton  
Concrete floors for caging and new building  
Grant Award: \$1,000  
Bill Main – Colorado Springs  
Food, medical supplies, veterinary services  
Grant Award: \$1,000

Total grant awards: \$16,200



*Welcome*  
**Dr. Meeuwsen**

Rio Grande Hospital is excited to welcome Michael A. Meeuwsen, M.D. to Monte Vista Medical Clinic. Dr. Meeuwsen was raised in Pueblo and, although he spent several years out of state (primarily for education), he is thrilled to be living again in southern Colorado. As a board-certified Family Medicine Physician, he joins the Monte Vista clinical staff with broad interests in medicine including acute, chronic and preventive care for all ages. In his spare time, he enjoys outdoor recreation, particularly with his wife (Anna) and their three children.

**To schedule your appointment, call 719-852-8827.**



**Monte Vista Clinic of Rio Grande Hospital**  
1033 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Monte Vista  
719-852-8827 [riograndehospital.org](http://riograndehospital.org)



## WATER

Continued from Page 1A

somehow we should participate in that higher value from the city and bring it back here. I think the water has its right value here."

Board Secretary Dwight Martin said, "I want to express my opposition to Mr. Mattingly's proposal. I think it's introducing the camel's nose under the tent. Trying to explore exportation of the water out of the Valley is a real mistake."

Cleave Simpson followed with an explanation of conservation efforts. "We've really been active for almost two years working with the conservation community. We can create a buy-and-bank, but the bank is to leave it in the aquifer. The conservation community is very interested in providing capital."

"I see several flaws that would lead to me stating opposition," Zeke Ward noted next. Ward described

the economic cycles in agriculture and noted the gap between the high water value for municipal use and relative low value for food production. Ward also said, "With COVID, we're already seeing people wanting to migrate away from large metropolitan districts, which is going to change the demand."

Bill McClure also noted new land purchases from out-of-state organizations.

David Robinson said, "I believe the flaw in your quite well thought-out presentation is that moving water out of basins is very much like pregnancy. You don't get there halfway. Once the process has started, it continues."

Later, Robinson recounted the history of the foreign capital that funded the Valley's first canals. He also provided the full history

of Crowley County's water woes. The sequence started with the state's sugar beet boom that went bust in the 1970s. A cattle rancher from Oklahoma tried using the land, changed his mind and finally sold water rights to municipalities.

"I see there's a tremendous amount of resistance to this," Mattingly said. "I appreciate your patience."

For the second hour of the meeting, the board approved reports and appointments, starting with Simpson's financial report. Simpson also received approval for a storage lease agreement with the SLV Irrigation District (using Rio Grande Reservoir). After a long discussion, the board approved a conflict-of-interest policy and later approved manager appointments for Subdistrict 6.

Marisa Fricke presented the manager's report for Subdistrict

1, highlighting the well permit program that grew from 11 to 30 in the subdistrict. "The board is always thinking of new programs, and this one really hit the sweet spot. Being that there's 30 wells interested in selling to the subdistrict shows that the community understands the rock and the hard place."

Amber Pacheco followed with updates from Subdistricts 2, 3 and 6. Preliminary reports are due at the end of February so the final annual report will be ready by the July 1 deadline.

During the Subdistrict 4 update,

Chris Ivers said, "We're working on contracting the last of the hold-outs. A couple key contracts we're trying to get are the town of Moffat, we have a nice draft from Crestone that we're about ready to sign, and the KV Estates." Ivers said they're still focused on Well Injury Payments, although some surface rights owners told him "flat out that they will not sign contracts with us. So, we are looking for sources of wet water to be able to make replacements."

The board will gather again April 20 for the next RGWCD meeting.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Colorado Gators Inc., 9187 Pyrite Circle, Mosca, Co, 81146, (719) 580-2306, has filed an application for a Construction Materials (112) Reclamation Permit with the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board under provisions of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act. The proposed mine is known as Mystic Soil, and is located at or near Section 22, Township 41N, Range 10E, 6th Prime Meridian.

The proposed date of commencement is Spring 2021, and the proposed date of completion is, Fall 2032. The proposed future use of the land is industrial/commercial and rangeland.

Additional information and tentative decision date may be obtained from the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, Colorado 80203, (303) 866-3567, or at the Saguache County Clerk and Recorder's office; 501 4th St. Saguache, CO, 81149, or the above-named applicant. A complete copy of the application is available at the above-named County Clerk and Recorder's office and at the Division's office.

Comments concerning the application and exhibits must be in writing and must be received by the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety by 4:00 p.m. 10 days after the publication of this notice.

Please note that under the provisions of C.R.S. 34-32-101 et seq. Comments related to noise, truck traffic, hours of operation, visual impacts, effects on property values and other social or economic concerns are issues not subject to this Office's jurisdiction. These subjects, and similar ones, are typically addressed by your local governments, rather than the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety or the Mined Land Reclamation Board.

No. 1587 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, January 14, 21 and 28 and February 4, 2021.

## ARRESTS

Continued from Page 1A

Enforcement Task Force.

Alamosa Police arrested two individuals Monday for their alleged involvement in the homicide of Myron Robert Martinez, 38, of Del Norte whose remains were located near Los Sauces in Conejos County in November 2020.

Julius Anthony Baroz, 30, faces charges of murder in the first degree and tampering with deceased human remains in connection with the death of Martinez. He is being held at the Alamosa County

Detention Center (ACDC) on \$250,000 bond.

C.J. Walter Dominguez, 27, faces charges of tampering with deceased human remains, accessory to first degree murder and second-degree kidnapping. He is being held at ACDC on \$100,000 bond.

The 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office announced that Adre Baroz, 26, Sanford, faces two additional charges first degree murder and two additional charges of tampering

with deceased human remains related to the deaths of Myron Martinez and Shayla Hammel, 24. Adre Baroz continues to be held at the Alamosa County Detention Center without bond.

Due to an order by the court, details related to this active/ongoing investigation cannot be released at this time. The affidavits and warrants have been sealed.

All persons charged with crimes are presumed innocent until the contrary is proven in a court of law.

## OBITUARY

### John Allen Schofield, 82

John Allen Schofield of Del Norte, Colorado passed away at Rio Grande Hospital on Jan. 10, 2021 with his daughter Mona, nearby. He was born Aug. 16, 1938 in Cotopaxi, Colorado to Cecil Schofield and Mary Shawcroft.

John was a longtime employee and part owner of Davis Engineering, Inc., retiring at age 62 to continue consulting occasionally for the company. His work for Davis Engineering began at the young age of 15 with a summer job under the tutelage of the owner, Paul Davis.

He lettered in football, then graduated from Del Norte High School in 1956, and attended the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado.

John loved school sports and continually supported his home team, traveling to games to cheer the Tigers on. He followed collegiate and professional sports as well, and could converse at length about how the Broncos or the BYU Cougars were playing.

