

## Shorts

### State Democratic Party 2020 Win Gathering - Virtual Edition

Even in the era of COVID-19 and social distancing, Team CDP is connecting with Democrats all across the State to ensure that we launch a blue tsunami in 2020! Join us for a virtual WIN Zoom gathering to learn how you can be a part of electing Democrats across the State and in Saguache County this November.

Saturday, Aug. 8 at 11 a.m. Winning in Small Blue Districts (Costilla, Lake, Saguache, San Miguel) To Register, Contact Barb, Saguache County Democratic Party Secretary slvbarb498@gmail.com or 719-221-8434

### SLV unemployment rates decrease in June, lower than national average

**BY TREY SPAULDING**  
**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Recently released Colorado unemployment figures from the Colorado Department of Labor and Unemployment (CDLU) for June 2020 indicate that the San Luis Valley (SLV) continues to be more resilient than most of the state.

The average unemployment rate for Colorado was 10.5 percent in June 2020 and nationwide the figure was 11.1 percent. In the San Luis Valley among the 22,411 labor force there are 20,350 employed and 2,061 unemployed equaling an 9.0 percent valley-wide unemployment rate.

The SLV county with the lowest unemployment rate in June 2020 was Conejos with 7.8 percent unemployment. Conejos County is followed by Mineral County with 8.4 percent unemployment, Alamosa County at 9.1 percent, Saguache with 9.8 percent and Costilla at 10.2 percent. Rio Grande County has the highest unemployment rate for June in the Valley with 10.7 percent unemployed which is slightly above the state average.

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

The highest rates of unemployment are found in the counties which are among the highest COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 in the state. Gilpin county

See **UNEMPLOYMENT** on Page 2A

## Former deputy facing misconduct charges

**BY TERESA L. BENNS**

**SAGUACHE** — Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warwick confirmed Tuesday that a longtime deputy on the force has been dismissed after official misconduct charges were filed June 30 in Saguache District Court by 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial district attorney Robert Willett.

Wayne Clark, who formerly worked with law enforcement in New Mexico, was charged with one count of first-degree official misconduct, a class two misdemeanor, according to a complaint and information document filed with the court.

The document reads: "On or about May 10, 2020, Wayne Clark, a public servant, with intent to obtain a benefit for any person or maliciously cause harm to another, unlawfully and knowingly violated a statute or lawfully adopted rule or regulation relating to his office; in violation of section 18-8-404, C.R.S." Clark was released from

duty last month. He had served with the Sheriff's Office since Jan. 29, 2015.

Witnesses listed in the case include Sheriff Warwick, Center Police Chief Dale Meek, Investigator Harry Alejo and one other witness.

Another court document filed in the case shows Judge Anna Ulrich has excused herself from hearing the case owing to "an appearance of impropriety," since "the respondent has appeared as a witness several times in court and has acted as court security." She has requested that a visiting judge be brought in to hear the case.

Warwick attributed Clark's dismissal overall to "cumulative issues," noting that reports also were not being completed in a timely manner and cases were not being fully investigated. He requested an outside agency to investigate the misconduct matter.

Clark is scheduled to appear in court July 29, at 8:30 a.m.



## Center schools to stagger reopening, employ restrictions

*100 percent online learning is an option*

**BY TERESA L. BENNS**

**CENTER** — According to a plan presented at the Tuesday night Center School Board meeting, Center students have the option to "return to learn" beginning Aug. 17 or can choose to continue to learn online, Center Schools Superintendent Carrie Zimmerman reported Tuesday.

Reopening plans were made based on feedback from students, family and staff provided through surveys, Zimmerman said.

Because Saguache County is still in the "Safer at Home" phase of existence, gatherings have been limited to 10 persons spaced 6 feet apart. Based on this directive, the schools will provide "face-to-face" instruction to groups of 10 or less by providing an alternating schedule for students.

### Student instruction

Temperatures of students and staff will be monitored daily. All students three and up must wear face coverings. Students will enter the building at specified entrances according to grade

Please see **SCHOOL** on Page 7A



By Teresa L. Benns

This little lady already knows how to stylishly wear a facemask to stay safe. Center Schools will require all staff and students to wear masks when school reopens Aug. 17.



## Meek releases latest Center crime statistics

**CENTER** — Center Police Chief Gene (Dale) Meek released the most recent crime statistics for the town Tuesday, July 21, and highlighted some of the programs begun over the past year.

There were 1,756 calls for service to the Center Police Department from Jan. 1, 2020, through June 30.

These include:

- 19 burglaries
- 56 thefts
- 18 criminal mischiefs
- 25 harassments

Please see **CHIEF** on Page 7A

## Demolition has begun at the Ski Hi Complex

**MONTE VISTA** — After years of perseverance by the communities of the Valley, Alcon Construction, Inc. in conjunction with the City of Monte Vista, began demolition activities at the Ski Hi Convention Complex July 20, 2020.

The construction activities will

Please see **SKI HI** on Page 2A

### "Construction" finally begins at the Ski Hi Convention Complex.

Photo by Trey Spaulding



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# OBITUARIES

## Albert Cordova, 78

Long time Del Norte resident, Albert Cordova passed away July 16, 2020. He went to meet his Heavenly Father surrounded by his loving family.

Albert was born on May 3, 1942, in La Garita, Colorado. Born to John Cordova and Josephine (Pacheco) Cordova.

Albert was a very passionate worker, he spent many years working in the mining industry in Summitville and Nevada and he knew the value of hard work. He never gave less than his full effort for anything he was doing. He was a very devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and uncle. He was very proud of all his children. He loved fishing, camping, hunting, his macaroni twisters, spaghetti benders, cake and ice cream. When asked what kind of ice cream he wanted, he would say strawberry, lemon and lilac. Albert had a great sense of humor and had nicknames for everyone.

He is survived by his children, Rose Marie (Ron) Vanderpool, Monte Vista, CO, Joey (Danita) Sanchez, Colorado Springs, CO, Dolores (Paul) Atencio, Del Norte, CO, Racael (Wally) Gonzales, Monte Vista, CO, son-in-law Michael Hales of Ogden, Utah, 17 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren, sisters, Corrine Gallegos and Nadine Cordova as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

## Rachel Perea, 102

Longtime Monte Vista Resident, Rachel Perea, passed into the loving arms of our Lord on Jul 13th, 2020 in Tampa, Florida. Born Dec. 18, 1927 in Romeo, Colorado, eventually settling in Monte Vista after marrying Jose Gilbert Perea in January 1948, raising a wonderful family of seven children. Her life was focused on her faith, her family and her friends. She was happiest when surrounded by her family, which eventually grew to include 12 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren and 14 nephews and nieces. She always had a kind word for her friends and an open seat at the table when serving her renowned enchiladas and sopapillas. She is preceded in death by her husband, Jose and sons Lewis, Anthony,



He was preceded in death by his parents John and Josephine Cordova, wife Gertrude Cordova, Daughters Anita Duran and Joanne Hales, siblings, Margaret Woody, Christine Sanchez, Dolores Martinez, Sally Martinez and Stevie Cordova.

Cremation was chosen and a rosary service will be held Friday, July 31, 2020, at 7 p.m. at the Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista. A Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020 also at the Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista. Contributions are suggested to The Rio Grande Hospital and may be made in care of the funeral home office. To express condolences, please visit [www.rogersfunerals.com](http://www.rogersfunerals.com). Rogers Family mortuary in Monte Vista is in care of the arrangements.



Thomas and Ronald. She was strong in her faith until the end. She will be sorely missed by her surviving sister, Alice, sons Claude and Isaac, and daughter Linda.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

Continued from Page 1A

had the highest unemployment rate in Colorado for June with 19.7 percent. Gilpin is followed in decreasing order by San Miguel with 17.1 percent unemployment, Summit with

16.6 percent and Pitkin with 16.0 percent unemployed. It should be noted that each of these counties have dropped approximately 4 percentage points since April 2020.

<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyPublishing>

## John Albert Valdez, 90

Fourth generation San Luis Valley resident and co-owner and founder of J2C Auto Repair, John Albert Valdez passed away at the age of 90 on July 18, 2020, at the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in Alamosa. John enjoyed helping people and was a very generous and caring person.

He is survived by his children Gerri (Vito) Trujillo of Lakewood, CO, John (JoAnne) Valdez of Monte Vista, CO and Don (Jo) Valdez of Monte Vista; as well as a brother Alex Valdez and sisters Beatrice Mansanarez, Eleanor

(Ben) Vigil and Margie (Paul) Martinez; 9 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

John is preceded in death by his parents Ben and Rosa Valdez, his infant son Paul Anthony Valdez and grandson Chris Trujillo.

