

Shorts



Search underway for missing kayaker

BY TERESA L. BENNS
SAGUACHE COUNTY — Search efforts continue for a kayaker who went missing Sunday, Sheriff Dan Warwick said, with helicopters and other equipment being flown in from surrounding areas to complete the mission.

A Pueblo man, in his forties went out with two other men each in their own kayak and the kayak carrying the Pueblo man overturned. The other two men went back and notified authorities.

The search is centered in Needle Creek Reservoir between Doylesville and Sargents. K-9 units and divers searched the area but turned up no sign of the man.

Warwick said the goal is now concentrated on retrieval but so far no body has been located.

HRRMC Foundation offers EMS/RN \$5,000 scholarship

SALIDA - The Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center (HRRMC) Foundation is offering two scholarships of \$5,000 each for any certified EMT or paramedic who lives or has lived within the Salida Hospital District, which encompasses all of Chaffee, western Fremont and northern Saguache counties. Applicants must be attending college in the fall of 2020 pursuing an associate degree in nursing.

The application deadline is July 10, 2020. To download the guidelines and one-page application, go to hrrmc.com, click on the HRRMC Foundation tab and then click on the EMS/RN Scholarship tab. A link to the guidelines and application is also available on the HRRMC Facebook page. Applications should be sent to HRRMC Foundation Scholarship Selection Committee, P.O. Box 429, Salida, CO 81201.

Call the HRRMC Foundation at 719-530-2218 for more information or to request a paper application.

November 2019 jail suicide questioned

BY TERESA L. BENNS
SAGUACHE - A suicide that occurred in the Saguache County Jail in November is being questioned in the wake of a nationwide outcry regarding law enforcement practices involving the use of force, especially where people of color are concerned.

A Crestone resident wrote to inquire why the death of Travis Maes, 27, a young black man, was never reported or investigated and how this "vulnerable young man" could possibly manage to commit suicide in such a small jail.

Therese Peloquin says she believes the community deserves answers regarding Maes' death and how local law enforcement handled the incident.

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

The family is now in the process of obtaining a settlement from the

county, Warwick confirmed, but the settlement has not yet been finalized. Warwick related the background on Maes' case as follows.

The Sheriff's Office received a report that a man was being disruptive at a local restaurant. When they arrived, they found Maes was drunk and described him as "uncooperative, but not adversarial." Because Maes had an outstanding traffic warrant he was taken back to the jail and placed in an isolation cell to sober up. Before being confined to the cell

Please see SUICIDE on Page 2A



Travis Maes

Law enforcement officials weigh in on Law Enforcement Integrity and Accountability Act

BY TERESA BENNS

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The new Colorado bill (SB20-217) passed last month to prevent tragedies like George Floyd's death from occurring at the hands of police officials is being criticized by law enforcement officials statewide as impractical and hastily conceived and approved.

Passage of the bill raises concerns that law enforcement officials in rural counties, already underpaid and overworked, will simply resign and look for work in other fields rather than run the risk of being accuse of a wrongful death shooting or injury during an arrest.

The Colorado Law Enforcement Integrity and Accountability Act (SB20-217) places the burden of civil lawsuit settlements on law enforcement officers if they allegedly violate any part of this new law. The bill states: "[The] peace officer is personally liable for 5 percent of the judgment or \$25,000, whichever is less, unless the judgment is uncollectible from the officer, then the officer's employer satisfies the whole judgment."

Please see LAW on Page 6A



Dan Warwick



Gene Meeks



George Dingfelder



Jim McCloskey

Man arrested in Moffat post office incident

BY TERESA L. BENNS

MOFFAT — The Moffat post office was under lockdown June 24 following an incident with a customer who came in to file an application for a post office box and threatened postal workers when they had trouble verifying his physical address.

According to an incident report from the Saguache Sheriff's Office, Travis Tomlinson, 27, of Moffat became angry when postal workers said they would call the Sheriff's Office. He responded by telling them that before law enforcement arrived "something was going to happen." Tomlinson then became aggressive and struck the plexiglass window, causing minor injuries to a postal employee.

Undersheriff Jim McCloskey responded to the call and was later able to locate Tomlinson at the address given for the application

Please see ARREST on Page 2A

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

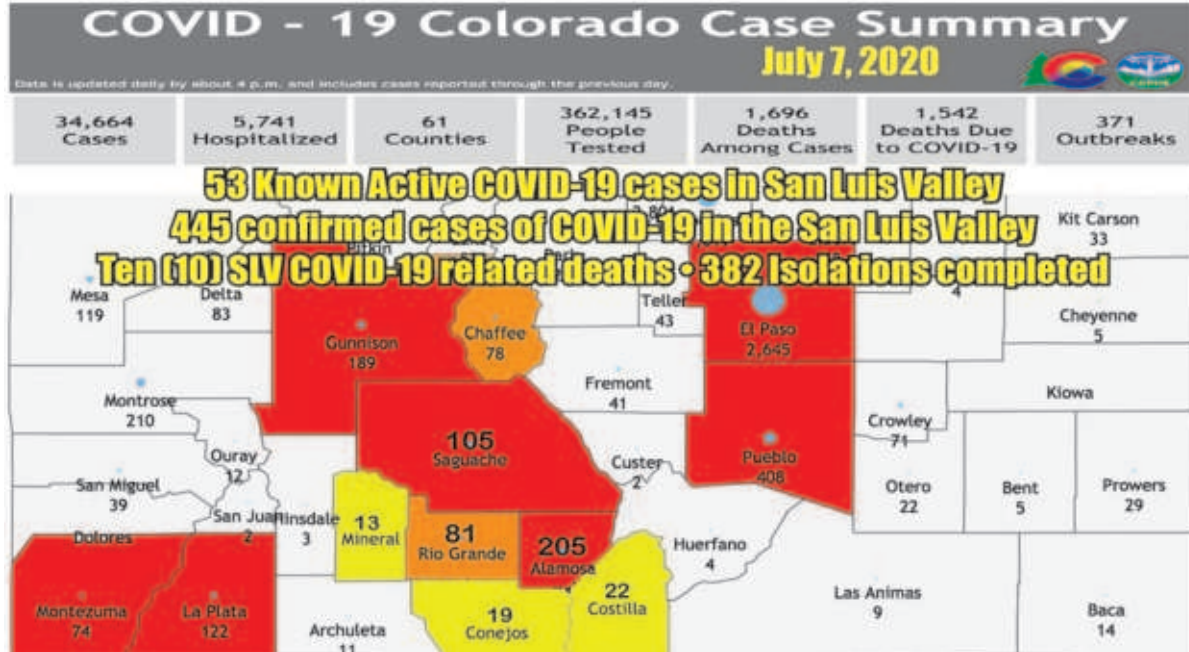
Alamosa County reports two additional deaths

BY TREY SPAULDING

SAN LUIS VALLEY — As of Tuesday, July 7, the San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership announced the total number of cumulative SLV cases is now 445. This is an increase of 65 new cases in the Valley over the past two weeks.

Many are suggesting that the increase is due to the influx of out-of-state visitors to the Valley who are testing positive. However, this is not the case. If someone is from out-of-state, and they test positive at a local

Please see UPDATE on Page 2A



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CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Elizabeth June (Judy) Day, 7-11-1951 to 9-6-2018

Elizabeth June (Judy) Day - We are having a celebration of life service for Elizabeth June Day on July 11, 2020 at 5 p.m. at Del Norte Cemetery. We would like to encourage all family and friends to come and join us in celebrating her wonderful life she had lived.

Norte Cemetery. We would like to encourage all family and friends to come and join us in celebrating her wonderful life she had lived.

SUICIDE

Continued from Page 1A

he was given a snack, Warwick said. Shortly afterwards the lights were shut off for the night.

Surveillance cameras in the cells are not able to see all areas when lights are out, even with nightlights on, Warwick continued. The night officer in charge of the jail said he checked the cameras but could see nothing. Maes was found hung by strips of bedsheet the next morning. Emergency medical personnel were called but could not revive him.

Peloquin says restaurant personnel told her that Maes was telling the deputies who arrested him he wanted to kill himself. She asked why no one was called to assist him after making these statements. Warwick explained that even if contacted, mental health personnel will not come to the jail to speak with those under the influence of drugs or alcohol; they must sober up first.

When Peloquin contacted Captain Ken Wilson to inquire about the incident, she described the conversation she had as dismissive and felt he was not as responsive to Maes death as the situation warranted. Both Wilson and Warwick cite understaffing and the lack of an

adequate jail facility as contributing factors in the incident.

The Saguache County Jail at one time was condemned by state health officials and the Sheriff's Office has been lobbying Saguache County commissioners for pay raises, funding for new hires and a new jail complex for several years. Warwick says the pay they can offer entry-level officers simply is not enough to attract anyone to work in the county. The Sheriff's Office continues to search for both post-certified and civilian employees to work in the jail, or even on the streets, Warwick noted.

Warwick confirmed Peloquin's claim that the report on the suicide was "inaccurate," although it was later corrected. The person responsible for the report no longer is employed by the Sheriff's Office, he said.

It is tragic that Maes ended his life, Warwick commented, because he could have made his \$250 bail easily the next morning and been released on a personal recognizance bond. He expressed frustration over the fact that the hands of law enforcement are so often tied by circumstances, also lack of funding and personnel to deal successfully with these situations.

UPDATE

Continued from Page 1A

hospital, their positive test result is reflected in their county of residency and not in the San Luis Valley county where they were tested. This policy was put in place by all 50 states in order to avoid duplication of case counts.

