

## Shorts

### Saguache County hires public health director

**BY PATRICK SHEA**  
**SAGUACHE** — On Nov. 3, voters cast ballots in the Saguache County courthouse while commissioners heard from department heads, members of the public and a new health director.

Following an executive session near the end of the meeting, commissioners extended Ruth Horn an offer to become the county's new Director of Public Health. She accepted. Horn and commissioners discussed the position last week before settling on starting pay and other management issues.

During the public comment period, Bill McClure spoke as a citizen taxpayer and a member of the planning commission. McClure said he has been approached by different people with questions about the 5% excise sales tax collection from marijuana sales in Moffat. Commissioners agreed to research conditions for collecting taxes at the county and municipal level, and county attorney Ben Gibbons said he would contact the Colorado Attorney General's office for clarification.

As Commissioner Jason Anderson recalled from earlier marijuana revenue discussions, "We agreed to use the money for code enforcement and youth programs." Anderson noted a new bike path for kids in Crestone and funding for the Safe Routes to School project in Center. In addition to collecting taxes due, commissioners echoed concerns about allocating money correctly.

Janet Beiriger presented a public health report, particularly COVID-19 issues. Officials identified a large wedding in Alamosa as the source of eight infections. Center Consolidated Schools switched to remote learning Nov. 1 after a suspected infection and three confirmed positive cases. A local potato warehouse in Center also reported positive cases.

Beiriger said the state is sending staff for testing in southern Colorado, although more staff may be needed once they arrive in the Valley. She added that if anyone plans an event with more than 10 people (not family members), they should contact the department first.

At the end of the public health report, commissioners also approved policies and procedures for the Saguache County Board of Health.

"Our county is doing all right" with COVID-19 management. "Hats off to our public health folks."

*Please see HEALTH on Page 2A*

## Colorado voting results

Colorado voters once again voted blue for Joe Biden and John Hickenlooper upset Republican incumbent Cory Gardner by 9.8%

Asof 11 a.m. Nov. 4, following is how Colorado voters voted on ballot issues with many ballots too close to call:

### 113 - National Popular Vote

Yes 1,485,429 52.39%  
 No 1,349,983 47.61%  
 Percent In (85.38%)

### 114 - Restore Gray Wolves

Yes 1,412,507 50.17%  
 No 1,402,820 49.83%

Percent In (85.38%)

### 115 - Ban Late-Term Abortions No

Yes 1,161,625 40.93%  
 No 1,676,245 59.07%

Percent In (85.38%)

### 116 - Reduce State Income Tax Yes

Yes 1,616,729 56.99%  
 No 1,219,964 43.01%

Percent In (85.38%)

### 117 - New Enterprise Requirement

Yes 1,414,954 52.28%  
 No 1,291,682 47.72%

Percent In (85.38%)

### 118 - Family and Medical Leave Yes

Yes 1,607,082 57.04%  
 No 1,210,461 42.96%

Percent In (85.38%)

### 76 - Require Citizenship to Vote

Yes 1,781,029 62.65%  
 No 1,061,679 37.35%

Percent In (85.38%)

### 77 - Local Gaming Limit Approval

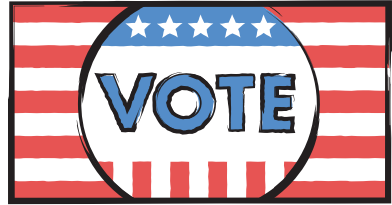
Yes 1,651,940 59.77%  
 No 1,111,960 40.23%

Percent In (85.38%)

### B - Repeal Prop Tax Assess Rates

Yes 1,651,940 59.77%  
 No 1,111,960 40.23%

Percent In (85.38%)



Yes 1,573,790 57.47%  
 No 1,164,871 42.53%

Percent In (85.38%)

### C - Charitable Gaming Conduct

Yes 1,415,356 51.72%  
 No 1,321,325 48.28%

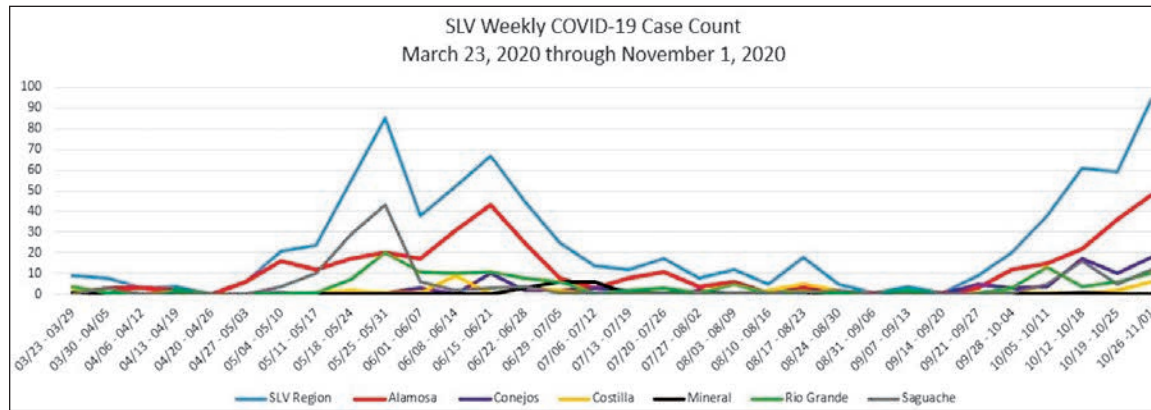
Percent In (85.38%)

### EE - Tobacco and Nicotine Tax Yes

Yes 1,938,525 68.08%  
 No 908,805 31.92%

Percent In (85.38%)

## Valley COVID-19 cases reach highest level yet



### Alamosa County has second highest COVID-19 positivity rate in state

**BY TREY SPAULDING**

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** - On July 7, 2020, San Luis Valley reported that the San Luis Valley (SLV) had 445 cumulative COVID-19 cases with 53 known active cases. Three months later Nov. 3, 2020, positive cases among residents in the SLV residents increased by 343 cases to 788. Beginning the week of Sept. 14 COVID-19 positive cases spiraled upward with a slight decline the week of Oct. 12. Active cases among SLV residents grew to its highest number yet with 135 known active cases Nov. 3, 2020.

The two-week positivity rate ending Nov. 4 was 7.36% for the SLV. The Colorado and World Health Organization two-week positivity goal is 5% or lower. According to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center Nov. 4, Colorado had a seven-day positivity moving average test rate of 7.7%. For Colorado's neighboring states the seven-day positivity rate Nov. 3 was much higher with Kansas at 36.0%, Wyoming 30.4%, Utah 15.3%, Arizona 11.8%, Nebraska 10.2% and Oklahoma 9.1%.

According to the Colorado COVID-19 "dashboard," Nov. 4, Alamosa County had the second highest COVID-19 seven-day positive test rate in the state with 16.2% of tests being positive. According to the state's

COVID-19 "dial," Alamosa County is approaching a "stay at home status." Rio Grande County's two-week positivity rate Nov. 3 was 2.2% while Conejos County had a positivity rate of 11.1%, Costilla County 7.5% and Saguache County was at 8.8%. Since the outbreak there have been 15 COVID-19 related deaths in the San Luis Valley.

What is disconcerting is that during the initial stages of the outbreak only those who were high risk, symptomatic or worked in healthcare were being tested. The number of tests being conducted now has increased dramatically and the number of positive cases is correspondingly increasing. Since the outbreak 1,236,323 Colorado residents have been

*Please see COVID on Page 2A*

## Center schools shift online

**BY PATRICK SHEA**

**CENTER** — On Oct. 28, Center Consolidated Schools Superintendent Carrie Zimmerman informed ninth graders and select high schoolers of a possible coronavirus exposure, but when Saguache County Public Health later confirmed a case among Viking students, Zimmerman announced a district-wide shift to remote learning on Nov. 1.

"Center schools have been working closely with Saguache County Public Health (SCPH) during this pandemic," Zimmerman wrote on Nov. 1.

"We believe the safest course of action is for the district to switch to remote learning for the upcoming week," Zimmerman added. "This will give us time to coordinate with the county and better assess the situation. There does seem to be some community spread at this time, due to a large community gathering and an outbreak at one of the potato warehouses. As a district, we don't want to contribute to that spread," Zimmerman added.

To streamline the transition, the Center School District website includes schedules, videos, and Zoom

*Please see SCHOOL on Page 2A*

## Saguache election summary report

McCracken and Simpson win County Commissioner positions

Votes Cast: 3,179 of 4,555 (69.79%)

### Presidential Electors (Vote for 1)

Candidate  
 Joseph R. Biden / Kamala D. Harris - Votes 1,779

Donald J. Trump / Michael R. Pence - Votes 1,287

### United States Senator (Vote for 1)

John W. Hickenlooper DEM 1,783

Cory Gardner REP 1,282

### Representative to the 117th United States Congress-District 3 (Vote for 1)

Lauren Boebert REP 1,219  
 Diane E. Mitsch Bush DEM 1,730

### State Board of Education Member

(Vote for 1)  
 Mayling Simpson DEM 1,771

### Congressional District 3 (Vote for 1)

Joyce Rankin REP 1,258  
 Total Votes 3,029

for 1)  
 Cleave Simpson REP 1,288

Carlos R. Lopez DEM 1,766  
 Total Votes 3,054

### State Representative - District 62

(Vote for 1)  
 Donald E. Valdez DEM 1,880

Logan Taggart REP 1,169  
 Total Votes 3,049

### District Attorney--12th Judicial

District (Vote for 1)

Alonzo Christopher DEM  
 Total Votes 2,001

### Saguache County Commissioner

District 1 (Vote for 1)  
 Richard Pascoe REP 1,237

Thomas D. McCracken DEM 1,837

Total Votes 3,074

### Saguache County Commissioner

District 2 (Vote for 1)  
 Lynne Thompson DEM 2,124

Total Votes 2,724

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# Listen to Woodsy: Give a hoot don't pollute!

By REBECCA COPLEY

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** - With the COVID-19 social-distancing restrictions that have been in place for much of 2020, many have caught a bad case of cabin fever. Spending time outdoors has become one of the best and safest ways to recreate this year causing trails and campgrounds to see a lot more use. Unfortunately, they have also seen a large increase in trash.

Helen Smith is a Visitor Information Specialist who assists the Rio Grande National Forest with its mission of "Caring for the Land and Serving People," on behalf of the San Juan Mountains Association. She said that most of the littering has been in common areas like campgrounds. "Part of this is because there are many people who have never camped before that have been starting to come out and camp, since for a while there was really not much else to do." Smith shared that the littering she has seen has made her want to revive the use of Woodsy Owl who serves as a

## COVID

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tested with 109,910 testing positive - a positivity rate of 8.9%.

Wednesday, Nov. 4, there were 135 known active cases in the SLV. "Active cases" means that the cases are confirmed positive for COVID-19 and are currently being supported by Public Health

## HEALTH

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They have risen to the occasion and gone above and beyond."

During his report, Sheriff Dan Warwick described difficulties with bookings since the state will not allow them to accept new inmates. Warwick said, "We have had more arrests, and they all go to other jails. It's costing us." In addition to the financial hit, staff requires more time for managing inmate transportation.

Robert Woelz provided his Emergency Manager update with a request for commissioners to review and approve the 2019 Emergency Operations Plan.

Housing Director Evan Samora presented budget details, and commissioners approved it. Samora added that bears are raiding dumpsters every day at one location. A chain over the lid was no match for the sow and two cubs. Commissioners urged Samora to contact the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife to help handle the bears.

"It has been going on for three weeks," Samora added, noting mountain lion sightings too.

Since the 2020 Saguache Community Pow Wow was canceled, they requested funding to use the same amount for 2021. Commissioners agreed.

counter-part to Smokey Bear. Woodsy Owl was the brainchild of Harold Bell who created the character in 1970. His famous moto of "Give a hoot! Don't pollute!" was introduced in 1971. For 50 years, Woodsy has been trying to remind people to take care of the world around them. Smith says she's been inspired to use Woodsy to help spread a message of keeping our local forest areas clean. Smith noted that her work with the RGNF goes along with the mission of the San Juan Mountains Association to "Explore, Learn, Protect."

"Frankly I feel like it needs to happen," Smith said adding, "People need to be aware that these things aren't just going to disappear by themselves. We need to take better care of the resources that we have. If we still want them to be there in the future and still be beautiful, then everyone needs to do their part."

Smith also explained some of the harmful effects littering can have in nature areas saying, "Littering is bad in a number of ways. It obviously

during their isolation period. Cases by county were as follows:

- Alamosa: 76
- Conejos: 23
- Costilla: 7
- Mineral: 0
- Rio Grande: 14
- Saguache: 14

The Baca Grande Property Owners Association requested \$2,000 to buy a wood splitter and trailer. The board approved.

The board approved six lot consolidations in the Baca Grande, and they accepted eight bids for county-owned land.

County Administrator Wendi Maez reminded commissioners of the next regular meeting Dec. 8, and two public hearings Dec. 15 (budget and regulations concerning easements).

The last meeting of year will be Dec. 22.

detracts from the beauty of a spot but it's also harmful for wildlife if they eat things, they're not supposed to that can either make them sick or in some cases kill them."

Smith also sharing another big concern with littering is polluting water. Tossing your trash in or near bodies of water makes the water supply less safe, and less enjoyable to view.