As a devoted lifetime member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS), he served his church in many capacities including full time church missionary. He was instrumental in getting an LDS chapel built in Del Norte. He held many positions of leadership- among them Branch President, High Priest Group Leader, and Sunday School President.

John enjoyed many activities and hobbies; collecting arrowheads, hunting, fishing and roaming the mountains. All these interests were passed along to his children and grandchildren, who cherish the memories of those experiences with him.

He married his sweetheart, Sharon M. Bagnell on Dec. 23, 1961 in Salt Lake City Utah for time and all eternity.

Always the loving and caring family patriarch, John is survived by his children- Mark Schofield, Keith Schofield and Mona Sanchez; their spouses, Angela Schofield and Mike Sanchez; 12 grandchildren; and 8 great-grandchildren. His kind, polite, and loving nature set an example of compassion and caring for all who met him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, siblings, his wife Sharon, and his sons Russell and David.

The family asks that flowers be sent to Rogers Family Mortuary, 404 Morris St., Monte Vista, CO 81144.

A viewing will be held Friday, Jan. 15, 2021 from 6-8 p.m. at the Rogers Family Mortuary, 404 Morris Street, Monte Vista, CO 81144.

The funeral service was held Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Rio Grande LDS Chapel at 909 Prospect Avenue, Monte Vista, CO 81144



Internment will follow the funeral service at Sanford Cemetery, Sanford, Colorado

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, words of strength and comfort or remembrances, please visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com)

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## Traditional IRAs vs. Roth IRAs

Adequate retirement planning can set men and women up to enjoy their golden years however they see fit. Getting to retirement with enough money takes discipline and commitment and may require some sacrifices along the way.

"Retirement planning" is an umbrella term that covers various types of financial products and investments. One of the products prospective investors are likely to hear about when mulling their retirement investment options is an Individual Retirement Account, or IRA. An IRA is a personal retirement savings plan that can provide tax benefits to those who qualify. When speaking with a financial planner or exploring options on their own, prospective investors will hear about Traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs and wonder what distinguishes one from the other. The following breakdown can help investors understand those differences with the hopes of finding the best option for them.

### Contributions

Contributions to Traditional IRAs are pre-tax, and they may be tax deductible depending on the account holder's income and other factors. Contributions to Roth IRAs are made with post-tax income and are not eligible for tax deductions.

### Taxes on distributions

While men and women about to open an IRA likely won't have to worry about distributions for quite some time, it's important that prospective account holders know that, according to Prudential, Traditional IRA account holders will pay federal taxes on their account's investment earnings and on pre-tax contributions when money is withdrawn. Roth IRA account holders will not pay federal taxes on withdrawals, including their invest-

ment earnings, if they meet certain eligibility requirements. Prospective investors should know that there are tax penalties for account holders who withdraw money from their Traditional or Roth IRAs before they reach age 59½. Exceptions to that rule should be discussed with a tax or accounting professional.

### Income requirements

In order to open an IRA, whether it's a Traditional or Roth IRA, prospective account holders must have earned income, such as wages, salaries or income from self-employment. Men and women who do not work can still open an IRA, but only if their spouse is employed and the couple jointly files their tax return.

There also may be income limits depending on which type of IRA an investor chooses. There are no income limits attached to Traditional IRAs, but account holders' ability to deduct contributions from their income may be limited if their spouse is eligible to participate in an employer-sponsored retirement plan. There are income limits associated with Roth IRAs. Account holders' adjusted growth income must be below certain limits depending on their tax filing status (i.e., filing single or filing jointly with a spouse).

### Distributions and age

The Internal Revenue Service notes that Traditional IRA account holders must begin taking distributions by April 1 following the year in which they turned 70½ years of age and by December 31 in future years. No minimum distributions are required for Roth IRA account holders.

Understanding the various types of IRAs can be difficult. Prospective investors who need help navigating their retirement planning should not hesitate to contact financial planning professionals. MM16C617

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# Salazar Rio Grande Del Norte Center director honored by CU

ALAMOSA – Rio de la Vista, director of the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center at Adams State University, will receive the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Colorado on Saturday, Jan. 16.

“I am truly grateful for this recognition from my alma mater and the Regents, and for the friends and colleagues who nominated me and those who wrote generous letters of support,” said de la Vista. “My hope is that it will highlight the work of the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center at Adams State University, along with the essential importance of the land and water conservation and education work that so many of us are doing. Our sights are set on a more resilient, healthy Colorado and the opportunity to engage new generations of conservation leaders to carry on this vital work. “The chance to spend my life engaged in caring for the Rio Grande, the San Luis Valley, and the Colorado I love, and in the company of such creative, committed and inspiring colleagues as all of you, continues to uplift and carry me through the challenges of these uncertain times.”

De la Vista has worked in the fields of land and water conservation, environmental health and regenerative agriculture, in Colorado,

across the West and internationally since earning her degree in Journalism at CU and her work with John Denver’s Windstar Foundation in the 1980’s. Her dedication to restorative land management and conservation brought her to the San Luis Valley in 1999 to serve with the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust. During this time and with wide ranging partners, she helped to conserve over 26,000 acres of working lands and wetlands along the Rio Grande and its tributaries in the San Luis Valley. In 2011, she was honored with the National Wetlands Award for Land Stewardship by the Environmental Law Institute in Washington D.C.

De la Vista came to Adams State in 2018 to serve as the first director of the Center, to “help grow the next generation of conservation leaders.” In this role, she is working to further the two key initiatives of the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center, addressing the Rio Grande Natural Area and expanding and enhancing water education on campus and with the community. In addition to hosting the annual Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium on the Valley’s water issues, the Salazar Center is working with Adams State faculty to develop a new and innovative minor

degree in water to start in Fall 2021.

CU will present the Distinguished Service Award during a virtual ceremony of its 2020 Commencement Regent Awards.

The award recognizes her “lifetime of education and problem solving” through which she “has become a trusted broker of agreements between ranchers, scientists, politicians and funders.”

She is being honored for the “scope, scale and excellence of her visionary environmental work and leadership” throughout her career.

### About the Rio Grande Del Norte Center:

The Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center was launched in 2018 thanks to a generous donation from the Salazar Family, in memory of their parents, Emma and Henry Salazar.

The vision of the center is to engage and advance the conservation, restoration and understanding of the land, water and historic and cultural attributes at the headwaters of the Rio Grande in the San Luis Valley. The Salazar Center works to promote and support innovative stewardship, strengthen connections between the region’s natural resources and its diverse cultures and heritage, and enhance related economic



development for the community and career opportunities for students. A core strategy of the Salazar Center’s Rio Grande Natural Area Initiative and Water Education Initiative is to deepen the engagement between Adams State University’s faculty and students and the region’s active network of conservation organizations, agencies, districts and caring community members.