Colorado's positive tests began to increase last week due to what health officials stated was caused by more public interaction. Positive COVID-19 tests percentages had dropped to 3.6 percent but increased to 5 percent, resulting in Governor Polis closing bars and nightclubs before the busy Fourth of July weekend. Polis' action was due in part to his observations of what was occurring in states like Texas and Arizona which opened up too quickly and now have rampant outbreaks of

COVID-19. According to data from the COVID-19 Tracking Project, in Arizona 25.6 percent of COVID-19 tests are coming back positive. In Texas 13 percent of tests are positive and Utah is at 9 percent.

As of July 7, the seven day average for positive tests in Colorado is 4.9 percent. Within the San Luis Valley we have much higher percentages than the state average. Of the 391 tests conducted in Saguache County 26.6 percent came back positive. Of the 151 tests in Costilla County 14.5 percent were positive. In Alamosa County 1,900 tests have been conducted with 10.7 percent being positive. For Rio Grande County 1,272 tests have been made with 6.4 percent coming back positive. Mineral County has seen

an increase in positive cases the past two weeks with among 149 tests conducted 9.4 percent were positive. In Conejos County there have been 225 tests given with 8.4 percent being positive.

As of July 7, there have been 445 total cumulative cases in the San Luis Valley with 53 known active cases. Thirty-one total people have been hospitalized, and 382 have completed their isolation period. Two more COVID-19 related fatalities were reported in Alamosa County Tuesday, July 7, bringing the SLV death total to 10. Alamosa County has the most reported cases with 205, followed by Saguache with 105, Rio Grande County at 81, Costilla County 22, Conejos County 19 and Mineral County with 13.

ARREST

Continued from Page 1A

for the post office box. McCloskey read Tomlinson his Miranda rights and asked Tomlinson if he was at the Moffat post office, which he confirmed. He told McCloskey he apologized for his behavior there and so there was nothing to talk about.

He then asked to speak to a different deputy. McCloskey said he then

proceeded to advise Tomlinson he was under arrest for assault at the post office and had to repeat himself several times. Tomlinson wanted to argue, the report stated, and denied he was under arrest. McCloskey advised him to open the gate and warned him if he ran, he would be facing additional charges.

Tomlinson finally cooperated and was taken into custody for third-degree assault, menacing and criminal mischief. While in jail he also was charged with domestic violence-related incidents from an unrelated complaint.

No bail was set. Tomlinson is currently on probation.

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Nurses change roles to fulfill staffing SLVH needs

SANLUISVALLEY - Some health care organizations have the luxury of allowing nurses to move from other cities during staff shortages, such as at Banner Health between Greeley and Phoenix. But in Alamosa at San Luis Valley Health (SLVH), there isn't that type of luxury in this rural hospital setting that serves a large geographic area in southern Colorado. During the summer months, it has been estimated that the regional population can increase to around 50,000 citizens and visitors. "We are the only hospital within 90 miles that delivers

babies," commented Roberta Bean, SLVH Chief Nursing Officer. "The Regional Medical Center in Alamosa is a Trauma Level III Emergency Department. In anticipation of the need to isolate and treat patients during this pandemic, we converted some of our inpatient hospital rooms to be negative pressure rooms." SLVH also includes Conejos County Hospital, 20 miles to the south, which is a critical access hospital where having more than six inpatients at once might cause a strain on staffing. During planning for a possible surge,

it was determined to use the CCH facility for hospitalized non-COVID-positive patients as much as possible. While the remodeling at the RMC created more physical beds and an ability to handle up to 12 COVID-19 positive hospitalized patients, a nurse shortage developed, especially in June when the number increased to an average of six positive hospitalized patients per day and several employees needed to quarantine due to community spread of the disease. Bean explained, "Our patient volume in our primary care

and specialty clinics were not yet back to 100 percent, so we looked at the situation as an opportunity. With the help of our nurse educators, we decided to cross-train our clinical nurses and refresh their skills to help fill shifts on the floor and in the ED." Several of the nurses have been in the clinical setting for a long time. Angel Gylling, RN, Specialty Clinic Nurse Manager, explains, "I have only been in the clinic setting for about six months, so going back and helping was second nature to me. Who really deserves the credit was the nursing staff who have been in the clinic for most to all of their careers who sprang into action and lent a helping hand. Also, the Medical Assistants and staff in the clinic had to step up as they

continued to provide outstanding clinical care throughout our valley during this challenging time." Another nurse who has been in an educational leadership role commented, "Just those few shifts really helped me refocus my energy and remember why my current role is important. It made me feel like a nurse again." Many areas of nursing are very specialized and it can be uncomfortable for a nurse to go to an area where they are unfamiliar, but with our COVID-19 situation, we saw all staff going the extra mile to help each other and make it a positive experience. I am proud of both teams and how they have handled the needs of our community."



Courtesy photo Nurse Educators Dawn Weed and Brittany Sours conduct skills classes for nurses at SLVH. Dawn Weed, BSN, RN-BC, Professional Development Specialist at SLVH, and her team were instrumental in instilling confidence and providing support for the nurses who were willing to change roles. "As part of our facility COVID-19 surge planning, the Education Team developed a plan to assist in refreshing clinic LPN and RN skills. Clinic nurses oriented with hospital nurses during which they reviewed assessment techniques, frequently used medications, procedures and treatments. A team model approach was used and the response from both the hospital and clinic nurses was phenomenal and we heard positive comments from each on a daily basis.

CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

Colorado's record-breaking State Primary proves vote-by-mail model is successful Turnout shows Americans can have accessible elections even in a pandemic

BY SAGUACHE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER TRISH GILBERT

COLORADO - With ballots still being processed, it's already evident that Colorado's State Primary has been an overwhelming success. With a record-breaking 1,577,347 ballots returned to county election officials as of 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, the 2020 state primary turnout is easily the largest of any state primary in Colorado's history. Of all voted ballots, 99.3 percent were returned via mail or ballot drop box, illustrating the importance and benefits, of conducting vote-by-mail elections during COVID-19. Turnout rate is already at 44.96 percent of active voters and will increase as more ballots are processed, as opposed to 37.63 percent for the State Primary held in 2018.

"In midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Colorado just set a record turnout for a state primary. A total of 99.3 percent of voters cast a mail ballot, and there weren't lengthy lines or wait times reported at in-person voting centers," said

Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold. "Despite misleading attacks, disinformation and attempts to make vote-by-mail a partisan issue, Colorado's election proves that mail ballots are the key to accessible voting during this health crisis."

Colorado's primary also shows both Democrats and Republicans enthusiastically embrace vote-by-mail, with 918,374 ballots returned for the Democratic Primary and 565,805 returned for the Republican Primary. Within each party's primary, 99.4 percent of voters who participated in the Republican Primary returned their ballot by mail while 99.2 percent of voters who participated in the Democratic Primary did the same.

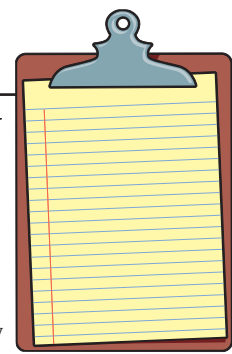
Turnout has far surpassed that of the 2018 state primary, in which 1,171,088 ballots were counted. In March's Presidential Primary, which was the first Presidential Primary in 20 years and the first ever in which unaffiliated voters could receive a mail ballot, a total of 1,806,288 ballots were counted. Like in the 2020 State Primary, most voters in those primaries preferred to vote by mail, with mail ballots

respectively accounting for 98.8 percent and 97.5 percent of ballots returned.

While Colorado has had a mail ballot model since 2013, the importance of voting by mail increased exponentially over the last three months. Voting by mail is the safest way to conduct an election during the COVID-19 health crisis because it encourages social distancing.

Colorado's elections are the country's gold standard, and Colorado will continue to work with other states to help expand mail ballots nationally. Mail ballots are the best way to vote during this pandemic.

Colorado's 2020 State Primary record turnout will continue to increase as ballots are processed over the next eight days. Military and overseas ballots cast by 7 p.m. on Election Day will be counted up to July 8 when preliminary results will be finalized and the state's Risk Limiting Audit will be conducted July 10. All results will be official three weeks after the election.





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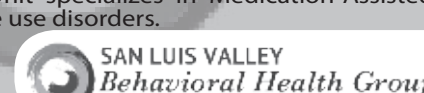
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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Summer will never end

Here we are staring the middle of July square in the face but for Miss Trixie and me things seem to be moving slowly.

With only each other for company, our days have digressed to doing house projects and meal planning. The other day we took a long walk out of sheer boredom and then a drive up to Creede just for something to do and that prompted a conversation about the difference between this summer and summers past.

The crazy COVID-19 of 2020 has certainly put the hiatus on our normal plans and even though we seemed too busy last year, we do miss the buzz.

No longer do we play cards four nights a week, enjoy countless potluck dinners, lead the singing at church, put on our Pickin and Grinnin Jamboree, play Bingo or enjoy any other form of social gathering because of the big C.

Now Ol Dutch did get a tad tired of the busy social life of Miss Trixie and I even went so far as to order a revolving door for the RV so she could meet herself coming and going.

But I guess when you are in demand for your skills and services that's how it is. Now, though, we have been miraculously relieved of all such going ons and it's a tad boring. I got to thinking about when I first met Trixie and how her mother made me have her in by 9 p.m.. For a man of 58 years old that seemed a little early for me but then again, I had never dated a woman like Trixie. And for sure, never dated one with a mother like hers.

