

## Shorts

### Center residents hurt in truck crash

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — The Colorado State Patrol is investigating a one-car crash located on Highway 112 resulting in serious injury to the driver and injury to the passenger of the vehicle.

At approximately 5:46 p.m. Sept. 8, 2020, a white 2008 Ford pickup truck driven by Valentina Gutierrez 51 and a juvenile passenger 15, both of Center, were traveling westbound on Highway 112 at milepost 21. The Gutierrez vehicle lost control on the snowy roadway and traveled across the eastbound lane of Highway 112 rotating clockwise one-quarter turn before traveling off the south side of the roadway rolling once and coming to rest against an embankment on its wheels. Both the driver and her juvenile passenger were transported by ambulance to the Rio Grande Hospital to be treated for moderate to serious injuries. The cause of the crash is still under investigation at this time.



### U.S.P.S. mailer contains incorrect voting information

**COLORADO** - The Rio Grande County Clerk and Recorder's Office has been notified that the Postal Service is sending out a pre-election mailer to every household in the United States. This mailer contains incorrect election information for Colorado voters. The Postal Service mailer instructs voters to request a mail ballot 15 days before the election. Colorado ballots will be, automatically, mailed to every eligible registered voter the week of October 12. Colorado residents do not need to request a ballot unless they do not receive their ballot in the mail by October 21.

Voters who wish to return their ballot by mail should mail them no later than October 26, contrary to what the USPS mailer suggests. Ballots must be received in the Clerk's office by 7 p.m. on November 3. Cindy Hill, Rio Grande County Clerk & Recorder, recommends voters return their ballots in person or use the convenient ballot drop box located in the alley between the Courthouse and the Annex Building. This will ensure the ballot is received in time to be counted.

Residents are encouraged to verify that their voter registration is accurate by going to [www.GoVoteColorado.gov](http://www.GoVoteColorado.gov) or call the Clerk's office at 719-657-3334.

## Valley farmers hit with record breaking snow

BY REBECCA COPLEY

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** - After a blazing hot Labor Day weekend it was quite a shock for many around the Valley when a huge snowstorm hit on Sept. 8 and 9 piling up close to 14 inches of snow in some places. According to information found on the National Weather Service's website the last time the San Luis Valley received such a heavy snow in September was in 1936. At that

*Please see SNOW on Page 8A*



Photo by Rebecca Copley

## Rio Grande County discusses Public Health Director resignations

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

**RIO GRANDE COUNTY** - The Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners released a statement regarding the most recent resignation of Interim Public Health Director Toni Steffens-Steward. Steward turned in her resignation Tuesday, Sept. 8, after serving as the Interim Public Health Director since mid-July.

Steward is the second Interim Director to quit since the county fired Public Health Director Emily Brown. The County reiterated what occurred over the last several months and summed it up in one word: COVID. The board stated again that Brown's termination had to do with the untimely and inaccurate information not being shared with the Board of Health and the plain refusal from Brown to share pertinent information with law enforcement officials and first responders who may have been responding to a home with positive COVID cases.

The county also stated that once Brown was gone and they hired Public Health Nurse Paul Wertz as the interim director, they were working

on reestablishing communication within the department and working to fully staff the department when Wertz quit without notice. The board stated that Wertz came to them with a list of demands, most of which they were willing to comply with, but that Wertz also asked for a 50 percent pay increase which they denied.

It was at this time that Steward came to the board and asked they consider allowing her to help with administrative tasks in the Public Health Department and to wait on hiring a new director until one who had the right qualifications came along. After a few weeks, Steward once again approached the board and agreed to act as the Interim Public Health Director until a new director could be found.

Steward later approached the board and stated that she no longer wanted the position and asked to step down, which according to the

county commissioners, they agreed to. Steward agreed at that time to stay as Interim Director just long enough to allow the county to find a replacement. Steward turned in her resignation

without notice in the following days. When asked for comment, Steward politely refused to make a statement.

The county has also reached out to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to request a state audit on the department due to grant management discrepancies and other financial issues. CDPHE started the audit Monday, Sept. 14.

Rio Grande County Commissioners are also interviewing several applicants and are working diligently to fill both the Public Health Director position and the County Administrator position.



## When minutes matter

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** - In an area as large as the San Luis Valley, every second counts when getting patients, the lifesaving care they need. With that in mind, SLV Health announced that the health organization is partnering with Eagle Air Med to bring a new emergency air medical transport service to the San Luis Valley. This will enable medical care to get help where it's needed quickly. For example, arrival to an emergency in La Jara is now only approximately 7 minutes away, and to take someone to Denver will only take 90 minutes.

"We know that in some medical emergencies, time can be critical," said Konnie Martin, Chief Executive Officer of San Luis Valley Health. "By having a helicopter here, we can get patients to our facility quickly and when needed, get them to a higher level of care."

The helicopter base, operating out of SLV Regional Medical Center in Alamosa, will offer 24-hour a day, seven days a week services staffed by highly trained pilots, flight nurses and

*Please see EAGLE on Page 8A*

## Colorado implements statewide ballot tracking

**COLORADO** - Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold today announced that for the first time, voters in all 64 counties will be able to track the status of their individual mail ballots for the 2020 General Election. Voters will be able to receive notifications by phone, email, or text about the status of their mail ballots, from the time their County Clerk and Recorder mails the outgoing ballot packet, to when their voted ballot is received and accepted for counting.

"I'm happy to announce that for the first time, every Colorado voter will have access to ballot tracking, to be able to see when ballots are sent to when they are processed," said Secretary Griswold. "This new program is one of the many ways that Colorado continually innovates to ensure our elections are the best in the nation."

The Colorado Secretary of State's Office is offering the BallotTrax ballot tracking and messaging system to all counties. Twelve counties implemented this system in past elections, and voters in those counties will not

notice any changes to the content, format or timing of the ballot status messages they receive. The City and County of Denver developed and will continue to operate a separate but similar system. The effect of the Secretary of State's initiative makes the BallotTrax system available to voters in the 51 counties that never before had access to ballot tracking.

Beginning today, voters in counties that are adding ballot tracking will receive a notification that they have been enrolled in the service if their registration record contains an email address. Those who don't receive an auto-enrollment notification can sign up themselves at <https://colorado.ballottrax.net>. Voters can opt out of BallotTrax at any time. Voters in counties with preexisting ballot tracking capabilities, including Denver's BallotTrace, will not need to re-enroll and will be able to continue to have their ballots tracked without interruption.

"The ability for voters to get text, email, or

*Please see BALLOT on Page 7A*



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# OBITUARIES

## Jose Gilbert Archuleta, 81

Jose Gilbert Archuleta, Gilbert, as he was most known, went to be with his Lord and Savior Aug. 14, 2020. Gilbert was born to Max and Cordy (Naranjo) Archuleta Oct. 13, 1939, in Monte Vista, Colorado.

The family later moved to Montrose where Gilbert graduated and joined the service. Gilbert joined the Marines and later retired from the Army as Staff Sergeant. While in the service he was in special forces and a Green Beret. Gilbert moved to Denver and worked and retired from the U.S. Postal Service. Gilbert was a very happy person always with a smile and a great personality and attitude. He was very loved and respected by this family and friends.

Gilbert is survived by his son Reyes (Elaine), grandson Travis, granddaughter Tori and three great-grandchildren. He is also survived by three sisters, Marcella (Randy), Velma and Kathy (Fred) and numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, an Aunt

Ruby and Connie, his constant companion for his last 15 years.

Gilbert was preceded in death by his parents, one brother Manuel, his sister-in-law Becky and his special cousins Tommy, Albert and Verna and his two wives.

Gilbert moved to Monte Vista to live on his dad's property where he became a big part of our lives. We were all brought up more like brothers and sisters. All of our mom's brothers and sisters' families (10) and remain close through our reunions.

While in Monte Vista, Gilbert became reacquainted with his family here. He also met Connie, his constant companion in everything. Connie and Gilbert enjoyed dancing, traveling, fishing, long drives to explore, eating out, bingo and some gambling, but mostly, having family and friends visit them. Ivan and Peggy, Felix and Guerra, and Billy were close friends.

Gilbert got to enjoy his retirement until his illness when he was in Pueblo



hospital then in a rehab in Denver where he went to St. Anthony's. Then he went to a home in Aurora and the hospital again and on to hospice, where he was given two days to live and died two days later.

Gilbert will be missed by all those close to him.

A funeral service was held in Denver at Romero's with the Funeral at Crown Hill. A memorial service will be held Sept. 19, 2020, at Lariat Community Baptist Church, 433 Lincoln Avenue in Lariat in Monte Vista with Ursula Medina officiating and a meal following the service.

## Florence (Flo) Rael, 65

Florence (Flo) Rael was born in Center, Colorado Dec. 28, 1954, to Salomon and Ora Jaramillo. She resided in Questa, New Mexico with her husband, Tomas Rael of 42 years, where she raised her four children: Tomas, Andres, Desirae and Amberae. She peacefully passed away with her family by her side in Aurora, Colorado Sept. 7, 2020.

She was a Licensed Cosmetologist in Colorado and New Mexico, receiving her certifications from Trinidad State Junior College in 1978. She cut, styled, and permed hair for her Questa community since 1981. She had a strong bond with each of her clients who loved her equally. She was very friendly, funny and giving. There was nothing in the world Flo loved more than her family. She was a devoted wife and mother.

Flo loved to cook and bake for her family and friends. Florence loved camping, fishing, singing and dancing. Flo really enjoyed watching sports, she was an avid Colorado sports fan Nuggets, Rockies, Avalanche and we all knew her passion for the Denver Broncos.

Survivors include her husband, Tomas Rael of Questa, NM, son Tomas Rael. of Thornton, CO; son Andres Rael of Questa, NM;



daughter Desirae Rael of Pueblo, CO, daughter Amberae Rael of Tacoma, Washington Grandson Andres Jr (Duckie) of Questa, New Mexico, Parents Salomon and Ora Jaramillo of Center, CO; siblings James (Pat) Jaramillo, Larry Jaramillo, Fran Trujillo, Maria Jaramillo; aunts/uncles, many nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

Florence was preceded in death by her youngest brother, Kenneth Lee Jaramillo (51), oldest sister Cleopatra Jaramillo Estrada (65), and infant brother, Raymond (9 months). And many other beloved family and friends.

Funeral service will be held at Living Word Ministries Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020, 11 a.m.; 12 Llano Road Questa, New Mexico 87566

## Dorothy McNeill, 96

Dorothy McNeill of Saint Peters, MO, passed away at the age of 96 Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Walter P. Anderson; her second husband, James F. McNeill; her parents, Robert and Ethel Crounk; her siblings, Wanza Crounk, Charlotte Rigsby and James Crounk; and her step-grandchildren, Pat Taylor and Lon Taylor.

Dorothy is survived by her children, Phyllis L. Boorsma, Donald G. (Kay) Anderson, and Ronald E. Anderson; her grandchildren, Devran Boorsma, Jeremy (Caroline) Boorsma, Darren (Julie) Anderson, Cymberly (Stephan) Porter, and Kevin (Wendi) Anderson; her siblings, Beverly Maes and Bonnie Piccione; her step-grandchildren, Lynne (Gary) Foster and Robin (Pam) Taylor; and her 34 great-grandchildren and 37 great-great-grandchildren.

Dorothy was a longtime resident of Monte Vista, Colorado. She moved to Missouri in 1973. Dorothy enjoyed staying active in her community through her memberships with many local organizations. She was a member of the Rebecca Lodge, Royal Neighbors of America, a leader in 4-H, and a Cub Scouts Den Mother. Dorothy was very talented with projects around the home and was known as an accomplished seamstress and furniture refinisher who made fine draperies. For much of her career, Dorothy worked as a cook in the health care industry. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Services: The family is being served by Baue Funeral Home. Family Visitation will be held from 1:00-2 p.m. at the Baue Care & Cremation Center. Graveside Service will follow at 2 p.m. in St. Charles Memorial Gardens, 3950 W. Clay Street, St. Charles, Missouri in



lieu of flowers, memorials to Seasons Hospice. Visit Baue.com

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic Baue Funeral Homes does require all family members and guests to wear a mask while visiting our facilities. Social distancing is required, and guests should stay at least 6 feet apart. Thank you for your understanding.

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Diet and exercise futility

I guess ever since Eve got us kicked out of the Garden and off the fresh fruit diet, man has been plagued with the issue of weight gain. For it was after that when Abel started a garden of his own and suddenly carbohydrates of a new form began to be attached around their middles.