# Women’s Street Gathering 2021 set for Jan. 23

Covid-19 has made it impossible to hold a large public Women’s March in January, so the San Luis Valley Alliance for Change Together (SLV ACT) have instead organized an event called the Women’s Street Gathering 2021 on Main Street to mark the continued

need for attention to women’s issues like access to health care, safe and affordable housing, equal pay for equal work, fair treatment of minorities, ending discrimination toward immigrants, and other issues.

On January 23, at 11 AM,

participants will gather with signs along Main Street sidewalks in Alamosa, masked and safely distanced. We request that signs be respectful. Depending on the number of attendees, we will sing, chant, and wave at traffic. There will be no walking or standing in

the street. Because the ending time is partly dependent on the weather, this event will last no longer than one hour. We have made a chart of places to stand, and when you decide to attend, please call Charlotte Ledonne (719-589-4087) to reserve your desired location.

Plan to pick up a disk for the CommuniTree Project in front of the Alamosa Bank on the corner of Main Street and State Street.

Feel free to join without calling in advance; we will make sure everyone is safely spaced out. Just remember to wear your mask.

# YOUR NIGHT SKY

## Orion’s Betelgeuse

BY DARLENE DANKO

Orion is my favorite constellation and is highly visible now in the SE. Some interesting things have occurred with its brightest star Betelgeuse in the past two years. In January of last year Orion looked like it was about to have a supernova. Betelgeuse dimmed to a level not seen in at least 150 years, and that caused a supernova concern. But it didn’t happen, and the star returned to its brightness in April.

Early in 2019 the Hubble space telescope spotted hot dense gas spacing through the stars atmosphere at 200,000 MPH causing Betelgeuse to dim. The following month Hubble noticed that something was blocking the light from the star’s southern half. So the gas cooled, which most likely created the dark cloud that blocked the light.

But then in the summer of 2019 a NASA sun-orbiting scope STEREO caught Betelgeuse dimming. We can’t see Orion in the summer, so we didn’t see that event. If a supernova really does occur it will shine brightly in our daytime sky for up to a year, and at night for several years. But no one knows what really happened yet.

Orion is facing us with his right arm raised high holding his sword, and his left arm bent holding a shield. His belt is the highly visible 3 star mark in the sky. Below his belt are his legs and feet, and his left foot star Rigel is also very bright. Above the belt are his shoulder stars with Betelgeuse being his right shoulder.



There’s also a fainter star that marks his head.

He is portrayed as being extremely brave, strong and fearless, but not very bright. So that is why his head star is so dim. To find him look for his highly obvious 3 star belt. He’s very obvious in the evening from January through April. This month he’s tipped over on his right side with the belt pointing up and down. In February he stands up, and in March he moves to the WSW and is tipped over the other way.

Betelgeuse is pronounced Beetlejuice. It’s his right shoulder which will be on our left when we observe him. It’s a very bright red supergiant star, and to our naked eye looks more orange than any other star we see. All of his other stars are blue or white. It’s about 640 LY from us. If it were our Sun it would be so big that it would stretch out past Jupiter. So it’s huge!

His left shoulder star is also bright, but not quite as bright as Betelgeuse. It’s blue purple Bellatrix, and has one of the deepest blue colors of any bright star. What’s interesting about that color is that it’s much hotter than Betelgeuse. So go out and observe Orion, and think about what’s really going on with Betelgeuse.

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# Martin joins Rural Health Services Council

ALAMOSA – The American Hospital Association (AHA) Board of Trustees welcomes Konnie Martin, Chief Executive Officer, San Luis Valley Health, as an advisory member to the Rural Health Services Council. Martin will begin her three-year term January 1, 2021.

The Rural Health Services Council plays an important role of actively advising the AHA on advocacy positions, public policy issues and rural member service strategies. Members of the AHA Board value Konnie’s willingness to serve and have expressed their appreciation for her expertise in rural health issues.

Martin is completing a recent leadership role as Board Chair for the Colorado Hospital Association. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Computer Science and Business from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. She completed the Advanced Leadership Training Program (ALTP) at the Regional Institute for Health and Environmental Leadership (RIHEL), the CDC-founded regional leadership institute for Colorado; the UCLA/Johnson & Johnson Health Care Executive Program (HCEP); and the AHA Health Care System Transformation Fellowship. Her classroom includes the lessons she learns every day from her staff, community, and family.



# Golden Pick Hockey Tournament hits the ice in Creede

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

CREEDE- The Silver Ice Park located north of Creede was full of people this past weekend for the annual Golden Pick Hockey Tournament. Visitors from all over the place came to participate in the tournament or to watch the action taking place on the ice. According to reports from several people, the event saw a near record number of teams that signed up for the tournament and that made for one epic weekend. “We typically have about 28 teams and this year 15 signed up. Considering the COVID restrictions, we were really happy with that number,” said Brian Brittain owner of Tommyknocker Tavern.

The ice ponds were glistening in the early morning sun as it peeked over the high caldera cliffs surrounding Silver Ice Park and teams hit the

ice ready for some good old fashion competition. Saturday bloomed bright and clear with scattered cloud cover throughout the day. Visitors set up along the banks of the ponds where bonfires roared.

“It is just really nice to have something to do and to get outside even if you’re not participating in the tournament,” said one spectator who cheered on the games. From the bonfires to the brief breaks in games while event coordinator Kip Nagy brought out the infamous Zamboni machine, the weekend was a huge success.

Sunday was windy and cold as a pending snowstorm made its way over the San Juan Mountains, but it did nothing to deter people from coming to enjoy a day outside. Sunday marked the end of the tournament with the following winners, A-league winners

were Kip’s Minnesota, B-league winners were Wapiti Warriors with Check Republic “pretty much winning as well.” Brittain also wanted

to give a shout out to Ruggy who was recognized as MVP this year.

After a year of uncertainty, the 2021 Golden Pick Hockey Tournament

was exactly what people needed and everyone in attendance enjoyed the event. This one will go down in the books. Here’s to next year!



Courtesy of Brian Brittain

Team A winners: Kip’s Minnesota



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## Gray wolf removed from federal endangered species protections

**COLORADO** – Colorado Parks and Wildlife reported, on Thursday, Oct. 29, the Department of the Interior announced a rule to remove the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) from federal protections under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) nationwide. The rule was published in the Federal Register on November 3, 2020, and went into effect on January 4, 2021.

Now that wolves are delisted from the ESA, states and tribes resume the management of the species, and state statutes/regulations apply. In Colorado, the species remains a state endangered species, and penalties under C.R.S. 33-6-109, including fines, jail time and/or a loss of license privileges apply.

Previous federal rules delisting gray wolves have routinely been litigated once finalized. If that pattern continues, which is likely, federal listing status may be unclear in the immediate term. Regardless, the species remains listed as endangered under state law in Colorado, and take of gray wolves will remain prohibited.

Colorado is part of the gray wolf's native range, but wolves were eradicated from the state by the 1940s. Over the past two decades, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) restored gray wolves into Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico and Arizona. Individual wolves, and most recently a group of wolves in Moffat County, have been periodically migrating into Colorado. It is possible



that wolves from the south may do so someday as well.

