

Shorts



Goodbye friends, it's time to go

By TERESA L. BENNS

Well all good things must come to an end, right? Sometimes life sends you curve balls and you just have to step out of the way. I had planned on doing this slowly and with a prolonged goodbye, to all those who have been so helpful and supportive over the years, but circumstances dictated otherwise.

It has been a hectic, thought-provoking, perplexing, rewarding and at times exciting nearly 20 years. I so very much appreciate the fact that I had the opportunity to end my career here, trying to keep people updated on what is going on in their communities, informing them of their choices and urging them to make the best ones.

Journalism is not what it was when I began doing this decades ago. It has become something I never thought I would see, and many now in the field are not interested in telling the truth as it actually exists, but in making it fit in with whatever prevailing political and social winds tend to blow. That will be the death of a free press eventually, and some believe true freedom of expression died long ago.

I will miss the Valley, and most of all, the beauty and opportunity to reflect I found here. I had intended to end my days in the shadow of these mountains, but like I said in the beginning, life isn't always what you plan or expect. My pen will not be still after leaving, it will simply be directed to other topics in other areas.

To all those at Valley Publishing and the Courier, my heartfelt thanks for allowing me to pursue the stories I covered and express my opinions freely. Special thanks for putting on the brakes when I needed them and for supporting me when others attacked what I wrote. That type of support is too often uncommon in this business, and I commend you for it. Thanks to all my fellow reporters for their assistance when I needed it and for pointing things

Please see **TERESA** on Page 3A

Advisory issued following increase in domestic violence reports

CENTER — After witnessing a rise in domestic violence cases in Center last month, Center Police Chief Dale Meek has issued an advisory to help those affected by this crime to recognize signs of abuse and respond accordingly.

“All seven arrests made in Center at the end of August were domestic violence related which is concerning as the leader for public safety,” Meek explained.

“I want to take a moment to define domestic violence, present some indicators of violence in the household and provide some resources for those who need help but may not, for various reasons, notify law enforcement.”

Colorado State Statute defines

domestic violence under CRS 18-6-800.3 as an act or threatened act of violence upon a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship. “Domestic violence” also includes any other crime against a person, or against property, including an animal, or any municipal ordinance violation against a person, or against property, including an animal, when used as a method of coercion, control, punishment, intimidation, or revenge directed against a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship.

To be labeled as a domestic violence incident, an intimate relationship must

Please see **ABUSE** on Page 6A



Rio Grande County discusses Public Health District with Saguache County

By LYNSIE FERRELL

RIO GRANDE COUNTY- Rio Grande County Commissioners briefly talked about a possible Public Health District with Saguache County during their meeting held Wednesday, Sept. 2. During the discussion, new Interim Administrator Susan Benton mentioned the possible district with commissioners while updating the board on applicants who have applied for the Rio Grande County Public Health Director position.

Benton had received a total of 17 applications but only three have completed the county-wide application needed in order to be considered for the job. Benton stated that the remaining 14 applicants needed to finish the Rio Grande County application before they would be considered for the Public

Health Director position.

Commissioner Susan Bothell asked Benton to create an email to send to the remaining applicants notifying them of the additional application that needed to be completed. Benton also brought up the fact that commissioners needed to set a pay threshold and a deadline date for the applications.

The board ended up making the deadline for two weeks out, giving applicants enough time to complete the steps needed to apply.

While discussing the details for the hiring process, Benton referred to conversations the Rio Grande County Commissioners have been having with Saguache County Commissioners about

forming a Public Health District similar to the one that was created in Creede several years ago. Benton pointed out that if the county was seriously considering this move that they would also need to confer with Saguache County officials when hiring a new Public Health Director.

It has become common in rural communities in that past several years to form Public Health Districts due to low populations and better benefits that are available to communities with higher populations. Creede is the only Public Health District in the Valley and was formed in 2016. It has proven to be highly beneficial for both Mineral and Hinsdale counties.

Though commissioners are only in the beginning stages of negotiations, Commissioner Chairman John Noffske did confirm that the two counties are considering the move.



SLV counties among the most impoverished in the state

Saguache County ranks eleventh

By TREY SPAULDING

SAN LUIS VALLEY - According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau's five-year population estimates from the 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) four San Luis Valley counties are among the most impoverished in Colorado.

In Colorado 10.9 percent of the state's residents are considered impoverished. In 2019, the poverty threshold for one person under the age of 65 was an annual income of \$13,300; the poverty threshold for a family of five with three kids was an annual income of \$30,510.

Costilla County ranks No. 1 in the state with 1,111 residents (30.1 percent) below the poverty level. Alamosa County ranks fourth in the state with 3,635 residents or 23.7 percent living below the poverty level. Conejos County ranks sixth in the state with 22.4 percent

Please see **COUNTIES** on Page 6A

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 miles of fiber “passings,” 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.”

Please see **CIELLO** on Page 6A

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OBITUARY

Memorial Service for Agnes C. Davis, 100

Memorial Services for Agnes C. Davis of Creede at Bristol Head Acres are planned for Friday, Sept. 18, at 2 p.m. in Las Animas and a service in Creede Sunday, Sept. 20, at noon at the Park east of the Creede Cemetery. Seating is limited and masks required. For more details and information call 719-456-0485.

Agnes Blossom (Cline) Davis was born March 23, 1920, in Gage, OK to W.J. (Winfield Jacob) Cline and Grace (Warner) Cline. She passed away May 23, 2020, at her home in Las Animas, Colorado, from complications of strep and a stroke. Due to COVID-19, Celebration of Life and Memorial Services will be held at a future date in Las Animas and in Creede, CO where she had a second home.

The early years were spent surrounded by family in a small country house with a dugout cellar to protect from tornadoes, store garden products and raise baby chicks. Agnes, the youngest of the four children, loved school, participating in band, choir, school plays and even met Eleanor Roosevelt on a field trip. They rode horses to school until their father designed a bus for all the neighbor kids. She graduated from Gage High School as Class President and Valedictorian in 1937. She married her high school sweetheart, Cecil Everett Davis, on July 11, 1937, and was married for 70 years until his passing Memorial Day 2008. Cecil and Agnes made their first home on a dry land farm for two years near Shattuck stabilizing wheat fields in the Dust Bowl. Cecil and Agnes and his parents then bought cotton farms near Checotah, OK, where daughter Judy was born in Muskogee in 1942. In 1946, the family moved to Las Animas, CO following some neighbors and rented, then purchased an irrigated heritage farm south of town, from Florida (Bent) Hart Moore. Son, James, was born in La Junta in 1947. Cecil and Agnes had a passion for dancing, their favorite being the "Tennessee Waltz." They were determined that their two children and grandchildren would get college educations.

Agnes was employed at J.C. Penny's as an exceptional seamstress, clerk and window designer and later as an office manager and bookkeeper

for Shaw Lumber Company, in addition to helping run the family farm with duties of gardening, driving tractors, washing, ironing, cooking, milking cows, separating cream, raising chickens and livestock.

In the 1960s the family moved into a new house they built on their property (using brick pavers from the La Junta Harvey House). After the LA Town Ditch water was sold, they farmed for two years in the Cornelia Community North of Arkansas River. That farm was sold in 1993. In 1986 Agnes and Cecil purchased a cabin near Creede, CO, which they enjoyed as their second home during the Colorado Summers and Fall.

Agnes was a devout Christian, efficient, strong, beautiful, sweet, loving and one of a kind...from the Greatest Generation era. She took great pride in her family and loved time with her grandchildren, singing, "I love you, bushel and a peck" and "This little light of mine", among other favorites and tried to teach them to say the ABC's backward. Entertaining family and friends at dinner parties, fishing, boating, water skiing, and camping trips were favorite pastimes. Music, dancing, sewing (a 4-H sewing leader), quilting, knitting, crafting, writing prose n poetry, playing games - ping pong, card games - 'Hand & Foot' and Scrabble were favorite activities. She played the piano and accordion, sang in church choirs and a local quartet, loved Columbines and flowers, Hummingbirds, bird and wildlife watching, and being a homemaker. Once she earned Homemaker of the Year at the local Harvest Festival. She was active in community: PEO organization, member of United Methodist Church (UMW), teaching adult Sunday School, BSF, the Creede Community Church, Square Dancing, Inter Se Se and Red Hats. In Creede she enjoyed Bingo nights, jeep trips and the hiking club. Agnes volunteered at the Theatre, Ladies Aid, Art Guild, Church events, BHA Cabin music fests & potlucks and Mountain breakfasts. Agnes enjoyed traveling with Cecil, family and friends. Her adventures included touring and RVing across the U.S and international travel to Mexico, South Pacific, Asia (Japan, Philippines and China), Europe,

Scandinavia and Russia, the Mid East (Egypt, Jerusalem, Israel, Greece and Turkey), Australia and New Zealand, and Central and South America (Panama, Costa Rica, Ecuador and the Caribbean).

She had a love of life that was contagious, a witty sense of humor and a strong faith in God, whom she credited for her longevity, along with healthy eating, saying her body was God's Temple. She could still wear her high school graduation dress, turn cartwheels and do a headstand at age 80. During Cecil's declining years she was a devoted, dedicated, loving caregiver until 2008. Judy became caregiver to Agnes as dementia increased and she broke her hip in Jan. 2017. Elders have many advantages if able to stay with family. Pam Houston, an author and neighbor of Agnes' wrote in her book, "Deep Creek," "...if we lock grandmother in a room for the last 10 years of her life, so we can ...accomplish the survival of her loss in advance, in what way does it make our life easier? In what ways does it impoverish us?" Agnes' legacy will hopefully live on through

her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was loved and an inspiration to her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Cecil Everett Davis, and siblings Roe Byron Cline, John Winfield Cline and Freeda Irene (Cline) Taylor; a nephew, R.B. Cline, and niece, Cynthia (Cline)(Robert) Johnson; sister and brother-in-law, Louise and John D'Arcangelis.