However Woodsy Owl has a lot of good principals that people can follow to help do their part and not pollute. They include:

- Picking up and packing out all trash.
- Disposing of all human and pet waste properly by burying it at least 6 inches deep (including toilet paper.)

## SCHOOL

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links for students. Kindergartners through fifth graders can follow itineraries with QR Codes for easy access.

Skoglund Middle School principal Luis Murillo created multiple videos in English and Spanish to guide students through this week's virtual learning process. Students in grades nine through 12 can access a separate

Camping at least 200 ft. away from water.

Utilizing previously established camping sites (nobody wants to visit a completely trampled meadow.)

Not leaving trash in your campfire rings and picking up all cigarette butts. (leaving them around is also potential fire hazard so it's very important to clean them up.)

"I think it goes back to let's all do our part to keep Colorado, Colorado. There's a reason people come here and the high amounts of traffic that we're seeing I don't think are going to be going away. That just heightens the need for people to do their part even more and tread lightly on public lands," stated Smith.



document through the school website and scroll through a list of Zoom links.

As lessons continue, the district will still provide childcare for toddlers and instruction for pre-kindergartners. Sports are postponed during the remote transition, but meals for students will still be available daily.

"We will be providing Grab-and-Go meals all week long, from noon

to 1 p.m., in front of the cafeteria," Zimmerman added in her Nov. 1 communication. "The meals will include a breakfast, lunch and a snack for all students. Please swing by and pick up food."

As of Nov. 2, the school continues to work with Saguache County Public Health to determine a safe date for returning to in-person learning.

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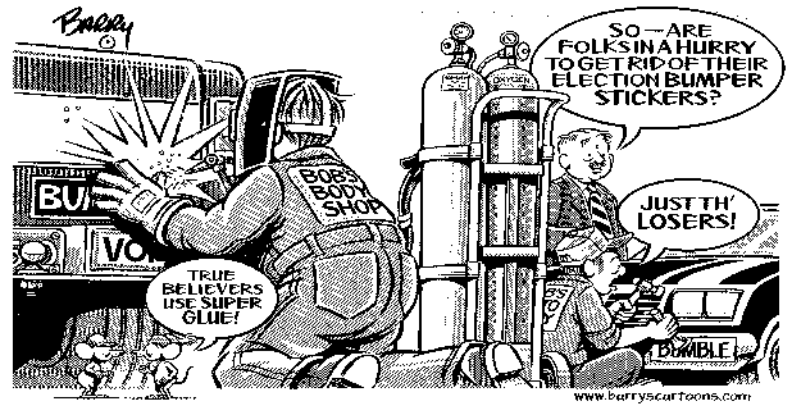


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# OPINION & EDITORIAL



## LETTERS

# Is racial injustice really “Undeniable” in South Fork?

To the editor,  
We, the undersigned, are responding to the Oct. 18 Denver Post article asserting freedom of speech violations and racial tensions in South Fork, CO (population below 400). Click to follow link: <https://www.denverpost.com/2020/10/18/black-lives-matter-colorado-small-towns/>. The issues arose from Sol Mountain Farms (SMF) soliciting Black Lives Matter (BLM) donations at their local farmers market booth on town property. The solicitation prompted a reaction from numerous visitors. The Denver Post article states one “enraged customer” was incensed that SMF would solicit donations for a political organization on town property. In fact, the person denies she was “enraged.” On the contrary, she participated in a cordial conversation with SMF vendors about her views on BLM for approximately 15 minutes before thanking them for listening, and SMF responded in kind.

Those who contacted the South Fork (SF) town manager objected to the solicitation of political donations on town property. Regardless of their claims to be peacefully protesting for social justice, BLM has proven to be a divisive and violent faction that causes chaos.

What is the ultimate goal of SMF? Just because political activism has not been a central focus in this town, does it now mean that it has to be? Clearly, political activism can incite division, violence and blind hatred as we have witnessed across the U.S. under the BLM movement. What is the benefit of “speaking out, organizing and fighting back” if all it does is provoke controversy where once none existed?

“The racial tension in South Fork, specifically, is undeniable,” states Angela Lee, operations manager and part owner of SMF. Lee failed

to mention to the media that when she first came to SF, the town readily hired her to take on a leadership role for a program called Community Heart & Soul, a national community development model developed by the Orton Family Foundation. Lee spent several months in that position besides serving as an assistant to SF’s marketing operations. Her hiring hardly qualifies as “undeniable racial tension and targeting of her as the daughter of immigrants.”

Lee, a licensed Colorado attorney, surely knows that she is not the only person in SF who is the offspring of immigrants. There are other SF residents who are children of immigrants who came to the U.S. to pursue a more promising future. Their aim was not to sow divisiveness nor to imply that their needs, wants and point of view somehow matter more than any other citizen of this country.

Regarding Wes O’Rourke’s comment that SF is a “place made by old white Texans, for old white Texans,” he is merely demonstrating his racial bias against the people who laid the foundation for him and his family to create and maintain successful businesses in SF. Moreover, the irony of his statement is not lost on the fact that he is the son of a Texan.

“It wasn’t even about the money. The brothers who work at SMF said they mostly just wanted to spark conversation on racial injustice in the small, mostly conservative pass-through town on the cusp of the San Luis Valley.” How is this relevant to their business? Perhaps these brothers should go back and review marketing fundamentals: it’s not about what you, the business owner wants; it’s simply about what the customer wants. Successful business owners know not to lob inflammatory ideology at their customers.

SF strives to maintain a healthy equilibrium for those who live in and visit our town. That is the sole reason it acted to avoid controversy. Perhaps, with a bit of further reflection, SMF might come to see one day that, in fact, it is engaging in blatantly biased and racially charged assertions given such statements as “made by old white Texans for old, white Texans,” South Fork is “mostly a conservative pass-through town” and “the racial tension in South Fork, specifically, is undeniable.” For all who work hard to make South Fork their home and consistently contribute to improving the quality of life here, this profiling is not only highly offensive, it is egregiously presumptuous.

If the brothers who work at SMF really wanted to “spark a conversation on racial injustice” i.e., BLM, then what was the purpose of inserting the bully pulpit of the ACLU into this conversation? Does the ACLU’s involvement not serve as a threat to the SF residents that they must accept and conform to SMF’s views or pay the price?

So, Ms. Lee, if you and SMF insist on continuing with this fight because “no one else is doing it,” then SMF may indeed win the prize... but at what cost?

*Glynn Polter, JD & Toya Dyess, Barb & Russell Cowman, Lee & Anita Albert, Larry & Meme Martin, Dwayne & Linda Weyers, Gary & Marilyn Ochsner, Lynn Gibbons, Wayne Wicks, Tim & Cathy Thompson, Tom & Karen Slade, Michael & Molly Leddy, Becki Helmstetter, Wayne & Suzan Ginani, John & Judy Thomas, Bill Stonaker, Roxy Seligman, Greg & Lisa Butcher, Kenya Skytte, Keri Tully, Bruce & Kris Steffens, Lori Carr Prinze, Tracy & Allie Calhoun, Randy & Sue Phillips, Dee Plucinski*

## Hoarder or Collector

You have to be living in a cave to have missed the phenomenon of reality shows television offered on the 6887 different channels every night. Everything from soup to nuts is documented in people’s otherwise mundane lives.

Ol’ Dutch can recall when the shows first started, they seemed pretty realistic and boring -- the gist of most people’s daily existence when viewed by other people.

Oh sure, there are some real oddballs out there whose lives resemble a daily train wreck but if a camera followed most of us around as we shop or work or mow the lawn, it’s not that compelling of content.

Enter the “scripted” world of reality TV. Instead of watching Doris and Ken fix supper and retire to their recliners, we find them fighting like two wildcats in heat, bailing the kids out of jail and meeting little Jenny’s boyfriend who is also a member of the Hell’s Angels motorcycle club. Same people but now with a little artistic license and direction.

Remember how thrilled we all were when Parker found 20 ounces of gold on Gold Rush using his Grandpa’s worn-out equipment? Well, a decade later that struggle isn’t dramatic enough. He now brings in a golden pile of financial excess with million dollar equipment, massive excavations and smarmy remarks.

Regardless of your personal preferences in television viewing, you can rest assured you will find one that will tweak your Twitter.

Last year there were 409 scripted reality TV shows offered in prime time according to Mr. Google. Among those are shows about swapping wives, getting a fast fiancée, being smarter than a child, talent contests, bachelors and bachelorettes skanking around, losing weight, being fat, dating naked (which in a real world would end all dating, mating and marriage proposals), being average, hunting, fishing, living in Alaska, making moonshine, chasing alligators, flipping houses and football, baseball, California, New Jersey and Dallas wives.

Ol’ Dutch can understand people wanting non-reality shows as my daily affairs would be of no interest to the average viewer, although Miss Trixie’s life is a different matter.

This is due to her innate inability to say “no” when people either ask for help or look helpless or pause in their



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

conversation to take a breath. For she always sees a hole to fill in someone’s helpless condition and runs like a pig to slaughter to get involved.

This then turns into what is generally called a nightmare for Ol’ Dutch as she returns home worn-out and cranky as an old man with kids on his lawn.

Her latest endeavor reminds Ol’ Dutch of the show “Hoarders.” This is the one about people who cannot let go of anything and end up living in a pigsty among piles of stuff stacked to the ceilings.

And while Ol’ Dutch can empathize to a point about collecting things that are memorable or valuable, there is a wide line between collectable and junk.

So, into this sea of impenetrable goods did Miss Trixie dive headfirst and now she finds herself sorting and cleaning and trying to find some semblance of sanity. Which I hope she brings home next time she decides to grace this threshold.

For you see, the job is so immense Miss Trixie has had to stay over at that house through the week. I suspect; however, the real reason is she cannot find her way to the door and cannot return home.

Ol’ Dutch is a little concerned that Miss Trixie has caught that collecting bug and I have told her if she brings anything new home something has to leave. So now all of Dutch’s stuff is outside. Pray for me, people. I need it.

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

## Monte Vista Crane Festival canceled

To the editor,  
After thoughtful consideration, the Monte Vista Crane Festival planning committee has decided to cancel the 2021 Crane Festival due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Monte Vista Crane festival is the oldest birding festival in Colorado and one of the oldest in the nation and has occurred every spring since 1983. The festival is planned and coordinated by the Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Monte Vista. Most of the planning and coordination of this event is done by volunteers and planning efforts span six months or more before the March event.

Given the uncertainty of COVID-19

and Colorado State regulations on gatherings the planning committee simply cannot invest the money, time, and energy in planning an event that is unlikely to happen. The planning committee does not take this decision lightly as we understand how important this event is to our community and its importance economically to the entire San Luis Valley region.

As we think back to the 2020 Crane Festival, for many of us it seems that the festival was the “last normal thing that happened” before the world changed with the COVID-19 shut down in mid-March. We hope in 2022 it will be safe for large groups to gather again. We encourage our community and local businesses to brainstorm creative visitor opportunities for the

2022 festival and make it the best festival ever. We look forward to engaging our community for the 2022 festival with events at the Vali 3 Theater, the brand-new Ski Hi Event and Conference Center, and bus tours to the refuge and other local attractions.

The fall migration of the cranes and ducks is happening now. There are no restrictions on visiting the Monte Vista Refuge at this time, but please practice standard COVID precautions and wear a mask when in public, adhere to 6 feet distancing between people, wash hands frequently, and stay home if you have any symptoms. Be aware restroom facilities on the refuge may not be open.

Thank you for your understanding.  
*Monte Vista Crane Festival Committee*

# CENTER POST - DISPATCH

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# La Puente discusses homelessness in SLV

