

Shorts



Center to register students for virtual, on-site learning next week

CENTER — Schools has announced the registration deadlines for all returning students, including those who will be attending school online.

Monday, Aug. 3, all returning students for all grades K-12 will register. On Tuesday, Aug. 4, new students for all grades K-12 will register.

Registration times:
• 8-10 a.m. — last names A-I
• 10 a.m.- noon — last names J-R
• 1-3 p.m. — last names S-Z

Haskin Elementary on-site registration individuals will enter from the elementary school entrance. Skoglund Middle School on-site registration individuals will enter from the middle/high school entrance and Center High School on-site registration individuals from the cafeteria entrance. Those who register as 100 per cent online students will proceed to on-site registration at the ARC building.

The following information is needed to complete the registration process:

New students must present a birth certificate, immunization
Please see SCHOOL on Page 2A

La Garita man to serve two years for sexual assault

BY TERESA L. BENNS

SAGUACHE — A La Garita man will serve two years in the county jail for engaging in unlawful sexual contact with a child, the sheriff's office reported Monday.

On July 13, 18-year-old Gerald Nusbaum of La Garita allegedly committed the first incident at the home of his employer. According to reports by Cpl. Steve Hansen and Sheriff Dan Warwick, the employer and his wife reported their son had been lured into the garage by Nusbaum.

When they noticed the boy's pants were down, they asked Nusbaum why this was the case. He told them the boy had been butted by a goat and possibly was injured. The boy later told his mother the story about the goat wasn't true.

Please see NUSBAUM on Page 2A

Sheriff recommends misconduct charges for Moffat mayor



BY TERESA L. BENNS

SAGUACHE — Saguache Sheriff Dan Warwick has forwarded a recommendation to district attorney Robert Willett that charges of official misconduct, a class two misdemeanor, be filed against Moffat Mayor Patricia Reigel.

There has been ongoing contention among Moffat town officials and marijuana business owners in the town — and conflicting reports by citizens — regarding the actions of the

Moffat Mayor Patricia Reigel

town's mayor and code enforcement officials in a code enforcement matter that occurred May 18.

Reigel and the town code enforcement officer are accused of improperly removing items from a local marijuana operation. They accompanied an individual, Garegin Pogosyan (aka "Po"), who had previously worked for the owner (Zengxi Gao) and claimed he was the rightful owner of certain property left at the grow.

Gao's operation was shut down by the Town of Moffat and is not

operational per the State since December, allegedly after some marijuana could not be accounted for at the facility. Pogosyan was an employee of Gao's at the time and after the shutdown could not collect his belongings.

According to a report received from a representative of the marijuana business, Reigel and the town's compliance team entered the property "under the auspices of doing a routine inspection." Sheriff Dan Warwick stated last month that Reigel and her

Please see MAYOR on Page 7A



The architectural renderings are by Spencer Architecture Studio in Alamosa. These are visuals rendered by Andréa Bachman, Associate, & Intern Architect with the Spencer Studio, and there could still be some changes made to the final product.

Ski Hi going down and moving forward

BY KARLA SHRIVER

MONTE VISTA - "The San Luis Valley Ski Hi Regional Event and Conference Center is moving forward," said co-chairs Karla Shriver and Kathy Woods. "This is an exciting time, yet scary at the same time. There is no going

back at this point as the building is down."

The Friends of Ski Hi committee have been working with Spencer Architecture Studio and Alcon Construction on the project design. Alcon and Spencers' put together the team of Burggraaf Associates, Mechanical,

Electrical & Plumbing Engineers, Summit Engineering, Civil & Structural Engineers, and Sowden Associates, Acoustical & Sound and Video Engineers to also consult on the endeavor.

The metal building has been ordered and will require multiple
Please see FORWARD on Page 2A



Mountain Valley Schools to resume in-person learning

SAGUACHE — Following a family and staff survey, Mountain Valley School board approved a plan last week to resume in-person learning with social distancing and recommended preventative measures in place.

The full text of the plan can be viewed at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18IOSXSJgl69-asYEiW-04zTrX48ur7AY/view>. Parents will have the choice of in-person or online learning opportunities for their children.

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year can be completed

Please see MVS on Page 7A

Meek sets up new program for Center residents

BY TERESA L. BENNS

CENTER — Coffee with the Chief Saturday at the Center Methodist Church was a great success with 20 people attending. CoVid safety precautions were observed and the event was held outside. K9 Maverick demonstrated his "super sniffer" abilities with the help of local residents.

Chief Gene Meek has announced he will be starting a new program called "Leadership Center" and will incorporate it into some law enforcement-based training. This

Please see CHIEF on Page 5A

Center's drug dog Maverick sniffs out illegal drugs during a demonstration for Center residents who attended Coffee with the Chief Saturday.

Photo by Teresa Benns



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OBITUARIES

Rachel Maria Perea, 92

MONTE VISTA — Longtime resident of Monte Vista, Colorado passed into the loving arms of our lord, July 13th 2020 in Tampa, Florida. Rachel was born on 18 December 1927 in Romeo, Colorado. Her parents were Juan Nepomoceno Padilla and Manuela Mondragon Padilla. She is survived by one sister, Alice Mestas, who lives in Denver, Colorado, two sons, Claude A. Perea and Isaac M. Perea who reside in El Paso, Texas and her daughter Linda A. Bramble (husband Michael Bramble) who reside in Tampa, Florida. Rachel's long legacy extended 92 years.



In her early years growing up in Southern Colorado, she was surrounded by a loving brother, Vidal Padilla (deceased 1969) and three sisters, Delia (deceased), Julia (deceased) and Alice Mestas. Rachel grew up during hard times in America surviving the Great Depression, World War Two, the Korean War, the Vietnam Conflict, the Persian Gulf War and the Iraq War. She learned early on what family values meant and she passed those family values on to her children. Lessons learned during those arduous times allowed her to survive and flourish for 92 years.

Rachel was married to Jose Gilbert Perea (deceased 2011), on

19 January 1948, the son of Manuel and Fransiquita Perea. Together they fostered seven children Lewis I. Chacon (deceased 2014), Antonio M. Perea (deceased 2009), Claude A. Perea, Isaac M. Perea, Thomas R. Perea (deceased 2014), Ronald A. Perea (deceased 2010) and Linda A. Perea. Her devotion and love for her family will surely be missed, gone in the physical sense but lives on in our hearts forever in Spirit.

Extended family consists of 12 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, eight nephews and six nieces. Rachel's caring, loving presence and open heart will surely be missed.

Vaya Con Dios Mama

Community health needs assessment virtual meeting

SAN LUIS VALLEY - San Luis Valley Health invites interested parties to participate in a community convening Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2020, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. This meeting provides an opportunity to review the

health priorities established during SLVH's 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment. Please call 719-589-1209 or email donna.wehe@slvrhc.org before Aug. 7 for a link to the virtual meeting.

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1A

records, previous school records, proof of residency, guardianship documentation and/or parenting plan, IEP paperwork and any RTI paperwork. Returning Students must submit immunization updates.

All students will be required to pay device fees:

- K-5: \$10
- 6-8: \$35
- 9-12: \$45

Any outstanding balances from last

year need to be paid off as well.

Virtual registration

Students/families can register online starting on Monday, August 3rd through the Parent Portal. Those who do not have a parent portal may come to the onsite registration to set one up.

For Virtual Registration for 100 percent online K-12, contact Joy Werner at 719-251-3336 or 719-754-2859. Or email her at jwerner@center.k12.co.us.

NUSBAUM

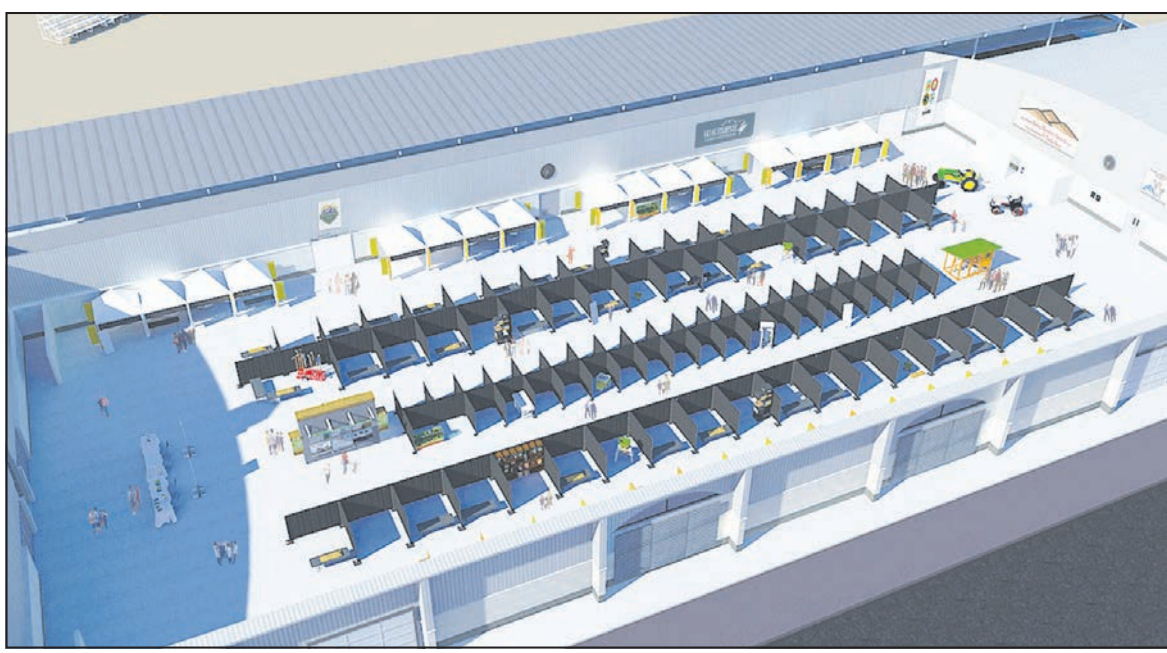
Continued from Page 1A

He then told her Nusbaum touched his buttocks with his private parts but he was told not to tell anyone. The boy later indicated Nusbaum may have molested him on other occasions.

The father told Warwick he was trying to keep the children away from Nusbaum because he knew he had a criminal record and a drug history; also that he grew up in a

troubled home. The boy's father said Nusbaum's sister died just prior to the incident but he did not think he had been permanently affected by her death.

Nusbaum was interviewed by Hansen and Warwick. He was arrested two years ago, charged with sexual assault on a child by a person in a position of trust and was later released.



FORWARD

Continued from Page 1A

deliveries to get all of the material to the site. The first section of the building is tentatively scheduled for delivery at the end of September with the final delivery scheduled in the first part of November.

The plan is to have the Event and completed by the end of February, in time for the Southern

Colorado Agriculture Conference and the Crane Festival. The conference center structure will be up, but it is not anticipated to be finished until June 2021.

"The former Ski Hi Multi-Purpose building and the old swimming pool have given us all very fond memories to cherish," said Woods, "but it is time to

move forward and create new memories in the new building." Shriver stated, "I totally agree as I have some great memories in both areas. The swimming pool area had not been used since 2005, and the multi-purpose building was starting to really show its age. The new building will be wonderful for the whole San Luis Valley."



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County attorney challenges Center Post-Dispatch report

By TERESA L. BENNS

SAGUACHE — A statement made in an article that appeared in the July 9 edition of the Center Post-Dispatch regarding a suicide in the Saguache County Jail has been challenged as untrue by Saguache County Attorney Ben Gibbons.

Travis Maes, 27, a young black man, ended his life in the jail November 2019. One citizen complained that the suicide was not investigated or reported. The article covering the incident, which featured an interview with both the citizen and Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warwick, revealed that the incident was not released to the press, but was reported to the county and investigated by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

the July 9 edition of the paper objected to by Gibbons.

“A Crestone resident wrote to inquire why the death of Travis Maes, 27, a young black man, was never reported or investigated. Therese Peloquin says she believes the community deserves answers regarding Maes’ death and how local law enforcement handled the incident.

“According to Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warwick, the suicide went unreported on the advice of County Attorney Ben Gibbons and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). “I wanted to take everything to the family, but they told us not to do it,” Warwick said. “Once CBI gets involved, we can’t do anything.”

The article clearly shows the death was reported to the county and to

CBI, which Warwick says then took over the investigation. What Gibbons and apparently CBI advised is that *the press* not be informed of the suicide. The following sentences are taken directly from BoCC minutes for July 21:

“Commissioner Lovato showed Gibbons the article that reportedly relays some conversation that [Sheriff] Dan [Warwick] had with a reporter, which implies that Gibbons advised him not to report the death, which is not true. There were conversations the next day with CTSI [the county’s insurer] to report it.”

Warwick’s handling of the investigation is clearly expressed in the article. The Center Post-Dispatch, however, apologizes for any confusion on the part of readers.

County auditors reporting that problems still exist

By TERESA L. BENNS

SAGUACHE — Auditors for Saguache County told commissioners during their regular meeting last week they are seeing a repeat of some of the same issues that were highlighted in last year’s audit, issues that have existed in reports from various county auditors for at least a decade.

According to commissioner minutes for July 21, auditor James Hinkle with Hinkle and Company auditors of Greenwood Village, Colorado, reported during a general discussion of the 2019 audit that they are seeing the same types of issues as last year. The County general ledger, however, is doing fine, he said. The Housing Authority ledger also is good; some things are not clear but they are easy to figure out.

“Social Services is much more complex,” the minutes state. “When you finish a year, all revenues are closed and the fund balance should carry over and should be the same number as it ended. But that is not the case, there is \$71,471 where it doesn’t match last year’s.” The Housing Authority and the general ledgers are nearly completed, Hinkle added.

