

Shorts



Photo by Teresa Benns

The newly renovated Center Town Hall will reopen Friday, Sept. 4.

Planned power outage Sept. 4

CENTER — Town hall on Worth Street in Center will reopen for business Friday, Sept. 4, after closing earlier this year during the COVID-19 pandemic, town administrator Brian Lujan announced Monday.

Those visiting town hall will be required to wear masks and observe social distancing. Directional enter and exits will be made available for customers.

Also, on Sept. 4 at approximately 9 a.m., the town of Center will experience a complete power outage that will last four to five hours. Some work needs to be done on the high voltage lines that power the town.

SLV unemployment rate decreases 5.1 percent

Saguache County decreases 2.3 percent

BY TREY SPAULDING

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

The average unemployment rate for Colorado in July was 7.4 percent and nationwide the percentage was 10.2 percent. In the San Luis Valley among the 22,233 labor force there are 20,849 employed and 1,424 unemployed equaling a 6.8 percent valley-wide unemployment rate. In June 2020 the SLV unemployment rate was 11.9 percent.

The SLV county with the lowest unemployment rate in July 2020 was once again Conejos with 6.1 percent unemployment. Conejos County is followed by Mineral County with 5.1 percent unemployment, Alamosa County at 6.1 percent, Rio Grande County dropped from 10.7 percent in June to 6.8 percent in July, Saguache County was at 7.5 percent in July dropping from 9.8 percent in June, and Costilla County had the highest

Please see JOBS on Page 2A

Moffat mayor now facing assault charges

BY TERESA L. BENNS

MOFFAT — Moffat Mayor Patricia Reigel appeared before Municipal Judge Anna Ulrich Wednesday, Aug. 26, to answer charges of official misconduct and official oppression and has since learned she now faces new charges of third-degree assault, a Misdemeanor 1.

According to an unconfirmed source, Reigel, represented by public defender John Hoag, pled not guilty to the misconduct and oppression charges and requested a jury trial. The Saguache Sheriff's Office served her with a summons Monday on the assault charges, which stem from an

incident that occurred in July 2020.

As reported by Saguache County Undersheriff James McCloskey, Reigel was involved in a dispute with Kristin Marie Ecklund and her husband Kenneth Skoglund, both Moffat town trustees at the time, also former Moffat town clerk Sarah Van Horn. Ecklund came to town hall to protest Van Horn's presence since she was no longer an employee.

She told McCloskey she suspects Van Horn of financial misconduct and this is why she protested her presence at the town hall. In the past, Ecklund herself has been accused of possible financial misdealings both regarding

Moffat and the Baca Grande POA, her former employer.

According to Ecklund, during her dispute with Van Horn and Reigel, Reigel grabbed her upper arm and left marks. McCloskey could see reddening on her arm, he states in his report. Reigel claimed she was only trying to defend Van Horn from Ecklund, and Van Horn told McCloskey both Reigel and Ecklund were grappling with each other, but she did not see exactly what happened. Van Horn told McCloskey that when she finally left the building, Ecklund followed her to her car yelling at her.

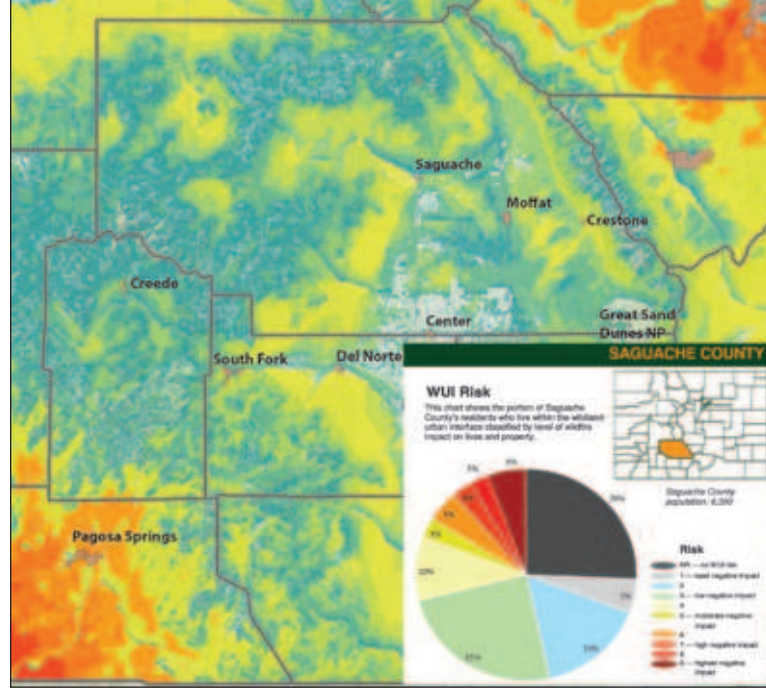
Please see ASSAULT on Page 7A



Twenty percent of Saguache county homes potentially impacted by wildfire

COLORADO — The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) recently added to its arsenal of wildfire information and interactive tools available to the public with the launch of the wildland-urban interface risk index. With more than half of the state's population living in a wildfire prone area, the county-by-county index uses housing density combined with modeled fire behavior to determine where the greatest potential impact to people and homes is likely to occur.

The index for each county is presented as an infographic to provide a simplified, accessible overview of the various levels of wildfire risk for residents living in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) in that county. The index is intended to increase awareness of wildfire risk, particularly in counties with a significant amount of its population located in the WUI. The Wildland-Urban Interface Risk Index, created by the Colorado State Forest Service, is a rating of the potential impact of a wildfire on people and their homes. It is created using



Twenty percent (20%) of Saguache County homes and businesses fall within a moderate to highest wildfire negative potential impact.

housing density combined with modeled fire behavior to determine where the greatest potential impact to people and homes is likely to occur.

The index is calculated consistently for each Colorado county.

In order to effectively prepare *Please see WILDFIRE on Page 2A*

SLV housing coalition aligns with Center

BY TERESA L. BENNS

CENTER — Dawn Melgares with the San Luis Valley Housing Market Study addressed the Center town board Tuesday, Aug. 25, with long range plans to develop housing in Center. The presentation was of special interest to the town which is in the process of annexing 90 plus acres of the Consaul property on the edge of Center.

At the end of Melgares presentation, Center trustees and the mayor approved a resolution to further engage in the study. The project is explained by Melgares below.

The SLV Housing Coalition cohort is made up of more than 25 leaders from around the Valley who saw a problem with current housing and came together to find the solution. Hard evidence to support the theory was needed so a cohort evolved, and the idea of a valley wide housing study began.

In order to find funding for any types of housing, especially affordable housing, a housing study was needed that would show what current housing looks like and what

Please see HOUSING on Page 6A

Gov. Polis launches Energize CO Gap Fund

COLORADO - Gov. Polis announced the the Energize Gap Fund application period began Aug. 31.

"Coloradans are resilient and will lead the nation in rebuilding our economy," said Governor Jared Polis. "The Energize Gap Fund provides a key resource for Colorado small businesses. During this challenging time, we will continue doing everything we can to help hardworking Coloradans, which is why we're bringing a diverse set of voices together to look at housing solutions and are providing additional support for small businesses across

our state."

Governor Polis was joined by bill sponsors Senators Jeff Bridges and Faith Winter, along with Kent Thiry, Co-Chair of Energize Colorado, to announce the upcoming launch of the Gap Fund application. The application will go live on Monday, August 31. This fund will provide more than \$25 million in small business loans and grants to boost small businesses that are the economic engines throughout the state. Sole proprietors, businesses and nonprofits with less than 25 full-time employees can apply for up to a \$15,000 grant and a \$20,000 loan for

a possible combined total of \$35,000 in financial assistance.

"Colorado small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and supporting them is critical for our state's recovery," said Rep. Mary Young, D-Greeley, House sponsor of the legislation. "I've heard from so many hardworking Coloradans in Greeley and in Weld County who need just a little help to make it through this crisis. That's why we worked quickly to pass bipartisan legislation that set aside \$20 million to help small businesses that have been left behind, with a focus on women, veteran or

minority-owned businesses and those in rural areas. Small business owners who may need assistance should reach out to Energize Colorado for guidance, or to apply for the grant program."

Awards will be provided in phases rather than first-come, first served to ensure equal access. Preference will be given to underserved small businesses including majority-owned by minority, women or veterans, those located in rural areas of the state, and businesses that have not been successful in pursuing and/or

Please see POLIS on Page 7A





Wildfire mitigation works and saves homes and property from destruction.

WILDFIRE

Continued from Page 1A

for the impact of wildfires, residents, leaders and community planners must be aware of the wildfire risk associated with living in the wildland-urban interface and recognize actions that can be taken to reduce this risk.

“Every homeowner should be aware of the wildfire risk in their community and the associated responsibility to reduce that risk, not only to protect their property, but also to improve the safety of first responders,” said CSFS Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Daniel Beveridge. “There are numerous examples from the past few seasons showing that proactive wildfire mitigation efforts are effective and now is a perfect time for people across the state to take action.”

From completing home inventories, including photographs and video, to cleaning gutters and roof tops, to trimming backyard shrubs and trees, to removing flammable materials from the perimeter of the home, there are a wide range of easy steps that homeowners can complete as coronavirus restrictions keep people at home. Reviewing insurance policy details and updating coverage are also key steps in the process, along with creating and reviewing evacuation plans and emergency toolkits.

JOBS

Continued from Page 1A

unemployment rate at 8.1 percent. In Colorado, Cheyenne county has the lowest unemployment rate with 3.8 percent unemployed. Cheyenne county is followed in increasing order by Kiowa county with 4.0 percent unemployment and Baca at 4.1 percent.

Throughout Colorado, Gilpin county continued to have the highest unemployment rate in for July 2020 with 12.0 percent unemployed. Gilpin is followed in decreasing order by Summit with 10.1 percent unemployment and Huerfano County with 9.9 percent unemployed.

Based on recommended fire-mitigation activities from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the CSFS advises homeowners complete the following activities at home while practicing social distancing.

Top 10 Wildfire Season Preparation Activities:

Rake and remove pine needles and dry leaves 5 feet from the home as well as under decks, porches, sheds and play structures.

Remove leaves and needles from roofs and gutters.

Sweep porches and decks clear of any burnable plant material.

Move firewood piles at least 30 feet from the house, preferably uphill.

Transfer items under decks or porches to a storage area.

Cover any exposed eave or attic vents with 1/8-inch metal mesh screening.

Ensure home address signs are clearly visible from the street.

Contact the local Office of Emergency Management to register for emergency notifications and encourage your friends, family and neighbors to do the same.

Confirm at least one alternate path out of your neighborhood other than

the one most commonly used and be prepared for potential evacuation requiring the alternative route.

Create an inventory of valuables in your home including written summaries, photography and video.

Source: CSFS and NFPA

OBITUARY



Jose Robert Moran, 84

Jose Robert Moran was born in Monte Vista, Colorado March 2, 1936. Husband, Father, Grandfather, great-grandfather and friend passed away Aug. 7, 2020.

Jose moved his family to Boulder, Colorado to attend the University of Colorado through the Migrant Action Program where he successfully graduated with a B.A. degree. While at CU, he played a pivotal role in improving the Migrant Action Program's (MAP) mission. He was involved in

recruiting migrants and the children of migrants to the rare educational opportunities available through this program.

Jose enjoyed the outdoors fishing and enjoying the majesty of the mountains. He loved to play his guitar and sang at his local churches and at many weddings.

Jose is survived by his wife, (Cordelia Moran), 7 children, 13 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and his brother Max Moran and sister Claudia Gallegos.



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

The hunting widow

Yes, it's that time of year again and soon Nimrods of every type and fashion

will take to the forest in pursuit of the elusive game animals across this nation. Fat and skinny, young and old, male and female will soon don their camouflage clothing and slip into the forest to try and fill the larder with scrumptious wild game.

By the time you read this, we of the Robin Hood club of archery aficionados will be climbing and hiking all over Hell's Half Acre, huffing and puffing, wheezing and sneezing like some ancient locomotive ascending Pikes Peak on a cold December day.

We will return to the nest off and on smelling of elk urine, sweat and BO, a surefire way to win over the heart of any woman who is keeping the home fires burning.

Ol' Dutch plans on hunting every day of this here season if need be and I informed Miss Trixie not to expect to see me around much in September, or at least not until I get my elk.