Oh how we used to long to stay out late and enjoy the nightlife around the area but we knew that her mother would find us one way or another and lay down the law.

Although Trixie's Mom passed away six years ago, I sure wish if she was still around she would make short work of all the riots around the nations with one of her curfews and her implacable beliefs that people need to be home, asleep, so they can go to work in the morning.

As for Miss Trixie and me, here we are, comfortable in the safety of our relationship and able to stay out as long as we want to now. Which means that Trixie goes to bed about 9 p.m. and Ol' Dutch stays up watching the 6,789 channels on the Firestick.

Just last night Ol' Dutch finally talked the SandMan into cooperating and I hit the hay about 1 a.m.. I was in that wonderful moment right before sleep comes when everything seems right, when all of a sudden



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

I had an itch. Now mind you that may not seem like a big deal to most of you but this one was in a hard to reach spot and so I laid there trying to will it to go away.

Of course it didn't and got worse. I held as still as possible thinking that sleep would soon come and the itch would be gone. That didn't happen. And, of course Miss Trixie was of no use to scratch that itch because she had been sawing logs for hours and was dead to the world.

So finally I succumbed to the urge and did the most obvious thing: I Googled why does my back itch when I get in bed.

This led me to all kinds of terrible possible scenarios. Was it a bug like a black widow spider just waiting to inject me with poison? Or a tick with the dreaded Lyme disease creeping up my back? But just when I was about to freak out, a pop up advertisement took me away to the phrase "scratching an itch" and that led me to researching about taking a vacation when you get the urge. Another kind of itch but you get the idea.

What followed was about 20 minutes of browsing online and a short game of Solitaire which was about 19 minutes and 50 seconds longer than if I had just scratched in the first place. Which, eventually, I had to address by moving and scratching said itch.

Ol' Dutch can see one thing for sure. Even with fishing and hiking to take up the slack from missed social fun times, it's gonna be a long wait for September and elk season. But I did get a tag for antelope for Aug. 15 and maybe I can scratch that itch just a little bit then.

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



LETTER

Valley-Wide Health Systems statement on equity and justice

ALAMOSA – In 1976 a citizen's group in the San Luis Valley launched Valley-Wide Health Services when it was determined that the emergency room was the only primary care option to families who lacked health insurance. These social justice activists became the first Valley-Wide Board of Directors and mobilized a primary health care system providing comprehensive health care to all people, especially the medically underserved, including migrants and their families. The Chicano Movement, El Movimiento, the following Farmworker Movement led by Cesar Chavez, and the Black Power

Movement laid the foundation for what is now Valley-Wide's mission. These events are all intrinsically linked to promote community empowerment and cultural identity.

The death of George Floyd has put the journey of embracing diversity, equity and inclusion in front of all of us. Valley-Wide is committed to standing with those who have been pushed down, pushed aside or overrun. We believe systemic racism has impacted the health and well-being of communities of color in our country. We honor those who have been treated as "less than" by providing care to all who come through our doors without

question or judgment. Allowing those who have been historically oppressed and discriminated against to have a voice and a place for care is central to Valley-Wide Health Systems.

Please join us in providing space for the difficult conversations and actions that must occur in order to change our current standards of injustice and inequity at all levels of our nation. We cannot support systems that, either through ignorance or intentionality, perpetuate intolerance, injustice and disparity. Valley-Wide Health Systems will be a part of the solution.

Valley-Wide Board of Directors and Leadership Team

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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U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) has begun

BY DAN NORDBERG, SBA'S NATIONAL RURAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR AND REGION 8 ADMINISTRATOR

NORTH AMERICA - July 1, 2020, the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) takes effect, replacing the outdated North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The new, modernized deal rebalances trading partnerships with Canada and Mexico, the United States' closest export partners.

"The USMCA breaks new ground for small businesses in rural America," said Dan Nordberg, the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA's) Rural Affairs Director and Region 8 Administrator. "This agreement means stronger economic growth, more jobs for workers, and fairer trade for our country. Throughout this process, the administration has delivered for American manufacturers, farmers, businesses

and workers – truly putting America first. The USMCA will drive job creation in rural markets and includes the strongest, most advanced, and most comprehensive set of labor provisions of any U.S. trade agreement, building the framework for entrepreneurs to fulfill their American Dream."

The Small Business Administration played a key role throughout USMCA negotiations, ensuring robust representation for U.S. small business interests. The finalized agreement provides commitments important to small businesses including:

Enhanced digital trade and e-commerce

Increased customs transactions and clearance

Expansion of United States food and agriculture exports and support for food processing jobs

Increases to ag market access in Mexico and Canada

Incentivized investments for manufacturing

Information sharing access for small and medium-sized enterprises

As part of the USMCA, the SBA Office of International Trade launched a new international sales information resource, sba.gov/tradetools, to assist small businesses who want to learn more about the agreement. Small firms can also access export finance programs, free counseling and low-cost training by sba.gov/local-assistance or by



contacting SBA's International Trade Ombudsman hotline toll-free by calling (855) 722-4877.

(Dan Nordberg serves as SBA's National Director for Rural Affairs

and Region 8 Administrator based in Denver. He oversees the agency's programs and services in Colorado, Montana, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming)

YOUR NIGHT SKY

Planet Mars

BY DARLENE DANKO

Mars is known as the Red Planet because of its red color. It's the 4th planet from the Sun, and the outermost of the rocky planets. Mars orbits the Sun at an average distance of 141.6 million miles from the Sun. It's roughly half the size of Earth, and is a dry barren planet.

The surface has huge extinct volcanoes, large canyons and rock strewn plains. There are vast dust storms that whip around the planet. Amazingly snow has been seen by spacecraft that orbit around it. Like Earth it has seasons and polar ice caps. There is a theory that Mars was once very Earth like, and had rivers running on its surface.

It orbits the Sun once every 687 Earth days. So a year there is almost twice as long as our years. Since its orbit is elliptical, it receives much more solar radiation at its nearest point to the Sun than at its farthest. So its surface temperatures range from 68 degrees F to -193 degrees F. It's tilted over more than Earth is, but its rotation is close to ours at 24.6 hours.

Mars structure is similar to Earth with a distinct crust, mantle and core. There is a thin atmosphere dominated by carbon dioxide, and there's also a small amount of nitrogen and argon, with a slight amount of oxygen and methane. The surface has volcanoes, craters and chasms. Its Northern Hemisphere consists of relatively smooth plains, and its Southern Hemisphere is a cratered highland.

The most striking feature is the Valles Marineres which is a canyon system more than 2,500 miles long. Its most famous system is Olympus Mons which is the largest volcano in our solar system at 388 miles in diameter and 16 miles high.

Every two years and two months it comes into opposition, which makes it closer to Earth and largest and brightest. It appears with unaided vision as a brilliant red orange point of light. Its moons are hard to find since they're close to Mars which outshines them.

Mars is named for the Roman god of War. Life may have existed there in the past, and small life may still be there. Since 1960 37 probes

have been launched from various countries, and more than 2/3 of them have failed. But there have been some good ones. Our country has succeeded with the rovers Spirit and Opportunity. Eventually people will fly to Mars.

Just so you know, it's increasing in brightness this month and in the next three months. It'll get brighter and larger as it gets closer to us and the Sun. The max time will be in October when it reaches opposition. Currently it's 30 degrees high, and by the end of the month it will be 45 degrees high. So go out and view it. This month it's visible midnight to dawn in the SE sky.



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LAW

Continued from Page 1A

While raising the use of force threshold in certain cases, it also removes qualified immunity should the officer commit a crime, as deemed by this new law, in the course of his or her duty as a peace officer.

The following is a compilation of comments by local police chiefs and sheriffs explaining the difficulties they face in implementing the law and the financial burden that the law will impose.

Monte Vista Police Department

Monte Vista Police Chief George Dingfelder, formerly a captain with the Colorado State Patrol, wrote the following in an email last week: "MVPD has had no resignations nor has anyone discussed with me their intent to resign because of SB217. As would be expected, all law enforcement officers I've talked with agree with many of the aspects of SB217 and it really does not change the way we do business as we already had these practices and policies in place."

"For example, the MVPD has been using body cameras for several years and just recently in April went to a new body camera as the previous version was outdated. Our policy had already discussed that deadly force should not be used for non-violent fleeing felons; for example, someone committing a property crime even though it may rise to a felon level. As for the qualified immunity, again, I don't think anyone is opposed to holding officers who "intentionally" commit an illegal act accountable. Officers who are intentionally violating rights or have a history of negligent actions need to be held accountable."

"The one aspect of SB217 that does create a significant burden is the collection of data for the state. Many small agencies are going to have to hand collect the data as they don't have large databases to collect and analyze the data, nor do we have the personnel to input the data into the database. The burden will be on the officer to collect and enter the data, which will take significant time away from actual law enforcement duties."

"In typical state government fashion, they have created an unfunded mandate but are quick to find money so the state is in compliance with their own law. SB217 immediately appropriated \$617,478 for the department of public safety to implement the law, to include 1.5 FTE (Page 23, Section 17). Yet all of us small agencies are left to figure out how to implement it and the burden will be on our local taxpayers for any additional funding to purchase software or hire another person just to enter and analyze the data."

