

## Shorts



### Saguache County Sheriff's Office Cellphone Drive (Dec.-Jan.)

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** - Working with 911 cellphone Bank, the Saguache County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a cellphone Drive throughout December and January. Your donated cellphone could save lives by providing emergency communication devices 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, 8:00 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 before donation.

Your donated phones are going out as fast as we can collect them while winter begins, 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, 911 Cellphone Bank will accept the following:

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.

## Arrest made in Saguache County homicide

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** - An arrest has been made in the Saguache homicide occurring in the early morning hours of Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020. The suspect Donald Garcia (DOB: 07/31/1975) of Saguache was taken into custody Dec. 8. for his alleged connection to the homicide. Garcia was considered armed and dangerous.

Deputies with the Saguache County Sheriff's Office (SCSO), with assistance from Colorado State Patrol troopers, arrested Donald Garcia (DOB: 07/31/1975) without incident in an abandoned camper in the town of Saguache, just after 3:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020.

On Sunday, just before 4:30 a.m., deputies with the SCSO were called to a home in the 800 block of Gunnison Avenue on a report of an injured Salida man who sustained what ultimately would become fatal injuries. The victim has been identified as Robert Turner Jr. (DOB: 09/14/1970). Investigators are not releasing how Turner died, as this is part of the active investigation. Additionally, investigators believe this was an isolated incident and does not have any connection to the human remains case in Conejos County.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation has

been requested to provide investigative and crime scene processing assistance.

The investigation is in the preliminary stages and is ongoing; however, it appears isolated in nature.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Saguache County Sheriff's Office at 719-655-2544.



## Center Christmas parade this Saturday



**BY PATRICK SHEA**

**CENTER** — Shoppers in Center who declined to participate in the free town raffle will miss out on approximately 50 prizes set aside for winning ticket holders who come to Veteran's Park when the parade down Worth Street concludes Dec. 12.

Anyone can join the procession, starting at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12. Parade enthusiasts lining the

sidewalks will observe current public health tactics (wear a mask, socially distance and stay home if symptomatic). Santa Claus will greet children from the safety of a plexiglass enclosure at the park. His plan is to field requests and deliver gifts on Christmas Eve after double-checking his naughty-nice database.

Interested participants will gather at the intersection of 2nd Street and Worth at 12:30 p.m.

People will be steering floats, riding bikes and ATVs, pulling wagons and walking. Winning participants will receive cash prizes for first, second and third place (\$100, \$75 and \$50).

Now in its fifth decade by some counts, the Center Christmas Parade continues through a difficult 2020 with support from the Town of Center and the Kiwanis Club of Center.

### Anderson receives Colorado Commissioner of the Year award, opiate treatment funding, COVID-19 vaccines

**BY PATRICK SHEA**

**SAGUACHE** — Saguache County commissioners fielded bids, discussed pay scale budget implications and weighed regional opiate abuse funding options during the morning session of their Tuesday, Dec. 8, meeting.

The agenda listed an awards ceremony. Please see SCC on Page 7A



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.

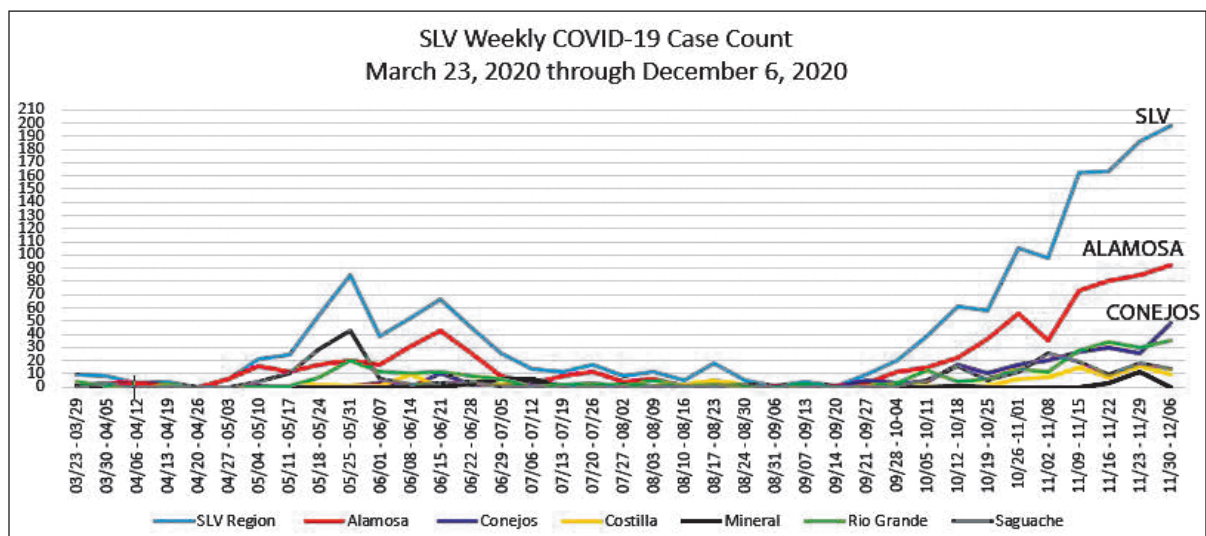
## Valley active cases continue to rise

*State modeling report says 1 in 40 Coloradans are currently positive for COVID-19*

**BY TREY SPAULDING**

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Monday, Nov. 30, COVID-19 active cases in the SLV were 254. As of Dec. 9, active cases in the Valley's five counties continued to increase by 37 and went from 254 to 301 during the past week. Alamosa County once again

Please see COVID on Page 7A



# OBITUARIES

## Esther Margaret Carlson, 86

Center resident Esther Margaret Carlson passed away Nov. 30, 2020. She was born Jan. 1, 1934, in Castle Rock, Colorado to Louis and Mildred Anderson. She married William M. "Bill" Carlson Aug. 5, 1950, in Manitou Springs, Colorado. Esther's passion was in being a school bus driver, she drove for the Douglas County and Center School District's for over 25 years. She had a love for seeing the children every day. She loved to hunt and hike in the hills with her husband as well as collecting antiques and going to farm sales. Esther was a true rancher's wife, she worked hard and at the end of the day still had the patience and heart to care for her family's needs.

Esther is survived by her husband of 70 years, William "Bill" Carlson of Center, her children, Christine (Lee) Willis of Franktown, Colorado, Steven (Treva) Carlson of Saguache and Betty Ann Jones of Chugwater, Wyoming, numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as her siblings Louis "Peewee" (Brenda) Anderson, Dan Anderson and Janet Garrett and many nieces, nephews and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her



parents and her brothers Raymond Anderson and Ed Anderson.

Cremation was selected and a private family service will be held at a later time. In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested to the High Valley Mennonite Church and may be made in care of the funeral home office. To express condolences, please visit [www.rogersfunerals.com](http://www.rogersfunerals.com)

Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa is in care of the arrangements.

## Jon R. Dyer, 75, August 12, 1945 – December 2, 2020

Jon Dyer was born on August 12, 1945, to Harry and Clarice Dyer. Jon grew up in rural Butler County, Kansas. He attended Rosalia public schools where he met his future wife, Jean, when he was five. After graduating from Rosalia High School in 1963, he joined the Air Force and served his country in Vietnam. Jon received his teaching degree from Wichita State and spent over 30 years teaching industrial arts, principles of technology, construction, and driver's ed first at Flinthills High School and later at Bluestem High School. In his spare time, Jon was a contractor. One of his first big projects was building a log cabin in South Fork, Colorado—each log stripped by hand. Jon loved planes and would often talk about the C-130 he worked on while in Vietnam. A highlight of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday was getting to ride in the B-29 "Fifi." But perhaps Jon's biggest claim to fame was his turn as an extra

in National Lampoon's Vacation in which he literally appeared opposite supermodel Christie Brinkley (that's him standing by the Ferrari).

Jon was a top-notch teacher, a great friend, and a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He will be fondly remembered for his warm smile, unflappable demeanor, and ability to remain calm under pressure—the occasional swear word on the job notwithstanding.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Jean. He is survived by his children, Mark Dyer and Holly Dyer (Gary Owens) and his grandchildren, Aspen, Ford, Alex, Satchel, and Chloe. Because of the risks posed by COVID-19, no public service is currently planned. The family suggests that donations be made in Jon's name with the National Education Association Foundation at [www.neafoundation.org/donate](http://www.neafoundation.org/donate) and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center



at [gifts.mdanderson.org](http://gifts.mdanderson.org).

Services in care of Downing & Lahey East Mortuary, Wichita, KS. Share tributes online at: [www.dlwichita.com](http://www.dlwichita.com)

## Gregory Wayne Halenza, 56

Gregory Wayne Halenza, Villagrove, Colorado, passed away at home Nov. 25, 2020. Cremation was chosen and a Memorial Service will be announced at a later date. Arrangements in care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home.

# SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Dec. 1 and Dec. 6, 2020.

Staff fielded 45 calls and visits for people and property. Deputies handled three ambulance calls, one suicidal subject, one deceased person, one missing person, one civil dispute, two drunk drivers and assistance for two motorists. Other than an animal problem on Poncha Pass, fires and beasts behaved during the week.

In addition to four controlled burns, sheriff staff also tended to five vehicle crashes, six traffic stops, two burglaries, one theft, two calls for suspicious activities, three threatening and harassment calls and response for one civil dispute.

**Arrests**  
Nathaniel Merkley, 29, Saguache, failure to appear warrant



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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Your Christmas Goose

Here we are again facing another Christmas Season and this one certainly will have its challenges for safe family gatherings, shopping and eating out just to name a few activities.

Years ago, it was quite the tradition to have goose for Christmas dinner and that fatty bird was probably a welcome relief to hungry families in lean times.

I think that tradition is pretty much past for now as I do not know anyone in the U.S. who has goose to celebrate the holiday.

I mean at least not the eating kind but we all probably have or know some great uncle who sees fit to give Aunt Molly her Christmas goose in the kitchen after one to many schnapps. That always makes the old men wink at one another, the women snicker and guffaw and the kids run around asking what happened to Aunt Molly?

This Christmas we are all gonna get a good goosing from the dang COVID-19 and it's depressing to think about how that will affect our holiday ahead.

Ol' Dutch got to thinking -- a dangerous thing according to Miss Trixie -- and I came to the realization that we are about to face a huge spreader event on Christmas Eve itself.

Oh, I know they warned us about Thanksgiving and rightfully so and of course with Christmas, families will want to gather and care needs to be exercised to prevent spread of the dread.

But today, I suddenly realized that we are about to have what could be the largest exposure ever to that virus on Christmas Eve itself. For that is the time that Santa makes his appointed rounds and visits every household in the world. So much for social distancing.

Imagine if one of those tiny long-eared little helpers or God forbid, the Jolly Old Elf himself should be asymptomatic with the disease. Here he will be sliding down every chimney exposing us all to a fatal dose of the big C.

I can just see Santa now sipping milk from the glasses left by wee children and munching on cookies and leaving tiny particles of virus laden sputum all over the place.