To prepare for any future wolf migrations into Colorado, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) created a multi-disciplinary working group that drafted a Wolf Management Plan. The wolf working group's recommendations were adopted in their entirety by the Colorado Wildlife Commission at its May 2005 meeting, and affirmed by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission in 2016.

Proposition 114, a ballot initiative to introduce wolves west of the continental divide, was voted on by Coloradans in November 2020. Proposition 114, a ballot initiative directing the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to develop a plan to introduce gray wolves onto

the Western Slope of Colorado, passed on November 3, 2020.

Proposition 114 directs the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to:

- Develop a plan to reintroduce and manage gray wolves in Colorado by December 31, 2023, on designated lands west of the Continental Divide;

- Hold statewide hearings about scientific, economic, and social considerations;

- Periodically obtain public input to update the plan; and

- Use state funds to assist livestock owners in preventing conflicts with gray wolves and pay fair compensation for livestock losses.

The initial directive of Proposition 114 is for the Commission and Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff

**Please see WOLF on Page 2**

## Second round of PPP application period began

**COLORADO** - The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), in consultation with the Treasury Department, re-opened the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for new borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers. Christopher Chavez, Regional Communications Director, U.S. Small Business Administration confirmed that these loans are "forgivable loans made through banks. Same as round one loans administered in 2020."

To promote access to capital in underserved communities, only community financial institutions (Community Development Financial Institutions, Minority Depository Institutions, Certified Development Companies, and Microloan Intermediaries) will initially be able to make First Draw PPP Loans on Monday, January 11, and Second Draw PPP Loans on Wednesday, January 13. The PPP will open to all participating lenders shortly thereafter.

This round of the PPP continues to prioritize millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to \$284 billion toward job retention and certain

other expenses through March 31, 2021, and by allowing certain existing PPP borrowers to apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan.

"The PPP was an incredible shot in the arm for small businesses last year, and this second wave of financial support will especially be a boost to businesses in rural and underserved communities," said Dan Nordberg, SBA's National Director of Rural Affairs and Region VIII Administrator. "With a targeted opening, SBA is prioritizing and extending relief to impacted business owners who need it the most. If you own or operate a small business, I strongly encourage you to look into this opportunity for assistance. As always, our SBA team is eager to answer questions, offer help through the process, and connect business owners and entrepreneurs with tools for long-term health and success."

### Key PPP updates include:

PPP borrowers can set their PPP loan's covered period to be any length between 8 and 24 weeks to best meet their business needs;

**Please see PPP on Page 2**

## Rhino Love

Dr. Fosse, once of Pretori, told me about Martha and Arthur, two star crossed rare white rhinos. In a governmental gesture of goodwill, South Africa agreed to ship Arthur to Tanzania to mate with Martha. Brilliant veterinarians, competent game management officials, long winded reproductive specialists and the press discussed at length the procedures involved and the benefits that would accrue with these international relations.

They soon discovered that rhinos cycle according to the length of daylight hours. Martha, on Equatorial Daylight Time, was never quite synchronized with Arthur, on Tropic of Capricornical Time. When he was randy she had a headache and when she was cuddly he was not in the mood.

However, our team of deep thinkers figured a way around it. They'd artificially inseminate Martha! I can just see these characters squatting under an Acacia tree, breakin' out a case of Congo Lite and drawing their plans in the dirt with pipettes.

But since Martha wasn't cooperating anyway



and no sweet smelling rhino geldings were around, they decided to collect Arthur's semen with an electro ejaculator.

Enlisting the aid of their agricultural engineers, they built a homemade ejaculator out of wire, copper electrodes, a hand crank and lots of electrical tape.

Arthur was quite tame so on the big day they

led him out with a loop around the horn and tied him to a thorn tree. With proper lubrication, the head mogul inserted the prod and set the cowboys to crankin'. Alas, Arthur showed no response.

"He's probably packed with dry feces which is interfering with conduction of the current," interjected the rhino physiologist.

So they attempted to clean him out while he stood there compliantly. Then they tried again... no luck.

"Being a desert beast, possibly there is a lack of internal moisture," observed the rhino hydrologist. "How 'bout an enema?"

They hung a twenty gallon container from the tree, inserted a hose and the water disappeared like a Diet Sprite in the Sahara. "More water!" they cried. Another twenty gallons were fetched and inserted. Arthur stood unruffled.

Agreeing that should have certainly lubricated Arthur, the chief acting assistant veterinary cowboy technician strode forth and inserted his plastic sleeved arm to evacuate the bowel.

Arthur had had enough.

He clamped his powerful aft torpedo door shut just above the hapless white smocked invader's elbow. They thundered off through the brush! The crew followed in the Land Rover, eating their sack lunches and videoing the chase.

A hundred yards down the track the offending appendage popped out followed by 40 gallons of pent up colored water. The invader lay like a drowned muskrat left in the furrow. Arthur raced off to the other side of the game park.

"Yer right," I told Dr. Fosse, "we couldn't have done it better."

*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*

**INSIDE THIS WEEK'S SLV LIFESTYLES!**

**AGRICULTURE 2021**

**SAN LUIS VALLEY PROGRESS**



# A Thin Line: Normal shedding vs. feline

As any cat owner who has tried to wear a black shirt knows... well, shedding is a normal aspect of cat ownership. However, there are times when the hair just keeps coming and an owner may become concerned that their pet's hair loss is abnormal and indicative of a larger issue.

Dr. Alison Diesel, a clinical associate professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, says that cat owners can differentiate normal shedding from feline alopecia, or hair loss, if the hair coat is noted to be thin or has the absence of hair in areas.

"The biggest difference between normal shedding and alopecia in cats is that with normal shedding, there is not appreciable hair loss on the animal," said Diesel. "While the owner may see tufts of fur and hairballs around the home, the cat looks to have a normal haircoat in regard to thickness, length, and density."

Feline alopecia can have many causes, according to Diesel, ranging from parasites, such as fleas or mites, to infections, such as dermatophytosis, or ringworm.

"We can also see it with underlying allergies including to things like fleas, food, or the environment," she said. "Genetics can also be a 'cause' of alopecia; this is normal in certain breeds of cats, such as the Sphinx. Lastly, there are some normal variants in cats that appear as alopecia. Examples include hair loss on the ear flaps of aging Siamese cats and sparsely haired skin in the preauricular region (top of the head in front of the ears) on cats of any breed."

If an owner notices their cat is losing an abnormal amount of hair, they should also keep an eye out for accompanying symptoms



that may point towards a larger problem.

"The most important thing to look for is whether the cat is also itchy. This can be shown by certain behaviors include scratching, biting, licking, chewing, pulling out hair, over grooming, and/or increased hairballs. Additionally, owners should monitor if there are any sores on the skin along with the hair loss," she said. "Lastly, if anything has obviously changed with the overall health of the cat—signs of internal illness such as vomiting, change in appetite, or energy levels—owners should seek veterinary care."

