

## Shorts

### Center Conservation District annual meeting

**CENTER** - The Center Conservation District will be holding their annual meeting via Zoom on Dec. 1, 2020, at 6 p.m. During this meeting, the District will hold their 2021 Budget Hearing, Long Range Plan Approval and will be reviewing the District's activities for 2020, along with general business. If you are interested in attending the annual meeting, please contact Nikita Christensen, District Manager at [centercd1@gmail.com](mailto:centercd1@gmail.com).



### Del Norte will soon have electric vehicle charging station

**DEL NORTE** - Electric vehicle owners will soon be 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 Del Norte post office. A grant from Colorado Energy Office will provide funds to help defray equipment and installation costs. Electric vehicles are rapidly becoming more popular. Energy savings are substantial over a

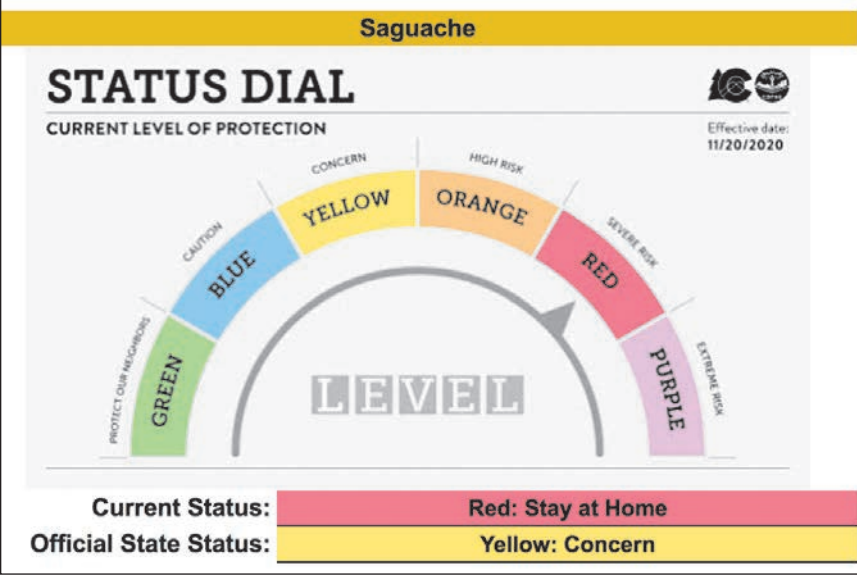
## COVID-19 cases could force county to raise risk level

Commissioners waiting on test results

By **PATRICK SHEA**

**SAGUACHE** — As of Nov. 24, Saguache County qualified to increase COVID-19 risk assessment from “Level Yellow” to “Level Orange” based on two of three metrics defined by the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE). On Nov. 24, Linda Smith with San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership stated that although the Saguache County “Dial” measures indicate a risk level of red, the “Official” status is still yellow pending further discussion with the County’s Board of Health and

Please see **LEVEL** on Page 5A



Saguache	
Two Week Incidence Rate (per 100,000)	Stay at Home
Two Week Average Positivity	Stay at Home
Minimum Testing Rate (per 1000)	Protect our Neighbors
Regional Hospitalization Trend	Increasing

Although the Saguache County “Dial” measures indicate a risk level of red, the “Official” status is still yellow as of Nov. 24.

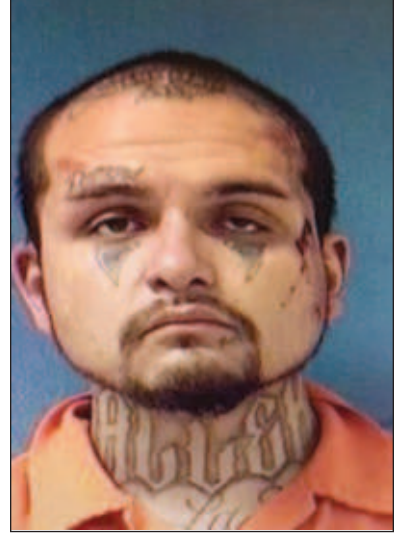
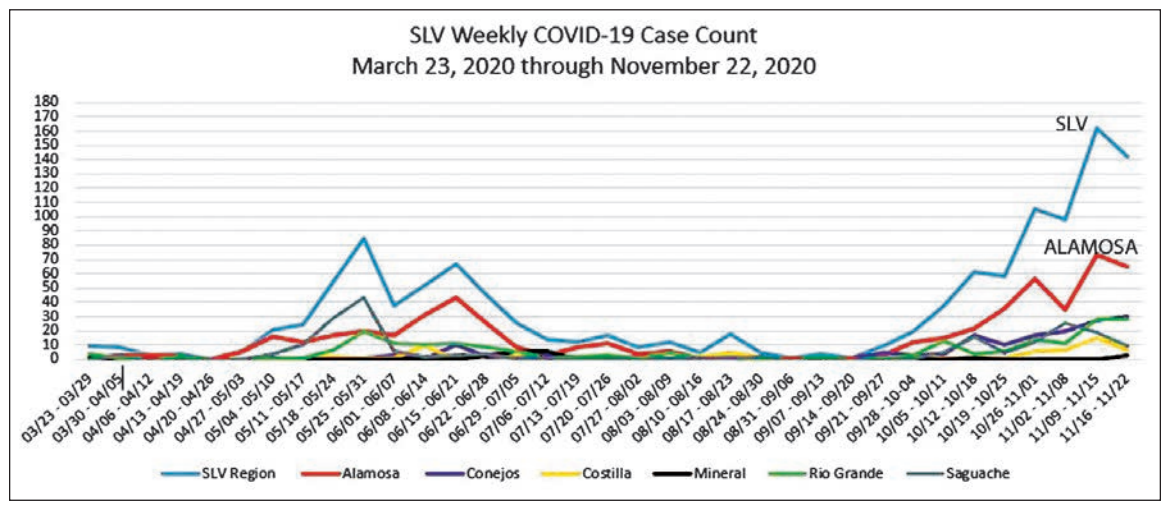
## 1 in 49 Coloradoans currently COVID-19 infectious

By **TREY SPAULDING**

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** – Nov. 24, The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Colorado School of Public Health released a report that shows infections and hospitalizations are

continuing to increase across the state. “The model estimates that currently one out of every 49 residents in the state is infected with SARS-CoV-2, by far the highest prevalence since the virus arrived in Colorado.” Governor Polis encouraged Colorado residents

to stay at home for Thanksgiving and only interact with members of the same household unless visitors were able to self-isolate for 10-14 days prior to the holiday. Nov. 17, San Luis Valley (SLV) Please see **COVID** on Page 7A



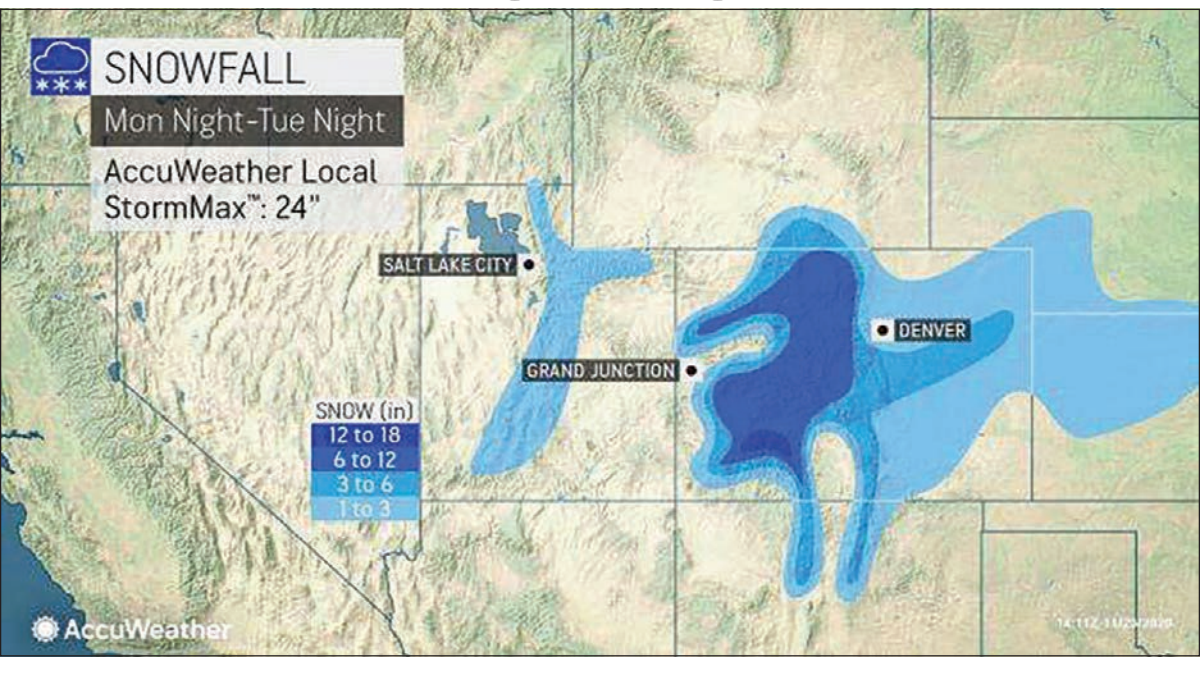
### Adre Baroz arrested in New Mexico

STAFF REPORT  
**CONEJOS COUNTY** – Nov. 19, 2020, Adre Baroz a Sanford. Please see **BAROZ** on Page 5A

## Snow to snarl Thanksgiving in Rockies

By **JAKE SOJDA, ACCUWEATHER METEOROLOGIST**

Severe thunderstorms will erupt across the southern Plains, while winterlike conditions unfold farther north. “Upper-level energy will moved through the West Monday, Nov. 23. Snow broke out Monday, Nov. 23, in the central Rockies as the system took shape, and became heavy at times. “Accumulating snow will pile up Colorado Rockies during Monday night.” A fresh 6-12 inches of snow is expected in much of the Colorado Rockies, with an AccuWeather Local StormMax™ of 24 inches. “The fresh powder will be a welcome sight and will come just in time to ski resorts in the region,” Storm said. Many of the Colorado ski resorts are slated to open this week.





