

Shorts



Commissioners sign movant agreement on SLRG railroad

By LYNSIE FERRELL
RIO GRANDE COUNTY-

In a move of solidarity, the Rio Grande Board of County Commissioners made a decision to sign a movant in regard to the SLRG Railroad bankruptcy issue and are asking for additional support from surrounding counties. By signing the movant agreement, the board is asking the bankruptcy Judge presiding over the case to take into consideration the circumstances of the railroad throughout the Valley and the needs of the communities who rely on it.

Movant is an individual or group of entities that makes a motion before a court and asks the Judge to make a decision in their favor or after taking all needs into consideration before making a decision. "We basically want the best interest of the public and their needs to be heard by the Judge before a decision is made. There are people here and in surrounding communities who rely heavily on the railroad for commerce and even tourism for economic growth and stability," said Noffsfer.

"If a buyer comes in and doesn't take the community's needs into consideration it could be detrimental to our economy," stated Noffsfer. The board voted to sign the movant and asked County Attorney Ryan Dunn to continue conversations with surrounding counties that are affected by the bankruptcy to join in the movant.

The SLRG Railroad is in Colorado Bankruptcy Court at this time and will be out for bid in upcoming weeks. The railroad has been a staple in the Valley since the early 1800s and has played an integral part in the survival of both the agricultural community and tourism in the Valley.

The railroad owes back property taxes amounting to just over \$2 million to Rio Grande, Alamosa, Costilla, Conejos and Huerfano counties. Not only do the communities involved want to see the survival of the lines, they are also hoping to get reimbursed for the back taxes to help stimulate the economy that suffered when the line was shut down in November 2019.

Center K-9 ready for duty this week

CENTER - Center Police Chief Dale (Gene) Meek released an email update last week on the progress of multiple projects in the town, reporting that the narcotics K9 has been training daily and will be up for certification sooner than expected.

"I believed it would take two to three months to reach the level needed for the dog/handler to certify but K-9 Maverick is excelling and most likely will be ready by the end of the week," Meek announced.

Also in training is Officer Deanna Lopez, out on the streets in field training with Officer Williams. Officer Lopez will be provided additional training after 12 weeks of field training as she will be the Center Police Department's School Resource Officer. She will be responsible for school safety and law enforcement within the schools. Officer A.J. Fresquez injured herself and will be recuperating prior to entering (FTO) field training. Meek is requesting assistance with speeding

and racing in Center. The first five months of this year, Center Police received 11 total complaints of speeding, he noted, with the month of June racking up 11 complaints by itself. "This is an issue that needs to be addressed before someone gets seriously hurt," Meek said. "I would request that you call our dispatch with the location and description of vehicles speeding and racing on our streets," he advised citizens.

"The more calls we receive, the higher the likelihood that we can locate these offenders. These calls can be made anonymously but an officer must see the speeding or get a reporting party to sign a complaint before we can cite a violator." He asked Center residents to please spread the word to friends, family and neighbors

Please see **DUTY** on Page 8A

K-9 Maverick will most likely be in beginning service the end of this week.



Town board votes to extend mandatory masks

CENTER - Center town board members voted at their July 7 meeting to extend the wearing of masks by Center residents until the end of July, Town Administrator Brian Lujan reported last week.

The extension comes in the wake of a rise in COVID-19 cases in the town.

The board also agreed to accept Cares Act money from the state; distributed to Saguache and Rio Grande counties. The money will be used to purchase plexiglass panels for the town. Lujan noted that "a significant amount of money" was allocated to the counties by the state which he hopes can be used for business stimulus grants.

The town entered into a memorandum of understanding to determine how the money will be spent. Money collected from Rio Grande County will be minimal since only 199 Center citizens live



there, but all can be put to good use, Lujan said.

The town also voted to hire

Monte Vista attorney Barbara Zollars as their interim municipal judge.

Saguache BoCC Highlights

Courthouse to reopen July 21

SAGUACHE — The following highlights were taken from draft meeting minutes recorded by Saguache County Clerk's office staffer Dominique White for the regular July 7 Saguache County Commissioners meeting broadcast via ZOOM.

Public Comment - Robert Tafoya asked for an update with the Town of Moffat Annexation. Gibbons stated that they can go ahead with the annexation. If the judge rules against the annexation the procedure would be undone, but meanwhile it goes forward. their response is due next week. The county won't know until October or September what the court is going to do — if one side

Please see **BOCC** on Page 7A

CPAC, potato growers meet challenge with \$50,000 donation to Friends of Ski Hi Park

MONTE VISTA - Colorado Potato Administration (CPAC) board members and manager Jim Ehrlich present a check in the amount of \$50,000 to Friends of Ski Hi Park. CPAC first pledged \$25,000 to the project. It then challenged potato growers to contribute \$25,000 or more and then CPAC would contribute another \$25,000. The goal was met, thus CPAC has contributed \$50,000 to the important Ski Hi Regional Use Event and Conference Center project. Contributions in any amount are still needed and can be sent to Friends of Ski Hi Park, P.O. Box 262, Monte Vista, CO 81144. Funding is still needed.

Courtesy photo



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OBITUARY

Lloyd Luther Engen, 79

ALAMOSA — Longtime Valley Courier Sports Editor and Alamosa resident Lloyd Luther Engen, 79, succumbed to COVID-19 related complications peacefully at San Luis Valley Health Sunday, July 12, 2020.

Engen was born on June 15, 1941, in Cavalier County, North Dakota to Chester Lloyd and Viola (Thormodsgaard) Engen. At a young age, Lloyd was diagnosed with Osteogenesis Imperfecta, “brittle bone disease,” and was only expected to live to be 50. He outlived that with his active lifestyle.

Lloyd spent his childhood in Hatton, Northwood and Larimore, ND, and graduated from Larimore High School. His creative writing skills began to show clearly in high school. Lloyd had a beautiful tenor voice, was often in demand for a vocal performance and won awards in state vocal competitions.

He attended the University of North Dakota for one year and then took a position as a men’s clothing buyer with Johnson Store Co. in Larimore. He also started and edited a local newspaper, the Larimore Leader. Lloyd then moved to western North Dakota and started a chain of clothing stores before venturing to Colorado.

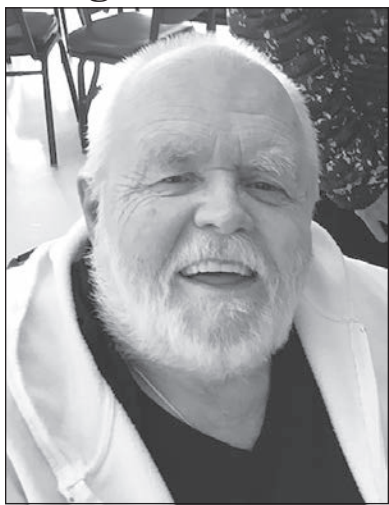
Lloyd worked at Adams State for 13 years where he was the Sports Information Director and Public Information Officer. During his time at Adams State he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 1987. He was a 2006 inductee into the Adams State University Athletics Hall of Fame.

He went on and became the sports editor at the Valley Courier for 12 years where he was a fixture on the sidelines at thousands of sporting events in the San Luis Valley. He made it a point to get to 10 or 15 every week. He worked 14 hours most days, 19 on some and all seven days plenty of weeks.

He served on several award committees including the All-Valley Football, All-Valley cross-country and ASU Hall of Fame. Lloyd made many friends with his work especially Damon and Konnie Martin as Lloyd drove cross-country on numerous occasions to cover the Grizzlies in their national title endeavors.

After suffering a career-ending accident doing what he loved, covering a football game, Lloyd spent 10 years in Fort Collins with longtime friends Ron and Holly Dea.

His reach was larger than sports with his weekly column titled “Saturday’s Soap Box” and occasional tributes titled “All the



Heroes I Need” that moved readers across the Valley and beyond.

He was a staple at nearly all holiday settings, from dressing up as Santa Claus and making deliveries to friends and family members at Christmastime to dressing up as Uncle Sam as he photographed and marched in the annual Fourth of July Parade and later in the evening emceeding the San Luis Valley Federal fireworks show at the Fairgrounds. He also dressed up and was known to many at Trinity Lutheran School as the Cookie Monster or Papa Smurf as he would make his yearly trip to read, hand out cookies or take a pie to the face.

When Lloyd found time, he loved to have family dinners with Joy, Anthony, Abby, Aubrey and Jarod Lucero, family dinners with Lee, Mary, Kim, Kevin and Nicole Conner and Eric Flores and family. He was an avid storyteller that made every meal last hours because his unique narration produced tears and bellyaches of laughter. He loved attending movies in the theatre every week, loved any type of music but especially that of Elvis Presley, soaking in the warm water out at Sand Dunes Recreation in Hooper and was a proud supporter of the Minnesota Vikings and Colorado Rockies.

Lloyd is survived by his six children, Jill (Bill) Blickensderfer of Rapid City, South Dakota, Joan Stordalen (Randy Firchau) of St. James, Minnesota, Kari Thomas of Bismarck, South Dakota, Dia (Chris) Metz of Santa Monica, California, Fil Chavez of Durango, Colorado, and Maria Elena (Dana) Saunders of Douglasville, Georgia, brother Rick Engen and sister Karyn Conrad his 15 grandchildren and his extended friends and family.

Cremation was chosen and a celebration of his life will be planned for a later date. Condolences can be sent to Holly and Ron Dea, 1412 Salem St. Fort Collins, Colorado, 80525.

CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

BY SAGUACHE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER TRISH GILBERT

A big thanks to election judges and voters alike!

In order to promote our community participation at the high school level, we have enlisted the help of Student Election Judges from Mountain Valley High School to work in our polling place.

Working in an election provides students with the opportunity to learn about democracy, log community service credit and earn money. The student, the community and the election process benefit from these enthusiastic student leaders. It is a win/win situation for everyone.

Students are required to complete an application, which includes parental and instructor permission. Students are referred to the Election Official by the school. Jody Abeyta went above and beyond to inspire students to participate.

Student Election Judges are required to attend a training class and meet the same statutory requirements that the adult Election

Judges must meet. Students are assigned to assist with experienced adult Election Judges.

This is a wonderful addition to every polling place. It introduces our young people to one of our most precious constitutional rights. It is also a great way to involve our younger citizens to the concept of community spirit.

Student Judges for the Primary Election were: Elise Volkman and Heath Bliven. Two former Student Judges, McKensie Innes and Alyssa Hammel, returned as adult Election Judges, (aside from staff) Courier/VSPC Judge Annette Archuleta.