Pets experiencing unusual hair loss should be evaluated by their primary care veterinarian or a veterinary dermatologist to help determine the reason for hair loss. They may conduct diagnostic tests and/or suggest a treatment plan tailored to your pet's specific case.

While overgrooming most commonly has an underlying medical

reason, typically related to itch or possibly pain, there are some cats where stress and behavioral contributions can play into the excessive grooming observed. Owners concerned that their pet is overgrooming may also wish to modify their pet's environment in addition to bringing them in for a check-up. Ensure your pet has plenty of enrichment, which can include toys, window access, and hands-on playtime, in addition to areas where the cat can retreat and relax alone.

Hair loss may be reversible depending on the cause; Diesel said, "you can't all of a sudden make a Sphinx grow hair, but hair can grow back following resolution of ringworm as an example."

Although the line between normal shedding and feline alopecia may at times seem thin, prudent monitoring and prompt care can help owners keep their feline friend as happy, healthy, and fluffy as possible.



## Creede and Mineral County hopeful for events this summer

By LYNSIE FERRELL

**MINERAL COUNTY-** In a letter issued to Creede and Mineral County Chamber members, chamber Director Kathleen Murphy expressed her hope that events in Creede will be able to take place this upcoming summer. The chamber has worked diligently with local health officials throughout the past year and most of the annual events in the area were canceled out of health safety precautions.

In the letter to members it states, "We're all anticipating that 2021 will surpass the year known as 2020. While it's a little too early to know how the year will shape up, we are moving forward with plans for our annual events like the Taste of Creede, the Creede Donkey Dash & Gravity Derby Weekend, the Rock and Mineral Show, the Creede Mountain Run, the Salsa Fiesta, Cruisin' the Canyon Fall Color Car Show, Chocolate Festival. The list goes on. Be sure to visit the Events page for information about the goings on in Creede."

With the county retaining low COVID numbers, the chamber, local organizations and local busi-

nesses are anticipating a much different summer this year compared to the summer of 2020. In an odd turn of events, the Creede and Mineral County area was inundated with tourism early in the season and although it was a difficult year as far as annual events went, local business remained high thanks to the commerce brought in by visitors.

The first event that is on the calendar is the annual Taste of Creede which takes place during the Memorial Day weekend. Although that is a long way off, it is never too soon to begin planning for summer. This year the festival is celebrating 33 years of delicious food, amazing art and is a great way to say hello to warm days and soft, easy nights in the Colorado mountains.

If all goes well, and the chamber is able to host each annual event, it is still important to stay up to date on local COVID restrictions and guidelines. Mineral County and the chamber have made access to current information extremely easy to find on both <https://www.colorado.gov/mineralcountycolorado> and [www.creede.com](http://www.creede.com).

## PPP

Continued from Page 1

PPP loans will cover additional expenses, including operations expenditures, property damage costs, supplier costs, and worker protection expenditures;

The Program's eligibility is expanded to include 501(c)(6)s, housing cooperatives, destination marketing organizations, among other types of organizations;

The PPP provides greater flexibility for seasonal employees; Certain existing PPP borrowers can request to modify their First Draw PPP Loan amount; and

Certain existing PPP borrowers are now eligible to apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan.

A borrower is generally eligible for a Second Draw PPP Loan if the borrower:

- Previously received a First Draw PPP Loan and will or has used the full amount only for authorized uses;
- Has no more than 300 employees; and
- Can demonstrate at least a 25% reduction in gross receipts between comparable quarters in 2019 and 2020.

The new guidance released includes:

- PPP Guidance from SBA Administrator Carranza on Accessing Capital for Minority, Underserved, Veteran, and Women-owned Business Concerns;
  - Interim Final Rule on Paycheck Protection Program as Amended by Economic Aid Act; and
  - Interim Final Rule on Second Draw PPP Loans.
- For more information on SBA's assistance to small businesses, visit [sba.gov/ppp](http://sba.gov/ppp).

## WOLF

Continued from Page 1

to create a plan, so it should be understood that this is not a plan that is already created and available to be released immediately.

A broad-based agreement on how CPW would manage the species via natural migration resulted from a wolf management working group CPW

convened in 2004. In 2016, the Parks and Wildlife Commission considered the issue of wolf reintroduction and affirmed the recommendations from the working group, which supports the presence of wolves in Colorado, with conditions, and via natural migration into the state not through intentional

reintroduction. With the passage of Proposition 114 and the delisting of the species since, CPW has regained management authority of gray wolves in the state from USFWS. CPW will utilize the 2004 working group plan until the new plan required by the ballot initiative is developed.



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*~ Karon R Keller, Texas Trip Advisor*

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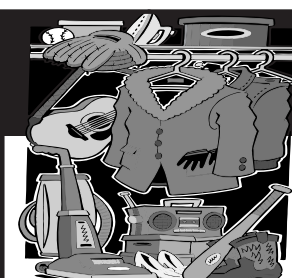
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# DA-elect Payne sworn in where a full docket awaits

**By PRISCILLA WAGGONER**  
**SANLUIS VALLEY** -- Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2020, DA-elect Alonzo Payne was sworn into office as the new District Attorney for the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District where he will take on, from day one, a bevy of open cases in various stages of prosecution, many of which involve accusations of violent, serious and complex crimes. The 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District includes all six counties in the San Luis Valley.

As of last week, the high-profile cases include 10 open homicides, three attempted homicides and seven open cases of sexual assaults with a number of cases having court dates scheduled within the first two weeks the new administration is in office. Those numbers do not reflect other cases for which the DA's office is responsible, including post-conviction cases as well as numerous other cases of assault, theft, DUIs, illegal possession of weapons and other various and sundry charges.

When asked how he plans to take on such a large case load immediately after taking office, DA-elect Payne does not seem overly concerned. "I'm excited to serve the people of the valley."

When asked about staffing, Payne said he's hired all new investigators and all new prosecutors, including three full-time prosecutors confirmed for their position with a fourth who is a strong likelihood. One of the attorneys confirmed to be on staff is Alex Raines, who is already very familiar with the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judicial system. The other three attorneys are from outside the San Luis Valley. Mr. Payne will be prosecuting cases, as well. In addition, several

employees from DA Willett's administration will be staying on to work for Payne.

In recent years, the DA's office has typically had six full-time prosecutors on staff, including the DA in Alamosa who prosecuted cases, plus five assistant DAs with one assistant DA located in each of the five remaining counties and largely responsible for cases coming out of their area. Part-time prosecutors were occasionally brought in on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Payne plans to do some restructuring, perhaps by region or division, perhaps reducing the numbers of offices while still being certain to have a presence in each county in the valley. "Let's get them hired and working before we worry about where they sit."