I felt bad as she fell into a state of hysterical laughter and smiles such as I have not seen since last season. It must be rough to miss me like that but I suppose she will get along without my wonderful self being around 24/7.

This is a sharp contrast to when I was newly married to my ex-wife and she was not too keen on my hunting and fishing all the time. Seems she wanted me around the house and would buck and bray like a stubborn mule every time I tried to go.

Luckily my mother and sisters took her under their wings and she soon found out that a men's day out hunting also meant a women's day out shopping.

Soon Ol' Dutch was in hog heaven as she even had a sack lunch ready for me to go out the door bright and early so the women folk could hit the mall like Hurricane Katrina rampaging through Mississippi.

Ol' Dutch did find out quickly that this always meant extra costs for meals, gas, gizmos, new towels and other womanly things she bought but no one ever said hunting and fishing was cheap.

Now, a word to the wise, the womenfolk-go-shopping routine only works if her friends are not busy on opening day. If they're not around, you're going to need to come up with some whing-dinger of a replacement for your handsome self, or you'll be



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

painting the dining room Saturday morning while your buddies are all chasing venison.

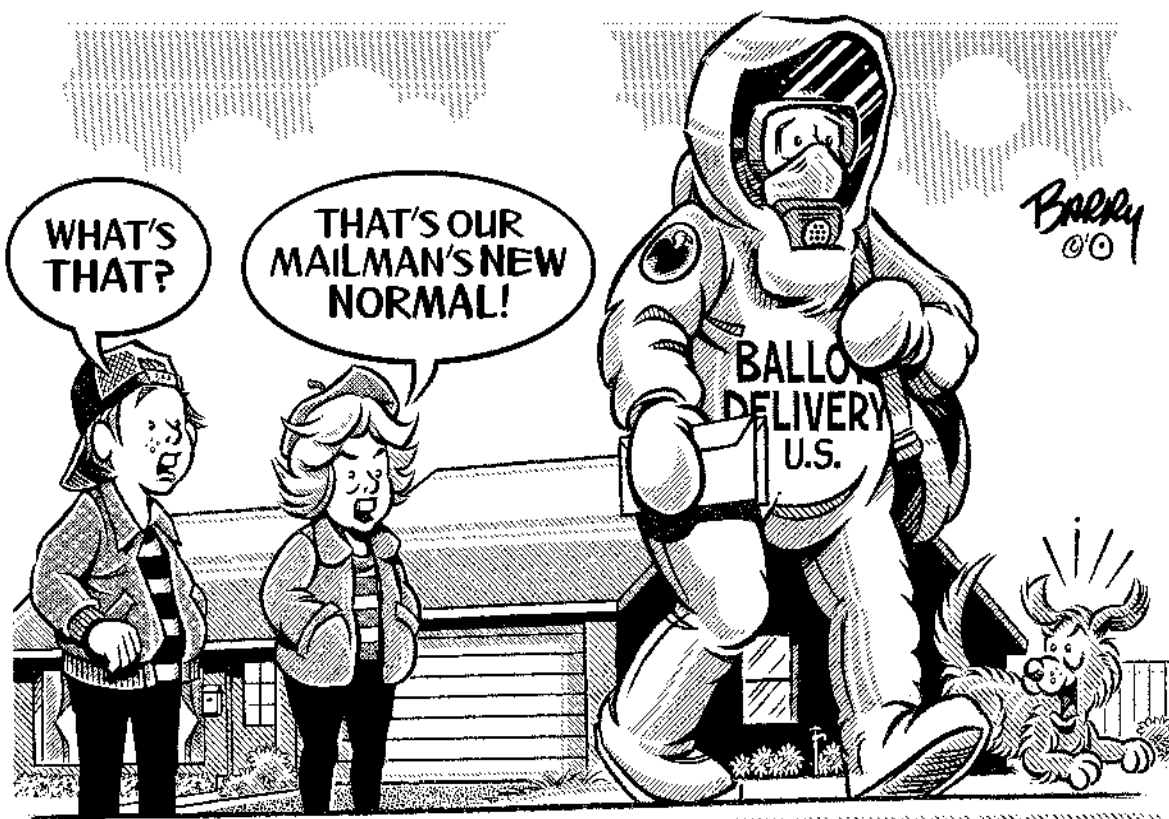
The savvy hunter will not only sneak up on wild game that day but if he is smart, he will sneak up on his other and buy her a gift certificate for a manicure and pedicure. This not only keeps her in the spa for an extended period on the appointed day but also guarantees she will leave you alone for a week or two as she does not want to mess up the adornments.

Another quick fix to your partner's inseparable attachment to your handsome self is a massage. Put her on a plank at some hoity-toity parlor and she will drink wine and nap the rest of the weekend like Rip Van Winkle of old.

This time of year is when the men folk have that faraway look in their eyes much like the 1000 yard stare of soldiers suffering battle fatigue. This gets so bad in some cases that they do not even notice the new couches that come into their abode while they were out in the forest. And there have even been severe cases of hunting fever where the afflicted didn't even notice the new baby that arrived during their sojourn in the woods.

And even if they are not there for the arrival of said bundle of joy, we can only hope that they were there for the conceiving of said addition. Maybe they should check out that date with the opening day of trout season to be sure they were at least home for that.

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



You know what they say about assuming...

Now that an entire nation has literally and figuratively been set on fire over the death of George Floyd, the public is learning more about what really happened to ignite these flames, just as they later learned additional information in the 2014 Ferguson, Mo. shooting death of Michael Brown.

Earlier this year, when the violence first broke out in Minneapolis, Minn. following Floyd's death, the following facts were noted in an editorial that appeared on these pages:

"The Hennepin County, Minn. medical examiner's autopsy report shows Floyd tested positive for fentanyl, known to suppress heart function and the respiratory system. In addition, the medical examiner found signs of recent methamphetamine use and the presence of THC (psychoactive element of cannabis), also morphine, in his system. Health findings listed in the report included but were not limited to "arteriosclerotic and hypertensive heart disease."

The medical examiner report states Floyd experienced a cardiopulmonary arrest while being restrained by law enforcement, "...complicating law enforcement subdual, restraint, and neck compression." An independent autopsy by the family said Floyd died as a direct result of "mechanical asphyxiation" due to the chokehold.

More than likely, experts will need to battle these conflicting findings out in court. But the medical examiner's report showed no traces of petechiae, (pinpoint-size red spots in the eyes, a classic sign of asphyxiation), neck trauma, or any other indicators commonly linked to the determination that asphyxiation occurred.

Floyd also tested positive for COVID-19 in early April, but the autopsy did not cite that as a factor in his death because one can test positive for the virus and remain asymptomatic.

What Floyd was allegedly arrested for — attempting to pass what is believed to have been a counterfeit \$20 bill — is considered to be a non-violent offense, one many insist did not warrant an arrest by police. Not widely reported is the fact that from 2009-2014, Floyd served a five-year prison sentence in Texas for an assault and armed robbery involving a pregnant woman which occurred in 2007. Previously he had served 10 months in a Harris County, Texas jail for theft with a firearm and also had been arrested for drug offenses" (end of excerpt).

Now one of the attorneys defending officers accompanying Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin during the Floyd incident are claiming police bodycam footage has surfaced clearly showing Floyd ingesting fentanyl and possibly a "speedball" (methamphetamine) during the course of his arrest. Chauvin's attorney has asked that charges against his client be dropped, characterizing Floyd's death as a careless overdose.

"Combined with sickle cell trait, his pre-existing heart conditions, Mr. Floyd's use of fentanyl and methamphetamine most likely killed him. Adding fentanyl and methamphetamine to Mr. Floyd's existing health issues was tantamount to lighting a fuse on a bomb," the attorney's motion to dismiss read, according to an article in the online publication Blaze (<https://www.theblaze.com/news/lawyers-bombshell-claims-george-floyd-case>).



My Two Cents
By TERESA BENNS

"Further, Hennepin County Medical Examiner Dr. Andrew Baker also added that if Floyd were found dead in any other circumstance — in this case, "home alone and no other apparent causes, this could be acceptable to call an [overdose]."

As a result, a rush to judgment involving one death not fully investigated at the time could be blamed for numerous succeeding deaths and injuries, destruction of business owner's livelihoods and massive property damage. This does not even take into account the social upheaval and loss of law enforcement officials who will no longer be available to defend American citizens from the havoc unleashed by those who are running amok.

Finally, there is an increasing general outcry on both sides to stop the violence, although it comes too late for the victims. And once begun, there is no guarantee the chaos will spontaneously end.

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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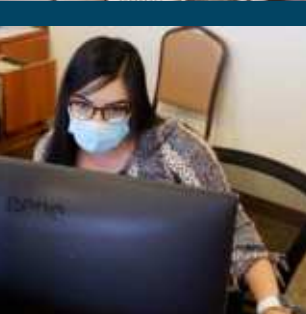
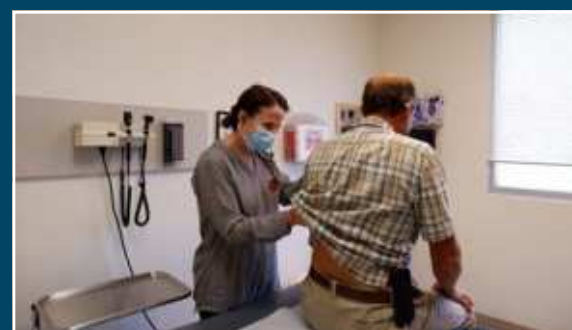
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Saguache County to receive three more ballot drop boxes, 368 boxes statewide

COLORADO - Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold announced that Colorado will have 368 ballot drop boxes available to voters statewide for the Nov. 3 election, a significant increase from 2018, when 247 drop boxes were available statewide.

“Saguache County is one of the largest counties in Colorado, with a scarce population in comparison,” said Saguache County Clerk and Recorder Trish Gilbert, whose county will be adding three new boxes for a total of four. “Many of our towns are located a great distance from our Voter Service and Polling Center, and many of our voters are without reliable transportation. Additional drop boxes will provide a safe and efficient method for voters to return their ballots without needing to travel to our VSPC and putting themselves, and others, at risk.”

“I am happy to announce that over the last two years Colorado has added 121 new drop boxes across the state for the 2020 General Election,” said Secretary Griswold. “No American should have to choose between risking their health and exercising their right to vote. Drop boxes are a safe, secure, and convenient way for Colorado voters to make their voices heard while social distancing and are one of the reasons our elections are the nation’s gold standard.”

Under Secretary Griswold’s leadership, the number of drop boxes has increased 49 percent in just the last two years, including the addition of 42 new boxes this summer as part of CARES Act funding for election assistance. Twenty-seven Colorado counties applied this summer for the additional drop boxes, which will be in place for the Nov. 3 election. Nearly \$160,000 has been requested and will be provided to those counties from CARES Act funding to provide the new boxes. As counties continue to finalize their election plans, as many as 20 additional boxes may be added across the state by Election Day.

Approximately 75 percent of Colorado mail ballot voters return their ballots to a drop box, which are safe and secure. Drop boxes are sturdy, metallic, weather-resistant, and are bolted to the ground. Colorado law also requires that all drop boxes be kept under 24-hour video surveillance with adequate lighting. When drop boxes are emptied, they are done so at



least every 24 hours by a team of bipartisan election judges who must maintain a detailed chain of custody log when transporting ballots between drop boxes and the central counting facility.

With 368 drop boxes statewide, there is now one drop box for approximately every 9,400 Colorado active registered voters. In addition to drop boxes, Colorado will have approximately 330 voting centers open, with many openings 15 days before Election Day per Colorado state law. Each voting center will have COVID-19 related procedures in place to ensure in-person voting is as safe as possible.

For more information on Colorado’s elections, including how to register to vote, please visit www.GoVoteColorado.gov.

SAGUACHE SHERIFF REPORT

The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff’s Office for the weeks of Aug. 18-Aug. 31



Arrests

- Elizabeth Doyle, 22, Center, domestic violence, third-degree assault
- Tony Garcia, 67, Center, domestic violence
- Oscar Mejia, 34, Center, harassment, domestic violence
- Tony Garcia, 67, Center, violation of a protection order, intimidating a witness
- Francisco Villa Lopez, 40, Center, violation of a protection order
- Ryan Garcia, 27, Center, domestic violence
- Herman Almeida, 40, Center, third-degree assault

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Carlos founded and sits as the Chair of a nonprofit, after school program demonstrating his commitment to future generations.