Cain, being a herdsman of some renown, put an end to Abel. And, since Cain was a Keto man himself, tried to put an end to the early food pyramid but the agrarian economy sprouted and soon people were eating grains and potatoes in vast quantities. Like today, they were cheap and abundant and caused all sorts of problems when eaten in excess.

But as oft was the case, people worked harder back in the early days and there were times of drought and famine so I don't think they really had a lot of overweight people other than the rich and famous who could always pay for more groceries. This was before you had to bring your own bags, I believe.

Our move away from hard physical work especially here in America has probably led us down the path of being overweight and out of shape, aided by the invention of Ding Dongs. Well not just those chocolaty treats but processed food of every type and color, texture and caloric magnificence and quantities envied by the rest of the world.

Ol' Dutch is on that constant roller coaster of gaining and losing the same pounds over and over and I can usually get myself back in line -- or at least in my pants -- with some form of Keto dieting. Fat and meat are on the menu and you just have to toughen up and do it.

But of course, that got Ol' Dutch to thinking about the whole overweight thing around us. It appears that nowadays about 70% of us are struggling with tight belts, belt loops and saggy hind ends according to statistics. That is up from 23% in 1962 and tells me one thing: I need to invest in the Ding Dong Company.

Well it also tells me that even though we have millions of health club members, we must not actually have very many health club participants. Which means people are buying those memberships as a New Year's Resolution and using the entry cards for bookmarks while eating yes, you guessed it, Ding Dongs.

The interesting thing about the whole "I weigh too much" phenomenon is there has never been a people like Americans who



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

have not only the knowledge as to what causes us to swell but also we have all the diets, pills, creams, schemes, snake oil potions, herbal essences, frozen entrees, and fruits and nuts to seemingly ensure our path to skinny pants.

But it appears that we just cannot get there for some reason and so Ol' Dutch has come up with an interesting approach to that problem. You see, it appears that no matter what we do, we are probably going to end up overweight at the least. I mean seventy percent is some kind of statistic and in light of that I think that maybe, just maybe we are wasting our money trying to lose weight after all.

Maybe some of us are just predisposed to carry around two winters supply of fat around our middles and maybe that just makes us cuddly instead of XL.

If in fact seventy percent of us are already tipping the proverbial and actual scales a tad on the heavy side, it might be best to just learn to live in the pants that fit which will allow us to toss out our blue jeans from high school in peace.

All this reminds me of the evil nature of the dreaded Ding Dongs and how they ruined my happiness. Pre-Trixie, I actually lost a nice girlfriend to a man who worked --- wait for it --- in the Ding Dong factory. And her being in fact an anti-carb, Keto-esque kind of woman, it really rocked my world. But I do know this, the same pairing between Cain and Abel didn't work out all that well so the marriage may not last either.

*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*



## YOUR NIGHT SKY

### Equinox

By DARLENE DANKO

Since the new moon is on the Sept. 17, this is a great time for night sky viewing. We just need all the fire haze to go away, so we can see the sky. We also need to stop the fires. Right now, it's thundering, raining and hailing. A little later it will turn to snow which excites me because I love snow. Unfortunately, all the sudden, the cold is going to kill all of our plants. But hopefully the drought will go away.

On the Sept. 22 autumn will begin. That's when the Equinox occurs when the Sun sits over the equator. Then it will move south. The word Equinox means that the Sun crosses the equator from North to South this month which will occur at 7:31 a.m.

our time that day.

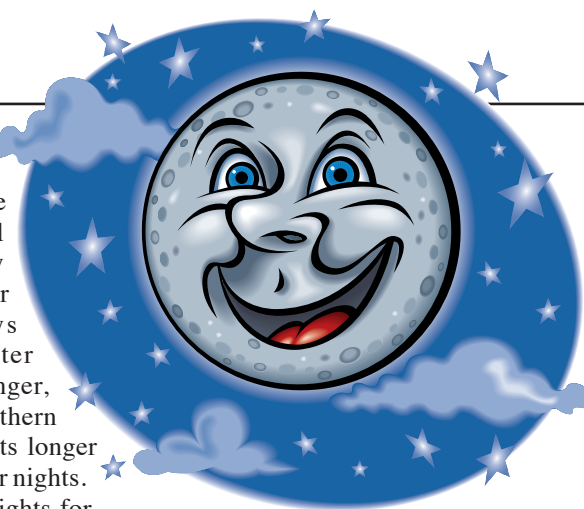
On this day we all have equal portions of day and night. After that our days will get shorter and nights longer, while the Southern Hemisphere gets longer days and shorter nights. I love longer nights for sky viewing.

September 23-26 the moon will be meeting with Jupiter and Saturn. The moon is the second brightest object in our sky after the Sun. Jupiter is the fourth brightest with Venus being the third brightest. On the Sept. 23, the moon will reach its 1st quarter so it will be half lit.

Sept. 23 the moon will be just below and to the right of Jupiter,

and on Sept. 24, it will be just below Jupiter. On Sept. 25 it will be just to the lower right of Saturn, and on Sept. 26, it will be just to the lower left of Saturn. Since they're both bright planets, the moon shouldn't take the light away from them.

By Sept. 26, the moon will be 3/4 lit. So go out in the evening and look in the South just to the left of the Milky Way, and watch this.



## LETTER

### I want to thank two people who are retiring from public life this month.

Teresa Benns I have looked to your reporting for years to find relevant information on Saguache County representatives activities. I have appreciated your willingness to dig past the obvious and reveal

the underlying details. Your push for transparency in government is so important in this age of fake news.

Barbara Tidd has been an indispensable servant of the

Democratic Party. Her tireless work has kept the party strong and alive and she will be missed.

*Thomas D McCracken  
Candidate for Saguache County  
Commissioner District #1*

# CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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# CENTER OF FOCUS

By **CARRIE ZIMMERMAN**

We are starting up our fourth week of face-to-face instruction for the 20-21 school year. The first three weeks have gone well and we have had great teamwork throughout. Way to pull together Vikings!

**Focus on the Fabulous** - It was great to have the recognition of the Governor visiting our district. Governor Polis wore his VikingStrong mask at his news conference the following day. Center Consolidated School District is leading the charge to have face-to-face instruction, despite the obstacles and people are taking notice.

I had the opportunity to get into classrooms last week and saw some fantastic instruction. It's great to see that our standards remain high for our students and our instruction. Teachers had objectives and DFAs

posted, teachers were delivering solid direct instruction, and students were engaged in learning! It was evident that staff was living out our core belief of being committed to excellence in all we do every day! With everything going on, it's easy to get distracted, but our purpose is to increase academic achievement for all students, and the quality instruction and evident preparation that was observed last week, shows that our staff continues to be committed to the academic success of all of our students.

A Viking shoutout to our crossing guard team that is helping to keep our kids safe walking to and from school. Along with Officer Lopez, we have volunteers at the crossing guards in front of the building, monitoring the safe crossing of students. Our current crossing guard team consists of Anita

Rodriguez, Richie Barela, Chace Padilla, Marisol Baca, Jazmynn Valadez-Gonzales and Rachael Barraza.

Our Recruitment and Retention team met Thursday afternoon to start making plans for the 20-21 school year. Our goal is to continue our

efforts on recruiting and retaining the best staff for our students. We reviewed the events that we hosted last year, discussed how we wanted to approach things this year with all of the social distancing protocols, and had conversations on what we can do to support our staff throughout

the year. We are going to take a little different approach to our annual Open House. We will be doing a postcard outreach to families to introduce staff and share information. Parents who return the postcards with their shared information will be entered into the prize drawings.



Courtesy photos

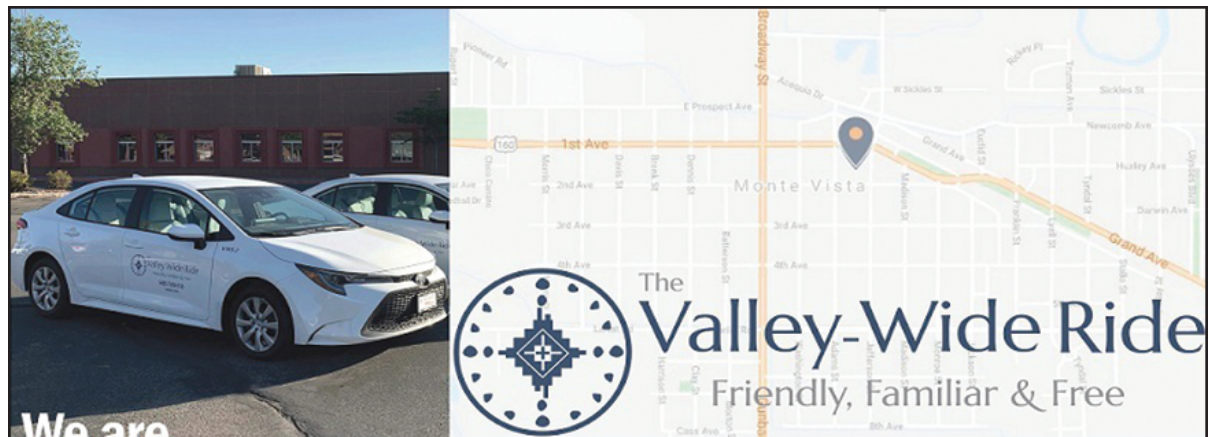
CCSD Safety Team met under the leadership of Steve Martinez and discussed the new emergency protocols.



We are fortunate to have a new Safety Resource Officer on our staff. Please give Officer Deanna Lopez a warm welcome as she joins our team. She is here to support our students and district in keeping everyone safe. She has done a great job in the mornings helping to monitor the safe crossing of state Highway 112.



Governor Polis wore his VikingStrong mask at his news conference during his visit to the Center Consolidated School District.



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# CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

By TRISH GILBERT  
Saguache County Clerk & Recorder

## Eligible, but Unregistered Coloradans to Register to Vote

The Secretary of State's Office sent out 750,000 postcards inviting eligible, but unregistered Coloradans to register to vote. This list was assembled by taking the list of current driver's license and state ID holders and subtracting out all the people who are already registered. They then removed all people under the age of 18 and those who have ever shown a non-U.S. credential at a DMV. This sounds like an easy process, but it's incredibly complicated. There will be people receiving this mailing who are

- 1) already registered,
- 2) have been dead for years,
- 3) etc.

These issues relate to the quality of the DMV list or the existence of substantive differences between the information in a person's DMV file and the data in the voter file.

Following are questions you

may have:  
Why am I getting this? Each election cycle, the Colorado Department of State sends a postcard to every Coloradan who is not registered to vote, but has a DL or state ID, is 18 years of age, and a U.S. Citizen.

I'm already registered. Please ignore the postcard. The list was generated by comparing the voter registration list to the driver's license list. Sometimes the DMV list doesn't match-up perfectly with the voter registration list. So, a person who is already registered to vote can be accidentally sent a card. Also, the list was pulled and processed on Aug. 1, so if you registered since late July the list may include your information due to that lag time.

My dead family member received a card. This means that your dead family member is still in the DMV file. Please provide the person's name and any personal information you have like DOB, residence address, SSN, DL, etc. so they can make sure that person's name is removed from the DMV file.

Who's paying for this? The Colorado Department of State has a budget line for voter registration that supports this program.

How long have we been doing this?



Colorado began sending eligible-but-unregistered postcards every election year since 2012, when Scott Gessler (R) was Secretary of State. We continued the practice through Wayne Williams (R) administration (2015-2019). Secretary Griswold is the third Colorado Secretary of State to send out registration postcards.

Please put me on a no contact list. Upon receiving this card, a person won't receive another invitation to vote from the Colorado Department of State for at least another two years.

Is this a Russian plot? No.

To whom should I complain. Please feel free to contact Colorado's State Election Director, Judd Choate, at [judd.choate@sos.state.co.us](mailto:judd.choate@sos.state.co.us)

This is a fantastic program. You're welcome.

## Cancellation of Voter Registration

By TRISH GILBERT  
Saguache County Clerk & Recorder

Withdrawal of Registration: At any time that registration is permitted in the county clerk and recorder's office, any person who desires to withdraw or cancel his or her own registration may do so by filing with the county clerk and recorder a self-affirmation of withdrawal of registration, and the self-affirmation shall be used as the record of evidence to cancel the elector's registration record.

Other reasons for cancellation of a voter's registration are:

- Deceased electors
- Notification that elector has moved and registered in different county
- Cancellation of electors with multiple registrations
- Cancellation by reason of criminal conviction in federal court

If an elector whose registration record is marked "Inactive" fails to update his or her registration record, fails to respond to any confirmation card, and fails to vote in any election conducted by the

county clerk and recorder during the time period that includes two consecutive general elections since the elector's registration record was marked "Inactive," the county clerk and recorder shall cancel the elector's registration record.

