



Shorts

Poncha Pass fatal crash

SAGUACHE COUNTY—The Colorado State Patrol is investigating a two vehicle crash on Highway 285, milepost 119, at the summit of Poncha Pass, which resulted in one fatality.

At approximately 12:05 p.m. Dec. 29, 2020, a black 2019 Dodge Durango was northbound on Highway 285. A red 2006 Dodge Ram 2500 was southbound on Highway 285. The Durango lost control and began to rotate counterclockwise. The Durango crossed the center line into the southbound lanes. The Durango struck the Ram's front with its right side. The Durango came to rest on its wheels on the southbound white line. The Ram came to rest on its wheels off the southbound edge of the highway.

The driver of the Durango was pronounced deceased on scene. The two juvenile passengers of the Durango were transported to Heart of the Rockies with serious injuries. The driver and passenger of the Ram were transported to Heart of the Rockies with serious injuries.

The crash is still under investigation by the Colorado State Patrol Vehicular Crimes Unit.



Saguache courthouse closure extended

By PATRICK SHEA
SAGUACHE COUNTY — The Saguache County courthouse remains closed until Jan. 4, 2021, and commissioners will discuss strategies for the building during their Jan. 5 meeting.

In the meantime, Clerk and Recorder Trish Gilbert offered guidance for conducting courthouse business during closures. The drop box in the south parking lot is accessible 24 hours a day (501 4th Street). Staff members check the box daily. People can drop off vehicle registration renewals, documents for recording, payments for the Treasurer's Office and other paperwork. Gilbert encouraged citizens to call the office (719-655-2512) to verify other items appropriate. *Please see CLOSURE on Page 2A*

Saguache resident human remains identified



CONEJOS COUNTY — The second set of human remains located on a Conejos County property in November has been identified.

A Forensic Odonatologist assisting task force investigators identified the second set of the human remains recovered as Shayla Jenna Hammel (11/3/86) of Saguache. Hammel was reported missing to the Saguache County Sheriff's Office on Nov. 26, 2020. A family member reported they had not been in contact with Ms. Hammel since late October.

Investigators contacted the family of Ms. Hammel to make the official notification of her death.

The task force has not determined

the cause and manner of death; however, investigators believe foul play was involved.

With the remains of Ms. Hammel identified, members of the task force are currently working to determine the circumstances surrounding her death. Adre Baroz, who is currently being held in the Alamosa County Jail on unrelated charges, has not been charged in the death of Ms. Hammel. Law enforcement cannot comment on any other specific information or connection to the remains found in Conejos County due the status of the active investigation. Work continues to identify the other set of human remains located in Conejos County

in November.

Anyone with information about Ms. Hammel or the other unidentified human remains located in Conejos County is asked to call a designated tip line at 719-270-0210. There have been more than 60 tips reported since last month.

A Forensic Odonatologist identified the first set of the human remains recovered as Myron Robert Martinez (DOB: 11/15/1982) of Del Norte earlier this month.

No further updates will be provided, as this remains an active investigation. The charges against Mr. Baroz are merely an accusation and he is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

New Moffat mayor looking ahead

By PATRICK SHEA

MOFFAT — Moffat's new mayor, Cassandra Foxx, shared her aspirations for the town's future, starting with training for board members during their next meeting at town hall Jan. 5, 2021.

"I feel a lot of hope in Moffat," Foxx expressed via email. "We have a dedicated community that wants the very best for the town. We have people coming from all over that are seeing the potential Moffat has for their futures. We make things better when we work together."

After moving to Moffat with her family in 2016, Foxx served two years on the town board from 2018 to 2020.

In the short term, Foxx said she is "focused on proper training and education of our elected officials." Long-term, meeting housing and development needs will accommodate the town's growth.

"Our goal is to make Moffat an inviting place to work and to live while enjoying and preserving the small town treasure that Moffat has become," Foxx said.

Foxx added that she is looking "forward to working with the County. I see us interacting a lot while Moffat continues to develop and plan for the future (and a good working relationship is always beneficial)."

When she's not practicing yoga, cooking, hiking or spending time with her daughter, Foxx said she works as a paralegal at a law firm in Monte Vista. She directs her legal efforts to help the elderly and several municipalities and organizations in the Valley.



After her term expires at the end of April 2022, Foxx said she plans to run for a successive term.

Now complete, the Highway 17 renovation project left Foxx with a painful memory from August 2020. Foxx was in a line of cars stopped at the construction zone when another motorist hit the scene at a high speed. Foxx said she feels lucky to survive with a few scratches and a bruised arm.

Colorado has first case of COVID variant in U.S

New variant is believed to be 50-70% more transmissible

COLORADO — Tuesday, Dec. 29, Gov. Polis and state health officials announced the first case of the of COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7, the same variant discovered in the UK.

The Colorado State Laboratory confirmed and notified the Center for Disease Control (CDC) of the case. The individual is a male in his 20s who is currently in isolation in Arapahoe County and has no travel history. Another possible variant case has been identified and this person is in isolation in Lincoln County. Both individuals were members of the Colorado National Guard and were working at a nursing home with a COVID-19 outbreak.

Public health officials are doing a thorough investigation. The individual who tested positive for the COVID variant is recovering in isolation and will remain there until cleared by public health officials. The individual has no close contacts identified so far, but public health officials are working to identify other potential cases and contacts through thorough contact tracing interviews.

Please see COVID on Page 2A

Saguache Sheriff's Office cellphone drive continues

SAGUACHE COUNTY - Working with 911 Cellphone Bank, the Saguache County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a cellphone Drive through January. Your donated cellphone could save lives by providing emergency communications to seniors, victims of abuse and at-risk individuals. Communities and service programs nationwide need help providing phones.

Over the years, the Saguache County Sheriff's Office has donated approximately 140 phones to the program. From Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., staff at the Sheriff's Office will collect phones and other accessories. The phone doesn't need to be complete or in

working order because 911 cellphone Bank technicians will clean, repair and redistribute them to people in need. Sheriff's Office personnel can provide a detailed description of properly clearing and securing your phone for reuse.

Your donated phones are going out as fast as we can collect them. Community service programs remained strained by COVID-19, and victim crimes are surging. The 911 cellphone Bank program also distributes phones through shelters and during natural disasters.

In addition to telephones, CELLPHONE BANK will accept the following:

Please see PHONES on Page 2A



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COVID

Continued from Page 1A

"There is a lot we don't know about this new COVID-19 variant, but scientists in the United Kingdom are warning the world that it is significantly more contagious. The health and safety of Coloradans is our top priority and we will closely monitor this case, as well as all COVID-19 indicators, very closely. We are working to prevent spread and contain the virus at all levels," said Governor Jared Polis. "I want to thank our scientists and dedicated medical professionals for their swift work and ask Coloradans to continue our efforts to prevent disease transmission by wearing masks, standing 6 feet apart when gathering with others, and only interacting with members of their immediate household. Masks are 50-75% effective against contraction and vaccinations are 95% effective."

The Colorado state lab was the first in the country to quickly identify the variant through sophisticated analysis of testing samples. The lab initially performed the diagnostic PCR test on the sample and found that the sample was positive for COVID-19 with strong signals for the N gene and ORF1ab (both are detected when a person has COVID-19), but the signal for the S gene was not detected. When the S gene doesn't register in

the testing, it is called an "S Drop Out Profile," and it is considered an essential signature for the variant. The sample was flagged for further investigation. Scientists then sequenced the viral genome from the patient sample and found eight mutations specific to the spike protein gene associated with this variant. Genome sequencing is a molecular profiling of the entire viral RNA sequence.

Scientists in the United Kingdom believe the B.1.1.7 variant to be more contagious than previously identified strains of the SARS-CoV-2 variant, though no more severe in symptoms. Health officials warn that the new variant is believed to be 50-70% more transmissible. In addition, the currently approved vaccines are thought to be effective against this variant.

"The fact that Colorado has detected this variant first in the nation is a testament to the sophistication of Colorado's response and the talent of CDPHE's scientist and lab operations," said Jill Hunsaker Ryan, executive director, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. "We are currently using all the tools available to protect public health and mitigate the spread of this variant."

PHONES

Continued from Page 1A

- Smartphones
- Digital Cameras
- Cell Phones
- Game Players
- Blackberries
- mp3 Players
- Tablets
- CD/DVD Players
- Laptops
- Storage Devices
- iPads
- SD Cards
- iPods

- Game Consoles
- PDAs

Any devices that cannot be 100% guaranteed cleared of data will be used for parts, and the motherboards will be sent to a licensed recycler to preserve precious metal content (and keep it out of the landfill).

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please call Ellen E. Cox at the Saguache County Sheriff's Office at (719) 655-2544.

CLOSURE

Continued from Page 1A

for the drop box. Applying for vehicle titles generally requires an appointment because the person needs to fill out an application that the office generates, and the application requires a signature. However, if title work is dropped in the outside drop box, staff will process as much as possible and notify the applicant about further requirements.


For all documents placed in the drop box, Gilbert said people should leave contact information for follow-up, if necessary. Gilbert recommended calling the office to verify options over the phone before heading to the courthouse drop box.

From March to June, 2020, state offices waived late fees. In July, the process returned to standard practice. Motorists have a three-month window for vehicle registration before late fees are assessed (the month before the deadline, the registration month and 30 days after expiration).

The Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles offers many services online for driver's licenses and title and registration paperwork. Through the state website (mydmv.colorado.gov), motorists can request their driving record, pay

citations and fees, apply for or renew a license or ID, manage accounts and schedule appointments or hearings. People can also register vehicles and renew registration, apply for waivers and extensions, estimate fees and receive transaction receipts. Vehicle owners can submit a variety of requests for a personalized plate, a duplicate title, a duplicate registration card, title status and a title history report.

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Jan. 1-3

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Sunday 5 p.m.

PG-13
Kids (6-16) \$4 • Adults \$6 • Seniors (65+) \$5
67 Person Maximum, please maintain social distancing

OBITUARY

Robert (Bobby) Blea, 71 June 7, 1949 - Nov. 27, 2020

Robert (Bobby) Blea of Grand Lake, Colorado went to be with the Lord unexpectedly on Nov. 27, 2020. He will remain forever in our hearts.

He was born on June 7, 1949, in Antonito, Colorado the first of 13 children of the late Solomon and Mary Louise (Mondragon) Blea.

Bobby was truly larger than life, loved his family and cherished his friends. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, shooting trap and the breakfast club. Bobby's laugh and nick names for many will be greatly missed. His stories were never-ending. He had a "hello" for everyone he met.

He graduated from the Antonito High School in 1969. After graduation, he enlisted with the United States Air Force and served proudly for six years. It was during this time that he met the love of his life, Sally Pacheco. They were married June 10, 1972. Bobby was anxiously awaiting their 50th wedding anniversary, he was very

proud of the approaching triumph.

After the decision to depart from the Air Force and leave Anchorage, Alaska where he served the bulk of his service, Bobby and Sally moved to Grand Lake in 1978 where he earned his Master Plumbing License and eventually started his own plumbing company, Ace Plumbing Service. He remained in the plumbing business for the remainder of his working career. Bobby so enjoyed his customers.

Bobby is survived by a host of family that includes his devoted wife, Sally, his son Shane (Amanda) Blea; his daughter Sabrina (Dan) Machiniak; precious grandchildren, Sarai, Carter and Everly; his siblings: Amada Martinez and family, Felipe Blea and family, Georgia Cowan and family, Helen Beasley and family, Stella Fox and family, Candi Atencio and family, Leo Blea and family, Gerald Blea and family, Maryanne Little and family, John Blea and family, and



Jess Blea and family. Bobby also left three wonderful brothers-in-law and their families and four sisters-in-law and their families. In addition to his parents, Bobby was preceded in death by his brother, Gasper Blea.

A service and burial will be scheduled in summer 2021 in Grand Lake, Colorado.



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Happy new year, finally

By the time this hot copy hits your hands we will be staring 2021 square in the face and glad of it. I think everyone has had about enough of this year and all it has brought to us.

Who could have ever dreamed that we would be locked in our own homes, limited from gathering, businesses shuttered, incomes shattered and dreams broken? If you had told that to us two years ago, we would have laughed ourselves silly.

Today our fearless leaders are to meet and decide if they will graciously give us more than the \$600 a person they agreed on last week for pandemic relief. That was so good of them to borrow about \$7,000 a person against us then give us 10%. Of course, a lot of the rest is going for pet pork projects and overseas to people more deserving than us.

I guess that it's happening is less of a shock to me than us letting it happen over and over. I think we are about 27 trillion in debt at this moment and its going up about \$50,000 per second as we speak.

You can watch the data second by second for each part of the government spending and income on the website <https://www.usdebtclock.org/>. If we had watched that 30 years ago, maybe -- just, maybe -- we would have put an end to all the wasteful spending that has occurred.

It appears by that data that each American owes about \$83,000 and each taxpayer \$220,000 but of course that goes up by the minute as the politicians continue to binge on the printed mammon.

They just cannot help themselves so it seems. And it's been that way since men began holding power over another segment of the population.

OI' Dutch got to thinking (cue: Miss Trixie's eye rolling) about this whole dilemma and I think I came up with a solution. If Congress can simply give each taxpayer a million dollars, we can all retire and live the good life. That's only about \$140 trillion and won't take all that long to print it off.

This will give more jobs not only to the people who print the money but would add jobs to the timber industry as the demand for paper will skyrocket. Just think how that will help Colorado with new paper mills being built to utilize all of our dead timber.

If you were to stack up that \$140 trillion bills it would make a pile



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

9,000,000,000,000,000 miles high. That's a new number even for OI' Dutch and I had to look it up. It's 9 quadrillion and we cannot even begin to imagine that but I am sure some politician somewhere has entertained the thought of getting there someday.

Now you may be asking yourself, "Self, just where are we gonna get that kind of money?" And I am glad you asked that.

It appears that somewhere out in the darkness of space there is an asteroid justly named Psyche. Our leading scientific minds have concluded that its mostly made up of iron and nickel and just the iron along is worth about 10,000 quadrillion dollars. It would appear that all we have to do is snag said hunk of rock and tow it close to earth and we can all begin living the good life.

I mean honestly. You can even take out the 140 quadrillion dollars that will make us each millionaires and the politicians still have plenty left over to waste on pork. And you thought OI' Dutch just sat around eating crumpets all day. Such ideas only can be spawned in great minds, seriously.

I am a tad concerned that if we bring all that iron and nickel aboard planet Earth, we may begin to wobble upsetting the balance of things. But then again, a lot of us will be wobbling on New Year's Eve anyway and prob would not notice if the Earth did the Watusi through the universe.

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



BEWARE OF UNSCRUPULOUS ALTERNATIVES...

Lessons from 2020

By REBECCA COPLEY

As the world prepares to ring in another year there seems to be a great deal of apprehension after the rollercoaster, we have just made it through. No one could have predicted a year like 2020, and as 2021 gets ready to dawn it's understandable that many are feeling nervous to see what new disasters might lie ahead.

Although we may not know what is coming for us in the new year, 2020 with all of its awfulness has taught us many things. We have learned to appreciate so many everyday gifts. Like spending time with family and friends, going to work or school,

eating at your favorite restaurant, celebrations and travel. We have also been reminded of how precious life is and to live it to its fullest. Enjoying every minute because you don't know when it'll be your last.

We've seen how important it is for communities to come together and for neighbors to help each other through these difficult times. We've seen the effects of greed and hoarding on groceries store shelves and have tried to help our struggling small businesses.

Over the past months we've all had to become more creative to survive our everyday. When regular celebrations were canceled, we went

to work and got creative to still safely hold our festivities. Undaunted and blessed to live in a day and age were Zoom is available we did our best to stay connected.

Through all that we have lost in 2020 we are learning to overcome. It is making us stronger and we can enter 2021 with hope. Let us hope for the best and make the best of whatever it is because in the end that's all anyone can do. Let's not forget all the lessons we've learned in 2020. Remember to be there for each other. Let's keep going and keep doing our best. As Dory from Finding Nemo put it, "Just keep swimming."

LETTER

A tribute to a good man

The Recent death of my uncle, Bernard Monter, brought a flood of memories back to me. Memories of a loving, caring, strong Christian man. Of a high schooer that took the time to have a tea party with a five-year-old and treat her like a queen Of a trip to the drive-in movie theater with his girlfriend/fiancé and a seven year old to see "Mary Poppins." (Still one of my favorite movies)

As I grew up, I watched my uncle be a loving and supportive husband. Saw him be the peacemaker in a rather volatile family. Watched him become one of the very best Dads I know, and I know a lot of dad. Uncle Bernie is/ was a measuring stick for choosing my spouse.

After my Daddy (his brother)

passed away Uncle Bernie was the one I looked to for fatherly advice. He was the one who taught my boys to fish and took them for rides on the BIG John Deere tractor.

Uncle Bernie's laugh was infectious. I remember him laughing often growing up. He gave the very best hugs. You always felt safe and loved with him.

How many times did uncle Bernie take us to the coffee shop for a treat? Or, set the irrigation tubes so a pasel of goofy little kids could play in the water on a hot summer day. I can hear him talking softly and racking a tired cranky little kid so they could sleep. He always had words of loving support, correction or encouragement.

Uncle Bernie was the kind of person you looked forward to spending time with all missed deeply when not around him. He will be missed by his wife of 50+ years, his children, grandchildren, a brother and sister, nieces' nephews, in-law, outlaws and a host of friends. Even though we celebrate that he is with his heavenly father, if is our selfish selves that will miss him and grieve for the loss of a man, we all love. So, if you were blessed enough to know this remarkable e man, my uncle Bernie, count your blessings! I challenge you to be the kind of person he was.