He will wander around the house distributing gifts here and there which were recently handled by green little people and Santa can't even wear a mask due to the voluminous white



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

beard that covers his jolly old face.

And if you think singing is a dangerous activity, just wait till Saint Nick gives out a mighty Ho-Ho-Ho making his belly shake like a bowl full of jelly and more dangerous airborne particles freely spewing across our happy home bubbles of no germs.

Last but not least the Claus Man routinely puts his finger up beside his nose and with a wink swooshes back up the chimney. You would think he could at least keep his hands away from his face. I mean come on Claus, give pause?

And what about those prancing reindeer that tow his mighty sleigh across the night skies? They hang around up there at the North Pole playing those reindeer games in large groups which we know contributes to Chronic Wasting Disease. And here they will come landing willy nilly on every house and in every town on the planet spreading that dreaded plague to our own struggling deer herds.

But never fear Ol' Dutch has come up with a sure fire solution to even this seemingly impossible situation. For you see, all you have to do is start being naughty thereby almost guaranteeing you a spot on the blacklist and Santa will pass you by. It will be just like the plagues of Egypt as he swoops close but never enters your humble abode thereby saving you from certain destruction. Thankfully Ol' Dutch hit the Naughty List early on so can coast the rest of the year -- germ free.

*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*

## LETTERS

# Swoop of Cranes returning to Monte

To the editor,  
MONTE VISTA - Did you see the Crane statues that were up last summer and fall? Weren't they a colorful, vibrant addition to the Monte Vista downtown area? They're actually 5 foot tall pressed steel silhouettes of the exact cranes that visit the Monte Vista area a couple of times every year and are painted, beautified by local artists from around the San Luis Valley. You've heard of the Sandhill Cranes coming through the Monte Vista area on their way to their winter homes in Mexico, right? Well the city of Monte Vista has some that stay year-round in the form of fine art. These statuettes adorned the city's lamp posts from March through September this year and they will again in 2021.

Weren't they a sight to see last summer and early fall? There were 50 in all and no two were alike! The array of artistry on display for all to see throughout the downtown area was amazing. We invite you to drive or walk around the downtown area this coming March to see them all and to choose your favorite!

The Monte Vista Chamber want to keep the project affordable to sponsors so the cost was kept to \$150. Each stamped steel silhouette provides lots of room for the selected artist to put his or her skills and mastery on display.

Each statuette will be mounted on the city lamp posts up and down Hwy 160 and 1st Avenue. They will be on display from March until September. Each statuette will have a plaque with the sponsor's name and the artist's name as well. Individuals will be able to vote for their favorites and winners will be selected in September.

In September, the statuettes available for purchase will be auctioned off. Sponsors or artists have first opportunity to purchase their crane(s) for \$100 or the piece can be auctioned off. All proceeds go to the Monte Vista Chamber



of Commerce for future projects and beautification efforts of the downtown area!

We hope to keep the Crane Swoop going year after year for the benefit of Monte Vista's beautification and bringing vibrant colors to the city's downtown landscape. Imagine what the area would look like with Sandhill Crane statuettes along every walkable area of our town!

The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce is here to serve our members and the community at large. We hope to be a vital part of sustaining and growing a health business community. The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce building is at 947 1st Avenue in downtown Monte Vista, CO 81144 and can be reached at 719-852-2731 or montevistachamber.org Sponsorships are first come, first serve. Please call the Chamber at (719)852-2731 for more information

*Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce*

# 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 'Renewable 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 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.protectsanluisvalleywater.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 Jensen, Deann Jacobs, Patty Kelley, Kathleen Kerven, Cristi Larsen, Lisa McClure, Suzie Off, Donna Peckumn, Linda Robinson, Sherry Smith, Denise VandeWalle*

## 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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www.centerpostdispatch.com

# RGSO receives Toys for Tots donation

By LYNSIE FERRELL

**RIO GRANDE COUNTY-** According to Rio Grande County Sheriff's Victim Advocate Courtney Arthur the department received a donation from the local church group Circle of Friends South Fork for the Toys for Tots donation collecting program. Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department has been collecting toys for the organization and the church group reached out wanting to help.

Circle of Friends South Fork donated \$200 to Toys for Tots and an additional \$200 to the San Luis Valley Children's Advocacy Center. Toys purchased from the funds donated will be going to local children and to aid the SLV Children's Advocacy Center in various ways.

The department is continuing to collect donations for the Toys for Tots cause and have a donation site at the sheriff's office in Del Norte. Those wishing to donate can bring an unwrapped toy to the department and help a child in need. The donation box will be available until just before the Christmas holiday.

The Toys for Tots donation box at the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office is overflowing with gifts for children in need. The department is still accepting donations from now until just before Christmas.



Courtesy photos

Rio Grande County Sheriff Victim Advocate Courtney Arthur hands a check for \$200 to the SLV Children's Advocacy Center that was donated by a local church organization Circle of Friends South Fork.

## 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](http://www.riograndecounty.org) or pick up and submit to Human Resources 925 6th Street, Room 200 Del Norte, CO 81132.



# RGNF offers free Christmas tree permits

**SAN LUIS VALLEY -** In a consistent move intended to serve residents of the San Luis and Upper Rio Grande Valley's, the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) is offering free-use Christmas trees from November 1 through December 27, 2020. A special use authorization is required. See below.



### The rules

Christmas Tree Authorizations are valid only for trees on land managed by the Rio Grande National Forest.

Only 5 trees per family are allowed.

Trees can be up to five inches in diameter at shoulder height.

Cut trees as close to the ground as possible. Stumps should be no higher than 6 inches.

All trees must be at least 100 feet away from any campground, picnic area or road.

Cutting trees within designated wilderness areas is prohibited.

Up to 5 additional boughs can be taken with each tree.

For additional boughs, see [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd828486.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd828486.pdf) Keep vehicles on the roads.

### How to obtain the necessary free-use authorization.

You must have a free-use authorization letter with you when you harvest your tree(s). To get a free-use authorization letter, please use ONE of three methods below:

Visit one of our participating vendors listed below. These vendors make it convenient due to their extended business hours.

Kristi Mountain Sports - Alamosa  
The Green Spot - Alamosa  
Hometown Food Market - Antonito

Rainbow Grocery - South Fork  
Visit one of our forest offices in Del Norte, La Jara, Monte Vista and Saguache. The offices have varied hours and recommend calling before your visit. All locations will

have authorizations available in an outside location.

Download a form here [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd827359.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd827359.pdf)

Additional tips for harvesting your tree

Dress warm and have emergency equipment handy.

Tell someone where you are going. The Forest Service does not blade roads for snow removal

Please don't litter. Pack in and pack out your trash. Remember Woodsy? "Give a hoot, don't pollute."

Keep vehicles on the roads. Remember to "Tread Lightly on Public Lands."

Tree identification can be found at [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd852562.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd852562.pdf)

## the benefits of flu vaccination 2019-2020

Nearly 52% of the U.S. population aged 6 months and older got a flu vaccine during the 2019-2020 flu season, and this prevented an estimated:

7.5 million flu illnesses

105,000 flu hospitalizations

6,300 flu deaths

More than the combined population of Kentucky and Kansas



Enough people to fill Michigan Stadium at the University of Michigan



Equivalent to saving about 17 lives per day over the course of a year



get vaccinated [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTACT RIO GRANDE PUBLIC HEALTH AT 719-657-3352 TO SCHEDULE AN IMMUNIZATION APPOINTMENT OR GET FURTHER INFORMATION.



## Local Shopper's GIFT GUIDE

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# Local business owners and commissioners discuss COVID-19 regulations options

By LYNDIE FERRELL

**SOUTH FORK-** In an effort to bolster local business support in the San Luis Valley, owner of Two Rivers BBQ in South Fork, Tyler Schmidt, invited several area business owners to his restaurant to discuss possible solutions to the current COVID-19 restrictions many businesses are facing today.

Schmidt went public with his plight in an interview that was published in Valley Publishing newspapers last week, which gave insight into some of the issues that restaurants and other businesses in the Valley are facing during the COVID pandemic. Schmidt stated that he was going to do whatever it takes to keep his doors open for the sake of his employees who depend on him for income.

The meeting was attended by just over 50 people, which included business owners, Rio Grande Hospital employees and members of the public who came to show support for their communities. Rio Grande County Commissioner Gene Glover and newly elected Rio Grande County Commissioner Scott Deacon were also in attendance to give an update on how the county is moving forward in regard to helping to keep local businesses open.

The evening began with an open discussion between those in attendance on how to negotiate with CDPHE and to ask that the department consider other regulations for rural communities like the Valley. "Tonight's meeting is a chance for us to kick around ideas on how to move forward, prevent another closure and to possibly get back to at least 50% occupancy. I don't know about anyone

else, but 25% is not going to hack it for our business, especially going into winter and our slow time."

Schmidt and other businesses owners from South Fork and surrounding areas all stated that another shutdown would mean the end of their business and the main consensus was that there had to be a way to convince CDPHE that a community with just over 300 full-time residents did not need to be treated the same as a front range community that has thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of people in residence. "Because we do not have a dense population and the fact that our population is also spread out, it is a fact that our data that is determining our status on the state's COVID dial is kind of skewed," said Schmidt.

Commissioner Glover spoke to the attending crowd and discussed the mitigation plan the county is currently finalizing which highlights the needs of the businesses in the county and a plea to lessen restrictions in order to keep businesses open. "We originally negotiated a two-week deal with CDPHE to keep us in yellow on the COVID dial and the day after Thanksgiving, we were informed that the county had been moved to orange. We were notified at the same time as all of the businesses in the county. They did not give us a chance to respond and did not accept our first mitigation plan."

Glover continued to state that numbers are in constant fluctuation, some accumulating after a testing event is held and others dropping off once their quarantine time has been completed. "I went around to businesses saying congratulations we can still be open, to turn around

and have CDPHE notify the county of our shift to orange the same time everyone else was notified. We are working on the mitigation plan and hope to have it submitted soon."

Glover also stated that the county is working with Mesa County, gathering information on a program that was implemented there between four or five surrounding counties that is a tiered program and allows restaurants and other businesses that are in compliance with state regulations to open their doors to 50% capacity. Rio Grande County officials are looking to adopt a similar program in some way that would allow local businesses to operate under less restrictions. "We are doing what we can to push back against this."

Attending business owners pointed out the need to educate the public on not being afraid of the COVID virus and to use their own personal judgement on how to handle the current situation. One business owner spoke up stating, "There is a couple here in South Fork that hasn't left their home since March when this began. They are afraid and rightly so and that is their right, but they are not asking the community to come to a halt because they are worried about the virus. They are choosing to stay home and choosing to take care of themselves. That is the simple fact of being a free American. It is our right to choose what is best for us and we should be allowed to do so without being threatened with our livelihood."

Several business owners in attendance also voiced concern on the fact that if CDPHE did come to the area to shut businesses down, they would lose their business licenses, liquor licenses and the



right to operate in any capacity. Schmidt pointed out that restaurants in particular are already doing everything they can to sanitize and comply with regulations and had been doing that for years even before COVID. "We sanitize, wash hands, wash table, chairs and everything countless times throughout our days here at this restaurant; we had been doing that anyway. We should be able to open and comply. We just have to figure out a way to negotiate with CDPHE."