As to his wishes a cremation and private graveside service will be held at the 7 Mile Plaza Cemetery at a later date.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online remarks, condolences and words of comfort for John's family, please visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com)



## SKI HI

Continued from Page 1A

require the closure of Sherman Avenue on Thursday, July 23. The street closure will begin at 2 a.m. and will continue until 5 p.m.

The closure will be from Ski Hi Trail to the COOP Road (County Road 2E). Local traffic will be allowed to access properties both East and West from County Road 2E and all other traffic will be detoured

to County Road 3E.

Absolutely no traffic will be allowed from the Ski Hi Trail to 2360 Sherman during closure times. Any properties near 2360 Sherman or including 2360 Sherman will need to access from County Road 2E.

Traffic control will be in place to help directing people to their

residences. Non-residents will not be allowed anywhere near the construction activities and there will be no on street parking allowed within 1000 feet of Closure area.

Questions may be directed to Robert Vance, Monte Vista Public Works Director at 719-852-8281 or by email at [rvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us](mailto:rvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us)



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# CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

By TRISH GILBERT

Saguache County Clerk and Recorder 719-655-2512

Learn what you need for a successful visit to the Clerk and Recorder's Office.

Many counties have paused requirements to offer in-person options for public participation in conducting business. However, in an effort to be proactive, we offer residents the ability to schedule appointments.

- An appointment is necessary for:
  - All Title Work
  - Recording
  - Initial Registrations
  - Duplicate Title Transactions

Manufactured Homes Marriage Licenses  
Anything that is NOT a Simple Renewal

For motor vehicle transactions, please have your driver's license and proof of insurance ready. If you have an out-of-state Title, please have your VIN verification from the Sheriff's Department ready. (Please note: you will be required to make another appointment if you are not prepared.) For questions, please call 719-655-2512.

If you have a vehicle registration renewal and would like to come in person, you may come to the Courthouse and we will "squeeze" you in, in-between appointments. Be prepared to "wait".

In leveraging our goal to keep

those at home safe, and prevent community spread in the wake of COVID-19, these appointments are our way of slowing the traffic into the Courthouse.

If you do not have an appointment you will be asked to make one

You are required to wear a mask you will need to be conscious of six-foot social distancing

These have been challenging times, despite advancements in technology, with transforming service delivery. Many services can be achieved online at [mydmv.colorado.gov](http://mydmv.colorado.gov). Why not give it a try and don't look back, you're not going that way.



Anglers are asked to mind weather conditions and consider fishing early in the day and in higher altitude waters to reduce stress to trout populations.

## CPW encourages anglers to be cautious when trout fishing; concerns about warm, dry weather and low water conditions

By TREY SPAULDING

**SOUTHFORK**—This past weekend I packed my 3 weight Sage fly rod and headed out to fish some of the area streams around South Fork. My first destination was the headwaters of Beaver Creek high above the reservoir. I decided to "wet wade" and not don my waders. The water was cool but not as cold as I had expected. In a two hour timeframe I was able to catch and release over a dozen brook trout and one native cutthroat. An early afternoon thunderstorm cut my outing short.

The following morning I headed out to the South Fork of the Rio Grande to try my luck. Again, I was wet wading and the water temperature was noticeably much warmer, bathwater temperature, and the flow was very minimal. There were noticeable algae blooms throughout the river that kept hanging on to my nymph patterns. After over two hours without a single strike, and not seeing any signs of fish feeding, although there was a small caddis hatch going off, I called it quits. The one deep pool that I found, which was only thigh deep, did hold a few trout but they would not take any pattern that I presented

What was the difference between the two days of fishing? I surmised that it had to be the water temperature.

Trout are cold-water fish and the general rule for ethical fly fishermen is that when the water temperature reaches 70 degrees you stop fishing. Most likely the fish have already

stopped feeding due to being stressed by the higher water temperatures.

Research varies but in general The temperature that a Brook Trout begins to stress is 65 degrees Fahrenheit with prolonged exposure to 70 degrees possibly being lethal. When the water temperature is above 60 degrees cutthroat trout will begin to become stressed and feed less. Rainbow and Brown trout can handle higher water temperatures with 68 degrees bring on stress and temperatures above 75 for prolonged periods possibly resulting in death.

July 21 the Del Norte river gauge for the Rio Grande reported the water temperature was 16.2C° (61.1F°). The highest recent temperature occurred July 19 when the temperature reached 17 C° (62.6 F°). The river flow July 21 was only 330 cubic feet per second (CFS) which is approximately 1,000 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 and the water temperature was 21.6 C° (70.8 F°).

According to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) heat, extreme drought, and low water levels are contributing to elevated water temperatures in much of Colorado, depleting oxygen levels and leaving trout vulnerable. Trout function best in 50-60 degree waters. When temperatures exceed 70 degrees, they often stop feeding and become more susceptible to disease. Warm

temperature and low water levels can also lead to algae blooms in rivers and reservoirs which cause oxygen levels to drop when algae die and decompose.

"CPW recommends anglers hit the water early in the morning to avoid the higher water temperatures commonly seen in the afternoon and evening," said Matt Nicholl, CPW's Aquatic Section Manager. "Anglers are also encouraged to seek out high-elevation trout lakes and streams, where water temperatures are more suitable and fishing doesn't potentially add additional stress."

Other CPW suggestions include using heavier tippet and line to quickly reel in and release the fish and using barbless hooks to reduce the time required to unhook the fish. When fish are hooked, their metabolic rate and oxygen consumption soar, greatly increasing their risk of disease and death, especially if water conditions are marginal.

CPW reminds anglers to always wet your hands before handling fish, and to keep the fish submerged while unhooking and releasing it. Avoid taking the fish out of the water even for a quick photo in these conditions.

"Anglers should monitor water temperatures and end their trout fishing adventures when water temperatures start to approach 70 degrees," he said. "If trout have difficulty recovering after being caught and are acting lethargic, it's a good decision to call it quits for the day."

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Don't ask, just mask

Well here we are now some four to five months down the path of the dreaded Corona and never has Ol' Dutch seen such reactions to a threat as I have with this one. It has been blamed for everything from food shortages, toilet paper hoarding, milk dumping, hog killing, beef prices and divorces. I can understand the last one for sure as too much of anything ain't good.

When you sign onto a relationship you sure don't anticipate it will be 24 hours a day. Even Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie, who normally spend 26 hours a day together, have had their problems and if not for my good nature, good looks and generally calm demeanor, we would have split the sheets long ago. (Miss Trixie sure does need to get her eyes checked as they keep rolling around in her skull when I speak the truth.)

On the one hand we have lots of medical experts telling us to be careful and avoid exposure and on the other hand, a lot of people who prefer the ostrich approach to Covid-19.

That's the famous "head in the sand" technique used by the big birds who lay their noggins on the sand believing if they don't see it, it does not exist. I use that approach with my belly and refuse to look in the mirror so there is some merit to that technique.

Obviously the deniers do not have as much to live for as the rest of us or they might take a few more precautions.

Wearing a mask has been a hotbed of discussion since the outbreak of the beer disease and the poor business owners who asked their customers to mask up were questioned about their sanity, their patriotism and their increased price of eggs.

Last week, our Governor issued a mandate requiring a mask in all public places and of course this set off a maelstrom of malcontent and Facebook postings and threats of non-compliance. Which of course is more than a little bit silly as sooner or later those same people posting will have to have some groceries and all the stores are required to make you wear one.

Now Ol' Dutch has long been a proponent of constitutional rights and believe that we need to protect those at all costs. But for the life of me, I cannot see how wearing a mask gets people so worked up. You would think they were being asked to storm the beaches of Normandy and defeat the Nazi hordes once again.

Oh I know, some people have medical issues that prevent them from wearing a mask and I understand that but the stores are offering curbside service to address that. Of course that is not good enough as some people "need" to peruse the aisles coughing and sneezing on their fellow shoppers and all the produce just to prove a point.

