CENTRE POST DISPATCH

Volume 119, Number 49

Thursday, December 3, 2020

75¢

Contracts trickle in for water Subdistrict 4

Shorts

COVID-19 drivethru testing this Saturday at Ski Hi



MONTE VISTA -Rio Grande Public Health announced that there will be drive-thru COVID-19 testing Saturday, Dec. 5, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ski-Hi Complex. Pre Registration for appointments is highly encouraged at https:// curative.com/sites/15334/walkup Do not eat, drink, use tobacco, use mouthwash or toothpaste at least 30 minutes before the test. Masks are required. To be tested please enter off Sherman Avenue. For additional information contact Rio Grande Public Health at 719-657-3352.

Moffat clerk looks ahead

BY PATRICK SHEA

MOFFAT - On Sept. 1, Amy Hardin became the Clerk and Treasurer for the Town of Moffat. The former postmaster moved to Moffat in May with an eye for change in a growing community.

"I wanted to be a part of something bigger," Hardin said. "I love it. I get to learn something new all the time. The board is working on a number of projects. They're hopping, and they're keeping me hopping."

Hardin moved to the San Luis Valley three years ago to manage post offices for Crestone, Moffat and Saguache. She can match a face with a P.O. Box Number and said she sees changes throughout the Moffat community. To clarify government activity, Hardin

By PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE COUNTY -During their final meeting of 2020 on Dec. 1, board members picked through contracts for next year and analyzed a tight budget for the water subdistrict along San Luis Creek in the upper San Luis Valley.

Subdistrict4(SpecialImprovement District 4) is part of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, a selfgoverned collection of members cooperating to manage water usage to meet state standards.

Please see WATER on Page 7A

Subdistrict 4 includes this cemetery north of the Mirage ghost town where antelope roam the Cotton Creek drainage.

Photo by Patrick Shea



Another annexation proposed for town of Moffat

BY PATRICK SHEA

MOFFAT - The Dec. 1 Moffat Town Board meeting uncovered detailed work for trustees to complete before 2020 concludes, primarily surrounding annexation and zoning issues. Mayor Patricia Reigel scheduled a meeting with Town Attorney Mallika Magner to examine

Moffat ordinances, and the board "...certain findings of fact scheduled more meetings to regarding the Terrell W. Bowers address Magner's issues with the Annexation." Marshall Pierce town's underdeveloped planning from North Carolina presented and zoning documents.

notification in the Saguache Crescent, Resolution 2020-25 qualified for a public hearing. This resolution simply made

the annexation's benefits during Following four weeks of public the public comment period and provided more background during the public hearing later in the evening

Please see MOFFAT on Page 7A



(Left to right) Trustees Ray Miller and Brian Morgan review agenda items with Clerk and Treasurer Amy Hardin (standing) while Town Attorney Mallika Magner prepares for the Moffat Town Board meeting on Dec.1.

David Brown of Mosca elected to Colorado **Farm Bureau** board

A new president, vice president and slate of board members take the reins of the state's largest agriculture organization.

COLORADO - During a historic annual meeting, districts from across the state connected virtually to elect a new group of leaders to the Colorado Farm Bureau's board of directors on Nov. 21. Carlyle Currier of Molina, Colorado and James Henderson of La Jara, Colorado were named president and vice president of the organization, respectively. Gary Melcher, Holly, Colorado; Gary Paul, Yoder, Colorado; Roxi McCormick, Crook, Colorado and Joel Currier. Molina, Colorado were reelected. Newly elected board members Please see BROWN on Page 6A

SLV COVID-19 test positivity rates decrease

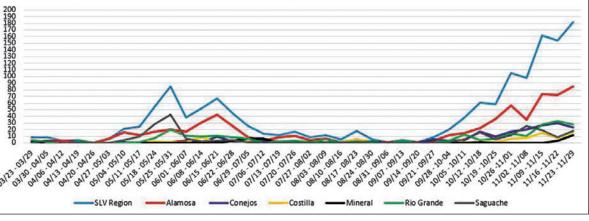
Five new SLV

promotes transparency.

"We follow CORA [Colorado Open Records Act]," Hardin explained. Although a CORA search often starts by mailing (or emailing) a request to the state office in Denver, Hardin said she will share documents on the spot for interested people, if possible.

"I want to see the community come together for the common good," Hardin said. "If we show love and compassion, we can get buy-in from people who get on the happy wagon."

COVID-19 deaths the past week **By TREY SPAULDING** SAN LUIS VALLEY - Tuesday, Nov. 24, COVID-19 active cases in the SLV were 247. As of Dec. 2, active cases in the Valley's five counties decreased from 258 to 254 during the past week. Statewide the 7-day positivity rate increased to 11.63% over the past week. Wednesday, Dec 2, San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership reported that the SLV two-Please see COVID on Page 5A March 23, 2020 through November 29, 2020





With interest rates at historic lows, it might be a time to refinance!



OBITUARIES

Donley R. Carrigan, 81

Donley R. Carrigan of Pueblo, born Aug. 8, 1939, passed away Nov. 25, 2020. Preceded in death by his first wife, Sheila Rae Carrigan. Survived by his wife, Marla Carrigan; children, Christopher (Jessie) Pucket, Brian (Donna) Pucket, Robert and Susan Ennis; grandchildren, Daymion, Scarlett, Everleigh and Madeline Carrigan; numerous extended family and friends. Donley was a member of Eagles #145, enjoyed fishing, working on cars, drove motocross and drag racing. He especially loved spending time with his kids and



grandkids and enjoyed the outdoors. Visitation will be 3 p.m.–7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, 2020, with a 10 person limit rotation due to COVID-19 restrictions at Roselawn Funeral Home. Interment will be 1 p.m., Mon, Dec. 7, 2020, in Alamosa Cemetery and limited to 25 people. Online condolences can be made at roselawnpueblo.org

Elizabeth Medina Martines, 80

Elizabeth passed away in her home she loved dearly on November 26, 2020. Elizabeth was born August 16, 1940 to John R and Helen Torres of Center, Colorado where she was raised. In 1959 she married Alfred Medina. To that union she became the mother of Lorrie Schofield (Destry), Gary Medina (Robin) and Larry Medina (Bonnie). She was proud of her six grandchildren. Brandee Medina, Jonathan Medina (Camille), Adam Medina (Laura), Hollie Medina, Larysa Medina and Logan Medina. She was truly blessed to have 11 great-grandchildren. Shrayder Vanderpool, Anthony, Keegan, Tristan, Aiden, Bryson, Neila Medina. Harper and Charlee Medina. Gabriel and Raeligh Welch.

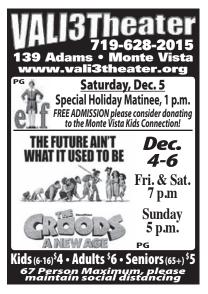
Liz was so proud of her accomplishment of returning to school and later on getting a job as the Treasurer Manager of Holy Name of Mary Credit Union for 28 years until herretirement. She remarried in 2003, to Larry Martines in Saguache, Colorado After retirement she started working at Del Norte Head-start part time. It was never uncommon to her the voices of small children in the community shouting out "Hi grandma Liz"!

Aunt Leesy had many nieces and nephews she held special to her. With funny memories they each shared along with warm conversations and laughter. She held her nephew Matt Torres close to her heart. Liz was very blessed to have her special loving companion Juanito Vigil who made trips from Commerce City Colorado just to spend as much time as he could with her. Surviving siblings, sisters Mary Santistevan Las Cruces NM, Gloria Chavarin Calexico CA, Cora Vigil (Nick) Farmington New Mexico Sister-in-law Carol Torres Strasburg Co, Martha Torres Albuquerque NM, Sally Torres Vigil



Albuquerque New Mexico Proceeded in death are John R and Helen Torres. Brothers Manual Torres, Orlando (Jane) Torres, Andy Torres, Claude Torres and Nephew Harold Torres. Alfred Medina and Larry Martines.

Cremation was selected and a family graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020, at the La Garita Cemetery. To express condolences, please visit www. rogersfunerals.com Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements.



Delilah Jean Moore 87

Delilah Jean Moore passed away at the Monte Vista Estates in Monte Vista, Colorado Nov. 26, 2020. She was born to Lorens and Bernice (Lakey) Lebeck on Aug. 14, 1933, in Matheson, Colorado.

She married Delbert "Jinx" Moore on June 3, 1951. To that reunion three children were born, Barry Moore, Timothy Moore and Connie (Moore) Strohmayer. They lived in Westminster, Colorado, Stratford, Texas and then moved to Monte Vista, Colorado to be closer to family.

She worked at the Stratford Post Office for many years, plus a few other jobs while raising her family with Jinx. She enjoyed her family, friends, crocheting, baking, playing the piano and her special dog Gigi. Her favorite saying was "YOU PILL"—that meant she loved you!

She is survived by son, Barry Moore, Dalhart Texas; daughter, Connie (Rusty) Strohmayer, Monte Vista, Colorado, grandchildren Melissa Moore, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Tim (Trinity) Moore, Texhoma, Oklahoma; Taz (Stacy) Strohmayer, Round Rock, Texas; Tasha (Nathan) Mausbach, Omaha, Nebraska; 8 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

She is preceded by her mom, dad, husband Delbert, son Timothy Moore, sister Doris Noah, daughterin-law Beth Moore, granddaughter Zoey Ann Mausbach.

Viewing will be held at Strohmayer's Funeral Home on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. in Monte Vista, Colorado. Graveside Services will be held at the Simla Cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 at 1 p.m. in Simla, Colorado.



Memorial contributions can be made to the Monte Vista Estates for recreational supplies in care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home.

Arrangements in care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home.



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

A day that will live in infamy

Very soon we are to honor those who gave their lives in the service of their country on Dec. 7, 1941.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with that date, it's the day the Imperial Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor and launched the United States into World War II.

The attack was a surprise airstrike by the Japanese and killed 2403 U.S. personnel and destroyed or damaged a total of 19 Navy warships. The Japanese had hoped to destroy our Navy and thereby keep us from helping the people they were subjugating all over Southeast Asia and China but as luck would have it, our aircraft carriers were at sea and were not damaged and could prosecute the war, thus we and our allies would go on to win that conflict.

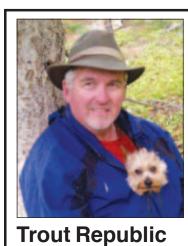
The President at the time, Franklin D. Roosevelt, gave a famous speech and called the date of the attack a "date that will live in infamy." And he was right about that. I find it interesting that his speech was only seven minutes long and Abraham Lincoln's infamous Gettysburg Address was only three minutes long.

It would appear that a whole lot can be said in a short amount of time by politicians if they so desire. That skill has definitely been lost to time and a new breed of glad handers have been gifted with diarrhea of the mouth when it comes to long winded speeches about nothing.

I was born in 1956 and so I grew up knowing many men and women who remembered WWII in detail and quite a few who had actually been at Pearl Harbor on that fateful day. Their lives were changed forever and they spoke often tearfully of the men and women who lost their lives then and in the years of war that followed that event.

I will always stop on that date and silently honor those who fought and died on that horrible day. This year, yet another new event falls now on that date to be celebrated in its own right. For Dec. 7, is also the last day of open enrollment for Medicare.

I don't know about you all but Ol' Dutch has grown weary of the constant barrage of salespersons on the television begging and pleading me to choose their company to represent my interest in getting a Medicare provider and warning me of that impending due date.



You would think the Japanese are sneaking on us again but this time we are getting more than adequate warning of the impending doom

by Kevin Kirkpatrick

should we "fail to make that call." I was a child of the 60s and can recall good old "Willy" Joe Namath performing his Sunday football magic for the Indianapolis Colts year after year. And although he was not my favorite football player at the time, I did kind of liked his free spirit attitude and new approach to the game. But of late Old Joe and I mean "old," is getting on my nerves as he is on television every few minutes telling me about using his company of choice as my Medicare provider. Something tells me that Joe doesn't really need a ride to the doctor, discount drugs or help with a wheelchair but you get my drift.

So next week we cannot only honor those who gave so unselfishly of their lives to this great Nation but also can celebrate that Joe Namath can stay home and enjoy some of that retirement without having to appear every 11 minutes and 23 seconds on the television about Medicare. Poor old man has to be about worn-out too.