If you wish to vote in the 2020 Saguache County General Election Nov. 3, please go online to [govotecolorado.gov](http://govotecolorado.gov) to register and/or update your voter registration information.

If you have any questions please contact our office at 719-655-2512.



## Last Chance Mine theft has first hearing

By LYNSIE FERRELL

MINERAL COUNTY- The suspect involved in a theft that occurred late last year at the Last Chance Mine has been formally charged with several felony charges and is facing a possible 12-year sentence. According to owner Jack Morris, the suspect was in court Friday, Sept. 11 and was preliminarily charged with a class four burglary, class 6 burglary, felony theft and trespassing.

"I really didn't want things to end this way, but I always said that if the person didn't willingly come forward and fess up to the crime that I would use the full extent of the law. It is a really sad deal. At first, they were looking at misdemeanors but because I was able to provide video footage and

other evidence, this is going to go much further than that."

Morris specifically asked that the individual's name be kept out of print in order to show some respect to the suspect. "We live in a small town. Everyone knows who did it and I don't need to add to it by pointing anymore fingers. This is a hard thing for me and the mine."

Morris did state that the suspect was a previous employee of the mine and has ties with his family. "We will never be able to recover the specimens that were taken and that is the most tragic of all. That geode was a priceless artifact that had history and played a key role in our tours at the mine. We will never be able to have that again." Morris stated that the next hearing will take place on Oct. 9.

## A VOTE FOR CARLOS LOPEZ IS A VOTE FOR EXPERIENCE!

As a city council member, Carlos has worked with a diverse city council in Trinidad to pivot a community headed towards economic despair in a direction of financial growth and opportunity. Trinidad has been able to come together and unify for growth as opposed to just getting by.

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!



**CARLOS LOPEZ FOR SENATE**  
PRESERVING OUR WAY OF LIFE WHILE PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE  
DISTRICT #35  
[Carloslopezforcolorado.com](http://Carloslopezforcolorado.com)

**Vote Carlos R. Lopez this November for a proven fighter for southern Colorado.**

## Carlos Lopez

416 State St. • Trinidad, CO 81082  
[carloslopezforcolorado@gmail.com](mailto:carloslopezforcolorado@gmail.com)

Paid for by THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT CARLOS R. LOPEZ

- Lopez4Colorado
- Lopez4Colorado
- Lopez4Colorado

## Kay's Bookkeeping Services

& The Monte Vista Cemetery Association Office have moved!

Come see us at our new address:  
**995 N. Hwy 285 • Monte Vista**  
(next to Valley Lumber)

Kay's: (719) 852-5638

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

# PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



Prevention Science + Digital Tools + Support = Successful Kids

*Get Involved in the Future of Your Community*

**FOR QUESTIONS OR TO GET INVOLVED CALL 719-655-2533**





# Take care dealing with storm-damaged trees

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** – This week, the cold front that brought high winds and wet, heavy snow to much of Colorado may have damaged trees. Coloradans who are dealing with broken tree limbs after the late-summer snowstorm may be considering actions to protect and repair them.

Vince Urbina, urban and community forestry manager for the Colorado State Forest Service, said that although the first impulse may be to start cutting when a tree is damaged, homeowners should first assess the situation to avoid hurting themselves or further damaging the tree.

Urbina and the CSFS offer the following tips for dealing with snow and wind-damaged trees; these tips were adapted from International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)

recommendations:

- **Check for hazards.** Before approaching a tree, examine your surroundings to avoid making contact with downed utility lines or standing under broken, hanging branches. Contact your utility company if a tree is affecting power or other utility lines.
- **Contact city officials if necessary.** Trees between the street and a city sidewalk may be the responsibility of city crews.
- **Assess the damage.** If a tree is healthy overall and still possesses its leader (the main upward branch), most of its major limbs and 50 percent or more of its crown, the chance is good for a complete recovery.
- **Be careful knocking snow off branches.** This may cause the branches to break. If you must remove

snow, gently push up on branches from below to prevent adding additional stress.

- **Remove broken branches.** This minimizes the risk of decay and insects or diseases entering the wound. Prune at the branch collar – the point where a branch joins a larger one – and be mindful of potential pent-up energy if the branch is twisted or bent.

- **Don't over-prune.** With the loss of some branches, a tree may look unbalanced, but most trees quickly grow new foliage that hides bare areas.

- **Don't try to do it all yourself.** If the job requires running a chainsaw overhead, sawing from a ladder or removing large branches or entire trees, contact an insured, certified arborist.

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.

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

Industrial Tower West, LLC. proposes to construct a 202-foot lattice telecommunications tower. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The Site location is County Road L, Center, Saguache County, Colorado (lat/long 37 deg 53 min 39.79 sec N, 106 deg 10 min 26.15 sec W). The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1173548.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS** – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmental-request) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

**HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS** - Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Terracon Consultants, Inc., Matthew Harbeck, 15080 A Circle, Omaha, NE 68144, 402-384-7087, matthew.harbeck@terracon.com.

No. 1572 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, September 17, 2020.

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**Large Inventory of Plumbing & Septic System Supplies**  
*Hassle free installation instantly approved in Colorado*  
**Watertight low profile anti float design**  
**Concrete lasts for decades, requires less maintenance**

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## Let's Talk Trash

**No contracts, no hidden fees**

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- 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](http://www.mds-wasteandrecycle.com)

## Help is only a Phone Call Away

**COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line**  
**719.589.3671**

If you are stressed, anxious, lonely, depressed, angry, or all of the above, you are not alone. We are in this together, and caring mental health professionals are available if you need to talk.

**Virtual Therapy & Psychiatry**  
[slvbhg.org/covid-19](http://slvbhg.org/covid-19)

Behavioral Health therapy and psychiatry have never been easier to start. ALL SLVBHG locations are open for business virtually, providing services to the convenience of your social distancing space by video consultations or over the phone. Call now to schedule an appointment: 719.589.3671

**Mobile Health Unit**  
[slvbhg.org/mobile](http://slvbhg.org/mobile)

Visit our website for an updated schedule of where the mobile unit will be. The Mobile Health Unit specializes in Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for substance use disorders.

**SAN LUIS VALLEY Behavioral Health Group**  
 Dedicated to Hope, Healing and Recovery

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**SEASON PASS OPTIONS**  
 Due to COVID-19, sales will NOT be in-person at the ski area

**Premier - No Blackout Dates**

**Peak Advantage - 19 Blackout Dates**  
 • Dec. 21-23, 26-31; Jan. 1-2, 16; Feb. 13-14; Mar. 14-18

**SuperSaver - 48 Blackout Dates**  
 • Nov. 27-28; Dec. 5, 12-13, 18-31; Jan. 1-3, 9-10, 16-17, 23, 30-31; Feb. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27; Mar. 7-18

**Loyalty Renewal Pass - 10% off at time of purchase**

**ADULT PASSES**

	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate
Premier	\$1,543/1,927
Peak Advantage	963/1,203
SuperSaver	723/903

**STUDENT PASSES**

	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate
Premier	\$1,190/1,487
Peak Advantage	743/928
SuperSaver	558/697

**12 & UNDER PASSES**

	Child - Ages 6 to 12	Tot - Ages 5 and younger
Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate		
Child Premier	\$606/757	
Child Peak Advantage	379/473	
Child SuperSaver	285/356	
Tot Premier	\$83/104	
Tot Peak Advantage	53/66	
Tot Premier	41/50	

**SENIOR PASSES**

	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate
Premier	\$677/845
Peak Advantage	423/528
SuperSaver	318/397

\*Returning Gray Wolf Members Renew Online  
 \*New Members call 970-264-5639 to purchase pass

**Family Passes - All passes must be same type**  
 • Families consist of father, mother, or partners in civil unions and their single, dependent children, 22 years old or younger, living together supported by the same income

**PREMIER FAMILY PASSES**

	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate
1st in Family	\$1,543/1,927
2nd in Family	1,190/1,487
3rd in Family	677/845
4th in Family	555/693
5th in Family	555/693

**PEAK ADVANTAGE FAMILY PASSES**

	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate
1st in Family	\$963/1,203
2nd in Family	743/928
3rd in Family	423/528
4th in Family	347/433
5th in Family	347/433

**SUPERSAVER FAMILY PASSES**

	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate
1st in Family	\$723/903
2nd in Family	558/697
3rd in Family	318/397
4th in Family	261/326
5th in Family	261/326

**Saturday, Sept. 26**  
 thru  
**Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020**

Hours:  
 8:30 a.m.  
 to  
 4:00 p.m.

**Due to COVID-19 sales will NOT be in-person at ski area**

Online and Phone Purchases Only

**Purchase at**  
**WolfCreekSki.com**  
 or  
**970-264-5639**

Pre-Season Prices End  
 October 4, 2020



# Free community mass COVID-19 testing at Adams State campus

**ALAMOSA** – A free community-wide COVID-19 mass testing event will be held Sept. 18, 19, and 20 on the campus of Adams State University.

The drive-thru testing event will be held in the McDaniel Hall parking lot on the Adams State campus, with tests conducted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day.

Adams State is partnering with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Alamosa County Public Health, and the city of Alamosa to bring the mass testing event to campus.

The Sept. 18 date is for Adams State students, faculty and staff; residents of Alamosa and other San Luis Valley communities can receive free COVID-19 tests on Sept. 19 and 20.

Pre-registration is recommended. There also will be on-site registration. To pre-register please visit <https://www.adams.edu/safe-return/testing>. Individuals will get test results within four days of the test.

To access the testing area in the McDaniel parking lot, traffic will be routed from Third Street onto Richardson Avenue, which leads into the McDaniel parking lot. Vehicles will exit the testing site onto First Street.

“A drive-thru testing site at the Adams State campus ensures people across the San Luis Valley have access to free, fast and easy COVID-19 testing,” said President Cheryl D. Lovell. “We understand the importance of testing as a means to address the spread before it continues to infect our communities and state. We are grateful to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Alamosa County Public Health for coordinating a mass testing event at Adams State.”

The September dates were selected to gauge any spread of the virus following the recent Labor Day weekend. Adams State is looking to test 1,600 individuals who are students and employees of the University. Another 1,500 tests will be available for community members.

“On behalf of Alamosa County Public Health Department, I am pleased to partner with Adams State University, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Mako Medical to bring this community COVID-19 testing opportunity to the San Luis Valley,” said Della Vieira, director of Alamosa County Public Health Department. “COVID-19 testing is key to controlling the spread of coronavirus, along with the big three: wear a face covering, wash hands frequently and maintain physical distance.”

There are no age restrictions for the test, although ideally children under age 2 should be tested by a pediatrician. Spanish-language services will be available at the testing site.

## BALLOT

**Continued from Page 1A** — phone messages with our ballot tracking service has been in place since it was first introduced in 2015 and has only grown in popularity with each passing year,” said Boulder County Clerk and Recorder Molly Fitzpatrick. “It provides a measure of reassurance to voters that their ballots have arrived back to our offices safely and securely and are now ready to be counted.”

For more information, please visit [www.GoVoteColorado.gov](http://www.GoVoteColorado.gov).

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Court <input type="checkbox"/> Denver Probate Court Saguache County, Colorado Court Address: 501 4th St. Saguache, CO 81149		COURT USE ONLY	
In the Matter of the Estate of Johnny Lee Werner; a/k/a Johnny L. Werner; a/k/a Johnny Werner; a/k/a John Lee Werner; a/k/a John L. Werner; a/k/a John Werner		Case Number: 2020 PR 030010 Division: C    Courtroom:	
Deceased Myka Marie Landry 133 County Road 17, Ste. E2E PO Box 2276 Elizabeth, Colorado 80107 Phone Number: 303-802-4672    Email: mykalandry@mykalandrylaw.com FAX Number: 303-846-2020    Atty Reg #: 20430		NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.	

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
 Estate of Johnny Lee Werner; a/k/a Johnny L. Werner; a/k/a Johnny Werner; a/k/a John Lee Werner; a/k/a John L. Werner; a/k/a John Werner, Deceased    Case Number 2020 PR 030010  
 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 February 12, 2021 (date)\*, or the claims may be forever barred.  
Myka Landry, Attorney for Personal Representative  
 Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice  
 PO Box 2276  
 Address  
 Elizabeth, Colorado 80107  
 City, State, Zip Code  
 No. 1571 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, September 10, 17 and 24, 2020.