It was further discussed and confirmed by Rio Grande Hospital employees in attendance that COVID patients that need to be hospitalized are not kept in the Valley but are transported out of the Valley to larger hospitals. Commissioner Glover confirmed this fact, stating that Rio Grande County Hospital is a clean hospital and does not care for COVID patients long-term. "The state is basing hospital bed numbers

off statewide data. It does not include clean facilities like our hospital. It stands to reason this and other things should be taken into consideration before setting our regulations down here in rural areas."

By the end of the meeting, business owners left with an idea of how to move forward while continuing to practice best practices and keep their doors open. Rio Grande County Commissioners are working diligently on the county's mitigation plan which should be submitted to the state in upcoming days. Other members of the business community are looking for law representation that might be able to help businesses fight the COVID regulations battle and keep their doors open. "We are not grabbing our pitchforks and lighting our torches, we are wanting to negotiate in order to save our businesses and keep our employees employed. We have to stand together and fight this together or we won't win."



"I step up because my community needs me to."

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covid19.colorado.gov

# David Brown of Mosca elected to Colorado Farm Bureau Board

By REBECCA COPLEY

**MOSCA** - David Brown was recently elected as a board member for the Colorado Farm Bureau. Brown who is a San Luis Valley native has strong roots in agriculture. Brown sharing that he is a third generation farmer, following in his grandfather's and father's footsteps as a sheep farmer.

Brown is in his fifth year of raising sheep and says he has plans to continue and expand. In addition to raising sheep Brown also does custom hay and barley and has also started working on a hemp farm. Brown says that he thoroughly enjoys cutting alfalfa, barley, and for the last few years cutting hemp (both CBD and fiber). "This year I started working for a CBD hemp farm near San Acacio. We grew CBD hemp and had a great crop, though not without many learning curves that continue to keep curving every day. But it's a brand new industry and that's the exciting part," said Brown.

Brown also has great deal of education in agriculture and graduated from West Texas A&M with a degree in agriculture science. After college he went overseas and spent time in Australia working and traveling, "One of the best experiences I've done, and I would advise any one to travel abroad in some way," said Brown.

Brown has been a part of the Colorado Farm Bureau for about 6 years now. He started by going to a young farmers rancher event and went on to become president of the Alamosa chapter. Caliegh Payne is now serving as the new Alamosa county president.

"There are many ways to be involved in agriculture, but few have a strong voice like Farm Bureau. And with them comes great leadership development and public speaking training that will help for a lifetime. But also, my favorite is you meet so many people from not just Colorado but nationwide. And those relationships are priceless," said Brown about the organization.

When asked what his goals are as a newly elected Farm Bureau Board member Brown answered saying, "I do have two main goals. One become



a huge voice against the forest service. In my opinion and a great deal of many others the forest service is ran terrible and do a horrible job at managing our forest. I hope in this position I can turn up the opposition against them with the help of the Farm Bureau being the biggest agriculture voice," said Brown adding, "Also I'd like to advocate for the hemp industry. In the past few years the hemp industry has gotten a bad name and for many reasons rightfully so. But it's so new and so young and can be very helpful in the health world."

When asked how COVID has impacted his farming operations this year Brown answered saying, "COVID has impacted every part of agriculture. Our lamb market went to near zero sales nationwide." As for the lingering affects of the pandemic Brown commented, "The financial impacts will last many years but also the good impacts will also last many years and present new opportunities. The direct sales of the meat have jumped up and hopefully we can continue with at least one good thing coming out of COVID."

## YOUR NIGHT SKY

### Gemenid Meteor Shower

By DARLENE DANKO

The Gemenid Meteor Shower is now rated as our best shower of the year. They run from Dec. 4 to Dec. 17, with the peak Dec. 13. The good thing about that is that the new moon is Dec. 14. The other good thing is that they start in the evening and run all night. So 9 p.m. is the perfect time to go out and look for them.

This shower is the brightest and most reliable of any meteor shower that we get. They've now beat out the Perseids. Our only problem would be if a snowstorm comes in, and it's too early to predict the weather for that day. What's interesting about the Gemenids is that they can have up to 150 meteors per hour! They travel across our atmosphere at around 22 miles per second. That's amazing!

Meteors tend to travel in groups. So, you may see several in a minute,

and then none for the next few minutes. The Gemini constellation rises in the ENE and moves up high by midnight, and then high overhead at 2 a.m. They're visible until about 5:30 a.m. The meteors will travel all over the sky.

While the constellation is low in the sky, you'll see some Earthgrazers. Those are bright meteors that travel along the horizon.

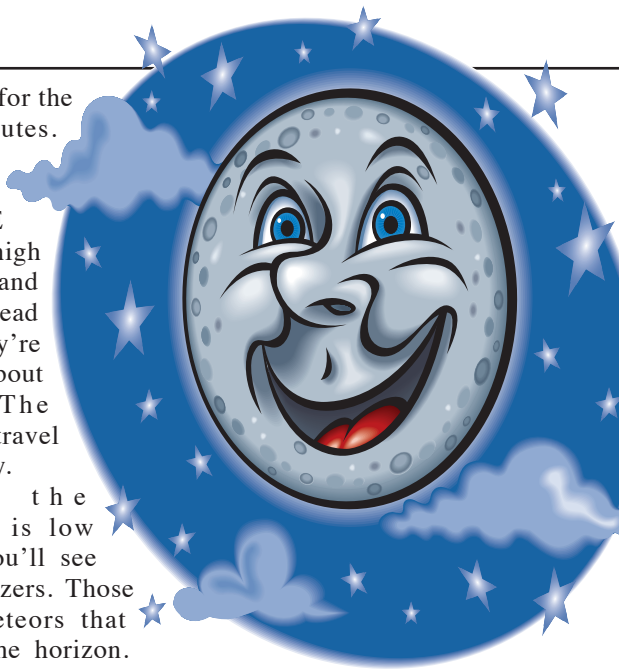
What makes them so bright is that they skim along the top of our atmosphere.

Before their peak they are fainter. Then for 24 hours after the peak they're very bright. So, you should be able to have good viewing also Dec. 14. They can also be colorful. Most are yellow or white, but sometimes they can be red, orange, blue and green.

Most meteor showers originate from comets. When a comet swings around the Sun, it sheds icy material

to form a long tail. They're mainly tiny pieces of ice and dust that can accumulate in great clouds of debris along the comets orbit. When Earth slams into this debris, the meteor shower is created.

Although meteor showers get their name from the comet they seem to originate from, they actually don't. It's just that area of the sky. Gemenids actually originate from pieces broken off an asteroid named 3200 Phaethon. So go out and enjoy them!



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Infants 6 to 11 months old need 1 dose of measles vaccine before traveling abroad. Children 12 months and older should receive 2 doses before travel. Check with your pediatrician before leaving on your trip to make sure your children are protected.



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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.

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# Del Norte opens electric vehicle charging station

**DEL NORTE** - Electric vehicle owners are now able to charge their vehicles in Del Norte. The charging station is located at 595 Columbia

Avenue, 1 block South of Highway 160, (Grande Avenue), across the street from the Del Norte post office. A grant from Colorado Energy Office provided

funds to help defray equipment and installation costs.

Electric vehicles are rapidly becoming more popular. Energy savings are

substantial over a gasoline powered vehicle. Electric cars were in production as early as 1898.

Two charging options are available – DC Fast Charge will charge a fully depleted battery in about 40 minutes. One hour of charging with a Level Two charger will add approximately 25 miles driving range. The DC Fast Charger is designed to provide a vehicle with a relatively short charging time. A traveler will be able to enjoy a meal or walk around town while the vehicle is charging, then back on the road. The Level Two Charger is designed for a person traveling to perhaps spend the night at a local hotel. Approximately 8 hours of charging will fully charge an electric vehicle.

ChargePoint supplied the charging



equipment. Electric vehicle drivers have an app which directs them to electric vehicle charging stations across the United States. Information can also be found at <https://na.chargepoint.com>

Other nearby ChargePoint charging stations are located in Alamosa, Creede, Durango, Lake City and Pagosa Springs.

Owners of many popular electric vehicles such as Chevrolet Bolt, Nissan Leaf, and Tesla are able to charge at ChargePoint charging stations.

## SCC

Continued from Page 1A

presentation for Jane Whitten's retirement from the Clerk and Recorder office after 16 years of service, but she was feeling under the weather and could not attend. Commissioners hope to present her plaque during a future meeting.

Jason Anderson read emails received since the last meeting. The Veterans Coalition of San Luis Valley thanked commissioners for a \$5,000 grant, and the Crestone Energy Coalition also expressed gratitude for funding a volunteer-driven project to cut fire mitigation remains and deliver the wood to people in need.

Commissioner-elect Tom McCracken has been attending meetings regularly to ask questions and observe, and this week he gave a report of his own. McCracken said he met briefly with Colorado State University extension officials about research projects. Then he met with local farmers to discuss a carbon-sequestering program that could provide compensation for farmers in the Valley. McCracken said they also shared ideas about receiving payment for using new practices that reduce water usage.

During the commissioner's reports, Jason Anderson described helping at the Public Health testing session in Crestone, one of four in two days. In his estimation, county staff attracted volunteers because the operation was so efficient and timely.

Jason Anderson also noted a meeting Nov. 20 with the head of the public utilities commission. They shared concerns about Tri-State Generation & Transmission. Among Tri-State customers, the Saguache County coverage area has the second-highest rate structure in the state. The 10 highest rate-paying regions in Colorado are also Tri-State customers.

County Attorney Ben Gibbons participated in a teleconference with the Colorado Attorney General to discuss funding options for a new federal program designed to address opiate addiction. The national pie of \$400 million must be sliced, and Gibbons told commissioners the AG

will contact counties individually. One option treats the San Luis Valley as a distinct region, and another idea includes the Valley, Pueblo, Walsenburg, Trinidad and other parts of southern Colorado.

Gibbons acknowledged that the larger coverage would include more money, but he questioned the payback for the Valley. If the area included Pueblo, the treatment center would likely be developed there and become the center of the program with the biggest concentration of participants. Transportation to and from Saguache County would require much of the money, Gibbons surmised. With a more focused Valley region, the county would receive approximately \$150,000 annually for an 18-year time period.

Janet Beiriger provided a Public Health update, including the total of nine active COVID-19 cases in the county Dec. 8. Beiriger said the county lacks the necessary cold storage capability and opted out of the first round of vaccine distribution. However, officials in Rio Grande County are in the process of acquiring storage and offered to share with Saguache County.

Beiriger also noted a free program for safe needle disposal to begin when boxes arrive. Saguache County had a program in the past, but it was not sustained. Beiriger said the county was the first community to apply recently.

Commissioners asked to advertise the open Public Health Director position in newspapers again. Currently on the county website, the job posting includes valuable links, an application and documents to download for minimum qualifications and more information.

According to Captain Ken Wilson, the Sheriff's department has received 3,294 calls so far this year. Of this total, 1,092 turned into law enforcement cases. Also, 2020 marks the first time the county surpassed 1,000 cases in a year.