If only Tom Selleck were so lucky. Poor man will be selling reverse mortgages until he dies. I think he needs to concentrate more on NYC police work and get that family of his in line for another season.

Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic. at TroutRepublic



Your Night Sky

Moon and **Stars**

By DARLENE DANKO

Since the Full Moon was Nov. 30, the sky is still quite bright, but that about this constellation is will change a little each night as the moon begins to fade away. On Dec. 13 the Geminid Meteor Shower will peak and is going to be wonderful this year! I will tell you all about that next week.

On Dec. 2 and 3, the moon will join up with the constellation Gemini the Twins. They rise in the East and will be up all night. Right now the bright moon will fade out the faint Kevin Kirkpatrick and his yorkie, stars, but the bright ones Pollux and Castor should be visible.

They will be just to the upper com. Additional news can be found at left of the moon. Pollux is the It's close to 4:30 giving us an early www.troutrepublic.com or on Twitter lower one and Castor is the upper one. This constellation is just to

the left of Orion the Hunter. The Milky Way runs between the two constellations with a little bit of each constellation sitting in front of the Milky Way.

What's interesting that it's the radiant for the Geminid Meteor Shower! So when the moon goes away and you view the meteors, you will also be able to see the entire constellation.

The moon will rise in the east mid to late evening as the month progresses, with it rising a little later each evening. Its last quarter is Dec. 7 and the New Moon is Dec. 14 to help us watch the Gemenids. The next full moon is Dec. 29. Have you noticed how early the Sun sets now? night to view the night sky.

Ihope you had a nice Thanks giving.

Now we have to plan for Christmas. We will soon be going out to cut down our tree for Christmas. I miss having Winterfest, but we all have to stay safe and healthy. So, take good care of yourself. I suspect we will soon have a good vaccine for the COVID-19. I used to be a nurse, and for a while I was also a Navy Nurse. So I know what it means to stay safe.

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

LETTERS POLICY

encouraged. They should be fewer author and include a phone number publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent

sender or discarded.

All letters must be signed by the to staff and not for print must be person, per subject, per four Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail designated as such. Letters over issues. We reserve the right to to montevistanews@gmail.com and address where the author 300 words and without contact reject letters for reasons we believe (Attention: Letter to the Editor). can be reached (these are not for information will be returned to the are appropriate. Please send Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. Friday. letters to Letter to the Editor c/o We will accept one letter per Valley Publishing, PO Box 607, due to space constraints.

Political letters may be limited

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South Fork shines for the holiday season



The Town of South Fork is once again beautifully illuminated for the holidays.

Hooked Harmony played Christmas carols during the Fourth Annual Yuletide celebration in South Fork.

Schedule your Colorado Gives donation

now

COLORADO - In Colorado, Colorado Gives Day, is Tuesday, Dec. 8. But if you want to participate now, you can schedule your donation at https://www. coloradogives.org/ and it will go through on Dec. 8.



Don't forget scheduling your donations

for or donating on Dec. 8 will ensure that your donation will be matched, which makes your donation go farther.

Colorado's day of giving is here working to make sure that Colorado's laws and policies aren't falling behind the rest of the nation so that children and families in our state can have a fair chance at prosperity this holiday season and for years to come!



"I love my family, but I can't tell who has COVID. I step up by wearing a mask and keeping my distance even around them."

covid19.colorado.gov

Center Post-Dispatch

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COVID

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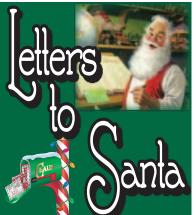
week positivity rate had dropped from 8.8% to a 5.6% positivity rate. 11.3% to 6.03% and is approaching the 5% threshold set by the World Health Organization.

Friday, Nov. 27, Rio Grande County joined Conejos, Mineral, and Costilla counties and moved to level "Orange" on the state's COVID-19 dial. Alamosa County remains at level "Red" and Saguache County remains at level "Yellow."

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) reserves the right to move a county to a more restrictive level at any point, should circumstances warrant more aggressive restrictions. Where possible and reasonable, CDPHE officials see value in keeping SLV on one level, given that the health care system functions to serve the entire region, and the county residents frequently move between counties for work and other reasons.

The San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership stated Monday, Nov. 20, "Unfortunately, deaths and hospitalizations have increased recently. We are sorry to report that there have been 5 COVID-related deaths in the San Luis Valley in the past week (1 in Alamosa County, 1 in Costilla County, 1 in Saguache County, 1 in Conejos County, and 1 in Rio Grande County). Since the pandemic began, there have been 25 COVID-related deaths of San Luis Valley residents. Our hearts go out to every family who has lost someone to this virus. Hospitalizations for COVID-19 were very low in August and September, but they began to rise in October. We have had 93 local COVID-19 hospitalizations so far, with 24% (22) of those just in the past two weeks."

According to the CDPHE, COVID-19 dial dashboard, all counties in the SLV saw a significant decrease in the positivity rate of tests conducted. Among the SLV counties on Dec. 2 Rio Grande County had the lowest COVID-19 test positivity rate of 3.2% - a decrease of 1.7% from last week. Conejos County dropped from 16.8% to a 9.1% positivity rate, Saguache County dropped from 16.7% to 11.3%, Alamosa County dropped from 14.5% to 7.0%, Costilla County decreased from 13.2% to 6.8% and Mineral County went from



There were 254 known active cases in the SLV Dec. 2. "Active cases" means that the cases are confirmed positive for COVID-19 and are currently being supported by Public Health during their isolation period. Alamosa County saw the largest

increase in active cases with 25 more cases than a week ago. Cases by county were as follows as of Dec. 2:

Alamosa: 141 Conejos: 29 Costilla: 6 Mineral: 5 Rio Grande: 61 Saguache: 12

According to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center Nov. 30, Colorado continues to have a lower seven-day positivity moving average test rate than its neighboring states with an 11.2% positivity rate. All neighboring states saw an increase

in test positivity rates over the past week. On Nov. 30 Kansas was had a COVID-19 positivity rate of 38.1%. Wyoming 32.8%, Utah 18.2%, Arizona 20%, Nebraska 13.3% and Oklahoma 20.2%. The Colorado and World Health Organization two-week positivity goal is 5% or lower.



Will be published in the December 16, **2020 issues** of your local newspaper

Send your Letters to Santa to be included in this very special issue by Tuesday, **December 8 to email:** montevistaads@gmail.com or mail: Valley Publishing PO Box 607 Monte Vista, CO 81144



Center Post-Dispatch

Thursday, December 3, 2020

Colorado Secretary of State's Office updates compiled election result totals

CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

By Trish Gilbert

Saguache County Clerk & Recorder 719-655-2512

Colorado Secretary of State's Office Updates Compiled Election Result Totals

DENVER, Colo- The Colorado Secretary of State's Office announced today (December 1st) that it has posted official compiled results to its election night reporting website. The race for Judicial District 18 has triggered an automatic recount, which will begin December 2nd. This recount will involve the counties of Arapahoe,

Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln. business on December Statewide election certification will 1st to request a recount take place after the conclusion of for a race that does not the recount.

Automatic recounts happen when recount. There may the difference between the highest also be recounts of local races, which number of votes cast in a contest and the next highest number of votes cast in a contest is less than one half of one percent. Automatic recounts are required to be concluded no later than 35 days after the election, which is December 8th.

interested parties have until the end of electoral college meets.

trigger an automatic county clerks oversee. There are no recounts for Saguache County.

Presidential electors will be officially notified of the electoral college meeting by December 8th. The electoral college must meet on December 14th. Final certification of In addition to automatic recounts, election results must occur before the

Ways to boost your immune System during the holidays EBECCA COPLEY Vegetables and chickpeas.

BY REBECCA COPLEY

Getting sick around the holidays is something we all dread every year but especially in 2020. With all the merry making the holidays bring, and the running about, it's a good idea to give your immune system a boost. Here are four ways avoid stress during the holidays and you can try to keep your holidays healthier and safer this year.

• Take your vitamins - In addition to social distancing and washing your hands it's important to beef up your immune system. Make sure your giving your body the vitamins you need to stay well. Vitamin's like vitamin C, vitamin B-6, and vitamin E can all do a lot to help you stay healthy. You can find a lot of the vitamins you need in the foods you eat. Foods rich in vitamin C include oranges, strawberries, grapefruit, kale, bell peppers, spinach and broccoli. Since your body doesn't produce or store vitamin C a daily intake is important to maintain good health.

Vitamin B-6 is also important for supporting your immune system. Some foods rich in B-6 include chicken, salmon and tuna. Vitamin B-6 can also be found in green

Vitamin E can be found in foods such as nuts, seeds and spinach. Vitamin E is an antioxidant which can help your body ward of infections.

• Avoid stress - It can be hard to especially after the very stressful year 2020 has been. However, there are some ways that you can try to distance yourself from the anxiety. Defusing essential oils in your home like lavender and bergamot can help you create a stress relieving environment. Also doing some self-care like taking a bath or reading your favorite book can help. Try focusing on the parts of the holiday that bring you joy. Also make sure to get outside and soak in some sunlight and fresh air.

• Cut back on sugar - Another big roadblock to a healthy holiday is eating too many sweets. Sugar can make it difficult for your body to fight off viruses and infections. Having sweets in moderation even strong.

• Sleep - Another very vital part thank you.



of health is getting enough sleep. Although the holidays can make it hard to achieve this you won't regret getting enough sleep. Even during the holidays can help you if you have to catch up during the keep your immune system going day with a couple of naps getting rest is important. Your body will

SAGUACHE SHERIFF'S REPORT

Office for the period between Nov. and a weapons offense.

SAGUACHE COUNTY - The civil disputes, harassment, theft, following information was provided trespassing, criminal mischief, by the Saguache County Sheriff's suspicious activity, animal problems

23 and Nov. 30, 2020. On the road, motorists received Staff managed one deceased four speeding tickets. Staff assisted person in Center and another east two motorists, helped with a crash and of Saguache on County Road AA, recorded 10 traffic stops. Meanwhile, one missing person, one welfare three fires required attention, and check and four ambulance rides. deputies kept an eye on 20 controlled Officers responded to 15 calls for burns.



Enter on Sherman Ave. **Saturday, Dec. 5 • 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Please do not eat or drink anything, no tobacco, no mouthwash/ toothpaste for 30 minutes before the test. Masks required. Appointments are highly encouraged. Please pre-register at https://curative.com/sites/15334/walkup For additional information contact **Rio Grande Public Health at 719-657-3352**

FREE

COVID Testing Clinic

Safe, Easy Drive Thru at Ski-Hi Complex

IO GRANDE COUNTY COLORADO Public Health Department of Public Health & Environmen



Due to the Christmas Holiday falling on a Friday this year, trash will be collected early for Thursday and Friday Customers ONLY the week of Christmas. There will be no trash collection on Friday December 25th.

City of Creede Thursday customers: Please have your trash ready for collection the morning of December 23rd (Wednesday)

City of Creede Thursday customers: Please have your recycling ready for collection the morning of December 24th (Thursday)

Mineral County Residents: Please have your recycling ready for collection the morning of December 24th (Thursday)

Friday trash customers: Please have your trash ready for collection on December 24th (Thursday)

The week of New Years there will be NO CHANGE to your pick up schedules.

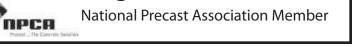
Trash and Recycle will be collected on regular schedules. Trash WILL be collected Friday - New Years Day

If you have any questions please contact our office:

Call 719.658.3060 www.mdswasteandrecycle.com

VALLEY PRECAST) SEPTIC TANKS --- SUPPLIES Local Septic Tank Manufacturer Large Inventory of Plumbing & **Septic System Supplies** Hassle free installation instantly approved in Colorado Watertight low profile anti float design **Concrete lasts for decades,** requires less maintenance 215 N. Washington St. • Monte Vista

SAN LUIS





BROWN

Continued from Page 1A

Colorado; Charly Minkler, Ignacio, plates full." Colorado; Callie Hendrickson, Meeker, Colorado and David Brown, Mosca, Colorado.

