

Saguache County election results

SAGUACHE-Democrat Tom McCracken won the Democratic Primary race for Saguache County Commissioner for District 1 and will go on to face Republican Richard Pascoe in the general election in November. McCracken received 486 votes, Lisa Cyriacks received 342 and Justin Van Wart received 318 votes. In the District 2 County Commissioner race Democrat Lynne Thompson defeated Democrat Charles "Bill" McClure 837 votes to 287 votes.

In the other races, the **unofficial results for Saguache County only-not their entire respective districts**-include Andrew Romanoff defeating John Hickenlooper in the Democratic Senate Primary 616

to 536. In the Libertarian Senate Primary, Gaylon Kent received 4 votes over Raymon Anthony Doane's 2. Democrat Diane Mitsch Bush received 617 votes over James Iacino's 457 in the CD3 Democratic Primary, with Republican Incumbent Scott Tipton receiving 274 votes to challenger Lauren Boebert's 221. In the House District 62 Democrat Primary, Matthew Martinez received 574 votes over Democrat Incumbent Donald Valdez 489 and on the Republican side, Logan Taggart received 315 votes to Steven Rodriguez's 139. Alonzo Payne, Democrat running for District Attorney of Judicial District 12 received 644 votes over Robert Willett's 357.



Democrat Tom McCracken won the Democratic Primary race for Saguache County Commissioner for District 1.



In the District 2 County Commissioner race Democrat Lynne Thompson defeated Democrat Charles "Bill" McClure.



Shorts



Free school athletes physicals at Heart of the Rockies Saguache Clinic

SAGUACHE — Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center is offering free physicals to Mountain Valley, Moffat and Crestone Charter School athletes at their Saguache Clinic.

Two Options are available: If insurance or Medicaid is available, HRRMC encourages scheduling a well-child visit. This is a more comprehensive appointment that will be billed to insurance, leaving nothing or a co-pay (if applicable) to be paid. The well-child visit can be scheduled at any time at the Saguache Clinic.

If a physical for sports participation is all that is wanted, two dates are available — Wednesday, July 15 and Wednesday, July 22, for free sports physicals.

To schedule an appointment, call Heart of the Rockies and ask for appointments at the Saguache Clinic at 719-530-2200.



Wear a face covering and social distance this 4th of July!



Letter about labor camp health conditions staunchly rebutted

By TERESA L. BENNS

CENTER — A letter from Mitchell Garcia of Center addressed to Saguache County commissioners and Center Town Administrator Brian Lujan regarding conditions at a local labor camp is being staunchly rebutted by both state and local health officials and owners of the business employing the workers.

In Garcia's letter to Saguache County and Center town officials

he stated that he fears that migrant workers employed by Fresh Harvest, who is running the camp, have been wrongfully quarantined and are being denied their right to free movement and access to public services. "Residents and providers are suspicious there may be COVID-19 issues in the camp," Garcia wrote. "If COVID issues are not present, workers are being quarantined solely for the benefit of the employer."

But employers cannot benefit since they are required by law to pay workers sick leave and the company loses out on their services during quarantine time, Lujan pointed out. And Saguache Public Health commended Fresh Harvest for its COVID-19 program.

"We, as Public Health, have been in contact with Fresh Harvest for a few weeks now and

Please see **HARVEST** on Page 2A

State health department releases Protect-Our-Neighbors roadmap

Local communities will be able to qualify if they meet certain criteria

COLORADO - The Colorado department of public health and Environment (CDPHE) announced June 30 the final roadmap for local communities to qualify for the Protect our Neighbors phase of the COVID-19 response. Local communities will be able to qualify for this status to gain more local control in their communities if they meet certain criteria, including low viral transmission and preparedness of the public health agency to successfully respond to an increase in cases. Once communities meet certification criteria, submit a surge mitigation plan, and are approved by the state, they will be able to permit activities at 50 percent of pre-pandemic capacity, with at least 6 feet between non-household members, and no more than 500 people in one

Please see **HEALTH** on Page 3A

Goose Creek fire grows to 149 acres

By TREY SPAULDING

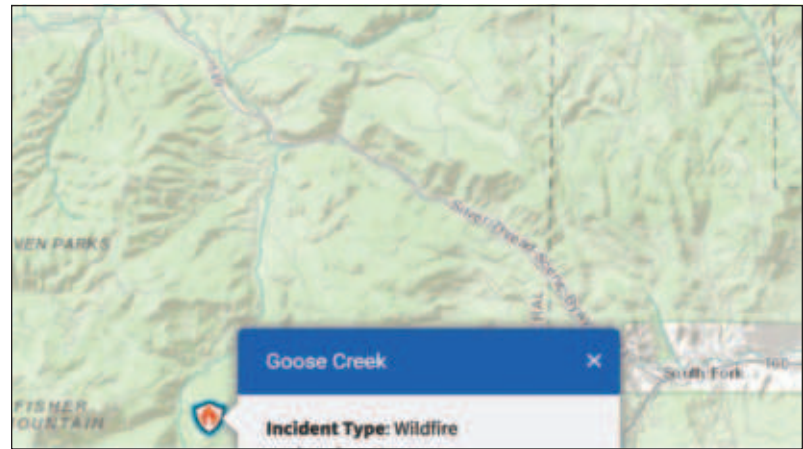
MINERAL COUNTY - The Goose Creek Fire was reported at approximately 1:15 Sunday, June 28. The fire was started by a dry lightning storm that went through the area Saturday, June 27. It is burning several miles west of the Town of South Fork and 13 miles south of the town of Creede. The fire is burning in steep and rugged terrain near the top of the slope in the Goose Creek drainage, south of Lake Humphreys. Helicopters are conducting numerous water drops on the fire when weather permits. Currently total personnel fighting

the blaze is 85. The primary focus now is on point protection. These points can mean values at risk such as private property, infrastructure, or key fuel areas that may be problematic when burning. The private land to the north is being taken into consideration.

Crews are scouting for control opportunities which may include line construction, use of natural features such as cliffs and bodies of water, and vegetation or aspect variances.

The size of the fire the morning of June 30 was approximately 149 acres with 10 percent containment.

Please see **FIRE** on Page 5A

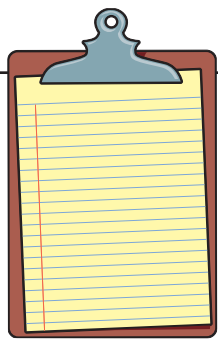


The Goose Creek fire is burning several miles west of the Town of South Fork and 13 miles south of the Town of Creede.

Member FDIC NMLS: 446071 DEL NORTE BANK truelocalbank.com 719-657-4558

With interest rates at historic lows, it might be a time to refinance!

CLIPS FROM THE CLERK



BY SAGUACHE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER TRISH GILBERT

TXT2Cure
Election years are always a challenging time, especially as technology plays a larger role in the process. Cyber-attacks, and the resulting public scrutiny over the results, are always a concern. The COVID-19 crisis also has brought a new dynamic to the elections process.

If your return envelope does not have a signature, or we are unable to verify your signature with those on file, you must "cure" your ballot for your ballot to be counted.

Colorado Election Law requires us to compare the signature on your

return envelope with the signatures in your voter registration record to verify your identity. For your ballot to count, you must complete and return a signed affidavit along with a photocopy of your identification, by Wednesday, July 8, 2020. If you indicate that you have no ballot, or you fail to return the form, your ballot will not be counted.

You can now use your mobile device to cure your ballot. The voter will receive a letter with two options to cure their ballot:

- Old fashioned way: mail, in-person
- TXT2Cure

Voter Instructions for TXT2Cure The Voter simply . . .

- Texts keyword "Colorado" to 2VOTE (28683)

- Clicks the link for signature cure
- Enters their one-time use code (Voter ID #)

- Answers whether they turned in a ballot for this election "Yes or No"
- Signs the affidavit on his or her device

- Uses device to take a picture of acceptable form of ID
- Voter clicks SUBMIT

The voter's signature will be overlaid onto the affidavit provided by the County. The signed affidavit and the picture of the form of identification submitted by the voter will be converted into a single PDF document and uploaded to the GlobalMobile sub-folder of the CDOS SFTP (Secure File Transfer Protocol) system for the county. Easy-Peasy, right?

OBITUARY

Shirley Mae Fisher, 87

SALIDA — Shirley Mae Fisher died on June 29, 2020 in Salida. She was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado on July 9, 1932, to James and Freda (Price) Archibald.

She married Wayne Fisher on June 26, 1952. They had one daughter, Kathleen (Sam) Trujillo. Shirley enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles and painting pictures. As one of Jehovah's Witnesses, she also enjoyed reading and studying the Bible and sharing her faith with others.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband. Shirley is survived by her daughter; sister Joann (David) Torrez; two grandsons Bryant and Jonathan Trujillo; and nieces and nephews. A private memorial service will be held by the Poncha Springs Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses over Zoom. Arrangements were with Lewis and Glenn Funeral Home. Online condolences may be offered to the family at www.lewisandglenn.com.

OBITUARY POLICY

Valley Publishing charges a flat fee of \$30 for each obituary published. Pending arrangements or death notices run for no charge.

This charge affects funeral homes, as well as family or other representatives, that directly place obituaries. All paid obituaries will continue to be published on our website(s) for no additional fee.

In the event the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will be made and the obit will be rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed. Obituaries can be emailed to: montevistanews@gmail.com or call 719-852-3531 for more information.



HARVEST

Continued from Page 1A

have communicated with them on keeping their workers safe," Public Health nurse Janet Bieriger said in an email last week. "They have an excellent protocol in place. We have maintained contact with them as well as infected individuals and can attest to the care the workers are receiving." Another health official from Center basically agreed with her assessment.

Linda Rossi, representing Fresh Harvest, Inc, the business operating the camp, responded to Garcia's letter in an email last week. She took exception to Garcia's statement that the company is not taking care of its employees, and that by bringing them to the Center community from Arizona and Mexico, Fresh Harvest is threatening the health and safety of Center residents.

"We take claims like this very seriously," Rossi said.

"We work hard at what we do and our employees play a vital role in helping to keep food on American tables. They are essential workers, just like those working in healthcare, in nursing homes and grocery stores that are put at a higher risk every day and come from many different race demographics."

Rossi said the letter was badly timed, since racial tensions are very sensitive now. "Don't we all have enough to worry about just dealing with the COVID crisis?" she queried. The company tests workers coming from Mexico

before they are ever issued visas, one Center health official observed, and if they are positive they are sent home.

"We have isolation rooms sitting empty and ready if needed, we have hired a local EMT to help provide daily wellness checks and we have many protocols in place to adequately care for our employees as well as your community," Rossi said. "Most of all we value and care for our employees and the essential work they do."

Rossi encouraged anyone who has further questions about the company's policies to contact her via the website.

Rossi refers those questioning the company's policies to the following links that explain COVID-19 protocols and how workers are brought to the U.S by the company.

- Fresh Harvest COVID Response <http://www.sfcos.com/covid-19update.html>

• Fresh Harvest Chaplain Program who provide care and support to employees. I suggest you watch the short video of our chaplains in action <http://www.sfcos.com/our-chaplain-team.html> located within this link.

- A guest worker's experience with the company: https://www.dropbox.com/s/qs0lyt9kqnszmws/FINAL_MARCO_QUOTED_SHORT_LOGOS_1.mp4?dl=0
- What the press says about us: <http://www.sfcos.com/press.htm>



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Possible bomb brings law enforcement agencies to Del Norte

By **LYNSIE FERRELL**

DEL NORTE- Law enforcement agencies from around the Valley and beyond were dispatched to the Lowes Valley Market in Del Norte at 11:40 a.m. Tuesday, June 30, due to the report of a suspicious package left on top of the propane rack containing multiple 20 pound propane tanks at the entrance to the store.

Del Norte Police Chief Frank Archuleta evacuated the store shortly after arriving on scene and put the neighboring Casa De Rio Grande apartments, residential homes and River Valley Inn Nursing Home on a shelter in place order while requesting interagency assistance from the Rio Grande County Sheriff Department, Colorado State Patrol, Del Norte Fire Department, South Fork Police, SLV HAZMAT, Colorado HAZMAT, Pueblo Bomb Squad, CDOT and the Rio Grande Emergency Manager Art Wittner.

Once on scene, all responding agencies worked to clear Highway 160 from County Road 5 North to the Highway 160 and Highway 112 intersection in town. After traffic was redirected, it came down to a waiting game as law enforcement officials tried to piece together the incident. "We received surveillance footage from Lowes Valley Market but the image of the individual who left the package was grainy and hard to identify," said Archuleta. "Although specific traits about clothing and other features were easy to identify."

Valley Publishing received a call at 1:38 p.m. from Rio Grande Victim's Advocate Courtney Arthur who asked for a reporter to come to the scene. After passing through the check point near County Road 5 North, the reporter witnessed a male individual dressed in a white T-shirt, dark colored pants and a backpack who jumped to the vacant



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Del Norte Fire Department and Del Norte EMS block off traffic to one entrance to the Lowes Valley Market in Del Norte.

highway and began walking east. The reporter mentioned the individual to law enforcement who immediately responded and picked up the person of interest. Further details were unavailable as of Tuesday afternoon and will remain unavailable until a full investigation is completed.

The Pueblo Bomb Squad came on scene at 3:50 p.m. and within 10 minutes, issued the "all-clear." It

was confirmed that the suspicious package was a box full of circuit boards.

More details pertaining to the incident will be reported as they become available. A huge thanks goes out to all law enforcement and emergency personnel who work to keep the San Luis Valley communities safe.



Law and fire department agency members inspect a suspicious package left on top of the propane rack containing multiple 20 pound propane tanks at the entrance to Lowes Family Market.



The Pueblo Bomb Squad was dispatched to the scene and by 4 p.m. Tuesday, June 30, had issued the "all-clear."

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HEALTH

Continued from Page 1A

setting at a time.

Three things will enable a community to qualify for Protect-Our-Neighbors certification status:

Low disease transmission levels (including stable or declining COVID-19 hospitalizations or fewer new cases in the past two weeks),

Local public health agency capacity for testing, case investigation, contact tracing and outbreak response (including the ability to test 15 people per 10,000 residents per day; the ability to conduct case investigation and contact tracing for at least 85 percent of assigned cases within 24 hours; a plan that documents the ability to investigate and contact trace their share, based on population, of our state's overall 500 cases per day goal; and strategies to offer testing to close contacts of outbreak-associated cases)

Hospital ability to meet the needs of all patients and handle the surge in demand for intensive hospital care (including the capacity to manage a 20 percent surge in hospital admissions/patient transfers and two weeks of PPE available.)

A county may seek to qualify for Protect Our Neighbors by themselves, or voluntarily form a "region" with neighboring counties. Communities that can demonstrate strong public health and health care systems -- paired with low virus levels -- can take on more control over their own reopening plans and help the state avoid statewide shutdowns. "Protect Our Neighbors empowers local

governments, public health agencies and partners to meet the needs of their communities and scale their response," said Hunsaker Ryan. "If communities are successful in controlling the outbreak locally, the state will not have to rely on suppressing the virus through extreme statewide shutdowns."

In order to help support communities' ability to achieve success, the state is making additional federal CARES Act funding available:

Planning Grant of up to \$50,000 to engage consultants and community partners, and to fund community engagement efforts with communities impacted by and at increased risk.

Infrastructure Strengthening Grants of up to \$300,000 (up to \$150,000 in state funds + local match) to invest in technology; community resource coordination; communication activities to increase compliance with the public health orders; funding for community-based partners and cultural brokers; and enhanced prevention and containment efforts.