Jail revenue is \$41,518 as of the end of November. Housing inmates from other agencies accounted for the largest

portion (\$33,940), followed by phone sales, booking fees and \$800 in work release until the virus struck in March. Total sheriff revenue is \$227,045.

Through working sessions over the past few months, commissioners have grappled with a fair pay-raise system for employees across multiple departments. Outgoing commissioner Jason Anderson noted this sustained challenge over his eight years on the board, and veteran department heads attending the meeting said the problem goes back decades. At issue is the parity across departments and clearly defined paths for improvement and pay raises for all county employees. Although the plans for 2021 and 2022 are not finalized, commissioners have crunched numbers and will provide an hourly increase in pay while analyzing the new employee evaluation process.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Randy Arredondo and Treasurer Connie Trujillo agreed that delaying performance pay increases while the new process takes hold punishes some workers.

As Trujillo explained to the board, "If you have an employee who worked hard in 2020 to move up a level, they will get a 20-cent-per-hour raise but won't move up" until the new evaluation process unfolds over the year.

Arredondo said, "waiting so long isn't necessary. I think we can start in 2021. Otherwise it's a year wait."

"They shouldn't have to wait until 2022," Jason Anderson concurred. Anderson also said, "We want to know why a person gets moved up. We don't need a specific checklist. This is a way to get concrete reasons for giving a raise."

Jason Anderson received the Commissioner of the Year Award for all of Colorado. Some counties have three on the board, and others have five. 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."

## COVID

Continued from Page 1A

saw the largest increase in active cases with 22 more cases than a week ago. Not far behind, Conejos County saw an increase of 21 active cases during the past week.

Tuesday, Dec. 8, Governor Polis extended the mandatory mask requirement while indoors.

Statewide the seven-day positivity rate slightly decreased from 12.41% to 12.36% over the past week. San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership reported Dec. 8 that the SLV two-week positivity rate had dropped from 6.03% to 4.76%. The SLV positivity rate fell below the 5% threshold set by the World Health Organization for the first time in several weeks.

On Dec. 9 Rio Grande, Conejos, Mineral, and Costilla counties continue to be at level "Orange" on the state's COVID-19 dial. Alamosa County remains at level "Red" and Saguache County remains at level "Yellow." Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) reserves the right to move a county to a more restrictive level at any point, should circumstances warrant more

aggressive restrictions.

The San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership stated Monday, Dec. 7, "Since the pandemic began, there have been 28 COVID-related deaths among San Luis Valley residents.

According to the CDPHE, COVID-19 dial dashboard Wednesday, Dec. 9, 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 2.7% - a decrease of 1.1% from last week. Conejos County dropped from 9.1% to a positivity rate of 7.4%, Saguache County dropped from 11.3% to 7.4%, Alamosa County dropped from 7.0% to 5.6%, Costilla County decreased from 6.8% to 5.9% and Mineral County went from 5.6% to a 4.2% positivity rate. Note that positivity rates have increased slightly the past couple of days in the SLV. The low positivity rate could be due to mass drive-thru testing being conducted on those who were asymptomatic.

There were 301 known active cases in the SLV Wednesday, Dec. 9.

"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. 9:

- Alamosa: 162
- Conejos: 51
- Costilla: 7
- Mineral: 1
- Rio Grande: 70
- Saguache: 10

According to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center Wednesday, Dec. 9, Colorado continues to have a lower seven-day positivity moving average test rate of 12.36% which is lower than all neighboring states. Wyoming saw a dramatic decrease in positive test rates going from 32.8% to 15.1% over the past week. Other neighboring positivity rates over the past week Dec. 9 showed Kansas had a COVID-19 positivity rate of 43.1%, Utah 20.0%, Arizona 30.1%, Nebraska 12.7% and Oklahoma 15.5%. The Colorado and World Health Organization two-week positivity goal is 5% or lower.

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# MVPD makes cold case murder arrest

**MONTE VISTA** - On Dec. 7, 2020, officers with the Monte Vista Police Department and Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) arrested Jimmy Garcia, 43, for the March 26, 2014, death of Jacqueline Jones who was 23, at the time of her death. Jacqueline's death was initially investigated as a suicide but in 2018 the Monte Vista Police Department started reinvestigating the case and discovered evidence which led investigators to believe her death was not self-induced but the result of a homicide and Garcia allegedly being responsible for her death. The Monte Vista Police Department has logged hundreds of

hours reinvestigating Jacqueline's death to bring it to this point. Numerous pieces of evidence have been analyzed by forensic scientists from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and other experts to support the arrest of Garcia on charges of 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Murder, Tampering with Evidence and Domestic Violence Enhancer.

Garcia and Jacqueline had been involved in a relationship when she was found deceased at Garcia's residence in the 400 block of Madison Street in Monte Vista. Garcia was arrested in Colorado Springs where he currently was residing. The arrest of Garcia is the culmination of a tenacious

and dedicated investigation by officers with the Monte Vista Police Department who followed the evidence to start the process of justice for Jacqueline and her family.

Garcia was taken to the El Paso County Jail, awaiting transport to the Rio Grande County jail and is being held without bond.

Since this is an active prosecution and Garcia is presumed innocent until proven guilty, no further information will be released. The warrant has been sealed.

The Monte Vista Police Department is committed to actively investigating all criminal activity and will continue to evaluate and investigate cold cases.



Jimmy "Cricket" Garcia

## 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.



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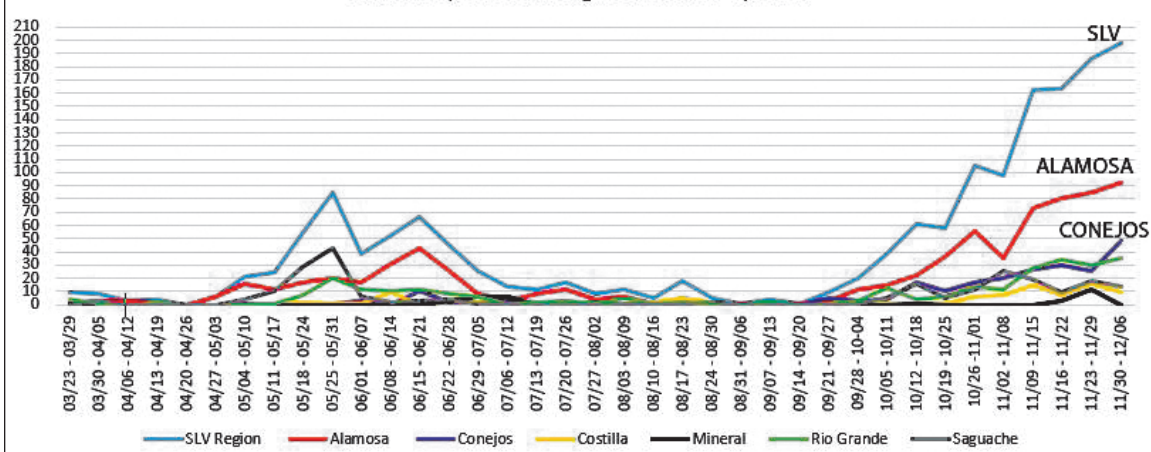
# Lifestyles

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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 Weekly COVID-19 Case Count  
March 23, 2020 through December 6, 2020



## Active cases continue to rise

*Free COVID-19 testing in Costilla County Dec. 10, Conejos County Dec. 11*

By TREY SPAULDING

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** – Monday, Nov. 30, COVID-19 active cases in the SLV were 254. As of Dec. 7, active cases in the Valley’s five counties continued to increase and went from 254 to 292 during the past week. Alamosa County once again saw the largest increase in active cases with 34 more cases than a week ago. Not far behind, Conejos County saw an increase of 20 active cases during the past week.

Statewide the 7-day positivity rate slightly decreased from 12.41% to

12.17% over the past week. San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership reported Dec. 7 that the SLV two-week positivity rate had dropped from 6.03% to 4.21%. The SLV positivity rate fell below the 5% threshold set by the World Health Organization for the first time in several weeks.

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There were 292 known active cases in the SLV Dec. 7. “Active cases” means that the cases are confirmed positive for COVID-19 **Please see UPDATE on Page 6**



## Monte Vista and Del Norte re-imagine their Holiday celebrations

**DEL NORTE** - The Del Norte Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce that we will be hosting this year’s Tour of Lights, the Parade of Lights re-imagined. The Tour of Lights will take place on Friday, Dec. 18. At 6 p.m. Santa will lead a parade of cars throughout Del Norte to look at residential and business lights. The parade will conclude with fireworks at 7 p.m. shot off from D-Mountain.

Instead of watching the parade, we all will have the opportunity to be the parade. We all could use some holiday cheer and due to COVID, we want to make sure our community stays safe. We want to avoid large gatherings of people, so our solution is to tour the town by car.

In order to make this event special, we need your help. We would like as many people as possible to participate, showing the holiday spirit

by decorating your homes and businesses as well as your cars! Our goal is to have the entire town lit up. The Chamber recognizes the amount of effort it takes to decorate and participate in the parade, so we have some prizes to give to participants. For those interested in participating in the business or home decorations, we ask that you please have your decorations up by the night of Wednesday, Dec. 16, as members of the chamber will drive around town and record the homes/businesses who are participating. Car decorations must be complete by Friday, Dec. 18, and will be judged the same evening. You do not have to decorate your car to join us in the parade, but it is encouraged.

Let’s make this the best town event yet; help your neighbor, reach out to the Chamber for questions and be **Please see HOLIDAY on Page 6**

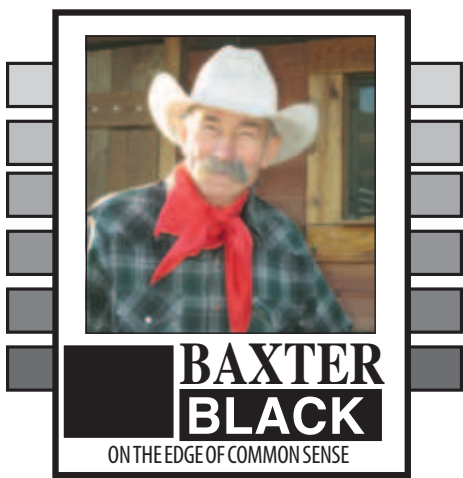
## God Bless the FFA

I’m takin’ you back to the summer of 2003. Out of the blue I got a call from Patrick Gottsch, a member of the well-known Nebraska ag family. He told me he was building a TV channel dedicated solely to agriculture and the rural community. I asked if he had any programs lined up? He said, “Yes, we are filming the entire National FFA Convention!”

I admit it made me raise an eyebrow.

My Oklahoma family were farmers. It is in my blood. I joined the Las Cruces, New Mexico FFA. On to New Mexico A&M, then CSU vet school, then large animal practice. Almost every job I’ve held has been in the livestock business. Even after I became a speaker, I fed cattle, now I’ve been running cows. I give credit to my ag teacher, Rupert Mansell, who guided me in the direction that I would follow the rest of my life.