Agnes is survived by her daughter & caretaker Judy (Joe) Thomeczek of Las Animas, and son Jim (James) Davis (Pine, AZ). Five grandchildren: Jennifer Hoelscher (John) Rutherford (Colorado Springs), Jeanette Alberg (Littleton), Brian Alberg (Denver); Tracey Davis (AZ) and Jeff (Megan) Davis (Phoenix, AZ). Four great-grandchildren: Cody Hoelscher and Kayla Hoelscher (Corbin) Palmer; Vivienne and Cheyenne Davis. Nieces and nephews: Roberta (Cline) Gill, Louise (Cline) Simpson, Raymond Cline, Kenny (Jan) Cline, Marlene (Cline)(Glenn) Calame, Jerry Cline, Bob Cline, Jeannie (Cline)(Kieth) Merrill, Jack



Cline, Helen (Taylor) Hibbs, Mary (Taylor) Short, Barbara (Taylor) (Tom) Gobel; Don D'Arcangelis, Roger (Ann) D'Arcangelis, and Melissa (D'A) Allen. In lieu of flowers, online condolences, cards and memorials may be directed to the family via <http://www.HorberFuneralChapel.com> (404 Locust Ave, Las Animas, CO 81054); or memorials to www.CreedeCommunityChurch.org (PO Box 126, Creede, CO 81130); OR CreedeLadiesAidSociety@gmail.com - (PO Box 126, Creede, CO 81130); OR Creede Repertory Theater www.CreedeRep.org

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Lucky pants and shirt

Most of you who know Ol' Dutch will agree that camo pants are the cornerstone of my wardrobe. And even Miss Trixie, after finding one of her deals of the century shopping extravaganza, will even don a camouflage jacket on occasion.

And as with about anything, a person does get an affinity for one certain item of clothing whether it be a shirt, pants, jacket or hat and we tend to wear that a lot more than others we may have. This only becomes a problem when you wear them to the point of threadbare and Ol' Dutch often does just that.

Way back when I first met Miss Trixie, or as I call it, "her lucky day," I had this pair of pants that I wore for hunting mostly. They had seen their better days and patches and massive stitching was about all that was holding them together, but they were lucky, and I didn't want to part with them.

Lots of game had fallen to my arrows and guns wearing those pants. And, even though my backside was showing at times through threadbare materials plus I chain sawed off one of the legs, I didn't want to have to break in a new pair and possibly go blank for the hunting season.

And along with those pants there is a long sleeve camo shirt that is just barely held together with threads. It is so thin that I think duct tape is probably next in order to keep me decent. Writing this now, it suddenly dawned on me that I had not worn my lucky shirt this year and yes, you guessed it, have drawn a blank so far hunting elk.

Miss Trixie, upon hearing this and being tired of my middle of the night bringing has dug out that lucky shirt in hopes it will really work its magic in the woods. Even Bubs, my son, believes in the shirt and wants a small piece to attach to his backpack to bring the gods of the hunt to attention.

I think a lot of people have their favorite item to wear and this often is a jersey from their favorite team or a hat advertising John Deere or Dakota seed. The latter two are worn mainly as they were free at some point so probably do not count in the gist of this theory. And Ol' Dutch is guilty as sin on that account as my State Farm agent provides me with great camo hats for hunting season and I wear them proudly, or at least cheaply.

Of late Ol' Dutch has found some boxes of long saved clothing and am



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

going to sort through those when I have time. You know the type. Size way too small blue jeans that you just know you will get into someday short of your grave, a shirt with Eat At Mom's Diner which had some significance the day you bought it and old track shoes from your running days in the 9th grade. Yes, that's right. Priceless items.

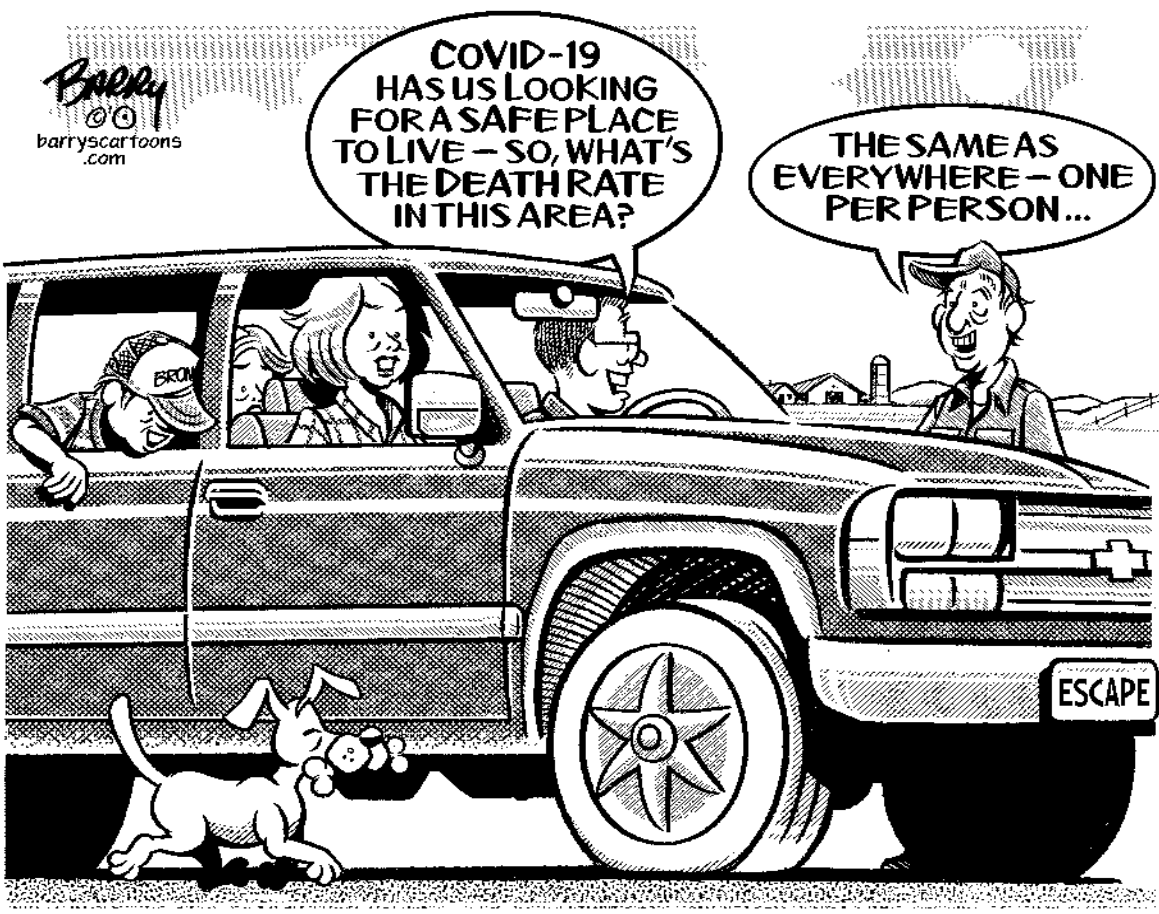
And while some things bring back wonderful memories of days gone by, some are probably best left in the boxes and thrown out in masse. Like the suit you got married in or the shoes you wore on your first date with a husband long passed down the line to someone less lucky. They were not so lucky for you after all I guess and need to find their way to the trash.

Someone suggested that Ol' Dutch pass these on to the local Goodwill store but I believe it would be akin to the French traders who gave diseased blankets to the Indians. Why curse someone's future.

So tomorrow with the aid of my lucky shirt I will go afield and try to fill our freezer with tasty venison. And for those of you who may want a piece of that good luck charm for your own endeavors, please send \$9.99 and Miss Trixie will see that you get a piece of the luck.

Good luck to you this season if you are hunting and be sure and visit your insurance agent and request a free hat. If not, find a farmer, they have plenty to spare.

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

Planet Neptune

By DARLENE DANKO

Since the last quarter moon is Sept. 10, and the New Moon Sept. 17, this is a great time for night sky viewing. It rises later and is becoming smaller. Jupiter and Saturn are still highly visible in the south just to the left of the Milky Way. Neptune is becoming visible in the east, and Venus is highly visible halfway up in the east in the morning. Uranus is not visible until after midnight.

The constellation Capricornus is visible along the ecliptic in the SE just to the left of Saturn. August and September are its best viewing months. It's a 12 star constellation called the Sea Goat. It's also the second faintest zodiacal constellation in our sky and may also be the oldest. It's a broad triangular shape lying on its side.

In Greek mythology is represents the goat like god Pan who jumped into a river and became part fish to escape from the monster Typhon. It lies at a great distance from the Milky Way in a basically empty region of our sky, so there are only a few deep sky objects in it. It has a

few multiple stars and the globular cluster M-30 which is just to the left of the constellation.

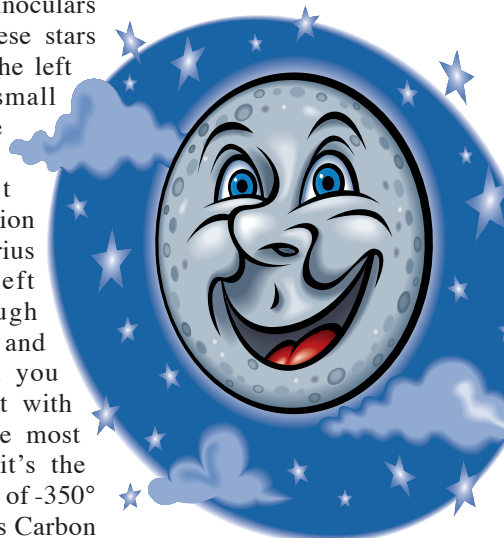
It also contains a yellow super giant which is a double star, and an orange super giant which is a triple star. You will need binoculars or a telescope to see these stars and M-30. Just look to the left of Saturn to see this small constellation. It's the size of a spread out hand.