Next week, CDPHE will provide more information and training on the process for applying for certification, as well as grant funding that will be available to help communities enhance their COVID-19-related planning and infrastructure. For extensive information on Protect-Our-Neighbors, including guidance for communities to qualify for this phase, please visit covid19.colorado.gov/protect-our-neighbors.

Melissa Voutsalath, DO



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

SLV medical leaders offer tips to keep COVID-19 surge down

To the editor,
Dear Elected Officials, Residents, and Visitors of the San Luis Valley,
As medical professional leaders of the SLV, we are strongly encouraging the following three things to help prevent further community spread of COVID-19 across the valley. Let's keep our businesses open and not go back to a "shut down" situation. We are calling for quick action and 100 percent compliance from all residents and visitors. The number of positive cases, hospitalized patients, and deaths have increased over the past two weeks in the valley, and it is not because we are testing more people. Due to the wide community spread of the disease, the most vulnerable among us are suffering from compromised health conditions where several have had extended hospital stays.

As we approach our holiday weekend and warmer weather, please join us in showing respect for others by taking the following actions, based on science, research and best practices:

1. Wear a mask while in public places. Science shows this virus is spread via respiratory droplets released when we talk, cough and sneeze. Wearing a face-covering while in public will reduce the spread of the illness. A person with no symptoms may be spreading the disease by singing, sneezing, talking, coughing or sweating. Please make sure your mask covers your mouth and nose and watch your hand-face contact. You can infect yourself by

adjusting the mask too much and repeatedly touching your face.

2. Avoid crowded spaces and continue to physically distance. Try to visit your friends and family outdoors and continue to keep 6 feet apart.

3. Wash your hands, even if they are not dirty. Wash with soap and water to rid your hands of germs. "I immediately wash my hands when I walk into my house. If I just left a store or public place, I use hand sanitizer that is in my car before touching my steering wheel," commented Dr. Kris Steinberg.

We understand that you and your family are exhausted from distancing, you miss your loved ones, and you want to get back to your support groups, church and events. Please keep your mask up do not let your guard down! The data can be confusing, and we will continue to work with our local public health officials to communicate when there is a decline in local cases and less pressure on our patient care situation. Until then, as elected officials and leaders, please continue to model, encourage and request 100 percent compliance for everyone's safety and to help keep our businesses open.

Carmelo Hernandez, M.D., SLV Health Chief Medical Officer

Emelin Martinez, FNP-BC, Valley-Wide Health Systems Chief Medical Officer

Heidi Helgeson, M.D., Rio Grande Hospital Chief Medical Officer

LETTERS COVID-19 aid for state and local governments

To the editor,
Senator Gardner, thank you for your leadership on COVID Relief and so many other issues. I know of no one who has more consistently and effectively stood up for Southern Colorado. Time after time you are always there for us.

In these truly perilous times, you have consistently and effectively reached across the aisle to come up with solutions.

Senator, going forward many of my colleagues and I urge you to continue to push for critical and flexible assistance to State and Local Governments. Without that critical assistance communities across Colorado will face major cuts to vital services. To quote from the letter you and Senator Bennet authored: "We strongly support funding mechanisms for states that assist with a glide path back to prosperity until

the economy returns to pre-crisis conditions." This is an excellent analysis of the assistance state and local communities need along with the flexibility to do the job.

To me what is most worrisome are the cuts that law enforcement, rural schools and local counties will face. Those cannot be sugarcoated. Many schools will require hundreds of thousands of dollars just in physical renovations needed to protect the health and safety of returning students. And as you well know, rural schools get hit the hardest. And even in smaller communities, law enforcement has taken a hit between COVID-related budget cuts and the demands caused by recent riots and unrest.

Law enforcement and rural schools will face cuts whether the local governing body is headed by Democrats, Republicans or Independents. These cuts will be

faced in every corner of the State in communities large and small.

The Senate also needs to move quickly to appropriate this assistance. Delays until after the Fourth of July or later will only exacerbate a bad situation. The Administration and the Senate leadership should know just how critical the needs are in Colorado. I would urge those funds be sent directly to our towns, counties, and school districts as they know best how to spend those dollars wisely, effectively and efficiently and without needless delays, bureaucratic red tape and political gamesmanship.

Thank you again for your tremendous work on this and know that you have my full support. I am happy to discuss this with you and your staff at any time. I look forward to seeing you in the very near future.

Senator Larry Crowder

There was a time when...

To the editor,
Words are the tools of the thinking man. Some men can use these tools to make a point without being rude. But some men have let

their tools become so dull it's hard for them to speak.

There was a time when some words were not used in public because they are rude and

offensive. I would like the locker room language kept in the locker room.

*Virgil L. Varner
USN Retired*

Electoral college protects rights of all citizens

I recently read with interest the opinion piece regarding doing away with the electoral college. At this point I have to wonder if Coloradans would be happy if their votes were nullified by say Texas, or even Mississippi. The electoral college was put in place after much deliberation, research and study over a period of years. In the end it was agreed upon simply for the reason that in a republic the minority rights must be protected. This is woven throughout our constitution's fabric to ensure "all" are created equal with inalienable rights. That no other person, or ideal should be able to take that away. What we see on our streets as we speak is true democracy in action.

The mob rules, the mob loots, the mob burns, the mob kills. The electoral college has been a huge success and is only news when an election is narrow and hard fought. One main benefit for the electoral college is it incentivizes candidates to get out and visit regions of America otherwise may be forgotten in a popular vote. The electoral college ensures that a super majority in one region of the country does not absolutely control our country and all that goes along with it. A candidate SHOULD appeal to more than just one or two regions. Additionally there is the question of moral right vs majority rule. John Adams and Abraham Lincoln argued

about a moral right vs the majority rule. Lincoln states that and I am paraphrasing that if the majority of a state or nation agree that slavery is a right. Is that morally right? He argued no. Hence without representation populations and minorities are at risk from the majority. What if the majority wants to change freedom of speech? Or freedom of religion based on majority? Our national elections measure whether we have an effective way of encouraging a free, stable and just government that protects the rights of all citizens. Not just the majority.

*Brian Tobler
South Fork, Colorado*

Minority political parties in each state matter

To the editor,
The National Popular Vote interstate compact addresses the shortcomings of the current system for electing our nation's president. Those shortcomings stem from state "winner-take-all" laws that award all of a state's electoral votes to the candidate receiving the most popular votes in the state.

Under this system, votes cast by members of minority political parties in each state don't count beyond the state level and therefore have no influence on the outcome of the election.

If we elected the president by national popular vote, however, every

vote would matter equally throughout the United States. The votes cast by members of minority political parties in each state would go on to be tallied with those of like-minded people throughout the country and could have a significant impact on the election results.

The history of the winner-take-all method is worth exploring. A concise account can be found at <https://www.nationalpopularvote.com/written-explanation>. It's the first topic in the "Learn More" section toward the bottom of the page.

Particularly revealing is what Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton said in 1824: "The general ticket system

[winner-take-all], now existing in 10 States was ... not [the offspring] of any disposition to give fair play to the will of the people. It was adopted by the leading men of those states, to enable them to consolidate the vote of the State."

Please join me this November in voting YES on the National Popular Vote referendum here in Colorado. A YES vote supports Colorado's current position in the National Popular Vote interstate compact and the compact's goal of ensuring that all voters, regardless of party affiliation or state of residency, have an equal say in our presidential elections.

*Nancy Harcourt
Del Norte, Colorado*

LETTERS POLICY

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

All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be designated as such. Letters over 300 words and without contact information

will be returned to the sender or discarded.

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

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.



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Mining competitions and fireworks canceled this weekend

By LYNDISIE FERRELL
 CREEDE- Though city and county officials came to an agreement several days ago to allow the Days of 92 Mining Competitions to take place during the Fourth of July weekend the organization released a statement stating that they felt it best to cancel the event until next year. "Given the current situation, the Days of 92 Committee feels the responsible course of action is to postpone the

Mining Events until next year. While we are bummed, we fully support their decision and know it was a tough decision to make." The mining competitions are one of the main events that is hosted every year during the Fourth of July Celebrations in Creede and will be dearly missed by many this year. Though COVID-19 remains to be a small part of the Creede community, it is apparent the care every

organization, community member, business owner and local officials are taking to ensure the safety of guests and residents. The Days of 92 will return next year along with the beloved parade as long as things go to plan. For this weekend, as of right now, there will still be street vendors, open businesses and shops. Due to the Goose Creek Fire that continues to burn 12 miles south of

Creede, the fireworks have also been canceled. Please visit the Creede and Mineral

County Chamber of Commerce website at www.creede.com for the most up to date information and schedule of events.

FIRE Continued from Page 1A

The Rio Grande National Forest is currently under Stage 2 fire restrictions due to 0 percent of normal snowpack and severe drought conditions.

The following acts are prohibited on all National Forest System lands within the Rio Grande National Forest located within Alamosa, Archuleta, Conejos, Hinsdale, Mineral Rio Grande, Saguache and San Juan Counties, State of Colorado, ("the Restricted Area") and on all roads and trails located with the Restricted Area. The purpose of this Order is to protect public health, safety, and natural resources by preventing wildfires.

PROHIBITIONS: This Order prohibits the following acts in the Restricted Area:

Igniting, building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, including fires in developed recreation sites (campgrounds and picnic areas), charcoal grills and barbecues, coal and wood burning stoves, and shepherd's stoves.

Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, trailer or building.

Blasting, welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.

Operating or using any internal combustion engine without an effective and properly installed USDA- or Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE)- approved spark arrestor.

Operating a chain saw without an effective and properly installed USDA- or SAE- approved spark arrestor, a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher (with a minimum of 8 oz. capacity and rating of 2A) kept with the operator and a round point shovel with an overall length of at least 35 inches readily available for use.



Photo courtesy of RGNF

The Goose Creek Fire was reported at approximately 1:15 p.m. Sunday, June 28. The size of the fire the morning of June 30 was approximately 149 acres with 10 percent containment.

Using an explosive. This includes but is not limited to fuses, blasting caps, fireworks, rockets, exploding targets, tracers and incendiary ammunition.

Possessing or using a motor vehicle off established roads, motorized trails or established parking areas, except

when parking in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the vehicle.



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.

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La Garita Natural Arch may be renamed

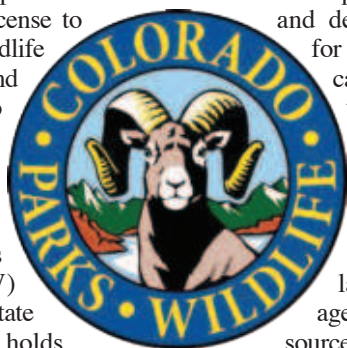
SANLUISVALLEY-According to a recent document from State Senator Larry Crowder, interest has reignited in renaming what is now known as La Garita Natural Arch or La Ventana Arch. If renamed, the arch would be known as the Royal Arch. La Garita Arch (and Eagle Rock, included in the same area), are located about 15 miles north of the town of Del Norte and within the La Garita Wilderness. In the Rio Grande National Forest Report No. 878

from the 50th Congress - Senate of the United States, 1888, the Department of the Interior was referred a bill (S. 2427) to establish a public park, to be called and known as Royal Arch Park. The Department of the Interior reviewed the bill and records and provided the following response: «The bill provides for the establishment of a public park in the State of Colorado to be called and known as Royal Arch Park.» Initially some 5,760 acres were earmarked for the park.



Hunting or fishing licenses required to access CPW leased land

COLORADO-The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission recently adopted a rule change, requiring all visitors 18 or older to possess a valid hunting or fishing license to access any State Wildlife Area or State Trust Land leased by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. This new rule will be in effect beginning July 1, 2020.



“Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) manages over 350 State Wildlife Areas and holds leases on nearly 240 State Trust Lands in Colorado, which are funded through the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses,” said Southeast Regional Manager Brett Ackerman. “The purpose of these properties is to conserve and improve wildlife habitat and provide access to wildlife-related recreation like hunting and fishing that are a deep part of Colorado’s conservation legacy.”

Because these properties have always been open to the public, not just to the hunters and anglers that purchased them and pay for their maintenance, many people visit these properties and use them as they would any other public land. As Colorado’s population - and desire for outdoor recreation - has continued to grow, a significant increase in traffic to these SWAs and STLs has disrupted wildlife, the habitat the areas were acquired to protect, and the hunters and anglers whose contributions were critical to acquiring these properties.

Because funding for these properties is specifically generated by hunting and fishing license sales and the resulting federal match, requested options such as “hiking licenses” or “conservation permits” would not allow for the maintenance and management needed. Any funding from one of these conceptual licenses or permits would reduce the federal grant dollar for dollar and thus fail to increase CPW’s ability to protect and manage the properties.

“This new rule change will help our agency begin to address some of the unintended uses we’re seeing at many of our State Wildlife Areas and State Trust Lands,” said CPW Director Dan Prenzl. “We have seen so much more non-wildlife related use of these properties that we need to bring it back to the intended use - conservation and protection of wildlife and their habitat.”

“We do anticipate some confusion based on how the properties are funded, and the high amount of unintended use over time in these areas. We plan to spend a good amount of time educating the public on this change,” said Ackerman. “But in its simplest

form, it is just as any other user-funded access works. You cannot use a fishing license to enter a state park, because the park is not purchased and developed specifically for fishing. Similarly, you cannot use a park pass to enter lands that are intended for the sole purpose of wildlife conservation, because a park pass is designed to pay for parks.” State law requires that the agency keep these funding sources separated.

CPW is a user-funded agency and, unlike most government agencies, receives very little money from the general fund. The new rule requires all users to contribute to the source of funding that makes the acquisition and maintenance of these properties possible. But the activities that interfere with wildlife-related uses or that negatively impact wildlife habitat don’t become acceptable just because an individual possesses a hunting or fishing license. Each SWA and STL is unique and only certain activities are compatible with each property.

Many questions on the new rule are answered through our State Wildlife Area Frequently Asked Questions document. Visit cpw.state.co.us for additional information on agency projects and funding.

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Marital Bliss

In today's world maintaining some semblance of marital cohabitational harmony is increasingly difficult.

People are pulled this way and that by the pressures of everyday living, which can have a negative effect on their relationship with their spouse or significant other.

In my own household, Ol' Dutch is celebrating -- and Miss Trixie is tolerating -- eight years of putting up with one another. All in all it's been very good and there are no complaints -- well, none that anyone wants to hear anyway.

At the beginning of June, I posted to Facebook that Miss Trixie and I were splitting up and it caused quite an uproar among the non-hunters of our friends.

Now, I say it was the non-hunters because as any good hunter knows when you get out of the truck and say, "let's split up and meet back here," it's not permanent. Neither person has any intention of trudging home afoot, and neither did Miss Trixie or I intend on letting the other person go.

But we did split up for a few weeks. She had family to take care of in Texas and Ol' Dutch brought the Conestoga to the cool and blessed Colorado mountains.

Our separation, though, ends this week. We have survived being apart and I must admit to missing her smiling face and encouraging words.

But don't tell her that as I still have at least half of my man card after these eight years and don't want to lose it.

There was concern on my part that my singleness would cause a commotion among the available ladies in the Valley but the only one that seemed remotely interested was 85 years old and wanted my pension.

After the sheet splitting with my ex, I dated several young ladies who introduced me to their fathers. I recall more than one sharp old man quickly ascertaining that I had a pension and, thus he decided, a prime candidate for a tuxedo and a coupling with his daughter.

Some of those conniving Dad's (and daughters,) I escaped by the grace of God and others by sheer luck, but when Trixie came along, I fell for her like a sack of potatoes off the wagon.