# OBITUARIES

## Sister Josie Sanchez, 85

"I will sing forever of your love." Ps 89:1

Sister Josie Sanchez died peacefully Oct. 28, 2020. There is so much to tell about Sister Josie, her joy for life, her lifelong love for music, her playfulness, her creativity expressed in fun skits which she composed and directed, her life as a teacher and her life ministering to people in poverty. Sister Josie lived her life to the fullest.

Born on March 1, 1935, in Monte Vista, Colorado to Jose Pulidor Sanchez and Senida Sandoval Sanchez, Sister Josie was baptized Maria Richardita Fedelina. As the oldest, Josie took on many responsibilities caring for her siblings. She would say, "We didn't have much, but we always had each other." Sister Josie's call from God to become a sister was influenced by one of her teachers who helped her with translating English to Spanish for her parents.

In high school, Josie came to know the Benedictine sisters of Mount St. Scholastica. One of the sisters asked her if she wanted to be a sister- she said, "Yes, but I don't want to teach." God had other ideas. Josie entered Mount St. Scholastica in 1953 and made her final monastic profession in 1958. She taught kindergarten through middle school children, was a school principle and teacher for disabled students in Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Colorado for the next 40 years.

Teaching was a great joy for Sister Josie; so much so that after earning her BA in Elementary Education from Regis College, Denver, she completed a MA in Learning Disabilities from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley. She taught in the Huerfano in Walsenburg, CO as a special needs

teacher for eight years.

At the center of Sister Josie's life was her love for God and her commitment to the Benedictine way of life. She became one of the charter members of Benet Hill Monastery in Colorado Springs in 1965. She served the community as Assistant Prioress from 1991-1995 and then moved to Alamosa, CO for a new ministry, coordinating Christian Community Services.

This new ministry involved bringing church service groups from all over the country to do repairs and painting on the homes of the poor. Bringing young adults and teens together with the poor in her area was a ministry of compassion for Sister Josie. She recalled a Buddhist saying, "A generous heart, gentle speech and a life of service and compassion renews humanity."

In her later years, Sister Josie was the director of Benet Pines Retreat Center in the Black Forest. She also taught in Grand Junction for a while as a religion teacher for migrant families. She was again translating English to Spanish on behalf of the parents and prepared the children to receive the sacraments. Her life had come full circle.

Music was a passion for Sister Josie; she cantered at the Liturgy of the Hours, Sunday Eucharistic celebrations, sang in choirs, in Benet Hill Academy's Dad and Daughter shows and other community celebrations. One of her favorite songs was Eris Tu which she sang at a community celebration only a few months ago.

Sister Josie is preceded in death by her parents, her brother Tommy Sanchez and her sister Ruth Garcia. She is survived by her sister Theresa Sanchez, brothers Richard Sanchez and



Ted Sanchez and by numerous nieces and nephews.

Sister Josie was a woman steeped in life and love. Her deep love for God carried her through life's difficulties and filled her with joyful song. Sharing that joy through music was her gift to all who knew her. If there are any words that can capture Sister Josie's life, they would be, "Still singing a joyful song, now in the choirs of heaven." She will be greatly missed by her community and her family that she loved so deeply.

By Ana Cloughly, OSB

## OBITUARY POLICY

Valley Publishing charges a flat fee of \$30 for each obituary published. Pending arrangements or death notices run for no charge.

## Gregory E. Brink 64

Gregory E. Brink passed away November 13, 2020 after a long 2 ½ years battle after a car accident.

Greg graduated from Monte Vista High School in 1974, he attended one year of college at Adam State University. He went into the Navy for six years and serviced on the USS Tripoli as an Electronics Warfare System Technicians. After the military he moved to Phoenix, AZ and worked as a supervisor for 13 years making computer boards, he then went to Bard Co for four years as a project manager manufacturing heart patches and artificial blood vessels. He ended his career at the State of Arizona as a supervisor in the AHCCCS department for 17 years.

Survivors include his ex-partner John Alspach, his brothers and sisters Teresa Bretton of

Arlington, TX, Richard Brink (Judy), Karen Sawyer, Phyllis Ward of Monte Vista, CO and Ted Brink, Doris Brink of Phoenix, AZ. Seven nieces and nephews, 11 grand nieces and nephews, and 1 great niece and great nephew.

He is proceed in death by his parents Walter and Dorothy Brink, his sister Mary Lu Kroll, brother Donald Brink and nephew Steve Lain.

He will be laid to rest in the Monte Vista Cemetery, Greg requested no funeral service.

Greg's love of history, dramas, murder mystery and sci-fi made PBS one of his favorite channels to watch. If you would like to donate to PBS in his memory you can go online to azpbs.org or send a check to: KAET PBS 555 N Central Ave. Suite 500 Phoenix, AZ 85004

This charge affects funeral homes, as well as family or other representatives, that directly place obituaries. All paid obituaries will continue to be published on our website(s) for no additional fee.

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publishing an obit, corrections will be made and the obit will be rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed. Obituaries can be emailed to: montevistanews@gmail.com or call 719-852-3531 for more information.

## STATION

Continued from Page 1A

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, shop at local businesses, 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 eight 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>

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.

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## We Have Lost Our Minds

It does appear that we are about to enter into a new round of restrictions due to the dreaded COVID-19 virus. The elected among us have decided that they know best for everyone independent of the Constitution and common sense and are implementing Draconian rules all across our great land.

Now Ol' Dutch is a true believer in the seriousness of the situation and have lost several friends to this disease so it's as real as real can be. But, the rush to react instead of acting has led to some real foolishness on the part of government officials everywhere. Miss Trixie's party of choice just loves to restrict people's activities with new rules and lately we have seen that taken to the extreme. Sometimes I wonder if they sit around and make up regulations just to see how far the American people will let them go before rebelling.

A lot of states have implemented limited social distance guidelines such as bars closing at 10 p.m. This has really helped Ol' Dutch with his life as now it appears, I can go out and about as long as I am home by 10 as that is when the dreaded virus virus rampant in the streets.

Eating out has its own set of rules such as only allowing 25% of seating capacity at any one time but I worry about that as most people working in those places probably didn't pass higher math and may let in one extra person thereby inviting in a plague of unbelievable proportions to sweep through the community at large-or small?

I had told you all that Alaska was on my fishing list soon and of course I will fly there. It must be really safe to fly as all the way to the seats a person has to stay six feet away from your neighbors, wash your hands and wear a mask. These are all enforced with wild threats from the airlines until you actually take your seat three across in rows and six inches apart. Safe there at last from any virus.

Of course, the safest place in the nation to be right now is your local Big Box store. At least most of them. You are free to mingle in numbers and grope and grab stuff that has been handled by God knows who with God knows what disease. Unless you are in some towns where even they are restricted and you cannot buy carpet, furniture, flooring, garden supplies and paint all to protect you from yourself, I guess.

I don't know about you but anytime there is work to be done



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

such as painting or garden work or putting together the pasteboard furniture from The Wal-Mart, Ol' Dutch's friends disappear like a prairie dog being chased by a red-tailed hawk.

And nothing really twists my tail like those same fat cat governors threatening us with life and limb then they themselves are seen out and about without a mask, eating with large groups and generally ignoring the rules. But that is how it is with Kings and Queens. The rules are for the peons.

From Prince Charles to movie stars to politicians, they have scolded us for using fossil fuels while globe-trotting on big jets and have generally disobeyed most rules they so adamantly created for us. It's gotten so bad that now most of us just ignore them and go about our lives best we can.

Ol' Dutch wears a mask at least out in public and even if it helps 10% that's more than nothing. Miss Trixie says that it does help my appearance at least and I am not scaring small children at the local grocery. So, there is that I guess.

With all that said, I will be adhering to the CDC recommendations for social distancing during Thanksgiving as it does seem that the virus spreads fastest at indoor events such as family gatherings and church and I do not like people all that well anyway. And it allows you to eliminate Uncle Joe from your invites without hurt feelings. I hope you keep safe, too, and that goodness comes to our country soon.

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



## LETTER

### A letter to the Off family

To the editor,  
It sure does not take much effort to acknowledge a job well done. I first knew of the OFF family when they surfaced during the new Rio Grande Hospital construction. We always devoted some time to hear our leader (Doctor Norman Haug) tell us of his dream. You see, he always said all we needed was a miracle to make his dream come a reality. My memory tells me the Off family had offered to participate in the project. At the meeting of the announcement, a teardrop made its way to every board member along with the smile of the

year from our leader.  
Of course, our new leader, Arlene Harms, continued the good work after his passing with another donation for the new clinic from the Off family. "And now this," Gateway Park. I see in the paper the Offs enter again! Only this time the entire Off family appeared on the scene. The entire people of the San Luis Valley and folks of Del Norte should be forever grateful of their donation of both projects. The only thing I see lacking is a plaque to tell the future generation of what took place. You see, the years go by and too soon

we forget.  
I guess it is what people do when they love their town and home and want to leave a "legacy"  
The entire San Luis Valley should be grateful to have a hospital for the entire west end of the Valley. I can tell you; our family has used the service more times than I want to tell. Please accept our thanks and appreciation for a job well done.

*Ray and Colette Skeff  
Monte Vista*

This letter truly belongs in the OFF Family Archives.



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# Six-man football, MVS wins 38-27

BY PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE — Cowboys and Indians from Moffat and Saguache joined forces to finish their football season with a 38-27 home victory over the Cotopaxi Pirates at Mountain Valley School Nov. 21.

The game gave players a chance to compete during an unusual 2020 Southwest Conference 6-man football season. Following a rise in COVID-19 cases in Saguache during early October, MVS transitioned to remote learning and canceled their Oct. 26 game. This put the Indians out of the playoff picture, but the desire to play didn't go away.

With a 2-3 record and no shot at postseason play, the Cotopaxi Pirates welcomed the chance to battle again this season. Facing MVS in a neutral conference game was almost like a playoff contest. The Indians won four decisive victories and only lost to Sierra Grande, a 32-13 defeat Nov. 14.

Superintendent Travis Garoutte provided play-by-play commentary for the crowd and repeated reminders for the wear masks on campus. Athletic director Larry Hunt dispersed fans that clustered too much, and Principal Kathy Hill circled the track to maintain social distancing (and watch action from different angles).