Last but not least, extra judges on “Stand-by” for Election Day were Carla Gomez and Elise Volkman. We would also like to give a shoutout to Bill Hazard, a highly experienced Election Judge, for responding to FAQ’s on social media. These Election Judges were “key” for a successful election during this health crisis.

And talk about “Top Shelf” — THE-AWE-SOME-ONES once again rose to the occasion. This team (Ben, Dominique, Desiree, Rebecca, Jane) is stellar!

Out of 3,893 active registered

voters, 1,925 ballots were cast. Of those, only five came to vote in person. Our team is extremely proud of our voters for following the “Safer at Home” guidelines. This was a very important role. Most ballots were returned either by mail or ballot drop box, leading to a safe and successful election during this pandemic. We can’t thank you enough for voting the ballot you received in the mail.

Unofficial results

- 1,925 ballots were received
- 1,891 ballots were accepted
- 34 ballots were rejected
- 2 ballots were rejected for no signature
- 10 ballots were rejected because they voted more than one ballot
- 22 ballots were rejected for signature discrepancy

These are unofficial results only. More ballots will be processed after the eight-day cure period.



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URGED hears about Rio Grande Hospital housing project

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE- Upper Rio Grande Economic Development members met for their monthly meeting via Zoom Tuesday, July 14, to hear a presentation about a potential housing project from Rio Grande Hospital CEO Arlene Harms.

Harms began her presentation stating that when she was invited to speak to the group she considered

spending the time to update URGED about COVID-19 from a hospital perspective but decided to give an update on the project that came to a halt when COVID-19 hit the Valley.

Harms explained that the hospital is in need of housing for not only patients recovering or healing from illness or injuries but for visiting doctors and students as well. The project began to gain speed right

around the time that the first COVID case was reported in the Valley and has since been placed on the back burner. "I was actually really excited to revisit this topic and it gives me hope that we can accomplish it in the near future," said Harms.

The project would include four homes and a communal building that could be accessed by the public for many different reasons. The homes would be placed on a portion of land

near the hospital that was donated by the Off family and would be used to house individuals in need of temporary homes while dealing with the hospital either as a patient, a student or as a medical professional.

"The homes will be universal, meaning that they could be used by a disabled person just as easily as a doctor that comes here to assist," stated Harms. The homes are estimated to be about 600 square feet and will feature a kitchen, dining area/living room, bathroom, bedroom and anyone who stays there will have access to the communal building that will also be on-site.

According to Harms the communal building will have a large meeting space, communal

area where the public can come to enjoy having coffee with friends, books to read and have a relaxing, calming atmosphere that promote health and wellness.

"One of our main goals is to promote health and wellness. We want room to offer education to the community on how to live a healthy lifestyle, learn to cook good food and offer a place to do things like yoga and other healthy activities."

Though the project is still in the planning phase it is in the hospital and community's future. Harms and a group of about 20 people, with help from Colorado State University, began planning for the project just before the COVID-19 pandemic stopped their planning.



Click It or Ticket enforcement began July 12

STATEWIDE — Starting Sunday, July 12, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) and local law enforcement agencies statewide began a weeklong Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement period.

The summer enforcement period also marks the launch of CDOT's latest seat belt safety campaign, Common Bond. The campaign features a variety of contrasting images to underscore that, even though Coloradans hold passionate opinions and may not agree on everything, we can all get behind seat belts.

As a state, Colorado's seat belt use rate currently sits at 88% — slightly below the national average of 90%. The Common Bond campaign highlights that despite our differences, the majority of Coloradans do buckle up.

CDOT's campaign is featured on billboards, posters, bus tails, social media, and radio PSAs.

In 2019, 196 unbuckled drivers and passengers were killed in crashes in the state, accounting for more than half of the 377 total passenger vehicle deaths. The counties that had the most unbuckled deaths in 2019 were Adams (25), Weld (23) and El Paso (15).

In 2018, eight of the 216 unrestrained occupant fatalities involved children ages 14 or younger.

"Choosing to wear a seat belt can be a lifesaving decision. Drivers and passengers wearing seat belts are much more likely to survive a crash. It's an easy choice," said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. "Please remember to buckle up and remind fellow drivers and passengers to do the same."

"Choosing to wear a seat belt can be a lifesaving decision. Drivers and passengers wearing seat belts are much more likely to survive a crash. It's an easy choice," said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. "Please remember to buckle up and remind fellow drivers and passengers to do the same."

"Unfortunately, there are people who continue to believe they do not need to fasten their seat belt. Some drivers think that because there is

less traffic or they are only traveling a short distance that seat belts are not always necessary," said Col. Matthew Packard, chief of the CSP. "That couldn't be further from the truth. The reality is, 52% of collisions occur within a 5-mile radius from home, and 69% occur within a 10-mile radius of home. We hope every citation issued is a reminder to always buckle up every time you enter a vehicle."

Colorado's seat belt laws

Adults — Colorado has a secondary enforcement law for adult drivers and front seat passengers. Drivers can be ticketed for violating the seat belt law if they are stopped for another traffic violation.

Teens — Colorado's Graduated Drivers Licensing (GDL) law requires all drivers under 18 and their passengers, regardless of their age, to wear seat belts. This is a primary enforcement, meaning teens can be pulled over simply for not wearing a seat belt or having passengers without seat belts.

Children — Colorado's Child Passenger Safety law is a primary enforcement, meaning the driver can be stopped and ticketed if an officer sees an unrestrained or improperly restrained child under age 16 in the vehicle.

Fines for not buckling up in Colorado start at \$65, and parents or caregivers caught with an improperly restrained child can receive a minimum fine of \$82.

From 2013 to 2017, 30 children aged 0 to 8 were killed in passenger vehicle crashes in Colorado. Among these, more than half were in an improperly used or installed car seat — or no car seat at all. Parents and caregivers can learn more about Colorado child passenger safety laws, recommendations and recalls at CarSeatsColorado.com.

ABOUT CLICK IT OR TICKET

Click It or Ticket is a nationwide campaign from NHTSA. Since Click It or Ticket was introduced in Colorado in 2002, statewide seat belt use has increased from 72% to 86%. For more information about seat belt safety and enforcement citation numbers, visit codot.gov/safety/

seatbelts-carseats.

COVID-19

Safe transportation infrastructure is essential for emergency first responders and freight drivers as Colorado navigates the COVID-19 pandemic. With that in mind, road maintenance and construction continues on CDOT projects with social distancing and other health safety measures to reduce COVID-19 exposure on the worksite. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment announced guidelines for construction activities. The public is urged to join the campaign for #DoingMyPartCO by practicing social distancing, wearing face masks, staying at home when possible, and avoiding nonessential travel. With fewer vehicles on the roads, CDOT crews will be able to work more efficiently and safely.

WHOLE SYSTEM. WHOLE SAFETY.

To heighten safety awareness, CDOT recently announced its Whole System — Whole Safety initiative. This project takes a systematic statewide approach to safety combining the benefits of CDOT's programs that address driving behaviors, our built environment and the organization's operations. The goal is to improve the safety of Colorado's transportation network by reducing the rate and severity of crashes and improving the safety of all transportation modes. The program has one simple mission — to get everyone home safely.

ABOUT CDOT

CDOT has approximately 3,000 employees located at its Denver headquarters and in regional offices throughout Colorado, and manages more than 23,000 lane miles of highway and 3,429 bridges. CDOT also manages grant partnerships with a range of other agencies, including metropolitan planning organizations, local governments and airports. It also administers Bustang, the state-owned and operated interregional express service. Governor Polis has charged CDOT to further build on the state's intermodal mobility options.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Offenses will come

Back in my growing up years, my mother always had the right words for when things didn't work out as planned or when faced with a difficult situation. She was wiser than most and Ol' Dutch has come full circle from rolling my eyes at such wisdom to using her examples as my own.

This has led me to be thought of as wiser than I am to which Miss Trixie says "Amen." One of my Mother's favorites -- used mostly when one of us got our feelings hurt by someone's insensitive remarks -- was "offenses will come."

She was always quick to point out that none other than J.C. Himself said this and so was to be taken as Gospel which, in fact, it was. If you look that up you can see that He was trying to prepare his disciples for the inevitable harsh words from the people around them and warned them that it's just gonna happen no matter how nice you may be.

Take Ol' Dutch (and, Miss Trixie wishes you would) for example. This past month I had a golden opportunity to be offended and even a legal right to do so. And just about the time I got all riled up, those words from my mother came back to me like a tsunami on an unsuspecting island.

Being a pastor's wife my mother had plenty of opportunities to be offended in her life. It seems that about everyone in the church knew best about most things and were sure to tell her that. Alas, she had lots of practice of not being offended or at least not carrying that burden around.

Now Ol' Dutch is not quite the woman she was -- I don't know if I like the sounds of that -- but, I am trying to get better at unloading hurts a lot sooner than I used to.

It does not take much looking around these days to see a world full of people who have chosen to take offense at about everything from soup to nuts.

People are offended at mascots for ball teams, statues, meat eating, hunting, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter and Halloween, politics, police, the military, cow farts, flags, and red and black hats. And this is the short list as I do believe there are just about as many things that people are offended by as there are people on planet earth.

Now Ol' Dutch is not advocating that we should not take interest in things that are generally offensive and as a nation find ways to address those, but the anger seen today over



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

some stupid stuff is just unbelievable.

All you have to do is make a mistake while driving or squeeze into a parking spot ahead of some entitled driver and you will experience anger boiling up to the point of scary violence. I guess they missed the part about offenses will come and moved onto the part about turning the other cheek and will offer to slap you twice for your faux pas.