Regarding the issues addressed in last year’s audit, Chris Parker with Hinkle and Company presented the audit in November last year after the county was sanctioned by the state for not filing a timely audit. Regarding internal control issues, the auditors wrote:

“The county does not have a complete system of internal controls to prevent and detect financial

misstatements. The county does not have an individual whose responsibility is to oversee the overall accounting and financial reporting functions. As a result, the individual departments are not brought together and coordinated, with proper monthly reconciliations being performed and financial reporting prepared.

The auditors recommend the county “continue its search for personnel who can provide the county with a finance director duties and functions.” (Former Land Use administrator Wendi Maez was later hired to fill the County Administrator position.)

The county’s response to this was: The county recognizes the need for a finance director to coordinate all

Please see COUNTY on Page 6A

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Yours, mine and ours

If there is one thing Ol' Dutch has learned in life it's that if you decide to share your life with someone it won't be long before you are also sharing your stuff.

Anyone that has gone through a sheet-splitting knows all too well about this fact of life because when it comes right down to it, more than the bedsheets are divided up and often not too equally. But that's a story for another time.

This story for today is about how things get apportioned as you proceed along life's highway together with your beloved.

A good share of you know how unfair this can be and you are willing to put up with a certain amount of unfair allocation to keep the peace -- kind of like dividing up Europe after WWII.

And for those of you who are still shocked at the way things end up, you have to recall that it really all started at those wedding showers for the bride-to-be. If you look back, she got all the gifts of shiny baubles and nifty table decorations, cutesy nick knacks and a few paddy whacks, and all us men got was the bone.

We were willing to put up with such shenanigans as our beloved had us assured that things would never change and we would still have our own stuff and space and be able to do whatever we wanted in life - with some exceptions of course.

And even those notable rules were not too bad to start with such as giving up carousing which we were tired of anyway and coincided with early morning hunting and fishing start times.

So we went along but before you know it, things did, in fact, change. Ol' Dutch began to see a noticeable change in what was hers and mine and ours. Anything of real value like vehicles and houses were on the "ours" list while household items were on the "hers" list.

You can tell where each item is by how she talks about it. She will say our cars, our truck, our boat, our house and that's all fine and dandy as normally we have to kick in on the costs if not pay for all of that outlay.

Whereas anything in the house, she will soon identify as "my pans, my mattress, my couch and my towels." This is really good as it gives a man fair warning that if things do go South, those things are going North with her.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

All in all Ol' Dutch has played it safe thus far as the ole knot of marital bliss has eluded me and Miss Trixie but I am starting to notice that more and more things we have belong to her and less and less to me.

Just last summer before the garage sale season, I warned Trixie not to bring anything else home unless she got rid of something of equal size and mass. Now all of Ol' Dutch's stuff is outside. I guess that didn't work out all that well?

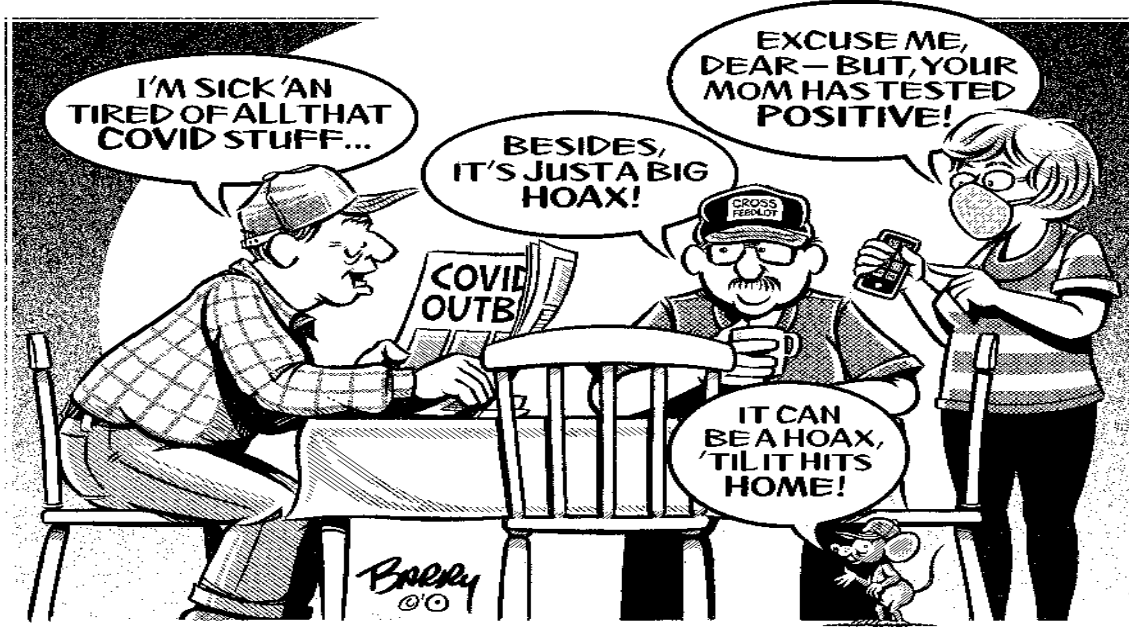
Another area that has somehow gotten to her domain is all the food and snacks in the house. I had not noticed that too much until Miss Trixie took a sabbatical to care for ill family members and Ol' Dutch had full access to the cupboards.

I went through them and found nuts and chocolate stashed in there with no one to tell me to save that for company. Why even now, there is a full bag of Texas pecans in the fridge and I have been warned within an inch of my life not to touch those as they are for someone else.

So to all of you that find yourself in such straits, whatever you have left that you can even remotely identify as yours, get a sharpie and mark it quick before it disappears in the vortex from mine to ours to hers.

And remember, for goodness' sake, don't use the towel marked "His" on the bathroom rack as that is being saved for the man who will take your place should you eat the pecans.

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



LETTERS

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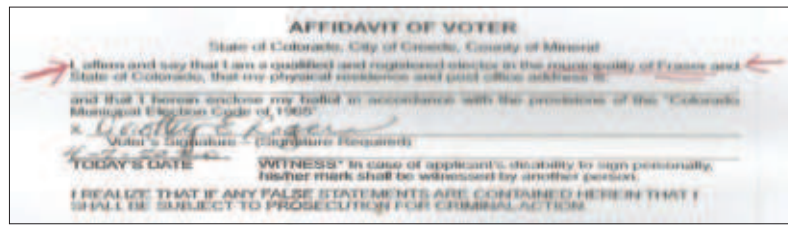
To the editor,
About everyone has attended some type of event at Ski Hi Park in Monte Vista. This is a San Luis Valley regional use complex that has many uses - heritage, educational, social, recreational, and has a huge public safety component. The building has outlived its usefulness and was in need of serious upgrades. As we all know, sometimes it is best to just start new rather than to upgrade and retrofit an old building. That is the conclusion in this case that because of the cost, it would be better to demolish the old and start new. If you have not heard, the demolition of the swimming pool took place July 21, and the multipurpose building was demolished July 23; ironically, on the day Stampede would have started. We need your help. The project is being led by a citizen group called Friends for Ski Hi Park. We are trying to raise funds locally and obtain grants to build the new complex. We were on a good path prior to COVID-19

hitting. We had many foundations on line to help us. These foundations still want to help, but because they contributed very large sums of money for humanitarian needs at the on-set of COVID-19, they have reduced the amount they will pledge for capital projects. Thus far, San Luis Valley locals, and some businesses and individuals with ties to the Valley have donated almost \$800,000 for the project. This is amazing for our local community! However, we need to raise more. This is not a good time to ask for donations, and we don't want people or businesses to put themselves in a financial bind. If you have the ability to make a financial contribution, we would greatly appreciate it. Remember what the facility has given to you. It would be great to give back now. We would like to personally contact every individual and business to explain the project, but we don't have the resources or time to do that.

If you would like a more detailed explanation of the project, we would be glad to give you one either by phone or in person - with proper social distancing protocol. This is an Enterprise Zone Tax credit project which means for every \$100 contributed, qualified Colorado tax payers will receive 25% tax credit back. Please see our website - <https://www.friendsofskihi.org>. Please note, there is no donation too small or too large. All are welcome. We want to give a big "shoutout" and "thank you" to all of those who have contributed thus far. We greatly appreciate all you have given. Please help "Raise the Roof." Yes, we all have wonderful memories of the old swimming pool and multipurpose building. Let cherish those memories and make new ones in the new facility. This project is about our past, our present and our future!
*Friends of Ski Hi Park
Karla Shriver and Kathy Rogers-
Woods, Co-Chairs*

Was my ballot counted for Creede or the Municipality of Fraser

To the editor,
This is in response to Ron Feif's letter of several weeks ago. As a fellow Creede Resident I agree with you 100%. We don't need more taxes and I still haven't figured how this one passed, unless it was that some (or all) of our ballots went to the "Municipality of Fraser" instead of Creede. See below the attached copy of the affidavit of Voter for my ballot. So my question is were any or all of our ballots even legal? Back to Ron and the Kentucky Belle Market. I recently filled in a Nomination for them for a "Can Do Colorado" Business recognition. My nomination read as follows: "Ron and Kay Fief are owners of the only grocery store in Creede, Colorado. This spring was especially



challenging for them and their staff to remain open due to food and supply shortages. However, they and their staff have gone above and beyond by not only keeping the store open but also well-stocked since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis! Creede is a small town of approximately 600 year-round residents and with a population of summer guests soars to well over 1,000. The store has gone the extra mile by providing a delivery service to all Creede and Mineral County residents

within a radius of 20 miles, as well as, taking telephone orders that you can pick up at their door. They are also an outlet for facemasks handmade by several of our local church and outreach groups. These masks are free but any cash donation is welcome. This money then goes back to these "special people" for materials to make more. Sooo, a special big "Thank You to Ron and Kay and your Staff!"
*Betsy Rogers
Creede*

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.

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Fire restrictions lifted on public lands in the San Luis Valley

SAN LUIS VALLEY - Effective 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 29, 2020, fire restrictions will be removed for all lands managed by the Rio Grande National Forest, Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley

Field Office and Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve. While monsoonal flows have brought abundant moisture and higher humidity to the San Luis Valley and upper Rio Grande watershed,

some areas have not received as much rain as others. Long term weather forecasts predict continued monsoons, but fire danger may remain higher in isolated areas. Campfires are allowed in designated

fire grates in developed campgrounds managed by each of the agencies and when dispersed camping on lands managed by the Rio Grande National Forest and San Luis Valley Field Office. "Although conditions are improving, visitors should be mindful that their actions can still cause an unwanted wildfire," said Chad Lewis, Fire Management Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest.

Visitors are encouraged to practice these principles of outdoor fire safety:

- Clear all burnable material within 3 feet of campfire rings.

- Keep fires small and manageable.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Extinguish fires completely. If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave.
- Fireworks are always illegal on federally managed lands.

For more information, please call the respective agencies:

- Rio Grande National Forest Supervisor's Office at 719-852-5941.
- Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley Field Office at 719-852-7074.
- Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve at 719-378-6395.



Campfires are allowed in designated fire grates in developed campgrounds managed by each of the agencies and when dispersed camping on lands managed by the Rio Grande National Forest and San Luis Valley Field Office.

SAGUACHE SHERIFF REPORT

The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the weeks of July 20-27, 2020

- Arrests**
- Maxine Salazar, 47, Center, violation of a protection order
 - Anita Gutierrez, 51, Monte Vista, failure to appear
 - Mario Ortega, Center, 32, third-degree assault, unlawful possession of a controlled substance
 - Gerald Nusbaum, 20, Del Norte, unlawful sexual content without consent
 - Mark Ray, 49, Moffat, fugitive of justice, failure to appear
 - Robert Pierce, 32, Leesburg, Florida, three counts of fugitive of justice

CHIEF

Continued from Page 1A — group will be provided with some of the experiences and basic levels of training that are required of Center Police Officers. Meek asks anyone who is interested in participating in the program to let him know.

The training topics will be initially open to Neighborhood Watch participants and due to current events, this training will start with the topic of application of force by police officers. Reading materials and a PowerPoint for the topic will be provided. The program will end with some FATS scenario-based training in Alamosa using small groups of participants (firearms training simulator = FATS). Meek explained that FATS is designed to safely train officers in high-stress, rapidly evolving scenarios based upon training, experience and split-second judgement in confrontational situations. He will educate the first group of this "Leadership Center" participant group and have them using the FATS Aug. 15.

Because this is a developing program, Meek said he needs to make adjustments along the way, especially within the current CoVid precautions.

"I will be calling out our Mayor, Tony Garcia, to be in one of the first groups of Leadership Center so we can put him under pressure and see how he performs in some simulated lethal force encounters," Meek said. "Please let me know if you have any additional ideas for me going forward."



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CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

BY SAGUACHE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER TRISH GILBERT

SoS Sec. Griswold announces Rapid Response Election Security Team
COLORADO-Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold announced the creation of a new Rapid Response Election Security Cyber Unit (RESCU), a highly-trained team of election security experts who will help protect Colorado's elections from cyber-attacks, foreign interference and disinformation campaigns.

RESCU will also work hand in hand with counties to increase cyber preparedness and provide another important resource for county clerks. RESCU is a continuation of Colorado's dedication and leadership in election security and preparedness.

"Colorado leads the nation in election security, and we must continue to innovate to stay ahead of threats. States must be equipped to withstand attacks from foreign countries on our election infrastructure and increased cyber hostility," said Secretary Griswold. "That is why I am proud to announce the formation of RESCU, led by Nathan Blumenthal, a top national expert in election threat prevention and counterterrorism.