Center Police Chief

"Senate Bill 20-217 is a bill meant to enhance law enforcement integrity," Center Police Chief Dale E. Meek wrote in an email last week. "Police reform is always welcome as it can lead to positive social change and SB 217 has some good core concepts. However, this measure was drafted and pushed through into the law process without fully discussing the ramifications on the concepts of modern policing and the right to privacy by the public.

Simply put, in an effort to be the model of progressive change, this bill was passed without proper

thought and foresight. It was a measure to appease a group of protestors without fully discussing the matter with all community stakeholders. SB 217 will cause significant issues that will need to be addressed with further legislation and court case law.

"Additionally, a majority of agencies in Colorado are small, rural departments with little room for error in budgets. This bill places a significant cost on each agency and its populace, such as the need to purchase body worn cameras and have additional manpower to maintain the records that are now required. SB 217 does not provide any relief to counter the impending costs."

Rio Grande Sheriff

"I really hope people are paying attention and that our leaders are listening to us when we talk about this bill. It is an unfunded state mandate that, as far as we can tell from preliminary research, could cost departments as small as ours upward of \$250,000 over a five-year period," RG sheriff Don McDonald told Rio Grande County

commissioners at their Wednesday, June 24, meeting. "We [will] purchase the required equipment, complete training and figure out how data will be stored. All this tied together with the privacy violations and other repercussions that could come from the release of footage to the public is a shadow of what kind of trouble we have coming."

McDonald also stated that his department was looking into grant funding to help with the purchase of video equipment and training expenses but that the larger departments in bigger municipalities would be the ones that would more than likely receive grant funding over the smaller departments because they do not qualify. "The problem we are running into with the grant funding is that we are being told our smaller departments do not qualify and that larger precincts will be getting the funding."

McDonald continued to explain that the equipment needed to be in place by the beginning of the year 2023. He also went on to state that the department will need to look into purchasing new radios, a cost of about \$43,000.

Saguache County Sheriff and Undersheriff

"Some officers are thinking about quitting — one deputy already quit," Saguache County Undersheriff James McCloskey commented on the bill last week in an email. "Oh yeah, I am thinking about it myself. I won't give my retirement to the first person who gets their feelings hurt and files a lawsuit. I want to stay in law enforcement, but I won't be a target."

"All 13 lawmakers voted for this. They don't listen to citizens and it is special interest groups fueling much of this. They want to abolish county sheriffs because they are notorious for being very constitutional." McCloskey added that the county attorney paid for under contract by commissioners does not cover any legal actions that would be filed following the bill's passage. Money to hire an attorney must come out of the sheriff's budget, McCloskey said, and the state will not be paying for any of those things.

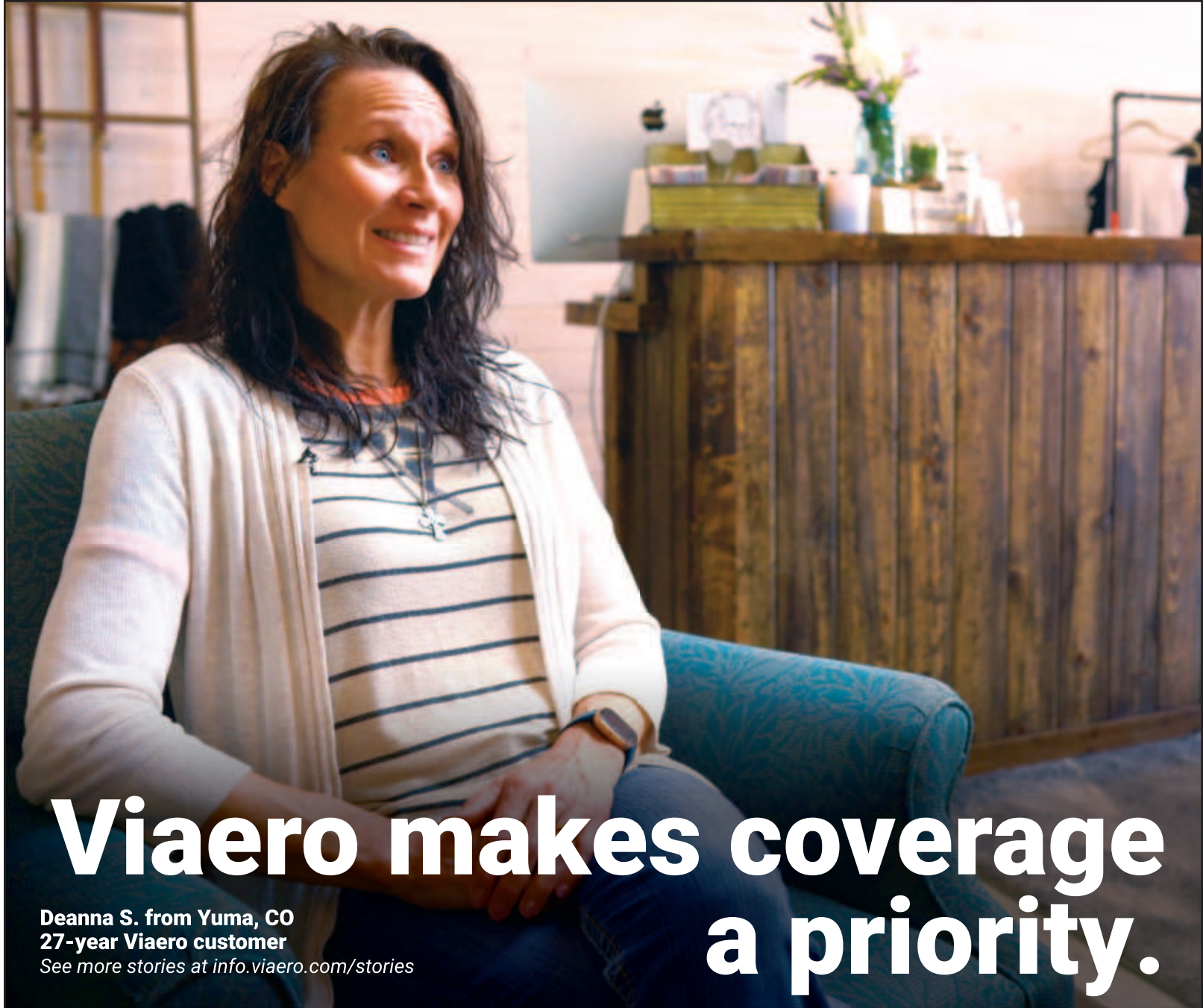
McCloskey also noted that Colorado State Patrol claims to be immune from the law and speculates

it is because the State Patrol guards the governor.

Sheriff Dan Warwick said Tuesday that it is already almost impossible to hire and keep deputies on the force and the bill will make hiring new recruits even more difficult. Warwick said he is still short four officers on patrols and at least that many on the jail side. "I'm as short now as I've ever been," he commented. "No one wants to come up here and to this work."

The biggest problem on requiring bodycams be used for every citizen contact is the cost to taxpayers, he noted. "Servers and tech people are expensive," he said. And then there is the privacy issue. "Bodycam footage shouldn't be released to the public — it's not proper in any way. When they first started releasing bodycam footage there was a big outcry about privacy; now nothing is private."

Warwick said he fears the new law will impede investigations and believes that everyone will jump at the chance to file excessive force claims, flooding the courts. "I see people getting out of this line of work," he concluded.



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Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust receives \$65,000 GOCO grant for land conservation project

MONTE VISTA - The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) board awarded a \$65,000 transaction costs grant to Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust (RiGHT) to conserve more than 1,000 acres of working lands near the town of Monte Vista.

The grant is part of GOCO's Conservation Easement Transaction Costs program, which aims to remove financial barriers to conservation and increase the amount of land conserved statewide, especially through projects that further landscape-scale conservation efforts and protect Colorado's waterways and water resources.

RiGHT, in partnership with Colorado Open Lands, will acquire conservation easements on more than 1,000 acres of exceptional wetland and foraging habitat. The conserved lands are part of a landscape-scale effort to protect local watershed health, migratory bird and big game habitat, and working agricultural lands. The project builds on a decade of conservation work and adds to more than 3,000 acres of conserved lands along the Rio Grande River.

The two conservation easement projects will protect senior water rights that support significant wetland habitat for elk, the yellow-billed cuckoo, southwestern willow flycatcher and the greater sandhill crane, the San Luis Valley's most iconic bird. In the San Luis Valley, approximately 90 percent of all wetlands occur on private lands, making conservation easements one of the most significant tools for protecting wildlife corridors and ecosystems.

To date, GOCO has invested more



than \$10.4 million in projects in Rio Grande County and conserved more than 9,400 acres of land there. GOCO funding has supported Ski-Hi Rodeo Arena, Monte Vista Community Sports Complex, the Del Norte Riverfront project, and the conservation of River Valley Ranch, among other projects.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's

parks, trails, wildlife, rivers and open spaces. GOCO's independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created when voters approved a constitutional amendment in 1992, GOCO has since funded more than 5,300 projects in all 64 counties of Colorado without any tax dollar support. Visit GOCO.org for more information.

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

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

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

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

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

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

Heather Dutton – Manager
July 1, 2020

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

Mountain Shootout Photography show awards announced

CREEDE - The Mountain Shootout (MSO) juried exhibit features photographs by regional artists. This year the Creede Arts Council received many outstanding entries which were judged by Creede photographer Ed Knight. First Place was awarded to Ryan Curley of Monte Vista "Falling Clearly." Second Place was awarded to Creede resident Paul Barnes for "St. Augustine's Episcopal Church." Creede resident Sam Leake was awarded third place for "Foggy Morning at the Gap." Honorable Mentions were awarded to Kathleen Bustamonte, Ryan Curley and Dennis Schoenfelder.