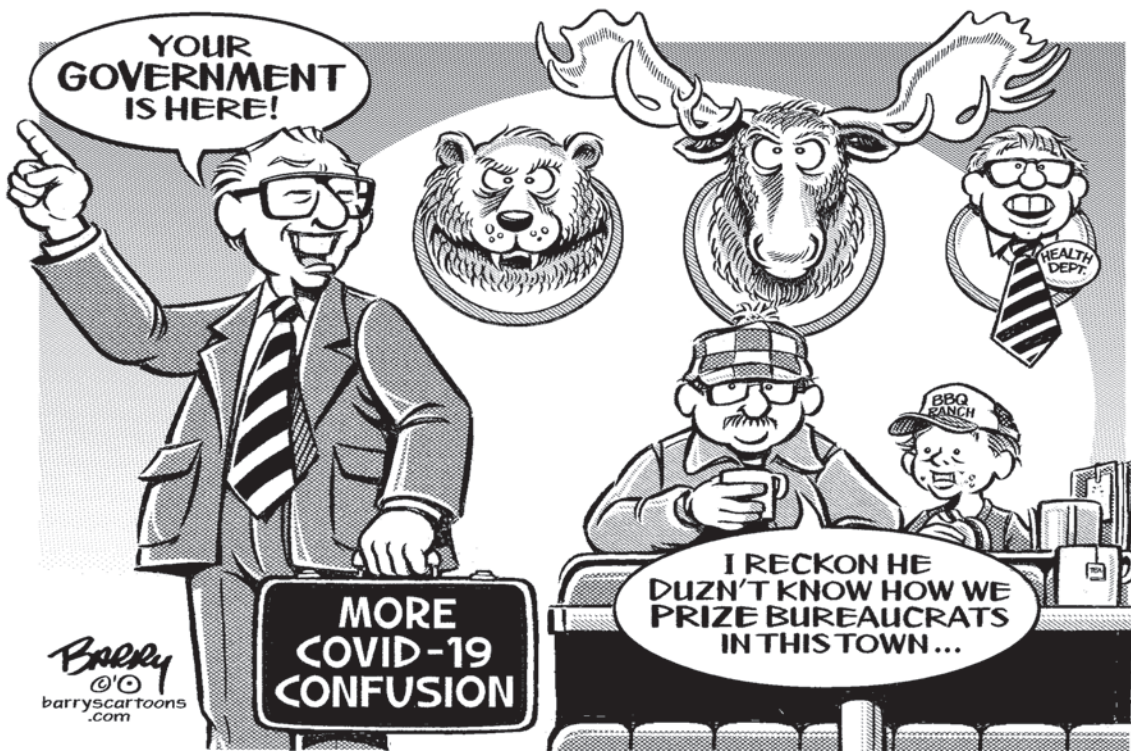
Another nugget of wisdom my mom left me came up every time I complained about a bill or IRS statement or something concerning an unexpected outflow of cash. A child of the depression she saw some bad times and so whenever I would complain she would say, "Well just be glad you have it to pay." That used to make me so mad. Of course I had the money but that was supposed to be for a new boat or shotgun or fishing stuff and not for the Infernal Revenue to waste on \$7,000 bolts for a toilet seat.

So this week if you suddenly find yourself offended you at least can take comfort in the fact that even the 12 were warned about such things to come and you probably won't die a martyr either.

And you can at least take comfort in knowing that the last part of that verse says, "woe unto those that cause offense." Which in modern languages is translated, "What goes around comes around."

At least we have not gotten to the point where green hats, green beer, leprechauns and four leaf clovers offend anyone and so Saint Patrick's Day and John Deere tractors are safe for now.

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



Monte Vista thanks Stone's Farm Supply

To the editor,
As COVID 19 has hurt many businesses the Monte Vista Public Works would like to highlight a business that even in these troubling times has continued with donations to benefit the community as a whole. All businesses understand the importance of making donations to different community organizations, whether it is to youth sports, recreational activities, community projects or the multitude of other notable

requests that business owners face. In good times these requests can be overwhelming and in bad times they may be impossible.
The Monte Vista Public Works would like to extend our gratitude to Stone's Farm Supply in Center for their continued support of our City Parks. For the last few years now they have, each spring, provided the department with enough fertilizer to treat each of our parks and at times to also help with the School District

fields. This year was no exception, they continued to show support for us and the community by supplying fertilizer for our Parks.
We, the staff of Public Works and the City, would like to formally say "Thank you" to Stone's Farm Supply for all they do for us and our community. We truly appreciate the help and the support that Stone's Farm Supply has given us over the years.
Robert Vance and staff of Monte Vista Public Works

We must each act responsibly

To the editor,
COVID-19 is an extremely contagious virus (3M+ cases in US, 451 in the Valley), often debilitating and sometimes fatal (136K+ deaths in US, 10 in the Valley). At the current time there is no cure or vaccine and no amount of Presidential "happy talk" or wishful thinking is going to make it go away. For the foreseeable future we are going to have to live with this

disease in the same way that we live with the threat of wildfires. We do this with a combination of government guidance/mandates and responsible individual actions.
Eventually a vaccine will be developed, but until then we must each act responsibly. The proven way to corral COVID-19 and enable us to regain control of our lives is through wearing masks, social distancing,

avoiding large gatherings especially indoors and practicing hand hygiene. To not follow these simple but effective measures, for whatever reason, is to be just as irresponsible as the camper who "needs" that campfire during a fire ban or the drunk who gets behind the wheel. Please stay safe.
*Martin Danko
South Fork*

Spring Fling canceled

Due to COVID-19, we had to cancel our Spring Fling fundraiser event for 2020. The Spring Fling is our annual fundraiser, which enabled the Saguache County Republican Party to help our local, state and federal GOP candidates and provide for operating expenses. To offset this

impact to our finances we are asking for donations equal to what you would have normally spent at the Spring Fling event for tickets, auction items and so forth; but any donations will be appreciated. The funds will help our candidates and our party remain financially stable, as we move forward

during this difficult time.
Please send donations to:
Saguache County Republican Party, P. O. Box 55
Saguache, CO 81149
Wyoma Hansen
Saguache County

Thank you for your vote

To the editor,
A huge thank you to my supporters that worked so hard to help me win the Democratic Primary race for Saguache County Commissioner District #1. And much appreciation to all of you who voted for me across the County. I intend to make every

effort to earn your trust. My goal is to represent the interests of all the citizens of the County, and I look forward to continuing the dialog into November. Together we can make Saguache County an even better place to live and work!
I also wish to thank the County

Clerk and her staff for running a smooth and seamless election, and thanks to the other candidates for caring enough about the County's future to spend time and energy running for office.
*Thomas D. McCracken
Crestone*

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www.centerpostdispatch.com

Lights back on at the "Hungry Logger"

By TREY SPAULDING

SOUTH FORK – During a time when restaurants nationwide are struggling, applying for Payroll Protection Program grants and just trying to keep the lights on; one local restaurateur is not deterred.

If you live in South Fork, you may have noticed the parking lot being painted and the lights on inside the old Hungry Logger restaurant. For seven years the Hungry Logger has been shuttered. On July 2, Del Norte native Dallas King and her silent partner opened the Ranch House Grill & Saloon which the restaurant is now called. King worked as a waitress at the Hungry Logger before it closed.

They had hoped to have the restaurant open before the tourist season, but for the past three and a half months they have been repairing and renovating seven years of shuttered neglect inside and outside of the restaurant.

Currently only the restaurant is open in the 7,000 plus square foot space. The saloon, which seats 200 people and has a stage, dance floor, pool tables and a 40 foot L-shaped bar is closed due to bars in Colorado being closed per Governor Polis' order and the state is not processing liquor licenses. King says that she hopes to have the saloon open in September and the plan is to have live music each weekend. But King does not plan to stop there.

She plans to expand and construct a banquet room for large groups and holiday parties.

The restaurant is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days per week and serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. For breakfast you can order a classic breakfast with eggs, hash browns and toast; or biscuits and gravy, breakfast burritos or French toast. Breakfast prices range from \$3.50 to \$10.00. For lunch and dinner you can order a BLT, cheeseburger, chicken-fried steak or a New York, T-Bone or ribeye steak cooked to order. Prices range from \$7.00 to \$18.99.

In case you do not know, the restaurant is located at 11 Vista Street in South Fork.



Photos by Trey Spaulding
Above: The saloon, which seats 200 people and has a stage, dance floor, pool tables and a 40 foot L-shaped bar is currently closed due to bars in Colorado being closed per Governor Polis' order and the state is not processing liquor licenses. King says that she hopes to have the saloon open in September and the plan is to have live music each weekend.



Right: Debbie King welcomes diners to her new restaurant the Ranch House Grill & Saloon.

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SLV health offering COVID-19 antibody tests

SAN LUIS VALLEY - The public are welcome to contact the labs at either the Regional Medical Center or Conejos County Hospital and set an appointment for COVID-19 antibodies testing. Appointments are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The cost is \$50 and the results will be posted in the patient's SLVH Patient Portal. No insurance will be accepted. No fasting is required for this blood test. The phone numbers are 719-587-1226 in Alamosa and 719-274-6021 in La Jara. The form can be downloaded from SLV Health's website on the Direct to Consumer page: slvh.org/dtc



San Luis Valley HEALTH

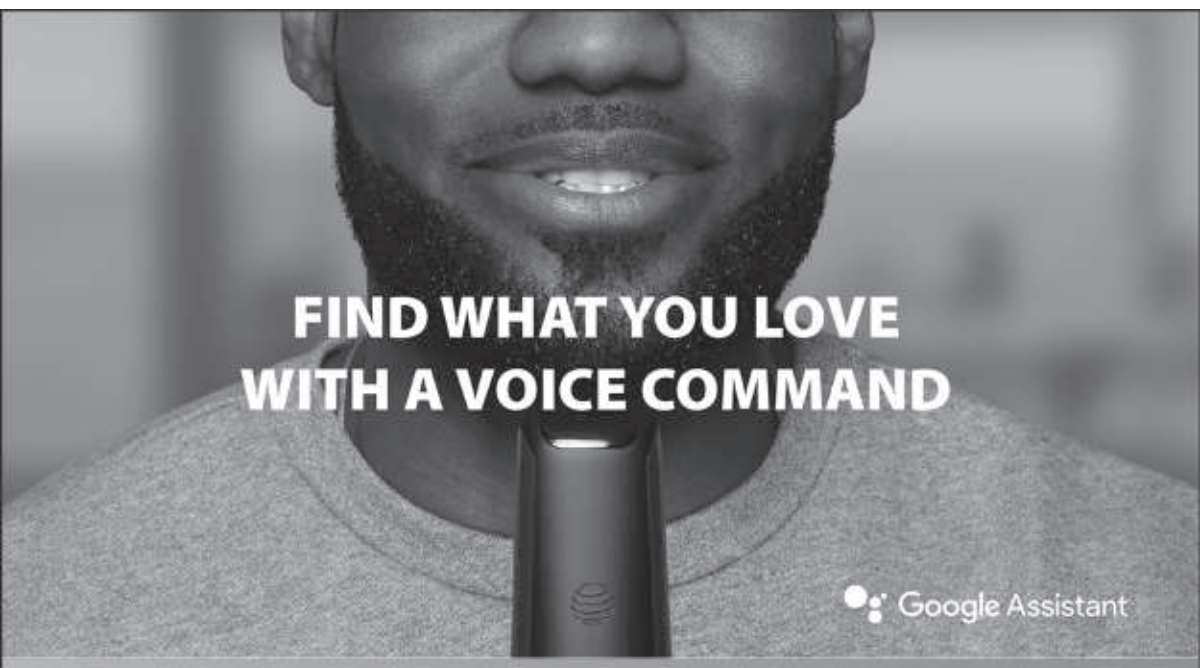


Manitou Springs bear attack victim

Why we say 'garbage kills bears'