The Indians created a welcoming environment for their Fremont County visitors, perhaps too accommodating for the players on the field to start the game. The Pirates put up 21 points before the home side remembered it was

Parent Appreciation Day. On the ground and in the air, the Mountain Valley offense started a scoring spree



Hit long before the ball arrived, MVS Junior Tristan Martinez (30) pulls down one of his six receptions against Cotopaxi Nov. 21.

in the second quarter. Indian Senior Salvador Vigil carried the ball for a touchdown, assisted on a tackle and rushed for 52 and tossed 247 for 299 yards. Almost half of Vigil's passes landed in the arms of Junior Dylan Wingate.

Wingate finished the game with 121 receiving yards, four touchdowns, one point conversion, a defended pass and nine tackles.

Fellow MVS Junior Tristan Martinez rushed 11 times for 62 yards (as well as one extra point conversion), 36 yards of receiving on six catches and a 10-yard run following an interception.

Some fans watched from their vehicles, but dozens lined the sidelines and spaced themselves in the bleachers with roughly 38 on the

north side of the field and 40 or 50 in the stands (and on the playground equipment).



Salvador Vigil (3) scores for MVS with his 15-yard touchdown run against Cotopaxi in Saguache Nov. 21.



Mountain Valley Junior Dylan Wingate (1) celebrates his fourth touchdown reception for the afternoon against Cotopaxi Nov. 21.

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# BAROZ

Continued from Page 1A

Colorado, man wanted in connection with the human remains located in Conejos County was arrested at a motel in Gallup, New Mexico, at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020.

Members of the Colorado Springs Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), who were assisting the Alamosa Police Department in

## Forensic Anthropologist confirms three human remains in Conejos County

the search for the fugitive, located Adre Baroz (DOB: 10/28/1994) AKA Psycho in Gallup, New Mexico on Thursday afternoon.

Baroz was taken into custody without incident and will be transported to the McKinley County Detention Center in Gallup, New Mexico. Baroz is facing charges in Colorado of First Degree Homicide, First Degree Assault and Second Degree Kidnapping.

The warrant remains sealed; therefore, no additional information is available.

Baroz faces no-bond charges in Colorado of First-Degree Homicide, First Degree Assault and Second Degree Kidnapping. He has signed papers agreeing to be extradited to Colorado.

Deputy Jail Warden Steve Siversmith said Baroz has been a quiet inmate and will be headed back to the San Luis Valley in local custody at press time.

Alamosa Police Chief Ken Anderson said the public's help was needed locating him, since he was considered armed and extremely dangerous.

On Nov. 10 the Conejos County Sheriff's office requested assistance from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to assist them in executing a search warrant for a property near Las Sauces in Conejos County. The search warrant was for an unrelated matter having to do with stolen equipment and stolen vehicles. During this search they discovered human

remains on the property.

On Nov. 13, a local law enforcement task force was formed and a second search warrant was issued for a second property in close proximity to the first property they had previously searched. Additional human remains were also found on the second property. The property owners are not currently

living at these properties.

A virtual press briefing concerning the investigation was held Wednesday, Nov. 18, with representatives from agencies assisting with this investigation. They include Conejos County Sheriff's Office, Saguache County Sheriff's Office, Alamosa Police Department, Monte Vista Police Department, and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

Monte Vista Police Chief George Dingfelder was one of the first to share during the news conference.

"Over the course of the last several months several of our agencies within the San Luis Valley have been investigating missing persons reports," said Chief Dingfelder making it clear that at this time they are not associating the human remains found with any of their missing persons investigations as it would be "irresponsible and complete speculation."

Dingfelder shared that the remains are being analyzed by a forensic anthropologist. "We have consulted with a forensic anthropologist who has confirmed that the remains are human. Please be patient with us. There is a lot to be done on identifying these remains," said Dingfelder. Sharing that due to the condition that they were in, it could take several weeks or months to identify the victims. At this point however the forensic anthropologist has been able to confirm that they have the remains of three victims. The cause of death is unknown at this time.

Mitigation" and counties with higher numbers are "Enforcing Stricter Public Health Orders."



One of the homesteads where local law enforcement found human remains.

# We support SHOP SMALL!



# LEVEL

Continued from Page 1A

decision making by CDPHE.

The three CDPHE metrics include new cases, the percentage of positive cases and the rise or fall in hospitalization rates. Although hospital visits remain low in Saguache County, new cases exceed 350 during a two-week period and the test positivity rate surpasses 15%.

During a conference call with CDPHE officials on Nov. 17, the board of commissioners did not commit to twisting the dial dashboard from Yellow to Orange despite a spike in cases. The population is low and the county is huge, so officials responded by conducting extensive testing in Center, Moffat, Saguache and Crestone. Lab results started trickling in over the weekend but may not be complete until Nov. 24. People who agreed to receive text responses will hear from Curative Inc. (the company that created and distributes the kits). Saguache County Public Health will also contact people.

Commissioners agreed to wait until all test results are in before making a decision to adjust the county's risk-level designation.

Some counties are "Currently in

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# Ski Hi construction progressing well



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Photo courtesy Defenders of Wildlife

## Wolves reconfirmed in Moffat County

**COLORADO** - On Nov. 3, Colorado voters passed *Proposition #114 - The Restoration of Gray Wolves*, a measure directing the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to develop a plan to reintroduce gray wolves west of the Continental Divide. The passage of Proposition 114 has led to increased interest in wolves in Colorado, specifically, the wolf pack previously confirmed to be present in Moffat County.

“As recently as last week we have confirmed the presence of wolves in Moffat County via pictures and recorded howling. Staff will continue monitoring the area as part of our overall wildlife management and conservation duties, and we will share information when we have updates or can help clear up any misunderstanding of wolf activity in Colorado,” said Prenzlou.

The public is urged to contact CPW immediately and fill out a report if they see or hear wolves or find evidence of any wolf activity in Colorado. The Wolf Sighting Form can be found on the CPW website.

At the Nov. 19, 2020, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting, the commission discussed their next steps in undertaking the planning efforts directed by Proposition 114. To stay updated on wolves in Colorado, visit the wolf management page of our website,

or sign up for the CPW eNews newsletter.

The gray wolf remains under the management control of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service until at least Jan. 4, 2021, when the proposed removal of Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections would take effect. At this time, CPW continues to monitor the area and take sighting reports and game camera images from citizens, sportspersons and others on the ground.

“The federal delisting discussion has caused some confusion in the state about the status of gray wolves in Colorado,” said Dan Prenzlou, director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife. “Regardless of the USFWS listing status, gray wolves remain

listed as a state endangered species, and killing a wolf in Colorado for any reason other than self-defense remains illegal.”

While protected under the ESA, killing a wolf in Colorado can result in federal charges, including a \$100,000 fine and a year in prison, per offense. As the gray wolf remains a state endangered species, severe penalties will still apply when CPW regains management control in the state.

Wolves are elusive in nature, making visual confirmation more challenging than some other species. Despite this, game camera images, as well as tracks and fur, have been detected in the field throughout the summer and into November.

**Wear a mask to protect others As they do for you. (It's a Christian thing.)**

*Paid for by a private citizen*

### 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.**

### Protect your child from measles



Measles is still common in many parts of the world. Unvaccinated travelers who get measles in other countries continue to bring the disease into the United States.

Give your child the best protection against measles with **two** doses of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine:



**1st dose at 12-15 months**

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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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# SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Nov. 16 and Nov. 22, 2020.

Staff fielded 53 calls to help people, address traffic and vehicle issues, manage property damage and monitor seven controlled burns and three active fires.

Thieves stole four vehicles; another was abandoned and one car crashed. Deputies conducted six traffic stops, three VIN inspections and one motorist assistance call. Staff also helped with two ambulance rides, one Search and Rescue operation, two welfare checks, support for a mental subject, response to two alarms and routine patrolling in Saguache.

Other calls included two protection order violations, two thefts, two separate cases of criminal mischief, trespassing, one burglary, one instance of suspicious activity, one assault, a civil dispute, disorderly conduct and transport to Rio Grande County Jail.



## COVID

Continued from Page 1A

positive known active cases grew by 99 from the previous week to 258 cases — an increase of 61.4%. Tuesday, Nov. 24 COVID-19 active cases decreased 4.3% to 247 with the two-week positivity rate dropping slightly from 11.35% to 10.84%. Statewide the positivity rate dropped from 11.6% to 10.1% over the past week.

Monday, Nov. 24, Rio Grande and Saguache counties remain at “level yellow” on the state’s COVID-19 dial. But Alamosa County is at “level red” and Conejos, Costilla and Mineral counties moved to “level orange” during the past seven days.

For weeks, Mineral County had zero positive tests or active cases and was at “level blue” — the lowest level on the dial. But on Nov. 24, San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership announced that Mineral County had 11 active cases and that Mineral County had moved from “level blue” to “level orange.”

On Nov. 24, Linda Smith with San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership stated that although the Saguache County “Dial” measures indicate a risk level of red, the “Official” status is still yellow pending further discussion with the County’s Board of Health and decision making by CDPHE.

The three CDPHE metrics include new cases, the percentage of positive cases and the rise or fall in hospitalization rates. Although hospital visits remain low in Saguache County, new cases exceed 350 during a two-week period and the test positivity rate surpasses 15%.

Among the SLV counties on Nov. 24 Rio Grande County had the lowest COVID-19 test positivity rate of 4.9%. Conejos County had a 16.8% positivity rate, Saguache County 16.7%, Alamosa County 14.5%, Costilla County 13.2% and Mineral County at 8.8%.

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

There were 247 known active cases in the SLV Nov. 24. “Active cases” means that the cases are confirmed positive

for COVID-19 and are currently being supported by Public Health during their isolation period. Cases by county were as follows:

- Alamosa: 116
- Conejos: 26
- Costilla: 18
- Mineral: 11
- Rio Grande: 58
- Saguache: 18

According to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center on Nov. 23, Colorado continues to have a lower seven-day positivity moving average test rate than its neighboring states with an 11% positivity rate. On Nov. 23 Kansas was at 33.3%, Wyoming 51.8%, Utah 18.9%, Arizona 18.7%, Nebraska 12.9% and Oklahoma 12.9%. The Colorado and World Health Organization two-week positivity goal is 5% or lower.

