

## Shorts



### Upcoming Saguache County community COVID-19 testing events:

For all testing events listed, appointments are required. Wear a mask, and please do not eat, drink for 20 minutes before testing.

- Thursday, 12/17/2020, 8:30 a.m. - noon at Saguache County Road and Bridge in Saguache. Call 719-745-0500 for appointment.
- Monday, 12/21/2020, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Crestone Fire Station. Call 719-745-0500 for appointment.



### Active duty troops' names needed

**MONTE VISTA** — Valley Publishing will be running a special holiday salute in the papers Dec. 23 and 24 to honor and thank local active duty military personnel. Please send names of any Valley residents currently serving our country by Monday, Dec. 21, noon. Names can be emailed to: [MonteVistaAds@gmail.com](mailto:MonteVistaAds@gmail.com) or faxed to 719-852-3387. Please include their hometowns, along with their military branches.

## Center Christmas tradition continues

By PATRICK SHEA

**CENTER** — Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and Town of Center, the 2020 Holiday Parade down Worth Street Dec. 12 drew people together to socially distance themselves in the sunshine.

Roaring red, Santa Claus rode the firetruck in the parade and greeted children in Veteran's Park at the end of the procession. Shielded behind a protective screen, Santa said it was difficult communicating through masks and glass. But the message of cheer was clear.

The children on Santa's list need to wait for Christmas Eve, but Center residents who entered the raffle this week received gifts on Saturday. A range of treats from local merchants went to 39 people, and another 20 folks hauled in holiday hams.



After the parade down Worth Street on Saturday, Santa greeted children safely behind Plexiglas in Center's Veteran's Park, spreading Christmas cheer instead of Coronavirus.



Photos by Carol Phillips  
Eight feet together. This couple and dog joined the parade down Worth Street Dec. 12, an annual celebration of the season in Center.

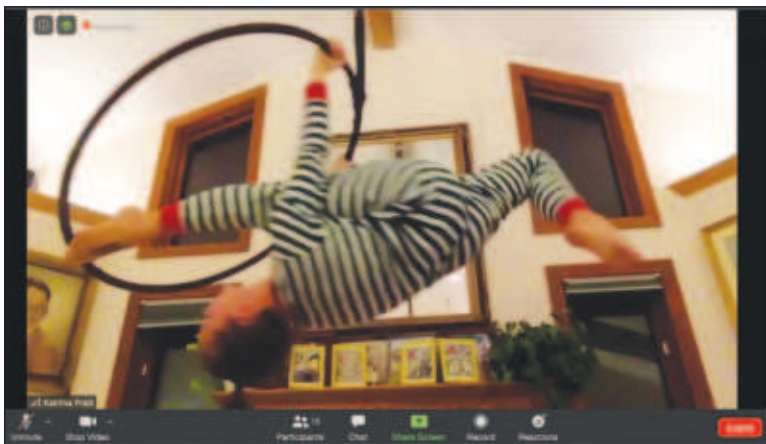
## Ute Theatre celebrates season online

By PATRICK SHEA

**SAGUACHE/ZOOM** — Once upon a time (Dec. 13, 2020 at 5 p.m.), more than a dozen participants joined the Jolly Holiday Bonanza Extravaganza ZOOM session sponsored by the Historic Ute Theatre in Saguache. Folks shared jokes and jocularly between performances from six talented people, and the crowd included several more on-screen in the background.

Guided by Master of Ceremonies and Historic Ute Theatre owner Heidi Wong, the free ZOOM party showcased distant and local talent with creative ninja skills beyond the mainstream. The age range spanned more than a half-century.

Two young "sugar-plum fairies" from Crestone kicked off the show, and the sisters kept it alive until the grown-ups had to go to bed. A quick "Skip to my Lou" on ukulele segued to a sing-along for the full "12 Days of Christmas." The girls



Master puppeteer and Ute Theatre workshop leader Katrina Pratt surprised everyone with an aerial dance during the Jolly Holiday Bonanza Extravaganza Dec. 13.

concluded with an introduction to puppets Lilly and Laura, return performers throughout the party.

Returning from last year's live gathering, Mike Brill was listed as "Karl" on-screen. Instead of another Dobro performance, Brill whipped out his guitar at different points in the celebration to play

ancient melodies from 1580, 1716, 1818 and 1865.

"Snotty" had a short conversation with fellow puppets Lilly and Laura, steered by master puppeteer and Ute Theatre workshop leader Katrina Pratt. Snotty acknowledged the darkness of 2020 and urged *Please see THEATRE on Page 8A*

## SLV receiving 1,750 COVID-19 vaccines

*Saguache County remains at Level Yellow*

By TREY SPAULDING

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) announced Dec. 11 that it has "collaborated closely with local public health agencies across the state to prepare health care facilities to receive the COVID-19 Moderna or Pfizer vaccines. These health care facilities will then distribute the vaccine to frontline health care workers.

CDPHE has identified locations across the state with ultra-low

temperature freezers to receive the first shipment of the Pfizer vaccine. These locations were chosen for their unique abilities to store, monitor, and handle vaccines in ultra-cold temperatures (-60°C to -80°C), as well as their willingness to redistribute COVID-19 vaccine(s) to other providers in their regions." The only San Luis Valley (SLV) public health organization to receive the Pfizer vaccine in the first two allocations is Rio Grande Hospital which will be receiving 50 dosages. The remaining 1,700 vaccinations will be for the Moderna vaccination. Alamosa County Public Health will receive 600 Moderna Vaccinations *Please see VACCINES on Page 7A*

PHASE 1 Winter		PHASE 2 Spring
1A	<p><b>Highest-risk health care workers and individuals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who have direct contact with COVID-19 patients for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.</li> <li>• Long-term care facility staff and residents.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Higher-risk individuals and essential workers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People age 65 or older</li> <li>• People of any age with obesity, diabetes, chronic lung disease, significant heart disease, chronic kidney disease, cancer, or are immunocompromised.</li> <li>• People who interact directly with the public at work, such as grocery store workers and school staff.</li> <li>• People who work in high-density settings like farms and meat-packing plants.</li> <li>• Workers serving people that live in high-density settings.</li> <li>• Other health care workers not covered in Phase 1.</li> <li>• Adults who received a placebo during a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial.</li> </ul>
1B	<p><b>Moderate-risk health care workers and responders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health care workers with less direct contact with COVID-19 patients.</li> <li>• Workers in home health/hospice and dental settings.</li> <li>• EMS, firefighters, police, correctional workers, dispatchers, funeral services, other first responders, and COVID-19 response personnel.</li> </ul>	

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# OBITUARIES

## Jordan Tandy "Jordi" Lamb, 28

With great sadness the family of Jordan Tandy "Jordi" Lamb announces her passing from this life on Monday, Dec. 7, at the tender age of 28. Jordi was born Nov. 25, 1992, to

Rachel Davie and Scott Lamb. She spent much of her youth in Creede; attending Lamb Elementary during the school year and spending summers at Soward Ranch with her family. She moved in 2006 with her mother to Kiowa, Colorado and attended high school there, graduating from Frontier High School in Elizabeth in 2011.

Jordi attended Colorado Mountain College in Steamboat for one semester and Toni and Guy's Hairdressing Academy in Keller, Texas for one year. Moving back to Colorado, she found her niche working as an aide at the Alzheimers Memory Care Center in Denver. Her dream was to eventually pursue a career in that field.

Jordan was a vivacious and gregarious soul who knew no strangers and touched the lives of many in her own too short life. Her true passion was snowboarding and she spent many happy days riding at Wolf Creek, Steamboat, Breckenridge and other area in the state. Jordi also loved music and was very artistically talented. Her beautiful Christmas, birthday and other special occasion handmade greeting cards warmed the hearts of those who were fortunate to receive them.

Jordi is survived by her parents, her sister Cassi, her brothers Adam and Grant, her dog Chloé and a



variety of grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins all of whom she loved deeply.

The family is tentatively planning a memorial celebration of Jordan's life in Creede sometime in the summer of 2021. An account has been established at the Del Norte Bank in Creede and Del Norte for the benefit of the Jordan Lamb Memorial Fund, some of which will be donated to the Stout Street Foundation in her memory.

"And can it be that in a world so full and busy the loss of one creature makes a void so wide and deep that nothing but the width and depth of eternity can fill it up" ~Charles Dickens

Please see more **OBITUARIES** on Page 7A

## Loren "Kelly" Dooley, 64

Loren "Kelly" Dooley passed away from unknown causes sometime during the week of Nov. 15, 2020. He was found in his home on Loma Street in Creede, on the evening of the Nov. 20 by local authorities after they received a wellness check call from concerned friends.

Most of his family and friends just called him "Kelly." He was the third son born to Floyd and Darlene Dooley Oct. 2, 1956, in Monte Vista, Colorado. Kelly was raised in Creede. He was a graduate of Creede Consolidated High School. He went on to serve four years in the United States Marine Corp. Kelly was a member of a VFW chapter while in California, and a member of the Creede Elks Lodge #506. Kelly worked at Coors Brewing Company in Golden, Colorado. He retired after many years from Camping World in San Diego, California. Kelly also owned and operated Parkway Bar in San Diego where he could be found giving pool and foosball

lessons to clients and friends. He sold his business and upon his retirement from Camping World in 2018, Kelly came home to Creede and lived at the family home on Loma Street.

Upon his return to Creede, Kelly renewed old friendships and made many new friends. He was a familiar face in Creede, either riding in his red jeep or strolling along Main Street. Kelly enjoyed tinkering with old cars and old appliances, as he could fix most anything. He also passed many hours solving and creating his own Sudoku puzzles. He would lend a helping hand to anyone in Creede who needed any assistance. Kelly could be called upon by the House Committee at the Red Church to help set up for potlucks and other events.

Kelly is survived by his brothers, Clyde (Rita) Creede, Phil (Sharon) Reno Nevada, and Mark (Donna) Fruit Heights, Utah.

The family would like to thank all of Kelly's family and friends



for all of the care, concern, and prayers offered in this trying time. A special thanks to cousins, Bill Dooley, Ted Dooley, Betsy Strawn, and their spouses whose loving care is beyond measure.

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

Arrangements in care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home.