When Payne was campaigning for office, his platform was very different from not only his opponent but also many of his predecessors, placing an emphasis on criminal justice reform and opposition to the "criminalization of the poor." When asked how his administration will reflect those differences in practice, he said, "The biggest difference is going to be me. I come with a much different perspective on the criminal legal system." Although he declined to share specific policies he'll put in place, saying "it would be presumptive of me, from my perspective, to do so before Tuesday," Payne said, "There will be changes in how and when we ask for cash bail. We're also going to be looking at some programs for pre-filed diversion and programs for diversion where charges have already been filed."

A diversion program in the criminal justice system is a form

of sentencing in which a criminal offender joins a rehabilitation program to help remedy the behavior that led to the original arrest.

"I come with a much different concept of how we bring justice to the valley, and it's not necessarily carceral first. I think there's a lot of opportunity for restorative programs. I think there's a lot of opportunity for alternative means of reaching a fair sentence for people. It's like I said from the very beginning. People in the valley are broke. It's not a fair system if you're basing it on how much money a person has in their pocketbook." After a moment, he goes on to add, "People aren't statistics. People are...people. If you don't provide some compassion for the people who find themselves in the position of the defendant or in the position of the victim, you're missing a lot of opportunities. Maybe it's more difficult in a place like Denver, but I think it's achievable here." He then adds, with a laugh, "And, from my perspective, if you can get ahead of the issues we're dealing with, it's better for my office and it's better for the community, as a whole."



## Beware of unemployment fraud

Over the course of the past month the Monte Vista Police Department has taken numerous reports of fraud where the victim's name was used to file for unemployment benefits. No one is safe from this scam, including members of the police department who have been victims. If you are a victim of this scam there are steps you can take to protect your information, including filing a police report in the jurisdiction you live. If you become a victim of this scam, here are some steps you should take:

If you received a U.S. Bank Reliacard for Colorado unemployment benefits but did not file a claim, fill out the U.S. Bank Form or contact U.S. Bank immediately at **1-855-282-6161**. Tell them that a fraudulent unemployment claim was filed using your information, and ask them to deactivate the card. (Source, <https://cdle.colorado.gov/fraud-prevention>)

Contact the three consumer credit bureaus and put a fraud and identity theft alert on your name and Social Security number (SSN). It may be an automated system, so you may not talk to a live person and you will have to enter your SSN and date of birth.

Credit Bureau Contact Info:  
 1. Equifax: 1-800-525-6285  
 2. Experian: 1-888-397-3742  
 3. TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289

Additionally, follow the steps below:  
 1. Immediately report this to the Department of Labor at <https://cdle.colorado.gov/fraud-prevention>.

2. File a police report with your local police department. Get a copy of the report to provide to creditors and credit agencies.

3. Change passwords on your email, banking and other personal accounts.

4. Make a list of credit card companies, banks and other financial institutions where you do business. Tell them you are a victim of identity theft, and ask them to put a fraud alert on your account.

5. Get a copy of your credit report and dispute any fraudulent activity. You can request credit reports online from the three major credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) by calling 877-322-8228 or visiting [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).

6. Contact all three of the major reporting agencies to freeze your credit reports.

Equifax: 800-349-9960 or [www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services](http://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services)  
 Experian: 888-397-3742 or [www.experian.com/freeze/center.html](http://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html)  
 TransUnion: 888-909-8872 or [www.transunion.com/credit-freeze](http://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze)

7. Place a fraud alert on your credit file. You can do this by contacting just one of the credit agencies to add an alert with all three agencies.

8. Take notes about all conversations and keep copies of all records.

Finally, never give your information over the phone or email when you receive unsolicited calls or emails.

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### SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

### 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

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



# Valley-Wide Classified MARKETPLACE

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### 05 Notices

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

### 07 Help Wanted

**Finance Manager, salary range \$65,000 to \$80,000 depending on experience.** This position reports to the County Administrator; and, appraises the County's financial position and issues reports on County's financial stability, makes financial recommendations to the County Administrator and Board of County Commissioners; analyzes, consolidates, and directs all cost accounting procedures; works with departments to submit and process financial accounting, oversees audits, approves monthly payroll, and expenditures; maintains fixed assets and depreciation schedules, serves as financial officer in disasters, oversees financial accounting and reporting for County grants, coordinates, and reviews all insurance policies including property and casualty, health insurance, workman's compensation, etc., assists County Administrator with Certification of mill levies, performs other duties as assigned by County Administrator. Required: at least 3-years of experience in similar duties, an undergraduate degree in a related field. Preferred: MBA, CPA, CMA, government accounting experience. Willing to provide further training for the right person. Open until filled. First Review February (01/27)

**Saguache County Department of Social Services** is now accepting applications for the position of Income Maintenance Technician. Position determines eligibility and

benefit delivery for Medicaid, Food assistance, Colorado Works, and other income assistance programs. No degree or specialized training necessary, but includes a great opportunity for State training. Bilingual ability is preferred and given consideration, but not required. Starting salary is minimum \$26,000 per year and full benefits, depending on experience. Applications and complete job descriptions are available at 605 Christy Ave., Saguache, Colorado, by visiting the Saguache County website at Saguache County.net or by calling (719) 655-2537 and requesting one be mailed. Completed applications must be received by Saguache County Administration no later than 3:00 pm. on February 15, 2021. Saguache is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (1/27)

**Now hiring prep cooks and servers** and housekeepers. To inquire, call 719-873-1995 Monday through Friday between 9am - 5pm. (1/21)

**Rio Grande County Tourism Board** is seeking a part-time Tourism Assistant for Marketing. Rio Grande County wants to ensure potential visitors are seeing the latest and most relevant information about the county. Individual would be responsible for working with the tourism board on all aspect of Marketing including both print and online media. Applicant must have previous marketing experience. Please send cover letter, resume and examples of work to Human Resources 925 6th St. Room 207, Del Norte, CO 81132. Closes 1/19/21. (01/19)

**Monte Vista Cooperative is now hiring.** Several positions available both CDL and Non-CDL. For more information stop by the main office or fill out an application online at www.mvcoop.com (1/21)

**Construction experienced worker needed for many different types of carpentry work.** Pay depends on experience. Need to be a self starter.