On Sept. 11 planet Neptune reaches opposition in the constellation Aquarius which is just to the left of Capricornus. Although Neptune is the farthest and faintest of our planets, you should be able to see it with binoculars. Since it's the most distant of our planets, it's the coldest with a temperature of -350° F. That turns its chemicals Carbon Monoxide and Methane into ice crystals.

Its upper atmosphere is 1.5 percent methane which absorbs red light from the Sun and then reflects blue light. That makes Neptune the other blue planet in our solar system after Earth. Amazingly it's the windiest planet on our solar

system. It has 6 spindly rings and 14 moons.

Opposition means that it's closest to the Sun, and at its brightest making it shine at magnitude 7.8. So, it's bright enough to see with



binoculars in a clear dark sky. If you have a telescope you may be able to see some of its moons. Right now, it's easily visible at 10 p.m. and maybe even at 9:30, but by the end of this month you should be able to see it at 9 p.m. It will rise higher by then.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters are welcome and encouraged. They should be fewer than 300 words, unless arranged beforehand with the editor, and they are subject to editing for length and clarity.

All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be designated as such. Letters over 300 words and

without contact information will be returned to the sender or discarded.

We will accept one letter per person, per subject, per four issues. We reserve the right to reject letters for reasons we believe are appropriate. Please send letters to Letter to the Editor c/o Valley Publishing, PO Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail to montevistanews@gmail.com (Attention: Letter to the Editor). Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. Friday.

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.

TERESA

Continued from Page 1A

out, I would have missed otherwise.

To my readers and critics alike, I also express my gratitude. So many of you provided information that I never could have uncovered myself and even helped avoid potentially dangerous outcomes. Thank you for the letters, phone calls and emails that kept me going when the going was tough.

And to my critics, you helped me more than you know. Those in the media need to sit back and look at the other side carefully and thoughtfully, to make sure everything is being taken into consideration and everyone receives a fair hearing. I have tried to use what you say to ensure that this was the case.

Goodbyes are always hard, but at

least I have been given the opportunity to thank everyone and tell them how much they all will be missed. I wish for each and every one of you the best and brightest future possible. Keep going forward with all your projects to better your communities and never falter in fighting the good fight.

It has been an honor and a pleasure — may God be with you all.

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Use OHVs properly; know the rules

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

The number of off-highway vehicles used during hunting seasons has been increasing steadily. While the vehicles can be useful tools to aid a hunt, some hunters are using them improperly and causing a variety of problems.

Hunters must be aware of Colorado OHV rules, local regulations and federal travel management regulations for national forests and BLM lands.

All OHVs must be registered in Colorado. Your home-state registration is not valid. To register your vehicle call Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 303-297-1192 or go to the website: cpw.state.co.us.

Hunters need to remember that rifles carried on OHVs must be completely unloaded -- no bullets in the chamber or magazine -- and placed in a hard or soft case. Bows must also be carried in a case.

On national forest and BLM lands, OHV travel is allowed only on roads and trails designated for such use. Roads and trails open to motorized use will be signed as "open," or be shown as open on forest service and

BLM travel maps. It is recommended that you consult with the local forest service or BLM office before your trip to make sure you understand travel regulations in your hunting area. Federal fines, up to \$500 per incident, may be levied for violations of travel management regulations.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers are authorized to write tickets for illegal OHV use. Besides the federal fines, violators who are using OHVs while hunting, fishing or trapping will be assessed penalty points against their license privileges: 10 points for most violations, 15 points for riding into wilderness areas. Hunters who accumulate 20 penalty points lose their ability to buy hunting or fishing licenses for at least one year.

Matt Thorpe, area wildlife manager in Durango, explained that hunters must minimize their use of OHVs if they expect to see any big game animals.

"There are some hunters who drive around on OHVs all day and then they complain that they're not seeing any animals," Thorpe said.

The constant drone of OHVs also causes problems for other hunters.

OHVs are noisy and cause animals to move deep into inaccessible territory. Just one vehicle can cause problems for numerous hunters.

"There is getting to be a real backlash against OHVs from people who actually get out there and hunt the way they're supposed to," Thorpe said.

Big-game hunters who wish to be successful must walk slowly and quietly well away from roads. It is unlikely during hunting season that a hunter will see a big-game animal from the road. And if an animal is spotted, a hunter doesn't have time to get off the vehicle, take a rifle or bow out of its case, load the weapon and move off the road to take a shot.

Besides disturbing animals and other hunters, improper use of OHVs can cause resource damage when they are driven off established roads and trails. That action can destroy vegetation, compact soil, and lead to stream and water-quality degradation.

Please, remember these rules and guidelines:

Rifles and bows carried on OHVs



must be completely unloaded and secured in a case.

Be sure to check with local U.S. Forest Service and BLM offices for the local travel management plans in areas where you will be hunting.

In most areas, an OHV cannot be used to retrieve harvested animals. Check with local BLM and forest service offices for specific game-retrieval policies.

OHVs cannot be driven into designated wilderness areas.

Be careful not to trespass onto private roads.

Be considerate of other hunters. Drive slowly to reduce noise; minimize driving distances; don't hunt from the road.

Explain these rules and guidelines to young hunters and those unfamiliar with proper OHV use.

Women veterans Zoom forum set for Sept. 23

ALAMOSA — The SLV Veterans Coalition will facilitate the fourth forum for Women only on Sept. 23. The ZOOM Forum will take place from 10 a.m. – noon. Women Veterans, female members of their families and the women community at large are invited.

Attendees will be discussing access to health, claims and benefit issues. The forum also will introduce Vet Court and the Diversion programs for veterans who are having legal issues. The team organizing the event has attempted to create a "safe space" for women to discuss their issues, needs and opportunities.

Those who do not already have ZOOM access can download the ZOOM format before the meeting by going to ZOOM.COM

The forum panel will consist of: Wendy Yeldell, Col Army, Focus on Women; Jacquelyn Hayes-Byrd, Maj. U.S. Air Force, adviser to the Secretary; Women Issues, Carole Donsbach and Women Veterans Program Manager, ECHCS Audra Johnson, Alamosa DA.

Email invitations will be going out to individuals and



provider lists for this ZOOM meeting. Anyone wishing to be added to a list or for any questions, please call Mary Cornum at 719-992-4108.

Go to the Veterans Coalition of the San Luis Valley Facebook page to find updated information and events.

Vali Theater reopens Sept. 18

By CHELSEA MCNERNEY-GARCIA

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 will be installed this week. The theater will be closed this weekend for cleaning and relabeling to meet COVID-19 guidelines and a new concessions order should arrive just in time for the reopening.

The Great Colorado Potato Drive-Thru

Sat., Sept. 12, Chapman Park in Monte Vista 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Buy one bag for minimum \$3.00 donation and get one bag free. The proceeds will go to the Friends of Ski-Hi building project.

* Limit 5 purchased bags per car

We're also going to give you a baked potato with each bag of potatoes purchased.

* Limit 4 baked potatoes per car.

Bear cub rescued at La Garita home

By TERESA L. BENNS
LA GARITA - A bear cub, neighbors had spotted several times in the past week, was rescued Thursday, Sept. 3, by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DOW) at the home of Larry and Teresa Benns in La Garita after taking shelter under the deck of their garage apartment. The bear had previously visited

the Benns' neighbors, Perry and Danae Alspaugh, eating fruit from an apricot tree in their backyard. The cub later was seen by other La Garita residents according to DOW officer Jeremy Gallegos.

"I've been chasing him for about a week," Gallegos said over the phone Thursday, Sept. 3. "He only weighs about 20-30 pounds and we need

to pick him up before something happens to him."

Gallegos tranquilized the cub and transported it to the nearby Frisco Creek wildliferecueshelter in Del Norte. He later determined the bear was a female and said that depending on how quickly the cub puts on weight, she could be released late this fall. The cub

currently weighs 29 pounds, he commented.

If she still needs to fatten up, the shelter will "false den her," creating a mock bear den for her to winter in. Then in the spring she will be released back into the wild. "By then she should have learned the majority of what she needs to know to survive," he explained.

The shelter is careful to deliver the animals their food, he said, without them ever realizing it comes from

a person, to make sure they do not become dependent on humans.

Gallegos said there have been 10 cubs rescued in the Valley this summer, which testifies to the tough conditions animals in the wild face this year.

If wildlife is spotted that needs help, Gallegos asks Valley residents to call the Monte Vista Parks and Wildlife Office at 719-587-6900 or Colorado State Patrol dispatch at 589-5807.



A bear cub stops to rest under a deck in La Garita after being on the run from wildlife officials for the past week. Photo by Josiah Benms

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King Parlor	\$3360	\$2856	\$504
Princess Parlor	\$2930	\$2490 ⁵⁰	\$439 ⁵⁰
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Havelock	\$3395	\$3055 ⁵⁰	\$339 ⁵⁰

Polkowske promoted to RGSL Alamosa Branch manager

MONTE VISTA – Joel Polkowske has been promoted to Branch Manager for Rio Grande Savings & Loan Association's Alamosa Branch. Polkowske has worked at Rio Grande Savings and Loan as a Loan Officer for mortgage consumer loans, primarily in the Monte Vista Office since 2013.