For those ladies who are suddenly realizing that Ol' Dutch has been vulnerable and without female company these many weeks, I am afraid you are too late as Trixie is coming home.

There is a conundrum however that I am trying to solve and that is just how much housework to do before she gets here.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

The laundry is no problem as I have worn the same clothes most of the time. I learned this from my son. When he was about 10 years old he went to church camp and when he came home he was wearing the same clothes he had when he left. After inspecting his suitcase, the only article of clothing that he used was a swimming suit. It's a guy thing, ladies.

Another thing I learned from my days as a bachelor is that you can do some laundry in the shower while you bathe. Gym shorts are a good example of washing and wearing to the extreme.

The rest of the camper, however, does present a problem. On one hand, if I don't clean anything, she will probably feel discouraged and, since she is already tired from a month of helping her family, may fall apart. On the other, if I do too much she may think she is not needed or worse, she may think some side chick has been here ahead of her which is a real reach as Ol' Dutch is too tight to date anyone.

And far be it from Ol' Dutch to ever step on her territory as I am just not that kind of a guy. I am more the sensitive, caring kind that will leave her some work to do so that she can roll her eyes and sigh thereby resurrecting our normal life of marital bliss.

I am not sure those two words even belong together the way some people act but then again, there seem to be a lot of happily married people out there that stay together a lifetime. Either that or they are too tired -- or like Ol' Dutch, too cheap -- to even try to find another other. But, don't tell Trixie.

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

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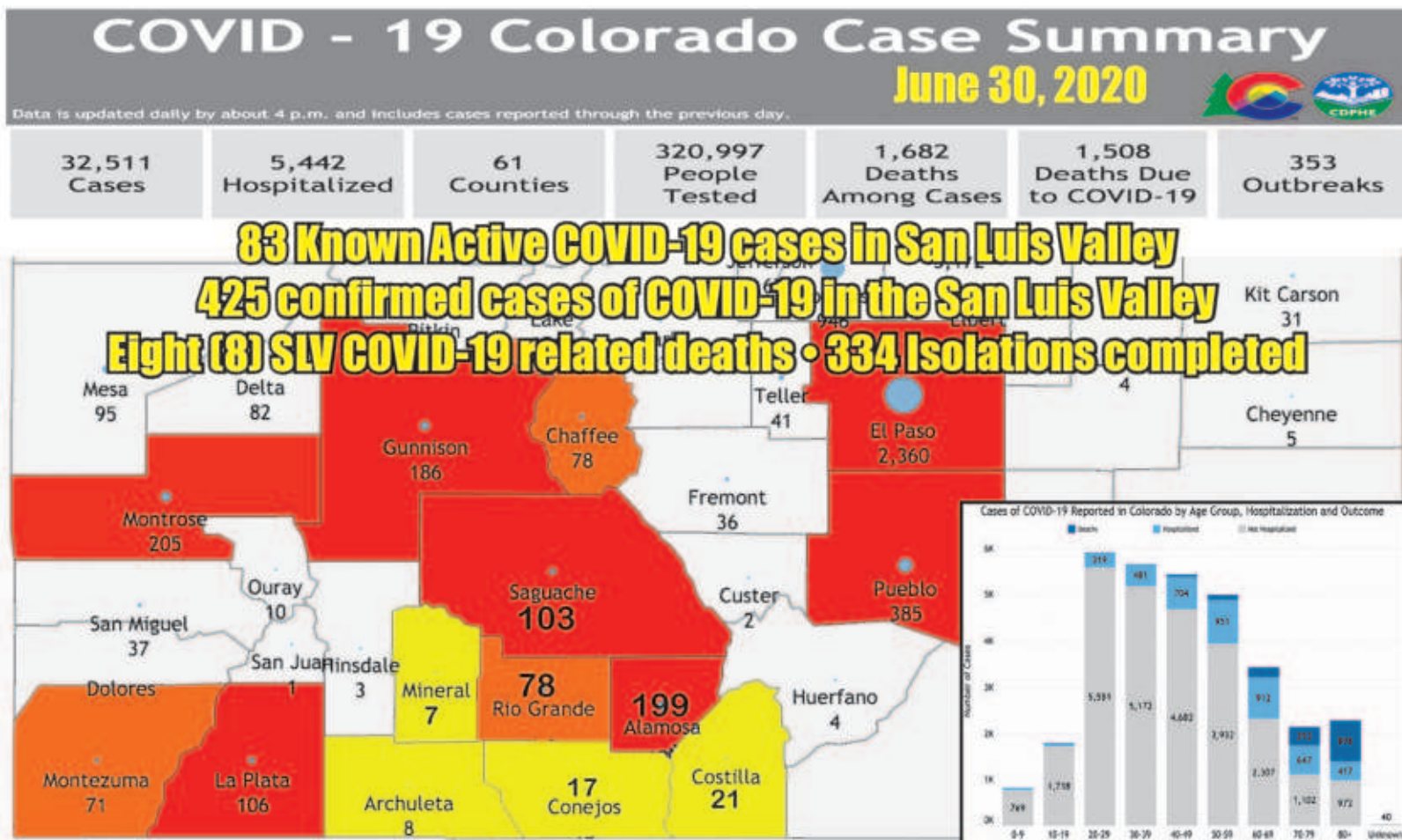
SLV COVID numbers continue to climb

8 deaths, 20-29 age group reporting most cases

By TREY SPAULDING

SAN LUIS VALLEY – June 30 – The total number of cumulative cases in the SLV is now 425. There are currently 83 known active cases. Thirty-one total people have been hospitalized, and 334 have completed isolation. The Alamosa County Public Health Department announced an additional COVID-related fatality within the County bringing the total SLV deaths to eight. Mineral County had remained at two positive cases for weeks but during the past seven days has reported five new cases bringing the county's total COVID-19 positive cases to seven. Saguache county remains third in the state for cases per 100,000 people and Alamosa county is ranked sixth in the state per 100,000.

For Colorado the largest age group to have the highest number of cases is the 20-29 age group.

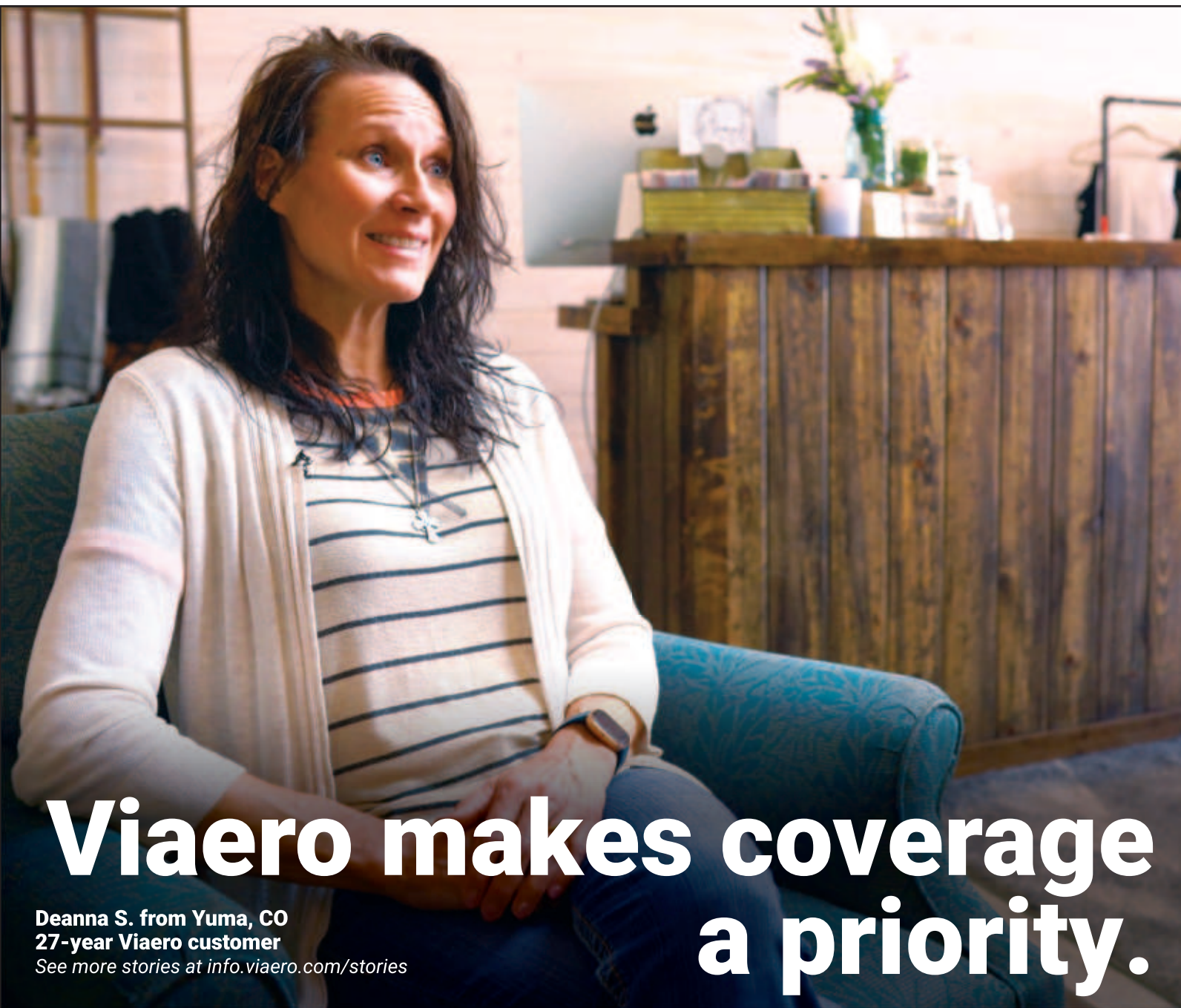


SAGUACHE SHERIFF REPORT

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

- Arrests**
- Travis Tomlinson, 27, Moffat, third-degree assault, menacing, criminal mischief
 - Angelina Martinez, 20, Center, contempt of court, fugitive of justice
 - Desi Espinoza, 41, Center, menacing with a deadly weapon

- Citations**
- James Hendrickson, 37, Crestone, drove without a valid driver's license, no registration, no number plates attached
 - Cristine Durpe, 58, Crestone, speeding 74 in a 55 MPH zone
 - Mikolaj Zadecki, 37, Brooklyn, New York, speeding 84 in a 65 MPH zone
 - Shaily Patel, 28, Houston, speeding 79 in a 65 MPH zone
 - Sarah Hartman, 41, Boulder, speeding 71 in a 55 MPH zone



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Native American Art Fair coming to Monte Vista

BY REBECCA COPLEY

MONTE VISTA - Owners of FaeMoon Wolf designs Katy Kelley and Douglas Crowwolf came to the last Monte Vista city council meeting seeking permission to hold a Native American Art Fair. They plan to hold the fair in the Fasset parking lot at the corner of Hwy 160 and Jefferson. They are hopeful that they will be able to have up to 18 vendors selling all kinds of Native American artwork including beading, pottery and more. They also told the council that they are working on getting a food truck to come to the event. The food truck they are hoping to get specializes in traditional Native American foods. They are planning to hold the fair Saturday, July 11, and Sunday, July 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Crowwolf and Kelley also told the council that they want the fair to be safe and they will be following state health guidelines. "We want to fol-

low all the State guidelines. We're doing everything the right way and safely. As far as keeping the vendors separate so there's a vendor an empty space and then a vendor. So there is that space between every vendor and we're following all the guidelines for this," Crowwolf told the council.

They are hopeful that the fair will also be good for the entire town after some very hard months. "This will bring more people into town," said Crowwolf adding, "The vendors will be staying at the hotels, they'll eat at the restaurants and Saturday and Sunday would be good because it will bring more people into town not just at the fair but coming to the downtown area. We'll have a couple vendors at our shop to draw more people downtown."

If the fair is successful they are hoping they can make it an ongoing event. "We would like to have it ongoing every two weeks if possible. We'll see how the first one goes and

if we have a huge outpouring more vendors than what we can handle we can have one set of vendors this week then two weeks later another group of vendors. Then people are seeing a variety every two weeks. That's what I'm hoping for," said Crowwolf.

It was shared that originally they had planned on hosting a powwow this summer but were unable to due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"They had a huge authentic powwow planned for the summer, but it couldn't happen due to the pandemic. This is a great way to get at least a taste of that. And actually build up to next year's big powwow," said Councilor Martha Lock. Crowwolf shared that he has already had vendors and dancers wanting to register for their powwow next year so they hope it will be even bigger and better than they had originally planned.

The art fair received a great deal of support from the council and was granted the use of the parking lot.

South Fork moves forward with 3rd of July celebrations

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK- The town announced that the Third of July celebrations will be moving forward minus the annual rodeo that typically takes place. The rodeo was canceled by Burris and Sons earlier in the year due to COVID-19 concerns. The Town of South Fork will be moving forward with the annual parade with a theme of "Let Freedom Ring" and South Fork Fire rescue will be hosting their annual catfish fry with some changes.

The South Fork Fire Rescue Catfish Fry will have some restrictions in place like limited seating, drive-thru take out options, and

will not be hosting their annual silent auction. For more up to date information, please visit their Facebook page, South Fork Fire Rescue.

Fireworks are scheduled to take place at the Rio Grande Club and Resort but are subject to change depending on fire restrictions.

The town had already put a plan in place for the event and would be adhering to guidelines from state and local officials such as social distancing and recommending the public consider wearing a mask while they participate in activities like the parade.

More information can also be found on the town's website at www.southfork.org.

Cottonwood silk in the air

Many years ago this month, I was invited to the 75th Annual Southwestern Saskatchewan Sheep and Woolgrowers/Stockdog Trials in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan.

The night before the big do, I sat in Bernice's kitchen as she cut leg o' lamb into one-inch squares for shish kabob. I was helping Skewer. The banquet was sold out, over 400 expected so there was a lot of cutting and skewering.

"How ya gonna cook this meat?" I asked. She explained she had four backyard BBQ grills lined up with an engineer and a fireman for each. Sounded good to me.

Saturday afternoon I spent at the fairgrounds watching the dog trials. That evening at the armory, four BBQ grills 'bout the size of a Toyota tire were set up on the lawn at the West entrance. A gentle breeze wafted through the cottonwood trees and carried the inviting scent of hot coals and sizzling shish kabob into the packed building. Inside, the



crowd was excited, loud and beginning to perspire. Folks seeing neighbors and friends, jostling at the bar and anticipating. Soon, smoke began to thicken in the hall. It was taking a long time to cook the kabobs.

The first forty or so people were served. The lamb fat drippin' on the coals forced a continual restocking. During the next two and a half hours, the crowd grew restless but remained ever Canadian polite.

By the time the last group was served, the tables, silverware and walls were slick. Sweating people were glistening with lamb fat. Cottonwood fluff clung to cheeks, hats and the occasional butter pat. The M.C., a big boy wearin' a western suit and black cowboy hat took the stage. He looked like a bronzed statue of a draft horse somebody'd sprayed with WD40.

A succession of dignitaries brought congratulations from commissioners, premiers and prime ministers, not to mention a thorough review of the association's history including a reading of the entire minutes of the first meeting in 1914. A dance followed.

It was such a success that two years later I was invited back for the second annual 75th

Annual Southwestern Saskatchewan Sheep and Woolgrowers/Stockdog Trials.

This time of year, cottonwood silk in the air makes me think of those good folks in Maple Creek and of others in small rural communities like Burke, Blackwell and Berrian Springs. Sunray, Syracuse and Spring Grove. Portales, Bloomfield, Lifingston, Lacombe, Wisner, Omak, Big Piney and Xenia...They represent the finest we country people have to offer. I sure am proud to be a part of y'all.