Ol' Dutch really does not care much



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

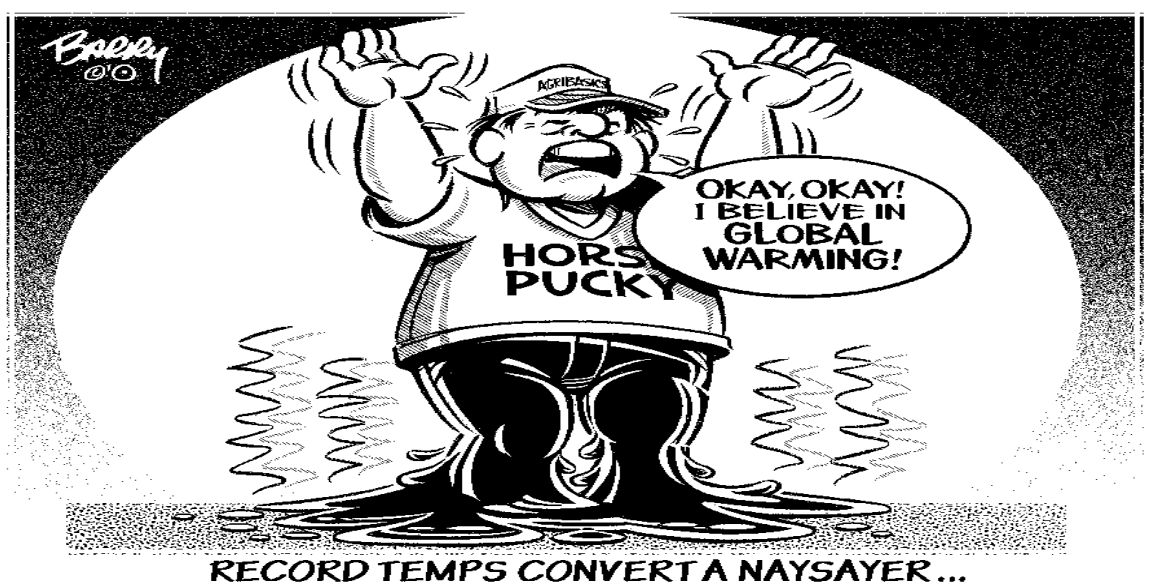
either way what you believe or don't believe but please do understand that the Governor has taken away the stores choice in the matter and so please don't take out your anger over the light beer disease on them.

I have written a poem for all of you readers out there to memorize as you are writing up a grocery list:

Whatever the task, please put on a mask  
So the clerks in the store do not have to ask.  
They just want to help you and get you out fast  
And they cannot help it, this isn't the past.  
When you soon get home then you can bask,  
In sunshine alone in your yard with no mask.  
You cannot escape it in Spain with the Basques,  
For even o'er there they require a mask,  
But for suggestions you may try a big cask  
From which you can renew your tiny purse flask.  
Identify must you as man, woman or mask,  
You still must comply with these rules wearing masks.  
For even in England attending a masque,  
Cover your pie hole you can use a casque.  
If we all do this, we will remain rask,  
And live to see fall and celebrate pasch.  
For better to be smart and your face please do mask it,  
So you do not end up laid out in a casket.

Come on folks. Help out the business people in this time and just slap on a face mask of some kind. Or better yet, get you a balaclava and be part of the "cool crowd" who wear them to avoid the sun. At least then you will look athletic and virile.

*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

### I am not the mask police

To the editor,

A few days ago, I wrote a short poem on our Facebook page regarding the new mask mandate that has impacted Colorado and the citizens within. We got an overwhelmingly positive response from people on both sides of the argument. I'd like to address that.

The basic statement that was woven within the lines of my little ballad was that we believe that your freedom of choice is supreme. The antics of people left and right have left me speechless as to where we have degraded to as a society. I'll leave my opinion at that. With our little business, we are simply trying to stay afloat through all of this and give people what they want. A good meal, a friendly smile and a pleasant experience. The odds of us, or any restaurant making it through this, are very slim. For the time being, we are happy to keep our employees employed, and our customers fed well. When the mask mandate came about, not much really changed for restaurants. People are allowed to sit and eat without a mask, and the staff was instructed to wear them. We have done so and will continue to do so. We are all about doing what we can as a business to prevent the spread of illness. It's something we have done since way before COVID-19

and consider it standard practice.

What I will not get in the way of, is any one person's individual freedoms. I am not the mask police. People are welcome to come and sit in my establishment and enjoy their meal. The idea that wearing a mask from the door to the table will do anything I find to be a little silly. That being said, my customers most often do so without being asked. If they don't, it's not my business to go ask them if they have a medical condition. That's nobody's business but their own, and their condition doesn't need to be broadcast to a room full of people they don't know. People that are uncomfortable sitting in a room without a mask, get their orders to go. You know what? That's just fine with us. I appreciate their business just as much and respect their personal freedom to choose not to eat in our establishment. It costs me a bit more to put together a to-go take out order, but as a wise man once told me, it's "CODB" meaning "cost of doing business." I'd much rather spend the extra money than lose a customer forever.

I think we as a nation have gotten away from individual freedoms that way. No matter who or where you are, you are expected to toe one side or the other of some company

line. If you don't, you are one or more of a hundred precast labels that the other side has given you. We need to stop that as a society. Its incorrect, its detrimental to the people's well-being, and a lot of times, flat out rude. It comes back to the kindergarten concept of "can't we all just get along?" In the face of economic ruin from an invisible enemy, being a united front is more important than ever. I can't solve the nation's problems, but I am in control of one little piece. There's a 4,500 square foot box in South Fork that serves up a mean sandwich. We will do what we've always done to keep you and every other customer safe from the spread of disease and foodborne illness. We take classes on it and have annual health inspections for that very reason. You're welcome to eat with us, or we'll put 'er in a box with an extra sauce cup and thank you for stopping in. One thing is for certain though, you'll hear no policing from me. I'm happy you stopped in. Mask or no mask, for here or to go, I thank you for your business, and I look forward to having you stop in again. The freedom of choice belongs to you. At least, that's the way I see it.

*Tyler Schmidt  
Owner, Two Rivers BBQ, South Fork*

### Involved communities foster stronger, healthier communities

Letter to the editor,

The CTC Coalition in Saguache County has made great strides toward the goal in the community. The CTC community is now on the road to brighter skies. The coalition voted on the Risk & Protective Factors in June. The two Risk Factors that were voted on were 1. Early initiation of problem behavior. 2. Favorable parental attitudes & involvement in the problem behavior. The Protective

Factor is Opportunities & rewards for prosocial involvement. We have a good strong Key Leader Group, and the Coalition is growing and we have involvement from all the community. We have a coalition meeting every month, these are held virtual and if you want to be part of this group, please let me know we are always happy to see new faces.

We are now at a new phase in the program. 3.5 A community action

plan.

We are also in the process of hiring new youth to work in the CTC program for Saguache County, this is a paid position. If interested please call the office.

If you would like to get involved with the CTC Program or need more information, you can call Gloria Arroyos Quintana at 719-655-2533.

*Gloria Arroyos Quintana  
Center*

# CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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# Comet NEOWISE closest to the Earth July 23

By TREY SPAULDING

**OUTER SPACE** – In the San Luis Valley we are blessed with dark skies that allow us to see the solar system like few places in the world. This week you will hopefully be able to see a new addition to our night sky. The Comet NEOWISE will be closest to the Earth Thursday, July 23. Cloud cover permitting, look for the comet by facing northwest just after sunset. Most likely you will need binoculars or a telescope to better see the comet. To see NEOWISE, locate the Big Dipper and then look in the space below the “cup” of the Big Dipper between the moon and the constellation. You can also expect to see a meteor shower associated with NEOWISE. If cloud cover obscures your visibility, NEOWISE will still be located in the same vicinity each evening through July 26.



Photo by Nils Ribi

## Local law enforcement weighs in on new mask mandate

By LYNDSE FERRELL

**SAN LUIS VALLEY-** All across the state Friday, July 17, as phones across the state blurted out emergency notification tones, law enforcement departments took state their opposition or support for the new statewide mask mandate issued by Governor Jared Polis through executive order as a response to COVID-19.

According to his news conference held Thursday, July 16, the Governor issued the mandate stating that COVID-19 cases were continuously rising and the only way to stop the spread was to make masks mandatory in populated indoor areas, businesses, restaurants and outdoors if social distancing measures could not be practiced.

Local law enforcement in Del Norte, Rio Grande County, South Fork and Mineral County issued statements clarifying their stance on the new state executive order of mandatory masks.

Del Norte Police Chief Frank Archuleta stated that DNPD will be on the side of businesses in town. “It is not set into law and we will refer to Public Health orders from both local and state departments for outdoor recreational use of masks but we will protect businesses who require masks. The business owner has the right to refuse service to anyone who chooses not to wear a mask. That is their right as a business owner. We can charge an individual who decided to be difficult about the new mandate in a business with trespassing or disorderly conduct if they take it too far.”