Lovingly Submitted by his #1 Niece
Shirley Johnson

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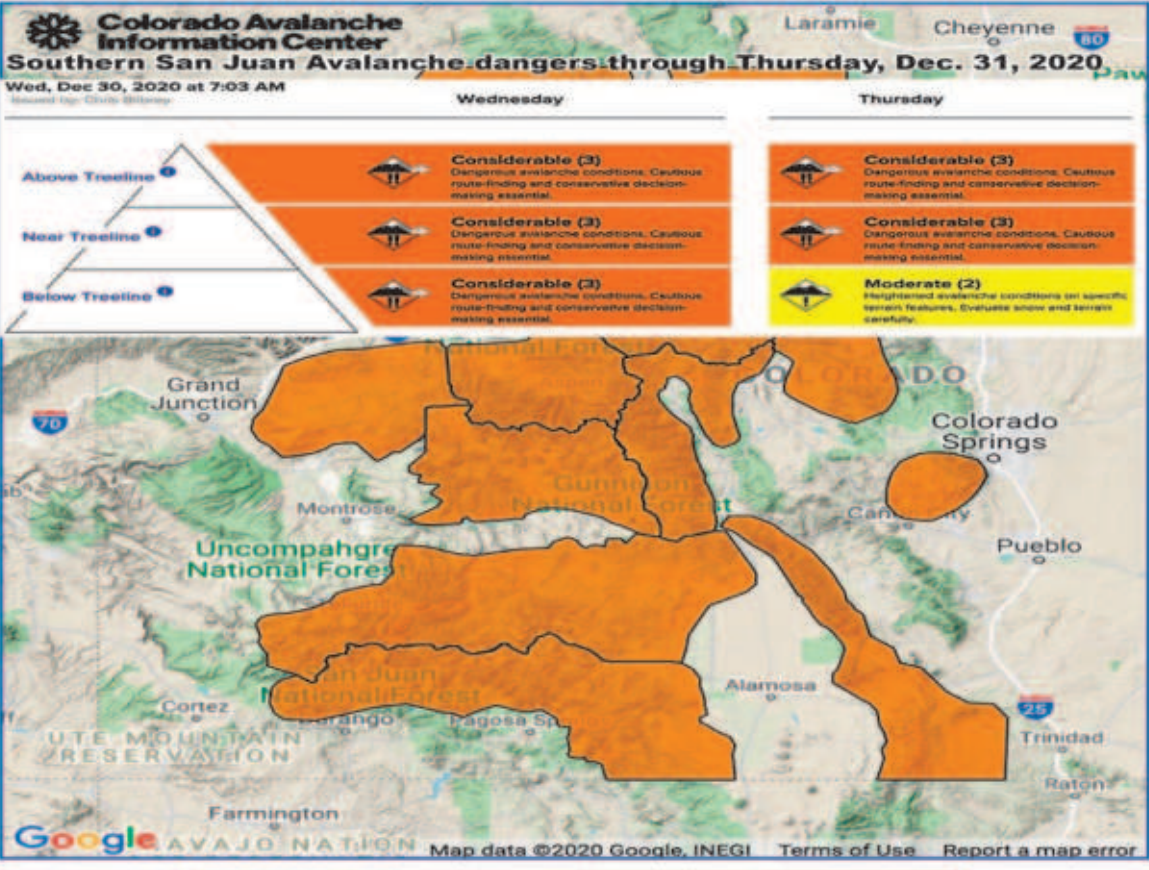
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Avalanche danger considerable through Dec. 31



SAN LUIS VALEY – The Colorado Avalanche Information Center announced Wednesday, Dec. 30, that the avalanche danger is considerable at all elevations. You can trigger dangerous avalanches. Avoid traveling on or below slopes steeper than about 30 degrees that face northwest through north to southeast.

Storm totals of one to two feet in the Southern San Juan mountains thickened slabs above buried weak snow, adding more load to a weak snowpack. You can trigger avalanches remotely— from underneath steep slopes or adjacent slopes. Cracks and collapses in the snow indicate weak snow under slabs. Avoid likely trigger

points like wind drifts below ridge tops and cross-loaded terrain features. While you may not see obvious signs of natural avalanches, many slopes are primed for you to trigger an avalanche. Minimize your risk by traveling in lower-angled terrain well clear of steeper connected slopes above.

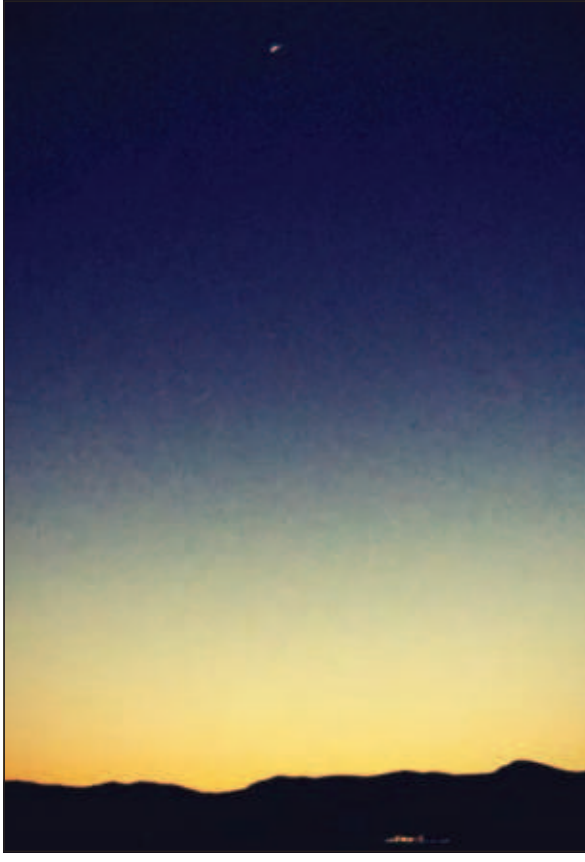
2020 “Christmas Star,” last seen 800 years ago

By REBECCA COPLEY

The year 2020 has certainly been an unforgettable year. In its last weeks it has also been making itself memorable for some better reasons. This year Dec. 21, which is the longest and darkest day of the year, a bright phenomenon happened in the sky.

Called the “The Great Conjunction,” by some astronomers, the beautiful sight is was caused by Jupiter and Saturn drawing closer together in the night sky than they have been for hundreds of years. On this historic moment the huge planets also appeared closest to the Earth so people were able to see the conjunction without a telescope.

This amazing event is also being referred to as the “Christmas Star,” due to the time of year it appeared. Reminding people of the famous Christmas Star that led the three wise men to Bethlehem thousands of years ago when Christ was born.



There has been research to show that the last time Jupiter and Saturn were aligned so close to earth was 1623. However, the stargazing conditions the last time it appeared hindered those from earth in being able to see the amazing sight. It is believed the last time that these two planets came together in this way and was viewable with the naked eye was in the year 1226.

So in between all of the crazy stories of 2020 that you will someday be telling your grandchildren don't forget to tell them about this historic moment as well.



“I step up because my community needs me to.”

Wear your mask and keep your distance.

STEP UP
COLORADO



covid19.colorado.gov

Del Norte resident killed in crash on Wolf Creek pass

MINERAL COUNTY- The Colorado State Patrol investigated a two vehicle crash on Highway 160 at Mile Post 179.3. The crash occurred in Mineral County at the bottom of Wolf Creek pass.

At approximately 5:14 a.m. Christmas Day, Vehicle #1, a 2008 Ford F350, driven by Ernesto Velaquez, 48, of Del Norte Colorado was westbound on Colorado 160 at a high rate of speed. Vehicle #2, a 2018 Kenworth truck tractor and semitractor-trailer driven by Arturo Romeo, 55, of Commerce City Colorado

and front seat passenger Desiree Van Hartesrett, 53, of Commerce City Colorado, was eastbound on Colorado 160. Vehicle #1 traveled into the eastbound lane to negotiate the curve. The driver of Vehicle #1 lost control of the vehicle and began to rotate counterclockwise. Vehicle #1 traveled back across the westbound lane out of control before traveling off the north side of the roadway. Vehicle #1 then traveled westbound off the northside of the roadway, along the ditch and embankment, striking several rocks and a delineator post,

before striking a large boulder with the front of Vehicle #1. After striking the large boulder Vehicle #1 rotated clockwise coming back onto the roadway, rolling one-half time and, rotating 180 degrees striking the front of Vehicle #2

with the driver's side of vehicle #1. Vehicle #1 rotated back counterclockwise coming to final rest on its top facing east. Vehicle #2 was almost stopped when it was struck by vehicle #1. Vehicle #2 came to final rest on its wheels

facing east. Driver of Vehicle #1 Ernesto Velaquez died on scene as a result of the injuries he sustained from the crash. Arturo Romeo and Desiree Van Hartesrett in Vehicle #2 were not injured.



Photo courtesy of Tyler Schmidt



SLV unemployment rate slightly increases in November

Saguache County unemployment rate at 6.9%

BY TREY SPAULDING

SAN LUIS VALLEY – The Colorado Department of Labor and Unemployment (CDLU) recently released November 2020 unemployment rates for San Luis Valley counties.

Recently released Colorado unemployment figures from the CDLU for November 2020 indicate that the unemployment rate in the San Luis Valley (SLV) increased slightly in November.

The average unemployment rate for Colorado in November remained

the same at 6.2%. Nationwide the unemployment rate decreased slightly from 6.9% in October to 6.9% in November. In the San Luis Valley among the 20,028 labor force in November there were 1,195 unemployed or an increase from 5.1% in October to 5.9% in November.

The SLV county with the lowest unemployment rate in November 2020 was Conejos County with 5.2% unemployment. Rio Grande County's unemployment rate increased from 4.9% in October to 6.5% in November. Mineral County increased from 5.6% to 6.7%. Alamosa County unemployment numbers increased slightly from 5.3% in October to 5.8%. Costilla and Saguache Counties had the highest unemployment rate in the SLV with 6.9%.

Vali Theater offering free admission for first responders

MONTE VISTA-The Vali 3 Theater in Monte Vista is offering free admission Jan. 1-3 and 8-10 to Wonder Woman: 1984 for all San Luis Valley first responders and medical personnel, including hospital, clinic, nursing home and other related staff. We want to show our appreciation for our local superheroes with a superhero movie! Showings are at 7p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 5p.m.

Sundays. We are following social distancing measures and operating at 25 percent capacity, so we can only admit 67 people per night and have half of the rows in the theater closed. Please bring proof of employment (like a work badge). Free admission includes only medical and first responder personnel themselves, not others in their party. Concessions will be normal price.