Carlos has been a leader advocating or opposing legislation that affected municipalities while on the Colorado Municipal League’s Executive Board, a board he was elected to by other elected officials.

Carlos is a leader amongst leaders. Don’t we want that voice for southern Colorado at the Capital?

If you’re not happy being neglected in southern Colorado for another four years... make the choice for a leader with a proven history of getting things done!



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EARLY DEADLINES

Due to Labor Day!

September 9 & 10 issues:

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Editorial - Thurs., Sept. 3 • 5 p.m.

Our office will be closed on Monday, September 7

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Have a Safe & Happy Labor Day Weekend!



San Luis Valley Antique Iron supports Ski Hi

MONTE VISTA - The San Luis Valley Antique Iron Club generously donated \$2,000 to the Ski Hi Park Regional Event & Conference Center project. The San Luis Valley Antique Iron Club is committed to the

preservation, restoration, and promotion of antique agricultural collectibles by innovative and quality work of current times. It has membership from all over the San Luis Valley. Pictured for the check presentation include Kathy

Woods (Friends), Gene Williams, Mark Mueller, Tom Scarlett, Jim Clare (all from SLV Antique Iron Club), and Linda Burnett (MV Chamber). Friends of Ski Hi want to express their deep gratitude to the club for their contribution.

CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

BY SAGUACHE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER TRISH GILBERT

Do Not Call list

My number is registered on the "Do Not Call" list, but I still receive calls from candidates and political campaigns. Is this legal?

Yes. The law makes an exemption for "political calls" when defining "telephone solicitation." Specifically, Section 6-1-903(10) of the Colorado Revised Statutes, states:

(a) "Telephone solicitation" means any voice, telefacsimile, graphic imaging or data

communication, including text messaging communication over a telephone line or through a wireless telephone for the purpose of encouraging the purchase or rental of, or investment in, property, goods or services.

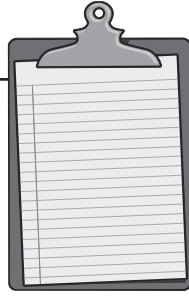
(b) Notwithstanding [the above definition], "telephone solicitation" does not include communications:

(V) Made for the sole purpose of urging support for or opposition to a political candidate or ballot issue; or

(VI) Made for the sole purpose of conducting political polls or soliciting the expression of opinions, ideas or votes. In addition to the political

phone calls, there is an increase in the volume of political literature sent through the mail.

There is no complaint or removal process established for political calls or mailings. One option is contacting your county clerk and recorder and requesting that your phone number be removed from your voter registration information. But this will not guarantee that your phone number will not be obtained from other sources.



HOUSING

Continued from Page 1A

it should look like given current population and expected growth. Data was needed to support more housing across the Valley and many different organizations, contractors, and developers worked to develop a list of necessary data.

The main focus is on areas underserved by affordable housing and demonstrating multiple types of housing needs. Some 10-11 towns exhibit such needs and have never had a study done before or previous studies are so old they no longer have useful data needed to fund new projects. This study will be done in stages, starting from general needs and progressing to the particular needs of each community.

The City of Alamosa is doing their own study, which both current funders also donated to so will not be included. Monte Vista has a fairly recent study that still has data that can be used as a starting point for funding. The information we collect from the communities we look at will give us the list of the most critical housing needs so we can start researching solutions to meet these needs.

This information can help determine what types of housing are missing from each community so those types can be brought to these areas. Assistance may be needed to revive the current housing stock and funding sources like the Colorado Division of Housing, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA), HUD, USDA-Rural Development, and other funders including local banks can be consulted. These funds allow for affordable and market rate units to be brought to underserved areas of the Valley.

Our budget is \$272,000 after negotiating a decrease from \$12k a community to \$10k for our deep dive, 4 of which are located in Saguache County which is more than any other county in the Valley. \$140,000 has already been raised through generous donations and grants from The Colorado Health Foundation and CHFA. SLV Health has also pledged to financially contribute \$10,000 to the study to help look at workforce housing throughout the Valley.

This leaves about \$122k left to raise with a potential to have DOLA contribute \$60,000 if one jurisdiction will apply and be responsible for helping raise an additional \$60,000. With this each of the 14 communities will be asked to contribute financially up to \$3,000 depending on the size of the community. The Cohort will then help raise the balance of that community's \$10,000 cost through grants, donations and other means.

Cost for the study have been reduced to only \$13,600 per county or town, for a total of 20 studies. Current donations will further reduce this cost to only \$6,100 per county or town. The cohort also has agreed to continue to apply for grants and reach out for donations to help bring this cost down to \$3,000 or less per community, based on size.

The Town of Center can contribute to the study in two ways. First, a financial donation to the study of \$3,000. If this seems too high for the community the coalition and its cohorts are willing to adjust this amount. Second, the jurisdiction must apply for the DOLA matching grant. This grant would cover the \$120,000 to be able to include all 14

communities the cohort has decided to study.

DOLA would contribute \$1 for every \$1 raised up to \$60,000 as long as each of the 14 jurisdictions make a financial contribution. Saguache county has the most communities and the Town of Center has the most experience with DOLA grants. After speaking with DOLA representatives and Brian Lujan with the Town of Center, the group felt Center would be the perfect jurisdiction for this grant.

The SLV Housing Coalition and the cohort have agreed to help write and monitor the grant along with Lujan and his staff. They will help raise matching funds for what jurisdictions contribute by marketing the \$1 community donation will get a \$3 match, essentially with \$1 from the jurisdiction and \$2 from DOLA until each meets their contribution max. In return the Town of Center will get recognition for their contributions and the data needed to apply for future funding regarding housing.

Millions in Division of Housing funding is expected in the next two to five years and this study will put the Valley on the radar for this funding. This study also will be utilized by the Saguache Housing Authority, Center Housing Authority, and Moffat School District to look at affordable and workforce housing projects. There is also a developer in Crestone interested in building more affordable housing options in Crestone, Moffat, and Hooper areas if the data shows a need.

With \$122,000 still to raise we can always use a financial donation of any kind. Individuals can help as well. Contact Lujan for more information at 754-3497.

Kay's Bookkeeping Services

& The Monte Vista Cemetery Association Office have moved!

Come see us at our new address:
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(next to Valley Lumber)

Kay's: (719) 852-5638

Monte Vista Cemetery: (719) 852-5196 or
www.montevistacemeteryassociation.com

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Highlights from the Aug. 18 Saguache BoCC meeting

SAGUACHE — The following highlights were taken from draft meeting minutes recorded by Saguache County Clerk's office staffer Dominique White for the regular Aug. 18 Saguache County Commissioners.

Following commissioner reports, the commission held an open discussion about demolition of a vacant residence in the Baca Grande being used for a drug house. Commissioners approved waiving the fees for the debris coming from the residence for the demolition of the building so it can be put in the landfill

after they burn the structure and haul it. Hearing on County Personnel Grievance filed by Jarrod Helmick - "I filed a grievance against Pete Garcia Wednesday, Aug. 26, after I was fired, I was asked to do someone else's job and when I said I was not paid enough to do someone else job, Pete told me I was no longer employees with the county. An employee at Social Services defecated on the floor. When I brought this to Pete, I was told it was better to just sweep it under the rug. I never had a problem with doing the work that was asked of me, my

job description said I was custodial but I was all over the board with the work I did. I want to give a heads up of what I've seen and witnessed at the county. The work being done is the cheapest work. I received a raise at evaluation time and if there was an issue then it should have been addressed."

Commissioner Tim Lovato read the text that was received from Jarrod: "Hey Tim, one thing I'll tell you Pete said I'd been asking for sealed bids. He plans on looking at all the bids first then handing them to Wendi to seal for you. Don't you

think that's the idea behind the request." Pete Garcia stated that the day Jarrod was let go, Wendi asked to clean the building which only took 20 minutes to clean. Jarrod said he refused to clean. Pete stated he gave Jarrod multiple chances. "As far as the poop at Social Services, I told him to clean it and not to blame someone because if you do, the cleaning will be harder for you. Jarrod was staying home 20 hours a week. He was not answering phone calls, they would call me while I was at home." April stated that the day this happened

Jarrold called and asked when his check would be ready. April called him when his check was ready and helped get the county equipment that was at his house. After an executive session for personnel matters during the second half of the meeting, Commissioner Jason Anderson stated that looking at the fact that the job description is to clean county property and the unwillingness to do so, it is termination of subordination and the Board supports the termination. (Helmick objected to the above

Please see **BOCC** on Page 8A

POLIS

Continued from Page 1A

receiving funds from other federal, state and local assistance programs such as the Paycheck Protection Program.

"Small business owners are struggling to keep up and our communities are losing beloved staples at an alarming rate due to the economic impacts of COVID," said Sen. Faith Winter, D-Westminster. "We've worked to ensure the application process is easy and accessible in order to provide immediate relief to small employers who need it most."

"Colorado small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and supporting them is critical for our state's recovery," said Rep. Mary Young, D-Greeley. "I've heard from so many hardworking Coloradans in Greeley and in Weld County who need just a little help to make it through

this crisis. That's why we worked quickly to pass bipartisan legislation that set aside \$20 million to help small businesses that have been left behind, with a focus on women, veteran or minority-owned businesses and those in rural areas. Small business owners who may need assistance should reach out to Energize Colorado for guidance, or to apply for the grant program."

"The COVID pandemic has devastated our small businesses in Colorado and many of them didn't qualify for PPP so we stepped up as a State to fill the gap with a unanimous bill to create a \$25 million grant program. Applications began Aug. 31, go to energizecolorado.com to apply and we will continue working for the strong Colorado comeback," said Senator Jeff Bridges, D-Greenwood Village.

ASSAULT

Continued from Page 1A

Since the upheaval in Moffat over the questionable annexation and the advent of Area 420/Potch LLC, town trustees, town employees and the Mayor have disagreed over how the situation should be handled. One observer commented Monday that trust issues are such that no one trusts anyone any longer.

The unrest has even extended to

the Area 420/Potch LLC owners and managers who were once very friendly and accommodating with Reigel, but who recently have seemed to blame her for the outcome of an incident that occurred in May on Area 420 property. Following issues stemming from the incident, Ecklund resigned her trustee position.

McCloskey turned the complaint over to District Attorney Robert Willett and Willett preferred charges against Reigel. Reigel has been summoned to appear in Saguache Municipal Court on the assault charges Sept. 16 at 8:30 a.m. She will appear on the official misconduct and oppression charges again on Sept. 9.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

SAGUACHE COUNTY CARES ACT GRANTS

Saguache County along with the Towns of Center, Crestone, Moffat and Saguache have received money from the CARES Act to be used for COVID 19 related items! Saguache County and the County municipalities have worked together to come up with a grant application for local businesses who were affected by COVID 19. The Grant funds may be used for the follow:

- Funds may only be used for business, no funding of individuals that are not a business or 501(c)(3) foundation salaries
- Grant funds requested must show how funds will be used to return employees to work
- Physical location of business must be located within Saguache County
- Employ Saguache County citizens
- Business must be licensed with Saguache County or the municipality the business is located within
- Funds may be used for utilities, water and sanitation etc.

CARES ACT Grant applications are due by September 15, 2020 and are available on our website at saguachecounty.net/administration - "CARES ACT Grant Application" or you may contact the Saguache County Administration office at 719-655-2231 to request a copy of the grant application.

No. 1569 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, August 27 and September 3 and 10, 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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.
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.

INVITATION TO BID
SAGUACHE COMMUNITY BUILDING
EXTERIOR RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION

The Town of Saguache will receive sealed bids for repairs to the entryway of the Saguache Community Building, located at 725 Seventh Street, Saguache CO. The project includes roof structure stabilization and door hardware replacement. A pre-bid walk-through, mandatory for general contract Bidders, will be held on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at the project site. The bid opening will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday September 3, 2020 at the Saguache Town Hall, located at 504 San Juan Avenue. At this time and place, all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Contract documents are available electronically from the architect, Zink and Associates, Inc., belindazink@icloud.com, (719-850-6750). The Town of Saguache reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids and may defer its decision for a period not to exceed 14 days from the date of the Bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the Bids and investigating the qualifications of the bidders.
No. 1564 published in the Center Post-Dispatch, Thursday, August 20 and 27 and September 3, 2020.