The MSO exhibit will run from June 29 to Sept. 16 at the Creede Visitor's Center. The public is invited to come in, view, and enjoy all of the photographs and to vote. Masks are strongly requested.

For more information on the Creede Arts Council's programs, please go to www.creedeartscouncil.com



First place winner Ryan Curley "Falling Clearly" from Monte Vista.

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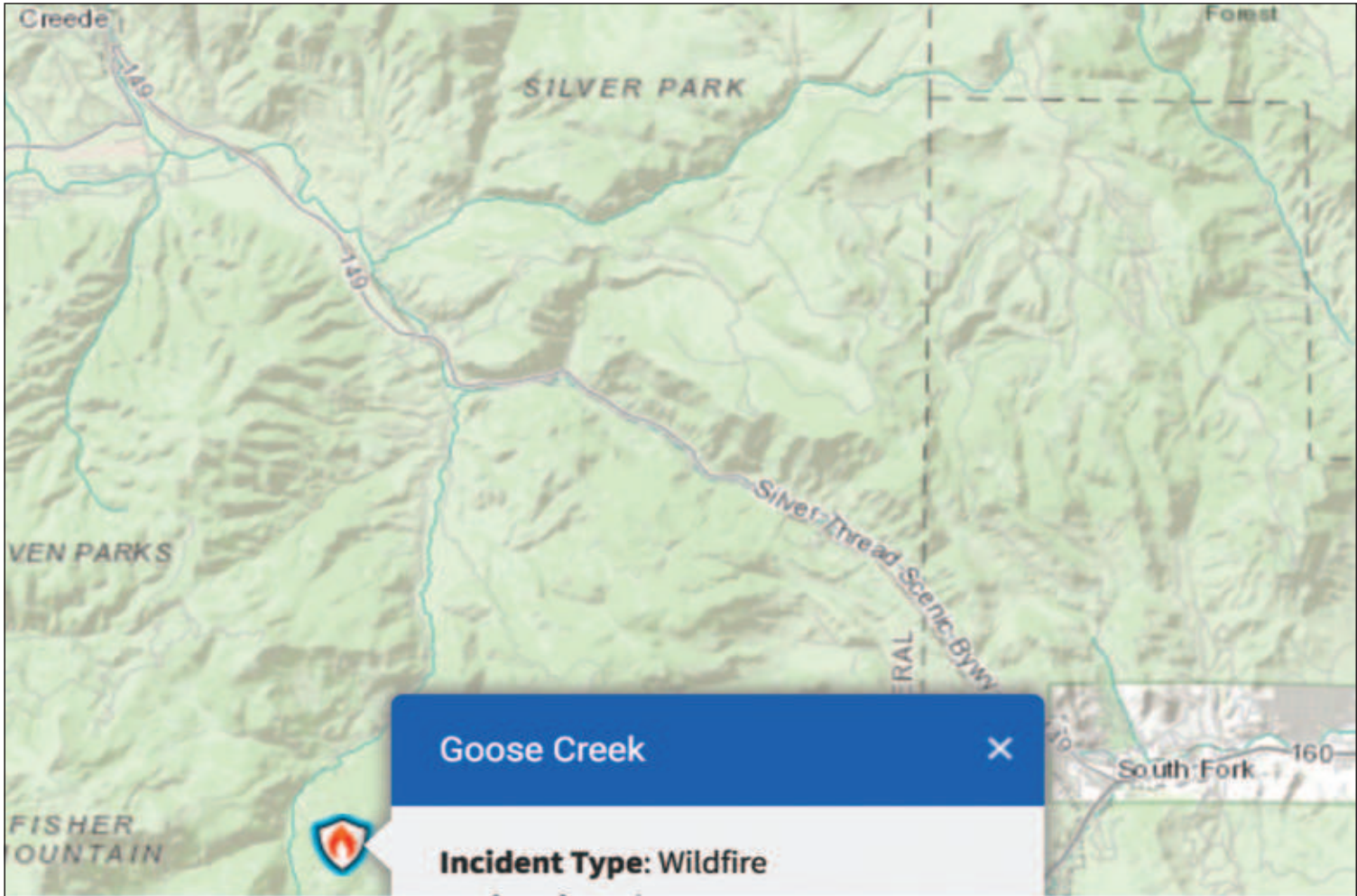
Goose Creek Fire 90 percent contained

By TREY SPAULDING

MINERAL COUNTY - The Goose Creek Fire, located several miles west of the Town of South Fork and 13 miles south of Creede is now 90 percent contained. The rapid containment was aided by several rain showers void of lightning over the Fourth of July weekend and multiple water drops from T1 and T2 helicopters. The fire is bordered by healthy aspen groves, rock bands and an area previously burned during the West Fork Complex in 2013.

Most of the resources assigned to the fire last week have been released to return home or assist at other fires. "Some of those large dead trees that have fallen since the West Fork Fire seven years ago will continue to smolder until we get significant moisture," says Incident Commander Derrick Rader. A small number of firefighters will continue to stay in the area to monitor the fire in the days ahead. While staged at the Humphreys Ranch, firefighters completed a structure protection plan for the ranch, as well as for the adjacent 4UR Ranch. This plan will give firefighters a head start in safeguarding those properties if another fire should threaten the Goose Creek Valley in the future. July 7, the Type 3 Management Team currently in charge of the fire will turn over operations to a smaller, Type 4, organization.

The fire was first reported Sunday, June 28. Approximately 108 firefighters and support personnel were staged at the Humphreys Ranch which included a hotshot crew, a 20-person hand crew and half a dozen fire engines.



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Fire restrictions are becoming more normal Land, Water and People

BY GREGG GOODLAND

SAN LUIS VALLEY - As has happened many times in recent years, once again, Southwest Colorado finds itself in what can be described as a precarious position when it comes to allowing campfires on the public lands. The general lack of moisture from late winter and through the spring has produced widespread dry conditions throughout much of the Southwest. Our long-range forecasts tell us that we shouldn't plan on much relief in the near future. But it rained one day last week, we should be good, shouldn't we? Simply put, it just doesn't work like that.

Long term drying tends slowly deprive vegetation of the water needed to retain healthy fuel moisture levels. Occasional precipitation events merely suspend those drying trends for short time periods. Once vegetation moisture reaches critical levels, it takes significant amounts of moisture to return them to a healthy and less volatile condition. This is currently illustrated by looking at all the brown grass around the valley, which is ripe for wildfire. As each rain event offers a slight step in the plant's recovery, we begin to see the advances in the change from brown to green.

This same principle applies to the larger vegetation such as shrubs and trees but at a much slower scale. Consider that a brown lawn can revert to green in a week, with daily watering. It makes sense then to suggest that the trees will take several weeks to



Photo By Trey Spaulding

change their live fuel moisture to a state where they are not as susceptible to rapid burning.

Fire restrictions are determined based on professional judgement and the number of the criteria that surpass certain thresholds. The Forest Service uses a standard set of seven criteria and professional judgement to determine if fire restrictions are needed including fuel moisture content; energy release component (a measure of how intense a fire will

burn); fire danger rating; existing fires and their impact on the availability of firefighting resources; number of human caused fires in the area; current and predicted weather conditions; and zone fire preparedness level.

The Rio Grande National Forest initiated Stage 2 fire restrictions May 17, which remain in place as I write this. The biggest impact of these restrictions to visitors is that open campfires are not allowed anywhere on the Rio

Please see LAND on Page 6

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad to add two more trains a week

Historic Steam Railroad Will Operate Six Trains a Week,

CHAMA, NM and ANTONITO, CO - The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad (C&TSRR) will add

two more trains a week to its schedule, starting July 1, 2020.

The historic steam railroad (voted twice by USA Today as the best train ride in America) will now offer trains six days a week, Tuesday-Sunday, with all trains departing at 10 a.m. from Antonito, CO on a modified schedule. Passenger trains leave Antonito station and travel to historic Osier, CO for a delicious one hour lunch stop, included in the ticket price. The trains then return to Antonito by 4:40 p.m. There are no half day trips, and currently no departures from Chama, NM due to COVID restrictions in New Mexico. There are no trains operating on Mondays.



“We are hopeful that we will have permission to run trains out of Chama, NM soon,” said John Bush, president/general manager of the C&TSRR. “Because the train operates in two states, we

have to follow the guidelines of each state. Even though the train isn't running yet, the town of Chama, only 50 minutes from Antonito by highway, is open for business and welcomes visitors.”

Because of changing conditions, the Cumbres & Toltec is offering a full refund to anyone who needs to cancel their reservation this season and does so at least 48 hours before your trip.

To ensure safety for all, masks are required for all passengers and there will be a temperature check before boarding the train. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will be refunded their ticket and declined a ride on the train.

Please see C&TSRR on Page 2

Corriente Auction

It could only happen to a cowboy.

Thurman had established himself as a figure of some note in the Corriente Association. The Association had developed over the years into a successful representative of livestock people dedicated to breeding and supplying roping steers. The Corriente breeders in the northwest were gearing up for their big regional meeting in Prineville, Oregon. Being a national officer, Thurman was asked to attend and was given dignitary status.

In preparation for the auction fundraiser to be held at the gala on the final night, members brought items to sell. Jim, a California Corriente man, brought a big painting. As he scanned the other auction items he began to doubt the worthiness of his contribution. He asked Thurman's opinion.