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

Goose Creek Fire burning west of South Fork

MINERAL COUNTY - The Goose Creek Fire was reported at approximately 1:15 Sunday, June 28. It is burning several miles west of the Town of South Fork. The fire is burning in steep and rugged terrain near the top of the slope in the Goose Creek drainage, south of Lake Humphreys. Helicopters conducted numerous water drops on the fire June 28. The size of the fire the morning of June 29 was approximately 115 acres.

Monday, June 29 a Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) is managing the fire. Plans include a continued air attack with helicopters. Ground crews are developing alternative access options since the best access is near the top of the drainage and poses too high of a risk to firefighter safety.

The Rio Grande National Forest is currently under Stage 2 fire restrictions due to 0 percent of normal snowpack and severe drought conditions.

The following acts are prohibited on all National Forest System lands

within the Rio Grande National Forest located within Alamosa, Archuleta, Conejos, Hinsdale, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache and San Juan Counties, State of Colorado, ("the Restricted Area") and on all roads and trails located with the Restricted Area.

The purpose of this Order is to protect public health, safety, and natural resources by preventing wildfires.

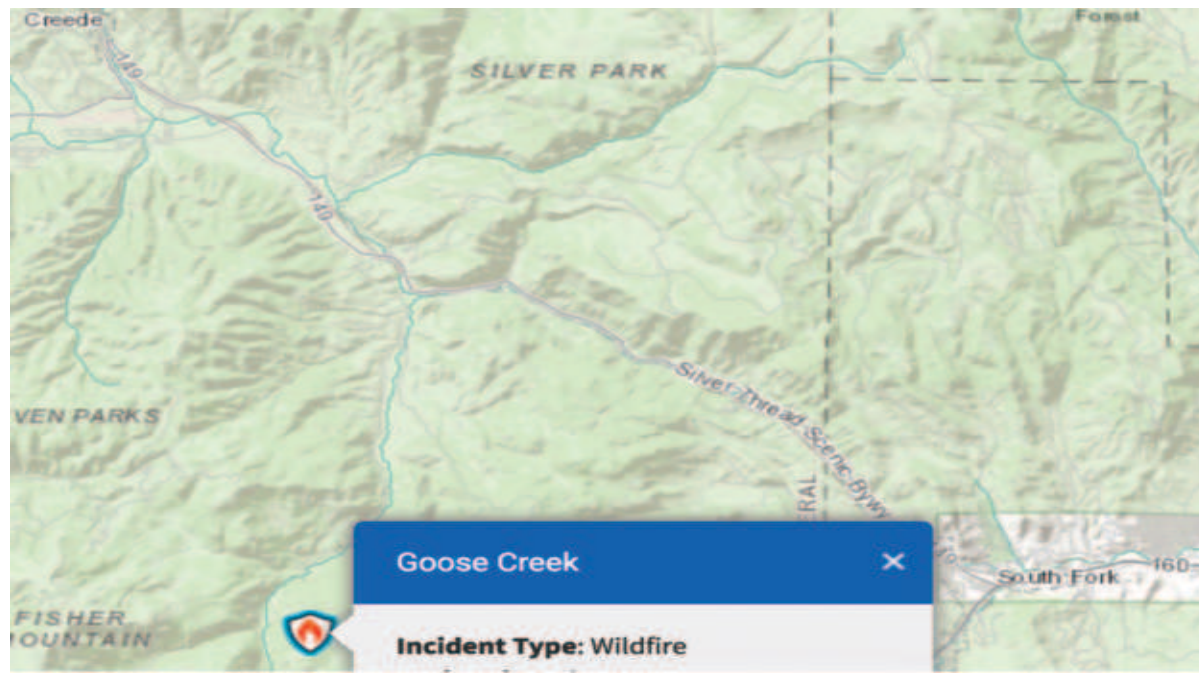
PROHIBITIONS: This Order prohibits the following acts in the Restricted Area:

Igniting, building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, including fires in developed recreation sites (campgrounds and picnic areas), charcoal grills and barbecues, coal and wood burning stoves, and shepherd's stoves.

Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, trailer or building.

Blasting, welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.

Operating or using any internal



The Goose Creek fire is burning several miles west of the Town of South Fork.



Photo courtesy of RGNF

The fire is burning in steep and rugged terrain near the top of the slope in the Goose Creek drainage, south of Lake Humphreys.

combustion engine without an effective and properly installed USDA- or Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE)- approved spark arrestor.

Operating a chain saw without an effective and properly installed USDA- or SAE- approved spark arrestor, a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher (with a minimum of 8 oz. capacity and rating of 2A) kept with the operator and a round point shovel with an overall length of at least 35 inches readily available for use.

Using an explosive. This includes but is not limited to fuses, blasting caps, fireworks, rockets, exploding targets, tracers and incendiary ammunition.

Possessing or using a motor vehicle off established roads, motorized trails or established parking areas, except when parking in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the vehicle.

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Gesundheit! Reverse Sneezing in Dogs

Snorts, yips, growls and groans—pet dogs make a variety of sounds that can entertain or worry their owner, depending on the circumstance.

Though owners who have concerns about the health of their pet should always consult a veterinarian, Dr. Lori Teller, an associate professor in the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), weighs in on one of the many unusual noises a pet dog can make: reverse sneezing.

Also known as inspiratory paroxysmal respiration, reverse sneezing is caused by a muscle spasm at the back of a dog's mouth where it meets the throat. This spasm, which lasts around 30 seconds, causes a temporary narrowing of the opening of the trachea, making it difficult for the dog to inhale.

"A reverse sneeze is a sudden, involuntary respiratory reflex, but instead of forcefully expelling air out, like a regular sneeze, air is sucked into the nose with a series of rapid, forceful inhalations," Teller said.

Episodes of reverse sneezing can occur in any breed of dog, but Teller said they seem to be more common in brachycephalic, "smushy-faced," dog breeds like pugs, Shih Tzus and Bulldogs.

"A reserve sneeze sounds like a combination of a loud snort, honk and choking noise," Teller said. "The dog may stand very still with their front legs and neck extended. The owner will notice their pet's chest and abdomen rapidly moving in and out."

While a reverse sneezing episode may be cause for concern for some pet owners, Teller wants owners to know that it is not painful or harmful for your pet.

"People are concerned that their dogs cannot get air and are suffocating or choking to death," Teller said. "However, it is much scarier to the owner than to the dog."

If pet owners find their dogs experiencing reverse sneezes, Teller says there are several techniques owners can use to calm their dog and get the episode to stop.

"During an episode, an owner

can try speaking in a soothing voice while gently massaging the dog's throat," Teller said. "The owner can also gently blow in the dog face to make it swallow or gently open the dog's mouth and

press down on the tongue to alleviate the spasm."

Occasional episodes of reverse sneezing are normal and are not of concern to the health of the dog, but always consult a veterinarian

if your furry friend is experiencing respiratory symptoms that impact their ability to breathe or if reverse sneezing episodes are recurring.

"If your dog has chronic episodes or other respiratory issues,

such as coughing, nasal discharge or difficulty breathing, or just does not seem to feel well, then it's important to seek veterinary attention to determine if there are other problems going on," Teller said.



Saturday, July 11th, 2020 at 10 a.m.

Pictures posted on our website.

<http://www.aandbauctionservices.com> or email

aandbauctions@gmail.com

18501 County Road 60, Moffat, CO 81143

Directions: From Alamosa head North on HWY 17 for 39 miles. Turn , east at Granny's restaurant then north on rd. 60 to site . Watch for signs

FIREARMS WILL BE SOLD AT 10:00 AM SHARP.

COVID—19 Disclaimer:
If you are feeling unwell or are showing any symptoms please stay home. Everyone at this event is attending at their own risk. Face coverings, hand sanitization and social distancing encouraged.

Trailer
2000 Jamco
3 Horse Slant with Living Quarters and Saddle Racks
40 ft Container
Open top stock trailer

Dog Items
Dog Pens
Dog Feeders
Double Dog Carrier
Commercial Animal Clippers
Items too numerous to mention

Antiques
Hoosier cabinet, Sewing cabinet, Skeleton keys
Items too numerous to mention

Yard Items
Riding Lawn Mower
Push Lawn Mower
Roto Tiller
Wagon Running Gear
Electric Sprayer
Electric Seeder
Broadcast Seeder
Decorative yard metal
Flower pot stands
Tike torches
Items too numerous to mention

Firearms/ Reloading
Savage 260 Scoped
Marlin 308 Scoped
Ruger Ranch Rifle 223
Model 70 270 Carbine Scoped
New Frontier Colt .22
3" Smith & Wesson Pro Series 45
Model 70 Winchester 30 06
223 Weatherby Vanguard
1187 Remington 12ga
AMMO
12ga, lots and various
44mag, 7.62x39,38 sp., 40 S&W
357 mag, 45 acp, 223,
Lots of cleaned brass for lot of cal.
Reloading presses and equipment.
DARDAS Cast Bullets lots. 45
223 fmj bullets
Many unlisted items

Livestock Items
1 English Saddle
1 Pack Saddle
3 Western Saddles
Miscellaneous New Tack
Miscellaneous Used Tack
Saddle Racks
New Scabbards
1 Singer Leather Treadle Patch Machine
1 Singer Treadle
Leather Tools
Items too numerous to mention

Equipment/ Tools
4020 John Deere w easy on quick change loader/ very nice unit
4020 Fenders and Weights
18.4 X 34 John Deere Duals
10' Brush Hog
Ditcher
Wood Splitter
Post Hole Digger
Meadow Drag
Broadcast seeder
Skill saws
Router
Air Nailers jacks, hammers of many types, Pry-bars
Many sockets , ratchets, wrenches and electrical tools. Boomers ,
Many many other items

Miscellaneous
2 Custom Chinks chaps
1 Custom Batwing chaps
Furniture
John Boat
500 Gallon Diesel Stand and Stand
Regulation Size Pool Table
Grow lights with 1000w ballasts and other related items
Feeders
Electric Fencing
40ft container,
Tents/ stoves
New RV furnace
Items to numerous to mention.

Auctioneer's Notes: The Adams's are moving and would like to down size. The items up for sale are of good quality and well cared for. For any questions please call Brady (719) 588-2573. This sale also has Many items from the closing of Frontier Pawn shop. Background check and transfer on all firearms required.



Col. Brady Stagner
Auctioneer
(719) 588-2573

- * Farm / Ranch
- * Household
- * Benefit / Fundraising
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Sell your household items for FREE. Total value of items must be \$50 or less. See details below.



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 61 4X4'S
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 63 TRUCKS
 64 AUTOS FOR SALE
SERVICES
 65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
 66 CHILD CARE

RATES

15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications
\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.

Garage Sale Ads: 15 Words or less for 1 week
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Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Limited to private party only, 2 ads per person, 4 weeks.)

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 montevisitaclass@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.

Our ad policy: Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

DEADLINE

Thursday 5:00 pm

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04 Lost and Found

REWARD for Lost Orange Tiger Cat Lost on 6-3-2020 in Tan Pet Carrier on Hwy 159 between Taos and San Luis. Call 720-377-8864 for more details

05 Notices

WE BUY ANTLER: 5 miles west of Del Norte on HWY 160. 719-657-0942 (6/24)TFN

07 Help Wanted

Mountain Pizza & Taproom is a fast growing, successful Pizza Brand. Are you looking for a career opportunity and not just a job? We are looking for full and part time people. Amazing opportunity for career progression. Wonderful teams – aint no Family like a Pizza Family Apply in person at 30483 W. Hwy 160, South Fork, CO 81154.(7/15)

Comtrix Solutions, Inc. is looking for **Medical Technologists** to work in the Del Norte, CO area. **Positions require: Bachelor's degree in Medical Technology or Life Science; 5 years' experience as a Medical Technologist; Must have ASCP Certification.** Please send resumes and cover letter to 23099 Red Sunset Place,

Aldie, VA 20105. Please refer to job code #HH/MTII20 in your cover letter. (7/8)

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. (6/24)

17 Real Estate For Sale PERFECT SMALL FARM: 59 acres with center pivot, new 60X120 steel shop, 2 1/2 shares of Rio Grande Canal,

2000 GPM well, 2 miles from Center. Priced to Sell, Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc. 719-580-0770. (TFN)

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

125-150 cow/calf ranch 1154

acres with top water rights, production, 1.2 miles of Rio Grande River and 1/2 mile of Conejos

River. \$1,750,000. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770 (TFN)

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To place a 25-word COSCAN Network ad in 91 Colorado newspapers for only \$300, contact your local newspaper or call Colorado Press Association Network at 303-571-5117.

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COLORADO PRESS ASSOCIATION NETWORK

<p style="text-align: center;">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@cmresourcesinc.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">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>
--	--

Business Showcase

Have a blast decorating for your July 4th celebration! We have signs, flags, wreaths, buckets, table runners, placemats, napkins and towels to help you set a perfect table!

Please wear a mask.

The Holy Moses 658-2848
OPEN 121 N. Main
 Daily 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Creede

This Week's Feature



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719-852-3531

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Valley Wide Classifieds

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 Craftsman Riding Lawn Mower, LT 2000, 42 inch cut, 18 HP, runs good, cuts good, garage kept. \$800.00 (254) 931-0226 (7-15)

Sprinkler repair. Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (06/17 TFN)

36 Miscellaneous 8-12 FT Door Jewellery Counter Many 10" & 16" Glass Cabinets. Cloths Racks 7 Much More Call After 3-PM 719-873-5992. (7/15)

Free used tires, 80 or more. 10 minutes N. of Alamosa. 970-901-6628 (7/01)

STEEL STORAGE CONTAINERS – Sales, Rentals & Modifications! Containers are water & rodent proof. 8' wide, 8'-53' in length. Call for more information and pricing. **Healdworks, Inc. – Your Total Storage Solution!** 719-850-0346 (06/17 TFN)

SOLAR PANELS! 240 WATT AND SMALLER. We Stock Inverters, Charge Controllers and Batteries in Brand Names of

Outback, Magnum, Rolls, More. We Also Carry Cable and PV Wire. Thank you for Buying at Bontrager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. (TFN) (06/17)

42 Feed & Seed ALFALFA-GRASS HORSE HAY: Green 3x3x8 bales, ~800#, \$190/ton or \$85 per bale OBO, outside stacks, 719-657-0942 (6/24)TFN

50 Livestock HERITAGE BREED TURKEY POULTS - Bourbon Reds from free range parents. \$20 each or \$35 for 2. Limited number available. Ready to butcher at 28 weeks (toms average 30 lbs, hens 15 lbs.) Straight run only. 719-850-2832 (7/01)

53 Trailers 1987 Nomad Travel Trailer 1-Owner 24" 5th wheel \$5,000 OBO. 719-580-2290. (7-15)
For Sale: 1995 Starcraft 25' 5th Wheel Travel Trailer. A/C, microwave, queen bed. New Tires. Gently used, immaculate. \$6,500. Call 719-852-2945 for more details.

59 Vehicles Wanted CASH ON THE SPOT FOR JUNK CARS & TRUCKS: We pickup, no title ok. 719-937-7935. (TFN5-20)

63 Trucks Perfect for Parades, Halling hay, Potatoes, Ext. 1977 F-350 W/12' Steel Bed. 61,000 miles \$5,800 or OBO. 720-201-3857. (7/15)

64 Autos for Sale 2007 Nissan, Quest. Runs great, Asking \$1800.00 OBO

NEW TIRES, OIL CHANGE, MILEAGE 186,242, Engine 35L Cell: 719-480-4104 (7/1)

65 Professional Services Roofs (Metal, EPDM, TPO), Stucco, Flooring, Tile, Decks, New Construction & Remodels. Free Estimates. Reliable Car-

pentry, 45 years of Experience 719-496-7630 Drug and Alcohol Free (6/17)

LICENSED PLUMBER does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable rate. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings.