"Colorado Farm Bureau has over 100 years of experience representing agriculture in Colorado," says Carlyle Currier, newly elected president of the organization. "I am excited for this new group to come together and build off of the history of this great The returning members of the board as well as the new faces stand ready to represent agriculture and ensure farmers and ranchers can continue

Colorado Farm Bureau's mission is to promote, protect and enhance agriculture and rural Colorado. The organization represents all crops, livestock and sectors of agriculture and works to strengthen the industry through advocacy, leadership development, educational efforts and initiatives.

"Farmers and ranchers are not organization and lead it into the future. only vital to the survival of their local communities, but agriculture is the second largest contributor to the state's economy. Without agriculture, Colorado is a very different place,

include Nathan Weathers, Yuma, to do what they do best, keeping our says Currier. "This board of directors knows that. With their leadership Colorado Farm Bureau will continue to fight for farmers and ranchers and ensure that agriculture has a seat at the table locally, at the state Capitol and in Washington D.C."

The Colorado Farm Bureau board of directors consists of 14 members who represent 10 districts across Colorado as well as the Young Farmer and Rancher Program and the Women's Leadership Committee. The organization represents over 24,000 members growing every kind of crop and livestock available in the state.

Phone Call Away COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line 719.589.3671

Help is only a



If you are stressed, anxious, lonely, depressed, angry, or all of the above, you are not alone. We are in this together, and caring mental health professionals are available if you need to talk.

Virtual Therapy & Psychiatry slvbhg.org/covid-19

Behavioral Health therapy and psychiatry have never been easier to start. ALL SLVBHG locations are open for business virtually, providing services tot he convenience of your social distancing space by video consultations or over the phone. Call now to schedule an appointment: 719.589.3671

Mobile Health Unit

slvbhg.org/mobile Visit our website for an updated schedule of where the mobile unit will be. The Mobile Health Unit specializes in Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for substance use disorders.



Approved Medicaid Provider | 24 hour hotline: 719.589.3671 | slvbhg.org

MOFFAT Continued from Page 1A

Although Mayor Reigel was in charge of the meeting, Clerk and Treasurer Amy Hardin steered proceedings and prompted Reigel to conduct the public hearing and other items listed on the agenda. During her report, Mayor Reigel addressed the agenda item entitled, "Discussion of Mayor's refusal to be involved with town matters." Reigel cited requests for her to step down from a meeting on Sept. 29, "so I'm doing what our attorney asked."

Mayor Reigel also said, "I'm still acting as mayor." Trustee Ken Skoglund asked, "What is your role?" Reigel's answer was unclear, and she kept her seat at the table.

During the public comments period, trustees heard from three men in the room, a man on the phone and a couple whose email Hardin read for the board. Pierce used most of his three minutes to describe the Terrell W. Bowers Annexation proposal.

The email Hardin read also concerned the Bowers Annexation. The local couple expressed concern about expanding Moffat before further developing Area 420.

According to the petition to annex the Bowers property, phase one of the operation would include one to four greenhouses and possibly an outdoor crop as well. The number of greenhouses could grow to 10 in two or three years and possibly 20 in five years. In phase two, they hope to manufacture infused products. Phase three would include a marijuana retail outlet.

Pierce claimed that for every \$1 million in revenue, the town would receive \$50,000 in excise tax collection. He listed potential benefits for the local economy and tossed out auxiliary business ideas on-site, like a gas pump and community garden.

With Trustees Skoglund and Brian Morgan abstaining, the board voted 2–1 to accept the findings of fact in Resolution 2020-25 regarding the Bowers annexation.

Addressing new and other business, the board approved Tier 2 status for Apropos Enterprise LLC. Trustee Tyler Berger agreed to help Hardin repair the volleyball net and a broken swing soon. They

The board had a full quorum

Stagner (Vice President, Secretary

WATER

Continued from Page 1A -

attendance. board reviewed and considered Participation and Well Injury Payment (WIP) contracts. Program Manager Chris Ivers discussed adjustments to the fee structure before introducing the contracts. Each meter carries a fixed Administrative fee of \$643.63 in addition to a well-specific Stream Impact Fee, Sustainability Fee and Total Groundwater Withdrawal Fee. For inactive well owners, only the administration fee is assessed. John Mattingly joined the meeting contract submission for four wells. "Currently, I can't see a financially rational reason to use the wells," Mattingly said in the meeting. "I prefer to wait for the opportunity to

grow something worth the price of the water."

repairs in the spring. The board also

a portable hard drive for backup.

refrigeration and heating at the

contacted other businesses about

using the funds, but they declined.

Previous funds covered seven

months of utilities for the food

bank, and the town's surplus of

\$3,858 could pay the bills until

May 2021. The board approved

the food bank continues to provide

canned and boxed food, dairy and

meat (as well as delivery to senior

Magner passed along a suggestion

for the board to seek grant funding

for a sewage system. Skoglund

noted a failed attempt 20 years ago

to get state funding for a facility,

also noting the increased necessity

today. The board directed Hardin

board asked Magner to examine

their planning documents. Magner

provided suggestions in advance,

but trustees did not have responses

Long before the meeting, the

to pursue possibilities.

During her attorney's report,

the request.

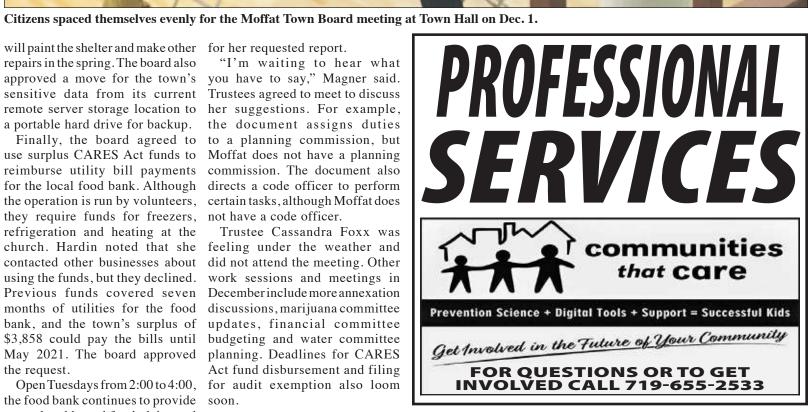
citizens).

with President David Frees, Pete Mattingly said he routinely saw and Treasurer), Managers Jan Waye 800 gallons per minute when he first and Jeremy Uhlenbrock and Ex started with his free-flowing wells. Officio Member Peggy Godfrey in Operations irrigated roughly 1,000 acres with four wells in the 1940s and In addition to voting to maintain 1950s. But as the aquifer has declined, the same positions for 2021, the his wells are dry until hydrostatic pressure is enough to release 20-50 gpm in wet years. In his conclusion to a letter for board members, Mattingly notes, "Bottom line, after consideration, I want to participate in the Subdistrict effort, even if I do not pump water for several years going forward, and I commit to supporting the effort with required financial participation as well as attending meetings to solve problems and move forward." The board approved all participation to hear the decision on his participation contracts and continues to pursue WIP contracts with 62 well owners in the subdistrict. The board approved the budget with recalculated fees and discussed flat-rate fees and reimbursements for the future.

will paint the shelter and make other for her requested report.

"I'm waiting to hear what approved a move for the town's you have to say," Magner said. sensitive data from its current Trustees agreed to meet to discuss remote server storage location to her suggestions. For example, the document assigns duties Finally, the board agreed to to a planning commission, but use surplus CARES Act funds to Moffat does not have a planning reimburse utility bill payments commission. The document also for the local food bank. Although directs a code officer to perform the operation is run by volunteers, certain tasks, although Moffat does they require funds for freezers, not have a code officer.

Trustee Cassandra Foxx was church. Hardin noted that she feeling under the weather and did not attend the meeting. Other work sessions and meetings in December include more annexation discussions, marijuana committee updates, financial committee budgeting and water committee planning. Deadlines for CARES Act fund disbursement and filing OpenTuesdays from 2:00 to 4:00, for audit exemption also loom soon.





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Shop local and small this Christmas

By Rebecca Copley

SAN LUIS VALLEY - 2020 has been a hard year for small businesses. With COVID-19 lockdowns many have struggled to survive and going out of business signs have become all too common. The struggle has also been felt by many of the San Luis Valley's local businesses.

"It's been tough," said Bernadette Torres of Torres Floral in Monte Vista adding, "We appreciate our loyal customers that have been hanging in there with us. We did have to close for a little while last spring. But so far, we've managed," said Torres although their revenue has been down. Torres also shared that she's stocked her shop with gifts for Christmas and décor, fresh flowers, wreaths and garlands.

"Our community is such that they are aware of it and I feel like they're doing a lot to help local businesses. We have a lot of people in our community that are staying loyal to hometown businesses to keep us afloat. Without them our doors would definitely be shut so it makes a big difference," said Torres.

Treasure Alley in Alamosa is in it through this." their 25th year of business and say that this has been by far their most difficult year. Their business had to completely close down for six weeks this past spring creating a very tough start for their summer season. Due to the support of local shoppers they were able to reopen in May.

"And now again, this holiday season we are faced with the possibility of being closed down. That of course would be devasting to this business as we are a "gift store," said Treasure Alley owner Carol Demlo. Demlo sharing that her shop has adequate space for customers to social distance and they are following all guidelines such as masks to ensure shoppers are safe in her store. "It is our fervent hope that we will be allowed to continue to operate. Small stores make towns interesting. We do not want to be a community of UPS trucks and Walmart. Support from our local community is literally the only way small local shops like Treasure Alley can survive," said Demlo.

Wendi Seger who in addition to running her restaurant Locavores my business is what I use to help

"Wendi's Good Things Market." Seger shared that being a smallbusiness owner this year has been having control of the future of our businesses, to having very little," said Seger.

When asked what it means for her as a small-business owner when people chose to shop locally Seger answered saying, "It means everything! This year, people may not realize it, but they are determining what the community will look like after COVID is gone. If they choose corporate owned businesses to shop at, that is what will be left. I've never been one to hammer people to shop local for local's sake. I always have felt it's my job to do better than the corporate owned businesses, to earn their business. However, right now, when people are shopping local, it really encourages me to keep going. It's just as much about knowing your business is loved and appreciated as it is bringing in revenue. We need that encouragement right now to just physically and mentally make

Many small-business owners and local artisans who do not have physical store fronts who depend on craft fairs and events to sell their products have also keenly felt the hardships of 2020. Rosemary Bertin who is an Independent Designer with Origami Owl shared that 2020 has been a difficult year for her business. "It's really hard. It's hard for businesses with storefronts as well but when you don't have a location, you're relying on people to still have your business card. Or remember where you are, or even remember that you exist when they're looking. Because normally people come to the festivals, fairs, and bazaars to look around and find things," said Bertin.

Bertin shared that she's had to get creative joining online expos like the one put together by SLV Voices. She's also done curbside delivery as she has inventory locally and has tried to do some advertising.

When asked what it means for her when people choose local Bertin answered, "When they purchase from me it means so much because

has also started a local store called, support my family. That's what helps me pay my car payments. That's what helps us buy Christmas gifts, is my small business." Bertin a rollercoaster. "We went from also sharing that although small businesses like hers may not be able to compete with stores like Walmart and Amazon, they go above and beyond in offering amazing customer service.

As you get ready to do your Christmas shopping this year please consider shopping local. Ask your friends if they know of anyone local who sells or makes the products you're looking for. When you shop local, you're not only supporting a local business you're investing in your entire community. SLV Support Local has a list of great local business that can be found here: https:// slvsupportlocal.com/category/shoponline/?fbclid=IwAR2P0gpA9dh3 mngZcmCR6zFJIt9wHVdj6am7l-UIogLHe4Q3sQX_qs4CgeQ



Kathy Black, owner of Kathy's Fabric Trunk, is helping local artisans to sell their art and crafts with booth space in her store located at 610 Grand Avenue in Del Norte.



SLV unemployment rate continues to be below state level

The average unemploym

RG County unemployment rate 4.9%

By Trey Spaulding SAN LUIS VALLEY - The

Colorado Department of Labor and Unemployment (CDLU) recently released October 2020 unemployment rates for San Luis Valley counties.