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NMLS#421822

## Food Bank distribution this Saturday

**DEL NORTE** - The Del Norte Food Bank will be open for its December food distribution Saturday, Dec. 19, from 9:00 to 11 a.m. New clients will be served after 10:15 a.m. The Del Norte Food Bank serves residents of the

Del Norte and South Fork area and is located in the alley behind the Pioneer United Church in Del Norte. Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome. For more information, please call 657-2872 and leave a message.

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Give me some of that PPP

Well the darned COVID-19 is still making headlines and this past week we have seen more Americas succumb to that virus. It's a very sad time for the entire world but hopefully the vaccine that just came out will lead us to lessen the effects of that monster.

A lot of people lost jobs and suffered financially so the government provided some relief to them in the form of extended benefits and a stimulus check. Now of course all that money is just borrowed against our own selves so it's a borrowing from Peter to pay Paul sort of thing. One day we will have to pay that all back and that is when the chicken will come to roost and poop on all of us.

Of course, the politicians doled out a measly \$1,200 a person to pacify the masses and passed the rest off to the rich and famous, banks and Wall Street and everyone else with their hands out. If that money would have been given out to each household then we each would have had about \$20k to pay some bills. Now that stimulates Ol' Dutch a lot better for sure.

This past week Ol' Dutch read that Tom Brady, quarterback extraordinaire, collected a cool \$1 million in PPP loans then bought himself a \$1 million boat. How a man worth \$200 million with a wife worth \$400 million can get this free money is anyone's guess. Plus, these are not real loans as they will not ever be paid back. Another little scam under the table kind of thing.

All the televangelists collected multiple millions and one immediately bought a \$3 million jet. The rest of the rich and famous lined up like hogs to the trough to get their share of our money. They were glad to add to the millions of dollars already in their pockets and the American people just let it happen and are about to do it again.

So Ol' Dutch got to thinking that maybe he and Miss Trixie have missed out on the bandwagon here and need to apply for some of that PPP money ourselves. I mean we



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

certainly need to upgrade our yacht and a new jet would be a nice addition to the farm. All of the neighbors could come over and sit in the new jet and drink cocktails in the evenings made from old man Wiggins moonshine across the way.

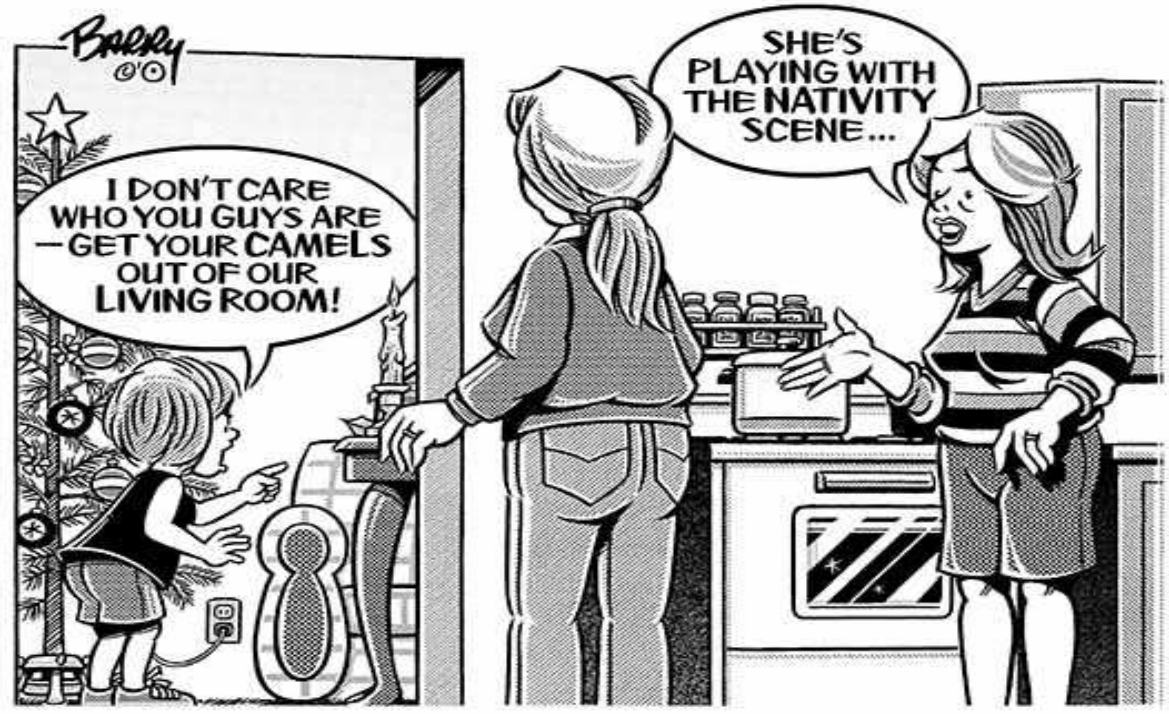
They always say what is good for the goose is good for the gander and I can tell you this, Ol' Dutch is darned tired of being goosed by the elite and their minions.

I think the only thing that separates us from the haves in this situation is we didn't know how to apply for the money. It appears that any excuse at all was enough to get your share and the more you ask for the easier it was to get.

So, having said that I think I will ask for about \$4 million so I can spread it around a little bit. Because as Miss Trixie says, there is nothing Ol' Dutch knows how to do better than spread it around.

Hopefully the New Year will bring us not only good tidings but a check to lessen the load a tad. As for the jet, I know we don't have a runway but maybe we can get that with the next stimulus, too.

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



## YOUR NIGHT SKY

### The Northern Cross

By DARLENE DANKO

This asterism is part of the constellation Cygnus the Swan that sits in front of the Milky Way. Its peak time is actually August and September, but it's still visible in the evening. It shines fairly high at night fall, and then begins to sink down as the evening progresses. The bird's wings span across the Milky Way in a location that's packed with stars and an assortment of deep sky objects.

Cygnus is one of the most prominent constellations in our sky because of all the things it's packed with. It represents a swan flying down the Milky Way and contains 13 stars. The 5 center stars are what's known as the Northern Cross.

Its alpha star Deneb marks the tail of the bird and is also the top of

the Northern Cross. You might remember that it's also part of the Summer Triangle. Deneb is also known as Alpha Cigni. It's 1500 LY from us and is the brightest star in Cygnus at nearly 160,000 times brighter than our sun, and it's a white star.

The star Albiero marks the bottom of the Northern Cross. This star is blue-yellow and is also known as Beta Cigni. It's a beautiful double star with 2 colors that also marks the bill of the swan. If you look at it with binoculars, you'll be able to see the 2 stars.

This part of the Milky Way is known as the Cygnus Rift. The constellation lacks globular clusters and bright galaxies but has many nebula and open clusters. When you look at it, try using binoculars to see these things. Its most distinctive feature is the Great Rift. It's



a relatively close dark cloud of dust that blocks the light from the Milk Way.

Dec. 21 is the start of winter, and Jupiter and Saturn will have their conjunction. This will be their closest meeting since July 16, 1623. So, they will meet up in our sky. The next time this will happen is 60 years from now March 15, 2080. You may be able to view them together with binoculars, but a telescope may be more successful. So go out and explore our wonderful sky!

## LETTER

### A time for giving thanks during a global pandemic

To the editor,  
Silver Thread Public Health District would like to take a moment, as we enter into the season of giving and receiving, to extend a very special thanks to important donors in our community. Alpine Ministry, located at the Mountain Views at Rivers Edge RV Resort off of Airport Road, has been an instrumental and consistent donor to the Mineral County Public Health Food Bank for several seasons. The Resort closes at the end of September, so in that sense, Alpine Ministry puts an enormous effort into providing bags of groceries for our food bank from June through September and they did so again this summer even during the pandemic. In addition, the members of Alpine Ministry and the owners of Mountain Views at Rivers Edge

RV Resort before closing the 2020 season, together, raised and donated sizeable funding to our county that continues to help provide financial assistance to several programs. These include but are not limited to the Senior Lunch program, our Vaccination program along with other health related needs plus additional monies made available for our Food Bank purchases. This funding has created tremendous support and value to so many throughout this pandemic.

Each of us in Public Health and those of us in our community using these services are in awe of such giving and generosity. This pandemic could have easily crushed our community if not for the selfless acts of giving like the countless number of checks and K-belle gift cards donated by so many wonderful people including

those in the Ladies Aid organization! A couple of first time recipients, who recently visited our office, told us that since the pandemic arrived, normal work opportunities were difficult to find, but that use of the food bank's services was a life saver and that the quality of the food received was better than ever and this helped them to overcome fear and anxiety that would have, otherwise, deepened the hardships on their families!

We are all so incredibly thankful for these gifts and so much more. Thank you, Alpine Ministry, Mountain Views RV Park, and all others who are always quietly working hard—we just want to simply thank you all for your act of giving!

Happy Holidays!  
Silver Thread Public Health District

## LETTERS POLICY

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

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

returned to the sender or discarded.

We will accept one letter per person, per subject, per four issues. We reserve the right to reject letters for reasons we believe are appropriate. Please send letters to Letter to the Editor c/o Valley Publishing, PO Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail to montevistanews@gmail.com (Attention: Letter to the Editor). Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. Friday.

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.

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# Mountain Valley dishes out five-star food

By Rainey Wikstrom  
**SAGUACHE** — Since Nutrition and Food Services Director Julie Leathers joined Mountain Valley School District in July 2019, the crew has been creating meals that are at least 50% scratch-made and packed full of fresh vegetables, fruit and other healthy ingredients.

Working with Charlene Hammel (a dedicated employee of five years) and new team member Amber Ormsby, Director Leathers rounds out a trio that appreciates administrative support. “We have an awesome leadership team — the principal, superintendent. And the teachers are just amazing and so supportive,” Leathers said. “It’s been a wonderful experience.”

Opened in October 2019, the new kitchen features state-of-the-art equipment, which has really helped improve quality. In response to the pandemic, MVS feeds students in the building and at home. In addition to serving breakfast and lunch in the classroom, Food Service staff prepare grab-and-go meals for remote students. The three-person team is truly grateful for the amazing help from the AmeriCorps volunteers who helped produce and share the food.