**NOTICE OF 2020 GENERAL ELECTION**  
 Per Colorado Revised Statute 1-5-205, Saguache County Clerk & Recorder, Trish Gilbert, announces that the 2020 General Election will be held on Tuesday, NOVEMBER 3, 2020. Ballots will be mailed to all active, registered voters beginning on OCTOBER 9, 2020. The ballot packet will include: 1 Ballot, 1 Secrecy Sleeve/Instructions, and 1 Return Envelope. Voters will mark their ballot, insert it into the Secrecy Sleeve/Instructions, insert this into the Return Envelope, SIGN the envelope where indicated and mail or return the voted ballot to the Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) at the Clerk's office in the Saguache County Courthouse, 501 4th St., Saguache. The VSPC will be open from Monday, OCTOBER 19th through Tuesday, NOVEMBER 3rd, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.; on Saturday, OCTOBER 31st, from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.; and on Election Day NOVEMBER 3RD, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Voted ballots may also be deposited into the Ballot Drop Boxes at the following locations: the south parking lot of the Courthouse, 501 4th St., Saguache; Sheriff's Satellite Office located at 182 E Galena Ave., Crestone; Center Town Hall, 294 Worth St., Center; Town of Sargents, 360 County Rd 31:XX, Sargents. Beginning OCTOBER 9th, the drop boxes will be available 24 hours each day until 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots must be received by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots received after 7:00 p.m. on Election Day will not be counted. Postmarks do not count.  
 Trish Gilbert  
 Clerk & Recorder

**A VISO DE LAS ELECCIONES GENERALES DE 2020**  
 De conformidad con el estatuto modificado de Colorado 1-5-205, la Secretaria y Oficial de Registro del Condado de Saguache, Trish Gilbert, anuncia que las elecciones generales de 2020 se llevarán a cabo el martes 3 de NOVIEMBRE de 2020. Las boletas electorales se enviarán por correo a todos los votantes registrados activos a partir del 9 de OCTUBRE de 2020. El paquete de votación incluirá: 1 boleta electoral, 1 manga de votación secreta con instrucciones y 1 sobre de respuesta. Los votantes marcarán su boleta, la insertarán en la manga de votación secreta, la cual a su vez insertarán en el sobre de respuesta, FIRMARAN el sobre en el espacio indicado y enviarán por correo o devolverán la boleta marcada al centro de votación y servicios al votante (VSPC, por sus siglas en inglés) en la oficina de la Secretaria en el Tribunal del Condado de Saguache, 501 4th St., Saguache. El VSPC estará abierto desde el lunes 19 de OCTUBRE hasta el martes 3 de NOVIEMBRE, de lunes a viernes, de 8:00 a.m. a 4:00 p.m.; el sábado 31 de OCTUBRE, de 7:00 a 11:00 a.m.; y el día de las elecciones, el 3 de NOVIEMBRE, de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. Las boletas electorales también se pueden depositar en las urnas ubicadas en el estacionamiento sur del Tribunal (501 4th St., Saguache), la oficina subsidiaria del Sheriff (182 E Galena Ave., Crestone), la municipalidad de Center (294 Worth St, Center) y la ciudad de Sargents (360 County Rd 31XX, Sargents). A partir del 9 de OCTUBRE, las urnas estarán disponibles las 24 horas del día hasta las 7:00 p.m. del día de las elecciones. Las boletas deben recibirse antes de las 7:00 p.m. del día de las elecciones. Las boletas recibidas después de las 7:00 p.m. del día de las elecciones no se incluirán en el conteo. Los matasellos no cuentan.  
 Trish Gilbert  
 Secretaria y Oficial de Registro  
 No. 1573 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, September 17, 2020.

## NOTICE OF CHANGE IN TARIFFS ON LESS THAN 30-DAYS' NOTICE

Date of Notice: September 11, 2020

Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos Energy”)  
 1555 Blake Street  
 Denver, Colorado 80202

You are hereby notified that Atmos Energy has filed with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission of the State of Colorado (“PUC”), in compliance with the Public Utilities Law, an application for permission to file certain changes in tariffs, affecting all residential, commercial, interruptible and other consumers in its Colorado divisions to become effective October 1, 2020, if the application is granted by the PUC.

The purpose for this filing is to change rates by revising the Company's existing gas cost adjustment tariff to reflect changes in the rates charged Atmos Energy by its suppliers for natural gas purchases. The present and proposed natural gas rates are as follows:

<u>Class of Service by Division</u>	<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
	<u>Total Volumetric</u>	<u>Total Volumetric</u>	
<b>North Colorado*</b>			
Residential	\$0.61709	\$0.68630	11%
Small Commercial, Commercial	0.51275	0.58196	13%
Irrigation	0.49919	0.56840	14%
Transportation	0.12925	0.12903	0%
	<u>Average Monthly Bill</u>	<u>Projected Average</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
	<u>Monthly Bill</u>		
<b>North Colorado*</b>			
Residential	\$ 50.16	\$ 54.45	9%
Small Commercial, Commercial	225.98	252.55	12%
Irrigation	232.69	258.71	11%
	<u>Prior Year's Peak</u>	<u>Projected Peak</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
	<u>Month Bill</u>	<u>Month Bill</u>	
<b>North Colorado*</b>			
Residential	\$ 93.97	\$ 103.18	10%
Small Commercial, Commercial	453.12	510.36	13%
Irrigation	478.79	538.93	13%

\*Notification Published in our North Rate Area Newspaper

The proposed and present rates and tariffs are available for examination at the business office of Atmos Energy Corporation located at 1555 Blake Street, Suite 400, Denver, Colorado, or at the Public Utilities Commission at 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, Colorado, 80202.

Anyone who desires may either file written objection or seek to intervene as a party in this filing. If you only wish to object to the proposed action, you may file a written objection with the Commission. The filing of a written objection by itself will not allow you to participate as a party in any proceeding on the proposed action. If you wish to participate as a party in this matter, you must file written intervention documents under the Commission's rules.

Anyone who desires to file written objection or written intervention documents to the proposed action shall file them with the PUC, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, Colorado, 80202 at least one day before the proposed effective date.

Members of the public may attend any hearing and may make a statement under oath about the proposed change whether or not a written objection or request to intervene has been filed.

Atmos Energy Corporation has filed a separate gas purchase report in accordance with Rule 4607 of the Commission's Rules Regulating Gas Utilities and Pipeline Operators to begin the initial prudence review evaluation for the gas purchase year ended June 30, 2020.

Atmos Energy Corporation  
 Colorado-Kansas Division  
 By: Gary W. Gregory, President



# Wrecked propane truck on Wolf Creek extracted

**BY LYNDIE FERRELL**  
**WOLF CREEK PASS-** On Sept. 8, at approximately 1:40 p.m., South Fork Fire Rescue crews responded to Highway 160 Mile Post 176 for a semi crash. The semi was hauling propane. While on standby during the investigation, fire crews also provided traffic control.

According to Colorado State Patrol Officer Bryan Bouet, "Vehicle one, a Monte Vista Coop Propane truck, was headed eastbound on Colorado Highway 160. The vehicle lost control on the wet pavement and rolled one-quarter time onto its passenger side. The semi continued off the roadway sliding through the pullout and impacted some trees. Then continued sliding for a short

length, coming to final rest on its passenger side. The driver was transported for injuries and treated at Rio Grande Hospital. Colorado State Patrol HAZMAT responded to the scene and secured the tanker."

The semi remained on the side of Highway 160 until late Monday night when local tow companies were able to extract the vehicle. The highway was closed for a considerable amount of time,

blocking long lines of traffic on both sides of Wolf Creek Pass. The highway was finally opened later in the evening and crews were able to successfully remove the semi without incident.



Photo courtesy South Fork Fire Rescue

A Monte Vista Coop propane truck wrecked on Wolf Creek Pass Tuesday, Sept. 8, and remained on the side of the highway until the afternoon of Monday, June 14, when it was finally extracted.



Photo courtesy of SLV Health

SLV Health and Eagle Air Med is forming a partnership to bring emergency air medical transport to the residents of the San Luis Valley.

## EAGLE

Continued from Page 1A

flight paramedics using an Airbus H-125 helicopter.

This helicopter is unique in that it is designed for high elevations, especially found here in the Valley, and even made a training run to the top of Mount Everest, setting a record. Because of that capability, it will also be used to assist in local search and rescue operations, landing in areas of need that ambulances might not be able to get to.

"Our Alamosa fixed-wing team has built strong bonds in the local community and with

our valued partners in care," said Vicky Spediacci, Air Chief Operating Officer for Global Medical Response, West Group. "We are thrilled to strengthen those connections and provide additional support to the region through the opening of this base."

The helicopter will be maintained by on-site aviation maintenance technicians and is configured with the latest avionics and safety features. The crew manning the helicopter will live and work out of the San Luis Valley, and partner

with the ambulance crew to increase response time. In addition, the helicopter will work alongside the fixed-wing located at the airport, which can go greater distances while carrying more weight.

"We here at SLV Health work each day at being a trusted partner in health for the San Luis Valley," Martin said. "We are excited and honored to partner with Eagle Air Med in bringing a helicopter to our community." For more information about SLV Health, please go online to [www.sanluisvalleyhealth.org](http://www.sanluisvalleyhealth.org).

## Alamosa woman missing

**ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa Police Department took a report Sept. 3 of a possible missing person. Selena Esquibel, 19 is believed to be residing within the Alamosa city limits and is reportedly missing. She is 5 feet, 1 inch tall with brown hair and brown eyes and weighs approximately 150 pounds.

Anyone with information due to Selena's location is encouraged to contact the APD Investigations Division at (719)-2548 during normal business hours or police dispatch at (719) 589-5807.



## Archuleta missing after visit

**CONEJOS** — The Conejos County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and Colorado Bureau of Investigation are searching for Wilbert Archuleta, 39, who has been missing since Aug. 14. According to CCSO, Archuleta is an Aurora resident who came to the San Luis Valley to visit his father Aug. 10. Authorities say the last contact with his family was Aug. 14. He was expected to return to Aurora Aug. 18.

Archuleta is a 5-foot-10-inch tall Hispanic male who weighs approximately 180 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes with a goatee-like beard. Archuleta also has a tattoo on his back and scar on his neck.

Anyone with information about Archuleta is asked to call the CCSO (719)-376-2196.



## SNOW

Continued from Page 1A

time some places in the Valley received around 10 inches of snow.

Many people had to harvest their gardens in a mad dash to save produce. Others had to cover still maturing plants in blankets and straw and hoped for the best.

For many farmers this early snow did not come at a good time. One local farmer who has been growing potatoes for 31 years had this to say, "A week ago I was kind of worried that it was a little too hot. You dig them and if they go into storage hot you can't take the heat out of them fast enough. That was my concern a week ago now it's can we get them dug before they freeze." This same farmer later adding, "You get what God gives you. You get what you get, and you don't pitch a fit."

The snow made things very wet for potato growers and there have been concerns that potatoes may rot. Potato farmers have had to wait until after the snow cleared to start harvesting the spuds so that the fields could dry out enough for them to begin.

Darrin Mitchell who grows potatoes had already started his harvest before the snow hit. Mitchell told Valley Publishing, "I've been lucky enough to start earlier. I usually start pretty early so I'm about 45 percent done. But the crop looks really beautiful it's nice size and quality looks good.

The snow I think made an insulation of sorts so some of the potatoes that were closer to the surface I think were protected. I think we may be lucked out on that end of it."

When asked if he felt there was a strong sense of urgency among farmers with freezing concerns Mitchell answered saying, "It's always an urgency to get your crop out because you put so much money and time in it all summer. Quite an investment out there in the ground so everyone tends to have some anxiety this time of year. Especially when the weather turns that way, but I say for the most part, we're on schedule and if the weather holds out, we should have a really pretty crop this year."

Thankfully for many wheat, and barely, growers in the Valley they had already finished their harvest operations. For hemp growers however it was a different story. Jason Mitchell who grows hemp in the Valley said, "For the hemp it was devastating, because it broke the plants over. Broke them in half." Mitchell later adding, "We needed 2 or 3 more weeks for it to fully produce the buds and so I'm afraid that this frost and the snow stopped that."

Mitchell shared that before the snow it was looking really good. His crop was averaging about 8 feet tall. "It looked really nice I just needed some more time," said Mitchell.

# SUPPORT SOUTH FORK

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 Monte Vista, CO 81144  
 Shari Oliver, Agent

**GRANDE NATURAL MEATS**  
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Buffalo, Elk, Deer, Goat, Beef & Rabbit  
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Supplement to The Monte Vista Journal, Center Post-Dispatch, The Conejos County Citizen, The Mineral County Miner, The South Fork Times, and The Del Norte Prospector.