“We are here to help, both the public and the business owners. We are always going to try to educate and talk to people; gain compliance rather than have issues but we will enforce it if the business owners ask that of us.”

Rio Grande County Sheriff Don McDonald and South Fork Police Chief Coty Arthur are handling the situation in the same manner. McDonald said one word when asked about his stance on the mask order, “Educate.” The Sheriff and his crew, as well as those with South Fork Police Department, will focus their attention on educating and encouraging the public to follow state mandates but are not out to “enforce” anything outside of what the businesses require.

On the other hand, businesses like Two River’s BBQ in South Fork issued statements on Facebook and other social platforms that they would continue to leave it up to the customer to decide for themselves whether or not to wear masks on their premises.

The Rainbow Grocery Store in South Fork also had another view on the new orders stating that though they do not agree with the mandate that they would comply for fear of being shut down.

Mineral County Sheriff Fred Hosselkus had this to say, “We are not going to be the mask police, but if a business has an issue with somebody refusing to leave their building, then we will assist in removing them.”

The mask mandate has added to the already stressed economies throughout the Valley as community after

community has watched COVID-19 numbers slowly rise and deflate over the last several months though many are experiencing more people using masks since the executive order was put in place Friday and overwhelming support from the public to help comply with the current mandate.

The entire executive order issued by the Governor can be found at <http://www.silverthreadpublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/D-2020-138-Mask-Order.pdf>.



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# Gov. Polis signs replacement ballot bill

By TERESA L. BENNS

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** - A new Colorado law will help speed up the mail-in ballot process by quickly providing replacement ballots, assuring voters they can still vote even if they lose or mismatch their ballots.

Colorado Politics ([https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/new-colorado-law-speeds-up-mailing-ballots-or-replacing-them/article\\_2f9de3d0-c3dd-11ea-b245-8b082a8631b9.html](https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/new-colorado-law-speeds-up-mailing-ballots-or-replacing-them/article_2f9de3d0-c3dd-11ea-b245-8b082a8631b9.html)) reports that last week Gov. Jared Polis signed a bill to help expedite the replacement ballot process.

“House Bill 1313 requires county clerks to get replacement ballots in the mail quickly in eight to 15 days from an election,” the report reads. “They now have to process new voter registration and changes that require a new ballot within two days, then get a ballot out within one business day. Replacement ballots also have to go out within a day.”

While the new bill does help correct some of the flaws in the absentee ballot process, many still fear there is still great potential for abuse. Some of these fears were laid out in an article written in 2007 by Teresa James, then an election counsel, and Michael Slater. Slater served as deputy director of Project Vote, a national nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that provides research, guidance and technical assistance to voter participation and voting rights organizations.

The article they wrote at that time is presented below with editor’s notes where needed.

## Mail delivery issues

• Vote by mail is only as reliable as the mail delivery. First class mail, as its name might imply, does not treat everyone equally. In fact, it discriminates against low-income communities and dense urban areas where residents move more frequently and not every adult shares the same family name. This bias is codified in U.S.P.S. Domestic Mail Manual, which provides that if the addressee of certain mail is unknown to the delivery employee, the mail may be withheld pending identification of the claimant. (Ballot boxes in local towns allow those casting mail-in ballots to deposit their ballots during election cycles. – Ed.)

In Oregon’s Multnomah County (Portland), for example, six percent of mail ballots were returned as undeliverable in the 2004 election. There are many common scenarios in which a mail carrier may not know that a person resides at a given address, particularly when delivering to apartment or condominium complexes. The most common scenario is a new resident. America has a famously mobile population. The most recent U.S. Census Bureau report indicates that 43 million people or 16 percent of the population aged one and older living in the United States moved between March 1999 and March 2000.

## Population mobility

Minorities, young people, singles, and divorced people moved at above-average rates. Project Vote is especially concerned about the effects of mobility among people of lower income levels. Twenty-one percent of households with incomes under \$25,000 have moved in the

past year, compared to 12 percent of households with incomes greater than \$100,000. Almost one in three renters moved, compared to one in 11 homeowners. Other plausible scenarios include an adult child may move in with a parent, a woman in the process of divorce may move into a friend’s home or an elderly adult may move in with an adult child. These individuals are eligible to vote if they have resided at their new address for even a short period of time, but the mail carrier may simply return a mail ballot if the primary resident hasn’t notified the mail carrier of the new occupant.

This situation came into play during the 2006 election in Baltimore, Maryland. Election officials announced intentions to cancel 2,300 new registrations because voter registration cards were returned as undeliverable. Officials concluded that returned cards indicated that applicants had failed to complete their applications accurately. Project Vote staff investigated and, through interviews with mail carriers, learned that the non-forwardable mail that the board of elections used could not be left at an address where the addressee was not known or listed as a resident. Further investigation confirmed that applicants lived at the addresses they provided to election officials.

## Voter turnout

Vote by mail’s effect on voter turnout is at best neutral but may favor affluent voters. VBM supporters suggest that turnout will increase with all mail elections and point to early studies showing an increase in Oregon voter turnout of up to 10 percentage points. Subsequent research contradicts these findings or presents a far more nuanced picture of VBM’s effects on voting. Most recently, political scientists Thad Kousser and Megan Mullin conducted a rigorous analysis of two recent elections in California, where election law allows officials to designate small precincts as VBM precincts for specific elections.

The researchers first paired each VBM precinct with a polling place precinct with similar demographics, averaged the turnout in all the VBM precincts and all the polling place precincts, and then compared the results. They found that turnout in VBM precincts were 2.6 and 2.9 percentage points lower than in polling place precincts. The most recent examination of VBM’s effect on Oregon’s turnout concludes that, far from the initial 10-percentage point increase some researchers found, VBM increased turnout by four percentage points and only in presidential election years.

More important than the size of any increase in turnout is who is voting under VBM who would not otherwise have voted. Here, researchers have reached a consensus. To the extent that VBM increases turnout in Oregon it does so by retaining voters who are occasional rather than habitual voters. Further, these voters are demographically similar to habitual voters. In other words, VBM does nothing to expand the electorate in ways that make it more representative of the voting age population. In fact, as MIT political scientist Adam Berinsky writes: “VBM in Oregon accentuated the stratification of the electorate.

Specifically, VBM mobilized those already predisposed to vote those individuals who are long-term residents and who are registered partisans to turn out at higher rates than before.

## Susceptibility to corruption

Vote by mail is more susceptible to corruption than voting at polling places. There is widespread consensus among all but die-hard partisans that there is little polling place fraud (which is why the debate over voter ID requirements is a false one). There are, however, more than a few cases of absentee ballot fraud. Generally speaking, absentee fraud reports arise most often in local county or community elections. Absentee ballot fraud takes four general forms:

(1) forging signatures or signing fictitious names. (This actually occurred years ago during a Center election. – Ed.)

(2) coercing or influencing a vote (Cases of this have been investigated in the Valley – Ed.);

(3) vote buying; and

(4) misappropriating absentee ballots. (A tip received by Valley Publishing during one general election reported that discarded absentee ballots were being collected at post offices by certain individuals, filled out and submitted. – Ed.)

Absentee ballot fraud by members of both major political parties has been substantiated in several high-profile civil and criminal cases. A 1997 Miami mayoral election was overturned by a Florida appeals court in a highly publicized case upon a finding that absentee ballots cast for Republican incumbent

Xavier Suarez were tainted by fraud. The court installed Democratic candidate Joe Carollo as the winner of the mayoral race after throwing out all 4,740 absentee votes. As a result of the investigation, 21 Miami residents were accused of acting as false witnesses to absentee ballots. In a similar case, a state judge nullified the results of a 1993 mayoral election in Hialeah and ordered a new vote.

## Instances of vote buying

In a blatant instance of vote buying, Democratic and Republican supporters of candidates in a Dodge County, Georgia sheriff’s race were found guilty of paying voters for their absentee ballot votes, each side bidding against the other and operating from tables on opposite ends of the courthouse hall. In a more recent case, two defendants in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi were convicted of absentee ballot fraud for providing money and beer to voters to get them to vote by absentee ballot. Vote by mail is amenable to manipulation by election officials. The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) prohibits election officials from purging voters for failing to vote. It also requires notice letters and a waiting period before officials can purge voters whom they believe have moved.