Thurman looked at the tall three foot by two foot drawing. It was framed with simple, yet sturdy 1x2 lathe. A large paint horse was bucking against a desert and mountain backdrop. With no criticism implied, it was obvious that anatomy had not been the artist's college major. ‘Course that didn't make



Picasso all bad either. Onboard the buckler sat a big-hatted, moustachioed cowboy, chaps flying, spurs flashing and a nose that cleaved the air like an ice breaker in Hudson Bay. The saddle and gear was intricately carved. The curled rattlesnake was detailed down to the papilla on his flickering tongue.

Thurman stood back... overwhelmed, as Jim explained it had been drawn by an inmate

at the state prison. “All done in ballpoint,” offered Jim hopefully.

“Jim,” said Thurman, “I'm no art critic, but it's beautiful. I'd love to have it myself, but I'll bet it'll top the sale!” Jim beamed.

At the auction that night things were sellin' wildly. A cassette brought \$180.00. A little statue brought \$350.00. Thurman was helping at the auction table. He personally carried Jim's picture to the front.

“Friends,” he said, “This spectacular hand-done original drawing in ballpoint donated by Jim is gonna be the catch of the day. It's a treasure worthy of great museums, historic bar walls and unfinished tackrooms. Look at the detail, the contrast, the poetry in motion harkening back to our forefathers and their foremothers before them. It will be the purchase of a lifetime!”

The crowd looked at Thurman in a new light.

“Matter of fact,” he continued, “I'm gonna start the bidding at \$125.00.”

Jim was overcome. Admiration for Thurman swelled within him. He rose and walked

to the front.

“Ladies and gentlemen, our friend Thurman has done so much for us and although there is no way we can properly repay him, I suggest we stop the bidding right here and let Thurman have it!”

A standing ovation followed. Thurman smiled like a sick dog and rapidly inventoried his air plane ticket home and the \$132.00 in his pocket.

(P.S. It cost him \$5.00 to package it for the plane ride home. He had coffee and a Twinkie and spent that night at the airport parking lot in his rent car. The picture now hangs on Thurman's wall as a reminder.)

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

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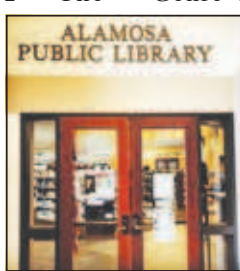
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ments and land trusts and makes approved a constitutional amendment investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created when voters more than 5,300 projects in all 64 counties of Colorado without any tax dollar support. Visit GOCO.org for more information.

Friends of the Alamosa Public Library invite submissions for twelfth edition of *Messages from the Hidden Lake*

SAN LUIS VALLEY - The Friends of the Alamosa Public Library is pleased to invite submissions for the twelfth edition of its literary and art collection, *Messages from the Hidden Lake*. Creative writers and photographers of all ages may submit pieces for the volume, to be published in this winter. Submission deadline is Nov. 1, 2020.



Genre categories include poetry, short creative fiction and nonfiction, and black and white photography. There is a special category for full-color cover photography. Cash prizes will be awarded. Submission guidelines and entry forms are available online at: www.alamosalibrary.org. For more info, call 589-6592.

C&TSRR

Seating on the Cumbers & Toltec has been distanced per state guidelines and additional open air gondola cars have been added to each departure. Passengers will have plenty of room to spread out and socially distance.

The 2020 schedule is subject to change and passengers will be required to follow all current federal and state safety precautions. Passengers are encouraged to check the website for the most up-to-date information.

Continued from Page 1

Advance Reservations Recommended

With the abbreviated schedule, many rides on the C&TSRR will sell out in advance. With historic equipment, it is not always possible to add additional cars to meet demand. To ensure that there are seats on the dates you want to ride, the railroad advises to please make reservations in advance at www.cumbrestoltec.com

For complete information, visit: cumbrestoltec.com or call 1-888-286-2737.

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	7					5		
	5	1			4			
					6		1	
				9			5	2
4		2		1				

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Solution to last week's puzzle

		I	M	B	R	U	E			A	R	M						
M	O	D	E	R	A	T	O			S	B	I	C					
A	V	E	R	A	G	E	S			O	K	A	P	I				
S	E	A	L	S						V	O	T	E					
T	O	R								M	E	D	E					
K	N	A	P							A	R	A						
O	I	L	S	E	E	D	S			R	A							
		C	L	I	N	T	E	A	S	T	W	O	O	D				
										D	E	S	E	R	V	E	S	
						M	I	D						R	E	V	S	
						S	A	N	E							R	I	B
		A	L	A	E						M	A	M	A	S			
S	C	A	R	S						M	A	C	E	R	A	T	E	
R	E	B	S							A	R	R	A	N	G	E	S	
I	D	S								S	T	Y	L	E	S			

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Monte Vista, CO
www.mtblancafudge.com

Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyPublishing>

Alamosa Farmers' Market opens July 11 with precautions

ALAMOSA - Alamosa Farmers' Market has received an Innovation Assistance Award from the First Southwest Bank Community Fund to cover expenses incurred in shifting business practices to provide a COVID-safe market this season.

"With the substantial increase in cases just recently, the pandemic seems to just now be hitting the SLV, right as businesses are re-opening and life seems to be going back to pre-COVID 'normal.' But, we need to be more vigilant than ever," Market Board President Trudi Kretsinger said. "Our intention is to be an example of a COVID-safe business right in downtown Alamosa.

It's expensive to do and takes a lot of planning. We weren't sure we could do it. The award from First Southwest Community Fund makes it possible. Their help not only covers many of the increased costs, it is an expression of their belief that not only is it possible to serve the public safely, our community needs it," Kretsinger concluded.

Market manager Mandy Pittman, and Site Manager Crystal Benavidez, who has stepped in while Pittman is on maternity leave, have been attending

virtual meetings with the Colorado Farmers' Market Association since March. "Based on reports from markets that have opened across the state, we've created a plan to promote physical distancing" Pittman said. "By decreasing our number of vendors and designating entry and exit points, we can better manage crowds and traffic flow.

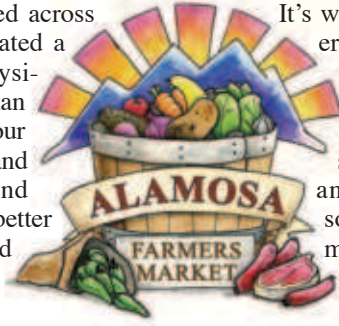
"Farmers' markets around Colorado report record business this year. With shortages at the super market, people are suddenly aware of the fragility of our food delivery system. All at the same time, they're clamoring for nutritious, fresh food - which they can get at the farmers' market."

According to Pittman, who has managed the market for the past 7 seasons, it will be a very different shopping experience this year. "There won't be music, kids' activities or food prep demonstrations - just food and health products. There will be some prepared food at the MOKI and other food trucks - to go only."

Acting market manager Crystal Benavidez explained, "We know that usually the market means crowds.

It's where we go to see everybody. But, this year we're going to have a no-crowd market.

We request only one shopper per household and if you recognize someone behind their mask, you'll need to just wave from across the way. So, it's not the same, but we are pulling it off for the health of our community and our local food system!"



The Alamosa Farmers Market 2020:

July 11 - Oct. 10 on the corner of 6th and State

8 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. for health-compromised folks

8:30- 1:30 p.m.

Cash (small bills, please), SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks (for fresh produce), some vendors accept electronic funds

Remember: LOVE THY NEIGHBOR - WEAR A MASK!

2020 Monte Vista Farmers Market Season Starts July 10

MONTE VISTA-The 2020 Monte Vista Farmers Market season is this week! The market will be in the usual location, in the parking lot at

First Avenue and Jefferson Street (across from the Monte Villa Inn/Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce) on Fridays

from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. from July 10 through Sept. 18. We are expecting our usual array of local produce vendors, craft/art vendors and fresh food vendors, providing a weekly sampling of the best that Colorado has to offer.

We are looking forward to a great season at the Monte Vista Farmers Market, even in the face of challenging times. The COVID-19 virus causes us to take special precautions and to forgo some of the fun because we can't responsibly promote the same type of community social event. However, it gives us the opportunity to show that we can still have something that benefits the community by having an outlet for local products, and also to show that we care about our neighbors, and to acknowledge that we are all in

this together and will get through it together.

Some of the additional precautions and changes for both vendors and customers this year are:

Vendors and customers alike are asked to wear masks or face coverings

All vendors and customers should follow recommended social distancing of 6 feet between customers and in vendor lines.

Please follow a single direction flow around the market, as marked.

Please do not come in groups larger than two people and please no more than two customers per vendor at a time. Please be mindful to avoid congregating.

Samples will not be provided unless vendors are willing to provide them in single-use containers and give them to customers in a way that minimizes contact.

The market will provide signage explaining some of these changes; we will be cleaning surfaces as often as possible

We are asking vendors and customers alike to please be respectful



of these guidelines and any others we may need to develop so we can have a healthy, safe and successful market season.

If you have any other questions about the Farmers Market or would like a vendor application, please contact us on our Facebook page @ MonteVistaFarmersMarket or you can email us at montefarmersmarket@gmail.com

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Saturday: 10:00am to Noon

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No contracts, no hidden fees

- Residential Service (96 gallon rolling containers)
- Commercial Containers (1YD-6YD Dumpsters)
- Roll-Off "Construction Site" Dumpsters (20YD-30YD)
- Curbside, single-stream recycling available

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For a full list of recyclable items see www.mds-wasteandrecycle.com/services/recycling-services/



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www.mds-wasteandrecycle.com

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If you are stressed, anxious, lonely, depressed, angry, or all of the above, you are not alone. We are in this together, and caring mental health professionals are available if you need to talk.