MANITOU SPRINGS, Colo. - Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers, working with federal wildlife experts, caught and humanely euthanized a sow bear early Saturday near Manitou Springs. The sow matched the description of a bear that attacked a woman the night of Thursday, July 9, near downtown Manitou Springs. It was caught not far from the scene of the attack. Its remains were sent to a health lab for a necropsy and testing. The victim told CPW wildlife officers she was walking home from work around 11:40 p.m. Thursday when she encountered an adult bear on the street. The bear charged her. As the victim turned to try to escape, the bear knocked her down from behind, scratching her back and ripping her shirt. Minutes later, a colleague of the victim walked down the same street and was chased by a bear. She avoided contact with the bear by running around a parked vehicle. A nearby witness reported seeing two cubs with the large adult bear. All three bears ultimately wandered off and the victim walked to her nearby home.

hounds, treed a sow matching the description of the target bear and in the same area as the attack. It was humanely euthanized. Then the two cubs were captured. We are very confident we caught the target sow so we removed traps set up in the neighborhood and pulled our officers out." CPW launched an intensive search for the sow after receiving a report Friday morning of the attack from Manitou Springs Police and interviewing the victim. The team of CPW officers and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) agents also captured the sow's cubs and sent them to the nonprofit Wet Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation facility in Wetmore where they will be raised and taught to avoid human contact. They will be released into the wild next winter. In the wake of the attack, neighbors told CPW the sow and cubs often rummaged trash cans in the area and acted aggressively toward people. "This is why we say 'garbage kills bears' and urge everyone to secure their trash cans," Wigner said. "This is bear country. We need to keep them wild and not let them become trash bears."



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How to avoid conflicts with black bears

COLORADO - Colorado is home to a large population of black bears, with numbers estimated at 17,000-20,000 in the state. As humans venture into Colorado's great outdoors to spend quality time in nature, it is important to remember that bears and humans can and do live in harmony in our shared outdoor spaces when humans take proactive steps to avoid conflicts with bears.

Wildlife experts agree that bears are not naturally aggressive toward humans; in fact, most bears are naturally wary of people. Most conflicts between people and bears can be traced to easily accessible human food, trash, or other attractants with strong odors as a bear's natural drive to eat can overcome its fear of humans. When bears become too comfortable around humans, they can destroy property or even become a threat to human safety.

"The majority of the time, bears are not after you, they are after food," said Area Wildlife Manager Mark Lamb. "Understanding bear behaviors and being aware of what steps you can take to avoid bears from approaching you is an important part of recreating responsibly in bear country. Being smart about how you store your food, using bear boxes and bear-resistant canisters, and locking your property keeps you safe and can save a bear's life."

Colorado Parks and Wildlife recommend the following best practices to minimize encounters with bears:

Camping - When camping in bear country, the easiest way to avoid bears is to ensure that

nothing in your campsite has a smell that will attract them.

Safely store food, beverages and toiletries in campsite lockers called bear boxes (if provided), in bear-proof containers away from your tent or, as a last resort, locked in the trunk of your vehicle.

Stash your trash. Put all trash in bear-proof trash receptacles or bear canisters; treat your trash as if it is food - to bears, there is no difference.

Keep a clean campsite. Scrape grill grates after use and clean used dishes. Store used dishes and utensils just as you would your food.

Never bring food or anything that smells like food - which includes toiletries, sunscreen and even the clothes you wear when cooking - into your tent. All of these items with scents should be stored away from your tent.

Lock cars and RVs whenever you leave your site and at night. Ensure all windows are tightly closed.

What if a bear tries to enter a campsite? Try to haze it away with loud noises such as yelling, banging pots and pans together or use your car horn or an air horn to scare the bear away. Notify CPW park staff if a bear enters a campsite. As an extra precaution, carry bear spray with you when you go camping.

Hiking - Understanding bear behaviors and your surroundings can help avoid unwanted encounters with wildlife on trails.

Stay alert at all times. Leave your headphones back at your campsite, be extra cautious at dawn and dusk, and pay closer attention to areas with noise from running water or heavy winds.



Keep dogs leashed at all times.

Never feed or approach a bear.

Double bag food and pack out all food waste (including apple cores or banana peels) to avoid encouraging bears to see trails as a food source.

Respect forage areas. If your usual trail runs through berry patches, oak brush or other known food sources, be extra vigilant. Make extra noise by periodically clapping or calling out to alert bears to your presence.

What if you surprise a bear on a trail? Stay calm, stand still and speak to it in a firm tone of voice. The bear will most likely identify you and leave. Never run from a bear. If the bear does not leave, slowly wave your arms to make yourself

look bigger. Continue facing the bear, slowly back away and keep slowly moving away until the bear is out of sight. If the bear gets within 40 feet, use bear spray. If a bear attacks, do not play dead - fight back with anything available, including trekking poles, small knives or even your bare hands.

Sharing outdoor spaces with wildlife makes Colorado a wonderful place to live. Bear sightings from a safe distance can be a rare and wonderful experience for outdoor enthusiasts. Staying bear aware while on trails and camping helps keep bears wild and helps reduce human-bear conflicts. For more information on how to be "bear aware," visit cpw.state.co.us.

BOCC

Continued from Page 1A

doesn't like it, they can file an appeal. Gibbons also asked if the courthouse can open back up.

Tafoya also brought up the issue of Highway 17 again. Maez received a response from David Payton from CDOT, he has received the letters that were sent and stated if a traffic study is done and shows a faster speed than the speed we have, then they will increase the speed; even within a municipality. They are considering installing a flashing sign.

Public Health - County Attorney Gibbons also asked if the courthouse can open back up. Commissioners unanimously approved to reopen the courthouse July 21, provided the guidelines are in place, social distancing is observed, masks are worn, and no more than 10 people conduct business. They also approved advertising for help.

Janet Beiriger and Mona Lovato reported to commissioners that they received a letter stating the following: "This is to inform you that there are businesses in Saguache that are not following the public order from the Governor. The Village Pub, 4th Street Dinner and the Town Market; none of the employees are wearing masks and customers in the restaurants are being allowed to walk around without a mask. Waitresses without a mask is a public health issue. Saguache County has already exploded with new cases and the town of Saguache has a lot of older and vulnerable people who need to be protected, please look into this and make sure these businesses are protecting their customer and employees as required by the state mandate." Mona Lovato turned them over to the Health inspectors.

More Personal Care Providers are needed; currently the county has 28 patients needing help and 10 patients are without help. Lovato asked about getting with the school nurses to get immunizations done. Commissioners voted to continue to pay Mona Lovato for her services and approved and assigned the following contracts:

- Emergency Preparedness (EPR) Grant with State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment \$18,318;

- Core Services with the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment \$32,901;

- Communities That Care (CTC) Grant with State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment \$142,452;

- Immunizations with the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment \$17,677.

Sheriff's Report - Sheriff Dan Warwick requested getting a defense team that will pay for per person to help with defense purposes. With the new law (SB 20-217) it has gotten ridiculous. It will be \$20 per person and will pay for any litigation that may come their way. It will be all staff excluding the front office and the cooks.

Commissioner Jason Anderson asked Warwick's thoughts concerning steps to remove an abandoned house in the Baca Grande being used for drug use and sales. Warwick stated he feels that if the county can do anything to facilitate that house going away, it would be a good thing. They get calls out there regularly. The risk is not worth keeping the place. Anderson has spoken to the Baca Grande POA director regarding the situation.

Road and Bridge - Road and Bridge Director Randal Arredondo presented his budget and stated they are paving the school parking lot then will pave in Center. The final project will be County Road G.

Emergency Management - Office of Emergency Management Director Bobby Woelz requested hiring a part time deputy office manager. Woelz proposed offering the position to Mr. Freeze. Commissioners unanimously approved offering the 10-week position to Freeze at \$17 an hour for 20 hours a week. The county will pay for mileage at the county rate and an amendment will need to be made to the budget.

Land Use - Commissioners approved four lot consolidations, a subdivision exemption for Hanne Strong, and accepted two bids for lots in the Baca Grande Grants and one in the Baca Grande Chalet. Land Use Director Amber Wilson reported she has advertised all positions for the Land Use Office and would like to proceed with hiring.

She recommended offering the Land Use Deputy's position to Virginia to start at \$17 per hour and a Land Use Clerk full time positions at \$12.75 per hour, increasing to \$13.25

after a 90-day probation period.

There is no longer a board Crestone/Baca Grande Planning Commission, Wilson told commissioners. It was not statutorily created; it was created by a resolution of the board. The board can pass a resolution resolving it. The board agreed to put it on the next agenda for a decision.

County Administrator - County Administrator Wendi Maez asked that commissioners make a decision concerning the acceptance of the RFP from Davis Engineering Services, Inc. for the design portion of the Saguache County Crestone Safe Routes to Schools project. Burt Wadham, Mick Daniel, Commissioner Jason Anderson and Maez met to review the RFP's submitted and chose Davis Engineering Service, Inc. proposal to present to the Board of Commissioners for final acceptance. All of the details are included within the Administration report.

Commissioners unanimously accepted the bid from Davis Engineering in the amount of \$94,974.16 for the Eastern San Luis Valley Trails Coalition.

Maintenance director Pete Garcia has \$22,000 within his budget and he requested it be used to carpet the courthouse or the Administration/Land Use building or to purchase a generator for the courthouse. The Board agreed to look into getting a bigger generator for both the sheriff's office and the courthouse through COVID money.

IGA with Rio Grande County and valley counties for the State Homeland Security Program as the fiscal agent of this grant program. From what I can gather this IGA was approved at a Valley commissioners meeting at the beginning of the year. Maez also requested a \$1 per hour increase for Tammy Kaiser, finance director. The board agreed to a \$1.50 hourly increase.