A registered voter should be able to go her polling place on Election Day and find her name on the list, even if she skipped an election. Vote by mail is different. Election officials in many states can decide to mail ballots to only a subset of registered voters, leaving other voters waiting by the mailbox. This is exactly what happened in Denver

recently. Colorado law requires election officials to place voters who have missed one general election on an “inactive list.” (This has now been changed to two general elections, as, for example, in 2018 and 2020. When mail ballots are returned as undeliverable, clerk’s office employees send out queries inviting them to re-register. – Ed.) Voters on the inactive list do not receive a mail ballot. As a result, Denver voters who missed the 2006 general election did not receive their ballots in the mail. More than 117,000 voters were left out of the election as a consequence.

Ironically, many Denver voters were unable to cast a ballot in 2006 because of the city’s well-reported failure of its electronic poll book system. Distinguishing between “active” and “inactive” voters and then mailing ballots to only active voters is the practice Oregon, Washington, and California, in addition to Colorado. No federal law protects voters against this administrative sleight of hand.

## Conclusion

Thanks largely to Oregon’s experience, many reform-minded advocates and policymakers have become persuaded that vote-by-mail stimulates increased voter turnout with few drawbacks. We think the facts don’t support their arguments. VBM reinforces the stratification of the electorate; it’s more amenable to both fraud and manipulation than voting at polling places; and it depends too much on the reliability of the U.S. Postal Service. Americans deserve an equal opportunity to participate in democracy; vote by mail doesn’t deliver that.

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# Coffee with the Chief resumes

CENTER-Coffee with the Chief resumes in a public setting this Saturday in Center beginning at 9 a.m. The meeting will be held

outdoors at the United Methodist Church on Broadway. Chief Meek invites Center residents to catch up on local crime efforts following the

COVID-19 isolation period. In this photo, citizens attend one of the first Coffee sessions held shortly after Meek took office.

## CHIEF

Continued from Page 1A

- Eight shopliftings
- Six sexual assaults
- 103 disturbance calls
- 25 noise disturbance calls
- 20 warrants served
- Three cases of drug trafficking
- 233 traffic stops with 27 citations and 23 traffic arrests/ summons

A total of 43 stops were made in July with the new LiDar Unit. LiDAR stands for Light Detection and Ranging and operates similarly to radar but is assisted by the Doppler effect to better calculate the speed of suspected vehicles.

- Many other calls for service were civil, non-criminal cases such as a civil standby for parties separating to divide up belongings, lost property and medical assistance calls.
- The large volume of calls is time consuming
- Currently the department is staffed with seven officers including the Chief. However, one officer has been on restrictive duty due to injury and K9 training for most of the year.
- Two other officers have been in training the majority of that time.
- Most of these 1,756 calls for service were handled by four officers.

The current focus for crime

reduction/ Public Safety Improvement is still on burglary suppression, interruption of narcotics supply and the current trend of racing and speeding in the town.

- The narcotics K9 has been trained, tested and we are awaiting paperwork showing the dog's certification.
- A new LiDar unit, purchased with grant money, has been put into use. Most officers require training on the device before they can issue citations using official LiDar measurement.
- Sgt. Fresquez has completed K9 training and his duty status is close to being moved from restricted to full duty. Sgt. Fresquez's work hours will change so there are more officers working during the times of criminal activity.

Once our two new officers complete training, a new schedule is being looked at which will supply near 24-hour coverage to the Town.

**Programs implemented**

The following programs have been successfully implemented over the past year to build Community Engagement, although COVID-19 slowed and/or stopped the community engagement that is forming bonds

with residents. With the slow lift of restrictions and developing new ways to interact, this engagement must be increased.

To identify safety problems the following strategies have been adopted:

- Coffee with the Chief
- Neighborhood Watch with email chain
- Retail Theft Group
- Social media
- Consistent and transparent interactions with the press

Ways forward include increased School engagement, with Officer Deanna Lopez assigned to the schools. Her initial mission will be to attend school meetings and functions, open communications with school administrators, identify problems with public safety and assist in formulating and implementing strategies for improvement.

Community Leader Education in policing concepts also addresses:

- Use of force/ response to resistance requirements
- Current events and effects on policing
- K9 demonstrations and
- Public safety best practices

## SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1A

level. Teachers, staff and students are required to wear masks whenever distancing guidelines cannot be followed. Recesses and lunches will be staggered. Hallways will be made one way, where feasible. Distancing will be marked off in the hallways and at bus stops, other locations.

Students will be divided up into two groups. Group A, Center, will attend face-to-face classes Monday and Tuesday and attend virtual learning classes Wednesday and Thursday. Group B, Vikings, will attend virtual learning classes Monday and Tuesday and face-to-face classes Wednesday and Thursday.

Elementary classes will be self-contained with no departmentalization. Secondary classes will follow the established schedule, except for band. There will be designated times and areas for breakfasts and lunches and students will eat in cohorts (small groups of 10 or less). Small groups of learners needing help with IEPs, English Language Learning, and reading assistance will meet on off days on a needs basis.

All children will receive targeted, individualized instruction in small groups and all necessary supports will be provided. No lockers or desk compartments will be used, and no manipulatives or instructional materials will be shared. Materials/ supplies can be carried in backpacks, placed in individual cubbies or in classroom containers.

**Sanitizing**

Handwashing and sanitizing will take place at regular intervals.

Handwashing stations with soap and paper towels will be set up and hand sanitizer (60 percent or more alcohol), will be provided where hand-washing is not feasible. Students will take 15-minute breaks so classrooms can be sanitized. Regular cleaning of classroom areas will take place throughout the day and deep-cleaning and sanitizing will be done every evening.

**Screenings and transportation**

Staff will be screened for symptoms each day. Plexiglas barriers will be erected for staff on request. Each student and staff member will be issued one cloth face covering. An isolation room will be established for those showing any symptoms of illness. Improvements have been made to ventilation and filtration systems and circulation of outdoor air will be increased as much as possible.

Those living within Center city limits will need to either walk to school or be transported by parents. Those riding the bus will be monitored before getting on the bus, will sit one to a seat, every other seat (except for same household members) and will be required to wear masks.

**Health precautions**

Students and staff at greater risk will be allowed to work remotely or accommodations such as medical grade masks, face shields and one-on-one learning will be put in place. These requirements will be determined by a health care provider. For staff, the highest priority will be

given to those 65 and older or with highest risk/underlying illnesses as determined by a health care provider (i.e., heart disease, lung disease, diabetes).

When a student or staff member tests positive, the group will remove to remote learning for 14 days. If a student or staff member has been in close or prolonged contact with someone who tests positive, they will move to remote learning for a minimum of three days to allow for additional disinfecting and monitoring. No one may be allowed to return to school until healthy.

**Online learning**

Those choosing 100 percent online learning will be taught through the school's Academic Recovery Center's virtual learning program. All the same standards that apply to Center Schools ordinarily will be carried into the virtual learning process. Instructional videos will be used that provide examples, modeling and real-world context.

Students must complete all daily assignments and teachers/staff will monitor student work and provide additional support. Ongoing progress monitoring will evaluate learning. A parent portal is available so parents can actively monitor their children's progress.

Student supports will be provided through monthly virtual meetings, weekly check-in meetings, home visits and support as needed by appointment.

Building level and class assignments will be available Aug. 7.

## SAGUACHE SHERIFF REPORT

The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the weeks of June 22-29, 2020

**Arrests**

- Domanic Gallegos, 18, Center, second-degree burglary, theft (\$750-\$1,999), violation of bond conditions, possession of drug paraphernalia
- Drew Danford, 35, Center, third-degree assault, domestic violence
- Merlyn Elliot, 62, Crestone, third-degree assault, menacing with a deadly weapon
- Lee Heredia, 45, Center, DUI/D or both, blood alcohol content 0.08 or over, drove vehicle while a habitual offender, DUR, driving after revocation, fictitious validation sticker, resisting arrest
- Victor Jaramillo, 38, Center, two counts of contempt of court
- Crystal Sevigny, 42, Edgewater, DUI/D or both, drug alcohol

**Citations**

- Christine Jernberg, third-degree assault, domestic violence
- Patrick Murphy, 62, Durango, speeding 89 in a 65 MPH zone
- Samantha Clark, 18, Victor, Montana, speeding 39 in a 35 MPH zone
- Juvenile male, 17, Manitou Springs, speeding 74 in a 65 MPH zone
- Ethan Morrison, 37, Steamboat Springs, speeding 74 in a 65 MPH zone
- Joey Medina, 46, Durango, speeding 85 in a 65 MPH zone
- Jerry Honeycutt, 55, Alamosa, speeding 75 in a 65 MPH zone
- Jasmine Garcia, 18, Denver, passed on left in unsafe manner
- Juvenile male, 17, Saguache, drove without a valid driver's license
- Traci Vanrimmeren, 45, Maywood, Nebraska, no number plate attached to vehicle