Call:719-849-1796 (1/20)

**Saguache County is currently accepting RFP's for a new Saguache GENERAL PURPOSE OF POSITION: Serves as the County's Chief Legal Officer and Legal Counsel to the Board of County Commissioners.** Performs a variety of complex high level administrative, technical, professional work in advising and representing Board of County Commissioners and Elected Officials (upon direction from Board of County Commissioners), and Department Heads; conduct civil lawsuits; prepare legal documents and correspondence; conduct legal research and assist various entities and committees sup-

ported or appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**Currently licensed to practice law in the State of Colorado and the United States Court of Appeals. Ability to independently perform listed responsibilities with a minimum of supervision. **ESSENTIAL POSITION FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**Researches and applies knowledge of federal and state statutes and regulations relating to county government, contracts, employment civil rights, land use, environment, finance and general law. Prepares briefs, pleadings, contracts, and other legal documents and correspondence; operate computer,

analyze and render opinions regarding comprehensive legal issues/documents; and negotiates on the County's behalf. Represents the legal and business interests of the County, makes presentations in various types of litigation and administrative hearings, including child and adult protection and child support matters when working with Social Services. Represents the County and Department of Social Services in trials, appeals and administrative proceedings in courts and in State administrative agencies statewide.This is a full-time position with benefits included.All interested parties should submit a proposal in a sealed envelope with "COUNTY ATTORNEY"



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Gorda is a 3 year old Shepherd mix. She is very friendly with all people including kids. She is full of energy and is very playful and affectionate. She has potential to get along with larger dogs, but absolutely no small dogs or animals.




April & Klaus are a bonded pair and need to stay together. They are both Belgian Shepherd mix. April is a 2 year old, altered female. Klaus is an intact 6 year old male. They're very affectionate and do great with all people and kids.



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# Valley Wide Classifieds

**on the envelope** by January 15, 2021 at 3:00 PM to: Saguache County, Attention: Wendi Maez, County Administrator, PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149. For questions please contact Wendi Maez, County Administrator at 719-655-2231 or you may email your questions to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.(01/21)

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# Accolades to URGED influenced projects

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

**RIO GRANDE COUNTY-** The Upper Rio Grande Economic Development (URGED) group met for the first of the year meeting on the morning of Jan. 12 and heard a presentation on past multiphase projects from URGED Director Marty Asplin. Asplin recapped projects from the past several years, highlighting some of the economic development that has been happening throughout the Valley.

Asplin began by stating that the group has been very busy over the past four years, first bringing to light the work that was done to help the River Valley Inn Nursing Home become a reality for Del Norte. Asplin stated that URGED worked with local and state officials to first procure the land where the new facility sits and their part in helping purchase the property from the Upper Rio Grande School District.

The facility houses 60 beds and employs 55 people when at full capacity.

Next, Asplin spoke about work that was done on the Proximity Malt in Monte Vista and how the group helped obtain the proper permits through Rio Grande Land Use as well as Rio Grande County Com-

missioners. The facility employs 21 people and has brought new barley strains into the Valley to offer a variety to micro brewers around the state. "They do barley for not only the home growers or big breweries but for the small brewers. Their main focus is on microbreweries, which Colorado has over 400," said Asplin.

Asplin also took a moment to highlight work done to the Rio Grande Hospital which included adding an additional 13,800 square feet to the existing building. The hospital was also able to expand their services through wound care, the hyperbaric chamber and created a new emergency room. URGED met with hospital staff and architects throughout the duration of the project which was completed in 2018.

Work has been ongoing at the old Frontier Drive In located just outside of Center throughout the summer. A new screen has been installed, new signage and work continues on the Yurts as well as the projection house and snack bar. The old drive-in is expected to continue work on the facility throughout the next year and when finished, will feature Colorado independent films.

The group also helped bring the new playwave to Del Norte, which

was finished just in time for summer last year. The playwave consists of several phases which allowed more access to the river and recreational opportunities for the Del Norte area. The next several phases of the project

will move forward in the coming year.

Asplin finished his presentation by highlighting the work that was done to help Rio Grande County administer a grant program to help

local businesses suffering during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program utilized CARES Act funding issued to the county earlier this fall and provided \$600,000 to small businesses in Rio Grande County.

# Backcountry snow turns deadly

**CUMBRES - Saturday, Jan. 9,** the Conejos County Sheriff's Office received a report from New Mexico State Police about a snow caving incident with injuries on Cumbres Pass, 7 miles north of the Colorado/New Mexico state line.

It was reported to Sheriff Garth Crowther that approximately 16 Boy Scouts and adults from Los Alamos, New Mexico were snow caving near the Red Lake trail when one of the snow caves caved in on a 17-year-old boy.

When authorities from Conejos County Sheriff's Office arrived on scene, they were informed that the juvenile had been transported by private vehicle to the medical clinic in Chama, New Mexico Sheriff Crowther confirmed that the young man was pronounced dead upon arrival at the clinic. Investigation at the scene revealed that the boy was alone working on his snow cave.

The rest of the group was at a campfire a short distance from the snow cave. After a short time one of the other boys went to check on the victim and found him buried in the snow cave. He was dug out immediately. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation was started immediately

and the young man was transported to Chama, where he was pronounced dead. New Mexico State Police are assisting the Conejos County Sheriff's Office in the investigation.

On Sunday, The Conejos County Sheriff's Office and Conejos County Ambulance were back in the same area for a backcountry rescue, involving a 34-year-old woman out of Santa Fe, New Mexico who was snowshoeing in the backcountry. She was rescued after having a serious allergic reaction.



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8:22 AM	MONTE VISTA: Chamber of Commerce	3:50 PM
8:48 AM	CENTER: Alta Convenience Store	3:30 PM
9:20 AM	SAGUACHE: Saguache Antiques/Hotel	3:00 PM
9:36 AM	KV ESTATES: Clubhouse	2:38 PM
9:45 AM	VILLA GROVE: Villa Grove Trade	2:30 PM
10:15 AM ARRIVE	SALIDA: ANYWHERE	2:00 PM DEPART
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# Chaffee Shuttle service adds new SLV route

**BY LYNDIE FERRELL**  
**SAN LUIS VALLEY** - Thanks to a grant awarded through the Colorado Department of Transportation in July 2020, Chaffee Shuttle Service has added a new route that provides transportation to rural communities throughout the Valley. According to Executive Director Hank Martin, the service is only just getting started Valley and has now connected almost all six counties in the region. The new route beginning in South Fork began Jan. 7 and will run every Thursday.

The new "Pronghorn Shuttle" will pick up early morning in South Fork at the visitor's center located at the crossroads of Highway 160 and 149 and take riders through Del Norte, over to Center, down into Hooper and Mosca area before heading over to Alamosa where riders can then continue to Saguache, Salida, Pueblo and on to Denver depending on the route.

"We are trying to connect San Luis Valley rural areas that have been determined to be below the poverty level. Through our re-

search we have found that there are many families in the Valley that have transportation needs for various reasons. Some may be one vehicle families that need to get to appointments, interviews or even work while others just need public transportation to go shopping or visit family," said Martin.

Chaffee Shuttle Service was recently awarded another grant and will be using the funds to further their service into areas like La Jara and Antonito. "We have found that south of Alamosa is one of the areas that is in need of transportation services and once we complete the research portion, we can move forward to creating more routes."

The Hope Grant was awarded to 24 agencies throughout the state and will allow Chaffee Shuttle to hire a consultant to complete a research project which identifies further transportation needs in the Valley. "We coordinate with local government officials, medical facilities and several chambers in order to spread the word to people who may need transporta-

tion services. We created the SLV Transit Council to coordinate with as many entities as possible to identify needs in the Valley," continued Martin.