Commissioners then approved a letter of support for Frank White's La Garita Colorado USA Historia, Cultura-Y Mas History-Culture and More project; accepted an MOU for the Cares Act funds and also gave a letter of support the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Co-operative for their broadband project. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE

District Court
County of Alamosa, Colorado
Civil Action No. 2265
Court Computer Reference: 49CV2265

IN THE MATTER OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the terms of four (4) Directors to the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District expire on September 6, 2020. The vacancies are for two (2) Directors from Saguache County, Colorado and two (2) Directors from Rio Grande County, Colorado. The terms of each of the Directors will be for four (4) years, until September 6, 2024.

Any qualified person interested in seeking appointment to the Board of Directors shall file a written request for appointment and a resume referencing Civil Action No. 2265 (49CV2265) with the Clerk of the District Court for Alamosa County, at the Alamosa County Courthouse located at 8955 Independence Way, Alamosa, Colorado, 81101. The request for appointment and resume must be filed no later than August 6, 2020.

To be qualified for the appointment from Saguache County, an applicant must be the owner of real property within Saguache County and have resided in Saguache County for no less than one (1) year. To be qualified for the appointment from Rio Grande County, an applicant must be the owner of real property within Rio Grande County and have resided in Rio Grande County for no less than one (1) year.

A legal description of the boundaries of the District may be reviewed by appointment during normal business hours at the office of the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, 623 Fourth Street, Alamosa, Colorado, 81101, telephone (719) 589-2230.

Heather Dutton - Manager
July 1, 2020

No. 1555 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, July 9, 16 and 23, 2020.

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SLV COVID-19 cases continue to rise, one new death

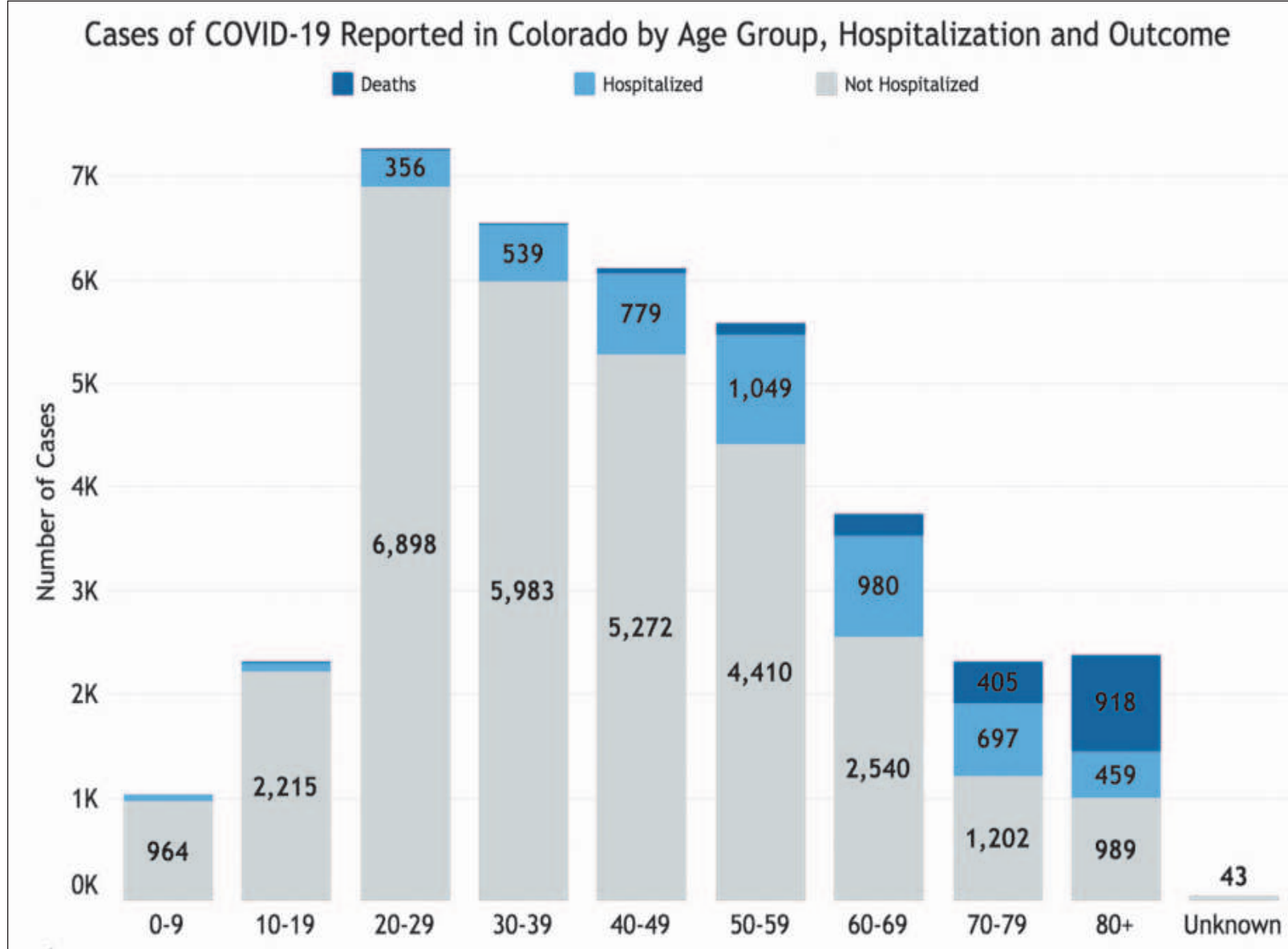
By **TREY SPAULDING**

SAN LUIS VALLEY – As of Monday, July 13, the San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership announced the total number of cumulative SLV COVID-19 cases to be 456. This is an increase of 36 new cases in the Valley over the past two weeks.

Colorado's positive tests began to increase due to what health officials stated was caused by more public interaction. Statewide we are seeing the nationwide trend of the 20-29 age group seeing the highest number of positive cases among all age groups. In Colorado the 20-29 year old age group has reported 6,898 positive cases with 356 hospitalized. As would be expected, the younger age groups are seeing a less percentage of those being positive needing hospitalization. The over 50 age groups have the highest rate of hospitalization and deaths.

As of July 14, the seven day average for positive tests in Colorado increased the past week from 4.9 percent to 6.5 percent. Within the San Luis Valley we continue to have higher positive test percentages than the state average. Of the 409 tests conducted in Saguache County 25.4 percent came back positive. Of the 162 tests in Costilla County 13.6 percent were positive. In Alamosa County 2,059 tests have been conducted with 10 percent being positive. Mineral County has seen an increase in positive cases with 199 tests conducted 8.5 percent were positive. For Rio Grande County 1,572 tests have been made with 5.3 percent coming back positive. In Conejos County there have been 352 tests given with 6.5 percent being positive.

Texas and Arizona opened up too quickly and are beginning to close down some businesses due to rapid outbreaks of COVID-19. According to data July 13, 2020, from the COVID-19 Tracking Project, in Arizona 26.6 percent of COVID-19 tests are coming back positive. In Texas 17.7 percent of tests are positive and Utah is at 10.9 percent. As of July 13, there have been



As of July 14, 2020, The 20-29 age group has the highest number of COVID-19 positive cases but the least percentage of deaths in comparison to older age groups.

456 total cumulative cases in the San Luis Valley with 33 known active cases. Forty-one (41) total people have been hospitalized, and 413 have completed their isolation period. The SLV COVID-19 death total is 11. Alamosa County reported an additional COVID-19 related death on July 10. Alamosa County has the most reported cases with 207, followed by Saguache with 105, Rio Grande County at 82, Costilla County 22, Conejos County 23 and Mineral County with 17.

DUTY

Continued from Page 1A

to help with this problem before someone gets injured. Coffee with the Chief will be coming at the end of this month (maybe Saturday, July 25). Meek says he has been missing this monthly meeting and wants to get back to speaking with the community about issues affecting public safety and their lives. "I am wanting to set up the meeting within our CoVid restrictions so it will be in a public area or large meeting room for safety," he said. "I will let you know more once final plans are made."

Meek ended his email with "an excellent job done" by Officer Mike Ruybal. Officer Ruybal responded to some suspicious activity, a male acting unusual, in the area of Fullenwider. Officer Ruybal did not locate the person initially but by speaking with some residents, he was told that the

male was hiding guns in nearby bushes. The guns were located and linked to a burglary. Also stolen was a bag of old coins in a Crown Royal bag.

Officer Ruybal began searching for the suspicious male again and located him walking through the Community Park, with a Crown Royal bag he was trying to hide on his person. He was able to arrest the subject for burglary. Further information about the incident will be released once Ruybal finishes his supplemental reports on the incident.

One Center resident commented that "speeders are just antagonizing us all" and expressed fears a child on a bicycle or out will be hit.

Another resident agreed, saying s/he hears this activity every night, with the majority of the speeders taking off around the intersection of Broadway and Highway 112.



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Tickets on sale for Alamosa Round-Up Rodeo

ALAMOSA – The 2020 Alamosa Round-Up is “Taking the Leap!!” The Round-Up will go on, August 27-30, 2020 as scheduled.

The coronavirus has stolen a lot from the community this year already, the Alamosa Round-Up is committed to not being one of those stolen things.

“This community and the people that live here mean a lot to us, this is home and this event is important,” said Dawn Honeycutt. “Our Western Heritage is important, and having a fun, family friendly, community event is important.”

The crowd size and ticket sales will be very limited, so that the Governor’s guidelines can be adhered to. (less than 15% of normal capacity) The Round-Up is working with the Health Dept. to ensure the safety of all involved. Social distancing and the wearing of masks are recommended.

Tickets are on sale now, online only. Visit the Alamosa Round-Up website (www.alamosaroundup.com) for tickets to the PRCA Rodeos, the Chancey Williams and the Younger Brothers Band Concert, the demolition derbies and to sign up for the mutton busting. No tickets will be sold at the events, and the tickets are expected to go fast and sell out.

All mutton busting entries will be online only. The cost is \$25 and will include the family’s entry into the event Thursday August 27, 2020 at 6:30pm. No other tickets will be sold for this event. The



mutton busting is open to kids 4-7 years old. Helmets and vest will be provided.

Also new this year there will be two demolition derby performances to allow more people to enjoy the metal crashing action. Both demolition derbies will be held Sunday, August 30 at 11 a.m. and 4 pm.

This year’s demolition derby will include mini cars, pickups, large cars and an outlaw class. The classes will be split up into the two performances. Tickets are sold separately for each performance. If restrictions open up before August 30, this may change.