719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (06/24 TFN)

THE BLIND GUY window coverings. Free measuring, free estimates. Professional installation. Guaranteed lowest prices. Call Tony, 970-903-1403. (07/01/2020 TFN)

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Upper Rio Grande
Animal Society

Conour

www.slvanimalshelter.com

If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366

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

Visit Our Facebook Page

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

<p style="font-size: x-small;">This is Elvis, he is a male pitbull mix around 3 years old. He is hyper at times, but is very friendly with people and is friendly with some dogs.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">This is Waffles, she is a 1 year old Pitbull mix. She is very friendly, but can have a lot of energy sometimes. She does well with some dogs but not all dogs.</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small;">This is Joey, he is a male pitbull mix around 2 years old. He is friendly with people and has a lot of energy, he would need to be the only dog in the house.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">This is Rosie, she is female Pitbull mix around 2 years old. She is friendly with people and some dogs.</p>

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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Regular Classified Ad Deadline-Thursday 5 p.m.
15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications
***\$19⁵⁰ + 95¢ each additional word.**
Garage Sale Ads: 15 words or less for 1 week
***\$12 + 35¢ each additional word.**
 Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Private party only) Call 719-852-3531 for details.

Name: _____

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Card#: _____

Expiration Date: _____

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Words: _____ **Times:** _____ **Price:** _____

Class: _____ **Start Date:** _____

All Classified Advertising must be pre-paid

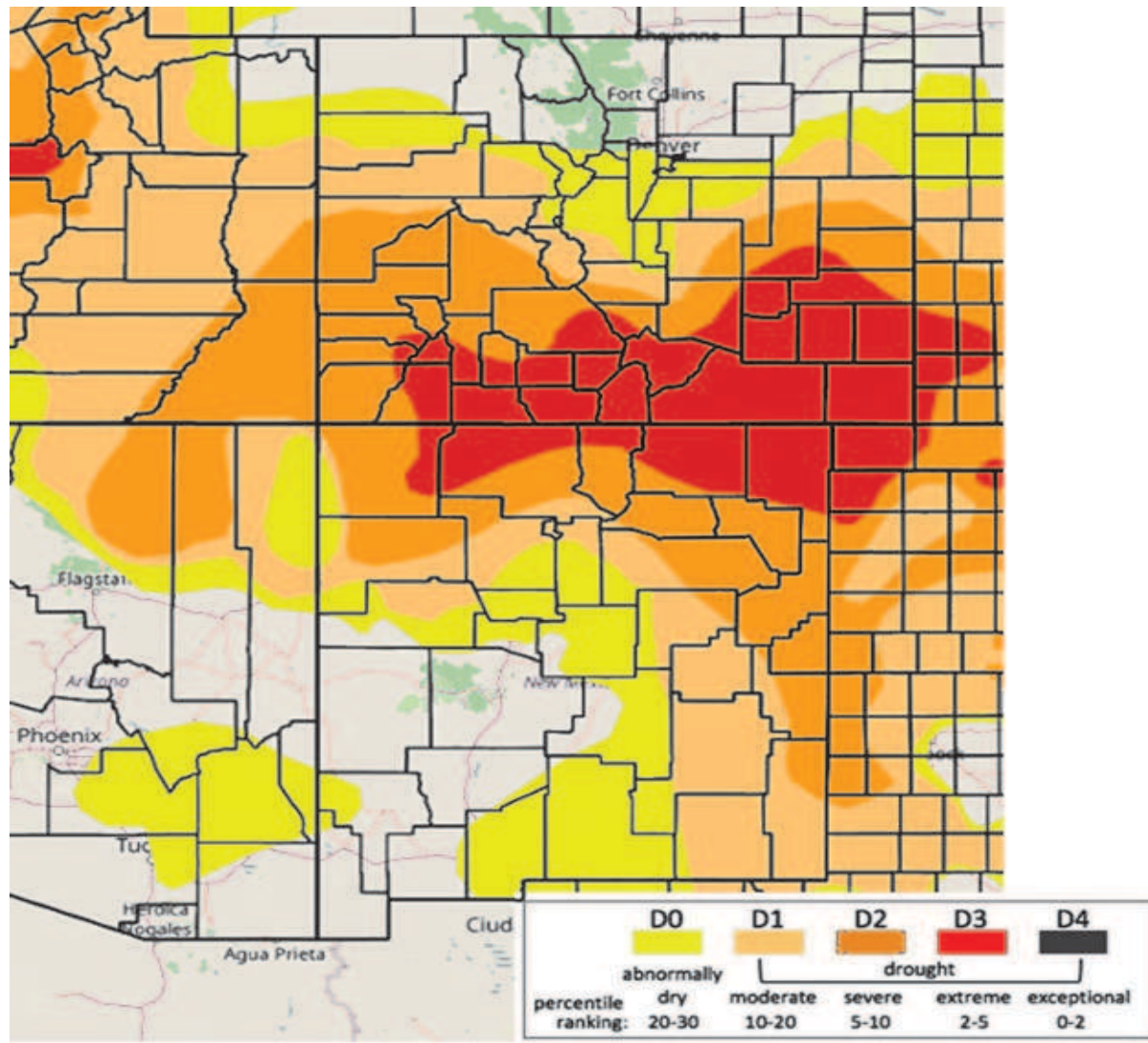
Governor Polis activates drought plan and task force as severe drought expands across southern, eastern regions

COLORADO - Governor Jared Polis requested activation of Colorado's Drought Task Force and Phase 2 of the State Drought Mitigation and Response Plan this week as drought conditions deepen, reaching more than 81 percent of the state, with severe and extreme drought conditions in 33 percent of the state (40 counties).

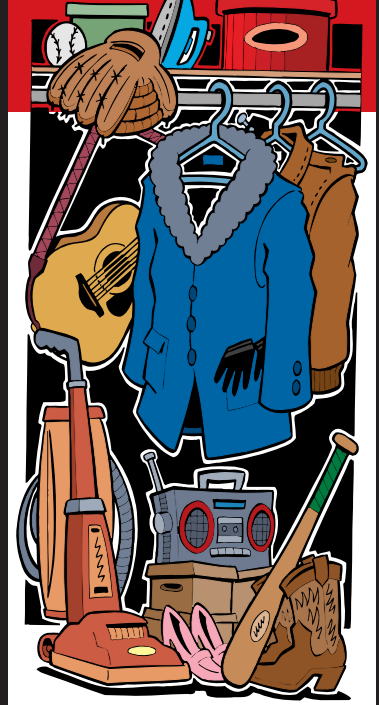
Colorado's Drought Task Force - which includes leadership from the Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Local Affairs, Public Safety, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board - determined the need to activate Phase 2 of the Drought Plan June 18 after a third of the state reached extreme drought conditions. "Phase 2" indicates officially directing the Drought Task Force to assess initial damages and impacts of drought in areas experiencing severe or extreme drought and to recommend mitigation measures.

This Phase also activates the Agricultural Impact Task Force, which will conduct an initial assessment on physical and economic impacts and recommend opportunities for incident mitigation.

Counties impacted by abnormally dry (D0) and moderate (D1) drought will continue to be closely monitored. The 40 counties currently experiencing severe (D2) and extreme (D3) drought include: Alamosa, Archuleta, Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Cheyenne, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, Delta, Dolores, Eagle, El Paso, Elbert, Fremont, Garfield, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Huerfano, Kiowa, Kit Carson, La Plata, Las Animas, Lincoln, Mesa, Mineral, Montezuma, Montrose, Otero, Ouray, Pitkin, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Grande, Saguache, San Miguel, San Juan, Washington, and Yuma.



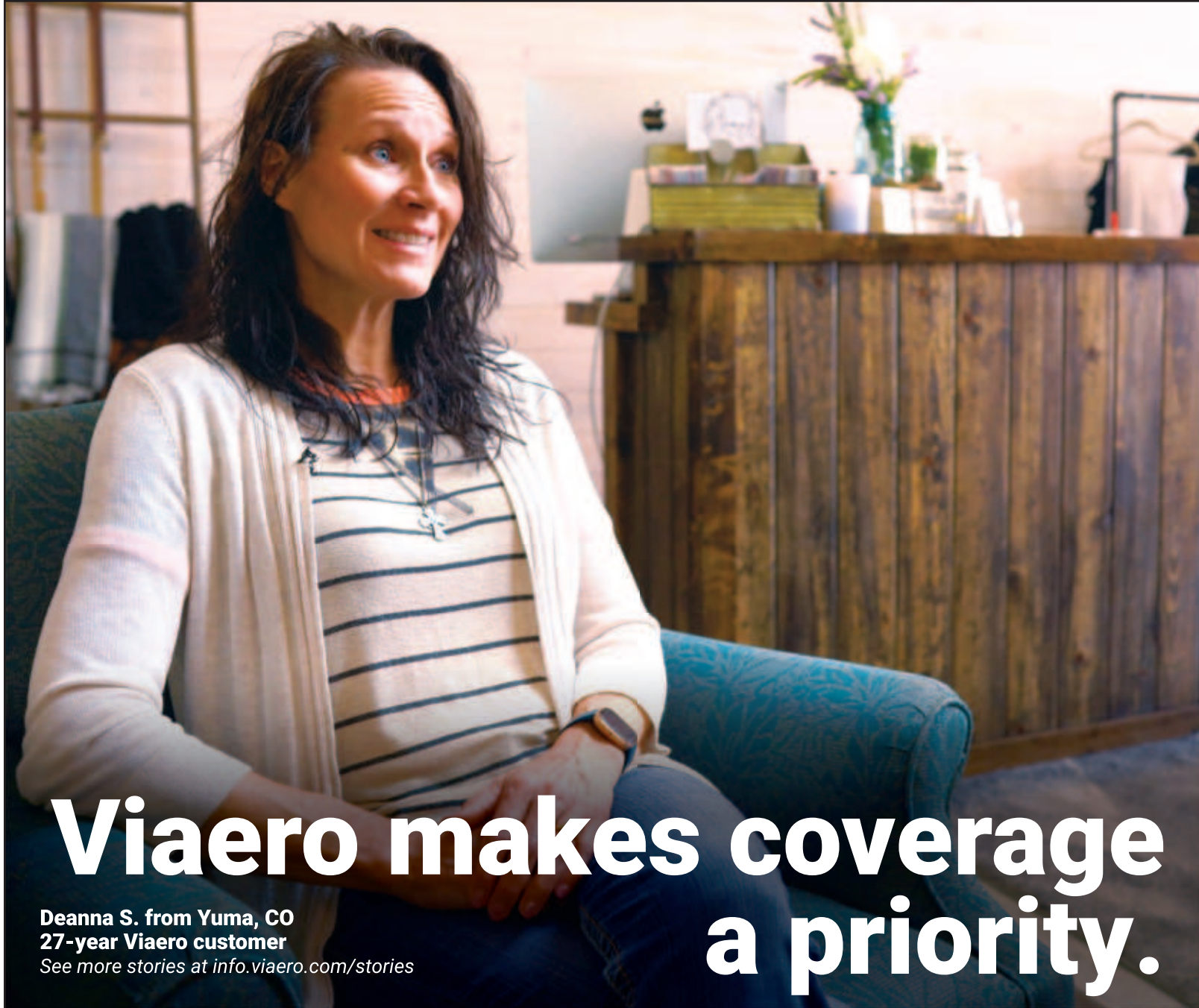
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"Viaero service works really well in our area. My husband is a farmer - when he's harvesting and planting, we can have pretty late nights. It's really nice to have that connection, to know that your loved ones are safe."

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Celebrate a **SAFE & HAPPY** JULY 4TH!

Town of South Fork Independence Day Celebration All Events - July 3rd

Holiday Farmers Market
Peak Season Farmers Market
9am to 5pm
Visitors Center

Locally grown produce and baked goods

Volunteer Fire Department Fish Fry

Vendors open at 10am,
Lunch served from 11am to 2pm
Fire Department Building
\$15 for adults, \$7 for children

Parade Starts at 3p.m.

Theme: Let Freedom Ring!
No Candy

All Welcome to participate in the parade, signup at the
Visitors Center by July 2

Parade Viewing: All along the South Frontage Road
from Buck Street to Birch

Parking: Please pull off the street as far as you can to
park alongside the parade route

Fireworks

Sponsored by the Town of South Fork &
the Volunteer Fire Department

View from just about anywhere in town-Fired from the
Rio Grande Club golf course



Due to changing fire conditions please see
www.creede.com for
updates on the Creede
4th of July Events!

Schedule & Events subject to change.

**Full line Sporting
Goods Store**
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Come have a blast in Creede
and stop by to shop with us!
Celebrating 44 Years
The Holy Moses
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Daily
658-2848 • 121 N. Main • Creede

Come get some great food and
a front-row fireworks seat!



Annual BBQ
Friday, July 3 • 6 p.m.
Burgers, Brats, Chicken,
Beer, a special craft cocktail
menu and entertainment
by the SLV Jazz Club!

Rio Grande Club & Resort
0285 Rio Grande Club Trail in South Fork

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102 North Main St.
(719) 658-2210
Downtown Creede

GET IT DONE!

5 tips to prepare for window replacement

Winter is coming, and for millions of people who reside in areas of the country that see the mercury drop considerably between December and March, that means prioritizing staying warm. Inefficient or aging housing materials may compromise your ability to do just that.

Drafts from doors, poorly protected attics and basements and aging windows may force heating systems to work extra hard to maintain interior temperatures.

Replacing old windows can make a home quieter by blocking out exterior noises. Consumer Reports also notes that new windows are often easier to clean and maintain than older varieties.

Many homeowners are interested in replacing their windows, but

may not know where to start. These guidelines can help the process along.

1. Get several estimates. Ask for recommendations from neighbors or other people in your area on which companies they used to install their replacement windows. When you interview the prospects, ask several questions about how they go about installing the windows. Questions can include:

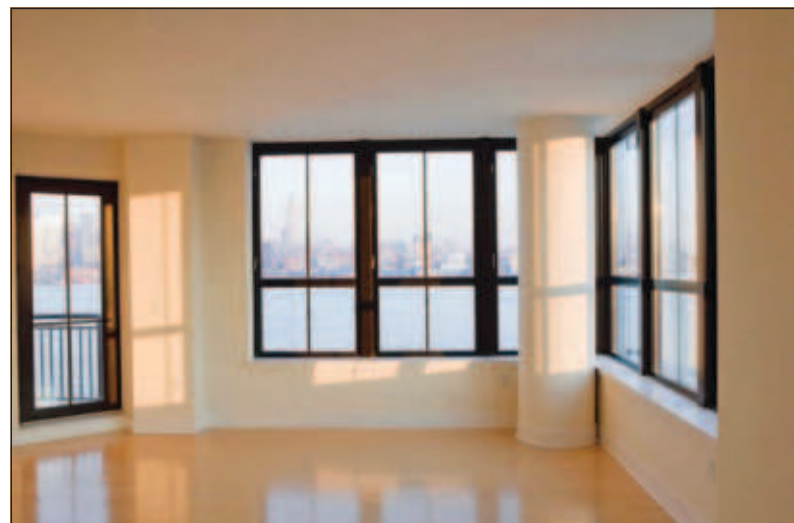
- How long will the project take?
- Will I need to remain home during the process?
- Do you discard of old debris?
- What is the protocol for installation during inclement weather?