General guidelines for Level Orange are summarized below. There may be additional guidelines for specific sectors.

**Mitigation Strategies:**

General guidelines for Level Orange are summarized below (and with specific additional guidelines for specific sectors).

- **Public and private gatherings** are limited to no more than 10 individuals from no more than 2 households.
- **Face Coverings.** Face coverings are required for all individuals in public indoor settings unless the individual is 2 years of age or younger or cannot medically tolerate a face covering.
- **Capacity.** Most businesses, offices, and places of worship that have been operating at 50% capacity will shift down to 25% of capacity, or 50 persons per room, whichever is less and while maintaining proper distancing.

Specific Areas impacted by this Level Orange include:

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

- a. **Personal Gathering Size:** Up to 10 from no more than 2 households
- b. **P-12 Schools:** In-person, hybrid or remote as appropriate
- c. **Higher Education:** Remote or hybrid suggested, limited in person as appropriate, and other major strategies to increase social distancing
- d. **Places of worship and Life Rites:** Indoors Unseated Functions: 25% capacity or 50 (whichever is less)

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

Outdoors: 6ft between parties outdoors, per local zoning

**e. Restaurants:**

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

Outdoors: 6 feet between parties outdoors, per local zoning

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

g. **Offices:** 25% capacity (Here, remote work is highly encouraged)

h. **Bars:** Closed

i. **Gyms/Fitness:** 25% capacity, 25 indoors, or outdoors in groups less than 10

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

k. **Retail:** 25% capacity

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

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

n. **Events:**

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

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

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

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

Outdoor Guided Services 25% capacity or 10 people

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

Retail critical and noncritical open to 50% of capacity with curbside pickup and dedicated senior and high risk hours. No personal gatherings

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

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

Offices may operate at 10% capacity, with remote work preferred.

Gyms may operate at 10% capacity with up to 10 persons per room, reservations required.

Indoor events and entertainment are closed.

**NOTICE OF BUDGET**

NOTICE is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Monte Vista Fire Protection District for the ensuing year of 2021; a copy of such proposed budget has been posted at 118 Washington Street, Monte Vista, CO 81144 where the same is open for public inspection; such proposed budget will be considered at a regular meeting of the Monte Vista Fire Protection District on December 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at 401 Broadway Street, Monte Vista, Colorado. Any interested elector of Monte Vista Fire Protection District may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget.

No. 1584 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, November 26, 2020.

**NOTICE OF BUDGET**

NOTICE is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Center Conservation District for the ensuing year of 2021; a copy of such proposed budget has been posted at sites.google.com/view/center-conservation/home where the same is open for public inspection; such proposed budget will be considered at a regular meeting of the Center Conservation District, due to COVID19 this meeting will be held via Zoom on December 1, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. If you would like access to this Zoom meeting, please contact Nikita Christensen at centered1@gmail.com.

Any interested elector of Center Conservation District may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget. No. 1583 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, November 26, 2020.

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# South Fork Yuletide celebration this Friday

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

**SOUTH FORK-** For the past three years the Friends of South Fork (FOSF) have been hosting the annual Yuletide Celebration event the Friday after Thanksgiving and plans for this year will move forward. According to FOSF representative Kris Steffens this year's event will be much the same as previous years and the public is urged to attend.

Beginning Friday night at about dusk, the public can come to enjoy a bonfire, Christmas caroling, hot chocolate and the annual South Fork Visitor Center tree lighting. Though the annual Parade of Lights has been postponed this is still a wonderful opportunity to come and celebrate the Christmas season and to have a break from the stress of COVID.

FOSF will not only be celebrating the coming holiday season but have also announced that they will be partnering with the Greater South Fork Community Foundation. The two organizations have been helping the greater South Fork community

for many years now completing projects like the Graeser Baseball Field, helping get new equipment for the South Fork Fire Rescue and ambulance services as well as aid with the purchase of new tables and chairs for the South Fork Community Building just to name a few.

Now, the two groups have decided to join forces and through that effort to help the South Fork community in several different ways. From now on the newly formed organization will be called the South Fork Friends Foundation. This partnership will be a huge benefit to the South Fork community in coming weeks and more information on the partnership will be reported as it comes available.

Come out and enjoy the Yuletide Celebration with family and friends. The FOSF ask that those who plan to attend to please bring chairs and blankets to stay warm while waiting for the tree lighting ceremony. More information can be found on their Facebook Page at Friends of South Fork.



## CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

### Integrity of Voting Systems Used in Colorado



By **TRISH GILBERT**

We continue to maintain confidence in the accuracy and integrity of Dominion's Democracy Suite® voting system because of the following:

Colorado counties began using Dominion's Democracy Suite® voting system in 2016. Currently, 62 of 64 counties use the Dominion system.

Every version of Democracy Suite® used in Colorado since 2016 was successfully tested by federally accredited Voting System Testing Laboratory (VSTL), to ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state requirements.

Colorado counties have successfully conducted six separate statewide risk-limiting audits of paper ballots tabulated by this voting system. Neither the Secretary of State's office nor county election officials have observed or reported even a single instance of the alleged vote-flipping or vote-eliminating system behavior.

We are currently conducting our seventh audit and are confident that it will reaffirm the integrity of the system. Voters should not let unsubstantiated allegations and rumors decrease their confidence in reliable voting systems.

Former Secretary of State, Wayne Williams, says it best

"Some folks have asked me about Colorado's voting systems. After an exhaustive administrative, legislative and legal review, many Colorado counties began using the federally certified Dominion Voting System in 2016. Since its adoption, Dominion machines have been tested in 62 Colorado counties at least 807 times. They have passed every test.

First, each county in each election uses a bipartisan board to test the voting system before using it -- that's 455 pre-election Logic and Accuracy Tests in nine elections.

Second, in 2017 Colorado began conducting a Risk Limiting Audit after each election. In an RLA, bipartisan

teams of judges in each county compare the cast vote record from the Dominion scanners to randomly selected paper ballots (with more actual ballots compared when the race is close).

In the six elections since Colorado began RLAs, the Dominion Voting System has passed 352 times. (The other systems used in Colorado also have passed.) And Colorado is in the midst of conducting an RLA for the 2020 general election as well.

So, while I can't speak for the practices of every state (some of whom don't have the procedural protections and audits we do in Colorado), I can state that in Colorado the voting systems we use accurately record the votes of Coloradans -- and we've proved it 807 times."



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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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One of the homesteads where local law enforcement found human remains.

## Forensic Anthropologist confirms three human remains in Conejos County Baroz arrested in New Mexico

**BY REBECCA COPLEY**  
**CONEJOS COUNTY** – Nov. 19, 2020, Adre Baroz a Sanford, Colorado, man wanted in connection with the human remains located in Conejos County was arrested at a motel in Gallup, New Mexico, at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020. Members of the Colorado Springs Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), who were assisting the Alamosa Police Department in the search for the fugitive, located Adre Baroz (DOB: 10/28/1994) AKA Psycho in Gallup, New Mexico on Thursday afternoon. Baroz was taken into custody without incident and will be transported to the McKinley County Detention Center in Gallup, New Mexico. Baroz is facing charges in Colorado of First Degree Homicide, First Degree Assault and Second Degree Kidnapping.



Adre Jordan "Psycho" Baroz

The warrant remains sealed; therefore, no additional information is available. On Nov. 10 the Conejos County Sheriff's office requested assistance from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to assist them in executing **Please see BAROZ on Page 10**

## Alamosa County moves to level red, Costilla and Conejos move to level orange

**SAN LUIS VALLEY**- In less than a week Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) moved Alamosa County from "Level Orange" to "Level Red" on the states COVID-19 meter. During the afternoon of Thursday, Nov. 19, Alamosa County was notified by the State Health Department that Alamosa County will move to "Level Red" on the State's Dial as of Sunday, Nov. 22, at 5 p.m. On Friday, Nov. 20, CDPHE, "Alamosa County's COVID-19 risk measures have corresponded for several weeks with Level Red, which indicates severe risk. We understand that you have all been working hard over the past week to adjust to our move from yellow to orange, and this next move has come more quickly than we anticipated. Just in the past week, we reached a record for COVID-related hospitalizations locally, and the same thing is playing out around the state."



Some things will not change with the move from Orange to Red. Childcare facilities may continue to operate. Critical and non-critical retail business may operate at up to 50% capacity, with increased curbside pickup, delivery, and dedicated hours for seniors and at-risk customers encouraged. Indoor worship services may continue at 25% capacity or up to 50 people, whichever is fewer, and with distancing observed between household groups. Those at risk for severe illness

**Sunday, Nov. 22, CDPHE moved Alamosa to "Level red." Conejos, and Costilla counties are at 'Level Orange Safer at Home High Risk' status. Rio Grande and Saguache counties continue to be at Level 2 Yellow.** Outdoor dining with groups of own household open. Offices may operate at 10% capacity, with remote work preferred. Gyms may operate at 10% capacity with up to 10 persons per room, reservations required. Indoor events and entertainment are closed. Tuesday, Nov. 17, Linda Smith with San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership stated that, "Alamosa, Conejos, and Costilla counties made firm decisions about moving to a 'Level Orange Safer at Home High Risk' status. Rio Grande County is meeting with CDPHE again later this week to continue the conversation about their **Please see COVID on Page 10**

## Wee Thanksgiving

How do you explain Thanksgiving to a 3 year old?  
"A long time ago..."  
"Yesterday?"  
"No, more than yesterday. A bunch of people came in a big boat..."  
"Pirates?"  
"No, good guys and mamas and babies..."  
"And boys, too?"  
"Yup, and boys, too. But when they got in the woods they were hungry but they didn't know what to eat."  
"And they had bears in the woods, and tigers."  
"Probably, but they didn't see them. So they were hungry and walked around looking for something to eat. And then came the Indians who lived in the woods."  
"With... with bows and arrows and shooting...?"  
"No, no. The Indians said they would help



them find something good to eat..."  
"Like fruit bars and pop tarts and chicka-nuggets..."  
"Well, the Indians said they should have a picnic and so the Indians got some turkeys to

eat and they cooked 'em and made fry bread and corn on the cob..."  
"But no peas, but some cottage cheese and bread and honey..."  
"Right, so they made a big table..."  
"On the blanket..."  
"Yeah, no table, just a big blanket and they all ate and ate till their stomachs were full..."  
"And the little boys, too?"  
"And the little boys and little girls and little boy and girl Indians, all of 'em ate... and then took a nap."  
"But the little boys no wanna take a nap. Little boys wanna play with bows and arrows."  
"Okay, but when everyone woke up they were happy. So the Indians shook hands and they all said Thanksgiving to each other and Thanksgiving to God..."  
"And to Jesus and Pastor Mike and Grandmother Phyllis and to all the little boys."  
"Yup, and they said it was so much fun, let's

do it next year."  
"And tomorra or free days."  
"So now every year we have Thanksgiving with friends and eat a lot and say thanks for the blessings we have."  
"Bessing? What looks like, a blessing?"  
"A blessing? Sometimes it looks like a little boy."  
"Like me?"  
"Yup, sometimes it looks just like you."  
*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*







At the Food Bank Steve Baer, Sharon Cancino, Ashley McCay, Wes Baer, Carol Baer

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## Make A Difference Day 2020 overwhelming success

To the editor,  
 During hard times it is good to be reminded to love and support individuals and community. The Oct. 24, 2020, Make A Difference Day event embodied these qualities.