NOTICE OF INTENT OF A CONTINUOUS PROGRAM TO MODIFY WEATHER

Notice is hereby given that the Water Enhancement Authority, 244 26 1/4 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado, hereinafter referred to as WEA has filed with the Colorado Water Conservation Board an application for renewal of WEA's ten-year permit to conduct a ground-based weather modification program within the State of Colorado and within the area hereinafter more specifically stated.

WEA proposes to conduct such weather modification operations for the behalf of the following entities: The City of Grand Junction, Grand Mesa Water Conservancy District, Grand Mesa Water Users Association, Ute Water Conservancy District, Powderhorn Ski Company, Collbran Water Conservancy District, Grand Mesa Reservoir Pool Company, and the Highline Ditch Company.

The target area of the operations for which a weather modification permit renewal is sought is the Grand Mesa generally above 8,000 feet elevation. The proposed target area is within an area approximately described as follows: beginning near the Town of Paonia at the NE corner of T14S R92W 6PM, thence west along the north boundary of T14S to the east boundary of R98W, thence north along the east boundary of R98W to the north boundary of T11W, thence east along the north boundary of T11S to the west boundary of R95W, thence north along the west boundary of R95W to the north boundary of T9S, thence east along the north boundary of T9S to the east boundary of R89W, thence south along the east boundary of R89W 6PM extended into the NMPM to the north boundary of T49N NMPM, thence west along the north boundary of T49N NMPM to the east boundary of R7W NMPM. Thence north along the east boundary of R7W NMPM extended into the 6PM to the north boundary of T14S 6PM and more or less to the point of beginning.

The primary target area includes portions of the Colorado River drainage basin in Delta, Mesa, and Gunnison counties within the State of Colorado. The program will be designed, operated, and intended to affect only the target area within the above listed counties. The Weather Modification Rules and Regulations 2 CCR 401-1(Rule 7) require that this notice be published in adjacent counties to the target area counties which are: Garfield, Montrose, and Saguache Counties.

The program shall be continuous from November 1 through - April 15 for each year for the next ten years, expiring in 2030. Safety measures are in place to ensure safe operations when severe conditions, avalanche danger and snowpack thresholds occur. The Permit Holder is required to annually supply emergency managers with an operational plan and to coordinate regularly with the CWCB to ensure operations are operated judiciously to minimize danger to land, health, people, property and the environment on behalf of the citizens as directed by the Colorado Revised Statutes.

The intended effect of the weather modification operations is to increase precipitation/snowpack water content in the primary target area to benefit: the natural habitat, agriculture, municipal water, stock growers, recreational and tourism interests and the area economy.

Complete details of the proposed operation are available on request from WEA by mail or by emailing Mark Ritterbush, WEA Secretary/Treasurer at markr@gjcity.org. CWCB will conduct a public hearing on the permit renewal application on September 9, 2020, beginning at 1:00 pm via Webinar. Oral and written comments will be part of the record of decision. Please contact Andrew Rickert, CWCB, 1313 Sherman Street # 718, Denver, Colorado, 80203, at 720-651-1918, or by emailing andrew.rickert@state.co.us to submit comments on the permit renewal application and to obtain information to access the Webinar hearing.
No. 1570 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, August 27 and September 3, 2020.

District Court Saguache County, Colorado Court Address: Saguache Combined Court 501 4th Street, P.O. Box 197, Saguache, CO 81149 719-655-2522	
In the Matter of the Estate of KAREN ACKER, aka Karen Ann Acker, aka Karen A. Acker	COURT USE ONLY
Deceased Attorney for Personal Representative: The Pearman Law Firm, P.C. Shaun Pearman, #16619 Eric Apoke, #48289 Anne Billings White, #51412 4195 Wadsworth Blvd., Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 Phone: 303-981-7900	Case Number: 2020PR30011 Division: C Courtroom
NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.	
NOTICE TO CREDITORS	
Estate of KAREN ACKER, aka Karen Ann Acker, aka Karen A. Acker , Deceased Case Number 2020PR30011	
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to	
• District Court of Saguache, County, Colorado or	
□ Denver Probate Court of the City and County of Denver, Colorado	
on or before December 20, 2020 (date)*, or the claims may be forever barred.	
Diana L. McCleary Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice c/o Pearman Law Firm 4195 Wadsworth Blvd Address Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 City, State, Zip Code	
No. 1563 published in the Center Post-Dispatch, Thursday, August 20 and 27 and September 3, 2020.	

District Court Saguache County, Colorado Court Address: 501 4th Street Saguache, CO 81149 Phone: (719) 655-2522	
In the Matter of the Estate of: Clifford Adalbert Dabney, a/k/a Clifford A. Dabney,	COURT USE ONLY
Deceased	
Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address): Eugene L. Farish, Esq. 739 1st Avenue, P.O. Box 430 Meate Vista, CO 81144	Case Number: 2020PR30012 Division: Courtroom:
Phone Number: 719-852-5101 E-mail: geneyf@farishlaw.com FAX Number: 719-852-4843 Atty. Reg. #: 2557	
NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.	
NOTICE TO CREDITORS	
Estate of Clifford Adalbert Dabney, a/k/a Clifford A. Dabney, Deceased Case Number 2020 PR 30012	
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to	
☒ District Court of Saguache, Colorado or	
on or before December 27, 2020, or the claims may be forever barred.	
Christopher A. Dabney Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice 658 Warden Street Address Center, Colorado 81125 City, State, Zip Code	
No. 1568 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, August 27 and September 3 and 10, 2020.	



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Back to School



Photos by Teresa Bennis

Third-graders from Ms. Portillo's class enjoyed lunch out of doors last week at Center Schools.



Center School third-graders from Ms. Crowder's class sat in the shade to enjoy their lunch last week.

BOCC Continued from Page 7A

portrayal of the event in the minutes stating the actual exchange with commissioners was not the same as what was recorded. A recording of the meeting has been requested from the County Clerk's office.)

Randal Arredondo, Road and Bridge - Public Health asked Randy to get bids on vehicles. The board asked Randy to get more bids. Randy received an email asking that the Chevy Colorado be transferred to Code Enforcement. The Board suggested looking into bids for a new truck.

Ben Gibbons, County Attorney - Following an executive session for personnel purposes, Gibbons stated that contract attorney Matt Hobbs has resigned effective Aug. 31. Gibbons is willing to do DSS cases until a decision is made.

Commissioners approved the Treasurer office employees' salary increase following a second executive session. They also approved liquor license renewals for Gunbarrel Station and Sand Dunes Recreation; a clerk and recorder grant for a ballot drop box in the town of Center and voted to offer the Code enforcement position to Edward Reinhardt at a starting salary of \$35,000.

Amber Wilson, Land Use - The Land Use Office has received an appeal from Industrial Tower West, LLC/Viaero Wireless, regarding the denial of the Communications Facility.

Kyle Denardo stated that they are here to appeal the decision that was made July 21. the appeal is based on two issues:

The denial does not allow them to cover our gaps in coverage along the highway.

Discrimination against Viaero wireless, due to other carriers being in the area.

The discussion was postponed until a future date.

County Commissioners:

- Accepted the conditional use modification for Huckleberry Farms LLC for retail marijuana cultivation after Planning Commission recommendation for approval in July.

- Approved a conditional use permit for Rene and Rebecca Peregrino to build two additional residences for their children at 60248 Co. Rd. H.25.

- Approved conditional use modifications for George Jackson, Agricultural Farms LLC, retail marijuana grower.

- Approved a 100 percent change of ownership for Paul O'Connor, current owner of Tall Bird Investments, LLC to Brent Toepper. The business name will change to Happy Land Farms, Inc.

The Land Use office has received a few questions about some lots that are county owned but not on the current county owned lot list that could potentially be bid on. Land use is in the process of going through the county owned land to add lots that can potentially be on the list but are not on the current list. Also, Connie Trujillo has some property with the Treasurer's Office that could potentially be county owned land which would eventually be added to the county owned lot list. She will be attending the meeting to discuss this. Once the county owned lot list is updated, the list will be re-advertised.

Commissioners approved starting the process of deeding lands more than six years delinquent over to the county.

Wendi Maez, County Administrator I have received updated bids for the courthouse generator.

Review and discussion concerning the MOU between San Luis Valley Small Business Development Center and Saguache County for the support and partnership with the SBDC for eligible users to increase the ability to conduct or research business practices and provide a

secure location for technological devices at a Saguache County location.

We have received building quotes for Public Health storage units. The Board asked Maez to advertise for bids.

Commissioners accepted the contract for Alpine Achievers Initiative with funds being reduced by TANF.

Social Services update: Working on financials with Christina Wilson to bring everything current.

I am reviewing each contract for services to make sure they are up-to-date and all deliverables are being met. There are a few that are not current and need to be current, but the majority is up-to-date.

I have made some changes to the food program. I have appointed Mary Ann Martinez to oversee the program. At this time, we are working on the reports and making sure all the food we can receive is being orders and distributed.

The satellite office in Crestone opened Aug. 12 and had 18 walk ins, this included questions, applications, verification documents and inquires. Great Success!

Quotes received for the broken window at the Center Office. Replacement of the existing window will be \$292. The cost to replace with bullet resistant glass will be \$996. We will need to choose what type of glass we want to put in so we can send the information to CTSI for insurance coverage payment.

I have ordered panic buttons to be installed at each desk in both the Center and Saguache offices. The installation of these can be paid for with COVID-19 funds.

Bobby Woelz, Office of Emergency Management

Woelz stated that doing a soft launch was great with Mr. Freese coming on. One incident happened, that is, the Stupa Fire. Woelz will be working for two weeks then stepping out again. The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

HATS Off to AMERICA'S WORKFORCE

160 MILLION WORKERS make up the U.S. civilian labor force. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics July 2018

Celebrated on the first Monday of September each year, Labor Day honors the social and economic achievements of America's workers. To all of the hardworking folks doing their part to make our country an excellent place to work, live and do business, thank you and Happy Labor Day!

In 2019 the Median Age of a person employed in the US is 42.3 years with "Management, Professional and Related Occupations" being the largest employment category.

In 2018, According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics: Women's labor force participation was 57.1 percent in 2018, little changed from 57.0 percent in 2017. Men's labor force participation, which always has been much higher than that for women, was 69.1 percent in 2018, unchanged from the previous year.

In 2019, 33.4 million families, or two-fifths of all families, included children under age 18. (Children are sons, daughters, step-children, or adopted children living in the household who are under age 18. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, other related and unrelated children, and children not living in the household.) At least one parent was employed in 91.3 percent of families with children, an increase of 0.5 percentage point from the previous year.

In 2019, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses drive 44 percent of economic activity and 2/3 of American jobs.

In Colorado in 2019 Family Medicine Physicians had the highest median hourly wage at \$94.60 per hour, with the least reported median hourly wage of \$10.64 going to Gambling Dealers, however, many jobs that are reported as not year round, including teachers, do not have statistics available from the BLS.

Thank you to all the hard working men and women who keep your community running!

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A huge thank you to Christina, Charlie, Wayne and Isaiah for all of your fantastic work!

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Creede Labor Day activities still scheduled to kick off fall

BY LYNDSIE FERRELL

CREEDE- Creede and Mineral County are preparing to say goodbye to summer and the coming fall is sure to be a great time for the entire family. As of right now, and everything is subject to change, Creede is planning on hosting their annual Labor Day festivities.

Labor Day weekend will be somewhat late this year and start Friday, Sept. 4, in the evening with a concert being held by the Creede Repertory Theatre. The event will be at 6:30 in Basham Park located on Main Street in Creede. With all of the activities during this time, everyone who is in attendance will be required to wear a mask and keep to social distancing guidelines.