“We have kids and teachers come up and say, ‘this is really yummy!’” Leathers said. “We’re trying to provide quality home cooking for our kids and staff.” Meals include homemade turkey subs, grapes, carrots, oranges; homemade chicken burritos; homemade Waldorf apple salad; scratch spaghetti; pulled pork hoagies; ham mac and cheese with homemade dinner rolls; Cowboy caviar; Banana and cornbread; Spanish rice; Southwest Chicken salad (everyone’s favorite); potato salad;



Photo courtesy of MVS

## The new Mountain Valley School District building also features an upgraded Food Services program.

and hamburgers cooked at school and served with fresh romaine lettuce and sliced tomatoes.

In addition to conducting student surveys to fatten the menu with food that kids love, staff members hope to present demonstrations that teach about

nutrition, inspire cooking and provide decision-making skills for maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

“We have an amazing crew, and we put a lot of love into our food,” Leathers said. “We are dedicated to providing good food that will put a smile on

someone’s face.”

Before taking the position at MVS, Leathers taught family and consumer science while living in Utah. She made the move into food services to adapt to hereditary hearing loss, and she is now legally deaf. Leathers plans to

combine her love of teaching with her culinary skills to help enrich children’s lives through nutritious meals and education.

To learn more about Mountain Valley Schools and food services program, visit <http://www.mountainvalleyschool.org>.



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# Henderson elected VP of Colorado Farm Bureau

BY REBECCA COPLEY

LA JARA - James Henderson of La Jara was recently elected vice president of Colorado Farm Bureau. Henderson is a fifth generation farmer and continues to run their family farm on a daily basis with his wife Kiley who is a sixth generation farmer. Henderson says that they would love to create an opportunity for their children to continue that legacy as well.



Their family farm primarily consists of the cow calf business. They breed cattle and raise the calves to 10-12 months old before they sell them to feed yards. In addition to their cattle operations they also grow alfalfa for daily use and raise all of their own feed for their cows. They also grow oats and barley in their rotation.

For his educational background Henderson is a Centauri High School Alumni. He went on to graduate from the College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Henderson has been involved in Farm Bureau for nine years and has been very involved with leadership development programs in both Colorado Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau. "It's been an absolute great experience and has taken me from coast to coast and from the State Capital to the White House to advocate for Colorado's farm and ranch families," said Henderson.

When asked what made Henderson want to become vice president of Farm Bureau Henderson answered saying, "I wanted to become VP of Colorado Farm Bureau to serve the farming and ranching families of Colorado in a more direct and dedicated manner. Our members are some of the best people you could imagine. When I think of the tremendous challenges we face in agriculture I'm comforted by knowing that we have Farm Bureau

to protect our way of life. I feel that we owe that charge, our best efforts and attention and that's exactly what our leadership team gives."

When asked what his goals are as vice president Henderson had this to say, "All of our policy positions are initiated from the kitchen tables of our membership, protecting that process is critical to our success. We need farmers and ranchers to step in to develop the policies that will guide our work both at the state and federal capitals and regulating bodies. Keeping that process grassroots and working is my responsibility. We also have the tremendously important work of informing both policymakers and voters about the positive work agriculture has done on the sustainability front as well as the positive impact we have on the state economy."

Henderson also sharing another goal of his is to make sure they are making a positive impact in the arena of rural business policy. "Farmers need our thriving small towns as much as small towns need the farmers, ensuring our rural citizens can receive a quality education, health care, and jobs is of critical importance to agriculture," said

Henderson.

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on agriculture. Henderson sharing some of the ways COVID-19 impacted his own farming operations this year saying, "We definitely saw a huge market decline on our feeder cattle we marketed in March. The CARES act provided critical support to bridge us over. The combination of low prices and drought have had long lasting effects on farmers and ranchers across the state."

When asked what challenges and lasting impacts from the pandemic are facing Colorado farmers Henderson answered saying, "The impact of COVID in agriculture will have a relatively long tale. I don't think that anyone can say with confidence what post COVID consumer habits will look like. However, bringing restaurants back online will be critical for Colorado agriculture. The recovery will be concurrent to a change in presidential administrations, which will likely cause a shift in policy which will further uncertainty for a time. The great news is the Farm Bureau with be speaking into the policy conversation on behalf of our members to bring forward the best possible outcome."

## SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Dec. 7 and Dec. 12, 2020.

Fires accounted for almost a third of the 58 calls this week (17 controlled burns and three structure fires). In addition to three animal problems, deputies responded to two noise complaints, transported one inmate and issued two speeding tickets (\$275). They also handled two burglaries, two cases of fraud, one act of criminal mischief and three reports of suspicious activity.

For people, staff managed one suicide subject, one civil dispute, two protection order violations, child abuse, two allegations of fraud and an ambulance escort.

### Arrests

Donald Garcia, 45, Saguache, first-degree murder, failure to appear and three counts of Fugitive of justice (El Paso, Chaffee and Alamosa Counties).

Jermaine Martinez, 38, Center, violation of protection order, domestic violence and failure to



comply.

Jason Deherrera, 33, Center, fugitive of justice.

Sean Chavez, 26, Center, failure

to comply.

Elizabeth Calhoun, 37, Center, violation of protection order, child

abuse.

## CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

### Saguache drop box now open

BY TRISH GILBERT

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the drop box is now available to the public for purposes pertaining to County business as follows:

- Motor vehicle renewals
  - Recording documents
  - Payments to County Treasurer
- Please be aware that you are still required to make an appointment and come in person to title a vehicle and for other types of transactions.

Call 719-655-2512 to schedule your appointment.

If you utilize the drop box, it is always a good idea to leave your contact information in case we have any questions.

The Saguache Drop Box is located in the parking lot south of the Saguache County Courthouse at 501 4th St., Saguache CO 81149.

This drop box will be open 24/7 until further notice.



## Help is only a Phone Call Away

COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line  
**719.589.3671**

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](http://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 to the 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](http://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](http://slvbhg.org)

## Happy Holidays

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:



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# COVID-19 can leave you breathless

**By Dr. Jason Allen, SLV Health San Luis Valley** - In the months since COVID-19 first appeared, we've learned a lot about

how it spreads and many of the harmful and sometimes lasting effects it can have on our bodies, most especially our lungs.

COVID-19, like most corona viruses, is a virus that causes respiratory infection. It spreads through respiratory droplets that

easily escape an infected person's respiratory system when they cough, sneeze, sing or even just talk. This is why the use of facial coverings (masks) is so effective in reducing the spread of this virus! Everyone that wears a mask and follows social distancing guidelines when around other people is not only showing proper respect for those around them but is also participating in the most effective (and easiest) preventative measures we know of.

The most severe and debilitating symptoms of this disease stem from what this virus can do to our lungs. As the infection progresses in our system, it can sometimes cause severe pneumonia. On chest x-rays or CT of the chest, this manifests as multiple white areas within the periphery of the lung tissue. This appearance is most commonly diffuse, affecting both lungs and often all lobes of the lungs.

This appearance is caused by the buildup of fluid and cellular debris in the small air sacs that make up the lung tissue called alveoli. The alveoli are the part of the lung where gas exchange occurs (oxygen is absorbed and carbon dioxide is released by the blood stream). When enough of these sacs are damaged and fill up with fluid, the person becomes very short of breath and is unable to maintain their blood oxygen saturation which can lead to other problems such as organ damage, stroke and heart attack.

Unfortunately, as this virus continues to spread, its most severe effects become more and more common (we've all seen the soaring infection rate and death tolls reported recently). Fortunately however, it is within our power, individually and collectively, to protect ourselves and our communities by adhering to a few simple guidelines:

- 1) Wear a face covering whenever around others.
  - 2) Avoid large indoor gatherings.
  - 3) Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others whenever possible.
- Together we can bring this virus back under control and help bring an end to suffering and sadness that it continues to cause as it spreads



The above images of a patient's lungs were taken at the SLV Health's Imaging Clinic. The photos demonstrate how quickly the COVID-19 disease can affect a person's health. These images were taken three days in a row, about the same time of day. Please do your part to help decrease the positivity rate in our community by practicing safe activities as we head into the winter months.

## VACCINES

**Continued from Page 1A**  
and Valley Wide Alamosa Pharmacy will receive 500 vaccinations. Rio Grande, Saguache, Mineral, Conejos and Costilla County Public Health Departments will each receive 100 Moderna vaccinations. Rio Grande Hospital will also receive 100 Moderna vaccinations.

CDPHE announced Dec. 11 as part of the Phase 1 vaccination plan, "The federal government will deliver a shipment of the Moderna vaccine shortly after the first shipment of the Pfizer vaccine. The Moderna vaccine does not need to be stored at ultra-cold temperatures, allowing it to be distributed even further, especially to rural areas. Because of supply chain limitations, we expect we will receive regular COVID-19 vaccine allocations from the federal government on a weekly basis. To be as fair and efficient with distribution as possible, the state has developed a phased approach to vaccine distribution to save lives and end the crisis that has been brought on by the pandemic as quickly as possible. The federal government is determining the allocation amount by the size of every state's total population and the quantity of ready-to-ship doses from the manufacturer(s). The first Colorado shipment will be 46,800 doses of the Pfizer vaccine. The second shipment will be 95,600 of the Moderna vaccine. Colorado determined the number of doses going to each location by

surveying facilities' needs for Phase 1. Many of the doses allocated to local public health agencies will be administered to health care workers at local hospitals that do not have the capability to store vaccine."

Wednesday, Dec. 7, COVID-19 active cases in the SLV were 301. Wednesday, Dec. 16 active cases in the SLV were 282.

Wednesday, Dec. 15, statewide the positivity test rate dropped from 12.36% to 8.97% the past week. Alarmingly, 83% of statewide hospital beds were occupied on Dec. 16.

San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership (SLVPHP) reported Dec. 15 that the SLV two-week positivity rate had dropped slightly from 4.76% to 4.32%.

On Dec. 15 Rio Grande, Conejos, and Mineral counties continue to be at level "Orange" on the state's COVID-19 dial. Alamosa and Costilla counties remain at level "Red" and Saguache County remains at level "Yellow."