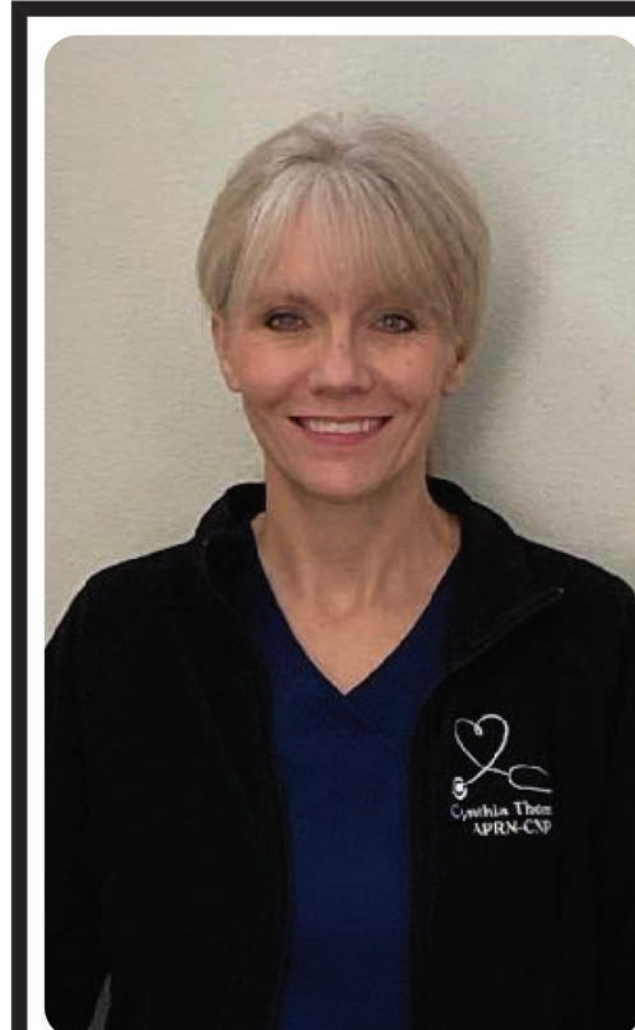


I'm moving clinics!

Beginning on Monday, January 4th, Dr. Lauren Sonderegger will be seeing patients at Edward M. Kennedy Health Clinic & Cesar E. Chavez Family Medical Center.

- Prenatal/OB Care
- Medication-Assisted Treatment for Addiction
- Family Medicine
- "Se habla español"

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Sonderegger in Monte Vista or Center, call **1-833-350-1113**



Valley-Wide Welcomes
Cynthia Thomas, NP
to
Convenient Care
Community Clinic
1131 Main Street, Alamosa

Cynthia recently joined our team at the Convenient Care Community Clinic in Alamosa. Cynthia was born and raised in Oklahoma and earned her Masters of Science, Nursing degree from Saint Louis University. She brings 28 years of nursing experience to her role at Valley-Wide including ICU care and Army Combat Medic. Cynthia is passionate about helping others, especially in times of need. In her free time, Cynthia enjoys reading, exploring the outdoors, hiking, fishing, and spending time with her family.

Walk-Ins available every day at our Convenient Care Clinic!
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CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

BY TRISH GILBERT

County Temporary Registration Permits

Individual to Individual Sale - The following paperwork can be submitted as proof of the sale:

- * The assigned title; or
- * A Bill of Sale (notarized or signed under penalty of perjury) with proof of ownership, (registration, copy of title, etc.).

Delays in the Filing of the Mortgage - A temporary registration permit may be issued when there is proof that there has been a delay(s) in the filing of the mortgage.

Request from Financial Institution on a new purchase:

- * Letter from a financial institution indicating that a temporary registration permit may be issued; or
- * Security Agreement

Tow-Away Vehicles - Temporary

registration permits may be issued to a tow-away vehicle when both of these criteria are met:

- * Proof that the vehicle has been made roadworthy through a Statement of Fact and supporting receipt documents; and
- * Proof of ownership - title in the applicant's name or title assigned to the applicant.

Colorado Assigned ID - When an application for an Assigned ID has been completed, a temporary registration permit may be issued to have the ID affixed to the vehicle by the Colorado State Patrol.

Salvage Title - A salvage title is an ownership document to a vehicle that is not roadworthy. A temporary registration permit may be issued at the County's discretion to obtain a Certified VIN Inspection upon submitting the following:

- * Proof of ownership.
- * Receipts indicating repair of the

vehicle.

- * DR 2424 Salvage Title Statement of Fact verifying the vehicle is in a roadworthy condition.

Dealer Complaints - When a complaint has been filed against a dealer, and the case is under investigation, a dealer investigator may provide authorization for the issuance of a temporary registration permit.

Print on Demand - A Temporary permit is issued for all Print on Demand (POD) transactions.

Note: Temporary registration permits may be issued not to exceed 60 days. The expiration date should always be on a business day. In no event is the temporary registration permit expiration date to exceed 60 days.



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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

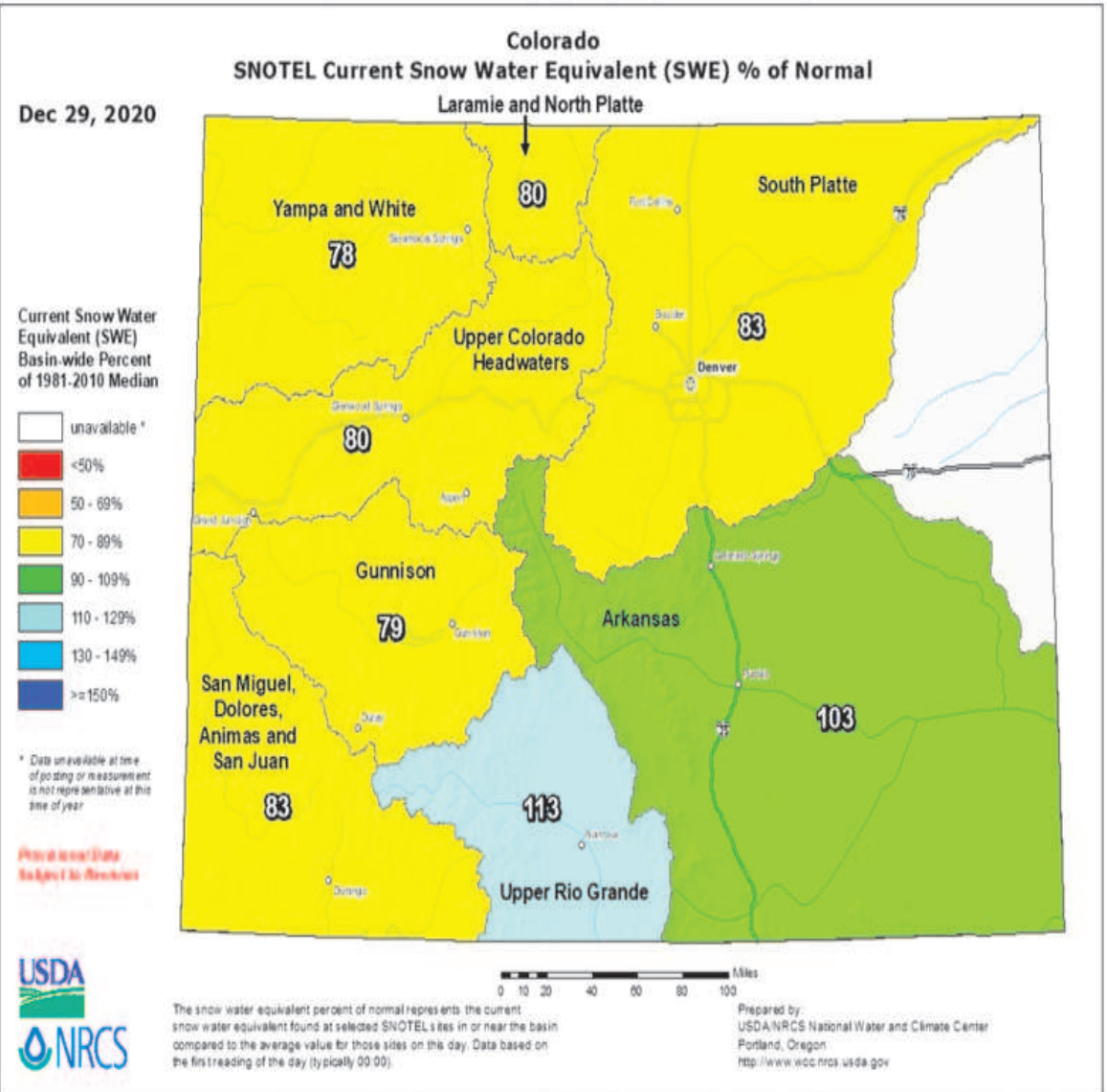
If you have any questions please contact our office:

Call 719.658.3060

www.mds_wasteandrecycle.com



Average snow water equivalent increased 20% overnight



UPPER RIO GRANDE – The snow water equivalent increased from 93% to 113% over night with the recent snowstorm Monday, Dec. 28, 2020. Wolf Creek Ski resort reported 25 inches of new snow from the storm.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY – The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Dec. 21, 2020, and Dec. 27, 2020.

In addition to monitoring 11 controlled burns, Sheriff staff sought two missing persons, assisted with four medical and ambulance calls, addressed five civil disputes and situations, made two welfare checks, and conducted multiple Saguache town patrols.