RESCU will focus on bridging

the gap between cyber experts and county election administrators and on strategies to combat cyber-attacks and disinformation. The creation of RESCU is reflective of Colorado's leadership in cybersecurity and will help us continue to be safest state in the nation to cast a ballot."

RESCU will be composed of a five-person team charged with securing Colorado's elections by assisting counties with their cybersecurity in the field and combating cybersecurity incursions and disinformation. This unprecedented support to counties will provide Colorado further protection assistance for those on the front lines of the state's elections. RESCU is largely made possible through federal funding.

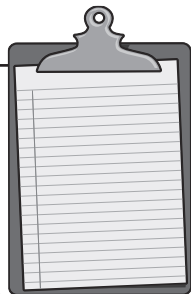
Prior to joining the Colorado Department of State, Blumenthal served as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Counter Terrorism and Threat Prevention for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), where he led the development and implementation of strategies to counter a range of threats. Before that, he was Director for DHS' Countering Foreign Influence Task Force, which combated the threat of foreign influence in the 2018 election and served two tours as a Director for Counterterrorism on the

National Security Council.

RESCU is the latest addition to an election security team that is among the nation's best. The Secretary of State's Office has an IT department of 40 experts dedicated to elections, as well as a four-person cybersecurity IT team, led by the Department's Chief Information Security Officer Craig Buesing, which will work in lock-step with RESCU.

Colorado has long been at the forefront of protecting elections and Secretary Griswold has been dedicated to cybersecurity, leading the effort to get DHS to reverse its long-standing policy of not alerting state chief election officers of cyber-attacks on state, county and local infrastructure. She has also worked with the intelligence community to more quickly declassify threat information so states can manage ongoing threats.

Colorado will also continue to work closely with the experts at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) as well as the FBI to further ensure the state's elections are protected.



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United Methodist conducting virtual Vacation Bible School

CENTER — Center United Methodist Church will host a Virtual Vacation Bible School Aug. 10-14 from 9 a.m. to 12 N on its Zoom platform for children of all ages.

This virtual journey will highlight the awe-inspiring story of the Apostle Paul, who left a life of privilege, power and influence to brave angry

mobs, agonizing imprisonment and chain-breaking earthquakes — all this to share the life-altering truth of God's heart for humanity.

Children will hear the story straight from Paul himself, who confronted an ancient "anything goes" culture with God's truth. The series features music shop, pottery studio, toy-making

shop, law court, geometry, Olympic shop, scribe shop, animal courtyard and food market.

There will be options for those who do not have internet to participate in the fun. Those who register will also have access to the virtual series videos.

To register for VBS, go to umofcenter.com

Center seniors to graduate Aug. 1

CENTER — On Saturday, Aug. 1, the Center High School graduating class of 2020 will hold their much-anticipated graduation at Center Community Park's football field beginning at 7 p.m.

The senior class motto is: "Why worry? If you've done the very best you can, worrying won't make it any better." — Walt Disney

Family boxes will be marked for ticketed family members to sit in on the football field. Nine family members will be allowed per each

box, with spaces for same households within the box.

Families will need to bring their own chairs and social distancing will be enforced. Additional seating will be available in both sets of bleachers.

Extended family members and friends will be able to watch the ceremony from their vehicles, listen on the radio — KYDN 95.3 — and the graduation will also be live-streamed.

At the request of graduating seniors, masks are to be worn.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 3A

accounting and financial reporting functions and strengthen internal controls on a daily basis. While management believes it is difficult to find and retain a qualified finance director, the effort will continue."

Former County Administrator Glen Simpson's resume shows he had a strong financial background. Simpson, who resigned last year, told the county in his letter of resignation:

"It took me only a couple of weeks to identify vulnerabilities in both your accounting, timekeeping and payment procedures. Weaknesses in payroll, accounts payable and the general ledger are vulnerable to both fraud and embezzlement."

The auditor also reported problems with Road and Bridge. The department went some \$413,000 over its \$3.1 million budget, "which may violate state statute. Next year, take a closer look." Simpson told commissioners in his letter:

"The problem at Road and Bridge is much more than pay rates. Again, you're aware of the problem, you know what needs to be done, but continue to ignore it." The auditors also pointed out above that county departments don't work well together, echoing Simpson:

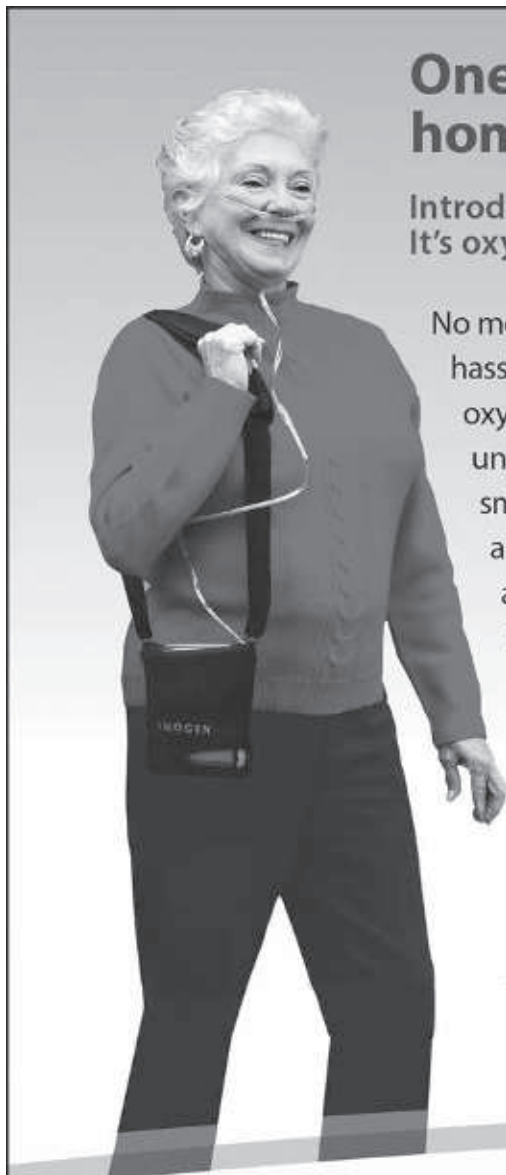
"From the courthouse to the landfill, employees and county departments do not work well together. You know this, but still you ignore it."

Later, under the Social Services section the report explains that, "As a result of this condition [lack of internal controls to prevent and detect financial misstatements], multiple errors in day-to-day accounting were noted." Particularly cited in this regard was the Social Services fund, cited for many years in a row.

Auditors found that DSS failed to put accurate and consistent information into the eligibility and benefit calculation system, failing to detect and correct non-compliance with eligibility requirements.

Commissioners found multiple errors in the report, where Saguache County was listed as the town of Superior or as a university. They requested the errors be corrected, and Commissioner Jason Anderson asked if the figures in the audit, then, might also be incorrect. Parker assured the BoCC they were accurate and promised to correct the errors immediately.

A correction of errors was later presented to commissioners by Hinkle and state sanctions were lifted.



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MKT-P0108

MAYOR

Continued from Page 1A

team appear to have become involved in a matter that should have remained between an employee of the grow and his employer.

Video footage from the grower's report allegedly shows the town's two compliance officers, paid by the Town to assist in marijuana Enforcement Division inspections and enforcement, hauling items off the property in their own vehicles.

"Reigel and her compliance officers went into a grow to collect the property of a man who worked for the grow," Warwick explained during an interview last month. "The mayor and the code enforcement person [conducted it as] a compliance check. The guy who had a key to the place allowed them in. The mayor thought she had the authority to make them give up all these things.

"There is a possible question of judgment here," Warwick continued. "Reigel shouldn't have gotten herself involved — the parties should have settled it themselves."

Disputed reports

Po told Warwick that May 18, "he was allowed onto the property to collect the items that he stated were his and the current lessee did not have any problems with this being done and even pointed items out and asked Po if the item was Po's. Po told me that all seemed OK but later he began getting called about him taking the items he took.

"Po said that he was told he was going to be arrested for taking the items and Po told me that if he needed to return the items he would. I was unaware of any complaints regarding this matter and told Po that as long as the person managing the property told him to take the items, I did not see the issue."

Some say that Po merely went to collect his things with the town officials for security purposes; the current lessee, Matt Litrenta, told Warwick he had made it clear to Po before May 18 that Po needed to go and get any property that belonged to him. According to Warwick, Litrenta "even puts in his statement that Po went through the appropriate channels and communicated with the landowners. Warwick continues in his report:

"Matt says that he was approached by Dan Zeck (compliance officer for the Town of Moffat) while he was at 215 Lincoln Ave. Matt said that Zeck explained that the Mayor (Patricia Reigel) wanted to speak to someone regarding the property at 714 Mayor Patricia Reigel Blvd (MPRB). Matt

said that the Mayor was parked in her car also there at 215 Lincoln Ave.

"He also said that he went over to the Mayor's car and asked if she needed to get into the property. Matt said that the Mayor responded with something that Matt considered to be acknowledgement of yes. Matt says that he asked if it was regarding cannabis waste [at the site] that they had disposed of several days before and received a mutter that he again took as a yes response from the Mayor.

When he arrived at the grow May 18 to meet Po, Matt continued, "He [Matt] opened the gate with the Mayor standing beside him. Matt said that seconds later Dan Zeck, compliance officer for the Town of Moffat, opened the gate completely and several people walked in including Po, Zeck, a Mr. Ernie Gonzales, and a Mrs. Jen Thomas. Matt said that Po told him he was there to get his lights, which was apparently communicated to the property owner.

"Po also mentioned to Matt that he was also there to get an unassembled greenhouse. Matt said that he was suspicious about this and called his landlord Michael Biggio. Matt said that since the Mayor and members of the Canna Valley Consulting were there with Po he felt that whatever they were doing was authorized and mandated so Matt left to take care of other business that he needed to do.

"Matt said that after about an hour had passed, he was contacted by Biggio and the lights and cam filters were all that the property owner had given permission to Po to take. Matt said that he and Biggio went to the property to stop them from taking anything that was not authorized but that everything was already done, and Po was leaving the property."

Later a date was set for Biggio and Litrenta to meet with Po to accept some returned items, but Po was a no show. The following is taken verbatim from the conclusion of Sheriff Warwick's report.

"[Litrenta] said that a meeting was scheduled for May 21 to discuss what had occurred. He stayed in his vehicle [during the meeting] and did not get in on the conversation. The meeting was between Biggio, a Mrs. Whitney Justice who also is a lessee on the property, Mayor Reigel, Po and Gonzales. The meeting did not resolve any of the issues and Deputy Clark was dispatched to the location after the meeting had ended.

"I received a copy of a letter that was given to Matt, signed by Mayor Patricia Reigel that it is her directive, with the permission of



A Moffat code enforcement official helps load items from the property of Zengxi Gao, claimed to be owned by a former employee, into a truck for transport.

Matt for Garegin Pogosyan (Po) to enter the property located at 714 Mayor Patricia Reigel Blvd. to gather personal property. This letter also states that Po's property has been on the premises for over five months and the town's investigation has been completed and Po is now allowed to remove the property.

It is unknown what investigation is being referred to. "I also received a statement from Zengxi Gao, the owner of 714 Mayor Patricia Reigel Blvd. The statement says that the items taken from his property located at 714 Mayor Patricia Reigel Blvd. was taken without his permission. Gao also said the items were his and did not belong to Po. Gao priced the taken items at \$43,400.

"Gao also provided me with a letter that he had sent to, James Burack who apparently is someone with the State Marijuana Enforcement Division. In the letter Gao states that Mayor Reigel had permission from someone

'high up' in the Colorado Marijuana Enforcement Division that authorized her to take the items from Gao's property. This letter is asking Burack who authorized the items to be taken.

"July 27, I called to speak to someone from the Colorado Marijuana Enforcement Division but was unable to reach anyone that would explain

that they would not give permission for someone to remove property and that they have no authority to do that."

Following this discussion, Warwick then submitted his recommendation to pursue charges against Reigel to district attorney Willett.

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.

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing at the Saguache County Commissioners meeting Room located at 501 - 4th Street, Saguache, Colorado, on the following date:

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 at 3 PM

to consider proposed changes to the Saguache County Land Development Code changes. To view the proposed changes BEGINNING MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020, you may contact the Saguache County Land Use Department - PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov, or by calling 719-655-2321 or you may also view the changes on our website at www.saguachecounty.net.

Written comments will be accepted until Friday, AUGUST 28, 2020 at 3pm, and may be sent to Saguache County Land Use Department at PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or email to atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

By: Jason Anderson, Chairman
Chairman, Saguache County Board of Commissioners

No. 1557 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, July 30 and August 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2020.

MVS

Continued from Page 1A

online using our student information system — PowerSchool. A link to registration will be provided on the school web page and posted on the school Facebook page.

New registrants and current families can easily create an account and update important information such as phone numbers and emergency contacts. Registration opens Thursday, Aug. 6.

Mountain Valley School staff will also be available to help those who need support completing registration forms over the phone by calling the school at 719-655-2578.

During registration, parents will select either an in-person or online option. Both options will follow

the district-adopted calendar to the greatest extent possible. A school calendar can be found on our MVSD web page. An in-person registration day will not be offered this year.

The plan features a 100 percent Online and Free Option taught by MVSD teachers and/or Colorado Department of Education (CDE). COVID-19 guidance changes frequently as data becomes available. All students will receive a district-issued Chromebook. Remote learning for all students will resume in the event of cohort dismissal or school closure.