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## Cruisin' the Canyon Car Show this weekend

**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  
*Please see CRUISIN' on Page 3*



## Vali Theater reopens Friday, Sept. 18

By **CHELSEA MCNERNEY-MARTINEZ**

**MONTE VISTA** - The Vali 3 Theater Advisory Board would like to extend its thanks to the Monte Vista Community and especially to Ray and Colette Skeff for their generosity and support. The customers who have brought in donations, donated through our GoFundMe page or showed their support by purchasing concessions Saturday evenings have been essential to the success of the Vali Theater and keeping it open through the COVID-19 closures and the difficulties caused by the

broken projector. Thanks to the generosity of the Skeffs, who purchased a brand-new laser based 8S Projector, the theater will be reopening Friday, Sept. 18, for movies at its regular showtimes, 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights and 5 p.m. Sundays. Current public health regulations limit the theater to 50 percent of its capacity. Moviegoers are encouraged to arrive early. The theater plans to show "I Still Believe" its first weekend. The projector is installed and the theater ready to show movies once again with popcorn and snacks.

## The Feedlot Woman

I have known and worked with many women in the feedlot business. Some as cowboys, some as vets, some as lay doctors, as cattle processors, feed truck drivers, foremen (or forepersons) and managers (or should that be womanagers?).

Lest you think I'm going to waste your time with a commentary on cute political correctness witticisms, relax, I'm not. Nor do the feedlot women I know waste their time with political correctness. I think I'd be safe in saying affirmative action doesn't have much impact in the typical feedlot. The women working there earn their place.

And it is a chauvinist world. But the big equalizer is animals. The crew can tell in a hurry if a new person knows how to handle stock. Should some macho bluffer start pickin' on a new woman and she turns out to be a good hand, he'll back off (or the crew will straighten him out.) A good hand, regardless of gender is recognized and welcome. It's been said, and I



tend to agree, that women seem to have more empathy with animals, even feedlot animals. It's noticeable in the sick pens, in the processing area, loading fats and raising orphan calves.

There are exceptions in both genders, of course. There are plenty of men who don't

feel the need to jab a new steer two times with a hot shot before the tailgate opens ahead of them. There are men who exercise patience when pulling a calf from some fat pregnant feedlot heifer. And there are men who have some compassion for a beast in trouble.

On the other hand, there are women who treat cattle like inanimate objects or judge a good day by the number of head processed rather than how much unneeded stress was created. If women are easier on cattle maybe it's the mother instinct.

Workin' feedlot cattle requires more stamina than strength. We have hydraulic squeeze chutes, front end loaders, nose tongs, horses, pulleys, push gates and hot shots which allow humans to handle critters considerably bigger and stronger than them. But it takes stamina to process or doctor eight hours a day for three weeks straight. Women are long on stamina.

One of the biggest deterrents for women

has always been that ground work in a feedlot is a dirty job, fraught with smashed fingers, stepped-on toes and pucky in your hair. But plenty of women can handle it. And to our industry's credit they are receiving equal opportunity for advancement. For a bunch of chauvinistic cowboys that has been a big step.

If she's the best cowboy in the feedyard and everybody knows it, she deserves the pay and the promotion. 'Cause in the end, as every manager knows, it's just good business.

*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*



# Autumn 2020 on the Rio Grande

## MV Rotary holding annual gun show in October

**MONTE VISTA** - The Monte Vista Rotary Club is pleased to announce their Annual Outdoor & Gun show at Ski Hi Park (McMullen Building) in Monte Vista on Friday, Oct. 23 (4p.m.-8p.m.), Saturday, Oct. 24 (9a.m.-5p.m.) and Sunday, Oct. 25 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.). This fun filled event will feature vendors, information and food. Admission is only \$10 per day and accompanied children under 12 are free. If you attend Saturday, Sunday admission is 50 percent off. In previous years, the show has had dozens of vendors with a wide array of outdoor, camping, survival equipment and of course a large variety of guns. Founded in 1920, the Monte Vista Rotary Club has been serving the San Luis Valley and supporting national and international humanitarian projects ever since. In addition to the annual Outdoor and Gun Show, ongoing projects and community financial support include the annual Chuck Wagon Dinner at Stampede, Colorado State Highway Cleanup Project, Student Foreign Exchange Hosts, Sargent and Monte Vista Schools after prom, Memorial Day Cemetery Cleanup, Faith Hinkley Memorial & Veteran's Park, Creede Reparatory Theater, an orphanage in Mexico, SLV Science Fair and Book Scholarships for Adams State and Trinidad State students. The Monte Vista Rotary organized a community project where the proceeds from past shows were used to provide body armor for the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department.



Monte Vista Rotary supports 122 countries. 100% of the proceeds from this fundraising event will go toward the Monte Vista Rotary's community projects. The Monte Vista Rotary Club meets on Tuesdays at noon at Dos Rios Restaurant. Come join us! For more information visit our website [montevistarotary.wix.com](http://montevistarotary.wix.com)

Table space for vendors is still available. For more information visit the Monte Vista Rotary Club at [montevistarotary.wixsite.com/gunshow](http://montevistarotary.wixsite.com/gunshow) or contact Dr. Hinkley at (719)852-3442.

### Monte Vista Farmers Market

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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](http://montevistarotary.wixsite.com/gunshow) or contact Monte Vista Rotary Club President Dr. David Hinkley at (719) 852-3442

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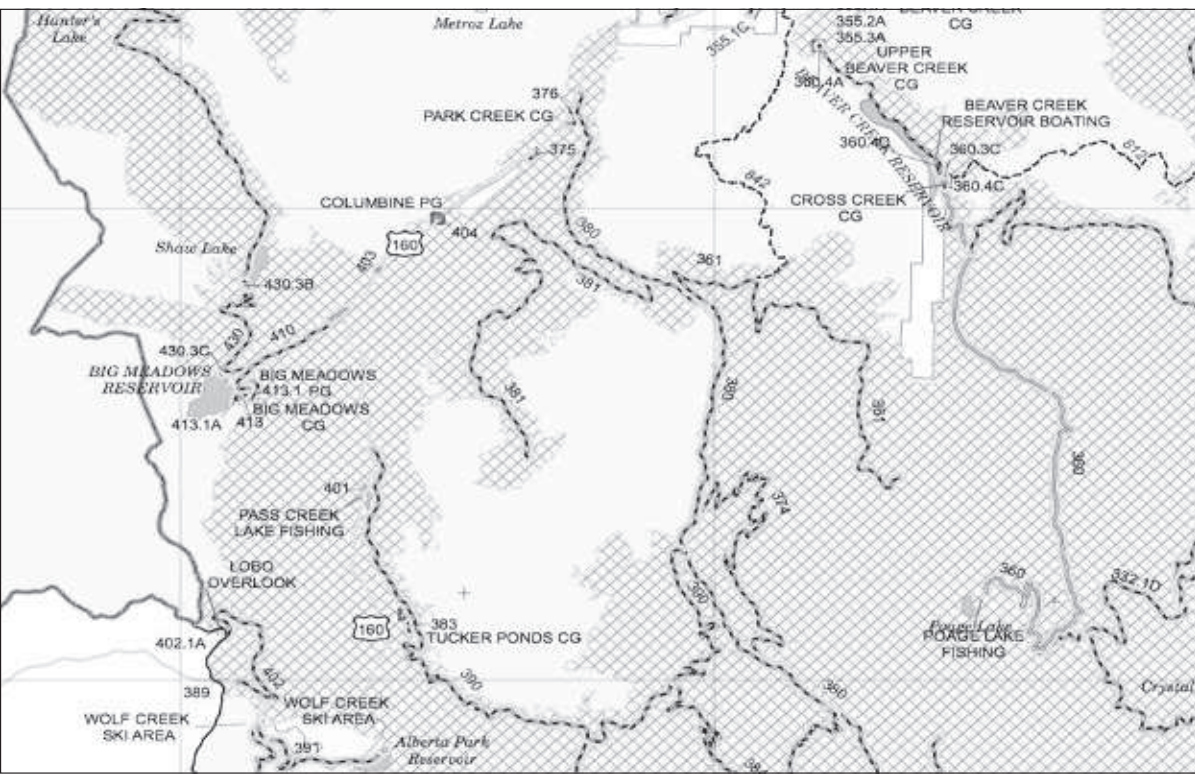
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The temporary road closures include the loop connection between Forest Service Road (FSR) 390 (Pass Creek/Tucker Ponds) and FSR 380 (Park Creek). The closures are expected to last for several days. Additionally, the existing parking lot across the Park Creek Bridge will be closed

## RGNF announces temporary road closures for Park Creek area

**SOUTHFORK**—The Divide Ranger District announced temporary road closures for the Park Creek area will occur sometime between Sept. 10 to 19, 2020 to allow for improvements to the creek crossing and parking lot. The specific dates will be posted on the Rio Grande National Forest Facebook page when the contractor determines the final project dates.

The closures include the loop connection between Forest Service Road (FSR) 390 (Pass Creek/Tucker Ponds) and FSR 380 (Park Creek). The closures are expected to last for several

days. Additionally, the existing parking lot across the Park Creek Bridge will be closed during this timeframe to allow for parking lot expansion and improvement.

Users will still be able to utilize FSRs 834 and 835 to connect between Pass Creek and Park Creek during the closures.

The crossing and parking lot improvement are part of a larger effort between the Forest Service, the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and the San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative.

“I am very excited to be working together with our partners to protect riparian resources,” said Divide District Ranger, Martha Williamson. “This project will help strike a balance between providing for continued and improved recreational opportunities in the Park Creek Drainage and providing resource protection.”

The roads can be found on the Divide Ranger District Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). Each district on the Rio Grande National Forest has an MVUM which regulates all motorized travel on the district. MVUMs are available at Rio Grande National Forest Offices and online at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/riogrande/maps-pubs>

For more information, contact the Divide Ranger District at 719-850-2374.

## CRUISIN'

Continued from Page 1

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.

The event starts Friday night, Sept. 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.

These events are subject to change 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](http://www.creede.com).

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### 07 Help Wanted

**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)

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Alamosa, CO (South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc., Area Agency on Aging) or call 719-589-4511 for more information.(9/23)

**WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge is hiring for Operator I positions.**

**REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must possess a current Class-A CDL license with heavy semi-truck endorsement and a current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED and six months or more of relevant experience.** Prospective employees applying with Saguache County will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check. Operator I is a full time position - applicants must be able to operate light and heavy equipment and perform manual labor in the maintenance, repair and minor construction of roads, streets, bridges, signs, markings and related facilities. Applicants must be physically capable of periods of sustained physical exertion and may be required to lift and move up to 75 lbs. to 150 lbs. Applications are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office 305 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 - 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website - www.saguachecounty.net under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit the Drivers-Application. A complete job description is also available at the Road and Bridge Office. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge - at the address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until qualified candidates are hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (10/01)

**Saguache County Road and Bridge is hiring for a Full Time Utility Person. REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must be 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license.** Prospective employees applying with Saguache County will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check. Utility Person position - applicants will be performing a wide variety of manual and limited semi-skilled tasks such as building and grounds construction, maintenance and repair work. Works as a flagman on maintenance projects and performs other work as assigned. Must have knowledge of common hand and power tools, shovels, wrenches and radios. Must be able to lift 25 to 50 pounds. Will be required to work in

various climate conditions and be able to stand for long periods of time. Work is subject to supervision and inspection by the shop foreman. Applications are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office 305 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 - 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website - www.saguachecounty.net under the Road and Bridge Department tab Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge - at the address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until a qualified candidate is hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Wolf Creek Ski Area is accepting ap-**

plications for all departments: retail, ski school, lifts, ski patrol, base operations, ticket office, food and beverage, rental and snow reporting. Applications can be downloaded from WolfCreekSki.com employment page. Send resumes and applications to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com or P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. All jobs are winter seasonal (November - April) with competitive wages.

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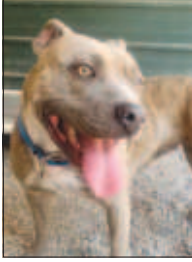


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Bella is a 3 year old, brindle, pit bull breed. She is a highly active gal and would needs lots of exercise. She requires a large yard with a fence at least 6ft tall. Bella can be a bit cautious when first meeting new people. She warms up quickly. She can be very vocal when she wants your attention or sees other dogs that she does not know. She does do well with other dogs on a leash to leash greeting. She has very playful responses and we feel she has wonderful potential. Bella does have simple training like listening to commands, but defiantly could benefit with more.