On top of five traffic stops, the Sheriff and deputies stopped a DUI driver and searched for three stolen vehicles. Staff also handled four civil disputes (and one civil standby), two cases of assault and four reports of harassment. Two thefts, one burglary and a wildlife violation also required attention.



Arrests

- Eric Tessier, 39, Buena Vista, harassment

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Ice fishing bite is on in western end of Valley

BY LYNDSIE FERRELL

SAN LUIS VALLEY- There are many things to do in the San Juan Mountain Range that lies on the western edge of the San Luis Valley and many anglers look to the winter months for some of the best fishing of the year. Though some destination lakes, ponds and reservoirs are only accessible with snowmobiles or cross-country skiing, others offer easy access and a great opportunity to get the fishing poles out even though the Valley is in the midst of winter.

According to Aquatic Biologist Estevan Vigil with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, this year is expected to be pretty normal as far as ice fishing in the area goes. "We haven't received a lot of reports about the fishing conditions yet as many of the bodies of water are only now frozen enough to access, but past years indicate that we will have a fairly normal ice fishing season until things slow down later in the winter."

Vigil explained that right now is the time to get out and hit the ice especially at Beaver Creek Reservoir which is a favorite among

winter anglers. "Beaver Creek and Minion reservoirs are located just outside of South Fork and are great locations to ice fish. Fishing is pretty consistent at Beaver Creek, plus it is easily accessible for the average angler wanting to get out and hit the ice. The reservoir was stocked with Kokanee salmon three years ago so populations should be up. It being early in the season there is still a good chance to catch a salmon until later in the winter when fish slow down and are not as active."

Another reservoir that is only accessible via snowmobile or cross-country skiing but has good ice fishing is Big Meadows. The reservoir is frozen, but caution is always advised when participating in winter fishing or any outdoor recreational activities. "There is usually decent fishing at Big Meadows, but the road is closed to regular traffic and those venturing into the area with snowmobiles should use caution, be aware of surroundings and is for more experienced anglers."

Pass Creek Pond is another easily accessible location that sits just off Highway 160 on Wolf Creek Pass just below the Wolf Creek Ski Resort. "I have a friend that fishes Pass Creek Pond every year and always says the fishing is good. As I have said before, with it being early in the season, fish should be active and hungry."

As anglers head up toward the Creede and Mineral County area, they will have luck at the Road Canyon Reservoir, which is easily accessible and a great place to get out on the ice. Snow in the immediate area is on the rise and local Rio Grande National Forest officials caution drivers to be sure they can get in and out when traveling on several roads.

Another area favorite is not available this year. Rio Hondo Reservoir has been drained in preparation for dam repair later this coming summer. "From reports I am hearing the reservoir has no water in it. We are repairing the dam for safety reasons and hopefully will have the reservoir filled back up as soon as work has been completed."



Local donkey sanctuary saves lives

BY LYNDSIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK- Hidden in the foothills of the South Fork area is a special place for wandering burros of all shapes and sizes. Little do the residents of the Valley know, the Forever Home Donkey Rescue has been healing, loving and comforting donkeys for the past three years as a satellite location for the larger operation that is located in Benson, Arizona.

Linda Childs and her husband first became involved with the Forever Home Donkey Rescue in Benson, Arizona during an annual birthday trip to the location in 2016. "I am a huge animal lover so every year for my birthday, my husband takes me to different animal sanctuaries and in 2016, it happened to be the Forever Home Donkey Rescue. We fell in love with what the owners Don and Tish Hiestand were doing, and everything just seemed to fall into place," said Childs.

Childs stated that after they returned to their home in South Fork, it wasn't long before local Creede Veterinarian Doc Howard told her that she loved donkeys enough that she needed her own herd. Just after the conversation with Howard, Childs and her husband saw an ad in a local classified listing for a donkey looking for a new home. "This was a dream come true for us and we wanted to do something to help so we opened the satellite location here in South Fork and we bring donkeys that are well enough to travel up for the summer months and bring them back down to Arizona in the winter."

Childs explained that most of the donkey's range in ages three to 40 years in age and have a variety of ailments including obesity. "Most of

the donkeys we get are obese. A lot of owners typically surrender their donkeys because of old age, believe it or not, donkeys have a tendency to out live their owners when taken care of or people who can't financially take care of the animals anymore. Each donkey comes with their own unique stories."

Childs and her burros participate in events throughout the Valley including parades and pack burro racing. "This gives us the unique opportunity to introduce what we do to the public and the donkey's love it. We really enjoy what we do and we do it for the animals."

Childs also helps owners that need assistance with training and handling. "Most people get a donkey and think that they can be trained and handled like a horse. That is not always the case and we are more than happy to come out and help owners with their animals. We teach handling techniques and feeding habits. We also network with other sanctuaries throughout the area to make sure every donkey gets what they need. They are amazing animals, and you wouldn't believe the number of donkeys we have in the Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona regions."

Forever Home Donkey rescue also works closely with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in their donkey program. "We have donkeys that are sometimes born in the wild and then trained through an inmate program with BLM. Once the donkeys pass training, they come to us for rehoming."

The sanctuary works with all of their animals and as long as they are young enough, healthy enough and social enough, they look for new homes. "We want people to be ready to accept a donkey so there is on-site visits and an adoption application, but we work with owners who want to make a donkey part of their lives. They are such diverse, amazing animals."

During the summer months and depending on COVID restrictions, the South Fork Satellite location does on-site tours by reservation only for those who may be looking to make a visit this coming summer. The sanctuary also always accepts donations and is typically in need of halters, lead ropes, fly masks and supplies for their donkey first

aid kits. More information about the Forever Home Donkey rescue can be found on their website at www.foreverhomedonkey.com or through their Facebook page under Forever Home Donkey Rescue.




DISTRICT COURT, SAGUACHE COUNTY, COLORADO	
Court Address: 501 4th Street PO Box 197 Saguache, CO 81149 Phone Number: (719) 655-2522	
In the Matter of the Estate of: TRAN ROBERT ELLIS, also known as TRAN R. ELLIS and TRAN ELLIS	
▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲	
Deceased Attorney: Peter J. Enichen 885 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder, CO 80302 Phone Number: 303-544-6000 Email: Pete@Enichenlaw.com Atty. Reg. #: 18784	
Case Number: 2020PR30016	
Division C Courtroom	
NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO §15-12-801, C.R.S.	

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of TRAN ROBERT ELLIS, also known as TRAN R. ELLIS and TRAN ELLIS, Deceased
Case Number 2020PR30016
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the Personal Representative or to the District Court of Saguache County, Colorado on or before April 24, 2021, or the claims may be forever barred.

Constance Crosby, Personal Representative
c/o Enichen Law Office, LLC
885 Arapahoe Avenue
Boulder, CO 80302

No. 1585 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, December 24, 2020 and January 7 and 14, 2021.



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Moderna COVID-19 vaccine expected by first of 2021

By LYNSIE FERRELL

RIO GRANDE COUNTY- In a meeting held Wednesday, Dec. 23, Rio Grande County Commissioners discussed the arrival of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and when it will be coming to the county for distribution. Rio Grande County Commissioner Suzanne Bothell opened the conversation with a timeline and who would be have access to the vaccine first.

“Regarding the state vaccine priority list and time approximation, is the first people they are looking to vaccinate would be the frontline medical workers, those who are directly working with COVID-19 patients, then medical workers who do not work directly with COVID patients and then they would go to the general public. They are looking at the first phase taking approximately the first quarter of the year, the second phase taking the second quarter and so on. This is at least a general guideline that we were given by the state.”

According to Rio Grande Public Health Director Dr. Bankole, the county will be receiving mostly Moderna vaccines because it is easier to store and has a longer shelf life than the Pfizer vaccine. In a statement released to the newspaper, Bankole outlined the timeframe for the vaccine which follows.

“For Rio Grande County Public Health Department, efforts and plans; RGCPHD registered and ordered 90 vaccines - Pfizer and/or Moderna. Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) just confirmed to us that we are

allocated only 100 Moderna for first and second doses (3-4 weeks apart). No Pfizer vaccines for the county during the Phase 1A.

Moderna has applied for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and has been recently approved. Allocation of the vaccine will depend on the state.

CDPHE clarified that the 100 (asked for 90 and they rounded up to 100) doses are just the first shipment. So, potentially we will still be getting another shipment of 100 doses too. Since it is the MODERNA, we have a 30-day refrigeration window. As long as the vaccine is kept under proper refrigeration (39-46 F), and not opened, it is viable for 30 days after defrosting. We are clarifying the viability period, once the bottle is opened. There are 10 doses per vial.

Phase 1B: For LE/EMS/Fire and others in this phase.

We have pre-registered 58 persons to receive the vaccines when ready. Potential location for vaccination: Rio Grande County Annex Hall.

Since it is MODERNA, there is wiggle room to consider taking the vaccine to the EMS agencies as long as the cold chain is maintained. They might not all need to come on the same day or if there are stragglers, we can get them the vaccine a little later. We have a new conventional Pharm Freezer that has arrived, and we have ordered the ultracold freezer.

For Rio Grande Hospital: Rio Grande Hospital registered and ordered 150 vaccines - Pfizer/Moderna

CDPHE was allocated only 50

PHASE 1

Winter

1A

Highest-risk health care workers and individuals:

- People who have direct contact with COVID-19 patients for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- Long-term care facility staff and residents.

1B

Moderate-risk health care workers and responders:

- Health care workers with less direct contact with COVID-19 patients.
- Workers in home health/hospice and dental settings.
- EMS, firefighters, police, correctional workers, dispatchers, funeral services, other first responders, and COVID-19 response personnel.