According to the CDPHE, COVID-19 dial dashboard Wednesday, Dec. 15, counties in the SLV were up and down with their positivity rates. Costilla County increased from a 5.9% positivity rate to 14.9% resulting in Costilla County moving to level "Red" the past week. Among the SLV counties Rio Grande County had the lowest COVID-19 test positivity rate of 2.1% - a decrease of

.06% from last week. Conejos County stayed flat with a 6.0% positivity rate, Saguache County dropped from 7.4% to 5.3%, Alamosa County increased from 5.6% to 6.7%, and Mineral County remained at level green on all positions of the state's COVID-19 dial with one new active case.

According to the SLVPHP there were 282 known active cases in the SLV Wednesday, Dec. 16. "Active cases" means that the cases are confirmed positive for COVID-19 and are currently being supported by Public Health during their isolation period. Active cases by county were as follows as of Wednesday, Dec. 16:

- Alamosa: 160
- Conejos: 38
- Costilla: 42
- Mineral: 1
- Rio Grande: 36
- Saguache: 5

According to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center Monday, Dec. 14, Colorado continues to have a lower seven-day positivity moving average test rate of 10.00% which is lower than all neighboring states. Wyoming decreases in positive test rates going from 15.1% to 13.4% over the past week. Other neighboring positivity rates over the past week Dec. 14 showed Kansas had a COVID-19 positivity rate of 37.3%, Utah 18.1%, Arizona 18.1%, Nebraska 10.2% and Oklahoma 17.2%. The Colorado and World Health Organization two-week positivity goal is 5% or lower.

## OBITUARY

### Mark Edward Sowards, 31

Longtime Conejos resident Mark Edward Sowards passed away Dec. 13, 2020. He was born Sept. 14, 1989, in La Jara, Colorado to Ed and Dana (DePriest) Sowards. Mark graduated from Centauri High School in 2008. On Feb. 27, 2010, he married his high school sweetheart, Tori King. They were sealed for time and all eternity in the Albuquerque temple. Soon after, they welcomed their four kids, Rylie, Mckayla, Kinsley and Maddek, who mean the world to them. He loved his family above all. He was a caring, nurturing father and husband, who enjoyed spending time with and teaching his children. Mark spent most of his life working with his family at the family store where he made many friends in the community. For the past few years, he has enjoyed working at Robins Construction. He served his community as a firefighter. Mark was a friend to everyone and an avid outdoorsman. He had a passion for teaching and took great pride in

guiding people and teaching them his love for the outdoors. Mark was a storyteller, who could entertain anyone. His smile was always the center of the room.

Mark is survived by his wife, Tori Sowards, his children, Rylie Ann, Mckayla Nicole, Kinsley Rae and Maddek Edward, his parents Ed and Dana Sowards, his siblings, Tiffany (Matt) Medina, Amanda (Sean) Bagwell, Jessica (Joe) Isley and Morris Sowards, his grandmothers, Lynette DePriest and Larna Sowards, his father-in-law and mother-in-law Tim and Debra King as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family, who loved and cherished him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Bill Sowards and Wayne S. DePriest.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, at the Fox Creek Cemetery. Contributions are suggested to Mark and Tori Sowards



and may be made at San Luis Valley Federal Bank or sent in care of the funeral home office.

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

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The Jolly Holiday Bonanza Extravaganza ZOOM session wrapped up Dec. 13 with local guests and performers and visitors from Florida to Hawaii.

**THEATRE**

Continued from Page 1A

everyone to shine light through it. Snotty said creativity teaches you what it means to be “feeling your selfiest self.” To demonstrate, Pratt adjusted her camera and swirled around from a suspended hula hoop hooked on the ceiling. She somehow sang “... show your true colors shining through...” with the music while swirling around the middle of her living room.

Amid the applause and adulation, an unidentified ZOOM voice said, “You don’t see that every day.”

Wong’s creative partner from Sante Fe, Bobby Fraser, stepped forward from the background to play a Christmas carol on the harmonica.

New owner of the Saguache Hotel Andy Hackbarth closed out the first round of performances with a bossa nova version of “Let it Snow.” Hackbarth said he chose the song in honor of recent snowfall, and until the fireplace is roaring again in the hotel, he appreciates the cold.

A singer-songwriter born in Carbondale, Hackbarth has circled the globe performing in 50 countries and treating cruise ship audiences. While securing the paperwork for the hotel while on a ship, Hackbarth recalled his visit to Saguache in 2019 when the property kidnapped his imagination. A year ago, Hackbarth was stuck on a cruise ship off the

coast of Dubai.

The sugar-plum fairies urged everyone to shine some light and showed off felt puppets they’ve created recently. Marcia, Dennis and Reyn from Hawaii took the prompt and sang “Jingle Bells” before teaching everyone the words to “Mele Kalikimaka,” a Hawaiian version of “Merry Christmas.”

The performers cycled through another round of songs and merriment to conclude the Jolly Holiday Bonanza Extravaganza. The Ute Theatre has sponsored more than 20 ZOOM sessions since the pandemic hit, and they have four more scheduled in December.

**WATER**

Continued from Page 1A

board of directors meeting Dec. 9, stakeholders on the call heard discussions of fees for members and funding for data analysis and public outreach.

General manager Cleave Simpson explained the value of participating in an inter-governmental agency agreement to leverage Doppler technology to help with weather forecasting and stream flow analysis. Installed along the Conejos River following the West Fork Fire in 2013, the equipment has yielded valuable data over the past few years. Conejos Director Armando Valdez said, “This is a no-brainer. To me, this is an easy decision. I support this.”

The board approved contributing \$5,000 annually to the SLV Doppler Weather Radar Project for the next

five years. With a fivefold match, this will direct \$25,000 every year to maintain the software, hardware and other equipment.

Doppler radar can capture scientific proof for hungry eyes to examine. But underground water flow is harder to see without devoting significant time and resources. In a similar but unrelated commitment of \$5,000, Saguache County recently agreed to fund more underground mapping for the elusive Saguache Creek. Gathering data takes money.

Fortunately, citizens don’t need to pay a dime to gather information about water issues in the San Luis Valley. As Lisa Sigler from Sigler Communications explained following the board’s Doppler

vote, a new website and Facebook page provide videos, fact sheets and other information to counter a current water export proposal with a simple brand: “Protect San Luis Valley Water.”

The testimonies and analysis on <https://www.protectsanluisvalleywater.com> give background information to elevate the discussions threading through the Protect San Luis Valley Water Facebook page.

For folks who doubt the economic contributions from the agricultural sector of the San Luis Valley, it is the largest private-sector employer and pours approximately \$500 million into the economy every year.

The next scheduled board meeting will take place Jan. 19, 2020.



With you in spirit,  
wherever you are this Christmas...

**Living Water Bible Fellowship**  
**Christmas Eve Services**  
**Thursday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**3:00, 5:00 or 11:00 p.m.**  
**livingwateralamosa.org**

**Del Norte Ministerial Alliance**  
(Gateway, New Life, Pioneer & Cornerstone Churches)  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
**Thurs. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. at Gateway Church**  
We will be observing Covid precautions, service will also be Live Streamed on Youtube at Gateway Church of Del Norte

**last minute gifts**

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# Lifestyles

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Supplement to The Monte Vista Journal, Center Post-Dispatch, The Conejos County Citizen, The Mineral County Miner, The South Fork Times, and The Del Norte Prospector.

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## SLV Water is for our 'water needy' farmers and ranchers

To the editor,  
A misleading statement implying that billions of acre-feet of Valley aquifer water are available and not being used, has been circulating across social media. This 'beautiful lie' as Suzanne Gosar calls it, claims the Valley can release water to the Front Range to spur their further development. This is promoted by a group of investors called 'Renew-

able Water Resources (RWR). Sadly, these Front Range developers are looking for more water to continue building beyond the capacity of their own available water resources. There was a previous, similar proposal called American Water Development, Inc. (AWDI) that Valley residents successfully opposed. Apparently by throwing in hard cash RWR  
**Please see WATER on Page 3**

## San Luis Valley active cases continue to be high

*Additional five COVID-19 related deaths the past week*

By TREY SPAULDING

SAN LUIS VALLEY –

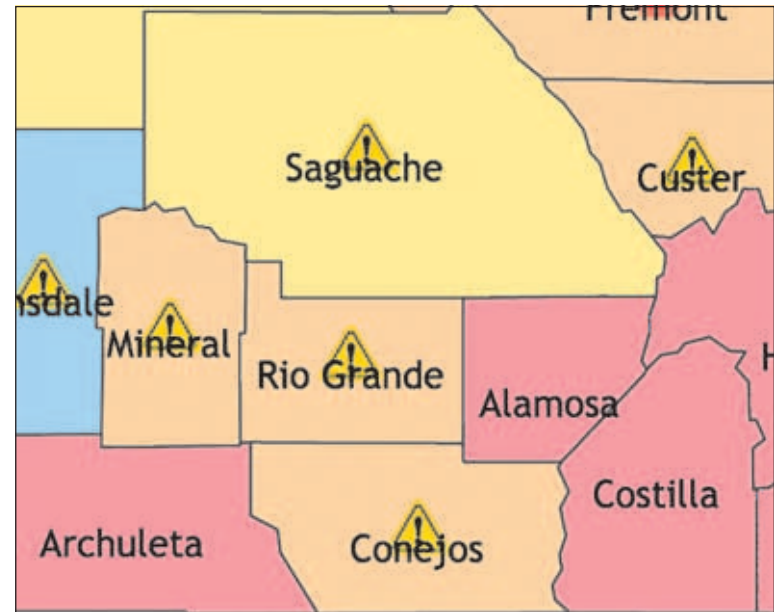
Wednesday, Dec. 7, COVID-19 active cases in the SLV were 301. Monday, Dec. 14 active cases in the SLV were 299. Alamosa County for three weeks in a row once again saw the largest increase in the SLV active cases with 16 more cases than a week ago. On Dec. 14, statewide the positivity rate dropped from 12.36% to 10.00% the past week. Alarming, 82% of statewide hospital beds were occupied.

San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership reported Dec. 14 that the SLV two-week positivity rate had dropped slightly from 4.76% to 4.68%.

On Dec. 14 Rio Grande, Conejos, and Mineral counties continue to be at level "Orange" on the state's COVID-19 dial. Alamosa and Costilla counties remain at level "Red" and Saguache County remains at level "Yellow."