Ginger is a 3 year old, lab/retriever/doberman mix. She is moderately to highly active, so she will require lots of exercise. She is a digger and a high jumper, so she will also require a special fence to keep her from escaping either way. She has potential to get along with other dogs, but she does take a while to get to know them and feel comfortable with them. She will need lots of introductions and visiting time with any other potential animals she may be around. Absolutely no small animals though, they are prey to her. Ginger is a very loving dog and loves all people she meets. Her favorite thing to do is stand up and hug everybody when she wants their attention. She can be a very vocal girl when she wants/needs something.

Sharon is a 13 year old, Boxer/Shar Pei mix looking for her forever foster home. She has some sight impairment but can still mostly see. She is not a very active gal, and requires moderate exercise. She does need a fenced in yard, but does not dig or jump in our experience. Sharon is extremely cautious of new people and takes quite some time to open up. She will require dedicated visitations before going home. She tends to be intolerant to other dogs barking a lot and in turn will bark back. She has not shown any aggression towards any other dogs but hasn't met many. She tends to be a very clean girl and relaxes most of her day.



Diva is a 2 year old, female, American Bulldog/Boxer mix. She is a highly active girl and would require lots of exercise. She would do best with a very large fenced in yard at least 6ft tall. She is a very friendly gal and loves all people she meets. She does great with kids as well. She does good with other dogs and cats. Diva will need some basic training, but is a great dog all around.

Billy is a 7 year old male Boxer. He has a small tumor on his right side by his ribs. He has seen a vet for it and they feel he has nothing to worry about. He is moderately active, and requires moderate amount of exercise. He will need a fenced in yard at least 6ft. He can be shy when first meeting new people but his personality blossoms once he is comfortable. He does pretty good so far with meeting new dogs but can be cautious of them at first. Billy is generally a pretty quiet guy, and loves to chew on rawhides.



**All breeds & ages of animals are a "best guess" and are not guaranteed to be accurate. Adoption fee includes: neuter/spay, vaccinations, de-worming and micro-chipping. This ad space donated by Valley Publishing Inc.**

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**Monte Vista cozy 1-bedroom on Dennis Street by schools \$550/Month, \$550/Deposit.** NO Pets. 719-580-5400

**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

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

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

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

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**36 Miscellaneous**  
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2008 Cirrus ultra-light travel trailer, 24'. Outdoor Grill and Shower, slide out, new mattress, big bathroom, and oven. Had No Kids, Smokers or pets. \$7,750.00 Call 719-655-2289(10/08)

**59 Vehicles Wanted**  
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**60 Classic Cars**  
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1985 Chevy El Camino 350 Engine Automatic Very Clean New Paint, Custom under Hood \$9,500 OBO 719-496-1065. (10/01)

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# Green Acres Hemp Farm reaches for new heights

By **LYNSIE FERRELL**

**SAN LUIS VALLEY-** Jim and Lisa Strang, owners of Green Acres Hemp Farm, finished their season with 2 acres of harvest, which according to Jim, is plenty for their growing business. Strang stated that the year has been successful regardless of the drop in the hemp market after the legalization of hemp in the U.S. which has caused some issues for other growers.

“Hemp was legalized about a year and a half ago and the market was over saturated with growers. We saw a little bit of a decline in customers because there were so many hemp companies hitting the sales market, but we ended the year strong and we have no intentions of giving up. In fact, I think we will be able to stay ahead of the decline and keep our business strong.”

Strang also spent the year building a new runway that will be finished at the end of September. “I went ahead and got my pilot’s license at the beginning of this year and plan to make deliveries because of how the situation is with the Postal Service right now. Buyers will be able to make their

orders and I can deliver to airports and meet my customers there in some situations.”

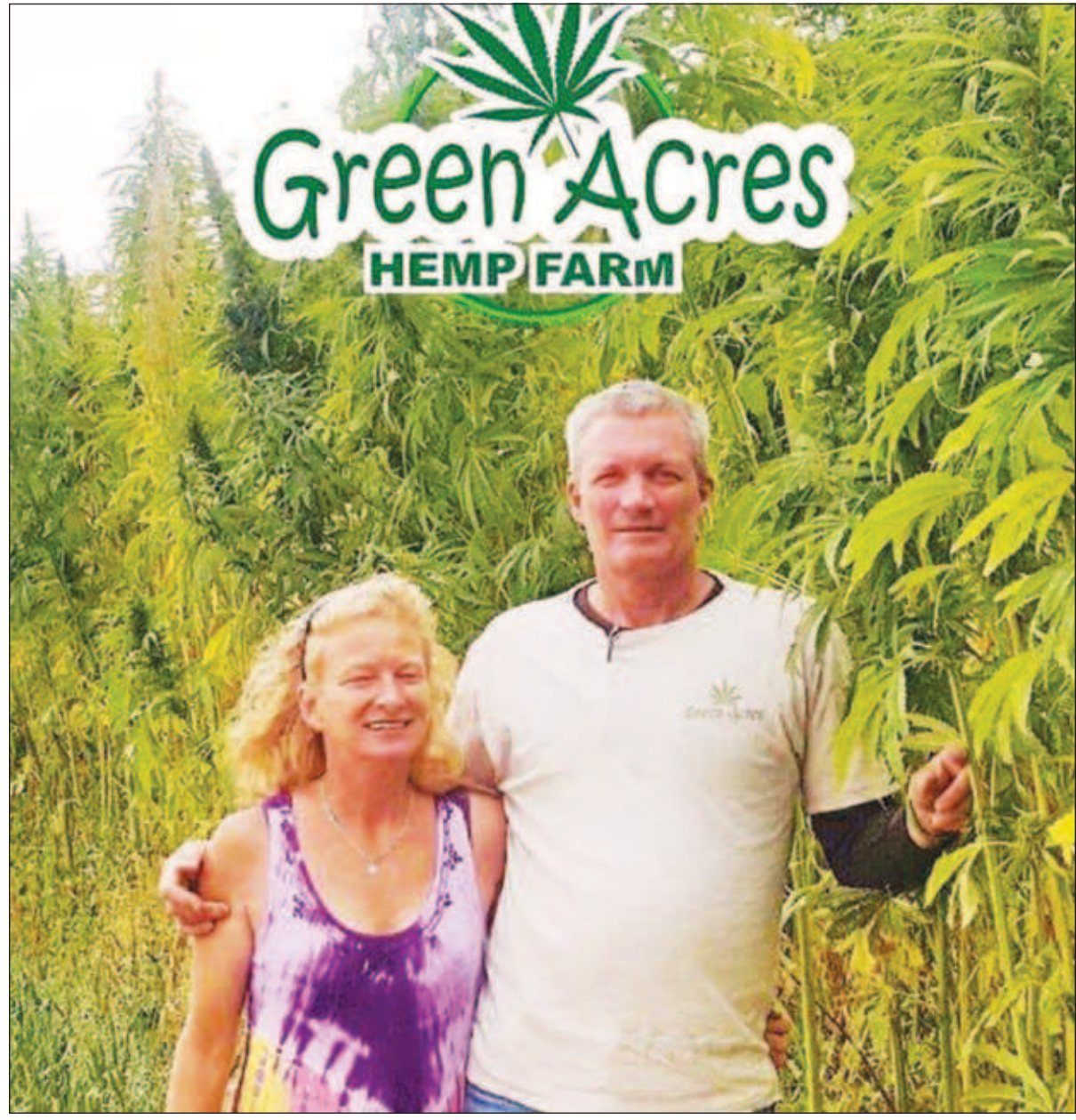
The runway has been approved and registered with the FAA. “We are calling it Green Acres Airport and it will be on all the FAA flight navigation systems and maps. It is super cool, and we are excited to get it off the ground.”

Green Acres Hemp Farm will also begin using MTC infused oil, also known as pure coconut oil in their products in place of the olive oil they typically use.

Strang explained that though the hemp business is doing well, he spent a majority of his time this past year creating a device that will help motorcyclists across the country deal with traffic lights and plans to add to his business after getting the invention, started by his father, patented. “My dad was the one who actually started inventing the Signal-Matic and it was a really great opportunity to be able to finish his legacy. Every time I think about it, I get goosebumps because I know he would be proud.”

Basically, the device allows motorcycles to approach a traffic light, push a button on the small device which notifies the traffic light that there is a vehicle waiting for the light to change. Most traffic lights are triggered by the weight of a regular vehicle and because motorcycles do not weigh as much as say, a regular car or truck, they often get left at lights that do not change.

“This is going to add to our already established business, and



**Jim and Lisa Strang alongside of their hemp crop before it’s harvested.**

I do not plan on giving up Green Acres Hemp Farm. We will always be here to help those who need it with our CBD products, this new venture is just another way to help people.”

The Signal-Matic is in the process of being manufactured and should be ready for sale soon. For more information please visit [www.signal-matic.com](http://www.signal-matic.com) The Green Acres Hemp website

is down for repairs, Strang plans to have a new site up and running soon. In the meantime, those interested in products can call the main phone number at 719-206-HEMP (4367).

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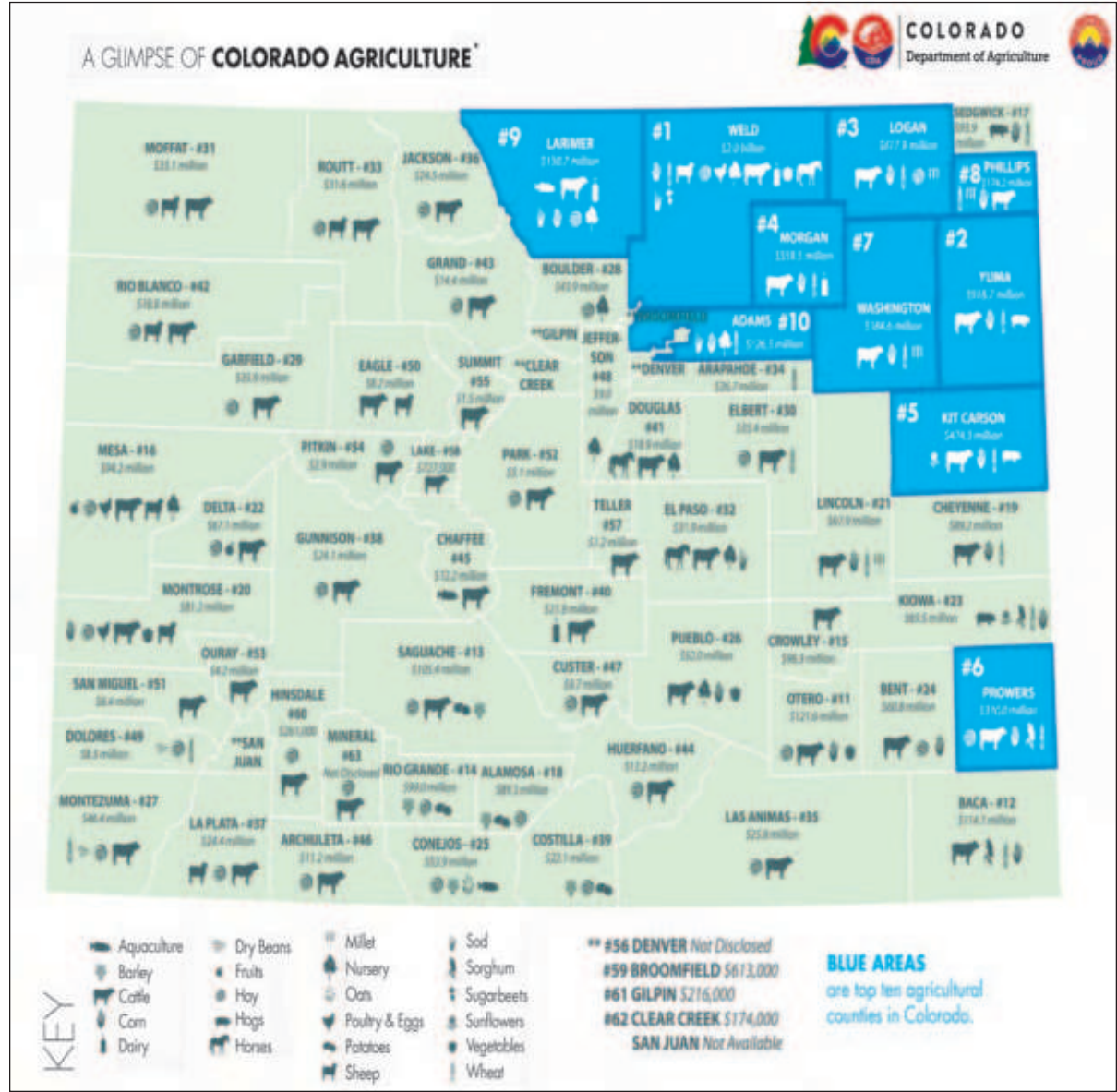
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# Harvest 2020

## Don't miss this one-time opportunity - first since 2014

**USDA Reminds Farmers of Sept. 30 deadline to update Safety-Net**

**Program Crop Yields**  
**UNITED STATES** - USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farm owners that they have a one-time opportunity to update Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program yields for covered commodities on the farm. The deadline is Sept. 30, 2020, to update yields, which are used to calculate the PLC payments for 2020 through 2023. Additionally, producers who elected Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) should also consider updating their yields.