PHASE 2

Spring

2

Higher-risk individuals and essential workers:

- People age 65 or older.
- People of any age with obesity, diabetes, chronic lung disease, significant heart disease, chronic kidney disease, cancer, or are immunocompromised.
- People who interact directly with the public at work, such as grocery store workers and school staff.
- People who work in high density settings like farms and meat-packing plants.
- Workers serving people that live in high-density settings.
- Other health care workers not covered in Phase 1.
- Adults who received a placebo during a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial.

doses of the Pfizer vaccine and will be getting more. Pfizer vaccines will be transported packed in dry ice and once opened should be administered ASAP within four days. The hospital has pre-registered its health care workers for the Phase 1A. The vaccines will be administered to high-risk health care workers that spend more than 15 minutes per day with COVID-19 patients first, moderate risk health care second and all other, low risk workers third.”

New year's traditions from around the world

By REBECCA COPLEY

Almost every culture around the globe has their own special traditions to usher in a New Year. Here in America we like to stay up until midnight, have a count down and watch a big ball drop in New York. Here's a little look at some other unique traditions celebrated by cultures around the world:

Turkey: If you're celebrating the New Year in Turkey you might do so by smashing pomegranates in your doorway. According to the tradition the number of the



seeds that come out when you smash it will foretell your luck for next year. **United States:** In the U.S. states many believe that you must eat black-eyed peas new year's day for good luck. Southern tradition holds that the first food to be eaten on new year's day should be black-eyed peas for luck and prosperity -- specifically, one pea for each day of the year.

Spain: In Spain when the clock strikes midnight on new year's eve it's tradition to eat 12 grapes. These grapes represent your good luck for each month next year.

Russia: One tradition that you might see observed in Russia on new year's eve, is to write your new year's wish on a tiny scrap of paper at midnight. Then you have to set it on fire and extinguish it by dropping it into your drink. If you want your wish to come true you have to drink your entire drink and ashy wish before it's 12:01 a.m.

Denmark: In Denmark there is a tradition to break a plate against the

doors of your friends and neighbors for the New Year. If you would rather not smash your dinnerware Danes also celebrate the New Year by jumping off chairs for good fortune in the next year.

Japan: New year's eve in Japan often includes enjoying a big bowl of toshikoshi soba (“year-end noodles,”) these noodles are made of buckwheat and are long to represent longevity.

Argentina: In Argentina on the last day of the year there is a tradition for office work-

ers to clean out unwanted papers from their workspaces and toss them out the window around noon. Ringing in the new year with paper raining down on the street like confetti as a farewell to the past and symbol of, “out with the old in with the new.”

Armenia: Armenians often celebrate the New Year by baking a big, flat, loaf of bread called darin, gata or tarehats. They will bake either a coin or a single walnut inside the bread and whomever finds the prize in their piece is supposed to have the best luck in the New Year.

Colombia: A custom in Colombia is to place three potatoes under your bed on new year's eve. One potato is peeled, one potato is unpeeled, and one is half peeled. When the clock strikes midnight you're supposed to pull out the first potato that your hand touches. If the potato is unpeeled it means abundance. If the potato is peeled it shows you will have financial problems. If it's half-peeled that means you will experience something in between.

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Ski Hi Event and Conference Center progressing but needs additional support

MONTE VISTA - "The new San Luis Valley Regional Ski Hi Event and Conference Center is becoming a reality!" said Karla Shriver, co-chair of Friends of Ski Hi. "Even in these challenging times, the project is moving forward. And it's all possible due to the wonderful support of people who believed in the project, both in our local San Luis Valley community, as well as some who live outside the Valley."

Because of the steady local support, Friends of Ski Hi has successfully raised grant funding from a number of foundations, such as the Outcalt Foundation, Cultivating Hearts, Trinchera/Blanca Foundation, Daniels Fund, El Pomar Foundation, Robert Rawlings Foundation, Gates Family Foundation and Boettcher Foundation. State and local governments have also seen the benefit of this project for the whole San Luis Valley, including all six San Luis Valley counties, Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache. At the state level, the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) have also designated funds for the project. The Friends of Ski Hi was also named as a beneficiary for the Larry and Vivian Reed Estate which has been a huge benefit for the project.

"Even though Friends of Ski Hi and the City of Monte Vista decided to proceed with the actual building of the facility, there is still additional

Please see SKI-HI on Page 2



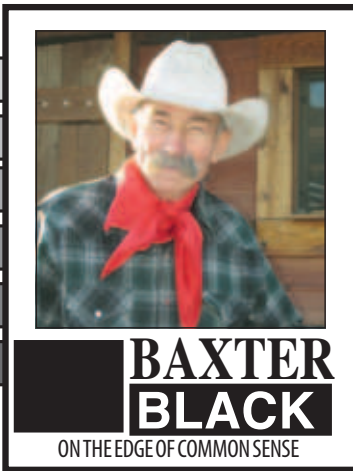
Pleasure Horse

I consider myself among other things, a former horse mechanic. The horses I did veterinary work on were ranch and feedlot beasts of burden. Workin' animals from man's point of view.

Up until about fifty years ago that would describe most of the horses vets worked on. I was always a little vain about distinguishing that my patients worked for a living, earned their daily oats and made a contribution to the good of mankind.

Backyard horse practice sorta ranked with spayin' cats and trimming Chihuahua's toenails.

That same kind of 'snobbery' still exists, I think. Somehow working on a valuable race horse, a Tennessee walkin' show horse, an endurance Arabian, a Budweiser Clydesdale, Fred Whitfield's ropin' horse, Kathy Petersen's barrel racin' horse, a New York city policeman's horse, a ranch horse, a rodeo buckler, a Quarterhorse cutter, an outfitter's packmule or a Lippizan performer is interpreted as doing something more worthwhile



than floating the teeth on a backyard plug.

These working horses have a purpose. That dignifies your veterinary efforts, lends some value to your education and experience. All your acquired ability isn't being wasted in frivolous endeavor on a horse that isn't really 'workin' for a livin'.

But, with all that being said, what's work to

a horse? Is it something they feel good about? Does it give them a sense of self worth? Of course not.

"Well, my little mare, I better finish this hay. Crooked Jack will be comin' to take me to the mall where I can walk in circles all day giving joy to little boys and girls."

"I'm so proud of you, Geldy. You bring so much happiness into the world."

Coyote Cowboy Proverb: Work to a horse is anything he does because you make him do it.

I tell people my horse likes to rope. Meaning, I guess, that he likes to chase cattle. But he spends a lot of time in the pasture with cows and calves, I've never seen him chase them on his day off.

Ah, but you good horsemen say, "This horse loves to run", or "He was born to buck", or "I can tell he loves to pull this plow. He can't wait for me to crack this whip!"

I see them run and kick up their heels in an open pasture... but not for long. Are they having fun? Can horses have fun? Are they

bored? Can they get bored?

I'd be hard put to argue that they can't have fun, get bored or get mad.

Horses are domesticated animals. Under the care of and at the pleasure of those who pay for their keep. It is not their choice. It is ours. Like teenagers, if we give them room and board we expect something in return. At our pleasure, even if our pleasure is team roping, showing Arabians or just a good companion.

But in the end, it's all work to a horse.

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



SKI-HI Continued from Page 1

funding needed for its full completion,” said Kathy Woods, Friends of Ski Hi co-chair. “This is an Enterprise Zone tax credit project, so any financial contribution over \$100 qualifies for a 25% tax credit to qualified Colorado income tax payers. Still donors should check with their accountants to be sure they qualify for this benefit.”

Friends of Ski Hi is seeking to raise a minimum of 10 to 15% of the total construction costs to use as matching funds for additional grant applications. The goal is to raise locally at least \$875,000, and more if possible.

“Friends of Ski Hi are so close, yet so far from raising the amount needed for the total project cost of \$8,641,800,” said Shriver. “To date, we’ve been able to secure cash and pledges amounting to \$8,055,903 or 93% of the total. But that means we are still short the final 7% or \$585,897 to complete the project. We are still seeking grant funding, but Friends of Ski Hi needs to continue to bring in local matching funds locally,” said Shriver. “We hope to raise an additional \$100,000 to \$150,000 in our community in the next couple of months.”

“Many of the foundations to which Friends of Ski Hi applied for grant funding prior to COVID-19 were excited about the project,” Shriver noted. “However, once the virus hit, the foundations focused on trying to meet immediate humanitarian needs and to support local communities. This meant that capital grant applications became a low funding priority for them even though they still saw the value of the project.”

“This project has truly been a San Luis Valley community project,” said Woods. “People, businesses, and organizations have all pitched in to make this work, as we all see the benefits this facility will bring to the whole San Luis Valley.”

Numerous organizations have written letters of support which can be viewed on the Friends of Ski Hi website at <https://www.friendsofskihi.org>. The Monte Vista Community Fund and the SLV Development Resource Group have served as fiscal agents for grants. Many volunteer hours have been contributed to the project along with the generous in-kind work on pre-demolition work by Colorado Seed and Pro Mountain Farms employees, and demolition of the old facility from Jim Willschau, Adrian Absmeier, Troy Geringer, Cooley and Sons, Cooper Drilling, Brian Mauloff, and the Rio Grande County Road and Bridge Department.