After I became an “agricultural banquet speaker”, the FFA has remained a regular part of my speeches; 44 appearances nationwide including 7 national conventions. I know the



exact number because I learned to keep accurate daily records in FFA.

Since then, times have changed. The most obvious is the prominence of women involved, both as ag teachers and ag students. They have expanded, improved and multiplied the number of qualified ag students to keep up with the

scientific, medical, technical and mechanical knowledge that seems to never stop.

For the last 3 nights I have watched the FFA convention on RFD TV, smiled, sympathized and marveled at the FFA members parade their awards and accomplishments. I cannot help but compare them to the average suburban or city teenager playing their video games on their smart phones, exchanging photos or texting or just

killing time waiting...always waiting. ‘Immature’ describes the majority of them.

Their counterparts on the farm are riding horses, sweeping the barn, drivin’ the tractor, countin’ the rows, doin’ the chores and, like me, milkin’ the cow by the time I was ten years old.

Those blue jackets represent more than their accomplishments, awards and talent; they stand for good character, a strong work ethic and someone with whom you’d cross the river.

When I was in the FFA, the giant “apocalyptic prediction” was worldwide population explosion and mass starvation. American

agriculture led the way and my generation saved the world.

Today the scare-mongering obsession is global warming.

I have faith that those kids in the blue will be at the front of America’s fight to save the earth, as it has been doing since it became a country in 1776. God bless the USA and God bless the FFA!

**FFA CREED:**

“I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds...”

*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*





Photo by Patrick Shea

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

# Contracts trickle in for water Subdistrict 4

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

Subdistrict 4 (Special Improvement District 4) is part of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, a self-governed collection of members cooperating to manage water usage to meet state standards.

The board had a full quorum with President David Frees, Pete Stagner (Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer), Managers Jan Wayne and Jeremy Uhlenbrock and Ex Officio Member Peggy Godfrey in attendance.

In addition to voting to maintain the same positions for 2021, the board reviewed and considered Participation and Well Injury Payment (WIP) contracts.

Program Manager Chris Ivers discussed adjustments to the fee structure before introducing the contracts. Each meter carries a fixed Administrative fee of

\$643.63 in addition to a well-specific Stream Impact Fee, Sustainability Fee and Total Groundwater Withdrawal Fee. For inactive well owners, only the administration fee is assessed.

John Mattingly joined the meeting to hear the decision on his participation contract submission for four wells.

“Currently, I can’t see a financially rational reason to use the wells,” Mattingly said in the meeting. “I prefer to wait for the opportunity to grow something worth the price of the water.”

Mattingly said he routinely saw 800 gallons per minute when he first started with his free-flowing wells. Operations irrigated roughly 1,000 acres with four wells in the 1940s and 1950s. But as the aquifer has declined, his wells are dry until hydrostatic pressure is enough to release 20–50 gpm in wet years.

In his conclusion to a letter for board members, Mattingly notes, “Bottom line, after consideration, I want to participate in the Subdistrict effort, even if I do not pump water for several years going forward, and I commit to supporting

the effort with required financial participation as well as attending meetings to solve problems and move forward.”

The board approved all participation contracts and continues to pursue WIP contracts with 62 well owners in the subdistrict. The board approved the budget with recalculated fees and discussed flat-rate fees and reimbursements for the future.

## SLV unemployment rate continues to be below state level

**BY TREY SPAULDING**  
**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — The Colorado Department of Labor and Unemployment (CDLU) recently released October 2020 unemployment rates for San Luis Valley counties.

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

The average unemployment rate for Colorado in October was 6.2%. Nationwide the unemployment rate increased in October to 6.9%. In the San Luis Valley among the 21,604 labor force in October there were 20,521 employed and 1,083 unemployed or a 5.1% unemployment rate for the SLV.

The SLV county with the lowest unemployment rate in October 2020 was Conejos County with 4.1% unemployment. Rio Grande County had the second lowest employment rate in the Valley with 4.9% unemployed. Mineral County had 5.6% unemployment followed by Alamosa County with a 5.3% unemployment rate. Costilla County once again had the highest unemployment rate in the SLV with 6.2% unemployed.



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## Local Shopper's GIFT GUIDE



**SHADES**  
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**852-2179**  
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A great selection of warm socks, slippers and slipper socks from Regain, LOF, Versace and more! Cashmere Slippers make a great gift!

# 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



# ALMA and La Puente host Virtual Holiday Sing-Along

Email a 30-second video of you or your family singing

be live streamed at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, from ALMA's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/almalivemusic>. Open and free to all.

We spoke with Santa and he agreed to visit our community and will be reading "The Night Before Christmas." Be sure to tune in for your favorite holiday carols and story time.

In addition to tuning in Dec. 20, there are two ways folks can get involved with the Sing-Along. First, download the Sing-Along poster

from [almaonline.org](http://almaonline.org), color it in, take a photo of it, and email it to [almaconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:almaconcerts@gmail.com), for a chance to win a prize Dec. 20. Deadline to submit your colored poster is Dec. 16. Second, email ALMA a 30-second video of you or your family singing a verse from your favorite carol to be included in a holiday medley on the Dec. 20 livestream. Send your video clip to [almaconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:almaconcerts@gmail.com) by Dec. 11. For more information contact Nancy Harris at 719-937-1255.

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** - The Alamosa Live Music Association (ALMA) and La Puente invite the community to sing along to traditional holiday carols and other holiday songs, led by local musician, Don Richmond. This Sing-Along will



## CPW makes it easy to register snowmobiles, boats, OHVs online

**COLORADO** - You don't need to travel to an office to register your recreational vehicle. Just pull up the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website and get it done from the comfort of your home. It's easy to register, just go to <https://www.cpwshop.com/home.page>

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is urging everyone to register on-line in order to maintain safety during the Covid-19 pandemic. Social distancing and reducing exposure to groups of people are the leading recommendations to keep us all safe. The more Coloradans can maintain social distance, the sooner the pandemic will end.

For those who have not registered on-line, CPW has dedicated a web page that explains all facets

of the process. You will need to gather some information before starting the registration process. Visit the CPW registration page for details.

Here are the registration dates and all allow a 45-day window to renew before expiration.

Boats: Jan. 1- Dec. 31

Off-highway vehicles: April 1- March 31

Snowmobiles: Oct. 1 - Sept. 30

If you have friends or family who don't live in the state, remind them that they must have a Colorado OHV permit or a non-resident snowmobile permit. Colorado honors an out-of-state boat registration for 60 consecutive days.

If you have registration questions, please call 303-297-1192.

Owners of snowmobiles, OHVs and boats can register them from the comfort of your own home on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website.

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

**Home & Office Security System**

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

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

**Shop Local!**

**Starter Package**

Includes:

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

## 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

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**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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
 01 TICKETS  
 02 CARD OF THANKS  
 03 MEMORIALS  
 04 LOST & FOUND  
 05 NOTICES/BAZAARS  
 06 PERSONALS  
**EMPLOYMENT**  
 07 HELP WANTED  
 08 WORK WANTED  
 09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES  
**FOR RENT**  
 10 APARTMENTS  
 11 ROOMS  
 12 HOUSES  
 13 MOBILE HOMES  
 14 BUSINESS PROPERTY  
 15 WANTED TO RENT  
 16 VACATION  
**REAL ESTATE**  
 17 REAL ESTATE  
 18 LOTS & ACREAGE  
 19 FARM & FARMLAND  
 20 BUSINESS PROPERTY  
 21 MOBILE HOMES  
 22 PROPERTY WANTED

**MERCHANDISE**  
 23 LAWN & GARDEN  
 24 GARAGE SALES  
 25 AUCTIONS  
 26 ANTIQUES  
 27 APPLIANCES  
 28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
 29 MUSICAL ITEMS  
 30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS  
 31 HEALTH  
 32 FUEL & HEATING  
 33 BUILDING MATERIALS  
 34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT  
 35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT  
 36 MISCELLANEOUS  
 37 WANTED  
 38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT  
 39 SPORTING GOODS  
 40 AUTO PARTS  
**FARMER MARKET**  
 41 FARM EQUIPMENT  
 42 FEED & SEED  
 43 FARM PRODUCTS  
 44 FARM SERVICES

**ANIMALS**  
 45 ANIMAL BREEDING  
 46 PASTURE FOR RENT  
 47 HORSES & CATTLE  
 48 PETS & SUPPLIES  
 49 ANIMAL CARE  
 50 LIVESTOCK  
**RECREATIONAL**  
 51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT  
 52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT  
 53 TRAILERS  
 54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S  
 55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS  
**FINANCIAL**  
 56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY  
 57 INVESTMENTS  
**TRANSPORTATION**  
 58 MOTORCYCLES  
 59 VEHICLES WANTED  
 60 CLASSIC CARS  
 61 4X4'S  
 62 VANS  
 63 TRUCKS  
 64 AUTOS FOR SALE  
**SERVICES**  
 65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES  
 66 CHILD CARE

## 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 montevisaclass@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](mailto: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.

### 05 Notices

**WE BUY ANTLER:** Special Holiday Prices: Elk Grade A \$13/lb. Deer Grade A \$11/lb. 5 miles west of Del Norte on Hwy 160. 719-657-0942

### 07 Help Wanted

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

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

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

**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](mailto:ahorrocks@urtigers.co) or Amy Duda, Elementary Principal

at [aduda@urtigers.co](mailto:aduda@urtigers.co). Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at [www.urtigers.co](http://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 with a Secondary Social Studies endorsement. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Aaron Horrocks at [ahorrocks@urtigers.co](mailto:ahorrocks@urtigers.co) or contact Aaron at (719) 657 - 4020. Applications can be accessed online at [www.urtigers.co](http://www.urtigers.co)

**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 \$24,000-\$30,000+ with competitive benefits package. If you're goal-oriented, motivated, and a self-starter with high ambitions of a successful

<p>Colorado Statewide Classified Advertising Network</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p><b>WANTED</b></p> <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: <a href="mailto:opportunity@ecmresourcesinc.com">opportunity@ecmresourcesinc.com</a></p>	<p><b>COLORADO PRESS ASSOCIATION NETWORK</b></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>

*Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society*

[www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org](http://www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org)

**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!**

*Amazing pizza! What was supposed to be a quick stop on our drive to Arizona has now turned into our favorite pizza place of all time!*  
 -Jody B., 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](http://MountainPizzaTapRoom.com)  
 Thank you for supporting our employees during this difficult time

**Thank you all so much for all your ongoing support & donations! Our furry friends and staff appreciate you very much!**

<p>Sweets is a 2 year old Pit Bull mix. She is a very hyper and friendly dog. She is great with all people including kids. She has some potential with other dogs, but she's a little picky. She is very loving and affectionate gal.</p>	<p>Abu we believe is a Australian Shepherd/Lab mix. He is a very sweet and mellow guy. He is super affectionate and loves all people and kids. We have not tested him with other dogs but we feel he has great potential.</p>	<p>Gorda is a 3 year old Shepherd mix. She is very friendly with all people including kids. She is full of energy and is very playful and affectionate. She has potential to get along with larger dogs, but absolutely no small dogs or animals.</p>
<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. He have not tested large dogs yet.</p>		

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

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](mailto:tspaulding@valleypublishinginc.com)

**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)

**23 Lawn and Garden**  
For Sale: Yard Art-Old Farm Equipment Call 850-0491. (12/09)

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

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

**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.

Works Good \$50.00 719-754-3363 or 719-480-2102. (12/2)

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

**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 Panels Only \$.59 Per Watt!** Bontragers Variety Store 9726 S. County Road 3 E Monte Vista Co 81144. (12/25)

**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 (12/25 TFN)

**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 Allterrain Tires 265/70R17 \$800.00. Call 719-588-6820. (12/31)

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

**50 Livestock**  
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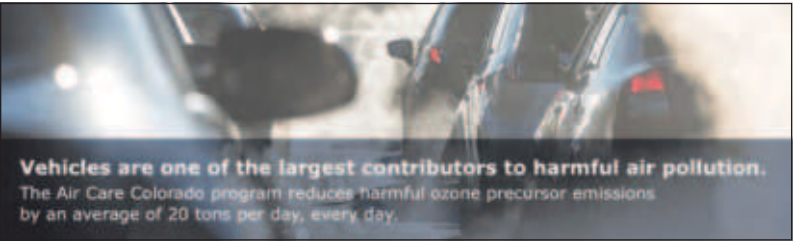
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Vehicles are one of the largest contributors to harmful air pollution. The Air Care Colorado program reduces harmful ozone precursor emissions by an average of 20 tons per day, every day.