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slvbhg.org/covid-19

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slvbhg.org/mobile

Visit our website for an updated schedule of where the mobile unit will be. The Mobile Health Unit specializes in Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for substance use disorders.



Approved Medicaid Provider | 24 hour hotline: 719.589.3671 | slvbhg.org

Valley-Wide Classified MARKETPLACE

FREE!

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



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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
\$12 + 35¢ each additional word.

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 montevistaclass@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

Call 719-852-3531
or email: MonteVistaClass@gmail.com

Easy Payment Options

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05 Notices

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

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

07 Help Wanted

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

Dental Assistant Needed for Immediate Opening- Mineral County Dental Clinic in Creede is seeking a part time dental assistant to work on average, 6 days per month starting immediately. Experience preferred, however, we can train an enthusiastic person with strong communication skills and work ethic. The ideal candidate will have dental or medical experience, be a team player, reliable and committed. Hourly rate is dependent on experience and up to \$16.50/hr., during training. Please send letter of interest and resume to mineraldental@mineralcountydental.com. Position will be open until filled. (7/15)

Retail Manager: Looking for a job with a Mission? Join Western National Parks Association as the FT, Park Store Retail Manager at Great Sand Dunes National Park & Reserve. Find out more about this adventurous opportunity by visiting www.wnpa.org/jobs. Equal Opportunity Employer: disability/veteran and other protected classes. (7/30)

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)

The Saguache County Land Use Office is accepting applications for a full time Saguache County Code Enforcement Officer. Applicants must have a valid Colorado Drivers License, must pass a criminal background check as well as a pre-employment drug test. Applications will be accepted until filled. Applications and job descriptions may be found on www.saguachecounty.net or may be emailed to you, please contact April Quintana at 719-655-2231 Saguache County is an equal opportunity employer.

Saguache County, Colorado, is seeking to fill the position of Public Health Director. The position requires a master's degree in a public health discipline; a nurse candidate shall be licensed to

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

10 Apartments for Rent

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

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

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COLORADO PRESS ASSOCIATION NETWORK

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

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Bee happy, bee kind as our bee deco has buzzed in! Canisters, signs, towels, beehive cages, pillows, and salt & pepper shakers! Shop early before it flies away!

Please wear a mask.

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

This Week's Feature



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It's Worth The Drive

Daily 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Nick & Vicki Kulyk
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DISCLAIMER
 Please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes notify us IMMEDIATELY. We will make changes for errors and adjust your credit but only if we receive notice on the first day the ad is published. We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper which reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. All classified advertising must be pre-paid.

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

Secluded Cabin Getaway!



2 bedroom • 1 bath • 720 sq. ft. • **\$179,000**
 This cabin has new a new roof, new plumbing, electrical and more, plus a full acre of property for privacy, only yards away from world class fly-fishing on the Conejos River. Two enclosed porches for relaxing with your family and taking in the sunshine!
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ON TOP OF THE WORLD!
 If you are looking for views- look no further. This stunning 14.64 acres borders National Forest on 2 sides and is in a gated community with a fulltime ranch manager. This community boasts a stocked fishing pond with a huge pavilion and warming hut. Just 17 miles from world class skiing at Wolf Creek. Just minutes from gold medal fishing in the Rio Grande River and just minutes from Championship Golf at the Rio Grande Club. It's time to build your dream home in Colorado's best kept secret. MLS#761164 **PRICE REDUCED \$99,000**



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 719-850-2827 www.legendspremierproperties.com

NEW PRICE!



SUPER MULTI LEVEL HOME with lots of custom touches and stunning views. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, (with sauna), an office, separate dining room, living room and great room. Kitchen boasts custom cabinets made by local artist/owner. Beautifully maintained lawns and gardens adorn separate outdoor living spaces. 3 car oversized attached garage holds everything- but there is a shed as well! Placed up on the hill, there is a feeling of "out of town" but all town amenities are easily accessible. This is a must see! **\$345,000** MLS #765156

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Fantastic Home on 40 Acres with Water!



5 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 3,216 sq. ft. • **\$630,000**
 Remodeled in 2016, the home has large, double-pane windows to enjoy the views, quartz counter tops, new stainless steel appliances, a private master suite with amazing features and so many more unique details. Heated 3-car attached garage plus addtl. detached garage/tack room. Established hay-meadow with surface water rights and 1.5 shares of Rio Grande Piedra ditch.
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Well established Property Management Company for sale in South Fork. Serious inquiries only please.



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PRICE REDUCTION



Stunning mountain top home in gated community in South Fork on 18.67 acres. 360 degree view with fishing pond, pavilion, warming hut, and on site ranch manager. **\$645,000**. Call Kazie Hayes, Associate Broker with Legends Premier Properties in South Fork at 719-850-2827. Must be pre-qualified. Serious inquiries only. MLS# 767168

Legends Premier Properties
Kazie Hayes, Associate Broker 22 Jackson St. • South Fork
 719-850-2827 www.legendspremierproperties.com

PRICE REDUCED!



Beautiful Home on 35 Acres SW of Monte Vista!

4 bedroom • 3 bath • 2,492 sq. ft. • **\$377,500**
 Recently-built spacious home ready for your family! Enjoy 360 degree mountain views on an 1,800 sq. ft. deck 3-car garage and many more amenities!
 515 Mountain View Blvd. • Monte Vista
 MLS# 766729
Porter Realty, 503 Main St. Alamosa
 (719)589-5897 • mp@porterrealty.com

IMMACULATE BRICK HOME THAT IS TRULY SPECIAL! This 3497 sq ft home has; 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, a living room, formal dining area, and large family room that features a cozy fire place, as well as a great kitchen (remodeled in 2017). Plenty of space and storage in this home, there is also a laundry room, an office and another room above the attached garage. Mature established yard that is fenced and has a sprinkler system, as well as sheds for storage and a large detached garage/shop in the back. Don't wait, Call Today to see this truly special home! **\$339,000** Call Tracy Gosar, 850-1815 MLS #766342



Legends Premier Properties
Tracy Gosar, Broker/Owner 810 First Ave. • Monte Vista
 719-850-1815(cell) • 719-852-0450 www.legendspremierproperties.com

READY TO MOVE-IN! This lovely ranch home has 3 bedrooms/1.5 Baths, Newly painted inside and out, and new carpet. Good storage, newer stove in kitchen, refrigerator, and dishwasher. Oversized lot fenced with mature trees, back yard needs some landscaping completed. Carport with additional built on shed, and Oversized garage for possibly 3 cars, and perfect for that person that needs storage or likes to work out in the garage for multiple reasons. Close to health club, and stores East of Downtown Monte Vista! Call to preview a really good home! **\$195,000** Call Tracy Gosar, 850-1815 MLS #771491



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New Listing! Golf Course Living at its finest!
 3 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 2,0978 sq. ft. • **\$379,000**
 Stunning views in all directions with huge windows, luxurious master suite, rock propane fireplace, high-end Jenn Air appliances, custom cabinetry, large stone patio for entertaining, 2-car garage and so much more! Rio Grande Club Membership and Home Furnishings negotiable. MLS #767109
 6827 Snead Ln • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



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We work hard for you!



Call Bernadette today!

Steffens & Company Realty, INC
 719-850-1993
Bernadette Gingrass, Broker Associate
 30635 US Hwy 160 • South Fork
 www.bernadettegingrassrealestate.com

Charming 2 Story Home! 3 Bedroom/1.5 Bath with nice large windows for good lighting! Home built in 1916 with the nice turn of the century appeal! Some updating has been completed. Formal dining area, and large living area. Gas forced air for heating. Over sized yard with newer vinyl fencing for privacy. 2 car garage. Established yard to enjoy! Close to parks, golf course, and schools. Call to preview this charming home with a lot of potential! **\$174,000** Call Tracy Gosar, 850-1815 MLS #770725



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Tracy Gosar, Broker/Owner 810 First Ave. • Monte Vista
 719-850-1815(cell) • 719-852-0450 www.legendspremierproperties.com

Cozy Home! Owner Will Carry Mortgage!
 1 bedroom • 1.75 bath • **\$159,900**
 Park model with enclosed sun room in River's Edge Resort! Perfect as a second home or weekend getaway in a 55+ community! Includes all furniture and furnishings, down to the pots & pans. Private access to the river, lots of recreation activities and community activities! Owner will Carry Mortgage! MLS #762858
 38 Denette Lane • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



BEAUTIFUL 103 ACRES OF AG./ PASTURE LAND! WILL ACCOMMODATE ANIMALS, AND PLENTY OF ROOM TO BUILD A HOME! Has San Francisco River. Fenced property, and has access to 72,000 Acre Mountain Tract and Vega for grazing. Collecting firewood, and building materials. Irrigation well & water rights go with this property. **INCREDIBLE VIEWS! CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION OF THIS STUNNING PROPERTY & AREA! \$680,000** Call Tracy Gosar, 850-1815 MLS #769403



Legends Premier Properties
Tracy Gosar, Broker/Owner 810 First Ave. • Monte Vista
 719-850-1815(cell) • 719-852-0450 www.legendspremierproperties.com

Price Just Reduced!!
 • 1 bedroom • 1 bathroom • **\$74,900**
 Adorable Park Model home in the River's Edge Mountain View RV Resort! Everything is included, all it needs is you! All furniture, appliances and pots and pans come with this cozy home that includes an enclosed sun room, storage shed and work bench! MLS#760432
 57 Denette Lane • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



UNDER CONTRACT




New Listing! Charming Family Home, Priced to Sell!
 4 bedroom • 2 bath • 1,850 sq. ft. • **\$215,000**
 Comfortable family home with large balcony to enjoy your mountain views! Nice kitchen, stone fireplace, wood-burning stove and beautiful bathrooms! MLS # 758665
 198 Elm Drive • South Fork
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Continued from Page 1

Grande Forest. Only petroleum fueled stoves can be used throughout the rest of the Forest. Also allowed are the gas fueled campfires. Haven't seen one yet? Check it out, they are a great substitute for a real campfire, and require much less work.