The San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership website Monday, Dec. 14, "Showed an increase in SLV Covid-19 related deaths increased from 28 to 33 began.

According to the CDPHE, COVID-19 dial dashboard Monday, Dec. 14, all counties in the SLV continued to have a decrease in the positivity rate of tests conducted. Among the SLV counties Rio Grande County had the lowest COVID-19 test positivity rate of 2.4% - a decrease of .03% from last week. Costilla County



saw the largest test positivity rate increase from 5.9% to 17.2% which resulted in Costilla County moving to level "Red" the past week. Conejos County remained at a positivity rate of 6.0%, Saguache County dropped from 7.4% to 6.9%, Alamosa County increased from 5.6% to 6.3%, and Mineral County remained at level green on all positions of the state's COVID-19 dial.

There were 299 known active cases in the SLV Monday, Dec. 14. "Active cases" means that the cases are confirmed positive for COVID-19 and are currently being supported by Public Health during their isolation period. Active cases by county were as follows as of Monday, Dec. 14:

Alamosa: 178  
Conejos: 42

Costilla: 20  
Mineral: 0  
Rio Grande: 50  
Saguache: 9

According to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center Monday, Dec. 14, Colorado continues to have a lower seven-day positivity moving average test rate of 10.00% which is lower than all neighboring states. Wyoming decrease in positive test rates going from 15.1% to 13.4% over the past week. Other neighboring positivity rates over the past week Dec. 14 showed Kansas had a COVID-19 positivity rate of 37.3%, Utah 18.1%, Arizona 18.1%, Nebraska 10.2% and Oklahoma 17.2%. The Colorado and World Health Organization two-week positivity goal is 5% or lower.

## The Cowman's Christmas List

1. New baler twine to tie up last year's five-buckle overshoes.
2. Something that will kill Canadian thistle.
3. A hot shot that works for more than a morning.
4. A dog that does more good out of the pickup than in it.
5. A cattle buyer who admits that he likes your calves.
6. A feedlot customer with a bottomless wallet.
7. A molasses salesman who thinks your hay will be adequate without his \$200 -a-ton supplement.
8. A vet who suggest that you buy your vaccine at the co-op.
9. A teenage daughter who thinks her allowance is too high.
10. A son-in-law with a steady job.
11. A Christmas day freak snowfall that blankets the mountains and your front yard but leaves the cow lot dry as a bone.
12. An implement dealer who insists on being paid in bales of hay.
13. A banker who inadvertently has gotten your financial statement mixed up with Jeff Bezos'.
14. A son who can rope and ride, loves to work and doesn't plan on going to vet school.
15. A wife who rubs your back.
16. The time, occasionally, to enjoy what you do for a livin'.
17. And a loving God who doesn't look down at you every time and say, "Oh, well, I can't win 'em all!"

*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*



**BAXTER BLACK**

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE



# Deck the paws: Ensuring a Pet-Safe Holiday home

The holiday season is a favorite time of year for many who transform their homes with festive decorations, bake winter treats, and open their doors to guests. Because these traditions introduce new variables into their furry friend's environment, pet owners should be aware of any potential hazards that might arise.

Dr. Lori Teller, an associate professor in the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, says that owners adding a floral touch to their holiday decorations should be mindful of which plants they select. Lilies, European mistletoe, amaryllis bulbs, and pine needles can all cause serious health complications if consumed.

"In general, they can cause oral irritation and may cause your pet to salivate and drool. Excessive quantities can lead to gastrointestinal upset," Teller said. "It is a myth that poinsettias are toxic to pets."

Other holiday decorations pet owners should avoid include candles, which may burn pets or cause a serious fire if knocked over, and liquid potpourri, which is extremely toxic to cats. If your pet is a curious climber, consider anchoring your Christmas tree to a wall or ceiling to avoid falling and sharp broken ornaments.

When opening gifts, keep in mind that batteries are toxic to pets and should be kept out of reach. Any decorative elements containing string, such as ribbons or tinsel, may also cause an obstruction if ingested.

"Ornaments made from food, like popcorn balls, can also be a source of danger. Hang these ornaments well out of reach," Teller said. "When putting presents under the tree or around the fireplace, make sure that any gift-wrapped food items are out of reach."

Pets hunting for a holiday snack may also be at risk. Chocolate, especially dark and baking chocolates; raisins; bones; alcohol; and fatty foods can all cause serious issues. Macadamia nuts can cause neurologic problems in pets as well. Anything that contains xylitol, an artificial sweetener found in many foods from gum to peanut butter, is toxic to dogs, leading to acute liver failure and death if not treated immediately.

"Normally, raw dough is a seasonal problem during the holidays, but this year there has been an exponential increase in the number of yeast and dough intoxications because so many people have been perfecting their baking skills during the pandemic," Teller



## Scam Alert from San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative

SAN LUIS VALLEY - One of our members just reached out to let us know that they received a scam phone call. The woman told our member that he needed to get a money pack from Dollar Tree to pay his electric bill immediately. The caller ID had the following number: 800-609-9520, and the woman, "April Williams," asked the man to call back on extension 719-399-6679.

Please warn elderly friends and family members that this is a scam. If ever you're in question if a phone call is legit, please call our customer service team at 719-852-3538.



said. "Don't stop baking your delicious goodies—just keep the raw versions away from your pets!"

Pet owners choosing to host a holiday gathering should be mindful of whether their animal enjoys company. Pets that prefer to keep to themselves should be confined to a quiet area of the home with a comfortable place to rest. Owners can leave on a radio or TV to help mask the noise from a party and provide a favorite toy.

If a pet is known to become excessively nervous when guests visit, owners can reach out to their veterinarian to discuss remedies that may alleviate anxiety. These may include pheromones or some medications. Some people may opt to board their pet at a kennel.

"If your pet enjoys a good get-together, make sure to keep it away from doors that are frequently opened so that you don't have to worry about your pet getting loose in all of the excitement," Teller said. "Just in case, make sure your pet is wearing a collar and identification tag and that it has a microchip that is registered with your current information in a microchip database. Advise guests not to slip treats to your pet as well."

During the season of gratitude and family, many pet owners may wish to include all of their loved ones, human and animal, in their celebrations. Creating a pet-safe environment ensures that

both owners and their furry friends can enjoy the holidays worry-free.

"Our pets have played a huge role in our lives, especially during the pandemic. Be sure you take some time to give them extra attention," Teller said. "That will be the best gift of all."

*Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University.*

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 **Southern Colorado Computer Services**

157 Adams Street, Monte Vista, CO 81144  
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**THE FINERY**  
A great selection of warm socks, slippers and slipper socks from Reggine, LOF, Versace and more! Cashmere Slippers make a great gift!

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**SHADES**  
Great Selection of Fall and Winter Fabric for your Holiday Decorating!  
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129 Adams • Monte Vista

**Promote Your Presents... Advertise in our Holiday Gift Guide**  
Our Holiday Gift Guide is the go-to solution for holiday shoppers. Make sure your products and services are in the spotlight. Call Chelsea at 719-852-3631 to reserve your space in the Holiday Gift Guide, and your ad will appear online for the same great price!





# Business Showcase

**Holiday Sale!**  
**20% OFF All Merchandise**  
except consignment  
through 12/31/20.



**Thank you for supporting us this year!**  
**Please wear a mask.**  
**The Holy Moses** 658-2848  
NEW HOURS 121 N. Main  
Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Creede

## This Week's Feature



# THE HOLY MOSES

An enchanting Collection of Cabin Decor, Colorado Pottery, Quilts, Linens & Specialty Foods!

It's Worth The Drive

Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Nick & Vicki Kulyk  
121 N. Main • 658-2848 • Creede

# Anderson receives Colorado Commissioner of the Year award



Saguache County Commissioner Jason Anderson received the Commissioner of the Year Award for all of Colorado. Some counties have three or more commissioners. So, the field included well over 200 commissioners. "It was a bit of a surprise," Anderson admitted. "In my eight years, I never missed a steering committee meeting. I think this was more about eight years on the board, not just this last year."

## WATER

Continued from Page 1

wants to convince us their money would be more worthwhile than our livelihoods. Drying up the Valley and turning it into a dust bowl is not their concern.

Water is our lifeblood in the Valley. The agricultural community comprises 95% of the Valley economy and as gas is to a car, water is to food production. The farmers and ranchers already don't have enough water to sustain their current production. They are working to try to balance this scarce resource and also meet longstanding commitments to downstream states.

RWR claims that "water needy citizens" on the Front Range want our water. Our response is that we need our water and we are currently facing shortages and a serious decline in our water aquifers. We could use much more water than we have! Their proposal involves moving water from the Valley aquifer in a massive pipeline to the Front Range to serve 66,000 homes. There is no way our water could ever meet their ever-increasing need. The Front Range communities need to figure out how to LIVE within their natural resource limits and not continue to grab water from other thriving communities. This proposal needs to disappear.

We will not be fooled by RWR's bribes and misleading surveys as they attempt to misdirect Valley residents! Val Alto doesn't think that the Valley is responsible for the water needs of the Front Range, especially when we can't meet our own needs.

Val Alto was organized in 1953 as a women's community service group. We conduct fundraising activities and make donations for local college scholarships and community programs such as La Puente food bank, HVCC children center and the Del Norte library.

Our membership includes many of the ranching families that settled this region, continue to operate their ranches and provide food to our Nation.

Val Alto stands with the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, the San Luis Valley Conservancy District, and the Valley's multiple counties and cities against the RWR water-grabbing proposal. Valley agriculture depends on our water and in this dry area, farmers and ranchers seldom have their full water supply they need to grow their crops. Additionally, this same water supports the wildlife that lives here also. We must stop this water grab to save ourselves and our future.

Free bumper stickers are available to express dissatisfaction with this proposal at the locations listed below. The stickers say "RWR" with a slash through it to indicate "NO" to RWR. They are free at the following locations to place on your car. Please note that these stickers have been donated by Val Alto members, so please only take them if you intend to display them appropriately.

**Bumper sticker locations:**

The Green Spot in Alamosa, Rain Brews Coffee Shop and Big R in

Monte Vista, Doc Outdoor Sports in South Fork, Elephant Cloud Grocery in Crestone, Haefali's Honey Store in Del Norte and San Juan Sports in Creede.