"Joel has been a great resource for the San Luis Valley community, helping them achieve the dream of home ownership and helping with other loan needs," said Rio Grande Savings & Loan

President Shon Davis. "We are excited to have him in the Alamosa Branch where he can help Alamosa residents and the surrounding communities." Polkowske is a San Luis Native. He graduated from Centauri High School in 2004 and from Adams State University in 2012. Polkowske and his wife Wendi are raising three children, Kasyn, Conlee and Keagan.

"I'm looking forward to the challenges this promotion presents and the opportunity to meet and help

more people in our community," commented Polkowske.

Though he will take on new duties with his promotion, Polkowske's primary role will still be helping people with home and consumer loans. Polkowske can be reached in the Rio Grande Savings & Loan Alamosa branch at 589-2536



CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

BY SAGUACHE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER TRISH GILBERT

Colorado To Provide 368 Ballot Drop Boxes Statewide for Voters

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

"I am happy to announce that over the last two years Colorado has added 121 new drop boxes across the state for the 2020 General Election," said Secretary Griswold.

"No American should have to choose between risking their health and exercising their right to vote. Drop boxes are a safe, secure, and convenient way for Colorado voters to make their voices heard while social distancing and are one of the reasons our elections are the nation's gold standard."

Under Secretary Griswold's leadership, the number of drop boxes has increased 49 percent in just the last two years, including the addition of 42 new boxes this summer as part of CARES Act

funding for election assistance.

Twenty-seven Colorado counties applied this summer for the additional drop boxes, which will be in place for the Nov. 3 election. Nearly \$160,000 has been requested and will be provided to those counties from CARES Act funding to provide the new boxes. As counties continue to finalize their election plans, as many as 20 additional boxes may be added across the state by Election Day.

"Saguache County is one of the largest counties in Colorado, with a scarce population in comparison," said Saguache County Clerk and Recorder Trish Gilbert, whose county will be adding three new boxes for a total of four.

"Many of our towns are located a great distance from our Voter Service and Polling Center, and many of our voters are without reliable transportation. Additional drop boxes will provide a safe and efficient method for voters to return their ballots without needing to travel to our VSPC and putting themselves, and others, at risk."

Approximately 75 percent of Colorado mail ballot voters return their

ballots to a drop box, which are safe and secure. Drop boxes are sturdy, metallic, weather-resistant, and are bolted to the ground.

Colorado law also requires that all drop boxes be kept under 24-hour video surveillance with adequate lighting.

When drop boxes are emptied, they are done so at least every 24 hours by a team of bipartisan election judges who must maintain a detailed chain of custody log when transporting ballots between drop boxes and the central counting facility.

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



COUNTIES

Continued from Page 1A

of the population being impoverished. Saguache County ranks 11th in the state with 17.7 percent below the poverty line and Rio Grande County ranks thirteenth in the state with 17.1 percent or 1,890 residents impoverished. Twelve percent of Mineral County falls below the poverty line.

This data makes the 2020 U.S. Census even more important to the welfare of the Valley. All San Luis Valley counties have lower Census self-response rates than the Colorado average of 68.4 percent

CIELLO

Continued from Page 1A

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

of households responding. Mineral County has the second lowest response rate in the state with only 23.7 percent of households responding. Costilla county is not far ahead with a 26.9 percent response rate. Alamosa County has the highest self-response rate in the Valley of 54.9 percent; followed by Rio Grande County at 49.8 percent, Conejos County with 42.8 percent and Saguache County with only 39.5 percent of households self-responding.

Census statistics inform how billions

of dollars in federal funds will be allocated by state, local and federal lawmakers annually for the next 10 years.

Data collection for the 2020 U.S. Census is scheduled to end Sept. 30. You can complete the Census online at <https://www.2020census.gov>, by phone 844-330-2020 or by mailing the questionnaire received through the mail to U.S. Census Bureau, National Processing Center, 100 Logistics Avenue, Jeffersonville, IN 47144.

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 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.

ABUSE

Continued from Page 1A

currently or have previously existed. "Intimate relationship" means a relationship between spouses, former spouses, past or present unmarried couples, or persons who are both the parents of the same child regardless of whether the persons have been married or have lived together at any time.

Two main issues will be noted in a domestic violence relationship. The first is a cycle of violence. The cycle of violence includes a tension building phase where words or actions promote an atmosphere characterized by tension building between those in the relationship. A crisis phase or violent act will occur which is the direct culmination of tension.

Following the crisis phase or violent act will be a honeymoon phase in which will resemble the normal functioning

family. Below is a chart providing a visual demonstration of what the cycle of violence looks like:

The next issue that is concerning is the need for control in a domestic violence relationship. Control allows for the perpetrator of violence to continue the ongoing violent encounters. Control is imperative to maintain the relationship and prevent the victim party from leaving or reaching out to others who may help.

There are many reasons why people will abuse their intimate partners. These are:

- Anger management issues
- Jealousy
- Low self-esteem
- Feeling inferior
- Cultural beliefs they have the right to control their partner
- Personality disorder or psychological

disorder

• Learned behavior from growing up in a family where domestic violence was accepted

• Alcohol and drugs, as an impaired individual may be less likely to control violent impulses

It is important to report domestic violence as the conditions can grow worse over time and lead to significant injury or death. Please contact law enforcement if you believe a domestic violence incident is occurring. Also, if you know someone who is experiencing violence in their life, but they will not report the violence refer them to some of the resources below.

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/domestic-violence>

<https://www.slvucasa.net/>

<https://www.thehotline.org/>

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Crestone-based religious group leaves island of Kauai

STAFF REPORT
CRESTONE — According to video reports and media coverage, the Crestone-based religious group Love Has Won has been deported from the Hawaiian island of Kauai after officials there told them they were not welcome in the area.

An undetermined number of members of the group are said to have recently taken up residence in a beach rental house in Kauai to serve a mandatory 14-day COVID-19 quarantine. “Mother God” Amy Carlson claims to be the island’s goddess Pele, goddess of fire, who legend says will return someday to the island. Kauai residents are not convinced, according to videos posted on the site covering the group’s

expulsion: <https://gurumag.com/love-has-won-cult-kicked-off-kauai-after-fleeing-crestone/>

Fox News also covered the group’s Kauai expulsion at <https://www.foxnews.com/travel/hawaii-officials- intercept-cult-airport-colorado>. The article explains that those protesting the group’s presence on the island objected to the group’s “Appropriation of Hawaiian culture,” in Carlson’s claim to be Pele.

Carlson can be heard erupting in offensive and abusive language during the videos. Her followers claim that those who deny she is Pele are guilty of slander, an accusation also levied at local media. The group contests the coverage by Guru Magazine, denying any connection to Cristal Reisinger’s

disappearance and insisting they are we are a Holistic Healing Charity that promotes healing through plant-based medicine, serving love, God and humanity.

The mayor of Kauai escorted members of the group to the airport after telling them no one on the island would welcome them. When Carlson and her boyfriend flew to Maui Sunday, the mayor there said he would pay for them to fly to San Francisco, and they accepted his offer. The Fox News report states the group left the island for safety reasons.

A two-part series on the group is scheduled to air Sept. 14-15 on the Dr. Phil Show.

Love Has Won has reportedly returned to Casita Park in Crestone.

CPW Commission approves hunting on Fishers Peak

TRINIDAD - A few lucky hunters will get a chance to fill their freezers with meat as the first public hunters on Fishers Peak State Park this fall and winter after the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission approved hunting access at its Sept. 3 meeting.

CPW proposed the special hunting opportunities, to be chosen by lottery for specific species and seasons, as part of a “sneak peak” at the park. CPW is creating a masterplan for Fishers Peak State Park which will include discussion about future hunting opportunities at the park.

CPW proposed the hunting program on Fishers Peak State Park, noting the agency used \$6.35 million from Habitat Stamp funds to help pay for the 19,200-acre property south of Trinidad. Habitat Stamp funds are generated by the sale

of hunting and fishing licenses and are designed to protect important fish and wildlife habitat.

For 2020, the Commission authorized CPW to issue an access permit for a properly licensed elk hunter during the first rifle season, Oct. 10-14. Another elk permit—this one an over-the-counter, antlered only tag – will be issued for the second rifle season, Oct. 24-Nov. 1. During third rifle season, Nov. 7-13, one properly licensed deer hunter will be chosen for access. During fourth rifle season, Nov. 18-22, a licensed elk hunter will be chosen to hunt the property. If any of the lucky winners for the elk and deer opportunities also hold a valid bear license for the unit, they will be able to hunt bears on Fishers Peak State Park.

Finally, a lottery will be held to choose a properly licensed mountain

lion hunter to pursue a cougar beginning Nov. 23 until March 31, 2021, or until the combined harvest limit is reached for Game Management Units 85, 140 and 851.

Hunters interested in the opportunities will have until Sept. 17 to enter their names in a drawing for the special activity permits. More information about this opportunity and a link to the application form can be found on CPW’s Fishers Peak webpage (<https://cpw.state.co.us/placetogo/Parks/FishersPeak>).

Vehicles involved in hunting use of the park are required to have a valid Colorado State Parks Pass, unless the vehicle displays a Disabled Veteran license plate. Hired guides or outfitters are prohibited on the property. Access is prohibited, except during the season dates specified for the 2020 big game season.

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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.