I am becoming more convinced that the vast majority of our local population understands the need for fire restrictions. I often hear support from community members for fire restrictions as the conditions become drier each year. It wasn't that way, years ago. Land managers, including many of our low-level seasonal employees, would regularly have excitable discussions with forest users and community members that often ended with folks suggesting the Forest Service is trying to control their lives. Nothing is, or could have been, farther from that being the truth. There are, simply, times when it makes sense to restrict these high-risk activities that are known to cause unwanted wildfires. Period. And, like it or not, these times are happening more frequently.

As always, the Rio Grande National Forest remains prepared to respond to smoke reports and wildfires. If needed, additional resources will be brought in to assist with both initial attack on new fire starts and providing fire prevention information and education.

We all play a critical role in the prevention of unwanted wildfires. By working together and doing our part to spread the word, we increase the odds that visitors will comply with the current fire restrictions, which in turn, will hopefully reduce the chance of human-caused fires and higher levels of restrictions.

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

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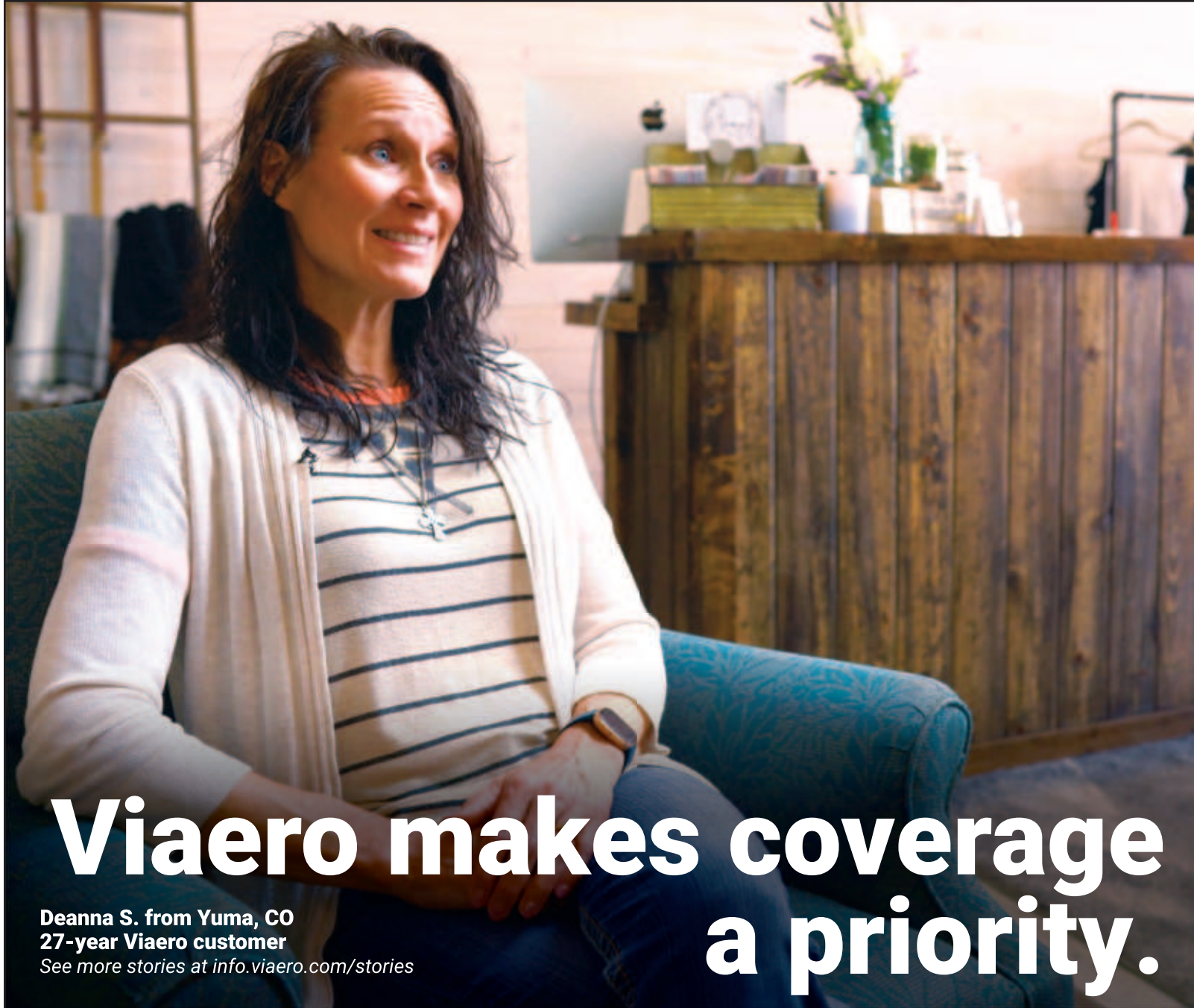
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GET IT DONE!

How to find the right replacement windows

Replacing old windows is often a worthwhile investment for homeowners. Energy-efficient windows can prevent heating and cooling loss and keep homes more comfortable throughout the year. Such windows also can improve a home's resale value, proving a good return on investment for homeowners who want to upgrade their homes before putting them on the market.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, homeowners might find it more cost-effective to replace very old and/or inefficient windows to improve their energy efficiency. Such an upgrade can save homeowners substantial amounts of money on heating and cooling costs.

Window replacement projects can be costly, so it pays to get the job right the first time. Before beginning a window replacement project, homeowners should research which windows will meet their specific needs, learning the subtleties between finishes and features, as well as comparing prices for the windows and installation.

Choose the right time of year
The best time of year to plan window replacement is when the weather will be warm, ideally in the spring or early summer. However, homeowners do not want conditions to be too warm, as each room where new windows will be installed will temporarily be exposed to the elements. Furthermore, caulk adheres better in warmer weather and will dispense easily.

Consider available features
When replacing windows, homeowners may want to install the same style windows they currently have. But the problems that led to the need to replace windows may still exist even when new windows are installed. When replacing windows, consider energy performance ratings based on the locations of the windows in the house. To make sure they make the most educated decision, homeowners can investigate the solar heat gain coefficient, U-factor, visible transmittance and light-to-solar gain. Explanations of these ratings are available at Energy.gov.

Don't ignore maintenance needs
Maintenance costs involved with cleaning, repairs and painting can add up. When shopping for windows, consider the amount of maintenance they will need. Wood-framed windows may require more upkeep than aluminum, fiberglass or vinyl. Also, consider if certain window types, such as double-hung windows, casement windows, awning windows, or slider windows, would be practical.

Keep home style in mind
A poor match between windows and the style of the home can produce unwanted changes in the appearance of the home. Replacement windows should match the style and appearance desired.

Expect minimal disruption
When homeowners hire professionals who are good at their craft, window replacement projects should not be a terrible inconvenience. According to American Window Products, Inc., seasoned professionals will be able to complete a replacement window upgrade in a short amount of time depending on the size of the home and



Replacement windows can be a smart investment in comfort and design appeal of a home.

the number of windows being replaced. Replacing windows can be a costly task, but one that will provide a more energy efficient home that can help homeowners save money in the long run. SH172787

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The differences between organic and inorganic mulches

The benefits of mulch are widely known among lawn and garden enthusiasts. By insulating soil from extreme temperatures, helping soil to retain moisture and preventing weed growth, mulch can help plants, trees and gardens thrive, even during periods when Mother Nature can make that very difficult.

Novice gardeners may find themselves a little confused when visiting a lawn and garden center to purchase mulch. That's because there are various types of mulches. One of the ways to simplify that is to break mulches down into two main classes: organic and inorganic. Learning to distinguish between these two classes can help homeowners choose the best mulch for their properties.

Organic mulch
Organic mulches are made up of materials that decompose over time. The experts at BobVila.com note that, because they decompose over time, organic mulches must be

replenished on a regular basis. Hardwood and softwood chips are among the most popular and recognizable organic mulches. Evergreen needles, leaves, grass clippings, and compost mixes also fall under the organic mulch umbrella. Many gardening enthusiasts prefer organic mulches because they help soil retain moisture, improve soil fertility and help to deter weed growth.

Inorganic mulches
Inorganic mulches are permanent because they do not decompose over time. Gravel, brick chips and crushed stone are examples of inorganic mulches. Homeowners who do not intend to plant after laying mulch may lean toward inorganic mulches, as they won't require much work, if any, after being laid. However, the Chicago Botanic Garden notes that inorganic mulches do not improve soil quality. In fact, because inorganic mulches like rocks and stones absorb heat, they can be detrimental



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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.

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