Recently released Colorado unemployment figures from the CDLU for October 2020 indicate that the unemployment rate in the San Luis Valley (SLV) continues to decline and to fare better than the statewide and national unemployment rates.

for Colorado in October was 6.2%. Nationwide the unemployment rate increased in October to 6.9%. In the San Luis Valley among the 21,604 labor force in October there were 20,521 employed and 1.083 unemployed or a 5.1%unemployment rate for the SLV. The SLV county with the lowest unemployment rate in October 2020 was Conejos County with 4.1% unemployment. Rio Grande County had the second lowest employment rate in the Valley with 4.9% unemployed. Mineral County had 5.6% unemployment followed by Alamosa County with a 5.3% unemployment rate. Costilla County once again had the highest unemployment rate in the SLV with 6.2% unemployed.



time, Franchesca loves spending time with her family - exercising, hiking, boating, and camping in a camper.

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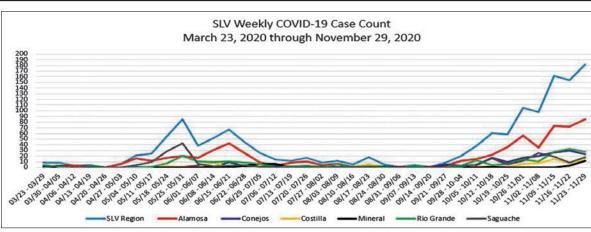
Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area invites you to donate to support their efforts in creating multiple informative vignettes on local history. Currently, the Heritage Area has produced nine informative vignettes with varying topics such as: the McIntire Ranch, the Espinosa Brothers, Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway, Fort Garland and many more. You can see these mini-vignettes on their website: sangreheritage. org or by following their Facebook page "Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area."

With 11,000 years of documented human habitation, the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area is a crossroads of the centuries. Here a unique blend of Native American, Hispano and Anglo settlement is re-

SAN LUIS VALLEY – The flected in the diversity of the people, art and traditions. The geographic isolation of the high desert valley and the peoples' enduring ties to the land have given rise to a rich cultural heritage and ensured its preservation. The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area mission is to promote, preserve, and protect our vital cultural resources.

> "Our goal is to raise \$5,000 in order to produce more of these local informative vignettes. We hope to bring more histories to our community as they have proven to be widely successful, and we have enjoyed the personal interactions," says Julie Chacon, Executive Director of the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area "These histories are long overdue to be told.'

Support the Sangre de Cristo See HERITAGE on Page 2



Rio Grande County moves to level orange on COVID-19 dial

By TREY SPAULDING

SAN LUIS VALLEY - Tuesday, Nov. 24, COVID-19 active cases in the SLV were 247. As of Nov. 30, active cases in the Valley's five counties increased over the past week to 252. Statewide the 7-day positivity rate dropped from 10.1% to 9.4% over the past week. Monday, Nov. 30, San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership reported that the SLV two-week positivity rate had dropped to 5.86% and is approaching the 5% threshold set by the World Health Organization.

Friday, Nov. 27, Rio Grande County joined Conejos, Mineral, and Costilla counties and moved to level "Orange" on the state's COVID-19 dial. Alamosa County remains at level "Red" and Saguache County remains at level "Yellow."

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) reserves the right to move a county to a more restrictive level at any point, should circumstances warrant more aggressive restrictions. Where possible and reasonable, CDPHE ofone level, given that the health care cases than a week ago. Cases by system functions to serve the entire region, and the county residents frequently move between counties for work and other reasons.

According to the CDPHE COVID-19 dial dashboard, all counties in the SLV saw a significant decrease in the positivity rate of tests conducted. Among the SLV counties Nov. 30 Rio Grande County had the lowest COVID-19 test positivity rate of 3.2% - a decrease of 1.7% from last week. Conejos County dropped from 16.8% to a 9% positivity rate, Saguache County dropped from 16.7% to 10.7%, Alamosa County dropped from 14.5% to 6.5%, Costilla County decreased from 13.2% to 6.5% and Mineral County went from 8.8% to a 5.4% positivity rate.

There were 252 known active cases in the SLV Nov. 30. "Active cases" means that the cases are confirmed positive for COVID-19 and are currently being supported by Public Health during their isolation period. Alamosa County saw the largest in-

ficials see value in keeping SLV on crease in active cases with 22 more county were as follows as of Nov. 30:

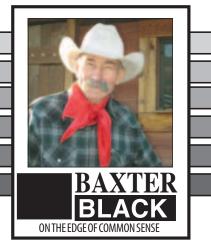
- Alamosa: 138
- Conejos: 23 Costilla: 9
- Mineral: 10
- Rio Grande: 54
- Saguache: 18

According to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center Nov. 30, Colorado continues to have a lower seven-day positivity moving average test rate than its neighboring states with an 9.4% positivity rate. All neighboring states saw an increase in test positivity rates over the past week. On Nov. 30 Kansas was had a COVID-19 positivity rate of 38.1%, Wyoming 32.8%, Utah 18.2%, Arizona 20%, Nebraska 13.3% and Oklahoma 20.2%. The Colorado and World Health Organization two-week positivity goal is 5% or lower.

General guidelines for Level Orange are summarized below. Please see COVID on Page 7

Both Sides

- Yeah, he wished he was a cowboy but just at times like this
- (Yup, he's glad that he's a cowboy but there's times on days like this)
- When he spent the day ahorseback and had time to reminisce



be this way)

- And he sees the hired on wranglers when he passes them the reins
- (And he sees the weekend cowboys when they're handin' him the reins)
- But by Monday they're a memory as he bills another page
- (But by Monday he's back ridin' and the open smell of sage)
- And forgets the car he's drivin' would've paid their yearly wage

(When he spends all day a'horseback thinkin', 'Wonder what I've missed?')

Never thinkin' about Monday, 'bout the real life he led (Never knowin' if it's Monday, if he'll ever get ahead)

Just the smell of sweaty horses and the peace inside his head (Just the smell of sweaty horses and a blanket for a bed)

How he really could'a been one if the cards had fell that way

(How he grew up punchin' cattle, had no other cards to play)

But he never had the option he had other cards to play

(So he never had the option, it was bound to

And he almost wants to join 'em but his common sense refrains (And he wonders could he make it in their life of ball and chains)

So he joins his boon companions and they toast their saddle sores (But he joins his fellow cowboys and they do their nightly chores)

They revel in the cowboy life and forget the wrangler's chores (Then doze off while the campfire talk drifts in from distant shores)

(Reminds him he would not survive in a weekend cowboy's cage)

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





Monte Christmas 'parade' still a go

BY REBECCA COPLEY

MONTE VISTA - The Monte Vista Downtown Christmas Celebration is still a go but with a few creative changes due to the rising COVID-19 cases in the San Luis Valley. Saturday, Dec. 5, they plan to have a tree lighting and Christmas caroling at Fullenwider Park at 5:30 p.m.

Then on Dec. 19 at 5:30 they hope to have the light parade but it will look a little different this year. Jennifer Becker who is organizing the event said that Unita Vance shared some creative ideas to keep the celebration alive. "Thank you Unita for your idea," said Becker when she shared the plan at the last City Council meeting. Becker adding, "I was really distraught. I didn't want to cancel this thing completely. I really feel like we need some happiness in our lives right now."

Becker went on to explain how they can do the parade socially distanced saying, "We're going to do what's called a 'parked parade.' Still going to take parade entries like we normally would but people would just park them in the assigned places all over town. Our thoughts are we'll start in the City Hall parking lot and direct people there to pick up a map.'

Participants can follow the map and drive around town to see all the floats. "You'll get a map with a star marking everywhere there is a float. My thoughts are I'll have a couple set up right there at Chapman park across from the Mormon church to kind of get them started. Coop is getting involved this year so we will literally have people going all the way from Chapman park clear out to the Coop," said Becker. There is a lot of excitement that the floats will be able to be even more elaborate than in years past. Since the floats will not be mobile, participants will be able to create full scenes at their spots around town. There will also be trophies given to the two best floats.

Becker also sharing that even though there won't be a North Pole this year Santa will still be showing up and will be somewhere where he can wave to children from a distance. There will also be a box to collect children's letters to Santa. "No North Pole, but we're still trying to make it as fun as we possibly can for the kids. Still going to really push the house decorating contest.

That's something else we can incorporate while people are driving around looking at floats."

Becker also shared that they hope businesses will get into the spirit of things too and decorate their windows like last year. There will be prizes for the participating business and there will also be prizes for the top 3 houses that win the house decorating contest.

Nothing in 2020 has been normal and it seems the holidays won't be either. But with a little creativity the community of Monte Vista is proving that this season can still be just as special. If you would like to enter the parade, business window decorating, or house decorating contest contact Jennifer Becker at: becker8595@gmail.com or by phone at (719) 850-2709.

HERITAGE Continued from Page 1

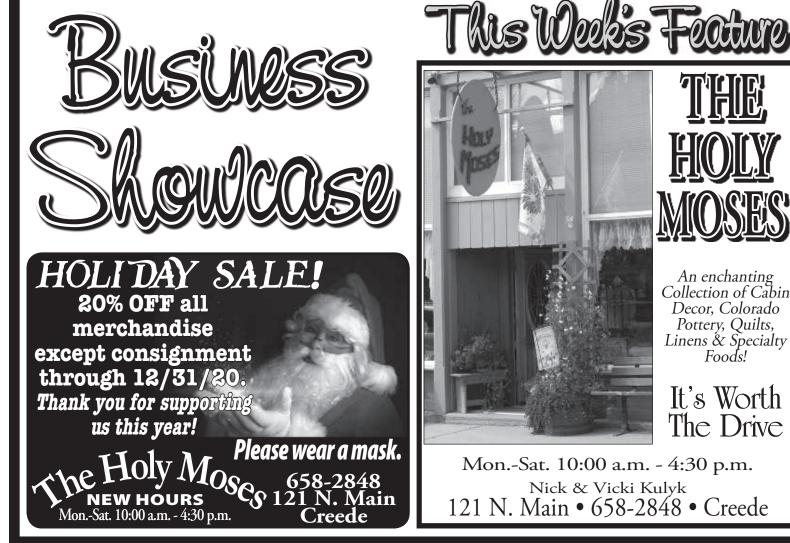
National Heritage Area on Colorado Gives Day, an annual statewide movement to celebrate and increase philanthropy through online giving. Visit ColoragoGives.org, a year-round, online giving platform and easily search "Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area" to make a safe and secure donation.

Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, please visit sangreheritage.org.

With 11,000 years of documented human habitation, the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area is a crossroads of the centuries. Here a unique blend of Native American, Hispano and Anglo settlement is reflected in

For more information about the the diversity of the people, art and traditions. The geographic isolation of our high desert valley and the peoples' enduring ties to the land have given rise to a rich cultural heritage and ensured its preservation. At the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, it is our mission to promote, preserve, and protect our vital cultural resources.







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South Fork welcomes Gaslamp Tavern

By Lyndsie Ferrell

SOUTH FORK- After spending too much time living to work and deciding it was time to start working to live, new business owner Catherine Olah and her partner Tyler made the move to South Fork and brought with them a unique and delightful business to share with the community.

"The whole tavern/bar idea came about because I was getting fed up with living in the city with all its amenities and not being able to enjoy any of them because I was working so much. I missed the mountains and Colorado in general and realized that I was just living to work and I'm more of a work to live girl. I also love the community that I felt in Colorado and I really wanted to showcase that in my own business," said Olah.

After making the decision with her partner, Olah made the move to South Fork but took a detour along the way while she searched for her perfect Colorado Community. Olah has the heart of a traveler and so that is what she did. "I decided to rent my apartment in Denver and find a little place in the mountains to start a bar. Luckily, my partner Tyler, felt the same way. We pretty much looked everywhere in Colorado and even in Taos a bit but ultimately, we wanted somewhere near skiing and a river and In Colorado. Then Bam! Found this hidden gem called South Fork and literally everything fell in place. But then COVID hit."

Olah and her partner did not let the pandemic chase them away from their dreams, so instead of backing out, they moved forward and made the best of a bad situation. "We found a small cabin that had a basement, so we decided to turn the upstairs into the bar and live downstairs while we got it off the ground. Eventually, we will move out and turn the downstairs into an office, a wine room in the back and a game room with pool tables."

work in Denver while the bar was being worked on, but because of COVID her plans had to slightly change and for the better in the end. "We were planning on working all summer in Denver while construction was going on but because COVID hit we ended up just moving here permanently in March and started our adventure a lot sooner. And we could not have been happier. South Fork is amazing!"