SAGUACHE COUNTY CARES ACT GRANTS

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

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

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

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

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Court Saguache County, Colorado Court Address: 501 4 th Street Saguache, CO 81149 Phone: (719) 655-2522		COURT USE ONLY
In the Matter of the Estate of: Clifford Adalbert Dabney, a/k/a Clifford A. Dabney, Deceased		
Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address): Eugene L. Farish, Esq. 739 1 st Avenue, P.O. Box 430 Meate Vista, CO 81144		Case Number: 2020PR30012 Division: Courtroom:
Phone Number: 719-852-5101 E-mail: egenefarishlaw.com FAX Number: 719-852-4833 Atty. Reg. #: 2557		
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Estate of Clifford Adalbert Dabney, a/k/a Clifford A. Dabney, Deceased Case Number 2020 PR 30012
 All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to
 District Court of Saguache, Colorado or
 on or before December 27, 2020, or the claims may be forever barred.
Christopher A. Dabney
 Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice
 658 Warden Street
 Address
 Center, Colorado 81125
 City, State, Zip Code

No. 1568 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, August 27 and September 3 and 10, 2020.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Court <input type="checkbox"/> Denver Probate Court Saguache County, Colorado Court Address: 501 4 th 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 Deceased		
Myka Marie Landry 133 County Road 17, Ste. E2E PO Box 2276 Elizabeth, Colorado 80107		Case Number: 2020 PR 030010 Division C Courtroom
Phone Number: 303-802-4672 Email: mykalandry@mykalandrylaw.com FAX Number: 303-848-2020 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
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No. 1571 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, September 10, 17 and 24, 2020.

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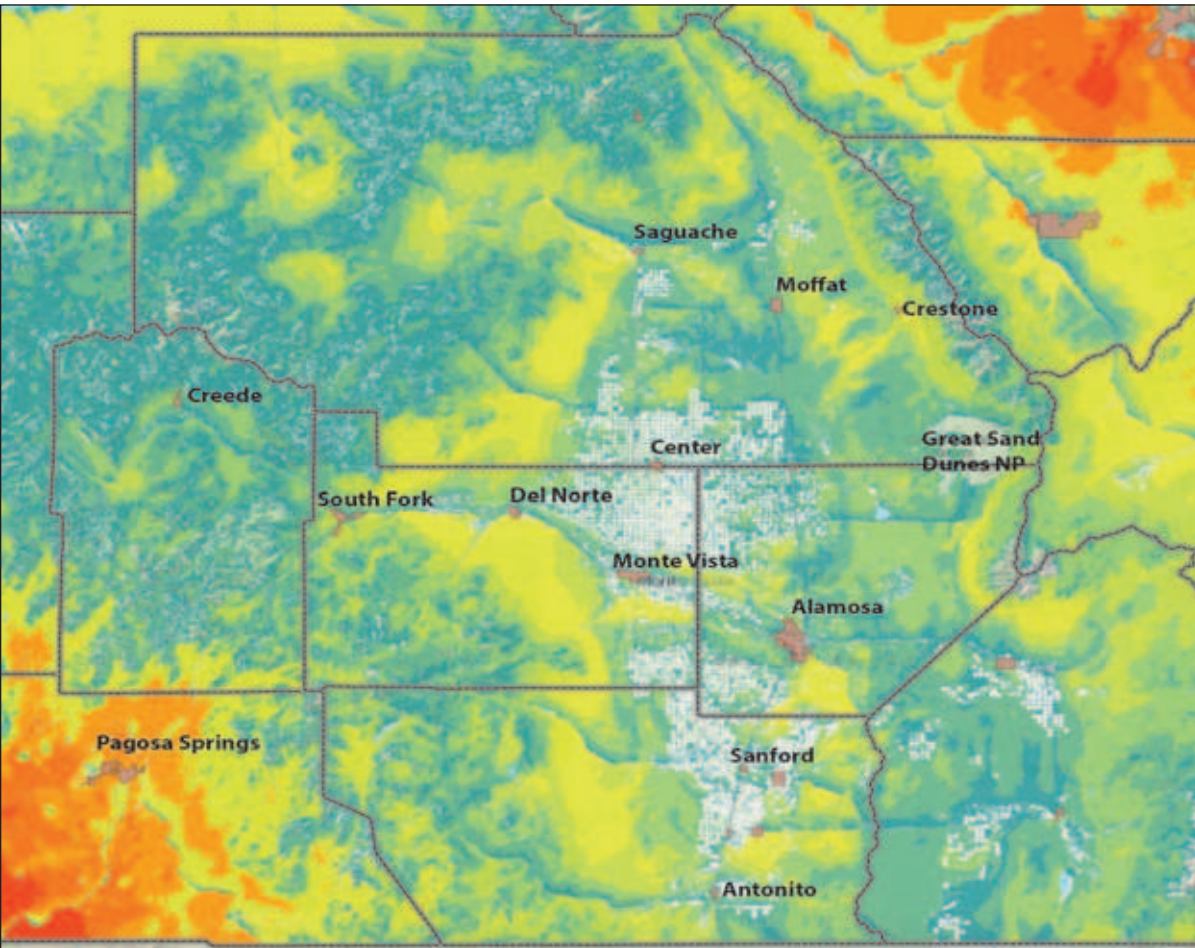
Supplement to The Monte Vista Journal, Center Post-Dispatch, The Conejos County Citizen, The Mineral County Miner, The South Fork Times, and The Del Norte Prospector.

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Colorado State Forest Service launches county-by-county wildfire risk index

COLORADO – The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) recently added to its arsenal of wildfire information and interactive tools available to the public with the launch of the wildland-urban interface risk index. With more than half of the state’s population

Please see RISK on Page 10



Fifty-nine percent (59%) of Mineral County, thirty-seven percent (37%) of Costilla County, twenty-six percent (26%) of Rio Grande County, twenty-three percent (23%) of Conejos County and twenty percent (20%) of Saguache County homes and businesses fall within a moderate to highest wildfire negative potential impact zone.



Potatoes celebrated Sept. 12

By REBECCA COPLEY

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

“We’re going to sell potatoes. Buy one bag for \$3.00 and get one free. The money will go to the Friends of Ski-Hi building project. Then we’re also going to give you a baked potato. It will be more of a drive-thru event,” said CPAC Executive Director James Ehrlich.

The event will be taking place Sept. 12 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

“We don’t want people to linger and socially interact in an unsafe manner. So we came up with this plan to still celebrate the harvest season and what the industry contributes to our communities,” said Ehrlich.

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

Avocado rustlers

Catching avocado rustlers is sort of a cross between the Covid virus, wildfires, exchange students bearing addictive goodies and coon hunting.

“All right, come down outta that tree and drop that avocado. Frisk him, Ken and don’t forget to check for lemons.”

In the southern California county of Ventura you will find the occasionally fractious co-mingling of densely populated residential areas and intensive orchard and truck farming. I’m sure there was a time when farmers gladly supplied their neighbors with enough lemons, strawberries and avocados to keep ‘em in guacomole and shortcake each growing season.

But as urban pressure increased, uninvited pickers began to take advantage. “I’m only takin’ two or three. They’ll never be missed.” Unfortunately it eventually became, “I’m only takin’ twelve hundred pounds. They can grow more.”

Farmers complained. They reported their losses but by the time it got to court the evidence had turned black and the district attorney’s office had bigger fish to fry. “Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, my client,



the defendant, is accused of stealing twelve avocados. He was having a party, wearin’ masks, of course. Safeway was ten miles away and it was two o’clock in the morning! C’mon get serious. We’re letting felonious shoplifters out on the street!”

The Farm Bureau organized and by working with the Sheriff’s department was finally able to convince the proper politicians that the once minor shoplifting of an avocado had grown

into a thriving black market and was causing significant losses.

First they passed laws with teeth. Stealing avocados can be a felony punishable by up to one year in prison or \$5,000.00.

They implemented a chain-of-evidence procedure that established a value on the stolen goods immediately so the avocados did not have to sit in the evidence room until the time of trial.

Farmers signed up with the National Property Registration Service, O. A. N. It enabled them to report a theft at 3:00 A.M. The sheriff’s office punched in their number which had been expanded to include explicit directions to any of the farmer’s groves. Reflective numbered markers, like street signs were posted at the exact locations. Sheriff’s deputies, including their canine corps and helicopter could then converge on the location in a matter of minutes.

With the thumping helicopter overhead lighting the area and snarling dogs in hot pursuit, the midnight thieves soon found themselves treed, tried and trundled off to San Quentin.

Results have been better than expected Theft is down substantially and the Farm Bureau and Sheriff’s office have established a mutually beneficial relationship.

It strikes me that Ventura’s example might be inspiration for other counties around the country where people think ‘pick yer own’ applies to them. Midnight sweet corn thieves, watermelon felons or protesting pilferers would think twice.

However, I don’t think theft has ever been a problem for growers of zucchini. I know we can’t give ours away. It’s like givin’ away kittens. I’ve never seen anyone try and steal one.

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

SLV falling behind in Census self-reporting

Mineral County second lowest response rate in Colorado

By TREY SPAULDING

SAN LUIS VALLEY – All San Luis Valley counties have lower Census self-response rates than the Colorado average of 68.4 percent of households responding.

Mineral County has the second lowest response rate in the state with only 23.7 percent of households responding. Costilla county is not far ahead with a 26.9 percent response rate. Alamosa County has the highest self-response rate of 54.9 percent; followed by Rio Grande County at 49.8 percent, Conejos County with 42.8 percent and Saguache County with only 39.5 percent of households self-reporting.

In part, the low response rates are due to many of the residents in South Fork and Mineral County

having P.O. Box mail delivery which makes it difficult for Census takers to know which households have not responded. Therefore, questionnaires are mailed to non-responders P.O. Boxes and not to the actual non-responding address.

The U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years. The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone who lives in the United States April 1, 2020. Census statistics are used to determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives. Census statistics inform how billions of dollars in federal funds will be allocated by state, local and federal lawmakers annually for the next 10 years.