On Saturday, Sept. 5, participants in this year's annual Mountain Run

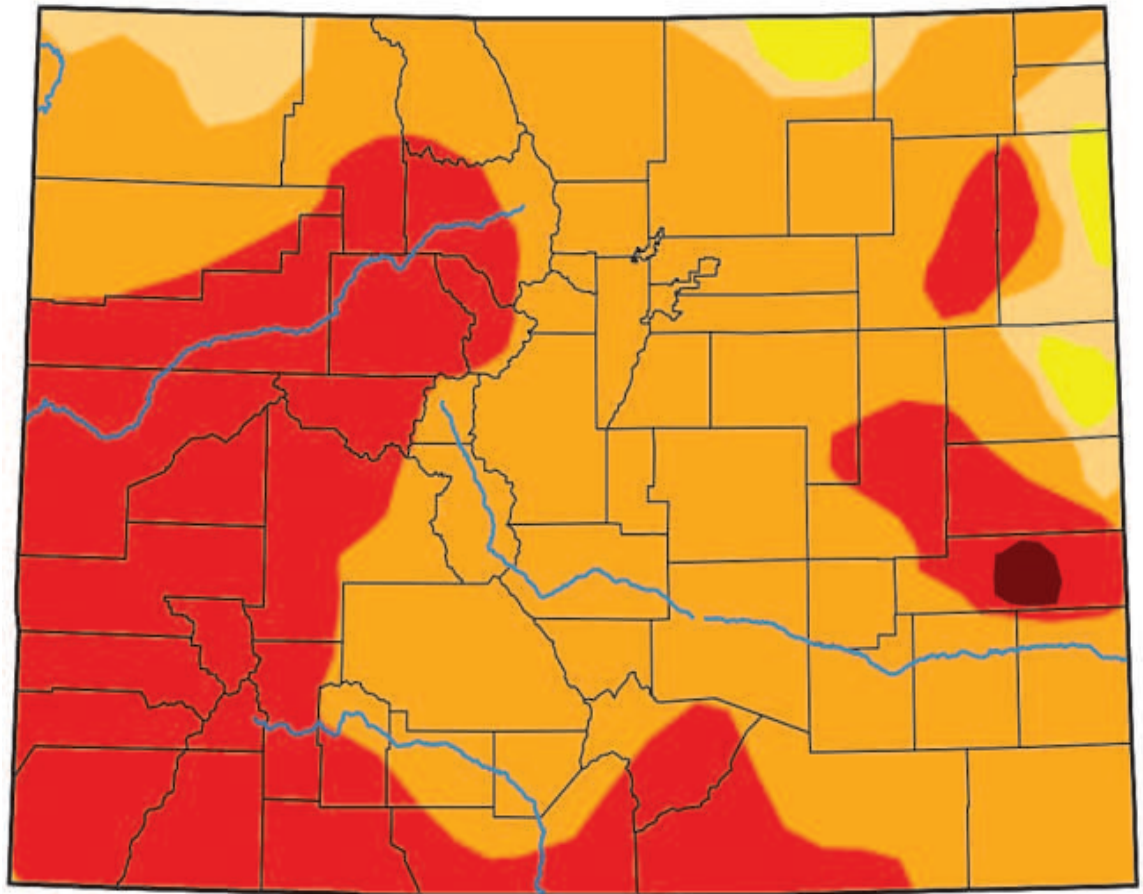
race may come to register for a 50k, 22 mile or 12-mile race. The race takes participants up into the San Juan Mountains, through the historical Bachelor Loop mining district and back down to the picturesque town of Creede. Participants are asked to wear face coverings when registering that morning.

Due to COVID-19, county and town officials have decided to cancel the Salsa Fiesta this year but fear not as Monday will bring more fun with the annual ATV Rodeo at the Mineral County Fairgrounds. All ages are encouraged to come and participate in this fun event which features a fun and sometimes challenging ATV course. The event kicks off at noon but those wishing to register need to do so at 10 a.m. The event is open to the public to watch the fun.

April-July 2020 was the 3rd driest on record for Colorado

COLORADO - The map shows that 93 percent of Colorado is experiencing severe to extreme drought conditions across California, Nevada, and the Four Corners States. In the Four Corners states, a combination of factors have led to the current drought depiction on the map—starting with an extended period *Please see DROUGHT on Page 6*

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado



Just words

They were just words.

“Tear down the Berlin Wall!” Reagan to Gorbachev at the Brandenburg Gate, 1987

“Chance of rain.” Weatherman in Louisiana before Hurricane Katrina, 2005.

“Give me liberty or give me death.” Patrick Henry, 1775

“I wish I’d never read this book... so I could read it again for the first time”. Dan Trimble about Hemingway’s “Old Man and the Sea”. 1992

“The Grass is Always Greener Over the Septic Tank.” Erma Bombeck. 1976

We often underestimate the value of words. “Good job, son.” “Best cobbler I ever ate.” “Did you paint that yourself?” “I’m really proud of you.” “Thank ya, Love.”

We underestimate their power. “You shouldn’t let that kid beat ya.” “Maybe you should lose some weight, Hon.” “You should’ve tried harder.” “Not again, they’ve



heard those stories before.” “You do that everytime!”

There are people whose opinions we truly value. There are people whose praise we’d die for. They are often two different things.

Sometimes we genuinely would like to improve ourselves. “Yer lettin’ your rope go too soon.” “Give him his head.” “Always check the hind feet when you set him up.”

Sometimes we just need encouragement. “You did the best you could.” “You looked like you won from where I sat.” “It sure runs better after you worked on it.”

Most everyone is the most important person in someone’s life. It is no small responsibility. It should be a crime if we don’t realize and recognize that importance because what you say can have such long lasting effect.

“I believe you got the makin’s of a world champion.” Kaycee Field’s dad.

“I know you can do it, but be careful.” Gus Grisham’s wife, Apollo 13 crew.

“Believe in yourself.” Martin Luther King’s Sunday School teacher.

“Ask not what your country can do for you,

but what you can do for your country...” JFK

“Write about what you know.” My college English professor after giving me an F on a poem I wrote for a class assignment.

“You’ll never amount to anything.” Too many of us, too many times.

Words... like burrs under a blanket, like nails in a coffin.

Like a single match in a sea of gasoline.

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

Great Sand Dunes closes areas around the Sand Creek Lakes

Land, Water and People

By TOM MALECEK

SAN LUIS VALLEY - Just 10 miles "as the crow flies" from Crestone, my journey to upper Sand Creek lake, within the Preserve and Sangre de Cristo wilderness, entailed a 123 mile drive to the Music Pass trailhead, followed by a 4 mile hike up and over Music Pass and up Sand Creek to this stunning lake. Ringed by "13'ers" Marble Mountain, Milwaukee Peak and Music Mountain, at 11,745 feet in elevation, this beautiful lake lies right at the timberline. Timberline here, as in all other areas of the Sangres and San Juans surrounding the San Luis Valley, is comprised primarily of a dead Engelmann spruce overstory (the result of the spruce beetle epidemic the previous decade, which killed virtually all spruce over 6 inches diameter) and a vibrant green understory.

I was in desperate need of a backpacking trip and wanted to fish the creek and lakes ever since Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) had gone public with plans and a proposal to convert the Sand Creek watershed into a refugia for Rio Grande Cutthroat trout. The Sand Creek drainage is approximately 12 miles long and includes upper and lower Sand Creek lakes along with little Sand Creek lakes and is as perfect a setting for a successful fish re-introduction as it all lies miles from the nearest roads, thus minimizing the risk of other species re-introduction into the future.

After a couple of years of planning, and with approval from the Park and assistance from Trout Unlimited, the first part of the project is planned for the first week of September and entails removing the fish populations in the upper creek along with the two lakes. CPW employees will be introducing rotenone, a naturally occurring chemical derived from the roots of tropical bean plants, and effectively used in fish management projects for decades, into the creek and lakes to kill the current fish populations, which is necessary to have and keep a pure population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

A temporary closure order will be instituted to keep the public out of the treatment area during the project implementation.

Thus, my trip from Aug. 13 through the 16th was planned to fish the creek and lakes with the current populations of fish. There were definitely lunkers in the two lakes. And no matter what, I would get relief from the oppressive heat while camping above 11,000 feet.

Compared to hiking the trails accessing the high peaks of the Sangres from the west side, where the trailheads start at 8000 feet, the Music Pass trailhead was 2 miles high, at 10,500, making the hike to the actual pass at 11,400 much easier and quicker. I met my friends Jason and Sally at the Sand Creek trail junction, a little over 2 miles from the trailhead, where we made camp Thursday before hiking two more miles to the upper lake Friday morning. CPW had opened up the fishing along the creek and in the two lakes with no limit over the past two months, to reduce the fish population as much as possible before the treatment dates. That certainly had an effect both on the quality of fishing as well as the number of campers in the vicinity.

Arriving Friday before noon, we were able to find a great camping spot outside the 300 foot no camping zone, on the northeast side of the lake. Due to the steep and rugged terrain around the lake, good camping spots were limited and by the afternoon, tents had popped up in every semi-flat location and a couple dozen people were actively fishing and spread out along the shore surrounding the lake. This continued thru Saturday and Sunday, from sun-up to sundown and all throughout the day. Speaking to quite a few of the groups, I found that many were making repeat trips from the surrounding areas, a lot

from Pueblo. Many had taken out large numbers earlier and were now seeing reduced catches, but all were having a good time. As for us, Jason caught one good sized trout and I saw no action from the lake. But when we decided to retreat to Sand creek, we saw enough action to keep us busy, and in the fish, as we could hope for.

Of course, Sunday came too quickly and we reluctantly packed up our gear and began the trek out, musing about the next trip along the way. Which at least for me will entail hiking the other way once over the pass, and along the 10 miles of Sand Creek that won't be treated until late next year at the earliest, fishing and camping along the creek until it dissolves into the sand dunes, then hiking out along the dunes and lower slopes of the Sangres, past the old town of Liberty,

past the Duncan cabin, to the Liberty Gate and parking lot on the south side of the Baca Grande subdivision. Until then, there will be other trips but, perhaps, none that I will look forward to as much.

The Upper and Lower Sand Creek Lakes and the upper reach of Sand Creek in the Great Sand Dunes National Preserve will be treated to remove all fish from the drainage as part of the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve native fish restoration project. Colorado Parks and Wildlife and National Park Service staff will work along the creek and lake shorelines to complete the treatment of the water. As a result, the water will temporarily be non-potable to drink or use. To allow staff unimpeded access and the ability to complete this project, public closure of areas around the Sand Creek Lakes

and beyond will go into effect at 12 a.m. Aug. 30, 2020 until 11:59 p.m. Sept. 5, 2020. The following locations shall be closed to public entry established under the authority of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.5 (a) (1) Closures and Public Use Limits.

100 yards surrounding Upper and Lower Sand Creek Lakes.

100 yards on both sides of Sand Creek from where it exits each of the lakes and extends 5 miles downstream.

Signage will be posted at trailheads and along trail junctions to ensure visitors are aware of these restrictions. Great Sand Dunes asks visitors to plan accordingly to ensure they are carrying enough potable water during this



time frame as filtering from creeks and lakes in the closure area is not an option. For more information, contact the visitor center at 719-378-6395.

Tom Malecek is a recently retired employee of the Rio Grande NF and enjoys spending as much time outdoors in the mountains as possible.

Creede's 2020 Labor Day Weekend

Creede Mountain Run

Sept. 5th

34 Years Runnin'

50K - 22 MILE - 12 MILE

SATURDAY BEFORE LABOR DAY

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www.creede.com

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Creede Repertory Theatre's

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Entertainment | Live Music | Performance

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CATCH SOME OF YOUR CRT FAVORITES PERFORMING LIVE ON STAGE!

Hosted by Sean Thompson

04 SEP 2020

FRIDAY, LABOR DAY WEEKEND
Support a local restaurant or shop!
Bring a chair, a blanket, and snacks!
Observe distancing, masks appreciated.

6:30PM
BASHAM PARK



Creede & Mineral County Visitor Center • 904 S. Main St. • (719) 658-2374 • www.creede.com



Cruising the Canyon Car Show still a go

CREEDE - Fall is on the horizon for Creede and as the warm summer days give way to the cool autumn nights, the town will also be getting ready for their annual Cruising the Canyon Car Show. For the past 12 years, the Holy Moses Gift Shop in partnership with the Creede and Mineral County Chamber of Commerce have brought some of the most beautiful vehicles to the area to enjoy fall colors and a drive along the scenic Silver Thread Byway outside of Creede.

The event was started by Holy Moses owners Vicki and Nick Kulyk as a way to bring people to the area during the slow season in Creede and the event has turned into an area favorite. The small community will be hopping to decade music from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s as guests enjoy a day full of antique and beautifully restored vintage cars and trucks of all makes and models. It is a great way to get out to enjoy a blast from the past and see the fall colors as they begin to change in the San Juan and La Garita Mountains.

18 with a pre-registration party at the visitor center located south of Creede. Participating vehicle owners can come out to mingle with the public and enjoy some light refreshments as they prepare for the show Saturday.