Olah isn't planning on going big or going home either. She expressed a desire to create a business that fits the community and one that would be friendly and inviting for guests. "My vision was to create a small cozy meeting/drinking space in the mountains. I love that Colorado has pretty much everything you need to run a tavern. Colorado makes great beer, liquor, cheese, olive oils and so forth. I really love the idea of supporting small local businesses and creating a community more than a business. A place that can evolve but that is ultimately there for the community and there to help support and bring local craftsmen together."

Olah mentions again and again her love for Colorado and the entrepreneurs that reside in this wonderful state. "As I mentioned, we love Colorado and the people and their crafts, so we want to showcase everything the state has to offer. We have Colorado liquors, mostly Colorado beers and every month we will showcase a different Colorado wine. I used to study wine and really would like to start studying wine and traveling again. So, we plan on closing for a month during "mud season" in April to visit other countries, check out their wineries, distilleries and breweries and culture in general and then again for a week or two in the Fall, during Harvest season (thankfully our slow season) to visit wineries. I plan on eventually starting a Gaslamp Tavern Wine Club so that when we return, we can share with the community what we learned At first Olah hoped that she could on our travels while tasting wine from

that area."

Olah is also offering parings to go with her wine and liquor tastings, "We really want to be a bar but we also know people love to nibble while they drink so right now we have a cheese board and accoutrements that also have Colorado influences. But as with everything the menu will evolve with the tavern. Once COVI dies away, in the summer we would love to invite local food trucks on the weekends and we also plan on having live music once we expand and open the patio space.'

The Gaslight Tavern is open every day except for Tuesdays from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. Olah did state that they will be adjusting hours as they get going and as more people venture into town for winter activities. There is a Happy Hour during weekdays from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. where guests will receive \$2 off all beers, well drinks and house wines. Be sure to stop in to welcome them to the South Fork community! They are located at 1 Browns Road next to Lazy Bear Cabins along Highway 160 in South Fork.

Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ValleyPublishing

Wednesday, December 2, 2020 — SLU Lifestyles — Page 3

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Principal at ahorrocks@urtigers or higher and possess or be able to Rio Grande County Treasurer obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a Secondary Social Studies endorsement. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Aaron Horrocks at ahorrocks@ urtigers.co or contact Aaron at (719) 657 - 4020. Applications can be accessed online at www.urtigers.co (

is seeking a full time Clerk. Requirements include High School diploma or GED. Computer and Bookkeeping skills a plus.

DISCOVER

04 Lost and Found

Black Lab is 11 months old his name is Heinz 57. Missing from La Garita Ranchette. Has green Collar and has all his shots. 719-221-4690. (12/25)

05 Notices

WE BUY ANTLERS: 5 miles west of Del Norte on HWY 160. 719-657-0942 (12/23))TFN

07 Help Wanted

Rio Grande Hospital has a Full-Time Executive (CEO) Assistant position available with full benefits. Must have 2-3 years' experience, must have excellent verbal and writing skills, Strong organization skills and the ability to multi-task and work closely with CEO. Pay varies with experience, please complete an application online at http://riograndehospital.org Under Contact/ Employment.Posting closes 12/21/2020 or until filled.RGH is an EOE Additional questions contact paulap@ riograndehospital.net

Office Clerk-Experienced individual needed for general office duties. Required skills include: Computer experience in Excel,

Word and other electronic devices; Working with the public; Other general office duties; Ability to speak both English and Spanish is preferred. Drug testing and background check will be required for final applicant. Applications are available at the Saguache County Administration office, 501 4th St., Saguache CO. Please submit to the Saguache County Clerk and Recorder's office. Applications close December 15, 2020 or until position is filled. (12/09)

Upper Rio Grande School District is looking for an energetic and experienced candidate to serve as the district's Instrumental Music Teacher. Along with conducting our high school and middle school band programs, this position will also oversee the development of our elementary instrumental music appreciation program. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher in Music or Music Education. The applicant must also possess or be able to obtain an appropriate Colorado teaching license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Aaron Horrocks, Jr/Sr High

Amy Duda, Elementary Principal at aduda@urtigers.co. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co

The Del Norte Jr/Sr High School is seeking a qualified Secondary Social Studies Teacher. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or

Pre-employment drug screening, including testing for marijuana, will be required. Position starts 1/4/2021. \$15.40-\$15.70 DOE. Applications and additional infor-Write your own Classified Ad **Regular Classified Ad Deadline-Thursday 5 p.m.** 15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications *19⁵⁰ + 95¢ each additional word.

Thursday 5:00 pm

Call 719-852-3531

or email: MonteVistaClass@gmail.com

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Garage Sale Ads: 15 words or less for 1 week \$12 + 35¢ each additional word. Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being

given away. (Private party only) Call 719-852-3531 for details.

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Valley Publis			ney order to: 607, Monte Vist	ta, CO 81144

Or drop by at 835 First Avenue

All Classified Advertising must be pre-paid

Valley Wide

mation available online at www. Dryer Works Good \$50.00 719- 719-850-0346 (11/25 TFN) riograndecounty.org or pick up and submit to Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Close date is 12/7/2020. (12-02)

10 Apartments for Rent Del Norte: Furnished 1 Bedroom/1 Bath. Very Nice! Single Adult, Non-smoker, No pets. Utilities and Dish Included. \$625.00 Mo./\$625.00 Deposit. 719-850-2738 (12/23)

12 House for Rent

Remodeled 1 bedroom/1 bath unit in Del Norte. \$600/month, inclusive of water and sewer. Credit report required. Call 719-850-0750. (12/16)

17 Real Estate For Sale Home For Sale: 311 Stallo Craftsman Style. \$125,000.00. (12/02)

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

11 circles in Center area with excellent potato ground, excellent wells and water rights, high production, sandy soil, 2 homes, shop, potato storage, first time ever on market and sold as full unit. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, LLC 719-580-0770. Serious inquires only (TFN)

125-150 cow/calf ranch 1154 acres with top water rights, production, 1.2 miles of Rio Grande **River and** ¹/₂ **mile of Conejos** River. \$1,750,000. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770 (TFN)

Pastureland, 397 acres in north of Monte Vista Airport on County Line Road with good grass and **location**. Also contains a huge amount of gravel on the property \$525,000.00 call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770. (TF)

23 Lawn and Garden

For Sale: Yard Art-Old Farm Equipment Call 850-0491. (12/2)

24 Garage Sales

Moving Sale: Yardman Lawnmower, 21' Mower Mulcher, Bed Room Set, (No bed) just Dresser and Highboy, China Cabinet, Dining table and 4-chairs, and many other items. Please call 719-850-8488. (12/16)

27 Appliances For Sale: Kohler Double Kitchen Sink \$75.00. Maytag Electric

754-3363 or 719-480-2102. (12/2)

36 Miscellaneous

Propane Refrigerators Sold Here. Call For Options and Prices. We Also Stock Solar Powered Refrigerators and Freezers. Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road 3E, Monte Vista. (719)852-0500 (11/25)

Wanted: small utility trailer Call Derek 719-580-7846. (12/25)

FALL SALE! 240 Watt Solar Panels Only \$.59 Per Watt! Bontragers Variety Store 9726 S. County Road 3 E Monte Vista Co 81144. (12/04)

STEEL STORAGE CONTAIN-ERS - Sales, Rentals & Modifications! Containers are water & rodent proof. 8' wide, 8'-53' in length. Call for more information and pricing. Healdworks, Inc. - Your Total Storage Solution!

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SOLAR PANELS! 240 WATT AND SMALLER. We Stock Inverters. Charge Controllers and Batteries in Brand Names of Outback, Magnum, Rolls, More. We Also Carry Cable and PV Wire. Thank you for Buying Bontrager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. (TFN) (11/25)

For Sale: Skid Steer (Mustang) 3306 hours Good condition \$2,000. Susuki VStrom 2004, 6,000mi Good condition \$2,000. Craftsman Riding lawnmower 2017T1600 42" Very good condition \$600. Please Call 727-563-4012. (12/23)

39 Sporting Goods

der firearms, working or not. Will repair. Join SLV Renegades (480)236-6727. (12/02)

41 Farm Equipment For Sale: Hay & Tillage Equipment Call 657-2472 (12/2)

50 Livestock HERITAGE BREED TURKEY -Burbon Reds from free range parents. \$25 for 1 - \$20 each additional. 10+weeks - ready to butcher at 28 weeks (toms average 30 lbs, hens 15 lbs.) Straight run only. 719-850-2832 (12/02)

High Altitude HEREFORD BULL SALE: Sat. Dec 12, 2020, 1pm. at Valley Livestock Auction, Monte Vista, CO. Selling 26 Horned Coming 2 Yr. Old Bulls. PAP, Fert, Trich, PI-BVD Tested, and 18 Comm. Replacement Heifer

16-FT Nomad Self-Contained \$5,000.00 Call 719-298-7517 or 720-217-7886. (12/23)

59 Vehicles Wanted

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

65 Professional Services LICENSED PLUMBER does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable rates. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (12/31)TFN)

THE BLIND GUY window coverings. Free measuring, free estimates. Professional installation. Guaranteed lowest prices. Call Tony, 970-903-1403. (12/31/2020 TFN)

Calves. Videos of Bulls online at mikefuchsherefords.com. Mike WANTED TO BUY: Black pow-Fuchs Herefords 719-657-2519. 55 RVs & Campers **Pull Camper Trailer in Alamosa** San Luis Valley



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Please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes notify us **IMMEDIATELY**. We will make changes for errors and adjust your credit but only if we receive notice on the first day the ad is published. We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper which reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. All classified advertising must be pre-paid.

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Increase in foodborne botulism cases prompts warning from health officials

COLORADO - Colorado Depart ment of Public Health and Environment has investigated several cases of confirmed or suspected foodborne botulism in the state since September. Testing from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed four of the cases, one is still under investigation and test results are pending. All five cases occurred along the Front Range. The individuals are either hospitalized or recovering.

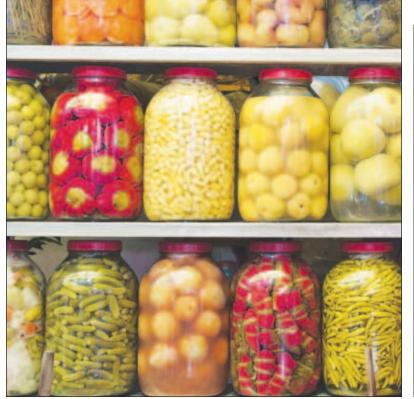
The department investigated the cases in September and October. Three of the cases appear to be unrelated as no common food item was identified. The last two confirmed cases were likely the result of an improperly canned shared food made in the same household.

"Five cases of foodborne botulism in the span of a few months is unusual in Colorado and is cause for concern," said Nicole Comstock, deputy branch chief, communicable disease branch. "Botulism does not spread from person to person, so there is no risk to the public. However, these cases are a good reminder of how important it is to properly preserve and handle food in the home."

A variety of foods can be associated with foodborne botulism, including homemade foods that were improperly canned or preserved. The most common source of home-canning related botulism cases come from foods with a low acid content, such as chilies, green beans, potatoes, beets, corn and asparagus. Before these recent cases, the last confirmed cases of foodborne botulism in Colorado occurred in 2019 among a group that consumed a commercially prepared potato product held at improper temperatures.

To prevent botulism, it is important to follow proper canning and food preservation procedures. The Preserve Smart website from Colorado State University Extension provides information regarding considerations for choosing tested preservation methods and the importance of adjusting canning methods for elevation to ensure home-preserved food products are safe to enjoy.

Additional steps people can take to reduce their chances of getting



botulism include:

Refrigerating homemade oils infused with garlic or herbs and throwing away any unused oils after four days.

Keeping potatoes that have been baked while wrapped in aluminum foil hot (at temperatures above 140°F) until they are served or refrigerating them with the foil loosened. Refrigerating any canned or pick-

led foods after you open them.

Before tasting or serving, boil all home-canned, low-acid vegetables for 10 minutes plus one minute for each 1,000 feet increase in elevation above sea level (e.g., at 5,000 feet, boil for 15 minutes).