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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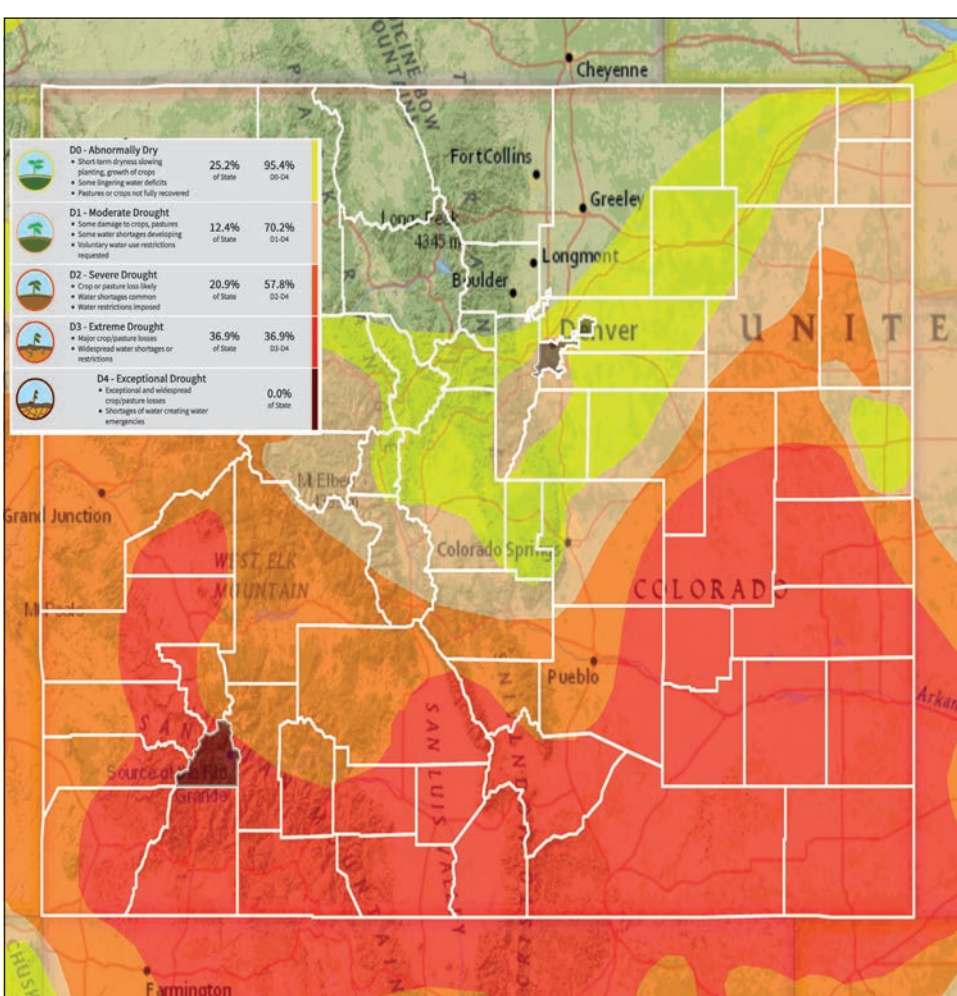
# Lifestyles

Serving the entire San Luis Valley

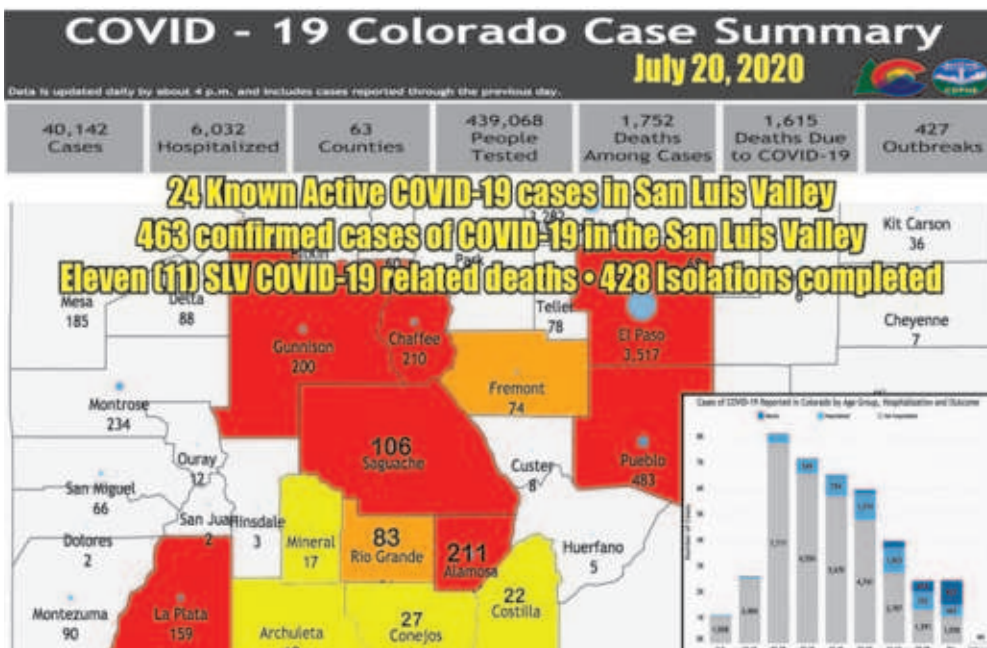
Supplement to The Monte Vista Journal, Center Post-Dispatch, The Conejos County Citizen, The Mineral County Miner, The South Fork Times, and The Del Norte Prospector.

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## San Luis Valley in extreme drought conditions



July 14, 2020, - 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.



## Statewide cases on the rise SLV percentage of positive cases decreasing

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** – On Tuesday, July 14, Colorado Governor Polis stated that he was not going to issue a mandatory mask wearing order citing that it would be difficult to enforce. Two days later, faced with an upsurge in COVID-19 cases in the state and modeling showing a significant increase if policies were not changed, he issued a statewide mandatory wearing of masks while indoors in public spaces. In addition, the World Health Organization updated its guidance, saying people should wear nonmedical face coverings/masks where there is widespread transmission and when physical distancing is difficult.

New infections have risen steadily in Colorado over the past four weeks. Public health officials have warned that there are clear signs of a resurgence in the pandemic. June 30, Governor Polis extended the Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors Executive Order. When this executive order was initially issued Polis had stated that he wanted 8,500 tests to be conducted in Colorado each day. That number has only been reached

twice. June 21, 8,623 tests were conducted with 3.7 percent or 286 tests coming back positive. The lowest number of positive tests so far with the second highest number of tests being conducted. On July 11, 8,721 tests were conducted with 6.4 percent being positive equaling 666 positive cases. Most recently, July 19, among 5,155 tests there were 7.3 percent positive equaling 444 positive cases.

As of July 20, the 14 day average for positive tests in Colorado has increased from 4.9 percent to 7.3 percent. In the San Luis Valley the percentage of positive tests has been decreasing over the past two weeks. Among the 427 tests conducted in Saguache County the percentage of positive tests dropped from 25.4 to 24.8 percent. In Costilla County positive tests dropped from 13.6 to 12.5 percent. In Alamosa County 2,149 tests have been conducted with the number of positive tests dropping from 10 to 9.8 percent. Mineral County dropped from 8.5 to 8.2 percent of the 205 tests taken. For Rio Grande County, among the 1,780 tests the percentage being positive dropped from 5.3 to 4.5 percent. In Conejos County there have been 395 tests given with tests coming back positive dropping from 6.5 percent to 6.0.

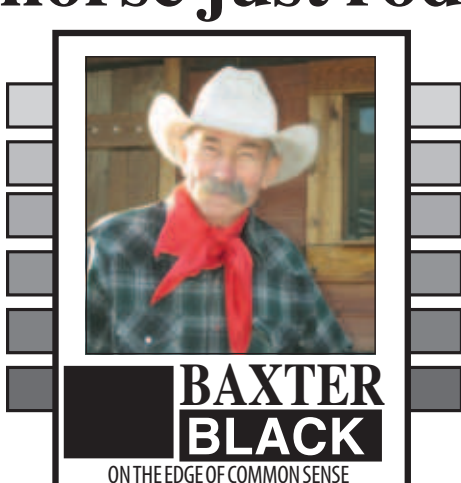
## Another white horse just rode by

Another white horse just rode by. I guess I saw him comin' I felt him breathin' down my neck, I heard his hoofbeats drummin'.