Data collection for the 2020 U.S. Census is scheduled to end Sept. 30. You can complete the Census online at <https://www.2020census.gov>, by phone 844-330-2020 or by mailing the questionnaire received through the mail to U.S. Census Bureau, National Processing Center, 100 Logistics Avenue, Jeffersonville, IN 47144.



SLV unemployment rate decreases 5.1 percent

By TREY SPAULDING

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

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

The SLV county with the lowest unemployment rate in July 2020

was once again Conejos with 6.1 percent unemployment. Conejos County is followed by Mineral County with 5.1 percent unemployment (which is a drop from the June percent of 8.4 percent), Alamosa County at 6.1 percent, Rio Grande County dropped from 10.7 percent in June to 6.8 percent in July, Saguache County was at 7.5 percent in July dropping from 9.8 percent in June, and Costilla County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.1 percent.

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

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Colorado to provide 368 ballot drop boxes statewide

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

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

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

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

Approximately 75 percent of Colorado mail ballot voters return their



ballots to a drop box, which are safe and secure. Drop boxes are sturdy, metallic, weather-resistant, and are bolted to the ground. Colorado law also requires that all drop boxes be kept under 24-hour video surveillance with adequate lighting. When drop boxes are emptied, they are done so at least every 24 hours by a team of bipartisan election judges who must maintain a detailed chain of custody log when transporting ballots between drop boxes and the central counting facility.

With 368 drop boxes statewide, there is now one drop box for approximately every 9,400 Colorado active registered voters. In addition to drop boxes, Colorado will have approximately 330 voting centers open, with many openings 15 days before Election Day per Colorado

state law. Each voting center will have COVID-19 related procedures in place to ensure in-person voting is as safe as possible.

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

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05 Notices

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

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 TrueLocal-Bank.com/careers or inquire at 719-657-3376 and ask for Mike. EOE. (09/23)

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

Experienced Prep Cook-Monte Vista: PT – Currently 8:00 to 1:00; Mon-Fri; food prep for

daily menus; works with Head Cook. Applications and job description can be picked up at 1116 3rd Street, Alamosa, CO (South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc., Area Agency on Aging) or call 719-589-4511 for more information.(9/23)

7th/8th Grade Language Arts Teacher needed at *Del Norte Jr/Sr High School*. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a secondary Language Arts endorsement. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Aaron Horrocks, DNHS Principal at ahorrocks@urtigers.co or contact Aaron at 719-657-4020. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.dncsd.org (9-9)

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

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

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Valley Wide Classifieds

tor and Public Health Director. The job descriptions and applications can be found on the website at www.triograndecounty.org. Salaries are negotiable per experience and the jobs are open until filled. Must be able to pass a background check and drug test. (9/9)

10 Apartments for Rent
Two bedroom, fully furnished apartment in Monte Vista No Pets No Smoking only serious inquiries 719 588 2840 (9/30)

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

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24 Garage Sales
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44 Farm Services
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USDA announces Commodity Credit Corporation lending rates for Sept. 2020

SAN LUIS VALLEY – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation announced interest rates for September 2020, which are effective Sept. 1-Sept. 30, 2020.

The Commodity Credit Corporation borrowing rate-based charge for September is 0.125%, the same as August. The interest rate for crop year commodity loans less than one year disbursed during September is 1.125%, the same as August.

Interest rates for Farm Storage Facility Loans approved for September are as follows:

- 0.125% with three-year loan terms, down from 0.250% in August;
- 0.250% with five-year loan terms, the same as August;
- 0.500% with seven-year loan terms, the same as August;
- 0.625% with 10-year loan terms, the same as August; and
- 0.750% with 12-year loan terms, the same as August.

The interest rate for 15-year Sugar Storage Facility Loans for January is 0.875%, the same as August. The loan programs administered by the Farm Service Agency help stabilize the incomes of America's farmers and ranchers and ensure their continued operations.

Visit <https://www.farmers.gov> for more information on loan eligibility, the application process or to find your local service center.

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THE CONEJOS COUNTY CITIZEN

Volume 131, Number 34

Shooting claims life of Costilla man

Burned bear recovering well

COVID cases in Conejos County

Controlled burn results in arson charges

Monte Vista JOURNAL

Volume 131, Number 34

Bible Fellowship seeks special use

Potato farmers optimistic for harvest

Burned bear recovering well

Swamp of the Cranes get ready to fly the coop

THE SOUTH FORK TIMES

Volume 92, Number 34

Polis issues statewide open fire ban

Burned bear recovering well

County finalizes Summitville land exchange

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

Volume 119, Number 34

DA files charges against Moffat mayor

Potato farmers optimistic for harvest

Polis issues statewide open fire ban

The Del Norte Prospector

Volume 146, Number 34

Polis issues statewide open fire ban

Burned bear recovering well

County finalizes Summitville land exchange

Mineral County Miner

Volume 123, Number 34

Polis issues statewide open fire ban

Creede on the map again

50th Golden Anniversary Quiller Gallery Celebration

FARMERS.GOV

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

Information on direct relief to producers who have suffered losses due to COVID-19. New commodities were announced on July 9 and August 11.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program deadline Sept. 11

Are you a farmer or rancher whose operation has been directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic? The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19. USDA's Farm Service Agency is accepting CFAP applications now through Sept. 11, 2020. You can apply online at <https://www.farmers.gov>

Apply for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue announced Aug. 11 that the deadline to apply for CFAP has been extended to Sept. 11. The original application deadline was Aug. 28, 2020. USDA's Farm Service Agency offers multiple ways for you to apply for CFAP to meet your business needs. Those include: Producers self-certify when applying for CFAP, and documentation is not submitted with the application. You may be asked for additional documentation to support your certification of eligible commodities, so you should retain the documentation used to complete your application. Information on additional documentation is provided at farmers.gov/cfap/apply.

Assistance with Applying

While most USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only, FSA is working with producers by phone and using email and online tools to process CFAP applications. Please call the FSA office at your local USDA Service Center to schedule an appointment if you'd like assistance or have questions. You can find contact information for your local USDA Service Center at the bottom of the page, and check the status of your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status.

A CFAP Call Center is available for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. The CFAP Call Center can provide service to non-English speaking customers. Customers will select 1 for English and 2 to speak with a Spanish speaking employee. For other languages, customers select 1 and indicate their language to the Call Center staff.

Commodity Eligibility for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline or who had losses due to market supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs.

Commodities Added to the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

In response to comments and data, please see DEADLINE on Page 7

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2020 is a tough year for Valley lettuce

By REBECCA COPLEY
SAN LUIS VALLEY – The year 2020 has been tough for everyone including San Luis Valley lettuce farmers. “We have had very good quality, but demand has been off therefore our shipments are down somewhat,” stated Richard Frazier who has been growing lettuce for almost 50 years. Frazier said COVID-19 may be a factor in this year’s lower lettuce market prices. “I think some of it’s probably from that (COVID-19 impact). Just doesn’t seem like the movements what it should’ve been nationwide,” said Frazier.

Frazier also shared that it took a little while for them to find workers for this year’s harvest saying, “It took a while, we were short of help at the beginning of harvest. But they finally got more workers and for what we’re having to cut right now we’re doing all right as far as labor for now. Earlier we had a little bit of a market and we were short on labor.”

With an unfavorable lettuce market this year’s profit is not looking very high. “As hard as it might be to swallow especially on lettuce, the field is the cheapest place to lose money. Because it cost so much money to harvest it and you can’t take the chance of putting that in and getting it cold, and everything and then not having a home for it. You’re just better off leaving it in the field,” said Frazier about the very perishable crop.

Lettuce is a stressful crop to grow due to its very short shelf life. Once the lettuce head is cut it will start to deteriorate. Making it very important to get the heads to the merchants as soon as possible so they can have as long a shelf life as possible. The very perishable crop also has to be harvested by hand. Workers must cut each head of lettuce, then immediately wrap it in a bag sealed by tape, and then load the lettuce into boxes. The boxes, as soon as possible, are loaded into temperature controlled trucks, and

then shipped off to market. The lettuce crop has a long harvesting season that usually starts around July 4 or July 10 and will go into the first weeks of September.

This year’s hurricanes have made it somewhat difficult for Frazier to export his crop to Puerto Rico. “We have had some exports going to Puerto Rico. Hurricanes are what generally messes those things up,” said Frazier adding, “With the one (hurricane) earlier we were out of the export for a while.”

Despite all the other difficulties, this year’s weather has been fairly favorable conditions for the lettuce crop. “We’ve had very light disease problems which is generally related to getting a lot of rain and there was a little bit there that one little rainy spell we had. But we had protection up front and we’re able to keep stuff treated and we’re able to keep the disease held off pretty well,” said Frazier later adding, “They’re healthy, they’re just not worth much.”

DEADLINE

Continued from Page 6

received by the public, USDA announced July 9 that it would make more than 40 additional specialty crop commodities eligible for the program. Nearly 60 additional commodities were announced Aug. 11, including additions to specialty crops and livestock along with the inclusion of nursery crops and cut flowers, aquaculture and certain types of eggs.

In addition to these newly eligible commodities, USDA also expanded funding categories for several commodities and adjusted payment rates for others. A full list of these commodities, and their associated payment rates, can be found on our specialty crops, livestock, nursery and cut flowers,

aquaculture, and eggs pages. These updates were made in two rounds, based on comments and data received from the public. Learn more in the NOFA and rule correction documents, found below under Additional CFAP Information.