The previous Ski Hi facility served the entire regional community well. We all have fond memories of events at Ski-Hi Park, whether the Ski-Hi Stampede Rodeo and Concerts (Colorado’s Oldest Professional Rodeo), the Monte Vista Crane Festival, the San Luis Valley Fair, educational events such as the Southern Colorado Agricultural Conference, or the many other community events that took place there through the years. However, the facility had seen better days and had serious safety issues that needed to be addressed. In fact, the building was on the verge of being condemned and the City of Monte Vista actually closed it in 2018. The City agreed to reopen it for use after concerned citizens came up with a comprehensive plan to remedy the problem.

With the new building well underway and completion in sight, Friends of Ski Hi are reaching out to the community to respectfully ask those who can make a meaningful contribution to the project to please do so. “Please consider the project in your year-end contributions,” asked Shriver. “We would love to contact everyone individually either in person or in a letter request, but we are an all-volunteer group who



have real jobs and businesses to run in addition besides working on this project. We just don’t have time to contact each one individually, thus we are doing so through this news article.” Donations can be sent to Monte Vista Community Fund at P.O. Box 262, Monte Vista, Colorado 81144. The Monte Vista Community Fund and the City of Monte Vista have set up separate bank accounts for all donations so that all funds are traceable for this project. Each organization will also

have year-end audits by a third party to verify the revenue and expenses.

This project embodies our past, serves our present and builds our future. Thanks to the many, many supporters who are helping to make this new state of the art facility possible. Again, donations may be sent to P.O. Box 262, Monte Vista, CO 81144. Please call Karla Shriver at 719-850-5808 or Kathy Woods at 719-588-4092 if you have any questions about the project or funding opportunities.

ACCEPTING BIDS FOR COUNTY OWNED ITEMS

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners are accepting sealed bids for the following County Owned items. The sealed bid will be accepted by the Commissioners during public meetings, at their discretion until February 1, 2021. Bids received will be opened by the Board as they are received.

If you would like to submit a sealed bid offer for any available items, a bid packet and a list of items up for bid are also available on the Saguache County website at www.saguachecounty.net or you can call the Administration office at 719-655-2231 or by email request to administration@saguachecounty-co.gov.

Bids must be submitted on a County bid form and must be in a sealed envelope with the item listed on the outside of the envelope. ONE ITEM PER BID SHEET please.

Funds must accompany bids. NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED.

To view items for bid please contact the Saguache County Road and Bridge office at 719-655-2554.

2020 AUCTION ITEMS

Craftsman Riding Lawn Mower – Minimum bid amount \$250 -Includes mower deck, bagging system, snow plow, wheel weights and tire chains. Mower is in working order.

Black & Decker Radial Arm Saw – Minimum bid amount - \$50 – works great

Tecumseh Snow Blower – Minimum bid \$25 - Works just small

Yard Man Mower – Minimum bid amount \$25 - Comes with bag, self-propelled feature is disabled

Husqvarna Weedwhacker – Minimum bid amount \$20 - Does not stay running

Truck Tool Box – Minimum bid \$50

Fits standard width box

Ford F250 Fleet #121 – Minimum bid amount \$500 - 2WD, front gas tank does not work, tank switch needs to be replaced, shifts hard, U joints need to be replaced

Crafts Man Riding Lawn Mower – Minimum bid amount \$150 – includes mower deck, bagging system, snow plow, wheel weights, tire chains

Truck Tool Box – Minimum bid amount - \$50 – fits standard width box

2000 Ford Escort – Minimum bid amount \$250 - VIN – 3FAKP1139YR211153 - Color – Gold - Mileage – 176,702

Condition – not good needs a lot of work

2006 - Ford Crown Victoria – Minimum bid amount \$200

2000 - Chevrolet Tahoe - Minimum bid amount \$200

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2014 - Black Ford Explorer - Minimum bid amount \$200

2007 - Black Ford Expedition - Minimum bid amount \$200

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1998 - 4-Wheeler Trailer - Minimum bid amount \$500

2012 - Black Dodge Charger - Minimum bid amount \$500

ATV Sportsman Polaris – True 4x4 on Demand – VIN – 4XACH42A42A5Z2231 - Minimum bid amount \$200

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1997 Trailer – single axle – plywood floor – 4TCSS1101WHX10108 -Minimum bid amount \$200

#126 – 1994 Chevrolet K2500 ¾ Ton 4x4 – bad wiring – smokes when battery is hooked up - Minimum bid amount \$500

#130 – 1999 Ford F250 Super Duty ¾ Ton 4x Minimum bid amount 4 Pickup – bad ECM – none available - Minimum bid amount \$500

#203 – 1979 Ford F600 Truck – bad motor - Minimum bid amount \$3000

#207 – 1987 GMC Brigadier Truck SA (single axle) Plow – no hydraulics – no steering - Minimum bid amount \$3000

#208 – 1989 IHC S1700 Truck SA (single axle) Plow – bad motor - Minimum bid amount \$2500

#209 – 1989 IHC S1700 Truck SA (single axle) Plow – bad motor, clutch and transmission - Minimum bid amount \$2500

#306 – 1980 Chevrolet Bruin TA Truck (no bed) – bad engine - Minimum bid amount \$1000

1998 – Mercury will not start (title) - Minimum bid amount \$250

1975 International Scout will not start (no title/has VIN Inspection) – Minimum bid amount \$2000

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Colorado trout disease study progressing

COLORADO. - While many fish diseases have declined in recent years due to good management practices, cases of bacterial kidney disease (BKD) seem to be increasing in the western U.S. The disease is caused by the bacteria *Renibacterium salmoninarum*, which is common in cold water streams and lakes. The disease is characterized by the presence of grayish-white abscesses in the kidney and can cause death in both wild and hatchery trout.



After negative tests in the Colorado fish hatchery system for 18 years, in 2015 four state hatcheries, one federal hatchery, and a wild broodstock lake tested positive for the disease. An outbreak at one hatchery cost over \$2.1 million and impacted fish management statewide with the loss of over 675,000 sport fish. In 2017, a statewide sampling effort led by CPW Research Scientist Dan Kowalski found the bacteria was common in trout habitat statewide, but generally occurred at low levels and only rarely caused outbreaks of disease in the wild. These recent detections of *R. salmoninarum* in hatcheries and wild fish populations in Colorado have generated additional questions about presence and infection intensity in trout and caused managers to revisit best management practices in hatcheries.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has partnered with Colorado State University Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and Ph.D. student Tawni Riepe to investigate important aspects of BKD in Colorado. Her work, while still ongoing, has already produced some interesting results. In one experiment, fish were caged in a water known to have fish infected with *R. salmoninarum* to look at direct bacterial transfer between infected and non-infected fish (a process known as horizontal transmission). The trial lasted for 90 days and involved 320 caged cutthroat trout. Only one fish tested positive for the bacteria that causes BKD, demonstrating that horizontal transmission was low under these conditions but occurred in a relatively short amount of time. A second experiment was designed to look at transmission from an infected fish to its offspring (known as vertical transmission). Early results confirm that eggs reared from fish infected with *R. salmoninarum* may have varying levels of the bacteria depending on the degree of infection within the parents.

causes BKD is transmitted from fish to fish or fish to egg to fish, is important to figuring out how to minimize the spread of the bacteria and the disease among hatchery and wild fish populations," commented Riepe.

Another focus of Riepe's research is to compare and improve testing methods to detect the bacteria that causes BKD. The goal is to determine the best way to test fish, what test to use, and if non-lethal tests can be developed to test fish without sacrificing them. Just like testing for human pathogens that cause disease, like COVID-19, there are several ways to detect bacteria in fish. A technique called quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) can be used to detect the DNA of the pathogen and to determine the intensity of infection in fish. Another approach is to test for antigens, proteins on the surface of the pathogen that a fish host uses to produce antibodies that attack the bacteria. Riepe, in collaboration with Dr. John Drennan, a Senior Fish Pathologist with CPW, is also working on methods to evaluate if currently healthy fish have been previously infected with the bacteria by testing for antibody production. All of these methods have their strengths and weaknesses, and this important research will help identify the best methods to test for the bacteria that causes BKD in Colorado trout populations. Current results indicate that using qPCR to test the mucus, kidney, and liver tissue of the fish produced the best results and, in several cases, the non-lethal test of a fish's mucus produced similar results to more traditional organ tissue tests.

A final component of the research is to explore how the disease may impact wild trout populations. Brook trout are known to be particularly susceptible to *R. salmoninarum* infections that can lead to BKD, so Riepe and her colleagues are studying several brook trout populations in high elevation streams

and lakes to determine if varying levels of the bacteria might affect age, growth and survival of the fish.

Riepe is also working closely with Dr. Eric Fetherman, an Aquatic Research Scientist from CPW, to conduct this important work and is being advised at CSU by Dr. Dana Winkelman. Together they hope to make some headway in the management of this disease to benefit fish populations and anglers of Colorado.

"Tawni's work with *R. salmoninarum* represents some of the most comprehensive research conducted in inland trout populations and will not only benefit the State's wild and hatchery-reared cutthroat trout populations and the anglers of Colorado, but also further contribute to our knowledge of bacterial kidney disease in the United States and worldwide," said Fetherman.

"Collaborating with CPW has been one of the highlights of my Ph.D. experience," Riepe said. "Not only has the expertise that lies within the agency's biologists, hatchery managers, and aquatic researchers enhanced all the planning and executing of these research projects, but the support and advice I have received from everyone I am directly working with or behind the scenes has been unmeasurable and I am completely humbled."

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

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Photo courtesy Colorado Parks and Wildlife / Bill Vogrin

A greenback cutthroat trout caught in Bear Creek near Colorado Springs

CPW aquatic biologists studying troubling decline in greenback cutthroat population

COLORADO SPRINGS—Aquatic biologists and researchers at Colorado Parks and Wildlife have launched an intensive review of data on Bear Creek after a routine survey revealed a troubling decline in greenback cutthroat trout populations.