I've seen 'em pass this way before. They mark the separation Of mossy horns from yearlin' bucks. Each one's a generation.

I saw one pass at seventeen, at thirty-five and fifty They rode by loud and brave and bold or snuck by sly and shifty.

They had no time to stop and talk or ponder gettin' older They pushed their elders for a while then pushed 'em off the shoulder.



They stamped their feet and scraped their horns and kept the turmoil brewing

With no regard to consequence or history they're undoing.

Another white horse just rode by. The crowd is gettin' thinner. I've got no urge to follow 'em, I'd rather go eat dinner

And spend my time with folks I love who'd care if I was missin'. Where I can tell the things I know and likewise, sit and listen.

See, time has worn my edges smooth, a temporal erosion, That keeps me outta useless fights and outta constant motion.

Oh, I still get my dander up and I still tell

my stories But you won't find me wishin' I could re-ride long gone glories.

Another white horse just rode by but you won't see me mopin'. My grandkid's home from school at three... I'm takin' her a'ropin'.

*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*





## Sherman Ave. closure in Monte Vista

**MONTE VISTA** - Alcon Construction, Inc. in conjunction with the City of Monte Vista will be conducting construction activities at the Ski Hi Convention Complex, located on Sherman Avenue, Monte Vista, Co 81144 the week of July 20, 2020. Those construction activities will require the closure of Sherman Avenue July 26, 2020. The street closure will begin at 2 a.m. and will continue until 5 p.m. July 26, 2020.

The closure will be from Ski Hi Trail to the COOP Road (County Road 2E). Local traffic will be allowed to access properties both East and West from County Road 2E and all other traffic will be detoured to County Road 3E. Absolutely no traffic will be allowed from the Ski Hi Trail to 2360 Sherman during closure times. Any properties near 2360 Sherman or including 2360 Sherman will need to

access from County Road 2E. Traffic control will be in place to help directing people to their residences. Non-residents will not be allowed anywhere near the construction activities and there will be no on street parking allowed within 1000 feet of Closure area. Questions may be directed to Robert Vance, Monte Vista Public Works Director at 719-852-8281 or by email at rvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us

## Bubonic Plague activity present in Colorado

People can take precautions to prevent exposure

**COLORADO** - After a squirrel tested positive for plague in Jefferson County last week, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment reminds residents that it's not uncommon for plague to be present this time of year, and simple precautions can keep the risk of transmission to humans very low. "Plague has been present in Colorado since at least the 1940s, and cases in wild rodents in Colorado are reported most years," said Dr. Jennifer House, state public health veterinarian. "While we see most plague activity during the summer, the disease can be found in rodents year-round and sometimes spills over into other wildlife species as well as domestic cats and dogs."

Plague has been found this summer in animals in limited access areas of Adams and Broomfield counties. In addition, the first case of human plague infection in the state since 2015 was diagnosed earlier this summer in a resident from southwest Colorado who had exposure to sick

squirrels. The patient had septicemic plague, which is in the blood and cannot be spread to other people. The resident recovered, and no other cases were identified.

People should take the following precautions to protect themselves and their pets:

- Do not directly handle any wildlife.
- Keep pets away from wildlife, especially dead rodents and rabbits.
- Don't let dogs or cats hunt prairie dogs, other rodents or rabbits.
- Don't allow pets to roam freely.
- Treat all pets for fleas according to a veterinarian's advice.
- Do not feed wildlife - this attracts them to your property, brings them in close contact, and increases the risk of disease transmission.

Be aware of rodent and rabbit populations in your area, and report sudden die-offs or multiple dead animals to your local health department.

Plague is most commonly spread to people by the bite of an infected flea but also may be transmitted by infected animal tissues, fluids or respiratory droplets. People with direct exposure to fleas or wildlife in the affected areas may be at risk. People who think they have been exposed should contact a health care

provider immediately. Symptoms include sudden fever, headache, chills, weakness and tender, painful lymph nodes. While there are no publicly available vaccines to prevent plague in people, if caught early, it can be successfully treated with antibiotics in both people and pets.

For more information about plague, visit CDPHE's plague webpage or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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# Valley-Wide Classified MARKETPLACE

**FREE!**

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



## CLASSIFIED INDEX

- |   |   |   |
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|---|---|---|

## RATES

**15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications**  
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**Convenient ad placement:** To place your ad in person come to the office at 835 First Ave. in Monte Vista, or call (719) 852-3531. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also fax your classified to (719) 852-3387 or email at monte vista class@gmail.com  
**Check your ad the first day:** To ensure your ad is correct, check it the first day it appears in the paper. If there is an error in your ad, call us right away so we can correct it. If an error appears in your ad, Valley Publishing will credit you with one additional day of advertising.  
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### 02 Cards of Thanks

**Saguache County Sheriff Thanks for checking on LaRoy.** LaRoy you think your going down the mountain and the horse was wild. Then Hee Hee Hee I took Brakes off your wheelchair. Hee Hee Hee. (8/6)

### 05 Notices

**I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all Enemies foreign and domestic;** Ken Ketch. (8/5)

**Looking to Buy! Gold and Silver! Top Dollar Paid Coins, Bars, Rounds, Jewelry, Silverware.** Call for Details: 303-552-1501 Kevin. (7/30)

**WE BUY ANTLERS: 5 miles west of Del Norte on HWY 160.** 719-657-0942 (7/22)TFN

### 07 Help Wanted

**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 dncsd.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 dncsd.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, com-

munication, 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 current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED and six months or more of relevant experience.** Prospective employees applying with Saguache County will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check. Operator I is a full time position – applicants must be able to operate light and heavy equipment and perform manual labor in the maintenance, repair and minor construction of roads, streets, bridges, signs, markings and related facilities. Applicants must be physically capable of periods of sustained physical exertion and may be required to lift and move up to 75 lbs. to 150 lbs. Applications are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office 305 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 – 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website – www.saguachecounty.net under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit the Drivers-Application. A complete

job description is also available at the Road and Bridge Office. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge – at the address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until qualified candidates are hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (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

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Custom-built home in River Island Ranch with a built in theater, 5 car heated garage and 2 car separate garage, screened-in porch, safe room, wet bar and much more! The yard has a sprinkler system and a fire pit, perfect for entertaining! POA includes access to fishing on the Rio Grande, road maintenance and snow removal. MLS# 765728  
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3 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 2,900 sq. ft. **\$549,000**

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**Price Just Reduced!!**  
• 1 bedroom • 1bathroom • **\$74,900**

Adorable Park Model home in the River's Edge Mountain View RV Resort! Everything is included, all it needs is you! All furniture, appliances and pots and pans come with this cozy home that includes an enclosed sun room, storage shed and work bench! MLS#760432  
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**Fantastic Home on 40 Acres with Water!**

5 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 3,216 sq. ft. • **\$630,000**

Remodeled in 2016, the home has large, double-pane windows to enjoy the views, quartz counter tops, new stainless steel appliances, a private master suite with amazing features and so many more unique details. Heated 3-car attached garage plus addtl. detached garage/tack room. Established hay-meadow with surface water rights and 1.5 shares of Rio Grande Piedra ditch.  
MLS# 769101

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**Cozy Home! Owner Will Carry Mortgage!**  
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Park model with enclosed sun room in River's Edge Resort! Perfect as a second home or weekend getaway in a 55+ community! Includes all furniture and furnishings, down to the pots & pans. Private access to the river, lots of recreation activities and community activities! Owner will Carry Mortgage! MLS #762858  
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**IMMACULATE BRICK HOME THAT IS TRULY SPECIAL!** This 3497 sq ft home has; 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, a living room, formal dining area, and large family room that features a cozy fire place, as well as a great kitchen (remodeled in 2017). Plenty of space and storage in this home, there is also a laundry room, an office and another room above the attached garage. Mature established yard that is fenced and has a sprinkler system, as well as sheds for storage and a large detached garage/shop in the back. Don't wait, Call Today to see this truly special home! **\$339,000** Call Tracy Gosar, 850-1815 MLS #766342

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# Valley Wide Classifieds

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 – 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website – www.saguachecounty.net under the 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 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 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)

### 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 visiting www.wnpa.org/jobs. Equal Opportunity Employer: disability/veteran and other protected classes. (7/30)

### 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 dncsd.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.

### 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)

### Del Norte 3-bedroom, 1-bath country living Duplex. NO PETS.

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### Log Cabin in South Fork 1-Bedroom, Office, Garage. NO PETS.