By LYNDIE FERRELL

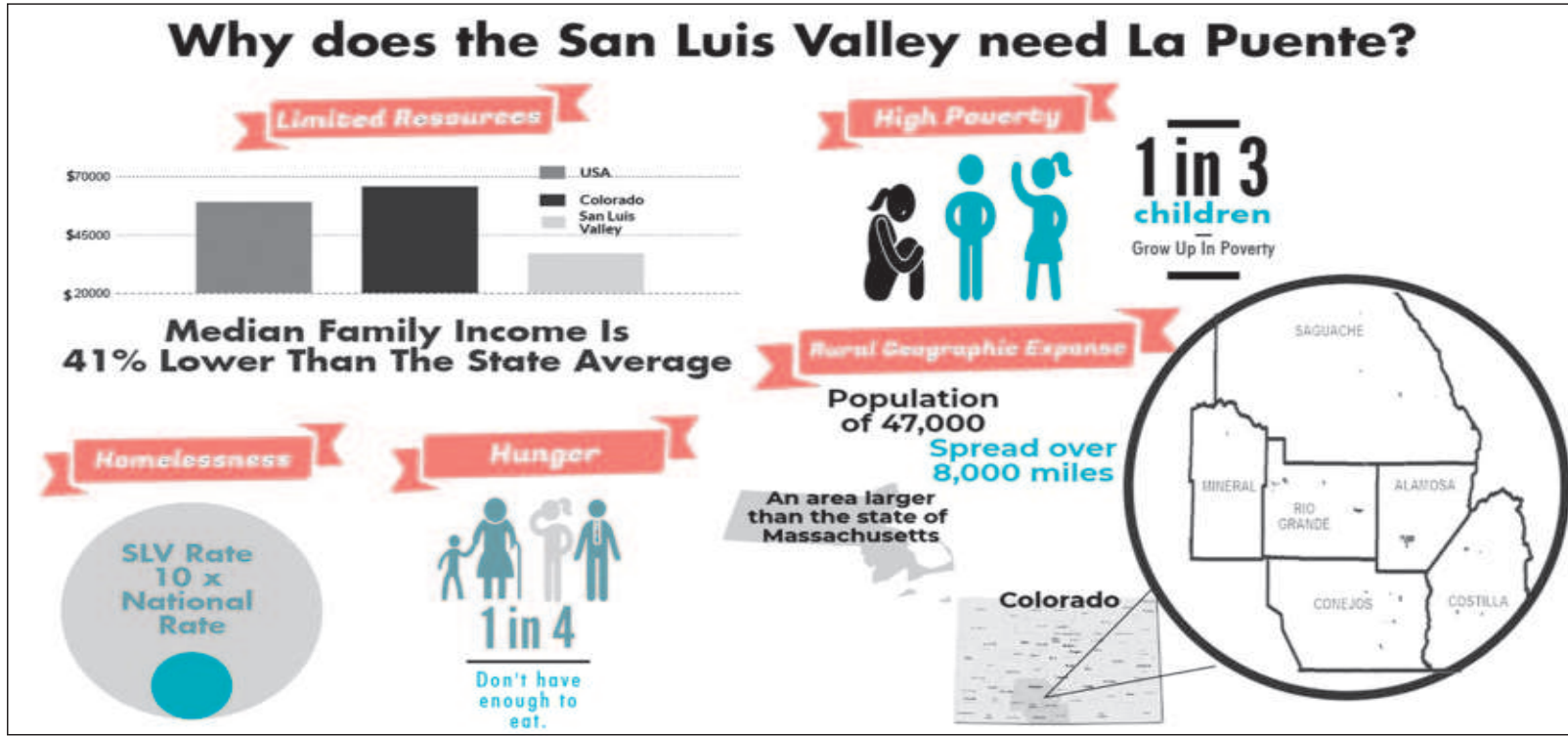
**RIO GRANDE COUNTY-** Amanda Pierson, Development Director with La Puente met with Rio Grande County Commissioners Wednesday, Oct. 28, to discuss COVID related emergency service grant funding and to ask that the county serve as fiscal agents for the grant.

“Like other grants we need governing bodies to certify the grant and are asking all of the county commissioners to certify the grant and we appreciate the opportunity to come and make that request of Rio Grande County,” said Pierson. “We do not get the opportunity to talk with Rio Grande County very often and we do a lot with Rio Grande County folks so, I’m glad to answer any questions you may have.”

Rio Grande Commissioner Suzanne Bothell began the conversation by asking whether or not La Puente advertised to bring homeless or financially challenged individuals to the area stating, “I have heard in the past and would like to find out that La Puente does advertise to get homeless people to the Valley? Is that accurate?”

Pierson responded that the claim stating that was “absolutely not accurate” and continued to state that the La Puente center is merely an organization that has taken on the responsibility of helping the homeless population in the Valley. “I can tell you that we just did a survey of the people who we are serving at the shelter right now and less than 1% come from out of the Valley.”

Pierson continued to explain that the majority of their homeless population at the shelter comes from all six counties from throughout the Valley, people who grew up in the area, have family and are locals. “We just took in a woman from Saguache County, her husband had just died, and she had no family to help her. It took us about 60 days in the shelter



to get her into housing but now she’s in her own housing.”

Pierson explained that though she did not have the exact numbers for the percentage of people that are served in Rio Grande County she did want commissioners to know that the organization has helped people with eviction assistance, rapid housing, food banks and other services besides the homeless shelter.

Commissioner John Noffsger asked for clarification of the grant and Pierson explained stating, “We had a gentleman last summer die from the elements. The shelter was founded to try to keep those things from happening, so we reinvigorated some of what we call street outreach to try to figure out who is out here camping. Our work found that about 70 people were camping along the rivers, on private property and other locations around the Valley. These were people who wouldn’t come to the shelter or had been removed from the shelter because they couldn’t follow

the rules. We are a clean shelter, and we don’t allow alcohol or drug use.”

“We needed to know who these folks were and how to get them services. When COVID happened, we have had to implement in the shelter some protective measures to keep our staff safe and to keep the other residents safe. That has cut in half what we can do at the shelter and cut in half our practices on really cold nights of letting people come sleep in areas set up for those occasions. We also have community meals in Alamosa to anyone who is hungry.”

Pierson stated that earlier this year, Alamosa agreed to put in a homeless camping location and that it had helped with some of the issues the shelter was facing but that more services were needed due to the colder weather approaching quickly.

Commissioner Chairman John Noffsger spoke on behalf of the board stating that the board did not feel comfortable agreeing to certify the grant until more details about

the work that is done at the shelter could be disclosed. The board opted to host a work session with La Puente and Pierson to make an educated decision once more information was provided and in time for the grant to be approved.

A work session was set for the following week and the board stated that they would have a decision by the next regular meeting later this month. All board members and Pierson agreed and the topic was tabled until a later time.

**Rio Grande Public Health (RGPH) will be offering our last community flu shot clinic at the South Fork Community Center. South Fork Community Center is located at 254 CO-149 in South Fork. This flu shot clinic will be on Saturday November 7th between 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM. RGPH can bill several insurances including Medicare. This flu shot clinic will provide increased social distancing and disinfection measures to help reduce COVID exposure. Masks are required. No appointment needed. For information call 657-3352.**

**For information call 657-3352**  
www.riograndecounty.org

## YOUR NIGHT SKY

### Taurid Meteors and Capricornis

By DARLENE DANKO

On November 10 Mercury reaches its greatest western elongation from the Sun. That makes it the best morning to look for it low in the east close to where the Sun rises. But remember, that you have to look for it at least ½ hour before the Sun rises. It’ll be visible all month.

You may have noticed that the Milky Way is no longer in position from the south to the northeast. It still ends in the NE, but its base has moved from the S to the West. That puts Jupiter and Saturn to the SW now.

The North Taurid meteors peak on Nov. 11 and 12. They radiate from the constellation Taurus the Bull which becomes visible in the SE early evening. But it raises high by midnight, when it produces more meteors. You may only see 5 per hour, but it has a lot of bright fireballs. You certainly can view them early in the morning before the Sun comes up.

Just to the left of Jupiter and Saturn along the ecliptic is the constellation Capricornis the “Sea Goat.” It’s one of the 12 constellations along the zodiac. Although it’s not a bright constellation, it’s one of the oldest in our sky. That location of the sky is known as the Sea or Water, which consists of many watery constellations. It depicts a strange goat with the tail of a fish.

It’ll be in the Southern sky about 2 hands wide and 2 hands high. The

reason it’s so faint is because it lies a great distance from the Milky Way in a basically empty region of the sky. It contains a few deep sky objects, multiple stars and a globular cluster.

Although it’s only the 3rd brightest star in the system, Alpha Capricorni is its primary star, and is actually composed of 2 star systems. There is a yellow super giant with 2 stars, and an orange giant with 3 stars. The first one is 690 LY away, and the other one is 109 LY away.

Beta Capricorni is a yellow giant that contains at least 5 stars that orbit each other and are 330 Ly away. Delta Capricorni is a 4 star system 39 LY away. It’s a white giant 8.5 times brighter than our Sun. It also is an eclipsing binary that has a meteor shower around July 30.

Its deepsky object M30 is a globular cluster 28,000 LY from us and is approaching us at a speed of about 180 KM per second. It was one of the deep sly objects discovered by Charles Messier in 1764.

This is a broad triangular shape constellation. You should look at it with binoculars to examine all of its beautiful 12 stars!



New location!

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## November 9th, 2020!

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Astronaut Kent Rominger Airport manager Jay Sarason conducted a successful extracurricular activity for a local AOPA's High School STEM class using the new classroom at the airport.

# Kent Rominger Airport hosts AOPA Stem Class

**DEL NORTE** - RAF Colorado Liaison Tom Haefeli reports that Astronaut Kent Rominger Airport manager Jay Sarason conducted a successful extracurricular activity for a local AOPA's High School STEM class using the new classroom at the airport.

"The inaugural class at Sargent High School had 20 kids," Haefeli said, adding, "That's pretty remarkable, considering the K-12 student body is around 200."

Sarason retired from Colorado Division of Wildlife and began substitute teaching and became assistant baseball coach at Sargent High School. He earned a Sport Pilot Instructor license and bought

an Aeronca Champ to teach kids to fly. Already, one of his students has earned his Private Pilot license.

Sarason convinced the Sargent School Board that the AOPA STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program would be a great addition, and it all came together this year, enabling him to lead field trips to astronaut Kent Rominger Airport, (KRCV) in Del Norte, Colorado.

"This is where the RAF comes in," Haefeli said. In 2019, he was awarded a \$30,000 RAF Grant for a "multifunction building, with a classroom being high on the list." He obtained funding from individual donors, the Airport Board

and with donated labor, supplies, heavy equipment use and operation from various contractors, finished the project with the balance of funding from Rio Grande County.

Five students committed to this first extracurricular program at KRCV, and Haefeli visited during a ground lesson, observing the students engaged in traffic patterns and preflight weather. Afterward, Jay flew students in his Champ.

"Seeing the smiles on those kids' faces, I have no doubt the numbers will be much higher on the next field trip," Haefeli exclaimed, adding, "Thank you so much RAF and AOPA for giving us this opportunity!"

# Wreaths Across America with Homelake

**MONTE VISTA** - Wreaths Across America™, a nonprofit 501-c3 organization, was formed as an extension of the Arlington Wreath Project. The Arlington Wreath program was started by Morrill Worcester ( Worcester Wreath ) in 1992 with the donation and laying of 5000 Christmas wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. This became

an annual journey for Mr. Worcester. It was relatively obscure until 2005 when a photo of the stones adorned with wreaths and covered in snow circulated around the internet. The project

received National attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to emulate the Arlington project at their National and

State cemeteries spurred the creation of "Wreaths Across America™." Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Mr. Worcester conceived the idea of sending 7 wreaths (one for each branch of the military as well as POW/MIA).

In 2007 the Worcester family established the nonprofit group Wreaths Across America™ to further promote Veterans remembrance. The mission Remember, Honor and Teach characterized the projects goals perfectly.

The wreath laying, held annually on a Saturday of December was



unanimously voted by the U.S. Congress as "Wreaths Across America™ Day." Wreaths Across America™ would not be successful without the help of the volunteers, many active organizations and the generosity of the trucking industry.

We collectively thank our military and their families for "Our Freedom"! Our goal is to have enough wreaths sponsored so that every veteran's grave will be honored. If you are interested in sponsoring a wreath contact Pam Self at 825-8216 or 849-3154. The cost is \$15.00 per

wreath with all orders and money needed by Nov. 24, 2020. Please send your request and money to Pam Self, P.O. Box 97, Homelake, CO 81135. The wreaths will be delivered to the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake.

This year's ceremony will be livestreamed on Facebook at 10 am on Dec. 19, 2020. Homelake staff will place the wreaths this year to support our ongoing efforts to continue to keep safe the veterans who live at Homelake, the staff who care for them and our community at large.

# Kay's Bookkeeping Services

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**995 N. Hwy 285 • Monte Vista**  
(next to Valley Lumber)

Kay's: (719) 852-5638

Monte Vista Cemetery: (719) 852-5196 or  
[www.montevistacemeteryassociation.com](http://www.montevistacemeteryassociation.com)



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# Over 120 years of local Valley history

BY REBECCA COPLEY

For 94 years the little, beautiful, English Gothic styled, brick Church that is Monte Vista's St. Peter's Lutheran Church has stood in the community. The origins of this long standing church community can be traced to much earlier. According to Emma M. Riggerbach's history book, "A Bridge to Yesterday," it was in 1897 and 1898 that two staunch Lutheran families came to the San Luis Valley. "They were Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Schulz of Texas and Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Quiram of Minnesota. These two families came together every Sunday and conducted services in their homes. But they longed for an established church and services of a Lutheran pastor," writes Riggerbach in her book.

Riggerbach further shares that there was a peddler at that time who made regular trips between the Wet Mountain Valley and the San Luis Valley. He told them that there were Lutheran families and a Lutheran pastor in the Wet Mountain Valley and that he would tell the minister about the families in the San Luis Valley.

Reverend Joseph Oesch of Westcliffe came over to the San Luis Valley to conduct services Friday, Sept. 22, 1899, at the home of Mr. C. H. Schulz. "After some mix-ups on that day, the people were recalled to the Schulz home and, at 12 o'clock that night services began. Pastor Oesch preached a sermon, baptized baby Julius Schulz, and administered the Lord's Supper.

About 40 people attended the service," stated Riggerbach in her book.

Over the years the Lutheran congregation had many different ministers and meeting places. It wasn't until 1926 that construction of its present home began. The basement of the current church was dedicated Sept. 12, 1926. According to "A Bridge to Yesterday," services were held in that basement for over six years.

In 1929 St. Peter's Lutheran Christian Day School was also first opened. Its classes were also held in the basement of the church. Their first teacher was a Mr. Oscar Suelter who also drove their Model "T" Ford bus to pick up 11 pupils who lived north of Monte Vista. By the end of their first year the school had 23 students enrolled.

It wasn't until May 1932 that they were able to complete the church building. On Oct. 16, 1932, the new church building was dedicated and the church body also celebrated their 25th anniversary. Riggerbach shares in her book that three services were held that day with about 1,200 people attending. The cost of the building including the existing basement was \$15,000.