2. Research permits. Most home renovation projects need to be ap-

proved by the local municipality. Go to the permit office and find out the requirements. Some window contractors will include securing permits in the cost of the project. After the project is completed, an inspector will come by and ensure the work was done according to code.

3. Change up the appearance. Look at the type of hardware you have around the home and other fixtures. Choose windows that have locks or latches that can match those features for continuity of style. Think about choosing a different style or frame color of the window, or a different type of window to improve efficiency and function.

4. Research top window manufacturers. It's tempting to purchase



windows based on price alone, but replacement windows are often a decision that only has to be made once or twice for the life of the home. Invest in durable windows that will have staying power. Consumer Reports offers unbiased reviews on various window brands and can help homeowners make sound decisions.

5. Prepare for installation. Clear

pathways, remove window treatments and disconnect window alarm systems. Plan for one to two days of installation, advises Andersen Windows and Doors. Keep pets and children away from work areas.

Replacement windows can be a smart investment. New windows can improve the look of a home, reduce heating costs and can keep interior spaces comfortable. FH208162

Building a hydroponic garden

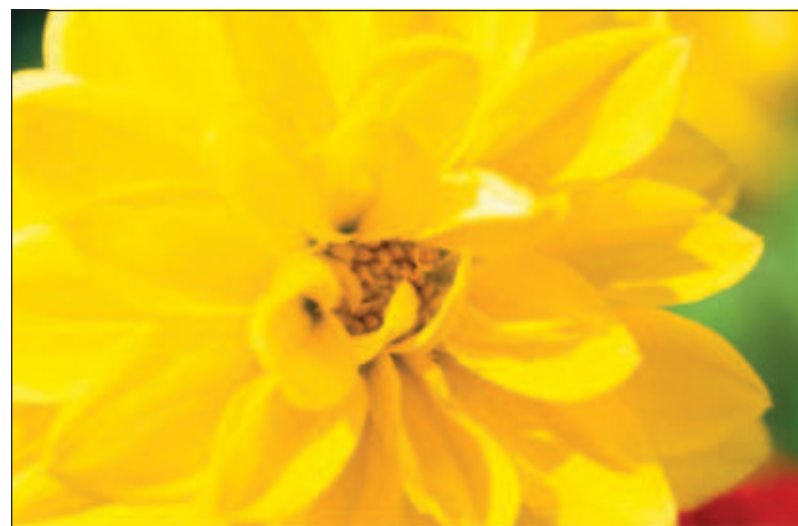
Hydroponic gardening can change people's perceptions of what's needed to grow vibrant plants. Rather than soil, all you may need for a hydroponic garden is water to grow a variety of healthy, strong plants.

Although it seems like a futuristic concept, hydroponics — or growing plants without soil — actually dates back many centuries. The hanging Gardens of Babylon and The Floating Gardens of China are two of the earliest examples of hydroponics.

According to Fullbloom Hydroponics, hydroponic gardening is a method of growing plants in a water-based, nutrient-rich solution. Instead of soil, roots are supported by an inert material, such as pellets, perlite, or vermiculite. Some people use coconut fiber, sand or gravel as well. The key is that the substance not supply any additional nutrition to the plant. In some instances, the roots grow in water alone.

Hydroponics works so well because the person doing the gardening can directly control the nutrients, oxygen and light according to what the plant needs. A nutrition-based water delivery system delivers food to the roots in a highly soluble form, rather than the roots having to search through the soil and extract the same nutrients. Absorbing food with very little effort means the plant can divert its energy to growing and flower production.

This method of no-soil growth can be used just about anywhere. Although it has not yet edged out traditional farming methods, hydro-



ponics is gaining popularity among entrepreneurs and hobbyists. An added attraction to hydroponics is its efficiency. The gardening resource Maximum Yield says hydroponics is ideal where traditional farming is not an option, such as in large cities where there is little to no access to agriculturally amenable land. Hydroponics can even be merged with vertical farming methods, helping to save space and increase output. Hydroponic gardens can be placed anywhere there is access to water and natural or simulated sunlight. Empty warehouses, rooftops, old shipping containers, and much more can be turned into hydroponic garden locations with minimal effort.

Scientists say that there can be drastic differences in growth rates and yield from hydroponic and soil plants. The group Greentrees

Hydroponics says the growth rate for a hydroponic plant can be 30 to 50 percent faster than a soil plant grown under the same conditions. Environmentalists tout that hydroponic gardening is also beneficial to the environment because the plants require considerably less water than those produced with soil gardening and require fewer pesticides or other amendments to thrive.

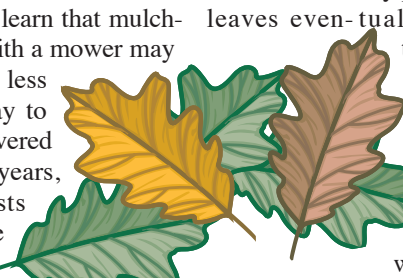
Hobbyists looking to dabble in hydroponics can find many different hydroponic systems on the market today, in an array of prices and sizes. Wicking, ebb and flow, aeroponics, nutrient film, and deepwater culture are different hydroponic systems, each with their own advantages. Once gardeners get the knack of hydroponics, they may not want to turn back to traditional soil gardening again. GT184845

The value of mulched leaves

Homeowners who don't look forward to dusting off their rakes each fall might be happy to learn that mulching fallen leaves with a mower may be a healthier and less labor intensive way to confront a yard covered in leaves. For 20 years, turfgrass specialists at Michigan State University studied how lawns reacted to having ground up leaves left on the lawn and the results were

overwhelmingly positive. Researchers found that tiny pieces of mulched leaves eventually sifted down through the turf and provided the lawn with essential nutrients. Mulched leaves also served to control future weed growth by covering up bare spots between turf plants. Such spots typically provided openings for weed seeds

to germinate and ultimately infect lawns. In fact, researchers found that mulching leaves for just three years could produce a nearly 100 percent decrease in dandelion and crabgrass growth. Homeowners with mulching mowers that also have bags can even help their gardens by alternating using the mower with and without the bag on once leaves begin to fall. When mowing with the bag on, mulched leaves can then be used as mulch in landscape beds and vegetable gardens. FH208148



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SLV COVID numbers continue to climb

SAN LUIS VALLEY - The total number of cumulative cases in the SLV is now 399. There are currently 117 known active cases. Thirty-one total people have been hospitalized, and 275 have completed isolation. There have been 7 fatalities of individuals with COVID-19. Mineral County had remained at two positive cases for weeks but reported 3 new cases last week increasing the number to five. Saguache county remains third in the state for cases per 100,000 people and Alamosa county remains sixth in the state.

For Colorado the largest age group to have the highest number of cases is the 20-29 age group.

Public Health and regional response partners have attended meetings with the State to make a plan to address SLV needs for support. Two lines of emphasis were identified: Assistance with slowing the spread of COVID testing, follow up and outbreak management; and support to individuals and families, particularly as to the education of agricultural workers and employers on how to function during the pandemic while preventing transmission of the virus. Guidance from the CDC and the Department of Labor can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html>.

For questions about testing or for medical advice, please contact your

primary care doctor or call one of the numbers below to start the screening process:

For symptomatic individuals only, call:

Rio Grande Hospital 719-657-4990

SLVHealth Respiratory Clinic 719-589-2511 ext. 9

For symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals who have had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 positive individual, call:

Valley-Wide Health Systems 719-589-3658 ext. 9 (M-F), 719-589-2562 (Saturday/Sunday)

Upcoming testing clinics (you must call ahead for an appointment):

Antonito, Monday, 6/29. 9-11 a.m. 719-587-2874.

Center, Monday-Wednesday, 6/29-7/1, 3-4 p.m., 719-587-2888.

Saguache, TBD

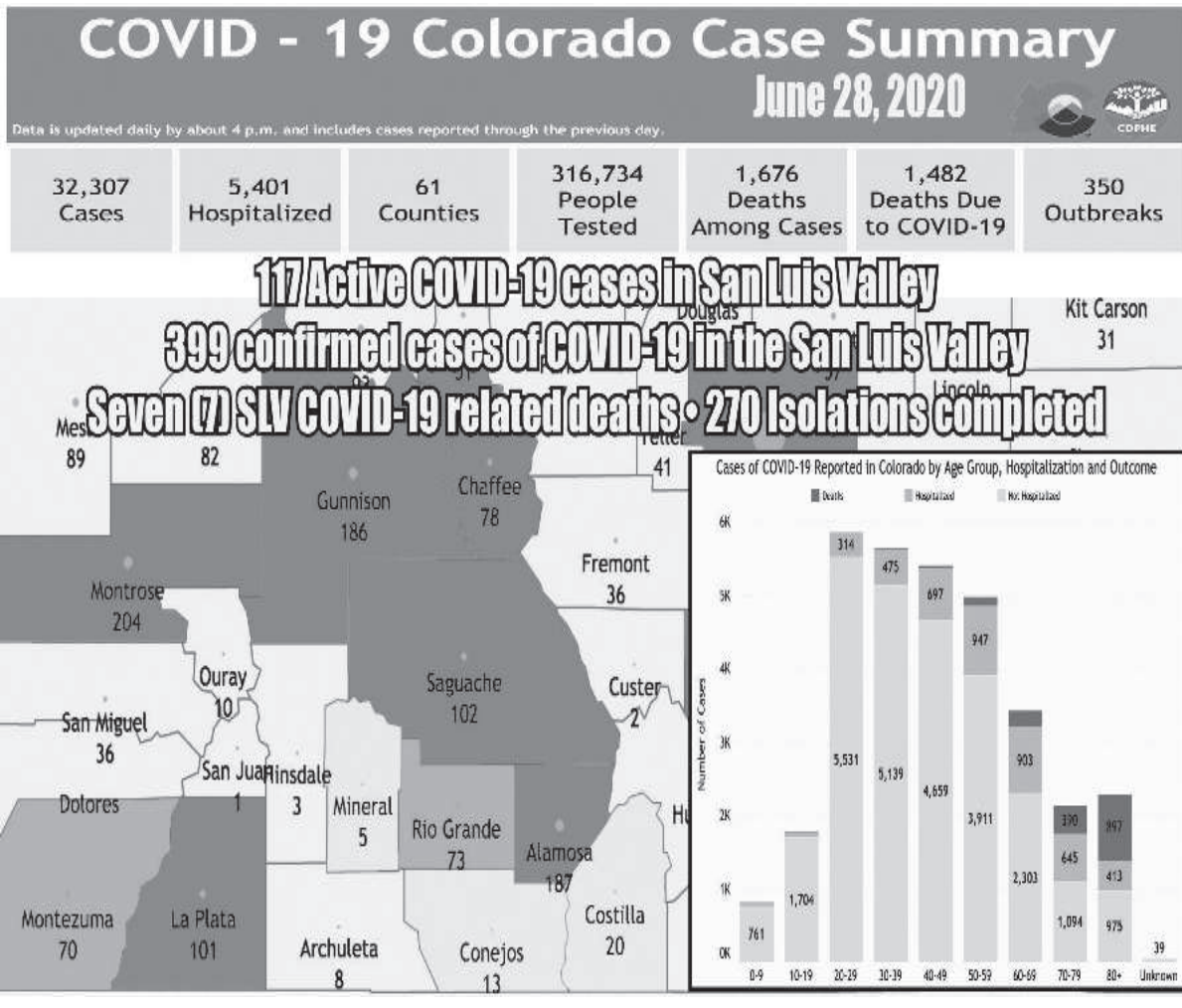
For general (nonmedical) SLV COVID-19 related questions: slv-pr@alamosacounty.org, 719-480-8719

This is a difficult time for many people. If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, please don't hesitate to ask for support:

SLV Behavioral Health Group: 719-589-3671

24/7 Crisis Hotline: 1 (844) 493-TALK (8255), or text TALK to 38255

Online: www.colorado.gov/rural-mentalhealth, www.slvbhg.org



4th of July Parade/Protest

There is an excitement building for the next valley-wide parade to be held in Alamosa on Saturday, July 4th. After the annual parade was cancelled, a local group of patriots has proposed we have an Independence Day Parade/Protest (for not having our annual event).

Everyone is encouraged to join in the fun as we gather on Main Street in front of Nino's, continuing the line-up back east to La Due Street.

The Parade/Protest will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will continue west on Main Street to Alamosa Avenue. Turning left one block to 6th Avenue, the Parade/Protest will finish on the east end of 6th Street at the old railroad property across from Bill Clarke Trucking.

This is a peaceful Parade/Protest to celebrate our freedoms and independence. We need lots of red, white and blue and plenty of flags. Bring cars, trucks, trailers, horses, bikes, ATVs or you may walk.

Our State Senator Larry Crowder will be in the parade as a member of



the American Legion's Color Guard leading the display.

This event is open to everyone in the Valley! Come join with us to celebrate the independence of our country, the U.S. of A! God Bless America!!

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ACROSS

- Stain one's hands
- Subdivision
- A passage to be performed slow
- Invests in little enterprises
- Medians
- Member of the giraffe family
- Makes official
- Choose in an election
- Hill or rocky peak
- Member of an ancient Iranian people
- Crest of a hill
- Small, faint constellation
- Cultivated from crops that yield oil
- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Hollywood tough guy
- Chinese drums
- Merits
- Indicates center
- Increases motor speed
- Mentally fit
- BBQ favorite
- Wings
- Female parents
- Marks left from wounds
- Soften by soaking in liquid

DOWN

- Mental object
- Blackbird
- Undergarments
- Old cloth
- One from Utah
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Become less intense
- Developed to readiness
- Defunct phone company
- About Freemason
- Taking everything into account
- Famed Czech engineer
- Impress into silence
- Boxing term
- Marketplaces
- Pounds per square inch
- Locomotives
- Short musical composition
- Football position (abbr.)
- Heavyhearted
- Denotes particular region
- Famed NHLer
- Ingested too much
- Formulates
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Broad, shallow craters
- Thick cuts
- Breezed through
- Breakfast is one
- "Rule, Britannia" composer
- Periodicals (slang)
- Indian title of respect
- More (Spanish)
- Creation
- A loud utterance

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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Sunflower Bank donates to Ski Hi

MONTE VISTA - Sunflower Bank representatives Maria Aguilar, Sunflower Bank Senior branch manager, Monte Vista office and Charlotte Vasquez, Sunflower Bank vice president/Retail Regional Manager, present a \$10,000 check for new the Ski Hi Regional Event and Conference center to Friends of Ski Hi Park Co-Chairs Karla Shriver and Kathy Rogers, and Monte Vista Chamber leadership Linda Burnett and Gary Wilkinson. Ski the Bear was also present for the picture. Friends want to say "Thank you" to Sunflower Bank. Qualified Enterprise Zone tax credit contributions can be sent to P.O. 262, Monte Vista, CO 81144. Call Karla at 719-850-5808 or Kathy at 719-588-4092 if you have questions. Help us Raise the Roof!



San Luis and Rio Grande Railroad is heading to bankruptcy court

BY LYNDISIE FERRELL
SAN LUIS VALLEY- In a meeting held by the Rio Grande County Commissioners, Chairman John Noffsger updated the board on the status of the SLRG Railroad and announced that it would be headed to state bankruptcy court July 1.

"We received notice from the bankruptcy trustee about a motion to be heard in front of a bankruptcy judge and that they are talking about going to auction on the San Luis and Rio Grande Railroad later in July," stated Noffsger. County Attorney Ryan Dunn stated that the trustee had begun soliciting bids for the line as of June 18. Now the line is being placed up for bid and besides Rio Grande County, no other entities have a say in what happens next. Dealings with the rail date back several years and several conversations between Valley government officials have occurred on and off the record to try and find a way to either keep the line or to have it converted to a walking trail.