This was a different year. We chose to continue our event in spite of the pandemic. We knew there were people in need and we are here to help.

The Baer Family is grateful to all who participated. Our particular event was an overwhelming success. Once again individuals came together to support two worthy causes, love for the planet and for people.

A grand total of 105 loads in trucks, trailers and cars passed through the gates of the Regional Landfill. A total of 513 tires and 259 cubic yards of household, organic and construction debris were deposited.

These items will not be dumped on our roadsides, stacked up on beautiful scenic acreage or polluting our rivers and lakes. These items were handled and disposed of properly.

The donations collected for the Monte Vista Food Bank were valued at \$1653.00 in non-perishable food items. That amount will feed 87 people for three days. The \$800.00 cash donated will be used to buy special Holiday food. That cash amount was the largest ever. Thank you!

Thank you, Regional Landfill Board and Employees, for opening your hearts, minds and gates to the community, for the 21st year. Your donation of time, wages and uncollected revenue is greatly appreciated.

We chose not to prepare a meal for volunteers this year. That was heart breaking for us. Sharing a meal with everyone that works so hard to make this day happen, is always our favorite part of the day. Hopefully next year we can continue that tradition.

We are grateful for the Monte Vista Food Bank and their continued service to those in need.

Thank you, San Luis Valley residents, for cleaning up your yards and community. You opened your pantries and wallets again this year and provided a meal for others; you gave generously.

A special thank you to the volunteers, Wesley Baer, Ashley McCay

and Sharon Cancino. We were happy to have family join us again.

Thank you to the volunteers at the Food Bank who spent the day pricing, sorting and putting away food.

Thank you to Bob Richards at San Luis Valley Broadcasting for the live coverage of our day. Hopefully it was well received by your listeners.

Thank you to the Valley Courier and Monte Vista Journal for helping to get the word out.

We are very proud to have celebrated 21 years of our event.

We have made a difference in our community!

This event benefits all who participate.

*With love and gratitude,  
 Carol and Steve Baer Family*

## HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



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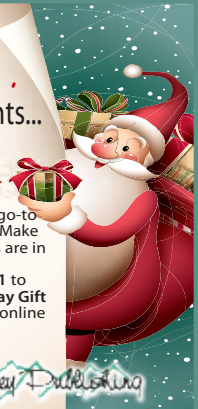
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## This Week's Feature



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# South Fork Kiwanis cancels Thanksgiving Dinner, Yuletide celebration still a go

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

**SOUTH FORK**- It has been a tradition in South Fork for several years to provide a Thanksgiving Dinner to the entire community. Over the years, this event has brought hundreds of people together to share a meal, laugh with family and friends and get to know their neighbors but unfortunately this year, due to COVID, the event will not take place.

South Fork Kiwanis member Karen Miller confirmed the cancellation this week stating that it was for the safety of the community that the organization made their final decision. "We serve a majority of elderly people in our area and though we are sad that we can't provide a meal this year, we know that it is for the best."

COVID-19 cases are on the rise

here in the Valley and many people to turning back to best practices to keep everyone safe. Miller also stated that the organization would also not be hosting their annual Christmas parties for schools around the Valley but again hope that those things will be possible next year.

On a good note, the annual Yuletide Celebration hosted by the Friends of South Fork will be taking place this year on Nov. 27. The event has become an area favorite since its inception four years ago. The Friends of South Fork are asking anyone who wants to decorate their vehicle and participate in the Parade of Lights can email their interest to [info@frindsofsouthfork.com](mailto:info@frindsofsouthfork.com) or send them a message on Facebook.

The event will include a tree

lighting ceremony, parade of lights and much more which is the perfect way to set off the holiday season. More details about the event will be reported as they come available.



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

**Home & Office Security System**



**Starter Package**

Includes:

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

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

500 Main Street, Alamosa, CO 81101  
(719) 589-5895  
**Shop Local!**

## Let's Talk Trash

**No contracts, no hidden fees**

- Residential Service (96 gallon rolling containers)
- Commercial Containers (1YD-6YD Dumpsters)
- Roll-Off "Construction Site" Dumpsters (20YD-30YD)
- Curbside, single-stream recycling available

*Services available for residents and commercial pick-up in and around Creede, South Fork, Del Norte and Monte Vista*


For a full list of recyclable items see [www.mds-wasteandrecycle.com/services/recycling-services/](http://www.mds-wasteandrecycle.com/services/recycling-services/)



**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: 11/30/2020.**



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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*"Very unique in their presentation of beer taps! One prepays with a fob, and swipes your choice of a great selection of local brews as well as the known larger brands. The on site pizza is very inviting with the fresh smells of being prepared on-site and fresh."  
-Jeff F., Google*

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BIG on TASTE!**

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Angela Welcomes You!**

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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*



# Valley-Wide Classified **FREE!** MARKETPLACE

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



## CLASSIFIED INDEX

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b><br>01 TICKETS<br>02 CARD OF THANKS<br>03 MEMORIALS<br>04 LOST & FOUND<br>05 NOTICES/BAZAARS<br>06 PERSONALS<br><b>EMPLOYMENT</b><br>07 HELP WANTED<br>08 WORK WANTED<br>09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES<br><b>FOR RENT</b><br>10 APARTMENTS<br>11 ROOMS<br>12 HOUSES<br>13 MOBILE HOMES<br>14 BUSINESS PROPERTY<br>15 WANTED TO RENT<br>16 VACATION<br><b>REAL ESTATE</b><br>17 REAL ESTATE<br>18 LOTS & ACREAGE<br>19 FARM & FARMLAND<br>20 BUSINESS PROPERTY<br>21 MOBILE HOMES<br>22 PROPERTY WANTED | <b>MERCHANDISE</b><br>23 LAWN & GARDEN<br>24 GARAGE SALES<br>25 AUCTIONS<br>26 ANTIQUES<br>27 APPLIANCES<br>28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS<br>29 MUSICAL ITEMS<br>30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS<br>31 HEALTH<br>32 FUEL & HEATING<br>33 BUILDING MATERIALS<br>34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT<br>35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT<br>36 MISCELLANEOUS<br>37 WANTED<br>38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT<br>39 SPORTING GOODS<br>40 AUTO PARTS<br><b>FARMER MARKET</b><br>41 FARM EQUIPMENT<br>42 FEED & SEED<br>43 FARM PRODUCTS<br>44 FARM SERVICES | <b>ANIMALS</b><br>45 ANIMAL BREEDING<br>46 PASTURE FOR RENT<br>47 HORSES & CATTLE<br>48 PETS & SUPPLIES<br>49 ANIMAL CARE<br>50 LIVESTOCK<br><b>RECREATIONAL</b><br>51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT<br>52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT<br>53 TRAILERS<br>54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S<br>55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS<br><b>FINANCIAL</b><br>56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY<br>57 INVESTMENTS<br><b>TRANSPORTATION</b><br>58 MOTORCYCLES<br>59 VEHICLES WANTED<br>60 CLASSIC CARS<br>61 4X4'S<br>62 VANS<br>63 TRUCKS<br>64 AUTOS FOR SALE<br><b>SERVICES</b><br>65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES<br>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 montevisitaclass@gmail.com

### Check your ad the first day:

To ensure your ad is correct, check it the first day it appears in the paper. If there is an error in your ad, call us right away so we can correct it. If an error appears in your ad, Valley Publishing will credit you with one additional day of advertising.

**Our ad policy:** Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

## DEADLINE

**Thursday 5:00 pm**

**Call 719-852-3531**  
or email: [MonteVistaClass@gmail.com](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. (12/25)

**Lost Phone:** Black Flip Phone: Verizon Wireless. Contains important medical information, need returned. Bring to 111 Bronk in Monte Vista if found. (11/25)

### 05 Notices

**WE BUY ANTLERS: 5 miles west of Del Norte on HWY 160.** 719-657-0942 (11/25)TFN

### 07 Help Wanted

**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.org](mailto:ahorrocks@urtigers.org) 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) (12/30)

**Rio Grande County Treasurer is seeking a full time Clerk. Requirements include High School diploma or GED.** Computer and Bookkeeping skills a plus. Pre-employment drug screening, including testing for marijuana, will be required. Position starts 1/4/2021. \$15.40-\$15.70 DOE. Applications and additional information available online at [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org) or pick up and submit to Human Resources, 925 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Close date is 12/7/2020. (12-02)

**Rio Grande County is seeking a Dispatch/Detention Officer. High School Diploma or GED, or one to three months related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience.** Interaction with inmates required. Must be 21 years of age, pass background investigation and 5 panel drug test, including testing for marijuana required. **Inmate interaction required.** \$14.57/per hour. Pick up and submit applications to Human Resources 925 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 200,

Del Norte, CO 81132. Applications also available online at [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org). (11/25)

**Rio Grande County is seeking a full-time jail cook. High school diploma or GED required.** Must be 21 years of age, pass background investigation and pre-employment drug test, including screening for marijuana. \$12.31/per hour, 40 hours a week, full county benefits. Pick up and submit applications to Human Resources, 925 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 200,

Del Norte, CO 81132. Applications and job description available online at [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org). (11-25)

**Wolf Creek Ski Area is accepting applications for all departments: retail, ski school, lifts, ski patrol, base operations, ticket office, food and beverage, rental, vehicle maintenance and snow reporting. Please see details of job descriptions on Wolf Creek's employment page.** Applications can be downloaded from [WolfCreekSki.com](http://WolfCreekSki.com)

employment page. Send resumes and applications to [wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com](mailto:wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com) or P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. All jobs are winter seasonal (November - April) with competitive wages. (11-25)

**Seeking Construction Supervisor for Nonprofit company, CRHDC, F/T 40 hrs per week, to assist families with new home construction in Alamosa includes weekends. Construction exp. required. \$20 p/**

## One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel

Introducing the INOGEN ONE  
It's oxygen therapy on your terms

No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It's small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can go virtually anywhere — even on most airlines. Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!