In 1937 the congregation was also able to build a school building. The cost for that project was about \$7,200 writes Riggerbach. Riggerbach also writing, "With the occupying of the new school enrollment numbered about 50 students - and one year enrollment reached 65!"

Beverly Vitale is a member of St.

Peter's and her Grandfather Martin Mueller was a pastor at St. Peters for around 30 years. Vitale shared that she went to school there for a few years when she was growing up. Her first year after graduating from college she came back as a teacher. She taught for one year and Vitale remembers it as a good year.

"At that time, we had what was called the big room and the little room. The little room was 1-4 and the big room was 5-8. And I had 24 students the first year in four grades. And I was as green as a gourd. It was a good year though. The kids were really not naughty or disrespectful or anything. They were very good students," remembered Vitale.

Today the school is closed but some do hope that they can reopen at some point. The congregation has dwindled over the years which makes funding a struggle. Vitale who has been a part of St. Peter's Lutheran Church for many years can remember how full it used to be saying, "Especially on Christmas Eve, it used to be packed. You just had to go early to get a seat."

Today they still hold many special services throughout the year. They observe Lent, Good Friday, Easter sunrise service, and Christmas Eve service in addition to their regular services. However, they were not able to hold these services this year for the first time due to the pandemic. They, like churches around the world, have been forced to continue meeting via zoom. The year 2020 with its many challenges is certainly making itself a memorable year and adding another interesting layer of history to this Church's rich and enduring one.



Photos by Rebecca Copley

Ninety-four (94) years later St. Peter's Lutheran Church still stands and holds services in Monte Vista.



The St. Peter's Lutheran school where many young children got their elementary education through the years.

## Rio Grande County preliminary election results Nov. 2020

BY LYNDIE FERRELL

**RIO GRANDE COUNTY** - Unofficial results for Rio Grande County, Rio Grande Commissioner

District 1, Scott Deacon. District 3, Gene Glover. Ballot Issue 6A passes in the county for the Fire Protection District 2, 2,955 for and 1,166 against.

## SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF REPORT

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Oct. 26 and Nov. 1, 2020.

Fielding almost 70 calls for the week, the department helped people and property. They pursued two missing persons, aided six motorists, investigated three scenes of suspicious activity and handled one civil dispute.

In addition to conducting two Vehicle Identification Number inspections, the Sheriff's Office responded to two car thefts, four abandoned vehicles, five traffic

stops and three crashes with property damage. They heard five complaints (two for noise, three in traffic). Staff worked with 18 controlled burns and three fires, three burglaries, four animal problems and three thefts.

### Arrests

- William Vestal, 46, Crestone, domestic violence, child abuse, harassment, and resisting arrest
- Hunter Ross, 22, Manassa, parole hold
- Jimmy Gollighugh, 23, Moffat, failure to appear
- Angelina Madison, 31, Denver, failure to appear

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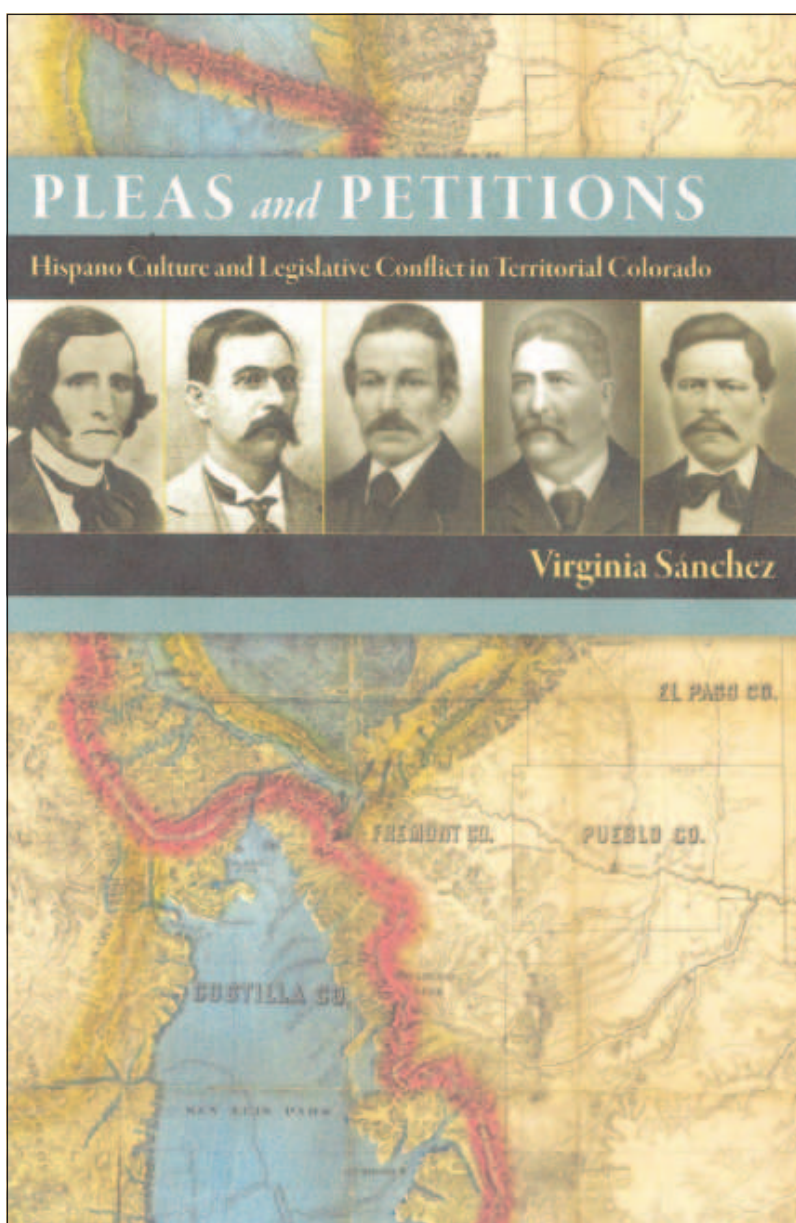
# Pleas and Petitions: Hispano Culture and Legislative Conflict in Territorial Colorado

In her recently released book, Virginia Sanchez presents new information about early southern Colorado during the territorial period (1861-1876). She discusses little-known topics such as political obstacles, cultural conflicts, and institutional racism experienced by Hispano legislators. She also answers the question, "Why does Colorado appear as a square state on the U.S. map?"

The two Hispano territorial assemblymen elected in Colorado's first election in 1861 found it difficult to create opportunity and a better life for their Spanish-speaking constituents. The essential House Rules that explain the procedures used in the Territorial House of Representatives, were not translated into Spanish and there was no interpreter available to them when they arrived in Chamber. Further, the territorial statutes, were not published in Spanish until 1864. This meant these U.S. citizens living in the southern Spanish-speaking counties were not informed of the new laws and the reasons for the several new taxes imposed upon them.

Nearly 7,000 Spanish-speaking U.S. citizens from northern New Mexico Territory woke up on Feb. 28, 1861 to discover they were now in the newly created Colorado Territory. These citizens were accustomed to a bilingual legislative assembly in New Mexico's Territorial Legislature that had the office of official translator for the monolingual English legislators and a budget for legislative printing. Colorado Territory was scrambling to pass laws and enact taxes without the full representation from Conejos, Costilla and Huerfano counties – the three southern counties of the time. Sanchez also includes a biography of the early Hispano legislators and introduces new historical research about the violence against Hispanos, including the Espinoza brothers who were named mass murders in 1862.

The book, *Pleas and Petitions: Hispano Culture and Legislative Conflict in Territorial Colorado*, is the first in-depth history of Hispano sociopolitical life during this period. Former U.S. Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Senator, and Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar wrote the foreword to the book. "Until Virginia's book, no other author has explained the early territorial law from the Hispanos' point of view... Her story tells us that [the Hispanos annexed to Colorado Territory]



wanted to be returned to New Mexico; however, Congress and the territorial executives would not hear their pleas." In his review of the book, former State Historian William Convery wrote, "Sanchez given Spanish-speaking leaders their overdue credit for fighting for Hispano rights and contributing the creation of Colorado."

Sanchez is an independent scholar who lives in Denver. She was preparing a book signing of *Pleas and Petitions* in Conejos

and Alamosa when the Covid pandemic struck. This is her second book about Colorado's Territorial Period, and it was published last March by the University of Colorado Press. An article she co-authored about the 7,000 Hispanos who were "displaced in place" won a monetary prize as best article published in 2018 by the *New Mexico Historical Review*. Her book, *Pleas and Petitions*, is available from local and online booksellers.

Saguache County is currently accepting proposals for the Saguache County 2020 Fiscal Year audit. The ideal firm or individual will have extensive knowledge and experience related to conducting governmental audits in accordance with generally accepted accounting and auditing standards, and preparing financial statements that conform to all state, federal and industry guidelines.

All interested parties should submit a letter of interest and a proposal for services by November 6, 2020 at 3:00 PM to: Saguache County Administration office. For additional information contact Saguache County Administration at 719-655-2231 or [wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov).

No. 1556 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, July 9, 16, 23, 30, August 6, 13, 20, 26, September 3, 10, 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, November 5 and 12, 2020.

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**ELECTION OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on Tuesday, the 8th day of December, 2020.  
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that due to Covid-19 and ongoing government restrictions, the District will be voting by mail in ballot only.  
At said election, the electors of the District shall vote for Director(s) to serve the following term(s) of office on the Board of Directors of the District:  
One Director for Division III for a 3-Year Term  
The name(s) of person(s) nominated and term(s) of office for which nominated are as follows:  
Tuck Slane, Director for Division III for a 3-year term  
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that an elector of said District for the purpose of said election is a person who (1) owns taxable real property within the District, and (2) is over the age of twenty-one years.  
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that affidavits of intent to be a write-in candidate must be filed no later than 4:00 o'clock p.m. on Friday, the 13th of November, 2020).  
To request a mail in ballot, please contact Amy S. Dean, District Secretary by email: [amy@slvid.org](mailto:amy@slvid.org) or by phone: 719-754-2254.  
San Luis Valley Irrigation District  
By: /s/ Amy S. Dean  
Secretary  
No. 1581 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, November 5, 12 and 19, 2020.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Court	<input type="checkbox"/> Denver Probate Court
Saguache County, Colorado Court Address: 501 4th Street P.O. Box 197 Saguache, CO 81149	
In the Matter of the Estate of:  Josh Curry	▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲
Deceased Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address): Katelyn Hardacre, #52019 Hardacre Law, LLC 1187 Auburn Dr., #135 Castle Rock, CO 80109	Case Number:  Division Courtroom:
Phone Number: (720) 724-3965 E-mail: <a href="mailto:katelyn@hardacre-law.com">katelyn@hardacre-law.com</a> FAX Number: N/A Atty. Reg. #: 52109	
NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-10-401, C.R.S.	

To: All Interested Persons in the Matter of the Estate of Josh Curry, deceased: Shane Curry, and Nathaniel Curry a/k/a Nathaniel Fleming, last known addresses unknown  
A hearing without appearance on Petition for Adjudication of Intestacy and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative is set at the following date, time, and location:  
Date: November 27, 2020  
Time: 8:00 a.m.  
Address: Saguache Combined Court, 501 4th Street, Saguache, Colorado 81149

Any interested person wishing to object to the formal appointment of Rhiannon Nicholle Curry as personal representative, the adjudication of intestacy, and the determination of heirs, must file a written objection with the court on or before the hearing, and must furnish a copy of the objection to Rhiannon Nicholle Curry, at 4094 S. Lisbon Way, Aurora, CO 80013. JDF 722 (Objection form) is available on the Colorado Judicial Branch website ([www.courts.state.co.us](http://www.courts.state.co.us)). If no objection is filed, the court may take action on the above-mentioned petition without further notice or hearing. If any objection is filed, the objecting party must, within 14 days after filing the objection, contact the court to set the objection for an appearance hearing. Failure to timely set the objection for an appearance hearing as required will result in further action as the court deems appropriate.

Rhiannon Nicholle Curry  
Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice  
4094 S. Lisbon Way  
Address  
Aurora, CO 80013  
City, State, Zip Code  
No. 1580 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, October 29 and November 5 and 12, 2020.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Court	<input type="checkbox"/> Denver Probate Court
Broomfield County, Colorado Court Address: 17 Descombes Drive Broomfield, CO 80020	
DATE FILED: July 7, 2020 10:53 AM CASE NUMBER: 2020DR100	
In re the Parental Responsibilities concerning:  Petitioner: <u>Kelly Christine Dawson</u> and Respondent: <u>Mitchell William Ryan</u>	▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲
Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address):	Case Number:  <u>2020R100</u>
Phone Number: E-mail: FAX Number: Atty. Reg. #:	Division Courtroom:  <u>B</u>
<b>SUMMONS FOR ALLOCATION OF PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	

To the Respondent named above this Summons serves as a notice to appear in this case.

If you were served in the State of Colorado, you must file your Response with the clerk of this Court within 21 days after this Summons is served on you to participate in this action.

If you were served outside of the State of Colorado or you were served by publication, you must file your Response with the clerk of this Court within 35 days after this Summons is served on you to participate in this action.

You may be required to pay a filing fee with your Response. The Response form (JDF 1420) can be found at [www.courts.state.co.us](http://www.courts.state.co.us) by clicking on the "Self Help/Forms" tab.