The Alamosa Round-Up would like to thank all of their sponsors who are stepping up to help make this event possible. With the support

of the Alamosa County Local Marketing District, the City of Alamosa and over 85 local sponsors, this truly is Alamosa’s Round-Up. Be sure to follow the Alamosa Round-Up on Facebook for details and changes- this is a crazy year, but the Alamosa Round-Up is “Taking the Leap!”

Schedule of Events:

Thursday August 27- Mutton Bustin and Local Barrel Race 6:30 p.m.

Friday August 28- PRCA Rodeo 6:30 p.m.

Saturday August 29- PRCA Rodeo 6:30 p.m.- Chancey Williams Concert 9 p.m.

Sunday August 30- Demolition Derby 11 a.m. Demolition Derby 4 p.m.



COVID impacts internet

BY REBECCA COPLEY

SAN LUIS VALLEY - Every year more and more of our lives seem to be taking place online. Today the internet has become somewhere where we shop, work, learn, find entertainment, set up dates, even make friends and stay in touch with friends and family. With the COVID-19 pandemic forcing shutdowns and stay at home orders in many areas most of these trends have been even more accelerated these last few months. Isolated at home the internet is even more important than ever. Serving as a portal to friends and family, work, getting necessities, and continuing school for students.

Internet providers around the Valley noticed an increased demand for their services. “A typical week in terms of sales for us has been 30 or 40 customers signing

up. The first week of April we had 90,” shared Ciello’s CEO Loren Howard. Howard shared how the company worked hard to connect hundreds of students so they could continue their education. Many businesses were also forced to conduct online ordering. Other work places needed employees to be able to work from home.

This sudden rise in demand for more internet services has been a bit overwhelming for the existing internet systems. Maybe you have noticed streaming problems when trying to watch the next episode as you binge watch on Netflix. Or perhaps you’ve had slow internet while trying to attend a zoom meeting for work. Here are some tips that might help improve your internet speeds:

First it’s important to know how
See INTERNET on Page 3

The herd sire

This is one of those stories that sound so unbelievable that you’ll know I didn’t make it up!

Mike studied the bloodlines. He checked performance records. He knew his herd like the top two layers of his tool box! He was a good young cattleman. When he decided on the course of action to improve his herd’s genetics he called the breed association rep. They discussed his needs. Plans were made for the fieldman to attend a bull sale in Texas with the express instructions to buy exactly the right bull.

The call from Texas delighted Mike. The fieldman had bought in the perfect yearlin’ bull that would carry Mike’s cows into the 21st century. \$10,000...for half interest. He agreed that the co-owner, a purebred breeder from Oklahoma, could use the bull that fall. Then he would ship him to Pine Ridge country



of northwestern Nebraska in time for Mike’s spring breeding.

In February arrangements were made to put the bull on the back of a load going as far

as Sterling, Colorado. The trucker would call Mike on arrival. Mike waited anxiously. Several days passed and nobody called. He called his partner only to find they’d left Oklahoma territory a week before! Feeling uneasy, Mike called the Sterling sale barn. “No?” “No,” they didn’t remember any bull. “Let us check.” They suggested possibly the bull Mike was lookin’ for had been bought by a trader!

“What’d he pay?” asked Mike.

“Fifty-six cents a pound.”

In a panic he tracked down the trader. He’d run the bull through the Brush sale. The trader said he broke even. Packerland had bought him as a baloney bull! Mike drove all night to Packerland in a desperate effort to save his bull! “No,” they said, “he was too thin to kill” so they’d sent him to a feedlot in Rocky Ford!

Mike smelled like burnin’ rubber and was chewin’ the upholstery when he boiled into the

feedlot in a cloud of dust! The foreman was surprised but led him over to the receiving pens. There stood Mike’s future; road weary, coughin’ and covered with sale barn tags! Mike’s knees were shakin’!

“Nice bull,” said the foreman, “But ya cut’er close, sonny. Tomorrow evenin’ he’da looked a lot different without his horns and cajones!”

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

High use and impacts at recreation site

The last few weekends have proven to be very high use times for the Rio Grande National Forest and points beyond. Neighboring forests are reporting record numbers of recreationists. These high use times are being characterized with words such as “record use, crazy, extreme use, nuts, and I’ve never seen anything like it.” And, these comments are coming from the forest managers.

A couple of weekends ago my family camped on the Leadville Ranger District in a spot I have known for decades to always be available. Driving in the evening, I was mortified to see each dispersed camp spot full. Luckily, our friends had arrived earlier that day and secured a location for us. Crazy! I am also hearing similar reports from national forests around the nation.

The high use has resulted in new sites being sought out for users to set their camps, often in inappropriate locations. Well-known areas are being stressed by an endless loop of campers, allowing no rest for the sites, often increasing the size. Even a few days of no occupancy in a site can be beneficial to the land. Soil compaction is slowed, and precipitation can perform its natural rejuvenating of the land.

And the trash. Oh, how we all hate to talk about trash. But we need to, desperately. I’ve noted dozens of miles of forest roads with far more litter than normal. I’ve personally seen recreation sites with trash cans overflowing and piles of trash strewn about. I’ve seen our toilets filled with trash with more scattered around the building. All I can think of to say is, “why?” I don’t understand how some folks think that is OK. The natural beauty of the location has drawn you there, why wouldn’t you strive to leave that beauty intact?

Campfires are happening too. The Rio Grande National Forest initiated Stage 2 fire restrictions May 17.

There is just too much risk to the forest and surrounding communities for individual users to make the decision that it is OK to have a fire. There are greater numbers of OHV users out in the forest. This equipment can cause significant damage if not used appropriately.

While the explanation for this increased use on public lands may be debated, what cannot be compromised is the need for these lands to be properly cared for. Each user plays a key role in the protection of our amazing natural resources. It’s not at all difficult to do. A few suggestions I have are based on good land stewardship principles and laws.

Check for fire restrictions before you leave. This will help you plan how you will cook meals.

Look for already impacted sites. If you can, use those.

Don’t cut vegetation to create new sites. I mean, really.

Bring trash bags. Plenty of them. If area trash receptacles are full, bring your trash home. Don’t leave it next to the can and hope the animals won’t scatter it all over. They will. Which is bad for both the animals and humans. Take it home. It is your responsibility, no one else’s.

Learn how to relieve yourself in the woods.

Stay the trail. Know and understand trail use principles. Many trail environments are fragile.

If you are new to this type of outdoor activity, we welcome you. Help us teach you how to be a good land steward by visiting the Leave No Trace website at <https://lnt.org/>. This site will guide you in land use principles and bring you into the great world of responsible outdoor recreation. If you are an old pro at outdoor recreation, like so many of us in the Valley, please take a moment to reflect on the impacts of your public land visits. Maybe we’ll find that we can do just a little more to make it

better out there.

I find myself saying this a lot. We all play a critical role in the management of our activities on public lands. After all, they are, in fact, OUR lands. We all have an obligation to treat them well, thinking of what is

Land, Water and People

By GREGG GOODLAND

right for the land as opposed to what is convenient for us.

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

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



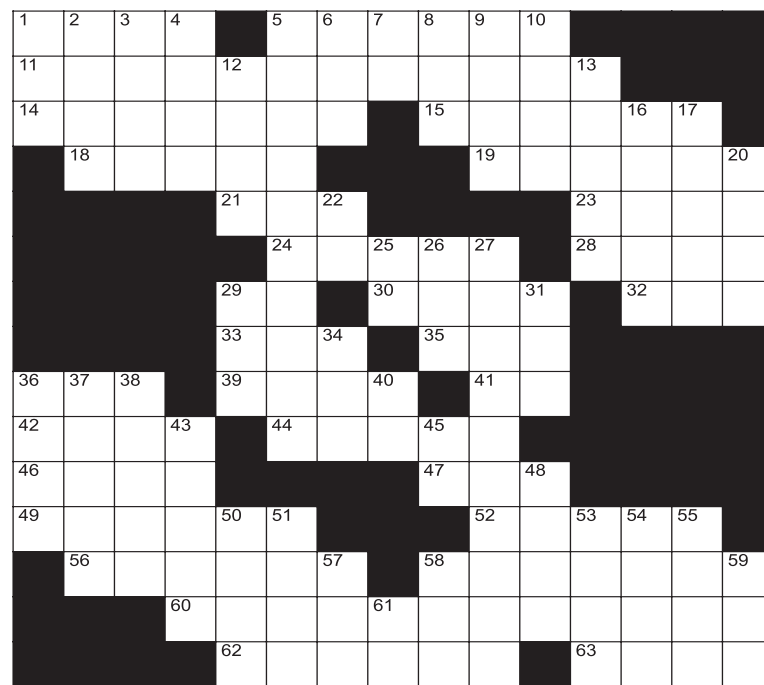
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ACROSS

1. Expression of sorrow or pity
5. Not bad
11. NYC Mayor
14. Essays
15. Walk lightly
18. Those who utilize
19. Actress Judd
21. One-time community of nations
23. Norwegian river
24. Unconscious states
28. Make muddy
29. Unit of volume
30. Consciousnesses
32. Envision
33. When you aim to get there
35. Electronic data processing
36. Passports are some
39. Snakelike fish
41. Military flyers (abbr.)
42. Popular computers
44. Ecological stage
46. Wings
47. Used in combination
49. Laid back
52. Princess’s headgear
56. Musical composition
58. Famed Falls
60. Reiterations

Solution to last week’s puzzle

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



62. Eras
63. Track event
26. We all have one
27. Religious guilds
29. This can sting
31. Sunscreen rating
34. Brew
36. Religious leader
37. Indigo bush
38. Burn with a hot liquid
40. Jr.’s father
43. Ray-finned fish genus
45. Morning
48. Straight line passing from side to side (abbr.)
50. S-shaped line
51. Small bunch of hay
53. Ripened
54. Crater on Mars
55. Humanities
57. Of the ears
58. To the ___ degree
59. Wood
61. Cools your home

DOWN

1. Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
2. Instead
3. Gifts for the poor
4. A type of gin
5. Torments
6. One point south of due east
7. Actor Pacino
8. Feline
9. Chinese dynasty
10. Short cries for help
12. Straits can sometimes be this
13. Further
16. Variety shows
17. Supernatural
20. A university in Connecticut
22. Atomic #27
25. Of I



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Road construction begins between South Fork and the Wolf Creek Tunnel

MINERAL and RIO GRANDE COUNTIES — The Colorado Department of Transportation announces improvements to US Highway 160 beginning the week of July 13. The project will improve approximately 11 miles of US 160 in Mineral and Rio Grande counties, beginning west of South Fork at Mile Point 185 and ending at near the Wolf Creek Tunnel, MP 174.