USDA began accepting applications for additional commodities announced July 9 July 13, 2020. Applications for commodities announced on Aug. 11 will be accepted beginning the week of Aug. 17. If a producer submitted a CFAP application for a previously ineligible commodity, and the application was disapproved, the producer must submit a new CFAP application. If the producer submitted an application and was paid for



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Another round of fire restrictions

The Rio Grande National Forest and BLM - San Luis Valley Field Office went back into Stage 1 fire restrictions Aug. 20, 2020. If you are keeping count, this is the second time for fire restrictions this year. The early season dry conditions didn't really surprise me, as I'm sure most of you feel as well. But the very short monsoon followed by a rapid drying period certainly DID surprise me.

In late June, I wrote here about the increasing frequency of fire restrictions on public lands and, unfortunately, here we are again. Throughout the year, the land managers monitor the conditions closely and make the decision to implement fire restrictions based on both scientific and empirical data. I won't go into the process again, but I would like to point out that the dry conditions this time are observed on a broader scale across the state as evidenced by the statewide fire restrictions enacted by Governor Polis on Aug. 19, 2020. So, this is the perfect time to revisit what is allowed and what is not allowed.

During Stage 1 fire restrictions, campfires are only allowed in developed recreation sites such as campgrounds and picnic grounds. Part of the reason for this is that these sites have, at least, a minimal level of operational control in them. Concessionaire or agency staff frequent these locations and can correct undesirable situations before they create a problem. Additionally, engineering controls are put in place by the installation of a manufactured fire ring in an appropriate location. While the rock rings commonly found may serve the purpose of containing a campfire, they are not allowed, even if they are in a developed site. A great alternative to a real campfire can be found in the portable gas fueled campfires. As long as they have a shut-off valve and are commercially manufactured, they are allowed and can provide a very similar experience to a traditional campfire. And putting them out is as simple as shutting off a valve!

Land, Water and People

BY GREGG GOODLAND

Charcoal grills are not allowed during Stage 1 fire restrictions. Simply stated, the hot charcoal can present a real fire concern if folks don't pack it up and put it into their vehicle, which I really don't recommend! So please leave the charcoal grills at home. Find a gas stove to cook on.

Smoking is known to be a frequent cause of wildfires. During Stage 1 restrictions, smoking is allowed in an enclosed vehicle, building or recreation site, OR in a 3 feet diameter area that is cleared of all flammable materials.

Operating a chain saw is very common this time of year as folks are out getting their firewood for the winter. Be sure to have a fire extinguisher and shovel with you, if you use a saw. It also must have a fully functioning, approved spark arrestor.

I encourage you to check out a great video on Stage 1 fire restrictions hosted by my friend from the Pike National Forest. Find it, and the entire fire restrictions special order, on our Fire Conditions page: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/riogrande/home/?cid=stelprdb5139142>

I said it back in June and it is worth repeating now. Fire restrictions are happening more frequently and if the trends remain steady, we'll need them more often and for longer durations. These little bouts of rain we are experiencing do little to change conditions for the long term, which is what is needed to rescind restrictions. We all play a critical role in the prevention of unwanted wildfires. Please help us spread the word that, until conditions do change measurably, we'll remain in Stage 1 fire restrictions.

Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest.



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ACROSS

1. Swiss shoe company
5. ___ Caesar, comedian
8. ___ and flow
11. Horsefly
13. Egyptian pharaoh
14. African nation
15. Tony-winning actress Daisy
16. Initial public offering
17. Long-winding ridge
18. Guinea peoples
20. Fellow
21. About aviation
22. Able to make amends
25. Easy to perceive
30. Cut off
31. Northeast Thai language
32. Earthy pigment
33. Water nymphs
38. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
41. Those who deal
43. Apply a new fabric
45. Confusions
48. "To ___ his own"
49. Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks
50. Heavy cavalry sword
55. Partner to pain
56. A type of savings account
57. In a way, felt pain
59. Wide-beamed sailing dinghy
60. Consume
61. Jewish spiritual leader
62. Body part

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

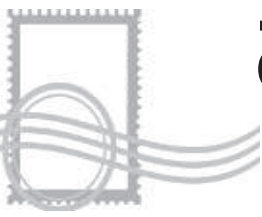
1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12		13			14		
15						16			17		
	18				19		20			21	
					22	23			24		
25	26	27	28	29							
30							31				
32									33	34	35
					38	39	40		41	42	
					43			44			
48									50	51	52
55						56				57	
59						60				61	
62						63				64	

63. Midway between south and southeast
64. Cheek
26. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
27. Powdery, post-burning residue
28. Company that rings receipts
29. Rugged mountain range
34. Commercials
35. NY football player
36. A form of be
37. Soviet Socialist Republic
39. Kindnesses
40. Natural electrical phenomenon
41. Your
42. Diana ___, singer
44. Upper surface of the mouth
45. National capital
46. Fluid in Greek mythology
47. Renowned jazz trumpeter
48. Freedom from difficulty
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Actor Idris
54. Revolutionaries
58. Criticize

DOWN

1. Indicates a certain time (abbr.)
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Central American lizard
4. Muslim military commanders
5. One who takes to the seas
6. Select jury
7. Parts of the small intestine
8. Painter's accessory
9. Honk
10. Ballpoint pen
12. Large, dark antelope
14. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
19. Exhausts
23. ___-bo: exercise system
24. Not written in any key or mode
25. Chinese principle underlying the universe

Quick Zip Code Reference

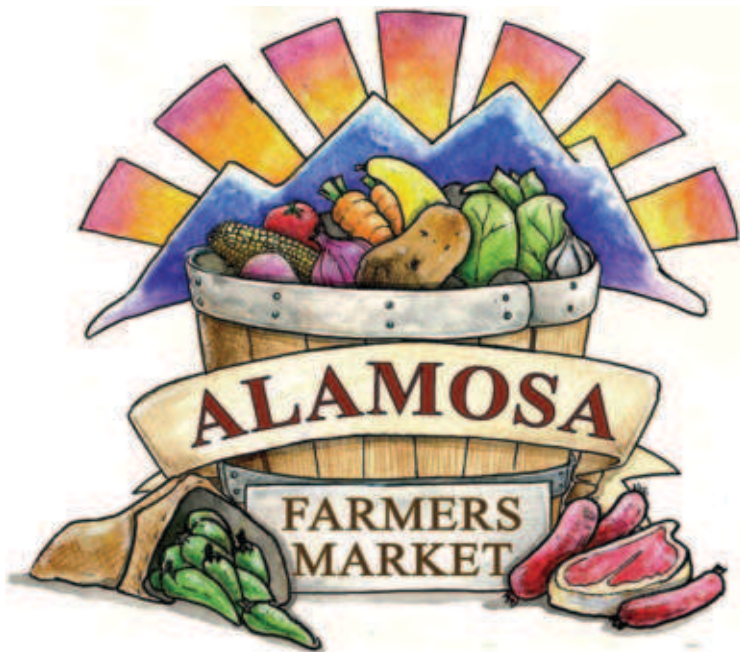


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Adams State College 81102	Ft. Garland 81133	Monte Vista 81144
Antonito 81120	Garcia 81152	Mosca 81146
Blanca 81123	Homelake 81135	Romeo 81148
Bountiful 81140	Hooper 81136	Saguache 81149
Capulin 81124	Jaroso 81138	San Acacio 81151
Center 81125	La Garita 81132	Sanford 81151
Chama 81126	La Jara 81140	San Luis 81152
Conejos 81129	La Sauses 81151	San Pablo 81152
Creede 81130	La Valley 81153	South Fork 81154
Crestone 81131	Manassa 81141	Spar City 81130
	Moffat 81143	Villa Grove 81155

Alamosa Farmers Market update

ALAMOSA—The Alamosa Farmers' Market welcomes locals and visitors to downtown Alamosa, Saturdays at the corner of 6th and State for our 2020 Market season. We are enforcing social distancing protocol so please wear a mask and enter at our State Street Entrance. Our vendors and customers have been doing a great job at wearing their masks and we encourage everyone to keep it up! Customers have been attempting to enter the market through our perimeter fencing and we ask that you please remember that the market has one entry and point this season: the alleyway off of State Avenue. Please consider limiting the number of members of your household coming to the market and be prepared to be efficient with your shopping time. From 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., we welcome all immune compromised members of the community to attend. From 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. we welcome the rest of our customers to attend. Due to limitations related to COVID-19 related vendor spacing, vendors will be selling regional farm fresh food products, other food stuffs and hygiene items. Fresh, roasted chilies are now part of what is available at the market on Saturdays. The Market accepts cash, debit and credit cards, SNAP, P-EBT and Double Up Food Bucks. Find out more about Double Up Food Bucks at the market table. Please bring bills smaller than \$20 for the convenience of the vendors. All vendors must be pre-registered to set up a booth; no unannounced vendors will be admitted. For more information see www.alamosafarmersmarket.org or the Farmers' Market tent on Saturdays. The Alamosa Farmers' Market is located in historic downtown Alamosa Saturdays through Oct. 10, 2020.

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RISK Continued from Page 1

living in a wildfire prone area, the county-by-county index uses housing density combined with modeled fire behavior to determine where the greatest potential impact to people and homes is likely to occur.

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

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

“Every homeowner should be aware of the wildfire risk in their community and the associated responsibility to reduce that risk, not only to protect their property, but also to improve the safety of first responders,” said CSFS Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Daniel Beveridge. “There are numerous examples from the past few seasons showing that proactive wildfire

mitigation efforts are effective and now is a perfect time for people across the state to take action.”

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

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

Top 10 Wildfire Season Preparation Activities:

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

Remove leaves and needles from roofs and gutters.

Sweep porches and decks clear of any burnable plant material.

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

Transfer items under decks or porches to a storage area.

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

Ensure home address signs are clearly visible from the street.

Contact the local Office of Emergency Management to regis-



Wildfire mitigation works and saves homes and property from destruction.

ter for emergency notifications and encourage your friends, family and neighbors to do the same.