The Petition requests that the Court enter an Order addressing issues involving the children such as, child support, allocation of parental responsibilities, (decision-making and parenting time), attorney fees, and costs to the extent the Court has jurisdiction.

Notice: Colorado Revised Statutes §14-10-123, provides that upon the filing of a Petition for Allocation of Parental Responsibilities by the Petitioner and Co-Petitioner, or upon personal service of the Petition and Summons on the Respondent, or upon waiver and acceptance of service by the Respondent, an automatic temporary injunction shall be in effect against both parties until the Final Order is entered, or the Petition is dismissed, or until further Order of the Court. Either party may apply to the Court for further temporary orders, an expanded automatic temporary injunction, or modification or revocation under §14-10-125, C.R.S.

A request for genetic tests shall not prejudice the requesting party in matters concerning allocation of parental responsibilities pursuant to §14-10-124(1.5), C.R.S. If genetic tests are not obtained prior to a legal establishment of paternity and submitted into evidence prior to the entry of the final order, the genetic tests may not be allowed into evidence at a later date.

**Automatic Temporary Injunction - By Order of Colorado law, you and the other parties:**

1. Are enjoined from molesting or disturbing the peace of the other party; and
2. Are restrained from removing the minor child(ren) from the state without the consent of all parties or an Order of the Court modifying the injunction; and
3. Are restrained, without at least 14 days advance notification and the written consent of all other parties or an Order of the Court, from cancelling, modifying, terminating, or allowing to lapse for nonpayment of premiums, any policy of health insurance or life insurance that provides coverage to the minor child(ren) as a beneficiary of a policy.

If you fail to file a Response in this case, any or all of the matters above, or any related matters which come before this Court, may be decided without further notice to you.  
Date: 07/02/2020

No. 1576 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, October 8, 15, 22 and 29 and November 5, 2020.

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# RGNF removes fire restrictions, discusses move to Del Norte

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

**MONTE VISTA-** The Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) has been busy these last few weeks getting ready to begin work on the newly acquired building in Del Norte and will be conducting business as usual over the next few months. According to Public Affairs Officer Gregg Goodland some construction on the new building may begin in the next few days.

“This is what I referred to as the second phase of our move to Del Norte. We are not in the building at this time and have plans to be in the facility by 2022. A contractor began the removal and mitigation of the potentially hazardous materials last week. There will be activity in the building for several months. We don’t anticipate this activity to affect traffic or anything outside.”

Recent widespread snow has led to a significant reduction in fire danger in the San Luis Valley and upper Rio Grande watershed. Combined with the shorter days, cooler nighttime temperatures and the long-term weather forecast, the risk of unwanted wildfires has diminished enough for fire managers to feel comfortable with removing the restrictions. “This stretch of over 60 days in Stage 1 fire restrictions, combined with the restrictions imposed earlier in the year, has been one of the longest periods of fire restrictions on the Rio Grande National Forest,” said Chad Lewis, Fire Management Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest. “We thank everyone for their cooperation throughout the summer.” Regardless of

the conditions, visitors are encouraged to always practice these principles of outdoor fire safety:

Clear all burnable material within 3 feet of campfire rings.

Keep fires small and manageable.

Never leave a fire unattended.

Extinguish fires completely. If it’s too hot to touch, it’s too hot to leave.

Fireworks are always illegal on federally managed lands.

When asked if the current conditions of the forest increase the chances of a wildfire in this area Goodland stated, “In terms of the dead trees being on the forest, this does not inherently increase the risk of wildfires. However, it can contribute to how intense a wildfire may burn once started. There are two considerations here. First, if the dead trees are standing and still have needles on them, they have a higher probability to support faster growth in a crown fire. (A fire burning in the tree canopies.) Once the needles have dropped that risk is significantly reduced. That doesn’t mean that the area would not support a fire though.”

Goodland continued, “Second, the large accumulation of dead fuels will often support a more intense surface fire that is very resistant to control efforts. They may also promote the transition of a ground fire to a crown fire. In addition, these fuels have the potential to burn longer, which can prolong the amount of time a wildfire will burn in one area.”

Goodland also explained that due to current conditions, RGNF will not be conducting any controlled burns and



will keep the forest in stage one fire restrictions until conditions change. “The RGNF plans to continue all operations as normal during the winter months. Under the current conditions, we are not considering any prescribed fires. As conditions improve, we will evaluate our projects and proceed when

our chances for success are optimum. We have several ongoing logging operations and plan to continue those as normal.”

As far as any new project for the coming winter months, Goodland said that the department did have some projects that will take priority. “All new projects initiated on the RGNF will

proceed under the guidance of the new Land Management Plan. The upcoming Lujan Pass, Poncha Pass and Trail Gulch Vegetation Management projects will be the first ones to be initiated under the new plan. These projects are planned to begin in early 2021. We will notify the public when those processes begin.”

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# Lifestyles

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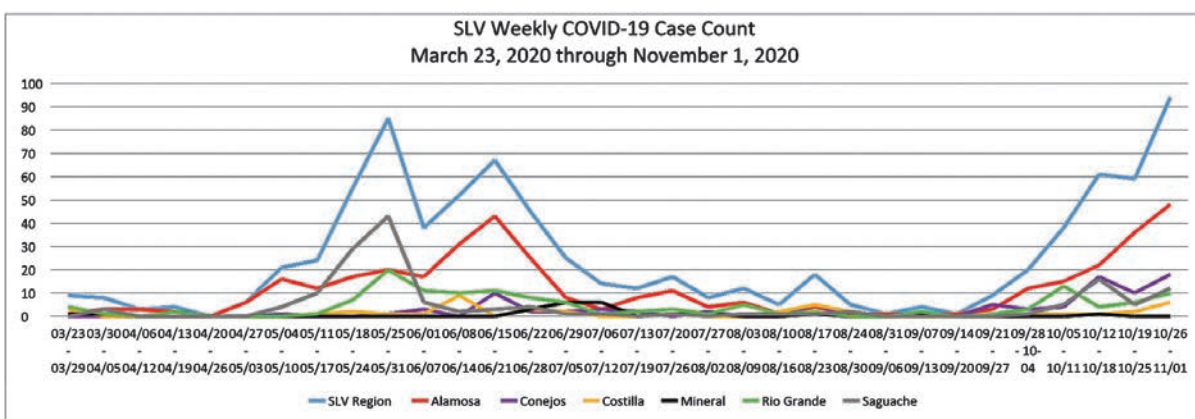
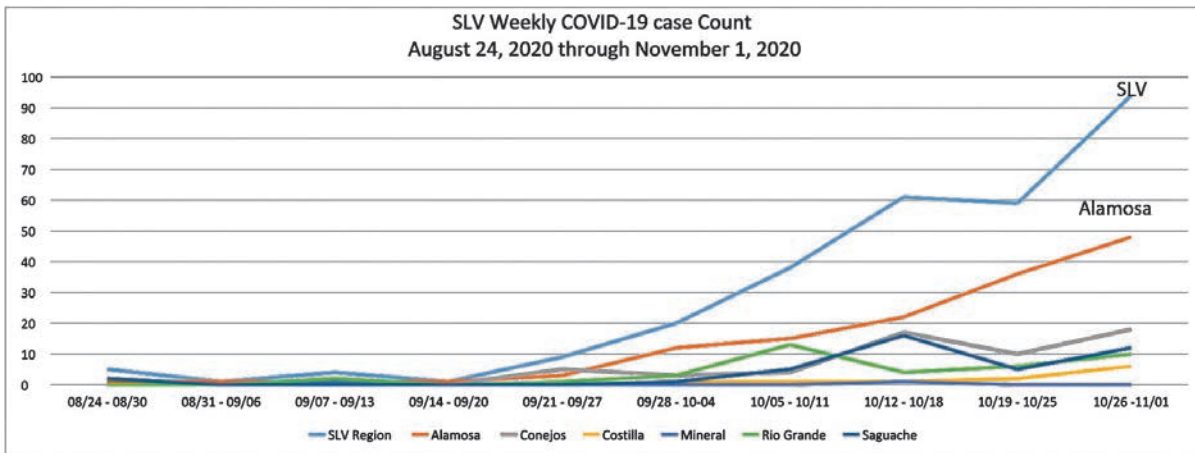
## Wreaths Across America at Homelake

MONTE VISTA - Wreaths Across America™, a nonprofit 501-c3 organization, was formed as an extension of the Arlington Wreath Project. The Arlington Wreath program was started by Morrill Worcester ( Worcester Wreath ) in 1992 with the donation and laying of 5000 Christmas wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. This became an annual journey for Mr. Worcester. It was relatively obscure until 2005 when a photo of the stones adorned with wreaths and covered in snow circulated around the internet. The project received National attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to emulate the Arlington project at their National and State cemeteries spurred the creation of

“Wreaths Across America™.” Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Mr. Worcester conceived the idea of sending 7 wreaths (one for each branch of the military as well as POW/MIA).

In 2007 the Worcester family established the nonprofit group Wreaths Across America™ to further promote Veterans remembrance. The mission Remember, Honor and Teach characterized the projects goals perfectly.

The wreath laying, held annually on a Saturday of December was unanimously voted by the U.S. Congress as “Wreaths Across America™ Day.” Wreaths Across America™ would not be successful without the help of the volunteers, many active organizations and the generosity of **Please see WREATHS on Page 6**



## SLV COVID-19 cases alarmingly increasing

**Alamosa County has second highest COVID-19 positivity rate in state**

By TREY SPAULDING

SAN LUIS VALLEY - On July 7, 2020, San Luis Valley reported that the San Luis Valley (SLV) had 445 cumulative COVID-19 cases with 53 known active cases. Three months later Nov. 02, 2020, positive cases among resi-

dents in the SLV residents increased by 339 cases to 784. Beginning the week of Sept. 14 COVID-19 positive cases spiraled upward with a slight decline the week of Oct. 12. However, the number of cases increased again the week ending Nov. 1. Active cases among SLV residents grew to its highest number with 130 known active cases.

The two-week positivity rate ending Nov. 2 was 6.43% for the SLV. The

Colorado and World Health Organization two-week positivity goal is 5% or lower. According to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center Nov. 2, Colorado had a seven-day positivity moving average test rate of 7.5%. For Colorado’s neighboring states the seven-day positivity rate was much higher with Wyoming being 42.9%, Kansas 33.8%, Utah 16.9%, Arizona 11.7%, **Please see COVID on Page 7**

## The Straggler

Ol’ Wayne was real particular about his steers. He figured if he spent his hard earned pennies tryin’ to get a few extra pounds, he dang sure wasn’t gonna sweat it off ‘em durin’ the gather.

Nobody’s horse had broke a trot all day as they trailed the bunch to the corral. One brahmer-cross turned back. “Jes’ let ‘im go, boys... Don’t want to rile the others.”

Durin’ the next week Wayne scattered a little hay each day for the lone holdout. By Saturday he had him up to the little knoll above the corral.

Saturday, Wayne had Billy come out ahorseback with a plan to finally capture the wary brute. Wayne baited the steer with a little hay and coaxed him toward the pickup. Everyone was as still as a courthouse on Sunday afternoon. The steer edged within range of Billy’s rope. “Okay,” whispered Wayne. At the sound of the command, Wayne’s



good cow dog shot between his legs and made a dash for the steer! Billy’s loop caught the air! The steer wheeled and lit out across the pasture! Billy managed to turn the steer. The dog slid to a stop. He tried to

stare the steer down... but he blinked! The steer bellowed at the dog! The dog turned tail and made for the pickup with the steer in hot pursuit!

Meanwhile back at the pickup, Wayne stood waving a flake of hay and cursing the dog. The dog sailed by Wayne, leaped and cleared the tailgate by 4 feet and a tail! The steer showed no sign of slowing. Wayne realized his predicament and ran toward the pickup! At 71 he couldn’t leap as high as the dog. He jerked on the tailgate futilely, then dropped and rolled under the pickup.

The steer hit the pickup in high gear with a bone jarring “WHANG!” The pickup, conveniently in neutral, rolled off the knoll toward the corral. The dog peered over the tailgate, obviously relieved as he left the scene of the impending accident.

Wayne lay flat on his back in a two-section pasture looking up the nostrils of

the foaming steer. Havoc now hung in the balance.

Now, I can’t swear this last part is true, but it could have happened this way; As the pickup bounced down the hill toward the corral, the steer spied the dog, jumped over Wayne and raced after it. Dog, truck and steer went right into the corral and Billy slammed the gate on the tale.

*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*



# Honoring America's Military Veterans

## A day to honor all Veterans



The month of November is a special time for the nation's veterans. While Memorial Day honors fallen soldiers and service people, Veteran's Day, which takes place each November, is an opportunity to commemorate the efforts of all who have been in the armed forces, with a special emphasis on living veterans. While people are encouraged to thank veterans throughout the year, Veteran's Day is a particularly poignant time to show your appreciation for the men and women of the military.

Veteran's Day takes place on November 11 and marks an important moment in history. On November 11, 1918, World War I, known at the time as "The Great War," unofficially ended when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, took place between Germany and the Allied nations on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. World War I ended on paper when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice

Day, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Armistice Day became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. However, after subsequent wars, including World War II and the Korean War, veterans' service organizations lobbied for Armistice Day to be revised so it would be more inclusive of all veterans. On June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation to strike the word "Armistice" from the holiday's name in favor of "Veterans." Since then, November 11 has been known as "Veterans Day" and has honored veterans of all wars.

Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday in October for roughly seven years under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which sought to ensure three-day weekends for federal

employees by celebrating certain national holidays on Mondays. But since November 11 bore such significance, many states disapproved and continued to observe the holiday on November 11. In 1975, President Gerald Ford signed legislation to return the observation of Veterans Day to November 11 beginning in 1978. Should the day fall on a Saturday or Sunday, the federal government observes the holiday on the previous Friday or following Monday, respectively, according to History.com.

The United States isn't the only country to celebrate its veterans. Canada, Great Britain, Australia, and France also commemorate the veterans of World War I and II on or near November 11 as Remembrance Day or Remembrance Sunday. TF20B466

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For local Veterans' Resources visit the San Luis Valley Veterans Coalition at: [www.vclsv.info](http://www.vclsv.info) and for elderly veterans visit the Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake's website at: [www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/veterans-community-living-center-homelake](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/veterans-community-living-center-homelake)  
San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group also has a program for Veterans, visit: <https://www.slvbhg.org/services-and-programs/community-behavioral-health-outpatient-services/veterans-services/>

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# Wolf Creek Ski Area is open for the season

**WOLF CREEK** - Wolf Creek Ski Area received 22 inches from the recent storm; the midway stake is reading 22 inches with 24 inches at the summit. Treasure, Bonanza and Nova opened Wednesday, Oct. 28, and will be open through Sunday, Nov. 1. A complete November schedule to be determined by Sunday, Nov. 1. Hours of operations are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lift tickets will be at the Local Appreciation Rates. Tickets can be purchased online or at the Ticket Office. More details will be updated tomorrow on the Ski Report Page.

Colorado State Guidelines require wearing face masks and social distancing in all indoor and outdoor public places. This includes buildings, in the base area, and riding a lift. Masks are required outdoors while in the base area and while in ticket and lift lines. Tickets will not be sold to anyone without a mask or face covering. Any guests refusing to follow Colorado State guidelines will be asked to leave. Other guidelines include:

Visitors coming to Wolf Creek should be aware of Colorado's quarantine requirements in case of exposure. Any guests who test positive or been exposed to COVID-19 must

extend their stay at their own expense to complete isolation or quarantine.

Wolf Creek is located in Mineral County; lodging is found in Pagosa Springs (Archuleta County) and South Fork (Rio Grande County). Please understand the dial level showing the status level of COVID-19 in all counties in Colorado. Visitors should educate themselves by clicking on the dial level link at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data/covid-19-dial/covid-19-dial>



dashboard

Please use the Colorado State Guidelines link for the comprehensive list of guidelines. Guests should also be aware of Wolf Creek Ski Area's preseason COVID-19 plan.

The only thing offered to participants are the lifts and restrooms. No other amenity will be offered such as indoor lodging/seating areas, food service, ski school, rentals, etc. The preseason plan will allow for access to the lifts only.



## Valley Publishing EARLY DEADLINES!

### Due to Veterans Day Deadlines for Nov. 11 & 12 Issues:

**Legal, Classified & Display Advertising:**  
Wednesday, Nov. 4 - 5 p.m.

**Calendar Items:**  
Wednesday, Nov. 4 - 5 p.m.

**News/Obituaries:**  
Thursday, Nov. 5 - 5 p.m.

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Honoring those  
who served

# SLV unemployment decreases 0.4% in September

BY TREY SPAULDING

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** - In September 2020, unemployment rates for the San Luis Valley (SLV), Colorado and the nation continued to decline.

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

The average unemployment rate for Colorado decreased to 6.2% in September. Nationwide the unemployment rate dropped from 8.4% in August to 7.9% in September.

In the San Luis Valley among the 23,100 labor force there were 21,767 employed equaling a 5.8% unemployment rate. In August 2020 the SLV unemployment rate was 6.2%.

The SLV county with the lowest unemployment rate in September 2020 was Conejos County with 4.3% unemployment. Conejos County had an unemployment rate of 4.7% in August. Alamosa County dropped from 5.9% in August to 5.5% in September. Rio Grande County unemployment dropped from 6.8% in August to 6.1% in September. Saguache County unemployment dropped 0.4% from August to 7.1%. Costilla County once again had the highest unemployment rate in

the SLV with 6.8% unemployed which was a drop of 1.15 from August. Mineral County's unemployment rose from an August percentage of 3.9% to 4.3% in September.

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~ B.Gullette

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-Douglas F., Google

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## CLASSIFIED INDEX

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**2020 OPEN POSITIONS FOR ONE-CENT OVERSITE COMMITTEE- City of Monte Vista seeks citizens with a desire to volunteer and serve the Monte Vista One Cent Oversight Committee.** The One Cent Oversight Committee consists of persons residing in the City of Monte Vista who have been appointed by the Monte Vista City Council. One Cent Oversight Committee members serve in an advisory capacity to the City of Monte Vista Council in matters relating to the appropriation of funds on the 1-cent tax passed in 2019. **Interested ap-**

**plicants please send letter of interest to [uvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us](mailto:uvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us) or 95 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street Monte Vista, CO. 81144 no later than November 13, 2020.**

**Please make sure that your letter of interest contains your email address, as this will be a main source of communication.** City Council will appoint members at the November 19, 2020 City Council Meeting. (11/4)

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**Rio Grande County Department of Social Services is seeking applicants for a Legal Technician. Background check and pre-employment drug screening, including testing for marijuana, is required.** \$15.36 to \$15.96/hour DOE, and full county benefits. Schedule 37.50 hours/week. Job description and application are available online at [www.riogrande-county.org](http://www.riogrande-county.org). (11/4)

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county.org or pick up and submit to Human Resources, 925 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. (11/04)

**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).

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Rosie is a 4 yr old pit bull. She can be cautious/protective when you first meet her, but she warms up quickly. She however does not do well with other animals. So she would have to be the only animal in the home. She loves chewing on tough toys and bones



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# Trump administration delists gray wolves

## Returns management and protection to States and Tribes

**BLOOMINGTON, Minn.** - More than 45 years after gray wolves were first listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Trump Administration and its many conservation partners are announcing the successful recovery of the gray wolf and its delisting from the ESA. U.S. Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt was at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge to announce that state and tribal wildlife management agency professionals will resume responsibility for sustainable management and protection of delisted gray wolves in states with gray wolf populations, while the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) monitors the species for five years to ensure the continued success of the species.

The Service based its final determination solely on the best scientific and commercial data available, a thorough analysis of threats and how they have been alleviated and the ongoing commitment and proven track record of

states and tribes to continue managing for healthy wolf populations once delisted. This analysis includes the latest information about the wolf's current and historical distribution in the contiguous United States

"Today's action reflects the Trump Administration's continued commitment to species conservation based on the parameters of the law and the best scientific and commercial data available," said **Secretary Bernhardt**. "After more than 45 years as a listed species, the gray wolf has exceeded all conservation goals for recovery. Today's announcement simply reflects the determination that this species is neither a threatened nor endangered species based on the specific factors Congress has laid out in the law."

In total, the gray wolf population in the lower 48 states is more than 6,000 wolves, greatly exceeding the combined recovery goals for the Northern Rocky Mountains and Western Great Lakes populations.

The gray wolf is the latest in a strong list of ESA recoveries that includes the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, American alligator, brown pelican and 48 other

species of animals and plants in U.S. states, territories and waters. Countless more have improved or stabilized. Collectively, these successes demonstrate that the ESA can make a difference for imperiled species.

No administration in history has

recovered more imperiled species in their first term than the Trump Administration. Since 2017, thirteen species – and now the gray wolf – have been determined to not be either a threatened species or endangered species under the ESA's List of Endangered and

Threatened Wildlife, and another seven species have been downlisted from endangered species to threatened species. To provide context for this in looking at other administrations in their first term, the Obama Administration recovered

*Please see WOLVES on Page 8*



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## WREATHS

Continued from Page 1

the trucking industry.

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This year's ceremony will be livestreamed on Facebook at 10 am on Dec. 19, 2020. Homelake staff will place the wreaths this year to support our ongoing efforts to continue to keep safe the veterans who live at Homelake, the staff who care for them and our community at large.

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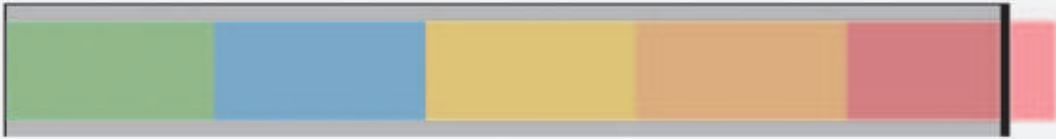
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Counties will move between levels based on the metrics and will work with the state to ensure unique local factors are considered. In order to move to a less restrictive level (e.g., Level 2 to Level 1), counties must meet and sustain all three metrics for two weeks. Counties must engage in a consultation process with CDPHE, which may entail moving to a more restrictive level, when they are out of compliance with any of the metrics for more than two weeks.

**Alamosa County Two-Week Cumulative Incidence: 432.6**



**Alamosa County Two-Week Average Positivity: 15.0%**



# COVID

Continued from Page 1

Nebraska 9.9% and Oklahoma 8.7%.

According to the Colorado COVID-19 “dashboard,” on Nov. 2, Alamosa County had the second highest COVID-19 seven-day positive test rate in the state with 15% of tests being positive. According to the state’s COVID-19 dial, Alamosa County is approaching a stay at home status.

What is disconcerting is that during the initial stages of the outbreak only

those who were high risk, symptomatic or worked in healthcare were being tested. The number of tests being conducted now has increased dramatically and the number of positive cases is correspondingly increasing. Since the outbreak 1,236,323 Colorado residents have been tested with 109,910 testing positive - a positivity rate of 8.9%.

Monday, Nov. 2, there were 130 known active cases in the SLV. “Ac-

tive 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: 68
- Conejos: 19
- Costilla: 7
- Mineral: 0
- Rio Grande: 20
- Saguache: 16

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# WOLVES

Continued from Page 1

six species; the Bush Administration recovered eight species; and the Clinton Administration recovered nine species.

“President Trump’s Administration has focused on proactive measures, including partnerships with organizations, to ensure listed species flourish to the point of recovery,” said **Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Aurelia Skipwith**. “Today is a win for the gray wolf and the American people. I am grateful for these partnerships with States and Tribes and their commitment to sustainable management of wolves that will ensure the species long-term survival following this delisting.”

By the early part of the 20th century, the gray wolf had become scarce across almost the entire landscape of the lower 48 states. But, the dedicated efforts of partners that included states, tribes, conservation organizations and private landowners working together under the auspices of the ESA, brought this great predator back to healthy, stable numbers. Gray wolves in the United States exist primarily as two large, genetically diverse, stable to growing populations broadly distributed across several contiguous U.S. States, with an additional large population in Alaska that was never listed.

Gray wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains, where a healthy and sustainable population roams across Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and eastern portions of Oregon and Washington, were previously delisted. These states have since managed this delisted population effectively and responsibly. Wolves have even expanded into western Oregon, western Washington, northern California and most recently in northwest Colorado.

The Western Great Lakes wolf population in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, the largest outside Alaska, is also strong and stable. These states have been key partners in wolf recovery efforts and have made a commitment to continue their activities. The states of Washington, Oregon, California and Colorado are also committed to conserving wolves, as demonstrated by their development of management plans and laws protecting wolves.

This final rule excludes Mexican wolves as that species remains listed under the ESA. The final rule will be effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

More information is online at <https://www.fws.gov/home/wolfrecovery>.

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

“Colorado Farm Bureau’s members are happy to hear about the decision to remove gray wolves from the Endangered Species List. It’s a good thing any time a species can be brought back from the brink to healthy population levels. This is a testament to the science-based and collaborative process led by both state and federal wildlife officials. It further demonstrates that conservation efforts should continue to be focused on species restoration through partnership and collaboration, not through electoral politics or predetermined outcomes,” said **Colorado Farm Bureau President Don Shawcroft**.

“The Moffat County Colorado, Board of County Commissioners strongly supports delisting the Gray Wolf in the lower 48 states. In Colorado, we are eager to return to the long-standing policy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife sitting at the table with local governments and the agriculture industry to write a wolf management plan that protects the customs, culture, and local economy of the communities most directly affected by wolves,” said **the Moffat County, Colorado Board of County Commissioners**.

“Mesa County is grateful for the leadership and dedication in returning gray wolf management authority to local governments to meet both the needs of communities and wildlife populations,” said **Mesa County, Colorado Com-**

**missioner Rose Femia-Pugliese**.

“The Department of the Interior should be commended for its work in recovering and delisting the gray wolf in the lower 48 states,” said **U.S. Senator Mike Lee (UT)**. “Multiple states, including Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington already manage healthy and sustainable gray wolf populations. Now, under expanded state management, impacted communities will be able to determine how best to preserve gray wolf populations while protecting other native species and livestock.”

“I have said all along that listing decisions need to be made with two things in mind, the science and the preparedness of states to manage species,” said **U.S. Representative Mike Simpson (ID-02)**. “I believe the science is clear and this Administration, like the previous Administration, agrees that wolves are recovered. Idaho has been the test case for state management and the benefits to other wildlife, livestock, and our ecosystem shows that that state management works. I applaud this decision and look forward to other states following the lead of Idaho and successfully managing the gray wolf population.”