Saturday morning will start off with more registration at 8 a.m. at the Mineral County Courthouse. The show starts off at 10 and will last until the awards ceremony at 3 p.m. Guests can come enjoy the last few days of the Creede Repertory Theatre's season, walk the many shops and enjoy a delicious meal at any one of the restaurants that will be open for the event.

On Saturday afternoon after the award ceremony, guests and vehicle owners are invited to participate in the annual Rod Run up Highway 149 toward the Freemon's Store and North Clear Creek Falls. The road weaves in and out of some spectacular country that is surrounded by aspen groves that will be beginning to change into their autumn attire.

and all guests and participants are asked to keep to social distancing requirements as well as wear face coverings when enjoying any event. Up to date information can be found on the Creede and Mineral County Chamber of Commerce website at www.creede.com.

These events are subject to change

Let's Talk Trash

No contracts, no hidden fees

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

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



For a full list of recyclable items see www.mds-wasteandrecycle.com/services/recycling-services/

Call (719)658-3060

www.mds-wasteandrecycle.com

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Saturday: 10:00am to Noon

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~ B.Gullette

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Any three \$5 items & get the fourth FREE!
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Monte Vista, CO

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Valley-Wide Classified MARKETPLACE

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



CLASSIFIED INDEX

ANNOUNCEMENTS
 01 TICKETS
 02 CARD OF THANKS
 03 MEMORIALS
 04 LOST & FOUND
 05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
 06 PERSONALS
EMPLOYMENT
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 08 WORK WANTED
 09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
FOR RENT
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SERVICES
 65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
 66 CHILD CARE

RATES

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\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.

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Convenient ad placement:

To place your ad in person come to the office at 835 First Ave. in Monte Vista, or call (719) 852-3531. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also fax your classified to (719) 852-3387 or email at montevisitaclass@gmail.com

Check your ad the first day:

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

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

DEADLINE

Thursday 5:00 pm

Call 719-852-3531
 or email: MonteVistaClass@gmail.com

Easy Payment Options

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05 Notices

Saguache County Sheriff's Department: Thanks for checking on LaRoy. LaRoy, ya scared the snot outta me. You think going down that mountain side on a horse was wild? Hee hee, I took the brakes off your wheelchair. PR brand on the side of the trailer, a lady pumping gas in Del Norte. A horse named Pain? 7 Hope ya'll had a good day! SLV Puppy Chow (9/2)

WE BUY ANTLERS: 5 miles west of Del Norte on HWY 160. 719-657-0942 (9/16)TFN

07 Help Wanted

Del Norte Bank is seeking to fill a full-time position for Receptionist/Loan Assistant. Primary duties will be to welcome customers both on the phone and in the lobby as well as provide support to lenders. Successful candidate will have a bright personality, be a good problem solver and willing to learn. The position is permanent, full-time, M - F, 8am - 5pm with a robust benefits package. Application available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or inquire at 719-657-3376 and ask for Mike. EOE. (09/23)

"Are you retired and wanting to give back to the community or would like to break up your day and do something SPECTACULAR and rewarding?" Looking for a volunteer, approximately one (1) hour per day, Monday through Friday delivering meals in Monte Vista to older adults homebound in our community. We are looking for someone committed and wanting to share your time for those in need. Please contact South-Central Colorado Seniors your local Area Agency on Aging for more details. 719-589-4511." (9/23)

Experienced Prep Cook-Monte Vista: PT - Currently 8:00 to 1:00; Mon-Fri; food prep for daily menus; works with Head Cook. Applications and job description can be picked up at 1116 3rd Street, Alamosa, CO (South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc., Area Agency on Aging) or call 719-589-4511 for more information. (9/23)

7th/8th Grade Language Arts

Teacher needed at Del Norte Jr/Sr High School. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a secondary Language Arts endorsement. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Aaron Horrocks, DNHS Principal at ahorrocks@urtigers.co or contact Aaron at 719-657-4020. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.dncsd.org (9-9)

3rd Grade Teacher needed at Del Norte Elementary School. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4030. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: dncsd.org. (9-9)

PARA-EDUCATOR needed at Del Norte Elementary School. Applicants must have a high school diploma. Please submit your application to Amy Duda, DNES Principal at 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO 81132; aduda@urtigers.co; or call at 719-657-4030. The position will be opened until filled. You can pick up an application at the District Office or on-line at dncsd.org. (9-9)

Rio Grande County has the following positions open, County Administrator, Human Resources Director and Public Health Director. The job descriptions and applications can be found on the website at www.riograndecounty.org. Salaries are negotiable per experience and the jobs are open until filled. Must be able to pass a background check and drug test. (9/9)

HELP WANTED BUILDING CUSTODIAN - Experienced individual needed for janitorial services with responsibility for cleaning various county buildings. Full-time position with variable hours which include evening and/or early morning work times. Applications available at Saguache County Administration office. Call 719-655-2231 for

more information. Applications close on Thursday August 20, 2020 at 4:00 PM Saguache County is an EEO employer. Drug testing and background check are required for final applicants. (8/19)

HOUSEKEEPERS WANTED! Apply in person at TWIN RIVERS CABINS AND RV PARK, west of Antonito. 719-376-5710 (8/26) **Rio Grande Club & Resort in South Fork** is hiring full-time line/prep cook, competitive pay and golf benefits. Position may transition to part-time in the off season. Call 719-873-1995 to inquire or stop by to fill out an application at 285 Rio Grande Club Trail, South Fork. (9/23)



Colorado Statewide Classified Advertising Network

To place a 25-word COSCAN Network ad in 91 Colorado newspapers for only \$300, contact your local newspaper or call Colorado Press Association Network at 720-274-7174.

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EARLY DEADLINES

Due to Labor Day!
September 9 & 10 issues:

Display, Classified & Legal Advertising for Lifestyles & All Paid Papers - Wed., Sept. 2 • 12 noon.
Editorial - Thurs., Sept. 3 • 5 p.m.

Our office will be closed on Monday, September 7

Valley Publishing
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 (719) 852-3531

Have a Safe & Happy Labor Day Weekend!

Valley Wide Classifieds

Rio Grande Club & Resort in South Fork is hiring full-time line/prep cook, competitive pay and golf benefits. Position may transition to part-time in the off season. Call 719-873-1995 to inquire or stop by to fill out an application at 285 Rio Grande Club Trail, South Fork. (9/23)

12 House for Rent

Country Living Del Norte or South Fork 3-bedroom 1 bath \$700 per Month \$700 Deposit. NO Pets 719-580-5400. (9-23)

13 Mobile Homes for Rent

2-bedroom 1 bath partially furnished 7 miles from Villa Grove \$800-1000 per month plus utilities 719-395-2800. 9/23

14 Business Properties For Rent

PRIVATE OFFICE IN THE BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL BLDG. 803 FIRST MONTE VISTA. UTILITIES INCLUDED. (719) 588-0906 (09/09)

17 Real Estate For Sale

PUBLIC NOTICE - SALE OF LAND The Town of South Fork is requesting sealed bids for the purchase of a parcel of land that was donated to the Town. Proceeds will be used for a public park project. The parcel is a residential lot located on the 13th fairway of the Rio Grande Club and Resort in South Fork, CO. The sale will be awarded to the highest bid over \$18,000. Bids will be opened at a public meeting on September 8, 2020 at 2:00 pm. Please go to the following website for pictures, details, and instructions: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/south-forkcolorado/town-south-fork-land-sale> (9/9)

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

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

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

Pastureland, 397 acres in north of Monte Vista Airport on County Line Road with good grass and location. Also contains a huge amount of gravel on the property \$525,000.00 call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770. (TFN)

240 deeded acres in irrigated grass west of Monte Vista with 6 shares Lariat ditch. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc. 719-873-1700. (TFN)

5 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 4-car Garage on 5 Acres. 2.5 miles west of Wal-Mart of Hwy 160. \$186,500. (720)217-7886 (09/02)

21 Mobile Homes

Wanting to move/sell nice 3200 Sq. ft. Triple wide trailer, 4 bedrooms 3 bath for sale \$165,000 or best offer. Will need to remove from property. Call Aaron at 719-850-3168. (9/9)

Double-Wide Mobile Home in Del Norte recently remodeled. Setup in park already \$54,000. Call 405-250-4508. (9/16)

23 Lawn and Garden

Sprinkler repair. Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (08/31 TFN)

26 Antiques

Large collection original Wallace Westward Ho china, patterns Rodeo and Boots/Saddle. Includes coordinating pieces by Iroquois and Inca Ware. Email valwhitcomb@yahoo.com for information. (9/30)

33 Building Materials

Patio Doors, 6', 5' open on right side. Dual pane, white. Call (719)480-9822. (09/30)

36 Miscellaneous

Henry MAGA Trump Rifle Serial Number 2020 Trump .22 caliber Large Loop NIB \$899 719-480-8823. (9/16)

For Sale: Tracker Boat New

10HP Motor \$2,000. Craftsman Mower 42" \$600. Craftsman Log Splitter 27 Ton Near New \$500. Snowblower 27" \$500. Call 719-850-9059 (9-9)

Propane Refrigerators Sold Here. Call For Options and Prices. We Also Stock Solar Powered Refrigerators and Freezers. Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road 3E, Monte Vista. (719)852-0500 (9/2)

TRUCKLOAD SALE! 240-WATT Solar Panels. 25% OFF. NEW! Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road 3E, Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. (9/2)

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42 Feed & Seed

Flaked Corn Now In Stock: Open House Sept 11-12 Vitalix Tubs, Mcness Mineral Flaked Corn & Cattle Cake to be on Sale. Free Lunch From 11AM to 1PM. Refreshments all day, sponsored by Mcness & Vitalix. Store hours 8AM to 5PM. Come Join Us At High Valley Feed Mill 10475 US Hwy 285 Antonito, Co 81120 (570)395-0184 PHONE ORDERS ARE ACCEPTED.(9-9)

43 Farm Products

Fresh Tomatoes and More Garden Produce While Supplies Last! 1942 East County Road 11 South Monte Vista Co. (9/2)

44 Farm Services
POTATO STORAGE rent or buy 26,000 cwt capacity in Center. Good. \$49,900 or \$16,900 rent OBO. (719)588-2425 (10/21)

148 Pets & Supplies

Pure Breed Male German Shepard all shots and Microshipped puppies \$400 719-849-8078.

50 Livestock

HERITAGE BREED TURKEY POULTS - Burbon Reds from free range parents. \$20 for 1 - \$15 each additional, 7 for \$100. Going fast. Ready to butcher at 28 weeks (toms average 30 lbs, hens 15 lbs.) Straight run only. 719-850-2832 (8/26)

54 Snowmobiles/ATV's

Polaris Sportsman 500 ATV excellent shape, recently serviced 4,000 miles, Creede. 719-850-0863. \$2,500.00 FIRM (9/23)

2015 Can-Am 1000 Commander Limited , 2-Seater 4-wheeler. In great condition. (719)658-0134 or (806)202-0741 cell. (09/09)

55 RVs & Campers

1998 Ford V- 10 Jamboree VT 31ft Slide Out. Everything Works Good Condition. CLASS-C \$20,000 719-850-2291. (9/2)

2004 Fleetwood Travel Trailer, 30' excellent condition. 12 foot slide out. 2 door. \$8,000. Call (719)480-9822. (09/30)

59 Vehicles Wanted

CASH ON THE SPOT FOR JUNK CARS & TRUCKS: We pickup, no title ok. 719-937-7935. (TFN5-20)

65 Professional Services

Tai Chi for Health Learn the Health benefits from a Licensed Acupuncturist 360-821-9006. (9-2)

Roofs (Metal, EPDM, TPO), Stucco, Flooring, Tile, Decks, New Construction & Remodels. Free Estimates. Reliable Carpentry, 45 years of Experience 719-496-7630 Drug and Alcohol Free (8/30)

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Potato farmers optimistic for harvest

BY REBECCA COPLEY
SAN LUIS VALLEY - Despite 2020 being a difficult year in many respects, San Luis Valley potato growers have been able to raise a very good looking crop this season. The warmer than normal weather being one of the reasons for the healthy

fields. "It's been dry but irrigation supplies have held up pretty well. We did have a frost, it affected a few fields the first of July but I think the impact has been somewhat minimal," said James Ehrlich who is the Executive Director for the Colorado Potato Administration Committee.