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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 720-274-7174.

Colorado Statewide Classified Advertising Network

<p><b>GET AWAY PACKAGE</b></p> <p><b>BUFFALO WYOMING'S HISTORIC OCCIDENTAL HOTEL:</b> Get Away Package for 2 Suite, dinner, breakfast - \$175 New Year's Eve - \$199 Cross-country trails, snowmobiling, skiing, shopping, Thursday night bluegrass jam 1-307-684-0451</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>BUSINESS FOR SALE</b></p> <p>Busy, profitable, turnkey retail business for sale in beautiful Durango, CO. \$150K Cash Flow, \$100K down &amp; financing avl. 970-946-7370</p>	<p><b>Colorado Press 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 Network, 720-274-7174</p>



# Valley Wide Classifieds

h+benefits. Resume and cover letter to melanie@crhdc.org (11/11)

**HOUSEKEEPERS WANTED!** Apply in person at TWIN RIVERS CABINS AND RV PARK, west of Antonito. 719-376-5710 (11/25)

**RIO GRANDE SAVINGS & LOAN** is seeking a Full Time Teller/ Customer Service Representative to join our team in the Monte Vista office. Qualified candidates will have superior customer service skills, the ability to work cooperatively in a team environment and must be proficient with a 10-key and Microsoft Office. Successful candidates must be able to perform teller functions and assist customers, while complying with banking regulations and internal policies and procedures. Position offers excellent salary and benefits in a great working environment. For additional information please contact Kate Ruybal @ 719-852-7051. Applications available at www.rgsla.com/contact and can be submitted to kater@rgsla.com - deadline is December 11, 2020.

**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. (12/09)

**0 Apartments for Rent**  
1-bedroom fully furnished apartment in downtown Del Norte all utilities included plus wi-fi and washer/dryer. No smoking No pets. \$650.00 per month Call 657-2850. (11/25)

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

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

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

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

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

0770. (TFN)

**23 Lawn and Garden**  
For Sale: Yard Art-Old Farm Equipment Call 850-0491. (12/2)

**Sprinkler installation, and winterization** Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-376-2593 or 719-580-0033. (11/25)

**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 719-852-8488. (12/16)

**27 Appliances**  
For Sale: Kohler Double Kitchen Sink \$75.00. Maytag Electric Dryer Works Good \$50.00 719-754-3363 or 719-480-2102. (12/2)

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

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

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

**STEEL STORAGE 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 (11/25 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) (11/25)

**39 Sporting Goods**  
WANTED TO BUY: Black powder firearms, working or not. Will repair. Join SLV Renegades (480)236-6727. (12/02)

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

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

**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.

**High Altitude HEREFORD BULL SALE:** Sat. Dec 12, 2020, 1pm. at Valley Livestock Auction, Monte Vista, CO. Selling 26 Horned Coming 2 Yr. Old Bulls. PAP, Fert, Trich, PIBVD Tested, and 18 Comm. Replacement Heifer Calves. Videos of Bulls online at mikefuchshereford.com. Mike Fuchs Herefords 719-657-2519.

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

**65 Professional Services**  
LICENSED PLUMBER does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable

rates. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (11/25)TFN)

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

## San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

**Contact Chelsea or Trey for advertising information today!**

**719-852-3531**

**MonteVistaAds@gmail.com**

**PRICE REDUCED!**

**Beautiful Home on 35 Acres SW of Monte Vista!**

4 bedroom • 3 bath • 2,492 sq. ft. • **\$377,500**  
Recently-built spacious home ready for your family! Enjoy 360 degree mountain views on an 1,800 sq. ft. deck 3-car garage and many more amenities!  
515 Mountain View Blvd. • Monte Vista  
MLS# 766729  
**Porter Realty, 503 Main St. Alamosa**  
(719)589-5897 • mp@porterrealty.com

**Fantastic Home on 40 Acres with Water!**

5 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 3,216 sq. ft. • **\$630,000**  
Remodeled in 2016, the home has large, double-pane windows to enjoy the views, quartz counter tops, new stainless steel appliances, a private master suite with amazing features and so many more unique details. Heated 3-car attached garage plus addtl. detached garage/tack room. Established hay-meadow with surface water rights and 1.5 shares of Rio Grande Piedra ditch.  
MLS# 769101  
**Porter Realty, 503 Main St. Alamosa**  
(719)589-5897 • mp@porterrealty.com

## Write your own Classified Ad

**Regular Classified Ad Deadline-Thursday 5 p.m.**  
**15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications**  
**\$19<sup>50</sup> + 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. (Private party only) Call 719-852-3531 for details.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

**Words:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Times:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Price:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Start Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Card#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One

**Mail with check or money order to:**  
**Valley Publishing Classifieds, P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144**  
**Or drop by at 835 First Avenue**

**All Classified Advertising must be pre-paid**



2020

# Thanksgiving Greetings



As we celebrate the many blessings we've been so lucky to enjoy this year, we count good friends and customers like you among them. May you enjoy laughter and happiness around the table this Thanksgiving and an abundance of good fortune to last all year!

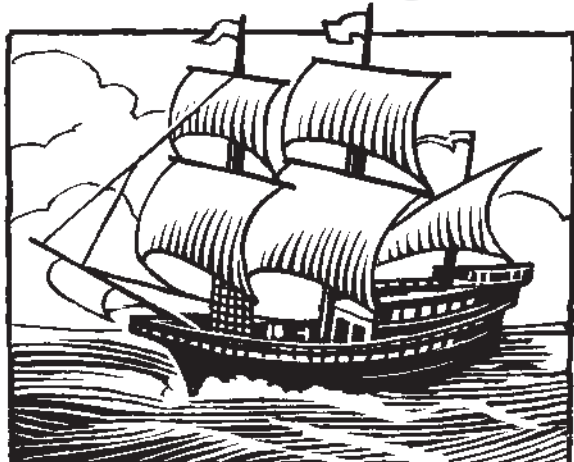
## Thank You & Happy Thanksgiving!



Valley Courier  
719-589-2553  
2205 State Ave. • Alamosa

Valley Publishing  
719-852-3531  
835 First Ave. • Monte Vista

### To All Our Good Neighbors At Thanksgiving



As we count our blessings this Thanksgiving holiday, we realize that your friendship is at the top of the list, and for this we are truly thankful.

From all of us to all of you go our sincere best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving filled with the blessings of family, good friends, good food and good fun. You deserve it!

*We are proud to serve you with all of your fertilizer & chemical needs.*

(719) 852-3921  
2701 E. Cty. Rd. 1 S. • Monte Vista



**WILBUR-ELLIS**  
AGRIBUSINESS





# Thanksgiving Greetings

To our customers, neighbors, associates and friends we send a bounty of best wishes for a joyful Thanksgiving celebration. We know we're truly thankful to serve people like you!



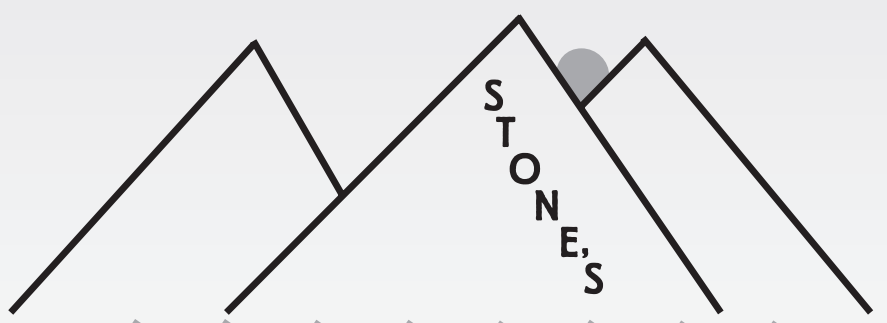
Free Estimates  
Glasurit Waterborne Paint...  
Environmentally Friendly

859 Acequia • Monte Vista  
852-5700

# A Bounty of Best Wishes at Thanksgiving



May the coming holiday bring an abundance of good fortune to you and your family. *We know we feel truly fortunate to have neighbors like you ~ thanks!*



## Stone's Farm Supply, Inc.

*Open whenever you need us,  
Coffee is always on!*

### 754-3453

on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> & Torres • Center





Replete with scenic beauty, agricultural water and organic crops, Rancho La Luz near Manassa, Colorado has been in agricultural production since the early 1800s, and with the aid of a conservation easement, it will remain undeveloped into the future.

# Salazar family conserves historic ranch

**CONEJOS COUNTY** — The Colorado Cattlemen’s Agriculture Land Trust (CCALT) has announced the successful conservation of the 500-acre Rancho la Luz property outside of Manassa.

This historic Conejos County ranch has been in agricultural production since the early 1800s, and with the aid of a conservation easement, it will remain undeveloped into the future. This project was made possible through a cooperative partnership between CCALT, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, and Rancho la Luz landowners John and Mary Lou Salazar.