“We strongly agree with professional wildlife managers at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that wolves are not in danger of extinction and should be removed from federal protections. They far exceed recovery goals in Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Wisconsin and Wyoming, and are thriving in both Oregon and Washington,” said **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation President and CEO Kyle Weaver**. “Where wolves exist, they should be managed by state wildlife agencies just as they manage elk, black bears, deer and a multitude of other species. Additionally, we support the North American Wildlife Conservation Model, which under the science-based state management of all wildlife coupled with financial contributions of hunters, led to the most successful wildlife population in the world. We commend the administration, Department of the Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for pushing this forward.”

“The gray wolf is one of the most successful species recoveries in history, despite the mounds of federal red tape and abusive litigation preventing this long-overdue delisting,” said **U.S. Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01)**. “It’s unfortunate it took this long for the federal government to turn management back to the states, when in fact state management and expertise is what got us to where we are today. Once again, the Trump Administration and Interior leadership took action to move good policy forward.”

“Ranchers across the American West have lost livestock because of ever growing gray wolf populations with no way to protect their herds from this threat,” said **U.S. Representative Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)**. “Gray wolf populations have exceeded recovery expectations for years, and three Administrations have tried to de-list the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act. President Trump and Secretary Bernhardt finally got it done. Turning gray wolf population management back over to states and tribes will give back local control and inevitably save cattle, sheep, other livestock, and families from the threat of a grey wolf. This is a great win for the West, and I thank the Trump Administration for consistently prioritizing agribusinesses across America.”

“The delisting of the gray wolf is an important milestone that illustrates the positive gains made in recovering this treasured species. I appreciate the efforts of all federal, state, tribal and local stakeholders in protecting and growing the gray wolf population,” said **U.S. Representative Ken Calvert (CA-42)**. “The delisting component of the Endangered Species Act is a critical

mechanism that shifts the management of sufficiently recovered species habitat to state and local authorities, thereby allowing our federal agencies to shift and maintain their focus on species facing a more significant threat to their survival.”

“The gray wolf is an Endangered Species Act success story. By empowering states to manage gray wolf populations, the federal government is recognizing the effectiveness of locally-led conservation efforts, basing management decisions on sound science – instead of politics, and providing certainty to families, farmers, and rural communities in Central Washington and throughout the country,” said **U.S. Representative Dan Newhouse (WA-04)**. “This action is one of the many steps the Trump Administration is taking to modernize the Endangered Species Act and protect American wildlife, and I look forward to continuing to build upon these efforts in Congress.”

“I applaud the Administration’s final rule that delists the gray wolf in the lower 48 states. Federal protections restored healthy gray wolf populations years ago, and this rule appropriately returns the management of gray wolves to the states,” said **U.S. Representative Collin Peterson (MN-07)**. “For years, I have called for this change on behalf of livestock owners and rural communities in Minnesota. This final rule allows Minnesota to set rules and protections for gray wolves that are more responsive to the needs of local communities.”

“Delisting is, and should be, the goal of the ESA,” said **U.S. Representative Chris Stewart (UT-02)**. “With the delisting of the gray wolf, the administration is meeting that goal, and that success is something worth celebrating. When a species is no longer threatened, it ought to be quickly delisted.”

“Today is a great victory for science and professional wildlife management. The gray wolf is one of the few actual success stories of the Endangered Species Act and has met every scientific criteria for delisting,” said **U.S. Representative Paul Gosar (AZ-04)**. “Its delisting will cede control back to where it belongs, state and tribal governments.

This is a clear win for the farmers, ranchers, and everyday citizens whose livelihoods have been threatened by growing unmanaged gray wolf populations. I applaud President Trump and Secretary Bernhardt for acting on sound science and taking this decisive action.”

“The re-emergence of the gray wolf in the United States is a great comeback story,” stated **Governor of Nebraska Pete Ricketts**. “The federal decision to de-list the gray wolf under the Endangered Species Act returns management of wolf populations to the states. While confirmed sightings of gray wolves are very rare in Nebraska, we are grateful that the states will have responsibility for their management.”

“The State of Utah applauds the delisting of the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act. States are often best positioned to appropriately manage wildlife populations. With the number of wolves growing across the West, we believe it is time to allow the states to take the helm. Utah has shown great success in growing and maintaining wildlife populations statewide, and we anticipate similar success in managing

wolf populations,” said **Utah Department of Natural Resources Executive Director Brian Steed**.

“American Agri-Women applauds the Department of the Interior for following through with this administration’s promise to support partnerships with state and local agencies in reviewing endangered species,” stated **American Agri-Women’s President Karolyn Zurn**. “The delisting of the gray wolf from the federal Endangered Species list and returning the management of this species to local agencies will be a better game plan. AAW supports state and local control of the management of all species of predators, such as the gray wolf. Management should include records showing harm to agriculture. The overpopulation of the gray wolf led to loss of livelihood for farmers and ranchers through loss of cattle and other livestock throughout the lower 48 states.”

“Rural residents of the contiguous United States owe a great debt of gratitude to the Trump Administration. Returning the jurisdiction over wolves,

*Please see DELIST on Page 10*



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# Volunteer safely during the pandemic

*(Editor's Note: Please consult your local laws and regulations before publishing this story to confirm its content aligns with mandates currently in place in your city.)*

Volunteers are vital to the survival of many charitable organizations. Without people willing to offer their time and expertise free of charge, many nonprofits would find it difficult, if not impossible, to meet their missions.

The global pandemic that began in late 2019 and continued into 2020 changed many aspects of life as the world knew it, and that includes volunteering. Social distancing measures and stay-at-home mandates from state and local governments discouraged people from leaving their homes, while various health organizations warned aging men and women to stay home as much as possible. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that the risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age. In recognition of that threat, many retirees who were heavily involved in volunteering prior to the pandemic were forced to cease working as volunteers, which could have a negative effect on their mental health as the pandemic continues. A report from the Mayo Clinic Health System noted that adults over age 60 experienced greater life satisfaction and greater positive changes in their perceived health as a result of volunteering.

Many people have continued to volunteer during the pandemic, and those that want to do so can take these steps to make sure their efforts to give back are as safe as possible.

- Speak with your physician first. Anyone, but especially seniors, who wants to volunteer during the pandemic should discuss those aspirations with their physicians prior to offering their services to charitable organizations. Doctors can discuss the acute and chronic threats posed by the COVID-19 virus and examine each individual's medical history to help potential volunteers decide if working with a local charity is safe. In addition, doctors can check patients for COVID-19 symptoms and even have them tested to make sure they won't be putting anyone in danger should they decide to volunteer.

- Contact the organization prior to volunteering. Some organizations may not be allowing potentially at-risk volunteers to perform in-person tasks. Contact the organization you hope to work with prior to signing up to confirm your eligibility, but also to discuss the safety protocols they've put in place to protect the health of their volunteers.

- Monitor your own health. If you've signed up to volunteer, it's vital that you monitor your own health. Health officials believe the COVID-19 virus has spread so rapidly for a number of reasons, including the likelihood that many people have had the virus but shown no symptoms. Charitable organizations will no doubt assess the health of each volunteer when they show up to work, but volunteers also should make such assessments on their own. Check your temperature each day and familiarize yourself with the symptoms of COVID-19. If you suspect you are unwell or are even slightly under the weather,

contact the charity and tell them you won't be showing up that day. Operating with an abundance of caution during the pandemic can save lives.

- Consider virtual volunteering. Virtual volunteering is a safe way to give back that won't expose volunteers or others to the COVID-19 virus. Charitable organizations need behind-the-scenes help just as much as they need volunteers with their boots on the ground. Virtual volunteers can help with fundraising efforts and event planning, but also help charities overcome the logistical challenges of operating and meeting their missions during the pandemic.

Prior to volunteering during the pandemic, prospective volunteers can follow numerous steps to ensure volunteering is safe, both for them and the people they're trying to help.



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# DELIST

Continued from Page 1

excepting Mexican wolves, to the State governments where they occur or might occur in the future paves the way into a future where all wildlife and all human endeavors and families can once again strive to exist harmoniously under the tried and true American model of wildlife management. Thank you, President Trump for making this sensible move that improves rural America, the lives of rural Americans and the American wildlife that is so important and precious to all of us," said **Retired U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Wetlands Biologist Jim Beers**.

"The gray wolf has successfully recovered, and as management of the species returns to states and tribes, locally-led conservation, with the support of local conservation districts, will continue to ensure the species will not return to ESA's endangered or threatened list," stated **National Association of Conservation Districts President Tim Palmer**. "ESA success story showing what can be achieved when governments at all levels work together. I applaud the administration for taking the next step with today's decision to delist the gray wolf in these states."

"The Outdoor Heritage Coalition would like to express its sincere gratitude for your outstanding leadership and dedication to wildlife conservation. The nationwide delisting of the wolf is a major factor in sound wildlife management practices. Returning management authority to the states is a key first step in a long road to recovery for many struggling ungulate populations across the country," stated the **Outdoor Heritage Coalition, Montana**.

"We are proud of our efforts in Wyoming to conserve the gray wolf's habitat and population in consultation with federal agencies," stated **Sublette County, Wyoming Commissioner Joel Bousman**. "Populations continue to thrive in the northern Rocky Mountains because states implemented scientific measures that balance the needs of the species and our residents at the same time. Today's decision to delist the gray wolf in the lower-48 states is further proof that population recovery goals can be met when all levels of government work together in a collaborative manner."

"I'm very appreciative of the Trump administration's timely transfer of the management responsibility of the gray wolf back to the states. We look forward to working with organizations within our state to implement the state of Utah's Wolf Management Plan," said **Utah Department of Agriculture and Food Commissioner Logan Wilde**.

"This is great news for Washington state where our wolf population has reached recoverable levels. We are very thankful for the work of President Trump, Secretary of Interior David Bernhardt and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Director Aurelia Skipwith for all their

work to make this happen. It's time to end the federal/state split management of wolves in Washington and allow our state wildlife managers to manage wolves in conjunction with all other species," said **Washington Farm Bureau President Mike LaPlant**.

"The Oregon Cattlemen's Association together with all livestock producers applauds the US Fish and Wildlife Service's final decision to delist Gray Wolves in the western two-thirds of the State. The continued 10 to 30% annual population increase of wolves and their spread to every corner of the State, support this long overdue decision. Producers have endured unacceptable personal stress, ongoing chronic confirmed and unconfirmed predation as well as loss of production in the cattle they work so hard to protect. This action will remove an unnecessary layer of management that has prevented responsible management for many years. This delisting does not remove all protections for Gray Wolves. Wolves will continue to be managed under the existing State Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. It is the expectation of OCA and every impacted producer that when clear, chronic predation is documented and the triggering criteria is met, swift, decisive management action will follow to stop the loss of livestock. This delisting supports responsible, effective management," said **Oregon Cattlemen's Association Co-Chair Wolf Committee Roger Huffman**.

"Ranchers in California hope the federal delisting of the gray wolf and successful recovery and wolf management in other parts of the country can serve as a model for our state. As wolf populations recover and thrive, ranchers need practical, effective ways to protect their livestock. In California, where wolves remain protected under the state Endangered Species Act, we will encourage leaders of the state wildlife agency to work cooperatively with ranchers to safeguard vulnerable livestock," stated **California Farm Bureau Federation President Jamie Johansson**.

"Wolf delisting should be considered one of the great successes of the Endangered Species Act. They have recovered and are doing very well under state management in the West," said **Montana Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President John Youngberg**.

"This is an Endangered Species Act success story. The gray wolf joins more than 50 other animals, including the bald eagle, as an example of how careful management and partnerships between federal and state agencies can result in the successful recovery of a once-threatened species. The gray wolf population is now thriving so it is appropriate to turn management over to the states, which can oversee the species in a way that is most appropri-

ate for each region," stated **American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duval**.

"I believe that this is great first step, indicating that the wolf population is on a solid upward trajectory. Now we must continue the work at the state level to also reflect this trend," said **Baker County, Oregon Commissioner Mark Bennett**.

"The Cattlemen of Minnesota are very appreciative of the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service teams in their decision to delist the gray wolf, allowing our state specialist to manage the Minnesota gray wolf population. For generations beef producers, and wolf biologists in Minnesota have been working together to understand and improve landscapes where livestock and wolves can coexist," stated **Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association President Mike Landuyt**. "With this ruling, management of the gray wolf is now in the hands of state officials who can best manage the population to benefit beef and livestock producers, as well as gray wolf habitat in our state."

"Oregon sportsmen and women applaud the Department of the Interior delisting of the gray wolf. Their recovery is a conservation success story and the delisting should be celebrated. We look forward to our renowned state agencies

and local biologists taking over wolf management," said **Oregon Outdoor Council President Dominic Aiello**.

"For more than a decade, ranchers have worked with federal and state officials, as well as conservation and wildlife management groups to achieve lasting and meaningful recovery for the gray wolf. Wyoming has shown that delisting the wolf can be done responsibly and that states are well-equipped to manage their wildlife. We are grateful to Secretary Bernhardt, Director Skipwith, and their teams for respecting the science that says the wolf has recovered and ensuring a strong future for wildlife across the country," stated **Wyoming Wool Growers Association President Vance Broadbent**.

"America's counties have worked with our local, state and federal partners to ensure the gray wolf population continues to thrive," said **National Association of Counties Executive Director Matthew Chase**. "The recovery of the gray wolf under the Endangered Species Act is one of the law's key success stories. As co-regulators and stewards of the environment with significant public service responsibilities, counties support the delisting and down-listing of species once recovery goals are met."