It is now up to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court to approve the sale of the line to the highest bidder and some fear the impact it could potentially have on the economy of the San Luis Valley.

In a June 22 interview, Noffsger stated that Rio Grande County Attorney Ryan Dunn is now in contact with other county attorneys throughout the impacted counties to consider additional options that may allow the Valley may be able to at least receive the property taxes owed by the line that amounts to just over \$2 million. "If we can possibly acquire the taxes owed that alone would be a huge benefit to the Valley," finished Noffsger. Noffsger has taken the lead on the railroad issue and has kept up to date with the proceedings after the line filed for bankruptcy November 2019.

During a meeting held by the board in November 2019, commissioners wanted to establish a statement through the adoption of a resolution. It was outlined in the resolution that the SLRG railroad still held monetary value to the San Luis Valley and that if the line were sold it would greatly impact the economy. It is estimated that the railroad brings in an average of \$4 million a year in commerce, not including the tourism portion that brings in additional revenue.

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SLV unemployment numbers drop after Safer at Home order

By TREY SPAULDING

SAN LUIS VALLEY – On May 4, 2020, Governor Polis announced his Safer at Home policy which allowed some businesses to reopen with certain guidelines. The program has seemed to work, as statewide the unemployment rate dropped from 12.0 percent in April to 10.0 percent in May. Nationwide the unemployment rate for May was 13.3 percent.

For the counties in the San Luis Valley (SLV), the Colorado Department of Labor and Unemployment (CDLU) recently released May 2020 unemployment figures which showed that the San Luis Valley also showed substantial improvement in employment numbers as the SLV unemployment rate dropped from 9.9 percent

in April 2020 to 7.6 percent in May. Rural Colorado counties continue to fare better than more urban and resort counties.

Mineral County has the highest not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the SLV with 9.8 percent. The SLV county with the lowest unemployment rate in May 2020 was again Saguache with 6.3 percent unemployed. Saguache county is followed by Conejos county which dropped from 8.3 percent to 6.4 percent. Alamosa county dropped from 9.4 percent to 7.6 percent and Rio Grande County saw the largest improvement in unemployment numbers dropping from 10.7 to 8.4 percent. Costilla county saw a slight increase in

those unemployed increasing from 8.0 to 8.3 percent.

Not seasonally adjusted employment numbers from the CDLU show that the total employed workforce for the San Luis Valley in May 2020 was 20,831, with 1,600 unemployed, equaling 7.6 percent of the SLV workforce being unemployed in May.

In Colorado, Cheyenne county had the lowest unemployment rate in May with 2.1 percent followed by Kiowa county with 2.2 percent, Baca at 2.3 percent and Yuma with 2.7 percent unemployed.

The Colorado counties with the highest rates of unemployment were San Miguel at 22.1 percent, Gilpin with 21.3 percent, Pitkin at 20.0 percent and Summit at 19.4 percent.



The way to someones heart



Courtesy photo Dawn Melgares, an independent consultant for Pampered Chef, wanted to do something to benefit the front-line employees of SLV Health. So she reached out to her Pampered Chef clients, and through sales, raised enough to purchase a variety of Pampered Chef products that would allow some of the hospital staff to create quick, healthy meals. The items included a salad chopper with a bowl, microwavable pasta cooker, lunch sack sets and sauces and pasta. They were delivered to SLVH's Regional Medical Center in June, at a time when the staff was extremely busy and appreciative of this generous donation. "The medical staff works so hard, especially with the COVID positive patients, and I wanted to do something to lift their spirits," Melgares said.

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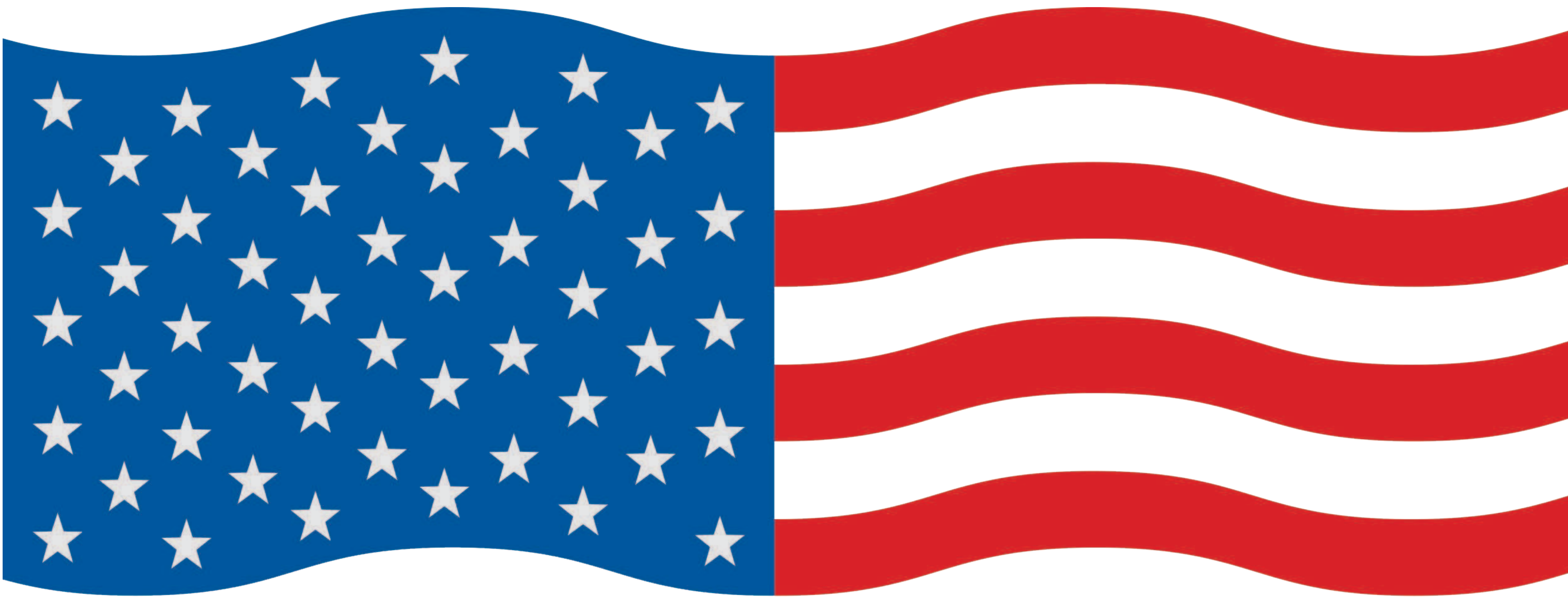


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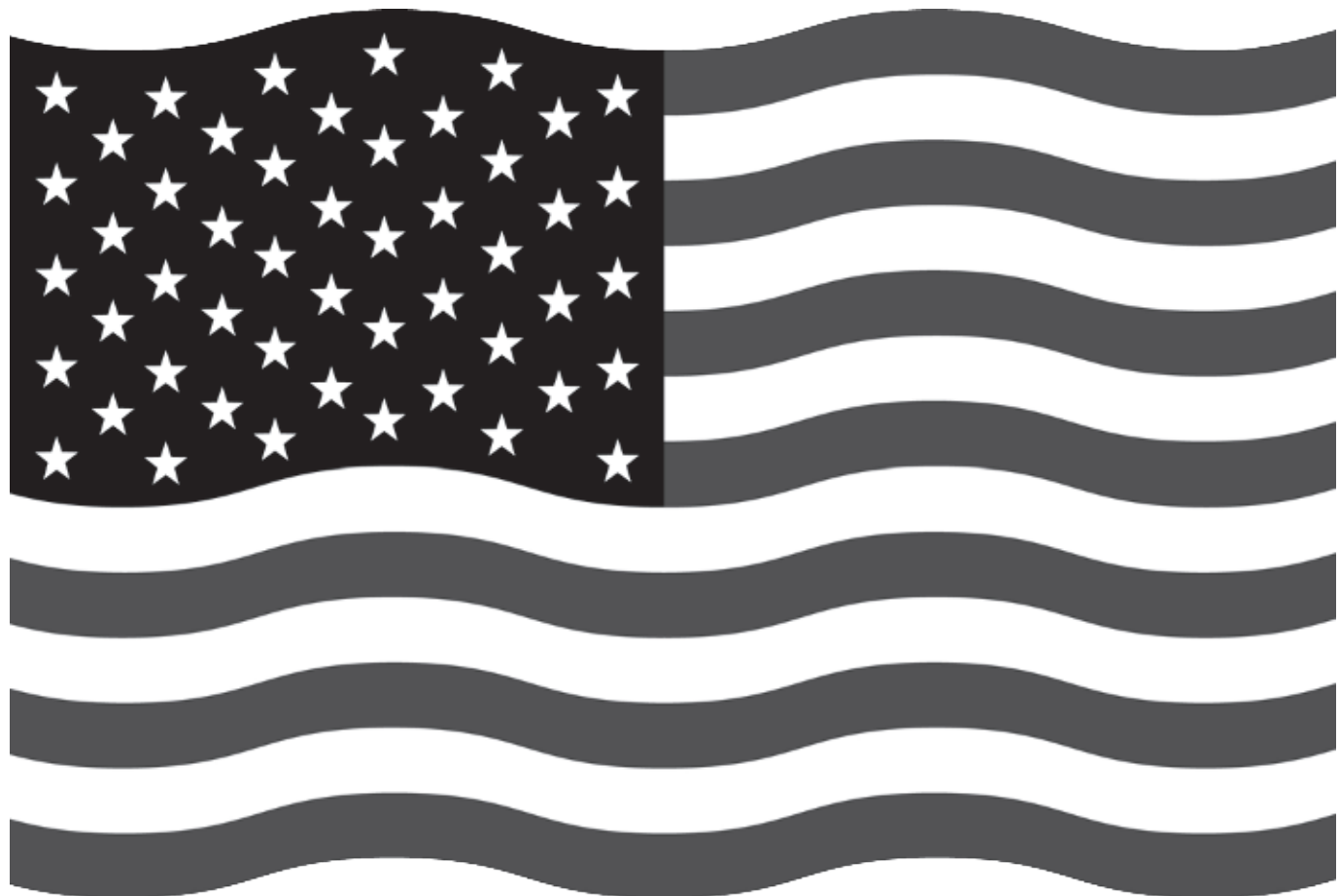
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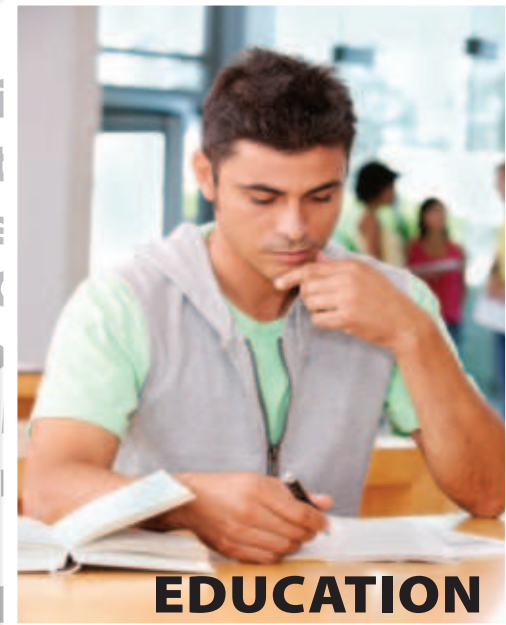
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HOW TO GUIDE



A Publication of Valley Publishing, Inc. and Valley Courier
Summer 2020

*Consumer***How****To****CHOOSE BANKING SERVICES***— Get the most bank for your buck!*

There are many factors to consider when choosing a bank. Some consumers think that all banks are the same; others are lured by free checking offers and giveaways. But there's a lot more to think about than what you can get for free. What else should you be looking for in a bank?

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

Banks have most of the basics in common – checking, savings, loans. But it's important to think about what you'll need from your bank now and in the future. Ask your banker what types of different accounts they offer, but also look for other things you might need, such as

- A checking account that lets you write all the checks you need
- Availability of accounts and services for your business
- Loans for your business, home or personal use
- Retirement and investment accounts
- Monthly account maintenance fees
- Minimum balance requirements
- Overdraft protection
- Online banking
- Direct deposit

WHAT ARE YOU REALLY PAYING?

Some banks will offer free checking accounts – and some of these accounts can really work well for people. But be sure to check the small print. Often times, you'll pay no maintenance fee for the checking account but much more than usual if you bounce a check. Watch out for hidden fees, too, like those charged for talking to a banker in a branch or on the phone.

PERSONAL SERVICE

When looking for a bank, it's important that

they treat you like a person and care about what happens to you and your financial life. Banking is a very personal thing, and your money is nothing to take lightly. Be aware of the service that you receive when choosing a bank, and make sure you feel comfortable with the people delivering that service. It's essential that your bank values the person carrying the wallet more than how much is in that wallet.

CONVENIENCE

Convenience is a matter of taste. Some people need an ATM on every corner; others never visit a branch and do all their banking online. Think about how you do your banking. If you use a check or write checks for the most of your purchases, then you may want easy deposit options like direct deposit or a branch close to your work. If you use a lot of cash, you may be looking for local ATMs. Decide how you like to bank – and if you're not sure if your bank is convenient enough, tell them what you want and see if they can offer suggestions.

COMMUNITY DRIVEN

The character of a bank is often reflected in how they give back to the community. And not just any community – yours. If your bank offers financial support to local organizations and events, and encourages volunteerism among its employees, they're displaying their commitment and care for the community. And choosing a bank based on local community support is important, because it allows that bank to continue its good works.

Consider what's important to you before you choose a bank. Look for an organization that provides the products you need, the service you want, and the dedication you and your family deserve.

Top five things you should know about your bank...

1. Do they have the financial products and services you need?
2. Are there hidden fees?
3. Do they care about you, not just your money?
4. Are they convenient enough for your lifestyle?
5. Do they support your community?

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Consumer **How To** CHOOSE THE RIGHT UNIVERSITY FOR YOU

Tips for Finding the Right University

While a fresh crop of high school graduates is set to walk across the stage at high school commencement ceremonies across the country, for the many students about to become high school seniors now is an important time to start thinking ahead. That's because the college application process is about to begin.

Choosing a college is a big choice for parents and children alike. For parents, it's a financial commitment they've likely been preparing to make since the day their child was born. For kids, it's more than likely the biggest decision they've ever faced. Before the process begins, consider the following tips for choosing the right college.

- Consider a possible career path. Most 18-year-olds have no idea what they might want to do for a living, and that's perfectly fine. When looking at colleges, kids should look at all of the programs they offer, and make a list of the programs that most interest them. This isn't choosing a career (as many students change majors while in college), but rather doing some preliminary research about what you may want to study. For students who really have no idea what they might want to study, consider applying to a larger state school, as those often offer the most programs of study, meaning a student won't have to transfer once they do decide on a course of study.

- Make a list of what you want out of a school. For some kids, going to school too far away from home is a frightening prospect, while others might embrace the freedom. Also, schools vary greatly depending on the size of the college. Some students might prefer a smaller, more close-knit college community, while others might prefer a larger school with more students. Students should make a list of what their personal preferences are and seek out schools that match those preferences.