# Colorado's aftermarket catalytic converter regulation takes effect Jan. 1

**COLORADO** - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will require all aftermarket catalytic converters sold and installed in the state to meet standards set by the California Air Resources Board. Originally approved by the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission in 2018, the new rule gave Coloradans and auto shops more than two years to prepare for the requirements. Colorado is one of only four states in the country to adopt these environmentally-friendly regulations on aftermarket catalytic converters. Converters that meet the higher standard reduce emissions more successfully than other converters, and Colorado's aftermarket catalytic converter rule is part of the state's broader objective to minimize air pollution and slash emissions from the transportation sector. A catalytic converter is a part found on the vast majority of modern vehicles and reduces emissions by converting toxic gases into less-harmful byproducts. Vehicle owners can install an aftermarket catalytic

converter once they've passed the vehicle's emissions warranty, which, for new vehicles, is set by federal law at eight years or 80,000 miles (15 years or 150,000 miles for partial zero emission vehicles). Owners of auto shops can determine if a converter is compliant with the new standards by checking the catalog provided by the manufacturer of the aftermarket converter or viewing an online listing of approved aftermarket converters at <https://ssl.arb.ca.gov/AftermarketParts/catalysts>. A noncompliant aftermarket catalytic converter may result in a failed emissions test, and consumers should check with their auto shop to ensure they are installing a compliant converter. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment can visit <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/environment/air-pollution/aftermarket-catalytic-converters> for more information. In addition, consumers or auto shop owners can send questions to [CDPHE\\_mobile@state.co.us](mailto:CDPHE_mobile@state.co.us) or call the department at 888-861-2646.

# UPDATE

and are currently being supported by Public Health during their isolation period. Active cases by county were as follows as of Dec. 7: Alamosa: 175 Conejos: 49 Costilla: 5 Mineral: 1 Rio Grande: 54 Saguache: 8 Thursday, Dec. 10 there will be free COVID-19 testing from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Blanca/Ft. Garland Community Center located at 17591 E. Highway 160 in Blanca, and from 1-3 p.m. at Centennial High School located at 14644 CO-159 in San Luis. Pre-registration is encouraged and can be done so by visiting <http://curative.com/sites/15462/walkup> Friday, Dec. 11 testing will take place in Conejos

**Continued from Page 1** — County in Manassa at the LDS Church located at 315 Main Street from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Pre-registration can be done by visiting <http://curative.com/sites/15460/walkup> According to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center on Dec. 7, Colorado continues to have a lower seven-day positivity moving average test rate of 12.17% which is lower than all neighboring states except Wyoming which dropped dramatically from 32.8% to 9.2% over the past week. Other neighboring positivity rates over the past week on Nov. 7 showed Kansas had a COVID-19 positivity rate of 46.6%, Utah 20.5%, Arizona 28.5%, Nebraska 12.2% and Oklahoma 13.4%. The World Health Organization two-week positivity goal is 5% or lower.

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# HOLIDAY

Continued from Page 1

creative. We look forward to seeing all of your decorations. Event Information: What: Parade of Lights Date: Dec. 18, 2020 Where: Upper Rio Grande School Bus Garage (1150 French Street), town of Del Norte Time: 5:30 p.m. meet up, tour starts at 6 p.m., fireworks at 7 p.m. Prizes: 1st and 2nd place prizes awarded to best home or business decorations; \$500 and \$250 respectively. 1st place prize of \$100 awarded to best car decoration. If you would like to participate but need help decorating, let the Chamber know. We will do our best to find individuals to (safely) help you! If you have questions we are available via text messaging at 1-833-455-0652, by phone at 719.657.9081 or by email at [chamber@delnortechamber.org](mailto:chamber@delnortechamber.org). **MONTE VISTA** - Then on Dec. 19 at 5:30 they hope to have the light parade but it will look a little different this year. Jennifer Becker who is organizing the event said that Unita Vance shared some creative ideas to keep the celebration alive. "Thank you Unita for your idea," said Becker

when she shared the plan at the last City Council meeting. Becker adding, "I was really distraught. I didn't want to cancel this thing completely. I really feel like we need some happiness in our lives right now." Becker went on to explain how they can do the parade socially distanced saying, "We're going to do what's called a 'parked parade.' Still going to take parade entries like we normally would but people would just park them in the assigned places all over town. Our thoughts are we'll start in the City Hall parking lot and direct people there to pick up a map." Participants can follow the map and drive around town to see all the floats. "You'll get a map with a star marking everywhere there is a float. My thoughts are I'll have a couple set up right there at Chapman park across from the Mormon temple to kind of get them started. Coop is getting involved this year so we will literally have people going all the way from Chapman park clear out to the Coop," said Becker. There is a lot of excitement that the floats will be able to be even more elaborate than in years past. Since the floats will not be mobile, participants will be able to create full scenes at their

spots around town. There will also be trophies given to the two best floats. Becker also sharing that even though there won't be a North Pole this year Santa will still be showing up and will be somewhere where he can wave to children from a distance. There will also be a box to collect children's letters to Santa. "No North Pole, but we're still trying to make it as fun as we possibly can for the kids. Still going to really push the house decorating contest. That's something else we can incorporate while people are driving around looking at floats." Becker also shared that they hope businesses will get into the spirit of things too and decorate their windows like last year. There will be prizes for the participating business and there will also be prizes for the top 3 houses that win the house decorating contest. Nothing in 2020 has been normal and it seems the holidays won't be either. But with a little creativity the community of Monte Vista is proving that this season can still be just as special. If you would like to enter the parade, business window decorating, or house decorating contest contact Jennifer Becker at: [becker8595@gmail.com](mailto:becker8595@gmail.com) or by phone at (719) 850-2709.

## Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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# SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

# Brown of Mosca elected to Colorado Farm Bureau board

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

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

and lead it into the future. The returning members of the board as well as the new faces stand ready to represent agriculture and ensure farmers and ranchers can continue to do what they do best, keeping our plates full."

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

"Farmers and ranchers are not only vital to the survival of their local communities, but agriculture is the second largest contributor to the state's economy. Without agriculture, Colorado is a very different place," says Currier. "This board of directors knows that. With their leadership Colorado Farm Bureau will continue to fight for farmers and ranchers and ensure that agriculture has a seat at the table locally, at the state Capitol and in Washington D.C."

The Colorado Farm Bureau board of directors consists of 14 members who represent 10 districts across Colorado as well as

the Young Farmer and Rancher Program and the Women's Leader-

ship Committee. The organization represents over 24,000 members

growing every kind of crop and livestock available in the state.



include Nathan Weathers, Yuma, Colorado; Charly Minkler, Ignacio, Colorado; Callie Hendrickson, Meeker, Colorado and David Brown, Mosca, Colorado.

"Colorado Farm Bureau has over 100 years of experience representing agriculture in Colorado," says Carlyle Currier, newly elected president of the organization. "I am excited for this new group to come together and build off of the history of this great organization

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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

**SOLD**

**Price Just Reduced!!**

• 1 bedroom • 1 bathroom • \$74,900

Adorable Park Model home in the River's Edge Mountain View RV Resort! Everything is included, all it needs is you! All furniture, appliances and pots and pans come with this cozy home that includes an enclosed sun room, storage shed and work bench! MLS#760432

57 Dennette Lane • South Fork

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**SOLD**

**Beautiful Home on the Range!**

3 bedroom • 3 bathroom • 1,808 sq. ft. • \$449,000

This meticulous, comfortable, well-maintained ranch style log home is located on 6+ acres with reach out and touch mountain views and moments from the Rio Grande National Forest. Open Great Room, Living, Dining, and Kitchen with wood floors and a beautiful stone fireplace. Wonderful split floor plan with a Master Bedroom on one side of the home and guest rooms on the other. Attached cement floor two car garage large enough for storage of four-wheelers, fishing gear, tools, and more. Large deck out back and fireplace ring sitting area, large covered front porch.

1104 Expedition drive • South Fork

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**SOLD**

**New Listing! Charming Family Home, Priced to Sell!**

4 bedroom • 2 bath • 1,850 sq. ft. • \$215,000

Comfortable family home with large balcony to enjoy your mountain views! Nice kitchen, stone fireplace, wood-burning stove and beautiful bathrooms! MLS #758665

198 Elm Drive • South Fork

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**SOLD**

**New Listing! Golf Course Living at its finest!**

3 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 2,097 sq. ft. • \$379,000

Stunning views in all directions with huge windows, luxurious master suite, rock propane fireplace, high-end Jenn Air appliances, custom cabinetry, large stone patio for entertaining, 2-car garage and so much more! Rio Grande Club Membership and Home Furnishings negotiable. MLS #767109

6827 Snead Ln • South Fork

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**UNDER CONTRACT**

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

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

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

852 Soaring Eagle Lane • South Fork

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Everything you could want from mountain living!

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

Custom-built home in River Island Ranch with a built in theater, 5 car heated garage and 2 car separate garage, screened-in porch, safe room, wet bar and much more! The yard has a sprinkler system and a fire pit, perfect for entertaining! POA includes access to fishing on the Rio Grande, road maintenance and snow removal. MLS #765728

104 Explorer Way • South Fork

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**SOLD**

**UNDER CONTRACT**

**Finely Crafted Mountain Home!**

• 2 Bedroom • 2 Bathroom • 2-car Garage • 1,388 sq. ft. • \$389,900

Delightful Ranch Style Mountain Home with 2 car garage and an additional detached cement floor garage/workshop. Nice size kitchen with custom cabinets containing large lazy Susans, Large Pantry and lots of storage. Open dining and large living area with large Sunny Bay window and beautiful mountain views. This kitchen is complete with refrigerator, cookstove, dishwasher and trash compactor. Large Laundry room with tons of storage. Living room with wood burning stove and additional heat source and home is well insulated throughout. Off the living room entry is a wonderful sitting porch. Perfect place to have that morning cup of coffee and watch the mule deer and wild turkeys!