The work consists of milling and overlaying old worn asphalt, improving shoulders, replacing guardrail, and replacing faded sign panels. The project was contracted to Oldcastle SW Group, and is expected to be completed by the end of October 2020.

The project will greatly enhance safety for travelers on this narrow two-lane highway. When completed motorists will experience a smoother roadway with improved safety. Busy highways must bear heavy commercial truck traffic as well as passenger vehicles. About every 10-15 years asphalt roads need to have their top layers milled and resurfaced. Periodic resurfacing of the top layer of asphalt and timely repairs can greatly extend the life of the highway pavement.

TRAVEL IMPACTS - During work hours motorists are asked to use caution when approaching and driving through the work zone. Travelers are urged to check COtrip for updated traffic impacts, possible width restrictions, and speed reductions. Currently, impacts for the project include:

Crews will begin work at the east end of the project limits, MP 185, near South Fork, with operations ad-



vancing west toward the Wolf Creek Tunnel. Project work hours are daylight hours, Monday through Friday. No weekend work is currently anticipated.

Expect travel delays of up to 15 minutes. Motorists will encounter brief stops with single-lane alternating traffic, guided by flagging personnel.

The speed limit is reduced to 40 mph through the work zone.

Flagging personnel will be on sight to direct travelers through the area as construction equipment enters and exits the work zone. Drive with extreme caution.

INTERNET

Continued from Page 1

much speed you need. There are certain minimum speeds needed to be able to do different online activities. One example of this is video streaming. The better the video quality the faster your internet speeds need to be to enjoy it. Streaming companies will normally publish minimum speeds for the different levels of video quality: Standard definition (SD), high definition (HD), and ultra-high-definition/4K. When looking at these streaming companies' recommendations it is important to remember that these are the minimum speeds needed. This means that even a slightly faster internet package would likely give you better video streaming quality.

So before calling with a complaint to your service provider make sure you've purchased an internet package that's fast enough to meet your needs for streaming services when using multiple connected devices all at once. Also check to make sure that the device you're using to connect to the internet is capable of supporting the speeds being provided by your ISP.

It may also be your device causing your slower internet speeds. Apple and Android-based smartphones and tablets have maximum Wi-Fi speeds that they are capable of supporting.

If you connect using a smartphone that's more than 3 years old your internet speeds may be limited because of your device's capabilities. Making sure you keep your devices up to date can help with your internet speeds.

It might also be your router that's slowing your internet speed down. Especially if your router is three or more years old. The Wi-Fi industry is constantly updating its technology to provide users with better performance. New routers work better and are faster and provide more reliable connections.

It's also important to make sure you keep your devices and tech clean and free of dust. You can use canned air, and tech-safe cleaning wipes to help your devices run smoother. All it takes is one small foreign particle to derail components.

Routinely install updates to keep devices running efficiently, and safely. Many updates contain security patches that protect the integrity of your data and maintain the operating system. The tech resource IT Freedom advises conducting an internal cleaning of any devices. This involves deleting any unnecessary files to free up space, or to remove apps that are not needed. In addition cut down on the number of tasks running in

the background which can affect speed and efficiency.

It is also important that your devices have a good virus protection software installed on them. Also make sure to keep personal logins and passwords secret, update virus protection software as needed. Don't transmit vital information over unsecured connections, and routinely back up information to a cloud or external storage device.

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Valley-Wide Classified **FREE!** MARKETPLACE

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



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15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications
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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 and pre-employment drug testing. The candidate will also be subject to random drug testing upon hiring per CDOT regulations. CDL license preferable but not required. 8/5)

The Saguache County Land Use Office is accepting applications for a full time Saguache County Code Enforcement Officer. Applicants must have a valid Colorado Driver's License, must pass a criminal background check as well as a pre-employment drug test. Applications will be accepted until filled. Applications and job descriptions may be found on

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Please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes notify us **IMMEDIATELY**. We will make changes for errors and adjust your credit **but only if we receive notice on the first day the ad is published.** We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper which reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. All classified advertising must be pre-paid.

www.saguachecounty.net or may be emailed to you, please contact April Quintana at 719-655-2231 Saguache County is an equal opportunity employer. (07/29)

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)

Reliable, dependable, and loving caregiver needed part time for disabled daughter in the Antonito area. Background check is required. Serious inquiries only. Contact 719-588-9430 (7/30)

Dental Assistant Needed for Immediate Opening- Mineral County Dental Clinic in Creede is seeking a part time dental assistant to work on average, 6 days per month starting immediately. Experience preferred, however, we can train an enthusiastic person with strong communication skills and work ethic. The ideal candidate will have dental or medical experience, be a team player, reliable and

committed. Hourly rate is dependent on experience and up to \$16.50/hr., during training. Please send letter of interest and resume to mineraldental@mineralcountydental.com. Position will be open until filled. (7/15)

Retail Manager: Looking for a job with a Mission? Join Western National Parks Association as the FT, Park Store Retail Manager at Great Sand Dunes National Park & Reserve. Find out more about this adventurous opportunity by visit-

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<p style="text-align: center;">WANTED</p> <p>Cash for Mineral Rights Free, no-risk, cash offer. Contact us with the details: Call: 720-988-5617 Write: Minerals, PO BOX 3668, Littleton, CO 80161 Email: opportunity@ecmresourcesinc.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COLORADO PRESS ASSOCIATION NETWORK</p> <p>Buy a 25-word statewide classified line ad in newspapers across the state of Colorado for just \$300 per week. Ask about our frequency discounts! Contact this newspaper or call Colorado Press Association Network 303-571-5117</p>
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Valley Wide Classifieds

10 Apartments for Rent
2 Bedroom, 1 bath apartment in the Alpine Village near South Fork, CO. Power bill included, propane separate. \$650.00 per month+deposit 719 849-8640 no pets. (7/22)

14 Business Properties For Rent
OFFICE SPACE IN THE BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL BLDG. 803 FIRST, MONTE VISTA. PRIVATE ENTRANCE. (719) 588-0906

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

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

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

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

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

23 Lawn and Garden
Sprinkler repair. Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (07/30 TFN)

24 Garage Sales
Garage Sale: 81 Pioneer Road, 8am-3pm. July 17 & 18 (07/15)

Saturday July 18th, 8am to 11am. Furniture-Oak Bunk Bed Bottom-double & top-twin) 2 Oak Entertainment Centers, nightstand, some small appliances, comforter sets, other miscellaneous items. Back door of the Perks, 670 Del Norte. (7/15)

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

For Sale: Connelly pool table, 4' x 7 1/2' ft, accessories, mint condition, \$200.00 940 219 9830 (8/5)

Moving Sale: Mission style desk/hutch/bookcase/Small Entertainment cabinet/Hall tree. Sectional sofa, recliner, coffee table. Call Glynn @719-849-3415 for details and prices (8/5)

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42 Feed & Seed
ALFALFA-GRASS HORSE HAY: Green 3x3x8 bales, ~800#, \$190/ton or \$85 per bale OBO, outside stacks, 719-657-0942 (7/22)TFN

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

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

53 Trailers
For Sale: 1995 Starcraft 25' 5^m Wheel Travel Trailer. A/C, microwave, queen bed. New Tires. Gently

used, immaculate. \$6,500. Call 719-852-2945 for more details. (7/30)

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163 Trucks
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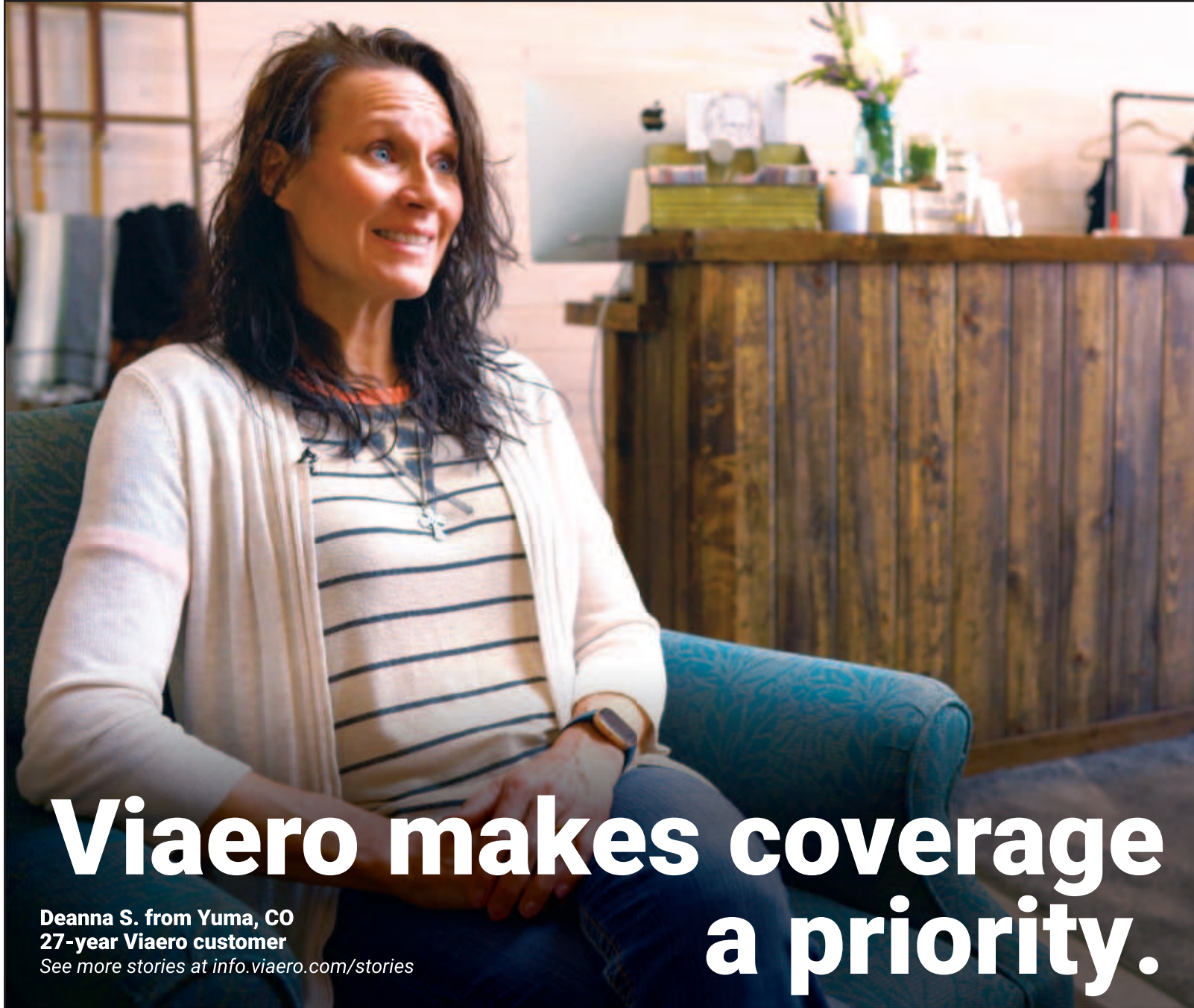
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Bills to protect firefighters and help Emergency Response personnel become law

COLORADO - Governor Jared Polis signed five bills that will better protect firefighters and Colorado communities from PFAS exposure, extend workers' compensation benefits to first responders who experience audible trauma and provide critical health benefits to wildland firefighters.