More information is available through Protect San Luis Valley Water at [www.protectsanluisvalley-water.com](http://www.protectsanluisvalley-water.com). 719-589-6301.

Val Alto members are Valley residents against this RWR proposal:

- Shelly Anderson, Susan Austin
- Maretta Colville, Lynnea Cook,
- Doris Downie, Suzanne Gosar,
- Jean Hamilton, Pam Hurst, Bobbie
- Jansen, Deann Jacobs, Patty Kelley,
- Kathleen Kenvin, Cristi Larsen,
- Lisa McClure, Suzie Off, Donna
- Peckumn, Linda Robinson, Sherry
- Smith and Denise VandeWalle

**\$529<sup>99</sup>**  
Minimum Install fee of \$105\*

**Valley Lock and Security, Inc.**  
500 Main Street, Alamosa, CO 81101  
**(719) 589-5895**

Shop Local!

Home & Office Security System

Starter Package

Includes:

- 1 Keypad Panel (English)
- 3 Door/Window Contacts
- 1 Infrared Motion Detector
- 1 Key Ring Remote

Other options also available. \*Alamosa rate only, please call for outside area details  
Call for details.

## Happy Holidays

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.mds-wasteandrecycle.com](http://www.mds-wasteandrecycle.com)

# New Teeth in Just One Day No More Dentures!

No Cost Consultation: Know what's possible for You! Includes preliminary evaluation and CBCT image. \$500 value. Expires: 12/31/2020.



Dr. Thornell helped save my life. I was having constant health problems that were getting worse every day. My diseased teeth and gums were draining me of my energy and it was impossible to stay healthy. After removing all of my bad teeth, Dr. Thornell placed dental implants and I got a new set of teeth in just one day. I am now healthier and feel better than I have in a long time. I also have a great smile. Dr. Thornell you are a life saver! I can't thank you enough.  
~ B.Gullette

## Medicare will help pay: Save Thousands!

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Credit Cards Accepted

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implant Center

William F. Thornell

DDS, MAGD, DICOI  
35 years implant and oral surgery experience

Medicare

Certified Provider

[pagosadentalimplantcenter.com](http://pagosadentalimplantcenter.com)

## Help is only a Phone Call Away

COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line  
719.589.3671

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](http://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 to the 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](http://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.

**SAN LUIS VALLEY Behavioral Health Group**  
Dedicated to Hope, Healing and Recovery

Approved Medicaid Provider | 24 hour hotline: 719.589.3671 | [slvbhg.org](http://slvbhg.org)

# Valley-Wide Classified MARKETPLACE

**FREE!**

Sell your household items for FREE. Total value of items must be \$50 or less. See details below.



## CLASSIFIED INDEX

- |   |   |  |
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|---|---|--|

## RATES

**15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications**  
**\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.**  
**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. (Limited to private party only, 2 ads per person, 4 weeks.)  
**Convenient ad placement:**  
 To place your ad in person come to the office at 835 First Ave. in Monte Vista, or call (719) 852-3531. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also fax your classified to (719) 852-3387 or email at montevisitaclass@gmail.com  
**Check your ad the first day:**  
 To ensure your ad is correct, check it the first day it appears in the paper. If there is an error in your ad, call us right away so we can correct it. If an error appears in your ad, Valley Publishing will credit you with one additional day of advertising.  
**Our ad policy:** Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

## DEADLINE

**Thursday 5:00 pm**  
**Call 719-852-3531**  
**or email: MonteVistaClass@gmail.com**

## Easy Payment Options

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



### 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

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

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

### 07 Help Wanted

**Looking for a new Career? We have an immediate opening for an ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE.** Duties include calling on area businesses to sell display advertisements, selling and managing online advertisements, meeting daily sales goals and other duties as needed. Potential earnings of \$23,000-\$30,000+ with competitive benefits package. If you're goal-oriented, motivated, and a self-starter with high ambitions of a successful and enjoyable career,

send your resume to Managing Editor, Trey Spaulding, at Valley Publishing, P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or email to tspaulding@valleypublishinginc.com (12/30)

**Rio Grande County Department of Social Services is seeking an Employment Benefits Unit Case Manager. Position provides a full range of ongoing case management services to clients.** Requirements are a High School Diploma or GED, in addition to one to three months related experience and/or training, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have computer skills, including word processing, spreadsheet applications, and various data entry programs. \$15.36-15.96/hour DOE. Background check and pre-employment drug testing, including testing for marijuana is required. Applications are available online at www.riograndecounty.org or pick up and submit to Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. (12/23)

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

urtigers.co (12/30)

**The Del Norte Jr/Sr High School is seeking a qualified Secondary**

**Social Studies Teacher.** Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License

Colorado Statewide Classified Advertising Network

*To place a 25-word COSCAN Network ad in 91 Colorado newspapers for only \$300, contact your local newspaper or call Colorado Press Association Network at 303-571-5117.*

WANTED	COLORADO PRESS ASSOCIATION NETWORK
<p><b>Cash for Mineral Rights</b> Free, no-risk, cash offer. Contact us with the details: Call: 720-988-5617 Write: Minerals, PO BOX 3668, Littleton, CO 80161 Email: opportunity@ccmresourcesinc.com</p>	<p>Buy a 25-word statewide classified line ad in newspapers across the state of Colorado for just \$300 per week. Ask about our frequency discounts! Contact this newspaper or call Colorado Press Association Network 303-571-5117</p>

## Conour

www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org

Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society

**If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366**  
 Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.  
 Monday & non-business hours by appointment only  
 2825 Sherman Ave. • Monte Vista

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

Visit Our Facebook Page

## Mountain Pizza Gift Certificates make GREAT Christmas Gifts!

"Great environment with the outdoor gas fireplace and TVs indoors for watching sports. Friendly and attentive staff took great care of me and my hunting partner... I really enjoyed the beer taps where you get to pour your own beer by the ounce, very cool concept and easy to use."  
-Aaron G., Google

**Fresh Ingredients, BIG ON TASTE!**  
**\$7 Combo Deal: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Everyday!**  
**Your choice of: 8" Pizza w/one topping and Fountain Drink • Calzone and Fountain Drink • Caesar Salad and Fountain Drink**

Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMTs and our Veterans always receive 20% off!

30483 Highway 160, South Fork  
11 a.m. to 8 p.m. DAILY

**Easy Online To-Go Orders:**  
**MountainPizzaTapRoom.com**  
 Thank you for supporting our employees during this difficult time

<p>Marty is a Chihuahua mix we believe is about 3 years old. He is very mellow, friendly and affectionate. He loves all people and kids. He does well with other small dogs. We have not tested large dogs yet.</p>	<p>Riley we believe is an American Bulldog/Australian Shepherd mix. He is about 2 years old. He is very friendly and affectionate. He has done well with all people he has met. We feel he has good potential with other dogs with a little work.</p>
<p>Nala is a 2 year old American Staffordshire mix. She is very calm, affectionate and playful. She does great with all people and kids. She also does really well with other dogs.</p>	<p>China is a 8 month old Doberman/Shepherd mix. She is very friendly and playful. She's got loads of energy and needs to be able to run around lots. She has great potential with other dogs.</p>

Thank you all so much for all your ongoing support & donations!

Our furry friends and staff appreciate you very much!

All breeds & ages of animals are a "best guess" and are not guaranteed to be accurate. Adoption fee includes: neuter/spay, vaccinations, de-worming and micro-chipping. This ad space donated by Valley Publishing Inc.

# Valley Wide Classifieds

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 (12/30)

**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)

**2 bedroom/1 bath recently remodeled in Monte Vista.** \$650/deposit, \$650/month. Call (719)852-2096. (12/30 TFN)

**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**  
**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. (TFN)

**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)

**26 Antiques**  
**Antique Wagon with 4 Original Wooden Spokewheels.** Will Make a beautiful bed of petunias \$250 Call 719-274-5511. (01/06)

## DISCLAIMER

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.

**36 Miscellaneous**  
**New 3/4HP 220V HZ50 Electric Motor Vacuum Pump** Flow Rate 6CFM \$200 call 719-274-5511. (01/06)

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

**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 (12/25)

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

**FALL SALE! 240 Watt Solar Pan-**

**els Only \$.59 Per Watt! Bontrager's Variety Store** 9726 S. County Road 3 E Monte Vista Co 81144.

**STEEL STORAGE CONTAINERS** – 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!** 719-850-0346

**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) (12/31)

**38 Machinery, Tools, and Equipment**

**For Sale: All Items Are Brand New: Dewalt Table Saw, Battery**

**Operated Framing Nail Gun, and A Standard Size Refrigerator.** Also have 250 Used Cinder blocks. Please call 719-937-3868 for pricing. (12/31)

**40 Auto Part**  
**4-Near New BF Goodrich All-terrain Tires 265/70R17 \$800.00.** Call 719-588-6820. (12/31)

**50 Livestock**  
**HERITAGE BREED TURKEY** - Bourbon 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 (12/25)

**55 RVs & Campers**  
**Pull Camper Trailer in Alamosa 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**  
**CERTIFIED HOT TUB CARE AND MAINTENANCE,** Drinking water samples taken 719-850-0075 (12/31)

**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)

## SAN LUIS VALLEY SERVICE DIRECTORY

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 Remodel • Repair • Roofing  
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*Serving the entire San Luis Valley*  
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**A&M**  
 WINDOWS &  
 DOORS L.L.C.  
 ~VINYL WINDOWS~  
 NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REPLACEMENT  
 CUSTOM MADE TO YOUR SIZE.  
 MANUFACTURED RIGHT HERE IN THE VALLEY  
 ALL TYPES OF DOORS & DOOR HARDWARE  
 AVAILABLE  
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**SLV Garden Center, LLC**  
*The Sawyer Brothers*  
 719-852 GROW (4769) • 1669 N Hwy 285 • Monte Vista  
 (north of Dos Rio Restaurant)  
**Five Years Strong and Still Going!**  
 The Valley's Premier, Full-Spectrum CBD Store!  
 Tinctures, Creams, Salves, Capsules, Pet Products  
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 Metal Roofing Panels & Trims • Garages, Horse Barns, Hay Sheds  
 Complete Building packages • 26/29 Gauge, 20 Colors, Numerous Profiles  
 Let us find your contractor! • Free Estimates/Quick Turnaround  
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**SKYLINE METAL**  
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 We have trailer wiring, brakes, parts and all the essentials!  
 Sales, Service and Repairs for Most Major Brands of Power Equipment  
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*Serving the SLV-Free Estimates*  
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**(719) 849-1568**  
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# Dear Santa Claus

## Bill Metz

Mrs. Garcia, Fifth Grade

Dear Santa Claus,  
I hope you, Mrs. Claus, and the elves are doing well in the North Pole. I know you have like a million letters to read with Christmas on its way, so I will make it quick, but I would like to tell you my top 3 things that I would like for Christmas.