As of right now, Chaffee Shuttle has nine vehicles in their fleet with a 13-passenger shuttle stationed in Saguache and one in Monte Vista. For more information or to see a full statewide and Valley-wide route schedule visit [www.slvrtc.com](http://www.slvrtc.com). The new route from South Fork will be added to the website soon.

The "Mountain Goat Shuttle" runs Tuesday and Wednesdays. Tuesdays begin at 7:30 at the Del Norte Alto Convenience Store and runs through Monte Vista, to Center to Saguache over to Villa Grove and into Salida. Wednesday's route is from the Saguache Hotel to Center to Del Norte and then on to Monte Vista and ends in Alamosa.

Those who wish to confirm times can contact the driver Richard Duran at 719-530-1167 or by visiting the Facebook Page at Eagle Shuttle Direct SLV.



# Traditional IRAs vs. Roth IRAs

Adequate retirement planning can set men and women up to enjoy their golden years however they see fit. Getting to retirement with enough money takes discipline and commitment and may require some sacrifices along the way.

"Retirement planning" is an umbrella term that covers various types of financial products and investments. One of the products prospective investors are likely to hear about when mulling their retirement investment options is an Individual Retirement Account, or IRA. An IRA is a personal retirement savings plan that can provide tax benefits to those who qualify. When speaking with a financial planner or exploring options on their own, prospective investors will hear about Traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs and wonder what distinguishes one from the other. The following breakdown can help investors understand those differences with the hopes of finding the best option for them.

### Contributions

Contributions to Traditional IRAs are pre-tax, and they may be tax deductible depending on the account holder's income and other factors. Contributions to Roth IRAs are made with post-tax income and are not eligible for tax deductions.

### Taxes on distributions

While men and women about to open an IRA likely won't have to worry about distributions for quite some time, it's important that prospective account holders know that, according to Prudential, Traditional IRA account holders will pay federal taxes on their account's investment earnings and on pre-tax contributions when money is withdrawn. Roth IRA account holders will not pay federal taxes on withdrawals, including their investment earnings, if they meet certain eligi-

bility requirements. Prospective investors should know that there are tax penalties for account holders who withdraw money from their Traditional or Roth IRAs before they reach age 59 1/2. Exceptions to that rule should be discussed with a tax or accounting professional.

### Income requirements

In order to open an IRA, whether it's a Traditional or Roth IRA, prospective account holders must have earned income, such as wages, salaries or income from self-employment. Men and women who do not work can still open an IRA, but only if their spouse is employed and the couple jointly files their tax return.

There also may be income limits depending on which type of IRA an investor chooses. There are no income limits attached to Traditional IRAs, but account holders' ability to deduct contributions from their income may be limited if their spouse is eligible to participate in an employer-sponsored retirement plan. There are income limits associated with Roth IRAs. Account holders' adjusted growth income must be below certain limits depending on their tax filing status (i.e., filing single or filing jointly with a spouse).

### Distributions and age

The Internal Revenue Service notes that Traditional IRA account holders must begin taking distributions by April 1 following the year in which they turned 70 1/2 years of age and by December 31 in future years. No minimum distributions are required for Roth IRA account holders.

Understanding the various types of IRAs can be difficult. Prospective investors who need help navigating their retirement planning should not hesitate to contact financial planning professionals. MM16C617

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# School team names may be changing

BY SYLVIA LOBATO

**SANFORD** — Loveland, Strasburg and Sanford took to the playing field the first weekend of December for the Colorado state football championships, bearing tribal nicknames. That may change.

The first three are nicknamed "Indians." CSU Pueblo (then University of Southern Colorado) also shared this moniker before changing its nickname to the ThunderWolves in 1994.

Adams State University also once shared the nickname before becoming the Grizzlies.

Eleven other schools in Colorado feature mascots depicting indigenous peoples or imagery. Those schools are Arapahoe (Warriors), Arickaree (Indians), Grand Junction Central (Warriors), Cheyenne Mountain (Indians), Frederick (Warriors), Kiowa (Indians), La Veta (Redskins), Montrose (Indians), Mountain Valley (Indians), Weldon Valley (Warriors) and Yuma (Indians).

The debate has reached every corner of the country and Colorado as high schools like Eaton and Lamar, the two who played in that 2A title game, have faced calls from their community to change the name.

Officials at Sanford say the school has an agreement with one of the tribes to continue using the nickname.

Professional teams also have decided to change their mascots, as seen by the

Washington Football team in the NFL dropping "Redskins" and the Cleveland Indians in MLB set to retire their mascot after the 2021 season.

Oct. 5, 2015, Governor Hickenlooper issued an Executive Order establishing the Commission to Study American Indian Representations in Public Schools. The study occurred in the early months of 2016.

The commission, which included leaders from the American Indian community, educators, students and representatives from civil and governmental organizations, met with schools and communities to discuss their mascots and also studied the effects of these mascots on students' mental health.

The commission met with school representatives and community members from Loveland, Strasburg, Eaton and Lamar.

They recommended that all schools eliminate use of a Native American mascot.

Still, schools have the choice thanks to a Colorado constitutional provision calling for local control of educational actions.

If a school still wanted to retain its mascot, the commission set forth a second recommendation calling for the school to create a meaningful relationship with a Native tribe to go over respectful guidelines to keep the imagery.



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- Sunday, January 31 at 10AM
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- January 11-31
- Virtual Reverse Polar Plunge
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**SOLD**

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

**A beautiful home with charm and elegance in Beaver Mountain Estates!**  
 This Home borders the national forest with beautiful mountain views from the wrap around front deck and outdoor propane fireplace with additional large rear covered porch. Large living room with Lennox propane fireplace and EIF electrical heating that can heat the home and dining area with custom light fixture with dining seating 10 for all your entertaining. Custom Kitchen with two sinks and two dishwashers for quick clean up after entertaining with beautiful Knotty Alder wood cabinets and new refrigerator and microwave. This home is beautifully hand troweled on ceilings/walls with tall ceilings and tall solid wood interior doors and Bella 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.  
**Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

**SOLD**

**Price Just Reduced!!**  
 • 1 bedroom • 1 bathroom • \$74,900

Adorable Park Model home in the River's Edge Mountain View RV Resort! Everything is included, all it needs is you! All furniture, appliances and pots and pans come with this cozy home that includes an enclosed sun room, storage shed and work bench! MLS#760432  
 57 Dennette Lane • South Fork  
**Bernadette Gingrass Steffens & CO. Realty**  
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

**SOLD**

**New Listing! Charming Family Home, Priced to Sell!**  
 4 bedroom • 2 bath • 1,850 sq. ft. • \$215,000

Comfortable family home with large balcony to enjoy your mountain views! Nice kitchen, stone fireplace, wood-burning stove and beautiful bathrooms! MLS #758665  
 198 Elm Drive • South Fork  
**Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

**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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