HB20-1119, sponsored by Representatives Tony Exum and Lois Landgraf, sets stringent guidelines for the testing and use of PFAS-based firefighting foam in order to protect firefighters and prevent the chemicals from entering Colorado's ground-water sources. The bill also requires the state to certify and register every facility that possesses, tests or uses PFAS firefighting substances. SB20-181, sponsored by Representatives Jonathan Singer and Hugh McKean creates a grant program to protect communities from PFAS contamination.

"Our firefighters and crisis response professionals always put our communities first and are often exposed to dangerous or traumatic situations," said Rep. Tony Exum, D-Colo. Springs. "The legislation the governor signed today will protect our firefighters and our groundwater from toxic PFAS chemicals and provide important benefits to our 9-11 dispatchers, social workers and so many other Coloradoans who respond to dangerous situations."

SB20-026, sponsored by Representatives Jonathan Singer and Tony Exum, extends workers' compensation benefits to crisis response professionals who audibly witness death or serious bodily injury, or the immediate aftermath of these events while on the job. Before this new law, those diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of audible trauma were not eligible.

"This bill guarantees that when any of us is at our worst that our first responders will be at their best," said Rep. Jonathan Singer, D-Longmont. "Coronavirus has forced many Coloradans into crisis, and this bill guarantees whether or not our first responders hear or see the worst things imaginable that the state of Colorado will have their back."

SB20-057, sponsored by Representatives Marc Snyder and Lisa Cutter, provides wildland firefighters benefits for circulatory conditions in connection with a stressful or strenuous activity that took place while responding to an emergency. It also provides benefits for certain kinds of cancers to employees of the Division of Fire Prevention and Control, who respond to wildfires in Colorado.

"With the governor signing this bill today, our wildland firefighters, who confront enormous danger and face deadly health conditions as a result, will now have access to the critical health benefits they need," said Rep. Marc Snyder, D-Manitou Springs.

"Every year, Colorado's wildland firefighters step up to protect our communities and deploy around the world to fight some of the largest fires," said Rep. Lisa Cutter, D-Jefferson County. "They can face severe health conditions as a result of their services, and we owe it to them to provide health insurance that covers the care they need."



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SLV COVID-19 cases increase not due to out-of-state visitors

By TREY SPAULDING

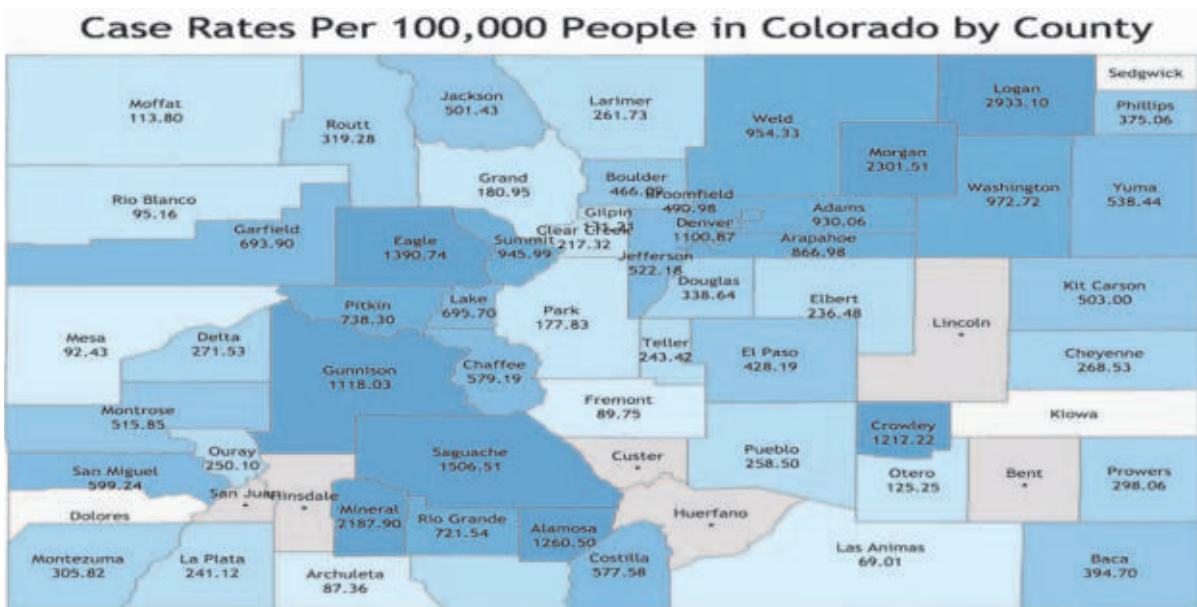
SAN LUIS VALLEY – As of Friday, July 10, the San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership announced the total number of cumulative SLV cases is now 451. This is an increase of 71 new cases in the Valley over the past two weeks. Many are suggesting that the increase is due to the influx of out-of-state visitors to the Valley who are testing positive. However, this is not the case. If someone is from out-of-state, and they test positive at a local hospital, their positive test result is reflected in their county of residency and not in the San Luis Valley county where they were tested. This policy was put in place by all 50 states in order to avoid duplication of case counts.

Colorado's positive tests began to increase due to what health officials stated was caused by more public interaction. Positive COVID-19 tests percentages had dropped to 3.6 percent but increased to 5 percent, resulting in Governor Polis closing bars and nightclubs before the busy Fourth of July weekend. Polis' action was due in part to his observations of what was occurring in states like Texas and Arizona which opened up too quickly and now have rampant outbreaks of COVID-19. According to data July 13, 2020, from the COVID-19 Tracking Project, in Arizona 26.6 percent of COVID-19 tests are coming back positive. In Texas 17.7 percent of tests are positive and Utah is at 10.9 percent.

As of July 13, the seven day average for positive tests in Colorado increased the past week from 4.9 percent to 6.6 percent. Within the San Luis Valley we have higher percentages than the state average. Of the 405 tests conducted in Saguache County 25.4 percent came back positive. Of the 161 tests in Costilla County 13.6 percent were positive. In Alamosa County 2,043 tests have been conducted with 9.9 percent being positive. Mineral County has seen an increase in positive cases with 199 tests conducted 8.5 percent were positive. For Rio Grande County 1,572 tests have been made with 5.1 percent coming back positive. In Conejos County there have been 336 tests given with 5.3 percent being positive.

As of July 10, there have been 451 total cumulative cases in the San Luis Valley with 53 known active cases. Forty-one (41) total people have been hospitalized, and 401 have completed their isolation period. The SLV COVID-19 death total is 10. Alamosa County has the most reported cases with 207, followed by Saguache with 105, Rio Grande County at 81, Costilla County 22, Conejos County 21 and Mineral County with 15.

As of July 13, 2020, Mineral County was third in the state for cases per 100,000; Saguache County was fourth, Alamosa County fifth and Rio Grande County was sixteenth.



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Don't brush off feline dandruff

Dandruff may be a cosmetic inconvenience that many people dread, but cats can suffer from this condition as well.

Dr. Lori Teller, a clinical associate professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, shares with pet owners the diverse causes of this condition and how to treat dandruff in a feline friend. "The causes of dandruff in cats can range from relatively simple—such as obesity that limits a cat's ability to groom, allergies, or the build-up of the undercoat—to more serious issues—such as fleas or a skin infection—to very serious issues—such as cancers like cutaneous lymphoma," Teller said. "There is also a condition called 'walking dandruff' that is caused by the Cheyletiella mite. This mite is usually prevented by flea control products."

Other potential causes of feline dandruff include other external parasites (such as ticks and demodectic mange), bacterial or fungal infections, malnutrition, or an interrupted ability to groom (caused by factors like kidney disease, diabetes mellitus, pancreatitis, or even discomfort from arthritis).

"If an owner notices dandruff, it is certainly worth having the cat checked to rule out an underlying problem, especially if the cat has other concurrent problems," Teller said. "If the cat is itchy; losing hair; vomiting; has a change in appetite, water consumption, or litter box use; or if the owner notices skin lesions or parasites, it is worth a visit to the veterinarian."

Teller also advises that cat owners who are allergic to their pet may be bothered by cat dander and that a veterinary visit may allow for treatment of the cat that can help alleviate allergy symptoms in their owner.

"The treatment for feline dandruff will depend on the cause," Teller said. "Some parasites may be treated with good flea control. Infections may require topical or systemic antibiotics or antifungals. Certainly, any underlying systemic disease should be treated. If obesity or arthritis is part of the problem, weight loss or pain control may be recommended."

If no underlying problems are determined, an owner might be advised to brush their cat daily to distribute their

pet's natural skin oils throughout the coat and remove existing dandruff. If a cat has long hair or a thick coat, the cat may need to be brushed several times a day. Cat owners should consult their veterinarian to determine which grooming practices are best for their pet.

"If the dandruff is more than just a few flakes, if the cat is itchy or is not acting normally, or if anyone else in the family (human or animal) develops skin lesions, it is worth a trip to the veterinarian," Teller said.

Although it is important for pet owners to practice their due diligence and check in with their veterinarian to rule out the more serious causes of feline dandruff, Teller says that in many cases, dandruff is a minor condition.

"Most of the time, dandruff is a benign problem for the cat," she said. "Fortunately, other cats don't judge them for flaky skin, so if your veterinarian gives your cat a clean bill of health, don't get too bothered by the dandruff."

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