Botulism is a rare but serious illness caused by a toxin produced by Clostridium botulinum bacteria. When ingested, the toxin attacks the body's nerves. Symptoms typically start with muscle weakness in the face and neck, and then spreads to the torso, arms and legs. The toxin weakens muscles used for breathing which can lead to death. It is important that anyone ill with symptoms of botulism visit a health care provider immediately to be assessed.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sound unit
- 4. Trim by cutting
- 8. Small buffalo
- 10. Ancient manuscript
- 11. Look angry or sullen
- 12. Glum
- 13. Northern Zambia peoples
- 15. Central
- 16. Collector of birds' eggs
- 17. Misbehavior
- 18. Top of the line
- 21. Political action committee
- 22. Have already done
- 23. Al Bundy's wife
- 24. Entertainment channel
- 25. Holiday (informal)
- 26. The common gibbon
- 27. Legendary actress
- 34. Seasoned sausages
- 35. Bluish greens
- 8 11 13 16 18 20 39 40 41 42. Expression of sorrow or 15. Cairo Regional Airport
- pity
- 43. Midway between south and southeast
- 17. Partner to cheese 19. Sample
- 20. A shirt may have none

24. Disallow

26. French river

23. Public gatherings

25. Overnight suitcases



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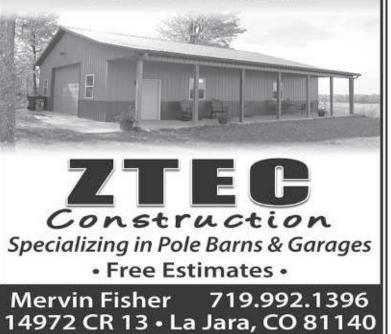
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CLUES DOWN

1. Artistic dancing 2. Plenty 3. Act leisurely 4. Serve as a warning 5. Admired lovingly 6. Leftover oil from distillation process 7. Company officer 9. Egyptian unit of capacity 10. One transmits information 12. Middle layer of an embryo 14. Form of "to be"

27. Where boats dock 28. Top of a pot 29. Type of drug 30. City along the Rhine 31. Animal disease 32. They go in martinis 33. A way to break away 34. Intermediate ecological stage 36. Baby term for father

Continued from Page 1 -

There may be additional guidelines for specific sectors.

Mitigation Strategies:

General guidelines for Level Orange are summarized below (and remote work is highly encouraged) with specific additional guidelines for specific sectors).

limited to no more than 10 individuals from no more than 2 households.

Face Coverings. Face coverings are required for all individuals in public indoor settings unless the individual is 2 years of age or younger or cannot medically tolerate a face covering.

Capacity. Most businesses, offices, and places of worship that have been operating at 50% capacity will shift down to 25% of capacity, or 50 persons per room, whichever is less and while maintaining proper distancing.

Specific Areas impacted by this Level Orange include:

Capacity Restriction County-wide Parameters: To address Level Orange Safer at Home High Risk

Personal Gathering Size: Up to 0 from no more than 2 households

P-12 Schools: In-person, hybrid or remote as appropriate Higher Education: Remote or hy-

brid suggested, limited in person as appropriate, and other major strategies to increase social distancing

Places of worship and Life Rites: Indoors Unseated Functions: 25%

capacity or 50 (whichever is less) Indoor seated Functions: 25%, 50 person capacity (whichever is less) Outdoors: 6ft between parties outdoors, per local zoning

Restaurants:

Indoors: 25% capacity, 50 people (whichever is less)

Outdoors: 6 feet between parties outdoors, per local zoning

Non-Critical Manufacturing: 25% capacity or 50 people (whichever is less)

Offices: 25% capacity (Here, Bars: Closed

Gyms/Fitness: 25% capacity, 25 in-Public and private gatherings are doors, or outdoors in groups less than 10

Group sports and Camps: Virtual, or outdoors in groups less than 10

Retail: 25% capacity

Personal services: 25% capacity or 25 people (whichever is less)

Limited Health Care Settings: 25% capacity or 25 people (whichever is less)

Events:

Indoor Unseated: 25%, 50 person capacity (whichever is less)

Indoor Seated: 25%, 50 person capacity (6ft distancing between parties)

Outdoor Unseated: 25%, 75 person capacity (whichever is less)

Outdoor Seated: 25%, 75 person capacity (6ft distancing between parties)

Outdoor Guided Services 25% capacity or 10 people

A partial list of things that will change in moving from Orange to **Red are these:**

Retail critical and noncritical open to 50% of capacity with curbside pickup and dedicated senior and high risk hours.

No personal gatherings

Places of worship and life rites: For indoor events, 25% capacity or 50 persons, whichever is fewer, with distancing. 6 feet of distance between parties outdoors.

Restaurants: Indoor dining closed. Takeout, curbside, delivery or to go. Outdoor dining with groups of own household open.

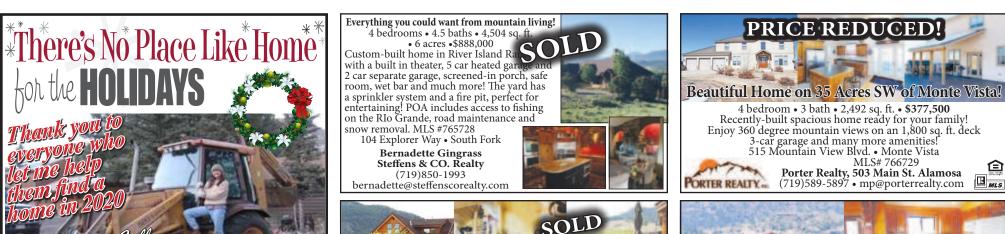
Offices may operate at 10% capac-

ity with up to 10 persons per room, Indoor events and entertainment are closed.



ORTER REALTY.





ity, with remote work preferred. Gyms may operate at 10% capac- reservations required.



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You won't believe your eyes! Stunning Views, Lots of Wildlife! 3 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 2,900 sq. ft. **\$549,000** Check out some of the best, 360 degree, hilltop views in South Fork from your deck! Open kitchen, dining and living area, vaulted ceil-ings, Jacuzzi tub, finished basement with a rec room! MLS #767631 852 Soaring Eagle Lane • South Fork Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



Majestic Mountain Home in Beaver Mountain Estates! 45.900 S 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 f leck and outdoor propane fireplace with additional large rear covered porch. Large living roon Lennox propane fireplace and ETF electrical heating that can heat the home and dining are a vision light Kuture with dining seating 10 for all your entertaining. Custom Kitchen with two nd two dishwashers for quick clean up after entertaining with beautiful Knotty Alder wood ca tall ceilings and tall solid wood interior doors and Pella double-hung windows for easy clean this home comes mostly furnished with additional tools and the following equipment in the g including snow blower, air compressor, battery chargers all this and more with beautiful mount views with Rocky Mountain Elk and other wildlife right out your back door. Bernadette Gingrass - Steffens & CO. Realty (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com oms 5 bathrooms • 2,912 sq. ft. • 3-car heated garage • \$ This home comes mostly including snow blower, a views with Ro



Price Just Reduced!! 1 bedroom • 1bathroom • \$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 Gingras Steffens & CO. Realty (719)850-1993 • bernadette@ steffenscorealty.com





Monte Vista Annual Christmas Celebration

Tree Lighting & Caroling at Fullenwider park Saturday, December 5 • 5:30 p.m.

Parked Parade Saturday, December 19 • 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

This year's parade is going to look a little (lot) different, but we're excited and think it will be a lot of fun! Instead of a traditional parade on Adams St., once you've returned your entry form you will be assigned a place in town to PARK your float, truck, etc. (If you own a business we can set you up in front of it)

Start at City Hall... Pick up your map and wave to Santa! Start your Tour of Floats around town. Santa will have a mailbox for your kids to leave their Christmas list!

House Decorating Contest Window Decorating Contest There will also be a fun scavenger hunt for the kids to participate in.

Forms for the parade, business storefront decorating contest and house-decorating contest available by contacting Jennifer Becker at 719-850-2709 or becker8595@gmail.com





Custom Christmas Wreaths and Arrangements!

Home Decor & Gifts



https://slvoices.com/monte-vista-chamber-of-commerce-virtual-holiday-bazaar/



A Guide to Winter Recreation in Colorado's San Luis Valley

ley Publishing 835 First Ave. • Monte Vista Wolf Creek Ski Area is now open for 7-day a week operations for the 2020-2021 ski season

n

Wolf Creek Ski Area's Winter COVID-19 have your driver's license available; the tickets Operating Plan has been approved by the Silver have been filed under the purchasers last name. Thread Health District. Please read and make yourself familiar with these guidelines.

As of Nov. 27, Wolf Creek received 16" of fresh snow from the latest storm, bringing the all-natural snow depth to 52" at the midway and 99" year to date. Conditions are Powder/Packed Powder with early season obstacles and extensive grooming throughout the mountain. Alberta, Charity Jane, Treasure Stoke, Bonanza, Elma, Raven, Nova and Lynx Lifts are operating from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Skiers and boarders have access to approximately 98% of the mountain.

Lift tickets are now at regular rates. Regular rates apply every day of the season except during Peak Rate Dates and Local Appreciation Days. Regular daily Lift ticket rates will be \$80 for adults, \$50 for seniors and \$41 for children. Please visit Wolf Creek's eStore at WolfCreekSki.com to pre-purchase and view

Guests are encouraged to bring your own bagged lunch, snacks and drinks. There will be no seating in-doors. Please bring your own water as there will be no access in-doors to water. Agrab-and-go food service may become available. Please check WolfCreekSki.com for updates.

WCSA will be limiting guest capacity to 5,000 guests per day. Over peak periods, if you did not purchase your lift or ski school tickets online, there may not be any inventory available. There are 19 days that are considered our peak days that change slightly from yearto-year. Peak Days are: Dec. 21-23, 26-31; Jan. 1-2, 16, Feb. 13-14; Mar. 14-18. If lift tickets are still available over the peak period days it will be noted on the homepage of the Wolf Creek website.

Ski Lesson Information - Wolf Creek Ski School is excited to announce Ski and Snowboard lessons for all ages and levels for the 2020/21 season. Starting Nov. 19, we will be offering reserved private lessons only. The lesson must be reserved by 3 p.m. the day before the lesson to assure we can accommodate the lesson. Private lessons are limited, so early reservations are recommended. Wolf Creek is committed to start operations with a conservative approach in accordance to Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Guidance (CDPHE) during these difficult times. Please read the CDPHE guidance for Ski School so you know what is expected. There is a possibility that group lessons may resume at some point this winter. Please check WolfCreekSki.com for any updates on group lessons. Half and Full Day Private lessons are a good option for small family groups and folks traveling together. A Half Day private is a threehour lesson and a Full Day private is a five hour lesson, both can accommodate up to 5 people.



Peak Rate Dates and Prices.

Pre-purchasing lift tickets is preferred and can be done by visiting the eStore; purchases must be made before 12 p.m. Guests will be able to pre-purchase their ski school and day lift tickets online. If inventory is available, lift tickets can also be purchased on the day of skiing. Most days of the season lift tickets will be available with the exception of Peak Period days. Prepaid lift tickets can be picked up at the Ticket Windows or at Will Call. Ski School tickets must be purchased 48 hours in advance, because instructors must be scheduled ahead of time. A database will be kept until the end of the season of purchasers and ski school participants for potential contact tracing.

Lift tickets can also be purchased the morning of at the Ticket Office with a credit card only; cash will not be accepted. To expedite the ticketing process, a "Will Call" location next to the Ticket Office has been set up. Please go directly to the outside pick-up location and

If you have limited time here at Wolf snowboarding. Skiing is generally easier to learn especially if you only have one day here at the mountain.

Renting skis and snowboards at Wolf Creek requires a rental profile to be set up for expediting the rental process. If purchasing lift tickets online, following the prompts for rental will be one less step guests need to complete in the "customer sign-in" process at the area. Colorado State Guidelines https://covid19. colorado.gov/ski-areas-and-resorts require wearing face masks and social distancing in all indoor and outdoor public places. This includes buildings, in the base area, and riding a lift. Masks are required outdoors while in the base area and while in ticket and lift lines. Tickets will not be sold to anyone without a mask or face covering. Any guests refusing to follow Colorado State Guidelines will be asked to leave. Other guidelines include:

Visitors coming to Wolf Creek should be Creek, consider learning skiing instead of aware of Colorado's quarantine requirements in case of exposure. Any guests who test positive or been exposed to COVID-19 must extend their stay at their own expense to complete isolation or quarantine.