The first thing that I would like for Christmas is an iPhone 11 pro. One reason I think I would be very responsible with it is that I would limit social media apps and mostly use it for emergencies.

The second thing I would like is a Baby Pomeranian. One reason I think I would be responsible with a puppy is, I would walk it and feed it twice a day and give it lots of love and toys.

The final thing I would like for Christmas is for this pandemic to be over so that I can volunteer at a homeless shelter.

I hope I have been a good girl this year.

From your friend, Caris

Dear Santa Clause,  
How have you been, I've been very good if you ask me. Hows Ms. Clause, is doing well with the elves? I would like a lot of things for Christmas but I'll just keep it short. I want a Video Camera, a Laptop and the Lego Minecraft set: The Village. I've been good this year. I was a Little Naughty this year but Hopefully I will not be on the Naughty List. I would like the Video Camera to record videos of my dog (Elie) and use the laptop to edit the videos. The Lego Minecraft set is just to add on to my collection. Hope you have a good rest this year, Santa.

Sincerely, Ramon C.

P.S. I would love it if you could write back to me.

Dear santa Clause,  
I hope you are doing well in the North pole, I hope Mrs. Clause and the Elves are doing well. I'm sure you are really busy with Christmas coming soon, but I would like to tell you about some of the things I would like for christmas for christmas this year I would like...Hoverboard, cannon IVY CL1q+2 InStand camera printer, Mandlorian the child cloud pillow, funko pop star wars the Mandlorian the child, light garden, throw throw Burrito and a Nerf Mega Motostryker. I have been really good this year, I have done well in school. I hope you consider getting me these things. I hope that I made the nice list this year. I hope you have a wonderful christmas.

Your friend, Jasmine Martinez

Dear Santa,  
Hi, How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I am doing very well this year. How are the Elves and Reindeer? I know that you are very busy in the North Pole especially since Christmas is coming so I would like to help you out by telling you what I would like to have. I would like to have a wax melt warmer, slime, a board game, and a sushi candy maker. I think I deserve this stuff because I have been doing well in school. If you don't have enough time to deliver all of this stuff it is ok and I understand.

I hope you have a Merry Christmas and have a safe flight delivering presents.

Your Friend, Zelyana Pena

## Sangre de Cristo

Mrs. Gjellum, Fifth Grade

Dear Santa,  
I am Hailey and I am 11 years old and I live in Colorado. How are you doing, Santa? I am doing great! One good thing I did this year was I improved on math grades.

I also have been nice to my little sister, Jillian and I was nice to my classmates.

I am more excited for Christmas than my sister is when she talks about unicorns (she really loves unicorns if you can't tell).

I really want a hoverboard or American girl doll clothes and accessories, please.

Also, can you please help the people that can't afford toys or presents because I want them to have a great Christmas too?

Thank you, Santa I will be sure to give you extra cookies on Christmas.

Love, Hailey

Dear Santa,  
Hi! I'm Raelynn, I'm 10 years old. I live in Colorado. We get a lot of snow here like you.

That's when the best time to go skiing is and I love to ski!

Soo... I just had to ask, how are you and Mrs. Claus? Are you guys busy making presents?

What about the reindeer? I hope they are getting lots of carrots!

I've been super good this year! I've taken the trash out when my mom asked me to. I have also refilled my dogs food and water without being asked!

This year for Christmas I would like a leather bronc halter with my horse, Juno's, name on it. Also, will you please bring me a lego set?

This year has been really rough for some people, so maybe you could leave some presents with the people who aren't doing so well? That would be Great!

Thank you for all you do for us Santa.

Love, Raelynn

Dear Santa,  
Hi, my name is Elijah and I'm 11 years old. How is everyone doing in the North Pole, I have been good this year. But every once in a while I will put myself in a bad situation. I have cleaned my room, taken care of my dog and my three cats, I've fed them let them outside and taken the dog out for walks. My brothers, all three of them, have been good too but once again they sometimes get in trouble like me. There is an exception, I think, because my brother Devon moved out so I'm not exactly sure if he's in trouble.

For Christmas I would like to have a phone, a Hogwarts Lego set, and a Harry Potter movie. If possible, I would like the Sorcerer's Stone on DVD so I can watch it all day on repeat because that is one of my favorite movies I have ever seen in my entire life...well at least so far I've still got a long life ahead of me, I hope. I'm not sure if anyone has ever told you this and like the song, "Have a Holly Jolly Christmas"

Oh yeah, send my regards to the elves and yourself for working so hard to bring Christmas joy to the world, ha like the song "Joy to the World"! Tell all the reindeer that they all have my thanks.

My thanks, Elijah

Dear Santa,  
I am Deagan, I am 10 years old. I live in Colorado and I love playing in the snow. Anyways, how are you doing? So, the things I would like for Christmas are an Xbox one and a Dodge Charger Lego set. And in my stocking I would want Mario coins.

The good things I've done are doing all my chores around the house and I helped my dad work in Arizona. Jinx and Trixie came. Kensley, my little sister, wants an Apple iPad. My brother, Dempsey, wants a gun. My Mom wants a heated blanket. My Dad wants an outdrive for our boat. Thank you for the things you do.

Sincerely, Deagan

Dear Santa,

My name is Lola and I'm 11 years old. I live in Colorado and I love snow. How is Mrs. Claus? I have been really good this year, I helped my mom with my brother and I helped my Goddess. I would really like a charm bracelet with the charms: cowboy boots, cowboy hat, dog, music notes, and a guitar. I would also like a VR headset with hand controls, a pair of cowgirl boots, new clothes, and a big hoodie. I would love if you could get my mom a present that my dad would get her because she is sad that my dad isn't here. Oh and thanks for the gifts last year, I loved them and played with them a lot. I have a question for you; would I be able to take a picture with my elf, Holly because I want to show my friends what she looks like? Also, can you send my Goddess a picture of Rudolf so I can show my friends him too because some of them don't believe that he is real and I want to show he is real and so are elves? I love you and hope to see you again next Christmas.

Love, Lola

Dear Santa,  
I am Anthony and I am 11 years old. I live in Alamosa, Colorado.

I love you and my family!  
How is everything up north? I think about you every day. I have been good this year. I have been nice to my friends and did my chores.

This year I just want my dogs to come home. I feel so sad that my dogs are not home because I want to get my dogs toys and bones. Tell Mrs. Claus I said hi! I am so happy! I will try to give you cookies and milk. By the way, how are you? I want my brothers to have a fun Christmas. Thank you, Santa!

Love, Anthony



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## Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



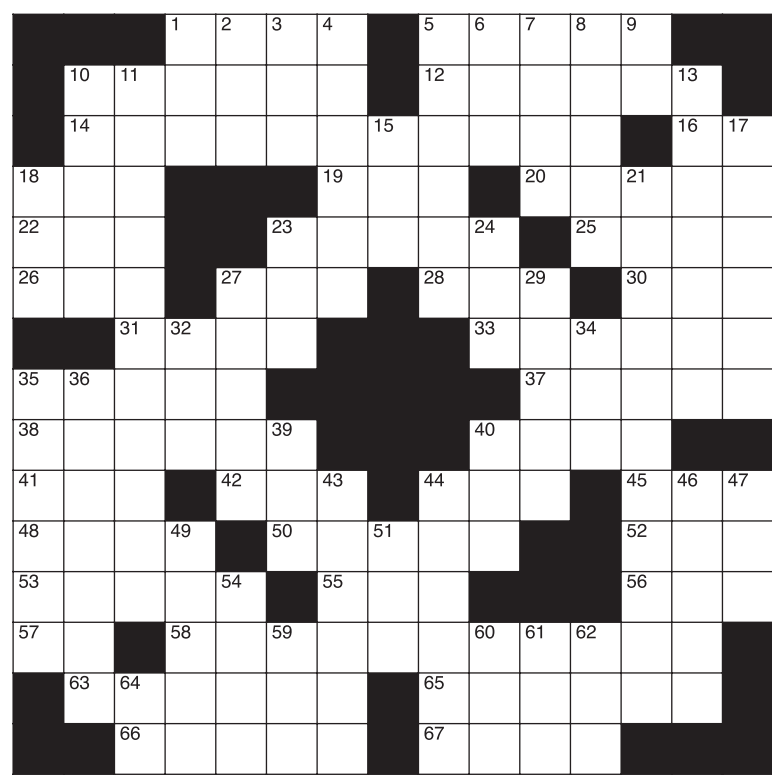
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### CLUES ACROSS

1. One-time world power
5. Central Florida city
10. Winged nut
12. Elevate spiritually
14. Creative
16. It cools your home
18. Woman (French)
19. "60 Minutes" network
20. Old World lizard
22. Swiss river
23. Ethnic group of Cambodians
25. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
26. Tire measurement
27. Affirmative
28. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
30. One point north of due east
31. A type of "pet"
33. Tech giant
35. European nation
37. Fencing swords
38. Acquired
40. Origin
41. Cashless payment interface (abbr.)
42. Pouch
44. Peter's last name
45. Inclined
48. Palestinian territory \_\_ Strip
50. A type of syrup
52. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
53. Weather Underground activist
55. Run batted in
56. Frozen water
57. Sodium
58. Philly specialty

### Solution to last week's puzzle

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



63. Cuts the wool off
65. Rules
66. Icelandic literary works
67. Tattled

24. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. Woods
29. Make yourself attractive
32. Concealed

### CLUES DOWN

1. "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman
2. Actors' organization
3. Conscientious investment approach (abbr.)
4. Ranch (Spanish)
5. Beginning
6. Index
7. Portuguese wine
8. A feudal superior
9. Military brach (abbr.)
10. Lithuanian given name
11. A way to become different
13. Able to be domesticated
15. Defensive nuclear weapon
17. Hosts film festival
18. Shows you how to get there
21. Arranged alphabetically
23. S. Thai isthmus

34. Large primate
35. A favorite saying of a sect or political group
36. Tropical fruits
39. Obstruct
40. Car mechanics group
43. Stroke gently
44. They're in your toolbox
46. Throngs
47. One and only
49. In a way, bent
51. "Downton Abbey" broadcaster
54. Herring-like fish
59. A major division of geological time
60. Vast body of water
61. Cannister
62. Encourage
64. The man

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# Dear Santa Claus

Dear Santa,  
Hi! My name is Emma and I am 11 years old. How is everyone and how are you?  
In my opinion I think I have been pretty good this year. I have helped my mom around the house. I also make sure to not leave anybody out on their birthday.