The internet will be installed for students that need connectivity at home. Instruction through virtual class meetings and online content

will be delivered to students daily. Attendance will be taken.

Mountain Valley School will follow state mandates, guidance from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and guidance from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). COVID-19 guidance changes frequently as data becomes available.

Back-to-school interviews to replace back-to-school night are available.

Those attending Mountain Valley School are encouraged to read the entire document at the link above for specifics regarding hygiene and in-person health precautions.

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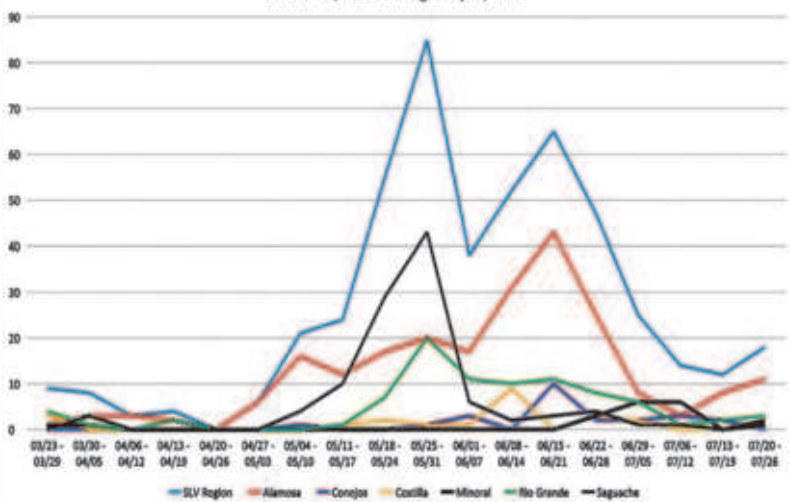
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SLV Weekly COVID-19 Case Count
March 23, 2020 through July 26, 2020



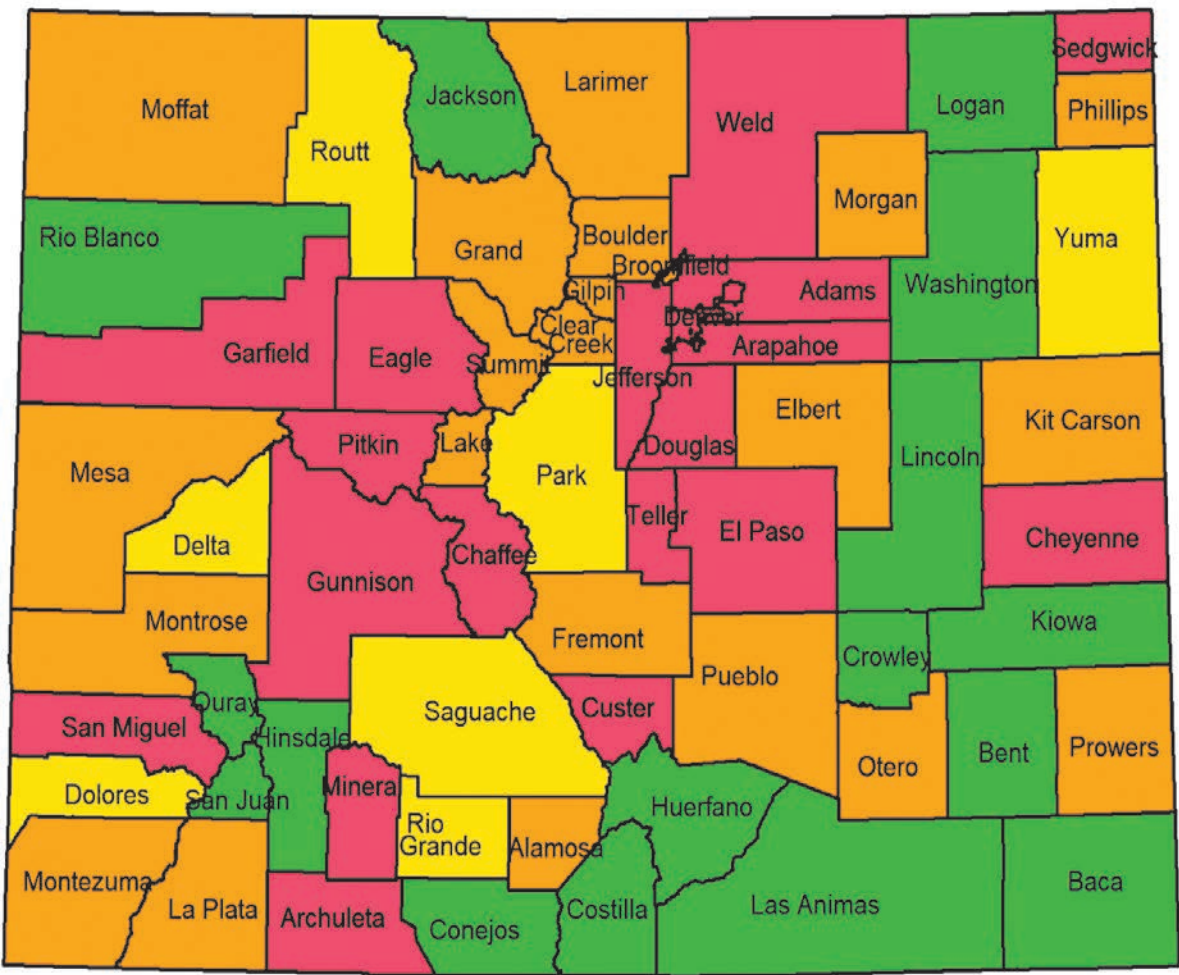
Counties warned of possible COVID-19 variance reversal

By TREY SPAULDING

COLORADO - Tuesday, July 28, Colorado Governor Jared Polis announced that 15 Colorado counties with a daily average of 100+ positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people during the past two weeks (counties in red on map) have been notified that they could lose their COVID-19 variances if they do not reverse the 100+ threshold within two weeks of the date of their notification. Polis stated that counties who do not reverse their case growth rate will have to return to the "Safer at Home" phase. To reverse the growth, counties need

to follow their mitigation plans which are administration required per their variance application with the state. Polis also cautioned that all counties with increasing growth rates who are below the 100+ daily cases threshold need to take prompt and bold action on the local level to lower case growth.

In the San Luis Valley, Mineral county is the only county that exceeds the 100+ daily case threshold and could lose its variance. Alamosa county is in the 51-100 daily case rate while all other counties in the area are seeing 50 or less daily cases per 100,000.



Two-week incidence per 100,000
(July 12 - July 25)



YOUR NIGHT SKY

Perseid Meteor Shower

By DARLENE DANKO

Now that July is almost over, the days are getting shorter and the nights are getting longer. So now we can observe the night sky again without having to stay up late, as long as the sky is clear. Amazingly July has been having a lot of rain that we desperately need to get out of the drought we've been in this year. So the rain is welcome!

The Perseid Meteor Shower peaks on the night of Aug. 11/12, but they are visible from July 17 to Aug. 24. The peak is when most are visible, and the Perseids can produce up to 100 meteors per hour. But I think there will be a lot for a few nights before and after the peak. Last year the full moon occurred during the peak, but this year it occurs on Aug. 3. So the last quarter moon is on the 11th making it 10 times dimmer than the full moon. After that the moon will get dimmer as it reaches the New Moon phase on the 18th. So I think viewing will be good for the week after the peak.

They are the result of trails of debris left over from Comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle which completes one full orbit of the Sun every 133 years. The debris streak into our atmosphere at 36 miles per second, then they burn up into a fiery burst of light. It's our best and most exciting meteor shower.

Pre dawn hours are always the best for viewing, but the moon will add some light to the sky. On the peak night the moon won't rise until 1 a.m. and be only 10 percent as bright as the full moon. You'll be able to see a lot of them before going to bed. Look in the NE and you'll see them flying around and up overhead. They'll be fast moving bright streaks.

The reason you can see more meteors in the early morning is



because the Earth has rotated, so the night side is now heading into the stream. Before midnight the meteors must catch up with Earth, so they're most numerous from 1 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. You just have to deal with the moon this year, but it will get dimmer as the days progress. 3 a.m. is predicted to be the most active time. That's why I think you'll have a week of good mornings after the 12th. They will rise higher as the morning progresses and be visible high in the northeast.

On the 19th I got to see Comet NEOWISE. It's now visible in the evening sky. Just look in the NW below the Big Dipper. I took my binoculars out at 9:30 and with them I found the comet. It was bright with a long hazy tail on its upper right. Then I went back out at 9:45 when the sky was darker. The comet had dropped down a little, but was brighter. Then when I looked at the sky without the binoculars I could see it as a faint haze going up to the right below the Big Dipper. So that was an amazing night!

Also Venus swings into its greatest elongation in the morning sky. Just look in the ESE for it, and you will see a very bright planet. So enjoy the planet and the meteor shower! We like to go out and soak in our hot tub while we watch the Perseids in the evening. Then I get up during the night to watch some more.

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The history of Emmanuel Chapel and its Chapel Car

SOUTH FORK - Emmanuel Chapel of South Fork, CO is celebrating 80 years of continuous service to South Fork and the San Luis Valley in south central Colorado. The celebration is scheduled for Aug. 1-2, 2020. The actual anniversary of the dedication date is Dec. 8, 2020, which is the culmination of 80 years of continuous worship, prayers, community ministry and biblical education.

South Fork, like many other western communities in the late 1800s, longed for Christian religious services close to home, but their chance was not to come until late 1938. Just how Emmanuel Chapel came into being is a fascinating story.



As a result of hours of dedicated volunteer time and gifts and grants of money, Emmanuel's interior and exterior were beautifully restored to the guidelines of the National Register by 1982. Emmanuel Chapel Car is on permanent display at Prairie Village, South Dakota.



Emmanuel Chapel Car had benches for 50 people. An organ and a pulpit were at the front. The rear compartment contained living quarters for the minister and his family.

In the 1890s, Rev. Boston "Uncle" Smith, supervisor of Baptist Missionaries in Minnesota, contacted the Northern Pacific Railroad asking for the loan of a passenger car each weekend to be used for religious services. This request set in motion a series of events that resulted in the dedication of the first Baptist Chapel Car named *Evangel* May 23, 1891. *Evangel* was the first of seven Baptist Chapel Cars, all constructed by the Barney & Smith Car Company in Dayton, Ohio. In addition to the seven Baptist Chapel Cars, three Chapel Cars were sponsored by the Episcopal Church and another

Please see CHAPEL on Page 3

Shady Burro Enduro will ride in August

BY LYNDIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK- Shady Burro Enduro in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Enduro Racers will be coming back to South Fork after a year's break for their fourth annual motor dirt bike race in South Fork. Enduro Coordinator and Director Scott Bright and his team have spent countless hours planning with several agencies to ensure the safety of both the riders and the community of South Fork.

tested and has been successful for several other racing events across the state, and in other locations, and has been approved by all assisting agencies. We have been working with the Rio Grande National Forest, National Forest Service, Rio Grande County, Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department, Town of South Fork, CDOT, Colorado State Patrol and the railroad in order to make this happen," said Bright.

The group has had to make several

"The plan we are using has been

Please see ENDURO on Page 2

Littered with progress

The other day on the internet, I saw an old commercial of a semi truck that had these words painted on the side: JONNY KAT, KITTY LITTER. For some reason that had a profound affect on me. Imagine a semi full of kitty litter! 40,000 pounds of scented, colored, and packaged cat box contents!

That has to say something about our affluent society, about the shape of our civilization. Some of our past inventions are quite practical and ingenious. The self-sealing, puncture proof tire, mercury lights, insecticide ear tags, microwave ovens, the Salk vaccine, four wheel drive, frozen orange juice and boxed beef. Pistachio tree roots are susceptible to certain kinds of root rot. But peach tree roots are more resistant. So the pistachio growers graft pistachio trunks onto peach tree roots. Clever.

Consider how much artificial insemination has done to improve the quality of our



BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

livestock production. Genetic engineering is space age technology.

But sometimes when we strive to achieve we go off the deep end. Take the cell phone. When they first appeared on the scene they

were expensive, heavy and required two hands to operate. Now you can get a disposable one with a camera that adds, subtracts, calculates square roots, tells you the time in Singapore, wakes you up, plays you a tune, gives you the weather and news, takes your pulse, calendars all your events and reminds you of them all, and controls all appliances in your house! What I'd like to find is a cell phone that gives me more hours in a day!

And speaking of rotting edges affluence, how about aerosol cheese spread? I thought plastic wrapped, individual cheese slices were pretty decadent but you can also foam it onto your crackers like shaving cream.