"The last time farmers could update yields for these important safety-net programs was in 2014," said FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce. "It is the farm owner's choice whether to update or keep existing yields. So, if you rent, you'll need to communicate with your landlord who will be the one to sign off on the yield updates." Updating yields requires the signature of one owner on a farm and not all owners. If a yield update is not made, no action is required to maintain the existing base crop yield on file with FSA.

For program payments, updated yields will apply beginning with the 2020 crop year which, should payments trigger, will be paid out in October 2021.

**Determining Yield Updates** - The updated yield will be equal to 90% of the average yield per planted acre in crop years 2013-2017. That excludes any year where the applicable covered commodity was not planted and is subject to the ratio obtained by dividing the 2008-2012 average national yield by the 2013-2017 average national yield for the covered commodity.

The list below provides covered commodities with the National Yield Factor by crop.

Barley	0.9437
Canola	0.9643
Chickpeas, Large	1.0000
Chickpeas, Small	0.9760
Corn	0.9000
Flaxseed	1.0000

Lentils	1.0000
Mustard Seed	0.9460
Oats	0.9524
Peanuts	0.9273
Peas, Dry	0.9988
Rapeseed	1.0000
Safflower	1.0000
Sesame Seed	0.9673
Soybeans	0.9000
Sunflower Seed	0.9396
Wheat	0.9545

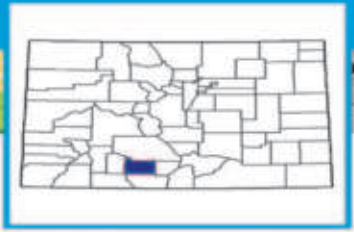
If the reported yield in any year is less than 75 percent of the 2013-2017 average county yield, the yield will be substituted with 75 percent of the county average yield.

More information - PLC yields may be updated on a covered commodity-by-covered commodity basis by

submitting FSA form CCC-867 to include a farm owner's signature. For more information, reference resources and decision tools, visit [farmers.gov/arc-plc](http://farmers.gov/arc-plc). Contact your local FSA county office for assistance at [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-center-locator).

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**2017 CENSUS of AGRICULTURE County Profile**  
**Rio Grande County Colorado**



	2017	% change since 2012
<b>Number of farms</b>	321	-15
<b>Land in farms (acres)</b>	177,452	-4
<b>Average size of farm (acres)</b>	553	+12
<b>Total (\$)</b>		
Market value of products sold	98,956,000	-7
Government payments	998,000	(2)
Farm-related income	6,198,000	+19
Total farm production expenses	72,275,000	-9
Net cash farm income	33,875,000	+2
<b>Per farm average (\$)</b>		
Market value of products sold	308,275	+9
Government payments (average per farm receiving)	11,741	+29
Farm-related income	33,490	+30
Total farm production expenses	225,156	+7
Net cash farm income	105,529	+20

Crops	89
Livestock, poultry, and products	11

Cropland	62
Pastureland	29
Woodland	1
Other	8

Acres Irrigated: 93,586  
53% of land in farms

No till	4
Reduced till	11
Intensive till	21
Cover crop	6

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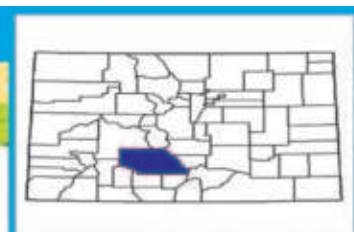
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**2017 CENSUS of AGRICULTURE County Profile**  
**Saguache County Colorado**



	2017	% change since 2012
<b>Number of farms</b>	288	+4
<b>Land in farms (acres)</b>	313,811	-1
<b>Average size of farm (acres)</b>	1,090	-3
<b>Total (\$)</b>		
Market value of products sold	105,403,000	-4
Government payments	843,000	-35
Farm-related income	4,178,000	-28
Total farm production expenses	77,727,000	-13
Net cash farm income	32,697,000	+17
<b>Per farm average (\$)</b>		
Market value of products sold	365,983	-8
Government payments (average per farm receiving)	15,615	+3
Farm-related income	32,894	-28
Total farm production expenses	269,884	-16
Net cash farm income	113,532	+13

Crops	86
Livestock, poultry, and products	14

Cropland	42
Pastureland	51
Woodland	3
Other	4

Acres Irrigated: 118,411  
38% of land in farms

No till	7
Reduced till	12
Intensive till	14
Cover crop	7

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# Ciello's service expansion continues

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

**SAN LUIS VALLEY-** The keynote speaker for the Upper Rio Grande Economic Development meeting this Tuesday, Sept. 1, was Ciello and SLVREC Chief Technology Officer Monroe Johnson. Johnson gave a brief and informative PowerPoint presentation via Zoom which included updates on past and future projects within the company and some insight into how Ciello is handling its COVID-19 response.

Johnson began with an introduction into the Ciello fiberoptic broadband projects in the Valley stating that the company has installed 630 miles of fiber plant with 14 more miles in progress. "I am always excited to talk about what we are doing and what our current plans are, what our challenges are and where we are heading. Our goal is to make our fiberoptic broadband service available throughout the Valley. Today, we have a mixture of fiber and wireless service available and ultimately we want to get fiber deployed throughout the San Luis Valley."

Johnson continued stating that the company has around 8,000 "passings" of fiber, which he explained was fiber that has been installed along homes that are not necessarily connected to the fiberoptic services, but that can access it and be connected to it if people choose. "For example, if we build down an alley in Del Norte with 25 homes on each side of the alley, then we say we have 25 'passings.' This is how many homes and businesses that our fiber has passed." Johnson stated that they also have 4,000 wireless "passings" including two public Wi-Fi locations that are located at Chapman Park in Monte Vista and La Jara Town Park with more possible public internet access locations in the works. "We are working on 415 more "passings" right now. We have 110 wireless sectors deployed, wireless deployed in all of our substations on the Valley floor and a few additional locations around Russell Lakes and

Villa Grove."

"We have talked a lot in the past about redundancy out of the Valley. We have four routes today; one over Poncha Pass, three routes over La Veta Pass and then we have fiber on top of Wolf Creek with additional work to be completed in the near future."

Johnson explained that the company is in the process of converting their phone service to another phone provider out of Utah and that though the process has been a little rocky, they know that in the end it will be more beneficial to their phone service customers in the long run. "We have around 2,500 phone numbers active with

people on our network. We have recently upgraded to a new phone service provider out of Utah. This upgrade, or conversion, has frankly been a little rocky. We have had quite a few issues with the conversion and getting the two networks to operate. Ultimately, we still feel it will be a good thing for all of us because we have a lot more control and can respond to people's needs much quicker."

At the end of the presentation, Johnson touched a little bit on what the company has done in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and how they plan to move forward. Johnson stated that the company has postponed service



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disconnections and continues to work with people during this difficult time. The company has also worked closely with schools in the Valley including Center School

District, Mountain Valley School District and Creede School district to ensure safe and secure online learning capabilities.

## National Farm Safety & Health Week and National 4-H Week

Valley Publishing is proud to partner with these local agriculture businesses to remind readers of the importance of valuing safety for everyone involved during the harvest season and to recognize the up and coming farmers who will shape our world's future for National 4-H Week.

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### Top 10 Farm Safety Tips

1. Stay alert, and be aware of your surroundings.
2. Account for the mental and physical differences associated with age.
3. Be sure to include hazard and safety lessons when training workers.
4. No seat, no rider, no exceptions. Extra riders can cause distractions and block access to controls.
5. Use hydraulic equipment cautiously, and control operations from the tractor seat only.
6. Never attempt to unplug equipment while power is engaged.
7. Use safety identification markers, turn signals, flashing lights, and/or escort vehicles when driving farm equipment on public roads.
8. Carry a fire extinguisher on every piece of powered equipment.
9. Prepare a safe play area for children away from machinery.
10. Enforce basic safety rules for others, and follow them yourself.

Source: [www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture)





# Valley-Wide Ride expands to Monte Vista

**SAN LUIS VALLEY**— Valley-Wide Health Systems is excited to announce the launch of our new transportation program. The Valley-Wide Ride is a free transportation program for wellness and health related activities.

The program is currently available in Alamosa, and began in the Buena Vista area Monday, Sept. 14. Expansion plans include Cañon City, and in the Valley Wide Health Systems Arkansas Valley locations. Rides are available to anyone in the Alamosa and Monte Vista areas, and you don't have to be a Valley-Wide patient to use the Ride. Passengers must be 18 years or older to ride alone, and minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Reservations are required to secure a ride and should be made at least 24 hours in advance of the pick-up time, but Valley-Wide will try to accommodate some same-day reservations. Patient visits to healthcare appointments will take precedence over all other ride types.

Ride pickups and drop-offs are available Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Reservations can be made by calling 1-833-350-1113 and the reservation line is open Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 5p.m. Because the Valley-Wide Ride is free, services are limited to “health and well-being” trips such as:

- Medical/Dental/Behavioral Health appointments
- Convenient Care/Hospital visits of non-emergent nature
- Prescription pick up
- Social Services (Anything related to Department of Human Services)
- Employment Services/Workforce Centers
- Court House/Legal Services
- Grocery Stores
- Libraries
- Gyms
- Laundromats

Valley-Wide is able to create this service due to a \$50,000 Community Facilities Grant for patient transportation assistance. With this grant money, they purchased four sedans and hired four full-time drivers.

For the safety of our riders and drivers, Valley-Wide has implemented strict disinfection protocols for the service. Each time the driver drops off a passenger, the interior of the car is completely wiped down with sanitizing wipes that are to kill off bacteria and viruses, including the COVID-19 Coronavirus. We require all drivers and passengers to wear a mask while inside the car.

Valley-Wide is thrilled to be able to bring this service to Alamosa and Monte Vista and looks forward to the future when Valley-Wide Ride can expand to other communities.



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Visit our website for an updated schedule of where the mobile unit will be. The Mobile Health Unit specializes in Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for substance use disorders.



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# Haunted Creede bring chills and historical delight

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

**CREEDE-** A new book has been published that contains some of the most treasured stories of the historical mining town and it comes with a spooky twist. Haunted Creede by Kandra Payne, is a well written account of notorious stories from Creede's past and adds a touch of fright to what some may consider the building blocks of the wild west town.

Payne is a fun and inventive writer who adds her own memories to the stories most known in the area including the death of Bob Ford, Freemon's Guest Ranch and many others. Having grown up in the area, Payne uses her personal accounts of ghostly stories told to her by friends and family throughout the area and combines it with historical retellings of times long ago.

According to her bio, "Payne is a native of Creede and holds a degree in drama from the Colorado College. She worked six seasons at the Creede repertory Theatre before becoming an equity stage manager. She has lived and worked in many of the great cities of this country, including Chicago, Seattle, New York, Washington D.C., and Los Angeles. Now a resident of Santa Fe, she still spends her summers in Creede, telling ghost stories to just about anyone who will listen."


Payne formed the Creede Ghost Tour two years ago and after hearing countless requests from those who participated in the tours, decided to write all of her stories down and the results are nothing less than entertaining for those interested in the spooky past of Creede.

Without giving much away about

the book, one particular story will strike the reader with curiosity and give a splendid thrill to one of the town's oldest buildings. The stories surrounding this particular property is one of the most enjoyable parts of the book and gives real life, current accounts of ghostly apparitions that still haunt the building today.

In the story "The Many Spirits of the Zang (Creede Hotel)," Payne offers readers a chance to hear ghost stories told by employees and guests who have stayed at the hotel. It is only one section of the book that shares historical back stories, creating the perfect setting for a tale about ghosts who still visit the hotel today.