But we're trying our best to do that. Following CDC guidelines and that's all we can do. We can't control what they do when they go home."

Ehrlich shared that this harvest season is also going to present similar challenges. Making sure that harvest crews have the right protective equipment, are maintaining social distancing, and are washing their hands to prevent spreading the virus. The Colorado Department of Agriculture has recently put out some guidelines that the state has issued.

The increased demand for potatoes in March and April meant good news for potato growers in the Valley. "I think one of the things we've discovered is fresh potato sales are up from March until now. For a while they were up 30 percent. I think now they're still up 15 percent. What's really happened is that people are working from home and they've learned to cook from home again. Potatoes are a staple for people that have time to cook at home so we've been really fortunate that way. We hope people continue to realize how nutritious potatoes are for them," said Ehrlich.

The higher demand has been good for the potato farmers in the Valley

as we are primarily a fresh market producer. Ninety-seven(97) percent of the potatoes grown in the Valley go to retail, or institutions such as schools or hospitals. Processed potato growers have not fared as well and the shutdown of the food service industry definitely hurt their markets.

When asked how the school shutdowns impacted Valley farmers Ehrlich answered saying, "It remains to be seen what will happen with schools reopening. But it would have had more of an impact. What happened was the USDA developed some programs to buy fresh potatoes and other fresh fruits and vegetables to help the Ag industry and also to get food to people who need it." Ehrlich shared how it was designed to help kids who may not be getting proper nutrition at home and depend on school for regular meals.

As farmers get ready to head into harvest Ehrlich shared that it is hopeful. "I think potato farmers have had good prices and demand. People are eating at home. All these signs are good for us. Our crops should be better than last year for sure. It would really surprise me if it wasn't. Prices are strong. I think we're set for a pretty good year," said Ehrlich.



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Potato fields in full bloom north of Monte Vista.

Photo by Trey Spaulding

DROUGHT


Continued from Page 1


August 25, 2020
 (Released Thursday, Aug. 27, 2020)
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT


Drought Conditions (Percent Area)


	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	98.26	93.29	36.52	0.38
Last Week <i>08-18-2020</i>	0.00	100.00	98.76	72.69	27.31	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>05-26-2020</i>	23.22	76.78	65.20	43.76	17.52	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>12-31-2019</i>	31.72	68.28	51.19	20.11	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>10-01-2019</i>	30.14	69.86	27.53	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>08-27-2019</i>	80.47	19.53	1.98	0.00	0.00	0.00


Intensity:


 None

 D0 Abnormally Dry

 D1 Moderate Drought

 D2 Severe Drought

 D3 Extreme Drought

 D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
 David Simeral
 Western Regional Climate Center

Source: United States Drought Monitor

Harvest 2020

2020 Colorado Hay Directory available

COLORADO - Whether livestock owners are looking for alfalfa, grass, mix or other hay types, the 2020 Colorado Hay Directory is now available to connect hay producers and buyers. "Drought conditions are affecting livestock owners across the state, and they are looking for hay," said Wendy White, marketing specialist for the Colorado Department of Agriculture. "The

Colorado Hay Directory becomes an even more important resource during dry years." The 34th edition of the Colorado Hay Directory features producers and brokers of hay as well as companies that provide hay-related products and services. Categorized by region, each listing includes the type and amount of hay available, bale type and size, whether or not laboratory analysis is

available, certified weed free status and identifies organic hay. The Colorado Hay Directory is published by the Colorado Department of Agriculture in cooperation with participating Colorado hay producers, Colorado State University Extension, and with support from Augie's Ag Sales, LLC, KeyAg and Tytan International. The directory and other hay

resources are available online at coloradoagriculture.com. For more information or to request a copy of the Colorado Hay Directory, call the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 303-869-9175 or email Loretta.Lopez@state.co.us.

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Wildwood Sounds presents Waverly Road Sept. 5

Waverly Road Celebrates its fourth anniversary with a special outside show Wildwood Sounds on Sept. 5, 2020. It's been a trying time for us all these past many months, so Join Scott 'Scooter' Russell (guitar, mandolin, vocals), Dale Smith (cajon, percussion, vocals), Eli Dokson (guitars, vocals) & John C. Hefti (Bass, vocals) for an evening of original songs, cover songs, great singing & playing + plenty of space to dance the night away as we begin to bid summer farewell. Don't forget to bring your mask and by all means have some safe fun.

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Limited seating so get your reservation in early - 20 to 25 seats.

Social Distancing and Mask Required. No Potluck or Coffee. Bring your own snacks and drinks.

Doors open at 6:30 Showtime 7 p.m. Dance floor open in the venue.

The band is donating their time for Wildwood Sounds. Please donate what you can so we can open back up for shows inside the venue. Your support is truly appreciated. Please practice safety for you and others.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

USPS not to raise prices in advance of upcoming Presidential election

Following is a letter to Colorado County Clerks, from Donna Walker, the CO/WY Political/Election Coordinator for USPS:

Hello everyone,
Contrary to media accounts and other accusations, the new Postmaster General's realignment is a positive approach to the success of the U.S. Postal Service. He is actively focusing on the efficiency of our operations to enable the delivery of high-quality service in a financially sustainable manner.

He has taken immediate steps to better adhere to our existing operating plans, run our operations on time and on schedule. He does acknowledge that temporary service impacts can occur as we renew our efforts to conform to the current operating plans, but any such impacts are being monitored and will be temporary. The cause(s) of any service impact will be addressed and corrected as appropriate.

The statements that we intend to raise prices in advance of the upcoming Presidential election in order to restrict voting by mail is absolutely without merit. There

are currently no pending changes to the rates and/or classes of mail impacting ballots. Our prices are regulated by the Postal Regulator Commission (PRC) and any changes are publicly announced in advance and reviewed prior to implementation. The Postal Service remains fully committed to fulfilling our role in the electoral process. We do ask our election officials and voters to realistically consider how the mail works, and to be mindful of our delivery standards. First Class Mail standards, two to five days and Marketing Mail standards, three to 10 days.

Talk of not being able to handle the increase in volume is ridiculous and a mute subject for CO. We have worked together for several years to ensure all of our processes lead to a successful election. As a little tidbit of information, it is estimated that election mail will account for less than 2 percent of all mail volume from mid-September through Election Day for the USPS.

I look forward to our continuing partnership.

Thank you,
Donna Walker

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5	3	8			4		7	
2	6		3		9			
			1				6	
				3		5		
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Here's How It Works:

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Solution to last week's puzzle

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B	E	L	L	B	R	A	E	S	B	O	R	A
B	R	E	A	A	N	I	L	E	E	R	A	S
A	B	E	T	S	A	N	A	R	A	B	B	I
				T	O	T	T	E	N	H	A	M
T	A	T	N	A	E	O	A	F	A	A	R	
A	B	A	S	E	D	B	M	W	P	A	N	E
T	A	K	A	S	F	A	A	S	A	H	I	B
A	C	E	D	T	A	B	R	A	C	E	M	E
R	A	N	A	I	M	S	A	T	D	A	L	
				S	I	L	I	C	A	T	E	S
A	A	R	O	N	L	I	T	S	A	M	A	S
G	L	I	A	A	I	R	E	S	L	A	C	E
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Valley Publishing

CLIP & SAVE

Potatoes celebrated Sept. 12

By REBECCA COPLEY
 MONTE VISTA - Many were sad to hear that the yearly potato festival had to be canceled this year due to COVID-19. However the Colorado Potato Administration Committee will still be holding a separate event Sept. 12 at Chapman Park.

"We're going to sell potatoes. Buy one bag for \$3.00 and get one free. The money will go to the Friends of Ski-Hi building project. Then we're also going to give you a baked potato. It will be more of a drive-thru event," said CPAC Executive Director James Ehrlich. The event will be taking place Sept. 12 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Those wanting to participate are



asked to line up in their vehicles similar to a drive-thru. Those running the event will load the potatoes into your car and there will be a limit of no more than five bags purchased. There will also be a limit of four baked potatoes per car.

"We don't want people to linger and socially interact in an unsafe

manner. So we came up with this plan to still celebrate the harvest season and what the industry contributes to our communities," said Ehrlich.

Make sure you mark your calendars so you can come enjoy some of the Valley's famous spuds and help build the Ski-Hi project.

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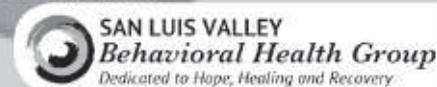
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Turmeric and canine Uveitis: Not So Far-Fetched

Many of the medications that improve our daily lives were first found in nature—the discovery of aspirin began with willow tree bark, penicillin was first extracted from a common species of mold, and countless other life-improving compounds have roots in the natural world.

Dr. Erin Scott, an assistant professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, has found inspiration in the turmeric plant, a member of the ginger family known for its vivid yellow color that may have powerful anti-inflammatory properties useful in the treatment of uveitis in dogs.

“Uveitis is inflammation inside the eye that can cause discomfort and sensitivity to light,” Scott said. “It occurs commonly in dogs and has many causes. We can see uveitis secondary to infectious diseases, cancer and auto-immune diseases. Uveitis can also occur with longstanding cataracts and after cataract surgery is performed.”

Uveitis is a leading cause of complications after cataract surgery in dogs, Scott says, and the management of postoperative inflammation inside the eye is a major challenge in both veterinary and human ophthalmology.

Symptoms of uveitis include ocular pain and reddening of the

eye. An owner might suspect their pet has this condition if they keep their affected eye shut by squinting and avoiding bright lights. A pet’s eye may also appear cloudy or exhibit excessive tearing.

“Current treatments for canine uveitis include a combination of systemic and topical anti-inflammatory medications, either in the form of steroids or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs),” Scott said.

While these medications are effective in the treatment of uveitis, they can cause unwanted side effects such as vomiting, diarrhea, stomach ulcers, negatively impact kidney and liver function, and increase glucose levels in diabetic patients.

For these reasons, Scott and her colleagues at the Texas A&M College of Pharmacy have investigated the anti-inflammatory properties of curcumin, a compound found in turmeric, and discovered that when processed to a special nanoparticle formulation that boosts absorption, this natural compound is safe and effective at managing uveitis without any known side effects.

Though the nanoparticle formulation of curcumin used by Scott in her research is not yet available to the public, she is optimistic that her findings will lead to advances



in the management of uveitis for both humans and dogs.

For now, pet owners who suspect their dog is suffering from uveitis should contact their veterinarian, who will help determine the most

current and best path of treatment for their furry friend.

“This formulation is something to look for in the future, as further testing is necessary for us to confirm our findings. At this time, pet

owners should follow the recommendations of their veterinary care professional,” Scott said. “We do hope to start a clinical trial with this new medication in the near future.”

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<p>Meet Rosie. She is a 4 yr old, spayed, pit bull breed. Rosie has been with us since May of 2019, and is looking for her forever home. She can be cautious/protective</p>	<p>Introducing Phillip. He is a 4 yr old German Shepherd breed. Phillip has been with us for about a week and a half, and is ready for a forever family. He is a bit cautious when you first meet him. He is fairly new so we have not introduced him to any other animals yet. We feel he has good potential, but seems cautious so far. He loves to vocalize a lot, and loves getting treats. Phillip will require a home with a decent size yard and tall fence, as he is a large dog. As well as lots of exercise.</p>	<p>This is Goofy. He is a 2 yr old male, Boxer/Red Heeler mix breed. Goofy has been with us since March of this year, and has been waiting for the right family to come along. He does wonderful with all people and kids. He is great with other dogs, but absolutely no cats. Goofy is a bit more of a hyperactive dog so he will need lots of exercise, and a tall fence.</p>
<p>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 gets great joy from chewing on tough toys and bones/rawhide's. She tends to be independent, but also enjoys playing and getting lots of loves. Rosie requires moderate exercise and at least a 6ft fenced in yard.</p>	<p>This here is Wiley. He is a 3 yr old, neutered male, basenji mixed breed. Wiley has been with us since February of 2019, and is waiting for his forever family to find him. He does great with new people he meets, but will be a little stand offish until he gets to know you. He does good with other dogs he meets, but can also be a bit stand offish with them until he is comfortable. Wiley will require moderate exercise and a tall fenced in yard.</p>	<p>Meet Drools. He is a 3 yr old, neutered male, pit bull mixed breed. Drools has been with us since November 2018, and needs a loving home. He does not do well with other animals, so he will be need to be the only animal in the home. He absolutely loves spending his time chewing on tough toys and bones/rawhide's. Once Drools gets comfortable with you (generally 2-3 meetings) he turns into a big lap baby. He will require lots of attention and love. He requires moderate exercise and at least a 6ft fenced in yard.</p>

All breeds & ages of animals are a “best guess” and are not guaranteed to be accurate. Adoption fee includes: neuter/spay, vaccinations, de-worming and micro-chipping.
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LoveHasWon

This is written by the members of registered 501 c 3 Charity and Church organization LoveHasWon. It is written with grave concern and grievance regarding the lack of discernment and discretion regarding what you publish. The article in question is titled 'International journalist warns about bizarre Crestone cult,' with a subtitle of 'Possible Reisinger disappearance Connection.'