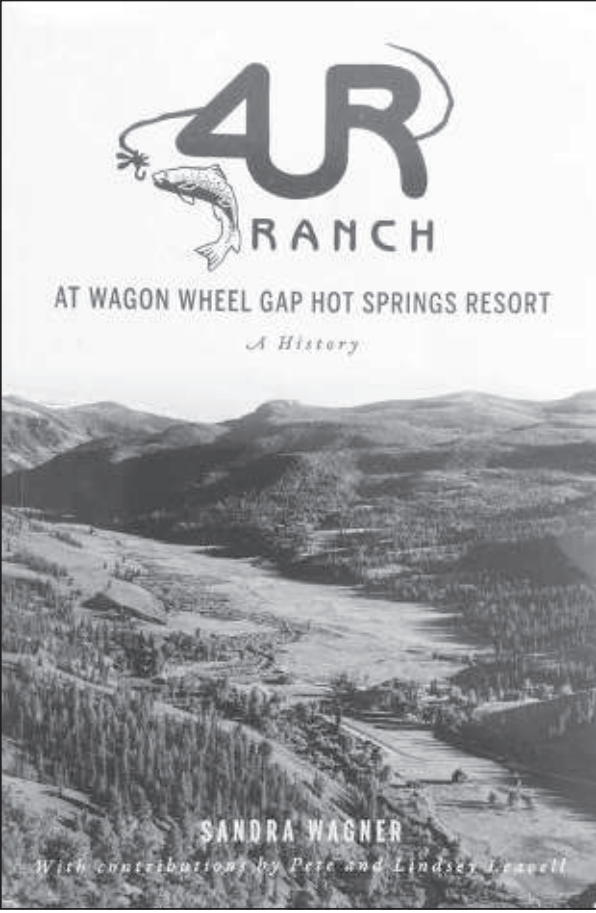
Yep, we've surrounded ourselves with creations that have gone a step beyond their original purpose; fender skirts, square headlights and veterinarians with PhD's. Some might even include Pekingese, Chihuahua or Appaloosa in that group

but I know how sensitive animal breeders are so I certainly wouldn't include them. Obviously our adventures into the extreme or entertaining are useful. We learn and perfect by doing.

Well, my digital ballpoint pen is playing "Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys," so I guess it's time to brush my teeth and hit the sack. I hope the batteries are still charged in my computerized flosser.

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

4UR Ranch topic of newly published book



CREEDE— A newly published book detailing the history of the 4UR Ranch at Wagon Wheel, just south of here, hit bookstore shelves and on Amazon July 6.

“4UR Ranch at Wagon Wheel Hot Springs Resort: A History” was written by Adams State University teacher Sandra Wagner, with contributions by ranch owners Pete and Lindsey Leavell, and was published by Arcadia Publishing, Inc. based in South Carolina. Arcadia is the “na-

tion’s leading publisher of books of local history and local interest.”

According to a press release, Native Americans used the healing waters of the Wagon Wheel Gap hot springs for thousands of years prior to American settlement. An area rich in geologic features enticed pre-treaty explorers.

But it was the 1873 Brunot Treaty that brought mining interests and a silver boom to the San Juans. Modernization to a first-class resort followed on more than 3,000 acres with 6 miles of world-class fishing that has attracted illustrious guests such as Walt Disney, John Wayne and Dwight Eisenhower.

Follow the history of this century-old ranch, including its various owners, from its infancy through to the establishment of the surrounding exclusive community. The 4UR Ranch has been in the Leavell family for more than 40 years.

Now with the fourth generation contributing, the Leavells hope to be welcoming guests for many years to come and continue their stewardship of this extraordinary valley.

Wagner, who co-authored “Hidden History of the Upper Rio Grande and San Luis Valley” with her mother-in-law, Carol Ann Wetherill, grew up and attended college in northern Colorado. She retired in 2008 as a chemist at

Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico and now teaches chemistry part-time at Adams State.

She and Wetherill started jointly writing history articles in 2006 for the Lake City newspaper.

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ENDURO

Continued from Page 1

changes to the event plans in order to comply with both state and local COVID-19 regulations and has received approval from all of the above agencies to move forward with this year’s race. “The Forest Service has been instrumental in the planning process and we were able to come to an agreement. We have received permits from CODT and the county to allow access to trails and have devised a plan that will meet social distancing guidelines.”

“We are really happy to be back this year and will be continuing this event for years to come. This is going to be a tradition here in South Fork and the San Luis Valley. We are eager to bring the business to the area and help in any way we can. We have seen this particular plan work all over the state over the summer and we are confident it will work.”

Bright also explained that there will be social distancing at the camping location which is the field located next to Highway 160 east of South Fork where Rhythms on the Rio typically takes place. “The owner Kurt Carlton is very supportive and proud of South Fork and its businesses. They are happy to have us coming back this year.”

Other than the COVID-19 changes that will be taking place, the race is going to look relatively the same according to Bright. The race will take

place on the south side of Highway 160 on Rio Grande National Forest roads Saturday and the north side of the road Sunday. Travelers in the area should expect a rise in traffic in the mornings from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. as racers head out to the trails and from around 4 p.m. until dark in the evenings on both Saturday and Sunday Aug. 8 and 9.

The race is made to test the endurance of any rider regardless of age or ability. Participants will be riding the trails located north of town in the Rio Grande Forest between South Fork and Del Norte. Riders travel anywhere from 50 to 90 miles of trails per day and undergo rigorous skills tests throughout the race.

Bright also explained that the group would like to continue the tradition of supporting and endorsing local businesses. “Whether they are gas stations, restaurants, you’re selling propane or have another business that you would like to promote, please contact us with a logo or a link and we will use it on our T-shirts, our website or our Facebook page. We are all about engaging businesses however we can.”

To contact Bright, please visit www.shadyburro.com, visit their Facebook page at Shady Burro Enduro or email Bright at scott@scottbright.net for more information or to participate in the business endorsement.

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ACROSS

1. Seed part
7. Productive
13. Popular cocktail
14. Sausages
16. Western state
17. Natural desires
19. Defunct British automaker
20. Early media tycoon
22. Move from one place to another
23. Letter of Semitic abjads
25. Female birds
26. Umbrella brand
28. Delinquent
29. Tax collector
30. Cooking tool
31. Female sibling
33. Flat-topped hat
34. Angolan currency
36. Boardwalk candy
38. European nation
40. Leaflike part of palm
41. Removed with solvent
43. Uttered words
44. Unfashionable person
45. Disappointed
47. Controversial device in soccer
48. 007’s creator
51. Pain
53. UCLA mascot
55. Razorbill
56. Turkic people
58. Mimic

Solution to last week’s puzzle

5	6	7	2	8	9	4	3	1
2	8	3	1	6	4	5	9	7
4	1	9	3	5	7	8	2	6
1	7	6	4	9	5	2	8	3
3	5	2	8	1	6	9	7	4
9	4	8	7	2	3	6	1	5
8	3	4	6	7	2	1	5	9
6	9	1	5	3	8	7	4	2
7	2	5	9	4	1	3	6	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							36		37		
38	39									40				
41					42				43					
44				45		46		47				48	49	50
51			52		53		54				55			
56				57		58				59				
60			61		62				63				64	
65		66							67				68	
	69								70					

59. Crime involving fire
 60. And, Latin
 61. A saponaceous quality
 64. Dorm employee
 65. Estate lands
 67. States
 69. They slow you down
 70. Gets up
- DOWN**
1. One or the other
 2. Doc
 3. Songs have them
 4. Record of payment (abbr.)
 5. Speak endlessly
 6. American state
 7. Digressions
 8. Tell on
 9. Brews
 10. Belongs to the bottom layer
 11. American cigarette brand
 12. Legal voting age in US
 13. Dish
 15. Expelled air from the nose
 18. Body art
 21. Fierce, destructive act
 24. Bear bright yellow flowers
 26. Japanese delicacy
 27. Get off your feet
 30. Male organs in some invertebrates
 32. __, so good
 35. Cleverness
 37. Protest yacht
 38. Anesthetized
 39. Mollified
 42. Touch lightly
 43. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
 46. Some windows have them
 47. National capital
 49. Squirrels like them
 50. Grandmothers
 52. Painter’s tool
 54. News organization
 55. __ and thesis: musical term
 57. Famed activist Parks
 59. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
 62. A number or amount not specified
 63. Body part
 66. Of I
 68. Old English

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Emmanuel Chapel Car Early 1900s

CHAPEL

Continued from Page 1

three by the Catholic Church from the late 1890s to the 1940s when the churches discontinued their railroad missionary efforts.

This began a new era of "railroad missionaries" and portable "Chapel Cars" that traveled to remote Western towns along the railroads that were beginning to crisscross the West. The purpose of these "chapel cars" was to preach and teach the Gospel of Christ. Their major targets were the thousands of settlers who had scrambled from the East in the 1880s to claim their special spots in the Wild West as homesteaders. Many of those first settlers were devout Christians, but they had left their churches behind them.

On May 26, 1893, the second Baptist Chapel Car *Emmanuel* was dedicated into service at the annual Baptist convention in Denver. From its dedication in 1893 until it finally appeared on a railroad siding in South Fork in 1938, Chapel Car *Emmanuel* carried the Gospel of Christ throughout the western and northwestern United States. A great deal of time was spent in the frontier towns of Arizona, Colorado, and California. Railroads agreed to pull *Emmanuel* from town to town and to use railroad sidings free of charge. *Emmanuel* was sidetracked mainly at smaller, rural towns where few, if any, churches had been established. During the stay in a town, church services and Sunday schools were held, marriages and baptisms were performed, and residents were counseled. A traveling missionary and his family were given separated living quarters in the Chapel Car that often doubled as Sunday school space for children.

After 46 years of service, Chapel Car *Emmanuel* eventually came to South Fork and was settled on a side-track near the water tower. The first Sunday services in Chapel Car *Emmanuel* began Jan. 8, 1939. Prior to this time, some Sunday school was held in the late 1800s in the log country school and in the early 1900s in the redbrick country school



Howard & Mary Parry 1939 - Howard and Mary Parry brought stability and devotion to the Emmanuel Chapel Car Ministry in South Fork, Colorado.

located less than a mile south of the present day Emmanuel Chapel site. Chapel Car *Emmanuel* remained in South Fork for three years to serve as both a church for the community and a home for the missionary/minister.

Reverend Howard Parry, the first missionary, began Sunday school classes and church services in the railroad car. Outside, it resembled an ordinary railroad car, but inside, most of it was formed into a church – complete with a pulpit, organ and pew-like chairs with seating for 50.

The Parry family had their living quarters in a small part of the remainder of the car consisting of living, bathing, sleeping and cooking facilities. It was Rev. Parry who first dreamed of a permanent church building for the South Fork community. After preaching in the Chapel car from 1939 to 1940, he became the original sponsor for the construction of what was to become Emmanuel Chapel. He helped to form the plans for the location and design of the church and induced many people to donate money and skills in helping to make Emmanuel

Chapel a reality for the people of South Fork.

In January 1940, Mr. George "Cap" Horton gave 1 acre of land for the purpose of building a community church, with a hall attached to be used for community meetings. On Feb. 13, 1940, 16 men and women

Please see **MINISTRY** on Page 7

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EMPLOYMENT
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FOR RENT
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SERVICES
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05 Notices

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

07 Help Wanted

HOUSE KEEPERS WANTED! Apply in person at TWIN RIVERS CABINS AND RV PARK, west of Antonito. 719-376-5710 (8/20)

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No insurance benefits. **Job Close Date:** July 31, 2020 Resume will need to accompany Application which may be obtained at: ggarcia@mveyecare.org ATTN:GINA GARCIA No phone calls. (8/19)

Medical Office Receptionist: The medical office receptionist provides assistance to patients, doc-

tors, office employees, and other individuals.

This employee helps the clinic run smoothly by scheduling appointments, greeting and checking in patients, answering phones, maintaining accounts and records, and other tasks as needed. From the moment the patient walks through our door or calls, they should feel like part of the family. Whether in person or over the phone, you are typically the first face or voice our patients will see or hear. Your role in this process cannot be overstated! **Job Qualifications:** Requirements include completion of high school, or its equivalent. A neat appearance and tactfulness in dealing with patients are necessary for success with employment. Attention to detail is necessary with proficiency in spelling and great skills in communication, multitasking and 1 year office experience preferred. Demonstrated ability to interact with healthcare professionals, patients, and insurance companies alike, excellent customer service skills. Pleasant phone demeanor; bilingual speaker preferred. Computer skills required. Full-Time position, Monday thru Friday. Approximately 37-40 hours \$12.00/Hour No insurance benefits **Job Close Date:** July 31, 2020 Resume will need to accompany Application which may be obtained at: ggarcia@mveyecare.org ATTN: GINA GARCIA No phone calls. (8/19)

The Del Norte Jr/Sr High School is accepting applications for a full-time Art Teacher. The position would include junior high Art classes and high school Studio Art classes. To apply please visit dnscsd.org to download the application and submit a completed application to Aaron Horrocks at ahorrocks@urtigers.co or call (719) 657 - 4040 ext 1001 for more information. (8/5)

Del Norte Elementary School is seeking an energetic, caring candidate to serve as a PARA-EDUCATOR. 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 719-657-4030. The position will be open until filled. Please pick up an application at the District Office or on-line at dnscsd.org. (7/30)

The Del Norte Jr/Sr High School is accepting applications for a full-time Physical Education Teacher. The position would include Junior High PE classes and High School Strength and Conditioning class. To apply please visit dnscsd.org to

download the application and submit completed applications to Aaron Horrocks at ahorrocks@urtigers.co or call (719) 657 - 4040 ext 1001 for more information. (8/12)

Police Chief: The Town of South Fork is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Chief of Police. The Chief of Police provides oversight of all activities of the Police Department including, but not limited to administration, communication, investigation, patrol, and supervision. The Police Chief also actively participates in routine daily patrol shifts and provides 24 hour on call police coverage for the Town. Qualifications: Colorado POST Certification is required and minimum of five (5) years of supervisory level law enforcement experience for a similar or larger organization, with command level experience preferred. High School graduate or equivalent required and bachelor degree is preferred. Candidate should be able to demonstrate knowledge of police department operations, personnel management, knowledge of best practices in municipal police services, and local government administration. Applicants must be willing to undergo; an Oral Board, Psychological Evaluation, Background Investigation, Drug Testing, and Physical. Salary range is \$48,000 to \$56,000 DOQ. The Town of South Fork offers an attractive benefits package and assigned police vehicle. The application and position information is available at www.colorado.gov/southforkcolorado. Position is open until filled, first review of applications is to begin on August 1, 2020. The Town of South Fork is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (7/29)

WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge is hiring for Operator I positions. REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must possess a current Class-A CDL license with heavy semi-truck endorsement and a cur-

rent medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED and six months or more of relevant experience. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check. Operator I is a full time position – applicants must be able to operate light and heavy equipment and perform manual labor in the maintenance, repair and minor construction of roads, streets, bridges, signs, markings and related facilities. Applicants must be physically capable of periods of sustained physical exertion and may be required to lift and move up to 75 lbs. to 150 lbs. Applications are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 – 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website – www.saguachecounty.net under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit the Drivers-Application. A complete job description is also available at the Road and Bridge Office. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge – at the address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until qualified candidates are hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (8/6)

WANTED: Saguache County Landfill is Hiring for an additional Full Time Attendant. REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must fill out and submit an application, must be an experienced front end loader operator and possess a valid driver's license. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED and six months or more of relevant experience. Final candidates applying with Saguache County will be required to

submit and pass a pre-employment drug screen and criminal background check. Pay D.O.E. Landfill Attendant is a full time 40 hour per week position – starting at 8:00 A.M. each day Tuesday through Saturday (subject to change). Those applying must be an experienced front end loader operator, have the ability to do strenuous outdoor physical labor in extreme weather conditions and be able to lift and/or move 20 lbs. to 75 lbs. Applications are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge/Landfill Office 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 – 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website – www.saguachecounty.net under the Landfill Department tab. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge/Landfill Office – at the address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until a qualified candidate is hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (8/6)

The Town of Center is accepting applications to fill an entry level position in their Utility Department. Applicant should possess knowledge and skills in all aspects of high voltage power lines, gas systems, water distribution, and sanitation. Applicant should accept duties of construction, repair, maintenance, and operation of these systems. Applicant must also operate trucks, backhoe, and other equipment in the performance of these duties. The duties also included are heavy manual labor and utilization of a large variety of hand tools. Applicant must also have the ability to interact with customers and possess good communication skills. Applicant must also pass a background check

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Saguache County, Colorado, is seeking to fill the position of Public Health Director. The position requires a master's degree in a public health discipline; a nurse candidate shall be licensed to practice in Colorado within six months of hire; OR, similar experience to a nurse with exemplary history and at least two years of administrative experience in public health, and willing to seek additional public health education and experience within five years of hire. A complete job description and qualifications are available online at: <http://www.saguachecounty-co.gov>. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. Saguache County is a drug-free workplace. All inquiries should be directed to: Saguache County Administration. E-mail: wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov phone: 719-655-2231, fax 719-655-2635. Applicants must submit a job application, cover letter, and a resume. Resumes must not exceed three pages in length. The job application is available online at <http://www.saguachecounty-co.gov/administration-home>. Submit cover letter, job application, and resume to the following address: Saguache County Administration P.O. Box 100 Saguache, CO 81149 wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov Faxed and emailed applications are accepted (07/29)

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MINISTRY

Continued from Page 3

met in the Chapel Car and approved the creation of Emmanuel Chapel Hall. Ground was broken May 5, 1940, before a crowd of 125. The Spanish mission-style adobe house of worship was made possible by financial gifts from 150 individuals, 32 businesses and churches from other towns. Donations of labor, equipment, time, advice, materials, and goodwill helped to make the construction of Emmanuel Chapel a true community endeavor. Construction began in May or June 1940 and took six months to complete. A number of the church members and a contractor from Del Norte did much of the actual work, including making the adobe bricks for the walls. The timbers for the ceiling and support beams inside the church were harvested from the surrounding mountains and milled locally.

On Dec. 8, 1940, Emmanuel Chapel was dedicated to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. Rev. Parry continued to live in the Chapel car and preach at the new church building for one more year. When Rev. Parry left in 1941, he was replaced by the Baptist minister in Del Norte — Rev. Theodore (Ted) Mayberry, a recent graduate of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Rev. Mayberry remained in South Fork until 1942.

The information from 1942 to 1954 is scanty when ministers commuted from Del Norte or a guest preacher served and sometimes, there was no minister available. In 1954, Rev. Raymond W. Settle, a retired minister living in Monte Vista began serving as minister to Emmanuel Chapel. He was the first to hold morning services here and continued for 13 years.

As time progressed, many changes occurred involving people in the congregation giving their time and efforts to add to the comfort and services at Emmanuel Chapel. For many years, Mrs. Settle played the piano for a junior-high choir that Wanda Maddox and Marjorie Hansen organized in about 1957 or 1958. An adult choir was organized later with Mrs. Gene Shamburger as the first director and Inez Meaders as pianist.

Sunday-school teachers were needed and four young women, Drenda Fleming Murchison, Barbara Myers Slade, Nancy Brown, and Marilyn Walker volunteered to teach the children — later Arlene Flaugh took over the Sunday school.

In late 1967, Dr. L.A. Wilcox, a retired medical doctor living in South Fork, agreed to become lay minister for Emmanuel Chapel, and he served until the spring of 1971. At this time, the church board was expanded to include Lawrence Fleming, Dixie Hallum, Kenneth Hunter, John Sobiella and LaVeta Kerr.

From June to September 1971, Mr. Douglas Sharp served as the minister of Emmanuel Chapel until he entered the American Baptist Seminary of the West. The congregation asked his friend, David Daniel, who had preached once at the church, to take over as lay minister for Emmanuel Chapel. Mr. Daniel — who farmed just southeast of Monte Vista — accepted the invitation. At the time, Mr. Daniel had no idea that this interim position was to lead to a ministry at Emmanuel Chapel that would span almost five decades even to the present day.

From Hog Farming to Full Time Christian Service

David Daniel grew up on a family farm southeast of Monte Vista. His

parents were faithful believers in Jesus Christ and lived that Faith as a testimony to David, his three broth-

ers and one sister. Because of their parents, the brothers understood the value of a strong faith, hard work

and family. For David, these three qualities were to form the foundation of a ministry at Emmanuel Cha-

pel that continues to this present day. Both Emmanuel Chapel and David Please see CAR on Page 8

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Emmanuel Chapel in South Fork 1940.

CAR Continued from Page 7

Daniel have grown through different stages of development.

For David Daniel, it all started in the summer of 1971, with a one-time guest slot as preacher at Emmanuel Chapel at the invitation of Minister Douglas Sharp's mother Pat Sharp. When Minister Sharp left to enter Seminary that fall, the congregation asked Mr. Daniel to take over as lay minister.

"It really caught me by surprise," said Pastor Daniel. "I told them that I would try it for two or three months to see how it went."

At the time, Mr. Daniel was raising hogs with his brother near Monte Vista, and had taught school prior to that. The trial stretched into two months, then three, then continued for years.

In 1979, the Emmanuel Chapel congregation called on him to take full-time responsibilities as pastor to the church. Earlier, a crash in hog prices crippled the farming business, and Mr. Daniel had entered the feed business with his father. One day, while contemplating the offer to become a full-time pastor, Mr. Daniel was riding on a tractor when he felt God's Will for him was to enter into full-time Christian service.

Mr. Daniel stated, "I guess the reason I stayed on is that back in 1971, I decided I'd see what the Lord had in mind for me. I was beginning to feel He wanted me to take on a full time ministry before the church leaders began discussing it in 1978. When they gave me the call, I figured I'd go and do and be whatever God wanted me to be. I really don't have any plans - I'm open to whatever God has in mind."

Mr. Daniel became Pastor Daniel and has remained the faithful pastor, teacher, and leader at Emmanuel Chapel for an astonishing 48+ years.

After his ordination as minister, Pastor Daniel helped Emmanuel Chapel grow as a fellowship to preach Christ and support the spiritual and educational life of South Fork and the surrounding communities.

Under Pastor Daniel's leadership, the church expanded by enlarging the sanctuary, and adding a foyer, a baptistery, and a large Fellowship Hall to the original adobe structure constructed in the late 1930s. These additions were necessary to support an increasing church membership and to provide a physical location for Pastor Daniel's dream of a Christian academy for children.

This dream of a Christian school at Emmanuel Chapel was borne out of Pastor Daniel's desire for a true

Christian education for children and his experiences as a teacher and coach in the Monte Vista School District years earlier. That dream became a reality Aug. 24, 1981, when the Emmanuel Christian Academy (ECA) opened its doors to 23 students. Pastor Daniel became the principal with the following staff: Janet Chapman, Kristi Payne, Joan Hanna, Linda Gallegos, Shelley Daniel, Bette Donaldson and Jerry Gallegos.

For the next 30 years ECA continued to minister Christian Education to the young people of South Fork and the surrounding communities. Using the Accelerated Christian Education curriculum, ECA provided solid Christ-centered courses as well as a broad spectrum of other educational activities for students. There have been many graduates from ECA who have gone on to successful careers as missionaries, ministers, professors, teachers, administrators, beauticians, bankers, counselors, first responders and in the military.

Even though the Emmanuel Christian Academy no longer exists, Emmanuel Chapel has continued to provide support and service to South Fork and the surrounding area. On any given Sunday morning the sound of the church bell can be heard calling the faithful to worship. This same bell came from the original redbrick schoolhouse that called students to class in South Fork at the turn of the 20th century.

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July 29, 2020

Drought impacting pasture and rangeland worse in Southern Colorado

COLORADO - Pasture and rangeland conditions in the Western part of the county were above average in 2019, following a cool wet spring across much of the region. But as with so many things, 2020 tells a different story. And it's not a good story.

As of July 7, 2020, 49 percent of the continental U.S. is experiencing drought to some degree. This is up significantly from last year, and up from a reported 24 percent at the beginning of 2020. Roughly two-thirds of the Western U.S. is experiencing some form of drought, with key cattle regions some of the worst hit.

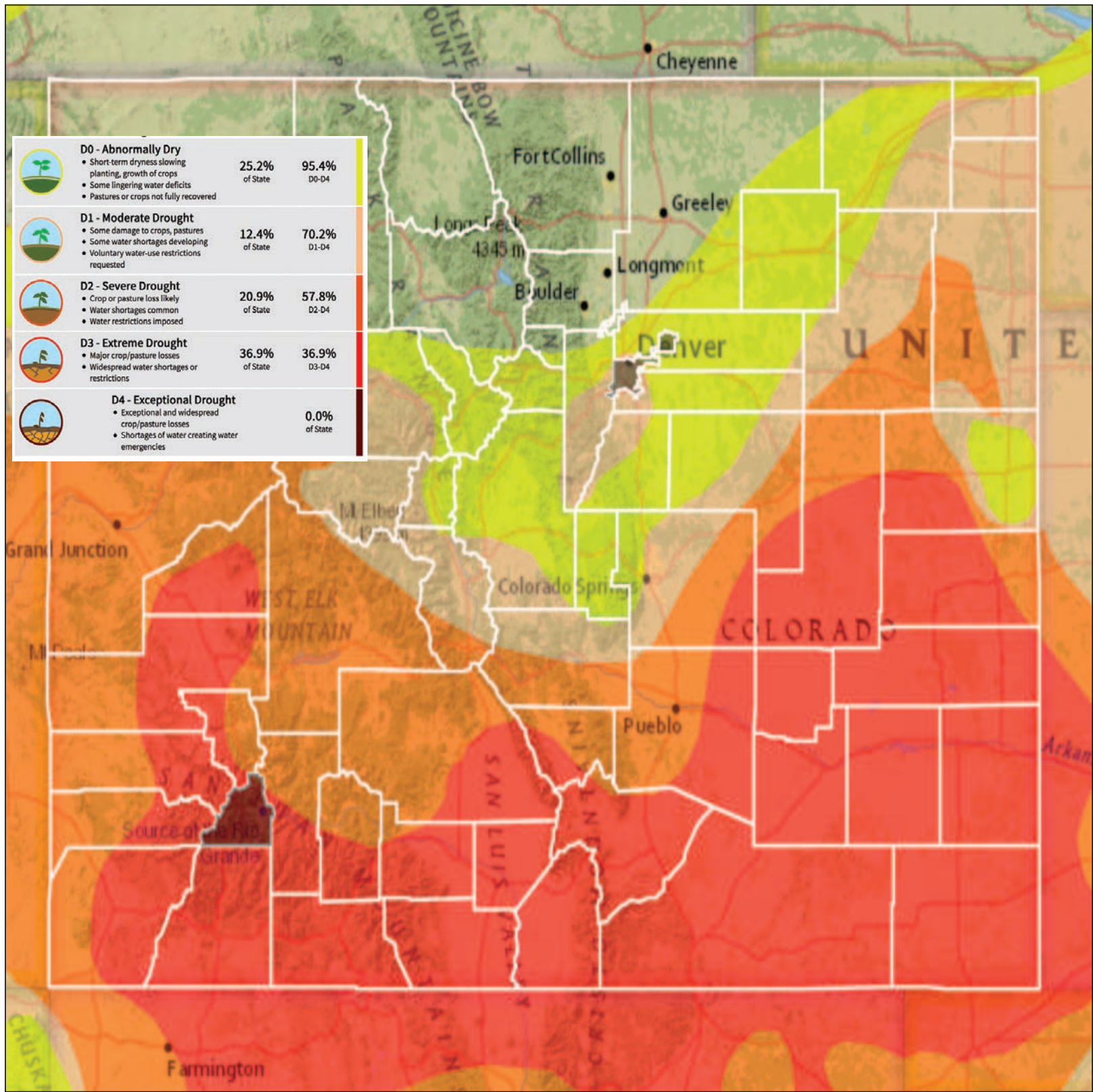
According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 95 percent of Colorado is experiencing some level of drought conditions. While 37 percent of Colorado mostly in the southern half of the state is in an extreme drought.