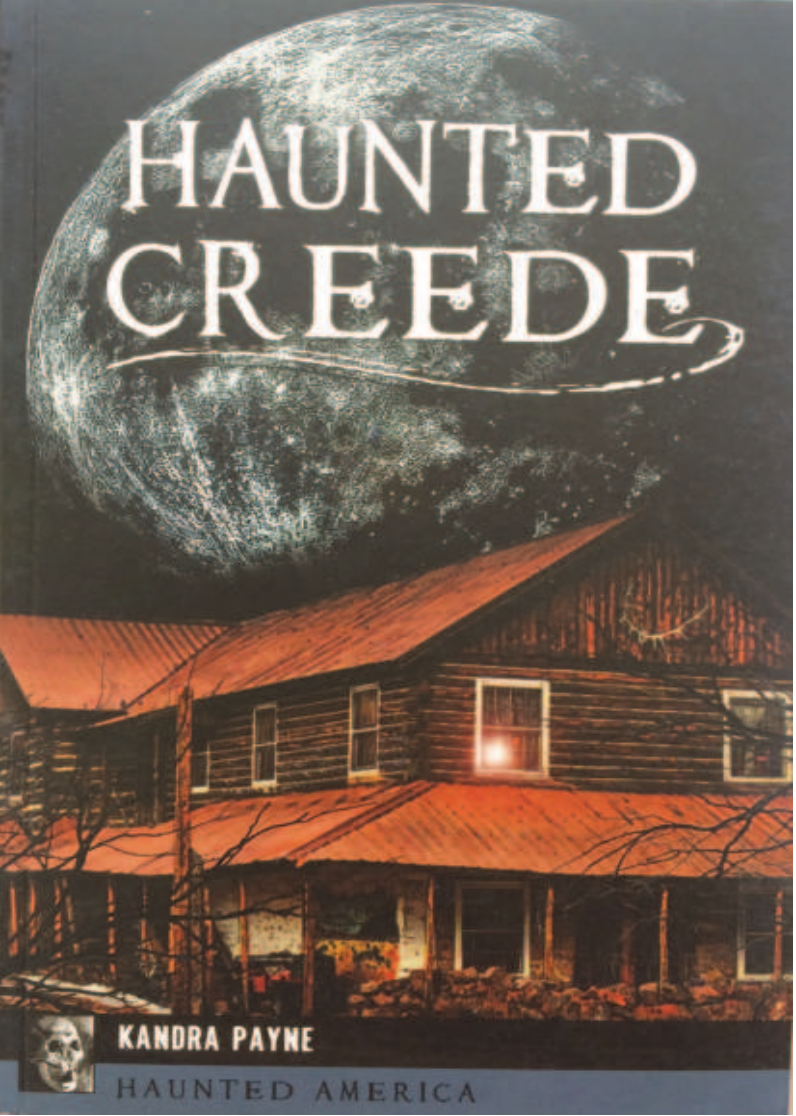
Payne is hosting three events in upcoming weeks beginning Sept. 14 at Basham Park at 3 p.m. Another event is a book launch party that will take place at one of the many locations Payne writes about in her book at Freemon's Ranch on Sept. 19 at 2 p.m. and then will also host an online event from the Santa Fe Public Library on Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. Be sure to take advantage of the book launch events!



**During the three month hunting season, hunters spend more than \$13 million on hunting related expenditures in the San Luis Valley.**

**Reserve your space this week for the Sept. 23 edition of this special section that will be inserted in our six (6) newspapers Sept. 23 and Oct. 7. In addition, copies of the Hunting Guide will be distributed at high traffic locations during the hunting seasons.**

**For more advertising information please call (719)852-3531 or email MonteVistaAds@gmail.com**



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### SUDOKU

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

**Fun By The Numbers**

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



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Sept. 14 - Oct. 10, 2020

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## Wood Stoves



	Reg. Price	SALE	SAVINGS!
Princess Ultra	\$3116	\$2648 <sup>60</sup>	\$467 <sup>40</sup>
King Ultra	\$3629	\$3084 <sup>65</sup>	\$544 <sup>35</sup>
Ashford 30	\$2990	\$2541 <sup>50</sup>	\$448 <sup>50</sup>
King Parlor	\$3360	\$2856	\$504
Princess Parlor	\$2930	\$2490 <sup>50</sup>	\$439 <sup>50</sup>
Sirocco 30	\$2828	\$2403 <sup>80</sup>	\$424 <sup>20</sup>



Castile

	Reg. Price	SALE	SAVINGS!
Castile	\$3230	\$2908 <sup>80</sup>	\$321 <sup>20</sup>
Classic Bay	\$2720	\$2448	\$272
Santa Fe 24	\$2488	\$2239 <sup>20</sup>	\$248 <sup>80</sup>



Hudson Bay

## Direct Vent Gas

	Reg. Price	SALE	SAVINGS!
Hudson Bay	\$2776	\$2498 <sup>40</sup>	\$277 <sup>60</sup>
Bayfield	\$2915	\$2623 <sup>50</sup>	\$291 <sup>50</sup>
Havelock	\$3395	\$3055 <sup>50</sup>	\$339 <sup>50</sup>



# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

## MAJESTIC VIEWS ALL AROUND!

This truly unique and stunning home up against National Forest is an entertainer's dream come true. The design of the 6 levels creates a flow for the most accommodating Holiday Parties. This is a home both adults and children will love with an observation tower and an elevator. The landscaping is low maintenance and the interior has custom woodwork and logs that would make the greatest of carpenters swoon. The views from on top of Beaver Mountain are exquisite, you could spend countless hours just staring out the windows in the peace and privacy that surrounds this magnificent home.

Beaver Mountain has County maintained paved Roads and is just 5 minutes from the middle of town. The Development is secluded with cameras at the entrance for security. Totally furnished and available for short term rentals. All you need is your tooth brush! MLS#772727 \$950,000

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

5 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 3,216 sq. ft. • \$630,000  
Remodeled in 2016, the home has large, double-pane windows to enjoy the views, quartz counter tops, new stainless steel appliances, a private master suite with amazing features and so many more unique details. Heated 3-car attached garage plus addtl. detached garage/tack room. Established hay-meadow with surface water rights and 1.5 shares of Rio Grande Piedra ditch.  
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**SOLD**

**New Listing! Golf Course Living at its finest!**  
3 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 2,097 sq. ft. • \$379,000  
Stunning views in all directions with huge windows, luxurious master suite, rock propane fireplace, high-end Jenn Air appliances, custom cabinetry, large stone patio for entertaining, 2-car garage and so much more! Rio Grande Club Membership and Home Furnishings negotiable. MLS #767109  
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**SOLD**

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

**New Listing! Charming Family Home, Priced to Sell!**  
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Comfortable family home with large balcony to enjoy your mountain views! Nice kitchen, stone fireplace, wood-burning stove and beautiful bathrooms! MLS #758665  
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**SOLD**

**Price Just Reduced!!**  
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# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Sept. 15 - Oct. 15  
2020

## Our history and heritage

The world's largest volcanic eruption occurred over 28 million years ago in the San Luis Valley. The eruption's depression is known as the La Garita Caldera and spans 22 miles wide by 62 miles long. Much of the caldera is located within Mineral County as it spans west of La Garita, Colorado to near the town of Creede.

Rich in beauty and adventure, the San Luis Valley has unique and abundant history, as well. Humans have inhabited and visited the area for more than 12,000 years. Archaeological evidence shows Paleoindians arrived near the end of the last ice age. The Nomads were hunters and gatherers who hunted large mammals such as bison and woolly mammoths. Artifacts found in the Valley were generally associated with hunting and included spear points, butchering tools and small encampments.

The Province of New Mexico, established in 1598 later dispatched explorers from its capital city of

Santa Fe. Expeditions were sent out from Nueva Hispania. In 1779, Don Juan Bautista de Anza traveled through the San Luis Valley and over Poncha Pass in an attempt to crush the Comanches, who threatened the New Mexican settlements. Other explorers entering the area included Don Juan de Oñate, Juan Maria Rivera, Juan Bautista Silva, Zebulon Montgomery Pike, Jacob Fowler, George Frederick Ruxton, John C. Fremont and John Williams Gunnison. The area was later administered as part of the province of Nuevo Mexico until the area was ceded to the United States in 1848 by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo after the Mexican-American war.

### Farming

Drawn by the San Luis Valley's abundant agricultural promise, settlers finally established communities in the 1850s. Farmers developed irrigation systems, as well as traditional communities. The People's Ditch at San Luis is Colorado's earliest adjudicated

water right.

Mexican land grants, aimed at filling the area with settlers, remained virtually empty until the area became U.S. territory in 1848. The Sangre de Cristo Land Grant was established in 1851 and settlers moved in.

The first permanent settlement in Colorado, San Luis de la Culebra, now known as San Luis, was established in 1851 along the Rio Culebra on the Sangre de Cristo Grant. Garcia would've been the first town but was never incorporated.

San Luis was established in 1849 and named when its post office opened.

Fort Massachusetts, was built north of San Luis in 1852 to protect the early settlements but was unsuitable leading to the creation of Fort Garland.

Across the vast valley, Hispanic families who left the Santa Fe area founded La Loma de San Jose, near the present town of Del Norte.



Photo by Trey Spaulding

Located south of Monte Vista off highway 15 and to the west 6 miles on County Road 2S is the Rock Creek Cemetery which was established in 1874.

In 1859 irrigation ditches were built and farming followed. More farms were started in the 1880s near Hooper when large-scale irrigation systems were built near Monte Vista. Center, believed to be the middle of the Valley, was established in the 1890s, and has continually been a farming community to this day.



## Los Caminos Antiguos

The best way to view the Valley is to take one of the scenic and historic byways. These roads are recognized due to their archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities.



experience the ever-changing landscape. The sand resting at the base of the Sangre de Cristo mountains is a beautiful, but perplexing site.

Travel south to visit Fort Garland; then 15 miles south on Highway 159 lies San Luis, the oldest town in Colorado. Continue the tour into Conejos County and board the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad in Antonito for a narrow-gauge railroad experience. The tour is complete with beautiful views at the top of La Manga Pass.

22 exhibits explain the natural and historical significance of the many points of interest along the route.

Driving time: 129 miles; 3-4 hours; Info: [www.sangreheritage.org/los-caminos/](http://www.sangreheritage.org/los-caminos/)



## Stations of the Cross Shrine

Strikingly life-like bronze sculptures created by renowned artist Huberto Maestas guide visitors along a recreation of the path trod by Christ during the last journey of His life, the Stations of the Cross near San Luis. The site is an especially popular tourist attraction just before Easter.

The shrine was constructed in 1986 and dedicated in 1990. The sculptures were created as an act of love and devotion by the faithful of Sangre de Cristo Catholic Parish at San Luis, reflecting their spiritual traditions.

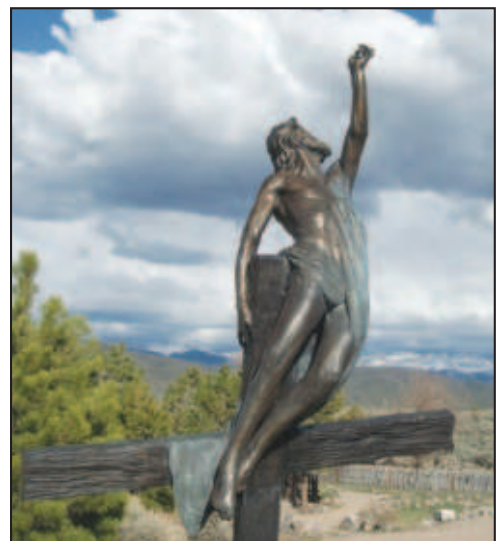
The shrine embodies the vital role of religion in southern communities. Locals come to the shrine throughout the year for prayer, reflection and celebration.

Visitors can find the stations along a one-mile walking trail that begins just off Highway 159, 19 miles south of Fort Garland and just west of San Luis. The stations are situated on a bluff above San Luis.

Fifteen art pieces can be found along the trail depicting the 12 stations of His journey, Calvary and Crucifixion.

At the top is the shrine known as La Mesa de la Piedad y de la Misericordia (The Mesa of Piety and Mercy); the grotto features pink sandstone statues of the Virgin Mary and Saint Juan Diego. The mesa top pathway is also lined with many statues of the saints.

As visitors walk up the trail, they are afforded spectacular views of several of Colorado's



mountain peaks that tower over 14,000 feet above sea level, while San Luis and the San Luis Valley are spread at their feet.

Complete the journey with a visit to the Memorial de los Martires Mexicanos, at the top of journey.

The shrine draws an average of 40,000 visitors annually.

Access to the shrine can be found at the northern portion of San Luis. There is no charge to visit the shrine.

Info: 719-992-0122, [www.sdcp parish.org](http://www.sdcp parish.org)



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