MLS#772014 • 193 Whispering Pines Drive

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**UNDER CONTRACT**

**Majestic Mountain Home in Beaver Mountain Estates!**

• 5 bedrooms • 5 bathrooms • 2,912 sq. ft. • 3-car heated garage • \$745,900

A beautiful home with charm and elegance in Beaver Mountain Estates!

This Home borders the national forest with beautiful mountain views from the wrap around front deck and outdoor propane fireplace with additional large rear covered porch. Large living room with Lennox propane fireplace and ETF electrical heating that can heat the home and dining area with custom light fixture with dining seating 10 for all your entertaining. Custom Kitchen with two sinks and two dishwashers for quick clean up after entertaining with beautiful Knotty Alder wood cabinets and new refrigerator and microwave. This home is beautifully hand troweled on ceilings/walls with tall ceilings and tall solid wood interior doors and Pella double-hung windows for easy cleaning. This home comes mostly furnished with additional tools and the following equipment in the garage including snow blower, air compressor, battery chargers all this and more with beautiful mountain views with Rocky Mountain Elks and other wildlife right out your back door.

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# Colorado Parks and Wildlife seeking applications for projects that will restore wetland habitat

**COLORADO** - Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is seeking applications for wetland and riparian restoration, enhancement, and creation projects to support its Wetlands Program Strategic Plan <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/Wetlands.aspx>

CPW will award up to \$2.5 million in funds from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and Colorado waterfowl stamps to projects in Colorado that support the Wetlands Program Strategic Plan's two main goals:

1. Improve the distribution and abundance of ducks, and opportunities for public waterfowl hunting.
2. Improve the status of declining or at-risk species.

The Colorado Wetlands for Wildlife Program is a voluntary, collaborative, and incentive-based program to restore, enhance and create wetlands and riparian areas in Colorado. Funds are allocated annually to the program and projects are recommended for funding by a CPW committee with final approval by the Director.

"Wetlands are so important," said CPW Wetlands Program Coordinator Brian Sullivan. "They comprise less than two percent of Colorado's landscape but provide benefits to over 75% of the species in the state, including waterfowl and several declining species. Since the beginning of major settlement activities, Colorado has lost half of its wetlands."

Since its inception in 1997, the Colorado Wetlands Program has preserved, restored, enhanced or created almost 220,000 acres of wetlands and adjacent habitat and more than 200 miles of streams. The partnership is responsible for almost \$40 million in total funding devoted to wetland and riparian preservation in Colorado.

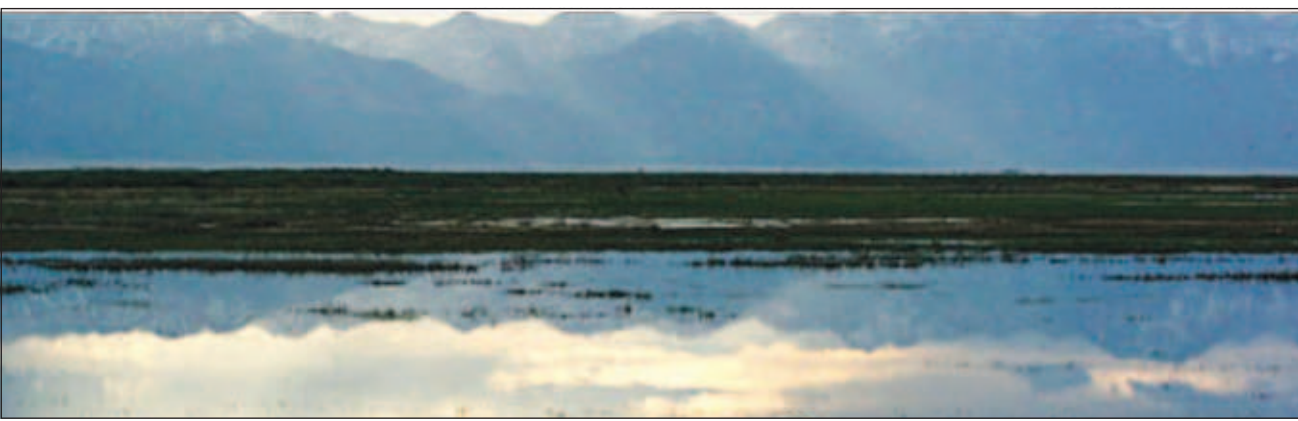
The application deadline for this year's funding is January 27, 2021. Visit <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/WetlandsProjectFunding.aspx> for more information and an application form.



**Waterfowl Conservation Priority Areas**  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Legend:  
 - San Luis Valley - Arizona/New Mexico Plateau Ecoregion  
 - North Park - Sagebrush Parks Ecoregion  
 - Front Range Reservoirs and Streams  
 - High Abundance Playa Areas  
 - Floodplain Areas

Scale: 0 5 10 20 30 40 50 Miles  
 Last Updated: March, 2014  
 GIS Unit



# Holiday Coloring Contest



**Jim's Tire Store**  
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*Happy Holidays!*  
**LIGHT SHINE MUSIC**  
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 589.8900 • 514 La Veta Ave. • Alamosa  
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**Stone's Farm Supply, Inc.**  
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## CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: Valley Publishing  
 P.O. Box 607  
 Monte Vista, CO 81144  
*Merry Christmas and Good Luck!*

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



# 2020 Cookies & Carols

An Old  
Fashioned  
Holiday Recipe  
& Song Book



28<sup>th</sup> Collector's Edition

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## JINGLE bells

J. Pierpont

1. — Dash - ing thro' the snow In a one horse o - pen sleigh, —  
2. A day or two a - go I — thought I'd take a ride, And

O'er the fields we go, — Laugh - ing all the way; —  
soon Miss Fan - nic Bright Was seat - ed by my side; The

Bells on bob - tail ring, — Mak - ing spir - its bright, What  
horse was lean and lank, Mis - for - tune seem'd his lot, He

fun it is to ride and sing A sleigh - ing song to - night!  
got in - to a drift - ed bank, And we, we got up - sot.

**CHORUS**  
Jin - gle, bells! jin - gle, bells! Jin - gle all the way! Oh, what fun it is to ride

In a one - horse o - pen sleigh! In a one - horse o - pen sleigh!



## Eggnog Fudge

Makes 64 pieces

- 3 cups (750 ml) granulated sugar
- 1 cup (250 ml) eggnog
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) corn syrup
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) butter
- 1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) chopped walnuts

- Glaze**
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) semisweet chocolate chips
  - 1 tsp (5 ml) butter

**PREPARATION:** Grease sides of large heavy saucepan. Add sugar; stir in eggnog and corn syrup. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until boiling.

Cook, stirring only if necessary to prevent sticking, until candy thermometer reaches soft-ball stage of 238°F (115°C), and when 1/2 tsp (2ml) syrup dropped into very cold water forms soft ball that flattens on removal from water.

Immediately remove from heat; let cool to lukewarm, 110°F (43°C), without stirring. Using wooden spoon, beat in butter and vanilla, beating until very thick and no longer shiny.

Quickly stir in nuts. Spread in greased 8-inch (21) square cake pan. Tip: If fudge sets too quickly before spreading in pan, reheat gently over low heat just until soft enough to spread.

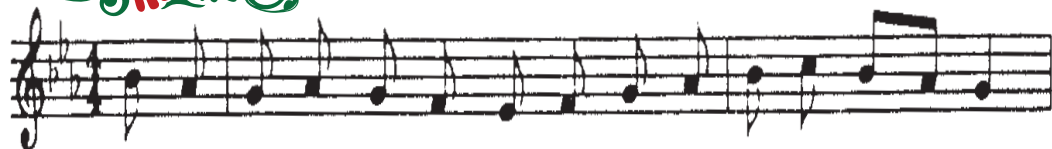
**Glaze:** Melt together chocolate chips and butter. Drizzle over fudge. Score into 1-inch (2.5 cm) squares while warm; let cool completely and cut into squares.

Fudge can be layered between waxed paper in airtight container and stored for up to two weeks.

# WE WISH YOU

## a merry christmas

Willys Peck Kent



We wish you a mer - ry Christ-mas and a hap - py New \_\_\_ Year,



With a pock - et - ful of mon - ey and a cel - lar - ful of beer,



And a good fat pig to last you all the year!



## Holiday Tree-Shaped Cheese Ball

Prep Time: 20 minutes  
Total Time: 4 hr 20 minutes

### Ingredients

3 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened  
4 cups shredded Cheddar cheese (16 ounces)  
2 tablespoons basil pesto  
1 tablespoon grated onion  
1/4 teaspoon yellow mustard  
Red pepper sauce  
1/4 cup finely chopped parsley or cilantro  
1/4 cup pine nuts or sliced almonds  
2 tablespoons chopped red bell pepper  
Piece of lemon peel, if desired  
Assorted crackers, if desired

### Directions

Stir together cream cheese and Cheddar cheese; divide in half. Stir pesto into 1 half; stir onion, mustard and 2 or 3 drops pepper sauce into other half. Cover each half; refrigerate about 4 hours or until firm enough to shape. Place cheese mixtures on cookie sheet. Shape each half into cone shape to look like a pine tree. If desired, wrap each tree, label and freeze up to 1 month. Twelve hours before serving, remove trees from freezer. Thaw in wrapper in refrigerator. Just before serving, roll trees in parsley, pressing it evenly onto trees. Press pine nuts onto trees in string form for garland. Press bell pepper pieces onto trees for ornaments. Top each tree with star shape cut from lemon peel. Serve with crackers.



## Fruited Brazil Nut Loaves

Makes two loaves

1 1/2 cups (375 ml) dried figs  
1 1/2 cups (375 ml) dried apricots  
1 cup (250 ml) candied pineapple  
1/2 cup (125 ml) candied cherries  
1/2 cup (125 ml) chopped preserved ginger  
1 cup (250 ml) all-purpose flour  
1 cup (250 ml) packed brown sugar  
1 tsp (5 ml) baking powder  
3 cups (750 ml) whole shelled Brazil nuts  
4 eggs  
1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla

**PREPARATION:** Line two 8- x 4-inch (1.5 l) loaf pans with foil; grease well and set aside.

Pour boiling water over figs and apricots; let stand for 5 minutes. Drain and chop into large pieces. Cut pineapple into chunks. Halve cherries.

In large bowl, mix together figs, apricots, pineapple, cherries, ginger, and Brazil nuts. Stir together flour, sugar, and baking powder; add to fruit mixture and toss to mix.