Pull-Out

Section

Wolf Creek is located in Mineral County; lodging is found in Pagosa Springs (Archuleta County) and South Fork (Rio Grande County). Please understand the dial level showing the status level of COVID-19 in all counties in Colorado. Visitors should educate themselves by going to https://covid19. colorado.gov/data/covid-19-dial-dashboard Please use the Colorado State Guidelines link for the comprehensive list of guidelines. Moving from the preseason plan, the Winter Plan allows for other amenities to open at the

ski area's discretion. Besides a limited Ski

School, the Ski and Snowboard Rentals are

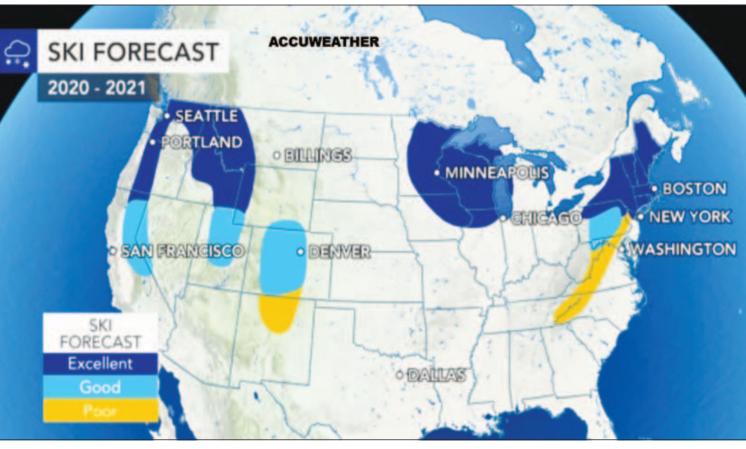
now available; Treasure and Noel Sports opened

Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020.

Accuweather's ski snow forecast

AccuWeather Lead Long-Range Forecaster Paul Pastelok and his team have been analyzing weather patterns for the season ahead, and he offered up some early insights into the weather conditions that may influence conditions for the upcoming ski season. For a solid ski season to occur, cold air, which was lacking last season, is a must, he said. This year, however, the forecast suggests that many places across the United States will have amply snowy ski slopes to turn to when people need a break from the stuffy indoors.

Colorado and Utah, two states often recognized for idyllic, powdery conditions, are not expected to experience the best set of weather factors this season. Despite an early start with skiers already taking advantage of snowy slopes, "massive" warmups from the Southwest could lead to big temperature swings at times during the season, resulting in melting and icy conditions that are less than ideal for plunging down a mountain. The frequency of storms for the two states will also be much more of a miss than other years. Central and northern Colorado should experience a relatively normal season, but southern Colorado down into New Mexico is where the problems will arise.



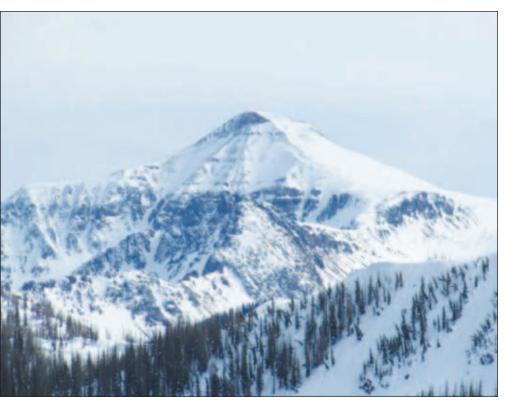
Know the symptoms of altitude sickness

above 8,000 feet, you can be at risk for altitude sickness. The altitude of South Fork is 8,209 feet and Creede is situated at 8,799 feet. Sometimes called "mountain sickness," altitude sickness is a group of symptoms that can strike if you walk or climb to a higher elevation, or altitude, too quickly. The pressure of the air that surrounds you is called

oxygen available.

If you live in a place that's located at a moderately high altitude, you get used to the air pressure. But if you travel to a place at a higher altitude than you're used to, your body will need time to adjust to the change in pressure.

Symptoms of altitude sickness may include barometric pressure. When you go to higher headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting fatigue



Talk About _ . In Print & Online

According to WebMD, any time you go altitudes, this pressure drops and there is less and loss of energy, shortness of breath, problems sleeping and loss of appetite. Symptoms usually come on within 12 to 24 hours of reaching a higher elevation and then get better within a day or two as your body adjusts to the change in altitude.

If you have a more moderate case of altitude sickness, your symptoms might feel more intense and not improve with over-the-counter medications. Instead of feeling better as time goes on, you'll start to feel worse. You'll have more shortness of breath and fatigue. You may also have: Loss of coordination and trouble walking, a severe headache that doesn't get better with medication and a tightening in your chest.

If you develop a severe form of altitude sickness you might experience confusion, shortness of breath even at rest, inability to walk, a cough that produces a white or pink frothy substance, coma.

You'll want to climb to higher altitudes gradually. Going slowly helps your lungs get more air through deeper breaths and allows more of your red blood cells to carry oxygen to different parts of your body.

Some of the basic guidelines for altitude acclimatization are:

Start your journey below 10,000 feet. If you have to fly or drive somewhere that's higher up, stop at one destination that's lower for at least a full day before going any higher.

If you walk, hike, or climb over 10,000 feet, only go up an additional 1,000 feet per day. For every 3,000 feet you climb, rest at least a day at that height.

"Climb high and sleep low": If you have to climb over 1,000 feet in a day, make sure you come back down to a lower altitude to sleep.

Drink 3-4 quarts of water every day and make sure about 70% of your calories are coming from carbs.

Don't use tobacco, alcohol, or other medications, such as sleeping pills.

Know how to identify the first signs of altitude sickness. Immediately move to a lower elevation if you start to develop these symptoms.









South fork a winter Wonderland

Upper Rio Grande Basin snowpack is 132% of normal.

South Fork is at the center of over 250 miles of trails that can be accessed through several Forest Service roads leading into the backcountry. Many of the trails that have immediate access from town or just beyond are groomed and cared for all year long.

Snowmobiling is one of the more popular activities in the area due to easy access to trails throughout the region. Places like Beaver Creek and Cross Creek offer about 23 miles of passable trials for more experienced riders and offers views of the San Juan Mountains along Forest Service Road 359.

Fox Mountain and Park Creek trails are a great way to get out in the backcountry on Park Creek Road 380. This trail leads to large open meadows that are a snowmobiler's abundant fish.

SOUTH FORK- So far this year, the winter playland with plenty of room to reach high speeds and while gliding over "powder." The area offers miles of cross-country skiing

trails that offer spectacular views and a chance to see abundant wildlife. Local organizations like the Powder Busters and Silver Thread Outdoor Club host weekly outings to these trails which they also groomed throughout the winter. A free trail map is located at the South Fork Visitor Center for those who wish to learn where these hidden outings are located.

Other activities also include ice fishing at the many reservoirs in the area like Beaver Creek which is easily accessible during winter months. Other ice fishing locations include Tucker Ponds and Big Meadows Reservoir which require either snowshoes, cross-country skiing or snowmobiles to gain access, but the trip is worth the effort with lakes offering





SAN LUIS VALLEY - Few realize that the spring snow runoff levels are actually influenced by precipitation received the previous fall. This Fall we had a snowstorm in September which brought 2 feet of snow to the Upper Rio Grande basin. This was followed by another significant snow fall in October. Even before the first snowflakes fall, the amount of moisture that accumulates in the soil early in winter, before the snowpack develops, will affect runoff the following spring. In the Fall of 2019, the San Luis Valley received less than normal precipitation so the parched land absorbed the initial runoff due to a lack of precipitation in the fall of 2019.

This is not the case for 2020. As of Nov. 27, the Upper Rio Grande snowpack was 132% of normal which will hopefully indicate an above normal runoff in the spring but it is too early to make this forecast.





POLARIS

Holiday Sales Event

Act now with 0% financing for 48 Months

Outdoor Sports 719-589-2774 235 Craft Drive • Alamosa www.marksoutdoorsports.biz



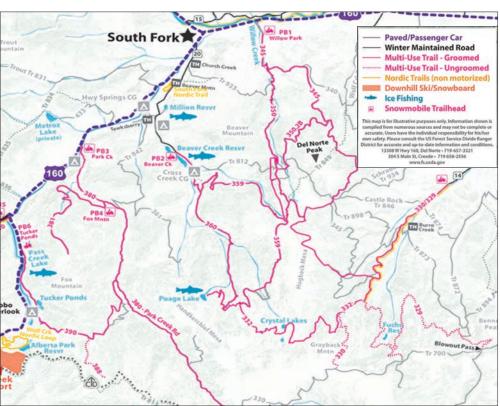
ATVs • Trailers **Snowmobiles** Service All Makes & Models



polaris.com/snowmobiles

Offers valid on select new 2018-2021 Polaris snowmobiles purchased between N subject to change. All rebates are paid to the de of the standard 12-month v warrantv plus an age. See dealer for details. Any add apply. See that all riders take a safety training course r capability. Always wear a helmet and ot Never drink and ride.





Snowmobile trails around South Fork

machines roaring through heaps of snow, check out for 13 more miles, mostly trail riding, some side our 255 miles of groomed trails with innumerable off-trail opportunities on wide-open ridges, rolling parks and steep climbs. The South Fork area offers access to some of Colorado's most scenic wintertime vistas (at 12,000+ feet) will take your breath away. It is recommended to consult local sources concerning directions and trail conditions before riding. Most of the trails follow Forest Service roads and can be used in the winter by snowmobiles and cross-country skiers.

Some of the trails in the South Fork area:

If your idea of a great time involves fast in at the lake, good ice fishing, then continues trails and a few meadows. Elevation: 11,600 ft.

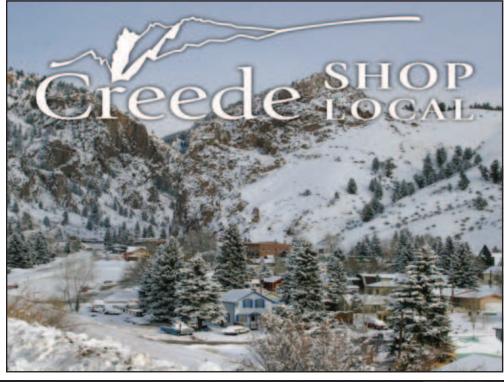
WOLF CREEK

THE MOST SNOW IN COLORADO

14th Annual 'Golden Pick' Tommyknocker **Pond Hockey Tournament**

Jan. 16 &17, 2021 CREEDE - Yes! The 2021 Tournament is on. This tourney will bring back childhood memories of afternoon hockey games played against friends. This annual tournament has been a huge hit, bringing the locals out to cheer on teams from all over Colorado, New Mexico, Michigan

and Texas! The 3-on-3 round robin format ensures that everyone plays at least 2-3 games (plus tourney play), local restaurants ensure that everyone eats well, and the Tommyknocker Tavern hosts live music for evening entertainment. And new this year: The Creede Repertory Theatre will be putting on a performance of Boomtown Friday night around 7 p.m.







PB1 - Willow Park/Del Norte Peak

Parks and valleys are plentiful to play in and at close observation you will possibly see a variety of wildlife. Restroom and picnic tables available. Loops with PB2-Beaver Creek/Cross Creek Elevation: 8,250-12,400ft.

PB2 - Beaver Creek/Cross Creek

Parking is at far end of the reservoir, with restrooms. There is a possible 23 mile loop on FSR 359 for experienced riders only. Intercepts with PB1 for a 90 mile loop. Elevation: 8,700 - 11,500 ft.

PB3 - Fox Mountain/Park Creek Road

Trailhead is 3 miles up Park Creek Road 380.8 miles to the end of the trail, large meadows at the top to play, return on same route. Elevation: 11,530 ft.

PB4 - Pass Creek/Tucker Ponds

Trail is 13 miles, with meadows to play in at 7 miles. Several side trips that are not groomed. After the big meadow at 7 miles, the remaining 6 miles has side hills and is a steep winding trail not for beginners. Elevation: 9,200 - 11,380 ft.