July 21 the Del Norte river gauge for the Rio Grande re-gauged the river flow was only 330 cubic feet per second (CFS) which is approximately 900 CFS below the 121 year average for that date. At the Lobatos river gauge in Conejos County, the Rio Grande's flow was only 40.7 CFS with the 120 year average being 390 CFS.

The worst concentration of drought is centered on the Southern part of Colorado, stretching into the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandle. Over 95 percent of Colorado is under some form of drought, with almost 40 percent of the state experiencing "extreme" drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. As a result of longstanding drought conditions, USDA reports that at least 44 percent of the state is experiencing "poor to very poor" pasture and rangeland conditions.

U.S. Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) cosponsored S. 3893, bipartisan legislation that would allow the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to authorize emergency haying and grazing on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) during a pandemic like COVID-19. The Pandemic Authority Suitable To Utilize Reserve Easements (PASTURE) Act was introduced by U.S. Senators John Thune (R-SD) and Tina Smith (D-MN).

"Farmers and ranchers in Colo-



rado have faced many challenges because of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including a delay from shipping livestock to be processed that has required additional grazing, but they have been working around the clock to keep our na-

tion's food supply secure," said Senator Gardner. "This bipartisan bill will provide for the opportunity for much-needed relief and assistance to Colorado's vital agriculture industry."

"We are experiencing a global health pandemic, and farmers and

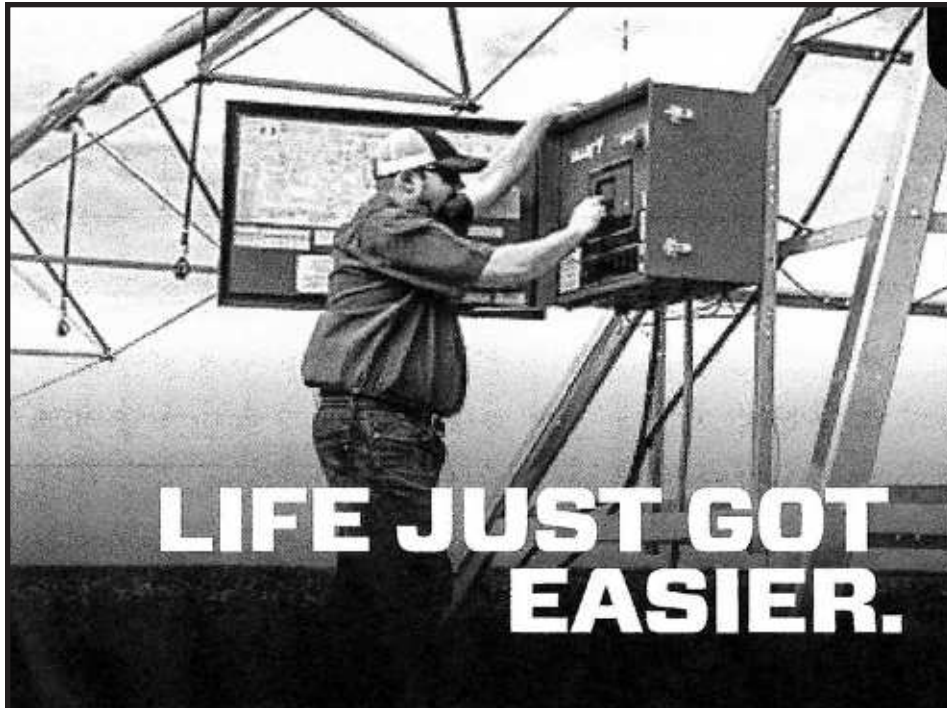
ranchers are feeling the economic impact," said Senator Thune of South Dakota. "Our bill is straightforward—allowing emergency haying and grazing would help producers ensure adequate forage for the livestock they are having to keep longer than ex-

pected due to low prices and meat processing capacity shortfalls resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. My hope is that this will provide our ag economy, South Dakota's top industry, with much-needed assistance at this time."

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Purchased by Rio Grande Savings & Loan



Grand Champion Pen of 3 Chickens Market Poultry
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Purchased by Town & Country/Gateway Motors



Reserve Grand Champion Turkey Market Poultry
Laura Morfitt
Purchased by Rocky Mountain Livestock



Reserve Grand Champion Market Poultry Pen of 3 Chickens
Ayden Yund
Purchased by Alamosa State Bank

Photos unavailable

Reserve Champion Pen of 3 Rabbits
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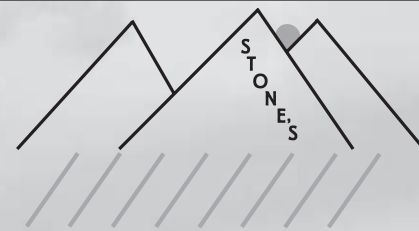
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San Luis Valley Fair Schedule August 1-8, 2020

Saturday, August 1, 2020

8 am-Noon Set Up – Selected Groups*
 10-11 am Mandatory Livestock Exhibitors' Meeting
 11 am-Noon Horse Exhibitors' Test

Sunday, August 2, 2020

SOFTBALL FIELDS

8-9 am 4-H Dog Check
 In 9 am 4-H Dog Show

LIVESTOCK PAVILLION

4 pm Dairy Goat Judging Followed by Milking Competition
 6 pm Mike Kelley Memorial Open Barrow Show

MCMULLEN BUILDING

1-3 pm Dairy Goat Check In
 Breeding Livestock Check In
 Barrows for Barrow Show Check In

Monday, August 3, 2020

NAZARENE GYM

8-11 am 4-H/FFA Project Check In
 9 am-2 pm 4-H/FFA Project Judging

ARENA

8-8:30 am Horse Check In
 9 am 4-H Horse Show

LIVESTOCK PAVILLION

9 am Breeding Beef Show/ Dairy Calf
 1 pm Breeding Sheep Show
 3 pm Production Meat Goat Show
 5 pm Breeding Swine Show
 5:30 pm Swine Showmanship

MCMULLEN BUILDING

7-11 am Poultry Check In
 1 pm Poultry Judging
 9-11 am Market Swine Check in/Weigh in
 8 pm Poultry Check out
 BREEDING STOCK MUST CHECK OUT BY 9 PM

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

ARENA

8-8:30 am Horse Check In
 9 am 4-H Working Ranch Horse Show

LIVESTOCK PAVILLION

2 pm Market Lamb Show Followed by Lamb Showmanship
 5:30 pm Market Swine Show

MCMULLEN BUILDING

8-10 am Market Lamb Weigh In/ Check in
 10am- 12 pm Market Goat Weigh In/ Check in

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

NAZARENE GYM

10 am-12 pm. Pick up Indoor Project that don't make State Fair

ARENA

8 am 4-H Gymkhana
 The Horse Awards Ceremony will be held after completion of the Gymkhana in the Arena

LIVESTOCK PAVILLION

9-11 am Market Goat Show followed by Goat Showmanship
 3-5 pm Market Beef Check in

Thursday, August 6, 2020

LIVESTOCK PAVILLION

9 am Market Beef Show followed by Beef Showmanship
 RELEASE OF NON-SALE ANIMALS MAY BEGIN AFTER LAST SHOW. NON-SALE ANIMALS MUST BE OUT OF MCMULLEN BUILDING BY 6 PM THURSDAY AUGUST 6, 2020

Friday, August 7, 2020

MCMULLEN BUILDING

4 pm Sale Poultry back in pens

LIVESTOCK PAVILLION

6 pm SLV Fair Junior Livestock Auction

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Saturday, August 8, 2020

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Farmers are essential

By REBECCA COPLEY

SAN LUIS VALLEY - During this COVID-19 pandemic the term essential worker has been placed on many different careers. Medical workers, grocery store employees, emergency services and more. Among them farmers must be listed. A job that goes back all the way to the garden of Eden.

It's hard to come up with a more essential worker than those who provide us with one of the most necessary things for survival - food. According to an article published by HuffPost in 2014 the world consumes more than 11 million pounds of food every minute of every day. That's a lot of potatoes and other crops.

About 2 million farms are scattered throughout America's 50 states. Around 98 percent of rural U.S. farms are operated by families. Either individuals, family partnerships or family corporations. Food from one U.S. farm

feeds about 166 mouths annually in the U.S. and abroad. More than half of America's farms also try to provide habitat for wildlife. (this information was found on <https://www.fb.org/newsroom/fast-facts>)

During this pandemic many have noticed how important agriculture is even miles away from the fields in cities where meat shortages other crop shortages were felt at Supermarket shelves and restaurant to-go menus. COVID-19 has brought many struggles for farmers including labor shortages, and difficulty shipping their crops. As stay at home orders and lockdowns, created disruptions in supply chains. The devastating effects of COVID-19 on the economy's market are being felt by farms all-around the country.

As the conveniences of modern life have removed many away from where their food comes from, it can be easy to take for granted how your food gets to your plate.



But over these last few months, I have gained a new appreciation for food that took someone months to raise and care for. The journey from seed to plate is not possible without a farmer. COVID-19 has made many things about the future uncertain but one thing is for sure, farmers are essential.

Thousands of Water Rights may be abandoned

By KENT HOLSINGER AND DAVID KUETER

COLORADO - Once every 10 years a comet is visible in the night sky, the census counts every person living in the United States, and your water rights are at risk of abandonment in Colorado. Water is Colorado's most precious natural resource.

Colorado's proposed decennial abandonment lists were published online on July 1. Over four thousand water rights were listed, including over 630 rights in Division 3. This is a marked increase from decades past. Put another way, the lists prepared by the Division Engineers at the Colorado Division of Water Resources could result in a significant number of water rights being declared abandoned throughout the state. The Rio Grande Basin has been over appropriated since the 1890s with groundwater resources depleted throughout much of the basin. The Colorado Water Plan projects the basin will need an additional 180,000 acre feet (AF) by 2050. As a result, protecting existing rights is more important than ever.

Water right owners should check the lists online at <http://water.state.co.us> to determine whether their rights are at risk. The lists will also be published in the local papers of record throughout

the state in July and August. While the agency is required to notify the "last-known owner or claimant" of a water right included on the list by July 31, the State's ownership records are not always up-to-date. In an arid climate like Colorado, water rights are highly coveted and highly valued. Losing a water right to abandonment can be catastrophic. It can also directly impact the bottom line and the market value of your property.

Water right owners have multiple opportunities to protest inclusion of a right on the abandonment lists. Under Colorado water laws, abandonment requires both an overt act (typically non-use) and intent. Good record-keeping, personal knowledge and extrinsic evidence like Google Earth imagery can help protect valued water rights. Lands protected by conservation easements may have other good arguments to employ.

Fortunately, the deadline for written objections to be submitted to the appropriate Division Engineer (along with a \$10.00 fee for each water right) is July 1, 2021. In the meantime, water right owners would be wise to start collecting records and consulting with legal counsel. By Dec. 31, 2021, after considering any filed objections, the Division Engineers will file the final



proposed abandonment lists with the Water Court. Water right owners can then formally protest the inclusion on the list by June 30, 2022, which protests will be heard by the Water Judge beginning in October 2022.

This article does not constitute legal advice nor the creation of an attorney-client relationship. Kent Holsinger and David Kueter are attorneys at Holsinger Law, LLC and can be contacted at www.holsingerlaw.com



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3 myths debunked: Animal agriculture's real impact on the environment

BY BRIAN LAWLESS

The way the public and the media perceive animal agriculture's environmental impact can, and should, change. New research from Oxford University and the University of California, Davis have recently debunked some of the most critical and long-standing myths surrounding animal agriculture. But can this breakthrough overcome animal agriculture's bad reputation.

The current narrative about animal agriculture says that ruminant livestock animals (e.g., beef cattle, dairy cattle, etc.) produce methane. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas. Thus, animal agriculture is bad for the environment.

During a keynote presentation for the Alltech ONE Virtual Experience, Dr. Frank Mitloehner, professor at the University of California, Davis and air quality specialist, boldly proclaimed a path for animal agriculture to become climate-neutral.

Yes, "you heard me right — climate-neutral," said Dr. Mitloehner. He said he would like to, "get us to a place where we have the impacts of animal agriculture that are not detrimental to our climate."

sphere is approximately 10 years. This means a flow gas like methane would impact the environment for a duration that is nearly 100 times shorter than the stock gas carbon dioxide.

What causes these gases in the first place?

Carbon dioxide is created by the burning of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are used as the energy source to power most homes, vehicles and industry globally. As the graph below depicts, Dr. Mitloehner refers to stock gases like carbon dioxide as a "one-way street" because they only accumulate in the environment over time due to their long life span.

Methane can be produced in a variety of methods, but most commonly, it's produced through the rumination process in beef and dairy livestock (i.e., belching). As a short-lived flow gas, "The only time that you really add new additional methane to the atmosphere with the livestock herd is throughout the first 10 years of its existence or if you increase your herd sizes," explained Dr. Mitloehner. Methane levels do not increase if herd sizes remain constant because methane is being broken down at the same rate it is being produced.

10 years), but what about their global warming potential?

Myth #2: The current method for assessing the global warming potential (GWP100) of greenhouse gases properly accounts for all important variables.

Fact: The initial method for calculating GWP100 misrepresents the impact of short-lived flow gases, like methane, on future warming. The new "GWP*" is an improved and more representative measurement.