We would like to bring to your attention that the 'journalist' who wrote this has reddit threads and articles published about her sociopathic nature and dozens of people who have had personal interactions with her detailing how she finds pleasure in sadistically ruining people's lives, she is self-professed anti-spiritual! Well we have had first hand experience of this now as we are now being targeted by our local community, since this article went out. We would like our local community to know that we are here to assist all with raising their consciousness and please do not hesitate to contact us for support.

Firstly, no members of our organization have ever been questioned, addressed or contacted regarding the Reisinger disappearance connection, our organization arrived in Crestone June 1, 2018. Krystal Reisinger went missing in 2016, when our entire organization was living and Serving Love, Humanity and God in Mt Shasta California, none of us had even heard of Krystal at the time of her disappearance. We are in the business of saving lives, to date we have assisted 43 people who were in moments of suicide, preventing

all from committing suicide and assisting them to reach levels of joy they had never before experienced.

The 400+ testimonials on our website are testament to our efforts to assist humanity... 400+. Alex Whitten had an absolutely amazing time with us when he came to visit and if his controlling family will allow you to ask him he will sing our praises and share as such. Alex made a free will decision, without notifying any of us, to go on a walk late at night. He was not 'left to die,' as no one was with him to leave him. We awoke in the morning to find Alex was not here, and we immediately went out to look for him. The county Sheriff can be contacted to confirm all of this.

None of our organizations members do drugs or 'frequent meth circles,' this is an absurd lie to have fabricated as, in fact, we are a Holistic Healing Charity that promotes healing through plant based medicine such as turmeric, coconut oil, colloidal silver, gold, we have a marketplace with over 110 Holistic, organic and natural products we make and testimonials to boot for these too.

We go live twice daily at 6 a.m. Mountain time and 4 p.m. Mountain time on our Facebook channel lovehaswon.org and our YouTube channel Lovehaswon, where we share consistently about the damaging effects of pharmaceuticals, man-made drugs, recreational drugs and where we actively to get in touch for assistance in removing such things from their lives.

We serve Love, God and Humanity. We have assisted beings with stage 4 terminal cancer to fully recover, rendering

all cancerous cells dead, using holistic remedies and meditation techniques in three weeks after being given a month to live. We conduct Sessions with people All around the Planet, sometimes we have 25 sessions in anyone 24 hour period, we push ourselves around the clock out of choice, motivated by Passion to help our brothers and sisters all around the planet through crisis.

We are a celibate group and so to insinuate that sex is a part of our functioning and that our founding member engages in sex with members is a complete 180 degree flip, and absolute opposite to the truth. Again in our articles (we have published 30,000+ articles on our website lovehaswon.org/archives regarding attaining a more harmonious life) and on our live streams we speak about the global manipulation and actual brainwashing that occurs through Hollywood, TV, the media encouraging dysfunctional drama based relationships, the trauma of porn culture, the absolute objectification of women and children that is encouraged by the mainstream narrative. It is in the fact mainstream. That is the cult! Whilst we spread messages of virtue and value, our baseline message is unconditional love.

Our organization is not based on rules, or beliefs but rather universal truths. Desolation row was mentioned as a punishment place, ridiculous! This is a location our organization was renting where we learned cultivation and solar energy skills to build the property there up, living at that location was a blessing for the members of our orga-

nization who thrived and grew thanks to the experience! These Moments are thoroughly treasured by us and we are grateful for such a peaceful and tranquil location.

In fact our moments at this location inspired us to create a hydrogen unit which was installed into one of our organization cars so we could run off water. We went on to be entered into a grant draw for innovative and inspiring ideas to reduce carbon footprint. The members of our organization wrote and published a book whilst at desolation row as well as learning how to build and

operate solar systems! Even the descriptions are wildly inaccurate, as desolation row is 20 miles from the nearest forest. Really moronic to be endorsing such completely clueless people writing articles founded on nonsense.

Editor's note: This is a response to an article written by Be Scofield that was sent to Valley Publishing by concerned citizens who reside in and around Crestone. Stories based on Scofield's work have appeared in The Guardian, The Daily Mail, VICE, Playboy, on CNN, CBC, New Zealand Herald, Die Zeit, and more.)



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Autumn 2020 on the Rio Grande

Cumbres & Toltec railroad 'Best Scenic Train Ride' in nation

ANTONITO CO & CHAMA NM
 - As they did in 2017, 2019 and now in 2020, the readers of *USA Today* have selected the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad (C&TSR) as the No. 1 "Best Scenic Train Ride" in the nation. The much coveted award was open to 20 different train trips, all selected by a panel of travel experts and *USA Today* editors. "We are absolutely thrilled that the people of America have once again recognized the Cumbres & Toltec as not only the highest, longest and most authentic steam railroad in the nation, but also as the most scenic," said John Bush, president of the C&TSRR.

Owned by the states of Colorado and New Mexico, the historic steam railroad built in 1880 runs for 64 miles across the Rocky Mountains, crossing state

borders 11 times as it curls across rivers, through tunnels, over trestles and along the lip of canyons. The railroad's name derives from the fact that at one point it steams over Cumbres Pass (at 10,015, it is the highest point reached by any steam railroad in the nation) and at another it curves along Toltec Gorge, some 600-feet above the roaring river below. "The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad is a National Historic Landmark that moves," Bush said. "We provide a completely authentic look at railroading in the 1880s in one of the most beautiful areas of the Rocky Mountains."

As it has been for everyone, 2020 has been a challenging year for the historic railroad, but the C&TSRR has met the challenge and recently had its busiest day of the season pulling 18

cars of passengers on Aug. 18, 2020. Typically, the railroad opens its season Memorial Day Weekend with daily trains departing from Chama, NM and Antonito, Colo. This year, the first day of operation was delayed until June 13 and trains have only been able to run out of Antonito. The railroad is still awaiting permission to operate trains out of Chama and hopes to obtain that in time for September runs and the fall changing of the aspens.

Currently, there are departures from Antonito for a full day trip, 6 1/2-hour excursion that includes a delicious hot lunch at beautiful Osier Station. All passengers must wear masks and practice social distancing. The train has added extra open air gondola cars and all windows open so people can spread



out and enjoy the fresh mountain air. In fact, because of COVID-19 safe practices and restrictions, the Cumbres & Toltec is able to offer for the first time a private rail car for the cost of 10 regular-priced adult fares, available until September 11, 2020. In usual times, a group of 10 would only fill up 1/4 of a train car, but due to social distancing, now a group of 10 can have the car all to themselves and even add additional passengers for a very reduced fee. "Most of the ride is 'off the grid' without cell phone coverage and at a top speed of 12 miles per hour, so it is a wonderful way for families to re-connect, experience beautiful scenery, watch wildlife, and take a 'time machine' back to the 1880s to experience what railroading was really like," Bush said.

Fall activities in the western San Luis Valley

BY LYNDISIE FERRELL
SAN LUIS VALLEY- Autumn is quickly approaching in the San Luis valley, harvest is starting, and everyone is preparing for a return to school. Though many of these fall activities will look a little bit different this year, one thing remains the same; the San Luis Valley is a wondrous place to be in the fall and this year will be no different.

Several activities have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic but one thing that is a bonus to living in an area surrounded by different wilderness is that there is always plenty to do. The trees are beginning to change as August comes to a dry and hot close. Typically, late September and into the beginning of October, the Valley sees an additional monsoon type season which will be more than welcome after such a dry year.

As temperatures begin to drop, and the days become shorter, water temperatures will also fall, which makes for excellent fishing. Salmon spawn this year is expected to be relatively normal and typically begins to occur at the beginning of October. Salmon snagging in Beaver Creek Reservoir is a great place to snag for salmon and has been stoked with Kokanee for the last two years. It is one of the reasons why the reservoir is so popular among local and visiting fishermen.

With dropping water levels and temperatures, the Rio Grande between Creede and South Fork will also be a great place to spend the day among the changing fall colors and is expected to be great fall fishing. This time of year, is great for wade fishing and the many public access locations along the river offer great sites for bank fishing as well.

One quick trip to the South Fork Visitor Center that is located at the crossroads of Highway 160 and Highway 149 and you will find more than enough information from Center Director Mark Teders. Teders is a well of information and is always eager to share some tips and tricks with guests as well as a secret or two if asked.

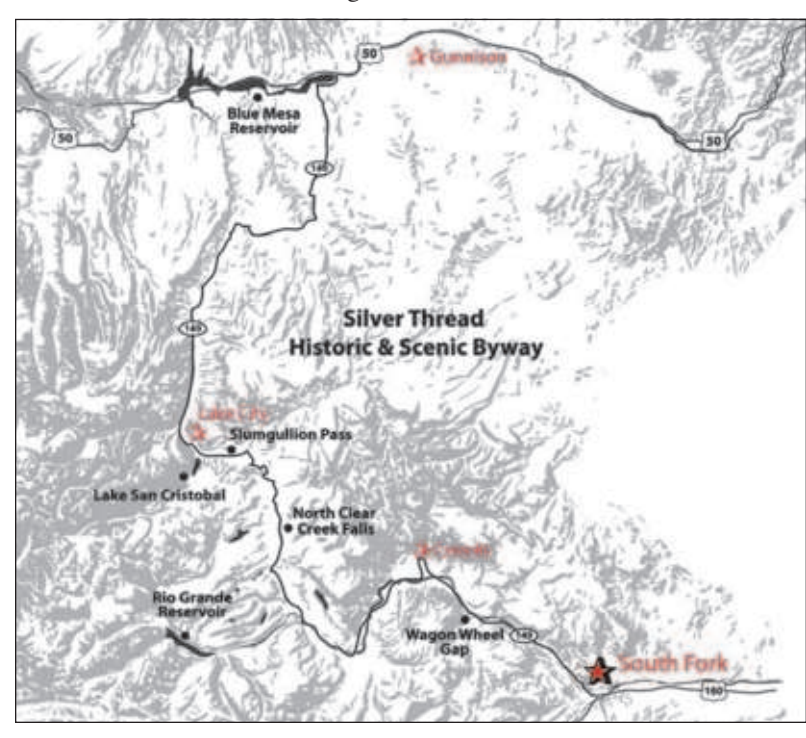
The South Fork Visitor Center is also a great location to get a map of fall drives that are sure to please anyone seeking the beautiful fall colors. Peak season typically occurs in mid-September to mid-October, but it can

vary from year to year. All reports coming from Colorado Forest Service officials are pointing to an average year for fall colors.

One spectacular drive for anyone wanting to get out is the Silver Thread Scenic Byway which takes travelers up Highway 149, through Creede up over Slumgullion Pass and down into Lake City. Business are open but it always best to check for local COVID regula-

tions before venturing out. This drive offers beautiful views from over 10,000 feet in elevation and has some side stops that can be breath taking including the North Clear Creek Falls.

This year may have been difficult to navigate, but the activities throughout the San Luis Valley are not. Be sure to get out, enjoy nature at her finest and always remember to be good stewards of our beautiful lands!



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October 23, 24 & 25, 2020

Monte Vista Rotary Club Annual Outdoor & Gun Show

The McMullen Building at Ski-Hi Park in Monte Vista

Admission \$10/person, Accompanied Children under 12 are free
50% off Second-Day Entry with proof of previous day's entry!

Friday, October 23 4-8 p.m.

Saturday, October 24 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, October 25 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

- Vendors, Informational Booths and Food!
- All proceeds from this fundraising event go toward the Rotary Club's Community Projects, including two annual scholarships!

For more information
 visit montevistarotary.wixsite.com/gunshow or contact Monte Vista Rotary Club President Dr. David Hinkley at (719) 852-3442