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### 14 Business Properties For Rent

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### 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

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### 24 Garage Sales

Garage Sale Saturday July 25th 8am-5pm 39 Pinon Circle, South Fork. Lots of nice Furniture, men's & Women's Harley Davidson shirts, jackets, Leathers, T-Bags, dishes way too much list. (7/23)

Multi-Family Yard Sale Saturday 7/25 Furniture, Antiques, Housewares, clothers. ETC. 229 Washington, Monte Vista. (7/22)

### 36 Miscellaneous

Items for SALE: Brand new propane smoker \$125.00. New Sheet Rock Jack \$125.00. 220 Used Cinder Blocks \$1.75 each. Call 719-850-2027. (8/19)

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

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### 53 Trailers

For Sale: 1995 Starcraft 25' 5" Wheel Travel Trailer. A/C, microwave, queen bed. New Tires. Gently used, immaculate. \$6,500. Call 719-852-2945 for more details. (7/30)

### 58 Motorcycles

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### 59 Vehicles Wanted

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### 64 Autos for Sale

2008 Toyota Highlander Limited 4x4 good condition, reliable 210K \$6,500 for more information text 719-588-1712.

### 65 Professional Services

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# Caring For A Dog With PTSD

Just as our pets often help their owners through difficult times, animals that have suffered from traumatic events may need extra support.

Dr. Lori Teller, an associate professor in the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, says that because dogs can suffer from psychological conditions like their human counterparts, owners can benefit from having an awareness of possible causes, diagnosis and how canine post-traumatic stress disorder may be managed to give your furry friend the best life possible following periods of stress and trauma.

Roughly 5 to 17 percent of dogs are affected with canine PTSD, but because the condition has only been recognized in dogs within the past 10 years, Teller says there is still much to learn.

"We don't always know what may cause PTSD in dogs, but some potential causes are military or police work, being a bait or fighting dog, being raised in a puppy mill, severe abuse, living as a stray after being abandoned, trauma from a disaster (flood, fire, earthquake, tornado, explosion), or being attacked by other dogs or animals," Teller said.

"The symptoms of PTSD in dogs are similar to those in humans and include chronic anxiety; hypervigilance; avoidance of certain people, places or situations; sleep disturbances; fear of being alone; decreased interest in a favorite activity; or aggression," Teller said.

Teller also says that these symptoms may not be apparent at the time of adoption because as a survival mechanism, some dogs will mask their symptoms until they gradually adapt to their new home, depending on the animal's trigger.

Pet owners who suspect their furry friend may be suffering from this condition should ideally seek help from a veterinary behavioralist, who will develop an appropriate treatment plan. Pet owners seeking this care may wish to reference the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior's directory.

If access to a veterinary behavioralist is not possible, your primary veterinarian will still be able to help your dog get the care they need.

"The best ways to manage PTSD in dogs will be a combination of behavioral therapy and medication," Teller said. "Behavioral management might include desensitization therapy, in which a dog is exposed to low levels of stress, and then this level is gradually increased to build tolerance for that stimulus, playtime with a well-socialized dog, increased exercise and mental stimulation. Medications prescribed could include anxiolytics, antidepressants or beta-blockers."

Teller adds that time and patience are vital to the management of canine PTSD. Owners will need to actively work with their dog on a daily basis and be in regular communication with their veterinary team.

Although adopting a dog with a history of trauma requires a caring and dedicated owner, the bond that is formed between rescued dog and pet-parent can be an unbreakable gift that is well worth the time and effort.



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# There is a new ride in town with all the bells and whistles

ALAMOSA COUNTY - There's a new ride in town, complete with bells, whistles and a siren. Alamosa County Ambulance District is proud to announce that a brand-new Northstar Ambulance has been added to the fleet. This 4-wheel-drive Ford F450 Chassis is ready to serve the needs of the community and comes with a lot of safety features. The board members, Helen Sigmond, Leslie Fleming, Dr. William Brinton, Dale Salazar, Jason McGinnis and Javier Martinez, and the EMS team at San Luis Valley Health, are related to have this new ambulance to transport patients and serve this deserving community. Ryan

Daugherty, Chief Paramedic and Director of EMS at SLV Health said, "Our patients and community are long overdue for such a great ambulance. The board members are a dedicated group of people who are looking out for the well-being of our community." Daugherty explained that the EMTS Colorado grant provided matching funding for this purchase, and the Alamosa district and hospitals will be well served with this new ambulance. "The call sign is MED101," Daugherty continues. "Kyle Crawford from our EMS team created a video to introduce it, so I hope everyone gets a chance to see it and be proud."



## Groundbreaking for Rural Development Mutual Self Help Program

MONTE VISTA - We would like to invite you to attend a groundbreaking ceremony at Tierra del Sol Subdivision this On Monday, July 13, a USDA Rural Development Mutual Self Help Program groundbreaking ceremony took place at 835 Tyndall in Monte Vista. Community Resources and Housing Development Corporation (CRHDC) is helping 4 families build four new single family homes in Monte Vista as part of the USDA Rural Development Mutual Self Help Program.

and low income individuals and families as they construct their own homes. With a trained construction supervisor on-site, these building groups perform at least 65 percent of the construction work required ("sweat equity") to build their homes. The USDA RD provides residential loans with up to 100 percent financing along with low interest rates. No down payment is typically required.

The Mutual Self-Help housing program benefits residents and businesses in the rural SLV community. The organization hires local contractors for some parts of the construction and purchases its construction materials and supplies from local small businesses. The homeowners learn construction skills by working with knowledgeable construction supervisors. Affordable housing programs like this are a sustainable and financial win-win for our SLV community.

## Commodity Supplemental Food Program distribution July 15

RIO GRANDE COUNTY - The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) works to improve the health of low income persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. Individuals must be at or below 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. Food packages include a variety of foods, such as nonfat dry milk, UHT 1% low-fat milk, juice, farina, oats, ready-to-eat cereal, rice, pasta, peanut butter, dry beans, canned meat, poultry or fish, and canned fruits and vegetables. This food box is free to those who meet the income guidelines.

Costilla County Commodity Program will be in Del Norte Wednesday, July 15, at the Annex Building next to the Courthouse 6th Street, Del Norte from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

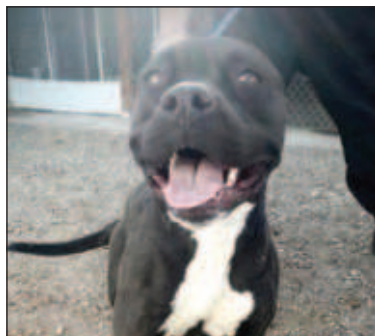
Monte Vista at the Calvary Baptist Church 2160 Sherman Avenue Wednesday, July 15, 2020 from 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Please bring a picture ID. Remain in your vehicles. The food package will be delivered to your vehicle.

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

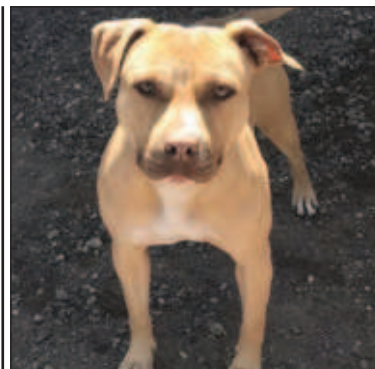
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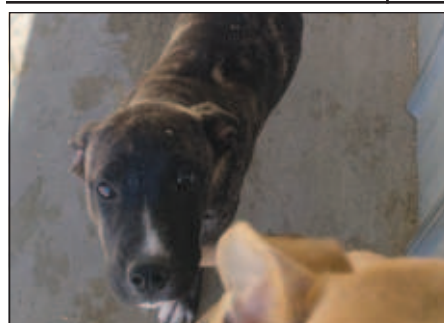
This is Destiny, she is a female pitbull mix around 1 year old. She is very friendly with people and she has quite a bit of energy.



This is Lady, she is a lab mix around 2 years old. She is pretty shy, but she is friendly once she gets to know you. She is a fence climber, so she would need a tall and well fenced in area.



This is Rosie, she is female Pitbull mix around 2 years old. She is friendly with people and some other dogs.



This is Lexi, she is a boxer mix around 5 months old. She is a little timid at first but is friendly with people.



This is Roger, he is a boxer mix around 5 months old. He is a little timid at first but is friendly with people.

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



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