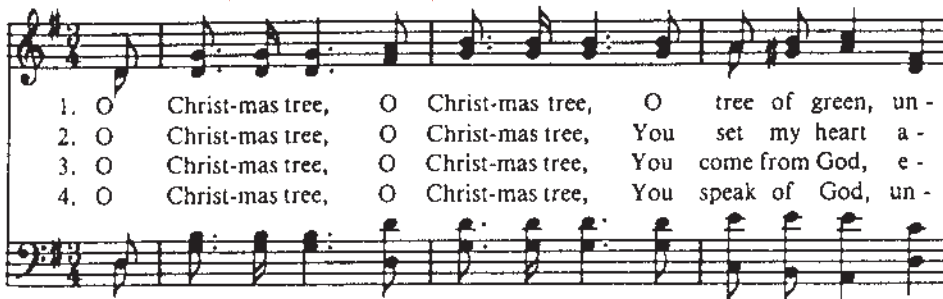
In separate bowl, beat eggs well; stir in vanilla. Add to fruit mixture and mix well; spoon into prepared pans. Bake in 350°F (180°C) oven for 1 hour or until cake tester inserted into centre comes out clean.

Let cool in pans on racks for 10 minutes; remove from pans and let cool completely on racks.

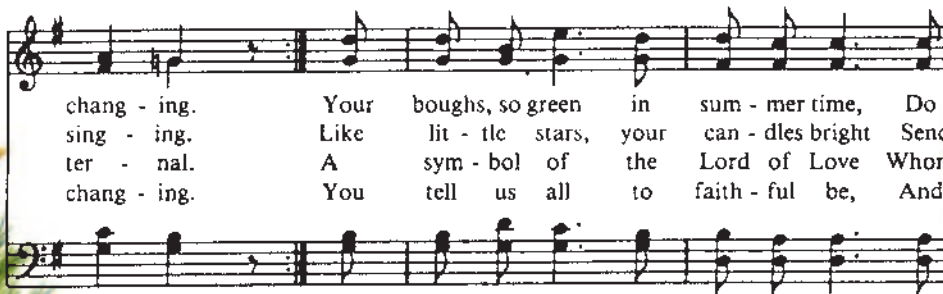
Loaves can be wrapped well and refrigerated for up to two weeks.

# O CHRISTMAS tree

German



1. O Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, O tree of green, un -  
2. O Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, You set my heart a -  
3. O Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, You come from God, e -  
4. O Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, You speak of God, un -



chang - ing. Your boughs, so green in sum - mer time, Do  
sing - ing. Like lit - tle stars, your can - dles bright Send  
ter - nal. A sym - bol of the Lord of Love Whom  
chang - ing. You tell us all to faith - ful be, And



brave the snow of win - ter - time. O Christ-mas tree, O  
to the world a won - drous light. O Christ-mas tree, O  
God to man sent from a - bove. O Christ-mas tree, O  
trust in God e - ter - nal - ly. O Christ-mas tree, O



Christ - mas tree, O tree of green, un - chang - ing.  
Christ - mas tree, You set my heart a - sing - ing.  
Christ - mas tree, You come from God, e - ter - nal.  
Christ - mas tree, You speak of God, un - chang - ing.



# Del Norte 2020 Tour of Lights

Presented by the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce

## Light Decorations

Light up your homes and businesses to spread cheer and for a chance to win prizes. Only participants outside of town limits need to register through the Chamber website. You must have decorations up and lit by the night of 12/16. Chamber members will include all lit homes and businesses as participants. Prizes: 1st - \$500 — 2nd - \$250

## Santa-Guided Tour Around Del Norte

Santa will be your tour guide, taking everyone through town showing off this year's light decoration participants. 1st place prize for best decorated car is \$100. You do not have to decorate your car to participate in the tour. Cars will line up at 5:30 at the Del Norte Bus Garage (1150 French St.) and the tour will begin at 6pm.

**DEL NORTE BANK**  
 BLUE • LOCAL • BANK

**VISIT DEL NORTE FOR THE FIREWORKS!**  
 FRIDAY, DEC. 18 AT 7P.M.

*Be sure to catch the Tour of Lights*

**719-657-3376**  
 MEMBER FDIC

**DIRTY BITS Soapery**

728 GRAND AVE  
 KEEPIN' YOUR DIRTY BITS CLEAN  
 WWW.DIRTYBITSSOAPERY.COM

## Fireworks

After the town lights tour, find a parking space and settle in for the fireworks show! Fireworks will be launched by the white "D" on Lookout Mountain. They will be the most visible on the east side of town. Fireworks will start at 7pm

**December 18, 2020 | Tour @ 6 p.m. • Fireworks @ 7 p.m.**

# WHILE SHEPHERDS watched

Nahum Tate Este

1. White shep-herds watched their flocks by night, All seat-ed on the ground,  
 2. "Fear not," said he for might-y dread Had seized their trou-bled minds  
 3. "To you in Dav-id's town this day, Is born of Dav-id's line  
 4. "The heav'n-ly Babe you there shall find, To hu-man view dis-played,  
 5. Thus spake the se-raph and forth-with Ap-pear'd a shin-ing throug

The an-gel of the Lord came down, And glo-ry shone a-round.  
 "Glad tid-ings of great joy I bring, To you and all man-kind.  
 The Sav-ior, who is Christ the Lord, And this shall be the sign.  
 All mean-ly wrapp'd in swath-ing bands And in a man-ger laid."  
 Of an-gels, prais-ing God, who thus Ad-dress'd their joy-ful song:

## Create a delicious one-pot meal for a crowd

Warm, hearty meals, including stews, casseroles, soups, and chilis, make for great comfort foods when temperatures drop. Another advantage to these types of meals is they can easily be expanded to serve extended family. Also, when prepared using a slow cooker, these meals can be easily transported to a friends' potluck or relative's home.



Beloved for their turn-it-on-and-forget-it convenience, slow cookers allow cooks to start meals in the morning and then return home at night and have dinner ready and waiting. Busy working families may find that the convenience of slow cookers is unparalleled.

This recipe for "Creamy Ham 'n' Broccoli" from "Taste of Home Casseroles, Slow Cooker & Soups" (Taste of Home Books) is ideal for a cool fall or winter evening. It's a delicious meal to come home to after a busy day and also a great way to make use of leftover ham from a previous meal, such as a family gathering during the holiday season.

### Creamy Ham 'n' Broccoli

- Serves 6 to 8
- 3 cups cubed fully cooked ham
  - 1 package (10 ounces) frozen chopped broccoli, thawed
  - 1 can (10 3/4 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
  - 1 jar (8 ounces) cheese sauce
  - 1 can (8 ounces) sliced water chestnuts, drained
  - 1 1/4 cups uncooked instant rice
  - 1 cup milk
  - 1 celery rib, chopped
  - 1 medium onion, chopped
  - 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon pepper
  - 1/2 teaspoon paprika

In a 3-quart slow cooker, combine all of the ingredients except the paprika. Cover and cook on high for 2 to 3 hours, or until the rice is tender. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving. Sprinkle with paprika.

# AWAY IN *a manger*



German

1. A - way in a man - ger no crib for His  
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the poor Ba - by

bed, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, laid down His sweet  
wakes, But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He

head. The stars in the sky, — looked down where He  
makes; I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look down from the

lay. The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep in the hay.  
sky, And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.



## Traditional Roast Turkey

A 13-15 lb. (6-7 kg) turkey serves 6

- 1 turkey, with giblets
- 1 onion, coarsely chopped
- A sprig of thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 4 oz. (113 g) salted butter
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

- Lemon and Herb stuffing
- 2 eggs
  - 4 oz. plus 1 tablespoon (130 g) butter, melted
  - A handful of fresh parsley leaves
  - 1 teaspoon (5 ml) chopped fresh lemon thyme
  - Freshly grated zest and juice of 1 unwaxed lemon
  - 4 1/2 cups (1.08 litres) fresh white bread crumbs
  - Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

- Chestnut stuffing
- 14 oz. (392 g) fresh chestnuts
  - 1 cup (240 ml) milk
  - 4 oz. (112 g) sausages or sausage meat
  - 2 tablespoons (30 ml) olive oil
  - 6 oz. (168 g) turkey liver, chopped
  - 1 onion, chopped
  - 2 oz. (56 g) fatty bacon, finely chopped
  - 1 tablespoon (30 ml) chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley or marjoram
  - Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

### Lemon and herb stuffing:

Put the eggs, butter, parsley, lemon thyme, and lemon zest and juice in a food processor and blend to a smooth purée. Put the bread crumbs in a bowl, pour over the egg mixture, and mix well. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

### Chestnut stuffing:

Cook fresh chestnuts in a saucepan of boiling water for about 3 minutes to soften the shells. Peel them while still hot, wearing rubber gloves. Put the peeled fresh chestnuts in a saucepan, cover them with the milk, and simmer gently until softened, about 30 minutes to 1 hour, depending on how fresh they are. Strain them if necessary, then weigh out 7 oz. (196 g) and put in a bowl. Crumble the cooked chestnuts with your fingers and use the sausage meat to bind them. Heat the oil in a skillet, add onion, liver, and bacon and fry gently until the liver is firm. Stir in the parsley and cook until the mixture begins to brown. Add to the chestnuts with some salt and pepper.

Turkey: to make a stock, the day before put the giblets, minus the liver but with the neck chopped in half, in saucepan. Add the onion, thyme, and bay leaf, cover with water and bring to a boil, removing any foam. Reduce the heat and simmer for 2 hours, then strain. Taste and, if necessary, simmer for a little longer to reduce and strengthen the flavour.

The next day, wipe out the neck area and cavity of the turkey with a damp cloth and lightly season the inside with salt and pepper. Spoon the lemon and herb stuffing into the body cavity and the chestnut stuffing into the neck cavity, allowing plenty of room for them to expand. This is particularly important for the neck stuffing.

Put half the butter in a saucepan and melt gently. Spread the remaining butter all over the skin of the turkey. Soak the cheesecloth in the melted butter and drape over the bird, with a double layer covering the drumsticks.

Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Put the bird in a large roasting pan in the middle of the oven. Roast for the calculated time according to size, except that the oven temperature must be raised to 400°F (200°C) and the cheesecloth covering removed for the last 30 minutes in order to crisp the skin. Remove the turkey from the oven, cover with a tent of aluminum foil, and leave in a warm place to rest while you prepare your side dishes.

Using oven mitts, tip out any free juices from the cavity, then lift the turkey onto a serving platter. Pour off the turkey juices from the pan, preferably into a gravy separator or pitcher to be able to lift off the fat, then reheat with the seasoned stock. Serve as is or for a traditional gravy, pour juices into a pan, thicken with a small amount of flour and cook well, stirring to prevent burning. Reserve extra gravy in a Thermos for second helpings. Serve with roasted potatoes, roasted parsnips, candied yams, bacon rolls, cranberry relish, and Brussels sprouts.

# DECK THE *halls*



WORDS TRADITIONAL

OLD WELSH AIR

1. Deck the halls with boughs of hol - ly  
2. See the blaz - ing Yule be - fore us, Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
3. Fast a - way the old year pass - es,

'Tis the sea - son to be jol - ly,  
Strike the harp and join the cho - rus, } Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
Hail the new, ye lads and lass - es,

Don we now our gay ap - par - el,  
Fol - low me in mer - ry meas - ure, } Fa la la la la la la la la.  
Sing we joy - ous all to - geth - er,

Troll the an - cient Yule - tide car - ol,  
While I tell of Yule - tide treas - ure, Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
Heed - less of the wind and weath - er,