Congressman John Salazar and the Salazar family have been avid supporters of ranchland conservation in Colorado since the early 1990s. As a fifth-generation seed-potato farmer in the San Luis Valley, John has always been intimately connected to working lands, rural communities and the rich cultural heritage of these landscapes. John’s belief in ranchland conservation came full circle in the conservation of Rancho la Luz, his own family’s property.

In the 1860s, a large portion of Rancho la Luz was settled and inhabited by

Felipe Cantu, John Salazar’s great-grandfather. Overtime, the property was divided up and sold as the family faced economic pressures and hardships. In 2000, John and his wife, Mary Lou, began buying back portions of the historic ranch, with the ultimate goal of conserving the property for future generations.

Today, John and Mary Lou are thrilled that the ranch and its associated water rights will remain in agricultural production and intact forever. Like many properties in the Valley, some of the water rights on Rancho la Luz were established as far back as 1857, with ditches that were originally dug by John’s ancestors.

Rancho la Luz is made up of several river bottom parcels nestled close to the San Luis Hills along the San Antonio and the Conejos Rivers. Named Rancho la Luz after John’s wife, Maria de la Luz, Rancho la Luz is defined by its natural beauty and abundant habitat for deer, elk and many other native species. Rancho la Luz is visible from the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway.

The Salazars utilize the property for grazing and to raise certified organic hay that is sold to dairies in Colorado,

New Mexico and Texas.

“It has been an honor to work with John, Mary Lou, and their family on this important conservation project. The Salazar family’s commitment to Colorado and leadership in the San Luis Valley has brought attention to the important resources – natural and cultural – of this unique part of the state. Conserving Rancho la Luz builds on the conservation tradition of the Salazar family and many other farming and ranching families of the San Luis Valley who have committed to conserving their farms and ranches for the benefit of future generations of Coloradans,” said Erik Glenn, CCALT executive director.

“To have the opportunity to permanently conserve a portion of my great-grandfather’s ranch is humbling. This ranch means so much to our family and we are blessed to honor my great-grandfather’s legacy while at the same time creating opportunities for future generations of the Salazar family to continue our connection with the land and the San Luis Valley,” said John Salazar.

“Helping to conserve Rancho la Luz through our Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) means helping Colorado maintain a tradition of agriculture in an area that is home to some of the State’s oldest ranches,” says Randy Randall, NRCS acting state conservationist in Colorado. “In

addition, riparian areas in the active channels of the Conejos and San Antonio rivers will benefit from this easement. Through ACEP, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. The Salazar Family’s Rancho la Luz property exemplifies the purpose of the ACEP program.”

*The Colorado Cattlemen’s Agriculture Land Trust (CCALT) is a nonprofit land conservation organization whose mission is to “... conserve Colorado’s western heritage and working landscapes for the benefit of future generations.”*



*Managed by  
Upper Rio Grande  
Animal Society*

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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.



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## Colorado Leopold Conservation Award seeks nominees

Nominations are now being accepted for the Leopold Conservation Award® honoring agricultural landowners in Colorado who demonstrate outstanding stewardship and management of natural resources.

Sand County Foundation presents the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners in 21 states for extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. In Colorado, the \$10,000 award is presented with the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the prestigious award recognizes landowners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water and wildlife habitat management on private, working land. In his influential 1949 book, "A Sand County Almanac," Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage.

Nominations may be submitted on behalf of a landowner, or landowners may nominate themselves. The application can be found at [www.sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA](http://www.sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA).

The application deadline date is February 1, 2021. Applications can be emailed to [maggie@ccalt.org](mailto:maggie@ccalt.org). If mailed, applications must be postmarked by February 1, and mailed to:

Leopold Conservation Award  
c/o Colorado Cattlemen's Association  
8833 Ralston Road  
Arvada, CO 80002-2239.

"The Leopold Conservation Award not only highlights the positive influences agriculture has on the environment, our communities, and our economy, but also showcases the heritage of natural resource stewardship on working landscapes to broad audiences," said Janie VanWinkle, Colorado Cattlemen's Association president.

"Recipients of this award are real life examples of conservation-minded agriculture," said Kevin McAleese, Sand County Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer. "These hard-working families are essential to our environment, food system and rural economy."

"As the national sponsor for Sand County Foundation's Leopold Conservation Award, American Farmland Trust celebrates the hard work and dedication of farmers, ranchers and forestland owners," said John Piotti, AFT president and CEO. "At AFT we believe that conservation in agriculture requires a focus on the land, the practices and the people and this award recognizes the integral role of all three."

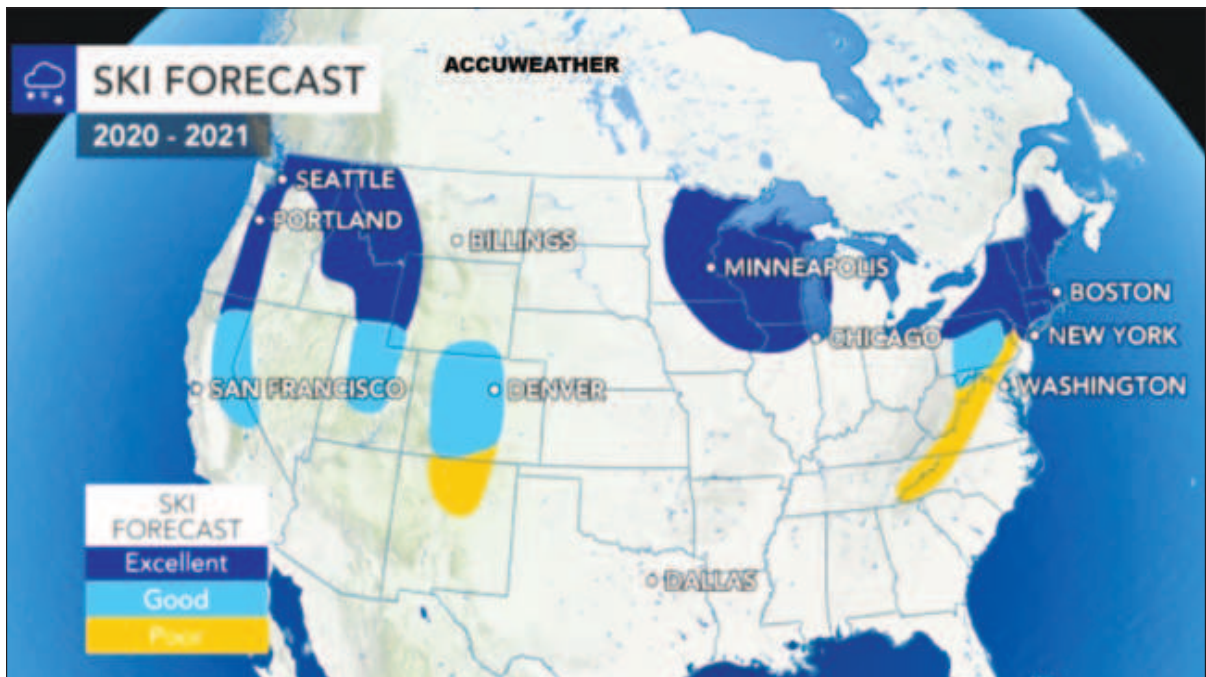
The Leopold Conservation Award Program in Colorado is made possible thanks to the generous partnership and support of American Farmland Trust, Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assoc., USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sand County Foundation, The Gates Family Foundation, The Stanko Ranch, American AgCredit, McDonald's, The Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and The Nature Conservancy.

The first Colorado Leopold Conservation Award recipient, Capps Ranch of Walsenburg, was selected in 2003. Collins Ranch of Kit Carson received the award in 2020.

# Accuweather's ski snow forecast

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

Colorado and Utah, two states often recognized for idyllic, powdery conditions, are not expected to experience the best set of weather factors this season. Despite an early start with skiers already taking advantage of snowy slopes, "massive" warmups from the Southwest could lead to big temperature swings at times during the season, resulting in melting and icy conditions that are



less than ideal for plunging down a mountain. The frequency of storms for the two states will also be much

more of a miss than other years. Central and northern Colorado should experience a relatively nor-

mal season, but southern Colorado down into New Mexico is where the problems will arise.

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# COVID

Continued from Page 1

status, as is Saguache County.”

Unlike other San Luis Valley counties Mineral County has remained at “Level Blue Safer at Home – Cautious” on the states COVID-19 dial. However, Nov. 19 the county reported its first active cases in weeks and had 6 active cases and Creede postponed its annual Chocolate Festival.

Wednesday, Nov. 18, Conejos and Costilla counties were in a “Level 3 Orange Status.” Rio Grande and Saguache county officials are meeting with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) again later this week to continue the conversation about their status.

Rio Grande and Saguache County officials met with CDPHE Friday, Nov. 20, to discuss the possibility of CDPHE raising their status to “Level 3 Orange Status.” Friday, Nov. 20, Rio Grande County had 52 active cases and Saguache County had 9 active cases.

Hospitalizations are up, both here and around the state. The rapid rise in COVID-19 cases has made effective contact tracing very difficult. There is a high level of illness in the community, with a large number of people isolated and quarantined.

General guidelines for Level Orange are summarized below. There may be additional guidelines for specific sectors.

Mitigation Strategies:

General guidelines for Level Orange are summarized below (and with specific additional guidelines for specific sectors).

Public and private gatherings are limited to no more than 10 individuals from no more than 2 households.

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

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

Specific Areas impacted by this Level Orange include:

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

Personal Gathering Size: Up to 10 from no more than 2 households

P-12 Schools: In-person, hybrid or remote as appropriate

Higher Education: Remote or hybrid suggested, limited in person as appropriate, and other major strategies to increase social distancing

Places of worship and Life Rites:

Indoors Unseated Functions: 25% capacity or 50 (whichever is less)

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

Outdoors: 6ft between parties outdoors, per local zoning

Restaurants:

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

Outdoors: 6 feet between parties outdoors, per local zoning

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

Offices: 25% capacity (Here, remote work is highly encouraged)

Bars: Closed

Gyms/Fitness: 25% capacity, 25 indoors, or outdoors in groups less than 10

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

Retail: 25% capacity

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

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

Events:

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

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

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

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

Outdoor Guided Services 25% capacity or 10 people

General Education: Providing County employees and community with education on COVID-19 is critical to the health and safety of all coun-

ty employees and community members. The RGC COVID-19 Lead staff and public health shall connect with restaurants, businesses, and stores on the above capacity restriction and general expectations for compliance. The COVID-19 Lead staff (Public Health Department/Human Resources Department) shall ensure that all existing, new and returning employees are educated on the new COVID-19 job site requirements. This can be done as a site safety meeting as long as the employees are able to distance during the meeting or conduct a series with each county departments. The site COVID-19 lead shall ensure that:

On-site employees are educated on COVID-19 to include:

General information about COVID-19.