"The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission made the decision to delist Gray Wolves in all of Oregon November

9, 2015. Our legislators and governor ratified this decision in 2016. Federal listing over the western ¾ of the state has remained in place not only dividing the state but also dividing counties. The Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan is very comprehensive, and we appreciate the opportunity to fully implement our plan. We would like to thank U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Department of the Interior for doing the work to make this delisting possible," stated **Wallowa County, Oregon Commissioner and Co-Chair of the Association of Oregon Counties Natural Resources Steering Committee Todd Nash**.

"Wolves are an iconic species... as are wild sheep. To treasure them is to trust professional management, supported by wildlife enthusiasts, to restore and sustain them. From the 1990s reintroduction into the Yellowstone ecosystem to today the Wild Sheep Foundation has worked with our NGO and wildlife agency partners to ensure wolves are managed by those best able to conserve them - the state professionals and the citizens who live with them. WSF applauds the Department of the Interior for recognizing the ESA is being misused and taking action to correct this situation for the benefit of wolves, other wildlife, and people," said **Wild Sheep Foundation President & CEO Gray N. Thornton**.

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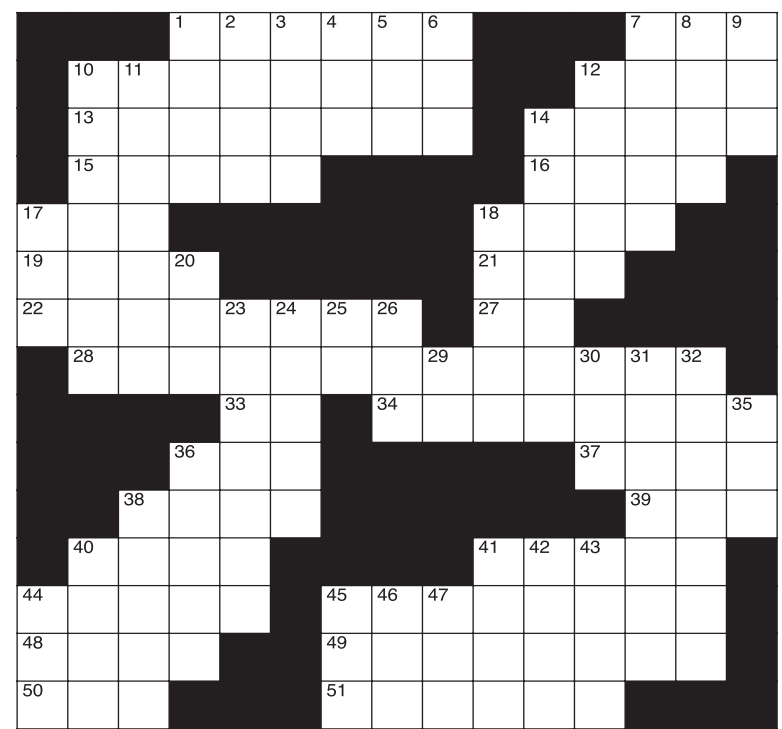
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### ACROSS

1. African nation
7. \_\_\_ fi (slang)
10. Not arranged according to size
12. A demand for a show of hands in a card game
13. Having a play of lustrous rainbowlike colors
14. Panama has one
15. Taking legal action
16. Top of the body
17. Part of (abbr.)
18. Soul and calypso song
19. Murres
21. Irish river
22. Accepts as true
27. The Bay State
28. 1950s Hollywood icon
33. Blood type
34. In a way, became lost
36. Large primate
37. A spongelike cake leavened with yeast
38. Mama \_\_\_, folk singer
39. Visual metaphor (computers)
40. Trim by cutting
41. Small group of people
44. Pulitzer-winning scientist
45. Unique S. American mammal
48. Energy, style and enthusiasm

### DOWN

1. Cylindrical sacs
2. Extinct North Germanic language
3. Late rocker Allman
4. Word element meaning ear
5. Amino acid (abbr.)
6. Promotions
7. Actress Lathan
8. Clothed
9. Unwell
10. Loosen
11. Cephalopod mollusks
12. \_\_\_ at Obdurata: Harmful papal bull
14. Musical composition
17. Irish bar



18. Greek island
20. Afflict
23. Goes by
24. Ambience
25. Video game manufacturer
26. Surplus Marketing Administration
29. Football position
30. Electronic musical style (abbr.)
31. Furniture with open shelves
32. Clouds of gas in outer space
35. Indian midwife
36. Packers' signal caller
38. Secret political clique
40. Cry weakly
41. Gomer \_\_\_, marine
42. Academic Bill of Rights
43. Negatives
44. Hip hop icon Kool Moe \_\_\_

### Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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# SENIOR Connections

## Why the flu shot is so important



Millions of people across the globe get flu shots each year. Flu shots protect people against influenza, but they might provide even greater benefits in 2020.

As the world continues to confront the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, it's imperative that people everywhere take every step necessary to protect themselves and others. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that a flu vaccine will not protect people against COVID-19. However, flu vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of illness related to the flu. Those illnesses weaken people's immune systems, making them more vulnerable to other viruses, including COVID-19.

Flu vaccines have also been shown to reduce the risk of hospitalization. That's a significant benefit of being vaccinated, as people who get their flu shots can indirectly help hospitals conserve potentially scarce resources. As the COVID-19 virus rapidly spread late in the winter of 2019-20, many hospitals across the country and even the globe were stretched incredibly thin. So anything ordinary citizens can do to alleviate such burdens can help save lives while also making hospital workers' jobs easier and less stressful.

Many people may be concerned about going out and getting a flu shot in 2020. That's especially likely



for people who live in communities where the COVID-19 virus is spreading. However, the CDC notes that getting a flu shot in 2020 is an essential part of protecting your health and the health of your family. Many doctor's offices are now insisting patients wait in their cars until doctors are ready to see them, and masks may be required when entering the doctor's office. Such measures can reduce the risk of getting the COVID-19 virus when visiting a doctor's office for a flu shot or another visit, so patients should not be hesitant to receive their vaccinations in 2020. Patients can follow such protocols even if their doctors are not insisting they do so. The same safety measures can be followed by people who intend to get their flu shots from neighborhood pharmacies.

Flu shots are vital to individual and public health every year, but the importance of being vaccinated against influenza in 2020 is heightened as the world continues to confront the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

## Ways to cut costs during retirement

The average person will spend more than 50 years in the employment sector. As retirement draws closer, many professionals begin to daydream about giving up the commute and having more time to pursue their personal interests.

Even if planning for retirement has been many years in the making, it can take some time for a person to become acclimated to having less income. According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "older households," which are defined as those run by someone age 65 and older, spent an average of \$45,756 in 2016, or roughly \$3,800 a month. That's roughly \$1,000 less than the monthly average spent by typical American households. Housing, transportation, health care, and food are some of the biggest bills retirees will have to account for. Aiming to have savings in addition to any other retirement income or government subsidy coming in to cover that amount is a step in the right direction.

Retirees can make their money go further if they take inventory of their spending and make some cuts where possible.

• Know where your money is going. It's impossible to save without knowing what your expenses are each month. Many people are surprised to learn how much little things add up over the course of a month. For example, spending \$4 for a take-out coffee each day can quickly become an expensive luxury. Add all expenses and see where you

can trim, especially if there's a deficit each month.

• Consider extra health care. In the United States, Medicare participants can choose Medicare Supplement Insurance plans to help reduce out-of-pocket health care costs. Medicare Parts A and B only cover some of your health care costs. Supplemental insurance can cover some of the costs not covered by original Medicare, like copayments, deductibles and coinsurance, according to AARP.

• Pare down on possessions. Take inventory of what you have and scale back where possible. If you are no longer commuting to work, you may be able to become a one-car household. Downsizing your residence can help seniors avoid spending too much of their retirement time and money maintaining their homes.

• Take advantage of senior discounts. Take advantage of the many discounts that are offered to seniors. Retirees can usually save on restaurants, travel, groceries, and much more by simply shopping on specific days or verifying their age when checking out.

• Purchase less expensive life insurance. According Cheapism, a site that advises consumers about how to be more frugal, the chief purpose of life insurance is to replace income to ensure the financial security of dependents in the event of death. Retirees may have no dependents and little income. Therefore, a large life insurance policy may not be necessary, especially if you've already set

aside funds to cover funeral costs.

• Pay off a mortgage. Housing is many people's most substantial expense. Paying off a mortgage can free up more money each month and allow retirees to spend their golden years doing as they please.

As retirement nears, adults can employ various strategies to reduce their monthly expenses. MM20C489

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Photo is courtesy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife

**Blood stained the antlers of a young buck deer that attacked a woman walking her dog on a wooded trail near her Black Forest home. The deer was euthanized when it aggressively approached a Colorado Parks and Wildlife officer investigating the attack later that morning. CPW officers issued two misdemeanor citations and a warning to a neighbor after she admitted illegally raising and feeding the deer.**

## Woman cited with possessing, feeding young buck deer that gored neighbor

**COLORADO SPRINGS** – A Black Forest woman who told Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers she took a days-old fawn into her home more than a year and raised it has been cited with two misdemeanors after the deer, now a young buck, gored a neighbor.

CPW officers cited 73-year-old Tynette Housley with illegal possession of wildlife and illegally feeding wildlife, both unclassified misdemeanors. She was also issued a warning for possessing live wildlife without a license after she described keeping it in her home, then in her garage and ultimately on her property.

The two misdemeanors carry fines and surcharges totaling \$1,098.50.

Housley was cited after the deer, a buck with two-pronged antlers, attacked a neighbor as she walked her dog Friday morning.

From her hospital bed, the victim described to CPW being surprised to notice the deer following her and then shocked when it attacked, knocking her down and thrashing her with its antlers.

The terrifying attack went on several minutes as the victim tried to run to a neighbor's house and

then to her own home. Repeatedly the deer knocked her down and gored her. The deer even continued to attack as she frantically opened her garage door. It relented only when she ran between two cars in her garage.

The victim suffered serious lacerations to her head, cheek and legs and bruises and was hospitalized overnight for treatment of her injuries before being released.

The deer, fresh blood covering its antlers, even approached a CPW wildlife officer who responded to investigate the attack. The officer euthanized the deer and took it to CPW's animal health lab in Fort Collins to test it for rabies and other diseases.

The deer's stomach contents confirm it was being fed by humans as it contained out-of-season foods including hay, grain, corn and possibly potato.

"We can't say it enough: Wild animals are not pets," said Frank McGee, CPW's area wildlife manager for the Pikes Peak region. "Feeding deer habituates them to humans. They lose their fear of humans and that leads to these outcomes that are tragic for both wildlife and people. Injured and orphaned wildlife should be taken to licensed wildlife rehabilitators."

# Chronic Wasting Disease testing mandatory in Southwest Colorado

**COLORADO** - Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds successful deer hunters in Southwest Colorado that their harvested animals must be tested for Chronic Wasting Disease. The testing is being done this year as part of CPW's CWD Response Plan and is critical for deer management planning.

Testing is being required because CPW is working to determine the current prevalence of the fatal disease in western Colorado. This year's mandatory testing is part of the 15-year monitoring program described in the CWD Response Plan. The plan can be viewed at [cpw.state.co.us/cwd](http://cpw.state.co.us/cwd).

In Southwest Colorado, the Game Management Units where testing is required are: 411, 52, 521, 53, 54, 55, 60, 63,66,67,68, 70, 71,72,73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79,80, 81, 82, 83, 681, 682, 711, 741, 751, 771 and 791. Submission sites and locations can be found on the CPW website at [cpw.state.co.us/cwd-locations#list](http://cpw.state.co.us/cwd-locations#list).

The testing service is free and individual results will be posted in about three weeks from the time of submission. Hunters whose deer tests positive for CWD will be notified by a single phone call attempt, email and a mailed letter; so hunters are encouraged to ensure their contact information on file with CPW is current. Hunters whose animals test positive can call CPW at 303-297-1192 or email [dnr\\_cpw.cwd@state.co.us](mailto:dnr_cpw.cwd@state.co.us) for information on the next steps to take.

For submission, hunters must present their license and an accu-



rate location where the animal was harvested. Harvest locations are kept confidential. GPS coordinates are best, but a map location is also helpful. The head of the animal should be removed 4 inches below the lower jawbone and the base of the skull. Heads should be brought in as soon as possible, preferably within five days of harvest. In order to take samples -- lymph nodes and tonsils -- heads should not be frozen.

For those planning to mount trophies, antlers and capes from harvested deer may be removed by hunters before submitting heads. CPW will not remove antlers or capes. Hunters who are planning shoulder-mounts should take their animals to a taxidermist before submitting the head for testing. Please ask your taxidermist or meat processor to leave 4 inches

of neck when removing the head. Hunters planning European-mount taxidermy should bring the head to the CPW submission site before taking it to the taxidermist. Hunters who are planning taxidermy or mounting should notify CPW personnel at the submission site.

In CPW's Southwest Region, heads can be taken to the four area wildlife offices: Durango, 151 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street, 970-247-0855; Gunnison, 300 W. New York Ave., 970-641-7060; Monte Vista, 0721 S Road 1 East, 719-587-6900; Montrose, 2300 S. Townsend Ave. (U.S. Highway 550), 970-252-6000.

For convenience, hunters can also take their animals to other testing sites in western Colorado. The list of locations can be found at: <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/ResearchCWD-Submission.aspx>.


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