Confirm at least one alternate path out of your neighborhood

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

Create an inventory of valuables

in your home including written summaries, photography and video.

Source: CSFS and NFPA

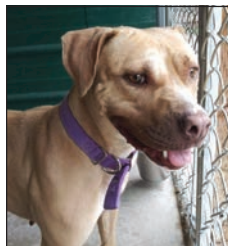
Conour *Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society*
www.slvanimalshelter.com

If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366

Open Tues.-Sat. • 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Closed Sunday & Monday • 2825 Sherman Ave. • Monte Vista

Visit Our Facebook Page

We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.



Meet Rosie. She is a 4 yr old, spayed, pit bull breed. Rosie has been with us since May of 2019, and is looking for her forever home. She can be cautious/protective

when you first meet her, but she warms up quickly. She however does not do well with other animals. So she would have to be the only animal in the home. She gets great joy from chewing on tough toys and bones/rawhide's. She tends to be independent, but also enjoys playing and getting lots of loves. Rosie requires moderate exercise and at least a 6ft fenced in yard.

Introducing Phillip. He is a 4 yr old German Shepherd breed. Phillip has been with us for about a week and a half, and is ready for a forever family. He is a bit cautious when you first meet him. He is fairly new so we have not introduced him to any other animals yet. We feel he has good potential, but seems cautious so far. He loves to vocalize a lot, and loves getting treats. Phillip will require a home with a decent size yard and tall fence, as he is a large dog. As well as lots of exercise.



This is Goofy. He is a 2 yr old male, Boxer/Red Heeler mix breed. Goofy has been with us since March of this year, and has been waiting for the right family to come along. He does wonderful with all people and kids. He is great with other dogs, but absolutely no cats. Goofy is a bit more of a hyperactive dog so he will need lots of exercise, and a tall fence.



This here is Wiley. He is a 3 yr old, neutered male, basenji mixed breed. Wiley has been with us since February of 2019, and is waiting for his forever family to find him. He does great with new people he meets, but will be a little stand offish until he gets to know you. He does good with other dogs he meets, but can also be a bit stand offish with them until he is comfortable. Wiley will require moderate exercise and a tall fenced in yard.



Meet Drools. He is a 3 yr old, neutered male, pit bull mixed breed. Drools has been with us since November 2018, and needs a loving home. He does not do well with other animals, so he will be need to be the only animal in the home. He absolutely loves spending his time chewing on tough toys and bones/rawhide's. Once Drools gets comfortable with you (generally 2-3 meetings) he turns into a big lap baby. He will require lots of attention and love. He requires moderate exercise and at least a 6ft fenced in yard.



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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Del Norte Bank cautions about counterfeit bills



SAN LUIS VALLEY - bills:
Counterfeit \$100 and \$20 bills are circulating throughout Del Norte and the Valley. The \$100 bills are stage bills used in movies. The texture of the bills feels like plastic. The \$20 counterfeit bills have white corners, appear fuzzy and some have identical serial numbers and a paper texture.

Look for Motion Picture Purposes printed on the bill.
Look for color shifting ink.
Look for white corners.
Feel the texture of the bill.
Hold the bill up to the light to look for a holograph of the face, watermark and security thread.
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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!
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Contact Chelsea or Trey for advertising information today!

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Autumn 2020 on the Rio Grande

Cruising the Canyon Car Show still a go

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

The event was started by Holy Moses owners Vicki and Nick Kulyk as a way to bring people to the area during the slow season in Creede and the event has turned into an area favorite. The small community will be hopping to decade music from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s as guests enjoy a day full of

antique and beautifully restored vintage cars and trucks of all makes and models. It is a great way to get out to enjoy a blast from the past and see the fall colors as they begin to change in the San Juan and La Garita Mountains.

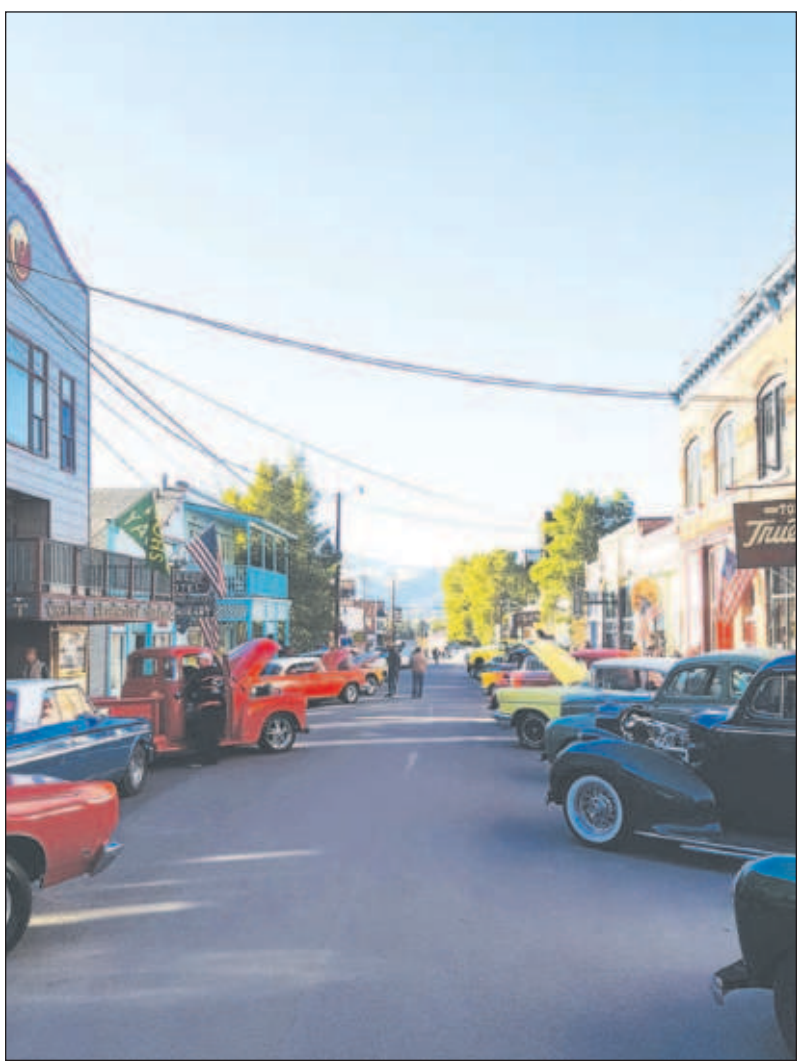
The event starts Friday night, Sept. 18 with a pre-registration party at the visitor center located south of Creede. Participating vehicle owners can come out to mingle with the public and enjoy some light refreshments as they prepare for the show Saturday.

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 Freeman'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.



Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad goes where no road goes

Steaming Safely through autumn Aspens & Fresh Mountain Air

ANTONITO - There are hints of gold showing in the high Rocky Mountains, heralding the impending arrival of glorious fall colors. Step aboard the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad (C&TSRR) for a trip back in time to the 19th century, where steam railroads at 12 mph were the state-of-the-art fastest way to travel and there were no cell phones or automobile roads. There were, however, mountainsides of brilliant aspens and the Cumbres & Toltec still steams through them, just as it has for 140 years.

Voted for the third consecutive time by the readers of USA Today as the nation's "most scenic train," the Cumbres & Toltec is a National Historic Landmark that moves – a completely authentic steam railroad ride through the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and New Mexico. The nation's most scenic train is particularly gorgeous in the fall as it steams past thousands of colorful aspen trees.

This year, due to social distancing, passengers will have more room to spread out than ever before. All the train windows open to let in the fresh Rocky Mountain air and extra open air gondola cars are added to every train. For the ultimate bucket list trip, book a private rail car to experience the fall colors with your closest friends and family. This year, private rail cars are more attainable than ever and available on a limited, space available basis. Private rail cars must be booked by calling the Depot at 1-888-286-2737 (no online sales).

Autumn is a favorite time to ride the C&TSRR. There are more than 2 million acres of aspen trees in Colorado and New Mexico – 1 billion trees that

if placed together would cover Rhode Island and Delaware. Aspen trees in the Rocky Mountains grow from 6,500 to 10,500 feet in elevation. Since the Cumbres & Toltec runs from elevations of 7,800 to 10,015 feet, you can expect to see pretty fall aspens in differing stages of their spectacular fall show all along the route.

Rocky Mountain aspen leaves don't just turn color in the fall, they positively glow a bright luminescent yellow gold, almost as if they had their own light source. The leaves are small, delicate and tissue-thin with an aerodynamic shape that keeps them in perpetual motion. Even a slight breeze sends every leaf on the tree shimmering. Add in a

steam whistle, the smell of coal and the crisp afternoon sunlight and you are in for an amazing bucket list trip.

Leaving from Antonito Station, the train speeds over high plains before circling through aspen trees on tracks that are inaccessible by car. There are two tunnels and a trip through Toltec Gorge, where the train passes along a cliff face 600-feet above the roaring river below. At scenic Osier Station, there is an hour stop for a hot lunch while the locomotive turns around for the return trip back to Antonito.

Fall rides are popular and with reduced service in 2020, they do sell out, so book early to avoid disappointment at www.cumbrestoltec.com.

Saturdays at the corner of 6th Street & State Avenue
 8-8:30 a.m. open for COVID high risk shoppers
 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. open to general public

Masks Required

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October 23, 24 & 25, 2020
Monte Vista Rotary Club Annual Outdoor & Gun Show
 The McMullen Building at Ski-Hi Park in Monte Vista
 Admission \$10/person, Accompanied Children under 12 are free
 50% off Second-Day Entry with proof of previous day's entry!

Friday, October 23 4-8 p.m.
Saturday, October 24 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, October 25 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

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