How COVID-19 is contracted and transmitted to other people.

How to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Hygiene procedures specific to COVID-19.

Company policies, procedures and protocols developed in response to COVID-19.

Customer requirements regarding COVID-19.

Reporting procedures if the employee feels they are sick, have been exposed or tests positive.

Education and policy documents shall be available and displayed, when able, on the RG County website to include:

Site Safety Plan

Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Plan

COVID-19 Supervisors Kit and Binder

Hand-washing practices established by the CDC, DOH or WHO.

Fact sheets regarding COVID-19.

Signs and Symptom fact sheet regarding COVID-19.

Record keeping shall be completed by the supervisor. Attendance shall be communicated verbally and the supervisor shall document attendance on the roster.

# BAROZ

Continued from Page 1

a search warrant for a property near Las Sauces in Conejos County. The search warrant was for an unrelated matter having to do with stolen equipment and stolen vehicles. During this search they discovered human remains on the property.

On Nov. 13, a local law enforcement task force was formed and a second search warrant was issued for a second property in close proximity to the first property they had previously searched. Additional human remains were also found on the second property. The property owners are not currently living at these properties.

A virtual press briefing concerning the investigation was held Wednesday, Nov. 18, with representatives from agencies assisting with this investigation. They include Conejos County Sheriff’s Office, Saguache County Sheriff’s Office, Alamosa Police Department, Monte Vista Police Department, and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

Monte Vista Police Chief George Dingfelder was one of the first to share during the news conference.

“Over the course of the last several months several of our agencies within the San Luis Valley have been investigating missing persons reports,” said Chief Dingfelder making it clear that at this time they are not associating the human remains found with any of their missing persons investigations as it would be “irresponsible and complete speculation.”

Dingfelder shared that the remains are being analyzed by a forensic anthropologist. “We have consulted with a forensic anthropologist who has confirmed that the remains are human. Please be patient with us. There is a lot to be done on identifying these remains,” said Dingfelder. Sharing that due to the condition that they were in, it could take several weeks or months to identify the victims. At this point however the forensic anthropologist has been able to confirm that they have the remains of three victims. The cause of death

is unknown at this time.

Alamosa Police Chief Ken Anderson also shared that the Alamosa Police department has clearly identified a suspect in this case. “He is still currently on the run and his name is Adre Jordan Baroz. His date of birth is 10/28/1994. This individual is from the Sanford Colorado area which is the same area we’re kind of talking about,” said Chief Anderson. Chief Anderson also shared that they currently have an active warrant for Baroz for homicide.

“I would say that he should be considered at this time armed and dangerous. Should not be contacted by the public. We are encouraging people to please contact 911 if they see Mr. Baroz. But I also want to point something out that although Mr. Baroz currently is our suspect in this homicide investigation all suspects are clearly innocent until proven guilty,” said Chief Anderson adding, “My main goal right now, is working with all these other law enforcement agencies from the Valley including CBI. Our main goal is to get him off the street. He is a danger to the community right now.”

Chief Anderson said they are asking that if anyone has any information about Baroz’s whereabouts or about the discovered bodies to contact them. Chief Anderson also shared that people in the community may know Baroz by his widely used nickname “Psycho.”

Conejos Sheriff Garth Crowther also shared at the briefing. Sheriff Crowther stated that investigators plan to continue searching the second site as it is imperative that they exhaust the search of that area to ensure that all remains and evidence have been found.

Deputy Director of Investigations for CBI Chris Schaefer echoed the statements of Chief Anderson. Schaefer saying, “Our priority for now is to get Mr. Baroz into custody and to identify the remains of the individuals that we have found. How-

ever as Chief Dingfelder has said this will take a long time.”

Schaefer also sharing that at this time they do not have any indication that this case is connected to the Suzanne Morphew missing person investigation. He shared that at this point there is no information to indicate that these cases are connected. However, he shared that they are actively investigating and will go wherever the information takes them.

The investigation is ongoing and a “tip line” has been established to help gather information related to this investigation. If you have any information you are asked to please call (719) 270-0210.

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# John Bush retires from Cumbres & Toltec RR

**CHAMA, N.M.** - The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Commission announced today that John Bush, President/General Manager of the Cumbres & Toltec Operating Company is retiring effective today. "John has been an incredible asset to the Cumbres & Toltec and has poured his heart and soul into the organization," stated Dan Love, Chairman of the Commission. "After eight amazing years with the C&TSRR, John will step back from his daily involvement to focus on a business his family is taking over in Chama and other tourism related projects," Love added.

Bush remains committed to the success of the railroad and looks forward to continuing work and leadership on several projects. "I am looking forward to participating in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Iron Horse Round Up," Bush said. "I will be spearheading these events, as well as continuing my work with Tracks Across the Border Byway and the acquisition of historically significant equipment for the C&TSRR." In preparation for future seasons and planning for a permanent replacement for Bush, Eric Mason, who is currently serving as Interim CEO, will assume

oversight of the day-to-day operations of the Commission and the Cumbres & Toltec Operating Company. Mason stated, "We will all miss John's enthusiasm and extensive experience. We are

fortunate that John will continue to maintain a home in the Chama area, and has volunteered to help with specific projects that will enhance the operations of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad."

Love added, "The Commission wishes John the absolute best, and we look forward to working with Eric to ensure the future of the Cumbres & Toltec for generations to come."

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

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#### Solution to last week's puzzle

D	A	C	E	S		E	D	D	A		S	N	A	P				
E	N	O	K	I		P	R	O	C	R	E	A	T	E				
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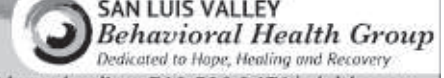
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# Creede's Annual Chocolate Festival postponed

CREEDE - This year's Chocolate Festival has been postponed. Tickets reserved for this year's event will be honored at the 2021 event. Ensuring an overall positive experience for Chocolate Festival participants was among top priorities the Creede/Mineral County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors considered when discussing the status of this year's event. With the rise of COVID-19 in the San Luis Valley, some businesses were hesitant to participate this year. "Currently, the Board is tossing around the idea of incorporating Chocolate Festival with the annual Cabin Fever Daze Weekend" said Kathleen Murphy, Executive Director of the Creede/Mineral County Chamber of Commerce. Many residents of the Valley use this event as

a way to get a jump-start on their holiday spending. We hope the postponement of the event will not discourage the Valley residents from supporting Creede businesses. Shopping local keeps seventy percent of the money spent in town. Most businesses of Creede have online stores or would be able to coordinate remote purchases and curb-side pick-up for shoppers uncomfortable with venturing up to Creede for Black Friday and Small Business Saturday shopping. The Creede/Mineral County Chamber of Commerce works to encourage, foster, and protect the grown and integrity of our area through careful economic and community planning and promotion. For additional information visit [www.creede.com](http://www.creede.com) or call 719.658.2374.



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**AT&T TV:** Requires high-speed internet. Recommended minimum internet 25 plan (min 8 Mbps per stream for optimal viewing). Limit 3 concurrent AT&T streams. **ENTERTAINMENT 3-YR. AT&T TV PACKAGE W/ OTHER ELIG. SVCS:** Ends 6/27/21. Available only in the U.S. (excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. VI). 1st & 2nd year Pricing: \$39.99 for first 12 mos. only. After 12 mos. or loss of eligibility, then prevailing rate applies (currently \$54/mo. for ENTERTAINMENT), unless cancelled or changed prior to end of promo period. **\$10/mo. bundle discount:** Internet, Reg. new (min. \$39.99/mo. equip. fee) or existing svc. Excludes DSL. Wireless: Consumers only. Sold separately. Reg. new (min. \$50/mo. after discount) or existing AT&T postpaid svc. on elig. plan (incl. Lifetime) on a smartphone, phone or AT&T Wireless internet device (incl. voice-only AT&T Wireless internet). Both svcs. Eligible svc must be installed/activated within 30 days of TV activation and svc addresses must match to receive bill credit starting in 1-3 bill cycles. First time credit will include all credits earned since meeting offer requirements. Must maintain both qualifying svcs to continue credits. No credits in 2nd year for bundled services. **Includes:** ENTERTAINMENT TV Pkg. & one (1) AT&T TV device. Add'l devices avail for \$120 each or an installation. **Additional Fees & Taxes:** Price excludes other AT&T fees & charges. Regional Sports Fee up to \$8.49/mo. (which is extra & applies to CHOICE and higher Pkgs.). Different offers may apply for eligible multi-device user customers. **AT&T TV:** Subject to AT&T TV terms and conditions. Avail. in the U.S. only includes Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. AT&T TV service will continue monthly at the prevailing rate charged by your payment method on file, unless you cancel, subject to any early termination fees. If you cancel in the first 14 days of order, you must return the included AT&T TV device within 14 days of order to avoid \$120 non-return fee. Additional devices purchased on installment agreement subject to additional terms and conditions. See cancellation policy at [at.com/help/cancellation-policy](http://at.com/help/cancellation-policy) for more details. Once you've canceled, you can access AT&T TV through the remaining monthly period. No refunds or credits for any partial-month periods or unwatched content. Compatible device req'd. Residential customers only. **Pricing, channels, features, and terms subject to change & may be modified or discontinued at any time without notice.** Other conditions apply to all offers. **HBO®,** Cinemax and related channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. **SHOWTIME®** and related channels and service marks are the property of Showtime Networks LLC. **Netflix** is a registered trademark of Netflix, Inc. **SHOWTIME** is a registered trademark of Showtime Networks LLC. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.

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