The initial GWP100 measures produced by the Kyoto Protocol nearly 30 years ago marked a very positive step for assessing global warming. The initial documents included many footnotes and caveats to account for variability and unknown values. "But the footnotes were cut off, and people ran with (it)," said Dr. Mitloehner. "And in my opinion that was a very dangerous situation that has really gotten animal agriculture into a lot of trouble, actually, quite frankly."

The current GWP100 measurement generates an overassessment of methane's contributions to global warming. Currently, in short, GWP100 measurements are all standardized to a billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. So, all non-carbon dioxide emissions are converted by multiplying the amount of the emissions of each gas by its global warming potential over 100 years value. Methane has a GWP100 value of 28, meaning it is 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Unfortunately, this type of calculation completely omits the fact that flow gases, like methane, are destroyed after approximately 10 years and would not continue for the entire 100-year duration as described in the GWP100 formula. Additionally, it underestimates the impact that stock gases, like carbon dioxide, would have that persist in the environment for 1,000 years.

Dr. Mitloehner cited Dr. Myles Allen from Oxford University as the pioneer of a new calculation called "GWP*." The new GWP* calculation better accounts for both gas intensity and gas life span in the atmosphere in its measurements of global warming. This is a new narrative to explain global warming emissions and, Dr. Mitloehner said, "you will see it will



gain momentum, and it will become the new reality" soon.

Myth #3: To keep up with increasing demand and global population growth, the United States has continued to increase its numbers of beef and dairy cattle, thus increase methane emissions. Fact: The United States reached peak beef and dairy cattle numbers in the 1970s and has reduced its number of animals every decade since, resulting in 50 million fewer cattle in total. Over the last half-century, the United States has made tremendous progress to improve efficiency and increase productivity while also reducing total beef and dairy cattle numbers. For example, in 1950, the U.S. dairy cow herd peaked at 25 million cattle. Today, the dairy herd is approximately 9 million cows, yet it is producing 60 percent more milk — that's significantly more milk with 14 million fewer cows!

Though cattle numbers have continued to increase in countries such as India and China, this means the United States has not increased methane output — thus not increasing GHG contributions from livestock — over the last five decades.

So, what does all this mean? Animal agriculture, unlike any other sector, cannot only reduce its GHG output, but can also create a net cooling effect on the atmosphere (i.e., actively reduce global warming). The three scenarios shown below demonstrate the important differences between carbon dioxide and methane, and their ability to generate global cooling. With rising emissions, warming carbon dioxide

increases at a growing rate, while methane also increases. With constant emissions, warming from carbon dioxide continues to increase while methane no longer contributes to additional warming. "But now, the thing that really excites me, and that's the third scenario," said Dr. Mitloehner. "So, imagine this scenario here, where we decrease methane by 35 percent. If we do so, then we actively take carbon out of the atmosphere. And that has a net cooling effect. If we find ways to reduce methane, then we counteract other sectors of societies that do contribute — and significantly so — to global warming, such as flying, driving, running air conditioners and so on."

Examples of Dr. Mitloehner's 35 percent reduction scenario have proven to be possible. Over the last five years alone, California has reduced methane emissions by 25% via a combination of improved efficiency and incentives for anaerobic digesters, alternative manure management practices and other technologies.

Though the narrative on animal agriculture has been negative on climate change, there is now increasing hope and new data to debunk even the most long-standing criticisms.

Dr. Mitloehner concluded, "because I know if we can do it here (in California), it can be done in other parts of the country and in other parts of the world. If we indeed achieve such reductions of greenhouse gas, particularly of short-lived greenhouse gases such as methane, then that means that our livestock sector will be on a path for climate neutrality."

Gas	Molecular Name	Gas Type	Lifespan in the Atmosphere (Years)	Global Warming Potential (GWP100)
Carbon Dioxide	CO ₂	Stock	1,000	1
Methane	CH ₄	Flow	10	28
Nitrous Oxide	N ₂ O	Stock	110	265

Important Greenhouse Gases to Know

3 myths about animal agriculture's environmental impact debunked

Myth #1: Methane (the most common greenhouse gas, or GHG, in animal agriculture) acts just like other GHGs in the environment.

Fact: The three main greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, all impact the environment in critically different ways, especially as it relates to their source, life span in the atmosphere and global warming potential.

Carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide are known as "stock gases." Stock gases are long-lived gases and once emitted will continue to build up in the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide, for example, has an estimated life span in the atmosphere of 1,000 years, meaning carbon dioxide emitted from the year 1020 may still be in the atmosphere today. Methane, on the other hand, is a "flow gas." Flow gases are short-lived gases and are removed from the atmosphere at a more rapid pace. Methane's life span in the atmo-

"What I'm saying here by no means (is) that methane doesn't matter," he continued. "While that methane is in the atmosphere, it is heat-trapping, it is a potent greenhouse gas. But the question really is, do our livestock herds add to additional methane, meaning additional carbon in the atmosphere, leading to additional warming? And the answer to that question is no. As long as we have constant herds or even decreasing herds, we are not adding additional methane, and hence not additional warming. And what I just said to you is a total change in the narrative around livestock." Alternatively, carbon dioxide is created from extracting fossil fuels that are millions of years old and are trapped under the Earth's surface. "These long-lived climate pollutants are only emitted," said Dr. Mitloehner. "They are put into the atmosphere, but there's no real sink for it in a major way."

This demonstrates that carbon dioxide and methane are very different types of gases (stock versus flow) and have very different lifespans in the environment (1,000 years versus

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COVID-19 impacts potato farmers

While the COVID 19 virus resulted in a major surge in demand for our shippers and growers the result has been much different for the process sector of the potato industry. With the closure of the food service industry, finished process product has backed up and created literally a "frozen" supply chain. In North America, nearly 60 percent of the total sales of processed potatoes take place at food service and with food service sales down severely this has the potato market in a tizzy. Potato processors have asked growers to reduce their 2020 plantings by 15-25 percent. This

is significant when you consider that the process industry supplies 41 percent of the potatoes utilized in the U.S.A. Many growers in Washington state already had their crop planted when they learned that the processors didn't want their crop. How this is going to play out for the fresh market will be interesting to say the least. Thankfully the current fresh market supply was already tight so the influx of newly released process potatoes into the fresh market hasn't crashed the market to the extent that it could. The NPC, Potatoes USA, and state organizations are working

to request that USDA take steps to reduce this pressure on the supply chain with some of the funding that congress appropriated for specialty crop producers in the CARES act. The issue is that the majority of agriculture is suffering incredible losses and there will be fierce competition for funding. Hopefully, the virus will abate sooner than later and the food service industry will be able to open up. It will be a major undertaking for them as many of them. They were already under a great deal of stress prior to the virus outbreak for many reasons.



Colorado Farm Bureau welcomes USMCA

COLORADO — Colorado farmers and ranchers are happy and relieved to see the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) enter into force and remove years of uncertainty over the industry's most important trade agreement. USMCA went into effect July 1, 2020, cementing a trade agreement that will provide an additional \$2 billion in agricultural exports between the three nations.

"The completion of USMCA provides a much-needed dose of optimism and certainty to agriculture producers rocked with the fallout from COVID-19," said Don Shawcroft, an Alamosa

rancher and president of the Colorado Farm Bureau. "Our farmers and ranchers welcome the opportunity to build on the wild success of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the stabilizing effect the USMCA will have on agricultural markets."

Under NAFTA, U.S. agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico grew from \$8 billion in 1993 to \$39 billion in 2017. Colorado exports between \$2 billion and \$3 billion of agricultural products to Canada and Mexico, making the two nations Colorado's largest agriculture trading partners. According to the U.S. International

Trade Commission, agricultural exports will grow by \$2 billion due to the provisions of the USMCA.

The new agreement will create improvements in U.S. access to Canadian dairy and wheat markets. Mexico has agreed that all grading standards for agriculture products will be non-discriminatory. The agreement also enhances science-based trading standards among the three nations.

"The uncertainty over the future of the trading relationship between our countries can now be put bed. And agriculture producers have one less worry on their minds," said Shawcroft.



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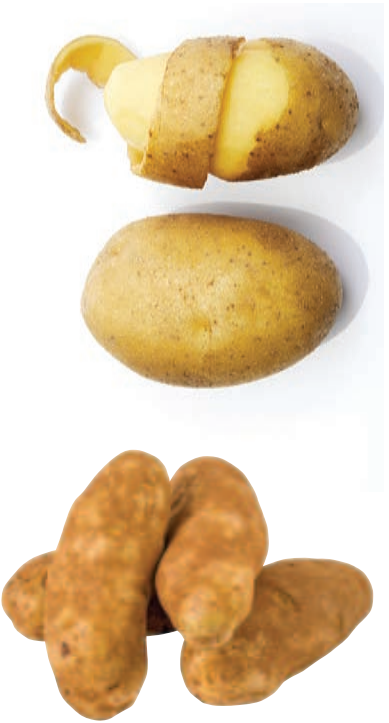
June 2020 SLV fly over potato acreage survey

SANLUIS VALLEY - CPAC completed the annual acreage survey June 22. A special thank you goes to Jared Smith and Grant Mattive for flying, and Tyler Mitchell, Andrew Tillman, Zach Czarnecki and Clay Mitchell for spotting and compiling the count.

The county break-out is listed below. According to the July 1 USDA planting report potato growers planted nearly 5 percent fewer potatoes in 2020 than in 2019. The largest acreage reductions came in Idaho, North Dakota, and Washington.

County	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Alamosa- N	7971	7642	7974	9164	7,762	8,604	8,647
Alamosa-S	8190	8443	8789	8761	8,789	9,401	9,622
Alamosa	16161	16085	16763	17,925	16,551	18,005	18,269
Conejos	1077	490	708	1011	943	472	937
Costilla	2943	2970	2972	2774	2,901	2,758	3,393
Rio Grande-N	8201	8555	7408	7500	7,243	7,999	7,465
Rio Grande-S	7802	7931	8514	8286	8,114	7,581	8,881
Rio Grande	16003	16486	15922	15786	15,357	15,580	16,346
Saguache	14739	12542	15420	14352	15,150	15,120	15,183
Total	50923	48573	51785	51848	50,902	51,935	54,128

U.S. SPUD FACTS JUNE 2020							
		2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Reds	Percentage of Crop	0.3	3.4	4.1	2.1	0.8	3
All Russet Varieties	Percentage of Crop	95.6	92.3	92.6	92.6	98	96.1
Yellows	Percentage of Crop	4.1	4.1	3.2	5.2	1.2	0.8
Other Varieties	Percentage of Crop	0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0	0
U.S. No. 1	Percentage of Crop	64.5	59.3	60.3	63.1	63.8	64.7
U.S. No. 2	Percentage of Crop	5.1	7.4	7.6	6.3	9.1	8.5
U.S. Commercial Grade	Percentage of Crop	30.4	33.3	31.9	30.4	27	28.7
Seed	Percentage of Crop	0	0	0.1	0.2	0	0.1
Bulk	Percentage of Crop	33.8	42.8	40.2	43.2	34.5	32.7
Total Rail Shipments	480 CWT Equivalent	0	50	66	166	194	66
Total Truck Shipments (Fresh)	480 CWT Equivalent	1825	2423	2029	2401	2255	2428
Total Truck Shipments (Processing)	480 CWT Equivalent	255	504	271	442	346	346
Total Monthly Shipments	480 CWT Equivalent	2080	2977	2366	3008	2795	2839
Total YTD Shipments	480 CWT Equivalent	28032	29875	27977	29370	29064	28762
AVERAGE F.O.B. PRICES FOR JUNE							
(per 50 lb. carton or bale unless noted)							
		2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Reds	U.S. #1 A 5#						
Yellows	5#						
All Russets	U.S. #1 Size A	5.49	7.1	8.42	5.19	5.28	3.38
All Russets	U.S. #2	6.25	6.25	6.70	4.25	4.48	2.95
Russet	U.S. Commercial Grade 100 lbs	13.32	9.75	10.5	7.06	7.33	4.86



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SLV FAIR Jr Livestock Sale

Friday August 7, 2020 6:00pm
Covered Livestock Pavilion - Ski HI Park

Each year, approximately 185 youth, ages 8-19 years old, participate in the Junior Livestock Sale. The primary purpose of the sale is for the youth to learn responsibility, time management skills, record keeping and public speaking, while working to earn back their investment on the animal they are selling.

The majority of the youth have spent their own money on the initial investment for the caring and feeding of their animal. Funds raised from each animal sold returns to the youth as funds for college.

This program not only strives to help our youth become responsible leaders that are invested in their home community, but also to bring the best animals in the San Luis Valley to be exhibited as safe and wholesome products.

2019 Champion Buyers

Champion Steer Monte Vista COOP \$5,300	Champion Pig Alamosa State Bank \$2700	Champion Lamb Chris & Roxann Sittler \$2,700	Champion Goat Farm Credit of Southern CO \$1700
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Champion Turkey Rio Grande Savings and Loan \$350	Champion Pen of 3 Poultry Silver Mountain Disposal \$500	Champion Pen of 3 Rabbit Center Kiwanis \$450	Champion Rabbit Alta Fuels \$350
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Reserve Champion Steer US Tractor \$3,900	Reserve Champion Pig Town and County \$2,100	Reserve Champion Lamb Cottonwood Dental \$1,600	Reserve Champion Goat Consaul Farms \$1,300
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Reserve Champion Turkey Rocky Mountain Livestock \$450	Reserve Champion Pen of 3 Poultry Alamosa State Bank \$450	Reserve Champion Pen of 3 Rabbit Consaul Farms \$500	Reserve Champion Rabbit N/A
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