“We have looked into several factors that may have contributed to this decline including water quality, temperature, flow, sediment accumulation, disease and the possibility of some unnatural human-caused event,” said Josh Nehring, senior aquatic biologist for CPW’s Southeast Region. “At this point, we cannot say there is one single, definitive cause.”

In 2012, CPW confirmed that tiny Bear Creek, on the city’s southwest edge, was home to wild greenback cutthroat trout, which are the Colorado state fish and are native to the South Platte River in the northeast.

For decades the greenback was believed to be extinct. So protecting the 3½-mile stretch of water holding the only known population of naturally reproducing greenbacks became a top priority of CPW aquatic biologists. Today, the greenbacks are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species.

In the years since the discovery, CPW has worked to protect and improve the creek habitat and the surrounding watershed and to develop a second brood stock. Brood stock is a small population of fish kept in optimal conditions in a hatchery to maximize breeding and provide a source of fish for the establishment of new populations in suitable habitats.

Each spring, CPW spawns the greenbacks on the banks of Bear Creek. And the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hatches the fertilized eggs at its Leadville National Fish Hatchery to produce thousands of greenback fry. At various sizes, the fish are then stocked into creeks and lakes in the South Platte River drainage.

CPW hopes these releases will lead to greenbacks being re-established and reproducing in the wild. But that milestone has not yet been documented, making the Bear Creek population critical to the species’ survival.

“Since 2008, we have surveyed Bear Creek every three years to assess the size and health of the greenback population,” Nehring said. “We only surveyed every three years to minimize stress on the fish.

“This September, we surveyed four reaches of the creek and the results were troubling. They suggested up to an 80 percent decline in the adult population. However, a fairly robust class of immature fish suggests that adults were still common and prolific until recently.”

CPW launched an immediate investigation to determine the cause of the decline.

Water temperatures appear to be normal over the past three years and CPW’s annual disease inspection on brook trout living in Bear Creek downstream of the greenback population showed they continue to be disease-free.

The U.S. Forest Service, which shares jurisdiction over Bear Creek

with El Paso County and Colorado Springs, is monitoring sediment accumulation in the creek. And a major restoration project was just completed to improve the habitat, increase pool depth and reduce sediment accumulation in the creek.

The September survey preceded the creek habitat restoration work. CPW biologists do not believe that work, or a recent wildfire that burned within a half mile of the creek, had any impact on the greenback population.

Bear Creek is somewhat unusual as it does not typically experience a snowmelt-driven runoff in the spring. Rather, peak flows generally occur during the late summer monsoon season and are precipitated by strong rain events.

“Over the past three years, we have not seen these higher flows that help to scour out the pool habitats,” Nehring said. “Although there has been an increase of sediment in the pool habitats, it doesn’t appear that would have been the sole reason for the decline in the population.”

CPW’s investigation into the population decline and search for a solution is ongoing.

“We will continue to evaluate and investigate these factors and others, such as possible deliberate human caused events,” Nehring said. “The take or killing of a threatened species is a serious offense and carries significant fines under the Endangered Species Act.

“At the same time, we are intensifying our efforts to broaden our brood stock, accelerate our release of greenbacks into their native waters and look for other ways to preserve this important fish.”

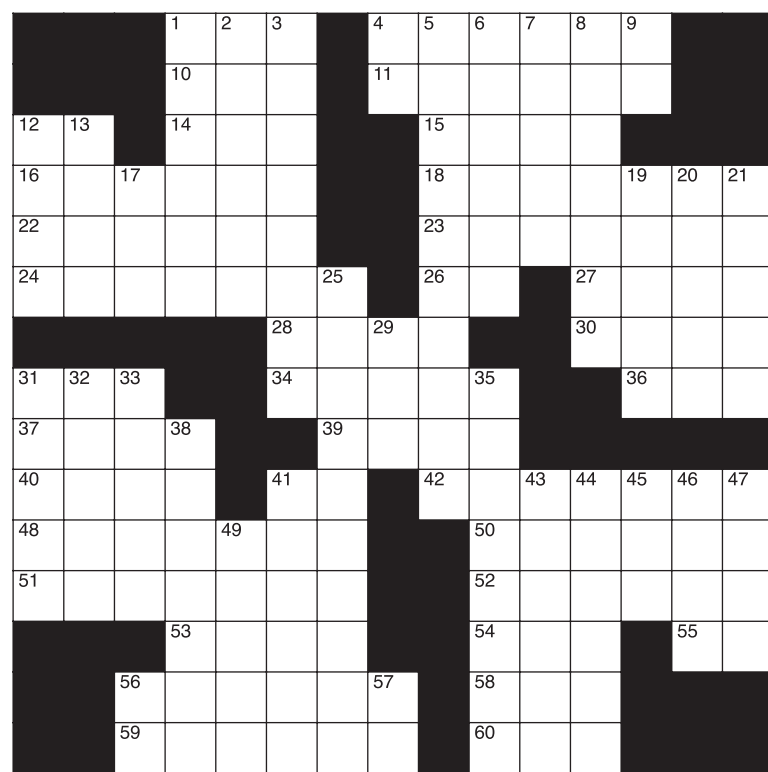
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Central processing unit
4. Military action
10. How electricity gets to train carriages (abbr.)
11. Unsafe
12. Of (French)
14. Autonomic nervous system
15. Type of bean
16. Accuse formally of a crime
18. Promote
22. Type of lava
23. Meat from a deer
24. Herbaceous plants
26. Potato state
27. Helsinki neighborhood
28. Sports officials
30. Shout wildly
31. Reptile genus
34. Frocks
36. Born of
37. N. Scandinavian indigenous people
39. Poultry cage
40. Aquatic insect genus
41. Of I
42. Ad ___: tirelessly repetitive
48. Item
50. Produce
51. Seedless raisin
52. Bond in a third party’s control



53. Legendary character ___ Finn
54. Space station
55. Note at the end of a letter
56. In a way, contradicted
58. Midway between northeast and east
59. Bears important traffic
60. Brooklyn hoopster
17. Popular average
19. A native or inhabitant of Asia
20. N. Sweden river
21. Related on the mother’s side
25. Mediator
29. Partner of to
31. Arm bones
32. Korean seafood dish
33. Tap of the foot
35. Astronauts
38. Carolina footballer
41. Indiana city
43. Of or relating to bears
44. Not widely known
45. Body part
46. At the peak
47. High-pitched cries of a cat
49. A way to intimidate
56. Prosecutor
57. Atomic #66

CLUES DOWN

1. Presides
2. Artist’s tool
3. On a higher floor
4. Commercial
5. Something to watch
6. Chased
7. Commercial producers
8. Keyboard instrument
9. Blue grass state
12. Phonograph recording
13. Unusual

Solution to last week’s puzzle

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

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Photo provided by SLV Health

SLV Health held a winter coat drive, and more than 250 items were collected by employees and cleaned by Weiss Dry Cleaning. The items will be distributed throughout Alamosa and Conejos counties. Shown here are employees from the Conejos County Hospital environmental services team, maintenance team, administration, the Conejos County EMS team and Dan Marquez, owner of Weiss Dry Cleaning.

SLV Health employee coat drive

SAN LUIS VALLEY - San Luis Valley Health, which has a number of clinics throughout the San Luis Valley as well as the SLV Health Regional Medical Center in Alamosa and Conejos County Hospital in La Jara, recently held a coat drive and the employees and their families donated more than 250 coats and other items.

Because of the COVID pandemic, the items were taken directly to Weiss Dry Cleaning in Alamosa, who volunteered to clean and package every item for distribution. The SLVH Conejos County Hospital maintenance department picked up each load of coats as they were prepared.

"We will be distributing the items to the local food banks in

both Conejos and Alamosa County," explained Whitney Beiriger, executive assistant at Conejos County Hospital. "These coats will be given to a variety of community members who are needing a little extra warmth this time of year."

Conejos County Hospital Administrator Zach Weiderspon wanted to thank everyone who participated in the coat drive. "It goes without saying that this year has been challenging for all of us, so we are so appreciative of everyone who participated," Weiderspon said. "We would also like to extend a special thank you to Dan Marquez and the employees at Weiss Dry Cleaning for all of their hard work on getting these items cleaned and ready to hand out."



Del Norte resident Terry Haynie (wearing a white hat) was chosen by the Colorado High School Athletic Association to officiate the state football games in Pueblo this year.

Haynie chosen to officiate state football games

DEL NORTE - After serving as a sports officiator for many years, local Terry Haynie was chosen by the Colorado High School Athletic Association to officiate the state football games in Pueblo this year. Haynie has served the Del Norte community in many ways, including serving as Mayor for a short time in the 80s but his favorite past time has been the opportunity to serve the local sports teams throughout their careers.

"It really is a wonderful thing to watch children grow. It was great to be chosen to officiate for the six-man teams in Pueblo. The games went really well, and it was a great thing to be a part of." Haynie has served as an officiator for the past 17 years and has plans to continue to serve the local sports teams well into the future.

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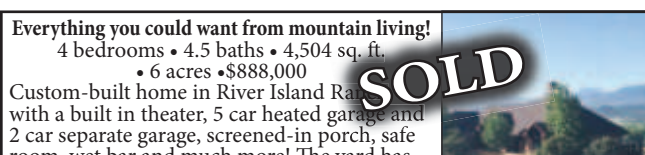
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