- Discuss finances. Thanks to the ever-increasing costs associated with higher education, finances figure heavily into the college decision. While parents would love to send their children to their first choices, sometimes finances mandate otherwise. Parents and children should discuss how much they can afford to spend, and how realistic some college choices might be. While financial aid and scholarships are options, they aren't always enough to cover tuition and room and board costs. Rather than risk a heated argument when it comes time to make a decision, parents and children should get on the same page with respect to what's affordable as soon as possible.

Most high school students dread junior year. Not only is it one of the most difficult, but it is also one of the most important years when it comes to applying to colleges. Students have to take the SATs, visit schools and make other college-related decisions. With so many colleges out there, how do you know which ones to apply to, let alone know which one to finally go to? Believe it or not, you can make these decisions stress free. Here are a few simple steps for kids to follow that will make the whole process easier on everyone.

- Write down reasons for wanting to attend college. Though your reasons can be to become a doctor or study art history, they don't have to be limited to getting a degree. You might want to live in another part of the country or be in a community with a lot of artists. Then, prioritize the list of criteria. (Revise the list a few times during your search since your priorities are likely to change.) By deciding what's important to you and what takes priority, it will be easier to find schools that interest you.

And if this still sounds overwhelming, many students also factor in school size, location, academic philosophy, courses of study, reputation and extracurricular activities when applying to various colleges.

- Make a list of ideal colleges. Once you've established why you want to go to a school, try to find schools that offer what you're looking for. Michael Fleischner, vice president of college guide publisher Peterson's, says you should apply to between four and seven schools. You want to name at least seven schools, preferably more. Place schools that meet all of your criteria towards the top of the list and colleges that only have one towards the bottom. However, don't disregard the schools at the bottom of the list. What's important to you might change as you go through the process. If this school has a great architecture program and is within your price range (we'll get to that in a minute), it might end up being a better possibility than you first thought.

- Get information. See as many colleges as you can in person. Though a cafeteria might look really fun and full of life in an online virtual tour, you'll never get its real vibe until you have lunch there. While at the school, take advantage of it as much as you can. Take a tour of the campus, ask current students questions, and sit in on a class. Some schools even offer a chance to stay in the dorms with a current student — a great opportunity to experience dormitory life firsthand.

Of course, if it's completely unrealistic to head cross-country just to visit one campus, a virtual tour is better than nothing. Also, many university Web sites include student pages and blogs by current and former students which can provide insight into campus life. Read the college paper online to get in the loop on campus happenings and issues. On top of that, there are numerous books and magazines that describe campuses and schools. College fairs enable you to pick up information and chat with alumni. And local alumni branches can put you in touch

with previous students.

- Think about money. Figure out who will be paying for college. If you, the parent, will be paying for everything, establish how much you are willing to spend. If the student will be responsible for part of or all of his educational costs, he or she will need to figure out how to pay for it, such as taking out student loans, applying for financial aid or working a part-time job while going to school. Whoever is responsible, it's important to get an early start on researching financial aid since federal forms are usually due in January of a student's senior year in high school. In the end, be realistic about how much you want to spend on education. But if you love one school that is out of your price range, apply to it anyway. Check out [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafs.ed.gov) for information on federal loans and college Web sites for financial aid information on individual schools. You might be surprised by how much merit-based financial aid you may receive and end up paying less than you would if you attend a state school.

- Narrow down your options. Now that it's time to figure out where you'll actually apply, take a look back at your initial list and assess if your priorities are still the same. If they're not, juggle your list as well as the ranking of schools based on your criteria. Also, you might be able to eliminate some schools based on what you found out when you were gathering information. For example, if you want to go to a school with a football team and found out that George Washington University doesn't have one, it would be a waste of money and time to apply there.

Now is also the time to assess how your academic standing matches up with that of the university and how your financial situation factors in. Keeping all of these things in mind, you should now be able to select four to seven schools that you would like to apply to. According to CNN Money, it's a good idea to choose both an academic and financial "safety" school. That way, even before your acceptance letters and financial aid packages are sent out, you will not only have a school on your list that you will most likely get into, but it will be one that you can afford as well.

- Reevaluate acceptance schools. After the applications were sent in and you've received your acceptance letters, there's one more big step: Deciding on which school to attend. Reevaluate the schools you were accepted to based on your list of priorities and financial situation, considering how much financial aid you've received, student loans, and whether you'll have to work during school. If you can, revisit the colleges. It might sound silly, but it's different looking at a school once you've been accepted, and a second visit can answer any last-minute questions or concerns.

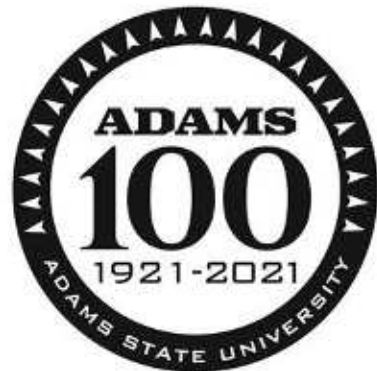
Whatever college you finally decide on, make sure that it is your decision and that you feel good about it. Don't go to a school just because a friend, boyfriend/girlfriend or even a parent wants you to go there. If you listen to your inner voice, you'll make the right decision for you.



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Consumer

How To CHOOSE A MEDICAL FACILITY

Award winning facility...

Another way to determine the best facilities is by the types of awards they earn.

The American medical industry is always looking for ways to improve health care, and one way they recognize excellent quality is by giving awards to professionals and facilities that deserve it.

If the facility has a good reputation in your community and recognition by national health organizations, that can be a good sign.

In May of 2020, Rio Grande Hospital (RGH) was recognized by The Chartis Center for Rural Health and the National Rural Health Association as one of the Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals in the nation, Colorado's only representative on this prestigious list.

In February of 2020, RGH also received a five-star ranking from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), one of only two Critical Access Hospitals in the state to receive this distinction and the only one in the San Luis Valley. The rankings are based on seven measures: safety of care, readmission rates, patient experiences, effectiveness of care, timeliness of care, and efficient use of medical imaging.

— *How can you tell which facilities are top-notch, though? Here are some things to look for.*

Picking the right medical clinic can yield far-reaching benefits for your mind and body, so shop carefully to find one that can deliver the health services you need in a professional and friendly way. Medical clinics are often busy places with lots of patients who need care. The best clinics, however, don't make you feel rushed and take the time to make sure your needs are fully being met.

Here are some things to consider when choosing a health clinic.

Credentials

Like with many services in the health-care field, you want to make sure the doctors, providers, and nurses at the clinic hold the right credentials to practice in your state.

Check with your state's medical board to make sure your clinicians records are listed there. Most medical boards have a way of searching online to see which degrees and board certifications medical professionals hold, making it easy for patients to verify their background and specialties.

The medical staff's experience and reputation in your community matter, too. The best clinicians have a long track record of happy patients and good medical outcomes, so ask your friends, family, and coworkers about which clinician or clinics they recommend. Chances are, it's one of RGH's award winning clinics.

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The Compliance Team, a nationally recognized accreditation organization authorized by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to confer comprehensive accreditation to Medicare-approved health care providers, also named RGH's Monte Vista Medical Clinic an

Exemplary Provider.

High Standards

While most medical clinics can provide the same basic services, the best ones have high expectations for how they run their operation and care for patients. In most cases, after your first visit you'll be able to tell how much pride the clinic takes in its services.

Is the office, including the waiting area, kept clean and organized?

Do the employees and medical staff have a professional appearance and demeanor?

Do they respect your time by keeping appointments on schedule and communicating clearly when there's a delay?

Do the employees seem to enjoy their work?

Well-run clinics value the personal lives of the people who work there, something that can lead to a better overall experience for patients. When you see a clinic that sets high standards for taking care of their staff, they'll be likely to have high standards for how they treat you, too.

Community Wellness

Finally, a good medical clinic will have a bigger goal in mind: making the whole community a happier, healthier place to live.

RGH sponsors community health fairs, Lunch & Learn forums, health and wellness events, Women's Health forums and has hosted experts in different fields for community events and medical trainings. They also strive to meet the needs of their patients, including implementing a delivery process for prescriptions for patients who live far from the nearest pharmacy.

RGH had world-renowned plastic microvascular surgeon, Dr. Pulikkottil, of the Burn and Reconstructive Centers of Colorado at Swedish Medical Center talk to their clinical staff about different scenarios and examples of some of his many success stories, including the recent viral story of a man being mauled by a grizzly bear who credits Dr. Pulikkottil and staff for helping to reconstruct his face and reattach his nose. Dr. Pulikkottil has been asked to fly to other areas to help with such surgeries. His insight and education will help the clinical staff at RGH take measures to help save extremities.

Additionally, RGH partnered with a leading national provider of hospital wound care and

There's nothing more important than your health and the health of your loved ones. So when choosing a medical care facility you should accept nothing but the highest standards.

hyperbaric oxygen therapy programs, Wound Care Advantage (WCA). WCA helps educate and train many of the best Wound Care programs in the US. They help with a variety of wound care and continuum of care with systems in place to monitor each case precisely. WCA helped RGH help patients heal below the national average time. RGH has been saving limbs in its Wound Care Department for over a year now and has exceeded 1100 wound visits.

Furthermore, in order to meet the needs of the community and to address limited pharmacy access in the area, the Monte Vista Medical Clinic Pharmacy, which also features a drive-thru is now open Monday thru Friday 9am to 6pm and Saturday from 9am to 2pm. For the convenience of the community, people can also pick up most prescriptions at one of our clinics in Creede, Del Norte, South Fork.

RGH's Development & Communications Officer Eva Timberlake said, "Investing in these types of relationships is an investment to our community. We enjoy offering educational services to our staff and the community. It will only make us and our community stronger. Many of these external groups have come back with their families to enjoy our beautiful area. Once they come to our Valley, they fall in love." Interactions like this help the economic development of the San Luis Valley, just some of the many essential benefits and services Rio Grande Hospital brings to the community outside of medical care.

When you find a clinic filled with caring, highly competent, and community-minded medical professionals, you'll know you've picked a good one.



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Consumer

How To CHOOSE AN AUTO BODY SHOP

— *Here are some questions to help you choose an auto body shop.*

Top five things you should know...

- Look for an auto body shop with a good “track record.”
 - Look for an auto body shop that is licensed by the national Institute of Automotive Service Excellence.
 - Ask to inspect the repair shop.
 - Ask the management about the repair equipment they have to repair your vehicle.
 - Customer service is as important as the quality of service.
- some suggestions that are helpful in choosing an auto body shop to repair your vehicle.

Our cars, trucks, SUVs and mini-vans get us to work on time, back and forth to school and transport our families to and from their destinations. So it is a necessity to have a trustworthy mode of transportation.

But at some point you are likely to find yourself in an accident.

It is vital to choose an auto body shop that you can depend on. The shop you choose should be able to complete all manner of work, from a minor touch-up to a full-body repair.

Even the smallest accident can throw your entire car, and schedule, into disarray. You’ll need an auto body shop that you can consult when you have an accident to ensure your car is repaired quickly, affordably and correctly the first time.

Talk to your friends and family that live near you and ask which auto body shops they prefer. Once you have a list of names, consult the Internet for more information and customer reviews.

Internet testimonials, both positive and negative, should be taken with a grain of salt. No business has a 100 percent satisfaction rate, no matter what they say. Someone will always be displeased. Also, keep in mind that people are more apt to leave a negative review than a positive one.

If you can’t get any good recommendations from friends or family, consult the Yellow Pages or perform an Internet search.

After you have created a short list of auto body shops, make some phone calls. Describe to the person who

Oh no! That fender-bender could not have happened at a worse time. Now you need your vehicle repaired. What should you look for in a quality auto body shop? Do they offer a strong guarantee on their work? Does your insurance company recognize them as an approved collision repair center? How long have they been in business?

answers the phone your exact problem and pay attention to the type of response you get.

If the person seems both knowledgeable and helpful, keep that shop on your short list. If the person seems rushed or uninterested, it can mean that the shop is too busy right now or just simply has poor customer service. In either case, you can eliminate that shop from your list.

Once you have chosen a shop, check for plainly displayed prices, certifications and guarantees. Be aware that you most often get what you pay for when it comes to auto body work.

Low prices may be tempting, but they may also mean sub-par work, used parts and paint that is not applied properly.

Ask the shop manager or owner for references before you have them work

on your car. They should be more than happy to provide names of customers with whom you can speak.

Also be sure to look at their work. If you notice a car with paint drips, panels that don’t line up or paints that don’t match, look elsewhere. You will not be saving money in the long run if you have to have the work redone.

Make sure that the shop is able to inspect your vehicle for repairs that are not visible. Choosing a shop that can complete the entire job will save you from having to take your car to several places for a complete repair.

Picking a great auto body shop is the first step in getting your car back on the road. Once you have made your selection, you should be comfortable with every aspect of the shop: customer service, price and quality of work.



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Consumer

How To CHOOSE IN-HOME CARE

In-home care options have become a popular option for people requiring ongoing medical care in recent years. Allowing family members who need medical care and assistance navigating their daily lives the ability to remain in familiar surroundings works wonders for quality of life.

Depending on the severity of their conditions, seniors and others with incapacitating ailments can live at home with assistance. This kind of care is often the perfect compromise.

Professionals visit the home of the patient to provide services. Not only is it convenient and comfortable, it is typically less expensive than the care offered at a full-time facility.

Many in-home care companies also offer services ranging from housekeeping and errand running to food prep.

After speaking to several in-home care providers, you can compare the range of services they offer. Typically, they will fall into three categories:

Medical Care vs. Non-Medical care

Providers vary greatly in terms of the types of the care they provide. Some may specialize in medical (or skilled) care, where others may offer up 24-hour care and oversight, with tasks such as meal preparation, personal hygiene care, errands, and reminding patients to take medication.

Always inquire about the qualifications of any in-home care providers you are considering. All workers should have the proper training, degrees and certifications, and the agency should be insured and bonded.

If you are unclear about the exact level of care your loved one will require, speak to your doctor. You can also call the home care agency to get more information about the level of care they can provide.

Personal Care

Caregivers can help with daily grooming, mobility and any special diet requirements. They can help prepare meals or run simple errands.

Companionship

Homebound people often need companionship. An in-home care professional will provide a friendly face and good conversation as well as general care. It might be a matter of reading aloud to your loved one, discussing the daily news or playing a game of cards. Quality in-home care providers understand that patients also need mental stimulation and human contact in order to stay well.

Before entering a contract, understand the services that will be provided. You want to make sure you are getting what you need without paying for services that are not required. If personal care is all that is needed, you should not have to pay for medical care as well.

Everyone, including you, should be comfortable with the people who work for the company. In-home caregivers will quickly become part of your life, especially as they enter and exit the house.

Visiting Angels of SW Colorado has received the distinguished 2020 Best of Home Care –Leader in Excellence Award from Home Care Pulse, the leading firm in qual-

ity assurance for home care. The Leader in Excellence Award is the highest recognition awarded by Home Care Pulse and is given to select home care businesses that consistently rank among the very highest in 10 or more quality metrics. As a Leader in Excellence, Visiting Angels is now ranked among the top 15 percent of home care providers participating in the nationwide Home Care Pulse Satisfaction Management Program.

This accomplishment demonstrates Visiting Angel's long-term dedication to excellent care and quality improvement. To qualify for this award, 10% of Visiting Angel's clients and caregivers were interviewed each month by Home Care Pulse. Over a 12-month period, Visiting Angel's received high client and caregiver satisfaction ratings in areas such as caregiver training, compassion of caregivers, communication, scheduling, client/caregiver compatibility, etc. Using feedback from clients and employees, as well as quality benchmarks from Home Care Pulse, the Visiting Angel's management team set goals to reach the highest level of excellence possible.

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