PB5 - Big Meadows

Parking just off the highway. First stop is 2 miles

ADULT \$58 • SENIOR \$40 • CHILD \$31

Dec. 1-4, 7-9 Jan. 20, 24 Feb. 7, 17 Mar. 3, 6, 28, 31 Apr. 4

SNOW REPORT AT 1-800-SKI-WOLF

WOLF CREEK'S COVID-19 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES CAN BE VIEWED AT WWW.WOLFCREEKSKI.COM



Considering giving a tax deductible donation? Take a look inside to support a local organization.



Wednesday, December 2, 2020 Valley Courier 719-589-2553 2205 State Ave. • Alamosa

Wish List...

The Rio Grande County Museum in Del Norte is always looking for creative ways to serve our community! We need more board members and we have lots of new ideas for expanded programming! In 2021, we are planning a Kids Program focused on art projects that will compliment other programming at HVCC and the Library. This will hopefully include more shows at the school as well. We have different programs and themes every season focusing on local history and artists. Our Gift Shop is open for the Holidays! All proceeds support the museum! Call (719) 657-2847 for more information.

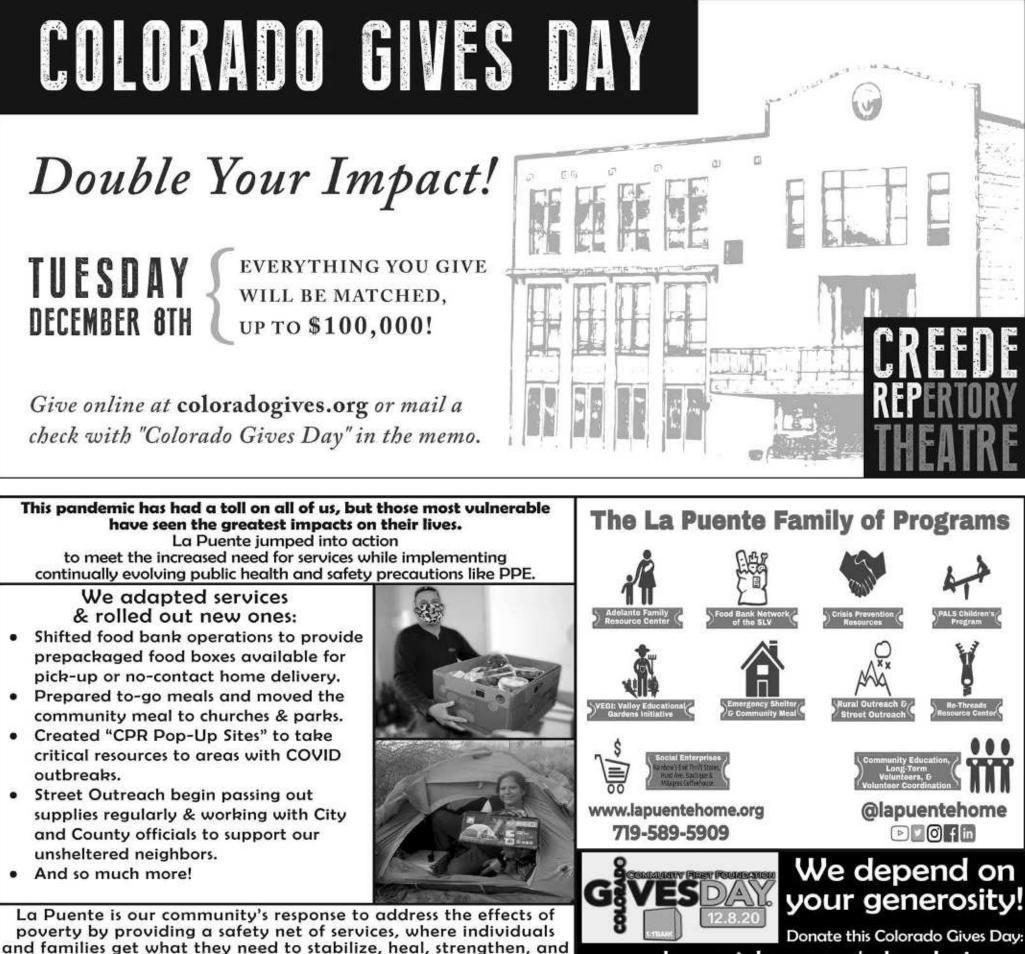
Wish List..

COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION

TRAN

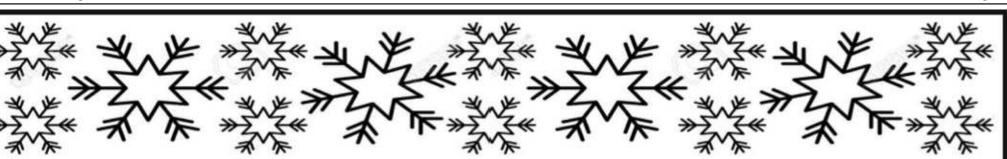
12.8.20

Kiwanis clubs in the San Luis Valley are looking for new members to join us. Members have the opportunity to participate in or benefit from a Kiwanis experience. Based on a legacy of service, our global network is dedicated to building community and improving lives by providing opportunities for service, fellowship, leadership and philanthropy according to local needs.



ultimately thrive.

www.lapuentehome.org/coloradogives



A Thank You for

As we take a moment To look back on this year It was one filled with illness Uncertainty and fear.

Wearing a mask, washing your hands Social distancing and having to isolate We all do these to protect against A virus that doesn't discriminate.

We were scared and unsure Finding our way Then something amazing happened That lit up our days.

We saw sewers step up Picking up needle and thread Making gowns for our employees And masks for their heads.

We watched food be delivered Coffee, Sausages, other treats came along! It was your way of saying We're with you, stay strong! We answered phone calls From people asking, "What do you need?" And their many donations Filled us with glee.

> People from all over the valley From the bottom to the top Gave from their hearts And it still hasn't stopped!

Kindness links us all together The need to help each other through The nurses, doctors and front-line workers Feel that every day from you.

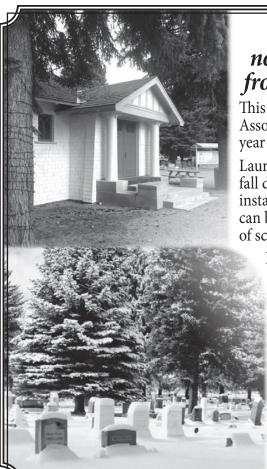
As the world turns the page on 2020 A new year will begin Let's raise our hopes together To the promise it beckons in.

With deep appreciation and best wishes for a Happy and Health Holiday Season! Kelly Gurule, Director San Luis Valley Health Foundation

We here at SLV Health Foundation thank you for everything you have given to us this year. If you wish to make a donation, please call Kelly Gurule at 719-587- 5707 or just go to the Foundation page at www.sanluisvalleyhealth.org/Foundation and click on the Giving button on the left side of the page. At the bottom of the Giving page is the Donation button that will take you to our PayPal account. You do not need a PayPal account to complete the donation. Donations of more than \$100 (\$105 online) qualify for the Enterprise Zone Credit through the state of Colorado. To receive this credit, individuals should include the last four digits of their social security number, and businesses should include its tax identification on the donation.

Thank you for all your support, we look forward to seeing you in 2021!





The Monte Vista Cemetery is a 501c13 nonprofit cemetery. Our funding comes only from the sale of lots and your kind donations.

This last year has brought so many changes for us all. The Cemetery Association board has focused their effort on the Chapel this last year and we have made several improvements there.

Laurie McClung and her sons, J.D. and Will McClung spent several fall days painting and making small repairs. We are in the process of installing a gas log heater in one of the fireplaces in the chapel so it can be used year round. This spring we had a wonderful donation of screens for the windows at the chapel as well.

It is a beautiful place for a small funeral or gathering- especially in this time of social distancing.

All of these improvements have been done only through the kindness of volunteers and donors.

Please consider us in your yearly gift giving and help us continue to keep this cemetery a beautiful place.

Our office is located at 995 US HWY 285 Monte Vista PO Box 43 • 719-852-5196 montevistacemeteryassociation@gmail.com montevistacemeteryassociation.com



Support Headwaters Alliance on Colorado Gives Day

This December 8th for Colorado Gives Day, we hope you think about us when giving.

YOUR GIFT DIRECTLY SUPPORTS:

- Restoration of the Lower Willow Creek Floodplain from flume to Rio Grande as a community Open Space
- · Floodplain trails and other recreational development
- Stream restoration & beautification in North Creede
 - Maintaining trails on the floodplain
- · Earning designation for the Mineral County Dark Sky Reserve
 - Understanding water quality and water quantity of contributing streams to the Rio Grande basin
 - Kids Science Camp, Water Quality Sampling, Community Stewardship and more!

Donate \$125 or more and receive a poster print of Christine Kenyon's epic starry photo, "High and Mighty," taken in Creede. Send a check donation to: Headwaters Alliance, P.O. Box 518, Creede, CO 81130

To donate, visit ColoradoGives.org and search for Headwaters Alliance



Engineers examine the Lower Floodplain as they prepare a new design from the Flume to the Rio Grande (2020)

All of us at Headwaters Alliance thank you for your continued support and engagement. We do great things thanks to you!



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY



The Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley is a proud participant of **Colorado Gives Day** coming up on December 8th!



A supporter of the BGCSLV is willing to match every dollar up to \$30,000 on top of the partial match we'll also get from Community First Foundation and FirstBank's incentive fund!

Dec 8th

You can donate on Dec 8th or schedule your donation ahead of time!

For more info on how to give, click the COGives link at bgcslv.org today!



Valley to Valley Senior **Care Saguache Campus Announces** Capital **Campaign for 2021!**



Great News... A center is coming to Saguache! 1.6 miles east of Saguache at Hwy 285 and County Road 48

Valley to Valley strives to provide the best care required, from basic interaction and companionship to full scale assistance for Alzheimer's, dementia and all daily living skills. The program has been expanded to provide caregivers a break from their daily routine and allow them to return to the workforce or simply take a few hours for themselves with the assurance that their loved ones will receive quality care from trained, experienced, and compassionate staff. The care center is a wonderful choice when it comes to retaining independence and security for our seniors.

We will be expanding our services with a second center to help seniors and their families which will include day services, respite and assisted living. Your support is needed both financially and in-kind to help our non-profit build and supply the new center. Until the center is completed please contact us for transportation options to our Salida center. We pickup Seniors in Saguache!

Now is the time to show how much the community supports the new center. We are accepting donations via Coloradogives.org, our web page at valleytovalley.net or by mail to Post Office Box 769, Salida, CO 81201. We are a 501 (c) (3) and listed on the state charitable solicitation index for tax purposes.

COVID 19 may have slowed us down, but not stopped us. Bringing Senior Care to the Northern San Luis Valley! Any Questions Call: 719-539-4396 Leaders in Dementia Care

Del Norte Public Library wants to wish our community a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Del Norte Public Library continues to update and make small renovations to our historic building. We provide many great resources for the public including computers, scanners, printers and fax services. We have a cheery new children's area and have added many new books to our collection. We also have a website with an online catalog which provides access to your account and allows you to place inter-library loans as well as access ebooks and audiobooks. Come in and get your library card!

Look for us on the Colorado Gives website and in the Amazon **Smiles Program**



The Library is still seeking additional renovations and possible expansions to add more vital services and accessible community needs, including a conference room, meeting rooms and more! Your donations to the library will:

- Maintain the historical integrity of the existing library
- Update the building's utilities
- Utilize natural resources whenever possible including solar power and natural solar lighting (Come see our most recent renovations to see our improved natural lighting at work now!)
- Bring the building up to ADA compliant standards
- Increase the library's operational budget for expanded hours
- Increase access to town and family historical documents

Donations are tax deductible! For more information, please visit our Del Norte Public Library at 790 Grand Ave., (719) 657-2633 or visit our WEBSITE **dnpl.colibraries.org**

Help create a new generation of great stories.

Support the students of Adams State University on Colorado Gives Day.





Support local child & adult victims of domestic & sexual violence with a one-time or monthly recurring gift to *Tu Casa, Inc*.

Your gift directly supports 24-hour, free, confidential, bilingual, trauma-informed victim advocacy, counseling, & child abuse response services throughout the Valley.



Tu Casa, Inc. Empowering children and adults to live healthy, violence-free lives. 24-Hour Hotline 719.589.2465 www.slvtucasa.net







<u>SANGRE • DE• CRISTO</u> NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