This year I would like a yo-yo or a hula hoop, whatever is easiest. I mean you do have a lot of presents to deliver. I would also like if you could give my best friend, Layla, a special present this year. Also, like my mom (Gentry) to get a special present for her favorite show called F.R.I.E.N.D.S It's her favorite and maybe you can get her a mug from the show.

Can you also get my dad an office mug?  
You know Santa, I want to get you a present too. Some day if I could, I would get you a nice vacation with Mrs. Claus. It would be in Hawaii and you could hang out and have a great time. Thank you sooooo much, Santa, you are amazing at your job and you do great things that bring smiles to peoples faces.

Love, Emma  
Dear Santa,  
I am Kenyon and I am 11 years old. I live in



Colorado and unlike you I do NOT like the cold at all. Anyways, how are you, Mrs. Claus, the elves, and reindeer? This year I have been good. Well, I have tried. I have done the dishes, helped take care of my three little sisters, and some laundry. Santa, this year I only want a few things for my new bow. I would like Arrows, an arrow holder, a foam target, and small game arrow heads. For my sister, Audrina, I would like for her to have a photography camera. For my brothers, they could get more LEGOs. My three younger sisters love baby dolls, so they could get some baby dolls. For my parents, they could have a pool membership. I would be as happy as a clam if this could happen.

Thank you Santa, have a great Christmas.

Love, Kenyon

Dear Santa,  
I am Cammi and I am ten years old. I live in Colorado and it is always cold especially in winter and when it snows.

How are you, Mrs. Claus, Reindeer, and elves doing up in the North Pole? I don't know how you get around the world in one night. Your brain is like a computer!

I've helped my dad and and my stepmom clean the house, helped my sisters do homework, and helped my little brother get ready early in the morning.

This year, I would like Vans, Crocs, or an Apple Watch. I would also like people to be able to afford houses, food, and water. The presents that you got me last year were amazing!

Thank you for all your hard work.

I would really like if you can go to our police officers, firefighters, and hospitals it would make my heart happy. The people that work for those jobs help us a lot in this world.

Santa, I'm thanking you for all you do to help my family. I also want to tell you about the winter here. I love winter because you come and we celebrate Christmas by celebrating Jesus' birthday and by opening presents from you and my family.

Love, Cammi

Dear Santa,  
My name is Kyan Mason and I am 10, almost 11 years old. I live in Mosca, Colorado and I like snowboarding. Most of the time I am as cool as a cucumber. What are you doing right now? Are you getting the sleigh ready? This year I have been good by helping my dad work on a potato harvester. This year please get me a Gokart, a mini RZR, or a trombone of my own.

Please get my baby sister a toy to help her walk. Please get my sister five more puzzles and my brother a baseball bat or motorcycle pads. Please get my dog, Chia, a new toy, Bo more treats, and Reese a new sweater. Please get my dad a new tool kit and my mom some more baby toys. Thank you for the presents last year. I played with them a lot.

Sincerely, Kyan

Dear Santa,  
Hi Santa! I am Layla and I am 10, I am a really big fan (especially of Rudolph.) How's things going over there?

If you were wondering, things over here are pretty good. Oh! I got a donkey and I would like some things for her. Can I maybe get a saddle for her or maybe some treats or her own Santa hat?

Can you maybe get something for some people suggested by me? If you can, could my friend Emma a kitten? She really wants one, but if you can't that's ok. Could you get everyone what they would like? I would also like to suggest another gift. Could you get my sister, Emily, a big fluffy pig blanket? I know how much she loves pigs.

Thank you for all that you do! Can you also tell Mrs. Claus, the elves and the reindeer I said hello, (and can you give Rudolph a big hug and tell him it was from me?). Thank you!

Love, Layla

Dear santa,  
I am Nicole and I am 10 years old. I live in Alamosa, CO. I'm sure you know that already.

How are you, Mrs. Claus, the reindeer, and the elves. I have been a good girl this year. I have been a good friend, daughter, and a good student to Miss Gjelum. Oh, and don't forget to check the list twice. What I would like this Christmas is a lot but mainly I just want my mom be happy this Christmas. Thank you, Santa.

Love, Nicole

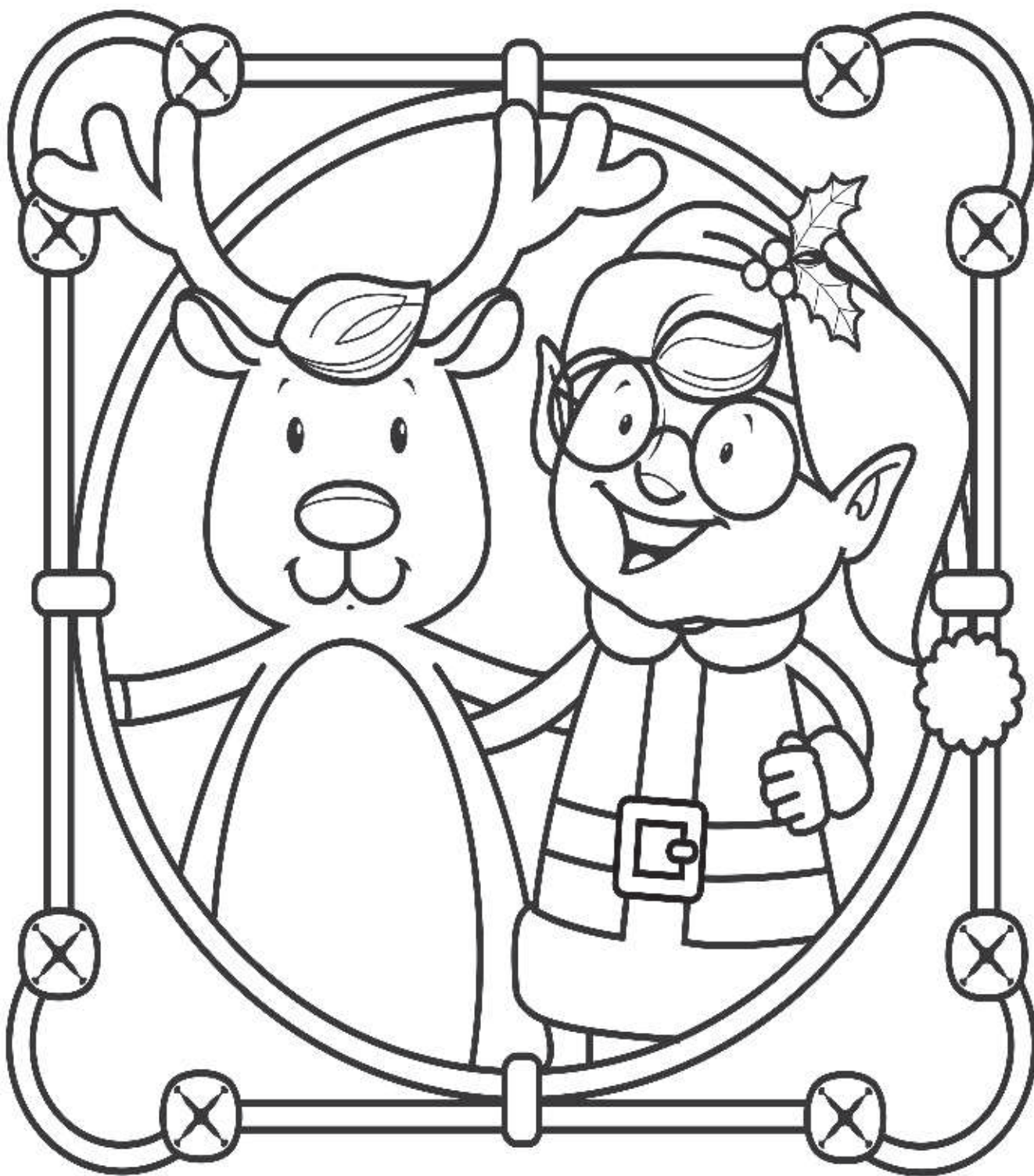


Dear Santa,  
I am Brayden and I am 11 years old. I live in Colorado. Also, I forgot to ask how you've been because I've been great and I hope you're doing great too! I would like an alto saxophone with all the parts and a bunch of reeds with it because I'm trying to get better at saxophone. If you can't get me that, I would like a new Xbox One because mine is six years old and it makes weird noises. I did some things to try and get them. First, I have been working hard to get good grades. Second, I sometimes help my mom cook and help my little sister with her homework.

Also, I was wondering if you could get my sister, Annyka, Posca Paint Pens, my sister Makayla a bunch of scrunchies and she really likes purple so she would prefer purple ones, and can you get my mom some kind of candy that has caramel in it? Thank you for the presents from last year.

Sincerely, Brayden

# Holiday Coloring Contest



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Monte Vista, CO 81144  
*Merry Christmas and Good Luck!*

- Coloring Contest Rules:**
- Contest open to children ages 10 and under. Relatives of newspaper employees or contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
  - Contestants may use crayons, colored pencils or markers. Adults may assist in completing the contest entry form, but not in the coloring.
  - Limit one entry per child. Entries will not be returned.
  - All entries must be postmarked by Dec. 18, 2020.
  - Submissions are considered property of this newspaper.
  - Decision of the judges is final.
  - Winners will be announced in the Dec. 23, 2020 issues.

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**"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."**